

## Dr. Jean Karlen – 2003



Jean Karlen, professor of sociology at Wayne State College received the 2003 George Rebensdorf Teaching Excellence Award from the Nebraska State College System on May 10, at commencement.

The Rebensdorf Teaching Excellence is presented annually to a faculty member who demonstrates innovation and leadership in teaching and service in the Nebraska State College System. Administrators, fellow faculty, students and alumni nominate candidates. Karlen is the 19<sup>th</sup> recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award. She was first selected as Wayne State's Teaching Excellence Award

winner, which qualified her as a candidate for the system award.

Karlen joined Wayne State as an adjunct faculty member in the summer of 1976. Throughout the years, her teaching load has included courses such as Introduction to Sociology, Social Science Research Methods, Community, Criminal Justice Management and Family. She has also been and advisor to both undergraduate and graduate students. In 2002, she was named the campus service-learning coordinator.

Karlen gives of her time and talent to a remarkable range of activities on campus in the community and in her profession. She was president of the international social sciences honor society, Pi Gamma Mu. Karlen participated in the reactivation of the Wayne State chapter in 1978 and has served as one of the chapter faculty advisors since then.

Karlen is also involved with the Nebraska Women in Higher Education Leadership Network; serving as chair of the annual conference in 2003; she was president of the Nebraska Women's Foundation. Since 1986, she has been a scholar for the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities, giving presentations all over the state. A member of the board for the Midwest Sociological Society since 1989, Karlen received the Society's Distinguished Service Award in 2001.

"I learned the first year I was at Wayne State that I loved teaching sociology," Karlen said. "Over the years I have grown quite attached to Wayne State College and the people who work, teach and study here. This is a very special place."

*Information taken from the Wayne State College Alumni Magazine.*