‘Instruction does much, but encouragement everything.’

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The ANU College of Law Excellence in Education Awards recognise and celebrate the teachers nominated by students and staff as teachers who guide, inspire, motivate and facilitate learning.
Dear Colleagues,

Congratulations to those nominated for a 2018 College Education Award. Students and/or colleagues have written glowingly of your skill in teaching and inspiring them. Sincere thanks for all the effort you put into your teaching. You have engaged, inspired, explained, supported, mentored and challenged students. You also inspire, challenge and support your colleagues to make ANU College of Law a place of educational excellence.

In admiration,

Judy Jones,
Director, Teaching and Learning
In 2018, staff and students from all College programs were invited to nominate any teacher in the College for an Excellence in Education Award. All academic and professional staff at the College, full-time, fractional, continuing, contract, on-campus, online, teachers, tutors and supervisors, were eligible for nomination.

This year there were 20 nominations with 15 nominees eligible for consideration, evidence of the high esteem in which many of our teachers are held by both students and staff. Nominees had the opportunity to write a response to the information provided by their nominator(s).

The Selection Committee relied heavily on the information provided in the nomination forms. Nominators were encouraged to provide as many concrete details and stories as possible to illustrate how their nominee was outstanding in education. It is a heartwarming task to read the nominations and nominee responses. It was a difficult task to choose winners. All those nominated exemplify excellence in education.

This booklet contains excerpts of nominator statements for the winners and a list of all who were nominated.
WINNER
Award for Teaching Excellence

Law and Armed Conflict

> Dr Drew showed me a side of teaching I have not yet experienced - one that was 100% engaging and insightful.

> If we look at the course statistics for Law and Armed Conflict, it is (most likely) the one law course that has a 100% approval rating on SELT. Not only is that amazing, he also did it for two years in a row.

> I enjoyed and appreciated Dr Drew’s teaching so much that I decided to do a supervised research paper under his guidance.

> I am confident I will retain knowledge of the law of armed conflict, long after the final exam and semester have passed.

> Dr Drew interweaved his experiences and understanding with the content of the law in such a nuanced way as to create a full picture of what the law is and how it operates.

> Dr Drew is the one law lecturer who taught a course that absolutely broke my preconception of law school.

> Instead of dealing with law like a word version of maths, I began to see the more human side of law.

> I have never seen a law lecturer who puts this much effort and commitment in engaging with his students.

> At a time that the university is moving towards a greater reliance on online resources and the law school is increasing its focus on research as part of its honours embedded LLB program, the semi-intensive structure of Professor Drew’s course offers a model that the rest of the college would do well to replicate.

> As someone who often takes a back seat in even small tutorials, the learning environment that Professor Drew created was one in which I felt comfortable engaging in these whole of class conversations.

> As a lecturer he is one of the College of Law’s most valuable assets.

> As students we were encouraged not only to know the law, but to understand it and even critique it.
ANU College of Law/Kimberley Community Legal Service (KCLS) initiative

Award for Program or Service that Enhances Learning

> Judith taught the class with so much enthusiasm that it was easy to forget it was an online class.

> It was clear that Judith had thought about what she had learned and knew herself in a global context; always challenging and finessing her views based on new information. This was something she encouraged in us also and I feel that I will be a better practitioner thanks to her skills and teaching approach.

> At the end of my assessment, I came to the crushing realisation that my months of reading and analysis and my creative and informed approach to this area of law were not enough. There were no legal mechanisms that I could find to make the route to compensation easier. Although I had never met or spoken to any of the clients, I felt that I had let them down. Judith gave me the perfect pep talk based on what my original motivations were when starting the internship. She encouraged me and reminded me of my achievements. Judith also reminded me that sometimes the social, political and economic environment that practitioners are operating in do not allow for the outcomes that we are seeking. With this in mind, I was able to reframe my internship paper and take it to a level I did not think I could achieve.

> Judith is clearly so committed to our growth as students and ensuring that the partnership between the ANU and the KCLS is successful.

> Judith’s approach to teaching is focused on recognising the diverse experiences and interests of students, and finding a way to maximise the value of learning experiences in a manner which is meaningful for each student. This is a particularly difficult skill to master in teaching because it requires a dedicated effort by a teacher to tailor their own knowledge and experiences to individual student dynamics, which becomes more complicated when student contact occurs in an online format.
CHRISTIE GARDINER

Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning

Torts A and Torts B, Juris Doctor Online

> I have not encountered another academic with such passion for her students matched with professional dedication and skill.

> She was setting a safe space for all of us and was genuinely aware of how much pressure part time students with work and family commitments can experience.

> She was empathic and approachable.

> On our last night as a group (after 6 consecutive months together) every student said farewell to Christie. Many wept and others found it difficult to turn their screens off. She made a deep and abiding impression on all of us.
WINNER
Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning

Contemporary Issues in Constitutional Law

> Dr Levy’s lecturing style was Socratic; he actively encouraged debate (and even disagreement with his own work) during seminars.

> The class was always encouraged to draw mental links between the legal and political elements of the content. The result was a deeply inspiring course that pushed students to link their legal studies with their understanding of civics and citizenship outside of the law.
Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning

Alumni and External Engagement Coordinator; ANU College of Law
Scholarships Committee

> Fi has worked tirelessly and with great professionalism in running all processes for application and selection around scholarships, as well as helping to develop new scholarships, internships abroad, and pathways to other universities from ANU.

> Fi makes an invaluable contribution to students’ potential learning experiences here at ANU or abroad as scholarships winners.

> Fi is a quiet operator who is hugely reliable. On all scholarship committees she is a very valuable and indeed an indispensable person.
WINNER
Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning

**Torts; Labour Law; Corporations Law**

> Cam is selfless when it comes to helping students. He approached students with a sense of humanity and makes sure that his students are never marginalised/ left out due to personal problems/uniqueness in his class (e.g. single parents/ parents/mental health issue/people with a very different view that cannot follow the lecture etc).

> Cam really cares about the quality of education and he believes that everyone deserves better grades and everyone can perform much better if students receive genuine support and help from the academic staff.

> Cam told me that every student has hidden wings on their shoulders that they don’t know about. His job is to help them find their wings. Therefore he would like to help me by going through the exam feedback together, as well as my other assessments.
HEATHER ROBERTS

Award for Excellence in Supervision

> Heather deserves to be recognised for her commitment, her passion and her willingness to assist those who want to learn and explore. To paraphrase the illustrious Professor Dumbledore, help will always be given by Dr Roberts to those who want it.

> I have long held the view that the best teachers are able to inspire their students. Dr Roberts is one of those few teachers.

> Under the guidance of Dr Roberts, I was able to develop my research and writing skills. Under her tutelage, I ended up writing a solid paper on an area that sparked my intellectual curiosity!

> I feel blessed to be able to have had the experiences I have had. Heather has helped me redraw the boundaries of what I am capable of. I am no longer as scared to write essays. In fact, I am now keen to write research essays!
WINNER
MEG WOOT TEN

Award for Excellence in Tutoring

Consumer Protection Law

Meg’s tireless commitment to our classes was evident.

Meg came in every day with an awesome attitude regardless of how her day had been and she was so encouraging.

I think that her commitment to our class and constant enthusiasm and care for her students is something to be recognised.

Meg made a real effort to ensure that the reality of the subject we were studying, was felt. I have found that in studying some of the law subjects, I get too caught up in the intellectualisation of the content such that I become completely detached from how the tools we are learning can actually help others. Meg made Consumer Protection Law real for me. She showed us that the content we were learning really was important and relevant to our everyday lives and how it was a great tool for helping the vulnerable members of society who are preyed on by selling tactics.

I genuinely considered writing a poem in praise of Meg on this evaluation. I am, instead, taking that time to study for my Corps exam. But, I really do want to be clear that Meg’s quality of teaching is of a level that ‘deserves’ poems of praise. I’m pretty sure if I pass this class, it will be solely due to Meg’s tutorials. Thanks, Meg.

Meg is a fantastic tutor, the best one I’ve had across all of my studies. I always felt better about the course after tutorials, as she is always able to clarify any issues and provides a clear structure for attempting problem questions. I can’t rate her highly enough.

Meg was amazing! By far the best tutor I’ve ever had!!! (She’s the only tutor that has given me any desire to complete a SELT review).
NOMINEES FOR 2018

- Phillip Drew
- Tom Faunce
- Christie Gardiner
- Dorota Gozdecka
- Judith Harrison
- Darryn Jensen
- Ron Levy
- Andrew Macintosh
- Fiona Preston

- Heather Roberts
- Cameron Roles
- Wayne Sharwood
- Meg Wootten
- Michelle Worthington
- Barry Yau
Thank you to all those involved in the ANU College of Law Excellence in Education Awards process. It is wonderful to highlight and celebrate the talent of our teachers.

Special thanks to the Selection Committee –
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