

ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
2006
ANNE MARIE MACKINNON
INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD
JUDITH SCRIMGER

Judith Scrimger has won the respect of her colleagues and students at Mount Saint Vincent University; they call her “dynamic and inspiring.” Marrying teaching excellence with educational leadership, Judith’s philosophy statement reflects her conviction that “Learning to teach is life-long learning at its best. The fact that I have been successful, in a modest way, in encouraging my colleagues on their own teaching journeys, means I have been doubly blessed.”

At Mount Saint Vincent University, Judith’s teaching repertoire includes 15 different courses ranging from 12 to more than 200 students; she teaches first-year to graduate level; she teaches classes in three areas: Women’s Studies, Journalism and Public Relations. With this wide and varied experience, her own core beliefs about teaching have shifted as she reflected on her own teaching style and learned new insights. Now more certain than ever about what a good teacher does, Judith shares her beliefs:

- If you *trust* students to take responsibility for their own learning, they will;
- If you pose questions and challenges which are engaging, students will seek out the tools they need to answer those questions and meet those challenges;
- If you create an environment where students’ writing is respected, valued and taken seriously, they will become effective writers.

Judith’s leadership is remarkable: faculty advisor, mentor, role model, directed studies supervisor, coach, scholar, writer, researcher, award winner, departmental chair, and chair of MSVU’s Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning. Judith has been a tireless advocate, leader, and role model and she has contributed to important developments to benefit teaching and learning at Mount Saint Vincent University. For example, Judith was instrumental in establishing MSVU’s first annual Faculty Day in 2003. She helped lay the groundwork for the founding of the university’s Teaching and Learning Centre, which opened in 2006. She provided guidance for the creation of two graduate degrees: Master of Arts (Public Relations) and Master of Public Relations.

Judith generously shares her time, wisdom and experience with faculty colleagues, students and staff at Mount Saint Vincent University and beyond, and she is a frequent and popular presenter at regional and national teaching and learning conferences.

Judith Scrimger’s life-long commitment to teaching and her invaluable contributions to higher education make her a most worthy recipient of the 2006 Anne Marie MacKinnon Instructional Leadership Award.