



# Proceedings of the 2017 Atlantic Universities' Teaching Showcase

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## INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It has been a great pleasure producing this *Proceedings of the 2017 Atlantic Association of Universities' Teaching Showcase*. The papers included in these proceedings constitute a wonderful legacy of this very successful conference.

We were very fortunate in 2017 to include Dr. James Lang as keynote speaker at the AAU Teaching Showcase. Based on the title of his Keynote Presentation, conference organizers selected the theme “Small Teaching: Exploring the Potential of Easily-Implemented, High Impact Teaching Practices” for the conference. Presenters reacted with gusto to this theme. The conference offerings were replete with strongly-researched, thoughtful, enticing, and tantalizingly-practical explorations of high-impact teaching practices.

The papers in these proceedings provide a good taste of what was on offer at the conference. We would like to thank all who submitted their papers for publication in these proceedings and hope that others find them as insightful and as useful as those of us who produced these proceedings.

The 2017 AAU Teaching Showcase and the production of these proceedings were the result of the contributions of many gracious, hard-working and talented people. It is my pleasure to be able to acknowledge these many contributors.

First, I would like to acknowledge and thank the AAU Faculty Development Committee for selecting Mount Saint Vincent University as the host for the 2017 Teaching Showcase. This committee, led by the very able Allyson MacNeill, provided the conference organizing team with wonderful support and guidance. Their contributions and expertise helped us make our conference a success.

Second, I wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr. James Lang, professor of English and the Director of the D'Amour Center for Teaching Excellence at Assumption College in Worcester, MA, for attending our conference and offering his inspiring keynote presentation. Dr. Lang's vision and leadership will continue to inspire members of AAU far into the future.

Third, I wish to thank key members of the conference organizing team. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Leigh-Ann MacFarlane, Emily Ballantyne and Al Rafuse from Mount Saint Vincent University for their dedicated work supporting the conference through all of its stages. As well, I would like to thank the hard-working folks at MSVU from Conference Services, the Digital Media Zone, and the Print Shop for their services up to and during the conference.

In addition to helping organize the conference, Leigh-Ann MacFarlane, Emily Ballantyne, and Al Rafuse also contributed to the production of these proceedings. They were joined in this effort by Scott MacPhail who served as Managing Editor of these proceedings. Like all good Managing Editors, Scott possesses those sheepdog skills that have enabled him (with a bit of nipping at heels) to gather all of the contributions to our proceedings and steer them through editing and formatting. We are grateful for his diligence and tenacity!

We greatly appreciate the keen editorial pen of Liz Loeffler, who scrutinized all of the contributions and provided important suggestions for improvement. We also appreciate the layout skills of Stephanie Leslie who made the contributions so easy on the eye. Finally, we extend our gratitude to Roger Gillis who established and maintained the hosting website for these proceedings.

As is always the case with conferences and their aftermath, all of this was a big team effort. The AAU Teaching Showcase is always a wonderful event and it is a testament to AAU and its many university members that teaching and learning are so richly supported in Atlantic Canada.

**Donovan Plumb**

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