

# **Collin College Outstanding Professor Finalists for 2013-2014**

Purpose: to recognize faculty for exemplary teaching and outstanding service to the college and community

# Nominees excel in

- Providing outstanding instruction
- Leading and motivating students
- Understanding, relating to and interacting with students
- Service to and/or leadership in the college community
- Service or participation in professional organizations and/or community

# **Finalists for 2013 - 2014**

**Michele Brown, Pastry Arts**

**Martha Chalhoub, Mathematics**

**Tammy Hale, Dental Hygiene**

**Lisa Kirby, English**

**Kyle Wilkison, History**

# Michele Brown

## Professor of Pastry Arts



*“We are being taught by an Olympian. We are very proud of her and very honored.”*

# Michele Brown



- Motivates her students and brings real world experience to the classroom
- Keeps students engaged by utilizing field trips and bringing in recognized speakers who work in the profession
- Involves her students constantly in community service and professional organization activities
- Serves as a role model to her students (State of Texas Pastry Chef 2010, bronze medal in Master Chef Society Olympic Team competition, Dallas Pastry Chef 2013)

# Students' comments:



- She is a chef with passion.
- Chef Brown's knowledge and experience provide valuable information that no textbook could ever give you.
- She has high expectations of us and challenges us to meet or exceed them.
- Chef Brown is motivational and inspiring. She makes the classes enjoyable but challenging.
- She has inspired me to be a better student and to be a better professional at work.

# Martha Chalhoub

## Professor of Mathematics



*“She has a teacher’s heart.”*

# Martha Chalhoub



- Motivates and inspires through her infectious joy of mathematics and her desire to share that with her students at all levels.
- Infuses within her students the accessibility and importance of the material to their future educational endeavors and their lives.
- Encourages students' interests in math by instituting service learning projects involving environmental sustainability in her Calculus I and Business Calculus I classes.



# Students' comments:



- You know you have a great professor when you hate the subject but still love attending class.
- There are not many things that she didn't do to help me in any and every way to achieve the course objectives.
- She is open, available and accessible for questions. We know we aren't alone in facing daunting challenges.
- This class was very difficult, but I feel I have grown from the challenge!

# Tammy Hale

## Professor of Dental Hygiene



*“She’s a tough professor with a huge heart.”*

# Tammy Hale



- Motivates students to meet high expectations but works equally as hard to help struggling students.
- Knows Dental Hygiene “like the back of her hand” and finds ways to explain concepts and procedures so that students gain confidence in their own skills.
- Totally involved in community service and constantly pushes and encourages students to give to their community as well.

# Students' comments:



- She sees our potential, knows we're smart and pushes us to do our very best in all that we do.
- She has inspired me to be a better person and to believe that I can do so much more than I ever thought!
- She pushes us to think critically and use our brains!
- She cares very much for her students and is 110% dedicated to us.

# Lisa Kirby

## Professor of English



*“In her class, students learn so much more than how to write. Instead, they learn how and why to think—which is the most valuable thing a college professor can impart.”*

# Lisa Kirby



- Passionate about her profession, insisting that students view themselves as writers, “We are *all* writers,” she reminds them often.
- Sees herself as a partner with her students, working just as hard as they do to help them succeed.
- Challenges and encourages reluctant and enthusiastic students alike, never accepting less than their best work.
- Serves as a positive role model by publishing and presenting scholarly papers and taking the lead on developing the Collin Composition Academy for the professional development of all English faculty.

# Students' comments:



- Dr. Kirby is absolutely one of the best professors I have ever had. She has the perfect combination of technical mastery of the subject and a superior personality.
- We knew she was always willing to help and that she cared about our success.
- She has a welcoming attitude and never makes anyone feel stupid for asking stupid questions.
- I loved her positive attitude every time she walked in class and her way of giving me the confidence to do great in her class.

# Kyle Wilkison

## Professor of History



*“He is very interested in and passionate about history. I think he was just meant to be a history teacher.”*



# Kyle Wilkison



- Uses dry wit and exquisite humor to narrate American history with the scholarship to support it.
- His unique style, along with sensitivity for the underprivileged, draws students to him and inspires them to meet his high standards.
- With multiple scholarly publications including articles in academic journals and award-winning books, he is, as one nominator stated, *the real deal*.

# Students' comments:



- Prof. Wilkison is very enthusiastic about the material and always used good analogies to relate the subject to something more current. He kept class interesting and the lectures helped me grasp the concepts we were studying.
- I really enjoyed that he loved the subject of history; it made me get excited about it.
- He is extremely enthusiastic about the course and makes what could be boring and painful lectures engaging and interesting.

