

CITATION – HAMAR FOSTER

FACULTY OF LAW TERRY J. WUESTER TEACHING AWARD 2014

The Terry Wuester Award is conferred by the graduating class on a member of faculty who exemplifies excellence in teaching. This year's recipient is Professor Hamar Foster.

Professor Foster is one of the best-loved teachers at UVic. He seems to evoke knowledge, to draw it out of his students, rather than simply impart it. He has said that he likes to make the taught material as contestable as he can – opening up space within the class so that students can engage with the material critically and thus develop their own capacity for analysis and imagination. When nominated previously for an award, he characteristically spoke of his students more than himself. “Over the years,” he said, “I have ... been impressed by the challenges, both academic and personal, that confront some students – and quite blown away by the courage and determination that they display in meeting them.”

He is also a superb scholar. He is Canada's leading scholar on the history of the Indigenous land question, producing important and illuminating articles on the implantation of non-Indigenous legal systems in western Canada, and their interaction with Indigenous societies. He has brought rigour, patience and sympathy to his work with graduate students. He is a public intellectual, teaching us **all** about the foundations of the society in which we live. And he has done all this with humour, insight, the highest standards of scholarship, and humanity.

Hamar is one of the professors who have made UVic Law the influential and collegial school that it is. He is retiring this year after 36 years of teaching. He will be missed.