

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

**GERALDINE THOMAS**

Geraldine Thomas has made an outstanding and enduring contribution in instructional leadership in Atlantic Canada. At her home University, Saint Mary's, Geraldine Thomas has contributed significantly in a variety of ways to the creation and maintenance of a climate in which teaching excellence is encouraged.

Geraldine Thomas was instrumental in the establishment of the University's Quality of Teaching Committee, chairing it for three years during the 1980's and recently assuming the chair again. In this role she developed programs which reflected the needs and wishes of faculty. She was also involved in the creation of the Innovative Teaching Grants Program and helped pave the way for the introduction of the Faculty Peer Consultation Program. She demonstrated leadership in the development of a departmental hiring policy requiring candidates to demonstrate classroom teaching abilities, and she has been a tireless advocate of the value of orientation for new faculty, and for the establishment of an infrastructure for the identification and recognition of teaching excellence.

Geraldine Thomas' contribution has also extended beyond Saint Mary's. She has represented the University at several international conferences on teaching and learning, organized the visit of the Director of another university's Instructional Development Office and subsequently was invited to that university in order to develop information for the establishment of the proposed Instructional Development Office at Saint Mary's. She also recognizes that University education does not take place in isolation and has been active in maintaining contact with secondary school teachers and with the Provincial Department of Education.

For twenty years, Geraldine Thomas has successfully combined teaching, research, and instructional leadership. She was the 1991 recipient of the James Ryan Award as the member of the University judged to be most valuable to the students and the Student Association.

In the letters supporting her nomination for this award Geraldine Thomas was described by several colleagues as an initiator, a driving force, a creator and promoter of programs. Her leadership in improving instruction in the university is described by one colleague as "highly skilled, diplomatic and effective." She is a most deserving recipient of the Instructional Leadership Award.