Derek C. Bok Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching of Undergraduates

Paul Baines

The influence of Paul Baines’s teaching, wrote Xiao-Li Meng, chair of the Statistics Department, will be felt for years to come, within the department and beyond. The word “excellent,” added Meng, is inadequate to describe Paul’s work. This is high praise indeed, but given the effort that has gone into his teaching, the plaudits are merited.

As a teaching fellow in Statistics, Paul has created, on his own initiative, three teaching guides—a Teaching Fellows Handbook for the department and guides for two of the major undergraduate statistics courses—as well as a “Statistics Teaching Resources” Website, a centralized place for collecting and accessing teaching materials. All four resources demonstrate his far-reaching grasp of pedagogical problems faced by all teachers.

With students, he is patient, insightful, and creative. One undergraduate wrote of Paul: “He should be renamed ‘Paul Brains’ because he’s so sharp. All his written feedback was appropriate and useful.” Another wrote that Paul surpassed the work of even the best teaching fellows and that “section was awesome—I learned a lot each time I went.”

Paul stands out among teaching fellows because of his unmatched pedagogical creativity and insight, and because of his passion, not just for doing the job, but for doing what others have not even thought to do.

Paul, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences is pleased to present you with the Derek C. Bok Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching of Undergraduates.

Congratulations!