

## Distinguished Achievement Awards

### 2013 Undergraduates of the Year

The criteria against which nominations for the Undergraduate of the Year are judged state that:

“The nominee should have made an exceptional contribution to the life of the University, contributed significantly to the development of the curriculum or enhanced other students’ experience at University through activities such as peer support, student societies, or work with central services such as Recruitment and Admissions.

Alternatively he or she should have coupled excellent academic achievement with either major external activity (top level sport or music) or have overcome major difficulties.”

#### **Zoe Phillips, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences**

Zoe Phillips, who has just completed her 3<sup>rd</sup> year of her Master of Pharmacy degree, is described as having outstanding organisational and time management skills, with the confidence and determination to deliver. Zoe has been the chair of the Manchester University Pharmacy Society this past year, a role she has carried out exceptionally well with one of her highlights being her single-handed organisation of two informative employability workshops on community, hospital and industrial pharmacy. She invited several high profile speakers and secured sponsorship through the Co-operative Pharmacy for the events. These events benefitted not only her fellow students immensely but also allowed her School to develop important links with pharmacy businesses.

Through the Students’ Union, last summer Zoe raised £2450 for Childreach International by trekking to the base camp of Everest. In addition, she volunteers with ReachOut! - The Mentoring Charity, where she goes into a Manchester school with poor attendance, leading sessions on self-development and teamwork. Zoe has accomplished all of this whilst maintaining a first class academic record and extensive pharmacy placement experience.

#### **Eleni Papadopoulos, School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Humanities**

Eleni Papadopoulos, who has just completed her Medieval Studies course in the Faculty of Humanities, couples excellent academic achievement with top-level sport, as well as overcoming major hurdles. Since childhood she has suffered from multiple disabilities but has refused to let these hold her back. She competes as a swimmer at international level and holds the world record at 200m butterfly (S10). This level of competition demands a punishing schedule of training and competing. Despite this she also worked incredibly hard – and with great success – at her academic studies. One of her teachers describes her efforts as ‘absolutely heroic’.

### **Mezida Bedru Saeed, Faculty of Life Sciences**

Mezida Bedru Saeed has just completed her final year of the BSc Pharmacology and Physiology degree. Mezida is described as having been a high academic achiever as well as a very effective Peer Assisted Study Scheme (PASS) leader and a student ambassador. In addition she has provided invaluable advice to staff about how we might further support our international students.

A clear demonstration of her commitment are the glowing reports from applicants and their guests following UCAS Visit Days. As a student ambassador, she is described as 'engaging, helpful, enthusiastic and a natural'. While on placement in the Gambia, Mezida supported another student following a serious accident, providing a continuous link between the University, hospital and the student's worried family.

### **Katie-Anne Lee, School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science, Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences**

Katie-Anne Lee has just finished her MEng degree in Chemical Engineering with Management in the Faculty of Engineering & Physical Sciences. She is described as being a well organised, intelligent and ambitious Chemical Engineer who produces work of the highest quality. She is also committed to participating in the education of others as demonstrated by her roles as a peer mentor, PASS leader and as chair of the taught student forum. She has been Chemical Engineering President with a specific remit to aid building relationships with engineering companies and has presented weekly to promote Manchester and her School to prospective students for 3 years. Her attributes and skills are set to ensure that she will be a highly successful Chemical Engineer.

Away from her academic life, Katie-Anne has been actively involved in the University Women's Cricket Team, as well as captaining Chorley's Cricket Club Women's team.