

## CLASS ACTS

# T.A. Loeffler

**EVA SALINAS**

GLOBE AND MAIL UPDATE

Forty-one years old. The canoeist, kayaker, film-maker and practicing Buddhist returned last month from mountaineering on Mount Elbrus in southern Russia. Next spring: Mount Everest. Has an unofficially adopted daughter, 21-year-old Leonorah, whom she met while working in Zimbabwe in 2001.

### CAREER:

Has a bachelor of outdoor education from Prescott College in Arizona. Received her MA in experiential education and her PhD at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She's now in her 12th year at Memorial University.

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T.A. Loeffler, Professor of Human Kinetics and Recreation, Memorial University  
*(PAUL DALY FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL)*

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Received the 2006 Association of Atlantic Universities Distinguished Teacher Award, the President's Award for distinguished teaching in 2005.

### **WHY SHE'S COOL:**

The same energy that has challenged her to climb drives her to teach. Her sense of adventure, appetite and endurance keeps her students on their toes. On three occasions, she has taken students to the Grand Canyon, where lectures were done on-site.

### **SHE SAYS:**

“Teaching is a place where I can take risks. It's like weaving, you never know what cloth is going to come off the loom. Sometimes it's amazing. Other times it's just average. But I can never predict it...I've also had a passion for inspiring others to take on a new activity — whether it's rock climbing or analysis. I've got to get into the wrestling ring and wrestle with it: throw the idea to the mat and have the idea throw you.”

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