

**UPEI's Twenty-First
Recognition of Founders Ceremony
Monday, December 19, 2022, 1:30 pm
The McCain Foundation Learning Commons (286A and 287)**

Citation for Dr. Douglas Dahn

Read by Dr. William Whelan, Professor of Physics

I am pleased to present to you Dr. Douglas Dahn, who, from the time of his arrival at UPEI in 1990, played an instrumental role in creating a new era of education, research, and service at the University.

Dr. Dahn was a faculty member in the Department of Physics until he retired in May 2022 after a 32-year career made notable by his contributions as an outstanding teacher, researcher, and colleague.

Shortly after arriving at UPEI, Dr. Dahn, an experimental physicist, introduced four new courses related to experimental physics. These four courses were the impetus for the development of UPEI's first Physics Honours and Minor programs in 1993, which was led by him.

In 1996, Dr. Dahn, as chair of the joint UPEI-Queen Elizabeth Hospital School of Radiography Committee, was instrumental in the development of the articulated Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in Radiography. This degree received final approval from the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission in April 1999 and continues as a successful joint venture between UPEI and the QEH.

Dr. Dahn was the recipient of a Presidential Recognition Award of Merit for Teaching in 2014. This award recognized, in part, his re-structuring of first-year physics courses where he introduced new teaching methods and technologies (for example, the use of clickers), and developed a series of new first-year physics labs designed to establish a learning community for engineering students.

In 1987, one year prior to coming to UPEI, while he was a Killam Fellow at Dalhousie University, Dr. Dahn, along with collaborators at Dalhousie, co-developed one of the first scanning tunneling microscopes (STM) in Canada—only one year after its inventors earned a Nobel Prize, and six years after its invention by Binnig and Rohrer at the IBM laboratories.

As a new faculty member at UPEI, Dr. Dahn constructed a new type of scanning microscope—an atomic force microscope (AFM), allowing for the imaging of materials on an atomic scale. Dr. Dahn and his collaborators were one of the first groups in the world to apply STM and AFM to soft condensed matter. As such, his research at UPEI had an impact in several fields and yielded collaborations on the campus that lasted decades, all of which helped to raise the University's reputation for research.

Dr. Dahn's service contributions to UPEI include service on more than 30 department, faculty, and University level committees. Most notable among them is his 16 years of service on the UPEI Senate—half of his university career. Over his 32-year career, he served seven terms on the UPEI Senate, starting in 1991—only three years after he joined the University. We, his colleagues, cannot think of a better exemplar of service to UPEI.

Today, we recognize Dr. Douglas Dahn's tremendous contributions and tireless work on behalf of UPEI by naming him a Founder of the University of Prince Edward Island.