

**ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES  
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING  
2003  
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD**

**ROBERT LAPP**

Robert Lapp, Assistant Professor of English, has distinguished himself as a truly outstanding teacher at Mount Allison University: one who is widely recognized for his dedication, his sense of responsibility to teaching as a vocation, his wit and good humor, and the intensity of his personal and intellectual probity. He was previously recognized by Mount Allison when he was awarded the Herbert and Leota Tucker Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Robert Lapp has a reputation as a professor dedicated to his students and to their intellectual development. He is praised for his ability to maintain a high level of rapport, accessibility, and effective communication with them in spite of teaching large classes, for his great capacity to arouse interest in his subject matter and for his ability to encourage high academic standards. Students praise the extraordinary lengths to which he goes to make the exploration of literature a shared, respectful, challenging and enthusiastic enterprise. One student wrote "I have not met a professor who devotes as much time or energy to his students; he takes particular care to ensure that each member of the class receives individual attention". Another comments, "Dr. Lapp treats his students like real writers and real scholars, and that makes his students want to do work that is worthy of real writers and real scholars".

It was suggested by students and colleagues alike that one of Robert Lapp's strengths was his use of performance to great pedagogical effect. "Dr. Lapp makes every class feel like an educational and interactive theatre production". But his classes go beyond performance. In understanding that teaching works best as a two-way street, he never treats his students as merely an audience. His classroom is a place for real discussion; a place for questioning, listening, critical thinking and shared responsibilities.

In addition to being an excellent teacher, Robert Lapp's influence extends to his colleagues at Mount Allison and elsewhere in the Atlantic region. He has been an active member of Mount Allison's Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning; he has generously given of his time and talent to promoting quality teaching at the university level; and he has participated in pedagogical conferences on campus and at the regional and national level.

Robert Lapp's love of teaching, his commitment to his students and his discipline; and his willingness to share his expertise with colleagues make him a most worthy recipient of the 2003 Association of Atlantic Universities Distinguished Teacher Award.