

# Student Teaching Awards



**EVENT  
PROGRAMME**

## **Hello and welcome to the Student Teaching Awards 2022!**

This is the first time the event has been back in person since 2019 and it has been the highlight of my time in office to oversee organising tonight. It is a night to celebrate the amazing teaching staff, student reps, support staff and everyone who makes learning and teaching at our University so great. As ever, there was tough competition across the nominations – so congratulations for being shortlisted – it is a real testament to the work you do for students every day.

As teaching for most undergraduate students draws to a close this week, it is fair to say this year has been unique in the return to campus. It has certainly created some challenges in how we deliver learning and teaching. It is brilliant to see so many different people from across our University community face these head on and deliver excellent standards of education. This is down to not only talent and expertise, but also effort that goes above and beyond for our students. This effort is reflected across every college in the University and across every cohort of students.

I really hope you enjoy tonight just as much as I enjoyed organising it. You'll hear about some fantastic work that is going on at our institution and have the opportunity to take a step back to celebrate all that you have done for our students this year.



Mia Clarke

**Vice President Education**

**Glasgow University Students' Representative Council**

## SCHEDULE

**19:00 – 19:30**

**- Arrival and Drinks Reception -**

**19:30 – 20:20**

**- Introduction to the Evening and First Half of the Awards -**

Best Practise in Online Learning

presented by Grace Cleasby

Best College Teacher Arts

presented by Emma Lindquist

Best College Teacher CoSS

presented by Catriona Thornton

Best College Teacher CoSE

presented by Jamie McKay

Best College Teacher MVLS

presented by Amandeep Kainth

Best Support Staff

presented by Michalis Stravou

Best Dissertation Supervisor

presented by Elizabeth Barre

**20:20 – 20:40**

**- Interval -**

**20:40 – 21:20**

**- Second Half of the Awards -**

Best Student Representative

presented by Ella McCabe

Best Graduate Teaching Assistant

presented by Kevin Leomo

Best Research Supervisor

presented by Katie Fish

Best Advisor of Studies

presented by Hailie Pentleton

Best Feedback

presented by Abi Whelan

Highly Innovative Teaching

presented by Micaela Levesque

Outstanding Contribution to Teaching

presented by Mia Clarke

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## **Best Practise in Online Learning**

presented by Grace Cleasby

This award considers teaching staff from across the University who have been nominated for their outstanding work in online learning. As we move from fully online to a blended model of teaching, online learning has never been more important for students to engage with. The shortlist in this category is Professor Graham Woan, Dr Smita Odedra, Dr Ourania Varsou, Dr Jeremy Law and Dr Angela McDonald.

### **Prof. Graham Woan**

Professor Graham Woan is up first on the shortlist. His students told us how other lecturers should learn from his approach. His 'while you wait' intro is a simulation of two coalescing black holes which combine at the moment of the lecture start. While that's going on and students are joining he greets and chats to the students over zoom chat. With his lectures being live on zoom and Microsoft stream, his transitions and use of the technology available are seamless and clearly very well practiced.

### **Dr Smita Odedra**

Our next nominee is Dr Smita Odedra. Students told us how Dr Odedra reinvented the way online lectures take place using new software to make it run better for her students. Her lectures in physical chemistry actively promote active learning and have invigorated students to get engaged with their subject area.

### **Dr Ourania Varsou**

Our third nominee is Dr Ourania Varsou. Ourania has always provided various resources, especially last year when all our teaching was done online. From pinpointing specific dissection videos, 3D anatomical digital models, videos etc, there is always a wide variety of resources to support her main teaching. All of these students have found extremely beneficial when it came to online learning as anatomy is a subject in which the practical experience element is vital.

## **Dr Jeremy Law**

Our next nominee is Dr Jeremy Law. His online lectures are full of interesting content using various methods of technology; websites, SWAY documents, videos, which make the learning much more engaging. He realised that the content that students needed to cover this semester was intense and adapted his online content accordingly which has resulted in them having a high quality, engaging form of education despite the problems faced in online teaching.

## **Dr Angela McDonald**

Our final nominee is Dr Angela McDonald. Her students told us how well her course is delivered, and that she has created a real sense of community in the class despite being taught online. Every session shows Angela's readiness to share her enthusiasm for the subject including, more unusually perhaps, her own on-going learning; an empathetic and unswervingly supportive approach that enables students to try out ideas in discussion.

# **Best College Teacher**

## **College of Arts**

presented by Emma Lindquist

The shortlisted staff in this category are Dr Robert Maslen from Critical Studies, Dr Don Spaeth from the school of Humanities, Dr Ernest Schonfeld from Modern Languages and Cultures, and Dr Alexandra Colta and Dr Dominic Paterson who are both from Culture and Creative Arts. Students told us how their individual attitudes to their subject and talent for teaching shine through in the teaching of their respected subjects.

### **Dr Dominic Paterson**

First on the shortlist is Dr Dominic Paterson. Students spoke about how his work as a curator in the Hunterian shines in his teaching, and provides external advice about careers in the arts. They spoke about how he creates a relaxed teaching atmosphere and helps students to stay engaged with his innovative, applicable teaching methods.

### **Dr Alexandra Colta**

Next up is Alexandra Colta. Alexandra stepped up last minute to help run a course which needed more support, with students noting that the transition was so seamless you would not have noticed. Students told us how she is friendly and approachable, and helped them understand not just the knowledge but academic practise in the subject.

### **Dr Robert Maslen**

Our third nominee is Robert Maslen. Robert was nominated for this award by a student who made them feel extremely welcome when they arrived in Glasgow. They mentioned how Robert organised a walk around the Kelvingrove park for inductions, telling stories about the University, to help new students learn more than just what the course was but also about where they were studying. One student described Robert's teaching as: "Doraemon's treasure chest, always giving me something new to learn and experience".

## **Dr Don Spaeth**

Next is Don Spaeth. Students said how Don has gone above and beyond as a course convenor for his students, both in a pedagogical sense but also in terms of student support. He is quick to solve problems, supplies anecdotes to keep students engaged, and has provided detailed feedback on formative assessment to help students gauge where they are in the course.

## **Dr Ernest Schonfield**

Ernest Schonfeld is the final nominee for this award. Students told us how clearly passionate he is about the German language, and how this passion brings his teaching to life. Students told us that “Ernest embodies everything that academia should be about”. One student even described him saying his “attitude and vibe is legendary, even when it is 9am grammar class on campus”.

## **Best College Teacher**

### **College of Social Sciences**

presented by **Catriona Thornton**

For this award, we have representation from the Adam Smith Business School, the School of Education and the School of Law. The shortlist in this category is Dr Mark Aleksanyan, Dr Alberto Ciancio, Dr Robert Doherty, Professor Jim Murdoch and Mr Desmond Timmons. Much like others nominated in the sister categories, these nominees are highly commended for their teaching in their respected subject areas.

### **Mr Desmond Timmons**

The first is Desmond Timmons. Students have said that he is only ever an email and zoom call away to help. His ability to explain how theory works in practice helps combine both the academic and practical element of the course he teaches in the School of Education. Des supports his students by building their confidence while challenging them to improve and strive for better practice in the education sector.

### **Prof Jim Murdoch**

Professor Jim Murdoch is the next nominee. He always strives to support his students as much as he can, and is always there to help anyone who is struggling showing a genuine interest in his students' academic performance and wellbeing. Jim has taken time out to meet with students, even teaching on his strike days, and regularly discusses issues students were facing with the learning material.

### **Dr Robert Doherty**

Our third nominee is Robert Doherty who was commended not just for his humour in the classroom, but also for his patience. He is noted to provide his students with detailed study materials and academic advice. He has always maintained his teaching enthusiasm, inclusivity and academic professionalism, with his international students saying he always makes them feel welcome and part of the class.



## **Dr Alberto Ciancio**

Our next nominee is Dr Alberto Ciancio. Alberto was nominated by his students for this award as he has provided consistently exceptional teaching and support for the Environmental Economics course. His delivery is clear and concise, he is always happy and supportive of any queries, and actively encourages engaging conversations in his classes both in person and online.

## **Dr Mark Aleksanyan**

Finally, we have Dr Mark Aleksanyan. Mark always ensures to have interesting readings before classes which encourages students autonomous learning and has shown to his students how great postgraduate learning can be. Students have loved the course Financial Analysis & Equity Valuation primarily because of him.

**Best College Teacher**  
**College of Science and Engineering**  
presented by Jamie McKay

Dr John Williams from Computer Science, Dr Amanda Owen from Geography and Earth Science, Dr Oliver Stoner from Maths and Stats, Dr Laia Vila-Nadal from Chemistry, and Dr Hossein Zare-Betash from Engineering are all shortlisted for this award. All are commended for their work in making Science and Engineering accessible and interesting to learn.

**Dr John Williamson**

The first nominee is John Williamson from Computer Science. Students nominated John for his excellent quality teaching material, both for lectures and computing labs, and his quick responses to student feedback. His structured lab work is designed to complement other materials, with one student saying, “John is the best computer science lecturer I have ever had”.

**Dr Amanda Owen**

Next up, from the school of Geography and Earth Science, is Amanda Owen. She has taught about environments and processes which students say they had never even thought about much before, and she explained each one with passion and precision. Students note how Amanda ensures her teaching is about more than just grades – and about making students passionate for sedimentology, going above and beyond for her students to make their learning experience both enjoyable and valuable.

## **Dr Oliver Stoner**

Oliver Stoner from Maths and Stats is the next nominee in this category. Oliver has spent a lot of time over the past year running Seminars, multiple focus sessions, different days for office hours and a lab in a week, every week, even when ill to ensure his students did not miss any essential learning experiences. A lot of students can struggle with Maths and Stats, but one nominee noted how Oliver makes the subject fun, easier to understand and interesting to learn.

## **Dr Hossein Zare-Behtash**

Next, we have Dr Hossein Zare-Behtash. Hossein's students mentioned how his teaching style and approach made waking up at 9am worth it as he clearly loves his students and his subject. It is noted how he approaches teaching with an open mind and sees students as partners in learning and is open to their suggestions in how to make learning engineering engaging. This adaptable approach to teaching is where Hossein stands out.

## **Dr Laia Vila-Nadal**

Known for her promotion of women in STEM, Dr Laia Vila-Nadal is the final nominee in this category. Laia teaches level one chemistry through to level five and is noted by her students for being extremely passionate about teaching in her subject area. She was nominated due to her commitment in inspiring young female identifying students to pursue the study of chemistry in the ongoing campaign to get more women in STEM, and sets a strong example for the scientists of tomorrow.

## **Best College Teacher**

### **College of MVLS**

presented by Amandeep Kainth

This category has shortlisted members of staff from the School of Psychology (Professor Niamh Stack and Dr Jude Stevenson) and the School of Life Sciences (Professor William Cushley, Professor Robert Nibbs and Dr Michelle Welsh) respectively. These nominees were all outlined by students to be top of their field not just in their pedagogical practise, but in creating an inclusive learning environment.

### **Professor Robert Nibbs**

The first nominee is Professor Robert Nibbs. Robert has provided 24/7 support and guidance for assessments. His open sessions are always very welcoming and very approachable. He has made learning easy going and very engaging. He provides as much feedback, and he is very organised. Students told us he always puts them first, and that there are no words to describe his top-quality work and banter!

### **Professor Niamh Stack**

Niamh has inspired her students with her passion for psychology, as well as her general demeanour has always been positive and compassionate and enthusiastic. She always goes above and beyond to tell students to take care of ourselves. She is incredibly engaging when improving our knowledge in the classroom, with one student telling us it's people like her that remind them why they chose to study Psychology.

### **Dr Michelle Welsh**

Michelle is extremely dedicated to her students, taking on responsibility as Level 4 Anatomy course coordinator to ensure that the students were not left without strong guidance and support. She regularly sets up zoom meetings with the class to ensure the students are all doing okay, both academically and pastorally.

## **Dr Jude Stevenson**

Jude is extremely approachable both in and outside of her office hours and it's obvious to her students that she absolutely adores her subject area and is incredibly successful in passing on that passion for the topic to her students. Her passion and excitement make students excited to learn.

## **Professor William Cushley**

Professor William Cushley wraps up this outstanding shortlist. Students told us how he cares for his subject. He gives multiple short breaks to help students avoid burnout and got students to email questions for him to answer anonymously as he knows some students struggle with the confidence to speak up in class, particularly with the move to online learning.

## **Best Support Staff**

presented by Michalis Stravou

Support staff refers to a non-academic member of university staff who provides support to students that goes above and beyond expectations. Staff nominated in this category were noted by students for being friendly, responding in a timely manner and providing excellent guidance. The shortlist for this award are Mrs Marnie Clark, Mr Kenny Roberts, Mr Matthew Weldon, Mr Andrew Phillips, and Miss Alison Ballantyne.

### **Mr Matthew Weldon**

Matthew Weldon is from the MVLS Digital Education Unit. Digital support provided by Matthew has transformed students experience of technology from awkward to being a useful educational tool. Matthew's support has increased both his students' confidence and competence. He has shown real adaptability in his teaching style to ensure it is always meaningful to each individual and that he is approachable, positive and friendly.

### **Miss Alison Ballantyne**

Alison has been tireless in particular with her efforts to resolve a financial issue that impacted two years of a student's studies affecting registration and enrolment. Her help and support to navigate the university systems was so valuable and took the stress out of the situation. A big thank you to Alison for your work with this student alongside all her other work supporting students when faced with financial difficulties.

### **Mr Andrew Phillips**

The next nominee is Andrew Phillips, who is support staff within electronics. He is extremely patient with students, and always treats every question asked with the utmost importance. He goes out of his way to help solve issues the student have with their projects, and does so with a smile. He also gives invaluable advice for the design of circuits!

## **Mr Kenny Roberts**

Kenny Roberts, who sadly can't be here tonight, is a key member of the geographical and earth sciences school. He has provided assistance to many students out-with the lab time and has helped his cohort with understanding the vast amount of technology and software that is required. Students told us he is a true credit to the University of Glasgow.

## **Mrs Marnie Clark**

Marnie, the CEES Undergraduate Course Administrator, gives useful advice on which kind of Good Cause to apply for, and is quick to process them. She is always very on top of things and is one of the quickest staff members in responding to queries or processing paperwork. Sometimes a friendly email, a word of encouragement, or a quick reply can really make a lot of difference to stressed or struggling students and Marnie has this to so many students in CEES.

# Best Dissertation Supervisor

presented by Elizabeth Barre

For many students, their dissertation or final year project will be the largest independent project they have ever undertaken. This award celebrates the incredible work of supervisors who have provided exceptional guidance and helped to build student enthusiasm for their subject. Professor Kathleen Riach, Dr Peter Keenan, Dr Akhil Kallepalli, Dr Rhian Thomas and Dr Martin MacGregor were all shortlisted for this award.

## Dr Akhil Kallepalli

Akhil meets his students to discuss their projects and tailor it to compliment their own life goals. During projects, Akhil provided desk space in his office alongside other members of the optics group. This meant he was on hand to help and gave students a chance to network with other researchers. Students' have been known to work there every day, including some weekends, and feel for the first time in their degree part of the physics community at UofG..

## Professor Kathleen Riach

So many students at the University, particularly her dissertation students, are inspired by Kathleen's teaching and supervision in Equality and Diversity. Our own VP Education, Mia, was inspired by her teaching and now has taken on a lot of work in equality and diversity during her role this year as a result. Kathleen's course has also inspired so many to go on to pursue EDI dissertations, helping other students to further the cause for social justice through undergraduate research. She is helpful, kind, and a supportive listening ear to the students she supervises.



## **Dr Peter Keenan**

From the business school, we have Dr Peter Keenan. He is committed to building student enthusiasm and motivating them to reach my highest potential. He creates schedules of meetings for students and encourages them to prepare a plan of reaching milestones. Dr Keenan suggests interesting readings or documentaries, as well as answering queries for his classes punctually. He encourages independent thinking to a large extent to help students development in their academic careers.

## **Dr Martin MacGregor**

From the school of humanities, we have Dr Martin MacGregor. His teaching encourages students to pursue a dissertation in his research field. He takes time out to hear what his students have been working on and offers advice about potential next steps in their academic and professional careers. Dr MacGregor's practices leave his students feeling reassured and confident in their work.

## **Dr Rhian Thomas**

From geographical and earth science, Dr Rhian Thomas is to be commended for her work in building her students' confidence and supporting them to undertake undergraduate level research. Rhi is unbelievably supportive of the students she supervises, and is not only incredibly knowledgeable, but is known for being an encouraging, approachable person when providing dissertation support.

## **Best Student Representative** presented by Ella McCabe

Unlike the other categories which were selected by the student committee that oversee the shortlisting process, the shortlist and winner of Best Student Representative is chosen solely by the VP Education. All those shortlisted have gone above and beyond their remit to enact positive change at the University and maintain strong dialogue between the SRC and the students they represent. Michalis Stravou, Rinna Vare, Elizabeth Barre, Tiegan Meadows and Hanne Kleinhans Krogsaeter are all considered for this award.

### **Elizabeth Barre**

Elizabeth barre is the next nominee. Elizabeth has always been keen to work with the vice president education at a grassroots level in decolonising the curriculum in the school of geography and earth science, organising meetings with staff and students to pursue these changes. She maintains an excellent dialogue with the students she represents through group chats, and always put herself forward to sacrifice her time for the good of the student experience.

### **Rinna Väre**

Rinna has worked incredibly hard this year on international women's week, and in other gender equality events in her role as Gender Equality Officer this year. For the first time in 10 years, no current Vice President wished to run for SRC President, and so Rinna stepped up to put herself forward to run and was successful in her elections. This is a testament to her strengths as a student representative and the support there is for her by the student body.

## **Hanne Kleinhans Krogsaeter**

Sadly, Hanne Kleinhans Krogsaeter, the final nominee, cannot be here tonight because she is away hosting a social event for Life Science students. This is a perfect example of how Hanne has worked to improve the student experience of Life Science students this year. Her work as a senior representative on CIVIS is to be commended, alongside her enthusiasm for the SRC in many facets.

## **Michalis Stavrou**

Michalis has been instrumental in maintaining an excellent dialogue between staff and students in the school of Maths and Stats and is to be commended for his work in representing student interests as we moved to a model of blended learning.

## **Tiegan Meadows**

Much like Elizabeth, Tiegan is a vocal voice on Council and has worked hard this year to improve the school of Critical Studies, both from a Decolonising perspective working with staff but also from a social perspective, taking on a lot of work to organise this year's Arts Ball. Without her drive and organisation, this event which hundreds of College of Arts students attended, would not have happened.

# Best Graduate Teaching Assistant

## presented by Kevin Leomo

Graduate Teaching Assistants form a fundamental part of the learning experience of so many of the students here at the University. This award aims to give high commendation to GTAs that inspire students to study beyond the classroom. Coming from a variety of subject areas, the shortlisted nominees in this category are Zoltan Kiss, Vanessa Cook, Rebecca Lai, Michael Scanlan and Carlota Vazquez Gatnau.

### **Mr Michael Scanlan**

Students have described Michael Scanlan's teaching style as "infectious" in their energy, and that he has a real knack for breaking the notorious awkwardness that can happen during Zoom classes. The classes were attended by first year politics students all over the world, and I'm glad to say that Michael is representative of a lot of what makes Glasgow great: friendly, engaging, full of history and good humour.

### **Mr Zoltan Kiss**

Zoltan, who is also a rep for the SRC, was nominated by his computer science students. Students said how Zoltan is always helpful and patient and does a lot of work explaining tasks fully to students so they understand the work they need to do. Zoltan is also active in supporting students out with class time, via email and on the Computing Science discord server.

### **Ms Vanessa Cook**

Vanessa Cook is a GTA in ESH, which is a subject which requires a lot of discussion. Vanessa encourages this by giving prompts without forcing people to talk, instead actively encouraging organic discussion. She personally supports her students, both in and out of class, and encourages students during their studying and do their best during particularly difficult and stressful periods around exams and deadlines.

## **Ms Rebecca Lai**

Rebecca Lai is our next nominee, who is here tonight with one of her students who nominated her. Rebecca has hosted weekly sessions for her students, where there is coursework help, pep talks when things are going hard, a listening ear when needed as well as feedback after the marking of essays to help provide students with the tools to improve their academic work.

## **Ms Carlota Vazquez Gatnau**

Carlota is a fantastic and supportive graduate teaching assistant in Spanish. She always comes to class enthusiastic and brightens the mood in every session. She goes above and beyond to help with extra practice assignments, gives helpful and relevant feedback and creates a comfortable and welcoming learning environment.

## **Best Research Supervisor** presented by Katie Fish

The undertaking of a PhD, MRes or MSc by Research is underpinned by the guidance of a student's supervisor team. This award considers those who inspired students to take their research in new directions, provide support and guidance, and inspired students in their respective areas. Dr Naomi Richards and Dr Marian Krawczyk, Dr Sergiu Gherghina, Dr Scott Hurrell and Professor Jillian Gordon, Dr Neil McDonnell, and Dr Andrea Cammarando are all considered for this award either as a supervisor team or primary supervisor.

### **Dr Scott Hurrell** **Professor Jillian Gordon**

Our first nominees on this shortlist are Dr Scott Hurrell and Professor Jillian Gordon. Their PhD student nominated them for encouraging them to "think outside the box" in research and working together as an academic team to support their PhD student in their respective field.

### **Dr Naomi Richards** **Dr Marian Krawczyk**

Our second team on the shortlist in this category is Dr. Naomi Richards and Dr. Marian Krawczyk. They both arranged a 'boot camp' for the PhD student whereby they found a way of working in research which worked well for a student. Their partnership as supervisors is to be commended for how it has aided their students research.

### **Dr Neil McDonnell**

Neil has been noted for his pioneering approach to being a supervisor; and has managed to create the most supportive, stimulating and inspirational research environment for his students as possible. When morale is low, he makes a concerted effort to work with his students to improve it.

## **Dr Andrea Cammarano**

Andrea is an exceptional and passionate researcher as well as attentive supervisor. He always makes sure we have time to discuss anything that I am facing with my research at any moment. He listens to my ideas and always provides constructive feedback. He becomes a mentor for his PhD students.

## **Dr Sergiu Gherghina**

Finally, we have Sergiu Gherghina. He is always providing great examples and support, and he is always providing relevant content. He is described as really inspiring, always making time for his students. He encourages students to publish and provides feedback on abstracts. He understands his students backgrounds and utilises this in his supervision.

## **Best Advisor of Studies**

presented by Hailie Pentleton

Advising is another fundamental part of the student experience here, and Advisors are often the first port of call for students needing support and guidance. Staff nominated in this category from across the University are Dr Aileen Linn, Professor Catherine Lido, Dr Colin Herd, Dr Linnea Soler and Dr Javier Solana.

### **Professor Catherine Lido**

Professor Catherine Lido is the first nominee. She is very supportive when students encounter difficulties in assessments. Catherine replied to messages quickly and has even gone so far as to make videos in order to explain how to do the assessment again. She also provided chances to all the students to have a consultation with her before they submit any assessments.

### **Dr Colin Herd**

Next is Dr Colin Herd. Colin always makes the time to answer any queries students have, no matter how busy he is. He is known for being extremely friendly, approachable and solution-focussed in his ways of helping students. He has also provided advice for students in applying to masters' programmes in order to help them with their academic career progression.

### **Dr Linnea Soler**

Our third nominee is Dr Linnea Soler. She is known for always being friendly, open and willing to listen. She is very approachable and will do everything in her power to help. She always takes notes of each interaction she has, so she never forgets what students have mentioned to her, which is a really personal touch.



## **Dr Javier Solana**

Dr Javier Solana is the next nominee. Javier has worked very patiently with his students, and always had an approachable air to the students he is responsible for Advising. Some of the international students he has been an advisor for have commended him for his polite demeanour and positive attitude.

## **Dr Aileen Linn**

Closing this shortlist is Dr Aileen Linn. She has been an amazing support to medical students, especially during personal circumstances affecting their studies. She is always a supportive ear to her students and is available to help them whenever they need advice about academic study in a tough professional degree.

## **Best Feedback**

presented by Abi Whelan

Receiving timely feedback that is constructive and useful is important to every student, and this award considers those who have gone above and beyond to provide feedback that improves students work. Those commended in this category are Dr Camille Huser, Mrs Suzanne McCallum, Mr Martin Miragoli, Dr Maria Jackson and Dr Andrew Jamieson.

### **Dr Camille Huser**

First we have Dr Camille Huser. Students said She is never hesitant to ask for more input if she has not understood the issue clearly and sees the issue from a student's point of view before offering her suggestions and guidance. Even if she is showing the students' that something is wrong, they said you always get the feeling that she is on your side and not against you, creating a supportive and helpful educational experience.

### **Mrs Suzanne McCallum**

Next up is Suzanne McCallum. In her marking of essays, she gives great in-depth feedback for every section of students' coursework where it needed improving which her students have uses for their future assignments. The feedback is often returned within 2 weeks of submitting work, which is significantly quicker than many staff are expected to return within the University.

### **Mr Martin Miragoli**

The next nominee on our shortlist is Martin Miragoli. Martin Miragoli is a philosophy tutor who gets the students to engage simply by being a laid-back, easy-going person, but with a strong passion for his subject. This translates to the feedback that he gives on assessments. It is constructive and goes deep into the topic, alongside excellent advice on what to do better for next time.

## **Dr Maria Jackson**

Maria Jackson has made the shortlist tonight due to her clear and concise feedback. She is professional, kind and has a sincere approach to the feedback that she gives in assessments. She doesn't hesitate to compliment students work, and as a result is really appreciated by students when they receive it.

## **Dr Andrew Jamieson**

Dr Andrew Jamieson is our 5th shortlisted nominee, and is nominated for a different kind of feedback, that of feedback in applying for placements. Students describe him as a star during the process of applying to placements, always responding to questions, and providing useful advice on how to proceed. He provided excellent feedback on how to improve CVs and provided students with mock interviews to further increase our chances of employment.

# Highly Innovative Teaching

presented by Micaela Levesque

Those selected for consideration for this award use innovative teaching techniques to inspire their students to learn in a new and different way. The shortlisting panel thought this category was of particular prominence due to the blended model of learning this year. The shortlist for this award are Dr Emily Nordmann, Dr Timothy Peacock, Dr Gerasimos Tsourapas, Ms Sam Fontaine and Dr Lynsay Crawford.

## Dr Emily Nordmann

First we have Dr Emily Nordmann, who was described by one of her students as “unlike any lecturer I have ever encountered” – not just for the sense of community in her classes but also for her teaching style. Doctor Nordmann has created an interactive psychology Moodle, and the progress trackers provided have significantly improved the students’ time management and ability to keep on track with work.

## Dr Lynsay Crawford

Our second nominee is Dr Lynsay Crawford, who’s teaching is innovative and inspiring, as she covers topics such as LGBTQIA+ health and gender bias in medicine, which do not feature heavily elsewhere in the curriculum along with wider EDI issues, alongside social determinants of health. Students told us how her genuine interest and care for an area of medicine previously overlooked, paired with her passion, really engages them.

## Dr Timothy Peacock

Our third nominee is Tim Peacock. Tim works by mixing traditional academic reading with digital media such documentary clips and the occasional element of pop-culture, making the readings feel engaging and solidifying students’ understanding. Seminar discussions were always led well and challenge the students’ preconceptions of the space race and space exploration in general.

## **Dr Gerasimos Tsourapas**

is Dr Gerasimos Tsourapas. He is known to always asks his students first what they are interested in learning and tailors the learning materials and topics to the students' interests. To breaks up his online teaching he uses readings and videos and offers a variety of sources to expand students minds and preconception around topics, encouraging them to think critically.

## **Ms Sam Fontaine**

Our last nominee is Samantha Fontaine. Samantha's teaching took place in the virtual classroom, but by encouraging students to reflect on their own nursing experiences and sharing those with fellow students, learning happened well beyond the computer. She geared the learning materials to relevant topics in vet med, which allowed students to apply information in their own individual way which worked for them.

# Outstanding Contribution to Teaching

presented by Mia Clarke

The final award of the evening considers members of staff who have made an outstanding contribution to teaching over the past academic year. The chosen shortlist for this award is Dr Iain Neill, Dr Clare Smith, Dr Phil McAleer, Ms Judith Garcia Obrador and Mr Michael Barnes.

## Mr Michael Barnes

Michael lectures in Geospatial mapping. He has continuously gone above and beyond the typical scope of requirements for an educator at the postgraduate level by ensuring all of his students achieve a high level of understanding their critical knowledge sets within the profession and study of geomatics. Michael has gone out of his way to get to know all of the students within his courses, coaches them to communicate when they often show reluctance and has become an invaluable mentor by helping identify those that may be struggling with the material and appointing other students to help others where they can.

## Dr Clare Smith

Clare teaches across PGDE and the Master of Education programmes. One student told us she chose to study here because of her interview with Clare. This is a testament to her personality and the atmosphere she creates in the classroom. Another student told us that Clare has massively inspired them to stay true to their ethos in supporting young people in class. She's been a fantastic tutor in terms of teaching her students how to be a student teacher and pass the course but also in how to be an effective educator in their professional careers once they graduate.

## **Dr Iain Neill**

Iain currently teaches level 3, level 4 and Postgraduate level Geology. His students told us that over the past two years it has been very clear how much effort he puts into his job and how much his care, which is really encouraging and keeps them motivated and inspired, for the subject but also for their own learning and development on the whole. His passion is described as contagious with his classes being intellectually stimulating which students loved.

## **Dr Phil McAleer**

Phil is a supervisor to four different psychology students. He was nominated as he always strives to provide the most knowledgeable responses that fully answer his students' questions and ensures that they are clear on the meaning behind them. Phil works to encourage student's enthusiasm and engagement with material outside of the course - which have always been very interesting and significantly enhanced their learning experience. Dr McAleer is not only passionate about his subject but makes learning research methods and statistics fun.

## **Ms Judith Garcia Obrador**

Judith teaches Catalan as a native language speaker. One student described her as the best teacher they have had in their whole time at the university. She takes a real interest in her students and does everything she possibly can to help them. Judith provides ample extracurricular opportunities to further engage and inspire her students, such as language exchanges, CERF examinations, film festivals, workshops etc. Her moodle has so many interesting resources and students have also had some classes which diverged from the norm and involved meeting interesting Catalan personalities and exploring different potential jobs after university.

For an event of this nature to take place it requires a phenomenal amount of effort over several months from behind the scenes. Firstly, thank you so much to Tom McFerran, who was my graphic designer. You took the ideas I had in my head and made them a reality – and I'm sure you'll all agree the designs for tonight were brilliant. To the rest of the SRC Comms Team, Jamie and Grainne, thank you for setting me right when I was stressed about the promotion of tonight, and for the creation of these beautiful programmes. Louise and Gina who work in the SRC Admin Team have been instrumental in planning the fine details like entertainment, RSVPs and catering, so a big thank you to them both.

A huge thanks also go to the University, and in particular Moira Fischbacher-Smith, who provided financial and venue support. Thank you for helping us put together a night for us all to celebrate some amazing teaching achievements. To my reps who came and presented tonight, thank you for volunteering your time as there was no way I could have gone through 1,000 nominations to shortlist on my own! It is a big thing to put yourself out there for, and I really appreciate it.

I couldn't of wished for a better group of people to work with on the STAs, and the team I had behind me have made leading this project the best part of being VP Education. It has been a real pleasure to host tonight and recognise all your amazing achievements. I hope to see and hear of your successes in learning and teaching continue long after this year.

With very best wishes,



Mia Clarke

**Vice President Education**

**Glasgow University Students' Representative Council**



# AWARD CATEGORIES

**Best Advisor of Studies**

**Best College Teacher**

**Best Dissertation Supervisor**

**Best Research Supervisor**

**Best Graduate Teaching  
Assistant**

**Best Student Representative**

**Best Support Staff**

**Best Feedback**

**Best Practice in  
Online Learning**

**Highly Innovative Teaching**

**Outstanding Contribution to  
Teaching**