

2004 SHAKLEE TEACHER AND PROGRAM AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The 2004 winners of the prestigious Shaklee Award were honored at the annual board recognition dinner Monday, June 28, at the Wichita Marriott Hotel.

The 2004 Shaklee Teacher Award recipients are:

- Debra Scilacci — Lovelock, NV
- Susan Dagenais-Lewis and Linda Nawrot — West Hartford, CT
- Sheila Barber — Ruston, LA
- Alisia Carey — Lexington, SC
- Karlene Murray — West Warwick, RI
- Diane Schlauch — Bristol, TN
- Gretchen Cole-Lade — Enid, OK

The Shaklee Award recognizes up to ten of the most outstanding teachers and programs serving children with special needs in the United States and other countries worldwide. The selection is based on student outcomes, uniqueness and related contributions to the field and subjected to peer-review. The honorees were presented with a bronze sculpture designed by Donna Cooper and a check for \$1,000.

The 2004 Shaklee Program Award recipients are:

- Xingxingyu (Stars and Rain) Education Institute for Autistic Children in Beijing, China
- The Association for Stimulating the Healthy Development of Children and Youth in Slavonski Brod, Croatia.

Xingxingyu lies on the outskirts of Beijing and was founded by Tian Huiping in 1993 after her son was diagnosed with severe autism. At that time, children with autism and their families had no resources in China to turn to for help with treating and educating these children. After searching for help and struggling financially to stay open, they have now served over 500 families of children with autism from all across China. Director Tian and her staff at the Stars and Rain Institute were recognized and awarded the first Shaklee Program Award at the



Tian Huiping receives the Shaklee Program Award for her Stars and Rain organization in China.



L-R: Ljiljana Platovic, Tomislav Goll, Zeljka Vucinic

China-US Conference on Educating Children with Special Needs held in Beijing, China.

The Association for Stimulating the Healthy Development of Children and Youth in Slavonski Brod, Croatia began in June of 2000 as a volunteer association. According to the president and founder, Zeljka Vucinic, it was founded primarily because of difficult economic conditions in Croatia. Institutional care was struggling to serve families and youth, particularly those with special needs. The Association is open to disabled children and youth, as well as a host of professionals. Vucinic reports that there are many others who would like to join the Association, but due to lack of financial support, they are unable to include more members. President Vucinic and two colleagues traveled to Wichita for a two-week opportunity to share and learn with professionals serving children and adults in Kansas.

The 2004 Shaklee Awards winners and



Shaklee Award winners with M. Douglas Walton.

members of Shaklee alumni from previous years participated in the annual Shaklee Institute Summer Session. The four-day long program was held on the Heartspring campus and provided a unique professional development opportunity for the group to network and share their successes and struggles. This year's session also featured a one-day workshop with former Institute of Logopedics/Heartspring student M. Douglas Walton. Mr. Walton is an internationally-known water media artist who leads watercolor encounters to connect people to their genius of expression.



Verlene Warner and Teri Hubbard — 25 Year Employees (Mary Walker — not pictured)

A total of 70 teachers and programs serving children with disabilities have now been inducted into the Shaklee Institute. This group provides members with a dynamic network of support and encouragement to finding ways to improve the lives of children with special needs across the nation and now, internationally as well. ■