

Simon Power

The OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee is pleased to present a 2007 Teaching Award to Simon Power, Associate Professor from the Department of Economics at Carleton University.

Reading through testimonials from students and colleagues reveals a recurring theme. One student comments that “Professor Power is a dedicated and truly outstanding teacher who draws students into intellectual terrain where people often fear to go.” Another observes that “It’s not hard to see why he remains... so well-regarded despite teaching one of, if not the most difficult and advanced level economics courses.” A faculty member notes that “Students can see readily that the material of [Dr. Power’s] courses are difficult and require considerable work to master. Thanks to Professor Power, they can also see that it is material well worth mastering and that they have a golden opportunity to do so in conjunction with his active and effective teaching efforts.”

Dr. Power’s specialty is Econometrics – the specification, estimation and testing of statistical models in economics. It is a subject matter known for being one of the most challenging not only in the Economics department, but university wide. Econometrics I, referred to as Dr. Power’s “signature course,” is also compulsory for Honours Economics majors. It is not surprising therefore that students approach the material with a sense of apprehension. What is also not surprising, given Dr. Power’s teaching excellence, is that not only are their anxieties allayed, but that they leave the course instilled with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the subject matter.

This is accomplished through Dr. Power’s dedication to his students – he is continually “finding new and innovative ways of conveying ideas [and] continually adapting the changing needs of his students”; his ability to link “abstract concepts to real-world examples”; and his availability outside the classroom, where he is described as always going “the extra mile to help his students in every possible way” including helping them “with their academic, personal and career goals.” Dr. Power’s teaching has also won him the admiration of his peers both as a respected colleague and as a mentor, sought out for his “pedagogical experience, ideas and techniques.”

Dr. Power is the recipient of numerous teaching awards at Carleton University. His teaching evaluations are consistently extraordinary and include five perfect teaching scores – a feat unheard of in the Faculty of Public Affairs and rendered even more impressive by the fact that these were achieved in relatively large classes with very difficult subject matter. It is therefore not surprising that he is considered “an outstanding teacher of a very difficult subject” by his peers and “not only the most gifted teacher, but also the most genuine and caring,” by his students.

As one testimonial asserts: “Simon Power is truly above the rest. He is an exceptional professor, truly outstanding, and should be held up as an example to others.” It is our hope that this 2007 OCUFA Teaching Award will go some way in doing just that. Congratulations.