



# Teaching AT MONTEVALLO

*Thoughts on teaching*

FROM THE 2010-2011 RECIPIENTS OF  
UM'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS TEACHING AWARDS

**CASE PROFESSOR  
OF THE YEAR  
AWARD NOMINEE**



*Joseph Landers*

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC**

I am extremely honored to be selected as the CASE Professor of the Year nominee. To be nominated for such a prestigious honor is a great thrill in itself – but to have been selected from the outstanding faculty that we have at UM is something that I will always cherish. What makes our faculty so special, and our institution so unique, is the dynamic nature of teaching and learning that can be found all over the campus. At UM we bring our passion for the subject, our intellectual curiosity, and our commitment to excellence directly to the classroom – and this singular focus on student learning gives our expertise a more compelling importance.

As the cliché tells us, the only constant is change. During my years on the faculty, I've taught hundreds of students, each one of them unique in background and perspective; but what has been constant is their enthusiasm for learning. Teaching at Montevallo is exhausting, exhilarating, fulfilling, and absolutely unforgettable. Walking on campus every day, I'm thankful for the opportunity to teach here. I'm grateful for my students, my colleagues, and for an administration that is committed to the mission of the University.

As a scholar, I'm humbled by what I don't know – but I'm also thankful for what I learn from my students. Perhaps the most important lesson that my students have taught me is that lifelong learners are made each day, every day – therefore, make every day count.

## 2010-2011 TEACHING AWARD RECIPIENTS:

CASE PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR  
AWARD NOMINEE .....Joseph Landers

THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES  
TEACHING AWARD..... Stacey Ayotte

THE COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS  
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD  
.....Tammy Killian

THE ERNEST OUTSTANDING TEACHING  
AWARD .....Jane Kirkpatrick

THE GRADUATE TEACHING AWARD  
.....Clark Hultquist

THE OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO  
TEACHING AWARD.....Clark Hultquist



THE COLLEGE OF ARTS  
& SCIENCES TEACHING AWARD

*Stacey Ayotte*

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF FRENCH

Teaching at the University of Montevallo has been a rewarding, creative, and challenging experience. When I arrived here in 2005, I knew that I had found my niche, my place in the profession. My colleagues in English and Foreign Languages set the bar high, and I believe that my teaching has improved because of the high standard of educational excellence that is expected at UM.

As the sole full-time professor of French, I expect my teaching to be ‘fresh’ and ‘different’ each semester. I am pushed to try new techniques and am motivated to embrace new technological trends in foreign language teaching. Teaching at UM has allowed me to stretch myself in ways I never expected and has pushed me to become a better educator, never accepting the status quo, but always trying new, creative techniques and adding variety into my classroom teaching styles.

Finally, teaching at UM has provided me with the best opportunity of all: teaching French in Avignon, France to UM students. The study abroad experience represents the culmination of all my hard work and preparation in becoming a foreign language professor. Having the opportunity to develop a study abroad program, being given the freedom to choose an individualized itinerary, and having total administrative support—all of these facets have made teaching at UM a truly wonderful experience.



THE COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS  
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD

*Tammy Killian*

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF THEATRE

I thank God each day that I found the University of Montevallo in the fall of 2007 or, perhaps, we found each other. Since that fall, I’ve immensely enjoyed teaching at UM, sharing the passion I have for theatre and life with students who are open to receive it.

Early in my training, I learned many life lessons which included how to be a good person, a good community member and a good teacher. I feel fortunate that my work allows me to teach those same lessons; I am not teaching just acting or directing in class but teaching the whole artist, the whole person.

I taught theatre at other universities prior to being employed at UM and, at each of those other schools, there were times when I felt that teaching was a job or even a chore. At UM, I never feel that way because the students at UM are hungry for knowledge, engaged in learning, dedicated to art and interested in developing as human beings. This attitude inspires me! Now when I teach, I’m filled with energy, I’m witty, and I’m knowledgeable because I’m prepared and passionate about my art—and I am dedicated to sharing myself with the students here at UM.



THE ERNEST OUTSTANDING  
TEACHING AWARD

*Jane Kirkpatrick*

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF KINESIOLOGY

I believe that teaching is a calling and that it is a high calling. The call to teach requires a commitment to life-long learning and to providing the best possible education to the students. In addition, a teacher must have a passion for teaching and learning, a genuine concern for students, knowledge and skill, and patience. Teaching is all about making a difference in the lives of one’s students. It is about preparing them for success in the world of practice. I attended Judson College in Marion, Alabama for my undergraduate degree. They knew me as a person and cared about me. I will always be grateful for that personal touch from such dedicated professors.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to teach at the University of Montevallo which also provides that small, personal setting for students and which has that same commitment to excellence and to preparing students for the real world. It is a joy to work with my students and to see them grow and mature as they travel from freshman to senior status. The greatest reward of teaching for me is to see the “light bulb go on” when a student grasps a difficult concept, develops a new skill, gains insight, becomes more confident as he/she teaches a lesson, and matures personally. I am grateful for the support of such dedicated colleagues and administrators at the University of Montevallo who empower each of us so that we can focus on making a difference in the lives of our students.



OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO TEACHING  
& THE GRADUATE TEACHING AWARDS

*Clark Hultquist*

PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

The anonymous quote “A teacher’s purpose is not to create students in his own image but to develop students who can create their own image” encapsulates my philosophy on teaching at the University of Montevallo. I have enjoyed the opportunity of instructing more than 2000 students over the last 14 years here. The benefits of this experience have been the short, medium, and long-term relationships I have developed with my students be it through the classroom, advising, Undergraduate Research, my work as department chair, or post-graduation mentoring.

The short-term benefit might include seeing a once-struggling student earn her first “A.” The medium-term gratification could be watching a student be the first in his family to graduate from college as he walks the stage on Flowerhill. The long-term satisfaction has been having a one-time student from a dozen years ago approach me, remember and pronounce my last name correctly, and thank me for making history interesting for her.

As a result, I have always been excited to be part of the narrative of our students’ lives. My goal has never been to create students who act and/or think like me but to inspire them to see the world in a different way. Students, past and present, undergraduate and graduate, I thank you all, as these teaching awards have been the most meaningful accolades ever bestowed upon me.

# ABOUT MONTEVALLO



The University of Montevallo is one of Alabama's most cherished institutions. For more than a century, it has served the state in a distinctive and distinguished role. As the state's only public liberal arts university, Montevallo is one of 26 members of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC), a national alliance of leading liberal arts colleges in the public sector. In its 2011 "America's Best Colleges" edition, *U.S. News & World Report* classified Montevallo as a Tier-One Master's-Level Institution, making it the highest-ranked public school in Alabama in that category. This recognition is not surprising considering the University's long-standing reputation for high-quality programs taught by outstanding faculty committed to excellent teaching. Students at the University of Montevallo can attest to our claim that we provide a private college atmosphere at a public university price!



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