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Excellence in Teaching Award Citation for Celia Barnes

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2020 UNIVERSITY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Celia Barnes

A specialist in 18th-century British literature, you have published essays and presented papers on the work of Laurence Sterne and Samuel Johnson; your recent induction into the Johnsonian Society, an eminent assembly of scholars, lexicographers, and collectors, testifies to the significance of your research. It is a pleasure to complement this recognition of excellence of your scholarship with today's award recognizing the excellence of your teaching, teaching characterized not only by a passion for your chosen subject but also an eagerness to instill in your students an enthusiasm for learning in the broadest sense.

Described by a student as “one of those relatable, approachable professors that you really only find at Lawrence,” you have a talent for creating a “living, breathing connection” to literature that, in less pedagogically adept hands, more than a few of today's undergraduates might find remote or daunting. “One of the best professors at Lawrence”—in the words of many students—you elegantly balance support with challenge: a skill that comes in handy during the 10-week tour of Samuel

Richardson's *Clarissa*. Your assignments and classroom activities—such as the Curiosity Cabinet, the in-class pen pal exercise, and Skyping with Scholars—deepen students' engagement with the material in novel and exciting ways. “Celia Barnes is unlike any professor I had during my time at Lawrence,” one student observed. “She is unapologetic (in a good way), brazen, and encourages students to ask questions, challenge each other and pre-conceived notions, and step out of their comfort zones to expand their knowledge and horizons.”

Over the course of your ten years at Lawrence, you have partnered with faculty colleagues in Philosophy and Physics to offer courses that help students understand the range and importance of 18th century art and thought, from Newton's theories to the thinking of the Enlightenment. You are an eminent scholar, a generous colleague, and a dedicated, superb teacher, and it gives me great pleasure to recognize your accomplishments today with the 2020 Award for Excellence in Teaching.

June 2020