To Be Adopted:

The Academic Senate Committee on Distinguished Teaching recommends Professor Eugene Nothnagel (Botany and Plant Sciences) and Professor Susan Rose (Dance) as the recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Award for 1999-2000. Both recipients inspire their students, undergraduates and graduates, with their passion, enthusiasm and dedication for scholarship and teaching.

Professor Eugene Nothnagel

Professor Eugene Nothnagel, who came to UCR in 1983, is recognized by his colleagues and by undergraduate and graduate students alike as an outstanding instructor and dedicated mentor. Students repeatedly praise Professor Nothnagel for his skill as an effective and caring teacher and for the profound impact he has had on their lives.

Dr. Nothnagel has taught Biology 5A for five years. Despite the fact that this is a large and mandatory lecture course (ranging from 200 to 400 students per quarter), Dr. Nothnagel routinely receives very high marks from the students. More importantly, the comments made by his Biology 5A colleagues and individual students reflect their appreciation of him as a very concerned and excellent teacher both in and out of the classroom.

"His commitment to excellence in teaching is unsurpassed and transfers to all others around him." (Colleague)
"Dr. Nothnagel really was concerned on teaching clearly and concise [sic]. I could obviously tell that he prepared well before lecture. He knew what words to use and how to use them in order for students to listen." (Student)
"Dr. Nothnagel] cares so much about the class. Lectures are very precise. Incourages [sic] class to do their best. Positive feelings all around. Is very helpful when asked question and does not have an attitude problem." (Student)
"I am so thankful for his guidance and his humor, it has helped me look to better opportunities in all that I do." (Student)

From 1988 through 1995, Dr. Nothnagel served as the Graduate Advisor for Department of Botany and Plant Sciences. Neither before nor since Dr. Nothnagel’s tenure as Graduate Advisor has any individual in this position been more dedicated to the students and to the responsibilities of the position or had such a positive impact on the students’ lives. When the graduate program in the Department underwent formal review in April 1995, the external review team report included: “Among the strengths of the Department mentioned by the students is the breadth of research interests, the care, support and respect of the faculty for students, and the role played by Eugene Nothnagel as Graduate Advisor. Dr. Nothnagel is doing an outstanding job.”

Dr. Nothnagel has not only served as the major professor for Master’s and Ph.D. students, but also has guided the research of undergraduate students from several departments. Dr. Nothnagel has made a significant contribution to graduate education in the college by graciously accepting student requests to serve on the guidance committees of more than 36 students and on the comprehensive examination committees of nearly 40 students in Botany and Plant Sciences and 10 students in other programs. In addition, Dr. Nothnagel has routinely contributed to the Department’s graduate curriculum. Curriculum development is a clear mark of an outstanding teacher. His evaluations from students in the graduate courses in the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences have continuously earned high scores for all the years he has taught them. Graduate students have consistently praised Dr. Nothnagel for his continued contribution to their personal growth and success in the years after they had taken his course.

Professor Nothnagel’s commitment to excellence in all that he does is reflected in his outstanding teaching and mentoring. Professor Gene Nothnagel has clearly made a difference in the lives of many students; he is very deserving of the 1999-2000 Distinguished Teaching Award.

Professor Susan Rose

Professor Susan Rose arrived at UCR in 1989. Her impact on the Department of Dance and the university as a whole has been tremendous. She has taught advanced undergraduate dance technique and composition classes and graduate classes in dance and dance pedagogy. She has been Artistic Director of “UCR is Dancing” six out of the last eleven years where she has provided to the university and Riverside community a caliber of dance rarely seen in student productions.
“Rose’s extraordinary expertise as a teacher is vividly demonstrated in the role she plays as Artistic Director for ‘UCR is Dancing.’ Coursework in preparation for this concert brings together more than a dozen undergraduate aspiring choreographers...Rose guides these students through the process of making a dance, whether a solo or large group work, whether executed in the idiom of jazz, modern or postmodern dance. She visits their rehearsals at night and on weekends, spending many hours suggesting various strategies for developing dance composition. Under Rose’s expert tutelage their ideas grow into full-length and fully realized dances...This ability to locate and nurture the individual creativity and skills of each student is the sign of a master teacher...”

Professor Rose has developed courses and mentored graduate students in choreography and was a central figure in conceiving and developing the curriculum for the proposed MFA in Experimental Choreography which is planned for Fall 2000. Professor Rose is also co-director of the UCR Gluck Dance Touring Ensemble that takes UCR dancers into the community.

Professor Rose has brought distinction to the undergraduate dance program, which has an excellent reputation for performance and choreography as well as its attraction for non-Dance majors interested in the arts. In large part due to Professor Rose’s tutelage and dedication, the undergraduate program has become competitive at the national level and UCR student dancers have done extremely well at the American College Dance Association Festival. In addition, UCR students receive substantial fellowships at top graduate programs in dance.

Professor Rose gives generously of her time and as one colleague put it “She lives in the studio, including numerous weekends and evenings, observing, discussing work in progress and offering direction to both undergraduate and graduates.” In contrast to old school teachers of dance who emphasize rote and repetitive endeavors, and frequently motivate by intimidation and humiliation, Professor Rose encourages dancers to be fully engaged in their actions, motivated from within, and to be supportive of each other’s accomplishments rather than competitive. As one student put it, “Susan Rose shows an immense respect for her students’ intelligence and abilities. In her classes, Susan never makes pronouncements that she expects students to take on faith. She consistently works to create environments where students learn their own lessons...One of the effects of Susan’s individualizing approach is that the competition that characterizes so many dance classes is entirely absent from Susan’s classes.”

As a member of many dissertation committees, Professor Rose has been a critical figure in creating a bridge between theoretical and choreographic work that makes UCR’s Dance department so unique. She brings a sophisticated understanding of critical theory to dance Ph.D. students who are honing their skills at viewing and interpreting dance. As a result, graduate students are adept at connecting theoretical concerns that inform political, cultural and gender studies of the body. Indeed, the ability of Professor Rose to combine theoretical and choreographic skills at a high level is seldom found in dance programs and her combination of these two skills greatly enhances both the undergraduate and graduate programs at UCR.

Professor Rose is a master teacher. She combines passion, dedication, scholarship and creativity in her classroom teaching and broader pedagogy. She is richly deserving of the Distinguished Teaching Award.

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