

ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
2006
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD
ERIN STEUTER

Dr. Erin Steuter has taught Sociology at Mount Allison University for 11 years, and in that time she has shown an infectious delight in teaching and care and consideration for her students. She admits, "I am constantly thinking about teaching and about how to make my classes meaningful and engaging for students. Reflecting on teaching is one of the chief joys of my profession."

Dr. Steuter's innovation and creativity are appreciated. As one student nominator says, "She manages to fill the classroom with a balance between creative activities and thoughtful discussion. She is exactly the kind of educator I aspire to become!"

Making course material relevant to students' lives is one of Erin's principal goals. In her classes, Dr. Steuter becomes the springboard to analyze racial inequality; Lego Megablocks become social institutions; and, in addition to essays and research papers, her students write magazine articles or create gender workbooks. Her students have written a resource guide for women in shelters; established a "Super Kids" camp to promote self-esteem in middle-school children; and developed media literacy camps.

Dr. Erin Steuter embodies the concept of teacher-scholar: she is devoted to the study of her discipline, and she is committed to making her students' experience of Sociology rich, meaningful and practical both within and beyond the classroom. But not only is Erin immersed in teaching excellence, she is actively engaged in *sharing* that excellence, and she is acquiring a growing reputation for her contributions to the scholarship of teaching and learning, giving workshops at Mount Allison and contributing to regional and national conferences and publications.

How does one measure the influence of such a professor? In his nomination letter, one of Erin's students has done so very convincingly: "I am so grateful for the experience that she gave me. I have developed from an awkward, failing Science student to an impassioned and engaged Sociology student going on to do my Master's degree. I can imagine a bright future that seemed unlikely before Dr. Steuter's teaching and guidance."

Erin Steuter has recently received Mount Allison University's Herbert & Leota Tucker Teaching Award and the Paul Paré Award of Excellence. Simply put, she is a role model for her colleagues, and she demonstrates for her students what teaching excellence really means. Through the energy, enthusiasm, and reflection that permeate her teaching; through the lasting influence she has had on her students; and through her contributions to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Erin Steuter has proved herself a most worthy recipient of the 2006 AAU Distinguished Teacher Award.