

**2011-2012 OCUFA TEACHING AND  
ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS  
CITATION FOR WINNER PROFESSOR EILEEN WOOD**

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## **CITATION FOR PROFESSOR EILEEN WOOD**

**Read by Shafique Virani, University of Toronto**

On behalf of the Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee, I am honoured to present Eileen Wood, Professor of Psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University, with a 2011-2012 teaching award.

An ideal balance of yin and yang, Professor Wood is the epitome of the scholar-teacher. An internationally recognized academic, she has authored or edited over a dozen books, published more than sixty refereed journal articles, and received in excess of a million dollars in funding from a variety of agencies. Her passion for her scholarship is matched by her zeal for teaching. The recipient of both Laurier's "University Research Professor Award," and "Outstanding Teacher Award," Professor Wood has excelled in teaching classes ranging from small, intimate seminars to massive lectures with four hundred students. She has inspired learners at all levels, undergraduate, masters and doctoral students alike. Evaluations of her teaching are consistently spectacular, and among the highest at her institution. Students, colleagues and support staff write about her unbounded enthusiasm for teaching and learning, her thorough preparation, her engaging personality and caring demeanour, her availability, and her sense of humour. One of her students writes that she creates a "learning environment rather than a listening environment." Professor Wood engages students in active learning in a variety of ways, including through role-playing, the use of multimedia, and reflection exercises. She even taught her students sign-language to help them understand nonverbal communication, showed them optical illusions to help them grasp how the brain works, and developed speaking exercises to help them better comprehend how language is acquired. She has effectively employed a variety of technological tools for her teaching, including on-line labs, smartboards, and back channeling, and has been a strong advocate of community service learning. Her scholarly writings reflect her teaching interests in the use of technology in the classroom; cognitive development, learning, and memory



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strategies; and most recently, academic integrity. Tremendous thought and care is built into every aspect of her teaching. Her PowerPoint slides come alive with meaningful images, humorous cartoons, and embedded videos. Students comment that these carefully selected visual aids help them remember key concepts, with one remarking, “I can still remember the Curious George example that she gave us.”

Professor Wood’s assignment expectations are outlined in detail, and students receive thorough and constructive feedback on the writing process. So dedicated is she to student learning that rather than assigning the traditional multiple-choice exams for her large introductory class, she gave short answer questions so that students would have the opportunity to explain what they had learned. She graded these herself, giving detailed written feedback. Her graduate students all publish before completing their theses, and many of them are credited in her own publications.

Professor Wood chaired the departmental undergraduate curriculum committee for eight years and has co-authored two award-winning textbooks, which include instructor supports such as lecture materials, exercises, examples and videos. Significantly, she is extremely generous with her knowledge, and readily shares her materials and experience with students and colleagues. One of her former students recalls how she contacted Professor Wood as a thirteen-year old for a school project, went on to major in psychology in university, and after graduating with a PhD, contacted Eileen for help in teaching an introductory psychology course. Professor Wood not only gave her tips on teaching a large class, but also provided her with teaching materials. Notably, Professor Wood has pioneered a university-wide course to help graduate students learn the “nuts and bolts” of teaching, thus preparing a new generation of scholar-teachers who will follow in her footsteps. Eileen’s prowess as an instructor is perhaps best expressed by one of her students in this course, who writes, “to genuinely teach, to change and inspire students to excel in such a way that they are able to positively affect change in our culture...this is Dr. Eileen Wood, a teacher of excellence.”



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Dr. Wood, you are a shining star in the firmament of stellar university instructors, and it is my deep personal pleasure to congratulate you on receiving this prestigious award.