

## 2012-2013 STANLEY J. DRAZEK TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS



**ROBERT E. MANN**  
Collegiate Professor

Dr. Robert E. Mann has yet to miss a class in 30 years. Wearing out a Honda civic, he has driven over 200,000 miles to teach business, computer studies, and public administration throughout Germany and the Benelux. Students are his sole reason for teaching – and will always come first.

A former military officer turned dedicated instructor originally from Seattle, Washington, Dr. Mann enjoys helping students grow and learn to challenge themselves. His teaching philosophy revolves around the goal of having each student leave the class better prepared than when they started. “I believe that my success is measured by the success of my students,” he said.

His first teaching experience was in the U.S. Army as a field artillery gunnery instructor, transforming a precise science into a valuable learning experience. With 27 years on active duty, he served in Vietnam as a field artillery battery commander and a special operations officer for the recovery of Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. Later, he was stationed in Nürnberg and held several leadership positions throughout Germany.

While serving at U.S. Army Europe Headquarters in 1982, he started teaching UMUC business classes at night in the Heidelberg area. Having completed all his graduate degrees on nights and weekends while stationed in Europe, Dr. Mann finds common ground with those balancing their studies with the military lifestyle – whether they are an Air Force spouse in Ramstein or an Army soldier in Afghanistan.

After retiring from the Army, he has been solely focused on teaching full time for the past several years. In response to his students nominating him for this award, he simply said, “I am honored.”

Dr. Mann holds a BS in Liberal Arts from Montana State University, an MS in Business Administration and MEd from Boston University, and an EdD from the University of Southern California. Living in Heidelberg with his wife, Rita, he looks forward to every new class to come.