

**2012-2013 OCUFA TEACHING AND
ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS
CITATION FOR WINNER PROFESSOR RICHARD CARON**

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CITATION FOR PROFESSOR RICHARD CARON

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On behalf of the Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee, I am honoured to present Dr. Richard Caron, Professor of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Windsor, with a 2012-2013 teaching award.

Superlatives leap from every page of Professor Caron's nomination dossier. He is described as "simply beguiling – so charming, funny, and self-deprecating that even the least enthusiastic student can be drawn in. He uses everything from card tricks to Stephen Colbert clips to candy incentives to get students engaged and to help them to uncover the misconceptions and assumptions that have previously held them back mathematically." His love for mathematics is contagious. Students respond enthusiastically to his creativity and warmth, and his average evaluation is an outstanding 6.5 on a 7 point scale. It's not difficult to see why. He gives his students his home telephone number and tells them they can call him until 11 o'clock at night. His teaching brings to life the practical application of what is done in class. In a recent year, for example, his linear programming students were assigned an IBM technical document that described a real-world meat blending application, and were assigned the task of creating mathematical models of the problem and a solution.

Notably, Professor Caron's contributions to teaching extend far beyond his own classroom. For eight years he served as the Dean of the Faculty of Science. By the end of his deanship, he saw the establishment of additional learning centres in Computer Science, Economics, Physics, and Chemistry and Biochemistry. An ardent advocate for outstanding instructors in his faculty, he ensured that at least one faculty member from Science was nominated for the University's Alumni Teaching and Mentoring



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awards each year during his deanship. He has also worked to increase interaction between secondary and university science educators and to improve curricular integration between these two educational levels. From 2009-2011, Professor Caron co-chaired the Canadian Mathematical Society's National Math Camp, hosting the event at the University of Windsor. This camp draws mathematically gifted grade nine and ten secondary school students from all over Canada to help them hone their skills for elite competition and also to provide them with an opportunity to meet others with similar interests and abilities.

Professor Caron's pedagogical influence go not only beyond his classroom and his university, but beyond Canada itself. He has a laudable global vision and reach, and is a founder, past-president, and current member of the board of directors of the Canadian World Education Foundation (CWEF), a charitable organization that supports the education of children of widows in India, Tanzania, and Kenya, as well as various educational projects in the Windsor area. CWEF continues to support a child's education for as long as the child keeps studying – through primary, elementary, secondary, college, university or any other educational institution - with the intention of breaking the cycle of poverty that traps these families. In 2012-2013, the Indian chapter, for example, supported the education of a remarkable 881 children. Originally an initiative of University of Windsor professors, the organization now has more than 100 regular donors.

Last year, the movie *Life of Pi*, based on Canadian author Yann Martel's book of the same name, won more Academy Awards than any other nominee. Ladies and gentlemen, on the occasion of this OCUFA award presentation, please join me in congratulating, Dr. Richard Caron, Professor of Mathematics and Statistics, a unique and passionate educator who gives life to pi.