

### Citation for Professor Herb Kunze

The OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee is pleased to present an OCUFA Teaching Award for 2007 to Professor Herb Kunze of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Guelph. Professor Kunze is an exceptionally gifted and dedicated teacher whose impact on his students is far-reaching and profound.

Herb Kunze does more than teach his students – he transforms them. Ten years ago Herb was assigned to teach a section of the challenging introductory course “Calculus for the Biological Sciences” with over 300 students, many of whom were extremely wary of anything mathematical. The failure rate had typically been about 20%. The buzz about Herb was immediate, and word of mouth had students gravitating to his classes from other sections. Beyond extremely high course evaluations that followed, and an 83% return of evaluation forms (unheard of in large classes), several students on their own initiative took the time to write glowing letters to the Chair about Herb, praising him for the incredible learning experience. One of them stated: “Herb Kunze is the most any student could ask for in a professor. His superior technical skills combined with excellent personal skills made him the best educator I have ever encountered...”. This auspicious beginning was actually surpassed by what has transpired over many courses and thousands of students later. Another student writes: “As soon as he began to speak, his passion for teaching became evident...He *wants* us to learn and *wants us to want* to learn.” Another confides: “The atmosphere that Herb generates in the classroom is very powerful and unlike anything I have encountered before.” And yet another put it clearly: “This class was the most amazing class I have ever taken in my life.”

Further evidence of his superior teaching skills includes his receiving the University of Guelph Faculty Association Teaching Award, being named “Popular Prof.” by MacLean’s magazine, and being a star on the “Rate My Professors” website. Herb’s door is always open and he regularly meets with students in the University Centre. One student expressed: “He is the most supportive and available professor on campus.” In developing courses, Herb prepares meticulously with exquisite notes that become essential references. As a colleague put it: “Herb’s second year...calculus lecture notes are so clear and complete that many students still carry them around in third and fourth years...”. His web-based teaching innovations continue to be used in courses he no longer teaches.

At the graduate level Prof. Kunze displays a talent for recruiting the very best graduate students who regularly receive scholarships. One student wrote: “Herb lived his passion for mathematics in a way that was contagious and exciting...His excitement for all things mathematics made my M.Sc. fantastic.” Another said: “Without hesitation, I can easily say that as a graduate student, it would be exceptionally difficult to find a better professor to work with.” Furthermore, Prof. Kunze is always ready to share his experience, ideas, and resources with colleagues. At a recent conference many of the delegates were already sophisticated users of technology but Herb’s audience was awe-struck by his demonstrations.

Herb Kunze cares deeply about his students and his courses. His students tell it best: “Herb has taught me many valuable lessons and he will surely teach me many more. He has been a fundamental part of my university experience and essential part of my life. He is the type of mentor that one strives to become and the kind of person we all want to associate with...it is not about the end point, it is about the learning process and the deeper understanding along the way. That is the reason for the trip - to allow for growth as a person, for the pleasure of comprehending, to stop and enjoy the flowers along the path and admire the beauty that embraces the journey. A journey that I will always cherish, thanks to the guidance and thoughtful lessons from Dr. Herb Kunze, an irreplaceable and one of a kind professor.”

We are proud to honour Dr. Kunze with this year's OCUFA Teaching Award.  
Congratulations!