



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
MIKE ILITCH
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



To: Mike Ilitch School of Business Faculty
From: Virginia Franke Kleist, Ph.D.
Date: January 15, 2025
Re: Solicitation for 2024 Sue Garr Innovative Teaching Award Nominations

The Mike Ilitch School of Business is currently soliciting nominations from the Faculty for the 2024 Sue Garr Innovative Teaching Award. This Award is eligible for those who are currently serving as tenured or tenure track members of the faculty as well as assistant, associate and full professors of teaching, with consideration given to research contributions made from the period from May 2023 – December 2024. Adjunct faculty are also eligible for this award.

The Sue Garr Innovative Teaching Fund was established in Sue Garr's honor by her family and friends in 2007. The fund was established to support an award to a faculty member in the Mike Ilitch School of Business in recognition of his or her efforts, planned or completed, in developing and using creative, leading-edge and innovative teaching methods that help our students learn and enhance the overall reputation of the Mike Ilitch School of Business. Sue was a pioneer in the development and use of distance learning techniques and on-line courses, and this is an appropriate way to remember the many contributions made by Sue Garr during her time at the School of Business.

The awardee should have "demonstrated extraordinary and/or innovative efforts in teaching." Consideration will be given to nominations for contributions made during May 2023-December 2024. Previous award winners remain ineligible for a period of three years following their most recent award.

The Teaching Committee of the Faculty Senate is also welcome to provide recommendations to the dean. The Sue Garr Innovative Teaching Award may not be given if there are no nominations or if the nomination does not demonstrate sufficient rationale of excellence of innovation in teaching. The selected winner will receive a \$3,000 honorarium in recognition of their work.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for this award, please electronically submit a one-page supporting summary of any extraordinary and/or innovative efforts and/or experimentation with new techniques in the nominee's teaching while at Wayne State University. The summary should be clear and specific, such as use of new technology in teaching, specific courses in which the new techniques or technology were used, etc. Please submit your nomination/application as a single .pdf document to the nomination form no later than 6:00 p.m. on February 14, 2025. The recipients of the award will be acknowledged at the Ilitch School Gala scheduled April 17, 2025.

Many of you remember Sue who taught for many years in the Accounting Department. If you did not know Sue, an article describing her work and contributions to the school and university is presented below.

In Memoriam of Sue Garr

The summer 2000 Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL) Newsletter included the following article:

Benjamin Franklin said 'Energy and persistence conquer all things' (Poor Richard's Almanac, 1732). Sue Garr of the School of Business Administration is certainly proving his words true. Since 1997 she has invested much energy into developing skills with a number of distance education technologies. 1997 was an important year for Wayne State University because it was then that the interactive television pilot program began, and Sue was one of the first six WSU faculty members to learn the ins and outs of teaching at a distance using ITV. Last summer, when the Teaching, Learning, and Technology Roundtable (TLTR) asked for volunteer evaluators to test three online courseware applications, Sue stepped right in as one of the first experimenters again.

Unfortunately, Sue's energy and persistence could not conquer all things. Sue passed away on Friday, December 8, 2006. Sue is survived by her husband, John, her daughter Sue Ellen, her son, Erik and his wife, Jennifer, and their daughter Katharine.

Sue began teaching financial accounting in the School of Business Administration at Wayne State University in 1983. She received the Distinguished Teacher award in 1999. Sue was the first faculty member to teach an on-line course, and she quickly became recognized as a leader and innovator in teaching pedagogy. When asked what lessons she learned since her early involvement in distance learning, Sue said "students learn better in an interactive environment, technology enhances interactivity so that kind of interactivity is expected. It's great fun to be creative. You learn not to be afraid." Sue used technology to create an interactive classroom in her accounting classes at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, in the traditional face-to-face classes as well as remote sites and on-line classes. Sue had an impact on so many people's lives associated with WSU. She was not only an outstanding and dedicated teacher. She was a peer, an advisor, a mentor, a friend. She will be deeply missed by all of us at WSU.

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