



**Phalanx**

**May 9, 2014**

**To: The Rensselaer Community**

**From: The Members of Phalanx**

**Re: 2014 David M. Darrin '40 Counseling Award**

We are pleased to announce that, Professor Dean Nieuwma of the Department of Science and Technology Studies has been selected as this year's recipient of the David M. Darrin Counseling Award.

This award was established by David M. Darrin '40, to recognize a faculty member who has made an unusual contribution in the counseling of undergraduate students, generously sharing time and talents with them, and demonstrating special concern for their welfare in and out of the classroom. The selection of the award recipient is made by Phalanx, the student leadership honorary society, based on nominations received from an open solicitation to the campus over the past school year. The Darrin Award will be presented to Professor McLaughlin at Commencement on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

This year's winner, Professor Nieuwma has impacted many students, whether in his role as a professor or an advisor. To fully appreciate Professor Nieuwma's impact it is just easier to share some quotes from his nominators:

*"And when it comes to the counsel he gives, he cannot be beat. He doesn't try to push his own agenda or advertise the program he is in charge of; he will be upfront and work with the student to not only find the academic path that truly suits them, but many times even the career path that works for them. He understands the pitfalls, opportunities, obstacles, and triumphs of the choices and situations his advisees address him with, and has always provided me and my contemporaries with the best advice in our studies and our future prospects. My immediate and distant future, and the futures of many other students he has reached, have all been carefully discussed and brought into proper guidance thanks to Dr. Dean Nieuwma."*

*"Dean puts in extra hours recruiting incoming students to make our program stronger and better, and is an unbelievable asset to not only the PDI community but RPI. If it had not been for Dean, I can confidently say I*

*would no longer be present at RPI. Dean provides us one extra layer in addition to all of this, which is trust. We trust in Dean and he trusts in us. Dean understands our limits, our human fallacies, and our passions. He's there not only in an academic but personal space as well - always willing to sit down and discuss what's going on in our own lives as well."*

*"While classes and school projects help us understand what type of work we want to do in our future careers, professors like Dean help us to understand what kind of people we want to be. Without Dean, I would still be stressed and unhappy as a chemical engineer. Thanks to him, I am eagerly looking forward to my future, and am enjoying every day at RPI."*

Please join Phalanx in congratulating Professor Nieuwsma on this honor.