

## **Jeff Stanger** **BScDipEd Major in Physics and Chemistry, 2002**



### **Why did you choose your degree at Macquarie University?**

"I chose my degree at Macquarie because I intended to train as a high school science teacher. Macquarie offered the largest number of undergraduate astronomy courses and a wide range of teaching, science, and related subjects, in an extremely flexible fashion."

### **Employment\*: High School Teacher**

"I am a high school physics and chemistry teacher. My typical day involves developing and organizing lessons and practical activities for my classes. I teach face to face about 20 hours a week but also involve myself in many resource development projects outside the school. I also coordinate a large school based astronomy club. This involves developing, organising or running activities, lectures and excursions for interested students."

My other jobs are as an astronomy educator at Sydney Observatory and Macquarie University Observatory. Here I give talks to the public and show them a wide range of astronomical objects through various telescopes.

I enjoy teaching because I find science fascinating. I enjoy sharing my passion for science (especially astronomy). I love helping people, and working with kids. It's lots of fun. My greatest professional satisfaction comes from seeing students mature over their years at high school, and being able to open their eyes to the universe along the way."

### **How has your degree from Macquarie University helped you progress your career?**

"My degree has contributed greatly to success in my career through the contacts I still have with many of my lecturers and fellow students. The diverse range of courses I did allows me to draw on a wide body of knowledge and skills in my teaching, to create interest in, and give relevance to, what I am conveying."

The commitment to teaching at Macquarie was an inspiration to me. The approachable nature of the lecturers and their dedication taught me so many invaluable lessons. These lessons equipped me with skills that allow me to perform well in my career today."

### **Reflections and advice**

"Study in astronomy is not only for those who want to become professional astronomers. It is great to be able to pursue your passions even if you are not going to use them in your professional life. The flexible nature of study at Macquarie allows you to choose the best degree for you, and your particular interests and needs."

My advice to anyone entering university is not to be afraid to approach anyone or experience things that you think can help you discover your true calling in life. Explore the options open to you and when you find that niche that really excites you, enjoy it. As for Macquarie University, to me it means quality teaching, flexible programs, and beautiful grounds."

\*Current July 2007.