

### **Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP**

Shirley-Anne Somerville returned to the Scottish Parliament in 2016 as the member for the Dunfermline constituency after previously serving as an MSP for the Lothians region from 2007 to 2011. Educated at Kirkcaldy High School, she then graduated from the University of Strathclyde with a BA (Hons) in Economics and Politics (1996), followed by a Diploma in Housing Studies at the University of Stirling and a Diploma in Public Relations from Queen Margaret University College. She has worked as a parliamentary researcher, a Policy and Public Affairs Officer at the Chartered Institute of Housing and as a Media and Campaigns Officer at the Royal College of Nursing. Ms Somerville's appointment as Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science is her first Ministerial role.

### **Adam Gajek**

Adam Gajek is a member of the European Students' Union's Executive Committee 2016/2017. His main focus lies in the area of quality of higher education, with an emphasis given to quality assurance and prior learning recognition. He is a member of the ESU Quality Assurance Student Experts' Pool and a student expert of the Polish Accreditation Committee. He has been engaged in the student movement for many years, formerly served as an International Officer of the Students' Parliament of the Republic of Poland (PSRP), and a head of the Audit Committee of the Students' Union of the University of Warsaw. Adam is currently a student of management at the Warsaw School of Economics and has a previous academic background in political science and economics.

### **Rebecca MacLennan**

Rebecca is Programme Manager for Young Engineers and Science Clubs Scotland, at the Scottish Council for Development and Industry, working to inspire young people, particularly girls, into STEM careers. While studying Zoology at the University of Dundee, Rebecca was a sparqs Associate Trainer and enjoyed training and supporting course reps across Scotland and other exciting opportunities, including training Enhancement Theme Student Team members. As a volunteer with Girlguiding, Rebecca has been heavily involved with delivering a peer education programme in the UK and Dubai, and a youth participation strategy, to empower girls and young women to speak up and make a difference.

### **Stewart Hay MBE**

Stewart Hay was a teacher on the Shetland Islands from 1973 until retirement in 2011. For much of his teaching career his main focus was to develop a network of schools across the globe known as The Global Classroom. This involved sharing teaching and learning, enabling students to take part in extended exchange programmes and participation in annual Conferences hosted and attended by senior students from each of the participating schools. He co-ordinated an international student research programme known as The Learning School. This enabled one or two students from each of the Global Classroom partnership of schools to spend a month or so researching key aspects of learning in each school and thereafter publish and share findings. The programme began in 1999 and continued until 2012. Retirement affords opportunities to watch global learning from a detached perspective.

### **Vonnie Sandlan**

Vonnie Sandlan is NUS Scotland President for 2016/17, having previously served in the role in 2015/16, and as NUS Scotland Women's Officer in 2014/15. Vonnie studied an HNC in Early Education & Childcare at Langside College, during which time she served as President of Langside College Students' Association, before moving to the University of the West of Scotland to study BA Childhood Studies. Vonnie's priorities are improving access to education, particularly for those from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds, and the role of education in securing social justice. In addition to her role at NUS Scotland, Vonnie is also a Director on the board of Who Cares? Scotland, a national voluntary organisation providing advocacy, advice and support services across Scotland for children and young people with experience of care. Recently, Vonnie sat on the board of the Commission on Widening Access, as well as the advisory group for Scotland Stronger in Europe.