

*McPherson*

DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARDS

2010

# McPherson Distinguished Teaching Awards

Napa Valley Vintners' Teaching Winery  
May 14, 2010

**T**he McPherson Distinguished Teaching Award was established in 1987 to recognize excellence in teaching at Napa Valley College. The 2010 program is sponsored by the McPherson-West Fund of the Napa Valley College Foundation and Office of Instruction. Nominations are submitted from peers, students, and other members of the college community. The selection is made by a committee. Each recipient is awarded a plaque and a \$1,000 check.

**T**he faculty are honored for comprehensive knowledge of subject matter, stimulation of student thought and interest, use of innovative, effective teaching techniques, continuing helpfulness to and personal interest in students, ability to relate and apply knowledge to other disciplines, significant contributions to developing the instructional program and outstanding commitment to quality.



The 1994 awards luncheon at Dr. McPherson's home.



# Professor Shawna Bynum

**C**aring. Creative. Always willing to help. Professor Shawna Bynum, Academic Senate President, has been named McPherson Distinguished Teacher for 2010 for her many contributions in the classroom and to the college.



**S**hawna was hired to teach mathematics at Napa Valley College beginning Fall 2002 as an adjunct and in Fall 2003 as a tenure-track instructor. She received her bachelor's degree in mathematics from CSU Chico and her master's of arts in teaching mathematics from U.C. Davis.

**S**he has an open door policy and is described by those who nominated her as an exceptional instructor and colleague. Students are her main concern and "she not only makes a difficult subject understandable but very fun."

**S**he was recognized by her students for her extra help, offering study groups, referring them to student services. She "leaves no stone unturned when it comes to students' needs." Shawna is a good listener, her students say. They love the way she teaches. Another nomination letter says, "She brings brilliance to teaching by really listening to students and constantly adapts her teaching style and materials to meet their

needs....including appropriate technology."

**S**hawna is described as organized and efficient and was cited for using technology and for her online teaching. She was recognized by her peers for outstanding leadership.

**"S**he has had a significant effect on the college," said Sue Nelson, vice president of Instruction, in announcing the honor. "Just a few of the initiatives she has been involved in are coordinating and promoting supplemental instruction, working within the Title III grant and with her math colleagues to further develop the Math Center, actively participating in and supporting the MESA program as an advisor and an academic excellence workshop facilitator, teaching in learning communities, and developing and teaching some of the first online math classes."

**D**escribed as talented and fun, she was cited for her intelligence and professionalism. One nomination letter said, "she sets the bar higher for all faculty."

**A**nother nomination letter commented that Shawna "incorporates her logic and evaluation skills to solve complex problems, whether they are issues in the classroom with students or in her role as Academic Senate President."

# Dr. Nadine Wade-Gravett

Inquisitive. Enthusiastic. A caring and creative teacher. Long-time NVC faculty member Dr. Nadine Wade-Gravett has been named McPherson Distinguished Teacher for 2010 for her many contributions at the college and in the community.



students. “She is described as generous, enthusiastic, dedicated, inspiring and funny. She contributes to the Napa community as well as to the Napa Valley College community,” said Sue Nelson, vice president of Instruction, in

announcing the honor.

Nadine began teaching as an adaptive physical education instructor in January 1981. She received a bachelor’s degree in physical education with an emphasis on physical therapy, and a master’s degree in applied science from San Francisco State University. Her doctorate in organization and leadership was earned from University of San Francisco.

Nadine has served the college in many leadership roles. Not only has she distinguished herself as an excellent and dedicated teacher in adaptive physical education, physical education, and health, she also served as a dean and division chair in the physical education and career/technical areas. In addition, Nadine serves as the assistant athletic director, teaches and coordinates the general work experience classes, and serves as the secretary for the Academic Senate.

The letters nominating Nadine for this award describe her excellence in teaching and, in particular, her ability to motivate

Nadine solicits student feedback and is described as a “superb” teacher. Prepared and professional, accessible and approachable, she “goes the extra mile for her students.” One student said of Nadine that “effective communication with students is one of Nadine’s strong points. She is able to express facts and ideas in the classroom, using a variety of techniques to achieve understanding among students with multiple learning styles.” Other nominations remarked on her use of real-life situations, outside resources and research in the classroom. She was a pioneer in online education in her division.

Perhaps one nomination best sums up Nadine’s unique contribution, “Nadine seeks the input of her colleagues and students. She draws them out. Her infectious enthusiasm for what she does and her dedication to the division inspires our instructors to be their best and students to reach higher.”

# Excellence in Education

1987

Dr. George Hagen  
Dolores Fischer

1988

John Charlesworth  
William Blair

1989

Ernest Abbott  
Dr. Chris Burditt

1990

Janet Gonzalez-Mena  
Barbara Klemenok-Rasmussen

1991

Richard Bremer  
Sylvia Mastrolynnakis

1992

Dr. Roberto Juan Gonzalez  
Jean Schroeder

1993

Gwynne Pacheco  
John Langenbach



NVC President Dr. Bill Feddersen, Dr. George Hagen, Dolores Fischer and Dr. McPherson at the first awards ceremony in 1987.

1994

Dr. Stephen Krebs  
Dr. Charles Ray

1995

Carolyn Fruchtenicht  
Christy Kling

1996

Mignon Stephenson Graham  
Robert Chudnofsky



The 1999 ceremony. Front center, Carole Kent, Dr. McPherson and Kate Benscoter.

1997

Peter Wright  
Emily Cosby

1998

Gary Vann  
Jerry Somerville

1999

Carole Kent  
Kate Benscoter



The 2006 ceremony – Front, Noreen Martin and Denise Rosselli.



The 2007 ceremony – Front, Rebecca Scott and Dianna Chiabotti.

2000

Anne Evans  
Helen Ortega

2001

Dr. Melody  
Seymour  
Lauralyn Bauer

2002

Carole  
Chassereau, R.N.  
Nick Anast

2003

Lauren Coodley  
Jeff Omodt

2004

Linda Simpson

2005

Laura Ecklin  
Bill Fried



The 2008 ceremony – Front, Ann Gross and Sable Howard Hughes.

2006

Noreen Martin  
Denise Rosselli

2007

Dianna Chiabotti  
Rebecca Scott

2008

Ann Gross  
Sable Howard  
Hughes

2009

Michael Conroy  
Dr. Linda Napholz



The 2009 ceremony – Seated, Michael Conroy and Dr. Linda Napholz.



## Dr. Harry McPherson 1901 – 2001



**F**ounding President Dr. Harry McPherson has helped generations of Napa Valley College students. From his vision and institutional leadership to his support of scholarships and encouragement of individual students, he touched many lives. Establishing the McPherson Distinguished Teaching Award is another example of his support of our outstanding faculty and his commitment to excellence in education.

## Acknowledgements

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