The Gordon Clark Ramsey Award for Creative Excellence recognizes the exemplary contributions of the University’s adjunct and part-time faculty members.

The award is named for the late Gordon Clark Ramsey, who served the University for more than 20 years as an adjunct faculty member and secretary to the Faculty Senate. He was a strong advocate of efforts to enhance the status of, and provide opportunities for, adjunct faculty. The Ramsey Award is presented either for a proposed scholarly or creative project related to classroom teaching, or for a prior sustained scholarly or creative work related in some way to classroom teaching over several years.
Using an innovative and interdisciplinary teaching style, Susan Aliberti EFFECTIVELY ENGAGES STUDENTS IN HER WRITING CLASSES through critical examinations of issues presented in mass pop culture by exploring and evaluating how these ideas relate to their majors.

In a writing class for health science majors enrolled in the University’s College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions, Aliberti asked students to read an article about how superheroes can be used to raise awareness for public health and scientific concepts. The students were then tasked with creating a persuasive presentation to fund a public literacy campaign for public health.

“This innovative approach reinforces students significant learning in a way that makes sense to them and to the field they will pursue,” says Beth Richards, director of first- and second-year writing in the Department of English and Modern Languages.

More than improving their writing skills, the students solve real-world cases and learn about popular culture.

“I’m particularly impressed by Susan’s ability to tap this creative energy for students from many majors including the arts, sciences, and humanities,” concludes Richards. «
Since Philip Brunquell joined the University of Hartford in 2008 as an adjunct faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences’ neuroscience program, he has **CREATED THREE CORE NEUROSCIENCE COURSES AND FOUR ELECTIVES.** Using his 33 years of experience as a pediatric neurologist, Brunquell brings invaluable clinical knowledge and competency that makes the program unique.

His creative courses span from technically challenging lectures on neuroanatomical pathways to clinically oriented neurology courses.

“These lectures are all very essential for the career readiness of students,” says Paola Sacchetti, director of the Master of Science in Neuroscience program.

At one moment, his class may be hearing real patient anecdotes; in the next instant, a debate might ensue on a timely ethical concern or medical technique.

His courses are always very popular among students, who emphasize his expertise, knowledge, and structure. One student observed, “He goes above and beyond to prepare lessons that are comprehensible and include clinical stories and articles, always making the course material more ‘human.’ ”

Not only does he help students understand the course material, but Brunquell also helps them grow as individuals. In a course evaluation, one student noted, “I grew not only as a student, but also as a person because of his classes.”
Since 1992, Brian Skelly has taught philosophy in the University’s College of Arts and Sciences. With a lively, creative, and engaging teaching style, he \textbf{INSPIRES STUDENTS TO PRODUCE THEIR BEST WORK}. Focusing on their success, Skelly offers to critique class assignments multiple times.

Skelly has also made a huge difference for students who have had both intellectual and social difficulties. With his mentorship, they have discovered new things about themselves that have inspired them to grow.

“Brian exemplifies the type of lifelong learner we want our students to become,” says Marcia Moen, chair of the Department of Philosophy in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Not only does he teach philosophy on a high level, but he also brings knowledge and expertise from other areas.

More than being a great mentor for his students, Skelly has created a thriving Philosophy Club that brings together faculty, students, alumni, and community members across multiple disciplines.

One of the regular attendees noted, “His creative approach challenges all present to question assumptions on the topic at hand and elevate their level of discourse.” \textcopyright