

**2008-2009 OCUFA TEACHING AND
ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS
CITATION FOR WINNER PROFESSOR GORDON STUBLEY**

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CITATION FOR PROFESSOR GORDON STUBLEY

read by Patti Ryan, York University

The OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee is very pleased to present a 2008-2009 Teaching Award to Prof. Gordon Stublely, Professor of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering at the University of Waterloo.

Reflecting on Prof. Stublely's long and distinguished career, his nominator sums up his contributions eloquently by noting that for Prof. Stublely, teaching is a way of life rather than merely a job. His commitment to teaching, and equally importantly, to lifelong learning, permeates almost every aspect of his life: within his academic discipline, his own family, and in his broader community. It is no surprise therefore, that Prof. Stublely has already been the recipient of four prestigious awards, including the Ontario Leadership in Faculty Teaching Award, and most recently, the University of Waterloo's Distinguished Teacher Award.

In the classroom, he is known for his ability to convey a delicate balance of theory, fundamental concepts and applied methods with clarity and conviction. In their letters of support, several students draw particular attention to his commitment to helping them develop "real-world" solutions to problems rather than simply applying rote learning strategies. One student writes that Prof. Stublely consistently employs "masterful analogies and examples that promote deep understanding." Another observes that his teaching style is "clear, memorable and engaging" and insists that Prof. Stublely's lecture notes "occupy a prominent position on my reference shelf, and are beginning to become dog-eared with use."

Prof. Stublely's teaching contributions extend well beyond the wall of the classroom.



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Since 2006, he has been the inaugural Teaching Chair for Department of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering. In this role, he has been responsible for promoting educational excellence in the discipline through innovation and sound methods, and for developing initiatives to promote high quality teaching and learning. However, according to several of his close colleagues, his most important contribution in this role is the gift of his time and energy. He actively mentors new teaching faculty, and works with more experienced colleagues to improve their teaching and adapt classroom techniques. A colleague writes that she has witnessed first-hand how Prof. Stublely's advice and support "have helped new faculty transform their classroom experiences." His nominator observes that "taken collectively, Prof. Stublely's overall program to improve teaching has had a very marked and positive impact" on the Department.

Prof. Stublely's commitment to excellent in teaching is also reflected in his research endeavors. His impressive record of publication includes sixteen research articles that relate directly to the teaching of science and engineering. He has also been an active participant and presenter at campus and province-wide teaching conferences. He has generously opened up his classroom to colleagues across the campus to watch him teach and engage with students, and is regarded by his peers a key resource for discipline-related teaching support on campus.

While Prof. Stublely's impressive teaching scores and his professional record of involvement in teaching-related activities serve as compelling evidence of his suitability for this award, the most important measure of his success lies in the enduring impact he has had on the lives of many of his students. In this regard, Prof. Stublely's contributions have been far-reaching, and his letters of support provide a living testament to his influence as an educator. Several students currently working in the engineering field recount pivotal moments in which a single conversation or encounter with Prof. Stublely shaped the course of their career in profound ways. Woven together,



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their reflections help to illustrate the high level of dedication, concern and passion for students that Prof. Stublely has demonstrated throughout his thirty-year career.

The OCUFA Teaching Awards Committee heartily congratulates Prof. Gordon Stublely on his exemplary record of commitment to high quality teaching.