

NEWS RELEASE



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Steven Rosenfield receives the Teaching Excellence Award

For many people, Math classes were a nightmare in school. But then most people didn't have a Math teacher like Steve Rosenfield, the recipient of the Vanier College Teaching Excellence Award 2007-2008. "I tried as a teacher not to commit those sins teachers committed on me," says Steve. "I think I succeeded much of the time. From an early age I loved math and I have tried to pass on to others that joy."

By all accounts, Steve was successful. "When a person has taught for more than thirty years, and continues to bring deep knowledge of his subject, contagious enthusiasm and ever-present smiles to his classroom every day, then teaching is no longer just a job. It is a calling," indicate Steve Rosenfield's colleagues Ivan Ivanov of the Mathematics Department and Helena Dedic of the Physics Department, who have both taught, carried out research and co-authored scientific papers with him.

The Teaching Excellence Award recognizes a faculty member whose excellence in teaching and teaching methodology and philosophy have contributed to the success of students and programs alike, and who has developed innovative curriculum and teaching methods. "Steve is an amazing teacher," says one of his students. "He is someone who fits in with students and actually understands things from the students' point of view." Another adds that, "Few teachers take it upon themselves to go above and beyond the basic classroom environment to create a novel course delivery system."

Among Steve Rosenfield's innovations were the introduction of computers and online simulations to allow students to explore Calculus at their own pace. He also used group work and discussions as well as interactive exercises and projects to increase student understanding, retention and motivation in learning mathematics. And for twenty years Steve was a constant presence in the Math and Science Centre where he answered questions and helped students with math and science projects.

But he was also there for fellow teachers. In explaining why Steve Rosenfield should receive the Teaching Excellence Award, fellow Math teacher, Ivan Ivanov, revealed that "Steve has become the colleague whose experience and wisdom members of the Mathematics Department trust. Younger teachers seek out his counsel on a variety of issues ranging from classroom management to pedagogical strategies to technical issues arising in using technology in the classroom."

"Steve's reputation as an excellent teacher and researcher stretches beyond Vanier," adds Helena Dedic. "He has been a long term member of the Centre for Study of Learning and Performance at Concordia University, has helped in the development of the high school curriculum in Quebec, and because of his expertise in science and mathematics, is often invited by MELS to give talks to officials at the Ministry."

Asked what the award means to him, Steve's reply is simple, "The real prize with this award was being nominated for it by my colleagues and students. That was the real treat!" As for the rewards of teaching, he sums it up this way, "After 35 years of teaching I have touched thousands of young people. Some have told me I was the best teacher they ever had. Where else can you have that kind of effect on people's lives?"

The award was announced at the June 2008 graduation ceremony and Steve Rosenfield will be honoured at a celebration in Autumn 08.