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Professor named No. 1 in state

[Nellie Sires](#)

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According to a national research center, one of Loyola's math department's professors is the best college teacher in the state.

Vali Siadat, an adjunct mathematics professor, was recently honored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) as the Illinois Professor of the Year in 2005.

The selection is based on recommendations of students, colleagues and administrators and criteria for the award are focused on innovation in teaching. Siadat did one of his doctoral studies on a method of teaching which he co-developed with his doctoral advisor, Yoram Sagher, at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

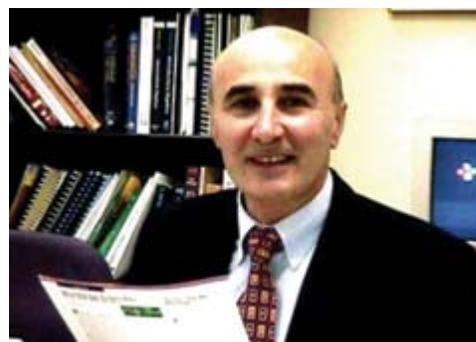
"I have co-developed a method of teaching called the Keystone Teaching Method, where the students are evaluated continuously at every class meeting," Siadat said. "They are given feedback and develop mastery of a subject."

At Loyola, Siadat uses this method whenever it can be applied. He explained that focusing and accomplishing a task in a class period helps students with their reading, time management and many other skills that require a higher level of concentration and critical thinking.

Siadat is currently teaching two classes at Loyola, balancing his commitment between LU and Richard J. Daley City College, where he is the chairperson of the math department. Siadat teaches all levels of math at Loyola, but enjoys teaching calculus the most.

"I love the students at Loyola and that's what really motivates me to teach," Siadat said. "[Loyola has] such an outstanding faculty and student body."

Loyola Mathematics and Statistics Chair Anthony Giaquinto explained that normally, a department chair at



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one university does not act as an adjunct professor at another institution. But Siadat continues to teach at Loyola because of family and personal connections to LU and, in Giaquinto's opinion, his dedication to students.

"He is one of our most popular teachers and it's a delight to have him associated with our department," Giaquinto said. "He's obviously a caring teacher who goes well out of his way to meet the students' needs. He gives his time outside of class, as much as they need."

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