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—Texan Staff Photo by Carol Jean Simmons

Trimble, Vick, Vrooman, Bentley, and Shivers (l-r) at award ceremony.

Teaching Awards Honor Four Shivers Lauds Bentley, Trimble, Vick, Vrooman

Four University faculty members, selected from a field of more than 100 of their academic peers, were honored with Student Government Teaching Excellence awards at a Monday night ceremony in the LBJ Library.

The quartet chosen to receive the first of the annual awards includes: Bernard Bentley, teaching assistant in Spanish and Portuguese; John Trimble, assistant professor of English; James Vick, associate professor of mathematics; and John Vrooman, assistant instructor in economics.

Regent Chairman Allan Shivers, who presented the four walnut plaques, called the recognition "something that has been needed for a long time."

"These awards are a delightful approach to the recognition of outstanding faculty by students," Shivers

said. "Both myself and the Board of Regents feel this type of honor is needed on a much broader scale."

Shivers termed the awards presentation "most worthwhile and, I feel, a momentous occasion."

Former Student Government Vice-President Bill Parrish said the honorees "made a concerted effort towards quality teaching" and termed teaching excellence "one of the top concerns of students."

Trimble said his job, as he saw it, "is not just to pass along my own knowledge and enthusiasm, but to create a climate in which students will

feel free to teach me, also."

Bentley said his teaching approach "tries to simplify what the book complicates."

"Everything in Spanish fits in a logical pattern, and this is how I try to teach my students," he added.

Vrooman said the American educational system makes students submissive instead of probing and called the awards an effort to turn the academic emphasis from research to classroom teaching.

Vick would like to see personal contact re-established with students, despite the hindrance large classes often pose.