Five from Sac State win honor society awards

Phi Kappa Phi members from Sacramento State recently garnered five Love of Learning Awards worth $500 each from the academic honor society – the nation’s oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. The awards underscore why Sacramento State’s Phi Kappa Phi honors chapter was recently recognized as one of the nation’s finest.

Professor Rebecca Cameron, one of the recipients, is Sac State’s PKP chapter president. She teaches abnormal psychology and personality theories to undergraduates, and coordinates clinical and counseling field work for graduate students. Her off-campus work with Asian Pacific Community Counseling and the organization’s Transcultural Wellness Center earned her Sacramento State’s 2007-08 Outstanding Community Service Award.

Sac State alumna and PKP award winner Christina Preston plans to use the Phi Kappa Phi award to help finance and promote her community project called Shoes4Sacramento. The money will assist her in renting a storage space where she can clean and store shoes before distributing them to the homeless and families in need in the Sacramento region. This dovetails with her commitment to help ease the burden for the less fortunate.

Preston has had a good couple of months. Several weeks ago, she realized her dream to spend an hour aboard an F-16D, courtesy of the Air Force Thunderbirds, before the Capital Air Show at Mather Field. That honor was in recognition of her being named a Hometown Hero for her service to the community.

David Reynen is no less driven. The research scientist with the California Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program is slated to complete his second master’s degree (aging and health) from Sacramento State come December. He already has earned from the University a certificate in gerontology in 2010 and a master’s in Public Policy and Administration in 1999. And he currently is pursuing a doctorate in public health leadership from the University of Illinois, Chicago Circle.

Alison Ehlers earned a master’s in Psychology last year with a specialty in counseling. She currently is juggling six jobs, three of which are clinical placements at mental health facilities in and around Placerville. She is required to complete 3,000
client hours before taking the state exam to become a licensed marriage and family therapist. “I love teaching,” she says, having taught a psychology class at Sacramento State while completing her master’s thesis.

Cheryl Van de Streek will use the PKP award to advance her career in educational leadership. Currently teaching in Kentucky, she was inducted into the honor society two decades ago while at Sac State. Her international teaching assignments have included Kuwait, Chile and South Korea.

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