

## **2004 Mu Sigma Rho Statistics Education Award Goes to Robin Lock**



**Robin Lock with Mu Sigma Rho President Lori Thombs**

Mu Sigma Rho presented its 5th Statistical Education Award to Professor Robin Lock of Saint Lawrence University at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Toronto in August, 2004. This award recognizes excellence in undergraduate or graduate statistical education at the institutional, regional, or national level. Robin Lock, John and Sylvia Burry Professor of Statistics at St. Lawrence University, has been widely recognized as an outstanding teacher and leader for over two decades. His classes are thoroughly demanding - his course goals are ambitious and his standards for students are rigorous. At the same time, he brings marvelous creativity and freshness to the teaching of statistics. One colleague has described Robin's approach to teaching as 'playful'; students analyze the trajectory of spinning coins, discover rigged dice, and compete in correlation-guessing contests. Dr. Lock has mentored an entire generation of teachers of statistics at St. Lawrence - as a result,

Introductory Applied Statistics at St. Lawrence has been a dramatic success for years; it is the third most heavily enrolled course on campus, and over 60% of St. Lawrence students elect to take at least one course in Statistics. In 2001 Professor Lock was honored with the University's J. Calvin Keene Award, for 'high standards of personal scholarship, effective teaching, and moral concern.' Robin has also expanded his role of mentor on innovative statistics curriculum and pedagogy to include colleagues at institutions throughout the world. As a founding member of the Statistics Liberal Arts Workshop (SLAW), he has been a valued contributor to a network of like-minded educators. He originated the idea of the Isolated Statisticians network and helped organize its first national meeting. He has presented successful workshops on teaching introductory statistics at MAA and ASA national meetings. He has been a leader in the ASA Sections on Statistical Education and Statistics in Sports. Robin's contributions to the field received national recognition by his election in 2000 as a Fellow of the American Statistical Association.