

UPSTATE

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

ALAN AND MARLENE NORTON
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

EXCEPTIONAL MOMENTS

IN TEACHING



James Distin, DO, a clinical assistant professor of Emergency Medicine at Upstate Medical University in Binghamton, is the **December 2023** recipient of the **Exceptional Moments in Teaching** recognition.

COMMENTS FROM DR. DISTIN'S STUDENTS:

“Dr. Distin has exceptional skills both as a clinician and a teacher. Despite heavy patient loads and numerous interruptions, he always took time to listen to a patient presentation and give detailed teaching about the case. His teaching style of questioning really solidified knowledge and he revisited the same questions on later shifts, which made me feel like he even took the time to remember me as a student and what we had talked about previously. In addition to the basics of history and exam skills, he challenged me in more nitty gritty details such as medication dosing, IV fluid management, and electrolyte imbalances. That is the type of knowledge base I am hoping to get out of rotations, and I am thankful for him investing in me becoming a more excellent physician!”

“Dr. Distin was a fantastic teacher who spent extensive time teaching students about thought processes and critical thinking in the Emergency Department. Dr. Distin expected students to see patients on their own, present them to the team, and come up with a workup and treatment plan. He allowed the student the opportunity to make decisions on what tests/imaging/medications to order before discussing the choices together. I am grateful I had the opportunity to learn from Dr. Distin, as it is clear he places a strong emphasis on teaching and helping medical students learn.”

The Norton College of Medicine recognizes exceptional teachers with the monthly “Exceptional Moments in Teaching” program. Honorees are selected via student assessments from courses and clerkships. Recognized teachers—including medical faculty, residents, nurses and other educators—are those who challenge students and provide an exceptional learning experience.