

## **2021 Distinguished Achievement Awards Undergraduates of the Year**

### **Dukula De Alwis Jayasinghe, Faculty of Science and Engineering**

Dukula De Alwis Jayasinghe is in his final year of his BSc Chemistry degree in the Faculty of Science and Engineering.

Dukula is an academically outstanding student, with an exceptional average mark of 89% and who has received 13 awards in the last three years recognising both academic achievements and collegiality. These include UoM International Academic Excellence Scholarship, British Petroleum Achievement Award and awards for the best student in his year for each year of study.

Dukula is equally prolific with his voluntary work. He is a multi-award-winning PASS leader, providing learning and pastoral support to student groups that go above and beyond his role, such as producing the first online PASS course, complementing the entire first year UG Chemistry course with additional quizzes, activities and alternative learning material. Dukula has also helped staff in converting traditional lab experiments to online versions, helped with the recruitment and retention of students and promoted Manchester externally.

Dukula has been described as a born leader and one who has gone far above and beyond what could be reasonably expected by even the most diligent of students. His fellow students have been vocal in their praise of his efforts to enhance their student experience.

### **Kundai Gomwe, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health**

Kundai Gomwe is in her fourth and final year of her Master of Pharmacy course in the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health.

As an exceptional member and leader of the Black Pharmacists Collective, Kundai is passionate about Black representation in pharmacy. She has been published in the Pharmaceutical Journal and was the student winner of the University's Making a Difference Award for Outstanding Contribution to Widening Participation 2020. Other successes include being sponsored to represent the Division of Pharmacy and Optometry at a national Westminster Briefing conference on improving BAME student outcomes, developing a

student mentorship programme linking current students with Black professionals across the sector and working with the University's central WP and admissions team to promote Black History Month and Trail in socio-economically deprived schools across Manchester.

Kundai has also been involved in other student experience activities, such as assisting with the Pharmacy in Primary Schools WP programme and offering peer support to fellow students on the MPharm course. This is all coupled with excellent academic success as her marks are consistently in the first-class category.

Kundai has demonstrated that she is someone who cares greatly about making a difference and has shown outstanding dedication, commitment and desire to promote higher education for all.

### **Marcell Mapp, Faculty of Humanities**

Marcell Mapp is in his third year of his BSc International Disaster Management and Humanitarian Response course in the Faculty of Humanities.

Through his involvement with the Black Lives Matter movement, Marcell was invited to work with the Diversity and Inclusion Department of his local police force to consult on their Stop and Search and Use of Force policies which has resulted in the creation of a scrutiny panel overseen by members of the community. Further, Marcell was asked to consult with his local city council's Ethnic Minority Achievement Service to develop their school curriculum.

Marcell has incorporated his experiences into an anti-racism seminar for staff and students at the Humanitarian Conflict Response Institute (HCRI). This seminar started the academic debate within the department on anti-racism in academia and decolonising the curriculum. In addition, Marcell is one of ten students who have been involved in the development of a new programme in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures (SALC) and has contributed to the department as a student representative and ambassador, working tirelessly over the past year to co-ordinate student voices at the University.

Marcell has demonstrated a commitment to improving the lives of others, but in particular improving the experiences of his peers on his degree programme and enhancing the diversity of the University's curriculum.