

WELCOME

Join us for all the latest news, events, and opportunities at Glasgow's biggest and best Students' Union - the University of Strathclyde Students' Association.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS LAUNCHED

Your degree. **Your teaching.** Your decision



It gives me great pleasure to announce the formal launch of Strathclyde's first ever Teaching Excellence Awards. The awards have been possible thanks to the support of the University, the Higher Education Academy and NUS Scotland, and represent a real change in the way you are able to feedback on your learning experience.

Firstly, they give you the chance to tell us, and the University, about examples of excellent teaching you may have had – rewarding those doing it, and giving others the chance to learn from examples of best practice.

The awards are a way of positively engaging in the way you are taught, and ensuring that, as the University moves towards an increasing focus on research, that learning and teaching isn't downgraded or neglected, but that it is at the forefront of all that happens. The awards will see students nominating online in two categories – Innovative Teacher and

Outstanding Teacher – over the next four months, with a student and staff panel meeting in March to choose a shortlist. The eventual winners will be announced and rewarded at a joint staff and student awards lunch, hosted by the Students' Association.

At the same we will also recognise and reward those class representatives who work at a grass roots level in the University to ensure that academic matters are being represented to senior figures. Students will be able to nominate from amongst themselves for the awards of Faculty Representative of the Year, as well as an overall Student Representative of the Year.

Universities need to remember why they exist in the first instance - and that is not simply to provide an outlet for leading research, but to educate and inform. The University was founded on the motto of "the place of useful learning" and now more than ever we need to ensure that founding principle is being adhered to; that teaching is at the forefront of our activities, and, in line with the awards, is innovative and outstanding.

The university's updated values and mission provide a starting place for that, and we are hopeful that the introduction of these awards with their support will see a practical and tangible application of those words.

So what are you waiting for? Make sure you get online and nominate at: www.strathstudents.com/tea

For more information don't hesitate to contact me:
Philip Whyte | USSA President
president@theunion.strath.ac.uk
0141 567 5006



**Night to Remember:
Sports Ball 2010
Saturday 27th February
Raddison Hotel**



WORK HARD PLAY HARD

The Student Executive were keen to support you during your exam time and spent most of the lunch hours at the Library giving out fruit and water to keep you going. We then had a whole week of activity planned for the first week of the second semester. Some of the highlights of the week included the Australian themed 12 hour Tuesday, the Burn's Supper and Ceilidh and of course some of our societies in the Union foyer getting you involved!

YOU SAID, WE DID!

Student request:

"I would like the Jordanhill Library open over the Christmas Break"

Executive response:

"After getting an indication of the demand for extra opening hours we were able to get the Library open over Christmas – we hope it was useful to you!"

Student request:

"We would like the orbit café (at the library) to improve"

Executive response:

"We have conducted a survey of what type of improvements students would like to see in the café and are about to engage in discussion with those in charge to make those changes."



AWARDING OUR VOLUNTEERS

The volunteers of the Association are the most important resource we have, they vary from those who run and organise student groups, sports clubs, campaigns, clubs and societies and so on. They are also members of these groups and contribute hugely to the Association. They are what set us apart from any other venue on the high street.

As Vice President Student Development I am lucky enough to work very closely with all the student volunteers, I see the amazing work they do and the commitment and dedication they have. They also have the difficult job of balancing their volunteering commitments with their university work, any part time work they do and family commitments they may have.

This year a Volunteer of the Month scheme was introduced to reward the

volunteers throughout the year and recognise their hard work and dedication.

Last semester we recognised Darren Young and Linzi Ronald who helped out with this year's Union Welcome Team in Freshers' Week, Emma Sands who designs the layout for the Strathclyde Telegraph (managing to design three Telegraph editions within the first couple of months of term, all around her University work) and Nadia Iqbal for her enthusiasm in campaigning for equal opportunities and rights.

We say it's never too late to get involved so swing by level 7 of the Union and take part in something this semester! We promise it will add to your university experience in a positive way.

Here's what a couple of our winners have to say about their experience of volunteering in the Union.

"I would say it's the best decision I've ever made and encourage everyone to take part in volunteering!"

**DARREN
YOUNG**

"Freshers' Week was one of the most fantastic weeks of my life, I met so many cool people. It was really hard work but at the end of the day the rewards outweighed everything else!"

**LINZI
RONALD**



The Union is Regenerating...

With the elections of the Student Executive and Trustee positions just around the corner, the next few weeks will be some of the busiest of the year for the Association.

What makes the Union so unique is that it's run by you, for you!

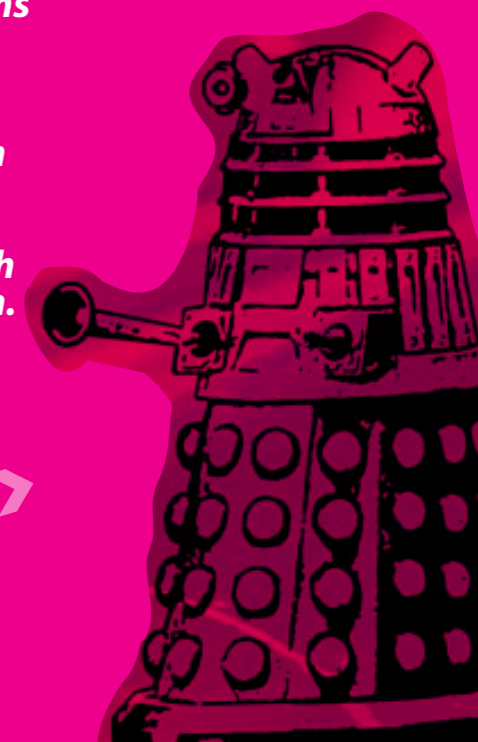
Now is the opportunity to really mould the Union into what you want it to be, so make sure you vote for the people you think will be best at running your Union!

If you want any further information please contact awilson@theunion.strath.ac.uk

Vote online at:

www.strathstudents.com/elections

**Voting runs from
Monday
1st March
at 5:00pm
until
Tuesday
2nd March
at 5:00pm.**



USSAY

Your Class Rep...



As part of our renewed drive to engage class representatives more fully in their learning and teaching, we committed ourselves to facilitating a catch-up event for class representatives before the Christmas break. Held on Thursday 10th December in the Union, there was representation from across all five faculties, as well as a mix of undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Having reached the conclusion of Semester 1, the purpose of the catch-up was to engage representatives in discussion around certain matters in an informal manner, and attempt to understand their perceptions of the key issues.

Amongst other things, pyramid discussions were held around two major topics – assessment and contact time. The information we got from students on their experiences so far will help inform discussions with staff and form the agenda for the Class Rep Congress in March.

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns about your classes or general academic experience at Strathclyde then please contact either your class rep or our academic affairs officer Darren Young at academicaffairs@theunion.strath.ac.uk

TOUGH QUESTIONS!

Your Student Executive in a different light...

The Exec were asked the question; "If you could be an animal, what would you be and why?" and here are some of their answers...



I would probably be a dog... because like a dog "my bark is worse than my bite"
Convenor of Clubs and Societies – Chris Majury



I would be an octopus without a shadow of a doubt. They change colour, they are super smart and they can get through tiny holes because they have no bones except their beak. Plus dancing as an octopus would be spectacular.
Vice President Operational and Commercial Services – Iain Pullar



I'd be an otter - they are petite, engaging creatures overflowing with positive energy. Intelligent and bright, they are also popular and eminently lovable and displaying the highly developed social skills that typify the small carnivores. Otters also mix easily with a wide range of animal personalities.
Vice President Student Development – Gill Currah



I would be a spider monkey, because they have lots of fun.
Student Media and Marketing Officer – Rob Harris

If you would like to ask the Executive a question for the next issue (anything really!) then email deputypresident@theunion.strath.ac.uk



Union
on target for our students

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