



SAINT JOSEPH COLLEGE

CONNECTICUT

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Saint Joseph College English Professor Wins Teaching Excellence Award



Tim Coffey Photography

WEST HARTFORD, CONN. – **Kerry Driscoll, Ph.D., professor of English at Saint Joseph College has recently been selected as the 2010 - 2011 recipient of the Reverend John J. Stack Teaching Excellence Award.** A resident of West Hartford, Dr. Driscoll earned her Ph.D. and M.A. from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a B.A. from the University of Connecticut. She has been teaching at Saint Joseph College since 1990 and currently serves as Chair of the English Department. As the winner of the Stack Award, Dr. Driscoll will deliver the Convocation address at the start of the fall semester on August 29.

According to Saint Joseph College Provost Michelle M. Kalis, Ph.D., “The Reverend John J. Stack Teaching Excellence Award carries a proud tradition of recognizing members of the faculty who have made outstanding contributions to student learning. In essence, this honor celebrates the very best in teaching - bringing a depth of scholarship to the classroom that inspires students and fosters academic achievement.”

Presented annually at Saint Joseph College’s Commencement ceremony, this year’s Stack Award recipient was announced by Interim Provost Anne Lippert, Ph.D. who remarked, “Dr. Kerry Driscoll is a talented, highly respected faculty member and appreciated student advisor. A trusted mentor and guide to both new faculty and colleagues throughout the College community, she has served as chair and member of numerous Saint Joseph College faculty committees. Consistently

demonstrating prolific scholarship as a lecturer and author, Dr. Driscoll has been honored twice as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Heidelberg, Germany; has been the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) yearlong fellowship to work on a book examining Mark Twain's attitudes towards Native Americans and other indigenous peoples; was a Quarry Farm Research Fellow at the Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies; and this summer will direct a three-week NEH institute for secondary teachers on *Mark Twain and the Culture of Progress* in Virginia City, Nev. and Hartford, Conn. In addition, Dr. Driscoll's exemplary service to the profession includes serving as current President of the William Carlos Williams Society, Executive Coordinator of the Mark Twain Circle of America, contributing editor of both the *William Carlos Williams Review* and the *Mark Twain Annual*, and discussion leader for the Connecticut Humanities Council's Literature for a Lifetime series."

Saint Joseph College students who nominated Dr. Driscoll for the Reverend John J. Stack Teaching Excellence Award offered high praise: "Dr. Driscoll is extremely passionate about English. I would love to take another course from her ... she inspired me." As stated in this thoughtful reflection, "At times, I bemoaned the high expectations that Dr. Driscoll had for me but in retrospect, I realize that she expected much of me because she believed in me and wanted me to do the same. Because of her encouragement, I developed high expectations for myself, without which I'm not sure I would have had the courage to apply to graduate school, to finish my Ph.D., or even to return to SJC to teach. And now, a professor myself, I model myself after Dr. Kerry Driscoll: teaching not to students' abilities, but beyond their abilities."

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Saint Joseph College, founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy to provide higher education opportunities for women, is a comprehensive institution serving women from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. Responsive to the evolving educational needs of the community, the School of Graduate and Professional Studies also offers both women and men graduate degree programs in many fields, a Weekend Program for Adult Learners, professional certificate programs relevant to today's workforce, and other continuing education opportunities. In the fall of 2011, the Saint Joseph College School of Pharmacy, the first doctoral program in the College's 78-year history, will open at Hartford 21 on Trumbull Street in downtown Hartford.

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