



THE  
ELEVENTH  
ANNUAL

# UNION AWARDS

ALSO BEING PRESENTED



**THE EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING AND TEACHING AWARDS**

# Introduction

Good evening and welcome to this rather unusual but very special edition of our annual Union Awards. On behalf of the sabbatical team, I know we have all been looking forward to celebrating with you all tonight.

It is an honour to be amongst everyone this evening as we celebrate our collective achievements and also, to congratulate those who have worked hard on trying and succeeding in making this year's awards happen despite the unprecedented situation we find ourselves in.

To name a few of our incredible accomplishments; we're currently ranked 3rd in the National Student Survey and 7th in the WhatUni league tables, allowing more people to see what incredible opportunities we have to offer students alongside their degree. We hosted our first online Varsity and won meaning we get to keep the Roebuck trophy! Additionally, we had an amazing year fundraising for our RAG charities, raising £13,407 through the hard work of our students and staff members. Thank you to everyone who gave their time and money to these special causes, I know it will make a massive difference in their work.

I would also like to thank everyone participated in our campaigns this year such as, Banter or Bullying, Break the Stigma and recently #ThankYouNHS. These campaigns have been very successful as more people are thinking about how they talk to each other, are more aware of mental health and are learning to appreciate what others do for them.

Recently it has been a hard time for all of us, but tonight is a time of reflection and celebration with those who you have spent the last few years with. I hope that tonight we can give you the opportunity to escape for a few hours and forget about your everyday realities. We are also aware this evening's awards cross over with the national #ClapforourCarers initiative in supporting the fight against the Covid-19 outbreak. If you wish to take part, just pause the live video, participate in the clap and come back and enjoy the remainder of the awards.

Finally, as we look forward to this evening and celebrating the achievements of 2019-20, we hope you join us until the end in showing your appreciation for all the fantastic contributions, individual and collective, throughout the past year.

So sit back, enjoy and let the awards commence!



Tao Warburton  
President, Bucks Students' Union



# The Evening's Schedule

## **7.30pm Union Awards starts on Facebook Live**

**Greetings from Bucks Students' Union, Chief Executive Officer**

**Welcome from the Vice-Chancellor and President, Tao Warburton**

Outstanding Society Accreditation

Platinum Volunteers

Gold Accredited Reps

RAG Cheque Presentation

**Brooke Pilbeam and Christina Demetriou to announce**

Campaigner of the Year

Student Rep of the Year

Professional Service Employee Partner of the Year

Academic Staff Partner of the Year

Society Committee Member of the Year

RAG Charity Fundraiser of the Year

Volunteer of the Year

Media Contributor of the Year

Society of the Year

Sport for Fun Ambassador of the Year

*The Excellence in Learning and Teaching Awards*

Excellence and Innovation in Student Learning Support

Demonstrating Excellence in Academic Leadership Excellence

Innovation in Learning and Teaching Practice

Commercial Services Student Staff Member of the Year

Membership Services Student Staff Member of the Year

Student Leadership Award

**Tao Warburton to announce**

Union Fellowship Award

**Chief Executive Officer, Tristan Tipping, to announce**

Honorary Life Membership

## **8.10pm Thank You and close**

*These awards do cross over with the national #ClapforourCarers initiative so please feel free to pause the live stream and join the clap if you wish.*

# Raise and Give

Raise and Give (RAG) is the part of the Union dedicated to charitable fundraising. Every year, our staff and students nominate charities that they would like to support over the course of the academic year. Our members then vote in a cross-campus ballot to elect the winning organisations. This year it was decided that RAG would support:

## Hillingdon Autistic Care and Support



Our Uxbridge RAG charity this year is Hillingdon Autistic Care and Support. They provide autism support to autistic people, families and professionals. They help autistic people discover their hidden skills and talents and be an active member of their community.

## Thames Valley Air Ambulance



Our High Wycombe RAG charity this year is Thames Valley Air Ambulance. They bring the expertise, equipment and treatment of the hospital to the scene of an emergency as every day, somebody in our community could be in urgent need of our service.

Alongside this year's two chosen RAG charities, our members also fundraised for other local, national and international charities. Their fundraising has taken them from the high street of High Wycombe, collecting for our local food bank, raising money whilst visiting Uganda and completing the Three Peaks Challenge, organising sporting events, fun runs, club nights, a lot of bake sales and even a shaved head!

# The Annual Union Awards Criteria and Judging Panel

## The Criteria

In order to make the shortlist, nominees for these awards must meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Through their work have had a demonstrable impact on the student experience of their peers.
2. Have enhanced the reputation of the Students' Union through their commitment, dedication and professionalism.
3. Enabled the Students' Union to achieve or exceed one or more of its strategic objectives.
4. Demonstrated innovation in extending the range of opportunities and services available through the Students' Union.
5. Created positive change within the Students' Union, institution or local community.

## The Judging

Shortlisting for all categories awarded this evening was conducted by the Union Awards Panel, which was made up of:

**Natasha Neal**  
Student Trustee

**Ruth Gunstone**  
External Trustee

**Tao Warburton**  
President

**Christina Demetriou**  
Vice President Student Involvement

**Brooke Pilbeam**  
Vice President Education and Welfare

**Mark Sweeney**  
Student Experience Manager

**Matthew Kitching**  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

**Tristan Tipping**  
Chief Executive Officer

In cases where a member of the judging panel were shortlisted for an award, the judge was asked to leave the room so all candidates could be considered fairly.

# Campaigner of the Year

## **Kia Wing**

Within her role as Women's Officer, Kia has run several campaigns this year. She created and led her #IAmEnough campaign, an event held on Valentine's day, encouraging students to practice self-love. Kia also supported the International Women's Day campaign, contributing to gift boxes given out to students. Alongside this, Kia is also the founder and chair of Green Society and is passionate about making Bucks a more sustainable University.

## **Darren Hannay**

Darren has always been at the forefront with environmental matters within the university and even more so this year as the elected Green Ambassador. In collaboration with the Green Society, for which he held the role as Secretary, he helped lobby the University and Vice Chancellor in declaring a Climate Strike. His passion and drive really came through during this campaign to help reduce paper usage across the institution, reflected by the success of most courses now switching to electronic dissertations.

## **Lisa Connell**

Lisa is a nursing student based at the Uxbridge campus and has been a huge asset to the Uxbridge team this year. She is always the first person to engage in any campaigns running at this campus and encourages other students to get involved too. She has campaigned through running a session at our annual Rep Conference on Self-Care and written articles for the student newspaper on 'How can Nurses get involved?' and 'Nurses as Leaders'.

## **Megan Bullock**

The pandemic has undoubtedly proven to be an unsettling time worldwide and this is no different for all university students including our own. Times like these calls for unification, transparency and guidance and Megan had taken the lead regarding the No Detriment Policy. It takes great courage to lobby the university, and thanks to Megan's efforts and her petition she managed to bring together the student body and collect 583 signatures which contributed towards the urgency of the matter.

# Student Rep of the Year

## **Lisa Connell**

Lisa has been a Student Rep for two years and has supported her class in various ways. From being available for emotional support and signposting to appropriate services like the Advice Centre or Counselling, to passing down information from staff, she has helped her peers every step of the way. Lisa is always willing to escalate any issues by whatever means necessary to ensure the Representation Team and University staff are made aware.

## **Michelle Ginnane**

Michelle has been an exceptional Student Rep this year. She is not afraid to speak up on behalf of her course and ensure her peers voices are being heard. She has been vocal about changes her and her peers would like to see made at the Uxbridge campus and raises these eloquently in meetings. Michelle not only cares about her own time at Bucks but is noticeably passionate about ensuring future Nursing students will have the best possible experience.

## **Gregory King**

Gregory has been a very active Student Rep throughout his three years at Bucks. He has provided essential feedback which has allowed the University to try and improve his course. He has also taken on additional responsibilities, helping lead workshops for his class when staff are short. His role has been particularly challenging, but Gregory continues to try and better his course for himself and future years. He is an all-around outstanding Student Rep.

## **Stephanie Webb**

Taking on the role for the first time this year, Steph has worked extremely hard as Student Rep. Alongside this, she is also School Officer for Health Care and Social Work and has made a real difference within the school. She has worked closely with the Representation Team, always delivering well-articulated feedback. This allows her academics to get a real insight into her course and the student experience, ensuring improvements are being made.

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# Professional Service Employee Partner of the Year

## Heather Boyd-Savage

Heather might not be known to most students but her work certainly is. It is this work that ensures all courses running are to a suitable standard and operating fairly in the best interests of students. This work is incredibly valuable in making sure that students are not over worked or over assessed whilst at University. Heather's caring nature means that she always values what the Students' Union has to say and tries to incorporate this in her work.

## Emma Binnie

Emma has worked very closely with the Students Union in the short year she has been at the University. Working collaboratively on Break the Stigma and supporting student's well-being Emma always has students at the forefront of everything she does. Brining in new initiatives to help students settle into University life with survive and thrive sessions Emma's passion from well-being shines though. We can't wait to see what more Emma brings in the future.

## Jean Whitehouse

Jean moved on from the institution this academic year but for a number of years she has been responsible for one of the most challenging areas in any university, resolving student complaints. Jean approached this task in a friendly and approachable manner which was greatly appreciated by those she supported. More than this though, Jean was always quick to collaborate and consult with the Union and support us with our own complaints processes. This led to the best possible experience of our members.

## John Ide

The Union has had a long and successful partnership with Bucks Gateway Gym and that is in large part thanks to John. His collaboration with our Activities' Team especially is imperative in order to ensure the successful delivery of most club and society sessions. Thanks to John's continued enthusiasm and support, student led activities including the annual Dance Competition, fundraisers for clubs and societies and charity fundraising events for Breast Cancer Now and Movember to name a few, have thrived.



# Academic Staff Partner of the Year

## **Melanie Hayward**

Mel consistently goes above and beyond for all Nursing students. She is praised highly by everyone that she has ever taught, worked with or met. Alongside her teaching, Mel goes out of her way to think up new ideas and initiatives to engage a particularly hard to reach group. She is passionate about mental well-being and has compiled a number of excellent resources available for all nursing students. Mel is truly inspiring and deserves recognition for her endless hard work.

## **Nic Fryer**

Nic continuously works to improve the student experience of his students, including working with us to provide additional skills activities for the performing arts students, as well as sending information on potential new events to run. Working hard to promote these opportunities, they are often well received by students. Nic uses the resources we have at the Students Union to really benefit his students with whole cohorts now having boosted their employability prospects thanks to his continued promotion and enthusiasm.

## **Phill Hoddinott**

Phill has an incredibly tough job of balancing what students want against what resources the University have at the Uxbridge campus. However, what sets Phill apart is the value he sees in the Union and how they can support in helping to compliment the overall student experience. He makes time to meet with Union staff and students to help iron out any issues, genuinely caring about the success of the nursing students, regularly going above and beyond to support them.

## **Carol Rogers**

Consistently working to improve the experience of part-time students at the University, Carol is always in communication with the Union's development team regarding specific training opportunities for these students. Carol looks to organise them for days when they are due to attend University so that as many of them as possible can attend the sessions, thus helping to engage them in other aspects of university life. Engagement with these training events have been incredibly successful when organised in conjunction with Carol.

# Society Committee Member of the Year

## Amy Leverton

Engaging Uxbridge students in society activity has historically been a struggle. This year has been different however after Amy successfully started the First Aid Society. In partnership with St John's Ambulance, Amy runs sessions providing basic first aid skills to students predominately studying at the Uxbridge campus. Continually developing the society and helping to grow its membership by creating an inclusive environment, five members have now qualified with St John's Ambulance utilising their new skills and helping to save lives at major events.

## Tomek Siemieniuch

Having faced significant challenges with its committee, Tomek's hard-working nature has enabled Boxing to still be successful. Stepping in as honorary Chair, Tomek ensured the society remained focused in its goals to achieve accreditation thanks to his exceptional organisational skills, regularly going the extra-mile. Members are incredibly grateful for the positive impact he has had on the society whether its leading by example, participating in volunteering opportunities, organising society meetings or pulling everyone together and motivating them. A real pleasure to work with.

## Tamsin Grainger

Under the stewardship of Tamsin, Snowsoc have been able to thrive. The society is now one in which people want to join, having previously been in a position with minimal members and no sessions. Tamsin's work, largely on her own has enabled the society to be the first to achieve Outstanding status this year. Her determination to grow the society is second to none, having successfully organised a well-attended snow sports trip and always encouraging members to participate in wider Union activity.

## Jordan Penning

Working tirelessly in his role as Chair, Jordan has ensured that members of the Aviation society get the best experience possible. Jordan has managed to organise trips, guest speakers and events that would usually seem near impossible all thanks to his self-developed industry connections. These sessions have provided his peers with incredibly benefitting experiences, helping to complement their academic learning and further boost their employability prospects. Despite his own commitments, Jordan always manages to put the society and his pride for Bucks first.



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# RAG Charity Fundraiser of the Year

## Georgia Miller

As our RAG ambassador this year Georgia has helped several clubs and societies in their endeavours to fundraise for RAG. Organising a joint RAG takeover with Movember, helping with the homeless hampers, and arranging RAG week are just a few of the initiatives that Georgia has been involved with. Always happy to help, Georgia has worked really well with the Union coming up with some original ideas that have all helped build towards our RAG total.

## Dance Club

Every year BNU Dance donates half the profits raised from their home-hosted "Bucks Comp" towards RAG. This year's committee decided to go over and above their donations by including the raffle profits leading to the highest donation ever of £1,700. While this ticked off their RAG fundraiser for accreditation, they still organised two additional events. The cupcake sale and original kissing booth raised an additional £110 and always made sure they had a full team for fundraiser events.

## Jade Mather

Jade was our Movember ambassador and worked tirelessly throughout the first term to raise the tremendous amount of £1500. To ensure involvement from everyone she came up with some great ideas, such as drawing moustaches on faces which all clubs and societies got involved with, throwing cream pies at the SABBS, cake sales and a great launch event called the 'Shave Down'. As well as raising lots of money, Jade raised the awareness levels of what Movember is about.

## Women's Netball

It is no surprise that Netball is within the nominees with two highly RAG encouraging committee members, but the outstanding contributions are thanks to an overall committed club. They started off their contributions with £419 from the classic raffle and took the lead with an all-time first by donating £60 from their takeover. While the pandemic did put a stop to several events they had planned, they went against all odds and still managed to raise £110.

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# Volunteer of the Year

## **Tim Garner**

Selflessly giving up his own time to support St Johns Ambulance throughout his degree, it's clear to see Tim's passion for volunteering. Never looking for recognition, Tim was gently encouraged to log these hours which totalled a staggering 3034 since the start of his degree and counting, with 1104 of those coming in his final year of study! Tim has also helped in setting up the First Aid Society at our Uxbridge campus which has led to 5 new members volunteering with St John's Ambulance.

## **Josh Creber**

Josh has been a fantastic student volunteer throughout all three years of his time at University. Currently he is volunteering with three community projects and has amassed over 500 hours of volunteering in 2019/20 alone. Among Josh's voluntary work he is youth leader and cheer coach, having taken on the role of co-captain for BNU Swans in his final year. Josh manages to commit to those roles as well as volunteering as a special constable.

## **Tom Featherstone**

Tom is known within the Union for being a trustworthy volunteer and always happy to provide extra help wherever needed. Whether he is signing himself up for RAG fundraisers as part of Rugby or packing goodie bags for a campaign, Tom always seems to be getting involved when popping by the office which is great testament to his character. His contributions this year were especially outstanding, taking the lead and doing an amazing job with filming and editing the Varsity Hype video.

## **Millie Richmond**

Millie is an outstanding example of an enthusiastic volunteer that is always happy to help. Despite having a very tight schedule as Chair of the Dance Club and Tap Choreographer, she continually makes time to sign herself up with any opportunities the Union has to offer. Despite not playing any fixtures herself on a Wednesday afternoon, she kindly volunteered her free time to drive teams to their away games. Always positive and upbeat, Millie has been a fantastic volunteer for the Union.

# Media Contributor of the Year

## Zuzanna Majewska

Zuzanna has been a fantastic member of the newspaper team this year. For any of you that read the paper, Zuzanna has provided amazing photo sets and interviews of up and coming bands, creating bright and exciting double page spreads in The Bucks Student month in, month out. The photos make a great edition to the paper and Zuzanna's positivity and willingness to create these articles has always been top notch too and thus a deserving nominee for Media Contributor of the year.

## Tom Featherstone

This academic year Tom has contributed many hours of filming and editing all whilst balancing his studies and duties as a committee member. Tom's Varsity Hype video was received with so much admiration from the students at this year's Varsity launch night. Not only did Tom manage to spark the Bucks Spirit with this video but also spent many hours filming and editing this year's Smile campaign and has been a great help in promoting volunteering this year through his film work.

## Abby Gray

Abby has written a significant number of thought provoking and interesting articles to do with current environmental issues and discussions for The Bucks Student. Not only are they provided promptly and efficiently, but they are also fully proofed, researched and referenced. Adding these inspired contributions to the newspaper is always a delight for our newspaper team, helping in its mission to provide insightful views to our membership and even more of a delight to be able to nominate Abby for this award.

## Alex Ditchburn

Alex has done an incredible job with the radio station this year. From helping and hosting our first ever outside broadcast of the year to engaging with many students to have new and exciting shows each week. Not only has he grown more confident with each show but he has been keen in pushing himself, his show and the station further. Alex has really helped to establish the radio station as a part of the student community and given it a real presence on campus.

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# Society of the Year

## Aviation Society

It's been an incredible year for the Aviation Society. With multiple trips organised to the likes of RAF Northolt and the RAF Museum and hosting guest speakers from easyJet and NATS, these industry relevant opportunities have only been of benefit to its highly engaged members. In addition to this, the society are linked with the Air League which also provides its members free access to external events and apply for scholarships with the organisation. A great example of an academic society.

## Acapella Society

Now one of the most well-established societies of the Union, Acapella have created a true sense of community for its members. Thanks to its dedicated committee, society members have been given several opportunities to enhance their confidence through regular performances. Beyond helping their members showcase their talents and create long-lasting friendships, the society always encourages their members to participate in additional opportunities in and around the Union including helping to volunteer for the Christmas Dinner with members from the local community.

## Green Society

A new society for this academic year, Green Society have gone from strength to strength which included achieving outstanding society status. Their work has educated numerous students at Bucks on major worldwide issue and have campaigned strongly to make changes in and around the University, raised awareness on sustainability, fundraised for eco and conservation charities and supported Union ran initiatives. Lastly, they have been a great help in assisting with the Union's Green Impact submission as it looks to secure Gold status.

## Snowsoc

Snowsoc were the first society to reach outstanding status and have engaged in countless activities whilst ensuring a welcoming community. Back in 2017 the society had 4 members, no socials and limited training sessions. Since then, they've managed to triple their membership and deliver regular sessions in conjunction with the SFF programme helping to provide recreational opportunities for members. They've also displayed fantastic initiative by organising the first society snow holiday in years and hosting a highly successful RAG charity swim.

# Sport for Fun Ambassador of the Year

## **Charlie Batterbee**

Charlie is passionate about Badminton and this shows in every aspect of her role as Ambassador. Has always made a conscious effort to listen to people's feedback from the sessions, making sure people are more engaged playing games for fun, and making sure members of the team interact with others with less experience. Charlie makes sure no one is ever sitting out without anyone to play, and makes a real effort to create a warm, friendly and inclusive environment.

## **Alex Ditchburn**

If Alex has been unable to attend a session which isn't often, he always guarantees that a regular attendee takes the lead. This sense of responsibility is one of the reasons that 5 aside is a success. The session averages 25 students each week and Alex does a great job in organising fair play time between all. Always encouraging new people to attend, Alex is great at creating an environment that is friendly and can be a conduit into Bucks FC.

## **Tamsin Grainger**

If it was not for Tamsin, the Snowsports sessions would not be anywhere near as successful as they have been. She has worked collaboratively with the SU to ensure that sessions at Hemel go ahead with full classes, taking a lead in chasing individuals to sign up and giving the snow centre feedback to ensure all the students benefit from the coaching. As a result, there have been several students go from beginners in skiing or snowboarding to competent.

## **Karlo Pigac**

It has been a difficult year for Handball in 2019/20 but that hasn't been for a lack of effort and commitment on the part of Karlo. With such a regular turnover of students our clubs are often subject to peaks and troughs when it comes to recruitment and performance. Karlo has shown great dedication to Handball, constantly seeking to inspire new members, all the time balancing this against his other leadership commitments.

# Excellence in Learning and Teaching Awards

## The Categories

- Excellence and Innovation in Student Learning Support
- Demonstrating Excellence in Academic Leadership
- Excellence and Innovation in Learning and Teaching Practice

## The Criteria

1. Enhancing the student learning experience. For example: by arousing curiosity to stimulate and inspire learning, organising and presenting resources cogently and imaginatively, recognising and supporting diversity of student learning needs, drawing on relevant research, scholarship and professional practice and engaging with and contributing to established literature or building your own evidence base for future publication.
2. Raising the profile of excellence and support for student learning within the University and beyond if appropriate. For example: by contributing to the development and leadership of colleagues in promoting student learning, contribution to departmental/faculty/University/national initiatives to facilitate student learning, and/or support towards meaningful and positive change with respect to pedagogic practice, policy and/or procedure.
3. Developing excellence – the nominee's commitment to his/her ongoing professional development with regard to teaching and learning and/or learning support. For example: evidence of the ongoing review and enhancement of individual practice, engagement in scholarly activity and professional development activities, the review and enhancement of individual practice and contribution to improvements in the student learning, teaching and assessment experience.



# Excellence and Innovation in Student Learning Support

## Poppy McKinnon-Evans

Only having become course leader in September, Poppy has been incredible in supporting her Textiles students. She is described as having completely turned the course around with her constant efforts and encouragement to help her students in any way she can. She is in constant communication with her students, always keeping them informed and supported. Her students have noted they feel extremely lucky to have her and cannot thank her enough for all she does.

## Barbara Nicolls

Academic writing can be a daunting task for some but Barbara's support through the LDU helps students to develop understanding, gain confidence in their ability and apply newly found skills into their work. Barbara is incredibly patient and will always amend her teaching style to that of the needs of the students using her support in order to help to relieve any stress or worries they experience. Students recognise the huge difference Barbara has made to their learning as amazing.

## Suzanne Doria

Suzanne has made a real effort this year in asking for different types of support to help her students. She has worked hard in improving the school's social media profile in order to help with recruitment for years to come. Suzanne is very well respected amongst her students as a very reliable and informative teacher. In meetings and panel boards she is often first to ask what the Students Union's view on a subject matter is with students interests always in her thoughts.

## Julia Robertson

Julia's unwavering support for students begins from their first day at the University, not only in her relevant subject area but across their overall experience. Julia is always going above and beyond to support any of her students, helping to make their time at Bucks easier where they may have previously struggled. Students feel like they can access support from Julia at any opportunity and it is this that has made their time much more enjoyable. A truly wonderful asset to Bucks.

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# Demonstrating Excellence in Academic Leadership

## **Christopher Johnston**

After several personnel changes taking place within the Aviation department in November 2019, Chris quickly stepped into fill their shoes and deliver additional lectures and seminars on top of his own schedule so as not to disrupt the experience for students. Chris delivered these with confidence and engagement despite not fully knowing the subject area prior to teaching. Students were incredibly grateful for the contribution Chris made during this period and believe he deserves high praise for protecting their learning.

## **Poppy McKinnon-Evans**

Throughout the year, Poppy has introduced consistent structure, engaging lectures and motivating tutorials to textiles students. She has worked hard to find competition opportunities, internships and career options, alongside beneficial guest lecturers. During a particularly difficult year, Poppy has handled the campus closure and move to online learning exceptionally. She is in constant communication with her students, keeping them always informed and supported. Her students have emphasised that their experience has drastically improved following Poppy's introduction as course leader.

## **Paul Fowler**

With the Events and Festival Management programme facing challenges and students less than satisfied, Paul stepped up as the sole lecturer, personal tutor and the Course Leader to get things back on track. Paul consistently goes the extra mile to help his students now get the most from their programme so that they can achieve to the best of their ability, with regular communication and academic support. Not even a pandemic has managed to stop Paul's fantastic level of support!

## **Phill Hoddinott**

Following the COVID-19 outbreak, Phill has worked incredibly hard in leading the response to support nursing students in these extremely difficult times. Phill is in regular communication with both University staff and the Students' Union, working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure students voices are heard as soon as possible and to ease any concerns they may have, helping to close the feedback loop at every opportunity. Additionally, Phill has really pushed representation with student leaders to gain essential insight of the student experience.

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## **Lorna Dean Gibbs**

From the nominations that came in we know Lorna is very valued by her students. As well as being a lecturer she still works in industry and brings in current knowledge industry connections. Lorna's lectures are engaging, informative and supportive and students really get the most out of them. Students have said Lorna is the best lecturer they have had and that their course experience would be completely different without her.

## **Allison Savory**

Allison works hard to ensure that all her lessons are interactive and fun, never failing to engage the whole class in the process. She is always on hand to answer any queries and is more than happy to explain things again and again to ensure students have understood the learning. Students taught by Allison feel inspired by the level of support she provides whether it's one-to-one help with assignments, reading through plans or her understanding nature to different ways of learning.

## **Sarah Thirtle**

Students describe Sarah's approach to teaching not only innovative but also inspirational and they believe her to be a born lecturer. She shares her expertise in a concise and easy manner whilst always getting her students to challenge themselves and push their boundaries, drawing the best out of them in the process. Sarah is kind, understanding and incredibly approachable and her students love her motivating and supportive nature that help to create an exceptional environment for them to learn in.

## **Stan Henshaw**

Stan's students really value his teaching, knowledge and all-round character. Stan's experience supported by is teaching methods make lectures enjoyable for students and this shows in the nominations we have had for him. Stan challenges his students to think deeper and has always been available when extra support is needed, even giving up his lunchbreaks when students need a little more support. Stan has been described as an inspiring and motivational teacher.

# Commercial Services Student Staff Member of the Year

## **Courtney Gray**

Courtney is always willing to help out, often at the last minute and because of this she holds the record for covering the greatest number of shifts. In her reasonably short time here so far, Courtney has grown into one of the most valued assets to the team – not only is she fantastic at the job but she provides great support both in and out of work to her friends and colleagues.

## **Tyler-Louise Griffiths**

Tyler is known as the 'Bar Mum' among the commercial services bar team for all the love and support she provides her peers. She is consistently polite, friendly, very customer service orientated and rarely without a smile on her face. She is willing and enthusiastic to fulfil the responsibilities of her role. She quickly progressed into a Bar Team Leader position where she is able to action these traits into leading her fellow team members.

## **Zac Saunderson**

Zac is one of the longest serving members of student staff within commercial services. From working on our bars and progressing to team leader, he has assisted in many venue related roles. Currently, he works in securing external business through 'buckshire.co.uk'. Zac acts selflessly in every aspect of his day assisting others and sacrifices his own time to ensure the development and success of the Union. His attitude, ideas and involvement have been an inspiration to the rest of the team, his efforts contributing to all areas of commercial services.

## **Jack Williams**

Jack holds a lot of kindness and care for those around him always contributing as a very valued member of the team. His transformation from his bar role into his security role has been inspiring to watch as he has constantly shown a keen interest for taking on responsibility and proves that he can handle anything the job throws at him. He has a great connection with our members and guests alike, ensuring they always enjoy themselves whilst out at The Venue.

**ROCK  
BOX**

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# Membership Services Student Staff Member of the Year

## Mark West

Mark has taken on a number of roles within the Students' Union, including acting as a Freshers Helper, a Bucks Buddy and working at the SU reception. He always puts 110% into every task given to him, whether that is supporting activities, delivering certificates, encouraging engagement within SU campaigns or general excellent customer service. He is always positive and supportive, happy to help his peers and promote a positive experience for students.

## Lisa Connell

Alongside being a Student Rep, Lisa is the School Officer for Nursing and Allied Health. Within this role, she has made a real effort to drive engagement for Nursing students and ensure those based at Uxbridge and Aylesbury have the same opportunities as students at the main campus. Not only does she fulfil all of her responsibilities to an excellent standard, but she goes above and beyond to ensure nursing students are supported at all times.

## Anita Pascoe

Anita has worked incredibly hard for the Student's Union this year as a Freshers' Helper, supporting events and campaigns, and working on the front desk. She is exceptionally reliable and attends feedback sessions to help support improvement of SU services, so that experience for future students will be even better. She is incredibly efficient, always smiling, committed to the values and goals of the Union and willing to assist wherever she can.

## Scarlett Thomas

Scarlett has really come into her own this year. Starting as a Freshers' Helper, Scarlett then stayed on to work at the Students' Union reception desk and become School Officer for Media and Creative Industries. She has worked well with the other officers and is always available to support Student Reps in her School. Working at the SU reception, Scarlett works efficiently and is always friendly to everyone, whether staff or student.



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# Student Leadership Award

## **Kia Wing**

Only in her second year at Bucks, Kia has gotten so involved within all aspects of the Students' Union. She is a part of the Leadership Academy, a gold accredited Student Rep, Women's Officer, Captain of Cheerleading, Founder and chair of Green Society, a Freshers' Helper and a Bucks Buddy. Kia uses campaigning and activism both inside the University and online to lead, using her voice to speak out on topics from feminism to the LGBT+ community.

## **Karlo Pigac**

Karlo has shown great enthusiasm from the beginning of the year in both of his leadership roles. A highly active committee member for the Aviation Society, his contribution has helped towards its continued success and providing industry-based opportunities for members. Karlo has also been an outstanding International Executive Officer, displaying great initiative in hosting successful mixers and supporting fellow officers. A terrific ambassador for international students, Karlo has raised issues and passionately represented their voice throughout this year's Union Councils.

## **Natasha Neal**

Throughout her time at Bucks, Natasha has consistently shown her strong leadership skills whether it be her involvement with the Union, University or local communities. A Student Rep, School Officer, Treasurer for the Psychology Society and a Student Trustee, Natasha has had great success in improving and maximising the student experience for her and her peers. Furthermore, Natasha supports her local Police Cadets, volunteers with MIND's befriending service and works as a carer for the elderly, displaying all the essential leadership qualities.

## **Jordan Penning**

An exceptionally motivated individual, Jordan has been instrumental in helping to implement positive change in and outside of Bucks, campaigning on both a local and national level. With his infectious enthusiasm, Jordan involves as many people as possible, helping to set up several trips for the Aviation society and creating incredible opportunities for his peers through his ever-growing network with the aviation industry. A committed member of our Leadership Academy, Jordan partakes in all activities offered to improve his already well-developed leadership potential.

## Union Fellowship Award

The Union Fellowship is an award which the Sabbatical Officers of the Students' Union shall bestow on an annual basis, to a member of the student or graduate community of Buckinghamshire New University. The recipient must have displayed an outstanding degree of commitment, initiative and positive impact over a minimum of three years, during their life at the University. This award is the pinnacle of our recognition of student or alumni contribution.

There will be a maximum of one winner per academic year and their name shall be displayed on honour boards within the Students' Union.



Megan Staples and Tom Mepham receiving their Union Fellowship Award from Charlie Cotton at the Tenth Annual Union Awards, 2019.

### Previous Winners

2010 Jill Kittle

2013 Lauren Troiano

2018 Rhona Noel

2011 Jen Yarrow

2014 Tom Badger

2019 Tom Mepham &

2012 Adam Pears

2015 Adam Bartlett

Megan Staples

2013 Guy Humphrey

2016 Mark Sweeney

2013 Daisy May Bowdewes

2017 Ben Parmar



## Honorary Life Membership

Honorary Life Membership will be bestowed to those individuals who have dedicated a minimum of five years exceptional contribution, or service, to the furtherance of our Students' Union. The names of Honorary Life members will be displayed on honours boards within the Students' Union. It is not expected that these awards will simply be given annually but rather when candidates fill the necessary requirements. Recipients need not have studied at Buckinghamshire New University.



Greg Pike and Ian Hunter receiving their honours at the Tenth Annual Union Awards, 2019.

## Honorary Life Members

2010 Pauline Smith

2010 James Lloyd

2011 Trevor Nicholls

2011 Andy Smith

2011 Tom Foy

2012 Will Hoskin

2013 Ash Coles

2013 Kay Corden

2014 Brian Tranter

2014 Derek Godfrey

2014 Naomi Franco

2015 Ruth Farwell

2015 Matt Gilbert

2015 Ross McLaughlin

2016 Lauren Troiano

2016 Stuart Norton

2017 Wendy Lumley

2017 Ruth Gunstone

2017 Jenny Wade

2017 Joe Collins

2018 Noel Cornford

2019 Greg Pike

2019 Ian Hunter

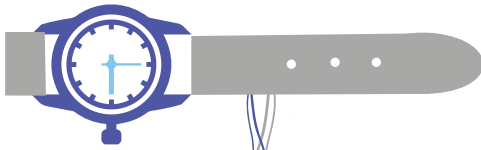


IMPACT AT BUCKS

# 2019-20 at Bucks Students' Union

**14,301** HOURS  
OF VOLUNTEERING LOGGED

160 STUDENT REPS HAVE SPOKEN UP



**399**  
MEMBERS  
INVOLVED IN  
SPORTS TEAMS



**1,118**  
OPPORTUNITIES TO  
PARTICIPATE IN  
RECREATIONAL  
ACTIVITIES



OVER **1,295**  
HOURS OF  
ENTERTAINMENT



OVER **590**  
MEMBERS INVOLVED IN  
SOCIETIES

OVER **820** HOURS  
OFFERED TO SPORTS TEAMS  
TO TRAIN & PLAY



**1,094**  
OPPORTUNITIES  
TO ENHANCE  
EMPLOYABILITY



**4,027** HOURS OF  
SKILLS WORKSHOPS



OVER **£15,000\***  
RAISED FOR CHARITY  
\*current fundraising window ongoing



## Acknowledgements of Thanks

First and foremost, thank you to our sponsors, without whom this event would not have been able to take place this evening.

We would like to thank all the Bucks Students' Union team who have put so much time and dedication into organising this evening. Particular mentions should go to Ellie Freeman, Catherine Lymer, Matthew Kitching and Mark Sweeney who have really spearheaded preparations - without them tonight would simply not have been possible!

Thanks also must go to Simon McDowell and the Communications team of Oli and Nellie who have ensured that the event has been able to seamlessly transition from a physical to an online event. We must thank every student and every member of staff who took the time to nominate a peer or colleague.

Lots of people were nominated but have not been shortlisted this evening and we thank you for your sustained contribution and the positive impact it has on the experience of our members.

We would like to thank all of our trustees, especially our external trustees: Brian Tranter, Nigel Copperwheat, Linsey Taylor and Ruth Gunstone for volunteering their time, knowledge, and expertise this year and strengthening the organisation as a result.

To our staff who have left over the course of this year, or are doing so shortly; Joanna Chidgey, Lucy Ryan, Alana Zukas, Conor Wysner, Janet Connolly, Jude Warner, Zac Saunderson and Caitlin Lawlor, we thank you for your hard work and dedication, in some instances over a number of years, and wish you the best of luck in the future.





## **Bucks Students' Union**

Queen Alexandra Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 2JZ

Tel: **01494 601 600** Email: **[union@bucks.ac.uk](mailto:union@bucks.ac.uk)** Website: **[bucksstudentsunion.org](http://bucksstudentsunion.org)**

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