

# Awards Recognize Faculty and Staff Achievement

Posted 8/28/2009

Seventeen faculty and staff members were recognized for their exceptional contributions during Wednesday's 2009-10 Faculty/Staff Kickoff.

Awards were presented for innovative teaching, exceptional contributions from adjunct faculty, achievements by faculty of the University's two magnet schools, community service, and outstanding staff.

Following is the list of award winners.



Winners of the Awards for Innovations in Teaching and Learning (l-r): Beth Richards, presenter Marcia Moen, Ivana Milanovic, Ken Steen, Dee Hansen, Gene Gort, Roger Desmond, Provost Lynn Pasquerella, and President Walter Harrison.

## **Awards for Innovations in Teaching and Learning**

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

### **– Roger Desmond, professor of communication, College of Arts and Sciences (A&S)**

Desmond developed a challenging business journalism course that requires students to develop new research skills, such as finding and interpreting complex financial data, in order to write meaningful articles about many different kinds of businesses.

### **– Gene Gort, associate professor of media arts, Hartford Art School**

### **– Ken Steen, associate professor of theory and composition, The Hartt School**

Gort and Steen's "New Media Collaborative" links students in the Art School's Media Arts Department and Hartt's Composition Department through a website that provides a portal for sharing media files with the intent of fostering successful working collaborations on multi-media projects.

### **– Dee Hansen, associate professor and chair of Graduate Studies, Music Education Division, The Hartt School**

Hansen's Music Leadership and Administration graduate course is among those rated extremely high by her students, all of whom are working teachers. Hansen helps her students understand themselves as learners and communicators through a Learning Styles inventory, and as a final activity, she has them write a Personal Leadership Development Plan.

### **– Ivana Milanovic, associate professor and chair of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA)**

Milanovic's development of an innovative new laboratory structure for a sequence of thermofluids experiments has resulted in outstanding student accomplishment.

### **– Beth Richards, director of Rhetoric and Professional Writing, A&S**

Under a \$1.9 million grant that she co-wrote, Richards spent a month during the summer of 2008, and again in May 2009, teaching English to engineering students at Herat University in Afghanistan.



(l-r) President Walter Harrison; winners of the Gordon Clark Ramsey Awards for Creative Excellence Susan Finnegan and Kathleen Gannon; Provost Lynn Pasquerella; and Sharon Shepela, chair of the Faculty Senate.

### **Gordon Clark Ramsey Awards for Creative Excellence**

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

– **Susan Finnegan, adjunct faculty member in Painting and Foundations, Hartford Art School**

Finnegan has explored how the process of painting might incorporate the use of two software programs – Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator – and as part of that exploration, she arranged a collaboration between a Visual Communication Design major and one of her independent study painting students.

– **Kathleen Gannon, adjunct faculty member in Academic Strategies, Hillyer College**

Gannon volunteered to be the point person who works closely with students and faculty in the Hillyer College Cohort project, which is designed to provide a mix of classroom experiences, support services and oversight for students having trouble with their first semester.



(l-r) President Harrison; winners of the University Magnet Schools Innovation and Collaboration Awards Gary Swanson and Anne Shemkovitz; Provost Pasquerella; and Alan Hadad, associate vice president and dean of University magnet schools

### **University Magnet Schools Innovation and Collaboration Awards**

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

– **Anne Shemkovitz, third-grade teacher, University of Hartford Magnet School**

Shemkovitz is committed to helping children understand the connection between reading and writing. In preparing to publish an article for a third-grade audience in *Appleseeds* magazine, Shemkovitz involved her students directly in the process of research and communication with a scientist, and then with reading and marking up her own rough drafts, enabling them to see how writers do their work.

– **Gary Swanson, mathematics teacher, University High School of Science and Engineering**

Swanson, an industrial engineer, is an integral member of University High School's Vex *FIRST* Robotics team. His contagious enthusiasm and ability to encourage students to excel and reach their potential have been praised by everyone with whom he works.



(l-r) President Harrison, Provost Pasquerella, Community Service Award winner Chris Dupuis, and John Carson, vice president of University relations. Missing from the photo is Community Service Award winner Susan Grantham.

### **Community Service Awards**

These awards honor 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.

#### **– Chris Dupuis, senior project manager, Facilities Department**

As senior project manager for the Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center, Dupuis understood the importance of the project not only to the University, but also to the local community and the City of Hartford. He routinely went beyond the expected role of project manager in meeting the needs of the community, and his patience, professionalism, and dedication to accuracy helped ensure the tremendous success of the Handel Center project.

#### **– Susan Grantham, associate professor of communication, A&S**

Every year, students in Grantham's Public Relations Campaigns class develop complete public relations campaigns for local non-profit organizations. Over the past five years, her students have provided marketing and public relations support to 15 organizations.



Winners of the Outstanding Staff Member Award (l-r): Dawn Newton, Marsha Gaulin, Liz Inkel, Polly Kallen, and Ross Fialkiewicz with Provost Pasquerella and President Harrison.

### **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.

#### **– Ross Fialkiewicz, electrician, Facilities Department**

A highly experienced and skilled electrician, Fialkiewicz is extremely conscientious about his work, is always willing to take on any assignment, and routinely goes "above and beyond" what is expected of him. Fialkiewicz's devotion to his job does not end at quitting time, as he is frequently called upon after hours and on weekends to do overtime projects.

#### **– Marsha Gaulin, office coordinator, Career Services**

Gaulin manages to juggle the needs of students, alumni, parents, and employers with remarkable efficiency and enthusiasm. Her colleagues find her to be a source of ideas and solutions who enlivens staff meetings and helps them to see things from another's point of view.

**– Liz Inkel, office manager, Counseling and Psychological Services**

Inkel not only excels at managing a very busy office, but she has a wonderful ability to ease the anxieties of students by offering empathy, reassurance and support. When faced with emergencies, she handles difficult situations and demanding circumstances with efficiency and professionalism.

**– Polly Kallen, executive assistant to the Provost**

Having served as executive assistant to four provosts, Kallen is well-known on campus for her extraordinary professionalism and her tireless commitment to faculty, staff, and students. Among her many achievements, Kallen has provided staff support for the University's NEASC accreditation and changed the faculty contract process to a computerized system.

**– Dawn Newton, buyer, Purchasing Department**

Newton is known throughout the campus for always being accessible, knowledgeable, and ready to answer, advise, explain, and provide assistance. Although her official title is buyer, she also administers the P-Card program, conducts training sessions, and works with vendors to present office product shows and "lunch and learn" programs.