

Cambridge Rindge and Latin Teachers Honored



CRLS grads chose (L to R) Jon Baring-Gould, Amanda Hughes, Ned Flaherty, and Susie Van Blaricum to be honored with Faculty Distinction Awards, which are sponsored by Friends of CRLS.
(Photo by Larry Aaronson)

Four beloved and admired teachers at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) were honored with Faculty Distinction Awards at the June 5, 2014 graduation ceremony. Sponsored by Friends of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (FOCRLS) and organized by Assistant Principal Bobby Tynes, Faculty Distinction Awards are presented each year to the four teachers or staff members chosen by the graduating class as those who had the most positive influence. This year's honorees brought the total to 32 faculty recognized since FOCRLS began the tradition in 2007. After Principal Damon Smith read honorees' self-submitted bios to the graduates and guests, the honorees were presented with framed certificates and letters of appreciation.

Jon Baring-Gould, Amanda Hughes, Ned Flaherty, and Susie Van Blaricum were selected for their abilities to teach, inspire, and encourage students.

Jon Baring-Gould, beginning his 20th year as a ceramics instructor at CRLS, joined the faculty of his high school alma mater after receiving a Master of Art Education from MassArt. He credits his CRLS teachers for a lesson he instills in his students: believe you can succeed and flourish.

Amanda Hughes holds a Master of Education from Lesley and is working on a Master of American Literature from Harvard. Since 2009, she has taught American literature at CRLS and encourages students to use literature to develop empathy, challenge their thinking, and maintain joy.

Ned Flaherty, who has taught history at CRLS since 1997, holds a Master of Teaching from Northeastern. Outside of school, he is a builder and loves both of his jobs.

Susie Van Blaricum holds two Masters' Degrees from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She has taught history and psychology in her eight years at CRLS, where she is also a dedicated advisor of the Club 4 students who volunteer twice weekly at the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter.

In addition to sponsoring Faculty Distinction Awards and similar honors for students called "Unsung Heroes," FOCRLS, a 501(c)3 non-profit association, awards Faculty Innovation Grants, Student Travel Fellowships, and college scholarships. FOCRLS also offers the "It Take a Village" College Success Program. To learn more, become a volunteer or mentor, or donate, visit focrls.org.