

Thilippe Buhlmann, 2014–15 Distinguished Teacher Postbaccalaureate, Graduate, and Professional Teaching Award

Graduate students rate Philippe Buhlmann's courses among the toughest and his instruction among the best. In an example of his technique, he keeps students on track with lectures by posing questions and waiting as long as it takes for the students to think through the problem. And he continually challenges himself.

"He has taught a broader range of courses than almost any other chemistry faculty member, and he has contributed disproportionately to the development of the graduate curriculum in analytical chemistry," a colleague says.

His devotion has carried him to sign up for a second three-year term as his department's director of graduate studies, serving close to 230 students. In that role he began a collaboration with Boynton Health Service to address stress and mental health issues, focusing on graduate students. That work led to the founding of the Community of Chemistry Graduate Students, in which graduate students work together to improve their well-being and career development.

Having taught and conducted research in Europe and Japan as well as the United States, Buhlmann gives his graduate students and postdocs many opportunities to collaborate with scientists from around the University and the globe, and to learn how to express their ideas clearly to every audience.

"He taught me to embrace the diverse perspectives gained from collaborative research and showed me just how rewarding passing on knowledge by mentoring younger scientists can be," says a former student.

Professor

Department of Chemistry

College of Science and
Engineering

University of Minnesota

Twin Cities

"Despite the fact that my graduate students meet me frequently, they know that I do not want to micro-manage. I want them to take the lead and report their progress, conclusions, and future plans."

