FACULTY PROFILE

Department

CSU College: Arts and Sciences
CSU Discipline: Biology

Basic Info

Name: Jan Hinnen
Title: Full-Time Faculty
Email: jan.hinnen@columbiasouthern.edu
Personal Preferred Availability: Mornings

Education

Doctor of Medicine
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
Presbyterian College

Biography

Background

I have a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Presbyterian College and a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Alabama, Birmingham. My wife and I moved to Alabama's Gulf Coast in 2007, and I have been teaching for CSU since 2009. I find the subject of biology fascinating and fun to teach. Brilliant men like Gregor Mendel (genetics), Charles Darwin (evolution), Alfred Wallace (natural selection), Anton Leeuwenhoek (microscope), Louis Pasteur (germs), Robert Koch (infectious nature of germs), Hans Krebs (citric acid cycle), Andreas Vesalius (anatomy), and Watson and Crick (double helix of DNA) inspire me to enjoy the life that surrounds us.

Hobbies/Interests

I frequently teach Sunday School for an adult Wesleyan Class at Church. I also sing in the choir. I am presently serving as President of the Board for our local community Theatre. I enjoy acting as well as directing and finding the Church and theater to be a good place to make new friends.

Additional Information

Awards:
- South Baldwin Community Theatre President's Award 2014

Teaching Philosophy

Many years ago, I heard a quote that is attributed to Buddha. "When the student is ready, the teacher will appear." At first I did not understand Buddha's point, but, of course, he means that there is no teacher when the student is not ready to learn.

Students have their own individual goals for their educational experiences. Some want the personal validation of a degree, some want credentials that enhance their position in the job market, and some want to increase their knowledge base. Many students do not realize that education does not stop with the acquisition of a degree. Each student is a unique individual, and it is the teacher's challenge to meet the student at his or her point in life and facilitate the student's progress to that goal.

However, learning is not solely the responsibility of the student or teachers would not be necessary. The teacher has a superior grasp of the material and must convey the knowledge in a manner that allows the student to incorporate the material into the student's knowledge base.

Advice for Current Students

Do not try to learn everything in the textbook. Read the assigned material as an overview. Then go back and look in detail at the material that the assignment covers. If you have problems understanding it, research it online or ask me.