

**ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
2003
INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**

SUSAN DRAIN

Susan Drain has established a reputation as a professor dedicated to excellence in her teaching and to encouraging excellence in others. She has devoted substantial energies to promoting to her colleagues in all disciplines the significance of developing students' writing skills in their own pedagogy. She was recognized for these efforts when she was awarded the 2002 MSVU Award for Instructional Leadership in the field of writing.

With a commitment to developing writing skills as a scholarly activity, Susan Drain has spent the last two decades of her career involved in activities that promote and support her commitment. She has been the writing coordinator in the English department since 1983, where courses have grown from several sections of one introductory level course to a program of courses at three levels and where she was instrumental in developing a Certificate in Professional Writing and Rhetoric.

Susan Drain is committed to the belief that writing is best taught within each discipline rather than being the exclusive purview of writing specialists in English. This has led to her involvement in cross-campus initiatives that support and encourage any effort to broaden the responsibility for writing instruction in all disciplines. These initiatives include organizing workshops, conferences and brown bag lunches for faculty, publishing a "Bright Ideas Bulletin" which explores issues around writing, and the chairing of instructional working groups such as the Writing Initiatives Committee and the Writing Across the Curriculum Committee.

Her influence in encouraging writing as a scholarly activity has also been felt regionally and nationally. She is one of the founders of the local Writing Instructors' Network (WIN). At the national level, she has been involved in Inkshed, formally the Canadian Association for the Study of Language and Learning, where, over the years she has collaborated on drafting its constitution, co-organized two of its national conferences, and served as consulting editor on its newsletter.

Susan Drain's most recent accomplishment has seen her efforts as coordinator of a Task Force on the first year seminar culminate in the creation and offering of a first year seminar course at Mount Saint Vincent University entitled "The Nature of Education". This course, which is being taught by an interdisciplinary team of faculty, is designed to assist first year students deal with and overcome the challenges of university learning.

It is evident that Susan Drain has made an exceptional contribution to teaching and learning, both at Mount Saint Vincent University and in the wider academic community. She is a most worthy recipient of the 2003 Association of Atlantic Universities Instructional Leadership Award.