

REGIONAL MERIT AWARDS

Three OFSHEEA Regional Merit Awards were presented at the Awards Presentation of the November 6, 2004 Annual Conference. The Regional Merit Awards are sponsored by Sandy Whitehouse, an OFSHEEA Honorary Life member, and former Family Studies Co-ordinator with the Scarborough Board of Education. The Regional Merit Award are intended to recognize the contribution of members in each of the 8 Ontario regions and Francophone Ontario who have demonstrated effective education programs, or teaching techniques or activities which provide stimuli for other educators. This year's recipients are as follows:

Eastern Region: Ingrid Geppert

Ingrid is committed to promoting the importance of Family Studies. This is evident when you see the enthusiasm that she demonstrates when she talks about her classes and the various activities and lessons that she plans for her students. She is a caring teacher who enjoys her work and does not hesitate to spend time to improve her lessons and make them practical, hands-on learning experiences for her students. Her teaching techniques are a reflection of her dynamic personality. There is great variety and many opportunities for students to succeed in her class. She concern for her students and this is reflected in the consistent growth of her sections at Gloucester Secondary School in Ottawa.

Ingrid actively collaborates with other family studies teachers by sharing teaching ideas at subject council meetings and taking the time to personally organize the board-wide professional development day. She planned a variety of activities and awesome guest speakers that covered most of the areas in Family Studies.

Central West: Michelyn Putignano

Michelyn has the ability to think "outside of the box" and to explore new avenues. Her innovations, creativity, and ability for stimulation are evident in the activities, discussions of issues, and projects that Michelyn actively involves her students in on a daily basis. Her fashion class produced a fashion show incorporating business with the fashions her class created. As well she created a website using "school net" funding to show the fashions and creations of the students. Michelyn has developed a successful cooperative education program for *Living and Working with Children* in the area schools.

Michelyn has been an extremely active member of OFSHEEA. During her tenure on the Board of Directors, Michelyn served as Central West Regional Director, OFSHEEA Newsletter Editor, and Co-Chair of the Conference Committee. Her commitment had included teaching AQ courses for the University of Western, leadership in the Hamilton-Wentworth Teacher's Association, development of on-line courses for her Board, and being President of OFSLC. She has been actively involved in the careers pamphlets and package, the Family Studies "safety" document, promotion posters, and the OFSLC website.

Michelyn participated in provincial writing projects such as the HIF grade 9/10 course profile, the two grade 11 resource management courses, and the grade 12 HHS course. She co-wrote the OSSTF Family Studies "Coping with the Curriculum" as well as other resource manuals, teacher's guides, and lab manuals.

Western Region: Elizabeth Ruffilli

Betty has ensured that Family Studies students have enhanced opportunities by developing the cooperative education programme at her school, organizing a 6-week playschool, and forming partnerships with neighbourhood elementary schools and the local food bank and shelter. Betty also planned a county-wide Family Studies conference for OAC students at which many community professionals were invited

as guest speakers to speak and lead workshops. More recently, Betty's keen awareness of student needs has lead her to independently develop the Human Growth and Development course. She spent hours and hours of her 4-over-5 leave locating resources and developing day-to-day lessons.

Betty assumes leadership in developing and sharing curriculum ideas in her roles as department head and chairperson of the Lambton County Family Studies subject council. She holds membership in OHEA and OFSHEEA, has attended OTF and OFSHEEA summer workshops, and many other professional development sessions. She supported the 2003 OFSHEEA conference committee by assuming the role of conference registrar. Betty has even been on radio talk shows to voice her ideas on recycling and environmental issues as they pertain to the home and her thoughts and feelings in support of Family Week

Students, staff, and family studies colleagues have all felt inspired by Betty's enthusiastic dedication to Family Studies education.

