



ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITÉS DE L'ATLANTIQUE

*Award for Excellence in Teaching
2010
Distinguished Teaching Award*

DR. JANE MAGRATH

Dr. Jane Magrath is a truly scholarly teacher. At the centre of her teaching philosophy are three principles: creating safe spaces for her students; 'hooking' them on reading and writing; and encouraging risk, change, and transformation. In short, Dr Magrath sets her students on the path toward good global citizenship.

A specialist in 18th Century English literature at the University of Prince Edward Island, Jane Magrath has a reputation among students for very high standards as well as an array of instructional strategies to help them succeed. She has tool-box full of proven techniques at her disposal—from quick-writes and journals to think-pair-shares, team projects, and buzz groups. She has also invented creative assignments of her own. For example, every Halloween her students complete a Memento Mori research assignment that includes displays and presentations to highlight an 18th Century criminal trial and execution.

Dr. Magrath is also active in curriculum development at UPEI. She has been an important collaborator on The First-Year Advantage Program, a learning community dedicated to the integration of first-year courses and students' smooth transition into university. Similarly, at the other end of the degree, she has worked on The Fourth-Year Capstone Course for English Majors. Finally, as a developer of the Chinook Project, Dr. Magrath accompanies fourth-year Veterinary Medicine students to remote northern communities. There, they practice their surgical skills while learning about northern culture and reflecting on their experiences through writing. In this case, Dr. Magrath is both writing teacher and veterinary assistant.

Jane Magrath is a teacher who is creative and prepared, who expects and communicates high standards, and who is knowledgeable about the scholarship of teaching and learning. More than that, say her students and colleagues, there is a magic in what she does that goes beyond good technique and hard work: her teaching transforms both the minds and the lives of her students.

In 2004, UPEI recognized Dr. Jane Magrath with the Hessian Merit Award for Excellence in Teaching, and two years later with the Janet Pottie Murray Award for Instructional Development. In 2010, she adds the AAU Distinguished Teaching Award to her many honours.