**2020 Distinguished Achievement Awards**

**Citations for the Professional Services and Cultural Institutions of the Year**

**University College for Interdisciplinary Learning (UCIL) Course Development Team -**  **Small team winner**

*Team members: Nick Savage, Stephen Miller, Sam Hemsley, Sian Yeowell, Angela Crolla, Joanne Walls, Gail Bradbury*

The University College for Interdisciplinary Learning (or UCIL) Course Development Team broke new ground with the development of Creating a Sustainable World, a truly interdisciplinary unit that uses the Sustainable Development Goals as a lens through which to examine the challenge of Sustainable Development.

The team worked flexibly and collaboratively to develop this course unit which has helped UCIL achieve its aim of providing students with engaging, innovative courses that take them beyond the boundaries of their degree programme and into spaces where they work with others who think differently to them, to create new knowledge and understanding in the face of some of the most pressing challenges of the 21st century.

**Winner: Fallowfield Residences Project (Unsworth Park) – Post Carillion Recovery Strategy - Large team winner**

*Team members: Steve Jordan, Russell Dyson, Tim McKenzie, Simon Merrywest, Helen McGlashan, Paul Uncles, Steve Dauncey, Chris Trask, Simon Ross, Diana Hampson, Chris Petty, Sandra Milne, Martin Blake , James Crawley.*

In 2017 the University appointed Carillion as main contractor for the £90m construction of phase 1 of the residential masterplan (Unsworth Park). This was an important project to provide over 1000 high quality en-suite study bedrooms. The scheme was due to be completed in time to accommodate students for the September 2019 .

Despite rigorous due diligence of Carillion’s financial status prior to the University entering into contract, it was catastrophic news when it was announced in January 2018 that the Carillion Group had been placed into liquidation.

An Emergency Steering Group was established to determine the key priorities for the project team. Senior representation was provided from several Professional Services Directorates, namely Estates and Facilities, Student Experience, Finance, and Legal Affairs.

Within days a number of recovery options were identified with the objective of restabilising the project as soon as possible and reducing any additional cost or risk the University. Within only six weeks Vinci Construction UK was appointed to develop a recovery plan to get the project back up and running. The works were completed on time, within budget and in line with the agreed high quality standards.

The fact that the project was re-started so quickly is testament to how colleagues across various Directorates came together to develop a practical, legally compliant and affordable strategy to re-launch the project in extremely short timescales. A pro-active, flexible approach, whilst remaining within best practice protocols and governance processes, avoided serious financial and reputational damage and ensured students could be accommodated as we had originally envisaged.

**Tracie McArthur, Faculty of Science and Engineering – individual winner**

Tracie McArthur is the Teaching & Learning (T&L) Manager in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science (CEAS), part of the relatively new School of Engineering which was created following the restructuring of the Faculty of Science and Engineering.

In spite of the inevitable challenges arising from the restructure, Tracie is described as having been outstanding in embracing the changes across academic and Professional Services structures and has demonstrated absolute commitment to and support for the alignment of teaching and learning processes from across what was four Schools.

She is a highly engaged, bold and dedicated, as well as incredibly supportive to more junior T&L Managers in the new team.

Always willing to step up, Tracie shows great flexibility in her approach, sharing her views in an open and constructive way, and seeking to find the best solutions not only for her department and School, but also for the wider University.

Tracie is considered a stand-out colleague in terms of promoting wider PS values.

# **Sarah Williams, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health – individual winner**

Sarah Williams is the Faculty Development Manager in the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health. Sarah provides strategic direction for teaching and learning initiatives in the Faculty and manages the Professional Services team in the [Centre for Academic and Researcher Development ( or CARD)](https://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/card/).

Sarah is described as being an exceptional line manager and member of Professional Services who takes immense pride in her own work and that produced by her team. In her own case this is evidenced by the high standards she constantly achieves. An example of this is the way in which she designed and delivered a Faculty Peer Review process enabling 180 staff to receive a peer review of their teaching.

She also implemented a Faculty mentoring programme for academics and researchers which supported 100 colleagues in its first year.

She extends this proactive approach to her line management responsibilities, enabling the team to work more strategically and productively. She routinely ensures that all team members’ objectives are aligned with her Faculty’s and the University’s strategy and vision and has also empowered staff to share their objectives ensuring that they are working collaboratively and towards the same goals.

**Neil Sprunt, Library – individual winner**

Neil Sprunt is the Teaching and Learning Librarian in the Library.

Following an audit by the Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) in 2012, Neil was tasked with developing a new Copyright Guidance Service for the University.

Despite the fact that his knowledge of copyright was extremely limited, Neil rose to the challenge, quickly getting to grips with an incredibly complex subject area.

Seven years later, Neil has established a successful and highly used service, and is also a respected expert in this field, both within the University and at a national level within Higher Education. He now sits on the Universities UK /Guild HE Higher Education Copyright Negotiating and Advisory Committee (CNAC) which negotiates the price of licences on behalf of the Higher Education (HE) sector, including the very licence (CLA) which led to his involvement in copyright in the first place.

Neil has been commended for his CNAC work in a letter from Alistair Jarvis (Chief Executive of UUK) to the President and Vice-Chancellor and Registrar, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer.