A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

University staff recognized for leadership and dedication

The recipients of this year’s staff awards are being honored for their significant contributions to the University. The Witmer Award for Distinguished Service is presented to staff members whose professional careers have been characterized by outstanding contributions and sustained dedication to the University. The Meliora Award recognizes staff members whose work performance and dedication during the preceding year exemplify the University’s motto, Meliora. The Staff Community Service Award honors a University nonmanagement staff member “whose commitment best exemplifies service to the University and the Greater Rochester community.” For more information on all the awards, including how the recipients are chosen and which each award includes, visit the Office of Human Resources website, www.rochester.edu/working/hr. This year’s winners will be recognized at a reception Monday, April 22. Their names will also be inscribed on plaques that will be placed in the Medical Center and in Wallace Hall on the River Campus.

**MELIORA AWARD**

**Institute for Music Leadership, Eastman School**

The Institute for Music Leadership was founded at the Eastman School in 2001 as a “virtual hub for creating, sharing, and implementing cutting-edge ideas and programs that will ensure the vitality and relevance of music in the 21st century.”

Led by director Ramon Ricker, senior associate dean for professional studies, the institute consists of several programs: the Catherine Flene Shouse Arts Leadership Program; the Center for Music Innovation and Engagement; the Orchestra Musicians Forum and websites Polyphonic.org and Polyphonic on Campus; and the Office of Careers and Professional Development.

Through a series of professional development programs, online courses, and cutting-edge programs, the institute has created an environment that engages student musicians and challenges them to think more entrepreneurially about music.

Institute staff members “have exhibited an unusual entrepreneurial mindset, worked together as a team, galvanized support from other Eastman units, made remarkable strides in economizing resources, and emerged the student body and the administration,” says Douglas Lowery, the Joan and Martin Messenger Dean of the Eastman School of Music, in his nomination letter. “I cannot imagine a finer unified effort toward one of Eastman’s primary strategic goals, attribution to a belief in common goods, goal work, and a unified team spirit.”

Learn more at www.esm.rochester.edu/iml.

**WITMER AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

Deborah Martin, Return to Work program claims manager, Human Resources

Colleagues say Deborah (Deb) Martin is an important linchpin for employees returning to work from a short- or long-term absence. They say her approachable, flexible, professional, highly motivated, and enthusiastic attitude helps ease employee back into their positions—a transition that can often be stressful and challenging.

Martin was instrumental in developing, implementing, and communicating the University’s return-to-work program—an effort that has been recognized by those within the University and beyond. She was selected to serve on New York State’s Return to Work Advisory Council and was appointed as a governor’s representative, guiding the state’s return-to-work regulatory reform. She continues to serve as a consultant to the program.

Martin’s 30-year cancer career at the University started in nursing at Strong Memorial Hospital, where she helped develop the collaborative care and empowerment nursing model as nurse manager in high-risk obstetrics. 

“He’s impact on the University is significant, long-standing, and profound,” writes Harriett Boyer, University intercessor, in a nomination letter. “She truly embodies the spirit and the purpose of distinguished service.”

Linda Muise, assistant dean for residential life, Eastman School

Linda Muise is described as the “anchor” of the Eastman living environment, whom she works with the Wilson Commons Student Activities office, which include overseeing financial transactions for the office. But staff and students say you’ll often find her guidance and support, and her warm and caring nature have led to meaningful friendships with students with whom she works.

“Her door is always open to students, and she always puts the needs of her students first, say those who supported her nomination for the Witmer Award. As Janeen Elhassan, head resident advisor at the Eastman Living Center, puts it, “This is Linda’s power caring for people in a way that builds them stronger.”

The Eastern Students’ Association created an award in Muise’s honor about 15 years ago. The Linda Muise Student Life Award is awarded each spring to a member of the Eastman staff who contributes to the improvement of students’ lives in ways that best represent the qualities that Muise exemplifies. In addition, the Linda Muise Student Life Award is presented to a graduating senior who has shown leadership traits and has supported the quality of residential life at Eastman. The award serves as an evidence of the impact she’s had on the Eastman community throughout the years.

Mary Pettinaro, systems administrator, Wilson Commons Student Activities

Mary Pettinaro turned a personal loss into something positive and inspiring.

After losing her brother, Michael, to pancreatic cancer in 2009, she met Judy Rockstuhl and Lynne Platt on the John Hopkins pancreatic cancer discussion board. All three had lost loved ones to the disease. Together they founded the Step It Up to Cure Pancreatic Cancer organization, which hosts a 5K walk in November to raise money for pancreatic cancer research.

The walk began in 2010 and over three years has raised nearly $150,000 to support pancreatic cancer research at the Wilmot Cancer Center. The Step It Up to Cure Pancreatic Cancer organization is now known as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness of Western New York, which administers the walk and aims to create awareness, raise funds, and advocate for those affected by pancreatic cancer. Pettinaro has taken on several leadership roles within the organization to help ensure its success.

“The walk has been a wonderful experience for her and for the Eastern community,” says Kathleen Webster, accountant, Wilson Commons Student Activities.

“Her perseverance, vision, and ideology for the organization are inspiring. She is someone who shares her joy freely with everyone she meets and engages. I know she says—‘It’s something she’s been doing since 1974 when she joined the University as a staff member in the Business Office. Webster has a reputation for high-quality work in her duties with the Wilson Commons Student Activities office, which includes overseeing financial transactions for the office. But staff and students say you’ll often find her guidance and support, and her warm and caring nature have led to meaningful friendships with students with whom she works.

“She does not do things for money or recognition, but quietly keeps going, learning, helping, and truly making the University a better place,” writes Anne Marie Aliger, associate dean of students, in a letter nominating Webster for the award.

**STAFF COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

Mary Pettinaro, systems administrator, Office of Graduate Medical Education

Mary Pettinaro turned a personal loss into something positive and inspiring.

After losing her brother, Michael, to pancreatic cancer in 2009, she met Judy Rockstuhl and Lynne Platt on the John Hopkins pancreatic cancer discussion board. All three had lost loved ones to the disease. Together they founded the Step It Up to Cure Pancreatic Cancer organization, which hosts a 5K walk in November to raise money for pancreatic cancer research.

The walk began in 2010 and over three years has raised nearly $150,000 to support pancreatic cancer research at the Wilmot Cancer Center. The Step It Up to Cure Pancreatic Cancer organization is now known as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness of Western New York, which administers the walk and aims to create awareness, raise funds, and advocate for those affected by pancreatic cancer. Pettinaro has taken on several leadership roles within the organization to help ensure its success.

“The walk has been a wonderful experience for her and for the Eastern community,” says Kathleen Webster, accountant, Wilson Commons Student Activities.

“Her perseverance, vision, and ideology for the organization are inspiring. She is someone who shares her joy freely with everyone she meets and engages. I know she says—‘It’s something she’s been doing since 1974 when she joined the University as a staff member in the Business Office. Webster has a reputation for high-quality work in her duties with the Wilson Commons Student Activities office, which includes overseeing financial transactions for the office. But staff and students say you’ll often find her guidance and support, and her warm and caring nature have led to meaningful friendships with students with whom she works.

“She does not do things for money or recognition, but quietly keeps going, learning, helping, and truly making the University a better place,” writes Anne Marie Aliger, associate dean of students, in a letter nominating Webster for the award.

J. Adam Fenster

BRANDON VICK

Mary Pettinaro

P R I L  W E D N E S D A Y, A P R I L 1 7 , 2 0 1 3

WWW.ROCHESTER.EDU/CURRENTS

WWW.ROCHESTER.EDU/CURRENTS

WWW.ROCHESTER.EDU/CURRENTS

WWW.ROCHESTER.EDU/CURRENTS

WWW.ROCHESTER.EDU/CURRENTS

WWW.ROCHESTER.EDU/CURRENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2013