

It is my pleasure to announce that **Debi Duren** (Special Education Division, College of Education) has won the Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching by an Adjunct Faculty member. Duren received a check for \$1,500 from the Provost, and was honored at a luncheon June 6, 2006 along with second place finalist **Warren Allen** (Health & Physical Education Division, College of Education) and third place finalist **Gordon Lee** (Creative Arts Division, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences). I hope you will take a moment to congratulate your colleagues on achieving this distinction.



From left to right: Warren Allen, Debi Duren, Gordon Lee, Dr. Jem Spectar, Provost

About the winners:

First place finalist **Debi Duren:**

- ◆ Has taught at WOU for past 18 years
- ◆ Teaches courses in American Sign Language, on Deaf History and Deaf Culture, and in Interpreting
- ◆ Has taught 11 different course preparations over the past 4 years
- ◆ Has also developed courses and helped build the program
- ◆ Earned a Masters Degree in Education, Teacher Preparation: Deafness from WOU

Students call Debi dynamic, helpful, enthusiastic, outgoing. In addition to her teaching

- ◆ She has performed with the Northwest Theatre of the Deaf

- ◆ Interprets the News for Channel 8 (KGW)

Debbie says her mission is to introduce students to the language of the Deaf Community so they may communicate effectively with others. She has a “No Voice Rule” in all her classes. Students must communicate in ASL, not in spoken English.

Debi demonstrates excellence by her

- ◆ Passionate teaching – she loves her subject
- ◆ Commitment – she seeks to help students; and
- ◆ Dedication to continuous improvement.

She also

- ◆ Mentors other faculty
- ◆ Has helped support the Regional Resource Center on Deafness
- ◆ Is an advisor to the student ASL club

The second place finalist is **Warren Allen**. Warren

- ◆ Has taught at WOU for past 6 years
- ◆ Earned a Masters Degree in Health Education from WOU
- ◆ Has taught 14 different course preparations in the past 6 years
- ◆ Is a 6th degree black belt under legendary Chuck Norris
- ◆ Is skilled in the martial arts
- ◆ Brings professional experience in health education and work in medical school and cardiac rehabilitation

Warren demonstrates excellence by his

- ◆ Teaching. He is respected and liked by students. 110 students per term enrolled in one of his martial arts classes. He focuses on the needs of the students and offers individualized learning opportunities. He integrates body & mind, east & west, theory & practice. The yin yang on his poster is indicative of his emphasis on balance.
- ◆ Care and thought – he is committed to improvement and reflects on his practice. He believes that both how you teach and what you teach is important.
- ◆ Collaboration with colleagues across disciplines (i.e., dance and athletics)

The third place finalist is **Gordon Lee**. Gordon is a

- ◆ Composer
- ◆ Pianist
- ◆ Arranger
- ◆ Conductor
- ◆ Music educator

He

- ◆ Teaches courses in Beginning Musicianship, Music Improvisation and Jazz History.
- ◆ Has taught at WOU for past 7 years
- ◆ Has also Directed the WOU Jazz Band and taught sight singing and ear training.
- ◆ Has Directed the WOU Mel Brown Summer Jazz workshop for past 6 years. It has grown from 42 to 165 students (expects 200 this summer).
- ◆ Has written his own textbook for the Beginning Musicianship class.
- ◆ Has produced 5 C.D.s
- ◆ His CD “Gordon Bleu” won Best Jazz Recording of 1990 from the Northwest Music Association

Gordon

- ◆ Sees music as spiritual and emotional
- ◆ Says music is a release, as stimulation, consolation, and a joy
- ◆ Believes that learning about music is beneficial to everyone

Gordon demonstrates excellence by

- ◆ Sharing his passion and knowledge with others
- ◆ Opening new worlds and new experiences to students
- ◆ Building a music education program and reaching out to teens in our community