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Excellence in Teaching Award Citation for Michael Orr

Lawrence University

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University Award for Excellence in Teaching

Michael Orr, Professor of Art History

“Michael Orr, you came to Lawrence in 1989 after earning a Bachelor’s degree at the University of London and both a Master of Arts and a Doctor of Philosophy degree at Cornell University. Along the way you also held an Internship at the Getty Museum. Your interests in both Medieval and Renaissance art led to great success in teaching and scholarship, and you quickly rose through the ranks, earning tenure in 1995 and promotion to Professor in 2003. In addition to courses in Renaissance and Medieval Art, you have taught a seminar organized around your interest in the Illuminated Book, and seminars on Gothic Art and on Art and Propaganda. You have also found time to teach in the *Freshman Studies* program. All of your courses have been highly successful. You were honored with Lawrence’s Young Teacher Award in 1992 and the *Freshman Studies* Teaching Award in 2006.

Much of your success comes from your excellence as a lecturer. Students describe your class presentations as “amazing, funny, interesting, efficient, and fantastic.” You are thought of as a person with high standards for both student work and your own performance. Your willingness to help each student and your powerful devotion to teaching are sources of great respect.

Outside the classroom you have won grant support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and have demonstrated true Renaissance Person qualities through success in triathlon competitions. You have also shown a great capacity for continued professional growth. In recent years you have learned Chinese in order to support a new course offering in Chinese and Japanese Art and have recently been awarded a Fellowship from the American Council on Education.

For your achievement in contributing so successfully to the liberal education of our students, we are pleased to honor you today with the 2009 Award for Excellence in Teaching.”

Citation read by President Jill Beck at Commencement, 2009