

Seven Distinguished Faculty Awards were presented at the "Celebration of Faculty" on April 21, 2009. Following are the statements read by the Provost at the time of the presentation.

Distinguished Teaching Award --- Deborah Jeter

This year's recipient of the **Distinguished Teaching Award** is Professor **Deborah Jeter**, a senior instructor in the Mathematics Department. Since her arrival at the College of Charleston in 1998, Debby has been a key player in teaching the Pre-Calculus & Calculus sequences. Since these courses are prerequisites for both math & science majors, it is essential to have a teacher with Debby's skill & dedication to ensure that students are properly prepared.

Debby has been instrumental in connecting mathematics with the other sciences. She has been involved with Learning Communities in the Chemistry Department & developing interdisciplinary lab projects for pre-calculus. She is on the cutting edge of technology use in the classroom & has served as an instructor for "Teachers Teaching with Technology."

Debby's teaching does not end with her own classes. She has long been an advocate for the improvement of both college & K-12 education in the state. She was the recipient of a \$27,000 Center for Partnerships to Improve Education grant as well as an \$18,000 Teachers Teaching with Technology grant. She mentors Mathematics Education students, assisting them with presentations for professional meetings & supervising their teaching of mathematics skills during the Clinical Practice semester in K-12 classrooms. She works tirelessly for the annual College of Charleston Math Meet that brings talented high-school mathematics students to Charleston for a weekend competition.

Debby has an impressive record of service in professional organizations. She has been a very active member & presenter at the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics & at the South Carolina Council for Teachers of Mathematics, for which she currently serves as Vice-President for Post-Secondary Education.

A leader in the department, college, state & national levels, it is an honor to have a gifted & dedicated teacher such as Debby Jeter in our ranks.

Distinguished Teaching Award --- Scott Peeples

Scott Peeples, a thirteen year faculty member in the English Department at the College of Charleston, has maintained a steady research program & has earned the reputation of being one of the foremost scholars of Edgar Allan Poe in the world.

His first book, *Edgar Allen Poe Revisited ...* established him as a nationally recognized scholar. His second book, *The Afterlife of Edgar Allen Poe ...* won the Patrick F. Quinn Award for the best book on Poe in 2004. He is currently President of the Poe Studies Association, co-editor of the *Poe Studies/Dark Romanticism* journal, & editor for Camden House's Literary Criticism in Perspective Series. In addition Scott has published in numerous peer-reviewed journals. During the worldwide bicentennial celebrations of Poe's birth, Dr. Peeples has been in great demand as a speaker, including the annual lecture for the Poe Society of Baltimore; the Edgar Allan Poe International Conference, in Albacete, Castilla-La Mancha, Spain, & at Boston College & the University of Virginia.

Scott received a **Fulbright Specialist** grant to give the plenary speech at the international conference entitled "The Adventures of Edgar Allan Poe Through Time and Culture," sponsored by the Gorky Institute of World Literature of the Russian Academy of Science. [Scott was unable to attend the presentation because he was in Moscow for this event.]

We applaud **Scott Peeples**, the 2009 recipient of the **Distinguished Research Award**.

Distinguished Service Award --- C. Michael Phillips

The recipient of this year's **Distinguished Service Award** is noted for his energetic, positive attitude & commitment to the faculty & students at the College of Charleston. Faculty across the disciplines attested to his "superior performance," "extraordinary helpfulness," & "superb" organizational abilities. In his position as Assistant Head of Reference & Interlibrary Loan coordinator, he works tirelessly & efficiently to locate & borrow copies of the books & journals so necessary for faculty & student research. He has led efforts to implement the state-wide PASCAL rapid delivery service. As Associate Dean for the School of Languages, Cultures, & World Affairs, he has assisted in much of the new school's organizational transition, including directing the work of roster & adjunct faculty in interdisciplinary studies & the less commonly taught languages.

A few of his many other contributions include submitting changes to the Senate by-laws that allowed for electronic balloting, chairing the Committee on Nominations & Elections, chairing the Grievance Committee, co-authoring & editing the self study for the accreditation materials for the Music department & the plan for the MAT in Choral music, coordinating the non-music department faculty/staff recital for the Mozart project, & coordinating the library's Arnold Schoenberg exhibit.

One nominator noted that "his efforts have improved the education of every student at the College of Charleston. Very few professors can have that enviable legacy." The winner of this year's **Distinguished Service Award** is **C. Michael Phillips**.

Three faculty were recognized for their Distinguished Advising.

Distinguished Advising Award --- Diane Cudahy

The first recipient fulfills an essential role as a primary advisor for the entire Teaching Fellows program. As an advisor, she provides guidance on course selection, & guides the students all the way through their college years as they prepare for the teaching profession. She also follows them with advice into their professional careers, sometimes long after they have left the College of Charleston.

She never tells a student what to do, but helps them figure out their options. She helps students make the right course selections so that they can finish in four years, & also is there for them during their job search & during difficult personal times.

I am pleased to present this 2009 **Distinguished Advising Award** to Dr. **Diane Cudahy**.

Distinguished Advising Award --- Elizabeth Jurisich

The next recipient of the **Distinguished Advising Award** plays a fundamental role in advising across the entire mathematics curriculum, from general education through the major. Each semester, she helps countless students with requests for placement advice, transfer evaluations, & overrides into courses.

She is the primary advisor of all math majors, both the first person they see for advising after declaring a new major & one of the last to sign off on their senior capstone projects. Although each has an assigned academic advisor, many continue to come back to her every semester for further advising.

She combines consistency & high standards with geniality & fairness, and is readily available to discuss any questions that students, parents, or other faculty members may have about mathematics courses.

I am pleased to present this 2009 **Distinguished Advising Award** to Dr. **Elizabeth Jurisich**.

Distinguished Advising Award --- Duncan Munro

The third recipient of the **Distinguished Advising Award** fulfills an essential role not only as a primary advisor for Biology students, but also in evaluating hundreds of transfer credit & study abroad program requests each semester. In addition to Biology majors, these requests come from students in all disciplines as they seek to fulfill general education requirements or requirements for various health professions schools.

As the instructor of the Human Physiology course, his roles as teacher, advisor, & associate department chair often became entirely intertwined. Advising students simply became second nature to him.

In his capacity as Associate Chair, he consistently stepped up to meet with new, incoming students during summer orientation sessions. For large numbers of them, he has been the person to welcome them to the Department of Biology. His imperturbable demeanor & dry wit have been legendary among students for the past 18 years. He will be greatly missed when he retires.

I am pleased to present this **2009 Distinguished Advising Award** to Dr. **Duncan Munro**.

Distinguished Teacher/Scholar Award --- Susan E. Farrell

The 2009 **Distinguished Teacher/Scholar Award** recipient is **Susan Elizabeth Farrell**, Professor of English. She received her B.A. degree in English from Austin College, earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in English from the University of Texas, & has been at the College of Charleston since 1993. In those 16 years she has taught 18 different courses & supervised 74 independent studies, tutorials, & bachelor's essays! The teacher/scholar is one who integrates her research into teaching & works closely with students on research projects. Susan Farrell epitomizes this model.

A specialist in contemporary American fiction with research interests in the works of Kurt Vonnegut & Tim O'Brien, she is already acknowledged as one of the top scholars in Vonnegut & O'Brien studies. Susan has developed interesting & popular courses on Vietnam War Literature & Hemingway, Vonnegut & O'Brien. She previously published Critical Companion to Kurt Vonnegut: A Literary Reference to his Life and Work, and Jane Smiley's A Thousand Acres: A Reader's Guide. Each of these works is a lengthy encyclopedic treatment of the author's entire body of work, including a brief biography, original commentary on all of the works, reference sections that examine people, places, historical events, & ideas central to an understanding of the author, & extensive bibliographies. Dr. Farrell is currently working on her third book entitled Critical Companion to Tim O'Brien: A Literary Reference to his Life and Work. In addition to these books, Dr. Farrell has published numerous articles & presented papers at professional meetings.

Professor Farrell's scholarship meshes seamlessly with her teaching. She involves students in research by requiring that they practice literary research in her classes. Her classes receive high evaluations & her student feedback is very positive. Dr. Farrell continually revises & updates her courses. As one of her colleagues said about Susan Farrell, "She is the model of the intellectually engaged & engaging faculty member."

Congratulations to **Susan Farrell** on being the 2009 **Distinguished Teacher/Scholar**.