

Dr. Gerard Aloisio

Nomination Submitted by: *Katie Kendhammer*

I would like to nominate my professor Dr. Gerard Aloisio. I was fortunate enough to have Dr. Aloisio for two semesters of his pop music class. I've had many classes by many different professors, but he is the only one who has sparked my interest enough to take a second class outside my major by the same professor.

Spend two minutes in one of his pop music classes and you will be just as motivated as I am. He has his own style of teaching that keeps the students engaged, which is hard to do for a three-hour night class. I have never seen a professor get such a workout from just teaching a class. Teaching in the large recital hall is no easy feat, but Dr. Aloisio does it with the appearance of such ease. He is constantly running up and down the stairs to make sure that each student feels the same personal attention that you may receive in a more average classroom setting. He also uses a great variety of materials, from playing music to videos and his outgoing personality and dance moves to motivate the students and keep the lecture moving.

Many people may think that a pop music class would be pointless, what benefit could this possibly have for everyday life? There are so many cultural and historic aspects that are taught through music and influence life. It's interesting to find out how my values and personality are tied to the music I've listened to and been exposed to. His classes are more than just the music. They reflect social and historical issues that many students are actually unaware of.

Dr. Aloisio demonstrates a noticeable love for teaching and a true interest in his students. I have never seen a faculty member work so hard to secure a textbook for students that is both complete in substance and inexpensive. He is also one of the most personable teachers I have run across in my time at MSU. He will go out of his way to meet with a student, return a phone call, or reply to an email. As a student it is so encouraging and motivating to encounter a professor with his dedication and desire.

I would be curious to survey the students and find out how many students actually graduate without having taken one of his classes. Dr. Aloisio has such an ability to reach out to the students and it's so great to see the joy he takes in teaching. I would be so excited if Dr. Aloisio could be honored for his great work and dedication to the students and the school.