AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Professor Matthew Moore won two prestigious teaching awards in 2014: the Distinguished Teaching Award and the College of Liberal Arts’ Early Career Award for Achievement in Teaching. The Distinguished Teaching Award is a universitywide award based on student nominations and multiple classroom visits from a peer committee selected from across the Cal Poly community. Likewise, faculty nominate their peers for the College of Liberal Arts’ award.

Moore’s specialty area is in political theory. He teaches courses in Ancient and Medieval Political Thought, Modern Political Thought, and Contemporary Political Thought, as well as courses in the areas of law and American politics. Moore’s goal to create an “emotionally engaged” classroom depends on active student participation in courses where students read dense theoretical materials — and students love it. “Matt Moore creates a learning environment that supports and encourages creativity and comprehension,” one student said. “[He] encourages students to voice their perspectives by the tone he sets in the classroom.”

Congratulations to Elizabeth Lowham for winning the College of Liberal Arts’ Early Career Award for Achievement in Institutional/Professional Service. Lowham has directed the Political Science Department’s Master of Public Policy (MPP) program since 2007, her first year at Cal Poly. She shouldered significant administrative and service responsibilities very early in her career.

“Dr. Lowham completely deserves this award. Frankly, it is an understate-ment to call Dr. Lowham ‘outstanding’ in service; it is more appropriate to state that she is simply off the charts,” said Political Science Chair Jean Williams.

As MPP director, Lowham has overhauled the program’s curriculum, raised its profile and quality, successfully shepherded it through its first program review cycle, and very ably managed its day-to-day operations.

In addition to her role as MPP director, Lowham is also director of the new Cal Poly Center for Expressive Technologies (CET). “My vision is for the center to be a central location where people who are interested in this sort of interdisciplinary work can come for support,” she said. “The center is about expanding people’s understanding of how technology and expression interact.”

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