

Marisa Parham
Professor of English

Whether using video games to explore the boundaries of narrative, or helping students learn new programming languages to enrich the analysis of complex texts, you are pioneering the use of high-tech tools to teach the traditional lessons of the liberal arts—including the value of human inquiry in the twenty-first century. As your students build blogs and create apps, you empower them to take an active role in their learning, to produce new kinds of scholarly media, and to see themselves as scholars. And using these and other cutting-edge approaches, you strengthen students' abilities to think critically, argue effectively, read closely, and write with distinction. Young people from all backgrounds describe your classroom as an open, engaging, and collaborative space, in which the sparks of new ideas fly and they are pushed outside their intellectual comfort zones. You make the ideas of theorists, novelists, and filmmakers—from Michel Foucault to Spike Lee—meaningful, accessible, and relevant, and your lectures and conversations are renowned for their rigor, originality, and fun!

In recognition of the intellectual challenge, creativity, infectious passion, new modalities of intellectual engagement, and deep care that you bring to your teaching, and the enduring impact that you have on your students, Amherst College is honored to award you the 2019 Jeffrey B. Ferguson Memorial Teaching Prize.

Biddy Martin
President
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