

Dear Members of the Distinguished Teaching Award,

Over the past few semesters, we have had the opportunity to engage with and learn from Professor Timothy Richards in COMPSCI 377 Operating Systems. We write this letter as a means of showcasing our appreciation for Professor Richards' excellent teaching, support, and guidance throughout the course of the semester.

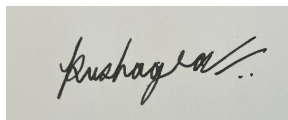
Professor Richards consistently strives to engage with the class and present material of the course in a student-centered manner. Despite the difficulty of the subject, he engages with students and makes the course material interesting. The lectures were stimulating and interactive, with plenty of hands-on coding experience. Professor Richards would often make analogies to real life situations, which helped break down complicated Operating Systems topics in a simple, easy to understand manner.

Professor Richards would go out of his way to foster a community built on trust, inclusivity, and open communication. Communication and collaboration were encouraged to foster the understanding of new concepts during lectures and discussion sessions. Projects and lab work were directly derived from each new concept introduced. Many difficult concepts were made easier to understand through a real-life application of classroom knowledge with the coding projects. The projects and lab work truly helped the students gain an intimate understanding of each new concept and how those concepts connected in the greater jigsaw puzzle of an Operating System.

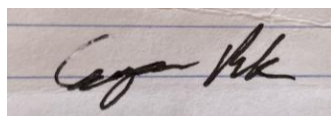
Professor Richards understands how each individual has a unique learning style, and takes tangible steps at every moment to make the course fair for all students. The grading breakdown across various projects, lab work, topic quizzes, and the final exam was greatly appreciated by the class, as it gave the opportunity to every unique individual to excel. Personal attention was given to every student—despite the large number of students taking this course—through the office hours, discussion sessions, and even the lectures. These steps made sure that each student felt they were able to learn from and contribute to the classroom environment and the UMass community.

Professor Richards demonstrates exceptional teaching capabilities, and goes out of his way to support each and every individual in his classroom. Professor Richards' easy-going personality and humor creates a positive environment that is conducive to learning and fosters a community between students and staff. We are proud that he has been nominated for this distinguished award, and we hope he keeps educating and inspiring the next generation of students.

Sincerely,



Kushagra Srivastava
Computer Science
ksrivastava@umass.edu



Eugene Mak
Computer Science, Math
emak@umass.edu



James Leone
Computer Science, Philosophy
jleone@umass.edu



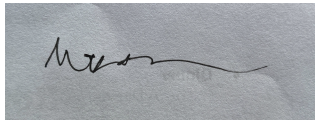
Yuni Jeong
Computer Science, Math
seoyunjeong@umass.edu



Aditya Maheshwari
Computer Science, Math
adityamahesh@umass.edu



Atharva Kale
Computer Science
aukale@umass.edu



Max Munro Sonderegger
Computer Science
msonderegger@umass.edu