Ruth J. and Howard F. Newton Memorial Graduate Student Teaching Award in Statistics
2024 Recipient - Jacob Andros

Jacob Andros is the 2024 recipient of the Ruth J. and Howard F. Newton Memorial Graduate Student Teaching Award in Statistics. Jacob was selected to receive the Newton Teaching Award based on his exceptional job teaching a section of STAT 302 in Fall 2023. This class is aimed at students in the biological sciences, many of whom hope to go to medical, dental, or vet school. Generally speaking, the students are highly motivated and demanding, but they have little-to-no experience with statistics and tend to be math-averse. It is therefore a challenging class to teach, particularly for one's first time teaching. The student evaluations for his course were exceedingly positive. Here are a few example (unedited) comments from his students:

- "He is honestly one of the best professors I've had."

- "He seems like he actually cares about our learning."

- "Very good at explaining."

- "Incredible instructor with much knowledge and passion about what he is teaching."

- "It always felt like he was helping us succeed."

- "He is an AMAZING instructor. By far one of the best instructors I have had."

There were many more comments like these.

An added challenge to teaching STAT 302 is the fact that the instructors of the 7-10 sections that are offered each long semester must coordinate efforts, delivering comparable class experiences for all students and maintaining consistency in standards and rigor. Jacob was a diligent member of the team of STAT 302 instructors. According to the STAT 302 Course Coordinator, Instructional Associate Professor Dr. Mohamed Aburweis, "Andros did a great job for his section, attending all STAT 302 meetings and always asking for clarification when he was in doubt about anything. He offered additional review sessions for the final exams to help students."

We look forward to continued excellence from Jacob during his time with us.

Alan R. Dabney
Associate Professor & Associate Head for Teaching Excellence
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