

**ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
1991
INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**

JOHN YOUNG

John Young is described by his colleagues as an outstanding teacher of Chemistry who not only embodies the qualities of teaching excellence himself but has exercised true leadership in instruction through his willingness to share his knowledge with others, in informal and formal ways. He is described as "exercising a significant and beneficial influence on the faculty's thinking about and expertise in teaching." This influence has been expressed in a breadth of activities.

John Young has explored new teaching pedagogies and methodologies, testing them himself and encouraging others to do likewise. In formal ways, as a member or Chair of a Committee or as an Administrator, he has encouraged colleagues to think about teaching and how it might be improved in our universities. Informally, he is known for providing quiet but effective assistance to new members of the teaching faculty, offering guidance and constructive criticism on the many facets of instruction.

John Young has also played a leadership role in encouraging the participation of undergraduate students in research early in their academic careers. This activity has been sustained over a twenty year period and from their feedback it is clear that this activity has enhanced the learning experience for the student researchers. John Young has also introduced technological developments, for example in computing, which can facilitate the teaching and learning process. He has extended his interest in computers beyond his own university, Saint Mary's, to the Canadian Higher Education Research Network, a national multi-university effort to develop a network for improving student access to learning. He was also instrumental in the launching of the university's peer counselling program at Saint Mary's.

University, regional and national awards have been made to John Young for teaching excellence. After receiving the Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences/Northern Telecom Science Teaching Award, he undertook a speaking tour of universities in the Atlantic Provinces to share with colleagues at other universities his ideas on the effective communication of scientific information to students.

The hallmarks of an excellent teacher are exemplified in John Young whose students consistently comment on "his rapport with them, his understanding manner and his tireless commitment to their needs." These qualities befit him for one of the Association of Atlantic Universities Award for Excellence in Teaching. His leadership in improving the quality of instruction both at his own university and in the region well justify his selection for the Instructional Leadership Award.