

ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES  
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING  
2007  
ANNE MARIE MACKINNON  
INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD  
KATHERINE A. FREGO

Dr. Katherine A. Frego joined the faculty of the University of New Brunswick in Saint John in 1993; from the beginning, she has been both an exemplary teacher and an advocate for the ‘development and promotion of teaching excellence and Scholarship of Teaching.’ Kate has been an active leader in every part of the university community, and over the last fourteen years, her nominators say, Kate’s name has become “synonymous with educational leadership.”

In the Department of Biology, Kate has been enthusiastic supporter of developing new teaching methodologies. She has mentored new faculty and guided them in the early stages of their careers. She has helped reorganize the undergraduate Biology program so that the lower level courses focus on the development of specific skills and abilities. As the Director of Graduate Studies for Biology, Kate has guided the department’s graduate students, encouraging them to complete UNB’s Diploma in University Teaching a ten-week course which Kate herself was instrumental in bringing to the campus. It is little wonder that a large group of masters and doctoral students say they view her with “great affection.”

In the Faculty of Science, Kate has been a persistent voice advocating for excellence in teaching and has established training and workshops in the area of experiential learning. At the highest level of the university, Kate has shown her characteristic determination as she has worked hard to integrate teaching concerns into the core of the University’s mandate, particularly through the restructuring and formation of two Common Senate Teaching Committees which are now responsible for developing and shaping teaching policies at UNB.

For more than a decade, Kate has chaired the Vice President’s Excellence in Teaching Committee, leading a team of colleagues who have gathered from across campus to support and develop teaching practices. As chair, Kate has developed training programs, edited the campus teaching publication, organized workshops, seminars, and institutes, and most significantly she successfully lobbied for a pilot project to develop a full Teaching and Learning Centre at UNBSJ. Kate’s collegial spirit and her ability to encourage and inspire her colleagues have touched every part of UNB’s Saint John campus.

The university community has recognized Kate’s extraordinary contributions by awarding her the Dr Allan P Stuart Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching, a University Teaching Professorship, and the inaugural Neil Scott Educational Leadership Award. As the “nerve centre on the Saint John campus for anything and everything related to the improvement of teaching,” she is a worthy recipient of the 2007 Anne Marie MacKinnon Instructional Leadership Award. Kate won the AAU Distinguished Teacher Award in 2002, and has now become the first person to received both of our region’s most prestigious awards—a remarkable achievement.