Rachel McCulloch, the Rosen Family Professor Emerita of International Finance in the Department of Economics and International Business School at Brandeis University, is the recipient of the 2013 Carolyn Shaw Bell Award. The Bell Award is given annually to an individual who has furthered the status of women in the economics profession.

Professor McCulloch will formally accept the Award at the Business Meeting and Luncheon of the American Economic Association (AEA) Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP), held during the 2014 AEA Meetings in Philadelphia, PA. The event is scheduled for 12:30-2:15PM on January 3, 2014 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown.

Over a 40-year career, Professor McCulloch distinguished herself as a leader in international trade and economic policy. Using a deep understanding of theory, coupled with a rare understanding of both the relevant economic history and complex institutional and legal arrangements, she weighed in on virtually all of the major trade debates of her time – from an early demonstration of the equivalence of tariffs and quotas (and that, depending on the purpose of an intervention, quotas might be the preferred intervention), to recent contributions on the relationships of trade, the landscape of global trade relations, and the environment. Over these same four decades she folded mentoring into all aspects of her scholarship, teaching, and service to the economics profession; and served as an inspiring role model for many women.

Through her mentoring of generations of students, from undergraduates to doctoral candidates, Professor McCulloch has motivated countless individuals, both male and female, to pursue distinguished careers in the discipline. Many of Dr. McCulloch’s nominators described her as “wise.” As Dr. Chad Bown, Senior Economist at the World Bank, explained: “I have never once regretted following the advice that Rachel shared with me, whereas there are many times I wish I had listened to her even more. She was the ideal mentor.”

Having served as an assistant professor at Harvard University with Dr. McCulloch from 1973-1976, Janet Yellen, the current vice chairman and the next chairman of Federal Reserve Board, names Rachel as a mentor who helped her establish her own academic career. “She took it as a given that women in the profession have the ability to succeed and should ignore potential obstacles to success,” wrote Yellen.

Dr. McCulloch received her Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago in 1973. Prior to joining the Brandeis faculty in 1987, Dr. McCulloch taught at the University of Chicago, Harvard University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has also been a visiting professor at the Bologna Center of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and the Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and a visiting scholar at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, UCLA, the Hoover Institution, and the Harvard Institute for International Development.
Dr. McCulloch has also served on many professional and governmental bodies, including the Executive Committee of the AEA, the Academic Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, the Advisory Committee of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, the Technology Assessment Advisory Council of the U.S. Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, the President's Commission on Industrial Competitiveness, and the Committee on International Relations Studies with the People’s Republic of China. She has also been a consultant to the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank. At Brandeis, she was director of the Ph.D. program in the International Business School and chair of the Department of Economics.

More details on Dr. McCulloch’s career can be found in an article she authored for the Winter 2001 CSWEP Newsletter titled, “A Career Built on Serendipity: Forty Year of Zigs and Zags.”

Named after the first Chair of CSWEP, the Carolyn Shaw Bell Award was created in January 1998 as part of the 25th Anniversary celebration of the founding of the CSWEP and is given annually to an individual who has furthered the status of women in the economics profession through example, achievements, increasing our understanding of how women can advance in the economics profession, and mentoring others. The Award is determined by a Committee established by CSWEP, but separate from the CSWEP Board; and typically including at least one past recipient of the Award.

Prior to her death in 2006, Bell was the Katharine Coman Chair Professor Emerita of Wellesley College. As she articulated in CSWEP’s 25th Anniversary Newsletter:

“*We need every day to herald some woman’s achievements, to tout a woman’s book or painting or scholarly article, to brag about a promotion or prize and to show admiration for the efforts and influence of women, in their professional and technical and social and human endeavors of all kinds.*”

In the spirit of these words, the award requires that a traveling plaque listing all prior Bell Award Winners be displayed prominently in a public place in the winner’s local area.


CSWEP is a subcommittee of the AEA charged with addressing the status of women in the economics profession. It directs mentoring activities for women at the beginning of their careers, organizes sessions at the annual meetings of the AEA and the regional economics associations, publishes a thrice yearly newsletter, monitors the progress of women within the profession, and reports annually to the AEA on the status of women in economics. CSWEP associates are women and men in the diverse areas of the profession – in academe, government and business.

For further information, please contact: Marjorie McElroy, Chair of CSWEP (cswep@econ.duke.edu ) or visit CSWEP’s website (www.cswep.org ).