

**ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
2002
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD**

DOUGLAS HUNTER

Doug Hunter has established himself as one of the select group of truly outstanding teachers at St. Francis Xavier University. Recognized for his tireless devotion to students over twenty-nine years of teaching, Doug Hunter was twice a recipient of the St. F. X. Outstanding Teaching Award. His nomination for the AAU award was considered by his colleagues to be “long overdue.”

A natural teacher, Doug Hunter seemingly manages to handle the entire range of talents found in a typical classroom. He turns students on to physics. “He has the ability to explain challenging concepts clearly, breaking them down into manageable pieces, allowing his students to grasp each piece and then put the whole concept back together again,” said one student. “He was calling us, challenging us, to put into our learning the same energy and time that he was,” said another. A former student, now a university professor himself, said “Doug’s teaching style was a model of clarity and organization. His classroom presence reflected his mastery of the material, and his ability to reveal the simplicity underlying the most difficult topics gave us all a sense of *how* to learn, not just what to learn.”

Doug Hunter is described by his colleagues as the “best recruiter” they have for physics, a “fair-minded, considerate, supportive and superb team player.” A colleague of fifteen years says, “I have been amazed by his dedication to teaching, humbled by his perfect memory of students past and present and overwhelmed by his generous attitude.” Teaching the largest number of physics students of anyone in the department, Doug Hunter considers it his responsibility to teach the impressionable first-year students. He has done so for twenty-seven of the past twenty-nine years.

In addition to teaching and research, and being Chair of the Physics Department for twenty years, Doug Hunter has held decision-making positions at the University and has made valued contributions to the local community. While maintaining an active research program himself, he has epitomized the tradition at St. F. X. of involving students in research. Doug Hunter is also known as a mentor of teachers – not only because he has taught many as undergraduates, but also because he is the driving force behind the semi-annual workshops for high school physics teachers. It is said that he has nurtured the current generation of physics teachers.

Teaching is the part of Doug Hunter’s career that has brought him the most satisfaction. His pedagogy is marked by a genuine enthusiasm and a lifetime contact with and commitment to his students. He is a most worthy recipient of the 2002 Association of Atlantic Universities Distinguished Teacher Award.