

## Awards Convocation Honors Faculty Excellence

“**T**emple University’s greatest asset is its faculty,” said University President David Adamany at a faculty awards convocation on April 8. Honored at the Mitten Hall ceremony were some of Temple’s most accomplished teachers: three recipients of a Great Teacher Award, three recipients of a Lindback Award, and three recipients of a Research and Creative Achievement Award.

This was a unique ceremony. Although all three categories of awards have been given out in years previous, this was the first time they were awarded jointly. Together they are a representation of the disciplines that make up a university curriculum and the many excellent Temple teachers.

For the 14th consecutive year, Temple recognized a few of the stars in its faculty galaxy with Great Teacher Awards that include a \$15,000 prize, believed to be the largest given by a university for excellence in teaching. Evaluations by students, past and present, along with peer reviews are a crucial part of the nomination process.

The Great Teachers for 2002 are: David R. Hill, a math professor in the College of Science and Technology; Carolyn L. Karcher, an English and American studies and women’s studies professor in the College of Liberal Arts; and Nancy J. Knauer, a law professor in the Beasley School of Law.

David Hill had a background as a computer analyst before earning his Ph.D. in math and joining the faculty in 1973. Since then he has developed a national and international reputation for integrating technology into teaching, particularly linear algebra and numerical analysis. He helped to establish the first computer labs for the math department which blossomed into the computer labs for the College of Liberal Arts. But, he says, using technology is no substitute for the hard work that goes on in the classroom. Said one student: “Although Dr. Hill did require us to put a lot of

effort into our learning, it was obvious that he put much more effort into his teaching.”

Carolyn Karcher is the first Great Teacher awardee to simultaneously receive a Lindback Award. She came to Temple 21 years ago as an English professor and evolved into a teacher of American cultural history. She integrated the work of minority authors into her classroom, bringing up issues of race and gender long before they became part of Temple’s core curriculum. Said one of her students: “I recall her uncanny ability to make the classroom a safe place for all to speak.”

Since 1991, Nancy Knauer has been teaching courses in taxation and property. She created, along with colleague Eleanor Myers, a program that incorporates three legal subjects in simulated practice setting. She has twice won an award for Outstanding Law Professor of the Year. Said one of her students: “Professor Knauer is a teacher with a tremendous gift for communicating, a genuine concern for helping students learn, an ability to express compassion in what is often a tough world, and, most importantly, a sense of humor that keeps you laughing, making it easier to learn and making you look forward to each and every class.”

In addition to the cash award, Hill, Karcher, and Knauer received a commemorative sculpture and will have their names engraved on the wall of Founder’s Garden on Main Campus.

Lindback Foundation awardees along with Karcher were Bruce I. Goldman, a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at Temple School of Medicine, and Therese A. Dolan, a professor and chair of art history at the Tyler School of Art.

Other honorees were John Allen Paulos, math professor in Temple’s College of Science and Technology, public speaker, journalist and best-selling author of *Innumeracy*, who won the Faculty Award for Creative Achievement. Recipient of the Paul Eberman Faculty Research Award was Shohreh Amini, a biology professor in the College of Science and Technology whose research focuses on “understanding the mechanisms by which human viruses induce diseases in the central nervous system.” And the recipient of the University Research Award was

Steven Houser, professor of physiology at the School of Medicine whose research has contributed to the understanding of cardiac disease.

Great Teacher awardees (left to right) David R. Hill, Carolyn L. Karcher, and Nancy J. Knauer

