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# Supervisors strive to assist students

## STAFF REPORTER

UNIVERSITY of Otago staff who supervise masters and PhD students are known for going above and beyond the call of duty.

Picking up international students from the airport, arranging accommodation, providing food parcels, continuing to mark assignments and provide feedback when ill, and even buying a birthday gift for a student's child were some of the actions students mentioned when nominating their supervisors for the 2009 Otago University Students Association (OUSA) supervisor of the year awards.



Alan Davison



Kelly Hare

Dr Alan Davison, a lecturer in the music department, was named supervisor of the the year at an awards ceremony on Thursday, with Dr Kelly Hare from the zoology department named new

supervisor of the year.

The awards have been held annually since 2003. Judging is based on submissions written by students. This year, 68 supervisors were nominated by 95 students.

Dr Davison, who has been at Otago since 2003, is co-ordinator of research in the music department. He also chairs the "music and image" research cluster, which incorporates his specialist interest of music iconology — the representation of music, musical instruments, performers and composers through art.

Students praised him as a patient and inspirational supervisor who always found time to

attend to students' queries and assignments.

Dr Hare's students commented on her ability to connect with students and her consistently valuable feedback and constructive criticism.

The finalists were Assoc Prof Murray Rae (theology and religious studies), Prof David Baxter (school of physiotherapy), Assoc Prof David Chalmers (injury prevention research unit), Dr Sheila Skeaff (human nutrition), Prof Rob Walker (medical and surgical sciences), Dr Kirsten Robertson (marketing), Prof Warren Tate (biochemistry), and Assoc Prof Alan Payne (school of dentistry).