2018 Recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award

Dr. William M. Russell

The College of Charleston’s Distinguished Teaching Award was established in 1977 and honors those faculty members who are outstanding among the College’s many exceptional teachers. We are proud to announce that this year’s award recipient is Dr. William Russell from the Department of English.

Bill's teaching has influenced hundreds of students, leaving strong impressions on English majors and non-majors alike. His unwaning enthusiasm for learning, his infectious love for and devotion to the materials he teaches, and his sincere commitment to the varied goals of the wide range of courses he delivers all make him an extraordinarily effective teacher.

Bill teaches twelve different courses, which he teaches in unpredictable rotation as needed by the undergraduate English major, the First-Year Writing program, the MA program in English, and the Honors College. Bill also regularly directs independent studies and bachelor’s essays, demonstrating that students who have experienced his classroom teaching recognize its value and seek him out for further one-on-one instruction.

Bill's course materials demonstrate the great care and attention he gives to the student experience. His syllabi are well-organized and clear, yet also convey the joy as well as the seriousness of purpose that he brings to the classroom. Bill’s reputation as an inspiring teacher with long-term effects is supported by classroom observations and student Course-Instructor Evaluations, with students frequently referring to him as the best professor they have had.

Bill's investment in innovation is evident in his commitment to serving the specific needs of veteran students. Bill has co-developed a community reading group of veterans from the College of Charleston, the Citadel, and Trident Tech. This group, Bridging Between, brought together veterans and adult family members to talk about the common experience of deploying as one person, and returning from deployment as another. This year, Bill worked closely with the Veteran and Military Student Services to propose sections of First-Year Writing (ENGL 110) developed specifically for veteran students. He is scheduled to teach the first two sections of veterans’ ENGL 110 in Fall 2018.

We are pleased to recognize Dr. William Russell with the College’s 2018 Distinguished Teaching Award.