

## 2007 Master Teachers Announced

John T. Warren

As chair of the WSCA Communication and Instruction Interest Group, I have the great honor of announcing the selected teachers who will receive this year's Master Teacher designation at this forthcoming convention. Each year, the Communication and Instruction Interest Group celebrates excellence in teaching, awarding some of our very best educators with the title Master Teacher. Dr. Elise Dallimore, faculty member at Northeastern University and the Communication and Instruction Vice-Chair, chaired this year's committee. Selected this year to receive Master Teacher honors are **Dr. Mark Stoner**, Professor of Communication Studies at California State University, Sacramento and **Dr. Charles Braithwaite**, Assistant Director and Chief Advisor of the International Studies Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Dr. Mark Stoner is Professor of Communication Studies at California State University, Sacramento. His nomination materials spoke of his quality teaching across the board and included a total of 16 letters of nomination/support for this award. In one letter, Dr. Stoner is described as "mentor and friend" who uses "student-centered" pedagogy to inspire learning in his students: "In addition to being grounded in the theory and practice of teaching, the quality that impresses me most about Dr. Stoner is his ability to get students to *do their own thinking*." His colleagues and students join to note that what makes Dr. Stoner stand out as a teacher is the reflective practice that allows him to continue to grow as a professor, teacher, and mentor. In sum, one of the reasons Dr. Stoner was selected for this award was because the selection committee agreed with this final comment in a letter of nomination: "In sum, Mark Stoner is deserving of this award in a way few others can be because his effect on students and faculty is not just about a few clever teaching strategies, popularity in the classroom, or high teaching evaluations, though all of those are true for him. His effect is about rich pedagogical contributions to instructional communication, teacher training, rhetorical criticism pedagogy, and graduate training. Quite simply, those who work with Professor Stoner inevitably are deepened as teacher-scholars."

Dr. Charles Braithwaite is Assistant Director and Chief Advisor of the International Studies Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. With over seven letters of nomination, Dr. Braithwaite is a prime example of what this award seeks to celebrate. With over 28 years of teaching experience, Dr. Braithwaite excels in both undergraduate and graduate classroom contexts. Says his primary letter of nomination, "Chuck's particular teaching strength lies in his ability to understand and teach intercultural issues." Described in his nomination materials as a passionate teacher, one letter argues, "Throughout the semester [Dr. Braithwaite] became an influence to me and what I wanted to do with my life. [...] Dr. Charles Braithwaite is a phenomenal professor and a great person. He has touched my life and I know he has touched other lives just like mine." The selection committee was left in agreement about Dr. Braithwaite's fit for this award, especially this from a colleague: "Chuck is one of the most creative, thoughtful, and dedicated teachers I know, whether it is undergraduate or graduate teaching, studying teaching, presenting workshops, or creating new and innovative courses that span the

globe. If ever there was a person deserving of being called Master Teacher—it has got to be Chuck Braithwaite.”

This February at the annual Western States Communication Association convention in Seattle, the Communication and Instruction Interest Group will recognize Drs. Braithwaite and Stoner. The Master Teacher Panel will feature these professors and their accomplishments. The officers of the Communication and Instruction Interest Group encourage all to attend and witness why these professors have earned the kudos that have helped the selection committee name them 2007 WSCA Master Teachers.