CSU honors six faculty members with Best Teacher awards

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From a pool of hundreds of educators at Colorado State University, six will be recognized with Best Teacher awards.

The six are selected from among hundreds of nominations submitted by students, faculty and alumni.

They will be honored at the annual Best Teacher Awards Dinner at 6 p.m. Friday in the north ballroom of the Lory Student Center.

This is the 10th year the awards — sponsored by the CSU student alumni association — will be given.

"This is the student way of recognizing faculty," said Tandi Ruampan, student programs coordinator for the alumni center.

"The majority of nominations come from students. Nominations from alumni usually come from recent graduates."

Each recipient gets a trophy with a copper ram and will be introduced by one of their students.

For award recipient Ross McConnell, an assistant professor in mathematics and computer science, the award was a shock.

"It was a total surprise," he said. "A lot of them were students and former students I didn't think even enjoyed my class."

"Actually winning the award is secondary after reading what was said in the nominations," McConnell said.

Educators nominated are from a variety of disciplines. In alphabetical order, the 2005 winners are:

- Rich Feller, professor in the School of Education. Feller is a nationally recognized professor in counseling and career development, according to the awards committee.

- Ina McConnell, a professor of the Chemical Engineering Department. A CSU alumnus and university employee since 1980, Feller is known for creating a safe environment for students to discuss sensitive issues and concerns, both in and out of the classroom, said the awards committee.

- Naz Karim, retired professor of chemical engineering. While at CSU, Karim was an advocate for developing strong programs and helping students find jobs. He helped to make CSU's program one of the top teaching and research programs in the nation, the committee said.

- Jenny Goodman, assistant professor in the Department of Psychology. Goodman teaches American literature and culture with a 20th-century focus. She specializes in poetry and women's writing.

- Karim, called "the cornerstone of the chemical engineering department" by a nominator, also helped establish and support a clinic in Bangladesh, India, more than 20 years ago.

- McConnell, assistant professor in both mathematics and computer science. Known for creating a supportive learning atmosphere, McConnell teaches students about graph theory and algorithms.

He makes complex issues fun, said one student nominator.

- Vince Murphy, chemical engineering professor with the College of Engineering since 1977. Murphy's research covers biochemical and environmental engineering. Students know him for his presence as a meticulous planner in undergraduate courses and a dedicated adviser and mentor, according to the awards committee.

News of record

Obituaries

Editor's note: Obituaries are published seven days a week in the Coloradoan. Basic information about the deceased and services is included at no charge. A fee applies to obituaries that include additional information, photos or art elements such as service ideas. Obits also will appear in the Saturday and Sunday editions.

Marjorie Cross, 82, Local, formerly of Bohlender Funeral Home, was laid to rest Wednesday. She was preceded in death by her mother, Marjorie Iona Cross and her husband, Jerome F. Cross.

A service will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Foothills Unitarian Church, 1815 Yorktown Ave., off Drake Road east of Taft Hill Boulevard. Memorial contributions may be made to the Highpointe Foundation, 1025 Drake Road East of Taft Hill Boulevard, Fort Collins, CO 80526.

Paid funeral notices