History Professor Dr. David Norton receives King’s Award for Excellence in Teaching

Two King’s faculty members were recognized at Convocation on June 11th. Dr. Erin Hannah was awarded the King’s University College Award for Excellence in Teaching by Full-Time Faculty. She will receive the award at the fall Convocation.

Academic Dean Dr. Sauro Camiletti presented the King’s University College Award for Excellence in Teaching by Part-Time Faculty to Dr. David Norton, Department of History. Dr. Camiletti presented Dr. Norton to the Chancellor for the award with the following remarks:

"Part Time Faculty make enormous contributions to the University and carry a significant portion of the teaching load. Many are outstanding teachers and Dr. David Norton is one of the very best having taught a variety of History courses at various levels over many years and made the Dean’s Honor Roll of Teaching Excellence without fail. Professor Norton specializes in First Nations History and has had a strong connection with local First Nations reservations for decades.

His students and colleagues describe him as personable and empathetic; and his teaching style as familiar and conversational in a friendly and welcoming environment that promotes a high level of student engagement. He eschews modern technology in the classroom in favor of transparencies and an overhead projector – only fitting for a History professor. He focuses intently on skill development, often working with students one on one, educating transforming, empowering and instilling his infectious enthusiasm for his discipline.

His Department Chair writes, “The many hours that Professor Norton spends advising students on a range of academic matters, from library research to essay organization and writing, reflects the simple belief that nothing can take the place of human interaction and the exchange of ideas in a supportive and cooperative learning environment.”

Professor Norton is an Anglican Priest and so it is only fitting that he has his own “Ten Commandments of Teaching” that encapsulate his teaching philosophy.
Here they are:

1. Enjoy teaching
2. Be vulnerable
3. Have fun
4. Encourage investigation
5. Appreciate students’ contribution
6. Be approachable
7. Clearly state expectations
8. Mark reasonably
9. Keep things simple
10. Be honest

That, my friends, says it all."