

## **UPEI Faculty Association Hessian Merit for Excellence in Teaching *Citation* — Dr. Dale Sorensen**

One of the students nominating Dr. Sorensen for this Award referred to him as, “a fine mentor and scholarly guide for all his students.” As an Assistant Professor of Brass in the UPEI Music Department, Dr. Sorensen is called on to offer this mentorship and guidance in many and varied contexts. His applied teaching encompasses a diverse array of musical genres, in settings ranging from individualized instruction in the Applied Brass program, through small group sessions in Chamber Music, and on to conductorship of the UPEI Wind Ensemble. Further, he delivers classroom instruction in a number of the Music Department’s academic offerings, including Popular Music, Canadian Music, Business of Music, and Conducting. Regardless of the setting, however, the uniformly-glowing student evaluations of Dr. Sorensen’s teaching clearly show that he is highly respected and admired as an exemplary educator.

The nomination file highlighted several key factors underpinning Dr. Sorensen’s accomplishments. Firstly, his teaching dossier offered an exceptionally clear and compelling articulation of his teaching principles and practices, grounded in careful consideration of each student’s abilities and interests, aided by appropriate and effective use of computer technologies and other innovative pedagogical methods. Dr. Sorensen is similarly eager to embrace new ideas and themes in the content of his courses: for example, it was noted in his dossier, and appreciatively mentioned by his student nominators, that he has made particular efforts in recent years to introduce his classes to, “the musical contributions of historically under-represented groups (women, BIPOC, and LGBTQ+ musicians and composers).”

Furthermore, Dr. Sorensen is clearly a “musician’s musician,” complementing his teaching skill with a passion for musical performance and an enthusiastic-but-disciplined approach in regularly practicing one’s instrument(s), which he inspires his students to emulate. Quoting his dossier: “...my students have blossomed into mature musicians, and of this I am extremely proud. I believe this is the true measure of my success as a teacher.” In fact, those nominating Dr. Sorensen for this Award made a compelling case that he is a most successful teacher by any measure. The Hessian subcommittee asks you to join us in applauding his accomplishments.

*Citation by Simon Lloyd, UPEI Robertson Library  
(Hessian Award Subcommittee Member)*

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