

2016

Excellent Teaching Award Citation for Catherine Kautsky

Lawrence University

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2016 UNIVERSITY AWARD FOR EXCELLENT TEACHING

Catherine Kautsky

Since first coming to Lawrence in 1987, you have been an outstanding teacher of piano. Your combination of insistence on excellence and your energetic, supportive nature has led your students to high levels of success. You let your students know they have the power to create beauty but must work vigorously to achieve that beauty. Your students have gone on to graduate programs at the Juilliard School, the Eastman School of Music, the New England Conservatory and other fine institutions, and have won numerous competitive awards. Much of your success comes from a level of support that helps students come through the rigors of practice on the way to excellence. Students make comments such as, “Professor Kautsky is always good at making you feel comfortable about your future,” and, “She is always willing to help me solve my problems in piano and in life.” One student has said simply, “My lessons were amazing.”

You have modeled engagement through music in the larger world. You have organized a symposium on “Exile and the Holocaust” which brought together music, film, art and guest speakers. You have taken students to perform in the Boys and Girls Club, at a soup kitchen, at senior citizen centers and at churches. Recently you arranged a series of concerts at the Oshkosh Correctional Institution. Your work has a strongly interdisciplinary flavor, combining music with literature and other forms of human expression, and you always stress the joy of music in life, often through such activities as throwing a birthday party for Debussy. Your insistence on excellence as the gateway to beauty and enjoyment is highly distinctive.

For your many contributions that have helped make Lawrence an outstanding institution of learning, I am pleased to honor you today with the 2016 University Award for Excellent Teaching.

June 12, 2016