

2007-2008
Ithaca College
Excellence in SERVICE Award

Laurie Arliss, Professor
Department of Speech Communication
School of Humanities and Sciences

Ithaca College is proud to honor the Excellence in Service Award recipient for 2007-2008. The criteria for service are those given in the *Ithaca College Faculty Handbook*. This award recognizes continued and exceptional accomplishment in service in the broadest sense, including service to the College community, the larger community, and the discipline. Qualitative as well as quantitative measures of the work are considered in the review of the candidate's nomination.

Candidates for the award are nominated by a member of the College community. The documents that accompany the nomination include a statement from the candidate; a nominating letter from a faculty colleague; three support letters from faculty, professional/community colleagues, or students, at least one from Ithaca College; and a curriculum vita. The recipient is selected by the faculty members of the Ithaca College Faculty Development Committee and recipients of the Excellence Awards from the previous year.

Laurie Arliss has taught at Ithaca College since 1984 and was promoted to Professor in 2000. Her service to department, school and college include key decision-making roles over her entire career here. Her nominator, Sally Parr, Chair of the Department of Writing, describes "her total commitment to Ithaca College. For over 20 years, Dr. Arliss has given a sustained, high level of service to the College, and she has done this while continuing her innovative and creative teaching and her scholarship. Only on rare occasions has she received course release for her extensive service work."

She has been an engaged citizen of her department, Speech Communication, serving it as chairperson during two separate periods, participating in its major committees, and advising the Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society. In the School of Humanities and Sciences, she was recognized as a "Particularly Meritorious Faculty" member three times, based on her service to the most central endeavors of the school. She worked on its Curriculum Committee, Committee for Academic Policies and Procedures, Faculty Senate, and Planning Committee. Her particular skills in group communication were important in her work on The Ad Hoc Committee on Procedures and Policies for Chair Meetings and the Dean's Advisory Committee. As a person sought for her institutional respect, she has been asked to serve on committees to recommend Dana Professors and multiple search committees.

She herself describes the ways her engagement has clustered in predictable patterns growing from the organic nature of professional conversation. At the level of the College, she has been involved in many ways for many years, serving on Faculty Council, the Budget Advisory Committee, the First Year Reading Initiative Book Selection Committee, and the All-College First Year Seminar Program, among others.

Her involvement since 2006 demonstrates a remarkable level of leadership and commitment, as she served on three central committees, Planning and Priorities, Enrollment Planning, and Middle States Steering Committee, as well as the Provost Search Committee. These commitments built on one another and she was able to employ her own professional skills to integrate them. Thus as a single person she not only devoted countless hours to the college but the hours were particularly effective. Sally Parr speaks of “the integrity of her service: she devotes total time and energy to the projects she is involved in.”

Beyond enumerating activities, it is the nature of her engagement that this award recognizes. As Sally Parr describes her leadership of the Middle States task group on student learning, she says that Laurie Arliss’ “organization and her willingness to draft reports based on committee interviews, surveys, and research ensured that we would finish this enormous task on time. I was most impressed with her openness, with the way that she consulted all members with her ability to make sense of our conversations in her drafts, and with the skill in which she facilitated communication.” Gerard Turbide, Director of Admission, describes her as being “able to walk a very delicate balance, encouraging lively and sometimes heated discussion with a group of experienced faculty and staff, while keeping the group on task and productive.”

Committee members were particularly impressed by the fact that during her Spring 2008 sabbatical leave she chaired the Search Committee for the Dean of Humanities and Sciences. Her engagement to the institution, school, department, and fundamentally to student learning is thorough and deep. The Ithaca College community extends its congratulations and appreciation to Professor Arliss for her outstanding commitment to excellence in service.