

Recognizing Outstanding Performance

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Fifteen faculty and staff members were recognized for their exceptional contributions to the University and the community during Wednesday's 2007-08 Faculty/Staff Kickoff.

Awards were presented for innovative teaching, for exemplary contributions from adjunct faculty, and for achievements by faculty of the University's two magnet schools. Also recognized were five outstanding staff members, and one who has demonstrated a strong commitment to the community.

Following is the list of award winners.



Presenters Jane Barstow (far left) and Joseph Voelker (far right) with the winners of the Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Pedagogy: (l-r) Jacob Harney, Marissa Cloutier, and Don Jones.

Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Pedagogy

These awards recognize faculty members who have shown exceptional dedication, innovation, and effectiveness in their teaching, as well as extensive interactions with students.

- **Jacob Harney**, associate professor of biology and chair of the department, College of Arts and Sciences; and **Marissa Cloutier**, instructor of biology, Hillyer College
Harney and Cloutier were honored jointly, a first in the history of the pedagogy award. They developed the All-University Curriculum course, *Issues of Health and Society: Weighing In*. The groundbreaking course, which examines the nation's obesity crisis, has been published as a national model.
- **Don Jones**, associate professor of Rhetoric and Professional Writing, College of Arts and Sciences
Jones's course on critical literacy encourages students to explore the challenging issues of literacy in a technological age, and to commit to reading more closely and writing more analytically.



Winners of the Gordon Clark Ramsey Awards for Creative Excellence (l-r) Barry Lubin and Carole MacKenzie are pictured with presenters (l-r) Donn Weinholtz and Joseph Voelker.

Gordon Clark Ramsey Awards for Creative Excellence

These awards recognize outstanding work by adjunct and part-time faculty.

- **Carole MacKenzie**, adjunct faculty in psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
MacKenzie, a marriage and sex therapist, teaches her course in Human Sexual Behavior using innovative assignments that give student an accurate knowledge of sexuality and a better understanding of themselves.

- **Barry Lubin**, adjunct faculty in mechanical engineering, College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture
Lubin's extensive work on renewable energy sources has led to new courses, a greener campus, and the establishment of the University's Clean Energy Institute.
- **Chris Carrier**, adjunct instructor in creative writing, College of Arts and Sciences
Carrier has become an indispensable part of the English Department, coordinating the Cardin Reading Series, serving as judge in the annual writing competition, and mentoring the student editorial board of Aerie, the undergraduate literary magazine.



Presenter Alan Hadad (far left) with the winners of the University Magnet Schools Innovation and Collaboration Awards: (l-r) Theresa Vara-Dannen, Patricia Sward, and Jill Carey.

University Magnet Schools Innovation and Collaboration Awards

These awards, sponsored and funded by an anonymous donor, are given annually to faculty from University of Hartford Magnet School and the University High School of Science and Engineering.

- **Jill Carey**, magnet theme coach, University High School of Science and Engineering
Carey plays a critical role in the success of University High School by providing the tools needed for the continuing improvement of the professional teaching staff. She offers support and expertise to experienced teachers and mentors those just starting out.
- **Patricia Sward**, teacher, Early Childhood Program, University of Hartford Magnet School
Sward embodies the very principles upon which the Magnet School is based. Her gentle guidance, high standards, and inclusive classroom environment help to nurture a love of learning in her preschoolers.
- **Theresa Vara-Dannen**, English teacher, University High School of Science and Engineering
Vara-Dannen teaches her students to express their thoughts and emotions in writing by keeping journals, and strives to turn them into life-long readers through vocabulary building, reading aloud in class, and lively classroom discussions.



Presenters Arosha Jayawickrema (far left) and Jason Pomposelli (far right) with the winners of the Outstanding Staff Member Awards: (l-r) Elaine Cooley, Terri Raimondi, Alice Schoenrock, Terry Spencer, and Natalie Wing.

Outstanding Staff Member Awards

These awards recognize individuals who demonstrate exceptional dedication to the University of Hartford and who play a critical role in the success of this institution and its students.

- **Elaine Cooley**, assistant to the dean, College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions
Cooley is known for her organizational skills, professionalism, and dedication to students, parents, faculty, and staff. Working with colleagues, she has organized training sessions and other activities to strengthen the “esprit de corps of staff in ENHP.
- **Terri Raimondi**, manager of media relations, Office of Communication
Raimondi’s exceptional organizing skills were on display this past spring, when she coordinated the “Day in the Life” of the University photography exhibition on campus, which attracted significant media coverage. She also helped generate national coverage of the Alan Tompkins exhibit at the Silpe Gallery.
- **Alice Schoenrock**, coordinator, Department of Economics, Finance and Insurance, Barney School of Business
Schoenrock, who also serves as coordinator of the R.C. Knox Center for Insurance and Risk Management, has a well-established reputation for helpfulness and dedication to Barney and its students, and building a strong sense of community within the school.
- **Terry Spencer**, Maintenance Control Center administrator, Facilities Department
Spencer has been called the heart of the University’s Maintenance Center. She is well known for her efficiency and composure in handling the needs of countless facilities throughout the University.
- **Natalie Wing**, coordinator of academic studies, The Hartt School
As coordinator for five departments at Hartt, Wing provides invaluable support, and often organizes special events to recognize special events recognizing faculty and student achievements. She has also earned BA and MA degrees from the University.

Community Service Award

This award honors faculty and staff who have demonstrated a strong commitment to Hartford, Bloomfield, and West Hartford, the three communities in which the University is located. Recipients are actively working to improve and enhance communities in need, and by their example, have encouraged others to do the same.

- **Susan Landolina**, administrative assistant, Student Centers and Activities
Landolina’s dedication and her helpful and caring attitude have had a positive impact throughout the University and beyond. She always goes the extra mile to ensure success for such events at the College Bowl, the Model UN, and Connecticut Special Olympics.