

**ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
2004
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD**

JANET HILL

Janet Hill has established herself as a teacher of English of the highest calibre at Saint Mary's University: one who has been actively engaged with her students, inside and outside the classroom, and with her colleagues in curriculum and instructional development. She was previously recognized by Saint Mary's with the Father William A. Stewart, S.J. Medal for Excellence in Teaching in 2003.

A scholar in the field of Early Modern Literature and Shakespeare Studies, Janet refers in her Statement of Teaching Philosophy to following a 'philosophy of learning' rather than of teaching. This is evident from her own intellectual journey that began as a high school teacher and continues today within the university. Her love of learning is one which she models for her students and which she enthusiastically and passionately encourages in them.

Janet's students hold her in the highest regard. Her teaching style, her personal attention and individual encouragement have touched the lives of many students and influenced them in their academic and career choices. Students note that she encouraged and allowed them to find their own voices; that she enabled them to develop sophisticated critical tools; that they left her class with "brain pistons" firing all at once. One student wrote, "Dr. Hill provides each of her students with the key to unlock their own knowledge and is one of those special educators you only come across once in your life".

Janet Hill's commitment to teaching and learning extends beyond her classroom and her students. She has been particularly encouraging and supportive of new colleagues, both in the department and across campus. For the past four years she has collaborated with one of her new colleagues to develop and team-teach an innovative study abroad course, one which gives students a truly unique learning opportunity. He writes, "Among Janet's many amazing gifts has been her willingness to go beyond teaching her students, and to unselfishly offer her gifts of teaching to this younger colleague". Since 1999 Janet has been an active member (and past Chair) of the Quality of Teaching Committee, serving as Program Chair when Saint Mary's hosted the AAU Teaching Showcase in 2000 and participating in teaching workshops and activities, both on campus and in the region.

Janet Hill is a most worthy recipient of the 2004 Association of Atlantic Universities Distinguished Teacher Award.