



2019 Recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award

Ms. Deborah A. Bidwell

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 Ms. Deborah Bidwell from the Department of Biology.

Deb embraces a wide range of instructional formats: she has taught both on campus and abroad, with honors students, majors and non-majors, first-year students and seniors, in both small or large groups. Her top priority always is to facilitate a reconnection to nature, to emphasize core concepts, and to explore interdisciplinary connections.

Deb has taught a Natural History course on the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) and has co-authored a pedagogical paper based on her experience on a study abroad program in Spain. In addition, she has developed a First-Year Experience seminar course entitled "Biomimicry: Nature as a Mentor," which was later expended into a new interdisciplinary upper-division course. Deb is a strong advocate for the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) on Sustainability Literacy and has modified several of her courses to improve sustainability literacy across campus. This broad range of courses speaks to Deb's passion for educating undergraduate students both at home and internationally.

Deb uses a wide variety of strategies to convey knowledge, from the "think, pair, share" technique in face-to-face classes to VoiceThread, an interactive teaching and learning technique that allows students in online classes to collaborate asynchronously.

Deb's teaching evaluations are exemplary across the board. Students describe her as enthusiastic, dynamic, approachable and knowledgeable. They call Deb's courses transformational, and they claim that Deb has instilled in them a "love of biology."

We are pleased to recognize Ms. Deborah Bidwell with the College's 2019 Distinguished Teaching Award.

