

## RECIPIENTS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MEDAL 2023

### UNIVERSITY STAFF MEMBERS

#### **Professor Michael George**

Mike is an outstanding scientist contributing widely to interdisciplinary research, KE and global engagement, particularly demonstrated through founding University of Nottingham Interdisciplinary Centre for Analytical Science (UNICAS) and his role in promoting global partnerships. UNICAS is a university-wide initiative for collaborative analytical science. UNICAS will develop new strategies at Nottingham to solve problems across a broad range of disciplines by creating a cross campus environment for collaborative research, enhancing research capacity in cutting edge analytical science and facilitating interdisciplinary research. It has been a resounding success.

#### **Dr Sarah Grandage**

Since 2016, Sarah has organised, guided and designed an assortment of engagement activities for a community organisation connected to the School of English at UoN: "The Nottingham Playgoers Group". This is a civic group consisting of a range of pensioners based in Nottingham, all of whom have a love of local and regional theatre. Following an impromptu email from the group's founder asking for her to present one session to the group, Sarah has established monthly meetings with the group within the School of English to discuss local and regional shows. The group is like a book club, and has considerable benefits for those who take part in terms of avoiding social isolation and making participants feel part of a broader community.

#### **Claire Montgomery**

Claire led a project addressing the serious limitations of the previous approach to Extenuating Circumstances management by developing, implementing and supporting a bespoke, university wide centralised Extenuating Circumstances system that has hugely benefited the whole University community. The new system is having a hugely significant impact across the whole University; there has been a demonstrably positive impact on students from the efficiency with which the system operates with staff also feeling the benefits of a more efficient process. Claire developed a 'community' spirit to the project, working in close collaboration with colleagues across a large number of Departments, welcoming input, resulting in a feeling of ownership and enthusiasm by all. Claire's approach is an exemplar of best practice and the reason for the phenomenally successful outcome in that we now have a 'fit for purpose' solution.

#### **Dr Emma Nielsen**

Emma has created a positive, ambitious and inclusive global Early Career Researcher community through horizontal mentorship, engagement and peer support. Identifying a gap in support, Emma founded netECR, an international community for Early Career Researchers (ECRs). Establishing the network as a PhD student, working with an Editorial Team of peers, Emma has demonstrated the highest standards of commitment to growing the community across the last 7 years. The group is now the largest ECR network of its type globally, with 130 active members, representing 18 countries and 6 continents. This is an outstanding achievement for an independent organisation, beyond the normal expectations of an ECR.

### **Tim Orton**

Tim has been a committed Scout Leader in Nottingham for over 36 years during which time he has supported several hundred young people in the local area to develop skills for life through weekly activities and scout camps. From 1987 to 2014 Tim ran the Scout section of the 2nd Attenborough (St. Mary's) Scout Group leading the activities of 10- to 14-year-olds and providing learning activities that encouraged fun, teamwork and new challenges through weekly activities and scout camps. In 2015, Tim expanded his leadership across the whole group from Beavers to Explorers, comprising 60 young people ranging from 6 to 18 years old from diverse backgrounds, plus 10 section leaders/assistants. Since 1988, Tim has facilitated annual week-long scout camps with around 40 participants each time. In 2022, Tim, along with representatives from Nottinghamshire Scouting, was presented with a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (the MBE for volunteer groups).

### **Philip Wood**

Phil has created and delivered a ground-breaking approach to recruiting sports scholars to the University that is best in class, whilst also going significantly above and beyond the expectations of this role to provide exceptional support to the cohorts of athletes once on campus. Phil gives huge amounts of time to support our scholars in their student experience. This stretches to travelling to the airport to collect individual students, purchasing initial items such as bedding and crockery for arriving athletes and helping them get embedded in their first few days on campus. Phil has provided significant personal support to students through very difficult experiences, including supporting a student and their family after a life-threatening fire.

### **Dr Surojit Sen**

Surojit has been instrumental in establishing and developing the Formula Student Racing team over the last 8 years that has improved student intake, enriched student experience, and enabled cutting-edge research in sustainable transportation. Surojit helped start the Formula Student team in 2016 when he joined UoN as an MSc student with the objective to create an opportunity for students to gain practical and real-world engineering experience. He has continued to build the team since then. Since 2018, the student-run team has produced a physical car every year and entered the UK competition based at the Silverstone Formula One circuit, thus cementing the University's place in the community. Knowing the potential of electric vehicles towards a sustainable future, Surojit has been the strongest voice in the team to maintain its electric-drive focus, despite the significant complexities in design and safety requirements. Surojit has helped the team become one of the UK's top electric racing teams and producing a podium-finishing car in 2021.

## **UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

### **Charlotte Appiah**

Charlotte has gone above and beyond to promote diversity and inclusion as a volunteer, committee member and coach, both within UoN Sport, and in the wider community. Charlotte competes in our wheelchair basketball BUCS team, is the GenSec of the committee, and assists in coaching during Just Play sessions. Charlotte has undertaken over 260 hours of volunteering for UoN Sport alone. In terms of the wheelchair basketball programme and inclusive sport, both programmes are in a much better place, have had a more positive impact, and improved the experience at UoN for more students because of Charlotte's involvement.

### **Daisy Forster**

Daisy has demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving student life at UoN, as a student and as an SU Officer. Daisy's exceptional contributions, both as a student and in her current role as Community Officer at UoNSU, have made a profound impact on the university community and beyond. Her remarkable dedication and sustained involvement as the President of the Acapella Society and the Amnesty International Society showcased her ability to inspire and unite diverse groups of individuals in pursuit of common goals. As Community Officer at the Students' Union Daisy has implemented a number of groundbreaking initiatives, making a meaningful difference to students, particularly regarding the cost-of-living crisis and inclusivity.

### **Cameron Furley**

Cameron has bettered player welfare and improved club culture within the Men's, Women's and Intramural Sports (IMS) rugby programmes at the University of Nottingham. Over the course of the year, Cameron has helped reshape the rugby community and change the preconceived toxic culture of student rugby at the University of Nottingham through tackling the stigma around mental health, the delivery of consent workshops, and being a champion of the Women's game. Cameron has worked towards creating better relations between the Men's and Women's programmes at the university and increasing spectatorship at women's rugby matches which he has achieved.

### **Deeksha Ganesh**

Deeksha has been a model student – taking plentiful opportunities to develop herself socially, academically and professionally; as a society president, she grew the Tongue and Groove Architecture Society, made its social events more inclusive and accessible to all; as a student she was a course representative, a peer mentor and even taught year 8s and 10s during the pandemic and as a Student Engagement Associate, she chaired sessions at the university's Teaching and Learning Conference and supported a number of EDI initiatives.

### **Beth Gill**

Beth is the first ever British female World Champion in Marathon Canoe. Beth is a senior international sprint and marathon canoe athlete and is currently a Great Britain podium athlete meaning she has the potential to be an Olympic medallist at the 2024 or 2028 Olympics. Beth has won multiple British and European titles throughout her career so far in the sport. Most impressively though, Beth became the first ever British Female World Marathon Canoe Champion in September 2022. This was an historic achievement, never being done before by a British female athlete. Beth gives back to the university and community by being a leading member of the University canoe community and also the Nottingham Kayak Club based on the river Trent. Beth is a great ambassador for the University of Nottingham, conducting herself with an attitude beyond her years both on campus and whilst on the world stage, inspiring other students and staff around her.

### **Monisha Gupta**

Making an outstanding contribution to EDI at the university by campaigning to increase the Core Bursary during the clinical phase of a medical degree supporting students from low-income backgrounds to achieve. Monisha successfully started a campaign to the University to improve access to core bursary funding for medical students. As a result of her work, low-income medical students at the University of Nottingham are now eligible for thousands more pounds each year. She supports the School of Medicine in reaching out to a more diverse audience from widening participation and lower-income backgrounds.

### **Fergus Stevens**

Fergus has demonstrated exceptional leadership of the Men's Hockey Club and raising over £265,000 for the Movember campaign. Fergus has been the driving force behind the Movember campaign at Nottingham over the past 3 years. The Movember campaign has raised over £265,000 to support men's mental health. In his first year as lead they raised £116,000, a 340% increase on the previous year's total. Fergus successfully maximised UoN Sport's platform to profile men's mental health and how sport, and our linked welfare campaigns, can support all our community to look after their wellbeing. Fergus also started conversations around Men's mental health that led to UoN Sport developing the "Let's Talk" series. He has truly left behind a legacy that means tough conversations will continue to happen around men's mental health, long after he graduates this year.

### **Jesney Swift**

Jesney's medal recognises outstanding commitment and service to embedding an inclusive School culture in Cultures, Languages and Area Studies. Jesney has consistently brought leadership, insight, compassion and ambition to the student-led EDI work in CLAS over the past three years. Jesney is a founding member of the CLAS Curriculum Task Force (CTF), a student-led curriculum evaluation initiative, which has, to date, reviewed nine modules across all three CLAS departments and provided informed feedback and guidance to module convenors. She has also led on initiatives such as an LGBTQ mixer event as part of the UoN 2022 Diversity festival, provided vital input into staff-student consultation on EDI issues, and is both a School Inclusivity Ambassador and an EDI Committee member, ensuring that the thread of EDI pervades throughout her own and the entire CLAS student experience.

### **Kaiqi Yan**

Kaiqi has had a key role coaching students entering international competitions. Kaiqi saw personal success in international contests as a student. In his coaching career, he has been providing on average 2 hours of training per week to between 10 and 50 students at a time, counting to over 300 hours of training sessions up to now. He has developed and delivered systematic training sessions on his own, creating over 600 pages of training materials. As well as leading the coaching of the UoN teams, Kaiqi has become a co-organiser of the UK & Ireland Programming Contest (UKIEPC), which we host from Nottingham annually, involving around 500 students from universities across the UK and Ireland. Further, he has been co-organising all of the local Nottingham warm up contests for students in Computer Science and from across the Science and Engineering faculties, during welcome weeks and leading up to bigger competitions. Many congratulations Kaiqi.

### **Annie Johns, Chloe Rowland, Hannah Nixon, Megan Knight and Molly Munt**

This group of former students showed outstanding dedication and resilience by providing ongoing support to a friend during their final year of study following a parent's suicide. They have been a community of friends and have banded together to support their friend and also each other in ways which have been deeply impressive. The ways in which they have rallied around is an example of the very best of us as an institution.

## **University Team Awards**

### **Shannon Baverstock and David Ouchterlonie of the Global Engagement Strategy Support Unit and Professor Chris Woodard**

This award recognises the combined achievements in supporting students and academics displaced by the war in Ukraine, both in Global Engagement and the Faculty of Arts. The Global Engagement Strategy Support Unit established the Scholars at Risk programme to deliver a dual History Masters with two Ukrainian universities. Chris Woodard faced the task of designing the program and coordinating with a suitable team of academics across three UoN schools, all within a tight deadline. All members worked tirelessly to deliver this urgent and worthy programme and to support arrivals to settle in and ensure these important guests feel valued and welcomed. They have also worked closely with the local Ukrainian community to ensure our guests have a social support network also.

### **Heidi Baker, Gemma Hulme and Dr Dawn Ritchie - the Health Sciences Placements Team**

The Health Sciences Placements Team has led activity which has had a significant and demonstrably positive impact on the student body and wider community. At the outset of the pandemic all NHS placement students were removed from placements. In order to meet the unprecedented resource demands in the NHS and to provide students with necessary work experience, the placements team established a local process. 113 students were deployed on 6 April 2020, just 7 working days after removal from placement. In total, 213 BSc final year nursing students, 45 Midwifery students and 94 graduate entry nursing students were deployed between April and July 2020 across 35 NHS healthcare Trusts locally and nationally. Extraordinary levels of support were required to build relationships with new trusts and to enable students at an extremely difficult time, all whilst the team was grappling with its own new ways of working based at home in lockdown.

### **Residential Experience Team**

The individuals that make up Residential Experience are being recognised through a Vice-Chancellor's Medal for their phenomenal hard work supporting students through significant incidents, supporting health and wellbeing and delivering enrichment events. The team consistently shows unwavering dedication to always go above and beyond, to ensure students not only receive meaningful and impactful support, but feel sincerely and genuinely supported, and empowered to face any issue they may be struggling with.