

ECU DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE FACULTY MENTOR AWARD, MASTER'S CATEGORY



Elizabeth Swaggerty

Department of Literacy Studies, English Education, &
History Education
College of Education

Dr. Elizabeth Swaggerty is an associate professor in the College of Education, and Graduate Director in the Department of Literacy Studies, English Education and History Education. She obtained her Ph.D. in Literacy Studies from the University of Tennessee. As a leader of graduate education in the College of Education and the broader university, she is recognized for her expert coaching of graduate students in the design and implementation of research projects and for her ability to develop the academic and professional capacity of her students. One of Dr. Swaggerty's colleagues writes "She pushes her students to excellence and involves them in contributing to the knowledge base of the field..."

Dr. Swaggerty's students are in distance education programs and "this challenges me to use both traditional and non-traditional means of communication." She meets individually with students to offer direction, evaluation, and feedback on their classroom-based research from inception through data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

Many of her students have prepared professional presentations and manuscripts for publication. "The depth of her passion about teaching and reading is obvious to anyone who meets her. This passion is infectious, and both motivates and inspires those around her".

ECU DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE FACULTY MENTOR AWARD, DOCTORAL CATEGORY



Kyle Summers
Department of Biology
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Kyle Summers is a Distinguished Professor in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology, East Carolina University. He obtained his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Michigan. Dr. Summers is an evolutionary biologist focusing on evolutionary ecology and evolutionary genetics. His research and the work of his students focus on colorful poison frogs of Central and South America. He and his students have published seminal work on the parental behavior, sexual selection, toxicity and other traits of these beautiful amphibians. The accomplishments of Kyle's students are notable, with numerous students holding post-doctoral positions and faculty positions.

Kyle's students and faculty colleagues praise his mentoring of students. He is noted for pairing disparate approaches to research, from field studies of frog parenting behavior in the tropics to the very latest methods of genomic and statistical approaches to search for molecular signals of natural selection. One of his colleagues writes "...all of this catches the attention of prospective students: the tropics, beautiful little frogs that practice parental care, and a famous biologist who can set you up to study them in the wild or in the lab. The allure of the Summers lab is abundantly clear."

Kyle's approach to mentorship is "flexible, guiding students to develop a project of mutual interest that they can gradually take over completely and achieve pride of ownership." One of his students writes "my toolkit has grown from 'find frog, catch frog' to data analysis, computational skills, programming, writing, teaching, and mentorship."