Lillian T. Kamal

Lillian T. Kamal, Associate Professor of Economics, Barney School of Business, is the 2018 recipient of the Roy E. Larsen Award for Excellence in Teaching that is presented each year to one of the University’s most outstanding teachers. This monetary award and honor is intended to assist the recipient in personal endeavors and, by rewarding teaching excellence, serves to underscore the centrality of teaching at the University of Hartford.

Kamal’s innovative, engaging, and supportive teaching methods have earned outstanding evaluations from students and colleagues every semester since her arrival at the University in 2008.

Of special note is that Kamal earns high marks from both undergraduate and graduate level students. “Professor Kamal was my favorite professor. She was funny, engaging, and so caring. I really felt like she cared about my success in the class.”

“My first semester with Dr. Kamal taught me the value of discipline and perseverance. Although her exams were challenging, she gave all her students the opportunity to excel. What makes Dr. Kamal such an accomplished professor is her dedication to her students and the desire to watch them succeed.”

Kamal’s support of students extends outside of her classroom. Keeping an open-door policy, she takes time to advise and guide the progress of her students through to graduation and beyond. In addition, she supports the enrollment and retention of students in several ways including by developing and teaching Summer Bridge, the Barney School’s summer transitional program for first-year students; meeting parents and making presentations during Hawktober Weekend; and planning to teach classes for Barney’s new Summer Business Institute for high school students.

Kamal has earned previous honors, including the Barney School of Business Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching in 2014 and 2017 and the Barney Leadership Council Best Professor Award in 2012 and 2017.

Kamal has a PhD in economics from West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia, and earned her master’s and bachelor’s degrees in international business at the United States International University in Nairobi, Kenya.
Alan Rust

Director of the Theatre Division in The Hartt School, is the recipient of the 2018 Humphrey R. Tonkin Award for Scholarly and/or Artistic Creativity presented each year to a faculty member who has displayed unusual creativity and innovation in the pursuit of his or her scholarship.

Rust received his Master of Fine Arts from Ohio University in 1973 and has been busy ever since. Today, he is an internationally recognized professional actor, director, producer, and educator. He joined the University more than two decades ago, recruited by then President Humphrey Tonkin, to establish and build a Theatre Division at the then Hartt School of Music and help transform the distinguished school of music into what is now an internationally recognized performing arts conservatory of music, dance, and theatre.

Rust began the Theatre Division with 14 students in less than stellar performance space. He has since gathered a distinguished faculty of professional theatre artists who work with 165 theatre division students in the state-of-the-art Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center. The training programs are highly competitive and considered among the best in the country.

Rust has established professional partnerships between the University of Hartford and the renowned local theaters including Hartford Stage Company, Goodspeed Musicals, and TheaterWorks for training programs that are without peer at the undergraduate level.

There is no item on his extensive resume that speaks more profoundly to his enormous influence on the American theatre than his 39-year tenure as artistic director of the Monomoy Theatre on Cape Cod. His other accomplishments include serving as president and board member of the National Theatre Conference, United States representative for the International Theatre Institute in Istanbul and Izmer in Turkey and Moscow and Ashkabad in the former Soviet Republic of Turkmenistan board member of the World Theatre Institute, and dean of the North Carolina School of the Arts.

Rust has continued a professional acting career in theatres throughout the country and has directed over 100 productions in university and professional theatres in the United States, Sydney, Australia; Goteborg, Sweden; Birmingham, England; and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Since being an original cast member in 1998, he is now well known regionally for his annual role in A Christmas Carol at Hartford Stage.
Deborah Kidder

Deborah Kidder, professor of management and chair of the Department of Marketing, Management and Entrepreneurship in the Barney School of Business, is the 2018 recipient of the Trachtenberg Award for Sustained Service to the University that honors full-time faculty members for their sustained and exemplary service to the University.

Since arriving at the University in 2006, Kidder has consistently and increasingly dedicated herself to the University, the Barney School of Business, and the Department of Marketing, Management and Entrepreneurship. Her extensive Barney-related service ranges from chairing faculty search committees, and chairing her department, to serving as the accreditation coordinator for the Barney School.

At the University level, she has chaired or been a member of nearly three dozen committees and task forces, including the Faculty Senate; the Senate’s diversity and curriculum committees; an Educational Leadership dissertation committee; the Provost’s Committee on Promotion, Tenure and Academic Freedom; the New Program Approval Task Force for the University’s Strategic Plan; the 2016 Faculty Annual Evaluation Working Group; and the Presidential Search Committee.

As Martin Roth, dean of the Barney School, wrote in Kidder’s award nomination, her “list of service work is impressive in both activities and length. It is hard to imagine any faculty at the University who has been more dedicated to sustained service work than Deb.” Key to her ability to serve so effectively, her colleagues note, is the excellent working rapport she has established across campus. “She goes out of her way to know about, meet, and develop effectual relationships with colleagues throughout the Barney School and University,” Roth wrote, adding that she is respected for the work she does and for her enthusiastic and gracious support of the work of others.

Kidder’s institutional knowledge, connections, and commitment to excellence are invaluable to the University and exemplify the qualities the Oscar and Shoshana Trachtenberg Award applauds. She earned her PhD in industrial and labor relations at the University of Minnesota and her bachelor’s degree in economics at Swarthmore College.