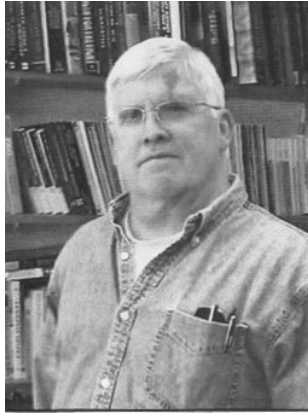


## Dr. Willard C. Klunder



Associate Professor Willard Klunder passed away on September 24, 2015. Dr. Klunder joined the History Department in 1986 as Assistant Professor, specializing in the history of the American Civil War as well as the Age of Jefferson and Jackson. He frequently taught the department's professional course required of all majors, History 300-Introduction to Historical Research and Writing. In the latter course he rigorously trained many history majors in the nuances of doing historical research and writing that served them well in their future upper division courses, the department, and beyond. This in part reflected Will's graduate tutelage under the late Robert W. Johannsen, who stressed readability as well as analytical precision. Will's popular course on the Civil War attracted many non-majors, as well as Wichita community members. His book *Lewis Cass and the Politics of Moderation* (Kent State University Press, 1996) was a well-received biography of one of the leading American political figures of the first half of the nineteenth century.

Dr. Klunder was very active in the activities of the WSU Faculty Senate as a longtime member and twice as its president. He logged many thankless but valuable hours on a slew of department, college, and university committees with considerable diligence. His detailed knowledge of university policies and tenacity for their enforcement made him a strong advocate of faculty and student interests. Dr. Klunder earned the History B.A. from St. Olaf College in Minnesota and the Master's and Ph.D. in History from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. A native of the Park Ridge neighborhood of

Chicago, he remained an inveterate (if long-suffering) Chicago Cubs fan, and an avid fisherman. He is further remembered as a dedicated father and husband, who took great pride and pleasure in planning family summer vacations. He is survived by his mother, a brother, three daughters, and his wife, Cathy.

Dr. John E. Dreifort and Dr. Robert M. Owens

Dr. Klunder was one of those people who took me under his wing to show me the workings of university governance. He was the one who would say “you need to be on this or that committee” because down the road, he knew how those contacts would pan out. He understood the value of relationships and working on projects. That was what made him such a tremendous resource in faculty meetings. He knew how the processes worked, what had been tried or not, and why certain processes were the way they were. This really came home with his illness and passing. I knew he had been active at many levels of the university. I had no idea how many, however, when it became clear how many people were concerned and wanted to be kept updated...and not just from History or even Liberal Arts. People from totally different parts of the university had similar concerns.

Dr. Jay M. Price