"It is my belief that Dr. Cummings exemplifies what it means to be a student mentor rather than just another content-centered faculty member," said Dr. Roger Wittie, department head and fellow professor. "He also leads by example in that he actively volunteers his time and expertise to the campus and the community."

Leslie Beck, one of Cummings’ graduate students since 2004, explained how he provides the best college experience for each of his students. "Dr. Cummings is not only my teacher and my mentor; he is my friend," she said. "The knowledge he has provided both inside the classroom and out has helped me face the future outside of Tarleton State University with confidence and excitement."

Cummings serves on the faculty senate, faculty development committee, curriculum edit review committee and several search committees. Outside of the classroom, he’s played on a student softball team; taken students to Turfgrass Field Days in Dallas, College Station and Bell County Research Stations; organized trips to the Byron Nelson Golf Tournament; and holds a campfire at the end of the semester to honor graduating seniors.

Information and photo courtesy of the Texan Express
On Thursday, April 16, President Dr. Dottavio stopped by Beaty’s classroom to present her with the award. “I was completely surprised when Dr. Dottavio walked into my classroom. I actually thought he had come to observe the class. My students were very excited to see him personally give me the award,” said Beaty.

Beaty, an instructor in the English department, has been at Tarleton for 24 years.

The Jack & Louise Arthur Faculty Award was established in 1983 under the title “Distinguished Service Award” to recognize effective and dedicated teachers. It was renamed in 1989 to honor the Arthurs. To be eligible for the award, the nominee must have served at Tarleton for at least five years with a full-time faculty appointment.

After graduating from nearby Lipan High School, Beaty attended Tarleton for two years before going on to receive her bachelor’s degree from Utah State University and her master’s degree from Sul Ross State University in 1982.

Beaty has earned high ratings during student evaluations and has been nominated for many honors including the O.A. Grant Teaching Award, the Mary Jones Advisor of the Year Award and the Barry B. Thompson Service Award. “Tarleton has given me the opportunity to pursue my teaching goals,” Beaty said. “I look forward to the growth and excellence of Tarleton in the coming year.

Information and photo courtesy of the Texan Express.
To non-mathematicians, Winton’s research is complex. In math, research involves proving theorems no one else has proved. Winton says he is primarily interested in theoretical mathematics. His two most active research areas are continuum theory and cryptology, which is the mathematical science of creating and breaking codes.

“Richard Winton is a very motivated researcher,” said Dr. Jim Kirby, fellow mathematics professor. “Richard has had three publications this year. In mathematics, this is a tremendous accomplishment. He has published in some journals where others have not. This puts Tarleton’s name in places where it would not otherwise be.”

“The real reward for my research is the honor of being on the faculty of Tarleton State University and the privilege of enjoying a career in which I get to work on such interesting problems,” Winton said. “Receiving the award is, to me, a nice way of giving something back to the department and the university that have given me so much.”

Dr. Richard Winton was shocked to see President F. Dominic Dottavio walk into his Wednesday morning freshman-level trigonometry class. Dr. Dottavio presented Winton, a mathematics professor, with the Faculty Excellence in Scholarship Award for his research in the fields of abstract algebra, topology, continua theory and cryptology.
Nancy Gaither has worked in the Student Health Center for over eleven years. She has been the nurse for freshman Duck Camp since its first session and has served on many committees including the John Tarleton Walk and Safe Spring Break. Off campus, she volunteers at her church and in a children’s home-school program, as well as coaching Stephenville’s swim team. A co-worker says, “Nancy is quite simply an invaluable team member at the student health center.”

The Staff Council Employee of the Year Banquet was held on September 18, 2009.

President Dottavio said that, since arriving on campus in August, he has been impressed by Tarleton staff members’ energy and dedication to the university. Staff support faculty so they can concentrate on teaching and keep the campus and facilities in showcase condition to demonstrate Tarleton pride.

Employees of the month (l to r): Barbara McCoy, Tom Robinson, Glenda Stone, Jamie Trusner, Nancy Gaither, Fran Teten, James Wilson, Lisa Stroebel, Tracy Hoffman, Angie Nimmo and Kay Wiley
The John Tarleton Spirit Awards were first awarded in 1988 and have become the most highly coveted student awards on campus. Nominees are judged on academic standing and campus leadership. Nominated students also must be involved in student organizations or other extracurricular activities that benefit and improve campus life. Those selected for the honor receive a special watch and a commemorative certificate that is a replica of the first diplomas awarded at Tarleton.

Back row (l to r): Jennifer Nsekpong (senior communications major), Keith Price (master’s degree in management and leadership), Shane Henry, (senior communications major), Justin Bell (senior agricultural communications major), Cody Faldyn (senior marketing major), Alycia Pruitt (junior English major)

Front row (l to r): Kristen Buzbee (junior human resource management major), Lauren Wrzesinski (junior history major), Allissa Russell (senior interdisciplinary studies major), Courtney Wagley (junior marketing major), Heather Ingle (senior biology major), Taylore Leas (senior art major)