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frances grodzinsky, *Sacred Heart University*

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Dr. Frances Grodzinsky, a professor of Computer Science and Information Technology, and Professor Stephen Scarpati, a clinical professor of Accounting and Information Systems, were honored at Sacred Heart University on Commencement Sunday with special recognition for faculty excellence. Their awards were presented at a University College brunch on Sunday, May 17.

First presented in 2004, the award recognizes members of the faculty who have gone “above and beyond” their expected duties. University College students are invited to nominate professors who demonstrate a genuine interest in their students and their subject matter; use an active teaching style in the classroom to encourage greater participation; make good use of technology to enhance learning; and in other notable ways stimulate a heightened interest in the course work. A University College committee then screens the nominations to recognize two professors.

Student Cyndie LaMastra cited Dr. Grodzinsky’s expertise and guidance “both as the instructor of the Computer Ethics course I took...and as an advisor.” University College offers educational opportunities for working adults who must often balance family and career responsibilities with pursuing advanced education. The mother of four, LaMastra completed her associate’s degree in May and plans to continue her studies toward a bachelor’s degree in Information Technology. Dr. Grodzinsky’s “thought-provoking” classes and personal interest have helped LaMastra “move forward as an adult part-time student.”

In recommending Professor Scarpati for this year’s faculty excellence award, student Patricia Soto, cited her instructor for his way “of making students want to be in his class even after working all day. He made us think about the subject matter in a way that made it enjoyable.” She noted that Professor Scarpati announced on the first session of class that the students would learn things that would serve them not only in class but in life as well – and then he delivered on that promise.

Dr. Grodzinsky is a resident of New Haven, Connecticut and Dr. Scarpati resides in White Plains, New York.