

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

Ellen J. Staurowsky

**Professor and Graduate Chair
Department of Sport Management and Media
School of Health Sciences and Human Performance**

Ithaca College is proud to honor Ellen J. Staurowsky with the Faculty Excellence Award for 2008-2009. Her colleague, Annemarie Farrell, enumerating Professor Staurowsky's multiple and simultaneous achievements, asks, "How does she do it? I have no clue.Each day, Ellen works to fulfill the mission of our institution through superb teaching, superior research and thoughtful service. Her work continues to inspire student success both professionally and personally."

Ellen J. Staurowsky has taught at Ithaca College since 1992 and was promoted to the rank of professor in 2002. She now serves as Graduate Program Chair in the Department of Sport Management and Media. Her courses include introductory courses in the field such as Gender Issues in Sport and Social Aspects of Sport as well as special courses in multiple areas. Her scholarly work leads her to visibility in the national media, and she also brings recognition to Ithaca College through organizing and hosting conferences such as the Careers in Sport Symposium and the grant-funded Spring 2009 event *Sport, Sexuality, and Culture*.

Each nominee for a Faculty Excellence Award was asked to identify teaching, scholarship, or service as an area of distinction. Dr. Staurowsky emphasized teaching. Her nomination was by senior Michael Tannenbaum, who said that among his many fine professors, "none compare to Dr. Ellen Staurowsky under whose tutelage I have discovered a level of confidence and intellectual curiosity that I could not conceive of as a timid freshman." She herself describes her efforts to synthesize her teaching and research agendas to "effectively merge classroom and real world in a more strategic and direct way." One result of that midcareer shift is "the development of research projects with national organizations (*USA Today* in the spring of 2008 and the National College Players Association this spring) where student research teams work along with me and thecollaborating group." The *USA Today* project, on tracking of college athletes into particular majors, led to a front page story in the newspaper citing the names of all of the student researchers.

Her colleague Wayne Blann describes the effect of her teaching style on students in the classroom: "Students consistently comment favorably about the passion, excitement, and enthusiasm that Ellen brings into the classroom. Her teaching style encourages students to exhibit these same characteristics." Student Michael Tannenbaum provides some examples: "...students physically play early women's basketball, not just study it. Students meet the decision makers in the development, design and construction of the new Athletic Events Center at Ithaca College." Professor Staurowsky enhances the professional experience of students and the college's visibility by placing them in prominent organizations for internships and field placements.

Much of Ellen Staurowsky's work as a teacher directly relates to her scholarship, and she maintains an extraordinary record of publications in refereed and other professional contexts, presentations at every level, and internal and external grants. The integration of many of these areas is remarkable: her research is cited in the media and valued by practitioners; her scholarly work spans multiple fields and disciplines; her professional service is grounded in her research. She was the recipient of the 2002 Ithaca College Excellence in Scholarship Award and her profile has dramatically grown since then.

Professor Staurowsky provides service to multiple constituencies and much of it links directly to her teaching and her research. For instance, the March 2009 *Sport, Sexuality, and Culture Conference* brought major national and international scholars in the field together on campus for rich exchange, highly attended by students from across campus. The conference included professional activities for students who staffed sessions and other organizational roles. The highly visible keynote addresses drew large audiences and press attention, providing additional recognition for Ithaca College. Lis Maurer, Coordinator of the campus Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Education, Outreach and Service, emphasized the integrative nature of Professor Staurowsky's teaching, scholarship and service and her particular sensitivity to diversity issues. Lis writes, "Keenly aware of ways sex, gender, and sexual orientation affect both minority and majority students, she has a gift for building collaborations and networks that draw people in across difference, to discuss ways discrimination along all dimensions of diversity affects us all.Her dedication, commitment to diversity and inclusion, and innovation are truly extraordinary." The dedication of Professor Staurowsky is also represented more traditionally in very substantial service to department, college, and professional organizations over her entire career.

Recipients for the five Faculty Excellence Awards were nominated by students and 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 Staurowsky for her strong commitment to excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service.