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Honorary Degree Award Citation for Paul Cohen

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Paul Michael Cohen

PAUL MICHAEL COHEN, over the course of your 37 year career at Lawrence you have distinguished yourself as an accomplished scholar, a kind and dedicated teacher, and a true champion of the liberal arts. As an expert in both modern European intellectual history and U.S. film history, you have modeled for us all the intellectual curiosity and openness to new realms of study that are the signal characteristics of the liberally educated person.

A *magna cum laude* graduate of Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, you came to the Midwest to continue your studies in 20th century French history, earning the M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. You began your career as a teacher while still a graduate student, serving as lecturer in History at the American College in Paris and at the University Chicago before accepting a tenure-track appointment at Lawrence in 1985.

From 1996 to 1998, you served as director of the *First-Year Studies* program and, in that role, oversaw the transformation of the course readings from a historically ordered sequence

of works drawn from an established “Master List” to the current, more flexible syllabus embracing cultural, historical, and intellectual diversity. Your dedication to excellence in teaching has been recognized twice, first in 1999, when you received the *First-Year Studies* teaching award, and again in 2008, when you won the University-wide Excellence in Teaching Award.

You published your second monograph *Freedom’s Moment: An Essay on the French Idea of Liberty from Rousseau to Foucault* in 1997; your first book, *Piety and Politics: Catholic Revival and the Generation of 1905–14 in France*, appeared in 1987. You have served as the book review editor for the journal *Film & History* since 2010. In 2003, in recognition of your many significant accomplishments, you were named the Patricia Hamar Boldt Professor of Liberal Studies.

Paul, 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 12, 2022