

Excellence in Teaching awards presented

(UNBPRI) The teaching of business and the business of teaching go hand in hand for this year's recipients of Allan P. Stuart Awards for Excellence in Teaching at the University of New Brunswick. Business professors in the faculty of administration in Fredericton have captured both awards for 1992.

Phillip C. Wright will receive his award on Oct. 5 at UNB's fall graduation, while Barbara Trenholm was presented with her award at the 1992 spring graduation ceremony on May 28.

Established in 1972, the university-wide awards recognize outstanding teaching at UNB. They are named after a chemistry professor who taught at the university from 1946 to 1973 and was one of the first to receive an excellence in teaching award.

Barbara Trenholm is known among students and professors alike for her commitment to teaching, interactive classes, and accessibility. An accounting professor, she teaches courses at both undergraduate and graduate levels. "Accounting is like a new language for many students," she said. "It's a challenge to convince introductory level students that everything will eventually make sense and to teach students in intermediate courses to rely on their own judgement - to accept the fact that there may be more than one right answer."

Described as a role model by one student, Prof. Trenholm said she was thrilled to win the teaching award. "To be acknowledged by your students and peers for what you do - for what you love to do - is an honor."

Although she's faced a few workplace hazards over the past 12 years, including being trapped by a falling chalkboard, Prof. Trenholm's enthusiasm for teaching remains undiminished. "I really enjoy the feedback from the students. Even though I may teach the same course twice in one day, it's always different because the students are different."

Prof. Trenholm designs her classes so that students take away much more than an understanding of the course material. "My courses emphasize analytical, problem-solving and communication skills," she said. "It's my goal to develop in students the ability to apply what they've learned and the motivation to continue to learn



Phillip Wright

once they leave the education system."

She brings to the classroom a wealth of experience from community and professional activities. An active member of the New Brunswick Institute of Chartered Accountants, Prof. Trenholm is beginning a term as vice-president and has chaired numerous committees. She is also involved at the national level as a member of two interprovincial education committees for the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. "My involvement in professional activities helps me keep my courses up to date with the rapid changes taking place in accounting."

Constantly working to improve her teaching effectiveness, Prof. Trenholm experiments with alternative delivery modes, attends professional development workshops and develops new teaching materials. She is currently preparing a study guide to accompany a Canadian edition of an intermediate accounting textbook.

Phillip C. Wright, a professor of human resource management, has made his mark as a teacher since joining the faculty of administration at UNB in 1989. His students have nominated him for the Excellence in Teaching Award each of the last three years, and this year, in addition to receiving the award, he was nominated for a national teaching fellowship.

"I'm pleased that my students think I'm doing a good job," said Dr. Wright. "Receiving this award as a relatively new prof at UNB is an achievement that I'm extremely proud of."

A professor of both undergraduate and graduate

courses, Dr. Wright teaches the people side of management - how to develop supportive workplaces while increasing effectiveness and competitiveness. "My goal is to have students finish my courses with the idea that the only real value of business lies with its people."

Dr. Wright practices what he teaches. "I try to put myself in the undergraduates' shoes and treat them accordingly," he said. "People work best when they're involved with their learning and when they have some control over their lives."

To give his students control over their work, Dr. Wright uses learning contracts. "Each student writes and signs a contract which states when assignments are due," he explained. "This way they can avoid conflicts with deadlines in their other courses and have some input into managing their workloads."

Dr. Wright, who writes 99 percent of his course material,



Barbara Trenholm

involves his students in the learning process by building experiential components, like case incidents, into his courses. He describes his approach as practical. "I try to expose my students to what the workplace is really like, warts and all.

After teaching in the Ontario community college system and at universities in Canada and the United States over the last 15 years, Dr. Wright still finds that the students are what he likes most about his profession. "Dealing with young people is invigorating. To relate to them requires constant self-examination to see if your view of the world matches theirs.

"My biggest challenge as a teacher is taking what's important and packaging it so it's interesting," said Dr. Wright. "I want to provide my students with learning opportunities that are challenging and at the right level.

A prolific scholar, Dr. Wright keeps on top of the human resource management field through his research activities as academic dean of the Canadian Institute of Management and through professional consulting work for public and private sector companies in Canada, the United States and Hong Kong.

Input needed on quality of student life at UNB

The Task Force on Quality of Student Life is looking for input from all elements of the University community on the strengths and weaknesses of UNB with regards to providing students with an effective learning environment.

As part of the three-part series the Task Force would like to hear your response to the following questions.

The Task Force during its summer meetings considered the broader question of what is meant by the quality of student life. In its discussions, it considered the effective functioning of the University as a community and, in so doing, it used the work of Ernest Boyer of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The two communities the Task Force would like to focus on this week are as follows:

A PURPOSEFUL COMMUNITY where all members are committed to the educational mission of the university and where a concern about learning pervades the classrooms and departments as well as residence life and extra-curricular activities.

AN OPEN COMMUNITY where freedom of expression is uncompromisingly protected and where everyone respects the rights and dignity of everyone else.

a) What do you feel are the important determinants of quality in student life with regards to these "communities"?

b) How effectively do you feel UNB functions as a community, with particular reference to the types of communities listed above.

c) Does UNB offer a good environment which encourages student learning? What are the positive and negative elements in this environment?

d) What do you perceive as the strengths of student life at UNB with regards to these communities?

e) What aspects of student life do you feel need improvement at UNB with regards to these communities?

The Task Force is looking for written submissions to provide them with your answers to the above questions. Please send your answers to the Office of the Dean of Arts or to The Brunswickan (SUB Room 35) print "Task Force" on the envelope. Any questions should be directed to Stephen Stropole at 453-4613 or to Dean Kent at 453-4655.

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AIDS....continued from page 1

already had a sexually transmitted disease or will have had one by the time they finish university", Getty continued.

Eugene Tan, social issues commissioner for the Student Union was kept busy with the red ribbon campaign. Red memorial ribbons were distributed to students which are to be worn in memory of those who have died of AIDS. In addition, the Student Union also looked after the promotion of AIDS awareness week activities at UNB.

Amnesty...continued from page 3

the local group:
Amnesty International Group 39
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Tel: 451-6407 or 457-2513