

## Teaching philosophy

**Inci Ruzybayev**, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, who has taught "Physics I" and "Physics 201," which requires algebra and trigonometry, University of Delaware.

*My philosophy was to teach physics as if it was a 'Game of Understanding Laws of Universe' and we were at the introduction part of it. Physics is a fun game as long as you play it according to its rules. Some students are prejudiced against it and they think they are not smart enough for physics. I try to show that they are wrong. Everyone is smart enough to do anything. Some just need a spark to see that. I think this is the role of a teacher: encouraging students and leading them toward success. I explained the rules -- mathematical equations -- and taught them how to apply to real world examples. As in any games, the more you practice the better you get at it. I only showed them how to become successful at physics and cared about them and their feedback. The achievement was the outcome of their hard work.*

*I earned my master's degree in physics education at Middle East Technical University in Turkey. Once, one of my professors told me that if I cannot do it, no one else can do it. This was my spark to do anything I wanted. I am very honored to be selected for the award, and I would like to thank all of my teachers who inspired me in teaching and I hope I inspired my students as well.*