

DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH AWARD

Professor Nancy St. Clair came to Simpson's faculty in 1990. Her research is truly that – she investigates, studies, explores and delves into her subject, and the results? A collaborative book that was described by *Choice* magazine's review as one in which the authors "raise and begin to answer solid questions about American myths of class, truth, accuracy, balance, and authorial freedom." Her book is used in graduate seminars at three universities across the United States – University of California at San Diego, Brigham Young, and the University of Ohio. Dr. St. Clair was also nominated for this award by virtue of an essay that she had published entitled "Through a Girl's Eyes: Young Adult Fiction and Female Readers" that analyzed the impact of recent psychological studies of adolescent females' moral development as reflected in literature for girls.

Our Distinguished Research award winner is a second-time winner, having won in 2003. She's also distinguished herself by being named the Distinguished Junior Faculty in 1994, and was the Campus Leadership award winner in 2006. Not only is Nancy St. Clair a researcher, but she is a valued colleague, an intellectual leader, a worker willing to shoulder above and beyond normal workloads - both academically and administratively, and a teacher whose students constantly praise her for the influence she has on them and the care she gives to them.

DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Professor James L. Palmieri came to Simpson in 1996 from Indiana University in Bloomington where he'd received his doctorate and had taught for a number of years as an associate instructor and visiting assistant professor. Educationally, Palmieri has integrated technology into his classrooms, is described by a past department chair as a "natural teacher" and is extolled by his peers as a dedicated leader in the department who consistently teaches large classes with a high level of rigor. He is an active instructor to not only our traditional day students, but our Evening, Weekend and Graduate program students as well. His rapport with all of his students is quite evident from the nominations garnered. Many students feel he is able to teach in such a way that even non-majors in economics learn lessons they can apply in everyday life.

His professional involvement consists of memberships in economics associations, participation in workshops, grant writing for funds of particular benefit to his students, and attendance at various lectures and conferences. Dr. Palmieri is the director of the Simpson Forum, has been a member of major faculty committees such as Faculty Personnel and Budget and Coordinating, and during spring semester 2010 will be the first faculty leader of Simpson's newest semester abroad program in Rosario, Argentina. He is well-known around campus by students, his peers and Simpson staff, and equally and genuinely well-liked. If one were to ask him what he'd like to be known for, his answer would probably be for his volunteer work in community service efforts, most recently those involving newly-arrived refugees to the Des Moines area. He is a fine human being as well as being a teacher distinguished among others.

DISTINGUISHED JUNIOR FACULTY AWARD

Professor Carolyn Dallinger returned to Simpson in 2003 from Chicago where she'd served as that city's director of Human Rights Compliance. She had graduated from Simpson in 1979, gone on to the University of Washington to earn her masters in social work in 1983, and then received her Juris Doctorate in Law in 1989. Her work in the public sector involved experiences such as working with abused women, children and men, the developmentally disabled and "street people." Her legal career merged with her social work background when she also worked extensively in the area of civil rights and discrimination issues. Fortunately for Simpson, when a teaching position in social work and criminology became available, our award winner applied and was hired as assistant professor.

Dallinger's hands-on experience and intimate knowledge of both social work and criminology have proven to be invaluable to our students, and their most recent evaluations of her show their appreciation for her as an educator. Her hands-on approach has given May Term students the chance to experience sociology as far away as Ghana or Russia and as disturbingly close as Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Indeed, her fall 2009 sabbatical will research sociologically the hurricane's impact on one family based on race, class and gender, and she hopes to develop a book of the stories she will obtain through interviews with the victims. Her students observe many instances of her examples of service learning, such as helping during Homecoming, volunteering to take international students on side trips, and using her spring and fall breaks to help others less fortunate, to name just a few. Anyone can teach directly from a book – it's the personal, unselfish and teach-by-example approach that makes this particular educator "distinguished."

2009 CAMPUS LEADER AWARD

Dr. Maria DiPalma started out as a biology major, but fortunately for music lovers she changed to voice performance, receiving her bachelors of music in 1974 and a master of music in 1976 from Philadelphia College of the Performing Arts. In 1992, she received her doctorate from Indiana University in Voice Performance.

Her excellence in teaching is demonstrated not only by consistently high evaluations, but by the success of her students. Many have gone on to graduate school and several have become nationally-known artists. Her commitment to a value-centered education is evident from the forward thinking she expresses as a member of the Learning Programs Working Group and the conferences she attends to keep abreast of the changing world of academics. She serves as chair of the department of music, has served on almost every faculty committee, was the first woman to chair the Faculty Personnel Committee, co-directs the Orpheus summer festival of music every year, has organized and led international May term trips and worked on the music department's version of the NCA accreditation – the National Association of Schools of Music, of which Simpson is proud to be a part. Her contributions to the community centers on her involvement as a board member of the Des Moines Metro Opera, judges local and state music contests, and is the chair of the judges for the Bill Riley Talent Show at the State Fair. Our award winner is a member of Mu Phi Alpha, Pi Kappa Lambda, and the National Association of Teachers of Singing.