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**To:** [Kristin Topping](#)  
**Cc:** [Nicholas Vlachopoulos](#)  
**Subject:** Nicholas Vlachopoulos Teaching Excellence Award  
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Hi Kristin,

I understand Nicholas Vlachopoulos has been nominated for the Class of 1965 Teaching Excellence award and you are seeking emails of support. Please find below my thoughts about Nick and his nomination for this award:

I had the distinct pleasure of being a student in a number of Nick's civil engineering courses over a two year period during my third and fourth year at RMC. At that time I recall thinking how well Nick was able to explain and relate complex topics, especially when it came to the slower learners in the class like myself. I also remember Nick being my favourite professor amongst a group of highly talented and first rate academic staff. This sentiment was shared unanimously within our civil engineering class and I have no doubt that Nick's courses enjoyed the best levels of class participation within the civil engineering curriculum.

Personally, I found myself looking forward to Nick's lectures and his engaging teaching style even when I did not find the material interesting or exciting - and I mean this as the highest form of compliment. There is no doubt in my mind that my above average performance in Nick's classes was a direct outcome of the extra time and effort he put into his teaching. Nick's delivery and follow through of the course material was always exemplary. This has resulted in me retaining a far greater percentage of the course material from Nick's classes than anything else that I learned while at the college.

Nick's outstanding reputation with the student body at RMC, and the civil engineering class in particular, stemmed from his teaching excellence. However, Nick's success was not limited to his teaching excellence in classroom. His genuine care and respect for the students at the college was clearly evident to all of us. Nick always took the time to listen, guide and assist young officer cadets in all aspects of their military careers. He was especially helpful to the aspiring Combat Engineers and other Army officers who were well served by his advice and counsel.

Going out of his way to organize and lead the fourth year project to Victoria, BC was just another example of how Nick engaged his students both inside and outside of the classroom. The civil engineering classes in particular have been very well served by Nick's commitment to teaching excellence along with his uncommon ability to relate to and support the RMC cadet wing. Nick is an outstanding professor whose ability to impart knowledge and keep students engaged was second to none. I can think of no professor who was more successful in moulding me during my time at RMC, or who is more deserving of the Teaching Excellence Award.

Please let me know if you any questions. I'd be happy to provide further assistance.

Thank you,

Sean

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