



OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

P.O. Box 248 • Ripon, WI 54971

920-748-8364

Contact Scott Wilson

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Ripon College's Jody Roy honored by Carnegie Foundation, selected Professor of the Year for Wisconsin

RIPON, Wis.— Jody Roy, associate professor of communication and chair of the department at Ripon College, has been selected the 2005 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Wisconsin Professor of the Year. The prestigious education honor was announced today by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

“It is always nice to be recognized for your work and I am honored to receive such a prestigious award,” said Roy, who was selected over candidates at all Wisconsin institutions of higher learning. “I value the fact that this award is about teaching because teaching is why I came to and why I stay at Ripon College. Students matter at this institution and I want to be part of that.”

Roy, a 1987 graduate of Illinois College, is formerly of **Jacksonville, Ill.** She earned her master's degree in speech communication from Indiana University in 1989 and her doctorate from IU in 1997.

The U.S. Professors of the Year program, created in 1981, is the only national initiative specifically designed to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. This year's winners were selected from a pool of nearly 300 nominees from all academic institutions. Campus provosts and academic vice presidents nominated them for the honor, and current and former students, colleagues, and peers from other institutions sent letters of support. Nomination materials included the professors' teaching logs and course descriptions, as well as personal statements describing their teaching and mentoring techniques, courses or curricula they created, or their impact on teaching on their campuses and beyond.

“Jody is an excellent teacher and mentor. She is most deserving of this recognition,” said Ripon College President David C. Joyce. “This honor is acknowledgement of her excellence in teaching in a serious liberal arts environment. This honor highlights Professor Roy's dedication to teach students and her commitment

to infuse academics into the life of community. Professor Roy embodies the Ripon College tradition of student/faculty engagement.”

“There is no one more deserving of this award than Jody Roy,” said Bill Schang, vice president and dean of faculty at Ripon College. One of the qualifications for nomination for the award is impact and involvement with undergraduate students, he said. “Jody’s impact on and involvement with our students is widely evident, and to hear former students praise her and tell how she has influenced their lives is truly exciting,” said Schang.

Roy began as an assistant professor at Ripon College in 1992. She has taught several courses since arriving on campus, including: Public Speaking, Impact of Media, Technical Writing for Communication Majors, Sports Talk, Communication Strategies for Marginalized Groups and Introduction to Debate.

She has written two books: titled “Love to Hate: America’s Obsession with Hatred and Violence” and “Rhetorical Campaigns of the Nineteenth-Century Catholics and Anti-Catholics in America.” She is currently working on her third book which will be about hate crimes and how they affect young men in today’s society.

As chair of the communication department at Ripon College, Roy has been responsible for designing departmental course offerings and major requirements, recruiting, mentoring and evaluating faculty colleagues, creating media and programming to enhance alumni, faculty, current student and parent relations, and instituting a schedule of written and oral comprehensive exams covering core areas of the curriculum as a graduation requirement for the major. She also founded and served as executive director of Students Talking About Respect (STAR), Inc., a national, non-profit anti-violence organization that merged with Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) earlier this year.

Roy also established the Ripon Forum on Ethics and Oratory at Ripon College. The forum is an annual event that brings together undergraduate students and renowned scholars to collaboratively analyze the oratory of America’s greatest leaders. In April of each year, the undergraduate students conduct the Ripon Forum on Ethics and Oratory Youth Summit, a unique, interactive learning experience in which Ripon College senior communication majors provide area high school students with insights into the study of communication at the college level, and the role of ethical communication in effective leadership.

“In my four years at Ripon College, no other professor has challenged me like Jody Roy,” said Christy Olson, a senior from West Bend, Wis. “She has high expectations of herself and students, alike. She is always capable of injecting energy,

personal experience and what seems like endless knowledge into lectures. Jody is always looking for ways to broaden the opportunities available to her students.”

Roy has been honored often for her teaching. She received the May Bumby Severy Award for Excellence in Teaching from Ripon College in 2000 and the Weaver Award, which is given to the Outstanding College Educator in Wisconsin by the Wisconsin Communication Association. Recently, she has received both the James R. Underkofler Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching from the Wisconsin Foundation of Independent Colleges and Alliant Energy, and the Jeane Robertson Outstanding Professor Award from the National Speakers Association.

CASE is deliberate in their efforts to select outstanding professors for recognition. A panel of preliminary judges was assembled to evaluate the nominees in four areas: 1) impact on and involvement with undergraduate students; 2) scholarly approach to teaching and learning; 3) contributions to undergraduate education within the institution and community; and 4) support from colleagues and students. CASE then forwarded a list of finalists to the Carnegie Foundation, which performed the final round of judging.

John Lippincott, president of CASE, said the state winners embody what is best in undergraduate education.

"It is clear that for our state Professors of the Year, teaching is a calling, not merely a job," Lippincott said. "Through their remarkable efforts inside and outside of the classroom, these professors have profoundly changed the lives of their students, providing them with a solid foundation upon which to build the rest of their lives."

Lee S. Shulman, president of the Carnegie Foundation, said, "We honor these distinguished professors for upholding and guiding the aspirations of their students, advancing knowledge, and elevating and dignifying the profession of teaching. In recognizing their commitment and excellence, their contributions and their demonstrated passion, we support the centrality of teaching on campus and recognize its importance to the future of our country."

Ripon College, founded in 1851, has been providing a quality, personal liberal arts and sciences education to undergraduates for more than 150 years. Ripon has been recognized as a "best value" and "A Best 357 College" by The Princeton Review. Ripon is also among 160 of the best schools in the nation, as recognized by Colleges of Distinction. For more information about Ripon College, visit www.ripon.edu.

