



# OCUFA

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations  
Union des associations des professeurs des universités de l'Ontario

## **2019-2020 OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards**

Citation for Dr. William Cluett



Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations  
Union des associations des professeurs des universités de l'Ontario

## **Citation for Dr. William Cluett**

*Prepared by Mindy Thuna, University of Toronto*

It seems only fitting to let Dr. William Cluett start off this citation by sharing what has guided his teaching since he joined the University of Toronto as a professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry in 1986.

1. Students appreciate knowing I genuinely care about their learning.
2. Making myself available one-on-one to students and finding ways to make them feel comfortable about asking questions makes a huge difference.
3. Helping students appreciate that engineering is not about *memorization* but instead about *understanding* is an important part of my job.

The numerous teaching awards he has received, from his department, his faculty, and UofT combined with glowing student feedback, all highlight that these values are an intrinsic part of his teaching. In the words of a first-year Engineering Science student, “Professor Cluett's excellence is not limited to teaching...He encouraged me to fearlessly tackle the challenges that humanity faces, apply my knowledge, and realize my potential by embarking on an adventure of research and learning,” and further expanded by a Masters of Applied Sciences candidate who worked as his TA, “Professor Cluett’s teaching philosophy and genuine care for his students and TAs creates an atmosphere that promotes learning and growth.”

But being an engaged and innovative teacher is not the only contribution that Will Cluett has made to education at the University of Toronto. Over the course of his career, Professor Cluett has served in several academic leadership roles and in each he has made a significant contribution, while continuing to teach at an exemplary level. Two key highlights are:

As Chair, First Year, his work in the development of the Da Vinci Engineering Enrichment Program (DEEP), the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering’s outreach program for gifted high school students that has since expanded to include DEEP Summer Academy, Jr. DEEP (for elementary school students), and Girls’ Jr. DEEP—programs which attract over 1,000 students each summer.

As Vice-Dean Undergraduate, he assembled the inaugural and award-winning teaching team from across the faculty that created the first-year design and communications course, Engineering Strategies and Practice.

These are just the tip the iceberg of the many and varied administrative roles and contributions that Will Cluett has made to education within the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering at UofT.

I shall end this citation with a quote from the current chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry that sums up why the OCUFA Teaching and Academic Award Committee is pleased to award Dr. Will Cluett a 2019-2020 OCUFA Teaching Award.

“From his dedication to supporting his colleagues in the development of their own skills as instructors, to the consistently excellent quality of his own instruction in the classroom, to his tireless efforts to improve pedagogy at every level, he exemplifies everything that an outstanding teacher should hope to be.”

Congratulations Dr. Cluett!