



ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITÉS DE L'ATLANTIQUE

Award for Excellence in Teaching
2018
Distinguished Teaching Award

DR. GREG DORAN

Teaching in both the English Department and the Theatre Studies Program at the University of Prince Edward Island, Dr. Greg Doran has influenced and inspired countless students with his energy, enthusiasm, and passion. Anyone who knows him knows that what he believes about his work – that his “success as a teacher lies in the success of [his] students” – is precisely true. Despite the glowing comments his students make about him as a teacher, and even though a number of his students have gone on to prestigious theatre programs, Greg humbly disavows doing anything other than leading students in the right direction. But, of course, he does much more than that.

In Dr. Doran’s fourteen years at UPEI, he has developed, revised, and taught an impressive number and range of courses in both the English and Theatre programs. As the sole member of the Theatre Studies Program, he is responsible for all theatre education at the university, and his excellent student productions are highlights of every academic year. And, as he himself says, his experience directing student actors has influenced his teaching as well: “Just as no two actors can be directed the same way,” he says, “I try to find the best ways to encourage the success of students, which often means being very flexible and trying different approaches in the classroom.” This flexibility is one of the qualities most often praised in his student evaluations.

Greg constantly searches for new ideas about teaching and is active in the scholarship of teaching and learning. He will often be found reading the latest book or article about new techniques or practices in education – and passing on to his colleagues what he has learned, either informally in conversation or formally in conference presentations. He is a regular presenter at the Atlantic Universities’ Teaching Showcase and in UPEI’s “Brown-Bag Lunch” series of talks on pedagogy.

Dr. Doran has received UPEI’s two most prestigious awards, the Hessian Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Presidential Merit Award for Combined Achievement, the latter reflecting not only his superior teaching but also his exemplary scholarship and service to the university. He is an indispensable and highly respected member of the UPEI community. In a letter of support, a colleague praises “his devotion to the learning and development of all students and his ability to model a growth mindset for both his classes and his colleagues” – qualities that make him richly deserving of the Association of Atlantic Universities’ Distinguished Teaching Award.