

## **2007 DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR SUMMARIES**

### **Dr. Joanne B. Ciulla**

#### **Professor of Leadership Studies & The Coston Family Chair in Leadership & Ethics**

An active and internationally known scholar, Professor Ciulla is a dedicated and demanding teacher who brings to her classes a formidable body of scholarship in ethics and leadership studies. Professor Ciulla is highly regarded by her students. One former student noted, “As a professor, Dr. Ciulla is as tough as they come.” There is no grade inflation in her courses; there is nothing but the very highest expectations. Many of her students over the years have agreed that as a teacher she is also “engaging,” “thought provoking,” and simply “amazing.” In addition to her exemplary teaching, Professor Ciulla is also a leading public intellectual, speaking at distinguished gatherings around the world, such as the World Economic Forum in Switzerland - all this while maintaining a very active publication record, writing articles and editing books at a steady pace. As one of her Jepson School colleagues has put it, Professor Ciulla “has single-handedly brought philosophical analysis to the field of leadership studies.” It is precisely the excitement she finds in her own scholarly life that she carries so effortlessly into her classroom and which makes her one of our most distinguished educators.

### **Dr. Mirela S. Fetea**

#### **Associate Professor of Physics**

While playing an important role developing the curriculum in a resurgent physics department, Professor Fetea models the criteria for the Distinguished Educator Award. A popular teacher whose courses are always fully subscribed, Mirela’s innovative teaching techniques such as “clicker quizzes” and peer learning, as well as the “strongest magnet competitions” help make a difficult subject both interesting and engaging. She is an active scholar and a well-regarded and well-funded scientist who shares her scholarly excitement with her numerous research students. Dr. Fetea not only takes on students in her lab, but also brings a great number of them as presenters at highly regarded undergraduate science conferences. She is a recent winner of the School of Arts & Sciences’ outstanding mentor award, a sought-after speaker with many international presentations, and a dedicated servant to the University. With her array of service to the University – all with the common theme of bringing top students, from all walks of life, into the intellectual life of the sciences – the University is pleased to present this award to Professor Fetea.

**Mr. James Gibson**  
**Associate Professor of Law**

In his five years of service to the University of Richmond School of Law, Professor Gibson has demonstrated enormous dedication to teaching, scholarship and service. In addition to his duties as a law professor, Jim is the first Director of the Law School's Intellectual Property Institute. In the few years since the Institute's formal inception, Professor Gibson has shaped it into a premier center for intellectual property research, study and action. Through the National CyberEducation Project housed in the Institute, he produced a short documentary film on file-sharing and created the "Copyright Roadshow" – a program through which Professor Gibson visits college campuses to introduce intellectual property issues to undergraduates. In addition, he has helped create and structure a joint venture with Virginia Tech geared toward exposing undergraduates with science and engineering backgrounds to law in general and intellectual law in particular. For three years Jim taught the John Marshall Scholars Seminar, a focused learning environment in which seminar students create panels and events open to the entire university community. An accomplished scholar, Professor Gibson's high quality work includes his 2005 Notre Dame Law Review article, *Once and Future Copyright*, which was cited as one of the best intellectual property law review articles published that year. His most recent work, a 2007 Yale Law Journal article, *Risk Aversion and Rights Accretion in Intellectual Property Law*, has been selected for inclusion in the Selected Law and Technology Papers series. The University is pleased to recognize Professor Gibson as a distinguished educator.

**Dr. Michelle L. Hamm**  
**Associate Professor of Chemistry**

Since her arrival at Richmond in 2001, Dr. Hamm has distinguished herself as an exemplary teacher, passionate researcher, and mentor of students. Recognized as an enthusiastic and challenging instructor by her students, Professor Hamm is also known for her willingness to spend time with students outside of class and for the effectiveness with which she aids them in learning complicated material. She has mentored more than a dozen undergraduates, many for multiple semesters and summers. This work has led to publications in three significant journals of chemistry, all of which include Richmond undergraduates as co-authors. These publications have been accompanied by a regular series of presentations both within and outside the University with students as presenters. Professor Hamm's work has been continuously funded with grants from a variety of sources, the most prestigious being a National Science Foundation CAREER award. On campus she has been active in many service roles. Her work on University Faculty Council led that group to select her as chair for the coming year. In summary, Professor Hamm is an outstanding teacher-scholar who represents her department and the University in an exemplary fashion.

**Dr. Ben “Rick” Mayes III**  
**Associate Professor of Political Science**

Since coming to the University of Richmond in 2001, Professor Rick Mayes has made outstanding contributions in teaching, mentorship, and research. As a testament to his extensive impact on the University, in addition to offering a number of extremely popular political science classes on social policy, Professor Mayes developed a senior seminar titled *Children’s Health, Education & Welfare*; co-taught a Psychology class on *Mental Health & Policy*; and regularly taught a *Health Policy and Politics* class taken by many pre-med students. Dr. Mayes’ most commendable qualities are his love for teaching and the respect he has for his students. His teaching evaluations emphasize words like “passionate” and “inspiring” as he consistently receives superior ratings. Rick mentors many students outside the classroom, supervising internships and independent studies. In the spring of 2006, he used a Quest grant to take seven students on a research trip to children’s hospitals in Illinois, and spent last spring break with 17 students examining healthcare in Peru. This blending of scholarly interest in public policy issues with a passion for creating social awareness of important matters enables Professor Mayes’ students to become better informed citizens. Rick is an individual who engages his students and exhibits a caring style of teaching with special attention to each individual student. The University recognizes these contributions with this special award.

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