Rusty Jones, associate professor, scenic design, in the Department of Theatre has been awarded the 2015 School of Visual and Performing Arts Excellence in Teaching Award. The committee who made the announcement noted many strengths of his teaching, among them is his ability to present material in a focused and clear, yet poetic, manner. They were impressed with his ability to create a climate of trust and respect in the classroom by his kindness, playfulness and humor, and his genuine engagement and interest in his students’ progress by really listening to their comments and feedback. It was apparent that he was a valued mentor from the moment students entered the classroom before class to the professional communication of his material during class to the relationships developed in the theatre work that take place after class. Congratulations to Rusty on this award!