

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—May 30, 2006

Gail Roberts Named 2006 Professor of the Year

KEUKA PARK, N.Y.—When you want to know how effective a teacher is, you ask students.

Here's what a few students said about Gail Roberts, associate professor of social work:

- “She is an incredible person.”
- “I have never had an instructor so passionate about her teachings.”
- “She is able to explain complex information in a way that makes sense.”
- “Her knowledge of the course material was incredible.”
- “She really cares about her students.”



Now you know why Roberts was selected as Keuka College's 2006 Professor of the Year. Roberts was honored at Keuka's 98th commencement May 28.

Roberts teaches in the traditional, four-year undergraduate program as well as in the Accelerated Studies for Adults Program (ASAP).

“Gail has proven her worthiness of this honor by her ability to deliver outstanding instruction to two very diverse student populations,” said Associate Professor of Education and Chair of the Division of Education and Social Work Diane Burke, who nominated Roberts for the award.

“To be an outstanding instructor is an accomplishment of which to be proud,” said Burke. “However, to be an outstanding instructor and an outstanding contributor to the institution and community makes one worthy of the award of Professor of the Year.”

Roberts is credited for the social work department receiving the maximum number of years of accreditation from the Commission on Social Work in 2004.

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“In her role as program director, [Roberts] provides excellent leadership for the program,” said Burke. “During the time she has held this position, turnover in the department has caused her to mentor four new people. She has done this extremely well, ensuring that new faculty understands the department’s curricular and non-curricular expectations. This has allowed the social work program to continue successfully in a seamless fashion even with faculty turnover.”

Roberts has served on the Curriculum and Professional Standards Committees, and on the Quantitative Literacy, Diversity and Experiential Education task forces. She co-chaired the Middle States Task Force on Students, and has advised the Social Work Club.

“Gail is a firm believer in professional development,” said Burke. “She is a persistent advocate, not only for herself, but also for all members of her department, ensuring that they have opportunities to partake in professional social work conferences. Her advocacy ensures that the social work program stays current.

“Gail is a trusted and appreciated member of the faculty who is among the first to be considered when a new task needs to be done,” added Burke. “She willingly fulfills those tasks in service to the institution and community.”

In times of crisis, members of the Keuka College community look to Roberts for guidance and comfort, according to Burke.

Such was the case post-9/11 and after the tragic deaths of campus members.

Roberts serves as a consultant for FarmNet, providing social work services to the agricultural community, and operates a private practice.

She earned a B.A. from SUNY Oneonta and a M.S.W. from Adelphi University.