3M Teaching Fellowship Awards 2006 3M Teaching Fellowship Awards 2006 3M Teaching Fellowship Awards 2006

Deborah Berrill

School of Education and Professional Learning
Trent University

At Trent University, as Director of Education and Professional Learning, Deborah is in charge of the overall direction and management of the Bachelor of Education K-12 program. Her responsibilities require not only a comprehensive knowledge of the University's various faculties, schools, and boards, but also a thorough understanding of the standards and structures of teacher education in Ontario.

A role model, Deborah has been one of the main contributors to the Trent University Interactive Learning Center. She has given more than 50 presentations and workshops on virtually every topic related to teaching and learning.

Many scholars have mastered the complex theories of education, but only a few can translate their profound meanings into concrete teaching and learning.

Starting with strong theoretical foundations, Deborah still keeps students - as human beings - at the focus of her teaching. For Deborah, teaching means "recognition, legitimization, and valuing of student's identities," helping them to realize "a sense of belonging in their communities."

Deborah has won several awards in two different universities. Although it might sound far-fetched, her students regularly rate her as almost perfect in their teacher evaluations.

"In my initial year as an undergraduate I thought Deborah Berrill was superhuman," recalls one of her students. "How could someone be such an incredible human being and such an amazing teacher?"

"Deborah has shown me how to be kind yet ambitious, how to have fun and be academic," said another student. "Deborah's influence on me has demonstrated that the sky is the limit, and that, truly, one teacher can make a difference."

Robert Burk

Department of Chemistry
Carleton University

Robert Burk's 13 years of teaching expertise has been applied to all levels of Chemistry courses. He has devoted most of his efforts to first year introductory Chemistry - known to students worldwide as "Killer Chem."

"I used to hate Chemistry", remarked one of his students. "But thanks to him, I have not only enjoyed the course, but I learned a lot by understanding, not simply memorizing."

In 1992, Bob began teaching "Killer Chem" on instructional television, Carleton's cable TV channel. It takes a particular talent to teach an effective Chemistry course in a televised format, and to foster learning for science and non-science students alike. Yet, using the various technologies, a live lab on-screen, Bob thoroughly engages the hundreds of students in his course. He even allows his Chem 1000 course to be pod-cast, opening his classroom and his teaching to anyone who wants to view it.

His students and colleagues respect him, giving him the praise his teaching and innovative methods deserve.

In ten years, Bob has received nine teaching awards. As one of his many students said, "He is the best first year teacher at Carleton."

Gweneth Doane

School of Nursing
University of Victoria

Students describe Gweneth Doane as an exceptional teacher whose "connectedness" to her classes comes from her compassion, communication, and care.

"I have never felt so seen, acknowledged, and encouraged. Her exemplary teaching is etched in my memory," offers one student.

Gweneth's colleagues are equally impressed by the seamless way she connects research and teaching, especially in the area of ethical practice in nursing. Her contributions are more than impressive: co-designing the overall nursing curriculum adopted by ten BC institutions, consulting widely on educational technologies, co-developing interdisciplinary courses, and serving in a number of administrative positions, including chair of the undergraduate program. A pioneer in the development of distance education, she designed a framework that has been adopted by almost every course offered in the Faculty of Human and Social Development.

No wonder her nominators describe Gweneth as dynamic. She has published and presented nationally and internationally; she helped develop the Family Health Centre at her university; she is currently involved in projects on internationalization, graduate supervision, and developing critical thinking in nursing students.

An innovative, enthusiastic teacher, role model, nurse, and scholar, Gweneth has won numerous teaching awards, including the University of Victoria's prestigious Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching and the very first national award for excellence in Nursing Education.

It is through teaching, however, that she remains connected - as one of her many student nominators said: "Dr. Doane values the idea that who she is as a teacher is inseparable from who she is in the world."

Susan Drain

Department of English
Mount Saint Vincent University

This passionate, influential professor sees the teaching of writing as the best teaching one can do, and her students and colleagues have recognized her as one of the best in the Atlantic region, honoring her with the Association of Atlantic Universities Instructional Leadership Award.

For Susan Drain, writing is as important to university study as health is to productive, enjoyable lives. "I am a teacher of writing, not because I love red ink," she says, "but because I love precision, or the endless struggle to approximate it."

Susan says her teaching comes down to two central points: helping her students to interpret the world and to ask "So what?"

Ask "so what?" about Susan's teaching and leadership, and the answers are clear. Innovative - her students describe in words exhibits in the art gallery so that their peers can identify them on the wall. Inspiring- colleagues from every discipline at Mount Saint Vincent University look to Susan for guidance in writing, assessment, and other aspects of teaching. They attend her frequent brown bag lunch sessions, read her Bright Ideas Bulletin, and look to her as a mentor.

"When I think of Susan," says her nominator, "I think of her garden. No ready-made dependence on a professional landscaper. Susan works on her hands and knees to prepare the soil and then plans carefully to determine just what blend of textures and colors will bring her creative vision to life." Her students, like her plants, flourish under her care.

Frédéric Gourdeau

Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Faculty of Science and Engineering
Laval University

Mathematics is often considered an arid, completely abstract subject. However, international cooperation and engagement with the community have fired Frédéric Gourdeau's passion for teaching mathematics. As concrete example of the humanistic basis for his work, he recently established a discussion group on mathematics and peace in order to enhance future teachers' awareness of possible links between mathematical knowledge and both social and planetary development issues

Gourdeau is a specialist in the teaching of mathematics who works mainly with undergraduate education students, an area that is crucial to national planning for education, not to mention scientific training. He has also initiated new strategies that allow for a more intuitive and qualitative approach to mathematics, particularly in the area of dynamic geometry.

Frédéric's record of excellence is proven by the numerous teaching awards he has received, beyond his university as well as at home. However, what is striking in addition to these achievements is the links he has been able to establish between research and applications of his scholarship to teaching. This award is a celebration of a mathematician's exemplary qualities that are an inspiration for university teachers in all disciplines.

David Kahane

Department of Philosophy
University of Alberta

David Kahane's ability to draw others into dialogue is at the heart of his success as an undergraduate teacher and an institutional leader.

His passion for conversations about teaching and learning, his humour and energy, his conviction that Philosophy matters deeply, all help students discover and deepen their own motivations to learn. Students, therefore, work very hard, yet they appreciate the process.

"One of the greatest rewards of teaching and academic leadership for me is that in building spaces to support my students and colleagues to bring about learning, I get to inhabit these spaces myself."

"The best part of the course," says one his students,"is that my prof and my TA are passionate about what they're teaching. It makes it much easier to learn."

David works the same magic with colleagues and graduate students. His energy opens spaces for conversation about committee work, mentoring, or the act of teaching. And it draws attention to the values underlying decisions.

David's compelling conversations about team teaching in his Philosophy 101 Supersection have brought recognition to the University of Alberta and beyond. In 2003, the Philosophy Supersection teaching team won the University of Alberta's Unit Teaching Award and the STLHE Alan Blizzard Award for Collaborative Learning.

As the Provost describes him, "David is an outstanding, innovative teacher who has developed a highly successful set of approaches to teaching and incorporated these into a range of courses from introductory to advanced levels, taught solo and in teams."