

**ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
2004
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD**

SHIRIN HAQUE

Shirin Haque has distinguished herself as an innovative and creative instructor of Physics. She was previously recognized for her teaching when she was awarded the University of the West Indies/Guardian Life Premium Teaching Award in 2002.

Shirin Haque's students know her as a "completely student oriented lecturer". They describe her knowledge as limitless, her enthusiasm contagious, her teaching style vibrant and her encouragement of each and every student a key factor in their academic success. One student wrote "Not only is Dr. Haque an excellent teacher, but a mentor and role model to all persons, especially young women in society".

Technologically innovative, she was the first in her Department to utilize technology to make components of her course available online. She also introduced computer-generated experiments in labs to increase student interest. She also formed, and was president of, the first ever Physics Society on campus (SPARC) as well as founder and editor of the Physics newsletter, a forum for the exchange of ideas between students and staff.

Her contributions to the academic community at the University of the West Indies have been felt by her colleagues campus wide. She has taught courses in a wide range of sub-disciplines within her department as well as in other disciplines. A colleague comments, "She has helped bring a multidisciplinary approach and communication between formerly diverse and isolated departments".

Shirin Haque's passion for Physics and Astronomy has been shared with the public at large in diverse ways - in her local community, within the region and on the international stage. She is in demand at high schools to assist in career guidance and science based activities; she has conducted workshops on Astronomy for teachers and the Trinidad and Barbados public; she was a cofounder, President and executive director of the non-profit educational organization CARINA (Caribbean Institute of Astronomy); and she has forged international linkages on behalf of her discipline and the Caribbean.

Now that she is also back in the classroom as a student (pursuing a second PhD in Psychology), she is using this experience to further improve upon the quality of education offered to students and to the public at large. Her commitment to her students, her university, and to the larger community make Shirin Haque a most worthy recipient of the 2004 Association of Atlantic Universities Distinguished Teacher Award.