

Professor Kathleen McKenna wins the highest award in Toastmasters International

May 18, 2015

By John Miller

Raise your glass to Professor McKenna for winning the Distinguished Toastmaster's Award (DTM) for her many years of outstanding service in the Speakers of the House.

The prestigious DTM award is only awarded to a club member who has given at least 40 speeches, is an officer in a local club or area and has had a hand in creating a local chapter.

Speakers of the House, the local Toastmasters International group, was started three years ago by Professor McKenna and adjunct instructor Matthew Papkov. Combined, McKenna and Papkov have more than 50 years in Toastmasters International. The objective of the club is to help members overcome their fear of public speaking.

On May 15, SUNY Broome students, faculty and club members filled Decker 201 for the Speakers of the House awards ceremony. Eighteen Competent Communicator Awards were given out, mainly to students but a few were given to faculty.

Along with free food, the celebration included a roast of Kathleen McKenna. Her students dressed the "Celtic Queen" in a flowing cape, a sparkling tiara and showered her in flower petals all while dancing around her. Then came the jokes.

"Kathleen McKenna is a great teacher. I missed half of the classes, took no tests and was late to the other classes and I am proud of the 'A' she gave me" joked Tammie.

Penny DelFavero, winner of a Competent Communicator Award, joined in the fun. "Kathleen said that she found her students could be much more successful if she weeded out the bad apples and got rid of them early in the semester. So, she would invite the problem students over and then quietly do away with them and quickly stuff them under her bed. It was really creepy because she told the whole thing with her most pleasant smile and in the sweetest tone of voice. Two students dropped out of her class after hearing this story."

Toastmasters International has clubs in over 120 countries and boasts more than 300,000 members worldwide. According to McKenna, "[The club] helps you grow in a fun and supportive way." For more information on the club, visit their website, <http://speakersofthehouse.toastmastersclubs.org/>, or email Kathleen McKenna: mckennakm@sunybroome.edu.

Writer John Miller is a SUNY Broome student.



Filed Under: [Focus on Accomplishments](#)

© 2022 · SUNY Broome
The Focus: SUNY Broome's Faculty & Staff Newsletter