



The Distinguished Teaching Award

The Distinguished Teaching Award is given to a faculty member at the University of Mount Union who has engaged their students in innovative, rigorous, and responsive classes. Across campus, this year's winner is known as an upbeat professor. Some would even say he's a pretty funny guy. His department chair said that such an award is overdue for Dr. Kevin Meyer, particularly because he has engaged students in positive and creative ways for the past eleven years. Two examples of excellent teaching were cited in Dr. Knepp's nomination. One is a final course project in Dr. Meyer's Psychology of Humor class, in which students perform stand-up comedy for a live audience and then vote for the best performances and debrief how humor can affect people. One student commented, "I hated every moment leading up to it but once it happened, I really enjoyed it. I have already used that skill again."

The other class innovation, which was featured on ABC's Nightline, is Dr. Meyer's creation, the Face Your Fear Project, in which students learn how to conquer their fears of riding roller coasters during his Abnormal Psychology class, which includes a class trip to Cedar Point. Students consistently report that Dr. Meyer is a stand-up professor, saying things like, "That project made me learn very useful things that I may be able to do in my profession. It's not just a project to do something fun, but it is something that I was able to learn valuable information from." Dr. Meyer represents the best that Mount Union professors are.

Students also benefit from Dr. Meyer's First Year Seminar, called Demons and Diagnoses, his sections of Introduction to the Psychological Sciences, and his work with senior research projects. In all these classes, Dr. Meyer is known for making class interesting and meaningful. Additionally, he is well-regarded by students for his respect of everyone's ideas and beliefs. One student comment summarizes Dr. Meyer's approach to life and teaching well. This student said, "This sounds kind of disrespectful, but I mean it in the best possible way. The man is a walking psychology cartoon. He is extremely engaging. Probably the best lecturer I've had in my 3.5 years here. I feel as though I actually learn things every day."

Congratulations, Kevin!