



## **Honorary Membership and Commendations of Contribution**

### **Honorary Membership**

**No nominations were received for honorary membership**

### **Commendation of Contribution**

**Elliot Newstead, Membership Engagement Manager (UCAS) - University of Leicester**

On behalf of the HELOA UCAS Events Working Group, I would like to nominate Elliot Newstead for a Commendation of Contribution.

There's no doubt that the HELOA UCAS Events Working Group has had its work cut out this year and thankfully we have the right person for the job leading the way. With the sudden cancellation of the majority of exhibitions in 2020 due to the pandemic, the role of Membership Engagement Manager for UCAS was bound to be a busy and vital role for the membership, but Elliot has gone above and beyond in his duties.

His conscientiousness and hard work has meant that our WhatsApp group has been the busiest we are members of by far! This is because Elliot has strived to ensure good channels of communication between the membership, the Group and UCAS. The smallest update we are told about immediately, any feedback or the briefest of suggestions from our Groups relayed to UCAS and he has grasped any opportunity to be involved in planning or discussions regarding events during these challenging times. I am sure these timely updates are appreciated by the membership, as well as the Group members.

Not only has Elliot put the work in, he's done so with a professional, positive and cheerful outlook, even when he was faced with difficult challenges (which, let's face it, there have been plenty of this year!)

We would like to thank you for all your support during a year like no other.

Eleanor Wharfe

Manchester Metropolitan University

**Commendation of Contribution**  
**Rebecca Bowen, Wales Group Chair - University of South Wales**

I'd like to propose Rebecca Bowen for a Commendation of Contribution to HELOA.

This is in recognition of her commitment to the role of Chair of the Wales Group over the past three years, and her tireless work to lead and develop HELOA in Wales. Rebecca has been a fantastic leader and advocate for the work of HELOA throughout her time as chair.

This is also to reflect the very significant amount of work that Rebecca led on to create and deliver the HELOA Study in Wales Fairs during the 2020 lockdowns, creating and delivering two very successful events to raise awareness of the opportunities for studying in Wales.

Andy Jackson  
University of South Wales

## **Commendation of Contribution**

### **Rebecca Hollington, UK VC (Partnerships) - University of Wolverhampton**

We are recommending that Rebecca Hollington receives a Commendation of Contribution in recognition of the significant contribution she has made to the Association over the past three years.

Rebecca has made a substantial contribution to Partnerships and has driven the work of the team and its strategic priorities forward, at first independently. Rebecca's work has helped develop the awareness and reputation of HELOA across the sector as well as supporting the development of colleagues around her.

Rebecca has worked incredibly hard to grow partnerships with key organisations, overseeing the development of MoUs with UCAS, SLC and The Student Room Group and informal arrangements with WonkHE and others. There have been extremely strong links developed with UCAS and SLC in particular, overseeing the work of a range of UCAS collaborative networks and joint member events with SLC. In addition to this strong working relationships have been made with a wide range of other organisations including collaborations with UniTaster Days and commercial partnerships with a number of sponsors.

There has been a clear growth in knowledge and insights shared from partner organisations for the benefit of the membership, whether that be through qualifications updates from Ofqual, OCR and Pearsons or sector insights from IDP Connect and WonkHE.

Rebecca has also provided strategic oversight and direction for Partnerships, taking forward the strategic aims of HELOA in relation to partnerships, developing partnership frameworks and planning out key areas for progression in future. With this in mind, during her time as Vice Chair, she has overseen the growth of the Partnerships Team from one, to four members of staff to support further development in key areas.

Taking all of these key areas forward at a particularly turbulent time within the sector has required a high level of dedication to the role and the organisation and a determination to take things forward. All this, while remaining cheery, motivating and supportive to the team and wider UKC and injecting love of all things HE into the organisation. It is on the basis of all of the above that a commendation is recommended.

Fiona Curry, Jack Clare and Elliot Newstead  
The HELOA Partnerships Team

## **Commendation of Contribution**

### **Rebecca Montgomery, UK VC (Communications) - Edge Hill University**

Taking on a voluntary role within HELOA is always a huge undertaking and one that makes a real difference to the association and its members. Taking in two, back-to-back, whilst getting married, moving across the UK and flying through professional ranks over a six-year service is even more impressive, but Rebecca has taken that all in her stride.

Rebecca started out on the UK committee when her last name was still Dent, in the digital development role as it was back in the day. A savvy marketer as AI's partner in crime, the duo transformed the HELOA website and the Facebook group where we all keep updated on various job moves today, as well as getting our name out on Twitter. After her election to the UK exec in her current comms role, Rebecca took on the website and social media she had nurtured alongside all member communications and the HELOA brand. Rebecca oversaw an overhaul to the way that HELOA worked with its brand and comms, as well as getting new videos off the ground and a wealth of HELOA-owned photography. Clearly her expertise as a marketer was shining through in all of her work to help build HELOA's profile.

At every stage of her time with HELOA, Rebecca has been a valued a supportive member of the UK committee with a wealth of experience and knowledge to share and time for anyone starting out in a new role. Well known as a regular conference last one standing on a Thursday night in January, Rebecca is also great fun to have around the table and will be missed, leaving some very big shoes to fill after six years of outstanding contribution.

Andy Cotterill  
City, University of London

## **Commendation of Contribution**

### **HELOA UK Committee, HELOA Group Committees and the HELOA Office**

It goes without saying - and is in any case an understatement - that 2020 has been an extremely challenging year for everyone. People have been tested in numerous ways, both in their private lives but also in the professional sphere. Absolutely no one would have believed, as little as 10 months ago, that we would be asked to transfer our entire lives into our homes, and to cope with the stresses and strains which have accompanied that transition.

Many colleagues will have, understandably, faced multiple professional difficulties in this period: working around their family lives and squeezing one (or more!) home offices into houses designed with a different purpose. Recruitment, access, and outreach colleagues in particular will have seen major disruption to their typical activity: whether through inability to travel, periods of reduced activity, or rapidly moving outreach programmes online. Some of us may even be missing the delights of a budget hotel, or a motorway service station. In many ways I believe our entire sector is deserving of a Commendation and it is appropriate to reflect on the hard work every HELOA member has undertaken, and continues to undertake.

However, more formally and on behalf of all members, I wanted to extend a Commendation to all of the staff and volunteers who have spent this year keeping HELOA on track, raising the spirits of HELOA members, and continuing to provide a year-round programme of training and activities. As someone who has spent some time supporting HELOA, including through previous periods of turbulence, it may surprise members to understand just how fragile HELOA is; its continued existence relies on the expenditure of many hundreds of hours of volunteer time, which is given freely but is not a given. In a year where many volunteers and staff will have been so challenged, it is to their exceptional credit that HELOA have provided such a strong and positive response, from which we have all benefitted. Whilst this group-Commendation is therefore highly unusual, I believe it is entirely appropriate to the circumstance, and hope it will be endorsed by HELOA members as a fair recognition of a supreme effort.

Robbie Pickles  
University of Keele