



Otago University Students Association science representative and fourth year biochemistry student Nathalie Saurat (21), left, presents the top teacher shield to biochemist Tony Zaharic. Mr Zaharic also won the award in 2007.

PHOTO: JANE DANBER

Biochemist wins the teaching prize again

By JOHN GIBB

BIOCHEMIST Tony Zaharic has been named by the Otago University Students Association as the top teacher at the university this year.

Mr Zaharic, who is a senior teaching fellow in biochemistry, also won the association's supreme teaching award in 2007 and was named one of the top 10 teachers at Otago University last year.

The latest association teaching awards were announced at the university this week.

Fiona Bradley, the health sciences representative on the association executive, said the association was again recognising the year's top 10 teachers, but noted that students had nominated 168 people from throughout the university as their best teacher.

"All good teachers are a credit to this university," she said. Mr Zaharic was initially named

as one of this year's top 10 before again receiving the supreme award.

Association sciences representative Nathalie Saurat said students had consistently rated Mr Zaharic as a "fantastic lecturer" who could simplify "very difficult concepts."

He delivered his educational material "with so much enthusiasm and joy that it's hard for it not to rub off on the students", she said.

The other nine Otago top teachers were: Prajesh Chhanabhai, business; Dr Rhiannon Braund, Prof Stephen Duffull, Dr Arlene McDowell, Anita Olivier, all pharmacy; Martin Le Nedelec, pharmacology; Dr Lisa Houghton, human nutrition; Dr Ruth Fitzgerald and Dr Gautam Ghosh, both anthropology, gender studies and sociology.