UNC Board of Governors Announces
University-wide Awards for Teaching Excellence

CHAPEL HILL – The Board of Governors of the multi-campus University of North Carolina has selected 17 of its most outstanding faculty to receive the 18th Annual Awards for Excellence in Teaching. Each award winner will receive a commemorative bronze medallion and a $7,500 cash prize.

The 17 recipients, representing an array of academic disciplines, were nominated by special committees on their home campuses and selected by the Board of Governors Committee on Personnel and Tenure, chaired by Phillip R. Dixon of Greenville. The awards will be presented by a Board of Governors member during the spring graduation ceremony on each campus.

Winners include Professor Elaine O’Quinn, Department of English, Appalachian State University; Associate Professor Ravi Paul, Department of Management Information Systems, East Carolina University; Professor Ebere A. Oriaku, Department of Accounting, Elizabeth City State University; Associate Professor Linda Wilson-Jones, Department of Education Leadership, Fayetteville State University; Professor Teresa Jo Styles, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, NC A&T State University; Associate Professor Ira T. Wiggins, director of Jazz Studies, Department of Music, North Carolina Central University; and Professor Stephen P. Reynolds, Department of Physics, NC State University.

Other winners are Associate Professor Ellen Holmes Pearson, Department of History, UNC Asheville; Professor Linda Spremulli, Department of Chemistry, UNC-Chapel Hill; Professor L. Howard Godfrey, Professor, Department of Accounting, UNC Charlotte; Professor Hephzibah Crawford Roskelley, Department of English, UNC Greensboro; Associate Professor David H. Nikkel, chair, Department of Philosophy and Religion, UNC Pembroke; Professor Michael Messina, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, UNC Wilmington; Artist faculty/Instructor Eric Larsen, chair of Piano Area, School of Music, UNC School of the Arts; Associate Professor Lisa Thomas Briggs, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Western Carolina University; Professor Lee David Leggette, Professor, Department of Fine Arts, Winston-Salem State University; and Elizabeth E. Moose, Dean of Humanities and instructor of English, NC School of Science and Mathematics.

Established by the Board of Governors in 1994 to underscore the importance of teaching and to reward good teaching across the University, the awards are given annually to a tenured faculty member from each UNC campus. Winners must have taught at their present institutions at least seven years. No one may receive the award more than once.

Award citations and thumbnail photos for all 17 award recipients can be found at http://www.northcarolina.edu/bog/teaching_awards/2012/index.html on the University of North Carolina website.
The oldest public university in the nation, the University of North Carolina enrolls more than 220,000 students and encompasses all 16 of North Carolina's public institutions that grant baccalaureate degrees, as well as the NC School of Science and Mathematics, the nation's first public residential high school for academically gifted students. The UNC Center for Public Television, with its 12-station statewide broadcast network, the UNC Health Care System, and the NC Arboretum are also under the University umbrella.

**Eric Larsen Named UNCSA Recipient of UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence**

At its February 2012 meeting, the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina unanimously approved the recommendations of its Committee on Personnel and Tenure for the eighteenth annual system-wide teaching awards. Mr. Eric Larsen, School of Music, has been named UNCSA's recipient of the 2012 UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence. As the recipient of this award, Mr. Larsen will receive a stipend of $7,500, a commemorative bronze medallion, and will be honored at Commencement.

Mr. Larsen is a member of the Artist-Faculty at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA), where he has served in the School of Music since 1978. In his artistic/teaching philosophy statement, Mr. Larsen discusses his passion for teaching, and how he feels that his work at UNCSA is a way of giving to students the same type of goodwill and fortune that he has received during his career. He comments on this, saying that “The nature of teaching a musician is intimate and personal. It must deal with the whole person and not, in this case, ten fingers. The information I have to offer is necessarily personalized to meet the needs of each student.”

This idea of being focused on working with each student as an individual to help them become the most well-rounded and successful artist-citizen possible is apparent in a student’s letter of nomination. The student stated that “...my piano teacher Mr. Larsen has not only trained me to be a better pianist, but has also taught me how to be a respectable musician, a responsible person.” This student-centered approach was also noted by one of Eric’s supporters, who commented that “His teaching methodology uses a student-centered approach that relies heavily on the creation of a strong sense of community within his studio. This is plainly visible in the master class setting, where I have witnessed students who speak openly, honestly, and supportively about the performances of their peers.”

While there are clearly a number of discrete factors that contribute to Mr. Larsen’s success, perhaps the student nominator’s concluding thoughts best summarize why he is such a worthy recipient of this Excellence in Teaching Award: “He is a wonderful pianist, an admirable teacher, an earnest musician, a good person.”
Mr. Larsen has been heard in the major concert halls of Russia, Europe, South America, Asia and the United States. He is a member of the Meadowmount Trio and the American Chamber Trio. His musical collaborators have included Joseph Silverstein, Joshua Bell, Patricia McCarty, Carol Wincenc, Ransom Wilson and the Mendelssohn, Alexander and Wihas String Quartets. His live performances have been broadcast on NPR, Moscow State Radio and Colombian National Television.

Mr. Larsen has recorded in Moscow for Melodiya and Russian Disk, in Prague for Equilibrium and Naxos, and in the U.S. for Albany and HM Productions. His discography includes the complete Trios of Brahms, the complete Trios and Quartet of Turina, as well as trios of Beethoven, Dvorak, Ravel, and Tchaikovsky. As the recipient of major grants from the Mary Duke Biddle and Andrew Mellon Foundations, he has pursued extensive research in the Edvard Grieg Manuscript Collection at Norway’s Bergen Bibliotek.

Mr. Larsen’s students have won prizes in major international piano competitions including the Casagrande, Busoni, International Bach, Josef Hofman and UNISA Pretoria Competitions. He holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Wisconsin, a Piano Certificate from Académie International in France, and a Master of Music from Manhattan School of Music.