Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

Paxton Bachand

Paxton Bachand has been selected as the 2020 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant. He is currently pursuing his master's degree in Marine Biology (MARB).

Paxton's research is in areas that impact environmental health, human health, and coastal economies. These research agendas are rigorous and, at times, very arduous as they require data collection outside of the laboratory. Additionally, He extends his knowledge in outreach efforts in low-socio-economic schools. Paxton has taken students in high school and college in the field – a life-altering experience for many who think that science is always done behind a laboratory bench.

He genuinely cares and teaches with high expectations and enthusiasm. His dedication to the department and his students is exemplary. In fact, he was cited as being a lead among the microbiology TAs.

As a TA, Paxton demonstrates his dedication and professionalism as he trains and mentors the next generation of scientists. Paxton's attributed outstanding performance is due to his genuine concern for his student's learning experience, and both students and instructors have continuously given him high praise. He is ever punctual, prepared, responsible, and thoughtful. He is also the go-to person when plans go awry.

Described as the type of person who takes the bull by the horns and leads others to complete tasks that are sometimes arduous and often complicated, Paxton's passion for science is obvious. His work ethic is beyond reproach. And his heart is in science – all things related to science and science education.

Paxton Bachand was nominated by Dr. Gregory Buck, Dr. Jeffery Turner, and Dr. Cherie McCollough from the College of Science and Engineering.