

**ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
2001
INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**

KAREM SIMON

Karem Simon has had a significant positive impact on teaching, not only within the Department of Music and at the University of Prince Edward Island in general, but also throughout the province and region. An excellent and dedicated teacher, Karem Simon has also been a mentor to new faculty members, helping them realize their ambitions and potential as teachers. By facilitating and encouraging innovation in curriculum and in the use of computer and internet technology in teaching, he has set an example of individualized attention to the needs of students, rigorous standards fairly applied, enthusiasm, and humour.

Karem Simon has demonstrated exceptional instructional leadership within his music discipline on campus and beyond, and across disciplines within the University. Highly regarded for his work in strengthening the Wind Symphony at the University, he has instituted a regular *Conductors' Art Symposium* for university and public school band instructors throughout the region. Colleagues remark that "Symposium participants rave about this opportunity for innovative professional development, and its impact on music education throughout the region." His work with music teachers, students, and bands at PEI high schools has forged an important and exciting relationship between the University and music educators in the province and has extended his leadership beyond Prince Edward Island.

As a model and as a mentor, Karem Simon is generous with his time, and offers consistently constructive feedback to new faculty. In the words of one colleague, "His constant encouragement and support has motivated me to challenge myself, take risks, and grow as a teacher. My own personal improvement as an instructor is due in no small part to his support and guidance."

As Chair of the Department, Karem Simon sought to improve the tools with which students assessed the instruction that they received in their music courses. He led the department through a revision process of the Student Ratings of Instruction form, which changed a formerly complex and unfocused series of questions into a simpler and more precise tool for measuring aspects of instruction. Karem Simon's impact on instruction outside his Department at UPEI has been through his work developing the teaching awards program. Under his leadership the Merit Awards Committee, which he chaired for several years, transformed the selection process into one based on a full review of complete teaching portfolios, bringing to the awards a new level of respect and meaning.

Karem Simon's dedication to improving the quality of instruction at the University of Prince Edward Island and beyond is exemplary. He is a most deserving recipient of the 2001 Association of Atlantic Universities Instructional Leadership Award.