ROTH AWARD CITATION 2023

Good evening all. It is my absolute pleasure as the Chair of FDC (Our Faculty Development Committee) to announce the Phyllis Roth Service Award, given to a faculty member in recognition of outstanding service to the college.

Our recipient this year has been with the college for 21 years during which time she has chaired major governance committees and a department (which was not even her own) , started singular academic initiatives and led the institution in countless capacities. This remarkable individual has served on ATC, FDC, Curriculum Committee, the Palamountain Prose Award Committee, IPPC (where she was vice-chair) and twice on CEPP – which she also chaired.

Not content with this record of outstanding service in college governance, our recipient has also served as Director of Law and Society Minor Program, the First Year Experience in London and the Acting Director of the MALS Program which she took over within 3 years of arriving at Skidmore.

Equally noteworthy has been her role in initiating and developing the Science Literary Program and her leadership as founding director in 2013 of CLTL, the Center for Leadership, Teaching and Learning. More to the point, she cannot seem to refuse the college when it is any kind of institutional need. As one of her colleagues notes, “when Skidmore calls her, which it often has, she answers and is always ready and willing to serve”. Another colleague observes that “when she sees a need, a hole in the functioning of the college, she steps right in, bringing her brilliance, experience and tenacity.”

Two things should be abundantly clear by now. One that I enjoy mysteries and playing with clues. And two, that you have now had enough clues to figure out that our amazing recipient of the Roth Award this year is none other than Erica Bastress-Dukehart from the Department of History. Congratulations Erica on this honor and our many thanks for your tireless service to Skidmore College.