

**2008-2009 OCUFA TEACHING AND
ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS
CITATION FOR WINNER DR. CAMERON J. TSUJITA**

OCUFA

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des Associations des Professeurs des Universités de l'Ontario



Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des Associations des Professeurs des Universités de l'Ontario

CITATION FOR Dr. CAMERON J. TSUJITA

read by Ashkon Hashemi, CFS

It is with great pleasure that the OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee presents a 2008-2009 OCUFA Teaching Award to Dr. Cameron Tsujita, Assistant Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Western Ontario. Professor Tsujita is described as a natural teacher, completely dedicated to the profession and to the students that he serves, a beacon for the Faculty of Science and an inspiration to his colleagues.

In his letter of support, the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) at UWO, Professor Fred Longstaffe, described Professor Tsujita as “a truly remarkable, passionate, committed and dedicated educational leader at Western and beyond.” And it is the “beyond” that I will highlight first because it came through all of the letters received on Professor Tsujita’s behalf.

The breadth of Cam’s outreach activities is truly unusual. He lectures widely to school teachers, school students, geology clubs and the public. He is one of the four presenters on the DVD *Science With Impact* which the Let’s Talk Science group has shown across Canada to graduate students as part of a their training workshops. He assumed leadership in applying for government funding and coordinating OGRenNet, a province-wide initiative designed to promote active dialogue between geoscience departments of Ontario universities, museums and K-



Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des Associations des Professeurs des Universités de l'Ontario

12 teachers. Its main function is to provide educational resources to promote geoscience literacy among Ontario youth.

Normally letters of reference from students focus on their in-course experiences. But in Professor Tsujita's case there was an additional component. One former student wrote, "His dedication to inspiring new young scientists and making science accessible and understandable to the general public is not only admirable, but incredibly important."

Beyond the classrooms at UWO, Professor Tsujita is known in university classrooms across Canada as the lead author of the Canadian edition of the best-selling US textbook *Earth: An Introduction to Physical Geology*. Now in its second edition, it is used at 14 Canadian Universities. *Earth* quickly became the market leader when the first edition was published in 2004 and to date the Canadian edition has sold over 14,000 copies.

At UWO, Professor Tsujita has introduced new, interdisciplinary courses including *A Foundation for Medical and Forensic Geology* and *Earth, Art and Culture* directed at the non-science majors. He also designed the interdisciplinary program, *Honours Specialization in Geology and Biology*.

Throughout, his philosophy has been to engage students in a dynamic learning environment, encouraging them to share their personal experiences relating to the issues at hand, to participate in the problem solving process and to cultivate a spirit



Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des Associations des Professeurs des Universités de l'Ontario

of curiosity. That he succeeds in his aim is reflected in the highest compliment from a current student who wrote, “I’ll be checking the syllabus to see if you teach any other courses. You’re a great professor.” It is my great pleasure to present Professor Tsujita with a 2008-2009 OCUFA Teaching Award.