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Young Teacher Award Citation for Peter John Thomas

Lawrence University

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2013 AWARD FOR EXCELLENT TEACHING
YOUNG TEACHER AWARD

PETER JOHN THOMAS

Since joining the Lawrence faculty in 2006, your ability to inspire enthusiasm for Russian language and literature has led students to make such comments as “I would leave class feeling energized and excited about the material he presented. His greatest talent is his ability to inspire passion”. In addition to passion, you demonstrate a deep mastery of the material that brings new insights to complex texts and enables students to see new connections and construct new ideas. Your insistence on high standards brings out the best in students, pushing them to new levels of accomplishment. One student commented that your classes were “among the most difficult and rewarding that I have had at Lawrence.” You lead dynamic class discussions, focus on critical thinking, and enhance your students’ writing ability. Your outstanding teaching has helped infuse the Russian department with a high level of energy and has enhanced its attraction for students. Your teaching in the Freshman Studies program has also been highly successful. You are praised for motivating students to think independently about issues in the texts without suggesting answers to them. Every course you teach has been a complete success and has had a transforming effect on your students.

In honor of your teaching accomplishments, I am pleased to recognize you today with the 2013 Award for Excellent Teaching by a Young Faculty Member at Lawrence.