

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

Valeria Espinosa

In the Statistics Department, where predecessors and peers have set a high pedagogical bar, fourth-year student Valeria Espinosa has nonetheless taken statistical teaching to new heights.

In her work as a section leader in Stat 110, Stat 140, and Stat 240, Valeria has become known for illuminating course material through fun and innovative scenarios. She engages students by helping them see the big picture; rather than limiting her sections to what was covered in lecture; she probes the depths of the topic, showing students why it is important, and how they can use it.

She has implemented pedagogical innovations to make experimental design — the subject of Stat 140 — lively and relevant. In a field where real-life examples are crucial to motivating students, Valeria decided to conduct small-scale experiments in class. She devoted considerable energy to finding experiments that could meet the needs of students across a range of social and natural sciences, tailoring those projects to a classroom setting and in many cases working with authors of the original studies to acquire unpublished data.

Valeria's work has had a profound effect on her students, both in the classroom and in nontraditional settings, through the Harvard Bridge Tutor Program. A true leader, she intuitively understands the diversity of needs that students bring to any educational endeavor, and she is committed to meeting those needs with a remarkably positive attitude.

Valeria, 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!