

John Tassoni

**Recipient of the MUM Excellence in Teaching Award for Full-Time Faculty
April 2007**

John Tassoni, recipient of the award for full-time faculty, has in innumerable ways tried to focus on what he calls “the particular demands of open-admission students and broader issues relating to access and empowerment.” The awards selection committee was particularly impressed with the breadth of his activity and the constancy of his commitment. Since joining MUM in 1994, he has taught courses in the English Department at every level from developmental education to the graduate program. At one end of this spectrum, he was the co-founder MUM’s English 101 studio program, which features small-group workshops in which students get help from other students and an experienced composition instructor on writing assignments they receive in other classes. At the other end, he designed a graduate practicum, “Teaching Multiliteracies” at Miami University,” which brought graduate students together with undergraduates on both the Oxford and Middletown campuses to enhance both groups’ understanding of the contexts and concerns in introductory writing classes. This past year he served as co-coordinator of MUM’s Center for Teaching and Learning and planned a series of a half-dozen workshops built around different aspects of access and empowerment issues, including sessions on non-traditional students, online learning, advising, universal design, the particular challenges facing black males students. As a nominator for John said, “I believe it is long overdue to celebrate a faculty member who so totally embraces and embodies the many phases of our campus mission.”