Dr. John Moyer
Associate professor of management

"At the center of Dr. Nowacek's work as a teacher is the notion of guiding students to make connections themselves, to become learners, mentors and advisors. "At the center of Dr. Nowacek's work as a teacher is the notion of guiding students to make connections themselves, to become learners, mentors and advisors."

Each year, faculty members who are held in the highest esteem by colleagues and students are honored with Teaching Excellence Awards. Dr. Mark Cotteleer, associate professor of management; Dr. Sarah Bonewits Feldner, associate professor of communication studies; and Dr. John Moyer, professor of mathematics, statistics and computer science, received the John P. Raynor, S.J., Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence this year. Dr. Rebecca Nowacek, associate professor of English, received the Robert and Mary Gettel Award for Teaching Excellence.

Although the honorees are all accomplished scholars specializing in different disciplines, one thread is consistent throughout — above all, they consider themselves teachers.

One nominator said he cannot seem to go anywhere without encountering people who point to Moyer as an influential teacher in their lives, many of whom went on to be teachers themselves. "These kind of connections are no mere fluke. They are a testament to the enormous impact that Jack's career has had on the practice of teaching mathematics throughout southeastern Wisconsin and beyond."

Dr. Richard Nowacek
Associate professor of English

Throughout the many recommendations written about her by colleagues and former students, one word was consistently used to describe Nowacek — "tireless." Her enthusiasm and commitment to teaching extend beyond the classroom to her position as director of the Norman H. Ott Memorial Writing Center, and to her involvement with Muresa for Faculty.

Whether she is reading aloud her feedback to students' personal narratives for her advanced composition class or organizing and attending weekly film screenings for a drama or musical course, Nowacek consistently goes above and beyond to engage every student she teaches, mentors and advises.

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By Lynn Shaik