

The honor is granted to accomplished men and women who spent part of their careers at Johns Hopkins



Hrantune Armutian, Public Health

**Hrantune Armutian, medium class size**  
Hrantune Armutian says he is pleased to be awarded this year's Golden Apple for a medium class. "For someone who has spent his entire career teaching, it is an important recognition since it comes from the students," he explains.

Armutian, a professor of epidemiology at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, has been teaching Design and Applications of Case-Control Studies since he developed the course in its current format in 1986. Since that time, Armutian says it has evolved into a very "hands-on" course. "I am a strong believer in experiential learning," he explains.

Following this philosophy, Armutian says that one of his objectives is to develop confidence in students so that by the end of the course they will be able to conduct a case-control study. Students must select their own epidemiological problem to solve, define a hypothesis and carry out a case-control study using the school's extensive health database collected from Washington County. "Once you have done it, you are more confident the next time faced with a similar situation," he adds. These projects also foster class discussion and interaction among students.

An increasing midterm exam is another novelty in this course. The students get regular feedback without the pressure of failure. Armutian feels the process allows students to receive a learning experience as valuable as a regular exam; they also provide feedback to the faculty about what they have learned.

—Tim Parsons