

Mitchell W. Colgan
Geology

2012 Distinguished Service Award



The nomination for this year's recipient of the Distinguished Service Award praised the wide range of contributions that he has made to students, colleagues, and the College as a whole. In describing our recipient, Dr. Mitchell Colgan's, service as a department chair, his colleagues stressed the many ways in which he has contributed more than was required, noting his generosity in the time and effort he contributes to a summer remote-site field course and his significant support of the new Natural History Museum that has had over 10,000 visitors since its April 2010 opening. A former Provost also recalled the important role that Mitch played in the mid-90s when the College was developing policies for the accommodation of students with learning disabilities. At a time when many of his colleagues were unfamiliar with such accommodations, Mitch contributed to the faculty's improved understanding of how the College can help a wider range of students reach higher levels of academic excellence.

Mitch has also distinguished himself in representing the College to state and national audiences, playing a key role in the development of our Master's in Environmental Studies, writing the proposal, persuading other institutions in the area to support it, and working closely with members of the Commission on Higher Education to convince them to approve the program; leading efforts to obtain grants from NASA that have contributed over 10 million dollars to the construction of our new science building; and serving as a founding director of the South Carolina Space Grant program, which moved from Clemson to the College of Charleston under his leadership. We are pleased to recognize Mitch for these contributions with the College's Distinguished Service Award.