

## FEATURES

# Student sets record in spider research

**JO-ANNE** Nina Sewlal, a second year PhD student at the Department of Life Sciences at the University of the West Indies at St Augustine, was recently awarded the Vincent Roth Award from the American Arachnology Society.

This is the third time she has received this award which is the most anyone has received it in the society's history. This award is open to young arachnologists all over the world and supports research in the area of systematics.

The two previous awards supported her research in documents dealing with the spider fauna found on the islands of St Kitts and Antigua. However, she has collected spiders from Nevis, Anguilla, Grenada, St Maarten and St Vincent. It is Sewlal's goal to document the spiders of the Eastern Caribbean and add to the literature. Sewlal was also awarded another post-graduate scholarship for the second year of her PhD research on orb-weaving



JO-ANNE SEWLAL

spider families of Trinidad. Sewlal received a Bachelor of Science and Mphil degrees in zoology. However, it was at her Master's that she decided to enter the area of arachnology, where she looked at spider behaviour and autecology. Some of the data obtained from this award will be included in her doctoral dissertation.