



SSR Trainee Mentoring Award. The SSR Trainee Affairs Committee (TAC) is proud to announce Dr. Janice M. Bahr as the recipient of SSR's first annual Trainee Mentor Award. The TAC pioneered the award this year to recognize mentors who have greatly impacted trainees within the SSR. The Trainee Mentor Award is intended for individuals who exceed the basic roles of an academic advisor, becoming a mentor to those with whom they interact. Seven outstanding mentors were nominated by SSR members, indicating great support from our Society in establishing

this new award.

Since joining the faculty at the University of Illinois, Urbana in 1974 Dr. Bahr has won numerous awards in recognition of her outstanding mentorship of young scientists. Dr. Bahr received the H.H. Mitchell Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Research through the Department of Animal Sciences first in 1986 and again in 1993. In 1997 Dr. Bahr's mentoring was recognized when she was selected as a finalist for the Graduate College Award for Outstanding Mentoring of Graduate Students and in 2007 she was given the Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring. Only one faculty member from the entire campus is recognized annually.

The call for nominations for the SSR Trainee Mentor Award asked for mentors who selflessly serve as a teacher and trusted mentor, teach inside and out of the classroom with passion, and significantly enhance the careers of those they mentor. During her career Dr. Bahr has mentored over 60 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who have gone on to become very successful in a variety of academic, medical, industrial and governmental positions. This success can be attributed to Dr. Bahr's welcoming attitude towards diversity among her students, whether the source of diversity is religious, political, life style, or scientific. Dr. Bahr describes graduate student mentoring as a "privilege and responsibility to enable each individual to fulfill his/her potential". Dr. Bahr embraces the importance of mentoring the individual rather than molding clones. Her philosophy on mentoring graduate students is multifaceted. She believes in listening to students' personal and professional goals so she can realistically help them plan a challenging, yet realistic program of study. Dr. Bahr emphasizes that "this environment should foster intellectual growth, strong communication skills and technical competence" and that a mentor should provide the moral support necessary to "develop self-confidence, a positive self-image and independence".

An exemplary mentor does not only impact their students through conscious efforts, but also in setting an example in how they manage their own professional life. Dr. Bahr applies the same high standards she expects from her students to her own career. She has received numerous campus wide research awards and within her field of expertise. The SSR honored Dr. Bahr with the Distinguished Service Award in 1997. Dr. Bahr's impact also extends outside the borders of academia. She has been recognized as a woman who is a leader at her University and in her community, e.g. awards given by Girl Scouts and Exchange Club and was the first woman president of the 240 member Champaign Rotary

Club. Dr. Bahr's students over the years have respected and valued their relationship with her. She has been invited to celebrate in the joys of her students' lives including engagements, weddings and growing families. Dr. Bahr has also been called upon as a confidant during the trials and tribulations of life.

Dr. Bahr has been committed to mentoring young scientists, providing leadership to the community, and support to those she has come in contact with throughout her career. Through her actions and efforts she has positively impacted many students in the field of reproduction and enhanced their personal and professional lives. It is clear that Dr. Janice M. Bahr is a very deserving recipient of the first SSR Trainee Mentoring Award.