

Hood faculty members honored by CASE

Dr. Purnima Bhatt, associate professor of history, anthropology, and interdisciplinary studies, and Dr. Gerald D. McKnight, professor of history and chair of the department of history and political science at Hood College, were recently honored as nominees for the Professor of the Year program sponsored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

In making the presentation to Dr. McKnight, Dr. Martha E. Church, president of Hood College, noted, "Since coming to Hood 18 years ago, Dr. McKnight's dedication to the study of American history has been displayed on a daily basis ... in the classroom among students where he shares his excitement about the significance of history. While at Hood, Dr. McKnight has developed five new courses: The U.S. in Vietnam, U.S. Economic History, Coming Apart: America in the Sixties, Nuclear Weapons and Democratic Choices, and the Politics of Assassination.

Concerning Dr. McKnight's efforts to get the government to declassify documents surrounding the assassinations of Robert Kennedy, President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Dr. Church explained, "His efforts ... are an example of his commitment to expose his students to primary source material."

A graduate of Pennsylvania State University, Dr. McKnight earned his doctoral Ph.D. at the University of Maryland. His teaching background spans four decades, including 20 years teaching at the college level. In the fall of 1989, Dr. McKnight was granted a sabbatical leave to complete a manu-



Dr. Purnima Bhatt, upper right, and Dr. Gerald McKnight, at far right, received recognition from Dr. Martha Church as nominees for Professor of the Year.

script dealing with the federal government's intrusions into the civil rights movement in the 1960s, with specific focus on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's involvement in the Dr. Martin Luther King inspired Poor People's Campaign of 1968.

In honoring Dr. Bhatt, Dr. Church noted, "She is one of Hood's finest examples of a teacher who makes an

impact on the minds and lives of her students. A daughter of one of India's prominent university presidents, her ability to move comfortably in both the U.S. and Indian cultures offers a tremendous insight to her students."

This past year Dr. Bhatt was awarded a year-long Beneficial-Hodson Faculty Fellowship to continue her research project on historical and contemporary

roles of women in Asia. Dr. Bhatt is also completing a book on Indian feminist and social activist Sharada Behn Mehta, her grandmother, an ally of Gandhi and the founder of the first women's college in India.

A graduate of Delhi University, Dr. Bhatt did graduate work at Harvard University and earned her Ph.D. at Howard University.

