

Augsburg receives \$500,000 from W.M. Keck Foundation

Augsburg College News Service

Staff photo



Prof. Milo Schield

Augsburg has been awarded a half million-dollar grant by the W.M. Keck Foundation of Los Angeles to support the development of statistical literacy as an interdisciplinary

curriculum in the liberal arts. This interdisciplinary project will help bridge the gap between formal mathematical statistics and informal critical thinking, between experimental studies and observational studies in the physical sciences, and between the social sciences and the humanities.

The goal of this project is to reform the teaching of statistics to include the use of observationally based statistics. Milo Schield, business administration professor, is the project leader and organizer of the proposal.

This is the first time the W.M. Keck Foundation, one of the top national science funding foundations, has awarded a grant to Augsburg College.

John Knight, director of corporate and foundation relations, calls this "ground-breaking" for the College. Guided and driven by *Augsburg 2004*, Augsburg has the opportunity to forward its vision through this project, create a new discipline that informs and is informed by other academic disciplines, and extend the value of this work to instructors across the U.S.

During the three-year project, Schield will be responsible for writing a statistical literacy text that is useful to students and usable by faculty in various disciplines. There will also be a phase for training teachers and testing materials. Eight other faculty members will be team-teaching with Schield.

This project will introduce new ways of thinking about age-old problems in statistical education and ultimately in all of undergraduate education.