

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS 2014

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Phil Herring

Phil is a technician in the faculty of engineering whose award is given in recognition of what one of the nominators called his 'fantastic dedication' in running the undergraduate thermofluid labs and the manufacturing of Styrofoam models for wind tunnel testing. Phil is due to retire soon and it is fitting he should be given this award as a celebration of his long and impressive track record of going above and beyond for staff and students in the faculty over many years.

Elizabeth McGuigan

Liz is a receptionist and business services assistant in the faculty of health sciences whose award is given in recognition of her proactive approach to innovation in a number of core areas of the faculty's business, most notably the organisation of drug calculation exams, a marking database and student buddying systems. In one of the nominations for Liz she was singled out for being "a superb example of how administrative staff can work in support of academics."

Louise Johnson

Louise is head of performance planning and performance administrative assistant in the faculty of humanities whose award is given in recognition of the imagination and flair she brings to the organisation of the Music department's extensive programme of performances, outstanding support for professionals and students alike and the contribution she makes to raising the profile of the University. The litany among those who come into contact with Liz is that she is quite simply 'amazing'.

Harvey Brough

Harvey is the Turner Sims Professor of Music in the faculty of humanities whose award is given in recognition of his role in creating the University's community choir - the University of Southampton Voices. Harvey received several nominations from colleagues across the University all of whom wanted to single out his leadership qualities, his infectious enthusiasm and his significant contribution to one of our core institutional values - that of community. One nominator said: "You have to be there to see him - he has so much faith in us and gets us to sing our hearts out ... Harvey has gifted this life affirming community activity and music to us all. The choir and Harvey make me proud and honoured to work here."

Diana Dias Fernandez

Diana is a chemistry laboratory technician in the faculty of natural and environmental sciences whose award is given for her outstanding contribution to the faculty's outreach activities, to the award winning science and engineering festival and her support for students. The nominations stated "people like Diana keep the University running' and "I have rarely seen newly appointed staff at any level throw themselves into their work with such passion and commitment least of all those in such junior positions."

David Oakley

David is a senior teaching fellow in the faculty of physical sciences and engineering whose award is given for his exceptional contribution to the delivery of the ECS programme at USMC. His quiet and effective leadership has enabled the faculty to overcome potentially show stopping problems and his nomination states "it is hard to imagine how we would have achieved this without his dedicated and exceptional contribution to our team."

Paul Kinsey

Paul is head of the physics mechanical workshop in the faculty of physical sciences and engineering whose award is given for what his nomination described as "unique, valuable and original' work to build mechanically stable systems and solutions that contribute to the realisation of a safe and aesthetic environment within which to perform world class research. His colleagues state that they are 'looking forward to all the coming exciting things" they will "do together with Paul".

Lisa Then

Lisa is the public engagement manager in the faculty of social and human sciences whose award is given in recognition of leadership of the Parents and Carers Network the need for which she identified after returning from maternity leave. The network now has around 100 members from across the University and is making an important contribution to the life of the University through enhancing the experience of staff and the building of community through Lisa's exceptional commitment and networking skills.

Graham Robinson

Graham is an e-learning specialist in i-Solutions whose award is given in recognition for his creation of the ExamStart system which acts as a central simplified exam portal used by many of our students to access online exams. His largely self taught programming skills have created a system which has become the first full scale fully featured university exam portal anywhere in the UK and probably only the second in the world. In Graham's nomination Graham was commended for having "demonstrated significant dedication to the University and (probably more importantly) our students by developing this service."

Hilary Smith

Hilary is head of faculty support in research and innovation services whose award is given for her exceptional and long standing impact which has balanced the demands of a wide range of stakeholders. Hilary's nomination celebrates an impressive number of achievements by someone whose modesty and real flair for diplomacy have delivered success after success and contains testimonies from a wide range of colleagues from across the University - she is described as being someone who is "a dedicated individual with deep knowledge of the landscape in which she works", whose input "has been responsible for many millions of pounds of additional research funding coming to Southampton" whose "calm and considerate approach comes with a steely determination that makes Hilary a most valuable leader of an excellent team". I could go on - Hilary retires this summer and it is absolutely timely that her enormous contribution is acknowledged today.

Jaine Fitzpatrick

Jaine is the service delivery manager in student services whose award is given for her exceptional imagination and innovative action in improving front line services to the benefit of our students. The metrics outlined in her nomination are impressive as has been her leadership in developing a service culture that delivers within a framework of operational performance management. Jaine leaves us this summer and it is good to be able to recognise her as being a transformational leader within the University.

TEAM AWARDS

Erica the Rhino Team

This team award recognises the phenomenal success of both Erica herself, the team who developed and built her and their impact on the University's reputation. The team hugely deserves an award for their ongoing tireless effort using Erica for outreach activities.

CITE Team

This team award recognises the team behind the delivery of some of the UK's first MOOCs via FutureLearn all of which have received extraordinarily positive feedback, have had real global reach and enhanced the University's reputation. The team have demonstrated excellence and agility in their contribution to the revolution of education at the University.

Curriculum Innovation Team

This team award recognises Peter Smith and Jenny Millington as the driving force behind the University's curriculum innovation programme. Between them they have positioned the University as a recognised leader in curriculum innovation breaking down barriers and enabling collaboration across the whole university.

SKILLS Network Team

This team award recognises the team in student and academic administration behind the development of a cross-faculty innovative and culture changing programme of job related personal coaching and training to staff providing opportunities for staff to grow their job related and personal skills. This initiative represents the best of SAA's and the University's values actively at work and has underpinned a positive professional ethos in SAA.

Residences De-Twinning Team

This team award recognises the team responsible in 2013 for managing the twinning process that saw 514 of our new student intake having to share rooms in Halls. The potential for complaints to have escalated into the public domain would have seriously impacted the University but the team's dedication to managing the process and communications to students constantly making recommendations to ensure a great student experience was exemplary. As the nomination stated "to achieve de-twinning with less than 10 stage 1 complaints was a master class in customer management."

REF2014 Support Team

This team award recognises the team drawn from many parts of the University which demonstrated how truly cross-disciplinary teams working on a shared goal can do amazing things. From i-Solutions staff creating the institutional research management system, RIS staff creating sensitive and confidential processes to support our academic community, Library staff ensuring more than 4300 publications and 1100 staff information was accurate and complete to staff in individual faculties demonstrating commitment and flexibility in supporting their associate deans. This virtual team ensured that an accurate REF submission comprising more than 3300 pages and over 100,000 data items involving thousands of hours of effort was returned on time.