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Russell receives Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching

Trent hands out 2023 teaching, research awards at in-person ceremony

Examiner Staff

Trent University honoured exceptional work in the areas of teaching and research at its annual Celebration of Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research on Wednesday afternoon.

Psychology associate professor Elizabeth Russell was handed the Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching for 2023, which recognizes faculty and staff members who encourage learning and who offer unique experiences to their students, challenge them to do their best work and inspire them to learn.

Russell is the director of the Trent Centre for Aging and Society and led the creation of the TCAS Knowledge Mobilization Hub, a platform to share academic, aging-based research with non-academic audiences, and also the master's in interdisciplinary aging studies, a new graduate program brings together academic research with hands-on, experiential learning.

The Distinguished Research Award went to Prof. Hugh Elton for his work in ancient Greek and Roman studies.

The Award for Educational Leadership and Innovation, which recognizes faculty and staff who have distinguished themselves through their educational leadership, teaching, innovation and successful communication, went to anthropology assistant professor Jennifer Newton, for her work in developing bio-anthropology/archeology teaching, and biology assistant professor Kirk Hillsley, for his work in revising and updating six courses, while developing four new biology courses.

The Early Career Researcher Award went to Jenn Cole, of the Chanie Wenjack School for Indigenous Studies and Gender and Social Justice, and to Kimberly Ritchie, of the Trent/Fleming School of Nursing.

Mary-Claire Buell, a course instructor in Indigenous environmental studies and sciences and an adjunct faculty in environmental and life Sciences, received the CUPE 3908-1 Award for Excellence in Teaching, which recognizes contract faculty who have a strong, positive impact on students' learning.

The Award for Excellence in Online

Trent University psychology associate professor Elizabeth Russell is the winner of the 2023 Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Teaching, which recognizes instructors who have demonstrated a passion for, and commitment to, online teaching and who have implemented effective approaches to fostering active learning and student involvement, went to Erick Laming, an assistant professor of criminology in the Department of Sociology.

The Award for Excellence in Teaching Assistance, which recognizes teaching assistants who excel at encouraging learning in workshop, tutorial, seminar, laboratory field settings, went to William Kim, a PhD candidate in environmental and life sciences and a teaching assistant in biology.