Welcome to the 9th Annual Faculty of Natural Sciences Prizes for Excellence

The Faculty’s of Annual Prizes for Excellence are organised by the Education Committee and are designed to recognise individuals who have made a major contribution to teaching and learning, or to health and safety within the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

It is my great pleasure to present this year’s Prize winners, all of whom have made a significant contribution over the past year.

The Faculty strives to provide a safe and academically highly stimulating environment in which research and teaching can flourish. These awards therefore allow us to celebrate some of the many outstanding individuals within the faculty who have gone that extra mile to enrich the experience of our students in their development as leading scientists of the future.
Faculty of Natural Sciences Prizes for Excellence 2018

The prizes are made in 3 categories:

**Excellence in Teaching and Learning,** including: lecturing; laboratory demonstrating; academic tutoring; personal tutoring; and introducing new teaching programs, methods and projects.

**Excellence in the Support of Teaching and Learning,** in the context of Departmental and Faculty teaching and learning activities including: laboratory class demonstrating; running workshops; academic tutoring; academic teaching administration and student support; and technical support of lectures and laboratories.

**Excellence in Health and Safety,** these awards are given in recognition of excellence in promoting and implementing safe practices in the Faculty. The prizes fall into four categories: academic staff; support staff; Post-Docs; and students.

The award winners in all categories are those judged to have been most outstanding in their contribution to the teaching and learning experience, or to the promotion of health and safety this year.
Prizes for Excellence in Teaching 2018

The following receive recognition for excellence in teaching.

**Department of Chemistry**
Mark Crimmin
Rob Davies

**Department of Life Sciences**
Giorgio Gilestro
Derek Huntley
Patrik Jones

**Department of Mathematics**
Davoud Cheraghi
Martin Orr
Mikko Pakkanen

**Department of Physics**
Jon Marangos
Alan Heavens
Jonathan Eastwood

**WINNER PROFILE**

**Mikko Pakkanen, Department of Mathematics**

“Dr Mikko Pakkanen is a Lecturer in Mathematical Finance and Statistics, sharing his expertise between the two sections. Mikko has always endeavoured to update his module, not only on past year’s students’ feedback, but also taking into account the ever-evolving nature of the (financial) industry his lectures relate to, ensuring he makes connections between his lectures and activities occurring either within the department or in the industry.

He is one of the most popular members of staff students would like as their project supervisor. It is immediately obvious to see from the students’ comments his dedication and passion for providing a great student experience. He is a shining example of what it means to be an excellent academic.”

Student citations: “The QRM course Mikko taught last term is arguably the best on the course and gives a great outline of so many fundamental topics in financial mathematics. To cover so many topics in such detail is a feat for any lecturer, but to do it as clearly as Mikko is incredible.”

“Mikko is without a shadow of a doubt a terrific lecturer. His beautifully made presentations with excellent graphs are very much appreciated. His notes have also always been of top quality. He has also helped me much personally- he has been my go-to person for advice on my ambition to do a PhD and was always happy to listen to my ideas in regards to research.”
Prizes for Excellence in the Support of Teaching & Learning 2018

The following receive recognition for excellence in the support of teaching and learning.

**Department of Chemistry**
Silvia Diez-Gonzalez
Pete Haycock
Michael Ray
James Wilton-Ely

**Department of Life Sciences**
Jennifer Bennett
Spencer Cockerell
Linda Giorgi
Andawai Miao
Saul Moore
Michael Sternberg
Clare Wilkinson

**Department of Mathematics**
Francesco Sanna Passino
Alessandro Milazzo
Kathryn Potten
William Giuliano
Lousie Rowland
Anthony Belotti

**Department of Physics**
Max Falkenberg McGillivray
Jack Hare
Anita Chandran
Maria Teresa BelmonteDiego
Alonso Alvarez
Brais Lopez Paredes
Jake Lishman

**WINNER PROFILE**
Mike Ray, Department of Chemistry

“Mike is the MRes Programme Coordinator for all 8 MRes courses in Chemistry (115 students). He is at the centre of MRes provision and is usually the first person to whom the students turn when there are problems. His many contributions are central to how the MRes students experience life at Imperial. He operates an open door policy and is ready to discuss urgent problems whenever students come to him.

To address the increasingly common mental health problems among the student body he became a Mental Health First Aider and has used these skills often. The students know that he is always there to listen to them and that he has a real desire to help them. Many students come from overseas and often have problems adjusting to the new Department and London. Every year I hear from numerous students that his supportive and pro-active manner is very reassuring and has played a key role in their enjoyment of their time at Imperial.”
Prizes for Excellence in Health and Safety 2018

The following receive recognition for excellence in promoting and implementing safe practices in the Faculty.

**Academic Staff Prize for Excellence in Health & Safety**
Ramon Vilar, Department of Chemistry

**The Jan de Abela-Borg Support Staff Prize for Excellence in Health and Safety**
Lucy Stagg, Charmian Alvares and Ozan Cakir, Faculty of Natural Sciences

**Post Doc Prize for Excellence in Health & Safety**
Poh-Choo Pang, Department of Life Sciences

**Student Prize for Excellence in Health & Safety**
Adam Piascik, Department of Chemistry

**WINNER PROFILE**
Adam Piascik, Department of Chemistry

“Adam is a PhD student who has supervised numerous undergraduate students, all of whom worked daily with dangerous substances, specialist high-vacuum equipment, and the manipulation of cryogenics; he trained each of them in an exemplary fashion and is always able to communicate all hazards, and spot new ones when risk assessments are updated. For the past two years, he has been the primary person responsible for managing the solvent stills used by various research groups, which involves the generation, maintenance and disposal of stills that contain significant volumes of flammable solvents in contact with pyrophoric drying agents.

He has greatly contributed to the safety in the Department, and the Faculty of Natural Sciences, by providing guidance and advice for the high risk activities of solvent purification via solvent stills and safe quenching of alkali metals. Adam is known for his quick and correct emergency response in case of pyrophoric fire incidents. During a small fire incident in April 2017, Adam successfully put out the fire and contributed to the draft of the follow up safety guidance. His knowledge formed the basis for Departmental guidance and SOPs for both solvent stills and for the use of pyrophoric chemicals, which are applicable across the Department and available for all College staff and students.

Adam’s responsible attitude to safety and enthusiasm should be a prime example for his colleagues and others in the College.”
THE PRIZE WINNERS 2018