

KU Mortar Board Names 5 Outstanding Educators

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The Oread

Five KU faculty members have been named 1996 Outstanding Educators by KU's chapter of Mortar Board, a national senior honor society.

Winners are Robert J. Antonio, Chancellors Club teaching professor of sociology; Elizabeth C. Banks, associate professor of classics; Diane Frome Loeb, associate professor of speech-language-hearing; Val H. Smith, associate professor of systematics and ecology and environmental studies; and Beverly Davenport Sypher, professor of communication studies.

They will be recognized in halftime ceremonies at the Saturday, Nov. 9, KU-Kansas State University football game. They also will be honored at a reception at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10, in the Malott Room of the Kansas Union. Three of the 1996 Outstanding Educators have received the honor previously: Banks in 1990, Sypher in 1991 and Antonio in 1988 and 1991. Selection criteria now require that nominees not have been honored in the past three years.

Charles W. Marsh Jr., associate professor of journalism and faculty adviser for Mortar Board, said the winners had been nominated by individual Mortar Board members and were selected by the entire organization.

Antonio has won a number of awards, including a citation from Outstanding Educators of America in 1975, the Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence in 1979 and the Chancellors Club Career Teaching Award in 1988. He came to KU as an assistant professor in 1971.

Antonio received a bachelor's degree in sociology from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, in 1967. He then went on to receive a master's degree in 1970 and a doctorate in 1972 in sociology, both from the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind.

Banks taught at the universities of Missouri, Columbia and Kentucky-Lexington before coming to KU in 1966. She is also curator of the Wilcox Classical Museum.

In 1991, she was inducted into the KU Women's Hall of Fame and, earlier this year, received the J. Michael Young Outstanding Academic Adviser Award. Banks has a doctorate from the University of Cincinnati and was a Fulbright scholar and a Capps fellow at the American School of Classical Studies in Greece from 1954 to 1957.

Loeb began teaching at KU as an assistant professor in 1989. She earned a bachelor's degree in 1982 and a master's degree in 1984, both in speech and language pathology at the University of Nevada, Reno.

She completed her doctorate in speech and language pathology in 1989 at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., where she was honored in 1988 as Outstanding Student Clinician. Loeb received the Journal of Speech and Hearing Research Editor's Award in 1989.

"KU Mortar Board Names 5 Outstanding Educators." The Oread, 1 Nov. 1996. Web. 21 May 2013.

< <http://www.oread.ku.edu/Oread96/OreadNov1/page3/mortar.html> >

Smith directs the Environmental Studies Program at KU. Before he came to KU in 1993, he taught at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and was a visiting scientist at the University of Montreal.

He received a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a bachelor's with honors in biology, both in 1973 from KU. He went on to earn a master's in ecology in 1976 from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., and a doctorate in ecology in 1982 from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

This year, Sypher was one of the first recipients of a Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence. She has twice been a HOPE Award finalist - Honor for the Outstanding Progressive Educator - and has received other outstanding educator awards from Order of Omega and the Association of Students in Communication Studies. In 1991 she received the Ecroyd Award for Outstanding Teaching in Higher Education from the Speech Communication Association.

Before she came to KU in 1989, she was an associate professor of communication at the University of Kentucky, Lexington.

Sypher received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, and her doctorate in communication at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 1981.