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Three Professors Honored for Student and Scholarly Work

Winthrop University

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Three Professors Honored for Student and Scholarly Work

Quick Facts

- Karen Kedrowski, professor and chair of the Department of Political Science, has been selected by her peers as the 2011 Distinguished Professor of the Year.
- Laura Ullrich, an assistant professor in the Department of Accounting, Finance & Economics, is the 2011 Outstanding Junior Professor of the Year.
- Shaun Cassidy, associate professor and coordinator of the Department of Fine Art's sculpture program, will receive the 2011 Jane LaRoche Graduate Faculty Award.



Karen Kedrowski

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Three political science, business and art faculty members known for their scholarship and student engagement will be recognized during May commencement exercises at Winthrop University.

Karen Kedrowski, professor and chair of the Department of Political Science, has been selected by her peers as the **2011 Distinguished Professor of the Year**. **Laura Ullrich**, an assistant professor in the Department of Accounting, Finance & Economics, is the **2011 Outstanding Junior Professor of the Year**. **Shaun Cassidy**, associate professor and coordinator of the Department of Fine Art's sculpture program, will receive the **2011 Jane LaRoche Graduate Faculty Award**.



Laura Ullrich

Winthrop will honor Kedrowski and Ullrich at the undergraduate commencement on Saturday, May 7 at 11 a.m. at the Winthrop Coliseum when more than 660 students will be awarded their degrees. During the graduate ceremony on Thursday, May 5 at 7 p.m. at the Winthrop Coliseum, Cassidy will be honored, along with 237 graduate students.

Karen Kedrowski



Shaun Cassidy

Normally department chairs nominate a faculty member for the Distinguished Professor Award. In this case, all of the Department of Political Science faculty members nominated Kedrowski because of her many and impressive accomplishments. In addition to teaching, chairing the department and overseeing the West Forum on Politics and Policy, Kedrowski was appointed earlier this year as director of the university's Global Learning Initiative.

Since her arrival to Winthrop in 1994, Kedrowski has produced a steady output of high quality, peer-reviewed published research supplemented by other works and 16 conference paper presentations since 2001. She has enlisted students and collaborated with fellow faculty members on different aspects of her research.

During spring semester 2010, Kedrowski conducted research on Canadian women's health at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, as a Fulbright Visiting Chair.

Laura Ullrich

Ullrich joined the Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics in 2007 and immediately began to contribute to the campus and the community. An excellent teacher, she has served as a mentor for struggling undergraduates, helped revive the Economics Club, introduced new courses, given policy

presentations to regional groups and worked on the M.B.A. revisions. She received the Wachovia Excellence in Teaching Award in 2008-09.

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in Cambridge, Mass., selected Ullrich in 2010 as one of America's promising state and local tax economists to participate in its new Junior Scholar Program. This honor gave her the opportunity to meet with top senior economists, receive feedback on her research and build important mentoring relationships.

Shaun Cassidy

Cassidy demonstrates a high level of energy and enthusiasm as an artist and as a teacher guiding the next generation to create, collaborate and engage. He strikes a balance between being a productive and creative artist and a mentor for student artists. He has received more than half a dozen grants to conduct research and create large-scale public art projects throughout the region, many of which included the assistance of students. His leadership and emphasis on community engagement and promoting public art as an economic stimulus is the primary reason for the impressive growth in the M.F.A. sculpture program.

Cassidy's teaching abilities also were recognized in 2001 when he received the Phi Kappa Phi Excellence in Teaching Award and the 2006 James Pinckney Kinard and Lee Wicker Kinard Award for Excellence in Teaching. Prior to coming to Winthrop in 1999, Cassidy taught at Kansas City Art Institute and Bennington College in Vermont.

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