

Meehan, Rummel, Goodman presented with Fiat Lux! Awards

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Laurie Meehan and Robyn Goodman with Mark Zupan; Amy Rummel, pictured separately

Three Alfred University faculty members were honored with Fiat Lux! Awards at Tuesday's annual holiday luncheon: Laurie Lounsberry Meehan '91, librarian and University archivist; Professor of Marketing Amy Rummel; and Professor of Communications Robyn Goodman.

Altogether, the careers of the three winners total more than 75 years at Alfred University alone. University President Mark Zupan praised their dedication and service to the University, as well as the transformative contributions they have made in the lives of students, the University and the larger Alfred community.

Fiat Lux! – Alfred University's motto – became the name of the award created in 2016 to honor members of the University community who bring distinction and inspiration to Alfred University. The contributions of Meehan, Rummel, and Goodman over the past 25 years have been pivotal in the life of the university, and were recognized by presenters of the awards: Brian Sullivan, dean of Libraries; Mark Lewis dean of the College of Business; and David Toot, interim dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Sullivan noted Meehan, through her commitment "to maintaining the historical record of Alfred University ...(has) as an encyclopedic knowledge of her alma mater...(and) a willingness to help anyone – students, faculty and staff, alumni, community members. ...Pose any question about our history and Laurie has an answer, often almost immediately."

A winner of the Abigail Allen Award for contributions to the University that improved the quality of women's lives, Meehan has also served as a facilitator for Common Ground, the newly designed curricular experience for first-year students; she has addressed new students at open convocation, and – drawing on her farming background – teaches "Maple Syrup: The Real Thing," which introduces students not only to the rural sugaring tradition, but gives them an

opportunity to tromp around in the woods and gain an understanding of the cultural and economic contexts of maple syrup.

Of Rummel, Lewis noted she has won 10 Alfred University Excellence in Teaching Awards since joining the faculty 29 years ago. “Amy has earned a reputation,” Lewis said, “as a professor who engages her students in a learning process that inspires them to achieve and nurtures them throughout their academic journey.”

In addition to her teaching, Rummel has served as director the Marketing Program in the College of Business for the last 20 years and also has supervised the American Marketing Association student group, shepherding students through conferences in New Orleans and Chicago, as well as study tours to Europe and New Zealand. Lewis noted her dedication to the future professional possibilities of her students has included her facilitating a program in which they work with area not-for-profits, and also serving as a liaison between the College of Business and the School of Art and Design.

Goodman received her own Fiat Lux! Award at the conclusion of her career at Alfred University, as she is retiring at the end of 2019 in order to join her parents in California. Her teaching at the University has been recognized frequently, with a Student Senate Excellence in Teaching Award, an Abigail Allen Award, and an Alfred University Research Mentorship Award.

“Robyn has been instrumental in advancing the Communications Studies program at Alfred University,” Toot said, citing her work as advisor to the Fiat Lux newspaper and her support of the Women’s and Gender Studies program at the University. In addition, she has played a consistent, key role in organizing the Riley Lecture Series, served as past director of the Communications Studies program and has been active also on the World Journalism Education Conference, the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Of her work advising students on the Fiat Lux staff, Toot said those students have cited Goodman’s ability to encourage their confidence, “strive to reach their potential, and to challenge the status quo and preconceived notions of society and the world.”