

Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor Award

Since 2001, *The Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor Award* annually recognizes four SMU faculty members for their notable commitment to and achievements in fostering student learning. These are teachers whose concerns for higher education go beyond classroom boundaries and often the boundaries of their own disciplines. In student mentoring, in discussions about teaching, and in continuous reflection about their own successes and ways to improve, they represent the highest achievement in reaching the goals of higher education. Guidelines for nomination and selection are [here](#).

Recipients receive a \$10,000 award and membership in [SMU's Academy of Distinguished Teachers](#). For two years following the award, they participate actively with other members of the Academy in providing campus-wide leadership in teaching and learning.

Here are the 2015 recipients of the Award:



JILL DETEMPLE

Jill DeTemple has been a member of the faculty of SMU's Dedman College of Humanities & Sciences since 2005. She received her Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, her Master's of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School, and a Bachelor of Arts from Bowdoin College.

Professor DeTemple has won numerous awards during her tenure at SMU, including the Golden Mustang Award, the Rotunda Outstanding Professor award, Newcomer to Service Learning Award, and has been named a H.O.P.E. (Honoring our Professors' Excellence) professor four times. She is a creative teacher that employs discussion, small group exercises, innovative uses of technology, and service learning projects in her courses.

She is an engaged member of the SMU community and had a central role in the implementation of the University Curriculum (UC), where she was integral in helping to develop the student learning outcomes. DeTemple serves the university in a variety of capacities including serving in the Faculty Senate and facilitating a Faculty Learning Community for her colleagues. Her many services efforts directly improve teaching and student learning.

Professor DeTemple's students think highly of her, as is reflected in their comments: "there was never a time that I left her class without plenty to think about and to discuss in the next meeting," "I am not the brightest student, I am not the best talker, I've never been one for writing, but she was able to reach me, to engage me, and to help me respond positively to what we were doing in the classroom," and "The SMU Religious Studies Department should Thank Allah, God, G-d, Buddha, and every single Hindu deity every day that they hired Jill DeTemple."

"M" Award

The "M" Award is the highest recognition bestowed upon students, faculty, staff and administrators on the SMU Campus. The recipients' efforts have been continuous during their years at the University and are not limited to a narrow vested interest. The "M" Award honorees are an inspiration to others, giving unselfishly of their time and talents in order to make the University, and indeed the world, a better place.

Receiving the "**M**" Award, SMU's most prestigious honor, are five faculty and staff members and 10 students (see below) whose contributions to the University are "above and beyond the call of duty." Faculty and staff recipients include:

- **David Chard**, Leon Simmons Endowed Dean, Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development
- **Jill DeTemple**, associate professor of religious studies, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences
- **Mark Fontenot**, clinical professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Lyle School of Engineering, and founding faculty-in-residence, Loyd Commons
- **Anthony Tillman**, assistant provost for strategic initiatives and director of student retention, Office of the Provost
- **Elizabeth Wheaton**, senior lecturer in economics, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, and faculty-in-residence, Cockrell-McIntosh Commons