Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world

– Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa, 1993 Nobel Peace Prize laureate

The ANU College of Law Excellence in Education Awards recognise and celebrate teachers who guide, inspire, motivate and facilitate learning.
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 yielded 24 nominees eligible for consideration. A further 10 names were put forward but withdrew. This number of nominations is evidence of the high esteem in which many of our teachers are held by both students and staff. Nominees wrote 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. These made for heartening reading! This booklet contains excerpts of nominator statements for the winners and a list of all who were nominated.

The Selection Committee also took into consideration nominees’ comments in relation to selection criteria.
Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

Congratulations on being nominated for a 2016 College Education Award. Students and/or colleagues have written glowingly of your skill in teaching and inspiring them.

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

In admiration,

Vivien Holmes
Director, Teacher Development
RYAN GOSS

Award for Teaching Excellence
Australian Public Law; Civil and Political Rights; International Human Rights Law

He teaches in a way which is both passionate and completely logical. He explains a very dry subject in an exciting way and makes it clear why each thing/topic/issue is important.

His standards are high but not out of reach – it encourages you to go further as it is achievable, yet because you feel everything is important, you want to extend.

He’s the bloody best! He has always been happy to make time to talk through the coursework when I have been struggling and I feel much more on track after speaking with him. His feedback is comprehensive and encouraging.

Dr Goss managed to teach APL in a manner that provided a clear, guided introduction to what can be a hard and complex topic to get into at first. He broke it down into logical and manageable entities as stories, with an overarching interesting narrative. Dr Goss’ commitment to teaching, good humour and availability for additional support was highly appreciated. The course was a treat in terms of content as well as teaching.

He motivated me to work hard and push my limits. His classes were an enriching experience.

He is able to communicate nuanced and complex ideas to the class in a very precise and understandable way.
MARK NOLAN

Award for Excellence in Supervision

> Mark Nolan is a committed supervisor, who takes a genuine interest in the students he supervises and tailors his approach to supervision to suit each student and the stage of their research.

> In addition to providing fantastic guidance through the research process (which he is able to do across a very broad range of research topics), he also brings to the role a good understanding of university processes and supports which he is able to share with students, appreciation that the research project is not the only part of the student’s life, and high but realistic expectations.

> Mark has been active in ensuring contact is maintained, and in providing strategies and goals to try to ensure that the project overall remains on track. Speaking to other PhD students who Mark has supervised (and also students who he has not supervised, but to whom he has provided guidance anyway), I understand that this is a common experience.

> Mark has tailored the sort of support he provides me, focusing mostly on academic aspects of the research and allowing me largely to set my own direction, but ensuring he remains aware of it and is able to provide regular input.

> Through the stages of my PhD, Mark has adapted his supervision approach and expectations to the stage of the PhD at which I am at and the progress I am making. At all stages he has made sure I am aware of the key considerations and that I have also started thinking about the next stage.
MINH BUI

Award for Excellence in Tutoring
Equity and Trusts

Minh Bui is one of the best tutors I have had at the ANU College of Law. He provides interesting, insightful and well thought out tutorials. He is always incredibly well prepared, hardly (if ever) referring to the tutorial notes. He puts the course content into a very easily understandable context. Minh Bui has been a significant factor in helping me understand Equity and Trusts.

> Minh Bui corrects us in a caring and professional way. It makes me feel as though my contribution is wanted, valid and useful.

> Minh Bui is fantastic at structuring and taking us through tutorials.

> When we come to the points of issue in the question (e.g. has there been a breach of fiduciary duty) Minh Bui asks us to provide arguments and opens the class up to discussion about the arguments either way. With Minh Bui leading these discussions, I have been able to come up with arguments more readily than in any other course.
SIMON FRAUENFELDER

Award for Excellence in Tutoring
Contracts

> Simon’s classes are extremely stimulating, even though some areas of study are less exciting than others.
> He is always willing to stay behind after the end of the tutorial to answer questions from any students.
> He has made the course thoroughly enjoyable to study.

> We were never fed ideas, and instead were encouraged to constantly question until we came to our own conclusions. His actions greatly enhanced my experience learning law.
MIGRATION LAW ‘PROGRAM’

Award for Program or Service that Enhances Learning

DR CHRIS WHITE
Applied Australian Migration Law and Practice

> I strongly feel that Dr Chris White has a teaching approach that influences and motivates students well beyond the normal expectations and has a teaching approach that encourages student engagement and critical thinking. His resources utilised in the migration industry truly reflect the command and years of experience he has in the field.

> Dr Chris has an out of the box approach to thinking about migration issues and is not afraid to stare legal procedure and legislative acts in the face to question if they are relevant or effective in our legal system.

CHRISTINE GILES
Australia’s Visa System

> Her lessons are full of explanations and clarity. She is patient and friendly to students. Her lessons are encouraging for students and encourage them to study. Her passion is to provide lessons to students who are mostly new to the field of Law.

> Her patience is remarkable and enhances students’ understanding of the weekly topic.

> Ms Giles provides constructive feedback to students. She is an excellent teacher and convenor. I believe that she represents the excellence for which the university has an unchallenged standing in Australia.

LINDA KIRK
Migration Law

> [Linda’s] unique perspective stimulated the class to consider the particularly complex interplay between politics and society when it comes to deciding how and which foreigners can enter Australia. Hence, the area of law was brought to life, rather than viewed only as a series of rules to remember and apply.
Linda introduced an economic dimension and explained how ongoing changes to the grant of international student visas reflect the policies of the government of the day, particularly in attracting foreign expenditure. Hence, Linda has encouraged and enabled our class to think critically about migration law across multiple perspectives.

TOM FORAN
Australian Migration Law and Visa System

He has an excellent teaching style and was always available to answer any queries that I may have had.

Tom Foran deserves to be recognised because he was willing to put more than 100% every time in class and was willing to go beyond the call of duty to answer a query.

Tom has very good teaching skill for online students. He makes things simple and easy to understand.

TUSHAR DAS
Australian Migration Law

I can attest to his commitment to provide comprehensive and high quality feedback to his students, whether that be informally through discussion of client file activities, or formally in assessing assignment tasks.

It has been an immensely fulfilling experience being your student.

He is clear and explicit in his explanation of such a complex and quirky subject as Migration Law.

You are an excellent teacher. Your careful and thoughtful chosen questions and explanations made a complex subject certainly easier to understand.
MATTHEW ZAGOR

Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning
Refugee Law; International Law; Australian Public Law

> The best lecturer I have ever had. He is a refreshing educator.
> His comments on my paper were extremely comprehensive and useful.
> Matthew is to this date the only lecturer that has created an environment that is comfortable to speak out and engage. The manner in which he speaks to all of his students is so genuine and kind.

> Dr Matthew Zagor is a truly exceptional teacher. He is an incredibly articulate and effective communicator. I was constantly amazed by Dr Zagor’s ability to make complex, dense topics accessible and interesting. Dr Zagor also has an inspirational passion for teaching and advocacy, which is amazing to see as a young law student.

> He motivates students by connecting legal issues to the issues we care about, and reminding us that we can make a difference if we want to.

> Dr Zagor should be recognised for his tireless commitment to supporting students in their own projects.

> Dr Zagor has inspired hope in countless law students and deserves to be recognised for this invaluable contribution to all of us.

> Matthew was an exceptional lecturer whose passion in the area really shone through.

> He worked hard to humanise the legal area, as it should be, and rewarded critical thinking and substantive engagement with the subject matter rather than a more traditional marks-based approach to the course.
MARGIE ROWE

Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning
Clinical Youth Law Program

Margie has been an incredible motivation and inspiration, encouraging us to be curious, giving us the confidence to put ourselves outside our comfort zone, and pushing us to follow our interests. Her clear enthusiasm for both teaching and learning made it easier for us all to admit what we don’t know—and also what we do. This fostered an amazingly collaborative environment, which was also supported by ongoing mentoring and pastoral support by Margie.

Margie emphasised the importance of reflecting honestly and critically as a tool for learning about and bettering ourselves.

Margie constantly pushed us to reflect in critical and insightful ways.

She tailored the assessment to suit individual needs and enable us to make more meaningful enquiries.

The substantive legal content of the course was also remarkable in its scope and nuance. Margie took great care in arranging tutorial content around our needs as we uncovered areas of law with which we were unfamiliar.

Margie was an incredible mentor who cared deeply about our wellbeing.

Margie has also shown a strong interest in our professional development beyond the course.
NOMINEES FOR 2016

Anne Macduff     Liz Keogh
Anthony Hopkins  Mary Spiers-Williams
Asmi Wood        Michael Coper
Barry Yau        Michelle Worthington
Desmond Manderson Pauline Bomball
Helen Rodriguez   Sarah Heathcote

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

David Prince     Rob McLaughlin
Fiona Wheeler    Wayne Morgan
Khanh Hoang      Kim Rubenstein
Moira Murray     Peta Spender
Nigel Dobbie     Dominique Dalla-Pozza

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), Dominique Dalla-Pozza, Moira Murray, Marina Lobastov (CEIST representative), Michael Martin (ANU Promoting Excellence, external representative).

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