Faculty Awards

Dr. Charlie McCormick, Schreiner University provost and vice president for academic affairs, announced the University’s annual faculty awards at a recognition banquet on April 28. Five Schreiner professors were honored.

Dr. Danette Vines, associate professor of chemistry, received the Margaret Hosler Award for Excellence in teaching. Students nominate their professors for this award on the basis of a professor’s teaching ability and whether he or she creates a lasting impression on students. Dr. Vines has also received the 2011 Elmore Whitehurst Award for Creative Teaching. “Honestly, receiving the Margaret Hosler Award is the best thing that has happened to me both as a scientist and professor,” Vines said. “I love my students and I challenge them to think big. And now receiving this award has made me realize that they appreciate my efforts and that in their own way, they love me, too. Despite the grueling tests, despite the lab experiments gone awry and despite the long hours of study, the students care and see the impact in scholarship. I can’t thank them enough. I am humbled and honored to be chosen for this prestigious award.”

James Harris, visiting assistant professor of visual arts, was the recipient of the 2012 Elmore Whitehurst Award for Creative Teaching. Dr. McCormick and a group of public school teachers choose the recipient for the Whitehurst Teaching Award, which The Hatton W. Sumners Foundation funds. The award comes with a $2,000 stipend to be used for a university teaching project. “Of all the faculty awards, the Whitehurst Award for Creative Teaching is the one I am most honored to win,” Harris said.

The Award for Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity went to Dr. Chris Distel, assistant professor of biology. “This award was a surprise as there is a sizable, and growing, pool of excellent scholars within Schreiner’s faculty,” Distel said. “I am humbled and honored to be recognized from among them. It’s great to see an increase in research-based learning for our students.”

Amanda Thomson, adjunct instructor of mathematics, received the Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Award. Thomson is also a Learning Support Services specialist. “I feel very honored to have the opportunity to work among such an extraordinary group of people,” said Thomson. “We have a truly remarkable faculty and staff who serve an outstanding student body. I am very blessed to be a part of this University.”