

### **Teaching Assistant Awards**

- 1) **Senior TA Award: \$500.00** Presented to an individual TA in recognition of an outstanding contribution to teaching and learning at Brock (3+ years' experience).
- **2) GTA Award: \$400.00** Presented to a graduate student TA (less than 3 years' experience) who shows promise in the field of teaching.
- **3) TA Award:** \$300.00 Presented to a novice TA (less than 3 years' experience) who shows promise in the field of teaching.

TAs interested in being nominated for these awards should begin to compile a teaching dossier. Guidelines and nomination deadlines for each award are available at the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Educational Technologies, or on-line at www.brocku.ca/ctlet

#### **TA Certificate Program**

#### **TA Workshop Series**

The CTLET offers a series of workshops on teaching and learning of specific interest to TAs. Workshops take place on Saturday mornings; two workshops are offered on each TA day. Sample topics include:

- Academic Integrity
- Handling Conflict, Anger and Emotion in the Classroom
- What TAs Should Know About International Students
- Active Learning Techniques
- Teaching & Learning Styles
- Fair Marking Practices

Workshop topics are advertised each month (look for posters in your departments or check out the web site at www.brocku.ca/ctlet). In addition, an e-mail outlining upcoming topics is sent to all TAs registered at the Orientation. You are welcome to attend any workshop at any time, simply by registering for the session with the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Educational Technologies on-line at www.brocku.ca/ctlet.

### TA Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

The CTLET offers a certificate program for TAs interested in attending a **series** of workshops. **Basic Certification** requires participation in 8 workshops offered throughout the year. Undergraduate TAs can also apply their certificate towards the **Experience Plus Program**, offered through Career Services. Call Pauline Dawson at ext. 4414 for more information on Experience Plus.

**Advanced Certification** requires achievement of the Basic Certificate and participation in an additional 8 workshops, along with submitting a statement of teaching philosophy.

Although all Brock TAs are invited to attend any of the workshops offered throughout the year, TAs who enroll in the Certification Program receive a framed certificate at the end of the academic year, presented during the **TA Reception**, hosted by the Vice-President, Academic and the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Educational Technologies. TAs earning the Advanced Certificate are also invited to participate in **Faculty** workshops.

### Benefits of Participation in the TA Certification Program:

- gain practical hands on strategies for dealing with potential problems in seminars and labs.
- meet and share ideas with TAs from other disciplines.
- document your commitment to teaching excellence a certificate provides evidence of your professional development.

#### What others have said about the workshops offered through the CTLET:

"Keep doing this - it's great."

"I really liked the interactive process of the seminars."

"I enjoyed hearing the variety of perspectives from TAs in other faculties."

"I really liked the handouts. They will be very useful in assisting my students in their preparation for exams."

## **Past Recipients of TA Awards**

## Senior TA Teaching Awards

2004-	Mandy Frake
2005	Physical Education
2003 - 2004	Frank Benko, Physics Jacqueline Dix, Political Science
2002-	Michele Stairs
2003	History
2001-	Jimmy Au
2002	Mathematics
2000-	Donna Vukmanic
2001	Chemistry
1999- 2000	Caroline Stikkelbroeck, Communications, Popular Culture and Film
1998-	Ellen Maisson
1999	Biological Sciences
1997- 1998	Gail Neff, Chemistry Marilyn Cottrell, Economics

# TA Teaching Awards

20 20	04 - 05	Antony Hunter Recreation & Leisure Studies
20	03-	Ryan Nery
20	04	Psychology
20	02-	Cornelis Vandermeer
20	03	Politics
20	01-	Melora Cunliffe
20	02	Physical Education
20	000-	Marsha Salmon
20	01	Psychology
199	99-2000	Mike Boland Communications, Popular Culture and Film
199	98-1999	Randy Thompson English Language and Literature

# **Graduate TA Award**

2003 - 2004 Joanna Sheppard Physical Education

2004 -2005 Trudy Tattersall History

## Maclean's Annual University Report Card 2004

In the 2004 Globe and Mail University Report Card, Brock students ranked Brock as one of the best medium-sized universities in Canada for teaching. In 2002 and 2003, Brock ranked # 1 in Canada for Teaching Assistant Quality and Teaching Assistant Availability and was high on the list for "quality of teaching". Researchers compiling the data divided the universities into 3 population categories and awarded a letter grade corresponding to total points received for different criteria. The teaching assistant ranking has been dropped from the survey but Brock continues to score in the top few schools in the medium sized category (12,500 – 25,000 students) in many teaching related categories. Here's how we did in 2004:

Survey criteria		Of the 17 mid-sized schools, Brock University placed in the top
Faculty members' knowledge of subjects	A+	six schools (Brock, McGill, McMaster, Queens, Guelph, UWO)
Overall educational experience	A	Seven schools (Brock, McMaster, Memorial, Queens, Guelph, Waterloo, UWO)
Availability of faculty to students outside of classroom hours		four schools (Brock, Queens, Guelph, Western)
Course materials online	A-	five schools (Brock, Guelph (A+), McMaster, Queens, Quebec)
Quality of teaching		four schools (Brock, Queens, Guelph, Western)
Usefulness of faculty feedback		two schools (Brock, Guelph)
Effective teaching style	B+	six schools (Brock, McMaster, Memorial, Queens, Guelph, UWO)

Brock has earned its excellent reputation for teaching assistants because of TAs like you!

### References

- Brookfield, S.D. (1990). *The Skillful Teacher: On Technique, Trust and Responsiveness in the Classroom*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass Publishers. LB 2331 B68 1990.
- Brown, G. & Atkins, M. (1988). *Effective Teaching in Higher Education*. New York, NY: Methuen. LB 2331 B717 1998.
- Guskey, T.R. (1988). *Improving Student Learning in College Classrooms*. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas Publishers. LB 2331 G799 1988.
- Jacques, D. (1996). Tasks for groups. The Teaching Professor, 10 (10), 4.
- Maier, M.H. (1992). Teachers have fun: Why can't students? *The Teaching Professor*, 6 (6), 3.
- Svinicki, M.D. (1993). Four r's of effective evaluation. *The Teaching Professor*, 7 (9), 3-4.
- University of Saskatchewan. (2005). *The Teaching & Learning Guide*. Retrieved August 5, 2005 from University of Saskatchewan website at: http://www.usask.ca/tlc/teaching\_guide/utl\_for\_tas.html.
- Wilen, W.A. & Clegg, A.A. (1994). Questions that affect student achievement. *The Teaching Professor*, 8 (8), 3.
- Weimer, M. (1991a). Students cheat Why? The Teaching Professor, 5 (4), 3.
- Weimer, M. (1991b). To call or not to call. *The Teaching Professor*, 5 (7), 3.
- Weimer, M. (1992). Journals. The Teaching Professor, 6 (2), 5.
- Weimer, M. (1994). Teaching anxiety. The Teaching Professor, 8 (8), 5.
- Weimer, M. (1995). How to end courses with a bang! *The Teaching Professor*, 9 (5), 1-2.
- York University. (1989). *Teaching and Learning at York: A Guide for Teaching Assistants and Course Directors*. Toronto, ON: York University Press.

### **Online Resources**

Brock University, "About Brock University" <a href="http://www.brocku.ca/alumni/communication/about.php">http://www.brocku.ca/alumni/communication/about.php</a>

Brock University, Chemistry Department Lab Demonstrator Guidelines <a href="http://www.brocku.ca/chemistry/etc/section6">http://www.brocku.ca/chemistry/etc/section6</a>

Brock University, Science Safety Manual http://www.brocku.ca/oehs/academic/Science Manual.pdf

CUPE 4207's Collective Agreement 2004-2007 http://www.4207.cupe.ca/CUPE-4207-Collective-Agreement-2004-07.pdf

University of Guelph, "Facilitating Seminar Discussions" <a href="http://www.tss.uoguelph.ca/id/ta/tahb/tah4f.html">http://www.tss.uoguelph.ca/id/ta/tahb/tah4f.html</a>

University of Guelph, "Learning Styles" <a href="http://www.tss.uoguelph.ca/id/ta/tahb/tah2f.html">http://www.tss.uoguelph.ca/id/ta/tahb/tah2f.html</a>

University of Guelph, "Promoting Active Learning Through Group Work" <a href="http://www.tss.uoguelph.ca/id/ta/tahb/tah4g.html">http://www.tss.uoguelph.ca/id/ta/tahb/tah4g.html</a>

University of Guelph, "The Many Roles of a TA" <a href="http://www.tss.uoguelph.ca/id/ta/tahb/tah1title.html">http://www.tss.uoguelph.ca/id/ta/tahb/tah1title.html</a>

University of Washington, "Improving Communication in the Classroom" <a href="http://www.id.ucsb.edu/ic/ta/ita/lang.improve.html">http://www.id.ucsb.edu/ic/ta/ita/lang.improve.html</a>

Queen's University, "Creating a Safe Learning Environment" <a href="http://www.queensu.ca/idc/idcresources/handbook/handbook2002.pdf">http://www.queensu.ca/idc/idcresources/handbook/handbook2002.pdf</a>

Queen's University, "First Day of Class Checklist" http://www.queensu.ca/idc/idcresources/handbook/handbook2002.pdf

Queen's University, "Roles of the Teaching Assistant" <a href="http://www.queensu.ca/idc/idcresources/handbook/handbook2002.pdf">http://www.queensu.ca/idc/idcresources/handbook/handbook2002.pdf</a>

Queen's University, "Some Common Difficulties in Moderating Discussions" <a href="http://www.queensu.ca/idc/idcresources/handbook/handbook2002.pdf">http://www.queensu.ca/idc/idcresources/handbook/handbook2002.pdf</a>

Queens University TA manual <a href="http://www.queensu.ca/idc/idcresources/trainers/trainers.pdf">http://www.queensu.ca/idc/idcresources/trainers/trainers.pdf</a>

Handbooks and Specific Information for International TAs <a href="http://www.mun.ca/elss/ita/ita-handbk-1.html">http://www.mun.ca/elss/ita/ita-handbk-1.html</a>