

2009-2010 Aileen Creighton Award for Teaching Excellence
Introduction of Exie Hall, Professor of Mathematics
Monday, January, 4th, 2010

- It's my great honor to introduce this year's recipient of the Creighton Award for Excellence in Teaching
- An excerpt from the recipient's teaching philosophy: *"My philosophy is simple: I thoroughly enjoy teaching and I want my students to learn, to enjoy learning, and become aware and confident they can learn most anything. I want them to leave my courses fully prepared to compete with the best, so I shall keep my standards and expectations high; and I shall keep searching for ways to improve my presentations, keeping abreast of this fast-changing world."*
- This year's recipient is a veteran teacher at Del Mar. She has built a remarkably successful career here and done remarkable good for many, many students.
- A conservative estimate (and some very simple math!) places at around 6,000 the number of students who have been fortunate to find themselves in her classroom. I have no idea of the number of colleagues – in her department and in other departments – who have benefitted from her ideas, suggestions, and examples, but that number is substantial.
- If you don't mind, I'd like to read to you a few excerpts from a couple of letters written in support of this year's Creighton Award recipient.
- The faculty member who nominated our recipient is not only a colleague of hers, but a former student as well. In her letter of nomination, she wrote this:
 - *"As her former student, I know that she is always willing to answer questions in class and outside of class. She always comes to class prepared and conducts her classes with a firm but loving hand. She is always aware of the students' needs in class and students seem to be her number one priority. She is always prompt to class and always starts class with a smile."*
 - *"She has written her own books for her courses. Each section of her books begins with definitions, explanations, and many examples Over the years, students have told her that her books are easy for them to understand and that the examples do not leave them wondering"*
- Former colleagues of this year's recipient – colleagues who taught in very different academic departments than did our winner – wrote this in their letter of support:
 - *[Her] "dedication to her profession is total. Her primary interest is teaching her students, and in the process, convincing them that they have the capacity to learn far more . . . than they initially thought possible."*
 - *"She tries again and again to make [the course that she teaches] relevant and accessible. She is a tireless teacher. She spends countless hours outside the*

classroom – even outside the campus – tutoring, advising, and encouraging college students, as well as those who may be college bound.”

- *Her “patience is widely recognized and appreciated by both students and colleagues. ‘I want [her] class’ was the line we heard repeatedly as we performed our duties as faculty advisors. The line was usually followed by ‘because’ –*
 - *‘because she will explain things until I understand.’*
 - *‘because she won’t put me down when I ask a question.’*
 - *‘because she will answer my questions.’*
 - *‘because she will take time with me.’”*
- *[She] “could be found when classes were out, personally counseling worried students, calming fears, relieving anxieties, we she worked to devise a new way to explain, a new example to illustrate, or a new method to clarify the material a student had yet to comprehend. A professor’s endless patience is so important to the easily intimidated college student; it helps make the classroom a safe place, so safe, in fact, that a student fearful of his fate or just confused by an assignment feels comfortable going to the professor’s office; after all, that must be a safe place, too.”*
- That’s all great stuff, and tells us a lot about this year’s Creighton Award recipient. So, who is the DMC faculty member described in these terms?
- Please take a look at the screen.
- Please welcome the recipient of the Aileen Creighton Award for Excellence in Teaching for 2009-2010, Professor of Mathematics, Exie Hall.