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Honorary Degree Award Citation for Thomas Ryckman

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Thomas Ryckman

THOMAS RYCKMAN, since coming to Lawrence University in 1984, you have served as a linchpin in the Philosophy department, offering courses in symbolic logic, epistemology, metaphysics, the philosophy of art, and the philosophy of language. For many years you offered the *Freshman Studies* lecture on Plato's theory of forms, introducing hundreds of students through one of the university's quintessentially Lawrentian experiences.

After receiving a B.A. with distinction at the University of Michigan-Flint, you went on to graduate studies in Philosophy at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, completing the Ph.D. in 1984 while also concluding two years' service as visiting instructor of Philosophy at Iowa State University. That same year you accepted the position at Lawrence.

In 1986, you were awarded both the University's Outstanding Young Teacher Award and the Mortar Board Award for Teaching Excellence. Three years later you were tenured and promoted to Associate Professor and assumed responsibilities as Director of *Freshman Studies*. You wound up serving two tours of duty as *Freshman Studies* Director, returning to that position in 1995. From 2008 to 2010 you served as director of

the Senior Experience Program. Over the course of your career, you have served on all of the major committees of the faculty, including Tenure, Enrollment, Curriculum, and you have stepped in more than once to chair the Philosophy department. In 2012 you were awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award, making you one of the few faculty at Lawrence to have received all of the University's awards for excellence in the classroom.

Your scholarly work on epistemology, philosophy of language, and metaphysics has been presented at multiple meetings of the American Philosophical Association and led to publications in several journals, including *The Monist*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, and *The Encyclopedia of British Philosophy*. In addition, you have served as a reviewer for the Austrian Science Fund, Oxford University Press, and the *Journal of the History of Analytic Philosophy*.

In recognition of your many contributions to Lawrence and its students, I am pleased to award you the degree of Master of Arts, *ad eundem*, on the occasion of your retirement from the faculty.

June 14, 2020