

ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
2005
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD

STEPHEN COUGHLAN

Dr. Stephen Coughlan joined the Faculty of Law at Dalhousie University in 1992 and was appointed a full Professor in 2004. Since 1993 he has been the recipient of four teaching awards, two within the faculty, and two university-wide awards, reflecting, as one colleague noted, “consistently exceptional teaching throughout his university career at Dalhousie. He has attained this standard of excellence in teaching while taking on both teaching and administrative overloads, engaging in extra-curricular activities and community outreach, and maintaining an extensive and respected research agenda”.

In addition to teaching within the Faculty of Law, Dr. Coughlan has been active in other scholarly pursuits at Dalhousie. At the undergraduate level, he was instrumental in the curriculum design of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences’ Minor in Law and Society and continues to team-teach the core, required course in that Program.

His law students have high praise for his teaching ability and for his interest in, and contributions to, their success. They note his genuine enthusiasm for teaching; his ability to create a classroom atmosphere that inspires learning and fosters lively discussion and debate; his efforts to foster collegiality and camaraderie in the classroom; his innovative methods, and his adaptive and engaging teaching style. One student wrote “It is an educator like Steve Coughlan who truly embodies the phrase ‘excellence in university teaching’.”

In addition to encouraging his students to learn, Professor Coughlan has also shared his teaching expertise within the Dalhousie community and beyond. He has engaged in the scholarship of teaching and learning through presentations and articles on teaching that have been shared with a variety of legal and educational communities; he has acted as a mentor in the Dalhousie Mentorship Program, and he has worked on a number of teaching-related committees including the Faculty of Law’s Professional Development Committee.

For his many contributions to teaching and learning at Dalhousie and in the larger community, the Association of Atlantic Universities is pleased to recognize Dr. Stephen Coughlan with the 2005 Distinguished Teacher Award.