

MUM Excellence in Teaching Award, 2005-2006: Elizabeth Howard

Elizabeth “Lizz” Howard exemplifies excellence in teaching. She creates an inclusive, learner-centered environment that is reflected in her classroom activities and assignments. Lizz utilizes creative and innovative teaching strategies designed to reach students with various learning styles and personality profiles. Central to her approach to teaching is cooperative and collaborative learning using Pair Programming in which student teams of two serve the role of “driver” and “navigator” in solving technical problems. Through this team approach, students comment that they are able to solve more complex problems and that they enjoy the productive interaction with fellow students.

Lizz receives outstanding student evaluations and peer reviews. Typical student comments include: “Lizz was a wonderful instructor...”; “She uses several methods of teaching to reach all students”; and “The teacher clearly explains the material.” Her peers are equally adulatory. Professor Werner writes: “I found them (the lecture packets) of such high quality that I have incorporated a number of them into my own presentation of CSA 163.”

Lizz is recognized by her students, her colleagues in the CIT department, the Middletown Campus, and others at the university as an outstanding and exceptional teacher. As her nominator so aptly wrote “In a department where each faculty member takes pride in being a good teacher, Lizz is the best of the best.”