



OCUFA

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

2016-2017 OCUFA TEACHING AND ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS

CITATION FOR DR. QUAZI RAHMAN



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There are many things one could say about an outstanding educator, but labelling them the “jewel in the crown” of their department certainly conveys an unprecedented and unique kind of admiration. But upon reading his dossier, one comes away with the sense that such praise is not only deserved, but perhaps not buoyant enough for someone like Dr. Quazi Rahman, Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Western Ontario. In letters from peers and students, Dr. Rahman is painted as a rare breed of teacher: extremely popular yet remarkably modest, highly effective yet consistently reflective, personal yet professional, inspiring those around him to demand the best of themselves - and to enjoy it thoroughly. Such qualities cemented in the minds of adjudicators that Dr. Rahman was more than deserving of an OCUFA Teaching Award.

One defining feature of Dr. Rahman’s career is a willingness to tackle big challenges, sometimes above and beyond what is expected of him, and to turn difficult situations into positive and productive experiences. From learning the names of 150 students to fundamentally transforming curricula in the department to teaching difficult concepts with humour, Dr. Rahman’s dedication to excellent teaching seems to be visible in every facet of his personal and professional lives. One of his student nominators remarked how “engaging, fun and familial” Dr. Rahman’s classes were, while a colleague noted his tendency to attend all the labs and tutorials for his classes to work with students - something extremely rare in his department.

Whether it be going out of his way to deliver support, encouragement and a safe space to students struggling with academic or personal challenges, or coordinating a four week intensive summer camp for high school students wishing to explore STEM before choosing a path in higher education, it is crystal clear that Dr. Quazi Rahman regards his passion for teaching and learning as a duty to inspire others to feel that passion too.

If there was ever a magic formula to be an exceptional educator - some perfect algorithm to balance approachability, accessibility and a mastery of subject matter - it appears that Dr. Rahman has it. He is popular with students and widely respected by his peers for a reason and he is also an innovative, creative and dynamic teacher. Reading Dr. Rahman’s dossier makes you wish you could find a time machine to return to university



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and take at least one of his classes. But since time travel is impossible, you'll have to experience it vicariously through the eyes of his colleagues and students in letter after letter of praise and adoration for a truly remarkable friend and teacher.