2018 Recipient of the Distinguished Adjunct Faculty Teaching Award

Dr. Laurie A. Lattimore-Volkmann

The College of Charleston’s Distinguished Adjunct Faculty Teaching Award was established in 2014 and honors those adjunct faculty members who are outstanding among the College’s many exceptional teachers. This year’s award recipient is Dr. Laurie Lattimore-Volkmann from the Department of Communication.

Laurie has been teaching in the Department of Communication since 2011, but for the past five years, she has been primarily teaching a 300-level writing course that focuses on journalism and strategic communication. With her background in journalism and her continued work as a freelance journalist, “Doc LV” (as the students call her) brings real-life experience into the classroom on a daily basis. She clearly has a passion for her work. Students face a challenging workload in her class, but they appreciate that meeting these challenges will make them stronger candidates for jobs as they enter the workforce. She tells her students that “Loving to write’ doesn’t make you a good writer ... yet.” And “Before you can be a good writer/speaker/reporter/producer, you must be a good critical thinker.”

Laurie’s students often come to her course with interest in the fields of journalism and strategic communication and, in her words, “usually a penchant for writing – but have little experience with the type of writing and communicating they will actually be doing on the job.” She aims to introduce them to the most common types of media communication and head them down the path of writing well in those styles. While most of her students have mastered other types of writing and present some resistance to this transition, her course-instructor ratings are consistently well above departmental means, with particularly high scores for the question about being an effective teacher.

As Laurie says, “I thrive on this resistance [from students]. Because now I have something new to teach and can show a different perspective on thinking about and communicating information.” In short, Dr. Laurie Lattimore-Volkmann is an incredible instructor who brings her real world experience into the classroom and clearly shares her passion for writing with her students.

We are pleased to recognize Dr. Laurie Lattimore-Volkmann with the 2018 Distinguished Adjunct Faculty Teaching Award.