

Dr. Price receives Atherton Award

(PSU-UR)

Dr. R. Alan Price, associate professor of English at the Penn State Hazleton Campus, is one of five Penn State faculty members who received the prestigious George W. Atherton Award for Excellence in Teaching at ceremonies held April 7 at University Park.

Established in 1989, the Atherton Award honors excellence in teaching performance at the undergraduate level.

This is the latest in a series of awards that have been bestowed upon Dr. Price in his distinguished career with Penn State. Since joining Penn State in 1966, he was twice named Teacher of the Year by the Penn State Hazleton Campus student body.

In 1984, he was chosen by Penn State to represent the University in a series of four Master Seminars in teaching held at Buchnell University. In March of this year, Dr. Price was one of two Penn State professors to attend the Summer Academy for the Advancement of College Teaching. This week-long program, sponsored by the State System of Higher Education and the Faculty Professional Development Council, is dedicated to the enhancement of teaching at all levels.

Price's expertise and research are in the fields of American literature and social history during the first quarter of the 20th century, and especially the literature produced by American women authors writing during World War I.

He has done extensive research into the papers and writings of American authors Edith Wharton and Dorothy Canfield Fisher, and their work with the American Relief Fund in France during World War I. Dr. Price was able to pursue that research in the rare books collections of the libraries at Yale, Princeton and Col-

umbia universities, as well as in France, at Nanterre University. That research was funded in part by Penn State as well as through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

His research and articles have appeared in numerous publications and been presented at academic organizations, including the Modern Language Association, the Speech Communication Association, and the American Studies Association.

In June 1991, Price will convene an international round-table at the International Literary Conference in Paris, exploring the works of Edith Wharton. The roundtable will include scholars from the U.S., Japan, Italy and France, who will discuss her writings and how they influenced the literature of those various countries. Dr. Price is taking the lead in putting together a book of essays that will be produced as a result of the conference; the Oxford University Press is expected to publish the work.

Immediately prior to the International Literary Conference, Price will visit the Harvard University's Center for Renaissance Studies in Florence, Italy, reading the more than 600 letters exchanged between art historian, Bernard Berenson, and Edith Wharton during World War I.

Dr. Price will also produce a piece entitled "Edith Wharton at War With the American Red Cross," that will discuss how a number of women's organizations were taken over by the federal government during World War I, often with less than satisfactory

results.

He is writing a chapter in a book being produced by a Penn State Hazleton Campus colleague, Dr. Michael Santulli. Dr. Santulli's book, "Kaleidoscope," will be an introduction to a number of art forms—jazz, art, literature. Dr. Price's contribution to this book will be a chapter on major literary forms and terms.

His research and activities during 1991 are, he hopes, a prelude to the research that he hopes to undertake during a sabbatical in 1992-93, when his research will take him to universities here and abroad to continue study into the literature produced by American women during the early 20th century.

Price is also an active participant in various campus committees. He has been secretary of the Faculty General Assembly, and currently serves on the Campus Faculty Lecture Series, Tenure and Promotion, and Campus Scholars Committees; in the past, he chaired the Sabbatical Leave Committee for the Penn State Commonwealth Educational System. In addition to his regular teaching assignments, he also teaches a class in advanced writing.

Price holds degrees in English from Earlham College in Indiana and Penn State; his Ph.D. in English was earned at the University of Rochester.

When speaking of Dr. Price and his teaching style that earned him the Atherton Award, a colleague observes, "Dr. Price is always well organized, interesting and informative. In lecture, he successfully intersperses personal anecdotes with professional scholarship, so that students identify with the topic. In discussion, he is adept at turning negative statements into positive take-off points."

Price says of his teaching philosophy that "if the teaching of essential writing and thinking skills has gone well, then those skills should feel so natural to the students that they cannot remember being without them."