

**LEARNING**

&

**TEACHING**



**AWARDS**



**2017**

**SHOWCASING EXCELLENT  
PRACTICES AT ULSTER**

**FRIDAY 26TH MAY**  
**HILTON HOTEL**  
**BELFAST**



**Colum Mackey**

**UUSU PRESIDENT**

## INTRODUCTION FROM UUSU PRESIDENT

### Welcome

Tonight, we reflect and celebrate the amazing work of staff and students at Ulster University. These Awards are now in their fourth year and it is heartening to see their continued growth and success amongst staff and students.

This year we have seen over 350 students take the time to nominate staff who challenge and inspire them. Their submission gives us an insight into the journey of a student at Ulster. From the first year whose lecture made them feel like they belonged from day one to the final year who couldn't have completed their dissertation without the help of a dedicated subject librarian. Each lecture, each seminar, each query answered and problem resolved, each interaction builds an experience for our students and tonight we recognise this is an experience to be proud of. As an individual or as a team you have made an outstanding contribution to the lives of the students who have nominated you.

In an increasingly metric driven sector, it is important that we take the time to ask for and listen to the students' voice. These student-led teaching awards give us the opportunity to champion that voice and recognise what works at Ulster. These awards also present a challenge to staff to consider how we might use the narratives to shape how we deliver education to our students.

Our awards are truly student led. All our nominations come from students and each year a core committee of Senior Representatives collaborate with UUSU staff to make the awards happen. They are involved with the development of the categories and assist with the promotion, but most importantly they are solely responsible for the shortlisting of all nominations and choosing the worthy winners. Sincere thanks to this years' committee for their hard work.

On behalf of students and the Students' Union welcome, relax and enjoy the Learning and Teaching Awards 2017.

Thanks

**Colum Mackey** | President

### SPECIAL THANKS TO SENIOR REPS & OFFICER INVOLVED

Vikki Lutton **Belfast School of Art**

Niall Fields **School of Modern Languages**

Gary Jameson **School of Engineering**

David O'Hale **School of Engineering**

Yogesh Gopal Parajuli **School of Nursing**

Simana Ale **School of Sociology and Applied Social Studies**

Laura Bingham **School of Communication,**

Fabio Cristiano **Department of Marketing, Entrepreneurship and Strategy**

Ariyan Saadat **School of Sociology and Applied Social Studies**

Niall Hughes **School of Computing & Intelligent Systems**

Benedict Dadebo **School of Health Sciences**

Hannah Rooney **VP Jordanstown**



**Professor  
Paddy Nixon**

**VICE-CHANCELLOR  
AND PRESIDENT**

## **VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT**

Academic excellence is, and will continue to be, at the heart of everything we do at Ulster University. Our Five & Fifty strategy reinforces our commitment to providing an educational experience that transforms lives, develop skills, raise ambitions and prepare our students to be future leaders.

These awards are an important opportunity to celebrate our staff and students, dedicated to and succeeding in this work. They are particularly significant this year, following the recognition of the student experience here at Ulster University through our award for Most Improved Student Experience at the national Times Higher Education Awards at the end of 2016.

Tonight, we recognise the range of contributions made across the University that contribute to providing such a high quality experience. From excellent teaching to outstanding research supervisors and support staff, from budding postgraduate students to student employability initiatives, each of the nominees play a vital role in equipping our students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to excel. We are here to reward those who are inspiring the next generation of leaders and professionals.

Staff at Ulster University work tirelessly for their students, and there is no greater thank you than the one which comes from those they teach and support. We hope these awards will motivate you to continue your good work and through showcasing your excellent practices, will inspire other colleagues.

It is vital that Ulster University continues to listen, support and respond to our students. Working in partnership with you is central to our ethos and our focus on student-centred provision. The richness of the nominations, written by students, for these awards provide us with valuable input that we want to use to impact the way we educate.

Thank you to Colum and the team within UUSU for their continued commitment to these awards and ensuring that they are truly student led. I trust that we will continue to work together to ensure that all of our students benefit from an empowering and rewarding learning and teaching experience at Ulster University.

**Professor Paddy Nixon | VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT**



**Professor  
Paul  
Bartholomew**

**PRO-VICE  
CHANCELLOR  
(EDUCATION)**

## **PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR (EDUCATION)**

The Student-led Learning and Teaching Awards make a fantastic contribution to Ulster University's culture of excellence in teaching and indeed to the lived-experience of staff. The Awards highlight the best practice of teaching, learning support and representation within Ulster University and celebrate examples of creativity and effectiveness within the curriculum and in learning support more widely. They span the institution and highlight those experiences that have been most valued by our students.

The Awards offer us an opportunity to recognise our staff and to share this recognition more widely - and they are truly student-led - from the nomination stage through to the panels that make the final award decisions. This student-led focus is what makes these awards so special to our staff - since we recognise that, through their study, students are experts in the learning experiences we offer here at Ulster. As such, I know how important they are to those who teach and support learning and of course to those who receive an award. Furthermore, the Awards give us an excellent way for students' voices to be heard outside of the constraints of institutional and national surveys and they offer us a welcome opportunity to get together to celebrate our teaching success.

Through the recognition they give our staff, students are actively engaging in the informing of 'what works' and by so doing these Awards, and the student-led work that underpins them, shape fundamentally the practice of staff/student partnerships at Ulster University and so enhance our culture of excellence in learning and teaching.

On a personal note, I'm delighted to be able witness the recognition our students give our staff and I would like to commend the student body and their Union for their diligence and enthusiasm in running the Awards and for the profoundly positive impact they have on our learning and teaching culture. Student engagement in the life of a University is fundamental to any institution's success and these awards represent a cornerstone of that engagement. In recent months the Students' Union has worked with me to build on current success and together we have commissioned the Student Partnerships in Quality Scotland (SPARQS) to work with the Union to continue to develop student representation frameworks and to draw on the best practice in the sector. A highly functional representation framework will help us greatly as we work together going forwards - especially in the field of curriculum design where I believe students' expertise in the lived experience of our courses will help us make them even better. I'm particularly proud of how the University recognises such student contributions and how student representation can contribute toward the Edge Award and Edge Excel.

So as we celebrate the year behind us, and those staff being recognised, so we also recommit to working in partnership as we go forwards. These Awards allow us to do both of those things and I am very thankful that we have an excellent Students' Union with whom we can partner so effectively. I'd also like to formally thank the outgoing student officers for their magnificent work and to welcome the new team into place - who I am sure will help us to continue our great work together.

**Paul Bartholomew | PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR (EDUCATION)**

# WHAT STAFF HAVE SAID

## **Mr Richard Gormley**

### **School of Sport**

"The work we do is designed to upskill students and give them the best possible chance to succeed. It sounds clichéd but it is very rewarding and satisfying to know this is genuinely appreciated by our students."

## **Dr Paul McKenzie**

### **School of Geography and Environmental Sciences**

"The UUSU Learning and Teaching Awards are an excellent initiative and a highlight of the teaching year. I have been really encouraged by the Awards and really appreciate students taking the time to nominate staff. The Awards are exceptionally well organised and highlight the outstanding work of the UUSU. I hope to be able to attend for many years ahead!"

## **Professor Martin McKinney**

### **former Head of School of Computing & Information Engineering**

"As a former winner, I would just say that I was honoured and proud simply to be nominated. To win - this was simply the most meaningful award I think one can receive at University. You are being recognised by those who know best and have no vested interest in your success. So for them (students) to take time out and nominate is something that shows the depth of their feelings. For me, this was just a fantastic high on which to leave the University and was the pinnacle of some 30 years' endeavours."

## **Professor Malachy O'Neill**

### **Head of School of Irish Language & Literature**

"This recognition was greatly appreciated positive affirmation of student engagement with a wide range of employability initiatives which I championed in the School of Irish Language and Literature. It was fantastically encouraging in both professional and personal terms and has inspired me to share these strategies with others at Ulster and across the sector."

## **Dr Stephen Roulston**

### **School of Education**

"So often as a teacher, you have to infer your own effectiveness through the reactions of individuals or by seeing good results from students. It was encouraging and most affirming to get nominated by a student for a UUSU award in 2016."

## EXCELLENCE IN PLACEMENT / EMPLOYABILITY SUPPORT

The staff members nominated for this award will have helped students develop beyond the academic skills in the class room, offering extracurricular opportunities, or outstanding placement support (both securing these, and whilst on them).



**Dr Jasmine Lay-Cheng Lim**  
School of the Built Environment

Jasmine is a senior lecturer and has been the Course Director for both the undergraduate and postgraduate Real Estate programmes at Ulster for the last 9 years. She has forged close ties with industry to help aid student employability culminating in her securing an annual sponsorship of over £3,000 for the Real Estate Excellence Awards. She has further developed a number of employability based initiatives including undergraduate summer work based learning in conjunction with the Land and Property Services, a postgraduate Knight Frank sponsored part MSc Real Estate scholarship and a work based learning internship module for non-cognate MSc students seeking industry experience prior to graduation. She has helped deliver a civic contribution by ensuring that Ulster graduates have the best possible employability opportunities through the knowledge and experience they have gained during their time at University. Jasmine is originally from Singapore but has called Northern Ireland her second home since the mid-1990s after studying for her undergraduate and PhD at Ulster and falling in love with the 'Irish weather'.

Three words to describe **Jasmine**

**"Kind,  
Considerate,  
Conscientious"**



**Dr David McAree**  
Department of  
International Business

David is a lecturer in accounting at the Magee Campus, with a professional interest in student placement in the Ulster University Business School. He has been with at Ulster since 1995 and has held a number of roles including lecturer, course director, placement tutor and he often participates in various special interest groups. David is passionate about facilitating the personal and professional development of students and enhancing their individual employability journey throughout Ulster University. Outside work he undertakes some voluntary activities, enjoys travelling and regularly visits the USA.

Three words to describe **David**

**"Caring  
Hardworking,  
Passionate"**



**Dr Esther McGuinness**  
School of Law

Dr Esther McGuinness is a Senior Lecturer in Law at the School of Law University of Ulster. She holds an BA (Hons) degree in law and a PhD from Ulster and is a Fellow of the HEA. With research interests in all areas of employment law; in 2004, Esther undertook further training in Labour Law and Human Rights at the European University Institute, Florence. She initially worked as a Teaching Fellow at the Transitional Justice Institute (TJI) before joining the School of Law as a Lecturer in 2004. She works as an employment law practitioner and Associate Director in the Ulster Law Clinic and is currently the Director of Development and Alumni Relations in the School of Law. In 2013, she and another colleague Ciaran White established the Ulster Law Student Fund, which seeks to draw financial and mentoring assistance from alumni to support UG and PG students in range of innovative activities.

Three words to describe **Esther**

**"Driven,  
Committed,  
Inspirational"**

## EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH SUPERVISION

This award recognises staff members who supervise research undertaken by all students at Ulster, across the spectrum of levels and disciplines. This year there was an incredible amount of competition for this award, highlighting the importance of this support to our students.



### Dr Fiona Bloomer

School of Criminology,  
Politics & Social Policy

Fiona is a lecturer in Social Policy and her teaching interests include qualitative research methods, survey methods and gender and social policy. Fiona's research centres on gender issues, with a particular focus on reproductive health including: abortion policy, abortion stigma, and female genital mutilation. Her research findings have been published in international journals including the Culture, Health and Sexuality and Critical Social Policy. She is co-editor of a forthcoming collection of papers exploring access to abortion in Ireland, (north and south) and in Prince Edward Island (Canada) and is co-author of a forthcoming book 'Reimagining Global Abortion Politics'. Fiona has secured funding awards from the British Academy, the Open Society Foundation, ACSONI/ ROSA Foundation and UNITE. She is a founding member of the Reproductive Health Law and Policy Advisory Group, and a member of RAARN, the Reproductive Activism and Abortion Rights Network, a global network of academics and activists.

#### Three words to describe Fiona

"Inspiring,  
Supportive,  
Encouraging"



### Dr Fionntán de Brún

School of  
Irish Language & Literature

Dr Fionntán de Brún is a Senior Lecturer in Irish at the School of Irish Language and Literature. He was Ulster's representative in a consortium of 12 HEIs which successfully bid for £1.8 million from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to establish the Centre for Doctoral Training in Celtic Languages in 2013. Since then, Ulster has secured 3 of these prestigious scholarships for PhD students. His research specialism is Irish literature and his work in this field was recognised in the recent award of a Leadership Fellowship by the AHRC to work on a project entitled 'Rethinking Revivalism: a Conceptual Case Study in Modern Irish Literature'. His monograph on the same theme will be published later this year by Cork University Press. Dr de Brún currently supervises three PhD students who are working on projects involving aspects of Modern Irish literature and Irish folklore.

#### Three words to describe Fionntán

"Creative,  
Brilliant,  
Inspiring"



### Mr Iain MacPherson

Centre for Flexible & Continuing  
Education

Iain has spent over twenty years in the UK lecturing and researching Scottish Gaelic and Irish Gaelic language, literature, culture and related subjects since arriving in the Isle of Skye from Canada. After nine years lecturing and leading on Quality Assurance at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, University of the Highlands & Islands, Iain came to Ulster as an RCUK Academic Fellow in 2006. For the next ten years he was a lecturer in Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Celtic Studies, as well as being a widely-published researcher in his field of migrant writing and an acclaimed broadcaster/film maker for BBC Scotland/BBC Alba: his latest film being 'Taigh Ali'/Ali's House'. In 2016 his and Peter MacKay's book 'An Leabhar Liath/The Light-Blue Book' won the Donald Meek Award for the Best Gaelic Book of the Year. He is now Academic Programme Leader in the Centre for Flexible & Continuing Education where, in addition to his new and varied duties, he continues to supervise PhD students in Irish and Gaelic literature and cultural studies.

#### Three words to describe Iain

"Gifted,  
Dedicated,  
Passionate"

## EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT SUPPORT

**Succeeding at University depends on so much more than just the people who teach - this award is aimed primarily (but not exclusively) at non-teaching and support staff - to recognise all those who have gone above and beyond to help students.**



**Mrs Nuala Bryson**  
**International Student Experience**

Nuala has worked at Ulster's Coleraine campus since April 1994. She has worked in various departments and most recently has been part of the International Student Experience team since December 2012. Her primary role is ongoing pastoral care of all international students on campus. Nuala takes great pride in working closely with other departments to promote the integration of home and international students. She also provides administrative support for the Centre for English Language Teaching. Nuala really enjoys supporting our international students and helping them to realise their potential during their time at Ulster. She truly values the support of all her colleagues within the International Department and throughout the University. She is delighted to have been nominated for this award!

**Three words to describe Nuala**  
**"Passionate,  
Selfless,  
Supportive"**



**Ms Sue McBean**  
**Student Support**

Sue McBean is a nurse, teacher, botanist and photographer. She has been at Ulster University for over twenty years, mainly as an academic, recently as student support worker. Her career has been an exciting and productive balance of clinical, educational and research activity. Sue throws herself energetically and passionately into everything she commits to, including her role as proofreader and examination scribe. Facilitating others to achieve as high as possible through engendering their skills is at the core of all she does whether with patients, students or colleagues. Sue does this on a micro level using skills transferred from her own writing career and also on a macro level: she wants UK Universities to promote proofreading as the vital step to achieve optimally and is giving a research paper about this, in July, at the Higher Education Academy Conference. Sue recognises dyslexic traits in herself and this gives her great empathy and compassion for students who are able to develop deep confidence in their writing ability by her simple guidance and encouragement.

**Three words to describe Sue**  
**"Inspiring  
Passionate,  
Anchored"**



**Dr Paul McKenzie**  
**School of Geography &  
Environmental Sciences**

Paul started teaching at Ulster University in 2006. His main teaching and research interests are in GIS and satellite imagery. These subjects allow Paul to teach in a variety of ways, from collecting data with students through GPS in the field, to flying (and crashing) drones! Paul teaches numerous modules at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and is also Course Director for several postgraduate courses. Paul has a strong interest in the integration between schools and university and since 2011 he has actively encouraged partnerships between GIS students and school teachers throughout Northern Ireland. Paul is a keen runner and has completed numerous marathons and ultramarathons. Paul lives with his wife Roberta and two children, Daniel and Kate.

**Three words to describe Paul**  
**"Supportive,  
Passionate,  
Caring"**

# WHAT STUDENTS HAVE SAID

## EXCELLENCE IN PLACEMENT / EMPLOYABILITY SUPPORT

### Dr Jasmine Lim

#### School of the Built Environment

Apart from the excellent support and encouragement offered throughout the year regarding arranging work placements and job opportunities, a recent 3-day event to London to meet potential employers was above and beyond what was expected from a lecturer.

Invaluable contacts were made, that might never have happened without her intervention and for that, I genuinely feel indebted. She is a real credit and asset to the University of Ulster Jordanstown, and I genuinely feel her contribution should be acknowledged.

### Dr David McAree

#### Department of International Business

David puts extreme effort into ensuring all of his students are given the most chance possible of attaining a placement, no stone is left unturned for those who show a willingness to find a placement. During the placement period David continually checks in to see how the individual is getting on and shows genuine care for the individual.

An all-round excellent placement support, I can't think of anyone better suited to winning this award!

### Dr Esther McGuinness

#### School of Law

Esther is a committed individual, reachable by email at any time. Her dedication to both undergraduate and postgraduate students at the School of Law is inspiring. From her work at the Ulster Law Clinic to engaging students in events that develop practical skills, I am sure she has helped many students develop skills employers seek.

## EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH SUPERVISION

### Dr Fiona Bloomer

#### School of Criminology, Politics & Social Policy

Fiona has invited me to take part in research projects and has encouraged me to teach on a range of modules and by so doing, allowed me to meet and network with a wide range of research colleagues, both at Ulster and at other universities. Alongside this, I have had the opportunity to engage with a range of stakeholder organisations in Northern Ireland. These contacts will be invaluable when it comes to undertaking other research interests.

To say she has gone above and beyond to help, support and encourage me to reach and exceed my goals, does not do her justice.

### Fionntán de Brún

#### School of Irish Language & Literature

Dr. De Brún's supervision has had a very positive practical impact on my life: his excellence in supervision has meant that I am now working on publishing my PhD and also that I am publishing parts of my PhD in International Journals.

Not only that, but he has opened my eyes to the possibilities inherent in non-fiction writing. I believe he has all the personal and academic qualities that ensure generations of research students will achieve their very best, and that research will be a joyful experience in his company.

### Iain MacPherson

#### Centre for Flexible & Continued Education

Iain is without compare in any Celtic Studies institute: he is a creative and academic ambassador for the connections between the modern Celtic languages, in that he is an expert in both poetry and prose, and understands implicitly the connections and the history in relation to the two languages.

Iain was an exemplary, dedicated and gifted supervisor from whom I learned much in the process of writing up and researching my PhD.

## EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT SUPPORT

### Nuala Bryson

#### International Student Experience

Nuala is not just there for international students in the first few weeks, she remains a big part of their student experience throughout their time at Ulster University whether that be for a semester, a year or even longer. Nuala's dedication to all International students is evident from her friendly and motherly approach as well as her weekly 'Coffee & Chat sessions'.

If any staff member within the university could be cloned, it would be Nuala - her work ethic and her dedication to the students she helps make her an excellent ambassador for Ulster University and a shining example for the Coleraine campus.

### Sue McBean

#### Student Support

I have struggled all my life to reach university. At the age of forty-three I have eventually achieved this and have excelled. This is because for the first time in my life Sue is helping me to format what is in my head onto the page. I am very thankful for the what she has done for me and believe an award would show just how much I value her.

Sue is my academic arms and legs.

### Paul McKenzie

#### School of Geography & Environmental Sciences

Initially I was terrified of having to study GIS having struggled with it in second year, and would have happily accepted a pass mark at the beginning of the semester if someone offered it to me I was literally that worried about the module.... without his passion for what he does I can honestly say that I wouldn't have left his module with a 1st.

If I ever had a query or needed help progressing with my work he was there to help without hesitation, not only do I wish to nominate Paul for this award, but I would also like to thank him for his amazing contribution to my final year studies.

# EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING POSTGRADUATE TEACHER/ DEMONSTRATOR

Students wanted to recognise the teachers who are just beginning their career and have supported them in a range of ways through excellent and engaging teaching and fantastic student support.



## Ms Carol Rhonda Burns

**School of Psychology**

Rhonda is currently a PhD student in Psychology examining multiple victimisations and mental health in males, having previously completed an MRes in the same school. As a mature student with six children, Rhonda is very aware of the needs of students who have additional demands on them outside their study workload. Rhonda has gained Associate Fellowship of the HEA and supports students studying for online Masters degrees, many of whom are studying part-time while working and raising families. Rhonda is a member of the Postgraduate Research Network, an elected UUSU Student Council member and an elected representative to the Ulster Senate where she represents the interests of mature and post graduate students. Rhonda is the RESPECT Network Communications and Events team lead where she works towards tackling the issues of student sexual consent and misconduct. Rhonda has also recently joined the UU Health and Safety Committee and continues to work passionately to improve the experience for all students.

**Three words to describe Carol**

**"Supportive, Understanding, Enthusiastic"**



## Ms Stephanie Foster

**School of Computing and Information Engineering**

Stephanie is a C# Agile Software Engineer at Andor Technology where she works as part of a team designing, implementing & maintaining microscopy acquisition, visualization & analysis software which focuses on ease of use for improved customer experience. Prior to joining Andor, Stephanie worked as PhD Researcher at Ulster University on a collaborative study which focused on establishing automated objective outcome measures for breast reconstruction using 3D surface images. During this time she was a lab demonstrator for a variety of Computing modules. Stephanie also ran a C++ practical programming code club to strengthen students understanding of theory concepts through practical programming tasks preparing them for their upcoming exams and industrial placement interviews.

**Three words to describe Stephanie**

**"Intelligent, Motivating, Caring"**



## Miss Danielle Mackle

**School of Sociology and Applied Social Studies**

Danielle is a social worker and is currently working towards obtaining her PhD. Danielle is completing research which explores the human development and wellbeing of LGBT communities in Northern Ireland through the lens of the Capability Approach. Her research has highlighted the negative impact that moral conservatism within politics and policy development has had on the well-being of members of the LGBT community. Further, it has identified that heteronormativity within the education and health systems has a negative impact on mental health and well-being. Danielle is involved in various research projects at Ulster including; Access to Fertility Treatment for Lesbian / Bisexual women in Northern Ireland; FGM in Northern Ireland and an all-Ireland trade union survey on abortion attitudes. Danielle is a teaching assistant in Sociology and Social Policy.

**Three words to describe Danielle**

**"Friendly, Funny, Approachable"**

# ULSTER TEAM OF THE YEAR

**This award recognises the efforts of a collective in supporting the student journey; which involves so much more than just one academic – nominations recognise the breadth of support offered from teams and the collegiality which is displayed within Ulster University.**



## **Interactive Media Team**

### **Interactive Media (BA Hons)**

We have argued for a number of years that the traditional learning spaces at Ulster often prohibit us adopting innovative teaching methods and institutional initiatives. This academic year we received funds and support from the Learning Landscapes institutional initiative to prototype a new space for learning and teaching. The Interactive Media course team applied for funds and agreed to reshape our provision, adapt modules and explore new approaches for this project. The shared ownership of the space between the course team as agency management, and the students is really important to the space and the student satisfaction. The mixed, flexible use of the space, with recreational and learning facilities is important for student wellbeing and improved workflows (Beanbags, Games Consoles etc). This encourages students to use the space, facilities and allows them to take breaks during complex design workflows (replicating digital agency workflows).

### **Three words to describe Interactive Media Team**

**“Always  
Maximum  
Effort”**



## **Human Resource Management (BSc Hons)**

### **Department of Management & Leadership**

The HRM course began in 2003 and develops students into HR professionals by providing them with the skills and expertise necessary to engage employees and to contribute to organisational effectiveness. The course brings together an enthusiastic team of academics, support staff and library subject specialists who have all worked closely together to ensure that the student experience on the course is engaging and rewarding. The team is strongly student centric in their approach to the delivery of the course, combining industry relevance in the context of academic excellence that helps produce meaningful, relevant and industry ready HR graduates. Over the last five years the course has consistently been placed in the top five of HRM courses in the National Student Survey, twice finishing as number one.

### **Three words to describe Human Resource Management**

**“Inspirational,  
Dedicated,  
Employment-focused”**



## **Applied Psychology MSc School of Psychology**

The MSc Applied Psychology programme has developed substantially over the past few years, through a lot of hard work from the staff and students on the course, and in collaboration with our research and clinical placement partners in the community and in local health trusts. It is therefore very much a team effort and experience on the programme for all parties. The MSc now provides three different route options for students, giving them the opportunity to work closely alongside staff to enhance their skills and knowledge in different areas of applied psychology related to mental health practice and research. Two of these routes incorporate therapeutic training accredited by professional bodies, and one of these is the first of its kind in Northern Ireland and Ireland. These practice- and research-informed study routes have been developed with an eye on the importance of employment opportunities for our students, as well as the part the School of Psychology plays in serving the local communities in the region. The course team has therefore worked together with students and stakeholders to build a programme that we hope meets the needs not only of our graduates, but also the needs of the people in our communities that our trainees and graduates play such an important role in helping.

### **Three words to describe Applied Psychology**

**“Inspirational,  
Exhilarating,  
Altruistic”**

# WHAT STUDENTS HAVE SAID

## EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING: Postgraduate Teacher/Demonstrator

### Ms Carol Rhonda Burns

#### School of Psychology

Rhonda has always been there to offer advice about the requirements of the course, or just to help make the course content and deadlines more manageable.

Just knowing that she is there anytime help is required, makes you want to keep going and helps you to realize that nothing is impossible even at the most stressful of times.

She has made distance learning less about distance and more about learning :)

### Ms Stephanie Foster

#### School of Computing and Information Engineering

Every week she had fantastic presentations and super work for us to complete. Any time we had any issues we could email her and she would get back to us as soon as possible.

I felt motivated to succeed in the module to show her that her help made a difference, I honestly feel like I couldn't have passed this module without her help - I know my friends feel the same. Stephanie is a truly wonderful person, she has a warm heart full of compassion and care - I hope that I can have the patience that she has to teach people.

### Miss Danielle Mackle

#### School of Sociology and Applied Social Studies

Danielle was really helpful and encouraging. She made us feel at ease and helped explain the lectures if there were things we didn't understand. She used videos, debates, workshops as part of her seminars and they were really interesting, fun and informative.

Danielle is amazing, she taught us so much.

## ULSTER TEAM OF THE YEAR

### Interactive Media Team

#### Interactive Media (BA Hons)

I am extremely appreciative of the space Adrian, Alan and Helen have worked together to create with the best intentions in mind for their students. As a student, their team work is something to be admired as it sets a good example to us and how we should work together and support each other to create amazing things.

Through their hard work and determination to get this for their students, the hard work has paid off and their students couldn't be happier.

### Human Resource

#### Management (BSc Hons)

#### Department of Management & Leadership

This team stand out for me mainly because of their enthusiasm and own personal experiences. By listening to them you are able to see the broad knowledge and skills gained throughout their personal life. Being able to first hand see this success and the results makes me want to achieve something similar myself.

Through their amazing support and guidance in class, over email, blackboard, phone calls and face to face, I personally couldn't have wished for a better course to enter.

### Applied Psychology MSc

#### School of Psychology

Great teamwork is something most of us need to capture when writing job applications nowadays. This course team has provided this year's masters class with the ultimate example of what we should strive for when working within the teams of our future careers.

This course team have collaborated with one another to present my peers and I with the most up to date and relevant knowledge, to continuously adapt and provide in accordance with the students' needs, and to solve any problems that occurred throughout the year.

All their hard work was made even more effective by how genuine, approachable, realistic, understanding and fair they were.

## EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING: Faculty of Arts

### Dr Tanya Dean

#### School of Creative Arts & Technologies

Tanya has introduced new and creative ways of helping her students and involving them both inside and outside of the classroom.

She is always making class fun and interesting. There is never a dull moment and I feel like I learn so much more from her. She makes me strive to do well in her class as I want to learn more with her. After every class she helps me with readings I would like for my own time and interest, and has a thoughtful discussion about what class was like.

### Dr Kyle Hughes

#### School of English & History

Dr Hughes lecturing style is very thought provoking and he always makes a point of listening to students points of view. He is especially good at drawing out shy students and creates a relaxed safe learning environment in his class, where everyone has a voice. He projects a professional, yet approachable persona to his students.

All-in-all Dr Hughes has earned the respect of his students through being a conscientious, inspiring and innovative teacher who deserves a thank you from his students.

### Dr Adrian O'Connell

#### School of Creative Arts & Technologies

Adrian always takes the hands on approach, his teaching methods are always active and they always provide for the most interesting classes that fly by. The assessments undertaken are also practical, stress free, and almost fun, Adrian always encourages us to work as a team, and always pushes us to achieve what we are truly capable of. Adrian's feedback goes down to fine details, he covers everything and is so specific that it is impossible to go wrong the next time around. He is never brief and will always put in all the time necessary to ensure that we learn the most that we possibly can.

# EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

FACULTY OF ARTS

**This award recognises the innovative teaching techniques and engaging student learning taking place across the institution. We receive so many nominations for this award that there is one for each Faculty!**



**Dr Tanya Dean**  
School of Creative Arts  
& Technologies

Tanya has just finished her first year as Lecturer in Drama at Ulster University, where she taught in areas such as Contemporary Performance Practice, Arts Administration, and Critical Practice. She received her Doctor of Fine Arts degree from Yale School of Drama in 2016, where she also received her Masters of Fine Arts in Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism in 2011. Her recent publications include contributions to edited collections such as The Routledge Companion to Dramaturgy, Radical Contemporary Theatre Practices by Women in Ireland, and That Was Us: Contemporary Irish Theatre and Performance; and journals such as TDR, Theater, and Theatre History Studies. She was recently awarded the 2017 Society for Theatre Research New Scholars' Prize. Tanya has also worked extensively as a freelance dramaturg and theatremaker in both Ireland and the USA, and is the Associate Dramaturg with Then This Theatre Company in Dublin.

**Three words to describe Tanya**

**"Interesting,  
Wonderful,  
Amazing"**



**Dr Kyle Hughes**  
School of  
English & History

Kyle was awarded a BA in History and Irish Literature at Ulster University in 2007. He then completed his PhD at Northumbria University in 2010 and remained there for three years as a Senior Research Assistant. He returned to Ulster in 2013 as a Lecturer in History and will assume the role of Course Director in History in September 2017. His publications to date focus on the social and political history of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Britain and Ireland, particularly crime, secret societies, associational culture, and Scottish migration to Ireland. His latest book, 'Ribbon Societies in Nineteenth-Century Ireland and Britain' (co-written with Don MacRaidl), will be published by Liverpool University Press in 2018. He states however that he finds research and academic writing largely unfulfilling and derives much more satisfaction from teaching and supporting undergraduate students.

**Three words to describe Kyle**

**"Conscientious,  
Knowledgeable,  
Approachable"**



**Mr Adrian O'Connell**  
School of Creative Arts  
& Technologies

Adrian has worked as part of the Drama team in the School of Creative Arts & Technologies since 2009. He had previously completed his degree at Ulster graduating with a First Class BA Hons in Drama in 2008 and is currently working toward the completion of his PhD in Co Creative Media and Community Engagement which he has been developing part time since 2012 along side his full time position in the school.

Adrian is a specialist in Performance Technologies for Theatre and Live Performance and works with students on all aspects of production and event management to develop and learn new skills with hands on training in all aspects of theatre production, from lighting and sound design to set / costume design and building.

He has worked in theatre and film since his school days when landing his first professional role in the early 90's in the film 'Highboot Benny'. For the past 10 years he has been working professionally as a producer, designer and facilitator in the performing arts and also supports colleagues in their practice based research projects ranging from Childrens Theatre, to Performance & Health projects to Site Based practice.

**Three words to describe Adrian**

**"Innovative,  
Passionate,  
Indispensable"**

# EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

FACULTY OF ART,  
DESIGN AND THE BUILT  
ENVIRONMENT



**Dr Kaylynn Deveney**  
Belfast School of Art

KayLynn is a lecturer in Photography at the Belfast School of Art, where she teaches on the BA Hons., MFA, and Online MFA courses and supervises PhD candidates. KayLynn worked in the photographic industry for 10 years before pursuing graduate studies at the University of Wales, Newport, where she obtained a Master's degree in documentary photography and a PhD in photography. KayLynn is a practicing artist and has had two monographs of her work published, one by Princeton Architectural Press and another by German photobook publisher Kehrer Verlag. Her work has been exhibited internationally and is included in the permanent collections of the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago, Illinois; the Portland Art Museum in Oregon; and Light Work in Syracuse, New York. KayLynn was a recipient of an artist grant from the Anonymous Was A Woman Foundation, which helped to fund her most recent work on storybook ranch houses in the western United States. In August 2015, KayLynn exhibited work in the Dali International Photography Exhibition in China and was honored to receive the Redpoll Trophy.

**Three words to describe Kaylynn**

**"Fun,  
Caring,  
Inspiring"**



**Mr Michael Moore**  
Belfast School of Art

Michael is also a member of the International Academy of Ceramics and a Higher Education Authority Fellow. He holds a Master of Arts Degree from The National College of Art and Design, Dublin and is a registered maker with the UK and Irish Craft Councils. He has works in permanent collections in the National Museum of Ireland, the Ulster Museum, The Icheon World Ceramics Foundation, Korea, the New Taipei Ceramics Museum and the Australian National University. He has been artist in residence at the Clay Studio and the Archie Bray Foundation in the USA, The Medalta Centre and The Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada, the International Ceramics Research Centre in Denmark, the International Ceramics Studio in Hungary and the Fuping Ceramics Studios in China.

**Three words to describe Michael**

**"Dedicated,  
Understanding,  
Inspirational"**



**Mr Dougal McKenzie**  
Belfast School of Art

Dougal McKenzie has been a Lecturer in Painting at Ulster University since 2011 where he teaches across both the BA Fine Art and MFA courses. He is also a member of the Research Institute Art and Design and a PhD supervisor at Ulster University. Born in Edinburgh in 1968, he gained his B.A.(Hons) Fine Art degree from Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen in 1990, and came to Belfast to do a Masters in Fine Art in 1991 at what was then the University of Ulster. He was one of the first directors of the artist-run space Catalyst Arts in Belfast, from 1994-96, before spending a number of years as Lecturer in Painting at Limerick School of Art and Design in Ireland. Dougal was a prize winner at the John Moores Liverpool Exhibition of Contemporary Painting in 2004, selected for the John Moores Retrospective, South Korea, 2010 and again for the John Moores Painting Prize in 2012. In 2014 he was selected for the inaugural MAC International exhibition at the Metropolitan Arts Centre in Belfast, and has a forthcoming solo show there in June 2017. He currently works out of Orchid Studios in Belfast.

**Three words to describe Dougal**

**"Genuine,  
Modest,  
Unique"**

# EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

FACULTY OF COMPUTING  
AND ENGINEERING



**Dr Hamed Bahmani**  
**School of Computing  
& Intelligent Systems**

Hamed has been teaching in the school of computing and ineligant systems at Ulster's Magee campus since Oct 2016, before that he was a research associate within the high voltage research group at Cardiff University. He received BEng degree in electrical engineering from Birjand University, Iran in 2005, MEng degree in electrical engineering from IUST, Tehran, Iran in 2007 and PhD degree in electrical engineering from Cardiff University, UK in 2014. His first academic job, as a lecturer, started in Oct 2007 in the department of electrical engineering at Azad University of Iran. His research interests are focussed on modelling and analysis of magnetic properties of electrical steel laminations under complex magnetising conditions, investigating performance of magnetic cores of the electrical machines under critical situations and magnetic loss measurement and loss separation over a wide range of flux density and frequency. Hamed is a member of IEEE and UK magnetic society.

**Three words to describe Hamed**  
**"Passionate,  
Inspirational,  
Knowledgeable"**



**Dr Dewar Finlay**  
**School of Engineering**

Dewar studied Electronic Engineering at Ulster completing undergraduate studies in 1999. He has been employed at the University for almost 17 years and during this time has also completed a PhD in Computing and Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Practice. Dewar is a Fellow of the HEA and has taught at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels on a number of computing and engineering programs. He is currently employed as a Reader at the University's School of Engineering where he teaches electronic engineering related subjects. He is heavily involved in research and has co-authored over 170 articles and secured significant funding to support this work. His main area of interest is in healthcare technology and he currently leads Ulster's involvement in a number of funded projects researching the development of technology for detection and treatment of cardiovascular disease. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Computing in Cardiology.

**Three words to describe Dewar**  
**"Hilarious,  
Exceptional,  
Smart"**



**Dr Shane Wilson**  
**School of Computing  
& Intelligent Systems**

Shane joined Ulster University in 2001 bringing extensive industry experience from his previous roles within Microsoft and Compuware. Since joining the University, Shane has taught across several undergraduate and postgraduate computing programmes at Magee. Over the last decade, he has been at the forefront of teaching and technology innovation, leading the design and delivery of the BEng Computer Games Development programme within the School of Computing and Intelligent Systems. He remains passionate about technology, teaching and the student experience and lives for those 'lightbulb moments' when collaborating with students and industry. On first learning of his nomination via email, Shane was convinced it was a phishing scam and deleted the email. He lives in Derry with his very understanding partner, daughter and their dog Brodie.

**Three words to describe Shane**  
**"Articulate,  
Technical,  
Passionate"**

# EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

## LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES



**Professor Gerry Cunningham**  
**School of Psychology**

Gerry is the Director of the Postgraduate Certificate in Family Therapy & Systemic Practice and along with his colleague Dr Donal McAteer heads up the family therapy teaching on the Masters in Applied Psychology. He is a clinical psychologist and a family therapist. Gerry worked for a number of years in the Juvenile Justice System in Belfast before moving to the North West to head up the development of psychology services in the Western Trust. While there he specialised in working with children, adolescents and families (CAMHS) and introduced family therapy into the Trust. From 2000 onwards he led the design, establishment and teaching of fully accredited training courses in family therapy. Gerry retired in 2011 and set up his own company which delivers therapy and consultancy services. Alongside this he has been very active in leading the development and teaching of family therapy in the School of Psychology at Magee.

**Three words to describe Gerry**  
"Committed,  
Organised,  
Compassionate"



**Mr Pat Deeny**  
**School of Nursing**

Pat Deeny is a Senior Lecturer in Nursing at the Magee campus. Simulation is at the centre of Pat's teaching, be it the creation of everyday risk management scenarios in healthcare or full blown disasters and/or catastrophes in a community or using wilderness environments to enhance personal resilience and empathy with displaced communities. He is presently carrying out pedagogical research in the areas of Leadership in Crisis, Disaster and Catastrophe for final year undergraduate Nurses. In addition to this, he is also exploring the use of Applied Drama in the context of a problem-based learning and reflective process to enhance Sympathetic Presence in the nurse-patient relationship as part of a multidisciplinary project with Creative Arts and Psychology. Pat is a Senior Fellow with the HEA and mentors colleagues aspiring to achieve the same.

**Three words to describe Pat**  
"Inspirational,  
Passionate,  
Creative"



**Dr Murtaza Tambuwala**  
**School of Pharmacy &  
Pharmaceutical Science**

Murtaza is a pharmacist and started his teaching career as lecturer at the School of Pharmacy, Coleraine Campus in 2013. His main teaching and research interests are in Pharmaceutical Technology and advanced drug delivery. Previously Murtaza earned a doctoral degree from University College Dublin and completed a Post-doctoral Fellowship at Trinity College Dublin. He is the course director for online MSc in Pharmaceutical Sciences. He consistently influences students and colleagues toward entrepreneurial translational research aiming to get drugs from bench to bedside. He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and Associate member of Royal Pharmaceutical Society. Murtaza lives with his wife and his son Ali.

**Three words to describe Murtaza**  
"Enthusiastic,  
Approachable,  
Passionate"

## EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING: Faculty of Art, Design and the Built Environment

### KayLynn Deveney

#### Belfast School of Art

I have never before experienced a tutor who could be both a mentor and friend, who would do her best to give you or find the support you needed if things were getting hard, and above all, her intelligence and general passion about photography and the work and research we do was such an inspiration that I saw in her that if I believed in myself, I could do anything I wish.

She would always do her best to work with every student on the level that they needed, being open and understanding without one ounce of judgement. I will be forever grateful of her work. I don't think I would have got this far with the marks I have if it wasn't for her unconditional support.

### Michael Moore

#### Belfast School of Art

Michael has been patient, understanding and actually spends the time to develop a wide variety of tutorials so we can become experts in our field. It must be noted that his timetable for the first-year group has been phenomenal, and something I wish I could have done myself. His careful planning and focus on the different techniques over the last 6 months has given them a fantastic chance to develop before their final year.

Michael Moore has made an entire Ceramics studio want to learn; want to succeed. Thank you.

### Dougal McKenzie

#### Belfast School of Art

Dougal is more than a teacher - he is a critical friend to all he teaches. Dougal's teaching is delivered in such a way that does not feel like a transmission, but instead, is facilitated in partnership with students. Whether it is through demonstrative workshops on how to stretch canvas, or encouraging seminar discussions on painting philosophy, Dougal always places students at the heart of learning, creating and 'doing' within the Fine Art provision.

Dougal deserves to be commended for his contribution to teaching & learning by the SU, not just because he is a great teacher, but because he loves the Fine Art provision, and loves providing students with invaluable opportunities to help them flourish in their future artistic careers.

## EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING: Faculty of Computing and Engineering

### Dr Hamed Bahmani

#### School of Computing & Intelligent Systems

Hamed puts a lot of energy into our lessons on a regular basis, from preparing the lesson material to providing additional material and guidance on the work coming up, he regularly works hard to create an atmosphere of support, encouraging us to work with each other, discuss new ideas and work on problems as a group.

In engineering, it's easy to have little confidence, as it's very easy to fail. Pages of notes and equations can result in nothing if the system doesn't work due to a simply mistake along the way. Hamed continues to encourage us that making mistakes are the necessary steps toward success.

### Dr Dewar Finlay

#### School of Engineering

All students know how well Dewar Finlay can teach and he is very highly respected as he respects that we deserve the best learning experience we can get in Ulster University. He always provided guidance for us and who to contact if we felt we were not getting the right education for a certain module.

Dr Finlay is a credit to not just the university but is an ambassador to all of the students who respect and adore him. He has shown determination and an exemplary drive for success while retaining a vibrant sense of humour loved by all.

### Dr Shane Wilson

#### School of Computing & Intelligent Systems

Shane goes above and beyond in order to push every student to their absolute best and allows each student to choose how much effort they want to put into each assignment. Not only this but Shane also incorporates real life scenarios into his classes and amends lecture structure to bettering the students and to making everyone look more appealing to employers after university.

Shane has inspired me personally to better myself and put in long nights and go do research in my free time and expand my knowledge, not only that but Shane has made me want to teach.

## EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING: Faculty of Life and Health Sciences

### Professor Gerry Cunningham

#### School of Psychology

The ease of teaching and self-disclosure that Gerry has entrusted to us, his students, right from the beginning has been a revelation in learning; I have never experienced a teacher so willing to trust his students in order for them to pick up on theory, practice and the intricacies of working in therapy, as a therapist.

I have experienced so much this year the time has flown so fast, I can't take it in that we are on week 10, I have so much to learn moving forward. I also have a sense that Gerry will be on hand at any time if I, or any of his students need him.

### Mr Pat Deeny

#### School of Nursing

I first met Pat in the Nursing skills lab when I was in the first year of my degree. I vividly remember thinking my gosh he is so passionate about his job! As an anxious first year nursing student he provided reassurance and made learning fun and interactive, sharing stories of his past experiences in nursing which were inspirational and aided my learning.

Pat has been such an exemplary role model demonstrating dedication to improving the student learning experience and his support throughout this course has been crucial to my own personal achievements.

### Dr Murtaza Tambuwala

#### School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Science

Dr. Tambuwala has been a pivotal individual in my understanding of my current course in Pharmaceutical sciences, coming from a course in Biomedical Science, I haven't had the experience of who would have carried out a Degree in Pharmacy. Dr. Tambuwala has allowed me to excel in this course in providing me with the necessary material in a professional and highly organised fashion.

Dr. Tambuwala has in my eyes stepped well beyond the line of duty in providing such an enjoyable experience in developing my understanding of the course content.

# EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

FACULTY OF SOCIAL  
SCIENCES



**Dr Paula Brogan**  
School of Communication

Paula Brogan joined Ulster School of Communication in December 2016 and is a part-time Lecturer in Counselling. A graduate from the Royal Victoria Hospital School of Nursing (Registered General Nurse), Brighton University (BSc (Hons), Southbank University (DipDN) and Ulster (MSc and PhD), Paula is dual qualified as a nurse and an accredited counsellor (RegBACP accredited), couple counsellor and supervisor. Alongside her lecturing role, she runs her own business Talkingworksni, which offers general individual and couple therapy but also specialises in people impacted by chronic illness and with palliative care needs. Shaped by her practice, Paula's PhD examined end of life decision-making in multi-disciplinary palliative care contexts within the family home, was runner up in the RCN Annual Research awards 2015 and her academic and research interests seek to understand and promote interactive communication processes among practitioners and patients/clients which enhance systems of care, quality participant experience, and crucially the resilience of multi-professional staff.

**Three words to describe Paula**  
"Experienced,  
Wholehearted,  
Engaging"



**Dr Anne Moorhead**  
School of Communication

Anne is a Lecturer in Health Communication within the School of Communication. She teaches in the areas of health communication, health psychology and research methods. She has a real passion for teaching and her subject area, and enjoys teaching a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate students. Anne's research interest is in Health Communication, in particular, communication technologies in healthcare, within the areas of obesity and mental health. Anne has led multidisciplinary national and international research projects and teams, and has extensive publications. She is a member of different committees, including the Executive Committee of the Association for Healthcare Communication and Marketing UK, research committee for the International Association for Communication in Healthcare, and Vice Chair of the Office of Research Ethics Committees for Northern Ireland, NHS Research Ethics Committee. She is a Board member and Section Editor for the Journal of Medical Internet Research, the leading e-health peer reviewed journal.

**Three words to describe Anne**  
"Committed,  
Professional,  
Caring"



**Mr Ivan Topping**  
School of Law

Ivan Topping was appointed Honorary Fellow, School of Law on retirement in 2009 after some 37 years as a full-time Lecturer in Law. During that period he was Head of the School of Law, & Director of the Centre for Police Studies. His teaching was largely on policing and employment related matters with numerous publications in those areas. He was Course Director of many courses and was for several years the School's Pastoral Care Tutor.

He is also a Justice of the Peace, and was a consultant to the Patten Commission. On behalf of the British Council he has lectured to police and others in Turkey as well as being a member of EU funded teams working for periods at Jandarma (Police) HQ in Ankara on human rights policies and procedures. Current research interests are in policing law, human rights and related matters.

UU related activities presently or recently have included public facing activities as a UU representative, development of new policing related modules & commentaries on School matters. But most importantly he still very much enjoys teaching on a part-time basis - the benefits of having more available time to engage and interact with students are considerable!

**Three words to describe Ivan**  
"Knowledgeable,  
Funny,  
Caring"

# EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

ULSTER UNIVERSITY  
BUSINESS SCHOOL



## **Dr Damian Gallagher**

**Department of Marketing,  
Entrepreneurship & Strategy**

Dr Damian Gallagher is the Course Director for the MSc Marketing programme in the Ulster University Business School. His teaching and research interests are in SME marketing and the strategic marketing of small sports clubs. He has published widely in leading marketing and small business journals and is the current External Examiner at the University of Portsmouth Business School and at the University of the West of England (Bristol). In 2013-14 he was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Northern Ireland Public Affairs Scholarship and was based at the University of South Carolina where his research explored the strategic development of Minor league sports in the US. He is the current Chair of the Academy of Marketing Sports & Events Marketing Special Interest Group and is a member of the editorial review boards of several sport, small business and entrepreneurship journals. He lives in Strabane with his wife and 3 children.

### **Three words to describe Damian**

**"Passionate,  
Unassuming,  
Supportive"**



## **Mrs Nikki McQuillan**

**Department of Hospitality  
& Tourism Management**

Nikki is the Course Director for International Hospitality Management and describes her greatest reward is when her students reveal the best version of themselves as they grow through the challenges and joys of University life. In particular, she is passionate about finding opportunities for students to step out of their comfort zone and learn from experience in both professional practice and academically. Prior to joining Ulster Nikki, along with her husband Michael co-founded The Streat Café Franchising Ltd. The business was acquired successfully in 2010. Her experience underpins her "pracademic" approach to learning and teaching business management. Nikki is exploring a PhD around leadership ambition and economic development. Nikki's best life achievement is mum to Katie (23), Steven (20) and Tony (18). Happiest times are walking along Donegal beaches with her best friend Michael and eating out or going to the pub with her family!

### **Three words to describe Nikki**

**"Genuine,  
Enthusiastic,  
Dedicated"**



## **Mr Ronnie Patton**

**Department of Accounting, Finance  
& Economics**

Ronnie is a Senior Lecturer in Professional Accounting Practice in the Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics. His primary interest is ensuring that students understand the link between the theoretical and academic basis of their studies and how accounting impacts on business and society. As well as university courses, Ronnie has taught on professional accounting courses in Ireland, in the Caribbean and in Asia. This experience has given him first-hand experience of the transformative nature of professional education. This, along with his active involvement with his professional body (ACCA), informs all of his interactions with students. Ronnie is a past Examiner and Subject Coordinator for ACCA and he has served on local, national and international committees. He was elected to ACCA's global Council in 2014. This involvement ensures that students' appreciation and understanding of the link between education and accounting practice is up to date.

### **Three words to describe Ronnie**

**"Compassionate,  
Trusting,  
Funny"**

# EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT REPRESENTATION

**Our Course Reps and Senior Reps are a vital source of information, support and guidance for our students, and ensure their voice is heard within the University and UUSU. These students have been nominated and recognised by their peers and staff members.**



**Mr Benedict Dadebo**  
School of Health Sciences

Over his 3 years here at Ulster University, Benedict has fully immersed himself in campus life and has had the opportunity to engage with the Ulster University experience in various ways. One such opportunity was his ability to have represent his class since first year as a Course Rep for BSc (Hons) Health Physiology and then subsequently represent the School of Health Sciences as Senior Rep. Benedict has described it as an honour for him to have had the opportunity to represent the student voice and credits his time as a representative in allowing him to reach more people and stand behind the issues that they care about. Working closely with course teams Benedict has aimed to improve the student experience for all courses within the school and he feels rewarded to have been involved behind the scenes wherever possible. He was able to learn about feedback processes within the university structure and was reassured to know that the institution cares about what students want. Benedict is a prime example of an individual where Representation really does make a difference!

**Three words to describe Benedict**  
"Motivated,  
Inspirational,  
Grafter"



**Ms Diane Fernie**  
School of Sport

Diane is in her final year at Magee. Not being academically minded in her youth, University was the last place she could have imagined ending up. She originally went to college following the closure of the gym where she worked and found herself with experience but not qualifications to make it to interview. She began her HNC in Sport which led to HND when "the bug" hit. The more she learned, the more questions she had and the more she wanted to know. She has enjoyed her time at Magee despite the challenges. She has met many interesting people especially through volunteering opportunities which she recommends to others who are not already involved. Her time as course rep and then senior rep was a great way of getting to know fellow students whilst developing future employability skills. She has gained a huge amount of knowledge both from academic staff and also from fellow students; and has said that this has encouraged her to continue studying hopefully at Masters level whilst also putting into practice what she has learned

**Three words to describe Diane**  
"Passionate,  
Dedicated,  
Inspirational"



**Miss Caroline Gilliland**  
School of Creative Arts  
& Technologies

Caroline is a Design student, based at Magee, after attending Coleraine, studying Leisure & Events Management. She is a Senior Representative and currently Chairperson of the Design & Creative Arts Society, enabling it to receive its first gold STAMPS Award, as well as a member of Mind Your Mood. She recently picked up the "Student Champion" award at the UUSU Student Excellence Awards 17. Caroline has been recognised on the Dean's List for her academic achievements and has completed eight EDGE Award modules. Caroline has been helping tackle many issues with the current teach out of courses & has successfully overcome many of the problems faced by both students and staff. Outside of University, Caroline is a scout leader, passionate gardener and cook. Whilst being a student, Caroline has been working freelance and is set to continue to do so once she graduates.

**Three words to describe Caroline**  
"Positive,  
Energetic,  
Inspirational"

# WHAT STUDENTS & STAFF HAVE SAID

## EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING: Faculty of Social Sciences

### Dr Paula Brogan

#### School of Communication

Paula uses a combination of anecdotes from personal experience, relevant handouts or other information that she has collected from her long-standing career in various roles. She has an in-depth knowledge of the counselling 'business' and I feel inspired and armed with the best possible knowledge as someone who is about to enter the counselling job market.

If it were not for Dr Paula Brogan, I don't think I would still be here, 4 weeks away from finishing my Postgraduate Diploma, and for that I will always be thankful.

### Dr Anne Moorhead

#### School of Communication

Unbelievable person! Remembers everyone's names, makes time for everybody and make's us all feel VALUED!

She has been an incredible support to me already and I'm really glad that I choose this course because of how she has helped us all.

### Mr Ivan Topping

#### School of Law

Ivan was an incredible teacher for the Law for Criminologists module in semester one of the Criminology and Criminal Justice degree this year. He never failed to engage the class and always found a way to make a topic interesting regardless of how mundane it may have been.

He never failed to make us smile and never let us doubt ourselves, he was so encouraging.

First year of university is daunting but he made it a little less scary and showed us we could do it – he made us passionate about the degree we had chosen and the law surrounding it.

## EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING: Ulster University Business School

### Dr Damian Gallagher

#### Department of Marketing, Entrepreneurship & Strategy

In each lesson, Damian brought a new dimension to the lecture; perhaps with images he had taken himself during his research, video footage of up-to-date examples or skype interviews with experts he knew from all over the world.

He stood head and shoulders above all my previous lecturers and his passion for the subject was clear in everything he taught; each lecture was interesting, innovative and creative.

### Mrs Nikki McQuillan

#### Department of Hospitality & Tourism Management

Nikki has been an inspirational lecturer and I have had the privilege to be taught by her during each year of my course. She is incredibly informative during all of her class and brings a sense of enjoyment and colour to the lecture, using personal real life examples visual aids and class discussion.

For that I thank her and the tireless work she contributes to the hospitality department!

### Mr Ronnie Patton

#### Department of Accounting, Finance & Economics

Ronnie, I felt made the classes interesting, he used real life stories of when he was in practice, some of which were extremely hilarious!

I had some very good experiences with different lecturers at University but interacting with Ronnie will always stand out as his way of teaching is not just unique but, a path in which a lot of lecturers should look at and see that there is more to teaching than delivering textbook knowledge.

## EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT REPRESENTATION

### Mr Benedict Dadebo

#### School of Health Sciences

There are simply not enough words to express the "excellence in student representation" Health Physiologist student Mr Benedict Dadebo demonstrates. Benedict is an extremely competent and professional young man ...from induction to our programme two years ago Benedict has confidently dedicated his time and efforts to assisting with the individual and group needs of his peers.

### Ms Diane Fernie

#### School of Sport

Diane has stood out as enthusiastic, engaged, passionate and dedicated - not just to her own studies but to the wider university experience for herself and other students. Her positive influence is obvious, and her particular year group have really benefited, in terms of team working, engagement and learning experiences, from having Diane as a peer.

She has been a source of constant support as their advocate and representative at staff/student consultation meetings.

### Miss Caroline Gilliland

#### School of Creative Arts & Technologies

She's held our year together when we were told our course is being cut, and through all the disruption that we experienced when we weren't sure what lecturers we would have for final year.

She has put so much effort into helping us all out with literally EVERYTHING..... she's the first person we turn to when we're unsure about something as simple as timetables, to helping us catch up on work.

# INSPIRATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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## **Dr Una Convery**

School of Criminology, Politics & Social Policy

Una has always been the teacher that goes above and beyond...when she teaches she makes each lecture different with her riveting storytelling. She brings something different to the course, giving her personal view or story helps us understand her views and it just brings a different dimension to a class.

Una is a very inspiring woman who encourages you to read and question more - I hope she will remain an influential academic role model throughout my academic journey.

Liz Doherty teaches with enthusiasm and inspires all her students through creating new ways of learning and providing Ulster students with amazing opportunities. She teaches in a practical way that everybody will understand and encourages all of her students to be the best they can be.

Without Liz, my Ulster University experience would not have been as enjoyable and rewarding as it is. Liz deserves the recognition, she is an inspiration!

## **Dr Liz Doherty**

School of Creative Arts and Technologies

## **Professor Adrian Moore**

School of Geography and Environmental Sciences

From 1st year Aidy Moore has inspired me and my colleagues to reach our full potential with regards to our academic studies, placement work and life outside university. This was done through private meetings, lectures and any interaction I have had with Aidy.

The newly introduced placement preparation module in first semester of final year (which was initiated by Aidy) has been a massive help with preparing for my dissertation in second semester. I truly don't believe I would have been able to perform to the level I have if it wasn't for his help and the introduction of the module.

## INSPIRATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

This person stands out to our students as the one who has made a difference to their academic career: nominations encompass examples of support and innovation in all aspects of student life, above all these individuals inspire further study and deeper learning.



### Dr Una Convery

**School of Criminology, Politics & Social Policy**

Una has been a lecturer in Criminology at Ulster University since 2003. Prior to this she worked as a researcher at both Queen's University and Ulster University. She completed her PhD in Criminology at Ulster and BA (Hons) Public Administration at the University of Glamorgan. She is the Year 1 Tutor and National Police University of China Mentor for students studying BSc (Hons) Criminology and Criminal Justice, and her teaching and research interests include students' study and research skills, criminal justice processes, victims of crime, prisoners' families, youth justice and women in the criminal justice system. She is a Fellow of the HEA and of the Centre for Higher Education Research Practice, and the impact of her research was recognised in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework results.

#### Three words to describe Una

**"Encouraging,  
Dedicated,  
Easy-Going"**



### Dr Liz Doherty

**School of Creative Arts and Technologies**

Liz is a fiddle player, performer, recording artist, teacher and researcher. She has been lecturing in traditional music for ten years in the School of Creative Arts and Technologies. During her time at Ulster she has been responsible for hosting some world renowned festivals and conferences on campus at Magee as well as imagining and implementing the development of two traditional music academies in the north-west. Her research ranges from the health and well-being of performing artists to the fiddle tradition of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada. Her amazing and talented students have travelled with her to perform and to engage in educational and mentoring projects worldwide. Liz herself has performed and recorded with the likes of "Riverdance", Micheál Ó Súilleabháin and the RTE Concert Orchestra and the String Sisters. She has recently launched the online fiddleclinic.com and is currently leading a major industry-focussed traditional music project.

#### Three words to describe Liz

**"Inspiring,  
Motivated,  
Successful"**



### Professor Adrian Moore

**School of Geography and Environmental Sciences**

Adrian is Professor of Geographic Information Science (GIS) and Head of the School of Geography and Environmental Sciences. A former student at Ulster, he has been a member of academic staff in the School since 1993. His research and teaching interests lie in the areas of medical geography, GIS technologies and student enterprise/employability, which he teaches across all levels on undergraduate and postgraduate courses. He is a Director and co-founder of a University technology spin-out Company and a Distinguished Business Fellow of Ulster University. Working in and with industry has influenced his interest and passion for helping students develop their professional and generic employability skills through the curriculum which he strongly believes is a key part of an 'academic apprenticeship' for a professional career.

#### Three words to describe Adrian

**"Passionate,  
Selfless,  
Trusted"**

# NOMINATED 2017

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NIALL MCATEER  
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MARY MCCAHOON  
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MCCREIGHT  
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ISUULT WILSON  
SHANE WILSON  
DAVID WOODWARD

## TEAMS

CONSUMER  
MANAGEMENT AND  
FOOD INNOVATION  
TEAM  
DESIGN - MAGEE  
DIAGNOSTIC  
RADIOGRAPHY AND  
IMAGING  
DIGITAL MEDIA  
COMMUNICATION PGC/  
PGD/MSC  
ENGLISH LITERATURE -  
COLERAINE  
HUMAN RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT (HRM)  
INTERACTIVE MEDIA  
DESIGN - COLERAINE  
INTERNATIONAL  
DEPARTMENT  
MAGEE LIBRARY TEAM  
MSC APPLIED  
PSYCHOLOGY WITH  
MENTAL HEALTH AND  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
THERAPIES  
POST GRADUATE  
CERTIFICATE EDUCATION  
NURSING  
PSYCHOLOGY (BSC) -  
MAGEE  
RADIOTHERAPY -  
JORDANSTOWN  
REGISTRY -  
JORDANSTOWN  
SCHOOL OF  
PSYCHOLOGY -  
MAGEE  
SCHOOL OF SOCIOLOGY  
AND APPLIED SOCIAL  
STUDIES.  
UUSU STUDENT  
ENGAGEMENT TEAM  
UUSU STUDENT OFFICER  
TEAM