

Staff honored with 2007 Jack Breslin awards

Six staff employees will receive the Jack Breslin Distinguished Staff Award for 2007 on Tuesday, May 15.

The six, who will each receive \$2,500, will be honored at a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. on the mezzanine level of the Breslin Student Events Center. The 30th year of the award will be celebrated at this year's reception. Past recipients of the award have been

invited to attend and be recognized.

"The selection committee takes great pride in this year's winners," said Michael Rice, Auxiliary Services director and chairperson of the distinguished staff awards committee. "We invite faculty, staff, students, friends and family to attend the reception and recognize these deserving recipients."

The award is named in honor of the late Jack Breslin, a student leader, honored athlete, top administrator and steadfast advocate of Michigan State.

Selections are based on overall excellence, supportive attitude, contributions to the unit or university that lead to efficiency and effectiveness, and valuable service to the university.



Jodi Hancock
Education Program Coordinator
Women's Resource Center

Jodi Hancock is responsible for the development, coordination and execution of programs, seminars, workshops and conferences for the Women's Resource Center. She is the center's representative on university and community committees and provides input on center-related projects.

Her commitment, energy, and passion for her work and the mission of the center are reflected in all she does. Hancock's tireless efforts ensure projects are implemented effectively and meet expectations. She is a true advocate for students and embodies a student-centered philosophy in her professional work.

Hancock has organized and planned the MSU Women's Leadership Conference, an event designed to educate, inspire and prepare female students to become leaders on campus and in their communities. It has become a hallmark event.



Melba Lacey
Consortium Coordinator
Institute of International Agriculture

Melba Lacey assists in managing the Partnership for International Agriculture – Fruits and Vegetables, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, on behalf of the Institute of International Agriculture. She negotiates subcontract agreements, coordinates training and workshops, and is the liaison between the MSU office and regional coordinators. She also prepares budgets and supervises program staff.

She has extensive knowledge in a variety of international programs and is sought as a resource. Lacey has shown initiative well beyond her daily duties. She has coordinated academic programs for more than 300 international students and has managed post-graduate education for students at 10 different universities.

Lacey is known as a colleague with great knowledge, personal integrity and kindness of heart. She encourages the professional growth of employees and supports their efforts. She is active in many MSU professional organizations.



Gilbert Manuell
Cook
West Circle Food Service

Gilbert Manuell is a cook in the West Circle Food Service in the Landon Hall dining room. He is responsible for preparing made-to-order food items during the meal periods. He also uses his kitchen skills to prepare food items for the entire meal.

Manuell, who is known as the "Landon sandwich man," prepares creative, custom-made sandwiches. His infectious personality makes him popular with students, who line up at his creation station and don't mind waiting for Manuell to prepare their sandwiches.

He uses his culinary skills to research new recipes that are included in the menu rotation and has contributed items such as Gil's green chili, chicken enchilada soup and a Southwest chicken salad wrap.

Manuell also has worked on a committee to plan recipes for the new Snyder-Phillips Marketplace, which opens in August 2007.



Eric Mulvany
Administrative Assistant
College of Education

Eric Mulvany manages facilities for the College of Education and also serves as the liaison with Human Resources for support staff employees in the college. He provides leadership and directs staff training programs. Mulvany also manages the copy and service center for the college.

He is an individual who "gets things done," working with architects, contractors and Physical Plant to assist in the planning and oversight of renovations and construction for the college. Mulvany works closely with technology upgrades for the college, arranging staff training and conducting some technology training.

Mulvany uses his strong interpersonal skills to resolve service, policy and space utilization issues. He is respected by faculty and staff in the college, who have confidence that he will follow through on their requests or suggestions.



Jackie Stewart
Executive Staff Assistant
James Madison College

Jackie Stewart provides executive assistance to the dean of James Madison College, skillfully managing calendars, pending actions and major college business. She prepares materials for faculty meetings, supports college committee work and interacts with faculty, staff, students and visitors with tact, discretion and a pleasant demeanor.

She is always willing to step in and support a college event. Stewart has been a driving force for new ways to conduct faculty searches and tenure committee work.

She is the historian of the college, helping others to understand how the college evolved and how it relates to change.

Stewart is trusted and helps to resolve problems and issues. She has taken a leadership role in staff reorganization and arranging space for administrative efficiency and staff collegiality.



Martha Trout
Nurse Manager
Breslin Cancer Center

Martha Trout oversees the medical practice financial operations at the Breslin Cancer Center in the Department of Medicine, College of Human Medicine. She is responsible for developing and maintaining standard procedures for billing, educating billing staff, monitoring productivity and participating in quality improvement efforts.

She collaborates with physicians, pharmacists, social workers, nurses, insurance companies and the MSU central billing office to maintain the clinic's financial viability. Trout spearheaded a project with MSU Purchasing to evaluate supply needs and develop new purchasing agreements to reduce costs.

Trout willingly mentors and supports clinical discharge clerks, assists with nursing issues and volunteers to facilitate large-scale projects. She leads by example and is widely respected throughout the Department of Medicine.