

**ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES  
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING  
1999  
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD**

**CYNTHIA MATHIESON**

Cynthia Mathieson exemplifies all that which is highly valued in academic life: outstanding teaching, excellence in research and scholarship and commitment to community. She was the recipient in 1998 of the Award for Teaching Excellence at Mount Saint Vincent University and in 1999 received the Award for Research Excellence.

It is not simply co-incidental that Cynthia Mathieson received both the Award for Research Excellence and the Teaching Award. The best teachers are those who can make their research come alive for their students; the best researchers are those whose research is guided by their classroom experiences. Cynthia Mathieson's teaching and research go hand in hand in creating excellence in scholarship. The recipient of the prestigious Progress Club's Women of Excellence Award in the field of education and research is a further indication that her commitment to research, teaching and community activities are well recognized by the larger community as well.

A consistent picture of Cynthia Mathieson's classroom performance emerges from her students and colleagues' comments. She is enthusiastic, displaying a passion for her topic whether it be gender differences or research methods; she is open and supportive of students' ideas, conveying respect; she is well organized and willing to do whatever it takes to help her students understand the material. As one student noted: "She engages the class, creates a comfortable atmosphere where we all feel we can speak. I like that she encourages the quiet students in class to speak by calling on them to comment occasionally."

Cynthia Mathieson is demanding as well as open to different points of view, and her colleagues are constantly amazed at how someone with such high standards for students can get high teacher ratings and how well her students perform. Cynthia Mathieson makes it clear, however, that conveying information is not her goal as a teacher; rather, she believes that "really good teaching promotes a certain way of applying what you've learned to how you live."

Cynthia Mathieson's dedication to teaching has gone well beyond classroom performance. She has been extensively involved in curriculum development in Psychology both by revamping existing courses and developing new ones. She has dedicated time to other departments and has also been very active in a wide variety of university and inter-university committees. Her involvement with the Senate Committee on Teaching shows she has made teaching excellence across the university her concern.

For her dedication to education, her excellence in the classroom sustained over many years of teaching and her involvement in curriculum development and instructional leadership, Cynthia Mathieson has demonstrated herself a most worthy recipient of the 1999 Association of Atlantic Universities Distinguished Teacher Award.