

Professor Donna-Marie Eansor
Law, University of Windsor

The OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee is very pleased to present a 2007 Teaching Award to Donna-Marie Eansor, Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Windsor.

In her teaching, Professor Eansor is committed to the concept of equitable pedagogy, and her goal is to graduate lawyers who will distinguish themselves as justice seekers for all Canadians. As her nominator wrote: “If a teacher’s ultimate goal is to graduate lawyers who will be justice seekers, it is imperative that she practice just and equitable pedagogy, and that she continues to scrutinize, refine and build on her practices in order to create learning environments that meet the needs of diverse learners, that respect diversity of opinion. For Professor Eansor, the notion of justice is a moving target: there is always more to do, and each new innovation brings to light new issues and needs that must be addressed. Professor Eansor is fiercely reflective about her own pedagogy and critically evaluates the learning environments she contributes to consistently. Her practice and her ideals result in the constant development and re-design of courses and development of programs to better meet the needs of students.”

A former student wrote: “Professor Eansor is the most engaged teacher I have encountered in my university education. She immerses herself in the subject matter of her courses, always striving for a better way to present the material to her students. Her teaching is never by rote, and she is always driven by the goal of being a better teacher. She never asks for thanks for this, merely satisfied that she is doing the best for her students.”

Professor Eansor’s extraordinary dedication to her students does not end with the course she is teaching. Letters of support from previous students clearly indicated that Professor Eansor remains a mentor/guide/advisor for her students long after they have completed their program. Professor Eansor has developed and maintained an individual yet systematic approach to facilitating student success and working for educational equity for all students.

Professor Eansor is a nationally recognized expert in equitable admissions processes and legal education. Her research interests and teaching practice tend to intertwine, and her contributions to the equitable practice of legal education at the university, provincial and national levels are truly outstanding.

A colleague summarized it best: “In all ways, Donna is a fully realized teacher. She loves to teach and her students love her. She creates a learning environment that is not only stimulating but fun and exciting. She has a generous spirit which shines through in the classroom. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award.” We agree with this characterization, and honour Professor Eansor with this award for the excellence in teaching which she has demonstrated throughout her academic career.