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### Teaching Philosophy

My passion in Organic Chemistry and the growth of science is the seed—the root for the passion I have in teaching. Having such strong emotion about the subject I mentor, is what drives me to share the knowledge I have acquired throughout my academic career and inspire students who partake this feeling I have for Organic Chemistry. Feeding the intellectual knowledge to the future minds of this world in the name of science and the good of humanity, it is a euphoric feeling to be part of the growth of these new leaders that will enhance and revolutionize the ever changing world of science. Teaching is a legacy, a piece of me that is put in each lesson for students to grasp and form into their own ideologies. Being a contribution to these ideologies that will solidify into concrete theories and someday serve for big discoveries that will change the course of human history is what has kept, and still keeps my burning passion and heart in teaching. With regard to student access, my office has literally open door policy, even weekends, for all of my students. I held review sessions of three hours on Saturdays prior to each examination for my students.

I am proud to see my students achieve at levels that surprise them (e.g., co-inventor of a patent). My students in organic chemistry class go on to take Dental Admission Test (DAT) for their admission into dental schools. On many occasions, they come to my office to show me the perfect score in the organic chemistry section of this DAT. I can see in their faces how excited they are doing so well in this standardized test. They're also paying gratitude to me for how I ingrained in them the can-do-spirit that will remain throughout their professional career. No accomplishment can be as great as this.

Mutual respect is what weaves the bond between a mentor and pupil for a healthy relationship where both parties can come into a common agreement and be able to teach as well as learn from another other. This way, students can engage in the subject by not feeling the pressure of being inferior or judged by their mistakes and at the same time respect the teacher by understanding the common ethics such as not using their phones during class. This way not only can the student absorb the material, but also it helps me understand new ways of teaching that will facilitate the subject for them.

It is my great pleasure and privilege to be a faculty member at UNLV. I especially enjoy the opportunity to work with many outstanding colleagues in our institution to develop and exchange ideas and new knowledge in various disciplines to strive for effective methods of teaching for our students. Having the chance to interact with faculty and students has given me a very positive sense of the important contributions that UNLV—an educational institution makes to higher education. I look with optimism towards the future—to the growth of UNLV and its expanding role in promoting the life of the mind. Always in teaching there is room and versatility to grow. For example, global sustainability is not just a challenge; rather it is the challenge for this century. This sustainability should not be approached as separate course of study, but should instead be integrated throughout all science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects as well as in economics, politics, literature, and art. Our students need a strong disciplinary base that will prepare them for their professional careers, along with multidisciplinary perspectives that includes systems thinking, life-cycle analysis, holistic awareness, and a strong ethical perspective.

### **An excerpt from Dr. Bhowmik's Organic Chemistry syllabus:**

PLEASE REMEMBER!

If anyone is willing to learn organic chemistry, he/she will be able to do it. DON'T BE INTIMIDATED, NERVOUS, AND PANIC! Other students did it in the past, and you will do it in Spring 2014. One simple rule in learning organic chemistry is PRACTICE! PRACTICE! PRACTICE! I wish you all a wonderful and enjoyable journey, ... the learning of organic chemistry and seeing the TRUE BEAUTY AND LOGIC OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY!