“Moments of truth”

[From introductory comments by Richard Berne] Chris Stephens is a native St. Louisan, both directly and indirectly a product of the Hill. He is a graduate of St. Louis University High School where he came under the same tutelage of the people who created our seed program, the Jesuits. Chris went on to earn a Bachelor’s degree in Biology and a Master’s degree in drama from Washington University. Along the way, Chris spent some time with a professional dance troupe. He continued his teaching career in high school including theater projects.

After several years as an adjunct professor in the communications department at Flo Valley, Chris was asked to join the department in a full-time capacity. In his time, Professor Stephens has taught to date: courses in communications theory and practice, theatre, humanities and global studies. Chris served for some time as program coordinator of speech communication and currently is program of the accelerated learning program learning community. Chris played a large role in this highly successful model program and is currently coordinator of the general education committee.

Several years ago, Chris and Professor Carol Berger, created the Italian Learning Community which involves students, faculty and community members in joint learning and travel. Many are aware of Chris’ many successes in directing student productions on the stage in the college theater program often bringing students and faculty together in alternative learning environments. Of particular note are the several children’s plays which have often toured area schools bringing a college student theatre to our community.

Through extensive committee service and club sponsorship, as well as his core work as teacher, Professor Christopher Stephens has always been moving forward looking for opportunities to engage students in their own education. Chris is never satisfied with the status quo; he’s always looking for another way to do the job even if it means changing the direction you just gave him.