

2014-2015 OCUFA TEACHING AND ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS

CITATION FOR DR. GREG EVANS



Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des Associations des Professeurs des Universités de l'Ontario



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Dr. Greg Evans is a Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry and the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, at the University of Toronto. In the 25 years of his appointment, Dr. Evans' contributions to teaching and learning both in and out of the classroom, have been nothing short of exemplary. In this citation, I note only a few of these many contributions.

In the classroom, Dr. Evans stresses that “teaching is about students, not content.” He uses several innovative teaching practices to put learners at the centre of his efforts. For example, he has students complete a learning styles inventory so that he can adjust his teaching methods accordingly. Learning outcomes of his courses include a balance of conceptual, contextual and procedural knowledge to encourage students to extend their efforts beyond rote learning. He has included former students in the development of what has now become a 160-page interactive electronic textbook. As a result of his teaching excellence, the average score in the past five years for student responses to the question, “What is your overall rating of this instructor as a teacher?” is a stratospheric 5.94 out of 6. In the words of a former student: “Prof. Evans was not just a lecturer [...], he was a co-learner. He made sure that students were following the lecture using various assessment-for-learning techniques. He was attentive to all students’ questions and took an active role in our learning.”

Outside of the classroom, Dr. Evans' efforts in engaging students in their education and university experience are no less impressive. As Vice-Dean (Undergraduate), he led significant developments in the applied science and engineering undergraduate curriculum, adding new



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learning opportunities, including the introduction of minors. More recently, as Associate Director of the Institute for Leadership Education in Engineering, or ILead, Dr. Evans connects students with successful leaders, teaches courses and workshops on leadership, and also created the “leadership infusion initiative,” a series of six interactive lectures designed to provide thousands of undergraduate student engineers with leadership knowledge and skills. And as is the hallmark of a professor who takes teaching as seriously as his own disciplinary research, Dr. Evans also engages in the scholarship of teaching and learning. His pedagogical research includes such topics as collaborative learning in engineering education and engineering leadership and team skills. He has disseminated findings of this work in both the literature and at various North American scholarly conferences. As one of his colleagues states, “Greg’s work has had an enormous impact on teaching and learning at the University of Toronto, and through his publications in engineering education it is having an impact beyond our institution. He is dedicated to educating the whole student to enable them to reach their full capacity as positive contributors to society.”

For his efforts and successes in engaging students in their learning and overall university experience, in the past five years alone Dr. Evans has been the recipient of several honours including, but not limited to: the American Society for Engineering Education Outstanding Teaching Award; the Engineers Canada Medal for Distinction in Engineering Education; the Alan Blizzard Award from the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education; and the Faculty Teaching Award, the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering’s highest teaching honour.

Please join me now in congratulating Dr. Greg Evans on his newest honour, a 2015 OCUFA Teaching Award.