

**2011-2012 OCUFA TEACHING AND  
ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS  
CITATION FOR WINNER PROFESSOR STEVE JOORDENS**

**OCUFA**

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations  
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## **CITATION FOR PROFESSOR STEVE JOORDENS**

**Read by Zopito Marini, Brock University**

The OCUFA Teaching Award Committee is delighted to present Professor Steve Joordens with the 2011 award in recognition of his excellence in teaching.

Professor Joordens is a faculty member in the Department of Psychology at the University of Toronto Scarborough, where he has distinguished himself through his outstanding educational leadership in its many forms, such as exceptional and inspiring lecturing, curriculum development, mentoring of students and colleagues, and the creation of the peerScholar award-winning program. An Internet-based application aimed at supporting the development of critical thinking and communication skills in introductory psychology courses, peerScholar received the 2009 National Technology Innovation Awards.

Colleagues state that Professor Joordens is an outstanding and inspiring lecturer, a pioneering educator and a fantastic colleague. He has been named one of Ontario's top lecturers in the TVO competition, on a number of occasions. One colleague writes: "From questioning him I have learned the main ingredient to success: Be knowledgeable and passionate about the topics on which you lecture." It is his genuine interest in students as individuals and as learners that sets Professor Joordens above his peers. Others point out that his educational leadership shines in his outstanding ability to engage first-year students in writing tasks usually reserved for fourth-year students.

Students describe his classroom as a nurturing and inspiring place where they feel safe in voicing their options and encouraged to carry out critical analysis. One student wrote: "During his course, I learned a lot about psychology and became very interested in this topic because of his enthusiasm and his ability to make even the most boring topics seem intriguing" and added "Because of this course, I decided to pursue a Psychology Specialist degree." Another student



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voiced similar sentiments: “I can honestly say that I would not be where I am today without Steve’s help and guidance. If it wasn’t for Steve’s open and welcoming nature, I would not have dared venturing into his office in my first year of my undergraduate degree.”

Professor Joordens is a passionate educator and a reflective mentor. He is committed to his students’ learning, to innovation in teaching, and to a research based approach to teaching, and we are proud to honour him with an OCUFA Teaching Award. Congratulations!