

Outstanding Alumnus 2009

Ray D. Rothgeb



Ray D. Rothgeb is an alumni, retired faculty member and former Dean of Instruction at Independence Community College. He is an avid supporter of higher education and is himself a life-long learner. Originally from Longton, he graduated from ICC with an Associate of Arts Degree in 1964. In 1967 he graduated from Wichita State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Music and then continued at WSU for his Master's in Education in 1973. He earned his Ph.D. at Kansas State University in 2008.

Rothgeb began his career in education at Belle Plaine High School as Director of Choral Music and joined the ICC faculty ranks as Professor of Music, (1973-1978) also serving several terms as Fine Arts Division Chair. He left the college to pursue business interests in 1978 and served as the Production and Inventory Control Manager at Hackney & Sons, until 1983, was co-owner and manager of The Computer Generation, 1984-85, and served as Project Manager for Independence Main Street from 1986-87.

He returned to the students and followed his love of education in 1988 when he re-joined the ICC ranks in the music department and then in 1999 was promoted to Dean of Instruction. He served in this administrative capacity until his retirement in the summer of 2004 and remains active at the college sharing his talents in theatre readings and productions as well as community/college choral events.

Working with the ICC Foundation, the Rothgeb's were the visionaries that began an annual foundation scholarship drive to support fine arts at the college and in the community. The Rothgeb Fine Arts Scholarship Fund was started by his wife Donna after Ray retired from ICC and has grown to be a highlight of the fall fine arts calendar as the Rothgeb Fine Arts Scholarship Benefit Concert. Now endowed, the fund is an on-going legacy for students and the award recipients, as part of their scholarship responsibilities, give back to the community as they share their music, theater and art talents.

Rothgeb is a life member of The American Choral Director's Association and has been active in the Music Educators National Conference, Kansas Music Educators Association, National Education Association, Kansas National Education Association, Independence Community College Faculty Association, SEK American Production and Inventory Control Society, National Council of Instructional Administrators, & Kansas Council of Instructional Administrators.

He is an active member of the First Presbyterian Church, where he directs the Choir and serves as an Elder. He is a member of: Mercy Hospital Foundation Board (Past-President), Independence Lions Club (Past President), Independence Masons (Officer), Mirza Shrine, Monday Music Club Community Choir, & Independence Historical Museum.

Past Memberships include Kansas Main Street (Past Chair), Chamber of Commerce (Past VP), ICC Board of Trustees (Past President), Independence Community Chest Board, Independence Art Council Board (Past President), Independence Main Street Board (Past Manager & Past Chair), Neewollah Board of Directors, First Presbyterian Church Session and Deacons, Lions Club International (Past District Governor), and Kansas State Lions Clubs Governors' Council.

In addition to ICC and his congregation, Rothgeb's vast musical experience includes working with Neewollah, Faith Presbyterian Church (Wichita), Coffeyville Christian Church, Independence Christian Church, Independence Oratorio Society (1979-1992), the William Inge Theatre Festival Community Choirs.

He has conducted Orchestra for ICC's production of *Brigadoon*, Neewollah's *Anne* and the Independence Oratorio Society's performance of *The Messiah & Vivaldi Gloria* and has directed the Opera Choir and Opera Scenes for Wichita State University for scenes from *La Bohem* featuring Samuel Ramey and was choral director for *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

Play direction includes productions of: *Twelve Angry Jurors*, *The Mouse That Roared*, *Brigadoon*, *Hello Dolly*; *Brigadoon*, *Sound of Music*, *Carousel*, *Hello Dolly*, *Godspell*, *Showboat*, *George M*, *The Fantasticks*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Big River*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Camelot*, and the Inge Center's High School 24-hour plays.

With Neewollah, his directing credits include *Carousel*, *Mame*, *Oliver*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Joseph* and the *Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

Featured theater roles in operas, plays and musicals include: Wichita State University: *Der Mond* (Opera), *Guys & Dolls*, & *Fiddler on the Roof*; Neewollah, *Guys & Dolls*, *Hello Dolly*, *Rogers & Hart Review*, *Oklahoma*, *Sound of Music*, *King & I*, *Music Man*, *Anything Goes*, *Neewollah Follies* and *Beauty and the Beast*. At ICC he's been featured in *JB*, *Damn Yankees*, and performed in the Inge Festival Tributes.

Rothgeb's credits also include producing and serving as judge for Miss Arkansas Valley pageants (Belle Plaine), & State coordinator and Director/Producer for State Miss Cinderella Pageant (Wichita).

Outstanding Service Awards include: Lions Clubs International, Independence Lions Club, Governor of Kansas, Kansas Main Street, Independence Community College, Independence Community College Board of Trustees, Independence Arts Council, American Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and Morgantown Grange.

Ray and Donna reside in Independence. They have two grown sons, David and Doug, who are both engineers and both married to engineers. The Rothgeb's have four grandchildren