

ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES  
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING  
2007  
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD  
EDNA KEEBLE

Dr. Edna Keeble has taught Political Science at Saint Mary's University for 17 years and considers it a privilege to be in the classroom. While many may prefer to avoid teaching at a first-year level, Edna thrives on the challenge. She delves into all aspects of her discipline, and her enthusiasm entices students from introductory classes to return with specific upper-level choices in mind. According to one student nominator, her "energy is contagious" and her "passion inspires students to excel."

Edna's commitment to teaching, her research accomplishments, and her extensive service to the university and the community were recognized last year in her promotion to the rank of full Professor. In 2006, Saint Mary's recognized Edna with the Father William A. Stewart S.J. Medal for Excellence in Teaching; in March 2007, she was presented with the "Award for Overall Excellence in the Field of Education" by Saint Mary's University Student Association.

Edna's teaching philosophy contains her mantra: "Teaching students, not teaching content". She aims to foster a sense in students that it is as much their responsibility to learn as it is hers to teach. Edna strives to understand how all of her students learn, and attempts to engage them fully by promoting an active learning environment. Within a few weeks, she knows the name of every student, even in her large first-year classes, thus ensuring that they do not remain anonymous in her classroom.

Edna Keeble is one of Saint Mary's most passionate advocates of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, regarding teaching as a changing, evolving enterprise. Her colleagues describe her as an exceptional, innovative, and caring teacher: according to one, Edna's numerous accomplishments extend to the university community, the field of politics and the political science profession. In her own words, she helps her students grapple with concepts and ideas by using examples from her research at the local, national, and international level. She engages her undergraduate students further by employing many of them as research assistants.

Why is Edna an outstanding teacher? She shares her research with students in the classroom; attends and presents at teaching conferences; adapts or adopts new teaching approaches; reflects, then writes and shares her experiences with colleagues. Letters from students praise her passion, commitment, and her excellence in teaching. One student nominator calls her an "influential and life-altering professor," while another sums up the thoughts of many: "She is not only my professor but also my thesis advisor, my mentor, and my friend." Edna Keeble is a wonderful role model to her colleagues, her students, and her research partners. She is a most worthy recipient of the 2007 AAU Distinguished Teacher Award.