

**2010-2011 OCUFA TEACHING AND
ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS
CITATION FOR WINNER PROFESSOR CAROL PERCY**

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CITATION FOR PROFESSOR CAROL PERCY

read by Dr. Judith Poë, University of Toronto at Mississauga

It is with great pleasure that the OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee presents a 2011 OCUFA Teaching Award to Carol Percy, Associate Professor in the Department of English at the University of Toronto. Her nominators describe Professor Percy by saying that her “genius lies in her ability to develop and apply teaching strategies that deeply engage students’ imaginations and intellects while cultivating highly practical, professional research skills. A former student says that she represents “the perfect synthesis of the traditional and the modern academic.” And a recurring theme throughout the letters of support for Carol’s nomination was reference to her extraordinary generosity. Students say that she consistently demonstrates and shares her extreme love for the subject material she is teaching. She is generous with her time, her ideas, her support, and in her praise.

Carol’s nominators and students alike highlighted her integration of research and teaching at the undergraduate level. Whether it be within her courses on the history of the English language or working with talented high school students in the University’s mentorship program, with work-study students, with undergraduates in the Research Opportunity Program, or with graduate students, she provides students a rigorous and challenging experience within a student-centered pedagogy. Of course she comes by this skill genetically in part, shared with her distinguished parents, biochemist Maire Percy and astronomer John Percy. In 2009 at the University of Toronto’s annual Teaching and Learning Symposium she and her parents co-presented a unique session entitled “Engaging Students in Research and Scholarship: Three Perspectives.”



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It was a pleasure to read the letters of support for Carol's nomination from many former students who have gone on to academic careers in English. But it was the words of a science student that most caught my attention. She wrote that through Carol's excellence in classroom teaching, "she affirms her role as a professorial Virgil guiding her students with élan and poise through academic purgatory." Of course HELL has been central to much of Carol's teaching, HELL in this case being her internationally accessed website, History of the English Language Links, a research resource to which many of her students have contributed.

Carol's Ph.D. thesis was a study of the language in James Cook's 1768-71 Endeavor journal. Cook was an astronomer, navigator, explorer and captain of the Endeavor on its expedition to observe the 1769 Transit of Venus. So it was a fitting honour when the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada named a main-belt asteroid #157421 carolpercy. And we have the star here with us. It is a great personal pleasure to present Carol Percy with a 2011 OCUFA Teaching Award.