Profile of
Gregory S. Aldrete
Professor, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
2015 Regents Teaching Excellence Award Recipient

Highlights from nomination materials:

• Applied Bachelor, History, Princeton University; M.A. and Ph. D., Ancient History, University of Michigan.
• Has taught at UW-Green Bay since 1995; regularly teaches eight different courses of approximately 450 students per year, as well as numerous independent studies.
• Recently developed an innovative interdisciplinary course on military history in which students learn through “living history,” including the multi-year Linothorax Project in which his students re-created and tested the linen armor that Alexander the Great wore during his conquests; the published results garnered international attention.
• Teaching methods include analyzing primary documents, holding debates, role-playing, and other hands-on activities; students frequently comment on his depth of knowledge and passion for the subject of history and for teaching.
• Has written and recorded dozens of video lectures for The Teaching Company, with the first series entitled, “The History of the Ancient World: A Global Perspective.”
• Gives frequent public lectures, including local venues as well as Iowa State University, Boston University, and the University of Manitoba in Canada.
• Select awards and honors: Joukowsky National Lecturer, Archaeological Institute of America (2014-15); Professor of the Year, Carnegie Foundation and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (2012); Frankenthal Named Professorship at UW-Green Bay (awarded 2012); Award for Excellence in Teaching at the College Level, American Philological Association (2009, National Award); Grants for Integrating Research and Teaching for “The Linothorax Project” (2008-09, 2009-10).

In Gregory S. Aldrete’s own words:

• “From the moment in grad school when I first stepped into a classroom in the role of teacher, I immediately knew that I had stumbled upon something that had the potential to emerge as my true vocation in life. I already had a deep passion for studying the ancient world, but I now discovered that I possessed an equally strong passion for sharing that enthusiasm with others, as well as an unexpected flair for doing this successfully.”

In the words of colleagues:

• “[Dr. Aldrete] shares his enthusiasm for the past with his students and encourages them to ask original questions about the past. He involves them in innovative hands-on projects that bring history to life. And he regularly integrates his own research into his teaching. Such projects actively inspire young historians to become professional historians in their own right.” —Clifton Ganyard, Associate Professor of Humanistic Studies, Chair, Department of History, UW-Green Bay

• “I know few (anywhere) who have mastered the art of teaching to the level for which Greg has been able to do so. His ability to capture the attention of individuals – no matter their background – engage with them, inspire and transform them, and have them asking for more is a true gift.” —Gregory Davis, Associate Provost, Academic Affairs, UW-Green Bay