

**ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
1994
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD**

GEORG GUNTHER

Georg Gunther is an exemplary teacher of mathematics whose innovative approaches to his subject, his accessibility to students and the clarity of his presentations make him most qualified to receive the 1994 Association of Atlantic Universities Distinguished Teacher Award.

In his teaching Georg Gunther is continually experimenting with new approaches, tactics and procedures. As a self-reflective teacher he is always trying ideas to assist both the excellent student and those learners who need more help. For example, he encourages cooperative learning among his students and uses journal writing, game show routines and other approaches to stimulate their thinking and enhance their motivation. Students have tremendous appreciation for his work, describing his ability to help them grasp difficult points and clarify abstract concepts, while, as one student put it, leaving "plenty of room for you to have to stretch in order to master the concepts".

Highly accessible to students, he makes himself readily available for help when they stop by his office, and gives tutorials frequently. Students find him approachable, caring and accommodating. He creates a positive classroom climate in which they are comfortable asking questions.

Georg Gunther has taken his dedication to the teaching of mathematics outside his own university as a Canadian organizer and team leader at the International Math Olympiad. He is also a frequent visitor to Junior High Schools, encouraging students interested in mathematics to further involvement.

One of the marks of a fine teacher is the ability to motivate students to try to solve problems, to think creatively and to pursue solutions. Georg Gunther is described by his students as "a great motivator". Several of his students have gone on to graduate work in mathematics or to become mathematics teachers. As one of his colleagues says "he combines a natural gift for teaching with a dedication to students". It is these qualities which make him a very worthy recipient of the AAU Distinguished Teacher Award.