

**ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
1998
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD**

BLYE W. FRANK

Blye Frank is held in very high esteem by his students and his colleagues at Mount Saint Vincent University and beyond and has earned a reputation for superior teaching. A recipient of the 1997 Mount Saint Vincent Alumnae Award for Teaching, he is truly a reflective teacher, one who continually gauges his students' responses, assesses their ongoing needs and considers his teaching from a student-centred point of view.

Blye Frank challenges his students, both at the B.Ed. and graduate levels, to reach for new insights, to learn through participation and to push the boundaries of their own knowledge and understanding. As one student commented, "The instructor was phenomenal - his ability to bring every student into the course was fantastic. He was excellent at knowing how to direct discussions and to get the most out of them." Students attest to the profound impact he has had on their learning. His consistently high student ratings stem from a challenging and stimulating classroom experience, where complex ideas are presented, elicited and discussed.

Very active in curriculum development, Blye Frank was one of the leaders in Teacher Education at a particularly critical juncture in its history in Nova Scotia; throughout the process, he maintained a concern for the quality of the educational experience for the students and for the appropriateness of their preparation to teach the next generation of school students.

Blye Frank's teaching excellence goes well beyond his own exceptional classroom performance. He has taken a strong leadership role in working with his peers, at Mount Saint Vincent and at other universities, to develop enhanced sensitivity to issues of classroom climate and social justice. A strong and effective advocate for the importance of diversity in the classroom and an inclusive curriculum, he has taken the lead in organizing diversity workshops for students and given numerous presentations locally, regionally and further afield. He has also influenced colleagues with whom he has co-taught and served as a mentor for junior faculty.

Blye Frank is also well recognized for his research in the school system. He is part of a Canada-wide team involved in the federally-funded "Exemplary Schools Project", has also received funding and publication recognition for his work in masculinity, and is the author of a major commissioned report on addressing the problem of racial tension in a school setting. His research informs his teaching which is, in turn, informed by his classroom experiences and the diversity of viewpoints that he encourages and listens to.

His own demonstrated excellence in the classroom, sustained over an extended period of time, his leadership in strengthening diversity in the classroom, and in curriculum development and program change, make Blye Frank a most worthy recipient of the 1998 Association of Atlantic Universities Distinguished Teacher Award.