

Distinguished Achievement Awards

2017 PSS, Library and Cultural Institutions' Awards

For both the individual and team awards the judges were looking for outstanding performance and, more specifically, evidence of how the individuals or teams have significantly and tangibly contributed to maintaining a positive, open and respectful working environment where people work cooperatively together, have excelled at breaking down boundaries and communicating fully to achieve outstanding organisational benefits.

Teams also had to demonstrate that they have a shared ethos which has led to either a significant one-off achievement or to sustained high performance.

Team Winners

Small Team: Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama PSS Team

Team members at the time of the nomination being submitted: Hannah Garrett, Nathan Mannion, Anne-Marie Nugnes, Abdul Pathan, Emma Rayner, Alex Shaw, Karl Spencer, Jon Tipler, Mark Woolstencroft, Tom Pearce

The Martin Harris Centre team, led by Mark Woolstencroft, runs a major arts venue while at the same time providing business-critical services and managerial and operational support to Teaching and Learning delivery and student support in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures by supporting the performance-related activities and general needs of the two subject areas based in the Centre (i.e. Music and Drama).

They are fantastically helpful and flexible colleagues, equally happy and adept in organising major events for the University in one of their premier events spaces, as well as helping Music and Drama students with routine requests.

In addition, they contribute to the wider PSS team in the School, always willing to see the bigger picture and contribute to its smooth running.

Large Team: North Campus Cross-School Timetabling Team

Team members: Paul Rowbotham, Iain Hart, Judy Giblin (Faculty of Science and Engineering, Project Team), Paul Brierley, John Hornsby, Matthew Casey (Estates Timetabling Team), Tracie McArthur, Andy Partington (School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science), Carly Peesapati, Emma Bentley, Lorna Dawson (School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering), Catherine Brazendale, Andrea Taylor, Andrew Nicholls, Natasha Irwin, Rachel Horsfield (School of Materials), Jacinta Livesey, Christine Jinks (School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering), Joanne Taylor, Karen Kelly (Foundation Studies), Francesca Moss, Bryony Quick (School of Mathematics)

Between January and May of 2016, PSS colleagues from five schools and Foundation Studies within the Faculty of Science and Engineering, the Faculty Office and the Estates Timetabling Team collaborated to produce a more efficient, co-ordinated teaching timetable for 2016/17.

They planned a collective room-request for the North Campus schools, delivering personalised timetables and an improved student experience against several indicators. The work was complex and labour intensive.

The team recorded locally-owned spaces in a new system, worked with academic and technical colleagues to challenge long-standing working practices and co-ordinated a significant volume of requirements.

This new approach represented operational and cultural change and timetabling colleagues successfully delivered it by working beyond expectations and as a single, mutually-supportive team across structural boundaries.

Individual Winners

Nicola Begley, Research Technician, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health

Nicola Begley is a research technician in the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health.

Nicola's work supports a number of different large and successful research groups, playing a critical role in generating successful grant applications.

Nicola is described as being one of those rare people who can absorb work, remain constantly cheerful under pressure while consistently performing at the highest level in many areas of activity.

Embedded within the University's Biological Timing Group, she undertakes a diversity of tasks such as managing a large number of on-going studies of circadian biology across multiple laboratories, patiently training new researchers in a wide range of complex experimental protocols, and is always the first to volunteer to work through the night collecting data.

Nicola consistently goes the extra mile in all that she does. She is said to be absolutely essential to the operation of these large and successful groups, operates at a high level on multiple fronts, and is a natural born leader of remarkable charm and intelligence who has a bright career ahead of her.

Peter Jacobs, PGT Administrator, School of Environment, Education and Development, Faculty of Humanities

Peter Jacobs has demonstrated exceptional skills over eight years supporting the Master's Programmes in the Global Development Institute (or GDI) in the School of Environment, Education and Development.

His support has proved critical this past academic year when the GDI experienced a significant over-recruitment of Master's students. His positive attitude means he always finds a solution, with no problem being insurmountable.

Peter is said to often lift the flagging spirits of those around him with a smile and wry joke. His leadership is subtle, motivating all working with him to pull together as a team.

He provides support for academic staff and students, treating all on an equal basis, and has earned enormous respect from everyone around him.