

October 12, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Colleagues

FROM: Gerald E. Lang
Provost and Vice President
for Academic Affairs and Research

RE: 2007-2008 Benedum Distinguished Scholar Awards

I am pleased to call your attention to the announcement of the twenty-second annual "Benedum Distinguished Scholar Awards" competition. The details of the nomination and application procedures, judging processes, and presentation are available at <http://www.wvu.edu/~acadaff/Faculty/oppor/BDSA08.pdf>. Please note that the application deadline is ***Friday, November 16, 2007***. I hope you will take time to reflect on the accomplishments of your colleagues and on your own and submit an application or nomination on behalf of those you deem most worthy.

Please note two changes in past practices: (1) for 2007-08, only candidates in Behavioral and Social Sciences and Humanities and the Arts (including the Performing Arts) will be considered; and (2) the Awards have been increased from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

We are grateful to the University's Distinguished Professors for providing leadership in the establishment of this award and to the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation for their financial support of many of the activities of the Benedum Professors.

I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to recognize and reward those giving exceptional service to the state. If you need additional information, please contact Dr. C. B. Wilson, Associate Provost for Academic Personnel, or Ms. Wendy J. Spaw at extension 293-2021, in the Office of the Provost.

GEL/wjs

2007-2008
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
BENEDUM DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR AWARDS

The Benedum Distinguished Scholar Awards recognize distinction in research, scholarship or creative activity. (Hereafter, all references to "research" in this document are meant to include scholarship and creative activity.) Distinction may be reflected in either a single recent achievement in research, or an extended and still ongoing career of distinguished research. Awards of \$5,000 each will be available, with two awards possible each year. The awards are funded with resources provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Criterion

The sole criterion for judgment is recognition of excellence in creative research. Creative research is expressed in ways unique to different areas of endeavor, thereby rendering meaningful comparisons across areas exceptionally difficult. Nevertheless, distinction can be recognized and evaluated on the basis of standards of the specific discipline or disciplines to which the research pertains. Toward this end, the disciplines are divided primarily into the four broad areas of endeavor listed below.

- a. Behavioral and Social Sciences
- b. Biosciences and Health Sciences
- c. Humanities and the Arts (including the Performing Arts)
- d. Physical Sciences and Technology

Awards will not be made in any category for which a suitable candidate is not found. **In 2007-08 awards will be considered in Behavioral and Social Sciences, and in Humanities and the Arts (including the Performing Arts).**

Examples of research include (a) developing new information, (b) critically examining new and/or old information, (c) writing scholarly essays, and (d) creative works (e.g., novels, plays, works of art, artistic performance). These four examples are not exhaustive. For the first three examples and similar research, the reports of the work must be intended for a professional readership, the reports must be available to the intended readership through publication in refereed journals or in books, and the work must significantly extend the boundaries of knowledge in the discipline or disciplines to which it pertains. For the fourth example and similar research, the material must be widely available to the intended audience through production in an appropriate medium; the critique of the work should be by professionals; the rigor with which the work is judged should be similar to candidates engaged in "traditional" research; and the candidate should show evidence of creating rather than simply re-creating. Artistic performance must be informed by documented creative research.

Awards will be made without regard for departmental or disciplinary affiliation, core area, or type of research. An award for distinction in the area of the Humanities and the Arts, for example, could be earned by a member of a science department, and an award for distinction in Physical Sciences and Technology could be earned by a member of a

humanities department. The areas identified above are areas of scholarly distinction rather than areas of faculty appointment.

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee consists of present and emeritus faculty holding distinguished professorships (Benedum, Centennial, named chairs, etc.) in the University, as well as selected past recipients of the awards. The Committee will have recourse to external assistance and advice in reviewing the nomination and application documents.

Eligibility for Award

All faculty members holding a continuing appointment, at any rank, including those serving in administrative positions, are eligible for the award upon nomination or application for consideration, with the exception of those holding named professorships that were awarded in part for achievement in research. Faculty holding named professorships that were awarded primarily for achievement in teaching or service are eligible.

Period Covered by Award

Creative scholarly distinction may be reflected in a single achievement or in an extended, ongoing career. For a single achievement, the period covered by the award is the past three years; for a career, the period covered is not limited but the career must include activity within the past three years.

Award Ceremonies

Recipients will be recognized at the University Honors Convocation during the Annual Weekend of Honors. Each recipient will also present a public lecture. The lecture will be followed by a reception honoring the recipient.

Nomination/Application Procedures

Deadline for Nominations and Applications. Nominations and applications must be received, with all the required documents, by **Friday, November 16, 2007**. Nominations and applications, including the required documents, are to be sent to C.B. Wilson, Associate Provost for Academic Personnel, Office of the Provost, 210 Stewart Hall, PO Box 6203. All that are incomplete at the deadline will be returned unevaluated.

Limit on Eligibility. The recipient of an award is not eligible for a future award for research on the same topic. Although the same research cannot merit more than one of these awards, different research by the same person is eligible, and therefore, a person is eligible for more than one award.

Because the same research cannot earn more than one award, only one award can be made for collaborative work. One of the collaborators may be nominated or may apply for the award, or the collaborators may be jointly nominated or may jointly apply.

In the former case, the nominee or applicant should be the major contributor, and a statement of the proportional contribution he or she made to the work is to be included.

In the latter case, the collaborators will share the award, if an award is made, but no collaborator will be eligible unless he or she holds a continuing appointment as a faculty member at West Virginia University.

Nominators need not be West Virginia University faculty members, but in any case, nominations must include all the required documents in order to be considered.

Required Documents. Each nomination and application **must include** the following documents:

1. Cover sheet. The cover sheet **must** specifically identify one disciplinary area for which the nominee is to be considered.
2. Table of contents. The table of contents should identify materials submitted as part of the required support documentation.
3. A description of the research that is to be considered.
4. The reasons for considering it outstanding, including its context (e.g., the nature and scope of the scientific, social, or other problem addressed; the place of the research in the development of science, society, or other context) and documentation to support these reasons (e.g., a compilation of data from a Citation Index, favorable reviews and other evidence of impact; if Citation Index data are to be considered, they must be supplied as part of this documentation; and samples of relevant publications, playbills, or similar material appropriate to the discipline. A representative sample is preferable to submission of a complete record). Should additional information be required, the selection committee will notify the nominee.
5. For collaborative research, the contribution of the candidate should be clearly identified.
6. An up-to-date curriculum vitae of the candidate, focusing on research productivity. Information about teaching or service may not be relevant.
7. A list of **five or six** possible referees who are experts in the relevant discipline or disciplines, most of whom are outside West Virginia University, and at peer research institutions. Please provide complete address, telephone, fax, and e-mail information.

No specific guidelines regarding length of the above documentation are provided since the scholarly achievements of the faculty differ greatly from one discipline to another. In general, the documentation should be brief, with the emphasis on the quality of the scholarship rather than quantity. Summaries of a person's contributions with the inclusion of copies of two or three of the most important documents would be appropriate.