2011 DAVID I. UNDERWOOD AWARD WINNER – JOE WORTH
By Jessica Penland of The Forum, May 2, 2011

Dr. Joseph Worth was announced as the 2011 recipient of the David L. Underwood Memorial Lecture Award on April 14. Underwood was a dedicated Florissant Valley educator, who believed in helping students and staff alike in order to continue the growth of education. He passed away in 1975, but his legacy lives on through those educators who keep Underwood’s dream alive.

Recipients of the award must currently be employed at Florissant Valley, they must strive for academic excellence, they have to show concern and make efforts to help people at the school and they must go above and beyond what is expected of them.

The award committee members agree that worth meets all of these requirements. Worth is the department chair of the counseling department, a position that he has held since 2002. Although, he has worked on the campus since 1995.

Before then he counseled youth who had been abused or committed crimes. He explained that the experiences he had in his career before he came to Florissant Valley has helped him to do his job on campus.

Those experiences taught him to be empathetic and understanding when a student lashes out at you because as their counselor you cannot retaliate. You have to remain calm. He said that now when a student comes to him with a problem like trouble in classes, he doesn’t think the problem is because they are incompetent. He sees it that something is getting in their way and blocking them from achieving full potential.

Worth credits his success partly to those experiences, but he said that he would not have been able to be successful without the help of the people around him.

Worth values team work greatly. In fact he believes that what made him a qualified recipient is his willingness to work with others and an interest in collaboration, even with people from different fields of interest in order to further a students’ success.

He feels humbled to have won because to him the award is symbolic of FV. “It takes a community to do what an Underwood recipient does. It is an achievement of the college,” Worth said.
The David L. Underwood Memorial Presentation

This year’s presentation will be conducted by Joseph Worth, Ph.D. the 2011 Underwood Memorial Award Recipient. Dr. Worth will present “The Smartest Organisms on Earth” in the Terry M. Fischer Theatre. The presentation begins at 9:30 am on Wednesday, August 17, 2011 with a reception in the Theatre Lobby at 9:00 am.