

OCUFA

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des associations des professeurs des universités de l'Ontario

2022-2023 OCUFA Teaching Award

Citation for Stavroula Andreopoulos

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The members of the OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee are delighted to present a 2022-2023 Teaching Award to Dr. Stavroula Andreopoulos.

As a teaching Stream Professor in the Department of Biochemistry in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, Roula Andreopoulos has taught in classes of varying sizes. Her roles have extended from in person classroom teaching to online classes, designing interactive lab courses and working with students in research intensive programs. Connecting with these students is a cornerstone of her teaching philosophy. “Classes of enormous sizes (> 500 students) have become commonplace today in the university setting. This may in turn leave students with an impersonal and alienating impression of the university environment,” said Roula. “Thus, it is extremely important to ensure students have a positive learning experience. For this precise reason, my approach to teaching is to make the process more personal. The simple gesture of attempting every year to learn the names of all of my students in BCH210, BCH311, BCH370, and JPM300 which sees 2000 students annually over the fall, winter and summer sessions, is something I undertake for each class. I believe this is an act that is extremely valued by the student, but also a way for me to connect with these bright minds.”

There are many stellar examples of this dedication and focus on the needs of students. Her partnership with an English Learning Specialist to help create interactive online modules to better support the needs of students for whom English was not a first language, her involvement as the co-director of the Amgen Scholars Program, an immersive 10-week program designed to help students from historically marginalized groups develop their research and communication skills, and her work as a member of the Organizing Committee for the Life Science Career Expo, all highlight Roula’s continuing support of students both in and outside the classroom.

Roula’s pedagogical involvement extends beyond the students to her work with faculty. She organized the first faculty teaching retreat for the Department of Biochemistry and continues to work with colleagues on coordinating a monthly teaching seminar series for faculty and staff across the university. She actively presents her work at conferences and through publications and continues to explore and share innovative and interesting ways to present the information she is teaching. The cross-departmental collaborative approach that she continues to take further highlights her ongoing commitment to teaching in all its facets.

The concluding paragraph of Roula’s letter of support from the current dean of the Faculty of Arts & Science states it perfectly: “In her own teaching practice, her curricular work, mentorship of undergraduate and graduate students and through her investment

in the scholarship of teaching and learning, it is clear that Professor Andreopoulos is an exceptional instructor, educational leader and mentor.” The committee completely agreed.

Congratulations Roula!

Every year since 1973, the OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship awards have honoured the exceptional achievements made by Ontario university teachers and academic librarians.

At OCUFA, we believe that the quality of education at our universities depends on the professors and academic librarians whose teaching and work touches the life of every student who embarks on a journey of higher learning.

Professors and academic librarians play a vital role in our universities, preparing students for the challenges of tomorrow, while pursuing the new ideas and knowledge that enrich all of our lives and chart a path to a brighter future.