

ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
2006
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD
TA LOEFFLER

Dr. TA Loeffler has taught at Memorial University's School of Human Kinetics and Recreation since 1995, achieving full professorship in 2004. She is, according to one student nominator, "Not only a leader in the outdoors and in the classroom, but also a leader in life." The list of awards this remarkable teacher has already achieved confirms that view.

At Memorial, TA was awarded the Student Union's Instructor of the Year Award in 1998 and the President's Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2005. She has also been honored with two international awards for teaching excellence: Outstanding Experiential Educator of the Year, from the Association of Experiential Education in 1999; and, in 2001, a Teaching Innovation Award from the Society of Parks and Recreation Educators for her innovative use of digital video and other technologies in her classroom.

Dr. Loeffler is a prolific teacher, having taught 14 different courses, ranging from Outdoor Education to Tourism to Women in Sport. She was instrumental in the creation of a Bachelor of Recreation program, developing many of the program's new courses herself. She has served on countless committees within Memorial and has been most generous in her service to faculty development at the university, offering regular workshops on experiential education and reflective learning. She is also a frequent contributor to Memorial's Graduate Program in Teaching.

Colleagues and students alike are inspired by TA's innovation and her ability to combine energy and reflective practice in her teaching. Her colleague, Dr. Antony Card, writing on behalf of her nomination said, "TA motivates and inspires her students to produce high quality work with enjoyment and satisfaction. TA has a unique perspective and a deep theoretical appreciation for the complexities of teaching and learning. . . . TA is an exceptionally gifted, reflective practitioner who, through innovative strategies and a willingness to take risks, achieves incredible results in the classroom."

According to student Katherine Baker, who was her teaching assistant, TA Loeffler "constantly strives to elicit the best learning from her students. . . . She has demonstrated to me that reflecting on each lesson taught is not something that is reserved for beginning teachers – it is something she does constantly, [even] after years of teaching a course."

Many students comment that TA's personal and professional influence has been transformative. She inspired them to think, act, and succeed outside the classroom, whether it was to adopt reflective practices in their own teaching, to re-think their responsibility for the environment, or to surmount personal challenges.

TA Loeffler's skill and enthusiasm for teaching, her commitment to students, and her contributions to the Memorial University community make her a worthy recipient of the 2006 AAU Distinguished Teacher Award.