Hinckley Award

History department chair Susan Matt is this year’s recipient of the John S. Hinckley Fellow Award. Colleagues cite her creativity and vitality in scholarship and service, and students praise her contagious charisma and excitement in the classroom.

Matt has helped many students apply for grants to conduct archival research around the country in order to gather and transcribe oral histories and present their findings at national conferences.

She teaches in the Venture Program, a humanities course for low-income adults that eases the transition into college. Since the program’s inception in 2008, Matt has helped many students understand American history and their place in it.

Matt’s own research focuses on the history of emotions — particularly the emotional habits that accompany modern individualism and capitalism. She is the author of two books, Homesickness: An American History and Keeping Up with the Joneses: Envy in American Consumer Society, 1890-1930.

Collaboration Award

WSU’s neuroscience program received the 2014 Exemplary Collaboration Award in recognition for the teamwork of three colleges that came together to create a neuroscience minor and a passion for the study of the brain.

The executive committee included psychology professors Lauren Fowler and Matthew Schmolesky from the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences; health sciences professor Jim Hutchins from the Dumke College of Health Professions; and zoology professor Barbara Trask from the College of Science.

The collaborators designed a neuroscience minor that began in 2010 with two courses and a lab. In three years, the list of program course offerings has expanded to seven. The minor claims 75 students and 25 graduates.

Numerous students have presented their research at regional and national conferences. The program also has made its mark in service to the larger community, with its faculty and students making presentations on the brain to more than 1,000 public school students annually.

Lindquist Award

For her passionate commitment to service both locally and globally, Lisa Trujillo, assistant professor of respiratory therapy, has been selected as the 2014 recipient of the John A. Lindquist Award.

Since 2005, Trujillo’s global work has concentrated on Ghana in West Africa. In her efforts to provide free health services, medical education and community health education to the country’s underserved, she has collaborated with the departments of geography, computer science and business as well as with Ghanaian entities from hospitals and schools to e-waste centers.

As part of her doctoral program, Trujillo focused on introducing the profession of respiratory therapy to the Ghanaian medical community. After nearly two years of work, the University of Ghana will soon accept students into a baccalaureate respiratory therapy program.

“The development of this partnership will lead to additional opportunities for WSU students to engage their fellow students in Ghana through collaborative learning and research,” she explained.

Saving Energy Saves Money continued

Agency also honored the university. Weber State is the first university campus in Utah to have water and energy meters in every building to monitor usage in real time. Crews have also insulated and repaired aging, leaking steam lines, and installed multiple solar panels.

Saving money and saving energy are just part of the equation; education is the key component, according to Kevin Hansen, Facilities and Campus Planning vice president.

“Our goal is to be seen as a leader in our community. The greatest influence of all might be with our graduates. If we convey to them the importance of being energy efficient — that it’s a good investment and the right thing to do — imagine the impact that could have on society as a whole.”