THE CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC PRACTICE

TEACHING AWARDS

2024
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The Trinity Excellence in Teaching Awards are designed to recognise and celebrate those who have made an outstanding contribution to the pursuit of teaching excellence. ‘Teaching excellence’ can be defined as achieving and sustaining outstanding quality of teaching and positive educational impact through the effective use of pedagogies that engage and enhance student learning. The prestige of the award reflects the value that Trinity places on promoting teaching as a scholarly activity and the importance placed on enriching the learning opportunities of its students. All members of Trinity academic staff, or academic-related professionals with roles in supporting teaching and learning, are eligible for nomination by students, alumni and staff. Candidates must receive a student or alumni nomination to be deemed eligible to proceed.

In the first phase, each School convened a panel tasked with identifying a deserving candidate from applicants within their respective schools to be honoured with a prestigious School Award for Teaching Excellence. In the second phase, School Award winners were invited to submit their application to be considered by an institutional review panel for a Trinity Excellence in Teaching Award.
Chaired by the Senior Lecturer, Prof David Shepherd, this year’s institutional review panel included:

- The Dean of Graduate Studies, Prof Martine Smith.
- The Head of Academic Practice, Dr Pauline Rooney.
- Academic staff representatives:
  - Dr Annemarie Bennett (Faculty of Health Sciences)
  - Mr Kevin Kelly (Faculty of STEM)
  - Dr Julie Regan (Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences)
- Postgraduate Student representative, Mr Oran Cassidy.
- External Examiner, Dr Jane Pritchard, Head of Educational Development, Centre for Teaching & Learning at the University of Oxford.

Many thanks to all our panel members for their time and expertise.
Introducing our Award winners this year, hear what the students had to say!

The Centre for Academic Practice would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to each staff member for their remarkable achievement in being honored with an Award. Your exceptional dedication and contributions have truly set a remarkable standard for excellence.

**Dr Aibhín Bray**
**School of Education**

“Aibhín has a really upbeat and positive teaching style. Her lectures are well planned, and she distributes excellent, well-chosen, and highly relevant reading material in advance of lectures...she involves students in the class and puts us in the centre, encouraging discussion and peer-to-peer learning and other engaging activities. She seems to have a genuine interest in and respect for her students and the respect is mutual”.

**Dr Liz Heffernan**
**School of Law**

“[Her] impact on teaching and learning is exceptional in that she encourages students to test their boundaries, and never shies away from going the extra mile to offer them the chance to achieve this. She goes out of her way to find materials tailored to specific queries, which not only answers each student’s particular queries, but also shows that their opinions and curiosities are valued.... And never once does she do it with anything short of infectious optimism”.

“A genuine interest in and respect for her students”.

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[*TRINITY EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING*]

*AWARD WINNERS*

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Dr Rachel Hoare
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES & CULTURAL STUDIES

“Rachel is such a credit to Trinity, and she is so understanding. Rachel always responded to all emails within no time and answered queries with so much detail [and] always shared lecture content and made sure important material/ seminars were recorded to give everyone a chance to catch up. I wish all my lecturers were like Rachel. She was so understanding and explained everything really well.”

Dr Matthew Saunders
SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES

“He’s so incredibly helpful in the labs, is such an attentive professor who genuinely cares about the student’s wellbeing. In class he explains abstract and complex topics in such a clear and simple manner. His work is outstanding. The impact of his teaching is most definitely exceptional. He has inspired my future and has opened my eyes to a whole new world of research. He makes any lecture content exciting and thrilling”.

Mr Glenn Strong
SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & STATISTICS

“Glenn’s passion for teaching really shines through in his lectures. [He] stands out in that this passion for the content he teaches, mixes wonderfully with his soft skills. This means that he can teach the content in a way that makes it exciting, accessible, and applicable. Furthermore, it means that he is easy to approach and always willing to find the time to explain things in more detail if needed and to help students work through content or problems that are confusing them.”

“Credit to Trinity. “I wish all my lecturers were like Rachel”. “He has inspired my future & opened my eyes to a whole new world of research”.”
**SCHOOL**

**AWARD WINNERS**

**Dr Robert Baker**
**SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY**

“His charisma and expertise in the subject matter that he was teaching was exemplary, and he made it very easy for us who were unused to college life to get into the swing of things...Overall, his teaching was of a spectacular standard, and I feel he most certainly deserves to be recognised for it”.

**Dr Sheila Cannon**
**TRINITY BUSINESS SCHOOL**

“Dr Cannon fostered an inclusive and collaborative classroom environment, encouraging active participation and open discussions among students. Through her exceptional teaching methods and unwavering support, Dr Cannon exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding educator”.

**Dr Martyn Egan**
**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & PHILOSOPHY**

“Martyn’s patience, empathy, and willingness to go above and beyond to help his students have been particularly noteworthy. His dedication to his students and commitment to their success is deserving of recognition and is undoubtedly making a significant impact on their education”.

**Dr Neale Gibson**
**SCHOOL OF PHYSICS**

“Most interactive and engaging I’ve seen in all my years in Trinity”.

**Dr Jacob Erickson**
**SCHOOL OF RELIGION, THEOLOGY & PEACE STUDIES**

“Dr Erickson’s method of teaching creates an atmosphere which is empowering and inclusive. He is able to hear his students’ voices, recognise their potential and reflect it back so that we, the students come to hear and appreciate our own unique gifts and are motivated by the conviction that we count in this world”.

**Prof Stephanie Holt**
**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL POLICY**

“[Her] approach in sharing her knowledge and expertise was professional yet had considerable depth and left us with more questions and a hunger [for] greater understanding...each week, the lectures expanded on those questions and brought us to a really wonderful conclusion for our final lecture”.

“His teaching was of a spectacular standard”.

Exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding educator”.

“[We] are motivated by the conviction that we count in this world”.

“Left us with more questions and a hunger [for] greater understanding”.
AWARD WINNERS

Dr Aaron Hunter
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE ARTS
"Dr Hunter's teaching was incredibly well-rounded. He seemed to always anticipate the needs of students, and what we might find slightly difficult to understand. Overall, I found that because of his exceptional engaging teaching style, the information always stuck in my head and I left his lectures with a smile on my face".

Dr Martin McMahon
SCHOOL OF NURSING & MIDWIFERY
"He is worthy of an award because he is highly supportive and approachable. As a student, I believe that a supportive lecturer will enable the student to become enthusiastic and confident in learning... Students will feel secure and eager to achieve academic excellence when the lecturer-student relationship is positive".

Dr Suzanne O'Neill
SCHOOL OF HISTORIES & HUMANITIES
"Sue gave me a newfound love of history with her passion. Now I'm studying in JF for a history degree. She is passionate, skilled, and hardworking".

Mr Eugene O'Rourke
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
"He was both a good leader of the class and a friend to every student. He really set the pace of the class. I really felt like he cared about the class and wanted us to become the best engineers possible, I don't think one person in that class would say otherwise. He cared about our development both as engineers and as people".

Mr Seán Phelan
SCHOOL OF DENTAL SCIENCE
"His teaching is characterised by a unique blend of expertise and approachability...and fostering inclusivity. His consistent support in students' personal matters reflects a genuine investment in each individual's well-being. His consistent and personalised support has become a hallmark of his outstanding teaching".

Prof Roman Romero-Ortuno
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
"His dedication, organisation, optimism, and passion...[he] has sincerely inspired everyone's practice/research in the room. I am truly not the same person. [We] will never be able to thank [him] enough, for offering us his valuable skills, and advice (always so well-intentioned & in a friendly environment) for our practice and research steps".

"I left his lectures with a smile on my face".

"[Enables] the student to become enthusiastic & confident in learning".

"Gave me a newfound love of history with her passion".

"A good leader of the class and a friend to every student".

"His consistent and personalised support has become a hallmark of his outstanding teaching".

"[He] has sincerely inspired everyone's practice/research in the room".
SCHOOL

AWARD WINNERS

Prof Cristin Ryan
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY & PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

“I don’t know where I’d be without her. She was extremely engaged from day one, guided me with my project without taking full command, allowing me to learn and grow my skills with performing academic duties. She is down to earth, kind, extremely professional, and clearly an expert in her field”.

Dr Lorraine Swords
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

“I feel that Lorraine truly cares about us as students, even though we are technically adults. In essence, I will come away from my time at Trinity next year and Lorraine will be one of the professors I think I will always remember in years to come, largely due to her compassion and kindness”.

Dr Chaolun Wu
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

“His impact on me personally has been profound... He is someone who believes that a relaxed and open teaching environment is very important, hence he encourages us to ask questions constantly whether it’s in or out of class...this really creates an environment that is interesting, enjoyable and thought-provoking to learn in”.

“One of the professors I think I will always remember in years to come”.

Nominations for 2024-25 will open on the Centre for Academic Practice website in Michaelmas Term 2024.

https://www.tcd.ie/academicpractice/celebratingexcellence/Trinity-excellence-teaching-awards/
THE CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC PRACTICE

"Our mission is to inspire and strengthen a culture of enhancement and innovation in teaching and learning underpinned by research, innovation, inclusivity, sustainability and collaboration".

Connect With Us!

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