Professors Matacin, Troy, and Crane Among Six to Be Honored at 2019 Commencement

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Mala Matacin is the 2019 recipient of the Roy E. Larsen Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Michelle Troy is the 2019 recipient of the Humphrey R. Tonkin Award for Scholarly and/or Artistic Creativity.
Barbara Crane is the 2019 recipient of the Oscar and Shoshana Trachtenberg Award for Sustained Service to the University.

**Mala L. Matacin**, associate professor of psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences is the 2019 recipient of the Roy E. Larsen Award for Excellence in Teaching. This award is presented annually to one of the University’s most outstanding teachers and is intended to assist the awardees in their personal endeavors. The award serves to underscore the centrality of teaching at the University of Hartford.

Matacin’s genuine approach to teaching has earned the admiration and appreciation of students and colleagues alike. Students comment about how up to date her readings, assignments, and classroom examples are. Her syllabi are full of new pedagogical techniques, projects addressing real-world problems, and group work on relevant issues.

Matacin’s teaching extends beyond the classroom. For the past 10 years, she has supported a group that she also founded, Women for Change that promotes bonds between women in society. The group is one of the most well-known and active on campus with annual events such as the Take Back the Night march, Umbrellas for Peace, and the calendar project.

**Michele K. Troy**, professor of English in Hillyer College, is the 2019 recipient of the Humphrey R. Tonkin Award for Scholarly and/or Artistic Creativity. This award is presented annually to a faculty member who has displayed unusual creativity and innovation in the pursuit of their scholarship.

Troy’s career of outstanding scholarship and striking creativity has been recognized through an array of awards, fellowships, and grants, including the 2017 Scholarship and Creativity Award for Hillyer College, the 2018 Harrison Faculty Development Grant, and a recently awarded Fulbright Scholar Grant to Germany for 2019–20.

Her book *Strange Bird: The Albatross Press and the Third Reich*, published by Yale University Press in 2017, represents the culmination of a decade of intensive archival work in 30 archives in six countries and three languages. The book tells how, from 1932 to 1939, the German publishing house Albatross Press defied fascism to remain the largest provider of English-language paperbacks in Europe, distributing works by the likes of D. H. Lawrence, Virginia Woolf, James Joyce, and Ernest Hemingway

Troy’s research took place while she continually showed enthusiastic commitment to her students and the University by launching new programs, serving on multiple committees, and being director of the Hillyer honors program.

**Barbara Crane**, professor of physical therapy and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions, is the 2019 recipient of the Oscar and Shoshana Trachtenberg Award for Sustained Service to the University. This award honors a full-time faculty member for sustained and exemplary service to the University.
Crane has held a number of roles since arriving at the University in 2005 as an assistant professor of physical therapy in the Department of Rehabilitation Services. She rose to ENHP’s associate dean for academic affairs in 2016, a position in which she is responsible for coordinating student events, maintaining official student records and program evaluations, and serving as a point of contact to address student needs and facilitate academic processes. She also serves on a wide range of committees throughout the University and impresses with the thoroughness with which she addresses these responsibilities.

In the field of physical therapy, Crane serves in multiple capacities with several professional organizations, including the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA).