

**ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
1999
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD**

DAVID CONE

David Cone is an outstanding scholar, teacher and contributor to his profession, to Saint Mary's University and to the wider community. His teaching excellence was recognized in 1998 when he was awarded the Reverend William A. Stewart Medal for Excellence in Teaching, the most prestigious teaching award available at the University.

A committed, caring, innovative, energetic, but unassuming instructor, David Cone epitomizes the very best in a Professor and faculty colleague. Whether in the classroom, the laboratory, his office or field trips, he makes "biology" come alive to his students and encourages their natural inquisitiveness by inviting them to participate actively in class and by providing support when needed. He brings out the very best in all his students, whether biology majors planning graduate work or students taking his course as an elective. Under his influence, many students have blossomed into scientists; others not destined for careers in science have developed a sincere appreciation for biology.

David Cone's enthusiasm towards science and scientific philosophy is completely unpretentious, one which invites the curiosity of his students. Students attest to his dedication, his unselfishness and support, and the fact that "he exemplifies a personal concern for student learning." "His lab is an incredibly fun environment in which to learn," they say. "He really enjoys what he is doing and it shows; his genuine interest in the material makes us interested in it as well." Always searching for innovative approaches to teaching, he presents vignettes of the history and philosophy of scientific discoveries and brings his own research into the classroom to use for example, thus allowing students direct access to the research.

Much of the Biology program, as it currently exists, has been influenced by David Cone. The driving force behind modernization of the first year course several years ago, he has also developed and taught a number of other new courses and together with a colleague, proposed a reorganized curriculum for the Biology major which was subsequently adopted. As one of his colleagues commented, "Any faculty member who has developed even one new course can attest to the incredible effort that is required to so do repeatedly."

Outside his Department, David Cone has made substantial contributions to the Atlantic Canada Studies program through teaching courses within the interdisciplinary program for many years. An Adjunct Professor at Dalhousie University, he has participated in the Curriculum Development and Teaching Workshops in Cambodia and in the AAU Teacher Award Winners Retreat.

David Cone's vocation is that of an educator whose passion shines through in his commitment to his students. His expertise and skill as a teacher, his outstanding reputation among students and his significant contributions outside the University make David Cone a most worthy recipient of the 1999 Association of Atlantic Universities Distinguished Teacher Award.