

## Distinguished Achievement Awards

### 2018 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: Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute/Paterson Building team**

*Team members: Kenny Nolan, Stuart Pepper and Caroline Wilkinson*

It was the tragic fire in the Paterson Building last April that brought together Caroline Wilkinson, Chief Operating Officer of the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute (or CRUK MI), Stuart Pepper, Chief Laboratory Officer of the CRUK MI, and Kenny Nolan, Deputy Director of Estates and Facilities, as a team.

This fire took two days to put out. Thankfully all 400 staff were evacuated safely but, of course, the building housed precious cancer research and equipment. A strong team was needed to tackle the challenges ahead and Caroline, Stuart and Kenny provided the support needed effectively and with great commitment, ensuring from the outset, for example, the salvage of critical samples and that people who had lost personal items had emergency accommodation or a way of getting home. As the scale of the disaster became apparent, the team managed the enormous logistical challenges of relocating staff, emptying the building, providing temporary storage for salvaged items and moving and servicing crucial scientific instruments. They chaired regular complex meetings with the University, the Christie Hospital and CRUK as well as solicitors, loss adjusters and insurers. Within four months they had helped to relocate 80 staff.

They communicated effectively with staff and beyond about progress being made – something particularly important to those who were distressed.

Later on, efforts moved to managing the logistics of the move to Alderley Park – identifying space and instigating complex negotiations, as well as justifying the modifications to the labs to fit the needs of those being relocated. All of this was managed with great sensitivity and dedication.

This 'ad hoc' team has worked exceptionally well in a unique set of circumstances; some of which were very testing.

## **Large Team: Global MBA Operations Team**

*Team members: Sharon Wilding, Michelle Morrison, Nikos Aspiotis, Karl Florczak, Dominic Rimmer, Rob Hoare, Emily Marner, Lauren Hodgson, Rob Dyson, Gavin Covington, Naila Hamid, Maria Serra, Kirsty Sheppard, Heike Holubek, Shad Hussain, Lois Eden, Clare Hunt, Andrew Mason, Geraldine McHugh, Kimberley Torrington*

The Global Masters of Business Administration (or MBA) team, headed by Sharon Wilding, has demonstrated a high level of professionalism and commitment to the Global MBA programme and other transnational education developments in the context of a very dynamic and uncertain environment.

The team has provided an excellent level of support to students and academics while a new Global MBA is being rolled out and an old one is being phased out. The scale of the Global MBA programme, with over 2,000 active students and operations all over the world, would alone make the tasks of successfully transitioning to the new programme worthy of high praise.

However, these have been combined with new responsibilities that include the takeover of direct student support from international centres and the support of new transnational education programmes such as the MSc in International Healthcare Management. The Global MBA operations team have carried out all these responsibilities while supporting the pilot roll out of the new Student Lifecycle project, managing the transition of the move of University of Manchester Worldwide outside of the Business School, and supporting a new MBA directors' team.

In spite of all these new responsibilities and added pressures, the team has shown tremendous resilience and each member has worked incredibly hard. Importantly, as a team they have remained positive and pro-active throughout.

## **Individual Winners**

### **Nikita Gill, Curatorial Assistant, Whitworth Art Gallery**

Since starting work at the Whitworth Art Gallery over four years ago, Nikita Gill has proved herself to be exceptional in many ways.

She works tirelessly across the organisation; in the shop; with the curators and with the volunteers to support others and to learn as much as possible.

She is also undertaking a part-time, self-funded MA in Art Gallery and Museum Studies.

In recent months she has used her experience and initiative to develop projects far beyond their original scope.

An example of this would be a straightforward scanning project using works from the gallery's collection, which Nikita developed with volunteers to explore new methods of interpretation and widening access.

Another example would be the giving of her time to a local, major arts project, *Excavating the Reno*, where she volunteered her own time to contribute to the professional curatorial recording of the excavated objects.

In summary, Nikita distinguishes herself in every dealing she has with colleagues, visitors, students and our local communities and is an asset to both the University and the Whitworth.

### **Millie Loxton, Volunteering and Community Engagement Executive, DSE**

Millie Loxton is described as being an exceptional member of the Volunteering Team within the Division of Student Development and Community Engagement.

Millie has boundless energy and enthusiasm and a real talent for breaking down boundaries and communicating fully to achieve outstanding organisational benefits.

She manages the annual Volunteering and Social Justice Fair and demonstrates great skill in managing the complex logistics of the event involving liaison with the Students' Union, internal partners and external organisations. Feedback from organisations is always excellent and appreciation for Millie's personal touch is often noted.

Millie's drive and energy in leading on volunteering work relating to homelessness is exemplary. Her ability to understand the needs of both students and community partners means she is able to facilitate incredibly successful relationships.

To sum up, Millie demonstrates a great talent for creating and maintaining a positive, open and respectful working environment where people work cooperatively together. Her support is much valued by everyone that she works with.

### **Tania Smith, Admissions Manager, Masters and Undergraduate Programmes, AMBS**

Tania Smith is the Admissions Manager for Masters and Undergraduate Programmes in the Alliance Manchester Business School.

Tania has led on two major projects over recent times.

The first one was to increase the diversity of nationalities of the students admitted to the School's MSc programmes. This has been a great success – so much so that the measures implemented have been held up as best practice for other Schools to follow.

The other relates to a range of undergraduate initiatives that focus on improving degree attainment in her School. The expertise she has built up in this area has been recognised at University level by her joining its Differential Attainment Working Group.

These were both undertaken while she continued to execute her regular duties as an Admissions Manager.

### **Winner: Genevieve Pridham, Research Governance, Ethics and Integrity Officer, RBESS (*conferment deferred from 2017*)**

Genevieve Pridham is a Research Governance, Ethics and Integrity Officer who has a record for delivering an outstanding service managing the University's ethical review processes, including implementing an on-line ethical review system and monthly ethics workshops.

Genevieve knows how to build relationships quickly and gains respect by ensuring everyone's needs are met and any conflicts resolved amicably. She is the most generous team player and recognises the importance of effective communication. She always does that bit extra, taking account of people's different needs and requirements. She strives to improve efficiency and lighten the load on others.

Her generosity extends beyond work as she is also a keen charity fund raiser– in 2016-17 she raised over £700 for the Wood Street Mission and Manchester Food Bank.

## Researchers of the Year 2018

The criteria against which nominations are judged state that:

“The nominee should be someone whose most recent research has successfully challenged dogma, created a new field of research, elucidated a new paradigm, made a fundamental change in thinking or impacted significantly on society.”

### **Professor Jorgen Vestbo, School of Biological Sciences, FBMH**

Professor Jorgen Vestbo is a world leading Professor of Respiratory Medicine who has improved the lives of patients with Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease, a common and debilitating long term condition.

Professor Vestbo is the Respiratory theme lead for the National Institute for Health Research (or NIHR) Manchester Biomedical Research Centre and Respiratory lead for the NIHR Clinical Research Network for Greater Manchester. He is also immediate past president of the European Respiratory Society

Jorgen’s research has shone a light on both the causes and patterns of disease. He has led many studies of new treatments for this condition to improve the quality of life for patients, and developed international guidelines to improve quality of care.

His important research is published in the highest impact journals. He has worked with the pharmaceutical industry to deliver the ‘real world’ Salford Lung Study, bringing an innovative study design which capitalised on electronic patient records, and brought significant investment to the local healthcare economy.

### **Dr Sasha Handley, School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, FHUMS**

Dr Sasha Handley is based in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures and her main research area is Early Modern History.

Through her book *Sleep in Early Modern England* (2016), Dr Handley has established sleep as a new field of historical enquiry, and challenged us to view sleep as a cultural as much as an environmental or biological phenomenon.

The academic impact of the book is evident in nominations for the Longman-History Today History Book Prize, 2017 and the prestigious Wolfson History Prize, 2017.

Dr Handley has also successfully communicated her findings on this subject of profound human interest far beyond academia.

**Professor Barry Lennox, School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, FSE**

Professor Barry Lennox is Professor of Applied Control in the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Research Director of the Dalton Cumbrian Facility.

Barry was nominated for this award for his sustained innovation and the impact of his research in applied Robotics.

He has developed a research group which has global reach focusing, in particular, on industrial applications. This includes in hostile environments such as nuclear decommissioning, including at Sellafield in the UK and the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in Japan.

Barry has also developed several acoustic techniques, now being used across the world, for the inspection of heat exchangers and gas distribution networks.

He is described by his colleagues as selfless in the ways in which he shares the challenges, opportunities and successes of his research.

### **Postgraduate Research Students of the Year 2017**

The criteria against which their nominations were judged state:

“The nominee should be an outstanding research student who has excelled in some significant manner, for example, after the presentation of a thesis based on the recommendation and judgment of the external examiner; or has had a major research achievement during a PGR programme –e.g. high quality journal publications; research spin off, etc.”

#### **Dr Jamie Ellingford, School of Health Sciences, FBMH**

Dr Jamie Ellingford is described as having been an outstanding PhD student. Jamie’s research focused on analytical strategies to detect and interpret genetic variation from high-throughput DNA sequencing, using inherited retinal diseases as model disorders.

During his PhD, he published thirteen original research papers in internationally leading journals including The Lancet, five as first author.

Jamie also made a substantial contribution to teaching and educating. He taught on three Masters programmes and a Massive Open Online Course (or MOOC) with over 10,000 people registered worldwide.

Jamie is also an excellent collaborator with infectious enthusiasm. His creativity and innovation throughout his PhD led to an increase in molecular diagnosis for a range of eye disorders, directly benefitting patients.

Jamie has now been awarded a prestigious Health Education England Genomics Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.

#### **Cecilia Alda Vidal, School of Environment, Education and Development, FHUMS**

Cecilia Alda Vidal’s PhD research focuses on the everyday life of urban sanitation systems in Lilongwe, Malawi.

The project seeks to understand how inequalities in access to sanitary infrastructures are produced and the impact of those inequalities on the day-to-day sanitation and hygiene routines of the residents of Lilongwe’s Low Income Areas.

Cecilia has had a number of major research achievements in the first year of her PhD publishing two first authored papers in Urban Geography and in Gender, Place and Culture; two co-authored pieces including an article in Environment and Urbanization, and one book chapter.

She has also won a Regional Studies Award Travel Grant and was nominated and successful in gaining a Fellowship in the International WaTERS Network which recognises her emerging contribution for her work on water in the Global South.

**Dr Salma Kassem, School of Chemistry, FSE**

Dr Salma Kassem undertook her PhD in the School of Chemistry.

During her PhD, Salma designed, made and published the first examples of small-molecule robotics: that is programmable molecular machines that mechanically manipulate molecules to produce different outcomes.

Her first-author 2016 Nature Chemistry paper was selected as one of the 'Chemistry Highlights of 2016' by the Royal Society of Chemistry and discussed in the report of the 2016 Chemistry Nobel Prize Committee.

Her first-author 2017 Nature paper was described by other scientists in the same issue of Nature as 'Science fiction becomes fact'. Building directly on Salma's work, The University of Manchester was recently awarded a £5.3M Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (or EPSRC) grant for 'Molecular Robotics'.

Salma is described as being a conscientious, determined and hard-working individual who has demonstrated a truly exceptional level of expertise and initiative in her research at every stage.

## Undergraduate Students of the Year 2018

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.”

### **Kerri-Anne Folkard, School of Health Sciences, FBMH**

Kerri-Anne Folkard has recently graduated from her Nursing programme.

While studying, Kerri-Anne was responsible for launching and delivering a toolkit for mentors in practice to support students with mental health difficulties. This has since been implemented by Practice Education Team.

Kerri-Anne also represented the student body in practice areas within the Manchester Foundation Trust (or MFT) giving feedback on clinical placement issues. She was a dementia champion and also a Student Quality Ambassador advising the MFT on student-led improvements. She has also led on developing a professional workshop on working with transgender staff.

Kerri-Anne received the inaugural MFT Excellent Student Award in 2017 in recognition of her contribution to the organisation. She also won her Division of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work Inspirational Student of Year Award for 2017, voted for by her peers and teaching staff.

### **Katherine Blumer, School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, FHUMS**

Katherine Blumer has achieved outstanding academic results as a student on the prestigious Joint Music course at the University and the Royal Northern College of Music, producing an exceptionally accomplished dissertation which will have lasting benefits for her peers as it focuses on the use of mindfulness meditation to address music performance anxiety.

Katherine has also made a major contribution to musical performances at the University, including as a concerto soloist.

She has been an exemplary ambassador for the University as co-leader of the Music Society’s Outreach Team and through her leadership of the Klezmer ensemble, organising and participating in major events for local schoolchildren, hospital patients, groups of elderly people, and members of Manchester’s Jewish community.

Katherine has combined all of this with being an outstanding mentor for fellow student volunteers.



## **Mark Chong, School of Chemical Engineering & Analytical Science, FSE**

Mark Chong has just completed his MEng in Chemical Engineering.

Over the course of Mark's university life, he has actively participated in a wide range of extracurricular activities aimed to enhance the university experience for himself, his peers, and the wider community in general. Coupled with an excellent academic record, Mark is an outstanding example of a student giving an exceptional contribution to the life of the University

Mark has volunteered extensively. He was both a Peer Assisted Study Sessions leader and an ambassador for his School at its open days.

He was also part of the University's Sport Volunteer Scheme, working with volunteers from different backgrounds, including those with disabilities.

In addition Mark was the logistics and volunteer coordinator for the Frank Morton Sports Day 2016. The event was organised in Manchester and managed to attract 3000 chemical engineering students from around the UK. Due to the large number of participants and details put into the event organisation, the event was awarded society event of the year in 2016 by the Manchester Student Union.

He was also a Public Health Brigade Volunteer for the University, a role which saw him visit Nicaragua with the aim of promoting the importance of personal hygiene within rural communities.

## Teachers of the Year 2018

Nominations were judged against the following criteria:

“The nominee should be an individual whose teaching over the past year has been outstanding. He or she should demonstrate an ability to communicate ideas effectively, be able to motivate and stimulate students to learn, whilst at the same time showing a commitment to innovation and excellence in education.”

### **Dr Senathirajah (Raj) Ariyaratnam, School of Health Sciences, FBMH**

Dr Raj Ariyaratnam is Clinical Academic Lead for Oral Medicine teaching in Dentistry, the Examination Lead for Oral Diseases; International Lead for a CPD programme in Sri Lanka and the Lead for the Global Online Learning Forum (GOLF)

In spite of becoming a lecturer 35 years ago, Raj continues to show active interest in the development of approaches to teaching that influence and inspire students to learn.

He developed a student-led clinical Case Base teaching model which was very well received by students and commended as excellent by his peers. He was invited to present this model at a European meeting last year and other universities are already showing interest.

Experience in organising international CPD programmes helped him to pioneer the Global Online Learning Forum to share knowledge and skills with global partners, particularly those from low and middle income countries.

His leadership in global volunteering demonstrates his exceptional commitment to service Learning – that is combining learning goals and community service in ways that can enhance both student growth and the common good.

### **Dr Kevin Gillan, School of Social Sciences, FHUMS**

Dr Kevin Gillan is a senior lecturer in Sociology.

Kevin has created an innovative, popular new course that encourages and enables students to participate in informed public debate on some of the key challenges facing the world today.

A new blog, [Global Social Challenges](#) showcases our students' work as they apply their developing sociological knowledge and skills to (among other things) deconstruct the 'migrant crisis', explore responses to climate change, scrutinise narratives of radicalisation or trace the impacts of ageing societies.

First year students were challenged to act as 'public sociologists': translating their social scientific knowledge into punchy, readable blog posts that never lost sight of the role of evidence and logical argument. They rose to the challenge, publishing 70 posts over two months, and gaining 3,000 readers.

Beyond this project, Kevin's teaching is consistently rated as excellent with many students noting his clarity of communication and enthusiasm as strong points. He also convenes Sociology's Pre-University Course, delivered to college students from deprived backgrounds, and has run a Sociology

Inclusivity Forum in which students from 'non-traditional' backgrounds discussed particular barriers to teaching and learning they faced at University.

**Dr Paul Nutter, School of Computer Science, FSE**

Dr Paul Nutter is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Computer Science.

Paul is described as being an exemplary motivational teacher who innovates in his delivery. For example, he encourages interactivity in his lectures with the use of clickers via a phone app.

He is also innovative in the way that he assesses, having developed a novel automated marking process for laboratory work.

Paul leads two undergraduate courses which achieve, year-on-year, outstandingly high student ratings which are consistently well above the School average.

Paul is very popular with his students not least because he spends significant time helping them on a one-to-one basis. He also injects both fun and humour where he can which can be great aids to learning.

He genuinely cares about what he does, engaging with his students and taking time to give them quality feedback and also to take into account their feedback on him.