

Three faculty Weiss Presidential Fellows and two Appel Fellows honored

Cornell President Hunter Rawlings has named the university's 2001 Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellows, recognizing effective, inspiring and distinguished teaching of undergraduate students.

The winners are: Rosemary J. Avery, professor of policy analysis and management; Timothy Fahey, professor of natural resources; and Stephen L. Sass, professor of materials science and engineering. The awards—\$5,000 for five years for each faculty member—are named for the emeritus chair of the Cornell Board of Trustees, Stephen H. Weiss '57, who endowed the program. They recognize excellence in



Avery



Fahey



Sass



Hilgartner



Munasinghe

teaching, advising and outstanding efforts toward instructional improvement and development. The appointed fellows are permitted to hold the title of Weiss fellow simultaneously with any other named professorship. A dinner on campus Oct. 19 honored

both the Weiss fellows and the 2000 recipients of another distinguished faculty award—the Appel Fellowships for Humanists and Social Scientists in the College of Arts and Sciences. The Appel fellows, named in the spring of 2001, are: Stephen Hilgartner,

conduct research or otherwise enrich their teaching and scholarship. Here are biographies of this year's honorees, adapted from those compiled for the awards dinner.

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Rosemary Avery

Avery received her bachelor's degree in home economics from the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, in 1971. She earned her M.S. in family resource management at Ohio State University in 1984. Upon gaining her doctorate in 1988, she was appointed assistant professor in the Department of Consumer Economics and Housing at Cornell. In 1994 she became an associate professor in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management, and since 2000 has served as professor and associate chair of that department. She is the editor of *Consumer Interests Annual* and serves on the editorial boards of numerous other professional publications. Known for learning the names of all of her many students by the end of the first week of class, Avery is the recipient of many teaching awards, including the SUNY Chancellors Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1998 and Cornell's Merrill Presidential Scholars teacher recognition in 1993, 1998, 1999 and 2001.

Timothy Fahey

Fahey received his bachelor's degree in biology with high honors from Dartmouth College in 1974. He earned his M.S. in 1977 and his Ph.D. in 1979, both in botany at the University of Wyoming. After a year spent as an assistant professor of biology at Fort Lewis College, he came to Cornell as an assistant professor in the Department of Natural Resources in 1982. In 1988, he was made an associate professor and he became a full professor in 1996.

Fahey is a leader in the application of biogeochemistry research methodologies to the analysis of forest ecosystem dynamics, and he has inspired and motivated countless students with his passion for his studies and teaching. He is a Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor.

Stephen Sass

Sass received his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from City College of New York in 1961 and his Ph.D. in materials science from Northwestern University in 1966. After a year as a Fulbright scholar at the Technische Hogeschool in the Netherlands, he came to Cornell as an assistant professor in 1967. He became an associate professor in 1973 and a full professor in 1979. Sass has conducted research in England, Germany and Israel and has authored or co-authored nearly 200 publications. His research interests include the relationship among the atomic structure, chemistry, bonding and properties of metal, intermetallic compound and metal-ceramic interfaces, with the goal of tailoring them to achieve desirable properties. And he is well known for involving students, including undergraduates, in rigorous research.

Stephen Hilgartner

Hilgartner received his bachelor's degree *summa cum laude* from Cornell in 1983. He went on to earn his master's degree at the University of Pennsylvania in 1984 and his Ph.D. in sociology from Cornell in 1988. He was an

assistant professor of social medicine at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons from 1987 to 1994. He returned to Cornell in 1995 and is an associate professor in the Department of Science and Technology Studies. In addition, he is the founder and chair of the Ethical, Legal and Social Issues focus area of the Cornell Genomics Initiative. His research interests span the fields of biology, ethics and values, biotechnology and medicine. Hilgartner's most recent book is *Science on Stage: Expert Advice as Public Drama* (2000). He currently is completing a book on the Human Genome Project.

Viranjini Munasinghe

Munasinghe, an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology and in the Asian American Studies Program, earned her international baccalaureate at the United World College of South East Asia in 1982 and her bachelor of arts degree in social anthropology at the University of Sussex, Great Britain, in 1985. She went on to complete her M.A. in cultural anthropology at Duke University in 1988 and her Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University in 1994. Her areas of specialization include issues of race, ethnicity, nationalism and the politics of identity, especially pertaining to the Caribbean region and the Asian Diaspora in the new world. Her book, *Callicho or Tossed Salad? East Indians and the Cultural Politics of Identity in Trinidad* (fall 2001), is being published by Cornell University Press.