



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Cap & Gown Chapter

mortarboard

Top Prof

Each year Mortarboard members select one of their professors who they think is a "top prof" to be honored by the University. Here are the Top Profs nominated by the 2010-2011 Mortarboard members a brief statement on why the members nominated the professor they choose:

Department of Accounting

- **Dr. Teresa Stephenson, Nominated by Tyler Alexander**
 - *Dr. Stephenson is not only a highly intelligent professor, but she is 100 % dedicated to each of her students. I have had her for numerous classes and I have come out of each specific class a better, more confident and knowledgeable student. The fact that she is willing to go the extra mile to make sure each of her students succeeds makes her teaching style very unique and hard to find.*
- **Dr. Kenton Walker, Nominated by Jenna Whipple**
 - *Walker has continually pushed me to do my best and has been a great mentor!*

Department of Agriculture & Applied Economics

- **Professor Dannele Peck, Nominated by Scott Schindelar**
 - *In my college experiences I have come across two types of professors; the first type can to be so involved in their personal work that their students always seem to be a second thought to their research, the second type of professor is the one who is willing to put everything else aside when it comes to their students understanding the material. Professor Peck is without question the latter type professor. In all of my interactions with Dr. Peck it has been clear that she is willing to bend over backwards for any one of her students when it comes to understanding class material. Professor Peck truly lives for the values that make the University of Wyoming such a terrific institute for students.*

Department of Chemistry

- **Dr. John Hoberg, Nominated by Phillip Henzlik**
 - *Dr. John Hoberg was my organic chemistry professor. One of his many strengths, which made him stand out, was his daily application of course material ranging from pharmaceutical advancement to cancer research. He is a strong mentor to me both as a student and as an athlete.*

Department of Criminal Justice

- **Dr. Cheryl Burnett, Nominated by Nema Koohmaraie**
 - *Dr. Burnett is a highly intelligent and dedicated professor who has a deep understanding of her course material. She possesses a willingness to go the extra mile to help students, and ingenuity in teaching strategies. She has been absolutely incremental during my undergraduate career. Her insight has paid dividends for me. From advising Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International to taking students abroad for a month study abroad in London, to having students over for dinner, Dr. Burnett has truly made the UW experience one that I will never forget.*

Department of Economics & Finance

- **Dr. David Finnoff, Nominated by Katherin Rushing**
 - *Katherine has had Dr. Finnoff as a teacher and an academic advisor. Dr. Finnoff is willing to go above and beyond to help his students succeed, and he is a great source of advice, knowledge, and encouragement*
- **Dr. Robert Godby, Nominated by Megan Degenfelder**
 - *I enrolled in Dr. Godby's class my freshman year. Unfamiliar in the field of economics, Dr. Godby not only provided me with the instruction and outside help I needed, but was instrumental in my subsequent change to an economics degree.*
- **Dr. Klass van't Veld, Nominated by Chey Wortham**
 - *He forces students to work hard and learn the material, and there is no way around it...believe me*

Department of Engineering & Applied Science

- **Dr. Dennis Coon, Nominated by Lori Sanberg**
 - *Dr. Coon is an outstanding advisor, professor, and motivator for students. These qualities are demonstrated in class every day, as well as through his leadership in helping the mechanical engineering department achieve excellent national accreditation status. In addition to teaching, Dr. Coon has authored numerous publications. He has been an inspiration and mentor to me during my undergraduate work in mechanical engineering.*
- **Dr. Charles Dolan, Nominated by Jera Schlotthauer**
 - *Dr. Dolan has always been able to present intense topics in a way everyone can understand*
- **Dr. Ryan Kobbe, Nominated by Gretchen Heberling**
 - *Kobbe is the engineering department's cool uncle, except he helps you with homework.*
- **Dr. David Walrath, Nominated by Adam Karges**
 - *Dr. Walrath is more than willing to help with school work, whether it be in his class or not. He is very friendly and knows how to connect with students. Dr. Walrath helps students investigate their specific interests and can help us reach our goals.*

Department of English

- **Dr. Michael Knievel, Nominated by Jacklynn Pham**
 - *Jacklynn has had Dr. Knievel as a teacher, an academic advisor, and a research mentor and throughout all of these different interactions, Dr. Knievel is consistently a source of insight and patience: the perfect combination for any teacher, advisor, or person.*

Department of Family Consumer Sciences

- **Dr. Donna Brown, Nominated by Molly Janak**
 - *Dr. Brown is a tireless leader in the field of Family and Consumer Sciences*

Department of Kinesiology

- **Professor Marci Smith, Nominated by Bryan Dugas**
 - *Marci, in a class of either twenty or two-hundred, has an incomparable ability to relate class material and concepts to her students in a remarkably engaging, comprehensible, and retainable fashion that leads to the overall benefit and progression of her students, whom she observably cares a great deal for. I've been fortunate enough to take two classes from Marci, and both in and out of the classroom, I feel truly blessed to have been educated by such an intelligent, sociable, and overall genuine professor. Learning is much easier with a warm heart and a smile*
- **Dr. Gary Wehonig, Nominated by Abigail Dotson**
 - *Gary is the type of professor that would never turn a student away. He has always been available and willing to help students whenever they need. He represents the standard of understanding and compassion that all great professors strive to meet.*

Department of Mathematics

- **Professor John Spitler, Nominated by Leah Bachert**
 - *Professor Spitler is dedicated to mathematics and inspired by students.*

Department of Modern & Classical Languages

- **Professor Sarah Carle, Nominated by Kassi Willingham**
 - *Speaking a foreign language in front of classmates can be intimidating and uncomfortable, but Professor Carle creates an environment that allows students to feel comfortable so classroom interaction is a breeze.*
- **Dr. Rebecca Steele, Nominated by Alysha Warner**
 - *Dr. Steele is a highly intelligent, dedicated professor who has a deep understanding of her course material, a willingness to go the extra mile to help students, and ingenuity in teaching strategies.*

Department of Molecular Biology

- **Dr. Pam Langer, Nominated by Sarah Gregory**
 - *Dr. Langer is my choice as a Top Professor because she welcomed me to Molecular Biology with open arms and helped me discover an academic path while achieving my personal life goals.*
- **Dr. Randy Lewis, Nominated by Saige Albert**
 - *Dr. Lewis has always been incredibly as a professor and advisor. Dr. Lewis has an uncanny ability to make the hardest molecular biology concepts understandable. His passion for his work and his students is amazing, and I really appreciate all he has done for my academic career.*
- **Professor Rachel Watson, Nominated by Crystal Umphlett**
 - *Professor Watson is by far the most enthusiastic professor I have ever had a privilege of receiving instruction from. It is refreshing to have a professor that is not only excited about her profession but also excited to teach her profession to others. She has a way of presenting material that allows all students to grasp the difficult concepts and inspires her students to go above and beyond. I truly believe that if it wasn't for Professor Watson as my professor, I would not be so intrigued by the course material.*

Department of Music

- **Professor Elena Berlinsky, Nominated by Anton Neasloney**
 - *Tyler has had Professor Berlinsky since his Freshman year at UW. In addition to being a phenomenal piano professor, she is an admired mentor and a close friend. Extremely dedicated to her students and committed to their success, Professor Berlinsky is the epitome of what it means to be a Top Prof.*
- **Professor John Fadial, Nominated by Amber Pollock**
 - *Dr. Fadial always provides a high level of instruction to his students. He focuses on the complex issues of music and helps students understand them in the context of the bigger picture.*
- **Dr. Beth Vanderborgh, Nominated by Sarah Ferguson**
 - *Dr. Beth Vanderborgh, Professor of Music, is a devoted and nurturing mentor. Her calm demeanor and positive attitude inspires those around her to attain the highest level of artistry as a musician.*
- **Professor Connie Wallace, Nominated by Ana Peterlin**
 - *Mrs. Wallace is a talented harpist and has helped and encouraged my development in harp performance for the last three years. She offers support and guidance and has always been a source of wisdom. I am honoring Mrs. Wallace because she has always been there for me and will continue to be here for me in the future.*

Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing

- **Professor Penelope Caldwell, Nominated by Taylor Burk**
 - *Penelope Caldwell is an inspiration. She goes above and beyond her expectations as a Professor. Not only does she demonstrate profound knowledge in the classroom, but she also leads groups to Honduras each year to help those less fortunate. She is an exceptional Professor, and an even better person.*
- **Professor Deb Retz, Nominated by Erin Kristine**
 - *Professor Retz is an inspiration to me, both in my academic career and my personal life. She is a woman of integrity, wisdom and dedication. Her creative teaching strategies, positive attitude and commitment to students have made a dramatic impact on my educational experience and future aspirations.*

Department of Political Science

- **Dr. Stephanie Anderson, Nominated by Amy King**
 - *Dr. Anderson is extremely passionate about her students' success; last spring she took a group of students to Brussels, Belgium to learn about the European Union, and it was the best class I have ever taken. I would recommend one of her classes to everyone I know.*
- **Dr. Teena Gabrielson, Nominated by Matt Parish**
 - *Dr. Gabrielson is the most interesting and talented lecturer I know. Her passion, enthusiasm and in depth analysis makes political philosophies come alive, allowing them to become insightful to our world today. She is brilliant!*
- **Dr. James King, Nominated by Christina Mathews**
 - *Dr. King has been a Professor that has kept class interesting. In my 3 courses with him we had a project where we had to give advice to President Obama, we attempted to redraw lines for the voting districts within the Wyoming, and we have even tried to balance the National Budget. Dr. King cares for and understands his students which is important for any Top Prof.*

Department of Psychology

- **Dr. Cynthia Hartung, Nominated by Collin Scarince**
 - *Dr. Hartung is a childhood clinical psychologist currently working on bringing parental training to the Laramie community*
- **Dr. Narina Nunez, Nominated by Mika Moriwaki**
 - *Dr. Nunez has been always expanding students' possibilities*

Department of Veterinary Sciences

- **Dr. E. Lee Belden, Nominated by Amanda Staples**
 - *Dr. Belden teaches students to comprehend the subject, not just memorize details.*

Department of Zoology & Physiology

- **Dr. Margaret Flanigan, Nominated by Danielle Bamberg**
 - *Dr. Flanigan consistently goes above and beyond her job description in support of her students. She is an intelligent, accomplished, and hard working woman; but the quality that makes her stand out most among faculty is her dedication to her students and her unwavering advocacy for their success. Through her encouragement, support, and kind words she has pushed so many of her students to go on to bigger and better things, as well as set the standards well above average for all faculty here at UW. Dr. Flanigan helps students to find their passions and be the best person they can in pursuing them. I could think of no person more deserving of this Top Prof award*
- **Dr. Amy Krist, Nominated by Alice Reynolds**
 - *Dr. Krist's enthusiasm for science is contagious—she makes learning fun.*