

**Call for Nominations**  
**2009 Leonard M. Schuman Award for Excellence in Teaching**  
**Deadline: 12:00 noon on Friday, April 10, 2009**

**Purpose and Background**

The Leonard M. Schuman Award for Excellence in Teaching recognizes School of Public Health faculty who are particularly outstanding teachers in the art of conveying to their students the stimulation and interest in subject matter which is at the core of teaching functions of all great universities. The School recognizes its outstanding teachers, both as a tribute to their special qualities and their dedication, and also to bring to the attention of current and future students the names and faces of those so honored. With this award, the School emphasizes the importance of the teaching function in the university. As a professional school, we continue to place equal emphasis on research, teaching and service, but recognize that the majority of our students seek professional rather than academic careers. In a short period of time students must learn a disciplinary language, a philosophy, and a broad body of knowledge as the fundamental tools for their careers. The task of imparting a professional education is a challenging one, and those who are superior in meeting this challenge deserve recognition.

The Award was established in 1984 to honor the teaching record of Dr. Leonard M. Schuman, a physician and epidemiologist in the School of Public Health. Dr. Schuman was an innovative investigator and outstanding educator who established the first Ph.D. program in epidemiology and the first summer epidemiology continuing education program in the nation. He joined the School of Public Health in 1954 as an Associate Professor and led the Division of Epidemiology from 1954 to 1983. During his long and distinguished career, he served on more than 40 national committees and advisory boards, including the Surgeon General's committee that issued the 1964 landmark report implicating tobacco in lung cancer and other diseases. Dr. Schuman's research contributions were recognized internationally and included discovery of the cause of silo-filler's disease, development of a long-term follow-up study for examining the relationship between diet and cancer, participation in the Tri-State Leukemia Study, and direction of the Third National Cancer Survey for the Twin Cities. In 1983 he was named Mayo Professor of Public Health, and his exceptional teaching abilities were later acknowledged with the creation of the Leonard M. Schuman Excellence in Teaching Award.

**The Award**

A recipient's achievements will be commemorated with a plaque, a permanent display in the School's administrative offices, and a cash award of \$3,000. No more than one award will be given in any single year. Each year's recipient also becomes a member of the SPH Recognition, Awards and Honors Committee to judge teaching awards in the following year.

**Eligibility**

School faculty on 12-month or 9-month appointments with a record of at least five years' teaching in the School of Public Health are eligible. Previous winners are not eligible for a second award.

## Evaluation Criteria

“From a deep understanding of subject matter a good teacher offers articulate presentations and thought-provoking analyses. The good teacher creates a climate of learning from a base of mutual respect, sound rapport, and high expectations between teacher and student.”

(Text from the Schuman Award plaque)

The successful nominee will demonstrate a sustained record of excellence of at least five years' teaching in the School of Public Health including such elements as:

- ◆ Success in stimulating the intellectual growth and development of students in one of the public health disciplines;
- ◆ A broad context and understanding of the entire field of public health, encouraging students to integrate knowledge beyond their own discipline;
- ◆ An emphasis on critical thinking and analysis;
- ◆ Use of effective teaching practices and effectiveness as a communicator;
- ◆ Availability and accessibility to students that exceeds normal expectations.

## Application Documentation

Documentation should include **(To facilitate evaluation, please have one person act as primary nominator, compiling all of the letters of support and other material prior to submission to the Committee):**

- ◆ A letter of nomination;
- ◆ A letter from the Major Chair or Director of Graduate Studies documenting sustained excellence in teaching;
- ◆ No more than five letters of support, of which four must be from past and current students or alumni providing evidence of the qualities of teaching described in the evaluation criteria above **(letters from both students and alumni are preferred)**;
- ◆ The nominee's complete teaching record, indicating for each course: dates of course, whether the course was a required MPH core course, the nominee's role in teaching (if not sole instructor), number of students, and median scores from these items on the SPH course evaluations:
  - ◆ - instructor's overall teaching ability
  - ◆ - instructor's respect and concern for students
  - ◆ - how much did you learn?
- ◆ Please include the syllabus for only one course. Written student comments from teaching evaluations are optional. If written comments are included, all the comments from a given course should be included without selection. "Selected comments" are difficult to evaluate.
- ◆ Nominator must indicate below (*initials*) whether or not all contributors grant permission to have excerpts of their letter read at the awards ceremony and are willing to have their letter forwarded to the candidate following the award ceremony.

Permission Granted, by all Nominators, to share nomination letters at award ceremony and with candidate

*initials*

Students acting as primary nominators are encouraged to discuss the nomination with the program Major Chair, Director of Graduate Studies, another faculty person, or Major Coordinators for assistance in documenting sustained excellence in teaching (e.g., summarizing past teaching evaluations, writing and soliciting supporting letters, and providing names of former students and alumni). Nominators are encouraged to submit their documentation well in advance of the deadline to allow the Committee to review it for completeness.

### **Application Evaluation Process**

Completed applications are due to the SPH Recognition, Awards and Honors Committee no later than **12:00 noon on Friday, April 10, 2009**. The Committee will evaluate nominations by reviewing documentation for evidence of sustained excellence in teaching for at least five years.

### **Forwarding Nominations**

Please forward **complete original nomination packet and 8 copies** by **12:00 noon on Friday, April 10, 2009** to:

Recognition, Awards and Honors Committee, c/o Stefannie Anderson  
SPH Dean's Office, MMC 197, A302 Mayo Bldg.

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### **Previous Recipients**

1984 - Dorothy Jeffries	1999 - Will Thomas
1986 - James Rothenberger	2000 - Eyal Shahr
1988 - Chap Le Sharon Ostwald	2001 - James Neaton
1990 - Judith Garrard Cheryl Perry	2002 - Lynn Eberly
1991 - Phyllis Pirie	2003 - Wendy Hellerstedt
1992 - Michael Resnick	2004 - Melanie Wall
1993 - Jean Forster	2005 - John Nyman William Toscano
1995 - David Murray	2006 - Lynn Blewett Charles Oberg
1996 - Paul McGovern	2007 - John Connett
1998- Jack Mandel Robert Veninga	2008 - Brad Carlin