

2011-2012 STANLEY J. DRAZEK TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS



MOLLY S. AFFLECK

COLLEGIATE
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

“Teaching a language is a truly rewarding experience,” said Ms. Molly Affleck, as she fondly reflected on a treasure box of student success stories, acquired through 32 years of teaching German to UMUC Europe students. Finding joy in helping to shape the lives of her students, she guides them toward progress by building on positive experiences.

Ms. Affleck often hears stories, like students having their first conversation with their German in-laws or communicating successfully with their child’s German kindergarten teacher. Providing motivation to achieve important milestones, she is constantly witnessing students grow and improve. “In a short amount of time I can see remarkable strides not only in their competence but in their awareness of the language and culture,” she explained, her voice radiating with pride.

Crediting her high school teacher in Oregon with sparking her interest, Ms. Affleck became passionate about learning German. After completing her graduate studies in Munich, UMUC Europe presented the perfect opportunity to pursue her dream of teaching in higher education.

Since 1980, she has taught face-to-face courses in 14 cities throughout Germany, adding distance education courses in recent years. Innovative in the German program, she has developed many advanced courses online, and serves as a faculty peer.

Influenced by her own inspiring teachers, she focuses on keeping enthusiasm and motivation alive in the classroom, despite the difficulty of learning a language. “Seeing students understand, and seeing the excitement in their face — it motivates me to do a better job,” she said. For Ms. Affleck, these experiences embody the true joy of teaching.

Ms. Affleck studied German at Whitman College, and holds a Magister Artium in German literature from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. She looks forward to teaching German to as many students as possible.