

Faculty of Social Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award (2004) presented to Dr. David Giles, Department of Economics

Since joining the Economics Department a decade ago, Dr. David Giles has published more refereed material than anyone else in the department and received the highest student teaching evaluation each year. He shoulders a particularly heavy load of graduate supervision too, as students seek him out for his wisdom and an apparently inexhaustible supply of thesis and essay topics.



Dr. Giles wants others to appreciate and understand the power and intricacies of statistics and econometrics. But rather than sticking to the rote application of formulae, he reaches for a larger understanding of principles. Recently, in response to a request from graduate students, he taught a popular lecture series on distribution theory on a voluntary, non-credit basis.

Dr. Giles accommodates the needs of graduate Visa students by offering directed studies and/or scheduled courses in the summer session, and has published with students of all backgrounds.

Dr. Giles has been instrumental in designing programs in econometrics at the BSc, MA and PhD levels that provide excellent preparation for graduate studies or application in the workplace. As Departmental Webmaster, he designed and maintains a website that boosts the department's learning environment. Dr. Giles helped lay a solid administrative foundation for our PhD program.

His students say it best. Here is an example from Lucie Charron:

"Dr. Giles is an exceptional teacher, not only because he is one of the leading experts in his field, but also because he truly wants his students to learn and succeed. This is apparent in everything he does. For example, while teaching our class last year, to ensure students were comfortable with the rather complex material we were covering, he routinely provided extra tutorials, and sometimes the same tutorial twice in one day. He held extra office hours, and he even went out of his way to provide a simple word of encouragement to those who he felt might need it. On numerous occasions he has gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure his students had the best possible chance of learning.

Perhaps what really distinguishes Dr. Giles is his enthusiasm and excitement in the classroom. He is truly passionate about what he does, and this in turn translates in his teaching methods."

Contact:

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