

*The Joanne Rathgeb Teaching Award  
is hereby presented to*

***Richard S. Kujawa***

*24 September 2010*

*The teaching award at Saint Michaels College is presented annually to a faculty member in memory of Joanne Rathgeb, Professor of Fine Arts. Joanne had a passion for teaching, unwavering fidelity to high standards and creativity, a quirky sense of humor, and a willingness to go any distance to ensure that all students learn, which are all principles embraced by this year's recipient of the teaching award, Dr. Richard Kujawa.*

*Dr. Kujawa is unique within our faculty. All of us who have seen him speak at a Faculty Assembly or a research seminar know that he is one of our most dynamic and engaging lecturers. No one will ever accuse Richard of being bland, conventional, or unassertive. His lectures are sprinkled with humor, often self-deprecating, while never straying too far from the serious pursuit of academic discovery. Richard's bottomless array of colorful metaphors, like "take another bite at the cherry," "that's the pig in the python" or "Bob's your uncle," have entertained students and faculty alike, even if we're not always sure what he means. His knowledge of geography and his ability to apply the basic principles of his discipline in creative ways are stunning. And like any master teacher, Richard is the ultimate storyteller.*

*We will never have to worry about Richard trying to become popular by lowering his standards. He is clear about his approach to post secondary education; it's one that places a heavy premium on personal responsibility, self-motivation, independent thinking, hard work, and curiosity. He is one of the toughest graders on campus who also happens to be one of our most student-centered faculty members. Richard has the courage and the good sense to let students know when their work is deficient, never giving in to the temptation, not uncommon in the academy today, to give high grades for work that is simply ordinary or unexceptional. Although he is one of our most demanding professors, students still cherish his classes and respect this charming and charismatic teacher.*

*The impact of Richard's teaching goes far beyond the narrow confines of the classrooms at Saint Michael's College. For many years, he has been the coordinator of the Vermont Geographic Alliance. It would not be a stretch to say that Richard's work through the Alliance, as much as that of any educator in the Green Mountain State, has improved the quality and scope of geography education in our public schools*

*We are delighted and honored to recognize Professor Richard Kujawa with the 2010 Joanne Rathgeb Teaching Award.*