

**ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
1995
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD**

A. WAYNE MACKAY

Wayne MacKay is a fully rounded teacher with a strong personal commitment to the teaching and learning process and a clear philosophy of what teaching should be who enjoys strong support from his students and his peers. The regard in which he is held was reflected in the 1993 Weldon Law School Award for Teaching Excellence and the 1994 Canadian Association of Law Teachers' Award for Academic Excellence.

Wayne MacKay's teaching dossier contains an honest, articulate, thoughtful and insightful statement of his teaching philosophy, a sure demonstration of the reflective practitioner. In Wayne MacKay's philosophy, mutual respect is the key to creating a positive learning environment in which students can feel comfortable contributing their ideas and feeling included in the discussions. His dossier also documents the innovations he has made in his teaching, another indicator of the role of self-reflection in teaching and the need to adapt and try different approaches, including different methods of evaluation.

As a professor of Law at Dalhousie University he has involved his students in interesting classroom experiences, in research and in publication. His collegial attitude towards his students reflects a belief that teaching and learning is a partnership between instructor and student and this is an attitude which his students clearly appreciate. They express many detailed instances of the help he has afforded them and his teaching evaluations have been consistently positive over an extended period of time.

As mentor and collaborator Wayne MacKay works to promote excellence in teaching beyond his own classroom. He has served as a resource for his peers, encouraging others to pursue excellence in teaching and conducting workshops to share his ideas and expertise. He has also been a leader in the field of educational equity. His own teaching philosophy is characterized by the theme of inclusiveness. In his own words "How we teach must take account of equity concerns and celebrate the diversity of our student body". In the words of one of his supporters, he has been "a driving force behind the extremely successful indigenous black and Mi'kmaq law program".

Through his own excellent example as a teacher, his innovation and concern for equity, his ability to make the law more accessible to a wide variety of audiences and through his work with other instructors Wayne MacKay has demonstrated himself a most worthy recipient of the 1995 Association of Atlantic Universities' Distinguished Teacher Award.