To Be Adopted:

The Academic Senate Committee on Distinguished Teaching recommends Professor Timothy Paine (Entomology) and Professor Yenna Wu (Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages) as the recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Award for 2003-2004. Both recipients have long records of consistent excellence and dedication that inspire their students.

Professor Timothy Paine:

Professor Paine has been a member of the UCR faculty since 1986. He has a broad record of excellence in teaching that spans across formal lecturing in large lower-division classes, stimulating discussions in graduate seminar classes, and informal mentoring of research students in field and laboratory. Much of this record was built during an extended period of service as chair of one of the largest and most complex departments in CNAS, a period in which Professor Paine maintained both the quantity and quality of his teaching. Having twice been the recipient of the Award for Distinguished Teaching from the 1,100-member Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America, Professor Paine's ability and dedication to teaching are recognized not only by his department and college but by his professional peers on an interstate level.

For more than 10 years, Professor Paine has shone as the instructor in Entomology 10 - Natural History of Insects, an introductory class with a typical enrollment of approximately 100 students. Many of the written comments in the student evaluations of teaching in Entomology 10 highlight Professor Paine's organization, clarity in instruction, and concern for students, the trademarks of excellence in instruction. The written comments and student letters, however, document much more. At the start of the quarter, many of the students in Entomology 10 dislike or even fear insects. Through Professor Paine's enthusiasm and instructional ability, some of these same students reach the end of the quarter looking for additional classes or research opportunities in the Department of Entomology. In fall, 2003, for example, the student comments included, "I have never been a fan of insects, but Dr. Paine presents them in such a way as to make them interesting, awe-inspiring, & beautiful. I'm extremely glad I took this course," and "Surprisingly, the course was very interesting. I never thought studying about insects could be interesting and actually fun... If I wasn't so scared of bugs, I would actually consider majoring in it. I couldn't think of any possible way of making this course better than it is." Another student wrote, "I am sure I, and many of his students, will never look at an ant hill in the same way or view the flight of a moth without remembering what Dr. Paine taught."

In other teaching at the lower division level, Professor Paine has often been an instructor in the Biology 5A, B, C sequence of introductory biology for majors in the natural sciences. These classes typically have very high enrollment, 250 to 450 students, and are team-taught. Most instructors participating in the sequence teach one half of one quarter of Biology 5A, B, or C. Professor Paine is one of only a few current instructors on campus, and the only one outside of the Department of Biology, to have taught in two different courses in the sequence. From 1998 to 2001, usually in spring quarter, he taught 50% of Biology 5B - Introduction to Organismal Biology. In fall quarters since 2001, he has taught 50% of Biology 5C - Introductory Ecology and Evolution. Student evaluations of teaching and student letters routinely comment on his organization, clarity, patience and accessibility in these classes. High numerical scores and very favorable comments on clarity and accessibility are likewise the norm in the student evaluations of Professor Paine's teaching in his graduate classes.

Accessibility and concern for students stand out as recurring themes in the student letters supporting the nomination of Professor Paine for the Distinguished Teaching Award. A student from his lower division classes wrote "Dr. Paine is one of the best, most understanding and considerate teachers I've met while in college," while a graduate student wrote "Dr. Paine has a gift that is essential for a teacher: he can offer
criticism without belittling. His comments are insightful and thoughtful. He shows sincere interest in
student learning and offers encouragement outside of the classroom.

With his long record of breadth, depth, and excellence in teaching, Professor Paine is a very deserving
recipient of the 2003-2004 Distinguished Teaching Award.

Professor Yenna Wu:

Professor Wu has been a member of the UCR faculty since 1992. She is a distinguished teacher on the
bases of both her performance in the classroom and her work outside of class in curriculum redesign and
student placement.

Professor Wu has long record of excellence in teaching both lower and upper division courses in Chinese
language and literature. The mean numerical ratings by students in evaluation of her teaching are
consistently very high. The last time she received a mean score less than 6.0 in any category in any
class was in 2000, and since that time one of her teaching efforts earned perfect 7.0 means in all
categories. Written comments in the evaluations highlight Professor Wu's organization, patience, and
concern for student learning. One student wrote, "She is very careful in planning her course material & is
very excited about the material. I love how she makes us look deeper into the story & read between the
lines. She challenges her students & is always helpful & resourceful." Another wrote, "There are not
enough words in any language to give enough praise to Professor Wu."

Students at all undergraduate and graduate levels wrote letters supporting the nomination of Professor
Wu for the Distinguished Teaching Award. Statements from undergraduate students include, "Professor
Wu embodies excellence, determination, and high standards; she is an exemplar for aspiring East Asian
students," and "Words cannot define the qualities she carries because she is changing our lives each day
to help us stand out from the other students. I do not know what makes a professor more successful than
when they help a student make a dream a reality." A graduate student wrote, "Her way of teaching
motivates our critical thinking of the texts and she always gives useful guidance to my papers. Professor
Wu is an enthusiastic teacher. She spends a great deal of time mentoring students and she
acknowledges the diverse background of her students who need individual consultation. Her concern is
always student-centered."

Complementing her in-class work, Professor Wu's work in curriculum and program development is widely
recognized. Many of her departmental colleagues wrote letters praising her leadership and innovation in
these areas. More remarkably, comments in several of the student letters show that even her students
recognize and appreciate this out-of-the-classroom portion of her work. Professor Wu is held in
particularly high esteem for developing a placement scheme for lower-level courses where beginning
non-native Chinese speakers and heritage Chinese speakers are directed into separate classes that
enable all to learn at a pace appropriate to their skills. She has also developed important instructional
resources, including her well-received, co-authored textbook, Chinese the Easy Way.

With her long record of both excellence in the classroom and innovation in curriculum development,
Professor Wu is a very deserving recipient of the 2003-2004 Distinguished Teaching Award.

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