Third Annual Faculty Mentor Awards

Thanks

BY JOYCE MCCALLISTER

Four Pacific professors were given the golden apple, the Faculty Mentor Award, in a luncheon ceremony hosted by the Pacific Alumni Association in the DeRosa University Center Ballroom on August 28. Nominated by colleagues, alumni and students, these professors exemplify one of Pacific’s true points of pride: the way professors strive to nourish and mentor their students, building relationships that encourage them to learn, excel and serve.

Marlin Bates
Communication

As director of Pacific’s Speech and Debate Team since 2004, Bates increased student participation and pushed the team to national prominence through his passion and leadership.

“Teaching is a collaboration between students and professors, engaging with one another to figure out the world,” says Bates. And the process has been fruitful.

“Professor Bates is solely responsible for my growth as an academic and my success as a graduate student,” a former student insists. Many alumni have gone on to coach speech and debate teams, even returning annually to Pacific to serve as guest judges for tournaments.

Bates received his bachelor’s degree in communication at Pacific in 1996 and his master’s degree in 1999. When he came back to teach at his alma mater, only four students were signed up for the debate team. Now the number fluctuates between 20 and 30, and the team competes in national and regional tournaments. Last April, Pacific Speech and Debate brought home a third place from the National Forensic Association’s championship tournament in Athens, Ohio, besting 44 other teams in its division. At the end of the 2008–09 season the speech and debate team was ranked second in the nation.

Bates sees mentoring as helping students to find that balance between competitive speech and debate, academic success, and personal growth and responsibility.
Ken Beauchamp  
Psychology, Emeritus

Professor Ken Beauchamp taught for 40 years, served as department chair and served as acting dean of the College of the Pacific from 1974–76. At his retirement in 2007, he received the Order of Pacific, the University’s highest award for distinguished service. Beauchamp continues to serve as a faculty fellow for the Center for Social and Emotional Competence. To students, he was a teacher who was supportive, encouraging and available.

“He knew me by my first name. I could drop by his office anytime, even if it was not his official office hours,” says Thomas Marra ’77 in his nomination of Beauchamp. Marra hadn’t thought he would go to college, and when he took a required statistics class, he stumbled academically. It was a bit of a shock for this usually good student.

“Dr. Beauchamp and the mathematics department faculty guided me through, quizzed me and pointed to solutions rather than failures,” he says. “Dr. Beauchamp was always supportive, available and instructive, not just reassuring me, but teaching me.” As she mentors students, Ramos reminds them that people rarely succeed on their own; someone is always there to help. As one of her students attests, “Professor Ramos made a huge difference in my decision to remain at Pacific after struggling my first year as a freshman.”

“She helped me create a clear plan of what I want to do next,” Chavez says of Ramos in her nomination letter. Ramos continues as an advisor for Chavez as she works on a documentary film about Mexico. “Even though I will be thousands of miles away, it is comforting to know that Dr. Ramos is willing to provide support via e-mail, Skype and any other way possible,” Chavez says.

Marisela Ramos  
History

Though she has been teaching Latin American history at Pacific only since 2007, Professor Marisela Ramos has already impacted many students, both as an instructor and as an advisor to the student organization MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlán) and the Pacific PRIDE Alliance.

“She helped me to find a space where I feel comfortable,” says Veronica Chavez ’10. “Throughout my four years here, I have struggled to create this space, and had it not been for guidance and support from Dr. Ramos, I do not believe I could have been successful.”

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François Rose  
Conservatory of Music

Warm, compassionate, inspiring, enthusiastic: composition and theory professor François Rose elicits myriad accolades from alumni, students and colleagues. All agree that he is a committed and passionate teacher, challenging his students to work hard to produce their best.

“He invests every ounce of his time, energy and commitment into his students’ success,” piano Professor Frank Wiens noted in his nomination letter. “He truly cares about each and every one of them.”

And they know it. Kevin Baldwin ’10 missed class one day when he had to go to Los Angeles.

“Two minutes after the class ended, I received a call from Dr. Rose, who was apparently very worried about my well-being. This perfectly illustrates how much he cares about his students and wants them all to succeed.”

“I still turn to Dr. Rose for advice, and he is always one of the first people I contact when I have exciting news,” says Cole Ingraham ’07.

“I have at heart to develop my students’ talent to its fullest potential,” Rose says. “Music is such a competitive field. It is critical for young musicians to get a very strong undergraduate education because it is the base upon which they will build their careers. This is one of the reasons why I am so proud to be a member of the Pacific Conservatory; I feel the entire faculty is committed to excellence in teaching.”