

Mundy Weaves with Class



Carol Mundy, adjunct associate professor, interior design, loves everything about handmade Oriental rugs – their colors, history,

pattern, yarns and the culture of the people who make them. Mundy has been teaching JCCC's *Asian Rugs and Carpets* class since 2000, seven years at her shop, Mundy and Yazdi Oriental Rugs in Merriam, and on the JCCC campus starting fall 2008.

Mundy is twice retired – once from nursing and once from operating her store. But Jan Cummings, chair/professor, interior design, asked Mundy to keep teaching because of her in-depth

knowledge of oriental carpets.

Mundy earned a bachelor's degree in home economics from Kansas State University and a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Kansas. She was a hospital nurse for nine years, working at KU Medical Center and then Menorah Medical Center, where she finished her career as head nurse on the psychiatric unit. She continued a part-time private practice in individual and group psychotherapy for about 18 years.

Along the way, Mundy met her future husband, Dr. Bill Mundy, and, through Bill and his friend, Amir Adib-Yazdi, developed a passion for oriental rugs. The Mundys began hosting “rugs and desserts” weekends twice a year in their home, which allowed Adib-Yazdi to sell his antique oriental rugs in Greater Kansas City.

The open houses resulted in Mundy's second career, operating Mundy and Yazdi Oriental Rugs from 1990 to 2008. In 1984, the Mundys began the first of their many trips to Turkey through a scholarly tour organized by the Textile Museum, Washington, D.C. The group was led by Walter S. Denny, professor of Islamic Art, the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and one of the leading U.S. scholars in Islamic art and oriental carpets. Since then the Mundys have also made trips to Morocco, two to western China, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, Central Asia and the Caucasus.

“We have traveled with experts from the Textile Museum and the people who have written books on oriental carpets,” Mundy said. “I have had wonderful opportunities to learn accurate information about the subject.”

Mundy became fascinated with the story of the weavers and the cultures where weaving is produced. Routinely in these cultures, weaving has been done by women, who learned from their mothers and grandmothers. However, in the past, the women did not handle the money transactions – these were handled by the males in the family. This has changed and many women are employed in the rug weaving industry.

“The really good weavers put part of their heart and soul into their works,” she said. 🌸

