

Canadian Council of University Biology Chairs Career Achievement Award (2011)

Nominee: Dr. Dan Toews, Acadia University

We are delighted to nominate Dr. Dan Toews of Acadia University for the Canadian Council of University Biology Chairs Career Achievement award (2011). Dan was born in Grand Prairie AB and completed an undergraduate and Master's degree at the University of Alberta, and a PhD from University of British Columbia where he studied respiration and circulation in *Amphiuma tridactylum*, the two toed *Amphiuma*, an aquatic salamander. He arrived at Acadia in 1971 and has made significant contributions teaching and research, he has been a mentor to both students and new faculty and has been a cornerstone of the Department of Biology. Almost immediately following his arrival at Acadia he led the Acadia Arctic Biological Expedition in conjunction with the Canadian Navy to Baffin, Ellesmere and Devon Island on board the HMCS Protecteur. These expeditions in the summers of 1972 and 1973 had 8-10 Graduate Students in each. Dans area of expertise is comparative physiology of amphibians and he has published extensively on the circulatory, respiratory and other systems of the group. His publications have appeared in the journals Nature, Journal of Experimental Biology, Physiological Zoology and many others. He has held continuous NRC/NSERC funding from 1969 until 2007. He was the Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Experimental Physiology in Gottingen, Germany, in each of 1980 and 1984, the Hooker Research Fellow at McMaster University in 1988 and was elected Life Fellow of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, England in 2003, and he currently holds the Charles F. Myers Chair in Biology.

Dan has been a very important and significant mentor to students that took his courses and worked in his lab. Around Acadia, Dan's Vertebrate Physiology course has always been held in high regard. He has always been known to weave his lectures on physiology with entertaining anecdotes of goose hunting and other personal ventures which keep students coming to class. He has won three teaching awards at Acadia including the Student Union Teaching Award twice. In total he has graduated 93 Honours students and 15 Masters students. Fifty-one of these students went on to become medical doctors, dentists or veterinarians and 24 have earned PhD degrees!

Dan has also made significant service contributions to his profession. He served on the Animal Biology Selection Committee for NSERC from 1980-1986. He served as Head of the Department of Biology for 11 years (1988-1995, 2005-2007) and attended many CCUBC meetings while in that capacity.

In sum, Dan has shown tremendous leadership and made very significant contributions to his community, Acadia University and his research field. We think that Dan is very deserving of this recognition and would be delighted if the Canadian Council of University Biology Chairs bestows this award on him.

Sincerely,

Hugh Broders and Soren Bondrup-Nielsen

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