

# IOWA

Center for Teaching

University of Iowa  
200 South Capitol Street  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242  
[teach.its.uiowa.edu/center-teaching](http://teach.its.uiowa.edu/center-teaching)

July 17, 2023

Philip Zaborowski  
English

Dear Philip,

The Center for Teaching's Thank-a-Teacher program provides an opportunity for University of Iowa students to recognize outstanding instructors by writing notes of appreciation. It is my honor to deliver their words of gratitude.

A student from your The Interpretation of Literature course wrote the following:

*This course is one of my favorite educational experiences I have had at the University of Iowa so far, and I am so grateful that I enrolled last semester! Prior to starting this course, I was pretty confident in my abilities as a writer; however, I was challenged to critically evaluate the quality of my work apart from the eloquence of my writing, which provided me with an opportunity I have not had before in my educational experience- to grow deeply in my writing ability. PJ was the first English professor I have had in my life that actually helped me grow as a writer, and I could not be more thankful. PJ's capacity as an educator was truly remarkable to me; I have felt lost within courses before, but I did not feel this at all during my time this semester with PJ as my instructor. Aside from the numerous educational experiences that I will never forget, PJ's attention to my worth as a human was so refreshing. Throughout the course, I felt that he got to know each one of his students on a personal level; this attention to us as both individuals and students grew our sense of community as a class and allowed us to dive deeper in our critical analysis of literary works in discussions during class. I struggled with illness this semester, and I am so thankful for how accommodating and compassionate PJ was to me. This accommodation set a clear precedent, one that afforded me the ability to challenge myself as a student and a writer to think critically and dig deeper while still prioritizing my health and mental wellbeing. I am both a student and human being, and the importance of a common ground between these two aspects of my identity is something PJ taught me this semester that I will never forget and take forward in my future educational endeavors. PJ, Thank you for an amazing semester; I truly am so thankful for the experiences, both literary and relational, that I had the opportunity to visit within the course of this semester. This course was so unbelievably rewarding, and truly renewed and reinvigorated my love for education and literature! I would take it every semester if I could!*



Thank you for your exceptional teaching efforts at Iowa. Your hard work and dedication to your students have not gone unnoticed, and we certainly appreciate all that you do. I encourage you to save this file for the future, including for your teaching portfolio. Students' comments are shared in these letters after spring final grades are submitted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Flaming".

Anna L. Bostwick Flaming  
Director  
Center for Teaching