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UM professor honored

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University of Massachusetts professor and chair of the department of teacher education and curriculum studies, Jerri Willett, was recently honored as one of six recipients of the 2008 President's Public Service Awards.

At a luncheon in Boston on Nov. 19, University President Jack M. Wilson announced the winners, including Willett, who was recognized for her leadership in Access through Critical Content and English Language Acquisition Alliance, a collaboration that supports and improves the education of second language learners in Springfield, Holyoke and Amherst school districts.

"The program provides professional development for teachers, as well as school district administrators, UMass faculty and future teacher educators," according to a statement from the President's office. "Professor Willett spends countless hours in the local schools, working with teachers in Holyoke and Springfield."

The service awards are presented each year to faculty members from the Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell and Worcester campuses, who have been nominated by the chancellors in each of their respective campuses for "providing exemplary service to the Commonwealth," according to a statement.

The other recipients of the award include: Taylor Stoehr, professor of literature in the College of Liberal Arts at UMass Boston; Susan Krumholz, director of crime and justice Studies in the College of Liberal Arts at UMass Dartmouth; Regina Panasuk, professor of curriculum and instruction in the Graduate School of Education at UMass Lowell; Deborah Harmon Hines, professor of cell biology at UMass Medical School; and Jean King, professor of psychiatry in the department of neuroscience at UMass Medical School.

"Though the scholarly pursuits of these six professors vary greatly, they have one thing in common: they are committed to exemplary public service, both in their professions and in their communities," said UMass President Jack M. Wilson at the ceremony. "Their accomplishments shed light on the significant contributions of all of the faculty members at the University of Massachusetts who undertake public service, part of the mission of a public research university."

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- A Tryptophan Coma
- A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving
- Mashed Potatoes

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