

AASU Faculty Member Awarded 2010 Dorothy Golden Award

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Jane Rago

AASU Faculty Member Awarded 2010 Dorothy Golden Award

(April 21, 2010) Jane Rago, Armstrong Atlantic State University's (AASU) instructor of English, received the 2010 Dorothy Golden Award given by the Georgia Southern University's Department of Writing and Linguistics. The award, presented during the Student Success in the First Year Conference in Statesboro earlier this year, recognizes outstanding teachers in the state whose practices are informed by research and scholarship and who demonstrate consistently superior performance.

Rago is an instructor and coordinator of the [First Year Experience \(FYE\)](#) program at AASU in the [Department of Languages, Literature & Philosophy \(LLP\)](#). FYE was launched in fall 2009 to complement the existing Freshman Learning Communities. Both programs are designed to help new students successfully transition from high school into college.

“Jane offers an inspired vision of how to embrace, enable, and empower first-year students,” said Beth Howells, AASU associate professor of English and director of the writing program. “Her work on the First-Year Common Read, on transforming our learning communities, and revising our first-year seminars has already had a tremendous impact on the larger campus culture.”

Rago is one of three members of the first-year writing team in the LLP department. Her primary area of teaching is the First Year Experience, with a particular focus on learning communities and interdisciplinary studies.

“Jane impacts her students in the way she challenges them theoretically, empowers them practically, and inspires them to be active in her classes and in their communities and the world,” said Howells. “Her intelligence and passion have earned her a permanent place in our faculty and will contribute to transforming our first year student population.”

Rago joined Armstrong in 2006 as a one-year instructor of English. In 2009, she was selected from 75 applicants for a permanent position as a First Year Experience instructor and program coordinator. She earned her Ph.D. and master's in cultural studies and literature from West Virginia University and the University of Chicago, respectively.

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