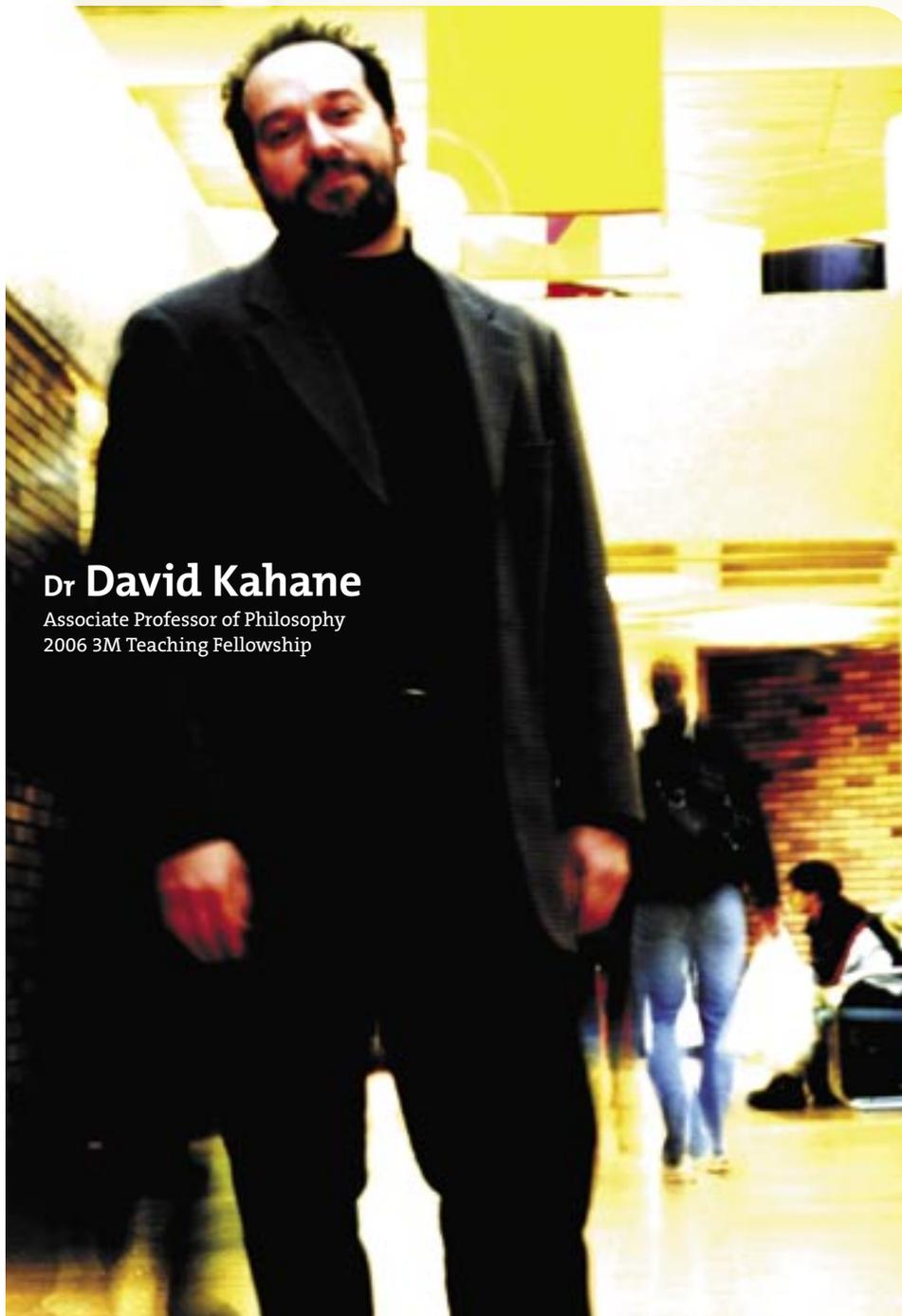


## Pedagogy of Plenty

"I think that the most valuable thing I can give my students is not so much a detailed knowledge of philosophical theories, but a robust set of skills around communication, close reading, analytical writing, careful conversation; and a sense, a glimmer, of the value of using their own minds."



**Dr David Kahane**

Associate Professor of Philosophy  
2006 3M Teaching Fellowship

"By the time they come to university, many students have lost a lot of the joy around just learning things." Dr David Kahane, Associate Professor of Philosophy, feels that if he can help students rediscover that joy and confidence, then their experience will be much more authentic. "I'm successful when I support my students in becoming intellectual agents."

That means placing students at the centre of their own learning process, opening the door for them to discover and be excited about their own curiosity. Kahane borrows from other disciplines and uses in-class meditation, free writing alongside critical writing, reading and open discussion so that he and his students become more fully engaged in the process of learning.

Kahane embraces the University of Alberta's rhetoric and mission that connects research and teaching: "both of these, approached well, are intellectually complex and gripping for academics." For Kahane they are both rich experiences and complementary. "There is no end to this journey. To be genuinely engaged in teaching can give something really precious to our students."

Kahane's own teaching practice, 'contemplative pedagogy', is also an arm of his research. His current academic practice is a journey that allows him the luxury – perhaps borne of teaching in the humanities – to meet his students at the middle ground of learner and teacher, from where they can speak from the depth of what they know. "It is a kind of pedagogy of plenty, rather than one that focuses on what students lack. I am always amazed at how much my students have to offer." ■

## Welcome to *Spotlight*, a triannual newsletter published by the Academic Awards and Ceremonies Office.

U of A faculty members are highly regarded for making the connection between teaching, research and community. Peer and external recognition both acknowledges and encourages us as we work together to celebrate our successes and build one of the world's great universities right here in Alberta.

## Upcoming Deadlines for Academic Awards

### Rutherford Award

The Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching is designed to recognize teaching excellence by full-time continuing academic staff at the University of Alberta.

Any individual who has completed a minimum of five years of teaching at the University of Alberta as a full-time continuing member of the academic teaching staff is eligible to be nominated for the Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

The deadline to submit nominations is the last Friday of February (**February 23, 2007**).

### Teaching Unit Award

Excellence in teaching and learning may occur at the group or individual level. The intent of the Teaching Unit Award is to celebrate excellence in teaching when a group of individuals consistently work together to promote outstanding teaching and learning.

The teaching unit may work at the graduate or undergraduate level and may include some or all members of a Faculty, School, Department or Division, or it may be an interdisciplinary team.

The deadline to submit nominations is the last Friday of February (**February 23, 2007**).

### William Hardy Alexander Award

The William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching was created to recognize teaching excellence by academic staff.

New this year, the eligibility criteria for the award has been expanded to include all academic staff. Temporary academic as well as continuing academic staff with at least three years teaching experience (and who have taught at least ★18) at the University of Alberta are eligible to be nominated for the William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

The deadline to submit nominations is the last Friday of February (**February 23, 2007**).

### University Cup

The University Cup is the highest honour the University of Alberta can bestow on a member of its academic staff and is granted only to those individuals who have achieved outstanding distinction in each of the areas of scholarly research, teaching, and service to the University and the community at large.

Any full-time member of the academic teaching staff with 20 years of service as a faculty member in a university community and at least 10 years of service as a faculty member at the University of Alberta may be nominated for the University Cup.

The deadline to submit nominations is the first working day of April (**April 2, 2007**).

### University Professor

The University Professor at the University of Alberta was created to recognize contributions to scholarly research, teaching and service to the community and University.

Any full-time member of the academic teaching staff at the University of Alberta may be appointed as a University Professor. The deadline to submit nominations is **May 1, 2007**.

### Vargo Chair

Vargo Teaching Chair at the University of Alberta was created to foster excellence in teaching at the University. This program is committed to support individuals demonstrating innovative and creative teaching methods which enhance learning by undergraduate and graduate students.

Any full-time member of the academic teaching staff at the University of Alberta may be appointed as a Vargo Chair. The deadline to submit nominations is **May 15, 2007**.

### For more information...

Visit our website, [www.ualberta.ca/academicawards](http://www.ualberta.ca/academicawards), use the search tool or navigate to the award you are interested in. ■

## The Academic Awards and Ceremonies Office

The University of Alberta is committed to sharing our accomplishments with the broader community. Success by our faculty and staff in receiving recognition in teaching, learning, scholarship, and community service, is critical to realizing the University's vision and to maintain and enhance the University's reputation.

We look forward to assisting you so that you or a colleague may be successful when being nominated for any academic awards. For more information or assistance with an academic award nomination, please contact Bobbi Schiestel, Faculty Awards Facilitator, at 780.492.2644 or via e-mail at [bobbi.schiestel@ualberta.ca](mailto:bobbi.schiestel@ualberta.ca)



**Bobbi Schiestel**  
Faculty Awards  
Facilitator



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