

NEWS RELEASE

College of Commerce and Business Administration

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College announces teaching award winners

Champaign, Ill. — Teaching awards were bestowed on two College of Commerce and Business Administration faculty and two teaching assistants recently. Kevin Waspi will receive the Excellence-in-Teaching Award for undergraduate teaching and Jan Brueckner will receive the Excellence-in-Teaching Award for graduate teaching at the Annual Spring Luncheon to be held in Chicago on April 5, 2002. Clayton Reck and Fernanda Toros will also be honored and will receive Excellence-in-Teaching Awards for teaching assistants.

A lecturer in the Department of Finance, Kevin Waspi is being honored for his instruction of an undergraduate finance class where students manage and invest money from a real-life client. Nicknamed the "Real Client Managed Portfolio" class, it is unusual for investing money from a client rather than from university institutional funds. Waspi worked in the securities and banking industries for almost two decades before joining the college in 1996. Earlier this semester he received the Campus Award for Innovation in Undergraduate Instruction given by the Office of the Provost and was the recipient of the Weinstein Excellence Award in 2001.

Jan Brueckner holds the Investors in Business Education Professorship of Economics and has been a faculty member for twenty-five years. He teaches graduate courses in urban economics and public economics and has received the Economics Graduate Student Organization teaching award three times. Brueckner has been recognized in the national press for his recent work on airline alliances. He is editor of the *Journal of Urban Economics*.

Clayton Reck, a PhD candidate in economics and teaching assistant for an economic statistics course, was cited for his commitment to teaching. Also a PhD candidate in economics, Fernanda Toros is a teaching assistant for several courses including microeconomic principles and corporate finance. She is simultaneously pursuing a master's degree in finance.

The faculty Excellence-in-Teaching Awards carry a cash prize of \$2,000; graduate student winners receive \$1,000. The awards are made by the college's Educational Policy Committee and are based on student reports of teaching as well as peer review.

Nationally recognized as one of the leading business schools, the College of Commerce and Business Administration has outstanding programs in accounting, business, economics, and finance. The college enrolls more than 3,000 undergraduates, 700 MBA and master's students, and 175 doctoral candidates from all 50 states and more than 30 countries worldwide.