

Peter Epstein
University of Nevada, Reno
Regent's Creative Activities Award

Since his arrival at the University of Nevada, Reno in 2003, Professor Peter Epstein has achieved a level of artistry remarkable in the field of contemporary music, drawing international acclaim for his ability to move freely and fearlessly among a range of musical traditions and settings; from straight-ahead jazz and European classical music to the styles and sounds of Bulgaria, India, Portugal, and Africa; from solo performances to symphony orchestras.

Professor Epstein has released fifteen collaborative recordings, from some of the most highly respected labels, and played in over 10 countries, including Sweden, Slovenia, Nepal, Canada, Colombia, and throughout Europe. In the last nine years he has led and performed with groups throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia.

Professor Epstein is not showing any signs of slowing down in his creative path. His future plans include five recordings already made and not yet released, and four additional recordings in the planning stages. He is invited to return to Nepal in 2013 with his band, Lingua Franca for the Kathmandu Jazz Festival; will tour and record in Scandinavia with young Swedish artists Peter Nilson and Johnny Aman; will perform and record in New York City.

Beyond these creative accomplishments, Professor Epstein has proven to be capable and respected leader at the University, having served as Director in UNR's Program in Jazz and Improvisational Music and Assistant Director of the Reno Jazz Festival since 2004. Moreover, he is an outstanding and dedicated educator, bringing his love of all music to students through courses both in and out of the jazz world. Professor Epstein is first-rate musician and teacher, and an irreplaceable asset to UNR, NSHE, and the State of Nevada.

Regents' Teaching Award
Cynthia Hyslop
Great Basin College

Cindy Hyslop has a Master's of Science from Boise State University in Education-Educational Technology and a Bachelor's of Science from the University of Montana, Western in Business Administration. Ms. Hyslop began her employment at Great Basin College in 1996 as an adjunct faculty and since 2004 has been a full-time professor in the Computer Technologies Department.

Professor Hyslop combines the qualities of commitment, innovation and tough compassion into her considerable ability to teach well. Innovation has come through her delivery of computing courses via the internet. She was one of the early pioneers in using this technology, and has always maintained a leadership role in advancing the use and quality of this delivery. Not only have her students in her classes benefitted, but her fellow faculty members have also learned from her about online teaching. She willingly shares her knowledge with all.

Cindy has students spread throughout the extensive GBC service area, but she treats them all as if they are local individuals and makes contact with them regardless of their location. She closely monitors each student's progress, and takes the initiative to prod along those who may be lagging or struggling. She uses many distance tools at her disposal to bring students closer.

In the last few years Professor Hyslop has developed the online availability of programs in Medical Transcription, Billing and Coding, and similar skill sets. Now students who are either geographically isolated or have significant time constraints at home have the ability to acquire both skills and employment through the presence of distance methods. This requires a lot of work and commitment of one person, since it involves finding students – about 40 or more new ones each year – assessing their initial skill levels, getting them set on a time track, and then monitoring and encouraging their progress. These programs are in addition to her courses she teaches as part of the other Computing Department programs.

Professor Hyslop is well respected by her students, peers, and supervisors. In addition to being an excellent teacher, she has served as Faculty Senate Chair, and has chaired several key GBC committees over the years. She is a leader in many regards.

**UNLV 2013 Regents' Teaching Award Nominee:
Megan Becker-Leckrone**

Megan Becker-Leckrone earned a BA, *magna cum laude*, in English, with English Department Honors and a minor in Women's Studies, from Bryn Mawr College (Pennsylvania) in 1990. She earned an MA and Ph.D. in English from the University of California, Irvine in 1992 and 1996 respectively. After brief teaching appointments at San Diego State University and the University at Albany, New York (SUNY Albany), she was hired and began teaching at UNLV in 1999, specifically to oversee the department's institution of a theory requirement for English majors (English 303: Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism). She still teaches this course regularly, and despite its enormous historical scope, from Plato to the present, and the difficulty of the material covered (Augustine, Kant, Marx, Nietzsche, to name a few authors), she remains a very popular and highly regarded instructor. In Fall 2012, where Megan taught two 30-person sections of 303, she received course evaluations that rated her, as an instructor, at 4.0 and 3.92 respectively. She has served on at least 14 MA and Ph.D./dissertation committees since coming to UNLV, for former students such as Tim Gaultier, Maile Chapman, and Gregory Robinson, who are all now tenured or tenure-track professors in the Nevada System of Education (both at UNLV and NSA).

Dr. Becker-Leckrone has received the William Morris Award for Excellence in Scholarship in 2005. In 2009, she was the Rita Deanin Abbey Teacher of the Year Award, a student-selected prize among professors in the College of Liberal Arts. She has also been awarded a nationally-competitive NEH grant for a summer seminar and research at the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library (Los Angeles, UCLA) – containing one of the largest Oscar Wilde archives in the world.

Susan Trist

Western Nevada College

Biography as of January 1, 2013

Susan Trist is the Coordinator for Disability Support Services at Western Nevada College (WNC) in Carson City, Nevada. Susan was raised in Northeast Pennsylvania, graduating with a BA in Psychology from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania in 1985 and an MA in Clinical Psychology from West Chester University of Pennsylvania in 1987. Almost immediately after graduation, Susan relocated to Reno, NV where she worked as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor from 1987 until 2005. During her tenure as a rehabilitation counselor, she was certified as a Certified Disability Management Specialist (CDMS) in 1990 and in 1992, a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC).

Since 2005, Susan has been employed with WNC as the Disability Support Services Coordinator, working with students who have documented disabilities. In this capacity, she provides guidance regarding disability issues to students, faculty and staff, academic advising, career counseling, and personal counseling. Susan has spearheaded and chaired WNC's Behavioral Intervention Team for several years following national best practices. WNC was a partner in two grant initiatives, the first funded through the Department of Education, and the second, the National Science Foundation. Both grants were designed to help students with disabilities receive quality higher education. Susan organized and coordinated both grant initiatives for WNC.

Susan has served on several college committees including: Administrative Faculty Senate, Financial Aid Appeals committee, Refund exceptions committee, Student Development and Support committee, Technical Services oversight committee, and regionally the Disability Awareness Coalition (current and past Co-Chair). Further, Susan is a "Reach to Recovery" volunteer for the American Cancer Society, helping newly diagnosed women with breast cancer.

Dr. Elena Pravosudova
University of Nevada, Reno
Undergraduate Academic Advisor Award

Dr. Elena Pravosudova joined the Department of Biology at the University of Nevada, Reno in June of 2007. During this relatively short span of time she has distinguished herself as a highly valued and effective administrator, as an excellent teacher, and as a truly outstanding academic advisor of undergraduate students majoring in Biology and Neuroscience. In addition to her considerable advising responsibilities, Elena teaches a variety of courses and serves as Associate Chair of Biology. She is a pioneer in developing new and innovative methods for delivering course content and advising services, and these efforts have gained her international recognition. With more than 900 Biology majors and nearly 200 Neuroscience majors, the department is faced with a monumental task of advising several hundred students each semester. In the 2010-2011 academic year, Dr. Pravosudova conducted 700 in-office advising sessions for more than 300 Biology and Neuroscience majors. Elena is an outstanding undergraduate advisor whose distinguished record of service, teaching and advising serves as a paragon of professionalism and dedication for the Department of Biology, College of Science, University of Nevada, Reno, and the Nevada System of Higher Education.

Dr. Robert Ostergard
University of Nevada, Reno
Graduate Academic Advisor Award

Associate Professor Robert Ostergard is an international relations and comparative politics scholar whose research and teaching is centered broadly on the politics and security of developing states with special attention to Africa. He has been a member of the Department of Political Science Graduate Committee since 2007, one year after he joined the faculty. He has served for more than two years as the department's Director of Graduate Studies, working in that role with more than 50 master's and doctoral students. Since taking over as Director, he has increased the efficiency of record-keeping, comprehensive examinations, and student progress toward degree, to the relief and gratitude of students and faculty alike. In order to meet the needs of students and enhance efficiency and effectiveness, Dr. Ostergard has enhanced and restructured the curricula of his department's graduate programs. He has promoted connectedness and good morale through an "open-door, closed-mouth" policy: this has allowed student to gain clarity and speak freely about issues and problems that need to be addressed. His student testimonials and faculty recommendations are numerous and enthusiastic, speaking to his deep, energetic and multifaceted contribution to the graduate program.