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Inbox: KMTA Nomination: David Feurzeig (13 of 78)  

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Date: Tue, 26 Apr 2011 16:46:09 -0400 [04/26/2011 04:46:09 PM EDT]

From: KMTA Nomination Form <lapperso@uvm.edu>  

To: ctl@uvm.edu 

Subject: KMTA Nomination: David Feurzeig

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The following nomination has been made for the Kroepsch-Maurice Teaching Award:

Nominated By: Leslie Apperson
Email: lapperso@uvm.edu

Professor's name: David Feurzeig
Department: Music

How do you know this professor?: MU 009 " Music Theory Fundamentals
Fall 2010

1. Excellence in instruction:

Music theory has always been a serious struggle for me, and especially being in a college-level theory class, where the pace was much quicker and the topics were more advanced, I was anxious about the class. However, Professor Feurzeig has a wonderful approach to teaching music theory " he clearly explained the concepts and used many different paths of explanation (ie. audio recordings, spoken explanations, and written explanations on whiteboard) to be sure that everyone truly understood. He always answered any and every question completely and fully. During his class, and because of his class, I understand music theory better than I ever did in all my four years of High School, and that is incredible because for the first time, I am finding myself being excited about music theory.

2. Capacity to engage students:

Professor Feurzeig is incredibly genuine and funny, which really lightened the atmosphere and made for an extremely enjoyable fifty minutes of music theory, which is not an easy task. Professor Feurzeig's personality and teaching style helped make the class environment comfortable, which I found so vital for engagement and learning. He has a kind, humble aura, and that makes him approachable both inside and outside of class, which was immensely helpful, especially with a subject that can be very hard to grasp. He also incorporated good music to help teach, which I know personally kept me engaged: he helped me to draw a real connection between what we learned in class and applications to the real world.

3. Innovation in teaching methods and/or curriculum:

In Music 009, we used a program called "Music Fundamentals," or MFun for short. I found this program to be wonderful because it was an interactive way to study and practice what we were learning in the classroom. Professor Feurzeig was

also very innovative in his tests as well as his homework assignments â€” there were often audio recordings on the tests in which we would identify meters/time signatures, and he implemented great variety in his assignments. His tests and assignments were challenging without being so difficult that learning from them was impossible. He was also a very thorough grader, which was very constructive when it came to understanding our mistakes and learning from them.

4. Demonstrated commitment to cultural diversity:

5. Ability to motivate and challenge students:

Professor Feurzeig was always excited about Music Theory while he was teaching â€” he showed great passion about the topic â€” which, as a student, is essential for being interested and motivated. Some of the best, and most important qualities in a professor, I think, are passion and enthusiasm, and Professor Feurzeig possesses both. He was also extremely helpful outside of class. When I would meet with him for extra help he would always listen, and respond with clear explanations and encouragement. He never responded in such a way that made me feel ashamed for not knowing the material, and that was incredibly motivating, because I was able to ask the questions that I needed to, positive that he would help me. However, I think a lot of his motivation and challenges came from his lectures â€” they were interesting yet relaxed, thus causing us to not quite realize when we were being challenged, yet being challenged, and then being so encouraged when we succeeded.

6. Evidence of excellent advising:



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The following nomination has been made for the Kroepsch-Maurice Teaching Award:

Nominated By: Andrew Van Patten
Email: avanpatt@uvm.edu

Professor's name: David Feurzeig
Department: Music
How do you know this professor?: Creating Music for Video (MU 95),
Harmony and Form I (MU 109), Advisor

1. Excellence in instruction:

David's teaching style is unequivocally the best I've experienced at UVM. He thoroughly explains various music theory concepts, and then demonstrates them on the piano. This was key because it brought everything he was teaching to life. Music is supposed to be heard, not looked at!

2. Capacity to engage students:

He's not only extremely knowledgeable, but also extremely passionate in what he teaches, and it shows. This is what drew me in immediately. His phenomenal piano playing was a great tool to engage his students because what he was playing was not easy. Also, David has a great sense of humor. This also made it a huge pleasure going to class.

3. Innovation in teaching methods and/or curriculum:

4. Demonstrated commitment to cultural diversity:

In our MU 95 class, David was constantly introducing us to new musical genres. Taking this class has broaden my musical tastes tenfold. He also incorporated diverse guest lecturer's into the curriculum.

5. Ability to motivate and challenge students:

6. Evidence of excellent advising:

David was always available outside of class to meet with for advising. When I decided to switch Music from my major to my minor, David went out of his way and

offered his help. In a school the size of UVM, it's rare for professor's to give students special attention.

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The following nomination has been made for the Kroepsch-Maurice Teaching Award:

Nominated By: Timothy Jebb
Email: tdjebb@uvm.edu

Professor's name: David Feurzeig
Department: Music

How do you know this professor?: Harmony Form I and II. Section numbers MU 109 and MU 110

1. Excellence in instruction:

David's a music teacher who has a complete mastery over basically every realm of music, whether it be classical, jazz, or pop. He relates examples to all three music categories in order to make everything we learn applicable in a variety of settings. In plain, his knowledge of music is remarkable. I've never had a music teacher so fluent in the areas that they teach as David is.

2. Capacity to engage students:

The ease in which David relay's his vast knowledge onto students is really the part that sets him apart from most teachers. He uses clear english and is never vague. The great thing about him though is that he adapts his courses to the students he is teaching. He takes concepts from classical music and applies them to songs written by the Beatles in every class. This not only shows us that what we learn is applicable to every kind of music, but also keeps us engaged by using examples that the majority of the class grew up with. He's also very personable and makes one of the dry-est subjects in music entertaining and interesting.

3. Innovation in teaching methods and/or curriculum:

Apart from showing us how theory works through popular music examples via sheet music, he also shows us how things sound by playing everything on the piano in class making us very acquainted with how the subjects sound as well as look on paper. He also understands that music is also very subjective and can be interpreted in many different ways analytically. This is where I really prefer David as a teacher than others. He lets us come to our own conclusions about things without being over bearing about "his way" or how he sees things.

4. Demonstrated commitment to cultural diversity:

5. Ability to motivate and challenge students:

For me, David's sheer talent, vast knowledge, and understanding is what motivates me. He gives students the absolute pinnacle of what a good music educator and playing musician is. He makes me work that much harder to gain as much information as I can about every style or subject of music in order for me to be as influential a teacher to someone as he has been to me.

6. Evidence of excellent advising:

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The following nomination has been made for the Kroepsch-Maurice Teaching Award:

Nominated By: Grace Chris
Email: grace.chris89@gmail.com

Professor's name: David Feurzeig
Department: Music

How do you know this professor?: I was in his Harmony and Form II class!!

1. Excellence in instruction:

Professor Feurzeig is an excellent teacher. He is a very hands-on teacher and his explanations and methods are always relevant to our myriad learning styles. For example, he would teach us concepts not by reading them from a textbook, but by picking out musical examples where they occurred! I loved how many Beatles songs he would use 😊

2. Capacity to engage students:

He would keep us motivated by constantly keeping class moving, and by getting everyone involved. He would ask questions, have us work in and out of groups, and work together to solve problems. Another amiable quality about his teacher is he is funny. There needs to be some humor in a classroom, and he used just enough. It would always keep us focused and alert.

3. Innovation in teaching methods and/or curriculum:

Like I said before I thoroughly enjoyed his teaching methods. I probably learned the most information in his class because he would work the concepts into real life. Anyone can teach by the book, and would always go above and beyond that!

4. Demonstrated commitment to cultural diversity:

Professor Feurzeig would demonstrate this by using musical examples from all around the world. Some concepts had to be taught with Western music because we were primary learning Western music styles, but he did his best to be worldly about it!

5. Ability to motivate and challenge students:

One of the greatest things I remember about Professor Feurzeig was his keen ability to know how and when we were advancing in class. The class was never

excruciatingly hard, but it was never easy either. He had us constantly at the challenging level. This would be amazing to accomplish with one student, but he did this with the whole class and all of its academic levels!

6. Evidence of excellent advising:

Professor Feurzeig was a great classroom teacher as well as a one-on-one teacher and advisor. He always extended the opportunity to extra help, and was willing to make time for those that needed it, despite his busy schedule!

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