

## 2021 Distinguished Achievement Awards Teachers of the Year

### **Dr Ben Chapman, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health**

Dr Ben Chapman has been described as an academic who demonstrates a passion and commitment to excellent and innovative teaching whilst nurturing a supportive and entertaining environment for students to thrive. His skill as an educator and inspiring communicator, along with the high admiration in which his teaching is held by large numbers of students, cannot be questioned.

He has established a number of innovative ideas all of which demonstrate his ability to motivate and stimulate students. He started a seminar series and a weekly online newsletter for Zoology students. He recruited a team of students to co-write Zoonews and it has also been launched on Twitter. This has built a real sense of community within the Zoology programme.

Ben started 'Cup of Tea with the PD' Zoom sessions for 3<sup>rd</sup> year Zoology students during Lockdown where students can discuss any issues they might have with their learning. When it was clear that field courses would all be online last year, Ben arranged a series of one-off Covid-secure outdoor field activities at the end of September ensuring students would not miss out on this crucial experience due to Covid.

Ben is regarded as one of the Faculty's teaching stars and highly esteemed by staff and students alike.

### **Dr Reka Solymosi, Faculty of Humanities**

Dr Reka Solymosi is a lecturer in Quantitative Methods in the Criminology Department and has been described as an open educational practitioner who uses innovative methods to make statistics and data analysis appealing, friendly and fun to social science students. Reka is well known for being an enthusiastic, energetic and creative teacher. She is committed to developing the student body and enhancing their experience and shares her teaching expertise and innovation widely.

Reka is regarded as a highly knowledgeable, dedicated and invaluable colleague by her peers. She has been a passionate champion to improve the collaborative

atmosphere and research culture not only within the Criminology department but across the University.

She is also held in the same high regard by her students which is evident through the quality feedback of the units she teaches. She provides her students with patient and passionate individual support going above and beyond normal expectations.

Reka has been described by her referees as a breath of fresh air; and as one of the kindest, passionate and most knowledgeable teachers they have I have ever been taught by.

### **Dr Percy Van der Gryp, Faculty of Science and Engineering**

Dr Percy Van der Gryp has a clear passion for chemical engineering through his teaching, which is evident through his enthusiasm and inspiring commitment for high quality engaging teaching resources and support to students.

Percy's overall teaching and learning impact is exemplary this year. As the Deputy UG Programme Director, he led the re-designing of the CEAS academic advising resources and support for blended learning.

He was part of the department's blended learning help sessions where he was one of the key speakers – his Blackboard setup became the template for the department's courses. He also helped several staff members in developing their own Blackboard content for their units. In his own units, students also highlighted his student friendly and interactive teaching resources.

Students find Percy's teaching method very helpful, supportive and inspirational. They praise him for his eloquent way and patience in explaining concepts several times over and over, and also the way he really wants to help them and giving critical detail supportive feedback on assignments.

He has been described by his students as engaging, kind and always available.