NEWS RELEASE
Tuesday, November 28, 2006

MAPS celebrates part-time student excellence

More than 100 students, guests, and student leaders came together to celebrate the academic and extra-curricular achievements of part-time students at the 22nd Annual McMaster Association of Part-Time Students (MAPS) Awards Dinner on November 24.

McMaster's chancellor, Dr. Mel Hawkrigg, brought greetings on behalf of the University and recalled his own experience as a part-time student, struggling to balance work, family and studies.

"After completing my degree, I pursued decided I wanted to become an accountant. I remember the challenge of the evening and weekend classes," he said. "Marilyn and I are delighted to be here to celebrate your achievements with you."

Major award recipients included Dale Schenk, director of the Centre for Continuing Education from 1995 to 2005. He received the Martin W. Johns Award for outstanding contribution to the interests of part-time students.

“To be involved in an organization that serves part-time students is extremely gratifying …I understand the joy that comes from re-engaging in education and being a true lifelong learner,” said Schenk.

Maria D'Elia ’05 was recognized as the recipient of the MAPS Gold Medal, presented by the chancellor to the graduating student completing studies primarily on a part-time basis and who attains the highest cumulative average

Level II Anthropology student Carole Armstrong received the Gwen George Medal in recognition of leadership among part-time students. She is in her sixth term as a member of the MAPS board of directors and served as MAPS’ president from 2004 to 2006.

“Carole has served with uncommon distinction. She is a leader who has contributed literally hundreds of volunteer hours in the service of her peers,” said Dr. Hawkrigg in presenting the award.

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Joseph McGuire (Hon. Political Science III) and Nalini Rao ’06 received the MAPS Centennial Award in recognition of overcoming adversity to pursue their McMaster studies and contribution to their communities.

The evening was capped with the announcement of a $250,000 gift by MAPS to the University to endow part-time student bursaries to be named in honour of Chancellor Hawkrigg and his wife, Marilyn. Dr. Hawkrigg will retire as chancellor next August after serving for nine years as the titular head of the University.

Established in 1979, MAPS represents more than 8,000 students in part-time degree studies across the University and students in certificate/diploma programs offered through the Centre for Continuing Education.

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