



ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITÉS DE L'ATLANTIQUE

Award for Excellence in Teaching
2012
Distinguished Teaching Award

DR. NEIL MALTBY

Dr. Neil Maltby received the St. Francis Xavier University Outstanding Teaching Award in 2006. An Associate Professor in the Gerald Schwartz School of Business, Neil believes his primary role is to help students become “educated entrepreneurs”: individuals who have the curiosity, determination, and rigour to create and to seize opportunities to learn. He does this by effectively modeling the thoughts and behaviours one expects of an educated entrepreneur: he reflects deeply upon his teaching and develops and implements learning experiences that balance theory and professional practice.

Recognizing that the transition to university life is challenging for students, Neil commits his time, energy, and enthusiasm to recruitment and orientation sessions, extra-curricular workshops and night-time labs. In the classroom, Neil uses engaging pedagogy including several online business simulations he created himself. He emphasizes interactive teaching and learning through discussion and classroom response systems and builds a positive sense of community for his first year students. Building personal connections between himself and students is a priority for Neil, and he learns students’ names within the first two weeks of class because it gives them a feeling of belonging. One former student notes that it is rare to find a professor with these abilities, but “finding one who uses these qualities in a first-year introductory course is unheard of.”

A central focus of Neil’s teaching, research, and service is international business. He revived his department’s international business course by collaborating with faculty and students at six international schools. The result is a refreshed course that involves experiential learning in international exchanges to France, Germany, and Poland. Neil is also his department’s Exchange Advisor, and he has helped over 60 Business Administration students fulfil international exchanges.

Neil is a former member of the Association of Atlantic Universities Coordinating Committee on Faculty Development, and his contributions to faculty development at St. Francis Xavier University are substantive and influential. He recognized that the first year or two of navigating an academic appointment can be a crucial challenge for a faculty member just as the first year or two can be daunting for students. Thanks to Neil’s efforts, a new faculty orientation resource is now distributed to incoming faculty, and a strong Mentoring program is in place at the university.

Neil is an outstanding teacher who seamlessly integrates teaching and service as he encourages and facilitates students to embrace their education – to become educated entrepreneurs – with educational experiences that require them to step outside their ‘comfort zone’ and progress far beyond the limits they had envisioned for themselves. His students and colleagues agree that Dr. Neil Maltby is a most worthy recipient of the 2012 Association of Atlantic Universities Distinguished Teaching Award.