



Alan G. Weinstein, PhD

Students in the Graduate Business Program of the Richard J. Wehle School of Business recognized two Canisius professors for their outstanding work as educators.

**Alan G. Weinstein, PhD**, professor of management and marketing, received the Dr. Donald Calvert Outstanding Professor Award. Named for the late professor of management, the Calvert Award is presented to full-time MBA professors.



Edward J. Garrity, PhD

**Edward J. Garrity, PhD**, professor of information systems, received the Faculty Scholarship Award. Established

in 2004, the award encourages scholarship within the school.

The awards were presented at the annual MBA cocktail party on campus.



Mark H. Castner

**Mark H. Castner** received the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) 2007 William O'Hearn Service Award. Presented at AJCU's information technology management conference,

the O'Hearn Award recognizes exceptional service to the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities.

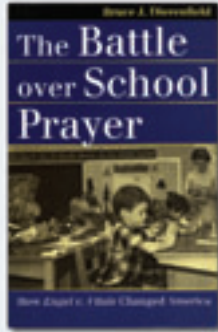
Castner was cited for his organization and operation of the AJCU consortium license with Adobe, and his assistance with the various programs presented at AJCU's annual meeting.

Castner is the former director of academic computing in the college's Information Technology Department, an adjunct professor of physics and director of the Braun Seismograph Station.

## The Battle Over School Prayer is Focus of New Dierenfield Book

History Professor **Bruce J. Dierenfield, PhD**, examines the first court case to address the constitutionality of prayer in public schools, in his new book *The Battle Over School Prayer: How Engel v. Vitale Changed America*.

Brought about by five Nassau County, NY families, *Engel v. Vitale* was a 1962 landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision that determined it was unconstitutional for the New York State Board of Regents to compose a non-denominational prayer and mandate that it be recited each day in public schools.



The plaintiffs in the case (*Engel*), sued the Herricks Board of Education (*Vitale*) and argued that the prayer violated the Establishment Clause of the Constitution, which states "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion."

The lower courts upheld the constitutionality of the prayer, stating that students were not forced to participate. But the U.S. Supreme Court, by a vote of 6-1, overruled the lower courts and declared the New York prayer violated the First Amendment rights of the petitioners.

In his book, Dierenfield puts the Supreme Court decision in larger historical and political context by citing battles over a wide range of religious activities in public schools throughout American history. He also demonstrates the polarizing effects the case has had in subsequent decades.

Dierenfield is director of the All-College Honors Program. *The Battle Over School Prayer* is his fourth book. It is available at local bookstores and amazon.com for \$35.00 (hardcover) and \$15.95 (paperback).

## Dean's Awards Recognize Teaching, Scholarship and Service

**Margaret C. McCarthy, PhD**, dean of the college's School of Education and Human Services, presented four outstanding faculty with the school's first Dean's Awards.

**James Sylvis, EdD**, received the Faculty Teaching Award. An associate professor of physical education and chair of the department, Sylvis specializes in adaptive physical education for special education children. In this role, he helps eliminate physical barriers and customize the instruction of physically challenged students.

The Faculty Scholarship Award was presented to **Mary E. Shea, PhD**, professor of graduate education and director of the college's Graduate Literacy Program. Shea's publications include *Spelling in English*, *Avoiding the One-Size-Fits-All Curriculum* and *Drowning in Data: How to Collect, Organize and Document Student Performance*. Currently, Shea is researching word-message construction growth and the prevention of reading difficulties in young children.

**Michele A. Marable, EdD**, associate professor of education, received the Dean's Award for Service. Marable was recognized for several partnerships she forged within the Buffalo School District. She also played a lead role in the college's NCATE accreditation, developed a mentoring program for new faculty, and initiated a diversity program within the department.

**Martha Mercantini**, an adjunct professor of education, received the Adjunct Teaching Award for her contributions to a newly-developed course on elementary curriculum development and implementation.



(l-r): Robert Bennett, chancellor of the NYS Board of Regents and keynote speaker; James Sylvis, PhD; Mary Shea, PhD; Margaret C. McCarthy, PhD, dean of the School of Education and Human Services; and Michele A. Marable, EdD.