The Saint Anselm College Chapter of the AAUP

Presents

The Distinguished Faculty Award

to

Gary Bouchard Ph.D.

The 2021 recipient of the Saint Anselm College Chapter of the AAUP Distinguished Faculty Award is so woven into the fabric of this college community that one would think he has been here his entire life, but that is not the case. He grew up in Denver, the youngest of six children, with parents who instilled in him a strong work ethic and an appreciation of family. He completed his undergraduate work in 1983 at Benedictine College and was awarded his Ph.D. in English Literature at the Loyola University of Chicago in 1987. He has been at Saint Anselm College ever since.

During his over thirty-four years at the college, his contributions have been many. English majors have loved his classes, from Shakespeare to Native American Literature. He is devoted to the Conversatio program. He has persuaded many students who thought they could not write to believe in their ability to become better writers. That may be because this recipient is himself an exceptional, award-winning writer and poet.

In addition to his academic contributions, he has served as the English Department Chair and was the Executive Vice President of the College from 1998-2003. He continues to contribute through his role as the Executive Director of the Gregory J. Grappone Humanities Institute. Under his guidance, the Institute celebrates the Humanities in all their forms through interdisciplinary collaborations, the Humanities minor, and the popular Come Friday Forums. And, no Spring would be complete without the annual Shakespeare Sonnet Reading Festival. He manages to say something fresh and apt and funny about every sonnet reader, even the ones he hardly knows. Speaking of funny, he is known for his lightning-fast wit; ability to light up a room simply by walking in, ridiculous hat or not; and for his performance as a member of the Duke’s Dogs in the now infamous twelve-minute production of Hamlet.

Above all, he is known and appreciated for his genuine interest and affection for others. And by far, his greatest love is for his family who were delighted to hear of this award. Their words capture the true essence of this year’s recipient. His wife, Donna, shared, “Over the years, you have continued to inspire your students to learn with compassion and rigor, and have gone beyond the instructional level by mentoring and maintaining long-lasting relationships. You have impacted so many. As one of your students wrote recently, "I never thought a circle of lawn chairs on the quad could be so life-changing.” His son, Jay, wrote, "That my dad grows each year in the classroom reflects his continued devotion to teaching, and that he publishes so frequently--pushing himself as a writer, poet, and editor--reflects an earnest commitment to scholarship." His son, Phil, added, "My father's dedication to Saint Anselm College has impressed me for as long as I can remember. I grew up watching him put every ounce of professional energy into honing his craft as a professor, evangelizing the Saint Anselm College mission.”

It’s my great pleasure to present the 2021 AAUP Distinguished Faculty Award to Professor of English, Gary Bouchard.