

This week's Professor Profile is going to focus on a part of UPEI that does not usually get much coverage, the Engineering Department. Don MacEwen is one of the department's three professors who toil away in their basement bunker in the Duffy Science Building.

Let's start with his accomplishments. Since becoming an Associate Professor of Engineering at UPEI in 1977, Mr. MacEwen had held several positions on both national and provincial organizations which deal with engineering or science. He has also served as the Chairman of the Engineering Department for a decade (1978-87). Mr. MacEwen is the Past-President of both The Canadian Council of Professional Engineers and the Association of Professional Engineers of PEI: as well, he is the Past-Chairman of the PEI Provincial Science Fair. These accomplishments demonstrate Mr. MacEwen's dedication to both his profession and to the development of young minds.

Two main area of engineering in which Mr. MacEwen takes special interest are environmental engineering and ethics in engineering. He graduated from the University of New Brunswick with a Master of Engineering degree specializing in the environment. At the present time, he is conducting a research program in the area of professional practice and ethics. Mr. MacEwen has presented several reports and papers relating to both of these subjects.

Mr. MacEwen takes a very different approach to teaching than one would expect from an Engineering Professor. For example, the first assignment in his Engineering 111 course was: "Give your fundamental motive for taking this course." This sounds more like a Philosophy class than an Engineering class. Students are encouraged to observe problems from a larger perspective and break them down into their components. Common sense and understanding are the cornerstones of Mr. MacEwen's teaching style. This teaches students how to learn.

During his career at the University of Prince Edward Island, Don MacEwen has made a major impact on hundreds of students who have gone through the Engineering Department. He has also given a great deal back to the community and his profession. ■

