EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS 2017
A CELEBRATION OF THE NOMINEES
The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows

Sydney J Harris

The ANU College of Law Excellence in Education Awards recognise and celebrate the teachers nominated by students and staff as teachers who guide, inspire, motivate and facilitate learning.
Dear Colleagues,

Congratulations to those nominated for a 2017 College Education Award. Students and/or colleagues have written glowingly of your skills. Sincere thanks for all the effort you put into your teaching. You have engaged, inspired, explained, supported, mentored and challenged students. You also inspire, support and challenge your colleagues to make ANU College of Law a place of educational excellence.

In admiration,

Vivien Holmes,
Director, Teacher Development
In 2017, staff and students from all College programs were invited to nominate any teacher in the College for an Excellence in Education Award. All academic staff at the College – full-time, fractional, continuing, contract, on-campus, online, teachers, tutors and supervisors – were eligible for nomination.

This year there were 51 nominations with 26 nominees eligible for consideration, evidence of the high esteem in which many of our teachers are held by both students and staff. Nominees had the opportunity to write a response to the information provided by their nominator(s).

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. It is a heartwarming task to read the nominations and nominee responses. And a difficult task to choose winners. All those nominated exemplify excellence in education.

This booklet contains excerpts from nominator statements for the winners, and a list of all who were nominated.
WINNER
Dr Hopkins is a big part of what makes ANU College of Law such a welcoming, caring and intellectually stimulating community.

Dr Hopkins’s technique is what gave my work the sense of purpose it needed.

In my second year of university I experienced PTSD anxiety and depression for the first time. Anthony invoked my passion for criminal law through his teaching methods and it inspired me to keep going and to not give up. Now because of his inspiring teaching I want to be an advocate.

As cheesy as it sounds, when everything seemed too overwhelming to continue in second year, Anthony’s inspirational teaching was what kept me continuing at the Law school. He helped me find my passion.

Dr Hopkins is clearly committed to the learning and development of students beyond what his job requires. Last year I felt really stressed about the next steps following law school. He met with me for a coffee and told me about his interesting non-commercial career. Because of his encouragement I did an internship at the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency and I am much surer that I want to work in a social justice related area of law.
WINNER
ANU College of Law/Kimberley Community Legal Service (KCLS) initiative

Award for Program or Service that Enhances Learning

> Judy deserves to be recognised for being the person instrumental in establishing the KCLS/ANU partnership, and as part of that, establishing the KCLS Hotdesk. The Hotdesk is staffed by volunteer ANU law students whose work supports and assists KCLS lawyers in Broome and Kununurra.

> This program has not only equipped students with legal practice skills, but has given context and deeper understanding of their existing legal knowledge, and given purpose to their studies through the opportunity to make a contribution to the work of KCLS, and directly and indirectly to its Aboriginal clients.

> Judy deserves to be nominated because she made the law come alive for me. Judy’s course opened my eyes to different areas that exist and how people can make a difference or find their place. She helped me to think about the law, its impacts and its roles differently. I think that’s rare and deserving of recognition.

> Her commitment to different ways of teaching within the law school has been a formative experience for myself and the other students involved.

> She engages with us on a really high level academically, which I find challenging, but also empowering.

> Her imagination and dedication have made possible an initiative that brings people together to learn and to help the community.

> For law students in Canberra, it’s easy to forget that not everyone lives in the city and many people don’t have access to services that we take for granted. Learning about remote communities in Australia is so important because the law affects people in different ways. I’m inspired by Judy because she cares about the people who live in the Kimberley and she’s committed to improving their access to justice.
WINNER

[Image of the winner]
Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning

Torts; Foundations of Australian Law

> Her dedication and genuine interest in students made her the best possible lecturer to have as a brand new first year, in the daunting world of ANU law.

> Lectures often lack numbers, given they can easily be watched online, however for 6 weeks of the Torts course, Coombs was full!! I never once considered skipping a lecture.

> In my mind she is the biggest asset you have in the ANU Law College.

> I really put my final grade of High Distinction down to the excellent teaching of Pauline Bomball.
WINNER
LINDA KIRK

Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning

Migration Law

> This course was by far the most practical and enjoyable course of my undergraduate law program.

> The course was grounded in a careful consideration of Australia’s immigration history and the values and attitudes which currently underpin our migration policy.

> The truth is that I wouldn’t be here at the ANU, and at one of the world’s top universities if I didn’t have [amazing teachers’] support growing up. Of all the teachers that I will remember, Linda Kirk will be one of them.

> I worked very hard on this course, in no small part because I felt Linda deserved my best for bringing such enthusiasm, knowledge and supportiveness to her teaching. Her enthusiasm for migration law truly shone through during the course, and I would not hesitate to take any other course that she leads.
WINNER
Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning

Ready for Practice

> Pamela deserves to be recognised for her commitment and dedication.

> I was able to witness Pamela’s perseverance in developing the curriculum by bringing together a wide range of tasks that give students the opportunity to engage in serious reflection on their professional identity (something which some students may not have consciously considered before). They are also required to practice advanced skills, building upon what they’ve learned earlier in the GDLP. I’ve been able to observe Pamela’s amazing ability to convene RFP virtually back-to-back, inspiring the team of mentors such as myself, and always being supportive of the students’ aspirations.

> The course is unique in that it encourages ‘almost practitioners’ in their final stages of the GDLP to engage in deep and self-analytical reflective practice. They are assessed on their ability to engage in deep reflection about what works well and why or why not and how they need to adapt to grow.
WINNER
JAMES PREST

Award for Excellence in Supervision

> He provided the tools for me to achieve my best.

> I felt empowered to compose my thesis.

> Dr Prest went beyond the call of duty as a supervisor. He is easy to get along with and good communication made the thesis-writing process more enjoyable and more efficient. I feel extremely lucky to have been his student.

> Dr Prest also strongly encouraged me to gain a greater understanding of where my paper fitted into the broader theoretical framework in environmental law. This ‘grounding’ in environmental law theory did not only improve my overall thesis, but was essential in an amended version of my thesis being published in an international journal after my graduation.

> Too rarely in life do we come across people who challenge us to rethink what is possible. Those few that do leave a lasting impression. Without your prodding, I would never have considered tackling such an ambitious topic. And without your endless encouragement, I never would have succeeded. I think that it is your knack for demystifying things that made this possible.
WINNER

ANDREW HENDERSON

Award for Excellence in Tutoring

Commonwealth Constitutional Law

- He made a concerted effort to connect with students, often being really funny and humorous.
- He is always approachable and encouraging, whilst still giving frank, honest and challenging feedback.
- Being a tutor is much more than a job, but is a means by which he is able to impart knowledge and the love of the subject to the next generation of lawyers.
ALICE TAYLOR

Winner

Award for Excellence in Tutoring

Torts and Contracts

> She is realistic and practical, which really helps when you’re a first year law student lost in the intricacies of first year law.

> She has been one of my favourite tutors, and I’m pretty sure I can attribute how well I have been doing almost entirely to her tutoring.
NOMINEES FOR 2017

- Timothy Cross
- Phillip Drew
- Tom Faunce
- Tony Foley
- Jolyon Ford
- Christine Giles
- Ryan Goss
- Dorota Gozdecka
- Elizabeth Keogh
- Desmond Manderson
- Moira Murray
- Tracey Mylecharane
- Heather Roberts
- Margie Rowe
- Kim Rubenstein
- Imogen Saunders
- Brett Walker
- Jackson Wherrett

The following were nominated but either withdrew or no supporting text supplied.

- Katie Firster
- Kath Hall
- Anne Macduff
- Wayne Morgan
- Cameron Roles
Thank you to all those involved in the ANU College of Law Excellence in Education Awards process. It is wonderful to highlight and celebrate the talent of our teachers.

Special thanks to the Selection Committee –
Vivien Holmes (Chair), Mark Nolan, Marina Lobastov (CEIST representative), Michael Martin (ANU Promoting Excellence, external representative).

Thanks to Sarah Parker, Secretariat Coordinator, for secretariat services to the Selection Committee.

Further thanks to Claire Atteia, Marina and Sarah for producing the awards booklet.
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