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UNH Communication Faculty Member Awarded Professorship for Excellence

By Erika Mantz
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DURHAM, N.H. -- Sheila McNamee, professor of communication at the University of New Hampshire, has been awarded the Class of 1944 Professorship recognizing an outstanding faculty member.

The prestigious three-year appointment will allow McNamee time outside of the classroom to finish two book projects already underway and begin a third. She will also have time to work with faculty across campus and throughout the state to build a consortium for effective communities. McNamee has been at UNH since 1982. She will be on sabbatical for the 2002-03 academic year.

Last spring semester McNamee chaired the steering committee of the "Umbrella Group," a group of faculty from across campus working to establish an administrative center at UNH for the behavioral, social and health sciences. Her efforts to develop a consortium for effective communities is part of the umbrella group activities. She is also part of a learning circle for the state to enhance social capital and sense of community. In addition, McNamee is a co-founder of the Taos Institute, a virtual institute whose participants collaborate to design and promote creative, appreciative, and relational practices in families, communities and organizations around the world.

McNamee was nominated for the professorship by her colleagues, who say she is "a distinguished researcher with an international reputation" and "a dedicated teacher who demands excellence from her students."
"This is a wonderful honor and a great opportunity for me to further my work in building effective communities," McNamee says. "It will allow me time to fully focus on many of the projects I have been designing in the past months."

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