

CODAA Member Accomplishments

From time to time, CODAA likes to highlight and celebrate the accomplishments of our talented members. Congratulations to everyone featured below.

Elizabeth Baker, Speech Communication; **Stacie Haen-Darden**, Criminal Justice; **Barbara Bernardi**, Math (Adjunct, non-CODAA), along with English Professor Lisa Higgins, Human Services Professor Andrea Polites, and Culinary Market and Lab Coordinator Laura Lerdal are recipients of the 2019-2020 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award. The award recognizes community and technical college faculty, staff and administrators who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment and contribution to their students and colleagues.

“Recognizing those individuals who have contributed to student success and their colleges’ mission is something we look forward to doing each year,” said Dr. Edward Leach, NISOD’s Executive Director. “The extraordinary work of these men and women includes not only what they do for their students and colleagues, but what they do for their communities in which they live and work. We’re honored to be able to play a part in celebrating their achievements.”

Jessica Dyrek, part-time Counselor, President Elect for the Illinois Mental Health Counselor Association

Allison Greene, part-time Counselor, President of the Illinois College Counseling Association.

Candace McCreary, Sociology, Elgin Community College Board Member.

Danice McGrath, part-time Counselor, President-Elect of the Illinois College Counseling Association.

Diane Wawrejko, Humanities, published two peer-reviewed articles:

“Daniel Nagrin’s Man of Action: A Photo Essay.” Published photo essay with five shots by photographer Marcus Blechman. Association for Jewish Studies’ Perspectives, Fall 2019:26-28

"Daniel Nagrin: On 'This and That' and Other Choreographic Methods as Jewishness." Invited to publish in Israel’s Mahol Achshav (Dance Today), issue 36, Sept 26 2019:59-64. <https://www.israeldance-diaries.co.il/en/>

CODAA is also grateful for the appreciation shown by our members as we did our best to help guide and support them through the challenges of remote instruction. We would like to share one particularly heart-warming message.

Cheryl, the first accomplishment we should all celebrate is the continuity of support from you and the CODAA leadership team. It is quite likely we will never fully understand the

level of energy and angst necessary to lead through this time. You showed up when we needed you.

The second has nothing to do with certifications, endorsements, articles or other normal accomplishments. I am very proud of the team who, with limited time and often limited experience, did the very best they could do to convert standard teaching to online methods.

This came at a time when - and this will eventually surface - both instructors and students faced unprecedented and significant challenges with software, internet capacity and other technical matters.

The first rule of Crisis Management is that, in critical times, you will see both the best and the worst of human behavior. Thanks for showing us your best.

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John Karnatz, Speech Communication