

**2014-2015 OCUFA TEACHING AND  
ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS  
CITATION FOR WINNER PROFESSOR VINCENT HUI**

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## **CITATION FOR PROFESSOR VINCENT HUI**

**Prepared and read by Alastair Woods, CFS**

The OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee is pleased to present a 2014-2015 Teaching Award to Professor Vincent Hui, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science at Ryerson University.

In his letter of support for Professor Hui, Chair of the Department of Architectural Science Colin Ripley noted how challenging it was to craft a statement that accurately reflected Professor Hui's "extraordinary" accomplishments over the preceding six years. Without a doubt, the depth and breadth of Professor Hui's work combined with his passion for innovative and accessible teaching methods is indeed nothing short of extraordinary – a term that was used again and again by colleagues and students in their ecstatic letters of support.

Just a glance at Professor Hui's *circum vitae* yields an overwhelming record of work and service. His contributions to teaching, course creation, curriculum development and project supervision are truly astonishing.

Professor Hui is guided by his own unique teaching philosophy, the "Five P's of Pedagogy," which frames the learning experience within a larger perspective of the professors, the projects, the profession, a students' peers and their own personal development. In his own words, this philosophy has become "invaluable" to Professor Hui as he continues to grow as an educator, highlighting his desire to teach courses as he wished they had been taught when he was a student himself.



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This drive to constantly innovate the classroom experience and be relevant in a world that is consistently changing every day is best exhibited by Professor Hui's efforts to bridge the gap between the university and the outside world. Professor Hui believes it is crucial that students are given opportunities to explore subject matter in a variety of different spaces, under different contexts and with different tools. This is why Professor Hui is lauded by colleagues for bringing digital fabrication and contemporary software tools inside the classroom – and outside of it through the Digital Media Experience Lab he helped to develop with Ryerson's Library Information Technology Services.

It is also why he created the Ryerson University Architectural Science Design Lab, which allows students to design and build their works with each other and various interested partners. In only three short years, the Lab has produced nearly 20 projects. And it is most certainly why Professor Hui spearheaded and developed a co-op program for Architectural Science students at Ryerson, providing them with invaluable work experience and a different classroom setting through which to explore, learn and grow.

Professor Hui is described by his peers as a keen supporter of blended learning, constantly reaching out to different partners inside and outside of the university to explore new teaching methods, design new programs and ultimately, lay the foundation for new paths towards excellent teaching, learning and student success.

But perhaps the most meaningful and accurate descriptions of Professor Hui come from his students. Comments from course surveys and letters of support from students paint a picture of a teacher who is friendly, passionate, encouraging and dedicated to ensuring student success academically, personally and professionally.

Students describe Professor Hui as an educator who consistently “goes above and beyond” both inside and outside of the classroom. A class with Professor Hui is “fresh, thorough, energetic, engaging and memorable – but by no measure easy.” When concepts and content are difficult to



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understand, Professor Hui maps them out carefully and methodically for his students using a diversity of tools that include everything from PowerPoint presentations to mobile apps to social media.

Professor Hui's dedication goes far beyond the classroom. Students praise his seemingly endless office hours where he offers support and guidance through course material, extracurricular projects, thesis writing and even personal development. Colleagues note the common sight of lineups outside his office door, an obvious sign that his students value Professor Hui as deeply as he values them.

Professor Hui's well-deserved status as an exceptional and popular teacher can belie the fact that he conducts his practice with deep humility. His colleagues note the particular attention he pays to struggling students, making it his personal goal to see them succeed. Research associates, frequently sent on his behalf to conferences and academic events, convey gratitude at the trust he places in them to represent him and his projects. Students display a mix of awe and appreciation at his ability to memorize and remember each and every one of their names.

All of these actions are a reflection of Professor Hui's true motivations as an educator: someone who desires to be a team player, an effective teacher and a patient supervisor – not for himself, but for all those around him. More than his tremendous accomplishments as a teacher and an academic, it is these qualities that make Professor Hui deserving of this award.

Congratulations.