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VC's Staff Awards 2001

University of Wollongong

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UWS Staff Awards

For 25 years service and outstanding achievement



Good Universities Guides

UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR

Preparing Graduates for the e-World—Joint Winner **2000-2001**

Outstanding R&D Partnerships—Joint Winner **1999-2000**



UCS
Staff Awards 2001

For 25 years service and outstanding achievement

Program

2001 Staff Awards Presentation

Master of Ceremonies - Mr David Rome, Vice Principal (Administration)

Welcome by the Vice Chancellor - Professor Gerard Sutton

Musical Item - 'Chamberesque'

Presentation of 25 Years Service Awards - Professor John Patterson, Pro Vice Chancellor (Operations)

***Presentation of the Vice Chancellor's Outstanding
Service Awards for General Staff*** - Mr David Rome, Vice Principal (Administration)

***Presentation of the Vice Chancellor's Awards for
Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning*** - Professor Chris Brink, Pro Vice Chancellor (Research)

Presentation of Special Awards - Mr David Rome, Vice Principal (Administration)

Closure by the Vice Chancellor - Professor Gerard Sutton

Musical Item - 'Chamberesque'

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25 Years Service Citations

Awards are presented each year to members of academic and general staff who have served the University for 25 years. Recipients of the 25 Years Service Awards receive commemorative plaques and \$100 gift coin.

This years awards are presented to:

Ms Maree Burnett, Electrical Computer & Telecommunications Engineering

Maree Burnett joined the University of Wollongong's then Department of Electrical Engineering in 1976 as its Departmental Secretary. Maree has worked with every single Head and Professor in this Department since the University's founding - this fact alone being an immense tribute to her ability, patience and determination. Maree is now the School of Electrical, Computer and Telecommunications Engineering's Administrative Officer, and continues to have a positive effect on nearly every aspect of the School's operations. Her enthusiastic support for the School and the University extends far beyond her thoroughness as an efficient administrator, and includes, for example, imaginative contributions to recruitment of new students, to course and subject design, to mentoring not only of students but also of staff. In 1993 Maree was a recipient of a Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Service. The hallmark of her long service has been intelligent, creative and practical advice compassionately given. Maree is certainly one of Wollongong University's 'living treasures'.

Mr John Wayne Dixon, Faculty of Creative Arts

John Wayne Dixon joined the music staff of the Wollongong Institute of Education on 2 March 1975, later becoming a foundation member of the now Faculty of Creative Arts. He gained an MA Hons in Composition from the University of Wollongong in 1987. He presently teaches in music history, theory and composition.

During his tenure at the University he has been active as a composer and conductor. As artistic director of the City of Wollongong Symphony Orchestra for 21 years, he presented numerous concerts, including in 1988 the premiere of his own Colonial Symphony, commissioned by the New South Wales Bicentennial Authority. Wayne serves as a member of the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre Board.

In 1997, he was Interim Director of the Wollongong Conservatorium.

Mr Norbert Gal, Civil, Mining & Environmental Engineering

Norm started work at the University in Civil Engineering as a Laboratory Craftsman. He specialised in Structures and was involved in the construction of the large wind tunnel which is still in use today at Campus East.

Norm was then reclassified to a Technical Officer role, still in Civil Engineering and is now a Senior Technical Officer in Environmental Engineering.

Norm is now involved in the design and production of innovative waste water treatment facilities.

Mr Larry Hick, Chemistry

Larry Hick joined the Department of Chemistry in 1976 as a Technical officer, where he learnt his expertise in mass spectrometry under the leadership of Prof. Bert Halpern. Since that time Larry has been a major player in the operation and maintenance of the Department's 5 state-of-the-art Mass Spectrometers. These underpin major research activity within both Chemistry and Biological Sciences. Larry's expertise and unflappable manner have been invaluable. Larry has also made substantial contributions to teaching support and has been Acting Laboratory Manager. He has always been active in the sporting and social life of the Department and the University.

Mr Tony Kent, Faculty of Engineering

Tony Kent joined the University as a Senior Technical officer in the Department of Engineering. He was responsible for the Electrical and Electronic work in the department as well as working in the Bulk Materials Handling Research Unit. Later Tony took on the role of Supervisor of Electrical and Electronic Services for the Faculty of Engineering. He was appointed to the position of Operations Manager for the Faculty at the beginning of 2000.

Tony is a past member of the University Council and has held the positions of Chair and Secretary of the University work place group of the Public Service Association. Outside the University he has been a member of the Wollongong City Council.

Professor Donald Lewis, Economics

Don Lewis obtained his Ph.D. from Washington State University, arrived in Wollongong in 1976 and was appointed Professor of Economics in 1991.

He served as Head, Department of Economics (twice), Head of Graduate School of Business, Chairperson Faculty of Social Sciences / Commerce and Head of the Open Day Committee, 1991-1992. He was President, Australian Health Economics Society 1994-99. He has been a university teacher for 33 years and was awarded the inaugural Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1991.

Don has a substantial record of refereed publications on social economics including the economics of health care, women, education, welfare, crime, trade and applied microeconomics. He has been involved individually or collaboratively in five textbooks and twenty research grants.

Professor John Patterson, Pro Vice Chancellor (Operations)

In his 25 years of service, Professor John Patterson has actively participated in all aspects of the University of Wollongong community. By way of example, he is a life member of the University Rugby Union Club, having successfully coached them for a number of years; has been Chairman of numerous Open Day Committees; and presently the Chairman of the Board of the University Recreation and Aquatic Centre.

Beginning his career as a lecturer of physical and health education at the Wollongong Institute of Education, John developed a reputation as an outstanding lecturer and committed teacher during the 70s and early 80s. In this time he completed a second Masters degree and a doctorate. This foundation enabled a successful career in research and academic scholarship that has taken him to a position of national professional respect and international recognition within his discipline area.

An interest in leadership saw him hold a number of managerial positions within the Faculty of Education, beginning as the Director of the Physical and Health Education Program. John went on to become Deputy Head of School; Associate Dean and Dean of the Faculty – a position he held for seven years.

Most recently, John became the Acting Dean of Health and Behavioural Science and subsequently Pro Vice Chancellor (Operations).

Dr Peter Sales, Faculty of Arts

After completing his postgraduate degrees at Monash and LaTrobe Universities, Peter Sales taught at the University of Newcastle and The Wollongong Institute of Education before taking up an appointment at the University of Wollongong. Peter Sales was the University's first Fulbright scholar in 1981, played a major role in the development of Australian Studies and established American History as part of the University's curriculum. He is the author of several articles and his current areas of research and teaching include maritime policy and insurgency and counter-insurgency. A gifted teacher, Peter Sales has recently served as Sub Dean of the Faculty of Arts for three years.

Mr Gary Wilsmore, Faculty of Education (recently retired)

Gary joined the Wollongong Teachers College in January 1975 from which time he played a major role in developing and refining our practical studies and outdoor education subjects. He went on to become the Practical Studies Co-ordinator and as Senior lecturer, he played a major role in the review and restructuring which the program underwent. Students who have completed these subjects have often commented on the quality of the experience he provided,

and his extensive knowledge in a wide range of areas from hockey to kayaking.

Gary has made a significant contribution to the success that the Faculty of Education now enjoys in terms of our strong reputation for offering quality Physical and Health Education pre service programs, practical studies and outdoor education. The admiration that the students have for Gary is best illustrated, when on his retirement at the P.E. 4th year farewell, the students presented him with a new minimal surfboard as a token of the esteem they hold him in.

Dr Janice Wright, Faculty of Education

Jan Wright joined the Wollongong College of Advanced Education in 1976. She designed and taught subjects which examine sport, physical activity and physical and health education from a critical/ socio-cultural perspective.

In 1996 Jan was appointed as the Director of the Faculty's Physical and Health Education Program, which she held until 1999. She incorporated her research interest into her teaching and brought a different approach to this pre service program. The students enjoyed her approach, with many returning to do postgraduate study in her discipline area.

Jan is currently the Research Co-ordinator of the Graduate School of Education and Chair of the University of Wollongong Research Training Management Committee. She is also the Co-ordinator of the Centre for Equity Research in Education (CERE). CERE focuses on enhancing research into education and social issues which relate to fair and reasonable forms of access and equity.

Jan Wright has made a significant scholarly contribution to the University of Wollongong during her 25 years.

Outstanding Service

The Vice Chancellor's Outstanding Service Awards for General Staff.

The Outstanding Service Awards are presented each year to members of general staff who have achieved an exceptional success, given outstanding service and/or shown recognised initiative in their work.

Each recipient receives a certificate and a cheque for \$1200.

This year's recipients are:

Ms Susan Jones, Library

Susan receives her award for an outstanding and exceptional achievement, through her work in information literacy to the University Community and library services to the Faculty of Commerce.

The value of Susan's contributions to the Faculty of Commerce was displayed in her efforts to continually improve that Faculty's efficiency in utilising information resources, organising their resource needs and maximising research output. Her initiative in providing direct links to relevant Internet sites has proved invaluable. Susan also made resources accessible to primary users, avoiding unnecessary and expensive duplication. Susan has initiated, developed, and implemented new programs, which enable graduate

students to integrate their research resources effectively. Of particular note is Susan's close association with the Commerce Resource Centre, who have received direct benefits from Susan's instigation of brief catalogue records in the Library's Catalogue for the Australian Bureau of Statistics publications. Her work in establishing links from the Library's Webpage to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' AusStats web service is also noteworthy.

Susan has been proactive in developing a new range of skills such as web page development and writing clear self-paced instructional guides. Susan is a dedicated and supportive member of the University community and highly valued by her peers and colleagues.

Mr Joe McIver and Mr Richard Willson, Strategic Planning Unit

Joe and Richard receive their awards for outstanding and exceptional achievement, and outstanding service through their involvement in developing the on-line Student Management Package (SMP). They have not only improved work practices, but also customer relations with their efforts.

Both Joe and Richard were responsible for implementing the SMP. This project transferred a major portion of student management activity from an "across the counter" arrangement, to a web-based relationship. Enrolments, re-enrolments, subject and course referencing, class and marks management, student assessment, and exam results may now be accessed on-line. This has been recognised as a leading edge performance in the Australian Higher Education Sector, and a key factor in the University of Wollongong being recognised as University of the Year 2000-2001.

The roles of Joe and Richard were pivotal in managing the development and technical implementation of these systems. Their approach has been to constantly improve the student experience by developing flexible, simple, and effective processes which enabled extended hours of operation via a friendly interface. The success of this approach relied on frequent reviews with the staff utilising the various systems throughout the University to assist in streamlining the processes.

Joe and Richard managed the systems builders in SPU, ITS, ITC, ARD, and more in exemplary style. Their efforts have affected the wider University community in an extremely beneficial manner, and they have shown themselves to be great assets to the University.

Mrs Meredith Morgan, Career Development Unit

Meredith receives this award for her outstanding service to clients and exceptional achievement in implementing Competency Based Progression for General Staff. This challenging and potentially sensitive project, was approached by Meredith with drive and enthusiasm. Such qualities were essential in dealing with the multiplicity of stakeholders and their often conflicting objectives.

Meredith's involvement in the project resulted in a commitment from the Enterprise Bargaining Team (including Union representatives), competencies written, training of all General staff at relevant levels along with their supervisors and implementation across campus. The achievement of this complex initiative provided the University with benefits in the form of increased flexibility resulting in greater staff utilisation, staff retention and a simplified general staff salary structure.

A rational approach and professional handling of stakeholders allowed Meredith to achieve the desired

outcomes, with all participants contributing to the development of the system, and committing to its implementation. Meredith's customer service ethic is exceptional. Her commitment to staff through the Career Development Unit, and the University as a whole, are above and beyond the expectations for her position.

Mr Justin Norris, Faculty of Commerce

Justin receives his award for outstanding service to staff and students of the Faculty of Commerce, and in particular the development of the Commerce Undergraduate Student Electronic Newsletter.

Justin has developed an excellent knowledge and understanding of the programs offered by the Faculty, University rules and policies. He is able to provide much of the basic information and advice to students, ensuring the Sub-Deans see only the critical cases where decisions are required beyond his authority. Justin also deals with prospective students, and the Faculty has received many compliments regarding his professional and enthusiastic manner. Along with his excellent service, Justin has also provided unique insights into how this service may be improved. He proposed that the Faculty introduce an electronic newsletter, to be distributed to all students undertaking Commerce subjects. This has received an outstanding response, and has proved to be a superior

method to communicate with students. Justin worked with the Faculty IT Manager to resolve issues arising from this initiative, mainly that of sending e-mail to approximately 3000 students without clogging up the University e-mail system. Justin also ensures that the e-mail lists are updated each session.

Justin is a committed member of staff, displayed in his implementation of the Commerce Undergraduate Electronic Newsletter (Comm-E-News) which has already demonstrated value to the University community and Justin's client focus.

Mrs Lynell Ratcliffe, Communication & Cultural Studies

Lynell receives her award for outstanding and exceptional achievement, through her involvement in the successful organisation and coordination of UOW students as media volunteers for SOCOG and the US broadcaster NBC during the Olympic Games.

Lynell has been with the Communication and Cultural Studies Program since its foundation in 1997. She has taken a leading role in establishing best practice with regard to the provision of administrative assistance within the Program. Lynell's contribution has been of exceptional quality, and she has displayed a strong desire to assist students with their inquiries and problems from an excellent knowledge base of the Program's subjects and activities

(beyond that which one would expect from one who's primary responsibility was admin assistance). Lynell's self-developed and original approach to personalised client service has provided a positive influence and experience for students and staff. Lynell made a special contribution to the Program and the University last year through her undertaking the coordination of the recruitment of student media workers for the Olympic period. This involved extensive liaison with SOCOG and with major US media company NBC, who were both looking for Communication Studies students to assist in the media coverage of the Games. Several students went on to further employment with media companies as a direct result of their Olympics experience. This kind of articulation between the University and the paid workforce is of immense benefit to the Program and to the University's reputation, especially in the area of Communication Studies.

Mrs Penny Williamson, Geosciences

Penny receives her award for an outstanding and exceptional achievement in the curation and display of the Howard Worner Mineral Collection in the foyer of the Sciences building.

Penny willingly committed her time and efforts in the curation and display of the Howard Worner Collection. This significant and valuable collection comprises approximately 1000 mineral and rock specimens, Howard Worner's

medals, awards, mineral-collecting gear, and a copy of the first edition of "Minerals of Broken Hill". This commitment went well above and beyond Penny's normal duties and working hours, and during the tight timeframe of this project (six months) managed to fulfil her normal duties including production of a School of Geosciences Annual Report. Penny had to liaise with all contractors to ensure that what was envisaged at the outset was achievable, and any modifications conformed to the overall plan. The project was very complex in terms of curating and displaying the samples, and Penny initiated new cataloguing procedures specifically for this collection, created guidelines for the display, curated and photographed all specimens, co-wrote the text, researched and drew the graphics, created the database for the touchscreen, and created the template for the engraver for all the labels. The Howard Worner Collection has already created a stunning focal point for members of the University community, visitors and for University functions. The high quality of the display has been acclaimed by all who have seen it, including the curator of minerals at the Australian Museum. The 4th International Mineralogy and Museums Conference in Melbourne also praised the display when a poster of the collection was presented, with one curator from Edinburgh specifically detouring to Wollongong to see it. Penny has demonstrated professional expertise, independence of decision making, ability to work with internal and external teams and dedication to her profession, proving her a definite asset to the University.

Outstanding Contribution

The Vice Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning (OCTAL).

The OCTAL Award recipients are recommended to the Vice Chancellor by a special committee which considers nominations from colleagues and students, as well as supporting documentation from the nominees.

Each recipient receives a certificate and a cheque for \$2500.

This year's recipients are:

Dr Anne Abraham, Graduate School of Business and Professional Development

Dr Anne Abraham is an innovative and student centred teacher who is involved in all aspects of the teaching role. She has made considerable contributions to improving student learning in the Department of Accounting and Finance, the Faculty of Commerce, and more recently, in the Graduate School of Business and Professional Development through the use of computer mediated course design and delivery. Her initiatives and developments have made learning both accessible and rewarding for her students.

Anne's commitment to teaching and learning development is motivated by her sincere desire to optimise the learning outcomes for her students. Her central belief is that learning

must be student, not teacher centred. To that end, she has created a comfortable but challenging atmosphere so that students are both motivated and enabled to learn. She views teaching as a privilege and her enthusiastic and informative lectures, encouragement of independent learning, high credibility with students and peers, and initiatives in innovative teaching practices are all evidence of her unrelenting commitment to teaching. She is also a committed team player and continues to share her experiences with her colleagues.

Dr Anne Abraham's original and ongoing contribution to flexible delivery and student-centred approach to teaching combine to make her a most worthy recipient of this award.

Mrs Jennifer Burnley, Faculty of Education

Jen Burnley is an inspiring educator who motivates and challenges students to become excellent teachers themselves. Her passion for teaching, and especially for her subject discipline, is evident to both her students and peers.

Jen's unique approach is an enormous asset to the Education Faculty and she is held in high regard by her students. She presents teaching strategies in such a way that students can adopt and feel confident to use them in their own classrooms. The innovative techniques she employs, her thorough reflection and comprehensive reading are all part of her annual review of subjects to assist students in reaching higher levels of competency. She is committed

both to her students and her own personal development as a teacher, and her up to date knowledge of the profession has been remarked upon in the schools and in the Faculty.

Jen has an international reputation as a Peace educator and as an innovator in Global Education. She introduced Peace Education to Australia and lectures internationally on peace and global education in schools. She is on the board of the World Council for Curriculum and Instruction, as well as belonging as an active member to nine other teaching and learning organisations. Jen Burnley is a model teacher for her students to follow and has visibly made an outstanding contribution to teaching excellence at this University.

Special Awards

Special Awards for Outstanding and Exceptional Achievement

This award is presented to a Department or Unit of the University, selected by the Vice Chancellor, for making an outstanding and exceptional achievement.

This year's recipients are:

Staff of the Central Laboratory Desktop Machine Replacement Team

Ms Donna Meagher
Mr Noel Malafont
Ms Joan Ford
Mr Mark Geloven
Mr Alex Beleski
Mr Bruce Lay
Mr Alex Rachewlicz
Mr Andrew Elliott
Mr David Briggs

Mr John Halar
Mr Simon Coggins
Mr Daniel Saffioti
Ms Joy Lawrence
Ms Anne-Marie Fletcher
Mr Paul Page
Ms Elizabeth Negro
Ms Heidi Smith

The Central Laboratory Desktop Machine Replacement Team receive their award for the largest desktop computer replacement project ever undertaken by the University. It involved the replacement of approximately 300 desktop computers in the ITS central computing laboratories. This involved the physical movement of over 600m² of equipment – approximately 5 container trucks.

The main implementation of the project was over a very short period of time (5 working days). ITS staff worked with six new external business partners and coordinated with internal units such as the Library, Security, Finance and Cleaning Services. All up, there were approximately 70 people directly involved in the project.

To ensure ITS would meet the deadline, a time and motion study was undertaken which led to the majority of work being completed in two days, with minor works being carried out over the following three days. This allowed ITS to make the best use of available staff (who were still expected to manage their day-to-day duties during most of the project).

ITS staff faced many challenges during the project and at times worked through the night and weekends to resolve complex technical issues. The success of this project can be directly related to the commitment and dedication of all ITS staff involved in the project.

Staff of the Office of Research

Ms Leanne Cambridge	Mrs Karen Mcrae
Mrs Susan Clarke	Mrs Jacqueline Phylard
Mrs Julie Dalla-Riva	Mr Peter Roope
Ms Sharon Hughes	Ms Rochellie Waren
Mr Adam Jones	Ms Emillie Stevenson
Ms Lynette Kime	Ms Susan McPaul
Dr Lenore Lyons	

The staff of the Office of Research have demonstrated an unflinching enthusiasm for working with individual researchers to achieve their goals. They offer day to day help in bridging the barriers and complications experienced in establishing industry links. Consistently providing high levels of professional support to the various research centres of the University, they are known for ensuring that the stringent and demanding requirements for research and development sponsors are met.

The team has pursued the implementation of the Research Management Plan with tact and persistence, so that the University of Wollongong's research activities are now recognised as outstanding and significant, particularly given our size. The Office of Research was a critical factor in the University of Wollongong's success in the 1999/2000 University of the Year Award.

The University of Wollongong can rightly be proud of the contribution that the staff of the Office of Research make to the overall research accomplishments.



