



University of  
**Southampton**



# VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS

**PROGRAMME 2023**

Thursday 5 October 2023  
St Mary's Stadium, Southampton

# WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS



**I would like to warmly welcome you all to our annual University of Southampton Vice-Chancellor's Awards, here at St Mary's Stadium in Southampton.**

This award ceremony is one of the highlights of the year for me, as it is a chance to celebrate the determination, innovation and successes of people across the University. Nominated by your colleagues, you represent what is great about Southampton. Our people are our University; without you, Southampton would not be the globally recognised institution it is today.

It has in so many ways been a very successful year for our University, and this evening, in this amazing venue, we have so much to reflect on and be thankful for. Our reputation and attractiveness continues to grow, and we have seen record numbers of quality applications at undergraduate and postgraduate taught level for the new academic year, exceeding our expectations at this early stage of our new Strategy.

We are one of the world's leading universities, consistently placed in the top 100 universities by the QS World University Rankings, this year at 81st. We are also ranked among the top 20 universities nationally (17th in the latest Complete University Guide).

As you join me here today to celebrate your achievements, please know that I am immensely proud and grateful to be standing alongside you and your colleagues, as a part of our wonderful, talented and collegial community.

Though recent times have been challenging, your resilience, courage, and determination to push boundaries, aim higher and give that bit more, humbles me. All the nominees here today are already winners, so whatever the outcome, please do enjoy this celebration.

I wholeheartedly thank you for all your support and contributions this year. Enjoy the evening!

**Professor Mark E. Smith CBE**  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
University of Southampton

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# YOUR CELEBRATION

The annual Vice-Chancellor's Awards is a chance to celebrate your successes over the past year. It is your chance to be recognised for your amazing achievements in the company of your peers and University colleagues.



## Celebration venue: St Mary's Stadium

To reflect the importance of the Vice-Chancellor's Awards, where members of staff can come together in recognition of their fantastic achievements, our prestigious venue is St Mary's Stadium.

St Mary's Stadium is an all-seater football stadium, which has been the home of Southampton Football Club since 2001. The stadium is currently the largest football stadium in South East England.



## CELEBRATION SCHEDULE

Time	Item
19:40-19:45	Welcome by Professor Mark E. Smith, President and Vice-Chancellor
19:45-20:45	Awards presentations
	Awards presented by Professor Deborah Gill, Vice-President (Education and Student Experience), in the categories of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Student Experience</li> <li>- Teaching</li> <li>- Triple Helix</li> </ul>
	Awards presented by Wendy Appleby, Vice-President (Operations), in the categories of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community and Wellbeing</li> <li>- Inspiring Leadership</li> <li>- Making it Happen</li> </ul>
	Awards presented by Professor Mark Spearing, Vice-President (Research and Enterprise), in the categories of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Knowledge Exchange and Enterprise</li> <li>- Research Impact</li> <li>- Supporting Sustainability</li> </ul>
	Awards presented by Professor Jane Falkingham, Vice-President (Engagement and International), in the categories of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion</li> <li>- Public Good and Social Mobility</li> <li>- Rising Star</li> </ul>
20:45	Dinner served
21:40	All winners group photograph
21:45	Celebration entertainment to begin
22:30	Guests depart

# STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Delivering a transformative student experience and support programmes that enable our students to thrive.

## THE NOMINEES ARE:



### Dr Athina Thoma

Athina joined the leadership team of the School of Education's undergraduate programmes last summer and has already shown exceptional commitment and success in promoting student experience.

Initiatives Athina has spearheaded include: initiating, planning and carrying out 'monthly meetings' for each year group of undergraduates and 'movie nights' for students from across the school, giving them the opportunity to engage socially and discuss ideas; providing optional support sessions for students who are finding statistics difficult, including home decorated 'stats cakes' which are much appreciated by students; successfully co-chairing Student-Staff Liaison Committee meetings, alongside our academic president; playing a significant role in planning and leading whole school community events such as the Big Education Lunch and end of year celebration event; leading on setting up the undergraduate student attendance monitoring system, helping personal academic tutors and senior tutors support students more effectively; and liaising closely with the Academic Centre for International Students tutors about relevant language support for our international students.

Athina provides a warm welcome and listening ear, so students feel very comfortable talking with her. She gives clear and valued guidance and support and is the person everyone wants to work with.



### Bloomberg Competition team

**Dr Ahmad Maaitah, Dr Christoforos Andreou, Daniel Cernin, Dr Mohamed Bakhoush**

This team has made an outstanding contribution to the Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS) by voluntarily training and mentoring groups of talented students to participate in two of the most prestigious international competitions in the financial world: the Bloomberg Global Trading Challenge 2022 and the TAPMI Bloomberg Olympiad 2022. The team's commitment to excellence and dedication to their students have resulted in two teams from the University winning both competitions. Their expertise and guidance have provided the students with a unique opportunity to put their theoretical knowledge into practice, sharpen their analytical skills, and gain hands-on experience in the financial industry.

The academics on the team have shown outstanding leadership, innovation, and impact in their work. Daniel has worked relentlessly, leading the FinLab, including Bloomberg in the curriculum, providing training to over 400 students each year, and leading the logistics to get 78 Southampton teams registered within a two-day turnaround for this year's competition.

This work has brought great pride to the Faculty of Social Sciences and the University, and showcased the potential of our students on the global stage. Michael Bloomberg, the CEO of Bloomberg LP, has sent a letter to personally congratulate the team and their students on their achievements.



### Learning Support Assistants (Chemistry)

**Nicola Rawson, Simon Letts**

An increasing number of students are neurodivergent, have mental health issues or a physical disability, and have support through Learning Support Assistants. In a practical science like Chemistry there is often anxiety, more so after the pandemic's disruptions to prior experimental education. Student helpers are everyday heroes, often a lifeline; they are the person to go to during difficulty and hardship, the one who enables students to live their dream of studying with us.

Academics in the Chemistry teaching laboratories have witnessed how two student helpers in particular, Nicola and Simon, have enhanced the experience of five students and enabled them to thrive against all odds. They have supported two wheelchair users, and, equally successfully, transformed the experience of those with other mental or physical health issues.

Academics noted that it has been a pleasure to see how these students settled into University life, how they improved over the course of this academic year, built up confidence, and to see a smile and hear a few spoken words recently. These easily overlooked signs are testament to the trust, perseverance, unwavering support and confidence instilled in these students – and the prizable skills of Nicola and Simon.

# TEACHING

**Delivering high-quality, inclusive and innovative teaching and assessment, informed by our world-leading research, knowledge exchange and enterprise activity.**

**THE NOMINEES ARE:**



## **Dr Chris Hamerton**

Chris has been a leading light in the Faculty of Social Sciences. His style, content focus and delivery, support and knowledge in the field are synonymous with the high standards that our organisation strives for.

His students are grateful and awe-inspired by his diligence and professionalism, even inspiring future academics to go into the field. His teaching and expert knowledge are delivered in a unique and well-honed style that students can easily understand, relate to and absorb in a pragmatic way. Because of this, he has also become a popular PhD supervisor choice with a portfolio of subject expertise.

Chris's dedication to research and teaching is matched by his commitment to public service. He has worked with community organisations, law enforcement agencies and government bodies to raise awareness of the challenges posed by white-collar crime and to develop effective strategies for combating it.

His commitment and passion shine through his teaching style, producing thought-provoking and engaging lectures, as well as always being willing to go the extra mile for students – dedicating office hours, time after lectures and emails to students for support whenever needed. Students have praised his approachable nature and ability to discuss often difficult topics in an easily understandable way.



## **Professor Sarah Morris**

Sarah has used her expertise in the field of digital forensics to bring the subject to life. Her teaching is interactive, practical and driven by her up-to-date experience in the industry. Her kindness and dedication to her students deserves recognition.

The support she provides to students is invaluable. This year she has supported a group of students to enter a cyber security competition, providing ongoing expertise and guidance throughout the process. Her digital forensics module is popular with students, who feel they are learning relevant content from a leader in the field, as well as providing guest lectures from her wide range of connections researching similar topics.

Her unique delivery of lectures reflects the latest innovations in digital forensics as well as presenting the real-world experience of a digital forensics practitioner. This shines through in her assessments, which students say are 'interesting, valuable and rewarding'.

Sarah takes time to ensure students are happy with the content and will answer any questions with care and respect, acting as a constant source of advice, knowledge and motivation. She is a champion for diversity in a male-dominated industry, and her teaching reflects this by maintaining a high level of approachability.



## **Simon Hall**

Simon has been recognised for his passion for teaching, his engaging manner and ongoing support to students across Health Sciences since joining the University in 2021.

His teaching style makes difficult topics easy to understand. He is funny, engaging and incredibly knowledgeable. He creates a warm, welcoming environment where his students know they will have a memorable, interactive and thoughtful learning experience. Simon is inclusive of everyone and always makes the time to go the extra mile to answer questions, emails and offer support.

He listens to students' concerns and takes action to enhance their learning experience. When students complained about the lack of learning opportunities in community placements, Simon organised a five-week simulation that was incredibly beneficial to the students, providing an interesting and insightful experience that enabled them to get skills and proficiencies signed off.

Simon has a deep subject knowledge and expertise in health simulation and research, and has rapidly developed an authentic healthcare simulation with a national dissemination in research. He skilfully adapted its delivery to suit the needs of different academics and students, using a variety of instructional tools, assessments, technologies and resources.

One student commented:  
"The simulation has been the best part of my whole degree."

# TRIPLE HELIX

Exemplifying the Triple Helix, forging connections between education, research and knowledge exchange and enterprise, which strengthen each and magnify their collective impact.

THE NOMINEES ARE:



## Dr Nick Maguire

Nick is an expert on working psychologically with those experiencing homelessness, to ensure that the people who are excluded from society are supported.

His approach to working within a complex social issue has been to integrate research, practice, knowledge exchange and collaboration. This has been embodied by his work with a local social enterprise and the relationship developed with the University, resulting in stronger ties with service providers.

Nick's work exemplifies the Triple Helix. He won a grant of £738k from Higher Education England and the Office of Health Inequalities and Diversity to develop the psychology homeless workforce in the south east region. This work includes an education programme to increase psychological knowledge in the homelessness workforce, a community of practice and centre for homelessness research, collaboration across multiple institutions to enable clinical psychology trainees to complete placements within homeless organisations, and research to evaluate the impact of this work.

Nick teaches on the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology and is in the process of setting up a new postgraduate course in psychology-informed homeless approaches. He collaborates internationally and nationally, as well as supporting undergraduate and postgraduate research theses.

Nick has recently set up the Homelessness Community of Practice, which supports research, clinical practice and community and service involvement.



## Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences (FEPS) Engineering Enterprise Units team

**Professor Carl Verschuur, Dr Martyn Prince, Professor Nicola Symonds, Simon Roberts**

The heads of the four FEPS Engineering Enterprise Units – the University of Southampton Auditory Implant Service, ISVR Consulting, Wolfson Unit and nC2 Engineering Consultancy – have combined forces to form an exceptionally strong team that exemplifies the Triple Helix model. Together, they have created an ethos that promotes the knowledge exchange and enterprise stream as well as forging links with education and research colleagues across several faculties.

The team has led the Units by example, providing education opportunities through student work placements, lab classes, PhD supervision, designing and delivering master's-level modules, and supporting facilities' development.

The team's core enterprise work with clients – as diverse as the NHS, General Dynamics, America's Cup Yacht Racing teams, the Air Accident Investigation Branch and Carnival Cruises – creates an annual turnover of more than £11m and gives students the opportunity to learn about real-world application of their studies and knowledge, while also forming partnerships that create further research links between the University and industry.

In the past five years, the team has led more than £4.5m of research work, establishing a bridge between industry and academia, publicising the opportunities this creates to their academic colleagues through University-wide publicity campaigns. Together, these four Unit heads deliver significant impact across the University and into the wider community beyond.



## Natasha Allergy Foundation Award team

**Emma Smart, Professor Hasan Arshad, Professor Judith Holloway, Katherine De Retuerto, Peter Franklin, Professor Stephen Holgate**

Since 2016 when Natasha Ednan-Laperouse died from an allergic reaction, her parents have been dedicated to improving policy, accelerating research and educating healthcare professionals to ensure no family experiences pain like theirs.

A recognised World Allergy Organization Center of Excellence, the University of Southampton was a natural collaborator and has developed a hugely impactful partnership with Natasha's Foundation, established in her memory.

With institution-wide teamwork, the Foundation donated £2.5m to the University to accelerate education and research in allergy. Chosen to lead a national five-centre clinical trial in food allergies, we also provide three fully funded PhDs and over 30 bursaries for our award-winning Allergy MSc.

This three-pronged approach, facilitated by strong internal collegiality, is ensuring that our world-leading work is directly influencing clinical practice across the UK, improving patient outcomes.

This collaboration embodies everything the Triple Helix represents: excellent people collaborating through research, enterprise and education to create real impact and inspire the remarkable.

The significance of our relationship with Natasha's Foundation was evidenced through the prestige of co-hosting an international allergy symposium, chaired by HRH The King and our expert advice supporting implementation of the groundbreaking 'Natasha's Law'. Our partnership consistently receives extensive high-quality national press coverage, reflecting our first-class reputation.

# COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING

Enhancing the life of the University and its people, creating a community where we can succeed in achieving our shared vision.

THE NOMINEES ARE:



## Kam Kaur

As the first face you see upon entering Building 85 on Highfield Campus, Kam brightens people's days with her cheerful, can-do approach. She has been nominated as a wonderful role model for community and wellbeing by the Institute for Life Sciences, recognised for always making people feel welcomed and valued, and for making a positive difference to everyone's day by knowing their name and a little about what makes them tick.

Kam's interpersonal skills have been noted, and she always goes the extra mile, whether this is finding a room for a last-minute meeting, answering queries, or welcoming visitors and the students, for whom she deeply cares. Her responsibility for her peers was recently highlighted through her role as a fire warden. She marshalled people away from Building 85 at a recent fire alarm, keeping them safe while also maintaining a cheerful attitude in the cold weather.

"Kam is such an asset to the University," remarked Dr Robin Chave, the CEO of Southampton Science Park, at his most recent visit.



## Arlott Bar Staff team

Sara-Jane Harvey-Lee, Tracey Scott

No matter the weather, time of day, or business of service, the team at the Arlott Bar never fail to greet customers from across the University with a cheerful smile and a chat. The team, led by Sara-Jane and Tracey, demonstrate the vital role all members of our University community play in building a vibrant place of work and study.

They truly embody the 'People' strand of our Strategy – helping our students and staff to work better, with a more positive frame of mind, and make our University a better place to work.

One nomination stated: "Their cheerfulness is unfailing, and without reservations or exception. I often schedule informal meetings or catch-ups in the Arlott Bar because of their friendliness."

Another commented: "The experience at the Arlott Bar is always positive. Anyone who frequents the Arlott Bar will be familiar with this: there is invariably a buzz in the room that begins with the welcome and continues. This is not just about a caffeine fix, but about the mood the staff create and the effect it has on us."



## The Campbell Group team

Professor Adriane Chapman, Dr Alice Iles, Amanda Goodacre, Dr Atiyeh Alinaghi, Dr Baharak Rastegari, Carlene Cornick, Dr Corina Cirstea, Dr Dimitra Georgiadou, Dorota Sikorska, Dr Haiming Liu, Dr Indu Bodala, Dr Jo Grundy, Josephine Axtell, Kate Proh, Katie Chamberlain, Kelly Terrell, Magdalena Jablonska, Megan Chan, Michelle Milton, Dr Reena Pau, Dr Sarah Hewitt, Dr Shelly Vishwakarma

The Campbell Group is a monthly forum 'safe space' for all women in the School of Electronics and Computer Science (ECS), where they can discuss issues, share best practice, and organise training, wellbeing and social events. Now in its fourth year, the group has grown to 78 members who have spearheaded numerous initiatives that have benefitted everyone and grown the community.

Initiatives and activities in the past year include: organising professional development workshops, with sessions focused on improving confidence and eliminating imposter syndrome to help support women's careers; running regular seminars by distinguished women, mentors and role models; developing a suite of training resources; running an event calendar with inclusive events such as menopause workshops and Disability Network talks; developing an ECS induction programme to better support new joiners; running a departmental monthly newsletter; organising a network for staff returning to work from parental leave; developing an equity, diversity and inclusion (ED&I) training activity for the ECS away day; running 1-2-1 career development and promotion training for women; and proposing the new Deputy Head of School, ED&I post to raise the ED&I profile.

# INSPIRING LEADERSHIP

Demonstrating personal or professional leadership that enables and empowers others to thrive, living our values and providing an example for others to follow.

## THE NOMINEES ARE:



### Professor Lindy Holden-Dye

Lindy has been Head of School for Biological Sciences since 2018. There are many wonderful aspects to Lindy's leadership, but an overarching theme is her engagement with people.

Lindy has been a champion for the School by making the case for significant expansion in terms of people and space – and guiding everyone successfully through this. Her personal approach ensures that all newcomers feel welcome.

Lindy has delivered a masterclass in how to create a truly collegiate environment that engages the whole Biological Sciences community – including undergraduate and postgraduate students, research and administrative staff, and academics. Great communication is part of this – for example, creating the 'tea and chat' meetings with undergraduates, no doubt helping the school to reach very high levels of undergraduate course satisfaction.

Her 'Friday Digest' email newsletters, with success stories about research, education and outreach, are eagerly anticipated, and were especially important during the pandemic, being just the tonic that everyone needed to keep focused and upbeat through difficult times.

All this, and Lindy still makes home-made meringues for coffee breaks!



### Sarah Cooper

Sarah's 30-year tenure at the Early Years Centre has been remarkable, thanks to her unwavering passion and enthusiasm for her work.

She inspires her colleagues to develop professionally and creates a positive working environment through her visionary leadership. Despite the challenges of renovations in the Centre this year, Sarah has kept the wellbeing of children and staff a top priority. Senior practitioners feel supported, knowing they can turn to her for guidance and advice at any time.

Sarah's commitment to creating a secure and happy environment is awe-inspiring. Her compassionate leadership style fosters an environment of trust, where everyone feels valued and appreciated. As a result, she is held in high regard by her colleagues and has become a role model for aspiring leaders in the field.

Her impact on the Early Years Centre will undoubtedly be felt for years to come, and her leadership will continue to inspire and transform the lives of all those she encounters. Sarah's dedication to creating a positive work environment and putting the wellbeing of her colleagues and the children first is a testament to her exceptional leadership skills.



### Professor Tapas Mishra

Tapas is the Head of Banking and Finance, and the Director of the Centre for Empirical Finance and Banking at Southampton Business School. In four years since taking this position, Tapas has shown exceptional collegiality, courage and dedication in transforming the department to an excellent, forward-looking team within the faculty.

An exceptional and inclusive leader, Tapas works tirelessly without seeking recognition. His extraordinary help to early-career researchers during COVID-19 may have gone unnoticed due to his modest nature, but his continued support to early-career researchers, who make up 75 per cent of the faculty, has certainly been recognised – with them and senior colleagues able to vouch for his readiness to help in difficult times.

Tapas has been instrumental in expanding the department in terms of size and talent, attracting some of the brightest minds and enriching the learning experience. His efforts in recruiting and retaining some of the best staff in the industry have been invaluable in ensuring the faculty remains at the forefront of the field.

His exemplary leadership has made a significant impact on our University community and beyond. His dedication, hard work and vision are truly inspiring, and he has earned the admiration and respect of his colleagues and peers.



# MAKING IT HAPPEN

**Delivering exceptional administrative, operational, professional, or technical support that enables the University's vision to achieve the remarkable.**

**THE NOMINEES ARE:**



## **Lisa Smith**

Lisa's ability to work with all staff levels across the University, to identify problems, analyse customer requirements and turn these into deliverable, affordable solutions is impressive.

Lisa designs and implements Human Resources (HR) system improvements within limited budget and resource, always delivering improved service to customers. Working with the Reward and Recognition team, Lisa's capacity and creativeness has enabled the University to move into the 21st century, delivering transformational change to academic promotions using an online solution.

The design specification changed several times and Lisa's flexibility enabled the system solution to work with the required changes. Her can-do attitude sees her go above and beyond to deliver the best solution for both HR and the end users.

Since the new online system was implemented this year, the feedback from everyone involved in academic promotions has been positive. The new system saves time and money, driving organisational excellence.

While building and adapting the online solution, Lisa was also integral to other priority Reward activity, which she delivered to a high standard.

Lisa embodies the Southampton behaviours, providing solutions-based support that the University would notice if not provided, but often goes unrecognised as work behind the scenes.



## **RIS Communications - Re:action Magazine team**

**Louise Payne, Lucy Collie**

Louise Payne and Lucy Collie have been nominated for their work on *Re:action*, Southampton's semestery research and enterprise magazine. Louise and Lucy have researched, written, edited, commissioned the design, and led dissemination. They have done this alongside their other Research and Innovation Services communications work.

The timeliness and quality of the *Re:action* content has extended its reach beyond internal audiences. It covers the array of research and enterprise activities undertaken across the University. It informs and inspires our staff, alumni, the Russell Group, Science and Engineering South, Business South, the *Southern Daily Echo*, research councils and policymakers.

Recent issues include: 'Routes to success' (Summer 2022), following careers across the Triple Helix, 'Civic Strengths' (Winter 2022), and 'Maritime Marvels' (Spring 2023).

Louise and Lucy went above and beyond in creating the bumper-length Civic and Maritime issues. These supported the communication strategies of the Civic University Agreement, Ocean Business 2023, and Southampton Marine and Maritime Institute (SMMI) membership campaign. Online reads for the Civic issue total 2,400, and the recent Maritime issue stands at 1,700, both continuing to grow. Both issues required a double print run to meet the demand for hard copies (estimated 600 readers each).



## **The Valley Graphics team (formerly known as Design & Print Centre)**

**Andrew Moody, Charlotte Willbourne, Graeme Kinnear, James Doel, Karen Selby, Kitty Galpin, Lynn Campbell, Paul Chalk, Simon Dade, Sophie Taylor, Stuart Hunt**

The support, happy attitude and unwavering help from the Valley Graphics team, year-round and under tight time pressures, is a perfect example of collegiality.

They consistently show their commitment to delivering high-quality services to the University and beyond, as well as being able to accommodate last-minute requests and tight deadlines. Their work has most recently been seen in the documentation for the University's Civic Agreement as well as other public events like the ABP Marathon. They also provide continual support for campus open days and visit days.

They are always willing to go the extra mile to ensure that the University's design and print needs are met, regardless of the task. For instance, they have developed an in-house process to create signage to support staff and students with visual impairments by testing and adapting their existing equipment to increase its functionality, removing the need to use external and costly alternatives.

The team's care for their clients is exceptional. They take the time to understand each client's needs and objectives, and work tirelessly to achieve them. They are always professional, courteous, and respectful, which has earned them a reputation for being a pleasure to work with.

# KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND ENTERPRISE

Delivering knowledge exchange and enterprise activities that result in positive societal, economic, and environmental impact.

THE NOMINEES ARE:



## Professor Jessica Teeling

Jessica and her team have created a giant 'snakes and ladders' game, to raise awareness of the risk factors for dementia.

Evaluation indicates that 80 per cent of participants changed their perception of risk after playing the game, providing evidence that this knowledge exchange activity has a positive societal impact. The game has attracted £18,000 in external funding, including funds to support the generation of an electronic version to extend its reach internationally.

Since June 2022, Jessica has led seven public engagement events, reaching more than 5,000 members of the public. In a short time, she reached out to young and older members of the public and built an interdisciplinary team of researchers and artists to further develop the game.

Jessica is also working with local charities to train 20 volunteers that run local dementia cafes. She will also participate in three dementia festivals, which will enhance the engagement with our local community and raise awareness of dementia among the general public.

By starting a dialogue based on research carried out in Southampton, Jessica is contributing to healthier communities and healthier brains.



## Dr Neil Gostling

Neil is an Associate Professor in Evolution and Palaeobiology, and over the last seven years he has spoken to over 3,000 children in more than a dozen schools about his specialism. He presents annually at the Southampton Science and Engineering Fair (SOTSEF), explaining the Science of Jurassic Park, and talking to regional science cafes and societies. He has won SOTSEF awards for Darwin's Armchair, a series of conversations about evolution.

Neil's research has named three new dinosaur species, with a global reach from newspapers in India to Australia, TV and radio in Canada, New Zealand, the BBC and ITV. He has been involved in documentaries for Disney+, NatGeo and the BBC. The impact of his research, highlighted on University buildings and brochures, has an advertising value over £250,000.

Neil and his wife set up 'The dinosaur on your window sill' group on Facebook during lockdown, providing a safe space for people to ask questions about science. It now has over 5,000 members in more than 45 countries, on all seven continents. In 2022, Neil was awarded £20,000 to develop an exhibition to highlight south coast geology and fossils to underrepresented groups; this is on track to open in 2025 in God's House Tower, Southampton.



## nC2 Engineering Consultancy team

**Dr Benjamin Cunningham, Dr Ilaria Corni, Dr Jelili Bello, Professor Nicola Symonds, Rachel Triggs, Sam Hambrook, Dr Spencer Court, Sue Bradbury**

During the past year, nC2 has had a crucial role in conserving an iconic piece of the UK's maritime heritage: Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar, *HMS Victory*.

nC2 is working with the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN) to design and run a suite of tests to assess the performance of a range of materials. The results will provide the evidence-based data NMRN needs to select the right products for its current major conservation programme and to inform maintenance plans into the future.

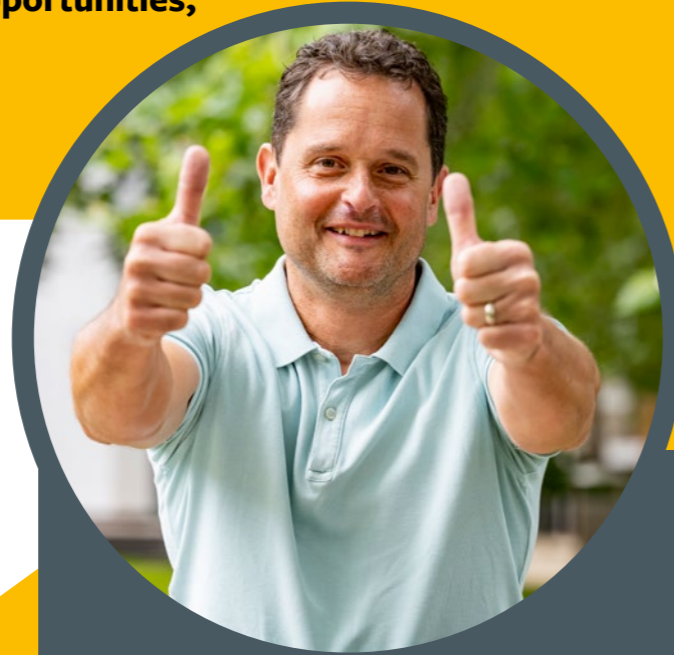
The nC2 team has gone above and beyond their usual duties by forming a 'virtual team' with the NMRN, enabling conservation staff and shipwrights to immediately access the specialist advice they need. The team has also taken part in publicity activities, including television interviews and outreach events, raising the profile of the conservation work and highlighting the positive impact of the University on the local community.

nC2 has successfully bid for a further five years of *HMS Victory* work, helping to ensure that the ship remains a world-class historic vessel for the next 50 years, while bringing in crucial revenue and recognition to the local area.

# RESEARCH IMPACT

**Delivering impactful research that tackles the world's most complex problems, drives local opportunities, and grows our global reputation.**

**THE NOMINEES ARE:**



## Professor Juerg Matter

Juerg is a Professor of Geoengineering and Carbon Management at the University and sits on the scientific committee for 44.01, a company that gets its name from the molecular mass of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The company won the 2022 Earthshot prize in the 'Fix our Climate' category for their work in eliminating CO<sub>2</sub> by turning it into rock, catapulting Juerg and the University onto the worldwide stage.

Through mineralisation in peridotite, a rock found in large quantities across the globe, 44.01 removes CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere in a safe, cost-effective and permanent way. The groundbreaking research and action of 44.01 is helping to tackle climate change, and the company has ambitions to mineralise one billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2040.

Juerg is a fantastic advocate for our University's research and enterprise, achieving international praise and acclaim for putting his research into action to tackle one of the world's biggest challenges.



## Professor Nicky Marsh

Nicky has led on a series of high-impact, high-exposure research grants in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. As Principal Investigator for three Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded projects, Nicky has delivered:

- Wide-ranging reports, think-kits, sandpits and webinars about pride, place attachment and decision-making for local authorities, creative practitioners and community partners
- Substantial input on the monitoring and evaluation for Southampton City Council's successful Levelling Up Fund bid (£20m)
- New knowledge and understandings about place-based research for the UK government and leading arts, culture and heritage organisations
- Training seminars for the Department of Levelling Up, Houses and Communities on using creative methodologies to understand and measure the 'Pride in Place' mission
- Recommendations for the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on how culture can reanimate public spaces
- Key learnings for Historic England that have influenced the design of its High Street Heritage Action Zones evaluation programme and the next generation of Heritage Action Zones after 2024
- Creative outputs from award-winning artists that respond to the role of pride in national and international policymaking

Nicky's achievements are even more remarkable in that she has undertaken this pioneering work alongside her responsibilities as Associate Dean for Research and Enterprise and as Co-Director of the Southampton Institute for Arts and Humanities (SIAH).



## SARTRAC Research Project team

**Daniela Rivera Marin, Professor Emma Tompkins, Professor Jack Corbett, Professor Jadu Dash, Lucy Graves, Dr Nikolaos Skliris, Professor Robert Marsh, Sarah Ryles, Dr Sien Van Der Plank, Cristina Argudin Violante, Dr Subhajt Bandopadhyay, Dr Victoria Dominguez Almela, Yanna Alexia Fidai**

The SARTRAC research project team, led by Emma and Jadu, has made significant progress in understanding the complex causes and impacts of mass algal blooms of *Sargassum* seaweed in the tropical Atlantic basin. The team has translated this into outstanding research impact via engagement with school children and the public to co-develop transformational developmental opportunities.

The engagement activities include:

- 'More than Maps' interdisciplinary workshops to build research skills in young people and early career professionals to support adaptive capacity for coastal change, with 400 people engaged
- working with three schools in Ghana to develop teaching resources on *Sargassum* biology and satellite monitoring tools, delivered to more than 200 school children with online workshops to build capacity of schoolteachers and early-career researchers
- installation of citizen science low-cost coastal monitoring points in three communities in Ghana and training of teachers and community representatives, with photos regularly uploaded to an open access site (CoastSnap) and more than 200 students engaged to share their concerns about *Sargassum* and discuss research questions

The team is now receiving requests for citizen science monitoring from other parts of the world – including Belize, Jamaica, Barbados and Anguilla – that are affected by *Sargassum*.

# SUPPORTING SUSTAINABILITY

Role modelling a cleaner, greener and healthier University, where environmental and social sustainability is part of everything we do.

## THE NOMINEES ARE:



### Dr James Bevan

James is an alumnus of the University's graduate entry Medicine (BM4) programme. Since qualifying, he has worked hard to infuse sustainability into the BM curriculum.

Building on his early work for the faculty, he has been employed as a Planetary Health Teaching Fellow, with his work being recognised nationally.

The Planetary Health Report Card, a fantastic student-led initiative that assesses medical schools' performance against a variety of planetary health metrics, recently released its 2023 report, which included 96 universities from 11 countries.

Among participating medical schools, most received a 'C' grade or below for curriculum and only four were awarded 'A' grades in this category. Southampton is one of those four universities, which reflects James's hard work and passion for this subject.



### Kate Parry

Kate has made significant contributions to promoting sustainable practices and creating a greener working environment.

One of Kate's notable achievements is her work to secure an anticipated bronze LEAF award for the Human Development and Health laboratories. This tremendous amount of work alongside her substantive role demonstrates her commitment to reducing the environmental impact of the University's operations and improving sustainability practices.

Kate's dedication to environmental sustainability extends beyond this project. She has also been instrumental in securing a route to reuse and recycle laboratory equipment, reducing the University's waste and promoting circular economy practices.

In addition to these accomplishments, Kate has agreed to chair a LEAF implementation group for Clinical and Experimental Sciences. This group will help identify further opportunities for the University to promote sustainability, and will work towards new initiatives to achieve these goals. This demonstrates Kate's commitment to expanding sustainable working practices across the wider faculty.

Kate's work has had a significant impact on the University's sustainability practices. She is a leader in promoting sustainability on site and an inspiration to others in the faculty community.



### Sustainability Reporting team

**Abeer Alsulami, Colette Nsofor, Dr Ishmael Tingbani, Lakshi Doorgakunt, Dr Mohamed Elmaghoub, Dr Pingli Li, Dr Raymond Xiaoti Hu, Dr Renata Konadu, Richard Cartwright, Professor Ven Tauringana, Dr Zhifeng Chen**

Since June 2022, this team has brought sustainability to the heart of teaching in the Business School. The project trained 12 members of University staff to become certified with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). Upon completion of their certification, they in turn trained 70 undergraduate and postgraduate students, who now work with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to complete their sustainability reports, both locally and internationally.

Initiated by Ven in collaboration with Ishmael and Renata, the project team helps students to use the GRI framework to analyse the sustainability initiatives of numerous SMEs, which often struggle to implement sustainability-focused targets. This helps these companies to review their sustainability impact and contribute to making the world a better place to live.

Not only do they help SMEs focus on sustainability, but they are also advancing the way we apply sustainability practices throughout the University, being able to identify areas for improvement as well as providing valuable guidance on how to integrate sustainability into University operations.

The team has provided wider and deeper understanding of sustainability principles, evaluation methodologies and reporting frameworks, and they have made a significant impact in the field of sustainable development evaluation within our organisation.

# EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Helping create an inclusive University community where everyone feels they belong. Supporting the mission of inclusivity, leading, and influencing social change at a local or national level.

THE NOMINEES ARE:



## Black Futures Cohort Tutors team

**Dr Booker Ogutu, Dr Julie Vullnetari**

Booker and Julie began their roles as Black Futures cohort tutors in September 2022. This role involves supporting cohorts of PhD students entering the Faculty of Environmental and Life Sciences (FELS) via the new Black Futures postgraduate research funding scheme, which aims to increase the recruitment and retention of outstanding Black British PhD scholars. They are responsible for running the scheme, advertising and recruiting new scholars, as well as reporting back on progress.

Booker and Julie have gone above and beyond to support the students enrolled on the scheme. Their pastoral support has been exceptional. They have also run a brilliant project on Black student experiences in FELS, through which a Black Students' Network has been set up.

They have organised for Black students to meet Professor Patricia Daley from the University of Oxford for a closed networking session and have plenty more initiatives in the pipeline.

In this rewarding but often difficult role, Booker and Julie recognise the importance of their positions and are deeply committed to supporting the next generation of Black academics.



## Occupational Therapy team

**Anita Bowser, Belinda Williams, Bryony McGinty, Dr Charlotte Brooks, Fay Hughes, Dr James Gavin, Karen Witts, Dr Leisle Ezekiel, Dr Maggie Donovan-Hall, Rachel Dadswell, Sarah McGinley**

Following the death of George Floyd and the subsequent Black Lives Matter movement, the Occupational Therapy department became acutely aware of a lack of teaching and learning in their curricula that explored issues relating to equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging (EDIB). Frustrated by this, the team felt an urgent need to move from silence and discussion to action.

The team, understanding their own privileged positions and lack of representative diversity, reached out to their professional affinity groups (BAMEOTUK, AbleOTUK, and LGBTQIA+OTUK) to co-produce, develop and deliver lived-experience materials.

This led students through the process of exploring their own positions, privileges and how to be active allies in stamping out racism, victimisation and micro-aggressions in their personal and professional lives. The module is now firmly embedded into the curriculum across six dedicated sessions, with students reporting increased authenticity, responsibility, humility and courage in their practice. It has received positive attention locally and nationally, with a third-year student shortlisted for an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I) Student Experience Award as a direct result of inclusive change actions. In addition, the team, with a selection of student participants, produced an article on this topic for the June 2023 issue of *Occupational Therapy News*, which is available to 35,000+ professional members.



## Menopause Working Group team

**Claire Buchan, Heather Pasero, Julie Stubbington, Kate Walmsley, Libby Barton, Richard Bell**

This small, motivated group from across the University, jointly led by Human Resources and Health, Safety and Risk, formed in 2022 to raise awareness for individuals going through menopause.

Their achievements in the last year include: making the case to the University Executive Board to sign the Menopause Pledge, organising a live online event for World Menopause Day, and designing and delivering menopause awareness sessions for colleagues. Julie has trained over 90 staff and 40 line managers in Student Experience alone, as well as organising safe listening spaces.

The team has created a site hosting a raft of useful resources. Heather has produced three podcasts with Professor Jane Falkingham, the Rt Hon Caroline Nokes and Dr Louise Newson (GP and founder of the Menopause Charity). A new podcast is already planned with the government's new menopause champion, Helen Tomlinson.

The team is also hosting a drop-in session to bring together those affected by menopause, and later in the year they will run focus groups to understand what individuals need from a University menopause policy. They truly go above and beyond to support those in our community going through menopause and raise awareness around it.

# PUBLIC GOOD AND SOCIAL MOBILITY

Making exceptional connections, partnerships and collaborations that transform the environment and lives of people, and embody the University as a civic partner.

## THE NOMINEES ARE:



### Claire Giles

Since starting her role early to support the University's response to the emerging crisis arising from the war in Ukraine, Claire has worked tirelessly to establish and lead our first ever University of Sanctuary and Ukrainian scholarship provision. Claire went above and beyond to connect and harness the powerful assistance that the University can leverage in these circumstances. Claire's work has enabled the University to offer the best support to Ukrainian students and their families in what has been an extremely difficult and ever-changing situation.

Claire's approach to collaborative partnership working has ensured that she has brought together key stakeholders from across the University to support students who are the most vulnerable, not only locally but globally. She has created and continues to develop the firm foundations for this area of work which embodies the University as a civic partner.

This September we welcomed our first small cohort of sanctuary scholars and will be welcoming our second this year.

Through this work, Claire has been able to directly transform the lives and futures of those students who have had their education interrupted by war, conflict or persecution, setting us on the path to support others.



### Civic University Agreement team

**Professor Fraser Sturt, Giles Giles, Gino Graziano, Jon Walsh, Louise Coysh, Dr Ronda Gowland-Pryde, Wendy-Anne Appleby**

On 9 March, our President and Vice-Chancellor signed our first Civic University Agreement with the leaders of our five local authorities. This landmark event for the University and our civic partners provides the foundation for the future successful delivery of the University's Civic Strategic Plan, a core strand of our Strategy.

This would not have been possible without the dedication, collegiality and teamworking of the small group of staff working across the University to deliver the event, with the Civic University Agreement at its centre.

The event was the culmination of a year-long engagement during which the agreement was co-produced with local stakeholders and iterated with our local authority partners: Southampton City Council, Winchester City Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council. The team did this alongside their other responsibilities and in the face of substantial challenges. It is a testament to their dedication that the Civic University Agreement achieved unprecedented cross-party support across five councils, bringing together local political leaders in a common cause for a unique event and declaration of shared ambitions.



### Social Mobility Network (SMN) Action Group team

**Beth Kimber-Bradshaw, Dr Carla Wiggs, Clare Merivale, Daisy Meadham, Hayley Shepherd, Heather Pasero, Liam Gifford, Luke Searle, Marcia Ostrowski, Michelle Lin, Savanna Cutts**

The SMN Action Group is a collective of staff and students who identify as being from a lower socio-economic group or working-class background. As volunteers, they have designed and delivered a growing list of events and media to raise awareness and celebrate working-class identity within the University.

They have initiated the Class Ceiling podcast, currently on its seventh episode, which has covered a range of topics, including accents and sub-cultural capital, and included expert guests from both inside and outside the University. Action Group members have created a safe space for staff and students to share and feel part of a community. They have also prepared a conference to mark Social Mobility Awareness Day on 15 June and a photography exhibition to celebrate working-class experiences of students, staff and alumni.

Their activities cover topics such as classism, accent bias and the class pay gap, while celebrating the assets staff and students from working-class backgrounds bring to higher education. The SMN is the only network (as far as they know) that brings both staff and students into a holistic community. Their activities contributed to the University being highly commended in the University of the Year category at the Social Mobility UK Awards in November 2022.

# RISING STAR

**Celebrating the next generation of highly skilled staff whose ideas and innovations position us for future success.**

**THE NOMINEES ARE:**



## Dr Ashton Kingdon

Ashton has become a key member of the Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology, and has also established herself as a major star on the national and international research scene.

As a collegiate, creative and passionate scholar, Ashton is loved by her students and is an excellent friend to her colleagues. She has an international reputation in her field of expertise, evidenced by invitations to join international and prestigious networks.

She has increased her research output by contributing to top-ranking journals and has also secured a competitive book contract with Palgrave Macmillan, with her book due to be released in 2024. Her research expertise is sought by numerous international organisations, including her appointment as an expert witness for the US House of Representatives January 6th Committee, and as a keynote speaker for the Five Eye conference, which subsequently had a broad impact on the counterterrorism practices of UK, US, Canadian and Australian law enforcement.

Her research has contributed to substantial collaboration and knowledge production with industry, including with social media giants and international governments.

Besides these impressive achievements, Ashton has been a fantastic colleague, going beyond her duties to be part of numerous open and visit days, and creating a tremendous collegial environment with established and new colleagues.



## Dr Jessica Spurrell

Jessica is one of those rare individuals who sees the solution in every challenge and brings people together with empathy, kindness and humility.

A champion of student voice, collegiality and inclusion, Jessica goes above and beyond with every element of her work, and is leading institutional change as well as connecting and establishing relationships that will enable Southampton's goals as an egalitarian university.

This is evidenced by her work, including:

- making the Science and Engineering Day more accessible
- arranging over 62 family travel vouchers and more than 450 lunch vouchers for people who would be otherwise unable to attend
- her work on the 'Ask the Expert' platform, which enabled connections and conversations between researchers and school and public groups
- the ongoing impact of the #UoSActivity packs, which continue to have a legacy in breaking down barriers between the University and the public
- her leadership of the 'Activity Mapper' project, a sector-leading initiative supporting the recording and celebration of engagement and inclusive practice

Jessica is an incredible mentor of her interns, providing inspirational leadership and nurturing guidance, resulting in at least six of her students being nominated for Student Experience Awards. Jess's ideas, thoughtfulness and ability to make long-lasting multidisciplinary connections make her a true rising star.



## Dr Rhiannon Joslin

Rhiannon is a permanent lecturer in the undergraduate physiotherapy programme, while also working clinically in the NHS as a consultant physiotherapist within a paediatric chronic pain team. Balancing her roles, she provides a unique skillset to the University in the field of musculoskeletal pain affecting younger people.

Her expertise was recognised by the World Health Organization, which selected her, the only physiotherapist, as part of the guideline development group for the management of chronic pain in children. Her research, using a person-centred approach, has changed the way we look at paediatric pain.

Rhiannon has showcased her research through public engagement, co-developing a short film with young people, which was showcased internationally at the Paediatric Pain Conference in Auckland last year, and provides a clinical resource for young people. Rhiannon has also presented her work to the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy through podcasts and in their monthly magazine.

Her teaching excellence has also been apparent for several years, leading multiple aspects of the musculoskeletal curriculum, including simulated practice. The forward thinking and person-centred approach that she pioneers in her clinical and teaching roles was reflected in a recent webinar for students, entitled 'The physiotherapist of the future'.

# IN MEMORY

## IN MEMORY OF COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE DIED OVER THE PAST YEAR

**Dr Banyana Madi-Segwagwe**

Research Fellow, Health Sciences

**Sir Ben Helfgott**

Alumnus and Honorary Graduate of the University, Parkes Institute

**Professor Colin Pritchard**

Emeritus Professor, Medicine

**Debra Ugboma**

Principal Teaching Fellow, Health Sciences

**Mark Babey**

Plant Engineer, Estates and Facilities

**Martin Sealy**

Maintenance and Refurbishment Manager, Residences

**Richard Clarke**

Goods Operative, Estates and Facilities

**Sarah Bown**

Student Wellbeing Advisor, Student & Education Services

**Dr Tim Millar**

Lecturer in Pharmacology, Clinical and Experimental Sciences

**Wayne Curson**

Goods Operative, Estates and Facilities

**William Grassick**

Waste and Recycling Operative, Estates and Facilities





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