



W&L Professor Wins VFIC's Harris Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

In a highly competitive statewide program, the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges (VFIC) has selected **Dr. Arthur H. Goldsmith**, Professor of Economics at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., to receive the inaugural *Hiter H. Harris, Jr. Memorial Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching*.

Dr. Goldsmith, who has dedicated his thirty year career to teaching undergraduates, with the last 18 years at W&L, received The Harris Award on November 6 at the annual VFIC Leadership Luncheon in Richmond.

The Award, which includes a stipend to support the recipient's scholarly research or professional development activities, was created this year at the VFIC through an endowment gift from the family of the late Hiter Harris, Jr., a leading Virginia banker who was a member of the VFIC's Board from 1973 to 1998. In announcing the creation of the Award, Hiter Harris III noted that "great teaching, and a personal commitment to student development, are attributes for which Virginia's small private liberal arts colleges are known nationally. Our family wishes to highlight this very special component of the small private colleges by recognizing faculty members who truly exemplify these attributes."

Dr. Goldsmith was chosen for the inaugural Harris Award from a pool of distinguished faculty members nominated by the fifteen private colleges and universities in the VFIC consortium. "The Selection Committee was only dealing with 'the best of the best' among faculty members at Virginia's private colleges," noted VFIC Board Chair Sandy Fitz-Hugh, former president of Bank of America - Virginia. "So it speaks volumes that Dr. Goldsmith was tapped from among this elite group. It is clear that he has had a truly remarkable career and has had a major impact on the lives of generations of students at Washington and Lee and earlier institutions."

This year's Harris Award recipient is widely known for his outstanding work in the classroom and in working one-on-one with students in directed studies and in research projects to help them reach their full potential. Alice Shih, one of Dr. Goldsmith's former W&L students who is now at

Yale Law School, said in her nomination letter that the professor “has had a profound impact on my life, and I am not unique. I am merely one of many students at W&L who have found our passions under his guidance, a guidance that will extend beyond our college years. People such as Professor Goldsmith exemplify what a teacher should be: one who not only helps you believe you are destined for great things, but helps you achieve those goals.”

The criteria used by the Selection Committee focused on four areas for the nominees: their impact on and involvement with undergraduate students; their scholarly approach to teaching and learning; their contributions to undergraduate education in the institution, community and profession; and their endorsement from colleagues and current or former students.

Widely published and active in national professional circles, Dr. Goldsmith holds his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois and focuses his teaching and research on Macroeconomics, Labor Economics and Economic Psychology. He was Chairman of the Washington and Lee Department of Economics from 1998 to 2003 and now holds the Jackson T. Stephens Professorship in Economics at W&L.

The VFIC, founded in 1952, is a non-profit organization which raises funds and coordinates collaborative programs to strengthen fifteen leading private colleges and universities in Virginia:

Bridgewater College	Randolph-Macon College
Emory & Henry College	Roanoke College
Hampden-Sydney College	Shenandoah University
Hollins University	Sweet Briar College
Lynchburg College	University of Richmond
Mary Baldwin College	Virginia Wesleyan College
Marymount University	Washington and Lee University
Randolph College	

The VFIC has generated over \$125 million to strengthen Virginia’s private college sector, and is nationally recognized for the innovative projects and programs it has developed for these institutions.

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