

2023 OAC Goodtimes FARE Article

Brendan Gill

RE: Professor Mike Von Massow, Betty Clyde Award

An inspiring faculty member is highly valued within any student community. It is not uncommon for students within the OAC to grow positive relationships with professors. However, a common occurrence is for students to possess this relationship with Professor Mike Von Massow. On January 22nd was the annual OAC Goodtimes Banquet at the Ancaster Fairgrounds. The banquet features a fantastic meal, an award ceremony, and networking amongst current students and alumni of the OAC. In the company of the vast award recipients was Professor Von Massow, receiving the honorary Betty Clyde Award. The Betty Clyde Award is presented to a faculty member for making a lasting impact on the student body. The award is dedicated to Betty Clyde, who through her enthusiasm and kindness, will always fondly be remembered by the students who she helped with a smile.

Professor Von Massow is well known amongst students for being Authentic, Caring, and for his Commitment. To begin, Von Massow teaches two different courses within the OAC. Each class he exemplifies a true passion towards each student and he keeps students inspired and interested. One thing that sets this individual apart from his peers is his ongoing heartfelt commitment to his students and the overall approachability he displays on a regular basis. Professors can be intimidating in the eyes of students. However this professor is very open to questions regarding his teachings and willing to share their thoughts and further your thoughts, while also providing feedback to enhance the topic at hand.

Personally, I have been fortunate enough to experience one of Von Massow's classes, witnessing his commitment towards the student body by offering to stay after class times or

arranging alternate meeting times. Alas, this dedication extends outside of the classroom walls. Myself and a few other students were presented an unfortunate situation in this past fall semester, with one of our courses no longer being awarded a credit. We gathered to search for an alternate faculty member who would be willing to take on grading our term work for the credit, although we knew this would be a challenge given we were two weeks into the semester. One professor that stood out amongst the conversation was one who we know to be approachable, caring, and charismatic. We as students understood that this was a large request given the fact that the semester had already started. Upon reflection, we could not have been more grateful to Von Massow. This is just one of several examples of how this professor not only supports, but creates a positive working environment for students. This professor stands out amongst his peers as he truly cares about the success of his students.

Lastly, this professor leads the University of Guelph's reputable CAMA student chapter, teaches several courses, and still takes a significant amount of time to inspire the students of the Ontario Agricultural College. It was with great honour to present Professor Mike Von Massow of the Food, Agriculture and Resource Economics department with this year's Betty Clyde Award. The OAC is truly lucky to have professor Von Massow, he has impacted countless students university experiences immensely and continues to do so.