

The logo for OCUFA, consisting of the letters 'OCUFA' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The background of the entire page features abstract geometric shapes in shades of green, teal, and dark blue, creating a modern, layered effect.

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. Aaron Langille



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Prepared and read by Judy Bornais, University of Windsor

“Exceptional.” “Inspiring.” “Dedicated Mentor.” Words used to describe Dr. Aaron Langille by current students, colleagues and alumni. As a Master Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Laurentian University, Dr. Langille has had a far-reaching influence on students and faculty to become more comfortable with technology and coding; extending this beyond Laurentian to the broader community. Whether through the use of badges and achievements or board game cafés, his desire to engage, motivate, and support students was clearly evident in his nomination package!

For Dr. Langille, making connections between the content and the real world is paramount. Using his industrial expertise to guide his course development and delivery, he incorporates experiential learning techniques including projects and field trips to help students make those critical connections. As an example, students in his game design course had several lessons hosted at a local board game café, where they discussed the challenges of board game-to-video game conversions. Extending beyond his classroom, Aaron has developed a game design club, delivering hands-on seminars which introduce students of all disciplines to the essentials of video game development. His desire to connect students with technology extends beyond the university, where Aaron can be found as a First Lego League coach, mentor, and judge—presenting to students from SK through high school on video game design and organizing video game design competitions.

In his teaching philosophy, Aaron writes that he believes that, “effective teaching extends beyond the classroom...” Aaron’s support of students and their learning, from a holistic perspective, was clearly evident in the letters from students and alumni. From meeting with students unsure if they were on the right career path and those concerned about course success, to those struggling with pressures of student life outside the classroom, Aaron has worked tirelessly as an advisor and student advocate working closely with counselling services, the Centre for Academic Excellence and Accessibility Services, to help students “maximize their own potential to succeed.” This is evident in the quote from one of his students, “I just wanted to thank you for being one of the best instructors I have ever had in my life! ... The way you teach and care about your students is incomparable.”

Dr. Langille’s contributions to teaching and learning have been recognized through several teaching awards and recognitions. He continues to grow, develop, and share his passion for teaching and learning. A colleague noted that one of his most notable qualities is, “his generous and highly effective work creating opportunities for students, faculty, and the broader community to improve in their learning and teaching.” Evidence of this can be seen in the open educational resources that Aaron developed to support student learning, in the workshops and presentations he developed and led for colleagues at Laurentian, as well as dissemination of his scholarship of teaching and learning work at teaching and learning conferences. For all of these and his many other contributions to teaching excellence, in the classroom and beyond, I am proud to congratulate Dr. Aaron Langille with a 2019-2020 OCUFA Teaching Award.