

**2008-2009  
Ithaca College  
Faculty Excellence Award**

**Hongwei Guan**

**Assistant Professor**

**Department of Health Promotion and Physical Education  
School of Health Sciences and Human Performance**

Ithaca College is proud to honor Hongwei Guan, Assistant Professor of Health Promotion and Physical Education, with the Faculty Excellence Award for 2008-2009. Colleague Raj Subramaniam called Hongwei Guan the ‘hidden architect’ of the remarkable engagement of Ithaca College in the Beijing Summer Olympics in 2008, saying, “Many of us ...know that some of our students were involved in reporting sporting events from Beijing. Little do we know that the individual who was responsible for making this dream come true for our students and this institution was Dr. Guan.”

Hongwei Guan began as an assistant professor at Ithaca College in 2005 after earning a Ph.D. at Indiana University. His earlier degrees were from Beijing University of Physical Education. His appointment is to teach motor skills development and its application, and in addition he serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Kinesiology at Indiana University, providing international collaboration and research.

Each nominee for a Faculty Excellence Award was asked to identify teaching, scholarship, or service as an area of distinction. It is in his service that Professor Guan has already been particularly outstanding here at Ithaca. His dean, Steven Siconolfi, in his nominating letter, listed two pages of accomplishments in service at the level of college, school, department, and profession. From outreach to prospective and former students to service on his national professional organization to the strategic visioning process to the badminton club, Dr. Guan has become a vital and contributing institutional citizen. During the discussion faculty colleagues said “He has a steady commitment; and with alumni connections this will continue for years. The steady and sustained flow of recognitions is an impressive record for such a short time.”

The most remarkable area of Hongwei Guan’s service links teaching and scholarship in several disciplines and provides substantial benefit to Ithaca College internationally. One of the faculty members in the discussion said, “He also did all the diplomatic relations for the college in an invisible situation; to just get a PhD in 2005 and come here then and to arrange all of these letters of understanding is extraordinary.” Janet Wigglesworth, Interim Assistant Provost, lists seven accomplishments of the School of Health Science and Human Performance that Professor Guan made possible:

1. Initiate, organize and supervise an experiential learning opportunity for 22 Ithaca College students to serve as Flash Quote Reporters at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. The students worked side by side with media and news professionals for 2 months.
2. Develop a 2-week short term study abroad opportunity for Ithaca College students to go to China to study health related practices.
3. Enroll 2 full-time graduate students from China.

4. Connect Ithaca College with three universities (Beijing Sport University, Chengdu Sport University, and Hong Kong Baptist University) with a fourth University just getting started.
5. Sign official agreements with two of these major universities.
6. Host a delegation of Chinese students and faculty for a 3-week study at Ithaca College.
7. Host a visiting faculty member from Beijing Sport University.

Professor Guan is also a dedicated teacher who lives by the proverb which says, “Tell me, I will forget; show me, I may remember; involve me, and I will understand.” He is a scholarly teacher, one who views teaching as a discipline in itself about which one can learn as with any other scholarly area. He has been active not only in multiple opportunities of the Center for Faculty Excellence at Ithaca College, but also in a global service learning workshop at Cornell University. A student comment is that “his style of teaching is a refreshing and challenging approach that sets him apart from others... as it causes the student to make connections and pull the details of different courses together in developing and understanding the big picture.”

As a scholar Dr. Guan is establishing a substantial and sustained record of presentations, publications, and external grants, including a research article coauthored with Dean Siconolfi. He works in both basic and applied research, and also serves as a statistical consultant to other scholars. During the discussion a faculty member admired the fact that he “kept a high level of scholarship even during this heavy service commitment.” Linking his scholarship to the other areas of his work, another participant said, “This is a model of integrated teaching, research and service; few faculty have taken any project to this level.”

Recipients of the five Faculty Excellence Awards were nominated by colleagues and selected by the faculty members of the Ithaca College Faculty Development Committee and recipients of the Excellence Awards from the previous year. Selection was based on excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service as described in the Faculty Handbook. The guidelines also stated:

Candidates should be excellent in all areas and be able to demonstrate distinction in at least one. Examples could include, but are not limited to, the following: innovations in teaching, diversity initiatives, a commitment to sustainability, significant scholarly achievements, experiential and service learning initiatives, effectively incorporating one’s scholarship in the classroom, bringing national/international recognition to Ithaca College, and exemplary service commitment to the College community, the larger community, and/or the discipline.

The Ithaca College community extends its congratulations and appreciation to Professor Hongwei Guan for his strong commitment to excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service.