

*Introduction*¹

The Society for the Teaching of Psychology (STP, Division 2 of the American Psychological Association) launched its Internet electronic discussion list, PsychTeacher™ in late 1998. Since February of 2000, a regular feature of this list has been a monthly column called "E-xcellence in Teaching." The column features monthly essays on high school, college, and university teaching in general and on the teaching of psychology in particular. The essays take the form of lessons learned, advice and hints on particular aspects of teaching, lore regarding teaching, book reviews, and reflections on our roles as teachers of psychology. In general, though, the primary focus of the column is to provide a forum for discussing and promoting effective teaching.

This book, STP's second Web publication, represents the compilation of the first 20 E-xcellence in Teaching essays (February 2000 through December 2001). Future volumes of this book will be published electronically in the spring of each year and will contain the previous year's essays.

We thank the authors of these essays for the time and effort they diverted away from other professional obligations and family life to contribute to the burgeoning literature on the "scholarship of teaching and pedagogy." Their work represents no small contribution to this literature and to STP. We also thank members of the Society's leadership over the past three years for their complete and total support for the idea of an electronic column dedicated solely to teaching. In particular, we thank Jane Halonen (James Madison University) for her insightful ideas that helped shaped the column in its early stages. It is to her that we dedicate this book.

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