

Frank O'Malley Undergraduate Teaching Award Submissions

(sorted alphabetically)

Justin Barfield

Art Department Professor

Justin has had a massive impact on me during my first semester of college. I've rarely met teachers that are so dedicated to their students and the work that bleeds from them. He has always been encouraging and uplifting in supporting students' endeavors and artistic choices. He critiques are only on how we could have portrayed our ideas in a more effective manner. He is inspiring and clearly personally involved with each student. He wants the best for each individual and is truly proud of his students.

Because of him, I am considering a minor in art and, although others may see little value in it, Justin has inspired me to have my art make a point and stand for something that can't always be expressed in an essay or a presentation. Art can't really be done with a right or wrong intention. And sometimes, it is up to the viewer to create meaning or find their own purpose to a work of art. The collaboration that came out of this class through critiques, group projects, and class projects also opened me to the minds of my peers.

Justin has pushed me to be proud of my work and want to show it off. I have always been rather shy and anxiety over needing to explain myself or show my work to others, but my time in his 3-D Foundations course has opened my eyes to my peers opinions and shown me that I am supported. These experiences even drove me to share some of my anxieties through my work and, thereby, sharing a piece of myself which I otherwise wouldn't have done. This resulted in more impactful work that I could find pride in rather than shame.

I would like to nominate Professor Justin Barfield for the Frank O'Malley Undergraduate Teaching Award due to his outstanding encouragement and inspiration of the student body as well as his dedication to making the world more meaningful through art.

John Betz

Professor, Theology, Arts and Letters

Dr. Betz, a professor of Christian Spirituality, truly encompasses what it means to both educate the mind and the heart. In his class, Dr. Betz reminds the students by both example and teaching the beauty and truth of a deep spiritual life. Moreover, his course is immersed in the work and words of the saints. Dr. Betz furthermore, always beginning class with a prayer, brings to light different traditions of the faith (Coptic Orthodox, for instance, where monasticism began) and introduces texts from the early church, revealing some of the most authentic teachings of the Christian faith. Dr. Betz' deep spirituality is seen through his humility and truth of speech. One of the most significant moments in class was when we were behind in the course, and so Dr. Betz told us in dismissal for the day to "trust [him]" (that he will bring us back on track), and then, no longer speaking to the class but to himself, he shook his head and chuckled saying, "Trust me? No, trust God." As one of his students, a good portion of my notes consist only of quotes from Dr. Betz.

Professor Betz also works hard to meet the needs of his students, both spiritually and otherwise. When he felt that we enjoyed prayer more through song than through speech, for instance, he changed the manner in which the class' prayer began in order to listen to songs that we suggested. Dr. Betz also, when one of our classmates was sick and has thus been missing some lectures, led prayer that day in her

honor. As his students, we know (I cannot speak with certainty for the entire class, but it is my perception that this holds true for most of us) that we can count on him should we need someone to reach out to. As anyone who has taken a course with him before will tell you, it is difficult to find a professor who truly teaches by example as Dr. Betz does, and who understands and prioritizes Notre Dame's mission to educate both the mind and the heart, to both teach concepts and life.

Dr. Sunny Boyd

Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Science

Dr. Boyd is committed to undergraduate education, as evidenced by her willingness to foster and answer students' questions. Students will throw questions at Dr. Boyd left and right after each slide, and it's as if she has them planted because she always has an answer and can provide a more articulate response than most people would have been able to if they had planned for the question. The best part, however, is that she never just gives a yes or no answer, but rather, provides a mechanistic reasoning as to why it is that way. In the rare event that Dr. Boyd doesn't have the answer on hand, she writes it down and follows up class with an email about the answer, with a summarized response as to why, and then provides primary literature for further reading. These questions are often fostered by Dr. Boyd's case study questions, in which the neuroscience concepts we learn are applied to particular "patient cases," requiring you to think about how these can be applied to real life scenarios and, in doing so, encourages further questions.

Professor Katie Bugyis

Assistant Professor, Program of Liberal Studies, Arts and Letters

When I think of Professors who have an outstanding impact on my own undergraduate education at the University of Notre Dame, a single person comes to my mind immediately. That person is Professor Katie Bugyis. I had the privilege of taking my third Great Books Seminar with Professor Bugyis during my fall semester, and I can truly say that I am a wiser and better person for it.

Professor Bugyis is competent, humble, kind, and generous with her time and with her knowledge. Professor Bugyis excels at bringing critical historical and biographical contextualization to her class in order to better orient class discussion. Professor Bugyis manages to set prime ingredients for fruitful discourse in place, while simultaneously yielding a large degree of autonomy to her students, so that they may explore issues and questions within the text that are important to them.

Besides being a beacon of knowledge and insight in and out of the classroom, Professor Bugyis consistently exudes a warm spirit of generosity towards her students. This dedication to her students can be seen in her day-to-day actions, especially outside of Seminar discussions. Professor Bugyis's door is always open. Whether a student has a difficult question from a particularly challenging medieval text, concerns about a senior thesis, or just needs an opportunity to vent frustrations with course work and college life, Professor Bugyis is always there to inspire, to guide, and to listen.

Professor Bugyis truly treats her students like family. She has been known to meet her classes for informal lunches at South Dining Hall to casually chat or receive feedback about how the class is operating. It is not unusual for her to host her students once or twice a semester at her own home for pizza and class discussion. Moreover, Professor Bugyis is known by all who meet her to demonstrate the finest characteristic of a theologian, scholar, and mentor.

To put it simply and succinctly, Professor Katie Bugyis is the best Professor I have ever had at Notre Dame. She exemplifies the University's mission to, "provide a forum where, through free inquiry and open discussion, the various lines of Catholic thought may intersect with all the forms of knowledge found in the arts, sciences, professions, and every other area of human scholarship and creativity". Professor Bugyis is a force for good within the College of Arts and Letters, and breathes vital life into the Program of Liberal Studies through her dedication to the Liberal Arts and her passion for seeing students challenge themselves and succeed. The University is lucky to have her.

Peter Bui

Associate Teaching Professor, Computer Science and Engineering, College of Engineering

- 1) Never have I seen a professor go above and beyond like Professor Bui has. He makes sure his students are not just supported but pushed to do their best and see how much they really can do. He is always available and making sure the students are heard. However, I think the best part of Professor Bui is his open mindedness. I haven't doubted for a second Professor Bui is here for the students and genuinely cares about us. We can always go in and ask questions about other classes, ask for advice, just talk, or really anything. I have never felt more passionate about my major because Professor Bui has enabled me to explore my passion in an enjoyable manner.
- 2) Professor Bui is more dedicated to helping his students succeed and gain a deep understanding of the material than any other professor I have had. His passion for the topics shines through during his engaging lectures and his ability to explain difficult concepts with ease. Bui makes himself available to students in his office or on Slack and is always willing to debug code or answer questions at any hour of the day (or night).

Dr. Jon Camden

Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, College of Science

Dr. Camden has made outstanding contributions to many students and peers in the College of Science. Although the College of Science is a smaller college than some at Notre Dame, that should in no way mean he is less deserving of recognition. Particularly important is his instruction of Introductory General chemistry for Chemistry and Biochemistry majors. He makes chemistry welcoming and encouraging, and grades fairly based on your understanding of the material, which is in direct opposition to most of the courses in science, which are weed-out courses that pit your mistakes against everyone else simply to reward the best of the best. Dr. Camden uses a fair approach which encourages everyone to achieve and learn, which is the true spirit of Notre Dame and a moral professor. In other words, he is one of the few professors who actively promotes undergraduate education in the sciences and passion for learning. He is an effective and well-liked teacher, effective and understanding research PI, and recently inducted Director of Undergraduate Studies. Balancing time and efforts would surely be a challenge to anyone with this dispersion, yet he manages to always succeed to the highest level. A recipient of this award he is nominated for should not just be a successful teacher, but a good person and exemplar for other professors and staff. Dr. Camden is precisely the person who stands the testaments of time and pressure, maintains excellent composure in all issues, is kind and generous, welcoming and supportive, and a moral and outstanding citizen. I have personally known Jon all of my four years at Notre Dame, as he was a professor to me and my Chemistry peers, and research mentor in his lab.

Jonathan Chisum

Associate Professor Electrical Engineering

I don't have time to go into details but he is easily the best engineering professor that I have had at Notre Dame because he cares about his students and is willing to make changes for them. While many other professors don't care, or aren't really willing to make listen or make changes

Annie Gilbert Coleman

Associate Professor, Department of American Studies, College of Arts and Letters

- 1) *Annie teaches such a wide range of classes, and she approaches each class with so much enthusiasm and thoroughness. She makes her students do the work and emphasizes the reward by praising them when it is finished. She encourages students to really engage with all kinds of media and writing and she does such a good job of helping us learn how to find scholarly sources and arguments within those sources. Most of all, she helps us all have fun while learning, and she is really great at understanding that her students are whole persons.*
- 2) *I have taken two classes with Professor Coleman, I work in the America Studies Office, and I have worked on a campaign with her to increase environmental and sustainability education on campus. In every setting, she is always smiling, nice, and truly invested in my experience as an undergraduate at Notre Dame.*

A couple of weeks ago, I was having trouble sleeping, and I missed two of Annie's classes in a short span. Slightly embarrassed, I didn't email her and hoped that my participation grade would not drop significantly. The day of my second absence, she approached me in my student assistant office, but she didn't ask me why I missed class; instead, she made sure that I was okay and ensured me that she was there for me if I need any help catching up on missed class material.

Annie also advises the American Studies Club. We are a small club, and without Annie's guidance and motivation, we wouldn't exist. A few weeks ago, we scheduled an American Studies Club Bowling Night, but we didn't think we could convince many faculty to join us. With Annie's help, nearly half of the AMST faculty joined us.

Last year, I worked with a group of students to add an environmental awareness module to the Moreau FYE syllabus. After attaining student support, we needed the Faculty Senate's support. When I approached Annie, she devoted herself to our campaign and it was passed. Throughout this year, Annie has been working with the Faculty Senate to sponsor a campus-wide celebration and educational opportunity on Earth Day. Unfortunately, it will be impacted by the Coronavirus, but I think this award would be a fantastic acknowledgement of her efforts.

Finally, in the classroom, Annie wonderfully utilizes all forms of teaching. She combines traditional lectures with music, movies, group work, and especially, guest lecturers. In her classes, I have been introduced to experts from other universities and even had the chance to learn from Muffet McGraw in an in-class lecture.

In summary, Annie is an amazing professor. Not only has she shared with me her wide breadth of knowledge on American Cultural History. I have met her dogs, campaigned for social change, played pick-up soccer on South Quad, tried homemade, vegan protein bars, and had my spirits lifted in a time of need all because Professor Coleman truly invests in the well-being of her students.

Curtis Franks

Professor, Philosophy, Arts and Letters

He has done an outstanding job teaching the Formal Logic class and has made the entire experience very enjoyable.

Dee Anne Goodenough-Lashua

Assoc. Teaching Professor, Academic Advisor for Chemistry and Biochemistry Majors, Dept of Chemistry and Biochemistry, College of Science

- 1) *Dr. Goodenough taught three separate lab classes for chemistry and biochemistry majors: Orgo 1 lab, Orgo 2 lab, and biochemistry lab. All three are incredibly demanding lab periods. Orgo labs are four hours each, and biochemistry lab is two credits and meets twice a week for three hours each day. She is an absolutely outstanding teacher because she cares so much that we actually learn the material. Every lab is so organized and efficiently run. She's also an incredible mentor as the department advisor. She is readily available to all her students, but also mentors on much more than just academics. I suffered two injuries in college which required surgery and she is the sole reason my grades did not flounder. She helped me work with my professors but also genuinely cared about my mental well being. She fought for me to be able to study abroad and she advocates on behalf of her students. She is the ideal professor and advisor, and she deserves this award.*
- 2) *Of all of my professors and mentors throughout my time, Dr. Goodenough has had one of the most incredible and positive impacts. She is always available to her students. The biochemistry and chemistry majors have many different requirements that make it difficult to choose classes, study abroad, and try to fit in other majors or minors. Dr. Goodenough spends countless hours helping students with many of these little questions that lead into bigger questions. I have seen her many times act as a mentor to students such as myself or others who are just trying to figure life out at Notre Dame that goes far beyond just academic advising, but students who are trying to pursue different interests or decide what they are doing after graduation. She writes tons of recommendation letters because she gets to know her students so well and we all know we can rely on her. My time at Notre Dame would have been completely different without Dr. Goodenough guiding me along the way, and I cannot think of anyone who could deserve this honor more.*
- 3) *Dr. Goodenough was my laboratory instructor for organic chemistry 1, organic chemistry 2, and biochemistry as well as my principal academic advisor. She truly cares about her students and goes above and beyond to help them succeed. She writes over 100 letters of recommendation each year even though she is busy with being an advisor and a professor. She rapidly responds to emails: I've emailed her at 2 in the morning, and she responded in less than 10 minutes. She is passionate about what she does, and she has truly made a positive impact on all her students.*
- 4) *Dr. Goodenough-Lashua has made an amazing impact on the education of the Chemistry and Biochemistry majors at Notre Dame. She has been a laboratory professor who goes out of her way to make sure students follow safety regulations and grasp concepts performed in lab while allowing us personal space to work through our own problems. Her advising skills are amazing; she is frequently in contact with each student, and is willing and able to talk about each student's future whenever they ask. She has shown avenues in my academic career that I never would have found without her, and I believe she is one of the best people that has helped undergraduates in the college of science in my 3 years at Notre Dame.*
- 5) *I would not be a biochemistry major were it not for her. I know many of my classmates feel the same. Her compassion is unrivaled, and her excellence as a lab instructor unparalleled.*
- 6) *She is and also has been available for my needs as a student in a way that far exceeds that of other professors I have had. From teaching to advising to giving general advice, Dr. Goodenough was always there to support me in any way that I needed. She has been an outstanding professor for the last four years and truly embodies this award.*

- 7) *As an advisor and also lab professor, Dr. Goodenough's impact is felt throughout the years as being a Biochem major. She is quick to respond to emails and is always willing to set up a meeting to chat about classes or future help. One thing that I found most impressive from early on is how she remembered each person's name who was in the major. Especially as an underclassmen who was unsure what to do in the future, going into her meeting and being welcomed with a big smile and my name brought a lot of comfort to me in those times.*
- 8) *Dr. Goodenough-Lashua is an amazing academic advisor to the chemistry and biochemistry major. Whatever concerns we may have about the major, our classes, or the future, she has some sort of answer for us. She has helped calm me down about the uncertainty of my future and has given me great advice. She knows everything about the majors and can provide many different routes as to how to go about with the major. I have gone to her multiple times about studying abroad, and she was able to plan out the rest of my time at Notre Dame if I decided to study abroad with certain classes. She takes into consideration many different factors and tries her hardest to make sure that we all graduate on time with the requirements that we may need for our future plans. She is always there for her students, and whenever we reach out to her to meet, she responds very quickly and makes time to meet with us the next day. She genuinely cares about the wellbeing of her students and wants to see each and every one of them succeed.*

Dr. Huang

Professor, Electrical Engineering, Engineering

He made a hard class bearable and is one of the best instructors I have had to date.

Edward Hums

Teaching Professor, Accountancy, Mendoza College of Business

Words can't do justice to the service this awesome professor and human being does for the University of Notre Dame. He is the kind of professor that makes Notre Dame what Notre Dame is. As a freshman, I have already had my fair share of bad professors. Needless to say he is NOT one of them. Aside from being such a great guy that the University allows he and his wife to live in the annex of Lyons Hall, he truly goes above and beyond to help his students. If you can't make it to a quiz, no worries, you can make it up the next week. It is that sort of compassion and understanding that allows students to grow in relationships with their professors and truly learn valuable information. Professor Hums is, without a doubt in my mind, deserving of this award. Not giving him the award would be a disservice to what the University is trying to emphasize in giving out this award.

Arthur Lim

Math Department

Goes above and beyond to make sure each and every one of his students understands the material. Very accessible to students outside of class and goes to the extent of hosting extra review sessions, creating new problem packets and having one on one meetings with time out of his own day. Strives to not only have students be able to finish problems but to understand why they are doing what they are doing to get the answer. Frequently connects the material to real world applications and how certain techniques will be used in specific professions in relevant fields.

Joshua Lim

Professor, Department of Theology, Arts and Letters

This professor has introduced me to Theology in an eye opening way. He challenges me to think deeper, to ask the tough questions, and to be able to find the answers too. He knows what he is teaching in a truly impressive way.

Nancy Michael

Director of Undergraduate Studies - College of Science

Dr. Michael is one of the greatest people I have ever had the privilege of meeting on this Earth. When I took a visit to Notre Dame as a senior in high school, I had no idea what I wanted to study. After walking down the line of all the majors in Jordan Hall of Science, I ended up meeting Dr. Michael and being absolutely enlivened by the conversation we had about Neuroscience. From that point on, I decided that I wanted to study neuroscience. I wanted to learn about this world that this amazing individual was so passionate about... was so kind enough to share with me. Since coming to Notre Dame and studying Neuroscience as a pre-med student, I have been blessed beyond measure to call Dr. Michael a mentor, life coach, and good friend. She would do anything for any student at Notre Dame... not only charismatic, kind, genuine, and grounded, but this woman is a force for good in this world. She is using neuroscience to educate the minds and hearts of people all over the world to become better parents, brothers, friends, coaches, and co-workers. To her, academics aren't the end... they are only a means to helping change this world for good. She lives her life so intentionally with this goal and makes it known to every student that she is a "life coach" to each of us... not simply a professor. Having her as a professor and mentor had a profound effect on me - she helped firmly establish in me that academics are a means to changing this world and aren't a "definition" of me, Patrick Quinn. I am currently about to finish my time at Notre Dame a much more wholesome, loving, aware, motivated, and inspired person thanks to Dr. Nancy Michael. This woman is changing the world and has made an EPIC impact on the lives of so many students at the University of Notre Dame... including mine. Thank you Dr. Michael!

Bahram Moasser

Teaching Faculty, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, College of science

- 1) Professor Moasser is one of the best teachers I've ever had. I've had him for a freshman year chemistry lab and again for my senior year lab. He is so good at explaining complicated concepts and often clarifies topics we had already learned in lecture. Above all, he has continuously demonstrated how much he cares about his students. He always rewards critical thinking and puts more importance on genuine learning and curiosity rather than grades and constrained ways of doing something. He is not afraid to show his true kindness and caring nature to his student and maintains a personal, but professional relationship with his students throughout their college experience. He is definitely the professor who has most directly impacted and touched my life.*
- 2) Dr. Moasser is one of the most impactful people I have met at Notre Dame. I know when I look back on my time here, he is the professor who will first come to my mind. I have had three laboratory courses instructed by Professor Moasser which have all been challenging and intense, yet wonderful growing opportunities. Professor Moasser is deeply knowledgeable about chemistry and has an obvious passion to share that with his students. He puts significant work into prelab lectures and works relentlessly to trouble shoot when a lab doesn't go expected. His rigor motivates his students to likewise immerse themselves into the curriculum. However, what truly sets Professor Moasser apart is his care for his students. During our first course with him, he learned each student's name within the first week. Then when we had him again three semesters later, the first thing he did was go around the room and address each student by name. By acknowledging students in this way he makes his students feel seen and valued. He is always*

willing to go above and beyond to discuss chemistry, yet also listens intently when students are willing to share about what is going on in their lives beyond the classroom. For example, I travelled several times for dental school interviews. Professor Moasser frequently asked me how the interviews went clearly supported me along my journey. I also observed this in his relationships with my classmates. Whether it was discerning a grad school, internship, or a job unrelated to chemistry, Professor Moasser was invested in each student's goals. Especially within the past week, Professor Moasser has shown his true character. In light of the recent coronavirus decisions, Professor Moasser reached out to our laboratory course from the previous semester, simply offering himself up to talk or be of support in any way that he could. This empathy and understanding of students shows the way Professor Moasser goes beyond the role of a teacher. He is by far the best professor I have had in the College of Science, and I feel honored to nominate him for this award.

Vincent Phillip Munoz

Tocqueville Associate Professor of Political Science

He founded the Constitutional Studies minor as well as the Tocqueville Program for Inquiry into Religion and Public Life. He's a great lecturer and is very good at getting students to think more deeply about their political ideas. He respects everyone's opinions in class.

Sam Newlands

Professor, Department of Philosophy, Arts and Letters

Professor Newlands is by far the most engaged, interesting, and present teacher I have ever had in both the classroom and out of the classroom. He made every philosophy concept relate to things going on in my life and taking his class inspired me to become a philosophy double major. The energy and engagement he brought to class every day is unparalleled to anything I have ever experienced and the way he connected things to the life of college and the issues we face (socially, career-wise, etc) can only be possible if one is incredibly engaged, aware, and empathetic to your students. I have not personally encountered a better professor in my life and I would encourage everyone to take his classes if they ever get the chance.

Professor Pagliarini

Associate Professor, Theology, College of Arts and Letters

- 1) Prof. Pagliarini has put in an outstanding amount of time into helping his students to better understand Christian Theology. He works tirelessly to conduct a just and moral classroom and never turns away a confused or curious student. He is dedicated to the material, to the students, and to the importance of the subject. He exemplifies what all professors should strive to be.*
- 2) Pagliarini is one of the most influential professors I have had. He supports each student in their academic growth, social growth, and spiritual growth. He filled our classes with humor, while also giving extraordinary insights into our topic. He was flexible with students and desired our success above anything else. His mode of teaching was engaging, and everyone in the class talked about how amazing he was at delivering abstract concepts in a fun manner. He was very open to improvement as well, and always asked students for input. He was a leader and practiced what he taught.*

Michael Pruitt

Assisting Teacher Professor

Michael Pruitt is an amazing professor. The true definition of passion; the true definition of doing what you love. The man is so inspirational. I appreciate him so much, but I don't know how to show him. He is not an emotional guy at all. But if only he knew how amazing and inspirational he was. He deserves an award. I promise you that he does. He may not be as popular as a Carl Ackermann, or a Chris Stevens, but this man deserves something. I promise.

Marco Radeschi

Mathematics Dept

I have never met a teacher more enthusiastic about his subject matter as Marco. As a result, his class was enjoyable every day despite my unfortunate 9:25 timing with him. He single handedly cemented my intent to graduate as a mathematics major and I strongly encourage whomever this may concern to consider Marco as the recipient of this award.

Steve Reifenberg

Associate Professor of the Practice of International Development; Co-Director, Integration Lab

I first met Professor Reifenberg at a meeting at the Kellogg Institute during my freshman year. I was blown away by not only his credentials but by the way he engaged students on important issues. His view of the value and importance of undergraduates was unlike any other professor I had met. After taking multiple classes with him, and through working with him for a few semesters, I can wholeheartedly say that his unique teaching style of having students learn from practice is an unparalleled way to learn. Not only does he provide unique skills for undergraduates, but he pairs together the work he is doing with us and the mater's students to form a synergy that is beneficial to both groups. He has taught me skills that I use every day of my life and will continue to use in whatever comes after college. Finally, more than anything else, Professor Reifenberg goes above and beyond other professors in fostering a group of students that are united and face life's most challenging problems. He gives of his time and resources to host class dinners, meetings outside of his office hours, and extra help sessions to ensure every student is learning and feels valued. I am very thankful for Professor Reifenberg and await the day when I can see him again on campus.

Michael Seelinger

Teaching Professor, Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering

- 1) Professor Seelinger has exemplified what it means to be a teacher of knowledge. Not only does he give up an unprecedented number of hours per week for office hours, but he goes out of his way to bestow on us knowledge that far surpasses what is expected of him. Most notably, Dr. Seelinger aims to be a mentor for each and every one of us in the Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering Department. His passion for teaching and devotion to developing each of us into the world's next wave of leaders are unmatched in any professor I've encountered at Notre Dame thus far. His service to students, his department, college, and Notre Dame in general, is unmatched and by a large margin.*
- 2) Professor Seelinger is truly a hard working instructor both in and out of the classroom, and has made an outstanding impact on this University because he understands the true value of learning. He doesn't push this value on students, though — he emphasizes a certain place and time for it and realizes that students have lives outside his class. This, coupled with an ability to teach the material extremely well, is very rare and I'm proud to be taught by him each day.*
- 3) This professor gives life lessons along with teaching the material. He makes class fun and is always available to help*

- 4) *Understands the students very well, teaches students how to learn more effectively rather than teaching for an exam*
- 5) *He is invested in the well being and success of each of his students. He goes out of his way to make sure that students have a grasp of every concept in the class. He makes class fun with creative examples, helpful stories of his experiences with past students, and tips to make sure we are getting the most out of our time at ND. He is incredibly organized with everything he does in the class (150+ students). From handing homework back, to the structure of his lectures, you can tell he has put a great deal of thought into his class. During this coronavirus crisis, he had lectures recorded and prepared the day after we found out we would not be returning to school immediately after break. He acknowledged he was getting very ahead of himself, but he wanted to make sure he would have time in the next week to help professors that may be having struggles with technology. I believe this truly shows the kind of professor he is. Seelinger is the best professor I have had at Notre Dame, and I am so grateful to have had him for 2 semesters.*
- 6) *He is one of the most understanding and down to earth professors I have worked with. He knows what is important in education and wants more than anything to see us succeed. His class is intense and challenging, yet he inspires everyone to work hard and grasp the concepts. He makes even the toughest lesson seem like anyone could do it. He teaches with enthusiasm and explains material in clear ways, and engages the whole class. I think of him as more than just a professor, but a mentor, and I come to him with questions about all of my classes and about life in general. He is the embodiment of a professor - teaching us things that extend beyond the classroom.*

Professor Serafini

Italian Professor

Professor Serafini is the best professor I have had. She taught my first semester of Italian. There is something about her teaching that brings students together. In the beginning my class was unmotivated and altogether lazy about learning Italian. Professor Serafini shared her passion and energy for the language and the class became engaged and interested. By the end of the semester we knew each others' names, majors, hometowns, and we even had our own inside jokes in Italian! Even after having class with her she still reaches out to me over email about Italian opportunities and interesting new ways of learning the language. I recently got an email over break from her about ways to practice over break. It was chalk-full of brilliant ideas that I would have never thought of. She also dedicated her time to Italian department through volunteer classes, something I have never heard of, but if anyone were to do it, it would be Professor Serafini. She truly wants her students to succeed, learn the language, and to be happy and healthy. PLEASE consider selecting her. She deserves it.

Forrest Spence

Adjunct Professor, Economics, College of Arts and Letters

He keeps the class engaged like no other professor and has a great sense of humor. He's the Michael Jordan of the College of Arts and Letters.

Jeff Spoonhower

Assistant Professor of Film and Digital Media Production, Department of Film, Television, and Theatre, College of Arts & Letters

- 1) *I took Mr. Spoonhower's class, "The Animation Course: History, Practice, Forms, and Cultures" during the Fall 2019 semester, and I was ultimately blown away by all components of the class. First off, all of my classmates recognize and appreciate all the hard work that has gone into*

recreating this class from the Fall of 2015. All the films and screenings were relevant to the teachings each week and provide substantive and crucial information that is important in the world of animation. It is no simple task to curate all the readings and select relevant screenings; however, Professor Spoonhower remarkably created the class in an extremely organized, logical manner.

Furthermore, Professor Spoonhower's teaching style and class structure made it significantly easier to contribute to class discussion. As an introvert who finds it difficult to participate in class because of nerves and fear of embarrassment, I found it more encouraging and comfortable to contribute to discussion because of Professor Spoonhower's teaching methods. As the class progressed in the content covered during the lecture and skills developed in the labs, I would find myself fascinating at how relevant the skills taught in the lab were significantly relevant to an animation career if I thought of pursuing such a career. Although I took this class as a fun elective to fulfill the requirements for the Film, Television, and Theatre major, I received the most stress from this class out of all the classes I have taken at this University as the assignments truly made me step out of my comfort zone; however, I believe that I have learned so much from Professor Spoonhower and that this course offered many challenging opportunities to grow my skill set using Adobe Photoshop, After Effects, and Premiere Pro. I would even make the argument that this class trumps all the classes offered in the Mendoza College of Business, my primary college by offering more tangible, hard skills that can be applied in this growing technological society.

- 2) *He puts every ounce of his energy and passion into what he teaches, inspiring students to push beyond what they previously believed their capabilities to be. His courses blend theory and lab work, showing his dedication to providing a holistic education on all things animation, sound design, and film. I have never had a professor that so clearly is in love with what he teaches and wants to share it and help students be better than they ever imagined in his courses.*

María Rosa Olivera Williams

Professor, Latin American Literature; Department of Romance Languages and Literature; College of Arts and Letters

Through her passion for Latin American literature and her dedication to teaching and educating many students about its importance in our world, María Rosa has inspired countless students to pursue a second major in Spanish through the Department of Romance Languages and Literature. Her patience, kindness, and encouragement made the learning experience in her class (Modern Latin American Literature) enjoyable and rewarding, making it easier to interpret and analyze difficult texts by renowned authors such as Pablo Neruda, Jorge Luis Borges, and Nicolás Guillen. Had I not taken her class, I might not have decided to continue pursuing a full double major in Spanish. Her class inspired in me a love of the language that I had not experienced before, making me excited to continue my studies and strive towards fluency. By the completion of my studies in Spanish, I am now a fluent speaker thanks to Professors such as María Rosa and my study abroad experience in Toledo, Spain.