EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS 2013
A CELEBRATION OF THE NOMINEES

ANU College of Law
The ANU College of Law Excellence in Education Awards help us to celebrate the teachers who guide, inspire, motivate and facilitate learning.

Students and staff members were invited to voice their opinion about who they felt deserved special recognition for excellence in education within any program offered by the College.
In 2013, staff and students from any program in Law were invited to nominate any teacher in the College for an Excellence in Education Award. All academic staff at the College were eligible for nomination, full-time or fractional, continuing or contract.

Staff could be nominated by students or colleagues. Nominations opened on the 8th of October and closed on the 1st of November. This year yielded 37 nominees eligible for consideration.

Nominations were considered by a selection committee that made recommendations for awards which were approved by the Dean of the College.

The Selection Committee relied heavily on the information provided in the nomination forms. Nominators were encouraged to provide as many concrete details and stories as possible to illustrate how their nominee was outstanding in education. In this booklet you’ll find slightly edited extracts from the nominations where this information was provided, however largely they are left in the words of their students and colleagues. There are extended excerpts about our winners, and key snippets on the nominees.
Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

Congratulations on being nominated for a 2013 College Education Award. Students and/or colleagues have written glowingly of your skill in teaching and inspiring them. You are obviously doing something (or many things) right!

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

In admiration,

Molly O’Brien
Director, Teacher Development
KATH HALL

Award for Teaching Excellence (Established Teaching)
Lawyers, Justice and Ethics, Corporations Law, Honours Thesis

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> She has made the study of law much more relaxed.

> Kath is constantly seeking to engage students through new teaching methods and strategies in an attempt to ensure that her teaching in corporations law is engaging and relevant to students (at times a difficult goal!).

> Just a truly inspiring and lovely tutor.

> She made an indispensable contribution to my learning—she always made time to provide me with feedback on my writing and to pose questions to me that pushed me to think in new and different ways about problems and issues.

> She has shown me that I should continue with studying law, something I was questioning before.

> I have always come away with a lot more knowledge and feeling a lot more confident that I can succeed.

> In a number of respects, it is Kath’s advice and her commitment to students and learning that have allowed me to get to where I am in my career and my life. I cannot speak more highly of her; she is an excellent teacher, academic and supervisor.
LIZ KEOGH

Award for Teaching Excellence (Early Career Teaching)
Family Law, Family Law Practice, Honours Thesis

Liz Keogh has developed imaginative and inspiring teaching resources and curricula within her course to enable students to experience and develop appropriate responses to this emotional dimension.

Liz has a unique gift in being able to engage a large number of students on an individual level through the use of interactive and engaging teaching techniques.

Ms Keogh was always participating in advancing our understanding of the subject, was always prompt in her responses to our questions and actively tried to enhance our knowledge.

Her format of facilitating learning enables students to completely appreciate some of pitfalls of practice within a safe space—ie, your clients may not be telling you the whole truth; or you might actually think that your client doesn’t deserve to get what they want in the situation; or the law can simply not give the client what they want and you need to know how to communicate this.

I really liked how accessible each learning opportunity was and how prompt they were at responding to any queries.

Liz was also very generous in spending time reviewing my drafts, and in delivering the ‘hard truths’ when they were needed.

Through making a genuine effort to engage students by utilising these teaching techniques, Liz inspired me to become interested in the area of family law, to write my honours thesis in that field and to pursue it as a career.

Liz’s enthusiasm for the subject matter is contagious, and her dedication to her students inspiring. I was privileged to have been taught by her.
DAVID PRINCE

Award for Teaching Excellence (Sessional Teaching)
Australia’s Visa System, Visa Compliance, Cancellation and Review

David Prince has greatly influenced and motivated my continued learning.

He consistently demonstrates his passion for the subject—and most importantly, he wants his students to grasp the concepts and to do well.

David Prince’s academic and legal credentials are said to be beyond repute. He demonstrates highly advanced contemporary knowledge of migration law and application of its practices.

Despite my best efforts last semester, I failed the exam—an interesting experience for someone who has never failed anything in their life before. I greatly valued his candid, thoughtful and positive encouragement to get myself up off the canvas and to keep fighting the fight, so to speak. As a consequence, I have regained my confidence and am greatly looking forward to continuing my studies.

Mr Prince’s explanations could clear my blind spot, he understood why we didn’t understand. He is really a wonderful and an experienced mentor!!
WAYNE MORGAN

Award for Teaching Excellence (Honours and HDR Supervision)
Honours Thesis, Law and Sexualities, Property

Wayne supervised my honours thesis, and brought me from the edge of catastrophe to producing a decent piece of work.

He always attempts to explain problems from a variety of perspectives or using different concepts, which encourages students to use their own intelligence to make connections and to think creatively.

It is a privilege to be taught by Wayne because he is always willing to assist students.

I think it is also quite illustrative that all law students at ANU seem to know, almost by osmosis (though most likely it is word-of-mouth), of the brilliance of Wayne Morgan; and furthermore, each student I talk to seems to have saved an elective to take one of Wayne’s courses.

Wayne is not only the most enthusiastic lecturer I have experienced at the ANU College of Law, but he is the first law lecturer that has helped me to enjoy law.

His impact upon my learning at ANU has been instrumental to my mental health and general well-being.

My experience being supervised by Wayne is the absolute high point of my ANU experience and I’m very grateful.
CAMERON ROLES & PAULINE THAI

Award for Teaching Excellence (Team Teaching)
Labour Law

> Taking Labour Law with both Pauline and Cam has been fantastic.
> As an international student, language is a barrier and sometimes I will misunderstand cases. Cam spent a lot of time with me clarifying tones of my questions.
> You can tell that Pauline enjoys teaching and enjoys helping students.
> Cam eased us into law school and ran fantastic lectures and tutorials. He was friendly, approachable and made the course fun.
> The course structure that Pauline and Cam have developed is really fantastic for not only encouraging learning, but also exploring areas of labour law that interest you specifically.
> The seminar portion of the course, was particularly helpful for this, and Pauline has been excellent in encouraging students to share their ideas (in a course that can be quite political and controversial).
> When I was utterly confused for a take home exam preparation, she helped give me a workable structure that I could work from.
> I have never had a lecturer who has been so clear, and well-structured in their taking a course - it has been a delight.
> Cam encourages students and tries to help students as much as he could.
> By far the best structured, and most focused and most interesting course I have taken at ANU.
TIM BONYHADY
Fundamentals of Environmental Law

> Professor Bonyhady is very generous to students with his time.
> I found him very wide ranging in his intellectual capacities, thorough in his content, respectful of students, very courteous to visiting lecturers. The depth of his knowledge is outstanding, his ability to answer all questions lucidly and fully is appreciated.
> His marking of assignments is extremely useful for academic development of students.

ALEX BRUCE
Consumer Protection Law

> Alex was by far the most encouraging lecturer and tutor I have experienced in my time at the ANU and is an incredibly inspirational teacher.
> His dedication to teaching, learning and publishing is extremely motivational.
> He is an incredible asset to the ANU College of Law, as both an amazing teacher and all-round inspirational person.
NIGEL DOBBIE
Graduate Certificate in Migration Law

> Nigel is a very dynamic teacher.
> He knows his stuff and is very open with information.
> Great presenter and very good communicator of technical aspects.

TONY FOLEY
Clinical Youth Law Program

> Tony brings to the spotlight the importance of student wellbeing and understanding the impact of law in the wider community.
> His active role and genuine interest in guiding and supporting students through their law school education has made a significant impact. He promotes critical thinking in the classroom, whilst encouraging students to self-reflect on their motivation to study law.
> Tony’s method of teaching created a learning environment built on respect, trust and rapport. This was exemplified by the interviews he took with each student where he showed a genuine interest in their aspirations and goals outside the classroom and provided effective and empathetic guidance.
ALAN FRECKELTON
Applied Migration Law

> I found Alan Freckelton to be quite an extraordinary teacher of my course.
> He is extremely responsive to students, incredibly knowledgeable, and supportive and encouraging while still firm and excellent at providing constructive feedback.
> We all learn a great deal from him as he shares real-life examples and experiences which truly bring home the learning. It’s a pleasure and a great learning experience to have him as a teacher!

RYAN GOSS
Australian Public Law

> Dr Ryan Goss taught and tutored me in Australian Public Law. He is an excellent lecturer and never fails to impress.
> In class, Dr Ryan Goss never fails to encourage me to learn by prompting class participation.
> He delivers his lectures and tutorials in a clear manner and prompts independent and creative thinking.
GABOR HAJDU
Australian Migration Law

> Gabor really made the discussion topics interesting, which made us think.
> What I liked about his teaching methodology is that he was very clear about what he taught and the ability to make us think in the right direction.
> The feedback he gave on the discussion post was fair and constructive. That’s how I managed to learn.

LAUREN HONCOPE
Legal Practice Experience

> Lauren manages hundreds of students from various backgrounds and every timezone.
> She recognises issues when told of the problem and finds the solution quickly. Believe me in an ‘online’ world that is a big deal.
> Lauren reduces anxiety levels of students, already maxed with anxiety. I know first hand that her response to questions reduced my confusion and concerns.
SARAH HEATHCOTE
Advanced Principles of International Law

> In teaching an area of law that is incredibly broad and complex, Sarah’s ability to synthesise and confidently communicate complex concepts in a clear and precise way was inspiring.

> Her readiness to share her own experiences, coupled with her broad network of contacts and the informal mentoring she has provided were incredibly useful, further convincing me that in choosing ANU as the location for my LLM, I had made the right choice.

> I also had the opportunity to benefit from Sarah’s excellence as an educator through her generosity and willingness to spend time talking to me away from the classroom about options for further study, both in Australia and overseas.

JUDY JONES
Environmental Law

> Judy always made herself available to students, and was very concerned about our learning and welfare.

> Her feedback was continual, giving students many times to voice concerns personally to her.

> Numerous explanatory notes, rubrics, and consultation times were provided to all students, in an attempt to ensure they engaged with the material. If every teacher was like Judy Jones, no one would want to leave the ANU Law School.
ANNE MACDUFF
Family Law

> Anne is a brave, innovative and dedicated teacher who brings great innate ability, knowledge of pedagogical methods and fabulous enthusiasm to her teaching.

> Because of the quality of the teaching materials Anne has developed, students develop not only their legal and critical thinking skills through this assessment exercise, but also invaluable skills in working in a team.

> I believe that this is in no small part attributable to the opportunity that Anne has created for them to work collaboratively in a group and thus produce a whole that so completely exceeds the sum of the parts they might have produced in an individual assessment.

ANDREW MACINTOSH
Commonwealth Environmental Law

> Andrew’s enthusiasm and passion for Commonwealth Environmental Law inspired and motivated me.

> Andrew’s excellent teaching style and way of explaining complex legislation and processes is easy to comprehend through extensive real case examples and interactive class tasks.

> He is quite engaging with all students and his energy makes you want to learn more about the topic.
MOLLY O’BRIEN
Litigation and Dispute Management, Evidence, Honours Thesis

- Molly’s commitment to student learning and well-being is unparalleled. She turns up to every lecture with an infectious and positive demeanor.
- I could not have asked for any better guidance and encouragement than what Molly provided me. Throughout the entire thesis journey, I felt highly supported.
- Her scholarly attention to student well-being at the law school (including my own physical and mental well-being!), and to law and education reminded me never to lose sight of the exigency and feasibility of imparting the knowledge we had gained in the previous decades of our privileged lives for the betterment of society.

KATE OGG
Litigation and Dispute Management, International Law of Human Rights

- Kate Ogg is an amazing lecturer and teacher. She made Litigation and Dispute Management fascinating even though it can be quite a dry subject.
- Kate Ogg was able to completely turn around this perception, by giving lectures which were not only engaging in their delivery, but put procedure into context, which made for a fascinating and relevant course overall.
- This teaching technique allowed us to see the effect of the provisions in practice, in a situation we could relate to, without necessarily wading through all the case law in order to understand.
SIMON RICE
Law Reform and Social Justice Project, Lawyers, Justice and Ethics

Simon invests time and thought into facilitating student learning; he is always innovating. We could count on him to stretch the limits of our technical ability and our mastery of the subject matter. He gave the most wonderfully detailed, constructive and thoughtful feedback. Over the course of my five year degree, he has taken a sustained interest in not only my substantive legal knowledge but my career goals, my developing worldview and identity.

PAULINE RIDGE
Commercial Equity, Equity and Trusts

Pauline Ridge was instrumental for my understanding of the course Equity and Trusts. Her expertise in the subject and her articulation of complex ideas in simple language was extremely beneficial for me. She would always answer any questions I have in tutorials, and her answers would always be explained in a manner in which I could fully comprehend the topic.
HEATHER ROBERTS
Commonwealth Constitutional Law, Property

> Dr Roberts was my lecturer and tutor, and I have been greatly impressed by her energetic approach to teaching, coupled with a very practical and user-friendly approach in teaching students.
> Dr Roberts takes the time to learn all of the names of the people in her tutorials—by week 4 she had learnt most of our names.
> I especially appreciated her interesting and insightful views on Constitutional law, and I liked how she never hesitated to show her passion for law, especially Constitutional law.

IMOGEN SAUNDERS
Property, Equity and Trusts, International Trade Law

> I have had the pleasure of Imogen’s teaching across several courses, including Property and most recently Trade Law. Imogen is one of the clearest lecturers I have had at ANU.
> She is exceptionally clear, and has made two notoriously difficult subjects, easy to comprehend. As a tutor, she is methodological, concise.
> She always brings many perspectives, conveying them all clearly and in an entertaining way that helps everyone in her classes understand the content and love to learn it.
ESME SHIRLOW
International Law

> Esme is a fantastic tutor who knows a lot about the course content and is very good at translating that knowledge into practical use.
> She strongly encourages student participation in tutorials. She also avoids getting sidetracked, which means that we always manage to get through the set tutorial problem during the hour long tutorial. In addition, she often brings additional resources to class so that if we have time at the end we can begin to go through them.
> From speaking with others in the tutorial, Esme is appreciated by everyone. It’s fantastic to have such a genuinely approachable, knowledgeable and helpful tutor.

AMELIA SIMPSON
Lawyers, Justice and Ethics

> Amelia’s role extended far beyond my LJE tutorial as she provided me with frank and honest yet uplifting advice when I was at the point of possible collapse in my degree. She gave me the strength and encouragement to keep on going which is something I respect and admire her for.
> It is very heart-warming to meet a tutor who doesn’t wholly strive for perfection but understands and empathizes with the hardships that some of us face.
> From day one she told us that her door is always open if we need a chat – that in itself is invaluable.
PALLAVI SINHA
Australian Migration Law

> Pallavi's feedback throughout the course has been very beneficial and has inspired me to read widely.
> Instead of simply providing me with the answers directly, she indicated signposts and asked questions through which I was able to find what I was looking for.
> Her manner and accessibility are hallmarks of an accomplished teacher.

ER-KAI WANG
Australian Migration Law

> Very warm hearted Ms Er-Kai Wang is my convener for Australian Migration Law.
> I found her well-organized, well managed and confident in course material.
> I am studying online course, however, did not feel lack of assistance in my study. Her supervising technique is amazing.
MICHELLE WORTHINGTON
Lawyers, Justice and Ethics

Michelle was my tutor this year and I have never experienced such a friendly, informative and engaging tutor.

Her passion for law was inspiring, she made the tutorials interesting and she has great teaching skills.

Michelle is a lovely person and was very approachable. She is a great role model for new law students.

MATTHEW ZAGOR
Australian Public Law, International Law

Matthew's lectures are always very engaging and he can make the most dry concepts of public/international law appealing and understandable.

His lectures often included references to political writings, literature, and he took real effort in creating a story behind key cases. His description of the Pinochet Case and Tehran Hostages Case for instance, provided the story of the background to the affair complete with photos to make it come alive, culminating in a better understanding of the relevant legal issues.

You can tell it’s a subject he cares about and wants his students to not only understand, but engage with as passionately as he does.
Also nominated without accompanying text were:

ASHLEY BELL
Legal Theory

KHANH HOANG
Australian Migration Law

AMY KILPATRICK
Lawyers, Justice and Ethics

LEIGHTON MCDONALD
Administrative Law

HITOSHI NASU
International Humanitarian Law, International Security Law

MICHAEL TARLOWSKI
Equity and Trusts

ASMI WOOD
Foundations of Australian Law
Thank you to all those involved in the Excellence in Education Awards process here in the ANU College of Law. It is wonderful to highlight and celebrate the talent of our teachers.

Special thanks to the Selection Committee: Miriam Gani, Molly O’Brien, Glen O’Grady, Margie Rowe, Chris Trevitt and Ricky Vuckovic.

Further thanks to Claire Atteia and Ricky Vuckovic for producing this booklet.
We look forward to another successful year in 2014, where we will have the opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge our brilliant colleagues.
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