

## Undergraduate Students of the Year 2014

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.”

### **Miriam Leach, Manchester Medical School, FMHS**

Miriam Leach was nominated for her significant achievements as a Programme Representative for the MBChB programme. Miriam was at the forefront in initiating and leading on the student-led excellent teaching awards for the Manchester Medical School.

Her representation of the student body at School meetings, such as Curriculum and Programme Committees, influenced major decisions which have subsequently enhanced all Medical students’ experiences.

She chaired the Staff Student liaison meetings, something she was exceptionally effective at. She also contributed to meetings with internal (Periodic Review) and external (General Medical Council) quality assurance panels who visited the School in the past year.

Miriam led on devising a new student representation structure for her programme and, with some input from staff, designed and co-facilitated bespoke training for the 2013/14 student representatives.

### **Ibrahim Olabi, School of Law, FHUMS**

Ibrahim Olabi, who has just completed the final year of his Law degree, created the Syrian Legal Development Programme which aims to disseminate the law of armed conflict to opposition armed forces in Syria, and to promote human rights and respect for law and order in opposition controlled areas.

Ibrahim was born in Syria and still has relatives living there.

The programme has now been formally recognised as an NGO and will be offering internships to law students to develop their legal and research skills. It has gone through several stages, both in terms of legal research, the compilation and translation of teaching materials, and execution.

Ibrahim has visited Syria's frontline to disseminate these laws to non-State groups. The programme has attracted worldwide media attention, and gained the support of organisations such as Amnesty International.

Ibrahim's school believe his achievements to be unprecedented.

### **Hayley Leung, Faculty of Life Sciences**

Hayley Leung has just completed her BSc Biomedical Sciences degree in the Faculty of Life Sciences. Hayley has been a PASS leader and a student ambassador for FLS as well as a University library student ambassador. She has always shown a keen interest in helping other international students not only by meeting and assisting international students during orientation and Welcome Week, but also by being involved in several mentoring programmes which are both Faculty and University- led.

In addition, she has voluntarily supported her Faculty in a number of marketing activities, always with great professionalism.

As a committed student with a great sense of responsibility and a desire to make a difference in the University, Hayley is a very worthy recipient of this award.

### **Jessica Hart, School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, FEPS**

Jessica Hart has enjoyed excellent academic results since registering for a B.Eng. degree in Electrical & Electronic Engineering in 2011.

She has made a number of outstanding extra-curricular contributions that have benefitted the School, Faculty and University.

Jessica has carried out a number of duties for the Electrical & Electronic Engineering Society, including in her position as Treasurer and previously as Advertising and Public Liaison officer.

She was an elected member of the Staff Student Liaison committee for the School in 2012-13 and has participated in University open days and UCAS visit days.

Clearly Jessica has given of her time and skills to help not only her fellow students but the University more widely.