The Academic Senate Committee on Distinguished Teaching met on April 2 and reviewed a large group of nominations for this award. Although several nominees were strong candidates for the award, one candidate was clearly outstanding and the unanimous choice of the committee. The Committee recommends that Gabriela Canalizo in the Department of Physics and Astronomy be awarded the Distinguished Teaching Award for 2012-2013.

Gabriela Canalizo joined the Department of Physics and Astronomy in 2003 where she studies quasars, host galaxies, and their role in galaxy evolution. She brings her passion and excitement for science and astronomy to her classrooms at UCR, where she teaches non-majors, majors, and graduate students who give her uniformly glowing evaluations. She is particularly effective in teaching Physics 6, where she uses innovative and interactive teaching methods to engage classes that range in size from the 200s to nearly 600 students. The student comments show that Dr. Canalizo has inspired them to succeed not only in science but in their own lives. As further evidence of her passion for teaching, Dr. Canalizo is actively engaged in an extraordinary level of outreach at the K-12 level. In addition to wide-ranging public lectures, she is PI of the IASP (Inland Area Science Program, a collaboration between UNEX, several UCR teaching programs, and local school districts), which has raised thousands of grant dollars for teacher training in the sciences. She lectures and mentors students in AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) and SACNAS (Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science) programs in California and beyond. She spends several weeks every summer teaching English and science in an orphanage in Africa where conditions are poor and resources are scarce; some of her students have embarked on college programs. Back at UCR Dr. Canalizo was instrumental in developing an Astronomy track for graduate students; her own students give her glowing reviews and have gone on to successful careers of their own. Dr. Canalizo is richly and uniquely deserving of the Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award for 2012-13.

The committee has several suggestions for improving the process of soliciting and selecting the recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Award.

1. The Call should be revised in a clearer format so that files received are more uniform and organized and labeled more clearly.
2. Feedback should be given to Chairs in regards to the reason their nominees were not selected.
3. Student members should not be allowed to view the nominations since in most cases confidential information, such as teaching evaluations and information from personnel files, is included in the nomination packets.

Submitted by the Chair on behalf of the Committee.

J. Holt, Chair
M. Marsella
L. Wright
Y. Wu