

**2009-10 OCUFA TEACHING AND  
ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS  
CITATION FOR SHAFIQUE N. VIRANI**

**OCUFA**

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations  
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Read by Sandy Hudson, Canadian Federation of Students

The OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee is pleased to present a 2009-10 Teaching Award to Shafique N. Virani, Professor from the Department of Historical Studies and the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto Mississauga.

There is little doubt that Professor Virani is an excellent teacher. His students speak glowingly of their experiences in his classroom and especially of the inclusive and welcoming learning environment. They are impressed by the myriad of ways by which he encourages their engagement and participation, be it through discussion groups, the use of interactive models, or the judicious use of new technologies.

Students also appreciate his recognition of their achievements and improvements, and are amazed at the amount of time he dedicates to them, both inside and outside the classroom. Or as one student puts it: “there’s no doubt that he’s an amazingly talented teacher that’s dedicated enough to be eager and excited to put his own life on hold to help his students. I can’t say enough about him. He’s just perfect.”

And the numbers certainly back up the anecdotal evidence: Despite teaching very large classes that have heavy workloads and are stringently graded, his course evaluations are outstanding, with over ninety percent of his students indicating that they would enroll in his courses again. Given Professor Virani’s commitment to the educational process, it is not surprising that he dedicates a great deal of time to improving his own teaching and the teaching of his peers. He regularly observes other teaching styles and solicits feedback on his own teaching. His input is also sought out by fellow teachers, especially in the effective use of technology in the classroom. He also excels in the arenas of course and education materials development. He regularly develops new courses, each one rigorously conceived and assessed to make sure it meets the goals of imparting new knowledge, prompting his nominator to note that “Shafique develops and teaches more classes than any other faculty member in the department, and possibly the entire University of Toronto.”

What is most striking about Professor Virani is the degree to which he plays a transformative role on his students. He strives to locate his teaching in an “ethical framework” and to foster the “kind of social consciousness that our world so desperately needs.” The response from his students and peers indicates that he has been more than successful in this endeavour. His work has been cited for having “a much wider social impact, contributing to cultural diversity and understanding” and for its ability, in the words of the past chair of the Department of Historical Studies, to “not simply . . . teach the material,” but to “transform lives.”



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The OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee would like to commend Professor Shafique Virani on being an outstanding teacher and a deserving recipient of a 2009-10 OCUFA Teaching Award. Congratulations!