

Teaching Award Winners

The mathematics faculty at Roanoke College is committed to outstanding teaching. We are known for our open doors and interest in talking with students. We spend time in the hall talking about our recent successes and failures (we have both as we try new ideas and adapt to new students). We are pleased that three of us have received the prestigious and competitive Roanoke College Exemplary Teaching Award. In addition, four of us won the College Innovation Award for our re-visioning of calculus.

Dave Taylor (2012) has taught mathematics courses from first-semester calculus to math senior seminar, as well as three general education courses of his own design. His boundless energy and infectious enthusiasm have made him an excellent ambassador for mathematics as well as an effective and popular teacher. His teaching goes well beyond the classroom with advising, Math Club leadership, Conversation Series coordination, and taking students to regional and national mathematics meetings.

Chris Lee (2009) is a leader in bringing technology into the classroom. He smoothly incorporates graphical representations of solutions into his classes, giving students an extra dimension of understanding. He explores many of the limitations of technology, encouraging students to go beyond a blind reliance on computer assistance to a productive interaction between student and software. His work has been featured by the Wolfram Research as a thoughtful and effective usage of their Mathematica software.

Roland Minton (1998) has taught all of the courses in the mathematics catalog, as well as several general education courses. He is a co-author of the calculus books used at Roanoke College and other colleges, a book with unique writing exercises and projects that have influenced the development of calculus. He uses numerous sports examples to provide interesting real world examples and give students a chance to create their own mathematics. He received a Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award in 2005.

Jan Minton, Jeff Spielman, Chris Lee, Roland Minton, and Mark Poore won the 2007 Roanoke College Innovation Award for our numerous changes to the teaching of calculus. We added a lab to the first year calculus courses, giving students a chance to explore in groups some interesting real (and therefore messy) applications. We also added Clickers, enabling us to poll students about their understanding of concepts and definitions being introduced. Other changes help promote the interactive, productive classroom we desire.

