

## **Alexandra Matthews**

Vice-Chancellor, Provost, graduates, it is my further duty to present to you Alexandra Matthews for the award of the Vice-Chancellor's prize.

Alexandra was educated at the Leasowes Community College in Halesowen from 2003 to 2008 and then moved to King Edward VI School at Five Ways for her A levels. She came to this University in 2010 to study Biochemistry. During her time here she has been awarded the John Avins scholarship on two occasions, and also the Wellcome Trust Summer Vacation scholarship. Her academic record has been outstanding. She was ranked 2nd in the 1st year and ranked 1st in years 2, 3 and 4 of her MSci out of 200 Biosciences students. Her average marks have been 79% or more in all of the years of the course. Her final year project was entitled "The regulation of the metalloprotease ADAM10 by the TspanC8 tetraspanins". Her transcript reveals that one of her lowest marks, in the high two one range, was in a module concerned with developing a research proposal. Many of my fellow academics, who regularly suffer from the taking apart of their research proposals, will sympathise with that! Outside the University she is very generous with her time, volunteering at various activities. She is a qualified first-aider for St John's Ambulance on duty at least every two weeks. She has volunteered in hospitals and nursing homes working with patients and analysing patient samples. She is a member of the Dudley Group NHS Trust, and an ambassador for the University of Birmingham. She also plays and coaches Netball and acts as a GCSE coach in Maths and History for students who are finding aspects of these courses challenging. She has been shortlisted for an EMBO fellowship for a PhD study in Germany, and also for a Crick Fellowship at the new Crick Institute in London, but has decided to continue her studies in Birmingham, working on Biochemistry and Cell Biology.

Vice-Chancellor, Provost, for her remarkable performance in her degree programme, and for her contribution to the life of this University, I present to you and to the University, Alexandra Matthews, as a worthy recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's prize.