

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.

***No picture available.*

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ANGIE THOMPSON

Dr. Angie Thompson has taught at St. Francis Xavier University in the Department of Human Kinetics since 2001. Specializing in children's fitness, Professor Thompson has quickly earned a reputation both as an educator with demanding standards and as a mentor who cares deeply for her students. Known for her passion, enthusiasm and dedication, Angie is regarded as a great teacher, trusted counsellor, advisor and friend.

Angie's teaching philosophy relies upon sustained personal contact with students and enthusiasm for her topic. Her clarity makes learning easy, her enthusiasm makes it interesting, and her personal skills inspire the confidence needed to engage her students. She goes beyond the call of duty to bring out the best in her students. Angie believes, "Teaching involves sharing what I have learned in a way that inspires my students to want to learn more...and it allows me to share my passion and belief in the work I do."

The annual St. FX Student Research Day is an example of Angie's ability to create and sustain highly successful student-based initiatives. Since 2003, Research Day has been an inter-departmental event that unites students and faculty to share and disseminate their work. Angie envisioned, launched and continues to maintain this event. In March, 2007, the fourth annual Research Day boasted over 60 presentations!

The integration of Service Learning into her courses is yet another way Angie encourages students to actively apply and share their knowledge in real situations whilst serving and meeting the needs of the local community. She created "Fit for Life," which enables her students to lead physical activity programs in real and meaningful teaching contexts. Designed for elementary school children with health risks, "Fit for Life" is also a community service, providing much-needed physical activity after school for children in grades 3 to 6 at risk of obesity.

Whether it is in upper-year classes of 25 or first-year classes of 105, Angie is appreciated by her students. She consistently earns the highest course evaluations, and students cite her enthusiasm, caring, diverse pedagogy, interactive classes and out-of-class support. According to one student nominator, "What truly stands out for me and for every other student whose life Angie has touched is her dynamic ability to teach. Angie is a role model without comparison and a symbol of what we all strive to be." Her students and colleagues agree that Dr. Angie Thompson is a most worthy recipient of the 2007 AAU Distinguished Teacher Award.



Dr. Angie Thompson, St. Francis Xavier University, is being presented with a Citation by Dr. Robert Campbell, President, Mount Allison University, Liaison, AAU Coordinating Committee on Faculty Development, at the Semi-annual AAU Council Dinner, September 27, 2007.

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ANNE MARIE MACKINNON
INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD
KATHERINE A. FREGO

Dr. Katherine A. Frego joined the faculty of the University of New Brunswick in Saint John in 1993; from the beginning, she has been both an exemplary teacher and an advocate for the “development and promotion of teaching excellence and Scholarship of Teaching.” Kate has been an active leader in every part of the university community, and over the last fourteen years, her nominators say, Kate’s name has become “synonymous with educational leadership.”

In the Department of Biology, Kate has been an enthusiastic supporter of developing new teaching methodologies. She has mentored new faculty and guided them in the early stages of their careers. She has helped reorganize the undergraduate Biology program so that the lower level courses focus on the development of specific skills and abilities. As the Director of Graduate Studies for Biology, Kate has guided the department’s graduate students, encouraging them to complete UNB’s Diploma in University Teaching—a ten-week course which Kate herself was instrumental in bringing to the campus. It is little wonder that a large group of masters and doctoral students say they view her with “great affection.”

In the Faculty of Science, Kate has been a persistent voice advocating for excellence in teaching and has established training and workshops in the area of experiential learning. At the highest level of the university, Kate has shown her characteristic determination as she has worked hard to integrate teaching concerns into the core of the University’s mandate, particularly through the restructuring and formation of two Common Senate Teaching Committees which are now responsible for developing and shaping teaching policies at UNB.

For more than a decade, Kate has chaired the Vice President’s Excellence in Teaching Committee, leading a team of colleagues who have gathered from across campus to support and develop teaching practices. As chair, Kate has developed training programs, edited the campus teaching publication, organized workshops, seminars, and institutes, and most significantly she successfully lobbied for a pilot project to develop a full Teaching and Learning Centre at UNBSJ. Kate’s collegial spirit and her ability to encourage and inspire her colleagues have touched every part of UNB’s Saint John campus.

The university community has recognized Kate’s extraordinary contributions by awarding her the Dr Allan P Stuart Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching, a University Teaching Professorship, and the inaugural Neil Scott Educational Leadership Award. As the “nerve centre on the Saint John campus for anything and everything related to the improvement of teaching,” she is a worthy recipient of the 2007 Anne Marie MacKinnon Instructional Leadership Award. Kate won the AAU Distinguished Teacher Award in 2002, and has now become the first person to received both of our region’s most prestigious awards—a remarkable achievement.



Dr. Katherine A. Frego, University of New Brunswick, Saint John Campus is being presented with a Citation by Dr. Robert Campbell, President, Mount Allison University, Liaison, AAU Coordinating Committee on Faculty Development, at the Semi-annual AAU Council Dinner, September 27, 2007.