

Annual Report, 2008-2009

Distinguished Faculty Award Selection Committee

Early in the fall semester, an announcement was disseminated, both in paper and electronically, to the campus soliciting nominations for the Award. The deadline for submission was October 31, 2008.

A total of 8 nominations were received. The members of the Committee visited the nominees in their classroom to observe their pedagogical skills and methodologies. Each one was visited twice, and student evaluations were administered during these visitations resulting in over 400 evaluations which were then statistically analyzed. The comments written by the students were extensively tabulated as well. Based on the observations by the faculty and the evaluations by the students, 5 of the nominees were selected to advance to the next tier, i.e., semifinalists.

The semifinalists were asked to write an essay responding to four questions: teaching techniques used in classroom; procedures employed to assess teacher's effectiveness; professional development to stay current in area of expertise; and interest in students outside the classroom. Additionally, a copy of curriculum vitae was requested. The documentation was studied by the Committee and, following deliberations, three finalists were selected.

The finalists were visited in the classroom by each of the Committee members and student evaluations (over 300) were collected in the courses involved. These evaluations were analyzed and the student comments were compiled. Finally, each of the finalists was invited to appear in front of the committee for a 30-minute interview at which a set of questions were presented. Taking all these findings about the candidates into consideration, the Committee arrived at the decision of naming Dr. Daniel Adsmond (Arts & Sciences) as the Distinguished Teacher for 2008-2009. Dr. Wendy Samuels (Arts & Sciences) and Dr. Gregory Wellman (Pharmacy) were named Distinguished Teacher Finalists.

In order to collect more student evaluations and enhance faculty observation in the classroom, two of the Committee members made a total of three trips to Grand Rapids.

The Committee wishes to thank the nominators and the students for their willingness to assist us in completing our charge. Sincere thanks also are due to the nominees who agreed to go through the process; they were truly excellent teachers and we should all feel proud of their quality of teaching and other accomplishments.

Committee Members:

Adnan Dakkuri, Chair

Abdi Ferdowsi

David Hanna

Cami Sanderson

Khargendra Thapa

Susan Wancour