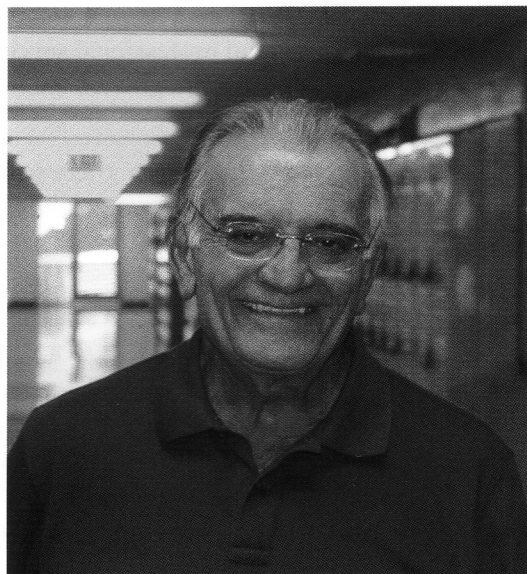


2005-2006 Nominee for CSULB Distinguished Teaching Award Dr. Hooshang Tahsiri

In many different classes, from very large service courses with over two hundred students to smaller populations of 7 to 15 physics majors in upper-division and graduate courses, Dr. Hooshang Tahsiri has demonstrated his willingness to innovate and his deep caring for the learning and well being of his students. He is an especially well-respected faculty member in the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

During the last 5 years, Hooshang has taught about 2500 students in 34 assigned courses, an average of 3.8 courses per semester! These included courses in conceptual physics, like Physical Science 112, taken primarily by future elementary school teachers, problem-solving courses like PHYS 100A and 100B, which are taken primarily by students in the life sciences, PHYS 151 and 152, calculus-based courses for engineers and science majors, and, finally, courses in the upper division and graduate levels, such as PHYS 340A (Elec. and Mag.), PHYS 360 (Symbolic Algebra Software for Physics) and PHYS 560A (Meth. of Math. Phys.).

Dr. Tahsiri's average evaluation score on Question #8 of the University Evaluation Form, *Rate the overall teaching effectiveness of this instructor in this course*, taken over the last 5 years, 2500 students, and including every course taught, is 4.10 per student on a scale where 5 is the maximum, above the average of 3.96 for the Department for the same five-year period. This is a truly remarkable performance for the wide range of courses and unusually heavy student load.



Although this record of versatility, excellence, and capacity is extraordinary, Dr. Tahsiri contributes a even more to scholarly and student life at CSULB:

- He has pursued grant support from the NSF in his area of expertise (confining plasmas in controlled thermonuclear fusion) and has been granted a patent in this area;
- He participated actively in several CNSM (College) NSF awards related to better training of teachers of science;
- He was among the first at CSULB to use and introduce a symbolic software program, Mathematica, to upper division and graduate students;
- He developed and uses active websites for his students in several different courses to help students solve problems, to have access to animated demonstrations of physical principles, and to make his course materials available to students. See <http://www.csulb.edu/~htahsiri/studyguide/> .

Dr. Tahsiri and the Chair, Dr. Kenealy, met in summer, 2006, to redevelop and redirect the PHYS 360 course. This course teaches the use of symbolic programming software (primarily *Mathematica* at this time) to enhance the students' problem-solving abilities. They perform numerical calculations and symbolic manipulations, as well as create sophisticated graphics and animations. One can greater physical insight into problems by eliminating some tedium and freeing up time for creative thinking.

Hooshang is a truly valuable colleague, scholar, and teacher. His high professional competence in all areas and his continuing dedication to the welfare of our students during his long career commands the respect and admiration of every faculty member.