

ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES  
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING  
2008  
ANNE MARIE MACKINNON  
INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD  
ADAM SARTY

When Adam Sarty accepted a position at Saint Mary's University in September, 2000, he made it clear that he wanted to be in an environment where teaching was valued, and where he could find a balance between teaching and research. In the past eight years, Adam has distinguished himself as an exceptional scholar, teacher, colleague and ambassador for his discipline and his university. While establishing an exemplary research program in Nuclear Physics, he has also exhibited an ability to combine his research productivity with excellence in teaching and educational leadership. In his letter of nomination, Dean Malcolm Butler wrote "Few faculty at any institution have had such a tremendous impact in such a short period of time."

Adam Sarty serves many communities, and all benefit from his passionate involvement.

As a faculty member, Adam understands the need to engage first year students in meaningful learning environments: each year, he *insists* on teaching a large first year class. He has worked to improve the quality of Physics teaching in his department as well as the quality of teaching across campus. He has been an early adopter and innovative user of technology in teaching; he has made substantial contributions to important committees, including the Steering Committee for the Global Learning Commons, and as Chair of the Quality of Teaching Committee. Adam was named Saint Mary's Teaching Scholar for 2007-08 and, in recognition of his many contributions, he was also awarded Saint Mary's Educational Leadership Award.

While Adam Sarty is a well-respected member of the scientific community, his interests also extend to the larger academic community. He has presented at many teaching conferences, and he has been an invited speaker at several Canadian universities. In April 2008, he was awarded the Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP) Medal for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, a medal awarded annually to only one Physics professor in Canada.

One of Adam's driving goals as an educator is to eradicate *fear of physics* and to make science more broadly understandable and accessible. To this end, he participates in numerous outreach activities, particularly engaging school children and teachers from primary to Grade 12. Adam is on the Board of Directors of the Discovery Centre in Halifax, and he also plays an active role in other aspects of the Centre and in many other community-based organizations.

For his many instructional leadership activities and accomplishments, the Association of Atlantic Universities is pleased to recognize Dr. Adam Sarty with the 2008 Anne Marie MacKinnon Instructional Leadership Award.