[From introduction by Lea Plarski] Ann Dempsey joined the English faculty in 1966. She is truly a Classicist, by education and inclination. Her early training in the classics, and thus in rhetoric and languages, served her in good stead during her years on the English faculty and as English department chairperson. Her background in the classics only reinforced her conviction that all students should have access to excellence.

Dempsey initiated projects such as the Summer Skills project and the Success in College course primarily for the students who arrived at FV underprepared. From 1986 until her retirement, she served as coordinator of the honors program and the liberal arts program. Her doctorate in American Studies supported her interest in such disparate topics as science fiction and fantasy and the Utopian communities. Similarly one of her chief interests has been the role of women in higher education both as leaders and students. She was one of the principals in the Circle Project and produced a teleconference on reducing gender bias in the mathematics classroom. Her leadership skills have been manifested in her service as president of a variety of organizations among them the American Institute of Archaeology, the Great Plains Honors Council, the executive board of the National Collegiate Honors Council, and as a board member of OASIS and the Mid-Continent American Studies Association. This year her alma mater, Lawrence College in Appleton, Wisconsin, honored her with the George Walter award for alumni in the area of community service. This year the STLCC-FV honored her with the David L. Underwood Award. Who better to remind us of our history and our roots as a community and a college?