

## **Philip Peek Receives CAMWS Award for Excellence in College Teaching**

Philip Peek earned his B.A. in Chemistry at Lafayette College and his PhD at Loyola University. Since 1995 he has ascended the ranks at Bowling Green State University where he currently holds the position of full professor and chair of World Languages and Culture.

Specializing in courses in ancient Greek, professor Peek has revisited the rigors of rote memorization by “teaching students metacognitive strategies, which empower them to take charge of their own learning and to teach themselves. When students think about *how* they think, they start to become their own teachers.” In his Classical Civilization courses, professor Peek finds that “the humanities guide us to disciplined thinking about fundamental questions that bear on our lives as individuals and members of society, questions involving justice, leadership, mortality, and how best to live.” His courses go far beyond the content and allow students to know themselves better.

One colleague describes him as “self-consciously a teacher of Humanities who is dedicated to helping his students grow as wise and empathetic persons.” Another notes the “collegial, kind, and curious spirit his presence sparks and nurtures within students past, present, and future.” Professor Peek’s engaging classroom techniques have a stimulating effect on even his early morning classes. One colleague has borne witness to “the effects of these approaches..., the enthusiasm elicited from previously groggy students as early as 8am.” His invaluable contributions to “The Ancient Greek Consortium of Ohio and West Virginia” to address the common problem of declining enrollments in undergraduate ancient Greek are in full effect at four universities, who now use his textbook *Ancient Greek I: A 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Approach*.

His students praise his thoughtful approach to Greek pedagogy, noting that “In Phil’s classroom, ... Greek comes alive and is made accessible to all. Each and every student is empowered to put in the work and experience the rewarding exploration of ancient history, philosophy, and drama in the original language.” The metacognitive strategies that professor Peek instills in his students have elicited this praise: “One of the most valuable things Phil taught me as a student was to become comfortable with the tension of not knowing all yet leveraging knowing some to build a deep and personal understanding of the fundamentals.”

In his mythology courses, “Students walk away with life lessons... about the self and an ability to interact with those who are different from them.” Professor Peek regularly provides feedback and personalized responses that, according to one student “motivated me to excel at the assignments and truly express my values on a subject.” Another student notes “His class was truly a joy, and...is... the best class experience I have had in college. Dr. Peek is a fantastic teacher, and he makes it easy to love learning.” In addition to making learning easier and empowering his students, professor Peek has guided them to make important connections that will span their lives. Here is one final quote: “He taught us that we are all not so different, and that the human experience transcends generations and geography.”

The Committee is honored to award Philip Peek the 2022 CAMWS Award for Excellence in College Teaching.