

## THE STEVEN J. ROSEN MENTOR AWARD

*The Steven J. Rosen Mentor Award recognizes annually a college English professor and NJCEA member who has mentored colleagues. This individual should have contributed to the profession beyond assigned teaching duties by demonstrating leadership, giving wise counsel, and providing extraordinary guidance.*

The NJCEA is pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the Rosen award is Dr. Chrysanthy M. Grieco of Seton Hall University. Here are excerpts from the four letters of nomination:

"Her mentoring is always done with grace and good will, with generosity and kindness. She can be tough, but I've always known it is because she has exacting standards.... Chrys recently told me about a former student who reached out twenty-five years after the fact to thank her for help she had given many years ago. Chrys was completely unaware of the impact she had had on this person's life, yet it was clear from the message that it had been profound. This is typical. ....She has helped adjuncts move on to full-time teaching positions, written countless letters for students interested in pursuing the advanced degree, and has helped students in our Internship program find lifelong career paths. It is for these reasons, and more too numerous to mention, that I believe Chrysanthy Grieco has earned the Steven J. Rosen Mentor Award. To honor her this way recognizes her profound impact on the profession, as well as on individuals."

"Chrys Grieco has served as the mentor par excellence for me and countless others. When I first came to Seton Hall in 1980 as a Teaching Assistant, she, as Director of Freshman English, gave me a lot of good advice that helped me to feel confident in the classroom. Most of all, she enabled me to believe in myself as a teacher because she believed in me. Not only did she help me to become a teacher, but she has been a role model for me in my own mentoring. Now I serve in the same position that Chrys was in when I came to Seton Hall (now called Director of First Year Writing), and in my own mentoring of Teaching Assistants and Teaching Fellows, I try to follow her example of encouragement, warmth, and willingness to give. She is an amazing person and is as full of life in her seventies as she was in her forties when I met her. I can't think of anyone who would deserve this award more than Chrys Grieco."

"When I first met Dr. Grieco, she was my professor for a poetry class that I had taken in the summer of 2004. Over the course of that session, I could not help but respect this woman who was undoubtedly intelligent but quite tough. Dr. Grieco was not, by any means, a pushover. She challenged each of the students and would accept nothing less than their absolute best. Soon after this course, I was enrolled in yet another one of her classes for the fall semester with subsequent undergraduate courses to follow. ....(S)he became my advisor; however, it did not take long for me to realize that she would be a life mentor. Dr. Grieco not only provided helpful advice when I could not choose the right schedule, but additionally offered kind words of wisdom when I doubted myself and my future. I lacked confidence and never dreamed that I could make it into Seton Hall's graduate program as a teaching assistant. But, thankfully, my mentor believed in me and pushed me to the challenge. Dr. Grieco was no longer just a tough professor that I had in that first poetry class; instead, she became an unforgettable inspiration. ....I feel honored to have such a fine example of guidance and often try to pass along her teaching ethic and wise words. If any person is more deserving of an award, it should be Dr. Grieco, a humble woman who barely realizes the immensely kind impact that she bestows upon others."

"I met with Dr. Grieco regularly while she served as chair of the English Department. We had extensive conversations about my pedagogy and about the course of my future in the department at Seton Hall. Dr. Grieco's greatest asset in this regard is her uncanny ability to direct, guide, and nourish her faculty with both eye-opening candor and encouragement. Since that time, Dr. Grieco mentored with great care and insight my position as a probationary faculty member to a tenured professor in the Seton Hall English Department. In term of reviewing my scholarship, student evaluations, and service to the department, college, and university, Dr. Chrys Grieco has played an integral role in my advancement at Seton Hall and, perhaps more importantly, my development as a colleague. She is, without exaggeration, the single most influential mentor in my academic career."

The *New Jersey College English Association* is proud to present the *Steven J. Rosen Mentor Award* to Dr. Chrysanthy M. Grieco at our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference March 21, 2009.