

Highlights April 25, 2012

Wendy Cadge Receives Dean of Arts & Sciences Mentoring Award

“Wendy is truly my role model. I can’t imagine a more deserving candidate for this award and hope that one day I can give to my students all that Wendy has given to me.”



–Advisee and Nominator

At the faculty meeting on April 19, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Susan Birren, awarded Wendy Cadge, Associate Professor of Sociology, the Mentoring Award. This annual award carries a \$1,000 prize for “outstanding ability as a mentor by a faculty member who supervises GSAS students.” And Professor Cadge truly is an “exemplary mentor” according to the students who nominated her for the award. To describe Professor Cadge, her students use words like “generous,” “accessible,” and “responsive.” She has the utmost faith in her students and successfully instills her belief in them so that they can be more successful. As one student explained, “When I come out of a meeting with Wendy, I always feel more confident that I know what to do and that I can do it. She has a great way of being a calming presence, while still upholding rigorous standards.” Another student commented, “Wendy has been an incredible mentor to me over the past three years that I’ve been at Brandeis. Wendy is always responsive to my emails and is always willing to meet and talk through any ideas or questions that I have. I know that I can go to Wendy with any question--academic, intellectual, or even personal--and she is always willing to listen and help me think through different possible solutions.”

Professor Cadge’s advisees also all spoke about her remarkable desire to collaborate with them on projects and publications. Just a quick glance of her CV reveals how frequently she jointly publishes with her advisees or credits them with projects they’ve completed together. Furthermore, she and her students co-present this work at professional conferences. These collaborations serve many valuable purposes: not only do her students learn about analyzing data, writing literature reviews, applying for grants, and preparing academic papers for publication, they can also add important credentials to their CV, increasing their chances of landing a job upon graduation. Professor Cadge encourages her advisees to build a professional network, and she will frequently facilitate this process by connecting them to other colleagues in their fields.

Professor Cadge began working at Brandeis in 2006. She has taught courses on religion in the contemporary United States, especially as related to healthcare, immigration and sexuality. She is the author of *Heartwood: The First Generation of Theravada Buddhism in America* and many articles, including recent ones on intercessory prayer, physicians’ experiences of religion and spirituality, hospital chaplains, and the prayers people write in hospital prayer books. Her new book *Paging God: Religion in the Halls of Medicine* will be published by the University of Chicago Press in October 2012. Professor Cadge has demonstrated her unwavering commitment to the University through her service on numerous committees each year and as the founder of Brandeis Kindness Day. GSAS congratulates Wendy Cadge on this wonderful honor.