

*Acceptance Speech by Rebecca Scott on behalf of her mother,  
Dr Judith Maitland, for the posthumous category of the  
Philippa Madden Award 2017*

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Good evening everyone. It is with the utmost pleasure that I accept this Award on behalf of Dr Judith Maitland.

Heartfelt thanks must go to Lara and also Iain for their nominations.

When I received the letter and researched the Award, I must say, a few tears were shed. I was overwhelmed with pride in both Mums' achievements and in the fact that I'm her daughter.

I was also sad to learn that Pip had passed away, a mere 2 years after Mum. Mum and Pip shared a friendship and were still in contact after Mum's retirement and indeed until after Pips diagnosis, so to win this Award is quite appropriate.

In her nomination Lara mentioned Mum's great input into the translation, acting and directing of Classical plays. Even my eldest daughter was roped into the production of 'Ajax'. I say roped because she was an extremely shy 8 year old and had to play the part of a boy. You can imagine that it took some convincing to get her involved but Mum was up to the task. I use this as an example of Mum's ability to convince people to do the very things they thought they couldn't and to do it successfully. So many staff and students also flourished under Mum's nurturing during these performances.

Mum once mentioned in a speech that "you knew you'd made it as a parent when your kids didn't cross the road to avoid you in public", she also thought you'd made it in Academia if you had the respect of your students and colleagues. Of course the number of articles published and of grants received was important but the engaging of others in your passion and thereby getting the most out of them was equally important to Mum.

Mum spent many years trying to engage her children in Classics, 'the origin of that word is ..., history was recorded not just in books but in theatre ..., the basis of modern life, the ways in which we think and communicate can be seen in ancient times' were all eye rolling occasions for me in my childhood. Thank goodness for the academic world, where Mum could finally impart her passion and engage people and more often than not, have her infectious enthusiasm returned!

In later years, I would attend some of her lectures and summer school classes. She had finally won me over. Such was her passion that I had to go and see for myself what the fuss was about. I never told her I'd enrolled, I just sat in the middle of the class and when she eventually made eye contact, I just waved. "Oh! Becci!"

Mum was always on a bit of a mission in regards to Classics and Ancient History. She wanted, no, needed, to impart to the University how important Classics is as a subject. This is how and why the course on Classical Mythology was born. As this course proved to be a huge success, on her passing Neil O'Sullivan and my siblings and I began the Dr Judith Maitland Prize in Classical Mythology. Each

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year this Prize is awarded to the top student in the course as a memorial to Mum's talent.

Mum definitely found her calling. As one of the previous recipients stated, she often remarked how lucky she was to have a "job" that she loved. I'm sure she coined the phrase "you'll never have to work a day in your life if you're doing something you love". Without her limitless energy, zeal and unbridled joy for the subject, she would merely have been an excellent teacher and academic, rather than the pedagogue and exemplar of the University's motto, *Seek Wisdom*, that have earned her this Award.

Perhaps Mum wouldn't have enjoyed all this fuss, no, I know she wouldn't have but I think she would have loved to know that she had such a positive and long lasting influence on her colleagues and students at UWA.

Once again, on behalf of Mum, her family and friends, a heartfelt thank you for this Award and for this evening.

Mum loved a bit of champagne, so here's 'cheers' to Mum. Cheers!