



Winemiller Receives Presidential Award

Professor of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Kirk Winemiller is the 2008 recipient of the Texas A&M University Presidential Award of Excellence for Faculty Service to International Students.

The award was presented to Winemiller at the spring dinner meeting Thursday (April 3) of the Texas A&M University International Board. The award was created by the executive committee of the board in 2005 in response to the university's challenge to create a more welcoming environment for international students by integrating them more fully on campus and by increasing the international awareness of Texas A&M students, officials note.

Texas A&M President Elsa A. Murano expressed appreciation to the board for its establishment of the award.

"Texas A&M is truly a global campus, with a record 4,100 international students representing 124 countries on our campus," Murano said. "We appreciate the support of the international board in recognizing our faculty's contributions by creating a welcoming environment at Texas A&M and for their service to our international students."

Board Chairman Herbert I. Goodman said he and his colleagues on the board were pleased to create an award that recognizes faculty for their involvement with and development of international students.

"We have had a very good response this year in terms of nominations for this award and all the nominees were outstanding," Goodman said. "There seems to be strong interest in bringing recognition to faculty for their service to international students."

According to one of his nominators, Winemiller has made his international students feel welcome and integrated them into his teaching, training, mentoring and research activities in Wildlife and Fisheries. He has inspired, mentored and served as examiner for graduate students from all over the world. Many international students and scientist are drawn to Texas A&M because of his international reputation and he often hosts them in his home, according to nominating information.

Other nominating information emphasized that Winemiller is committed to helping his international students succeed in their professional and personal lives while helping them find a sense of belonging while in the United States. The multicultural environment in his lab allows international students and U.S. students to collaborate, broadening their cultural and professional perspectives. He always finds time to integrate his international students into the Aggie culture, bringing them together with U.S. students, according to the information supporting Winemiller's nomination.

The award includes a check in the amount of \$2,000 for the recipient. In addition, the recipient has the opportunity to serve as "an agent for change" by having authority to designate a \$1,000 cash award to a departmental, college or university effort/activity that facilitates international student integration into the fabric of the campus or local community.

Receiving special recognition as 2008 finalists for the award were Robert M. Capraro, associate professor

in teaching learning and culture; Joseph H. Ross, Jr., professor of physics; and Manuelita Ureta, associate professor of economics. Previous recipients of this award are David A. Bessler, in 2006, and Lloyd W. Rooney in 2007.

For more information about the award visit <http://intlcenter.tamu.edu/PresAwardExcForFacServ.asp>.

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