

**ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
1998
INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**

RUSSELL A. HUNT

Russell Hunt has had a long and distinguished career at St. Thomas University. Recognized for his notable discipline-specific scholarly achievements, he has consistently through the years demonstrated a curiosity and passion for advancing teaching and learning.

Russell Hunt is committed to the development of innovative methods of teaching and over the course of his career at St. Thomas, has involved himself in shaping the context of teaching. He was active in the development of a mission statement for St. Thomas, and created the office of Teaching and Learning Development, serving as the first LTD Officer. Russell Hunt was also the driving force in the creation of the Aquinas Program, an innovative first year program which involves significant changes in teaching approaches. He regards all of these activities as primarily directed at changing the conditions under which teachers teach.

Russell Hunt's instructional leadership includes extensive influence outside the university. His presentations and workshops at other universities offer ample evidence of his leadership in improving teaching throughout the Maritime region and internationally. His service through web page construction, as well as his deep and continuing involvement and long-standing interest in computer technology and networking, which he has used extensively in his teaching since the mid-eighties, places him at the forefront of instructional development work. He served for four years on the AAU's Coordinating Committee on Faculty Development.

As an active participant in instructional development, Russell Hunt's aim is to create situations in which teachers find themselves reflecting on their practice, knowing more about the practice of others, and seeing their students in different ways. He is a supportive colleague who engages not only in the theory of student empowerment but also the practice. Faculty are buoyed by his energy and enthusiasm and appreciate the initiative he takes in planning activities, and doing much to shape their learning experience.

Russell Hunt's work with students is also exemplary. He is aware that an academic learning community has to be both a safe place and a place where ideas are challenged and challenging. Students learn this quickly and are able to find both their voices and their scholarly feet quickly. What Russell Hunt attempts to do, before all else, is create social spaces within which students can begin to take responsibility for their own learning.

Russell Hunt's passionate commitment to advancing the craft of teaching, combined with his efforts to enhance the instructional climate at St. Thomas University and beyond, make him a most deserving recipient of the 1998 Association of Atlantic Universities Instructional Leadership Award.