



2019 Recipient of the William V. Moore Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Award Dr. Michael L. Larsen

The William V. Moore Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Award, established in 2001, honors faculty members 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. Michael Larsen from the Department of Physics and Astronomy with the 2019 award.

Michael's area of expertise in atmospheric microphysics has led to research-driven studies in the microphysical properties and processes of atmospheric particulates, such as cloud and rain droplets. His research on rain droplets has led to cutting edge discoveries and was recently published in *Physical Review Letters*, the top physics journal in the world. Through this exciting research program, Michael has consistently involved students at every level, treating them like collaborators. Five of his former undergraduate mentees have gone on to earn their PhDs, and of the 34 CofC alumni that have worked in his lab, at least 22 have gone on to graduate school.

While at the College, Michael has published 16 articles in highly reputable journals, five of these with undergraduate co-authors, and has given 22 national and international conference presentations, 15 with undergraduates. He has received almost 1 million dollars in grant funding. He has mentored 27 undergraduate students who have gone on to give over 50 presentations at conferences and have earned 25 student honors and awards, including a NSF fellowship.

Michael has taught for both the First-Year Experience program and Honors program. He actively teaches a full range of courses in his department, including a few he designed himself. He teaches students in courses ranging from freshmen level, for both majors and non-majors, to students in advanced level courses. He emphasizes "empathy" – the need to not only relate to his students as human beings with lives outside his classroom, but to adapt, adjust, and accommodate his instructional style and content as needed, going "off script" when necessary to insure a depth of understanding and engagement. Beyond the classroom, he has served as the advisor of the CofC Society of Physics Club for six years and has been active in his department's outreach (e.g., serving as science fair judge, etc.) in the local Charleston community.

Michael's research has been featured by a number of media outlets, such as *Science News*, *Science Magazine*, and *Science News for Students*. This range of outlets demonstrates his work is not only being disseminated to an adult public audience, but also to a young audience of budding future scientists!

In short, Michael personifies the teacher-scholar model that we value here at the College of Charleston. Therefore, it is an honor to name Dr. Michael Larsen as the 2019 recipient of the William V. Moore Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Award.

