Celebrating Faculty Excellence

May 4, 2015

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTION AWARD

BEN HUFF

Mr. Huff has been an adjunct instructor in Art at UAS Juneau Campus since fall of 2011, and is considered by his peers to be an excellent educator and an integral part of the art program. He often mentors undergraduate students preparing photography projects in conjunction with our URECA awards (Undergraduate and Creative Expression Awards). He offers encouragement and support to students entering their artwork into art exhibitions. As an active artist himself, Ben models successful artistic development and learning, both inside the classroom and in the community. Said one of his students: “the qualities and values that Ben shows through his teaching are what create excellence and...a positive change in students here at the University of Alaska Southeast.” Ben Huff’s new book, The Last Road North, published by Kehrer Verlag, will be available later this spring.

RESEARCH AWARD

HEIDI PEARSON, PH.D.

Since arriving at UAS in the fall of 2011, Dr. Pearson has distinguished herself in research and in involving undergraduate students in the quest for new knowledge. She successfully secured seven research grants, one of which is from the University of Sydney in Australia to develop a miniature camera for use in behavioral work with dusky dolphins. She has published six papers in scientific journals, including Behavior, PLOS ONE, and Evolutionary Anthropology. She developed a new upper-division course, Marine Ornithology and Herpetology, based in part on her research interests. A student commented that “she has demonstrated excellence not only in teaching but as an undergraduate research advisor to her students. I have personally benefited from Heidi’s outstanding guidance in the research I have participated in with her. She has not only made me feel confident and capable of carrying out such projects, but she provides the insight and knowledge to allow my experience to be deeply enlightening.”

SERVICE AWARD

JULIE HAMILTON

Julie Hamilton began teaching full time at UAS in fall 2012, having retired from a distinguished career as the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation’s chief financial officer. As a new faculty member, Julie quickly became a role model for her students as someone who actively seeks out opportunities to serve communities and businesses throughout Southeast Alaska. According to one peer, Julie is known for “her commitment to serve accounting students beyond the classroom.” She created a new student club—Southeast Alaskan Prospective Accountants (SEPA)—in the fall of 2013 and continues to serve as the faculty advisor. She also promotes the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program by donating her time assisting VITA volunteers prepare over 1000 tax returns in communities across Southeast Alaska. Said one collaborator with the Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority, “We would not be able to continue the VITA program without Julie’s vital help.”

TEACHING AWARD

SUZANNE MALTER

Assistant Professor Suzanne Malter has been a valuable part of the UAS Health Sciences team for over 5 years, teaching in the Nurse Aide program. Colleagues and students alike praise her for her encouraging and nurturing spirit. For several years she has been recognized for her work as an Eden Alternative Philosophy mentor with staff and elders at the Juneau Pioneer Home. Her nursing students benefit from her years of experience and appreciate the support gained from her positive and engaging teaching style. A student who nominated her for this award says “…it is clear she has dedicated her life not only to the care and service of others but...to teaching others how to engage in a lifestyle that promotes love and respect for all—in all stages of life.” A peer commented, “while teaching students to care for others she instructs and role models for them to care for themselves.” Suzanne Malter is a highly deserving recipient of this award for Faculty Excellence in Teaching.