

## **2012 Denise Nicoletti Trustees' Award for Service to Community**

### **Christine Drew**

The Trustees' Award for Service to Community is presented in memory of Denise Nicoletti, a professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department from 1991-2002, whose passion for life and outreach to under-represented groups touched many lives. Among her activities, Denise co-founded Camp Reach, a widely-acclaimed summer program which introduces seventh-grade girls to the excitement of engineering and science. The recipient of the 2012 Denise Nicoletti Trustees' Award for Service to Community is Christine Drew.

Since her arrival at WPI in 2004, Christine Drew has provided extraordinary and enthusiastic service to WPI. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty, embodied the spirit of WPI, and the energy of Denise Nicoletti. Christine's spirit and energy have extended beyond WPI as a champion of literacy, a strong commitment to local cultural organizations, and her passion for the environment. Christine's vision and leadership have brought a positive and unique impact on numerous organizations.

Christine is a champion of literacy and lifelong learning. In 2009, as a co-organizer of the "Big Read" project, which was funded by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Christine created an Edgar Allen Poe discussion group to coincide with other activities going on around Worcester. The "Big Read" program is aimed at encouraging reading among lapsed or reluctant readers. The following year Christine guided an NEA proposal to develop a similar program at her local library, in Whitinsville.

She is involved in environmental issues, as well. In addition to being on the WPI "Green Team," she has been a tireless volunteer for the Annual Sustainability Poster Competition. Christine's passion for the environment extends beyond campus as well. Each year you can find Christine in some Worcester neighborhood on Earth Day supporting the Regional Environmental Council's Earth Day clean-ups. When her energy isn't enough she recruits library staff to assist her in this endeavor. Finally, in 2010, Christine volunteered for a skill share in the "Summer of Solutions" program.

Christine's creativity, commitment, and energy have been instrumental in bringing increasing numbers of reluctant students to WPI's own Gordon Library. She has conducted research tutorial and workshops for students and faculty across campus. She has teamed up with faculty on teaching and research initiatives. Faculty and students alike express their gratitude for Christine's "approachability" and "insightful advice."

Because Christine possesses similar qualities of Denise such as activism, a passion for teaching and learning, and a strong drive to enrich the lives of those in the WPI community as well as those outside of WPI, we honor her with the 2012 Denise Nicoletti Trustees' Award for Community Service.