

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

Bruce Henderson

**Professor
Department of Speech Communication
School of Humanities and Sciences**

Ithaca College is proud to honor Bruce Henderson with the Faculty Excellence Award for 2008-2009. During the structured discussion of the candidates, one faculty member said, "I was taken with the fact that he went and got a second Ph.D. in his copious spare time and integrates that new discipline into his teaching and scholarship and service." That typifies the kind of intellectual and organizational energy Dr. Henderson brings to all aspects of his work.

Bruce Henderson has taught at Ithaca College since 1988, primarily in the area of Performance Studies housed in the Department of Speech Communication and also in the Division of Interdisciplinary and International Studies. An interdisciplinary area spanning literature, theater, and public speaking, it has led him to design courses in storytelling, children's literature, poetry, and AIDS and Jewish literature as well as the field of culture and communication. The second Ph.D. in Disability Studies is again an interdisciplinary focus in which Professor Henderson has done work that Professor Timothy Gura of Brooklyn College called "trail-blazing."

Each nominee for a Faculty Excellence Award was asked to identify teaching, scholarship, or service as an area of distinction. Bruce Henderson's nominators spoke to his extraordinary service to department, school, division, college, and profession. Particularly notable has been his leadership in the all-college Tenure and Promotion Committee over an eight-year period. Professor Betsy Keller details the multiple commitments of the role and concludes, "This is a tough job, and I've watched Bruce perform these duties effectively, with sensitivity, and the utmost respect for the professional 'lives' of those who are under review. He is the kind of person you would want to objectively evaluate, and represent if necessary, your T&P file during this challenging process."

During Professor Henderson's Ithaca College career he has served as chairperson of his home department and Coordinator of the Culture and Communication program and Health Communication minor within the Division of Interdisciplinary and International Studies, and in all of these areas he has performed substantial service to students through advising, out-of-classroom performances, and curriculum design. He is a national leader of in both of his professional fields, serving as multiple roles in the National Communication Association and the Society for Disability Studies. The

Performance Studies Division of the National Communication Association awarded him its Distinguished Service Award, and reviewer Timothy Gura said he had “been a willing volunteer for tasks no one else would do—always without recognition.”

Continuing to cross boundaries of disciplines and pedagogies, Dr. Henderson has developed and taught multiple courses in multiple programs. His teaching involves both student performance and diversity issues and his student nominator, Tamar MacKay, wrote, “Professor Henderson has helped me to see the interconnectedness of many of the topics of my classes, which are interdisciplinary and span across several schools. He has challenged me to make these connections and to more fully engage in my studies.”

Bruce Henderson’s scholarship also integrates multiple perspectives and multiple roles. He describes his “hybrid career, as traditional scholar and as creative artist,” and divides the entries in his vita as “publications, conference presentations, keynote addresses, performance (in which my primary responsibility was as performer), and productions (in which I was responsible for scripting, directing, coordinating, or all of the above).” Each entry lists pages of items. A major part of his scholarship has also been service to his profession and interdisciplinary in nature. He has served as editor of Text and Performance Quarterly and brought the journal to Ithaca College, a “major coup for a non-doctoral institution,” according to a member of the deliberation group.

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 Bruce Henderson for his strong commitment to excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service.