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The Harriet W. Sheridan Award for Distinguished Contribution to Teaching and Learning at Brown University 2004 Award Winners

The Advisory Board of the Sheridan Center is pleased to announce the winners of the 2004 Harriet W. Sheridan Award for Distinguished Contribution to Teaching and Learning at Brown University. The Sheridan Medal will be awarded to Beth W. Bauer, Ph. D. (Senior Lecturer, *Hispanic Studies*) and Lawrence K. Stanley, D. Phil. (Senior Lecturer, *English*) on Wednesday May 4th, 2005 at the annual Awards Ceremony to be held at 4:30 PM in Andrews Hall. The Awards Ceremony will again include the annual Faculty Teaching Awards, the Sheridan Award, the Wriston Fellowship Award, the Presidential Graduate Student Teaching Awards as well as all the Sheridan Teaching Certificates (I, II, III). All members of the Brown community are invited to come and celebrate the accomplishments of these extraordinary leaders in collegial professional development.

The criteria for the 2004 award are as follows:

- *Testimony from colleagues within and across disciplines of effective mentoring in the development of a reflective teaching practice.* The Sheridan Award defines a mentor as one who makes a dedicated effort to help colleagues, within or beyond their discipline, develop into successful practitioners of reflective teaching.
- *Demonstrated leadership of departmental initiatives to support learning within their discipline.* This may include: organizing departmental seminars or classroom visits to

promote the exchange of ideas about pedagogy among both faculty and graduate students; leadership of departmental seminars for graduate students which foster a reflective teaching practice within the discipline; development of departmental criteria for the constructive assessment of teaching and learning; work with colleagues to explore discipline-specific or interdisciplinary pedagogical issues at the national level.

- *Active leadership in national and/or University initiatives which integrate research and teaching.* These may include: innovative national or University grant-sponsored teaching/research projects (such as NSF, NEH or UTRA grants); course curricula which foster the integration of research, teaching and learning through collaboration between faculty, graduate and undergraduate students; or leadership in faculty development programs, services and publications which integrate reflective teaching and research.

Faculty and graduate student colleagues within and beyond the department of Hispanic Studies enthusiastically nominated **Beth W. Bauer**. They cited her for her superb classroom teaching, for her well-recognized scholarship in Hispanic Studies, and for the endeavors she has undertaken to strengthen teaching by graduate students and faculty colleagues across the University through the agency of the Center for Language Studies.

As Senior Lecturer, Dr. Bauer has run the comprehensive Hispanic Studies Training Program for Teaching Assistants and Associates, which includes the development of guidelines for this constituency, an orientation *practicum*, and a graduate course on language pedagogy theory and methodology. She also runs the department's Writing Center. Within the department, she worked closely with graduate students and her colleague Prof. Victoria Smith to revise some of the most challenging courses in the curriculum. As a result, students from the department frequently win the Graduate Student Teaching Award and achieve multiple Sheridan Teaching Certificates.

She has also directed the Center for Language Studies (CLS) since 2002. In this capacity she has worked with CLS staff to constantly improve the quality of language instruction across the University. Under her leadership, CLS has developed a substantive program for Brown graduate students who need assistance with English as a second language (ESL). *Cultura* is a grant-funded language program pioneered by Prof. Bauer and colleagues to foster real-time cultural exchange through electronic technology. CLS is also working on 1) a proposal for language certification at Brown; 2) a successful proposal to bring a Distinguished Language Scholar in Residence to campus; 3) a series of colloquia for CLS faculty and graduate students; and 4) a graduate training seminar in language

instruction and technology. Her skills as faculty administrator of these initiatives have demonstrated her ability to bring people together from across the University and to motivate them to develop and implement goals.

As one colleague eloquently wrote "Prof. Bauer meets and does honor to every tenet of the Sheridan Award." Her unceasing efforts to constantly reflect upon and improve the quality of teaching and learning amongst her colleagues across the University is an inspiration to all fortunate enough to work with her.

Colleagues across the University and former students from the department of English nominated Senior Lecturer **Lawrence K. Stanley** for his skills as a mentor, for his leadership of departmental initiatives to support learning, and for his internationally recognized scholarly efforts to integrate research and teaching across the curriculum.

Students from his graduate course on "Pedagogy and Composition Theory" attest to his ability to empower *them* to teach a composition course with confidence and success. As one colleague wrote, "Graduate students in English, who had always taken their eloquence for granted, learned from Larry's trenches what it felt like to move through challenging stages of reflective learning before they actually taught such a class." Many of these graduate students have gone on to become successful professors and directors of writing programs in higher education across the country. Nor does he restrict his mentoring to the classroom or to students in his own department. Furthermore, faculty in other departments, for example American Civilization and Education, have also drawn upon his expertise to the benefit of their graduate students.

His innovative Expository Writing Program has attracted attention to Brown nationwide because it combines academic writing with writing for real-world professions. The curriculum now enables students to find courses most suited to their interests and levels of competence. As a result, this program has become an integral part of the English department's educational mission at Brown and the major itself. Furthermore, colleagues from across the country have cited the program's website as a "brilliant" resource for faculty worldwide.

His forthcoming book on the nature and practices of aesthetic reading and writing has inspired innovation and discussion across the profession. In 2003, on behalf of Brown, he hosted a regional conference to explore composition pedagogy across the disciplines. Whether through the medium of his former graduate students or colleagues, his innovative Expository Writing Program and its website, or his forthcoming book, Lawrence Stanley is clearly how one former student, now a professor, described him: "The Man who Taught Me How to Teach".