Presentation of the first UCET Lifetime Award

I am delighted to introduce Professor Peter Gilroy as the first recipient of the newly inaugurated UCET Lifetime Achievement Award.

For half a century, Peter has served successively as a teacher in both primary and secondary schools; a teacher educator, lecturer and researcher in the philosophy of education (Nottingham, Sheffield and Manchester universities); a university research leader (as Director of the Research and Enterprise Office at Manchester Metropolitan University); a teacher educator mentor (as a visiting professor at Hull, Roehampton and Plymouth Universities and consultant for a number of other UK and overseas universities as they developed their research profiles) and for many years the sole editor of one of the world’s leading teacher education research journals (Journal of Education for Teaching - JET). Peter is Professor Emeritus at Manchester Metropolitan University and for many years a prominent member of UCET, including having served as Chair.

Peter has demonstrated his commitment to intellectually robust and research informed teacher education throughout his career. His personal research interests in the philosophy of education and cross-cultural research have focussed on the full range of continuing professional development. One example of this was his secondment to Singapore Polytechnic, where he established a new form of distance education related to the Polytechnic's staff development programme and a few years later, he was invited to be a consultant for Kuwait University reporting on ways in which the education department could improve their initial teacher education. More recently, Peter has assisted a number of university education departments preparing for their quality assurance agency subject review and has acted as a consultant for several universities’ education RAE and REF submissions.  Peter’s work as a teacher educator mentor has been exemplary. All those who have had the fortunate experience of receiving his advice and guidance agree that time spent with him, however long or short, always makes one feel better. Peter has supervised and examined doctoral research students in a variety of areas to include, apart from the education of teachers, the initial and continued professional development of a varied group of professionals, the nature of social change, chaos theory, Islamic education and the philosophy of education.

Peter’s work as Executive Editor of JET over many years is a shining example of his contribution to the field that exceeds the remunerated aspects of his professional life. As I have lately discovered for myself, this carries a huge weight not only of work, but of responsibility, too. Making decisions about the publication of people’s research in teacher education and ensuring the high intellectual and reputational standard of the journal is something that Peter did seamlessly, continuously and above all encouragingly throughout his decades-long editorship, including whilst he was a full-time Director of Research with responsibility for his university’s entire research profile in the lead up and submission to the RAE as the REF was known then. During this period, Peter ran a major externally funded research project and wrote a book. How he did all this is nothing short of amazing.

Additional evidence of Peter’s engagement with and commitment to the field of teacher education lies in his active membership over the years of a range of external associations and organisations, for example the board of Mentoring and Coaching in Education, as one of two UK representatives on the Japan/UK Education Forum, the British Educational Research Association and the Standing Conference on Studies in Education.

From this short biography, I hope that colleagues here at the UCET conference will agree that during his life-long dedication to both the academic discipline of education and to the teaching profession, Peter has made a unique contribution to the teacher education and teacher education research communities and personifies the values and principles identified by UCET as underpinning effective teacher education and education research and is deservedly the first recipient of UCET’s Lifetime Achievement Award.



Professor Linda la Velle

Member, UCET Executive Board.

**Professor Peter Gilroy’s speech to UCET**

I am flattered to be the first recipient of UCET’s new Lifetime Achievement Award.  Hearing how many activities I’ve been involved with has surprised me perhaps as much as it astounded Linda.  But then I have had over 50 years to make a contribution to teacher education, with some 30 of them as a member of UCET.   Ever since the 1980s teaching and teacher education has faced threats from policy-heavy, evidence-light, ‘reforms' and I’ve been privileged to have worked with UCET as it has provided a much needed critical defence of our high quality education profession.

 I am honoured to accept the Council’s award and have every confidence that UCET will continue maintaining and developing its central role in teacher education.

Peter Gilroy