



Wednesday 28 September 2022

Jury report UvA Lecturer of the Year 2022

We, the jury for the UvA Lecturer of the Year 2022 – comprising Tessa Trapp (Chair Central Student Council), Robin Blom (Member Central Student Council), Paula Eikelboom (Vice-chair of ASVA Student Union), David Bos (UvA Lecturer of the Year 2021) and Geert ten Dam (Rector Magnificus UvA ad interim) – would like to show our gratitude and praise to the six nominees. We are both pleased and impressed by the high level of teaching talent of the nominees. They all show great commitment to their students and their learning process.

The nominees have already earned their title as faculty Lecturer of the Year 2022 through the voting process. We congratulate all nominees with their title!

To assess who deserves the title of UvA Lecturer of the Year 2022, we studied lecture recordings, course manuals and testimonials of students. We found the task to be very daunting, but also very inspiring; we saw a diversity of disciplines and teaching styles. We also saw a lot of pleasure in teaching. Below, we announce our winner. Thereafter, we present our findings on the nominees. We discuss the nominees in alphabetical order.

For the way in which he encourages his students, for his excellent use of structure to help students learn, and for the open atmosphere he creates in the classroom, the award of **UvA Lecturer of the Year 2022** goes to:

Jan Aten from the **Faculty of Medicine!**

Dr Jan Aten (Faculty of Medicine)

Jan Aten teaches Pathology in the Bachelor of Medicine. Students say that his classes have inspired them to look at the world from a different perspective. The jury is impressed by Jan's structured approach to his teaching. We have seen in his video lectures that when Jan introduces a new topic, he first refers to knowledge the students already have, making it easier for them to grasp the new material. Jan's course manual stands out because of its clarity. It explains to students in clear and simple language what the expected learning outcomes are and how they can apply their newly acquired knowledge in practice. Jan encourages students to look closely and attentively at the material and he stimulates them to self-regulate their learning process. The lecture recordings show that Jan creates a friendly and open atmosphere in his classes. He knows the names of his students and radiates calm and patience, so that students feel room to ask questions. Jan's feedback to students is very constructive. It is no wonder therefore that students praise his friendliness and support and his ability to explain complicated material very clearly. Jan's teaching strikes a

wonderful balance between support and guidance and encouraging self-regulation. This makes Jan this year's winner of the Lecturer of the Year-award.

Dr Ir Erik Bekkers (Faculty of Science)

Erik Bekkers teaches Machine Learning in the Graduate School of Informatics. His students praise his in-depth knowledge of the field and his communicative skills. They find Erik very easy to approach. Likewise, the jury is impressed by the way Erik teaches to large groups of students, which is a very complex task. Erik organizes his courses very well and creatively combines a number of teaching methods and technologies. His classes are highly interactive and lively. They are very well structured, but Erik also has a great talent for improvising. Students really appreciate Erik's YouTube videos, in which he explains complex topics very clearly.

Dr mr Vassilis Dafnomilis (Faculty of Law)

Vassilis Dafnomilis teaches and coordinates courses in the Master's program International Tax Law. Students praise his talent for making complicated subject matter comprehensible and fun. The jury has seen from his lecture recordings that Vassilis has a wonderful sense of humor and enthusiasm that makes his classes quite lively. He brings a lot of energy to his classes, and he is creative in his use of teaching tools and multimedia. Vassilis has great organizational skills that he applies successfully to a complex course with lots of guest speakers. Finally, students appreciate Vassilis' friendliness and the fact that he always makes time for them and is ready to help.

Milio van de Kamp (Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences)

Milio van de Kamp is a junior lecturer in the Bachelor's program Interdisciplinary Social Sciences. Students describe him as a passionate, helpful, and engaged teacher who really connects with his students. The lecture recordings the jury has watched show that Milio creates an open atmosphere in his classes, where students feel comfortable to ask questions or join in discussions. His engagement with students and a desire to help them realize their full potential also shows from his project, *Baanbrekers*. In this project Milio helps first generation students to develop their talents and to feel at home at the UvA. The jury believes that this is an incredibly important project and that Milio deserves immense credit for his efforts in making a change.

Dr Mohammad Nasiri (Faculty of Economics and Business)

Mohammad Nasiri teaches *Strategy and Change* in the Bachelor's program Business Administration. Students praise him for helping all students where he can and for being there for his students. They find his classes very well prepared and inspiring. The jury fully agrees with that. The information in Mohammad's course manual is very clear and we like the way the assessment criteria are formulated. Mohammad combines his lectures with short, tailor-made knowledge clips and we think this works well. The lecture recordings show that Mohammad is a very lively speaker, with great intonation and gesticulation. It is striking how Mohammad combines thorough preparation and structure with improvising on the spot. Finally, the jury likes the fact that Mohammad invites students to give presentations as a team, with other student teams discussing the presentation.

Dr Colin Sterling (Faculty of Humanities)

Colin Sterling teaches in the Amsterdam Humanities Exchange Programme, the Master's program in Heritage and Memory Studies and the Research Master's program Art and Culture. Students praise Colin for the way he engages with all his students and the interest he shows in them. He takes time for his students and makes sure that everyone understands what he is trying to get across. The jury likes the fact that Colin is able to stimulate lively discussions and to explain complicated subject matter in his classes simply by using a whiteboard and marker. The lecture recordings also show that he is very responsive to his students and that the atmosphere in class is relaxed and open. Colin's knowledge clips take the shape of highly professional video essays.