

**ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
1997
INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**

GARY BROOKS

Gary Brooks is an outstanding teacher and role model who has played an important role in fostering an atmosphere where teaching is foremost in the minds of faculty and administrators at St. Francis Xavier University. Instrumental in developing New Faculty Orientation and Mentoring programs at St. F. X., he also has served on the Faculty Development Committee and has shared his views in numerous public forums. In recent years, in service to his craft, he has begun publishing teaching materials, and teaching aids.

Gary Brooks' interests extend across the whole range of issues related to teaching. His concern for quality curriculum to support teaching was evident over 25 years ago when, as a junior faculty member, he worked tirelessly to establish a committee to regularly review curriculum within the Psychology Department and ever since has actively developed and supported initiatives to strengthen the programs across the institution. At the same time, he played major roles on committees which established policies concerning evaluation of teaching, advising first year students, and the establishment of teaching awards, to name a few. His interest in faculty development extends beyond his University. He was one of the first members of the AAU Coordinating Committee on Faculty Development where his influence was strong from the start.

Gary Brooks' contributions to his department, institution, and the region have been substantial. His greatest influence, however, may well be less tangible. He has acted as both an official and unofficial mentor to many, many junior faculty and has assisted faculty to develop course outlines, to reflect on marking systems, and to discover (and in some cases to rediscover) the joys and challenges of the university classroom. Tirelessly encouraging all his colleagues to discuss and consider issues related to teaching, he has modelled the qualities which exemplify the excellent teacher, winning the St. F. X. Outstanding Teaching Award in 1989, the first year of its existence.

While encouraging his colleagues to reflect on their teaching and to develop their own teaching skills, Gary Brooks has continuously worked to develop his own. He has sought out and attended workshops, lectures and discussion on teaching throughout the Maritimes and has shared his expertise and offered presentations at other institutions.

Gary Brooks has had a strong influence on teaching practices at his home institution and throughout the Atlantic region. One of his colleagues has said that "The [AAU] Instructional Leadership Award was designed to honour persons like Gary Brooks, whose concern for the improvement of university teaching was made manifest and shared most graciously with others, who in turn were inspired by it." He is a most deserving recipient of the 1997 Association of Atlantic Universities Instructional Leadership Award.