



Australian
National
University



EXCELLENCE IN
EDUCATION AWARDS 2014
A CELEBRATION OF THE NOMINEES

ANU College of
Law

The ANU College of Law Excellence in Education Awards help us to celebrate the teachers who guide, inspire, motivate and facilitate learning.

Students and staff members were invited to voice their opinion about who they felt deserved special recognition for excellence in education within any program offered by the College.

In 2014, staff and students from any program in Law were invited to nominate any teacher in the College for an Excellence in Education Award. All academic staff at the College were eligible for nomination, full-time or fractional, continuing or contract.

Staff could be nominated by students or colleagues. Nominations opened on 1 October and closed on 22 October. This year yielded 29 nominees eligible for consideration.

Nominations were considered by a selection committee that made recommendations for awards which were approved by the Dean of the College.

The Selection Committee relied heavily on the information provided in the nomination forms. Nominators were encouraged to provide as many concrete details and stories as possible to illustrate how their nominee was outstanding in education. In this booklet you'll find slightly edited extracts from the nominations where this information was provided, however largely they are left in the words of their students and colleagues. There are extended excerpts about our winners, and key snippets on the nominees.



Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

Congratulations on being nominated for a 2014 College Education Award. Students and/or colleagues have written glowingly of your skill in teaching and inspiring them. You are obviously doing something (or many things) right!

Thank you for engaging, explaining, evoking, inspiring, calming, empathising, creating, working, being approachable and supportive, breaking down complexity, encouraging, developing, providing feedback, holding high standards, mentoring . . . and all of the other many things you do to deserve nomination.

In admiration,

Molly O'Brien

Director, Teacher Development



HEATHER ROBERTS

Award for Teaching Excellence

Commonwealth Constitutional Law; Property Law;
High Court of Australia



- > Heather is the most passionate teacher I have ever had.
- > She froths on Constitutional law in an absurd way, lighting a spark of interest in us–‘it must be interesting if she likes it?’
- > Heather brings her own extensive understanding of the background to each case and judge into the content of her lectures; in a way that stimulates interest in the material–providing a context, setting the scene.
- > Heather cares about each and every student. She will make a conscious effort to know the name of each student who attends tutorials and lectures. This encourages students to keep returning to class.
- > Heather provides fantastic materials beyond lectures and readings—including topic outlines which do not merely rehash the lectures or provide quotations.
- > It is for this reason that I feel Heather Roberts embodies the statement–‘Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire’–W.B. Yeats.
- > She is engaging, dedicated, easy to understand and passionate about the area she teaches.
- > I appreciate her direct and structured approach to teaching. The way that she sets out and reinforces her material makes it clear that she spends a lot of time considering how best to get her message across to students.
- > Heather is the first tutor and lecturer in these 7 years to strike the balance of strong enthusiasm with excellent structure.

ANNE MACDUFF

Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning

Family Law; Feminist and Critical Legal Theory



- > Anne deserves to be recognised because she has a unique approach to teaching, and has sparked a passion for two areas of law (Family Law and Feminist Legal Theory) that I may not have discovered otherwise.
- > Anne has been happy and approachable on all occasions. She participates in all class discussions alongside the students, and has given me the confidence to speak up in class.
- > Anne has a wonderful way of provoking thoughtful discussions and leading our classes that gets students thinking beyond the course materials.
- > The wealth of knowledge gained from Anne goes far beyond the curricula of the courses she teaches. Her personal connection with students has enabled all of us to share in her knowledge and experience.
- > Anne makes it a priority to make sure we know how to approach our assessment, and has constantly provided constructive feedback on all areas of coursework to get the most out of our courses.
- > Anne goes above and beyond her requirements as a lecturer and convenor, and instills in us, as students, a feeling of acceptance, respect and a feeling that we are uniquely valued students in her classes.
- > Anne is one of the most welcoming, approachable and intelligent people I have met during my undergraduate career.
- > Anne facilitates discussions that can last hours, and always makes everyone feel comfortable and confident enough to share their views and opinions.

JOSHUA NEOH

Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning

Legal Theory; Law and the Humanities; Equity and Trusts



- > Joshua's lectures explore complex problems with depth, clarity and enthusiasm. Each idea flows naturally to the next, forming an overall narrative.
- > The lectures are often infused with enthralling biographies of legal theorists, a bible story, Beatles music or a clip from a Disney animation—such references are entertaining, but they also illustrate and develop the argument being presented. After his lectures, I am always left brimming with some interesting idea or funny anecdote I want to tell my friends.
- > Joshua was convenor and lecturer for Law and the Humanities. Each seminar introduced a new methodological approach, leaving me with a set of tools to address legal theory problems.
- > Seminars were driven by dialogue and debate between Joshua and the students. Joshua made subtle adjustments to the seminar format as the course progressed, which allowed the discussions to become increasingly sophisticated.
- > To share and debate ideas with an interested academic is perhaps the most valuable education one can have at university. Joshua has taken the time to make that experience possible for myself and many others.
- > Law and the Humanities has left a lasting impression. It opened up the possibilities which legal insights can have in telling the most fundamental stories about our society, from the myths of our origins through to the darkest limits of humanity and its failings.
- > Joshua is a dedicated lecturer. He is inspiring and is very good at encouraging lively debates during lectures. He demonstrates great passion for the subjects that he teaches and this, in turn, inspires me as a student.

VIVIEN HOLMES

Award for Program or Service that enhances learning

GDLP–Legal Ethics



- > Vivien has been the driving force and inspiration in her ethics teaching for the introduction of the 'Giving Voice to Values' (GVV) curriculum developed by Mary Gentile of Babson College Boston into the GDLP program.
- > Vivien's innovation has been to adapt GVV for use in legal ethics initially for PLE students, and then some involvement with undergraduate law students and the legal profession.
- > Vivien has been very creative with GVV—creating a series of videos with very high production values which are like little cameos of practice.
- > The GVV curriculum provides future legal professionals with the capacity to move beyond the traditional awareness and analysis focus of ethics teaching.
- > GVV is a powerful teaching device and Vivien's adaptation of it into legal ethics teaching is a wonderful innovation.

SARAH HEATHCOTE

Award for Excellence in Supervision

Advanced International Law



- > Sarah deserves recognition for the incredible amount of hard work she gives to her courses and honours supervision, as well as the real impact she has made on our university lives.
- > With respect to honours supervision, Sarah invests herself into the project with regular communication, very quick marking of drafts, and a willingness to sit for sometimes hours at a time to discuss ideas.
- > Sarah's teaching style is defined by the energy with which she delivers her lectures, the real-life examples and applications of the concepts discussed and her willingness to engage in debate and discussion with students.
- > Sarah is an inspirational lecturer who has influenced the latter part of our law degrees. Her wealth of experience in the field of international law, including with international eminent legal publicists and on the development of the law of state of necessity, enables her to give valuable insights on the world, international law and the job market. Her advice and guidance has had a large impact on choices that we have made in our university careers and in going forward.
- > Sarah's supervision has made my honours experience incredibly enriching, challenging and something I am quick to recommend to others. Her diligence and hard work as an honours supervisor astounds me.
- > She stimulates idea generation by referring us to new authors, interrogates us on our progress and indicates which avenues of investigation warrant prioritisation.

SHERENE OZYUREK (NEE KHALIL)

Award for Excellence in Tutoring

GDLP–Professional Practice Core



- > Sherene's dedication to her role working and mentoring students deserves to be recognised. She is willing to spend long periods of time on the phone with students and her feedback is encouraging and motivating and I notice the improvement in many of her firms.
- > She comes into her own when working with students who have problems and who do not generally perform well. Sherene is able in a firm and motivating way, to get students to lift their game and improve their work.
- > Sherene is a generous and dedicated teacher and really enjoys what she does and this shows in the results she achieves.
- > Your professionalism deserves commendation. You are always respectfully dealing with students.
- > I can count on Sherene to mentor and teach and to take on any extra work that I need her to do when another student who needs time and encouragement comes to my attention. As a convenor, I could not convene my courses as successfully without Sherene.





MICHAEL COPER

High Court of Australia



- > Michael's enthusiasm for the subject matter he presents is infectious.
- > The High Court elective was great fun. I wasn't sure if I was going to enjoy it but Michael's enthusiasm, his insight and his great examples made the elective very interesting.
- > Michael is very modest and self deprecating. It was a great honour to be able to do this elective with him.

LIZ CURRAN

GDLP–Becoming a Practitioner



- > Liz helped to create a safe environment for practical learning. She engaged students with holistic review processes and self reflection.
- > Liz's teaching styles are unique, in that she actively seeks reflections which provides excellent learning opportunities.
- > She is very respectful to everyone in the program and she made herself fully available to students.

RYAN GOSS

International Human Rights Law; Australian Public Law;
Civil and Political Rights



- > Ryan focusses on the constantly changing environment of the subject, and makes sure to bring our attention to Australian Public Law with current new items to keep our interest fresh.
- > Ryan has made his class a joy to attend, and classmates can attest that this is one of the best subjects we have taken in our university experience. Ryan deserves to be recognised so that other teachers can look at his method of teaching and perhaps change some of their methods.
- > Up until June, I would have said that it was impossible to get a class full of people to get enthusiastic, passionate, and interested in constitutional theory and history. I was an ignorant fool and Ryan has shown me how erroneous this thinking was.

KATH HALL

Corporations Law; Law of Corporate Governance; Transnational
Anti-Corruption Law and Lawyers; Justice and Ethics.



- > Kath is approachable and very much on top of her field and it was such a privilege to be in her class.
- > Kath's lectures were delivered in a structured manner boiled down to the essential points required for the week. They were easy to follow, light yet detailed in substance. I found this a great way to springboard into reading and tutorial questions.
- > Reinforcing an encouraging and supportive environment, I found the extra encouragement that Kath gave, and the emphasis on a 'straight-forward exam', to be reassuring and stress-reducing.

KATIE INNES

GDLP – Commercial Practice mentor



- > Katie is one of the most talented and dedicated Commercial Practice mentors and this is clear in her consistent display of attributes that make for an outstanding mentor.
- > It's not often a mentor of Katie's calibre comes along, and Katie can be considered the gold standard of mentors, at the level of excellence that not many commercial practice mentors can achieve.
- > Katie does not hesitate to strive to raise the standards of her students, and her enthusiasm and commitment clearly shows through her mentoring.

ALEXANDRA JOHNSTONE

GDLP – Commercial Practice mentor



- > Alexandra has displays high standards and professionalism as a mentor in the GDLP and she immediately distinguished herself as someone with excellent qualities not only as a mentor with a passion for practical legal education, but someone with the capability to provide high level assistance and support to convenors.
- > Alexandra's ability to recognise areas for improvement and measures to improve student standards sets her apart from the regular mentor.
- > Alexandra played a key role in the delivery of Commercial Practice to a group of select large-tier law firm graduate students, and was able to display sound judgement in responding to their demands and expectations with a high-level of professionalism and respect in a high pressure teaching environment.

COURTNEY MACINTOSH

GDLP – Professional Practice Core



- > Courtney is one of the most dedicated and reliable Commercial Practice mentors and Consumer Law tutors, and she demonstrates much versatility by being able to grasp the wide-ranging legal concepts without difficulty and apply it to professional legal practice.
- > Courtney is always respectful to her students and makes an effort to motivate them to explore suitable lines of advice that will benefit the client, and develop the professional skills of students as they approach legal admission.
- > Students who have Courtney as a mentor or tutor can approach legal practice with confidence and strive for excellence.

REBECCA MONSON

Higher Degree Research



- > She is available for 'drop in' support, and will often spend an hour talking about not just the PhD process, but the importance of career planning and research orientation.
- > Rebecca is very generous with her time, and will stop her work to help figure out what to do next and best practice responses.
- > I had found the program quite disheartening initially, but working with Rebecca has made me feel much more confident about my abilities and the degree.

WAYNE MORGAN

Sub-Dean (LLB/JD)



- > Wayne has demonstrated an unprecedented level of patience, awareness, care and concern in his role as a Sub Dean. Although all these are qualities that are essential for an individual to be a Sub Dean, I feel that the lengths to which Wayne has gone to deserves merit and recognition.
- > Wayne is always there every step of the way, finding ways and means that would assist me in my module—even the tutors came in to help. None of this would be possible without Wayne's passion and desire to help every student that has trouble.
- > I can always look back and smile that I was fortunate enough to meet such an exceptional individual who truly cared for his students. In a way, Wayne's faith and his constant assistance were what enabled me to cross the last few hurdles I faced.

MARK NOLAN

Criminal Law and Procedure; Law and Psychology; Federal Criminal Law; Military Discipline Law; Advanced Military Discipline Law.



- > Mark has taught me in two courses and they have both been excellently run, engaging and interesting, and involve innovative ways of teaching such as using different mediums of technology.
- > Mark has the right balance of fact and critical thinking in his lectures, and uses a wide range of teaching techniques to keep us all interested.
- > He is very passionate about his subjects and inspires the same passion in others. His courses are excellently structured and well organised.

LISA O'HARA

Australian Migration Law



- > Lisa is a very responsive tutor who takes her responsibilities seriously and advises us on our questions diligently.
- > Lisa is open and happy to share her practical experiences with us and made us feel welcome to ask any questions no matter how insignificant we might think it to be.
- > Her responses were respectful and not degrading of students in any way. Lisa is also very encouraging—asking questions to prod student's into a response.

ERDINC OZYUREK

GDLP—Professional Practice Core

- > Erdinc has proved to be an invaluable colleague, teacher and mentor in the PPC. I would not be able to convene my courses as successfully as I do if I could not rely upon Erdinc's skills and willingness to help out.
- > His professionalism deserves commendation. Erdinc is always respectful when dealing with students. He has a real skill at telling students what they do well and also how to improve their work.
- > Erdinc is one of the few all-round mentors in the Professional Practice Core who can confidently manage and constructively resolve difficult and challenging intra-group disputes amongst students. Erdinc is able to do this with much dedication, enthusiasm and aplomb, and with due respect to student concerns.

JOANNE PURCELL

GDLP–Commercial Practice mentor



- > Jo approaches her role as Commercial Practice mentor with much dedication and enthusiasm, and with the goal of improving her students' professional legal education skills as they approach practice.
- > Jo's abilities are evident in the manner she masters the commercial law issues in preparation for guiding students through their tasks.
- > Jo presented useful and realistic techniques for the students to improve, ie, restructuring sentences to highlight relevant legal principles to make the advice more effective to the client. Jo also poses questions to the firms to make them aware of a particular issue they need to address with the needs of the client in mind.

SIMON RICE

Human rights Law in Australia; Lawyers Justice and Ethics;
International Social Justice Clinic



- > Simon is an inspiring teacher—he combines practical knowledge with outstanding intellect.
- > Simon is one of the very best teachers I have had. It is such a pleasure to attend class, to do the readings, and to take what I have learnt into other classes.
- > Nearly every student read all the set readings prior to class—that's quite a feat! This was because Simon required students to make weekly posts on the readings, which in turn facilitated great discussion. This method of learning would have taken a significant amount of time to facilitate—lecturer's need to read the posts prior to class and ensure that each student completes their quota of posts. I really appreciated how much Simon invested in our learning outside of class.

SORAYA SAIKAL

Evidence Law

- > Soraya is the best tutor I have had throughout my five years at law school. I have found the course overall incredibly challenging—the content is hard, the course has been hard to follow and even with the readings and lectures I am struggling. However, each tutorial with Soraya has helped me immensely.
- > Her style is easy-going but very informative. Soraya starts the lesson with an overview of the content and then drills down into the questions.
- > Soraya brings reality into the classroom. She is a lawyer and tells us stories about her work in the real world to make the problems come to life.

JAMES STELLIOS

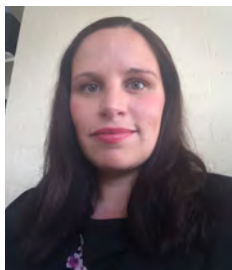
Commonwealth Constitutional Law; Federal Judicial System;
Conflict of Laws



- > The subject-matter came to life under his guidance. Cases suddenly appear rich and dramatic, and the implications of judicial reasoning within the cases took on an immediate and fascinating aspect.
- > Federal Judicial System, a subject which could, in other hands, put you to sleep with its complexity and circularity, took on immense proportions, and it is through this course that I have come to form my own conception of the evolution and direction of Australian law.
- > He possesses a brilliant mind, conveys complex ideas in a simple manner, is approachable, and most importantly is fair, open-minded and reasonable in marking.

MEGAN STEVENS

GDLP–Commercial Practice mentor



- > Megan consistently demonstrates a high level of commitment, dedication and quality in her work as a commercial practice mentor, providing valuable guidance to firms in what is a complex area of law.
- > Megan has the ability to translate her in-depth knowledge of commercial law into thoughtful, clear assessments of her students that aim to highlight areas of improvement, but also suggest in a respectful manner alternative areas of law and practise to consider.
- > Megan always displays a respectful and professional tone to her students, which does much to establish a positive connection and create a congenial atmosphere for mentoring.

JOSHUA UNDERWOOD

Contract Law



- > Joshua is exceptional. I strongly believe Joshua should be recognised for his outstanding teaching abilities.
- > Joshua successfully combines intellectual rigour, excellent time management and personal rapport in way that few, if any, of my past tutors have done.
- > I appreciate the way Joshua brings a number of admirable qualities to his role as a tutor and combines these to deliver inspiring classes while being open to questions and student involvement.

MATTHEW ZAGOR

International Refugee Law



> What an amazing lecturer Matthew is. He embodies that rare quality of both passion for the subject and ability to convey complex concepts in ways that are very conducive to understanding and learning the material.

> Matthew's passion for the subject deepened our engagement in the issues discussed and was contagious. Many students would remark

after class about the wonderful teaching style Matthew has. All of us walked away from the course wishing it was not ending and a number of us expressed that it had been the best course we'd taken in our LLM programs to date.

- > I was challenged intellectually in ways I had not been before, about a subject I thought I knew quite a lot about. My analytical skills and nuanced understanding of the complexity of the issues were thus greatly deepened as a result of Matthew introducing me to new ways of considering (and critiquing) the work of UNHCR.

Also nominated without accompanying text were:

ROBERT MCLAUGHLIN

International Law and UN Peace Operations

PAMELA TAYLOR-BARNETT

GDLP–Professional Practice Core–Lecturer

KATE OGG

Litigation and Dispute Management; International Human Rights Law

ALEX BRUCE

Animals and the Law; Competition Law; Restrictive Trade Practices

Thank you to all those involved in the Excellence in Education Awards process here in the ANU College of Law. It is wonderful to highlight and celebrate the talent of our teachers.

Special thanks to the Selection Committee: Molly O'Brien, Glen O'Grady, Liz Keogh, Kath Hall and Ricky Vuckovic. Thanks to Wendy Kember for administrative assistance to the Selection Committee.

Further thanks to Claire Atteia and Wendy Kember for producing this booklet.



We look forward to another successful year in 2015, where we will have the opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge our brilliant colleagues.

CONTACT US

College Education & Innovation Support Team

ANU College of Law
The Australian National University
5 Fellows Road
ACTON ACT 2601

T: +61 2 6125 5588

E: ceist.law@anu.edu.au

W: law.anu.edu.au/ceist