



2017 Recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award

Allan Strand

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. Allan Strand from the Department of Biology.

Allan's teaching includes a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in biology, and he has developed both major and non-major special topics courses in the Natural History of Spain, taught at the College's Trujillo site. The bulk of Allan's classroom teaching consists of quantitatively challenging required courses, including sophomore-level genetics and graduate biometry, taken by students who would quite frankly rather be elsewhere. Instead of surrendering to students' perceptions of the material as dense and dull, and instead of lowering expectations, Allan uses a warm, cheerful, easy-going style to coach his students in their efforts to master the material.

Allan also engages in a daunting amount of "off the books" teaching. He has served as a committee member for more than 60 graduate students, and his teaching also extends to anyone who has previously taken one of his courses with student frequently dropping by his office with questions about projects or career plans.

Allan is a faculty member who represents the complementary nature of teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate level. His humor and attitude towards teaching are exemplified by the following quote, "The best part of receiving [this] award... was the fact that preparing a portfolio reminded me of the hundreds of interactions, some hilarious, some heartbreaking, I have had with students at all levels at the college."

We are pleased to recognize Dr. Allan Strand with the college's 2017 Distinguished Teaching Award.