

SCHREINER'S SCRIBES

Published Professors

Drs. Tom Wells, Claudia Sullivan and Kathleen Hudson have at least two things in common—they are all Schreiner University professors and published authors. Among the three Babyboomers is a combined 73 years teaching experience at Schreiner and seven published books.

“I love teaching and writing equally,” said Sullivan, professor of theatre and communication and author of five books. Her most recent work, “Watersmeet: The Birth of a Texas Treasure” is a creative non-fiction look at the Upper Guadalupe River in the Hill Country. “It is a story of what I have learned from the land,” Sullivan said. She wrote the book while taking a sabbatical in the fall of 2005.

“I got to live the writers life,” Sullivan said. “I would go back and forth between being really rabid about writing to taking a nap.” The time off from her teaching duties gave her time to “let the work go the way it wanted.”

Sullivan, who says she is always working on writing something, has four other published books— “My Red Coat” a historical biography of a Hill Country woman, “M-M-M That Good Mystic Food” a cookbook that includes stories involving Camp Mystic in Hunt to go along with each recipe, and “Heartfelt: A Memoir of Camp Mystic Inspirations.” Several excerpts from the book about her experiences at Camp Mystic were included in “Sleepaway: The Girls of Summer and the Camps They Love” released in 2003.

She also had an essay published in the book “Paul Baker and the Integrations of Abilities” in which various authors, teachers, theatre directors and playwrights contributed essays about Baker, one of the leading forces in theatre and education in Texas. Sullivan said her advice to students is simple, “write no matter what it is, a journal or random thoughts or recipes. Just like a painter you have to get something on the canvas to know where you are going.”

Dr. Tom Wells was parked in front of the Kerr County Courthouse one hot summer day in 2001 when the idea for a book popped into his head. “I just thought, ‘what if a body dropped out of the sky right now, what would people do, how would they react?’ and the idea grew from there,” Wells said. And so his first novel, “Drop-Ins” was born.

“I had not written a word before that. Not a journal or anything,” Wells said. “I had always been interested in writing but I had never done it.” Wells, professor of exercise science, said his second book “Finders Keepers” is waiting on a contract to be published. He is currently working on a third



Left Dr. Kathleen Hudson, Dr. Tom Wells, Dr. Claudia Sullivan

manuscript that started as a short story set in West Texas in the early 1960s.

“Writing has stretched me out and led me to do things that I might not have otherwise done,” Wells said. “I would definitely encourage anyone who has an idea for a book to pursue that and write it.”

Dr. Kathleen Hudson, founder of the Texas Music Heritage Foundation and Living History Weekend, has been teaching English at Schreiner for 21 years. Her first book, “Telling Stories, Writing Songs: An Album of Texas Song Writers” is a collection of interviews with Texas songwriters that she began in 1985 while pursuing her doctorate.

“I didn’t set out to write a book,” Hudson said. “The book came to me after I looked back at the interviews.” Much like her teaching, Hudson said, her writing is about sharing the things that she feels strongly about.

“I love the idea that I am going to share something that I heard and loved with other people,” Hudson said. “I do this with the hope that others will enjoy it and get something out of it like I did. This is the same feeling that drives me to teach.” Her next book about women in Texas music will be published some time next year.

All three professors said they feel there is a strong connection between teaching and writing. Two things they love and plan to continue doing for a very long time.