

2003 Romeo L. Moruzzi Young Faculty Award for Innovation in Undergraduate Education Recipient Professor Eleanor Loiacono

The Moruzzi Young Faculty Award is presented in memory of Romeo L. Moruzzi, a dedicated professor and founder of the WPI plan. WPI is pleased to present the 2003 Moruzzi Young Faculty Award for Innovation in Undergraduate Education to Professor Eleanor Loiacono of the Department of Management. Professor Loiacono is being recognized for her integrated innovations in MG3740, Organizational Applications of Telecommunications.



The course involves an externally sponsored design competition that requires students to develop a comprehensive network plan. In response to a "real" Request for Proposals (RFP), students submit a complete design for computer and communications equipment. The sponsoring company provides the RFP and judges. Students present their recommendations in the role of a vendor making a presentation to a potential customer. The realistic project and the presence of external reviewers motivate exceptional effort and learning, and the projects that result are reported by a colleague to be equivalent to the best MQPs.

In addition, newly implemented labs ensure that students receive hands-on experience and familiarity with networking, including computer network settings, software tools, crossover cables and a small local area network. Other enhancements include guest speakers, a tour of the WPI network, and group presentations on "telecomm hot topics".

Former students and the external judges of the design competition testify to the success of Prof. Loiacono's efforts to integrate "theory and practice". The development and teaching of such a sophisticated hands-on experience are enormously labor-intensive, and require dedication, vision, and understanding of how to motivate learning. WPI is proud to recognize the creative teaching of Professor Eleanor Loiacono by presenting her with the 2003 Moruzzi Young Faculty Award for Innovation in Undergraduate Education.