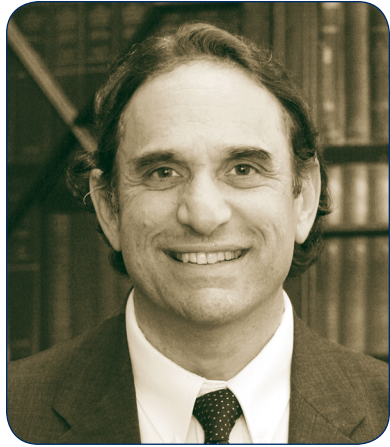


2010–2011 STANLEY J. DRAZEK TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS



MICHAEL APICHELLA

Dr. Michael Apichella describes his approach to teaching with a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Be an opener of doors for such as come after thee.” He always knew he wanted to be a university professor, motivated by his own inspiring and dedicated teachers.

Prior to joining the UMUC faculty in the United Kingdom in 1986, Dr. Apichella had spent time in England studying as a foreign exchange student and working as a Fulbright teacher. He became enamored with British history and enjoyed walking in the footsteps of many of his literary icons. When the chance arose to teach for UMUC Europe, he didn’t hesitate.

After more than 25 years with the university as a collegiate professor, Dr. Apichella says he has learned much from his military students, especially about perseverance, time management, and healthy patriotism. “Working with our students is what I enjoy most about my job. I am proud to be part of a talented faculty nurturing the next generation of America’s business leaders, IT experts, executives, and administrators.”

He is still connected with many former students, often writing reference letters on their behalf, and is glad that his work with UMUC helps so many students during and after their time in the military. “I’m a man of few regrets, but one I have is that I never put on the uniform. Serving military students is one way for me to serve my country in a way I didn’t have the chance to when I was younger,” he said.

A widely published award-winning writer, Dr. Apichella’s passion for writing was ignited 30 years ago when he was hired to write a weekly column for the Wheaton Daily Journal. He has been involved with journalism and writing fiction since then.

About receiving this award, he expressed, “I feel humbled, energized, and grateful. I am indebted to UMUC for creating this opportunity and my students who make my life a joy. Thank you.”

Dr. Apichella earned an MA in communications from Wheaton College and a PhD in English and creative writing from the University of Wales.