

**ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
1998
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD**

TIMOTHY D. G. LEE

Timothy Lee is widely recognized as a teacher of the highest calibre. Since his appointment to Dalhousie University in 1992, he has twice been nominated for the Dalhousie Alumni Award for Teaching Excellence and was the recipient of the award in 1998, a clear reflection of the high regard in which he is held.

Timothy Lee consistently demonstrates a real flare for teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. His teaching is as well regarded by second year Faculty of Science students as it is in the graduate program and in the Medical School; his student evaluations have been nothing short of stellar. According to one of his colleagues, "he is able to captivate the imagination of the listener and can paint mental pictures of complex issues so that members of his audience, student and faculty alike, come away with a substantial appreciation of immunology."

Timothy Lee believes that students must care about whatever topic is under discussion, or no learning process will be successful. Because of this, he has integrated a form of case-based learning into his teaching. This link between the subject matter and the students' real life experiences has both engaged the students and resulted in student comments such as: "Dr. Lee's lectures were fascinating," "Best Prof. I've had yet," and "Dr. Lee is fantastic."

Timothy Lee's philosophy of partnership in learning extends to after class interactions which demonstrate to the students his willingness to devote whatever time it takes to allow them to achieve their academic goals. His regular Sunday afternoon discussion sessions are well known in undergraduate science and medicine circles. One of the reasons he does so well at teaching is because he likes it. Over the years, he has championed innovative approaches to teaching and has assumed a leadership role in rationalizing course offerings in the departmental immunology stream. He sets extremely high standards for his students, for himself and his colleagues.

Timothy Lee leads by example and has been active in subtly encouraging other teachers to reflect on the quality of their teaching and adopt new strategies to improve it. A strong supporter of the use of electronic technology to enhance the quality and scope of teaching, he developed an online textbook for Immunology because he felt that no adequate textbook for first year medical students existed. This text is now popular in many other arenas and has been used by students in other health related courses at Dalhousie and by many students in other universities.

For his empathy and concern for his students, his exceptional ability to engender enthusiasm among them for his subject, and for his innovative teaching techniques, Timothy Lee has demonstrated himself a most worthy recipient of the 1998 Association of Atlantic Universities Distinguished Teacher Award.