

**ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
1992
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD**

MICHAEL SHERRICK

Michael Sherrick has made a difference in the lives of many students. For twenty years he has taught Psychology at Memorial University, offering courses in perception and design and analysis with energy and enthusiasm. Michael Sherrick embodies many of the characteristics of a fine teacher; his courses are well prepared, continually updated and presented in an interesting, clear and well organized fashion. He is known for making difficult material interesting and understandable. Outside the classroom he is readily available to students for consultation and advice on course material, the design of experiments and statistical analysis. His accessibility to students is known and remarked upon by his colleagues and by the students who have benefitted directly from his attention.

Michael Sherrick's objective in all his courses is to stimulate students to think critically for themselves, thereby fostering their intellectual growth, creativity and originality. His success in achieving this objective was recently recognized when he was named the recipient of the President's Distinguished Teaching Award at Memorial for 1992.

Students strongly supported his nomination for the President's Award, writing informative letters with markedly convergent opinions on the quality of his teaching. These opinions are confirmed by excellent student ratings and comments on his teaching for courses taught between 1973 and 1991. One student wrote "the professor made every aspect of the course clear, encouraged students to think for themselves, and was the most readily available instructor for student assistance I have ever experienced." Many students commented that a course taught by Michael Sherrick was "excellent", "top notch", "one of the best profs I've had."

Peer evaluations of Michael Sherrick's teaching also rate the quality of instruction and the course content most highly. Colleagues say that he stimulates students' curiosity, fosters their intellectual growth and demonstrates exemplary organization, thereby encouraging and allowing students to master difficult course material.

From his own statement of teaching objectives, from student ratings of his teaching over an extended period of time, and from the assessment of peers it is clear that Michael Sherrick is an excellent teacher who is a very worthy recipient of the Distinguished Teacher Award.