

## 2009 DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Dr. Raymond F. Hilliard, Professor of English:** Professor Hilliard is a beloved and respected teacher. In addition to teaching in the English Department with nearly a score of field-specific offerings, he has regularly taught in the Core Course. He receives the highest ratings from his students who praise his teaching ability and classroom management, his skill at stimulating and encouraging superior achievement, and his willingness to go beyond the minimum requirements of a teacher. He regularly organizes extra sessions outside of class to discuss writing and to provide mentoring for struggling students and high achievers alike. Dr. Hilliard is a superb scholar, contributing numerous articles to journals and making presentations to prominent professional organizations in which he is an active and enthusiastic participant. His latest work, *Ritual Violence and the Maternal in the British Novel from Fielding to Scott*, deals with 14 writers and 19 texts from 1740 to 1820 and will be published in the respected series “Eighteenth-Century Literature and Culture.” A reviewer praised Dr. Hilliard’s skill in handling “the (difficult) psychoanalytic materials with great clarity,” adding that he is “in control of a number of fields in addition to literature.” After serving a decade as Chair of the English Department, Dr. Hilliard became Coordinator of the Core Course, facilitating a seminar which effectively prepared colleagues for the rigors of teaching Core, and closely mentoring new Core instructors. Additionally, he has served on numerous committees and advisory groups across the University. This is the second time Professor Hilliard has received the Distinguished Educator Award, demonstrating outstanding achievement as teacher, scholar, mentor, and fully engaged member of the University community.

**Ms. Ann C. Hodges, Professor of Law:** Ann Hodges embodies the values that the Distinguished Educator Award celebrates: innovation in the classroom, integration of teaching and scholarship, extraordinary commitment to community service, and a remarkable ability to foster in students a lifelong sense of social responsibility. As a teacher, Professor Hodges is constantly finding innovative ways to integrate student-led research and real world experience into the classroom. As a scholar, she is a national authority on labor and employment law whose published research has influenced the National Labor Relations Board’s litigation strategies. Service is paramount in Professor Hodges’ life and work. In addition to her work in the community and service to the Law School and the University, she co-founded the Legal Information Network for Cancer—“LINC”—an organization that has provided legal counseling to over four thousand cancer patients, freeing them to focus their energies on their medical battle. Over the years, her teaching, scholarship, and service have had a lasting impact on hundreds of students, and through them on the larger community. One alumnus, who credits Professor Hodges with inspiring his eighteen years of advocacy for the rights of immigrant workers, writes, “Ann taught me that a true legal advocate is one who takes the protections of rights and civil liberties under the laws and integrates them into the lives of the most vulnerable members of society to provide them with the impetus for societal transformation.” Professor Hodges’ commitment to teaching, scholarship and service makes her receipt of the University Distinguished Educator Award for the second time well-deserved.

**Dr. Crystal L. Hoyt, Associate Professor of Leadership Studies:** Crystal Hoyt has been a model teacher, scholar and colleague since joining the Jepson School of Leadership Studies in 2003. Her influence as a teacher extends well beyond the Jepson School. An Arts & Sciences faculty member who co-taught with Professor Hoyt remarked that: “Crystal is phenomenal in the classroom and has a remarkably positive effect on her students. [She] has cemented a reputation as a passionate, creative, and rigorous instructor in the classroom.” One of her students noted that, “[Professor Hoyt’s] enthusiasm, patience, and expertise inspire her students to want to use knowledge to improve our world, whether that is recognizing and helping to diminish prejudice or understanding why people behave the way they do and what we should do about it.” Professor Hoyt has supervised more hours of independent research than any other Jepson School faculty member. She has collaborated with students on publications and presentations, one of which was published in the top journal in leadership studies. One student, whom Dr. Hoyt mentored on a senior honors thesis and who now holds a Harvard University research fellowship, stated: “Dr. Hoyt exemplifies just how great an impact a professor can have on a student as both an instructor and a mentor.” Professor Hoyt is a prolific publisher on a broad range of subjects. She has collaborated with numerous colleagues in social psychology

and philosophy. For her service to the University focused on her commitment to our students, the University is pleased to present the Distinguished Educator Award to Professor Hoyt.

**Dr. James W. Monks, Associate Professor of Economics:** James Monks performs a key role in the Business School ensuring that every Economics major graduates with a firm grasp of, and experience in, the approach economists employ to address economic questions. Since assuming responsibility for the time-intensive senior capstone and honors seminars in 2006, he has supervised 112 independent research projects. In fall 2007, Professor Monks required that selected capstone students and all honors students submit an abstract of their research projects to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Although the conference acceptance rate is approximately 50 percent, all 13 proposals were accepted for presentation. Last year, all 11 of his students' proposals were accepted for presentation at the Virginia Economics Association meetings. Professor Monks has continued his mentorship of students and their research beyond these presentations, nurturing the work of selected students through the journal submission and publication process. He engages students in each of his classes in small research projects designed to demonstrate technical aspects of the material such as constructing survey data sets that are, in turn, used by other Richmond faculty in statistics and econometrics courses. Dr. Monks has earned a national reputation for his research in the economics of higher education. He has served on committees of associations such as the AAUP, participated in national research groups, and presented at specialty symposiums. The University of Richmond has also benefitted greatly from Dr. Monk's expertise. He has served on financial aid and admissions committees, was co-chair of the Strategic Plan Working Group on Access and Affordability, and co-conducted a recent study of gender equity of UR faculty salaries. The University is pleased to recognize Dr. James Monks as a Distinguished Educator.

**Dr. Laura Runyen-Janecky, Associate Professor of Biology:** Laura Runyen-Janecky, Associate Professor of Biology, impresses her students with her enthusiasm for science and the diligence with which she teaches them how to approach problems. In the classroom and laboratory, she is a leader in bringing current and innovative approaches to teaching. Dr. Runyen-Janecky was among the first Richmond science faculty to develop laboratory modules that took a project from her own research lab and expanded that work to include more than 100 students per year. This approach has the effect of exciting freshmen and sophomores about independent and investigation-based research while exposing them to important biological concepts and techniques. In her six years at the University, Professor Runyen-Janecky has mentored some twenty research students in her genetics lab and co-authored papers or made presentations with more than ten undergraduates. One colleague praised her for "teaching the 'whole' student" by teaching them life skills and critical thinking together with cultivating scientific skills. Dr. Runyen-Janecky has been very successful in obtaining external funding for her research program, receiving two grants from The National Institutes of Health, a grant from the Jeffress Trust and another from the National Science Foundation. She is co-principal investigator with Dr. Lipan of the Physics Department on an interdisciplinary award from NSF to train math and biology undergraduates to work as a team to solve a scientific program using both disciplines. For her teaching excellence, vibrant research with students and dedicated service to the University, Dr. Laura Runyen-Janecky is presented the Distinguished Educator Award.

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