

Illinois Professor of the Year requires some serious dedication to his chosen profession.

"I like to do research in math education to come up with new ideas to teach and influence learning with new innovations to be creative," he said.

In addition to being Mr. Math, Siadat is also a father. He has two daughters of his own and a stepdaughter. Marjan, 28, is the eldest and attends medical school at UIC. Banafsheh just turned 27 and is currently a doctoral student at the London School of Economics. Rana, his t stepdaughter is a senior at Duke University; she is pre-medicine and is 21 years old. Rana was just accepted to Loyola's medical school and will be starting at Stritch School of Medicine next fall.

After being considered by three panels of the best minds in education, Siadat is honored as an innovator in education. A man of recognized brilliance, Siadat remains humble and generous to his students.

"[He is a] wonderful, truly joyful kind of a guy who really wants you to understand, not just your grade, but the logic of math," Andy Winkowski, 2002 Loyola graduate, said. "He would spend additional time with you if you needed it, not just me but for anybody."

"My students congratulated me when they found out about the award and I was very grateful [to them] for the opportunity to teach them," Siadat said.

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## Professor named No. 1 in state

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 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."

Siadat was born in Tehran, Iran, and attended Alborz, an elite college preparatory school. When college application time came, Siadat looked to the States for his higher education.

"My parents encouraged me and I applied to several schools, and Berkeley was my first choice at the time," Siadat said.

The University of California at Berkeley proved to be the right choice for him, as Siadat graduated with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. After finishing his undergraduate studies, Siadat worked in Silicon Valley for a few years before moving to Chicago and marrying his wife, Sousan, who earned her master's of social work degree from Loyola in 2002.

"I came here and I got married and I decided to stay because I found Chicago to be a great city and a beautiful city, though I find the weather a little bit cold," Siadat said.

Siadat attended University of Illinois- Chicago for his master's in applied mathematics and both of his doctorate degrees. He earned doctorates in harmonics and math education.

Siadat's life is not all math. He enjoys physical activity, particularly jogging and playing volleyball. He is a music lover and a bit of a classical film buff. "I like classical movies which deal with issues in the 18th and 19th centuries," he said. "I like Jane Austen very much."

It's not all fun and games with Siadat, as being selected