

From: [Sam Hogg](#)
To: [Heather Evans](#)
Cc: [Nicholas Vlachopoulos](#)
Subject: Teaching Excellence Award
Date: April-25-13 2:07:03 PM

Afternoon ma'am,

I am emailing a letter of recognition for Dr. Vlachopoulos (Civil Engineering) for the Teaching Excellence Award.

There are a few reasons as to why I would back him winning such an award.

Firstly, there is a widely known stigma at this school and the students that go through it. That is, "you are over achieving with a 51%." Until this past semester that was pretty much my attitude for this place and I was just trying to get through with as little hassle as possible. However, my attitude changed because of Dr. Vlachopoulos. I ended last semester with a 79% average and believed that I was over achieving here at RMC. But Dr. Vlachopoulos preached to his students that an undergraduate degree is the first step to a world of opportunity. It is necessary to excel in academics in order to keep the possibilities of a masters and eventually a PhD. He was a cadet and uses this experience to help shape us into the future leaders that the Canadian Forces is in much need of. I have learned through his class and his personal experiences that life at RMC is tough for a reason and that keeping a high standard of excellence is of great importance. I always believed that I am never going to do a masters because I'm sick of school and its antics but because of Dr. Vlachopoulos I have changed my attitude and now look forward to trying for a masters to further my education. He taught us that it is good for ones self and the Canadian Forces.

Secondly, we all know that class room time is boring and most people do not retain any of the information being taught. This was different in Dr. Vlachopoulos's classes because he lectured the class with well organized and informative classes but most importantly, he kept the students attention. Most courses are like watching paint dry but the CEE 235 with Dr. Vlachopoulos was quite entertaining. He was able to keep the class engaged and was able to keep it a personal level where people felt confident to ask questions and even to the extent of teaching the class certain components of the course. When it came down the final exam preparation, not much was needed to learn because everything was retained in the classroom.

Thirdly, leadership is preached day in and day out at RMC. Most courses do not include any leadership components except class leaders that do not really do anything. In his class though, all students were challenged to develop and show these skills. The last few days of classes students were paired together to present to the class a portion of the course. This definitely helped develop the students as leaders because giving presentations is a daily part of our job. Also, good feedback was given so one could better his/hers presenting style. From this, I felt that all students and I in this class developed as leaders that RMC wants to see.

Lastly, we did not know much about engineering before this class and by the end we were given the fundamentals that will help with our engineering careers. He was able to give us hands on experience with engineering applications. For example, we went on a field trip and were able to solidify the concepts in the course. It is easy to say you understand a concept without actual experience but in reality, you do not fully understand it until you have experienced it in the field. With this field trip and many labs we were able to fully understand the concepts taught in his class.

These are just a few of the many reasons as to why Dr. Vlachopoulos deserves the Teaching Excellence Awards. I stand behind what I say and would love to see him get the recognition he deserves!

For your consideration,

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