

Four receive Outstanding Service Award from NTID National Advisory Group

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Four faculty and staff members--Hugh Anderson, Karen Barrows, Mark Benjamin, and Ed Lichtenstein--received NTID's National Advisory Group's Outstanding Service Award May 8.

Hugh Anderson, instructor in the architectural technology program and special assistant to the center director for curriculum transition at NTID, began his career with RIT in 1971 as adjunct instructor in NTID's architectural technologies program while he continued to work as a registered architect in the Rochester area. In 1976, he accepted an initial appointment as assistant professor for RIT. He has served the Institute in numerous positions, including chairperson for the NTID civil and architectural technologies program, acting assistant dean/director of NTID's school of science and engineering careers, and special assistant to the center director for curriculum transition in NTID's Center for Technical Studies. He was appointed associate professor for RIT in 1982 and received his tenure in 1983.

Along with teaching, Anderson maintained a private architectural practice partnership, Simonetti & Anderson for 20 years. He has also practiced at various other firms in Rochester and Boston and served in the U.S. Army in the office of post engineer, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

When notified of the award, Anderson said, "It was hard to believe that anyone would even think about giving me an award. I appreciate my colleagues nominating me for this award. I'm very grateful. It's a nice feeling."

Anderson's colleagues, upon nominating him for the outstanding service award, praised his quarter century of dedication to deaf students and technical education programs.

"Through his leadership and dedication, the Construction Technologies programs achieved a reputation for excellence. Hugh has brought his students a blend of professional knowledge, high expectations, patience, and enthusiasm that has not wavered."

Karen Barrows, administrative assistant to the dean of NTID, joined the office of the dean in 1992, after working in NTID's word processing center for three years. In her initial appointment in the dean's office as staff assistant for Dr. Chris Licata, associate dean, Barrows became the lead staff support for NTID's strategic plan.

Barrows' outstanding work on NTID's strategic plan motivated Dr. James DeCaro, dean of NTID, to ask her to work as his personal secretary.

"Her service in this regard was truly outstanding," says DeCaro. "She once again performed tasks that were above and beyond the call of duty and represented this office with aplomb."

When she was promoted to assistant to the dean, Barrows took on even more responsibility by managing a variety of projects, including Parents Weekend and the dean's newsletter to parents. This past year, she facilitated the transition of NTID's new Vice President, Dr. Robert Davila, and his staff assistant, Cheri McKee.

In addition to her regular duties and responsibilities, Barrows is active in the RIT community. She serves as a justice on the RIT Hearing and Appeals Board. She also serves on the board of the RIT Credit Union and is secretary of the board. A notable footnote in Barrow's career at RIT is the fact that she was part of the original group that formed the RIT Staff Council, serving as an NTID member from 1993-95.

One of Barrows' most cherished involvements is the NTID Business Occupations mentorship program, in which she has served for 5 years and now is on the advisory board. Barrows has used her lunch hour for the past two years to teach as an adjunct faculty member in the NTID Business Occupations program.

Mark Benjamin, senior photographer in the instructional design and evaluation department, received a bachelor's degree in professional photography in 1976 and a master's degree in printing in 1993, both from RIT.

Since his initial appointment in 1979, Benjamin has been recognized as one of RIT's most cooperative and responsive professionals. He brought to the Institute experience in advertising and portrait photography and has since worked on a wide variety of projects and with nearly every department within NTID, providing photographic imaging and other technical support. He also has mentored numerous photography students, hearing and deaf.

"I have had the unique opportunity to work with many different areas within NTID and with many talented people," says Benjamin. "What's really meant a lot to me during my career at NTID is the opportunity to work with so many great students over the years. It's been fun being part of such an energetic department that contributes so much to NTID, and I've learned a lot from everyone. Working with all these exceptional people and seeing all of the great things they are doing for deaf students makes receiving the NAG award especially rewarding."

Ed Lichtenstein, associate professor in NTID's English Department, began his career as a communication assessment and advising specialist and now spends much of his time tutoring deaf students.

For many years, he was responsible for providing tutoring support during evening and weekend hours in NTID's English Learning Center. He facilitated the development of NTID's new high-tech Learning Center and is responsible for coordinating the provision of Learning Center tutoring for deaf students in the areas of English and general education.

Lichtenstein was instrumental this past academic year in implementing the Learning Center, according to Dr. Jeff Porter, chair of the NTID Learning Consortium.

"Getting the Learning Center up and running involved a variety of challenges," says Porter, "particularly creating a reliable, flexible, and quality computer infrastructure for supporting students in the Learning Center. Ed, working with NTID colleagues, has taken the lead in building and maintaining this infrastructure.

"Ed is highly effective in his varied undertakings, and he is deeply committed to the learning success of NTID students."

NTID's National Advisory Group consists of professionals concerned with the postsecondary education, technical training, and general educational needs of people who are deaf. The group advises the vice president of NTID in the operation of the Institute.

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