

2016

Excellent Teaching by an Early Career Faculty Member Award Citation for Benjamin Tilghman

Lawrence University

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2016 AWARD FOR EXCELLENT TEACHING
BY AN EARLY CAREER FACULTY MEMBER

Benjamin Tilghman

Since joining the faculty in 2012, you have performed brilliantly as an inspired and passionate teacher of art history. Your students make such comments as, “He did a fantastic job of making the class informative and engaging,” “I find his class riveting,” and “Professor Tilghman is hands down the best professor I had during my time at Lawrence.” One student, inspired to be concise, described your class as “hilarious, profound, engaging and deeply valuable.” Your success has come through a combination of great passion, concern for student success and an ability to encourage discussion and argument while making students feel calm and comfortable. Although your first love is the illuminated manuscripts of the Middle Ages, you have shown a commitment to a broad conception of learning by developing courses in such areas as Islamic art, by using your courses to connect themes of the past with concerns of the present and by teaching in the *Freshman Studies* program.

Your devotion to the ideals of liberal learning, which you like to point out were first articulated in the Middle Ages, has led you to stress the importance of opening one’s mind to multiple perspectives on the world and to model for students the process of trying to make sense of complex materials. You ask your students to develop both a firm knowledge base and the creativity to move beyond that base and form new ideas. The ability to connect knowledge and creativity is the hallmark of a Lawrence education and is a distinctive characteristic of your success as a teacher.

In honor of your teaching accomplishments, I am pleased to recognize you today with the 2016 Award for Excellent Teaching by an Early Career Faculty Member at Lawrence.

June 12, 2016