

**Profile of
Douglas Heil
Professor of Communication, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
2008 Regents Teaching Excellence Award Recipient**

Background and Experience (Selected)

- Joined the UW-Oshkosh faculty in 1988
- B.A. in English/Rhetoric from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana; M.F.A. in Film/Video production from Northwestern University, Evanston, 1984.
- Full Professor since 2000.
- Recipient of the 1999 Distinguished Teaching Award (on very first nomination), the 1992 University of Wisconsin System Regents Excellence in Teaching Award that honored the top 10% of teachers at UW-Oshkosh.
- Author of eighteen publications, including the book *Prime-Time Authorship*, Syracuse University Press, 2002.
- Wrote and produced three award-winning short films and a theatrical musical *Jason & Medea*, which was a finalist in the Stages 2005 Competition in Chicago.
- Faculty Advisor for the International Film Series at UW-Oshkosh, 1990-1995 and 2006 to present.
- Recipient of 2003 Faculty Development Teaching Grant for “Instituting Betacam Technology in Communication 240”

In Professor Heil’s own words:

- “Teaching film production and narrative scriptwriting entwines a wonderful reward with an almost insurmountable obstacle. The reward is that students choose to major in Radio-TV-Film out of unadulterated passion, which is a great pleasure and privilege to foster. The obstacle is the exceptional difficulty in securing a career in this field.... The challenge of teaching in this field, therefore, is to assist each student in pursuing his or her dream while simultaneously preparing each for an alternative Plan B, Plan C, and Plan D. “
- “In our field [film-Video Studies] procedural learning is too often segregated from aesthetics. Frequently they are divided up into separate courses or even separate departments. Both, however, should be interlaced; the study of creativity should be harnessed to practice. As a result, I strive to merge the two, typically exploring a topic from both procedural and creative angles.”

In the words of his students:

- I was fortunate enough to meet Doug at a very critical time in my life, and I will always be thankful for the time and attention I received, and the enthusiasm for my own education he imparted on me I realize I will never stop learning, and for that I am eternally grateful.”

Marie Fraczek, a Radio-TV-Film alumnae, UW-Oshkosh

- “Doug Heil opened my eyes to the literary value of the cinema, to its vital role in transmitting social and cultural messages as entertainment... He is a devoted teacher, a talented artist and critic, and a generous man.”

Kimberley Newport, English major alumnae, UW-Oshkosh

In the words of his colleagues:

- “Without a doubt, Professor Heil spends more time with students helping them with their creative projects, screenplays, and film-making than any other instructor in the radio-TV-film area. The consistent number of awards his students earn for their work... is evidence of his devotion to students and the quality of instruction each and everyone receives from him.”

Dr. Kay, E. Neal, Chair, Department of Communication, UW-Oshkosh

- “I’ve seen samples of the feedback he provides students and have been left in awe by his sheer attention to detail. I think it is virtually impossible for a student to complete one of Doug’s courses without having gained substantive knowledge and transformative advice for improvement.”

Tony Palmeri, Associate Professor of Communication, UW-Oshkosh