

## **Dr. Carol Ann Smyth Named “Distinguished Teacher of 2008” by the Harvard Club of Long Island**

One of only a dozen teachers to receive this award — from across the 120-plus school districts on Long Island — Dr. Smyth received her award at the Harvard Club’s University Relations Lunch on Sunday, April 27th.

“The Harvard Club is proud to recognize teachers who transform lives,” explained Dr. Judith Esterquest, a board member of the Long Island Club. “These teachers are extraordinary professionals, preparing our children for challenges that were unimaginable even a few decades ago. Expending countless hours and extraordinary energy, year after year, they shape our country’s future — and they do so one student at a time.”

Dr. Smyth has taught for twenty years, specializing in physics, chemistry, and research. For the past two years, she has been Director of Science K-12 in the North Shore School District and this year she has also taught Research and Forensic Science at North Shore Middle School. Prior to North Shore, she spent fifteen years at W.T. Clarke High School where she taught Physics and Research, chaired the Math and Science Departments, and served as part-time Assistant Principal. Her work included writing many recommendations for students applying to college, totaling about 400 over the course of her career.

She enjoys her new role at North Shore because it involves science curriculum and instruction across the grade levels. As she puts it, “I love being involved in the creation of meaningful, exciting learning experiences for students, whether as a teacher of a class, as a mentor of a student doing an individual project, or working with a group of teachers.” In her spare time, she enjoys reading.

Dr. Smyth was nominated for this award by Ms. Natalie A. Cameron, who is currently a freshman at Harvard College and was Dr. Smyth’s student at Clark High School in Westbury. Ms. Cameron describes Dr. Smyth as having “the ability to present complicated physics principals with impeccable clarity and ease.” Further, she observes, “I have never seen a teacher as talented and as dedicated to her work as Dr. Smyth.”

In describing Dr. Smyth’s influence on her personally, Ms. Cameron continues, “Not only was she an amazing physics teacher, but also a wonderful research advisor.” Specifically, “Without her guidance and support, I would have never been able to become an Intel Finalist” because Dr. Smyth “supported me 150% in all of my research endeavors.” More generally, “She was also supportive of our extracurricular activities,” her former student added, concluding, “Her love for teaching and dedication to her students is truly an inspiration.”

When Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Edward Melnick, learned of this award, he immediately offered his congratulations, noting that, “Dr. Smyth is a very attentive and

caring individual who is dedicated to providing each North Shore student with an education that places an emphasis on deep and meaningful exploration and inquiry.” Dr. Melnick added, “This honor from the Harvard Club is well deserved.”

The dozen winners of the 2008 Distinguished Teacher Award were nominated by current Harvard students and then selected by members of the Harvard Club of Long Island. Some teach AP Literature, calculus, or advanced science research, others teach history, government, economics, physics, biology, or drama. A few teach at schools that regularly send students to Harvard; some teach at schools that have sent only a couple in twenty years. The 2008 winners teach 7th to 12th grades in Suffolk and Nassau Counties, the length and breadth of the Island: Farmingdale, Floral Park, Glen Head, Great Neck, Half Hollow Hills, Huntington, Lynbrook, Old Westbury, Rockville Centre, Roslyn, and Valley Stream.

"In the past five years, Harvard has accepted students from more than half of these districts, offering admission regardless of a student's financial resources — and then leading the country by setting policies that make Harvard affordable for families across the income spectrum. Because of this reach, we decided to have current Harvard undergraduates nominate the Long Island teachers who had the greatest effect on their lives and the lives of their fellow students." The Harvard Club of Long Island website is [www.harvardclubli.com](http://www.harvardclubli.com).

Harvard College received over 27,000 applications this year (almost 600 from Long Island) for approximately 1600 places in the freshman class, a selection rate of 6%. There are approximately 160 undergraduates from Long Island currently at Harvard College.