

**2011-2012 OCUFA TEACHING AND
ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS
CITATION FOR WINNER DR. ANDREW P. DICKS**

OCUFA

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



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

CITATION FOR DR. ANDREW P. DICKS

Read by Toby Whitfield, Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario

The OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee is pleased to present a 2011-2012 Teaching Award to Dr. Andrew Dicks, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Dicks' nominator aptly summarizes his teaching evaluations as "stupendous." In tough physical science classes with enrolments sometimes approaching 1,000 students, his scores have reached as high as 6.7 (out of 7) and have never been lower than 6 – a truly remarkable achievement. These numbers underpin a teaching style that is praised for its clarity, precision, and interactivity. His students invariably describe Dr. Dicks' lectures as engaging and inspirational. Or as a former student notes, "Dr. Dicks has mastered the art of converting a drab subject matter into a captivating story."

Outside the classroom, Dr. Dicks is no less committed and motivational. His emphasis on informal study skills sessions, one-on-one meetings during scheduled and unscheduled office hours, and individual meetings after term tests are appreciated by his students and emulated by his colleagues.

Dr. Dicks has also developed and implemented a first-year "Course Community" where students have the opportunity to meet regularly with faculty and upper-year students to discuss studying techniques, learn about research opportunities and partake in laboratory tours and social activities. By all accounts, the program has been wildly successful. A senior administrator at the University summarizes its success by noting that since its inception in 2006, students have reported a greater "sense of belonging" in the department, resulting in "a dramatic and sustained increase in the number of undergraduates choosing a chemistry program."



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

No praise of Dr. Dicks' outreach to students would be complete without also mentioning his work in advising, training and mentoring high school students through the Chemistry Olympiad, where he served as the head academic mentor in 2007, 2009 and 2011. As a testament to his work with the Olympiad, many of the students involved have gone on to pursue science programs at the University of Toronto.

Equally impressive is Dr. Dicks' work in the area of Chemistry instruction and educational materials development. Dr. Dicks has amassed 32 peer-reviewed publications on pedagogical methods and techniques, including 15 in the *Journal of Chemical Engineering* – the leading international chemistry-teaching journal. Perhaps most poignant is Dr. Dicks' pioneering and award winning work in the burgeoning field of Green Chemistry education, culminating in his serving as editor and contributor to a cutting-edge teaching book “*Green Organic Chemistry in Lecture and Laboratory*.” The book has been heralded for its ability to “inspire and influence the next generation of scientists, and embed the principles and practices of green and sustainable chemistry and technology in their education.”

A colleague notes that Dr. Dicks' “research in chemistry education, service to the profession, and passion for making a difference to the learners in his classrooms and laboratories measures up to the highest national and international standards.” Looking at his commitment to all facets of the educational experience, the OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee would have to agree and is thrilled to award him with a 2011-2012 OCUFA Teaching Award. Congratulations.