
State University of New York will honor two SUNY Cortland faculty members and a professional staff member with its prestigious Chancellor's Awards for Excellence during Commencement on Saturday, May 19.

Jean LeLoup, associate professor of Spanish and coordinator of secondary education in the International Communications and Culture Department, and Jerome O'Callaghan, associate professor and chair of the Political Science Department, will receive the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. John Shirley, assistant director in the Career Services Office, will be awarded the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Professional Service. LeLoup and O'Callaghan are among the 93 teachers, 11 librarians and 55 professional service staff members statewide to receive the prestigious honor this year. LeLoup and O'Callaghan become the 39th and 40th SUNY Cortland faculty members to receive the Chancellor's recognition for teaching while Shirley is the 14th SUNY Cortland staff member to be so honored for professional service.

The Chancellor's Awards process begins at each of the 64 SUNY campuses with nominations submitted by the respective presidents. The SUNY Advisory Committee on Awards then reviews the nominations and makes its recommendations.

Jean LeLoup

A member of the SUNY Cortland faculty since 1993, LeLoup has been an associate professor since 1998. She has won the highest accolades from students as a teacher and supervisor. At the cutting edge of incorporating technology into foreign language instruction, LeLoup was the co-recipient, along with colleague Robert Ponterio, of the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYSAFLT) President's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Profession for co-creating and moderating the FLTEACH international electronic academic discussion forum. FLTEACH was partially funded through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In 1995-96, Gen. Ruben Cubero, dean of faculty in the Department of Foreign Languages at the U.S. Air Force Academy, invited LeLoup to be a visiting professor of Spanish at the Academy. LeLoup used a SUNY Cortland Multimedia Development Grant in 2000 to develop web modules, available globally to faculty who deal with the methodology of teaching students with limited English proficiency.

LeLoup co-edits with Ponterio the “Teaching with Technology” section of Learning Languages and the “On the Net” column of Language Learning and Technology. Both focus on the role of technology in language teaching.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, LeLoup graduated from Upper Arlington High School. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Wittenberg University, a master’s degree and a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University, and an M.Ed. from the University of Missouri. LeLoup taught Spanish and was a guidance counselor in the Webster Groves School District in St. Louis, Mo., from 1974 until 1990. She was a professor of English and a teacher trainer and English instructor in Ecuador, where she was a Fulbright Fellow in 1986-87. She was an adjunct assistant professor of Spanish at Ashland University in the summers of 1997 and 1999.

In 1993, The Ohio State University presented her with its Honoring Excellence in the Teaching Profession Award. In 1999, she received the Nuala McGann Drescher Affirmative Action Leave Award. In Fall 2000, LeLoup received the ACTFL/FDP-Houghton Mifflin Award
for Excellence in Foreign Language Instruction Using Technology with the International Association for Language Learning Technology. That same semester, NYSAFLT honored LeLoup and Ponterio with its Dorothy S. Ludwig Memorial Award for service to the profession.

LeLoup is currently serving a five-year term on the ERIC Clearinghouse Advisory Board. She is a member of the language honorary societies — Phi Sigma Iota, Signa Delta Pi and Pi Delta Phi — as well as the education honorary, Phi Delta Kappa, and the academic honorary, Phi Kappa Phi.

She resides in Cortland with her husband, Jeff Morris, and her two stepchildren, Jason and Jessica.

Jerome O’Callaghan

A SUNY Cortland faculty member since 1992 and an associate professor of political science since 1994, O’Callaghan has chaired the Political Science Department for the past four years.

His tenure on campus has been marked by his extraordinary dedication to the student experience. O’Callaghan has taught both survey-level and upper-division courses, while creating new ones, such as Discrimination Law and Environmental Law. His teaching is typified by Socratic interaction, extensive writing and a prevailing attitude of deep caring. As political science chair, he has made students the departmental priority. His innovations include a portfolio system for all political science majors and exit interviews to assess the impressions of graduating seniors. The Student Government Association presented O’Callaghan with its Outstanding Advisor Award in 1997.

O’Callaghan is the College’s pre-law advisor, serving an interdisciplinary student population interested in the legal profession. His charges have won admission to most of the top law schools in the Northeast. Two of O’Callaghan’s students have won the highly competitive SUNY-wide Scharps Prize for legal writing. As advisor to the Political Science Club, he has fostered greater faculty-student interaction, including an annual trip to the College’s facility at Raquette Lake.

He is one of the few full-time faculty members to teach College Life (COR 101), a course aimed at assisting first-year students with bridging the transition from high school to college. He has been active in the College’s judicial system, having heard many cases over the years as a member of the College Appeals Committee and the Suspension Review Panel.

An active scholar, O’Callaghan has published articles in five law reviews on topics ranging from free speech and the press to media and the courts. He has also published articles in five edited books, as well as in other journals, and has authored various book reviews. In 1994, he received a National Endowment for the Humanities Award to attend a Summer Institute on Constitution-related issues at the University of Tulsa.

He received a Bill of Rights Education Collaborative Grant to create and teach a short course for secondary school teachers on the Bill of Rights in a comparative context. He has also received a National Science Foundation grant and a Snow Foundation Fellowship. A native of Dublin, Ireland, O’Callaghan earned a Bachelor of Civil Law from the University of Dublin, professional qualification as Solicitor from the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland,
and a Ph.D. from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.

Prior to joining the faculty, O’Callaghan was an instructor at Syracuse University and an assistant professor at Texas Tech University. He was voted Teacher of the Year in 1992 at Texas Tech by Phi Alpha Delta and Pi Sigma Alpha.

He and his wife, Paula, reside in Syracuse, N.Y.

John R. Shirley

John R. Shirley, who began his career at SUNY Cortland in 1983 as an adjunct economics-management science instructor, has since risen in the College’s professional staff ranks to the position of assistant director of career services and coordinator of internships and volunteer programs. In doing so, he has emerged as a leader and one of the shining stars in the Student Affairs Division.

In the past two years, Shirley has guided an increased student participation in the internship program. More than 620 student interns have generated 2,851 credit hours and the equivalent of more than $464,000 in student tuition and fees. During that same span, he coordinated more than 1,000 student volunteer placements that have resulted in the contribution of more than 50,000 hours of service and $4,000 in donations to the local community. He has made a significant positive impact on the quality of life in the Cortland community.

With regard to career placement, Shirley served as Community and Public Service Network Chair for the Mid-Atlantic Association of Colleges and Employers in which he coordinated professional development events and communications for more than 100 professionals from 17 states.

Shirley chaired the SUNY Job Fair for five years and played a role in the development of the SUNY Virtual Job Fair, which brought together a combined 250 businesses and 3,500 SUNY students and alumni. He is now participating in the expansion of that idea to include New York’s independent colleges and universities. In 2000, the State University of New York Career Development Organization honored Shirley with its Presidential Award.

In the City of Cortland, Shirley created and implemented the Parker School Internship Program which initially placed 150 SUNY Cortland students in a local elementary school. The concept has spread to Barry and McGraw Elementary Schools and now involves more than 300 students. He also has been campus liaison for the “Summer in the City” initiative.

On campus, Shirley frequently conducts career services workshops. He has worked with the Educational Opportunity Program Summer Institute, the scholarship fund-raising Wingate Memorial Golf Tournament, and has chaired the College’s State Employee Federated Appeal (SEFA) Campaign in 1998. He currently represents the Student Affairs Division on the College’s Middle States Steering Committee. Within New York State, he is a sought-after experiential consultant by many colleges and universities.

In the community, Shirley serves on the United Way Board of Directors and has been involved with the its Day of Caring. He has worked with the YMCA/YWCA Winter Interlude program, the Cortland County Corporate Challenge, the Cortland High School Shared Decision-Making Team, and the St. Mary’s School Marketing Activities Council.
A native of Cortland and a Cortland High School graduate, Shirley earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from SUNY Oswego and a master’s degree in business administration from Clarkson University.

From 1985-88, Shirley was coordinator/advisor for the 2+2 Non-Traditional Student Program, at the College. He coordinated the Cooperative Education Program from 1988 until 1993, when he became coordinator of internships and volunteer programs. He became assistant director in career services and an experiential consultant in 1997.

He and his wife, Karen, and their children, Sara and Lauren, reside in Cortland.