

**ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
2003
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD**

JAMES STOLZMAN

Over a thirty year teaching career at Dalhousie University, Jim Stolzman has earned deep respect as a teacher who cares passionately about his subject and his students. He has been recognized four times in the last ten years for his commitment to helping students achieve their academic and life goals, most recently in 2003, with the Sociology and Social Anthropology Student Society Award. Also in 2003, he was awarded the most significant teaching prize at Dalhousie University, the Alumni Association Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Jim Stolzman's students describe him as kind, open-minded, compassionate, respectful, approachable, and committed, both as a teacher and an advisor; one who makes every effort to ensure that all students, in particular those who are "not yet excellent", have an enriched learning experience and benefit from a university education. One colleague writes, "Unlike many professors who tend to focus their energies on the elite Honors students, Jim consistently reminds his colleagues of the wide-ranging and legitimate needs of *all* undergraduate students". He has brought his deep-seated commitment to providing excellent undergraduate education to his many years of service on the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences' Academic Development Committee.

In addition to the many personal qualities that make Jim Stolzman an excellent teacher, he is noted for practicing an "innovative pedagogy" that promotes experiential, active and collaborative learning, and respects the diversity of his students' learning styles. He not only encourages students to "be their best", his innovative pedagogical practices provide students with opportunities to "do their best". Despite his many teaching awards, he continues to look for new ideas by attending seminars, participating in colloquia and professional meetings, and through engagement with the pedagogical implications of theory and research in his discipline.

Jim Stolzman's colleagues have benefited from his human qualities and his academic expertise as much as his students. As generous as he is knowledgeable, he has been a mentor to many junior, temporary or part-time colleagues who find, in him, an endless source of support and advice and one who can be relied on for his experience, insights and good sense.

True to his own teaching philosophy, Jim Stolzman has successfully created an optimal learning environment for all his students; a collegial environment for his colleagues, and an awareness across campus of the importance of sustaining an environment conducive to excellence in teaching and learning. He is a most worthy recipient of the 2003 Association of Atlantic Universities Distinguished Teacher Award.