

Distinguished Faculty



Cynthia Daley **Outstanding Professor 2002/2003**

Daley exemplifies the "teacher/scholar" model, in which the best teachers engage in on-going research. Teacher/scholars stay current in their fields, tend to be enthusiastic about their subject, and, as in Daley's work, give students the opportunity to be involved in original research.

Daley began teaching at CSU, Chico in 1993 as a lecturer and was hired as an assistant professor in 1998. In the first two years of her appointment, she received \$1.15 million in grants. She developed research programs in the diverse fields of assisted reproductive technologies and alternative uses for agricultural wastes. She has also received a USDA Challenge Grant to support integrating biotechnology throughout CSU, Chico's agricultural curriculum.

The American Association of State Colleges of Agriculture and Renewable Resources named her recipient of their 2002 Outstanding Teacher Award for excellence in teaching. The California Agriculture Teachers Association presented her with their Teacher of Teachers Award in 2001 for her contributions to the agriculture teaching profession.

Daley headed a national research project which resulted in the birth of three cloned Charolais calves in 2001. Her student-assisted project contributed to studies determining the viability of cloned cow embryos.

Daley is known for mentoring students and providing them the opportunity to collaborate on research. In letters of nomination, her students spoke of the impact Daley has made in their lives through her instruction, advising, and friendship, and how she has provided them with valuable research experience and critical participation in scientific endeavors.

"Dr. Daley has distinguished herself as one of the finest young professors in agricultural sciences in the country," said then President Manuel Esteban. ■



Laird Easton **Outstanding Professor 2003/2004**

History professor Laird M. Easton received the honor for his scholarly research and writing, which resulted in the highly acclaimed *The Red Count: The Life and Times of Harry Kessler* (University of California Press, 2002); his high-quality teaching; his dedicated mentoring of graduate students; and his many contributions to the intellectual and scholarly environment of the department and the university.

"Laird's sense of collegiality, unwavering intellectual presence and constant friendship have sustained my vision of being a scholar-teacher amid a community of scholar-teachers," said colleague Larry Bryant. Easton came to Chico in 1991.

Easton said of scholarship and teaching, "I left a very enjoyable career in publishing both to pursue my own scholarship and to teach: the two activities are deeply intertwined and mutually reinforce each other. I am a better teacher for being a scholar." He says that his scholarship enhances his teaching by modeling being a historian to students by enriching the content of his courses through "the rich, personal material that enlivens lectures and makes abstract issues vivid," and by understanding the struggle with problems of research and composition that students also face.

One of his former students described Easton as "the most outstanding teacher and scholar I have had the privilege of knowing in my academic career."

In addition to his teaching and research, Easton has been the director of the Humanities Center at CSU, Chico since 2001. In that role, he has brought renowned scholars to campus. He co-led the College of Humanities and Fine Arts London Semester in spring 2000. He has published 16 reviews of books and textbooks on European history and delivered seven conference papers during his tenure at CSU, Chico. ■



Eddie Vela
Outstanding Teacher 2002/2003

Psychology professor Eddie Vela's students describe him as an "incredible" teacher who sets high academic standards in the classroom and provides them with ready and personalized support outside of the classroom.

Vela began teaching at CSU, Chico in 1989. He has received the Outstanding Professor of the Year award from the Associated Students and several instructional improvement and research grants. He was a CSU, Chico Master Teacher for 1999-2000.

Vela's expertise is in cognitive psychology and perception. His publications include co-authorship of "Study Guide for Culture's Influence on Behavior" and journal articles such as "Emotion in the Classroom" in *Teaching Excellence* and "Environmental Context-dependent Memory" in *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*.

Vela describes himself as a "learning partner" with students. He says that, as a teacher, he brings his knowledge of how human beings learn to how he structures his courses. He draws upon the whole of his life, when appropriate, and believes that doing so can enliven the classroom.

He uses multiple learning strategies to reach students who learn in different ways; he pays close attention to student behavior so that he knows whether he is reaching them and that they are involved; and he maintains enthusiasm for the material and the students.

Students appreciate the time and energy Vela gives to them and for the personal interest he takes in their learning. "I was merely another one of his innumerable students when I came to him for help, yet the degree of caring he showed me literally changed my life. I needed someone to have faith in me. This is what he gives to every student that has the privilege of encountering him," said a student in one of Vela's core psychology classes. ■



Sara Trechter
Outstanding Teacher 2003/2004

Trechter received the award based on her commitment to teaching, her enthusiasm for her subject, and her consistently high evaluations from students. Lynn Elliott, chair of the Department of English, said, "Since her arrival in 1995, Sara has taught extra courses, created new courses, invited speakers to enrich instruction at CSU, Chico, and offered presentations on teacher training."

Trechter received her Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of Kansas in 1995. Her fields of specialization include Native American languages with an emphasis in Siouan languages, gender and language, and comparative/historical linguistics.

Trechter is praised by her colleagues not only for her expertise in her field of specialization, but also for her broad knowledge in the field of linguistics and for her ability to create and teach new courses. In addition to Principles of Language and Theory and Practice of Second Language Acquisition, two courses Trechter regularly teaches, she has taught over a dozen other courses, including Language and Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective, Language Policy and Linguistic Ideology, and History of the English Language.

Elliott said, "Comments from faculty and students are laudatory, emphasizing Sara's ability to create a student-centered, scholarly, and challenging classroom environment." In letters of support for Trechter's nomination, students used terms such as "inspirational, rigorous but fair, challenging, clear, patient, lively and funny."

"Sara's involvement goes far beyond courses taught in the English department. Her talent, insights, energy, and commitment to teaching have spread throughout the university and into the surrounding community colleges and high schools," said Elliott. ■

Distinguished Faculty



Madeline Keaveney **Outstanding Faculty Service 2002/2003**

Communication Arts and Sciences professor Madeline Keaveney began her teaching career at CSU, Chico in 1974. She has served on numerous department committees; she has enabled many students to share in her research opportunities; she has mentored faculty as a Master Teacher in 1997-98; and she has provided many opportunities for honors students.

Keaveney has served on the college Affirmative Action Committee, the Personnel Committee and Dean Review Committee. She has supported the university in acting as the academic advisor to the wrestling team, the baseball team, and the cheerleading squad; she has coordinated the General Education Gender Theme; and she chaired the University Affirmative Action Committee and served on the University Writing Committee and the University Personnel Committee. Her active involvement for 10 years in the Summer Bridge program was pivotal in the success of its students.

In the larger community, she judges gymnastics events, is a quilter with the Annie Star Quilt Guild, and is a member of the Lion's Club scholarship committee.

"I believe that service is an often neglected and undervalued component of university life, an unfortunate result of the perception that there is too much work and too little time," said Keaveney.

Keaveney says that she serves for a variety of reasons, including the chance to exercise skills and interests, deeply held convictions, the love of activity, and parental example. Her parents volunteered in their community, and she saw the positive impact of their efforts. "Service is important to do and to do well, even though there may be minimal thanks or recognition. It is an opportunity to pay back and to pay forward," said Keaveney. ■



Paul Spear **Outstanding Faculty Service 2003/2004**

Spear came to CSU, Chico in 1970. He completed his Ph.D. in psychology with a specialization in developmental psychology in 1968 from the University of Denver.

In addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in developmental psychology, Spear has served on the Child Development Program Committee for 33 years, chaired 17 master's thesis committees, and served on numerous others. He has served on recruitment, personnel, and faculty merit increase committees.

As chair of the department since 1998, Spear has provided leadership for the department's recent successful five-year review. "In my tenure as dean at CSU, Chico, I have not seen any department present as thorough and thoughtful a set of review materials, draw on the expertise of their consultant as effectively, and consider the implications of their self-study," said Jeanne Thomas, former dean of the College Behavioral and Social Sciences.

Spear has been involved in the Academic Senate since 1978, serving two terms as chair and participating on key standing committees.

Spear served for 15 years as a statewide academic senator, where he helped shape and communicate the goals of higher education to educational organizations at the local, state, and national levels.

Gayle Hutchinson, chair of the Department of Physical Education and Exercise Science, served with Spear on the Academic Senate's Education Policies and Programs Committee for seven years. Her description of what she learned through watching Spear is characteristic of the contributions he has made: "[I learned to...] investigate thoroughly and examine the impact a proposal may have on curriculum at all levels; pay attention to state, community, and campus politics, and to keep students in the forefront of all your thinking." ■



Mark Morlock
Outstanding Academic advisor 2002/2003

Economics professor Mark Morlock graduated from CSU, Chico in 1973 with a B.A. in economics. He took his Ph.D. in economics at Washington State University and returned to CSU, Chico in 1980. He was chair of the Department of Economics from 1985 until 1987.

As director of the Social Science Program from 1996 through August 2002, Morlock advised more than 180 majors in a complex program. The program presents “a dizzying array of variety and possible combinations,” said Jeanne Thomas, former dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences. “It is arguably one of the most complex majors on campus.”

The program serves students who are preparing for a teaching credential, so the social science director must be familiar with California’s credentialing requirements. Since the social science major is also available online, many of the majors are distance students who bring a whole new set of considerations to the advising setting. In addition, social science students elect both a primary and secondary area of concentration, choosing from more than 20 options, which increases the demands on an advisor’s expertise. Morlock’s colleagues describe him as “committed to students, a strong communicator, attentive to detail, and compassionate.”

Pamela Healy, Career Planning and Placement, said of Morlock, her advisor on her master’s thesis committee, “He monitored and encouraged my progress toward my career goal by giving concrete, appropriate advice and encouraging academic excellence. Because of his encouragement and assistance . . . I was able to complete my thesis, acquire my master’s degree, and become a professional in the field of career counseling.”

“The greatest honor was being recognized by my colleagues,” said Morlock. “The people I work with every day—for the work I’ve done in the Social Science Program and advising for it. It was great to receive the award, but it felt like the real honor had already been given to me.” ■



Richard Narad
Outstanding advisor 2003/2004

Narad has been at CSU, Chico since 1990. In 1991, he was chosen as coordinator of the Health Services Administration Option within Health Science. With that role came the advising of students in the option and minor. Narad also supervises students in their internships and keeps contact with alumni. He initiated the student chapter of American College of Health Executives on campus and is its advisor.

According to his advisees, Narad is all of the things that a good advisor should be: caring, available, a good listener, and knowledgeable. “Dr. Narad changed my school career, my life, and his advice will assist me in the future,” wrote one former student.

“First and foremost Rick loves to advise students and often talks about the satisfaction he gets from it. And the students like him. Not only is he competent, but also he cares about their well being,” said Armeda Ferrini, chair of the Department of Health and Community Services.

Over and above the advising he has given to countless students in the last 12 years, Narad developed two- and four-year plans for the department long before it was initiated at the university level. He also developed a personalized grid that he uses in his advising sessions for individuals who do not fit the four-year plan. Students walk away from his office, said Ferrini, with an individualized plan for graduation.

Narad also developed the department’s Web page to provide easy access to advising materials, including Web links for health career searches. He is also responsible for the HCSV link page of legislation, documents, professional organizations, and Web sites to assist students in their research. ■