

Lecturer lands on 'watch list'

BRIA PATTON
NEWS INTERN

A Texas State University professor is among at least six in the state who has found himself listed on a conservative activism website that challenges college students to "expose your radical professor."

Rick Henderson, a senior lecturer for the Department of Political Science, made the list for disparaging comments he made earlier this year about Republican presidential candidates.

The site says Henderson expressed his opinions on the political standpoints of Senator Ted Cruz, Senator Rand Paul and Carly Fiorina. The audio was submitted from an anonymous student, like most on the Professor Watchlist.

The website bills itself as a website that lists pre-existing news stories of professors across the nation in an effort to "expose and document college professors who discriminate against conservative students and advance leftist propaganda in the classroom." There are as many as 200 professors, along with their pictures and what was allegedly said, listed on the website from various colleges and universities in the country.

The watchlist is a project of Turning Point USA, an organization that says it aims to educate students on the principles of "fiscal responsibility, free markets and limited government." The website claims that it supports freedom of speech, however, it insists on listing the names of professors who teach the principles of change and social reform—many of which run counter to social conservatism.

Henderson teaches undergraduate and senior-level courses and has received several awards such as The Excellence in Teaching Award in 2002, and

LIST FROM PG. 1

the Outstanding Professor Award in 1998 and 2006. Since 1996, he has been a sponsor of the Politics in Film Series. His interests include party politics, state and local government and film politics.

According to many of Henderson's students, he is known for openly expressing his values and beliefs in his classes. A few of his former students shared positive comments regarding his teaching and courses.

"Professor Henderson was a really good teacher and he has a really great understanding of government. I really appreciated his course, but I definitely think he was a bit skewed to the left," Taylor Zavala, political science senior, said. "That being said, I assumed he could teach whatever he felt since it was his classroom."

"Personally, I enjoyed the

fact that he wasn't afraid to share his opinions on things," Mikaela Burge, psychology senior, said.

"He kept me interested and engaged in his class by doing so, and he is a really smart man who always had valid arguments to back up his opinions."

"When Professor Henderson said his thoughts and opinions, he never forced them on the students and allowed students to voice their counterarguments and was very understanding," Michelle Guzman, communication design junior, said. "I enjoyed his class because he was passionate and knowledgeable of his arguments and lectures."

The list also includes four professors from the University of Texas at Austin and one from South Texas College.