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Winning secrets to teaching excellence

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Using quirky metaphors, inspiring student questions and working day and night - these are some of the winning strategies that have led three Simon Fraser University professors to clinch an SFU 2010 Excellence in Teaching award. The prize includes \$2,000 cash.

Two of the award recipients are from Coquitlam. The other is a Vancouver resident.

A theatre professor with SFU Contemporary Arts has earned an SFU 2010 Excellence in Teaching award for his drive in and outside of the classroom.

DD Kugler, a Vancouver resident, isn't kidding when he says teaching is his life.

Students, past and present, commend Kugler for his passion and dedication. He's at his desk by 6:30 a.m. most days to deal with administrative work so that he's free to chat with students when they drop in. (More: <http://at.sfu.ca/pIOIfd>)

Quirkiness translates into excellence for business professor Andrew Gemino - an SFU 2010 Excellence in Teaching award recipient.

The Coquitlam resident's off-beat demonstrations of abstract concepts are so engaging that it's not unusual for his students to remember his lessons, 20 years later. (More: <http://at.sfu.ca/TTnfwV>)

Engineering science professor John Jones sets a teaching standard that first year students in the discipline use as a benchmark to judge all other professors. That's what led him to secure an SFU 2010 Excellence in Teaching award.

Exciting. Entertaining. Energetic. These are all words that students use to describe Jones' teaching.

Yet the Coquitlam resident didn't set out to become a teacher, despite spending an enjoyable two-and-a-half years as headmaster of a small school in Kenya during his 20s. He was intent on researching and creating technology for the developing world. (More: <http://at.sfu.ca/RyAvpS>)