Faculty to Receive Awards at Commencement

Four faculty members will be honored for exceptional accomplishments in the areas of teaching, scholarship, service, and contributions to the All-University Curriculum at the University’s 51st annual Commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 18.

Charles R. Canedy III, associate professor of marketing in the Barney School of Business, will receive the Roy E. Larsen Award for Excellence in Teaching. Canedy has been educating, enlightening, and inspiring students for more than three decades, having joined the University of Hartford faculty in 1976. He captivates students at the undergraduate, graduate, and executive levels with both the depth and breadth of his knowledge and his remarkable passion and enthusiasm for his subject. Canedy unfailingly keeps pace with changes in the business world and offers profound insights into the forces that shape them. His classes aren’t easy -- Canedy pushes students to perform to the highest possible standards. Even though they work hard, students often say that Canedy’s courses are by far the most enjoyable and memorable in their University experience, and that he has had a profound influence on their careers and their lives.

Chittaranjan Sahay, professor of mechanical engineering in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, will be presented with the James E. and Frances W. Bent Award for Scholarly and/or Artistic Creativity. Since assuming a number of leadership roles at the University in 2000, Sahay has updated and enhanced the mechanical engineering curriculum; revamped the engineering laboratories with new technology; and boosted graduate enrollment in the engineering programs by more than 100 percent. He has personally supervised 35 master’s theses, and his commitment to academic excellence is reflected in the outstanding work of his students. Sahay's knowledge and expertise are
highly sought by leading companies and government agencies, and his research projects have led to major improvements in the reliability of electronic components, from cell phones to advanced defense systems. Over the course of his career, he has been awarded research grants totaling nearly $3 million for a variety of advanced design and manufacturing projects.

John A. (Jay) Stewart, associate professor of sociology in the College of Arts and Sciences, will receive the Oscar and Shoshana Trachtenberg Award for Sustained Service to the University. In addition to being an outstanding teacher, Stewart can always be found behind the scenes, giving generously of his time and helping others to succeed. He is highly proficient in the intricacies of statistics, and his unseen hand has helped shape a wide array of research projects and publications that have significantly enhanced the University's reputation. A passionate advocate for social justice, Stewart is a long-time participant in a weekly peace vigil on campus. He works with environmental groups to ensure that state policies and rules are applied fairly to all, and organizes annual events on campus to collect discarded furniture and food to benefit local charities. In 2003, Stewart helped launch the Campus Alliance for Progressive Politics and Action to make students more aware of the pressing issues of the day and to help them find their own ways to make the world a better place.

Harald M. Sandström, associate professor of politics and government in the College of Arts and Sciences, will be presented with the Donald W. Davis All-University Curriculum Award. Sandström has been creating and teaching courses for the All-University Curriculum (AUC) for more than 20 years. Currently, he and two other faculty members are teaching an AUC course called "The Caribbean Mosaic," which combines geography, history, sociology, politics, music, art and literature to help students understand the richness and diversity of Caribbean culture. The course has been internationally
recognized as a model for teaching students about diversity, partly through an article that Sandström coauthored with AUC colleagues last year. Sandström developed his first course for the AUC in the late 1980s. He worked with other faculty members, as well as representatives of UNICEF and CARE, to develop "Hunger: Problems of Scarcity and Choice." The course is still being taught at the University, and remains as relevant as ever. In addition, he helped develop and taught the AUC courses "Cultures and Transnational Corporations" and "Discovering the News."