

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Dean: Dr. Lori Vermeulen

Anthropology and Sociology: Dr. Susan Johnston, Chair

Dr. Sheldon Zink, Department of Anthropology and Sociology

-Funny, articulate, and incredibly knowledgeable – Dr. Zink is a breath of fresh air. Upon starting class, many students are a bit unsure about her, as she causes her students to consider new avenues of information and tries to impart the other perspective of South American history from an indigenous standpoint, which is often conflicting with our own. But by the end of the semester, those same students come to appreciate her gift of the “alternative” knowledge and truly respect her professionalism, integrity and passion. Dr. Zink’s greatest strength is her love for her students and her dedication to helping them grow. She takes her job of helping students succeed very seriously yet adds humor to every class, creating a positive atmosphere. I feel extremely fortunate to have encountered her as an educator and seek her input on my future endeavors. I consider her not only a professor, but a mentor. Dr. Zink is truly an asset to the WCU community.

Biology: Dr. Jack Waber, Chair

Dr. Maureen Knabb, Department of Biology

-Dr. Knabb is enthusiastic during laboratories and makes the class engaging and fun. I want to thank her for being active when helping students with Lab assignments while still helping us think critically about the subject. She demonstrates a down to earth style of teaching and makes learning the information easier and more enjoyable.

Dr. Leslie Slusher, Department of Biology

-I nominate Dr. Slusher as an outstanding Faculty Member because she is always willing to help out her students. She’s also very passionate about what she does. Despite her many passions and being busy, she is so approachable with any questions. Whether it is about the specific class or your personal questions for future classes, Slusher is understanding.

Chemistry: Dr. Blaise Frost, Chair

Dr. Melissa Cichowicz, Department of Chemistry

-What can I say? She’s funny, she’s frank, and she expects more out of her students both in lecture and in lab. She gets that chemistry is quite a difficult subject, but she wants us to dig deep, do our best, and become better. It’s a nice feeling to know that someone feels that we can become better than the day before; Hell, she expects it. I’ve never had more fun in a lab than when I had taken hers. And her stories about her time as an undergrad/grad are wonderful and lively. My gosh, she makes Chemistry come alive and it’s like a breath of fresh air.

Dr. Blaise Frost, Department of Chemistry

-A professor of biochemistry, Dr. Frost has consistently shown himself to be a strong educator, with a passion for expecting nothing but the best of his students. Dr. Frost shows an incessant desire for his students to not only know the material in his courses,

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but to *understand* it, rightfully criticizing students who merely memorize material without fully conceptualizing the science behind the theories. Through a few doses of "tough love," Dr. Frost ensures that his students fully comprehend the material he teaches and creates a precedent for the rest of his students' education to become better and more responsible learners.

-Dr. Frost is the man. He is very demanding of his students, but then again, Biochemistry is an equally demanding subject. It's refreshing to have a professor expect more from us than just reciting definitions from the text book. I can honestly say I learned from Dr. Frost. He's really funny even if it is at my expense sometimes. He's a pretty cool advisor as well, but I definitely wouldn't go to him for fashion advice. Plus, his first name is Blaise, so you know you're dealing with a super awesome person here.

Dr. Kurt Kolasinski, Department of Chemistry

-Physical Chemistry is probably the most difficult course offered at West Chester. I have never had a class that pushes my creativity, ingenuity, and intelligence as much as this discipline has. Dr. K deserves this award because he expects excellence from me both in lecture and in lab. As such, I have grown more confident in my lab techniques and in my ability to solve difficult problems, sometimes without all of the necessary information given to me. I will never be able to thank him enough for his patience in dealing with my hundreds of questions. He is truly brilliant and deserves this award ten times over. Thank you, Dr. K!

Dr. Michael Moran, Department of Chemistry

-Dr. Moran is a wonderful professor who deserves this award many times over. From what I've observed, his willingness to help and his sense of humor shine along with his obvious brilliance over this difficult subject. I have never seen him turn down a student who needs his help and he is completely understanding of the difficulties students may have with Chemistry. He is, of course, brilliant with this discipline and I've heard rumors that he can recreate the Periodic Table of Elements on any blackboard from memory. Dr. Moran is also hilarious which is so surprising because he's very forthright when first meeting him. He's a wonderful father-like figure to go to for any help.

Dr. Joel Ressler, Department of Chemistry

-Dr. Ressler exemplifies what it means to be a "good" educator through his love of his students and his subject matter. An Organic Chemistry professor, Dr. Ressler teaches Organic I and II, and his students are always listed among the top achievers on the American Chemical Society's Final Exam in Organic Chemistry, a national standardized exam for chemistry students. Beyond just his students' academic success, Dr. Ressler shows the utmost compassion for the education and general well-being of his students. There is never a time when Dr. Ressler is unwilling to sit and talk with students, whether about chemistry or other subject matter. His cheerful and sincere manner are welcoming to any and all looking for help with their studies.

-I am nominating Dr. Ressler as an outstanding faculty member because he deserves it! This man cares a great deal about not only the subject of carbon chemistry, but also the

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students he teaches. Dr. Ressler takes his time in class, heading topics, explaining them thoroughly and clarifying if there are any questions. He has legible handwriting, which is important when you have a full classroom. He always pokes fun at how he is too short to reach the top of the board. One time, a girl in the back of the classroom asked about something on the board and he took the time to respond, "Tell me what you can't see and I'll read it to you." This subject is not easy, and he knows you have to work hard to succeed. He is always welcoming to students who need extra help, and he puts himself out there to make appointments if they cannot make his office hours. This man is an inspiration. He goes the extra mile with the students, learning their names and making conversation. In class, he will crack jokes and use real life examples that can directly relate the subject back to us. He has many troubles of his own, but I never see him without a smile on his face. It is evident that Dr. Ressler loves teaching; he wants the students to understand the subject and excel. This kind and personable faculty member should be recognized for his hard work and dedication to the students here at West Chester University.

-I would recommend Dr. Ressler because he makes a real effort to get to know his students by name and recognize those that make a true effort in his class. I met him at an event last year and didn't stop hearing about what a great professor he was. Having him this and last semester really proved why he was talked about non-stop! Ressler's also all about being personal by either sharing his own anecdotes before/after class or adding practical applications to his lecture.

Dr. John Townsend, Department of Chemistry

-Dr. John Townsend is a wonderful example of academic excellence coupled with one cool dude. I have always felt comfortable asking questions in his class. He is also very empathetic to those who don't understand Chemistry, which is something I respect greatly. Dr. T also always appreciates a good Chemistry joke, no matter how lame they are. Also, his Aloha Friday t-shirts are a welcomed sight after a long week of labs and homework! He probably knows how awesome of an educator he is, but I hope he realizes that his devotion to his students is inspirational to those who want to get into the chemical education field. Keep up the good work, Dr. T!

Communication Studies: Dr. Timothy Brown, Chair

Dr. Mary Braz, Department of Communication Studies

-Dr. Braz teaches one of the few graduate courses in communication that require exam content. This course, as an undergraduate experience, would be taught strictly through lecture pulling from the primary texts; however, Dr. Braz makes the time to bring the methodologies of social research to life through real-world examples and hands-on practice of each method. By engaging students through relevant case studies, theoretical concepts become pragmatic resources for developing propositions and operationalizing constructs. In short, Dr. Braz empowers students at the graduate level to analyze and critique the information, ask effective questions of understanding and purpose, and facilitate critical discussions of appropriateness for each methodology of social research presented.

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Dr. Kevin Dean, Department of Communication Studies

-Dr. Dean is my teacher for honors 110. He is always enthusiastic in class and it is easy to tell he loves to teach. He always engages the class in discussion and tries to not lecture too much. He tries to make the course and its material as fun as it can be.

-Always energetic and focused for class, Dr. Dean uses great illustrations that really hold my attention. A three hour class can be long but he helps make the time fly by. You can tell that he really cares.

-I worried that I would feel like a number but, the way Dr. Dean runs the class, I feel encouraged to participate. The way he previews material before we read it really helps. His humor helps hold attention.

Professor Julie Pfaff, Department of Communication Studies

-Professor Pfaff's class is very engaging, and is more like a discussion than lecture. She is really nice, and easy to talk to. She prepares the class for the exams really well. Her discussion questions make us think about the concepts in real life situations. She knows the subject really well and we can tell she is enthused while teaching it.

Professor Jesse Piersol, Department of Communication Studies

-Professor Piersol deserves this award because she always has a smile on her face. She creates an open, friendly atmosphere in the classroom that allows students to feel comfortable speaking. All of Professor Piersol's examples are relatable to students' everyday life! She makes public speaking less intimidating.

English: Dr. Victoria Tischio, Chair

Professor Banner, Department of English

-I can tell that she really cares about her job. She's enthusiastic and makes sure that every student participates. She's always so well prepared and organized. She succeeds in connecting with her students.

-I think she deserves this recognition because of how her character meets her teaching style. She is passionate about her subject matter and is able to relay lessons clearly because of this. She pushes her willingness to extend on lessons in class or during office hours and engages and relates with students very well.

Dr. Randall Cream, Department of English

-Professor Cream is the most different professor I've ever had. He takes a collaborative approach to learning by using Google plus to allow students to connect and share ideas, sources, and essays. This has allowed me to expand my writing skills a lot. Also, he makes it a point to meet with his students privately so each student gets the time they need to improve.

Professor Justin Ligi, Department of English

-Professor Ligi really gets you to think outside the box. His teachings allow you to become a smarter person. Normally, writing is my least favorite class, but his class is something I look forward to. I would recommend him to any one of my friends.

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Dr. John Hanson, Department of English

-Dr. Hanson's teaching style is one of a kind. He is very personable and gets to the point of what he's teaching. Even though his teaching style is simple, it is very effective in teaching students the proper way to write. I have thoroughly enjoyed his class so far this semester and look forward to having him again as a professor in the future.

Professor Spring Ulmer, Department of English

-Professor Ulmer, or as she allows her students to call her, Spring, is an advocate for expression and release. Spring will alter any aspect of her courses to fit the needs of every individual to help them play to their strengths and feel comfortable in the classroom setting. I have had the absolute pleasure of taking two classes with Spring so far in my career, and I am working towards a minor in Creative Writing specifically to take more classes with her! Any issue that she is presented with, personal, occupational, or otherwise, Spring has the beautiful strength required to overcome. Similarly, she is open with her class about her personal life, as an invitation to students to be open and honest. Many classmates have felt able to approach Spring with any and all questions or concerns, regardless of their relevance to the course. The embodiment of soul, Spring Ulmer is the most influential professor I have encountered in my two and a half years at West Chester, and I hope to remain in close contact with her for the remainder of my life.

Dr. Kristine Ervin, Department of English

-Dr. Ervin's seminar on creative nonfiction is one of the most enjoyable and educational courses I have taken here at West Chester University. She pairs both nonfiction novels and short stories with essential articles that help her students delve into the slippery topic of truth and authenticity in the genre of creative nonfiction. Dr. Ervin's class consists mainly of group discussion, which keeps students engaged in the course material at all times. She is an inspiring professor and I look forward to her class every week. Dr. Ervin takes a genuine interest in the success of her students, taking time out of her busy schedule to meet with students to discuss their own writing and the course material, when needed. When I originally signed up for her course, I was unsure that I would enjoy writing creative nonfiction, but Dr. Ervin and her course have inspired me to try my hand at writing creative nonfiction and I love it!

Dr. Joseph Navitsky, , Department of English

-As a student in Dr. Navitsky's class, it is obvious that he is highly passionate about the subjects that he teaches. Although he deals with British literature that would be daunting for many students, Dr. Navitsky presents the information in such a way that his students engage in critical thinking, small group discussion and class discussion to understand the material. His assignments and readings are well thought-out and provide a truly educational experience for all his students. Dr. Navitsky listens carefully to the input and questions from his students, and devises lessons that truly tailor the information to best meet the needs of his students. He is flexible about the schedule of readings and adjusts

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the syllabus to ensure that an appropriate amount of time is spent on each topic, ensuring his students get the best education possible out of his course.

Language and Cultures: Dr. Jerome Williams, Chair

Dr. Melody Nixon, Department of Language and Cultures
Professor Ana Sanchez, Department of Language and Cultures

Mathematics: Dr. Kathleen Jackson, Chair

Dr. Brian Bowen, Department of Mathematics
Dr. Whitney George, Department of Mathematics
Dr. Lisa Marano, Department of Mathematics
Professor James McLaughlin, Department of Mathematics
Dr. Rosemary Sullivan, Department of Mathematics

Philosophy: Dr. Helen Schroepfer, Chair

Professor Katherine Eltringham, Department of Philosophy
Dr. Cassie Striblen, Department of Philosophy
Dr. Joan Woolfrey, Department of Philosophy

Physics: Dr. Anthony Nicastro, Chair

Dr. Kevin Aptowicz, Department of Physics
Professor David Fenimore, Department of Physics
Dr. Shawn Pfeil, Department of Physics

Psychology: Dr. Loretta Rieser-Danner, Chair

Dr. Angela Clarke, Department of Psychology
Dr. Aaron Rundus Laura Verrekia, Department of Psychology
Dr. Laura Geeta Shivde Verrekia, Department of Psychology
Dr. Cynthia Tucci, Department of Psychology
Dr. Laura Verrekia, Department of Psychology