"FEMALE SCIENTIST CREATES HISTORY"

Dr. Shirin Haque, a Senior Lecturer and a Physicist at the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies is the 2018 recipient of the prestigious CARICOM Science Award for her contribution to the field of science as a teacher, researcher and activist in the popularization of science in the region. Dr. Haque has, in the process, become the first woman scientist to cop this coveted award. She joins a group of distinguished scientists who have been previous recipients and this includes Professor Emeritus Harold Ramkissoon (Trinidad) & Dr. Raymond Wright (Jamaica) 2006 awardees, Professor Gerald Lalor (Jamaica, 2007), Professor Sean McDowell (Barbados, 2008), Professor Edward Farrell (Trinidad, 2009) Professor Lincoln Hall (Trinidad, 2010), Professor Ishenkumba Kahwa (Jamaica, 2011), Professor Vijay Naraynsingh (Trinidad, 2015), Professor Samuel Ramsewak (Trinidad) & Dalip Ragoobirsingh (Jamaica) 2017 awardees.

Dr Shirin Haque is fully a product of The University of the West Indies having obtained a BSc. with First Class Honors in Physics, both a Master of Philosophy and a Ph.D. in Astronomy, in addition to a Master of Philosophy in Psychology, all at the St. Augustine Campus. She has been the only professional astronomer in the Caribbean region and is recognized in particular for her research work in astrobiology performed at the pitch lake and mud volcanoes in Trinidad. The Astrobiology research has been featured on BBC and Discovery Channel. Her Caribbean science documentaries have been aired across the Caribbean and parts of North America and she is currently doing an Astronomy series for television.

She has also served in a variety of administrative positions including Head of the Physics Department and Deputy Dean in two portfolios. Dr. Haque is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Professor Emeritus Harold Ramkissoon
Chair, CARICOM Science Award Committee