

Assistant Professor John Hall

Department of History
William H. Kiekhofer Award

An expert in American military and Native American history, Assistant Professor Hall sets expectations for his teaching as high as he sets his expectations for students. He develops beautifully crafted lectures that are exemplars of organizational, oratory and intellectual sophistication. Students often label faculty members who take this approach as "too difficult," but Hall maintains remarkably high evaluation scores from students. He is also committed to improving his teaching by experimenting with "smart" classrooms and interactivity and to improving the undergraduate experience beyond the classroom. For example, the Undergraduate History Association has been revived and reinvigorated under his tutelage.

"In an era when students often expect ironic detachment or crass theatrics in the classroom, Hall's deep seriousness of purpose and sincerity of engagement inspire sustained commitment."

—Vilas Jartz Distinguished Professor of History
James H. Sweet

Associate Professor Karthikeyan Sankaralingam

Department of Computer Sciences
Emil H. Steiger Award

Associate Professor Sankaralingam is an educational innovator who has enacted transformative changes in courses for students of all levels — and he is so committed to teaching excellence that he regularly makes his materials publicly available to other instructors. One of his key achievements has been the revamping of Computer Sciences 252. Sankaralingam redesigned the introductory course to focus on hands-on activities such as building a computer and designing robots. This past spring, 50 percent of students enrolled in the course were female — an amazing ratio for computer sciences. Similarly, Sankaralingam has added innovative microprocessor-design activities to a course designed for senior undergraduates.

"He is absolutely fearless, whether it is challenging the orthodoxy in computer architecture or taking a radical new approach in teaching a popular and well-established undergraduate course. Karu is a passionate, effective and extraordinarily inspiring teacher."

—John P. Morgridge Professor of Computer Sciences and Chair
Jeffrey Naughton