Shore named 2005 Kansas Professor of the Year

Psychology professor Ellie Shore enjoys teaching, but never thought about achieving recognition for doing it. Yet her colleagues, peers and students thought differently, as did the Carnegie Foundation and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

This past November the two organizations jointly named Shore the 2005 Kansas Professor of the Year. The award recognizes professors for their extraordinary dedication to undergraduate teaching. Students, faculty and colleagues write letters in support of the professor’s nomination.

“Obviously, the award is an honor. When people say you’re good, it feels good,” said Shore.

Charlie Burdsal, professor of psychology and department chair, said the department was thrilled when Shore won.

“We’ve made a real effort to value teaching,” he said. “To see one of our faculty win such an award validates what we believe in terms of undergraduate education.”

Across the United States, peers and colleagues nominated almost 400 professors for the 2005 award. The Carnegie Foundation and CASE selected 40 winners from the states, Guam and the District of Columbia. They also selected four national winners.

In Kansas, Shore is well-known for her significant contributions to substance-abuse counselor training and her work with the Kansas Humane Society. On campus, she is known for nurturing students, using an engaging teaching style and possessing a low-key, humble personality.

A modest woman, Shore downplays her achievement as Professor of the Year, saying, “We forget what a role chance plays in our lives.”

However, many individuals recognize her greatest strength: teaching. Their confidence underscores that chance had nothing to do with the award.

Teaching philosophy
Shore believes students consider the best teachers to be those who are excited about their area of study, easy to communicate with, and lighthearted in their approach in the classroom.

“I think it’s harder for students to stay distant if the teacher is enthusiastic. I think where teachers go wrong is when they understand a topic at a higher level but can’t translate it to a level that works without dumbing it down,” she said. “Students also like a teacher who isn’t too serious, but it has to be an appropriate sense of humor, obviously.”

Students seem to share her philosophy. In his letter of support for Shore’s nomination as Professor of the Year, Dale Autrey wrote, “As a student, I...”
McDonald chosen to lead university research administration

At the core of a strong liberal arts and sciences education is a thriving research program involving students, faculty, the university and the community. David McDonald, professor and chair of biological sciences, plans to drive this point home in his new position as associate vice president for research and director of research administration.

David McDonald received about $6.1 million in grant funding in fiscal year 2005. Federal agencies such as the Department of Justice, National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health have generously funded projects or programs developed by WSU. "It's a real sign of how well we're doing," McDonald said. "There are a number of factors that go into making grants. The signs are good for us to continue to do that.

McDonald sees his new position as very important to Fairmount College because of its large number of grant-activve departments, especially in the natural and social sciences. Funding is also available in the humanities, although grant support is usually much smaller. Fairmount College should not stop with WSU and Fairmount College.

Puebla summer program to celebrate 40th anniversary

In September 1966 Henry Malene, American studies, delivered to President Emory Lindsquist his report on the summer immersion program 21 students had recently completed in Puebla, Mexico. Students, he said, had the most gratifying experience was living with and sharing the daily lives of their Mexican hosts.

Now in its 40th year of operation and under the direction of Robert Phillips, Fairmount College Dean’s office, the Puebla summer program represents the goal of the early Puebla institutes — “to foster the Mexican-American students’” — to consist the Mexicans. More than 1,000 students and teachers have participated.

From Spratlies to Puebla

The Puebla summer program grew from the heart of the National Defense Education Act, passed by Congress in 1958 and following the last days of World War II. In 1955, the State Department invited Mexican students for the first time to explore space exploration was underway, and presidents Harry S. Truman and John F. Kennedy were pushing for America to be first on the moon.

To support Americans in becoming front runners in the fields of technology, science and international communication, NDEA authorized funding to support federally backed programs in science and technical fields. It also strengthened educational opportunities in science, mathematics and foreign languages.

Phillips hopes the Puebla program still represents the heart of NDEA.

The program provides opportunities for students and teachers to study the Spanish language and gain the invaluable experience of living and working in Mexico. In 1993, Hotel Colonial staff celebrated its 30-year relationship with Wichita State University and recognized John Koppenkover, emeritus associate professor of Spanish, for his contributions as a professor and director of the program.Plans are underway for the 40th anniversary celebration this summer of the relationship between the city of Puebla and Wichita State.

NEW FACULTY & STAFF

Dinara Azpur, assistant professor, political science
Alejandra Bonifacino, instructor, MGLS
Catherine Browning, budget coordinator, Self-Help Network
Kristy Egburt, assistant to the chair, biological sciences
Laura Greaves, research associate, Self-Help Network
Susan Loss, instructor, mathematics
Linda Meister, information specialist, Self-Help Network
Amy Lautters, assistant professor, Elliott College of Science
Yun-Hwa Mau, undergraduate laboratory coordinator, biological sciences
Ed Merkle, research assistant professor, psychology
Jianliang Qian, assistant professor, mathematics
Melissa Rekas, data director, psychology
Victoria Shafer, assistant professor, psychology
Malika Soh’en, creative writing, Self-Help Network
Bin Shuai, assistant professor, biological sciences
Lisa Thomas, associate professor, sociology
Karen Tones, instructor, sociology

Faculty & Staff Accolades
Six Fairmount College faculty and staff have won university awards recognizing their contributions to teaching, research or service.

Distinguished McGtenti Fellowship was awarded to Professor Robert Phillips, faculty and staff recently underwent training to use the student advising and information module.

The legacy system has segmented databases, some of which are not connected and do not “talk” to one another. However, faculty, staff and students will be able to access information from a single, integrated database once WIN is completely installed. David Alexander, professor of physics and WIN project manager, has been involved with this project since its introduction in 2004. Keith Pickus, associate vice president for research, has worked with Fairmount College personnel on the use of the finance module, which handles budgets and accounting practices.

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For more information about the Puebla summer program, visit the program website at:

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For more information about the Puebla summer program, visit the program website at http://mcll.wichita.edu/
Professor cont’d from page 1

found her to be one of the most motivating, encouraging, and stimulating instructors I have experienced. I found her able to handle difficult students with unusual grace and flair. In an era when education seems to be lowering the standards of excellence, she raises it, demanding my best, within my abilities.”

Burdsal thinks Shore’s strongest personality traits contribute to her teaching.

“She is honest and you can trust her. She doesn’t tell you what you want to hear unless she believes it,” he said. “She’s really directed and knows what she wants out of a class.”

Research, learning and service

Shore’s research background in alcohol use and abuse started when she was in graduate school and working for the Nebraska Division of Alcoholism. She became interested in the issue of prevention—a new concept of the late 1970s—and designed prevention programs. It became the center issue of her research and teaching path.

In 1993, the State of Kansas enacted legislation requiring substance-abuse counselors to complete 18 hours of content-specific coursework for certification. Shore volunteered to develop the relevant courses at WSU. In 2004, when the state increased the certification requirements to include an associate’s degree with specific coursework, she worked with the Kansas Addiction Educators Section and Addictions and Prevention Services to develop a 29-credit-hour college curriculum. She developed the extensive and detailed coursework manual for the program, and AAPS adopted the manual for use as a guide for all AAPS-approved universities and community colleges in Kansas.

Animals play a significant role in Shore’s life, too. Through a chance encounter with a Kansas Humane Society volunteer, Shore began a research and service path that explored reasons for animal turnover, pet overpopulation and animal welfare. It was a path she hadn’t planned to take.

“It really was not so much a love of animals, but I was drawn into the Humane Society and their work,” she said. “It is hard work and the people who do the work deserve a lot of credit.”

Although she enjoys learning from colleagues, students and animals, her passion for education is most evident in her own upcoming commencement ceremony. Shore is completing a bachelor of arts degree in French in May.

For someone who gives much credence to chance in life shaping its outcome, one thing is certain: Ellie Shore makes the most of the opportunities she’s given.