

Nirwan Ansari

Helen and John C. Hartman Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Saul K. Fenster Innovation in Engineering Education Award



Nirwan Ansari is an outstanding researcher and teacher in the Helen and John C. Hartman Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, an innovator in education and research, and a caring mentor to students. Since joining the department in 1988, he has taught numerous undergraduate and graduate courses and his teaching evaluations have been outstanding over the years.

More recently, he has concentrated mainly on developing and teaching graduate courses in his research areas of communications and computer networks. He has developed eight graduate courses, supervised over 30 doctoral students, numerous master's theses and undergraduate projects. He has also nurtured undergraduate students in developing research knowledge through the Research Experience for Undergraduate programs. As one of the two principal investigators of the NJI-TOWER project, his work has led to the following accomplishments: creation of the Teaching, Training, and Testing (T3) Laboratory including the design, purchase, development and set-up of laboratory and course manual for the instruction of ECE636; renovation of a number of teaching labs; facilitation of a number of co-op internships; and implementation of the undergraduate research experience.

Dr. Ansari has been very active in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (IEEE), where he has been a Fellow, and has invited a large number of world experts in the communication and networking field to NJIT for seminars and colloquia. Through his IEEE activities, he has also supported many students in their professional development.

For his excellence and dedication in teaching, Dr. Ansari has received the 1998 NJIT Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award and the 2008 NJIT Outstanding Professional Development in Teaching Award. He is always in the forefront of adopting new and emerging technologies, tools, and facilities to enhance his teaching and is always a willing volunteer in enriching the NJIT community. For example, he introduced DeterLab (Cyber-Security Experimentation and Testing Facility) housed at UC Berkeley to his advanced classes (ECE788), and exposed his students to state-of-the-art tools and innovative assignments that enhance their career perspectives. In Fall 2008, he was the first to adopt WIMBA in his graduate class that provided a real-time virtual classroom experience for his students in the real classroom and for those who were out of state. Moreover, he was among the first to use Moodle to administer all course materials and asynchronous quizzes and tests. He shared his experience with the NJIT faculty at one of the Provost Institute Workshop series on "Emerging Instruction Technologies."

