

- "March 18, 2011"

Posted by gavazzi.1

Created on March 18, 2011 at 12:00am - Last updated May 25, 2013 at 11:31pm

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*"The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called truth." (Dan Rather)*

Hello everyone,

Yesterday was a very proud moment for The Ohio State University at Mansfield campus. One of our very own, Professor Joseph R. Holomuzki, a faculty member of the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology, was informed that he was a recipient of the 2011 Distinguished Teaching Award.

Through some subterfuge, we were able to coax Joe out of his sabbatical in order to have him available for Senior Vice President for Alumni Relations and Alumni Association President (oh yes, and the only two-time Heisman Trophy Award winner) Archie Griffin to make the presentation of this award. And how fitting! One of the all-time great college football legends, someone who gave so many fans so much to cheer about, gave our university's highest teaching award to someone who gave so many students so much to think about.

By watching closely and intently as Jo Ho (yes, I have come to find out that Dr. Holomuzki has a nickname) received his award from Mr. Griffin, I can say with near certainty that he was both surprised and delighted. We really had done a great job of keeping this a closely guarded secret, which of course lent itself to the surprise element. And the delight seemed to come from deep within the man, giving everyone an inkling of that same energy that causes him to teach so well. While I was not surprised, I must say that I too was thrilled. In fact, one of the greatest parts of being a Dean is helping to create opportunities that celebrate the greatness of those individuals who make outstanding contributions to the university's mission. And this was one of those very cool moments, plain and simple.

So please take the time to join me in congratulating Joe for this significant recognition. And as well, please take the time to enjoy the weekend with family and friends!

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Steve Gavazzi