

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