



2017 Recipient of the William V. Moore Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Award

Courtney J. Murren

The College of Charleston's William V. Moore Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Award honors faculty members who have been selected by their peers as exemplifying the teacher-scholar model. The recipients' exemplary scholarship and exemplary teaching have enriched the intellectual lives of our students throughout their careers. We are pleased to recognize Dr. Courtney Murren from the Department of Biology with the 2017 award.

In the world of competitive grants, research is sometimes valued in raw dollars: Courtney is either the primary investigator or the Co-PI on four concurrent National Science Foundation grants totaling more than 2.3 million dollars. Under her co-leadership, a National Evolutionary Synthesis Center Working group of fifteen scientists—grad students, post docs, and faculty—is studying cryptic genetic variation and adaption to novel environments. Under a National Science Foundation Bio-Oceans grant, Courtney is investigating whether adaption facilitated the widespread invasion of red seaweed. Another NSF grant is helping undergraduates determine how organisms that are so seemingly similar live in wildly different habits; understand the genetic basis of these ecological differences; and answer why some species have so many genes. This research, headed by the College of Charleston, stretches across fifteen universities.

Courtney's programs of study involve students in critical ways. Fifteen different students co-authored eight (more than half) of her most recent, peer-reviewed articles. And in her *Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CURES)*, sophomores generate new knowledge in cutting-edge research projects. Courtney has mentored more than 30 undergraduates in the last five years, and has served 13 masters students. She is a scholar of national prominence who highly values her role in the intellectual development of her students.

Courtney personifies the teacher-scholar model. We are humbled and inspired by her example. It is an honor to name Dr. Courtney Murren as the 2017 William V. Moore Distinguished Teacher-Scholar.

