3-31-2016

A distinguished contribution

University of Dayton

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A distinguished contribution

Professor Emerita Marilyn Fischer was recently honored with a national award from the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy.

The Herbert Schneider Award recognizes a career-long achievement "distinguished contributions to the understanding of American philosophy."

Fischer, who retired last May after 33 years at the University, focuses her research on Jane Addams — who lived 100 years ago — and particularly Addams' work on issues of multiculturalism, peace and international understanding.

Fischer said being chosen for the award is “an enormous honor and it's humbling at the same time.”

She credited the University's philosophy department for encouraging and supporting her, and the University libraries for purchasing microfilm from Jane Addams' papers to further her research. She also said the University's Core Program allowed her to collaborate across departments to make her approach to philosophy more interdisciplinary.

“She brought Jane Addams and other American philosophers to life for students and professors in Core, while at the same time publishing articles and books that challenge how we write the history of philosophy,” said John Inglis, chair of the department of philosophy. “In her publications, Dr. Fischer broadens our understanding of live issues regarding race, gender, immigration and war.”

Fischer has also served as a mentor to many on campus, said Denise James, associate professor of
“While Marilyn was surprised to receive the award, this distinction was no surprise to any of the many of us she has offered kind and formative advice to, while modeling how to be the very best scholar,” James said.

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