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Vice-Chancellor's Awards 2003

University of Wollongong

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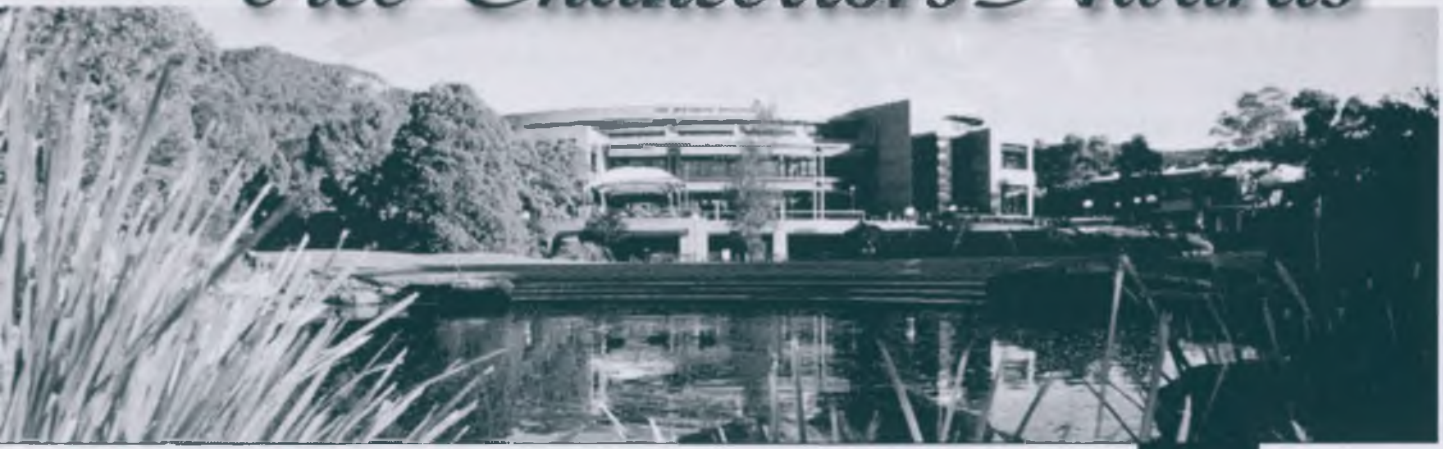
Vice-Chancellor's Awards



University of Wollongong

Program

Musical Item - Serenading Strings

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

Welcome by the Vice-Chancellor - Professor Gerard Sutton

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

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

Presentation of the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning
Professor Rob Castle, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

Presentation of the Marie Lewis Award - Mr David Rome, Vice-Principal (Administration)

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

Closure by the Vice-Chancellor - Professor Gerard Sutton

Musical Item - Serenading Strings

Contents

25 Years Service Citations

Awards are presented each year to members of academic and general staff who have served the University for 25 years.

This year's awards are presented to:

Ms Yvonne Kerr
Dean of Students

Yvonne Kerr is recognised as an outstanding and innovative teacher who has a well-documented commitment to teaching and learning. This view is well supported by her various awards, including the inaugural Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Teaching and an Australian Council of Health, Physical Education and Recreation Fellowship for her contribution to curriculum development in the profession.

Yvonne has made a strong commitment to the University through her long-term role as Sub-Dean of the Faculty of Education and now as the Dean of Students. Throughout her career Yvonne has inspired staff and students alike in the pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning. More broadly, she has been a major force in the development of high quality modern curriculum initiatives in our state education system and through professional bodies working in the Physical and Health Education sector.

Mr Ian Mitchell
Buildings and Grounds

In January 1978 Ian commenced work as a painter and decorator with the University's Buildings & Grounds Division. Since then Ian has seen many changes at the University, including the humble beginnings of the Maintenance Section at Building 6 (Engineering Workshops), the relocation to Campus East, and finally to the new facility at the north-west corner of the Wollongong campus (Building 31). Ian was instrumental in the introduction of the computer-generated signs, which are now the standard signage within buildings across campus.

When his children were younger, Ian was an active member of the University's Children's Christmas Party Committee, and his efforts in preparing the fire engine and the "barney-mobile" provided many happy memories for those attending the Christmas party.

Recently Ian has continued to show his support of the University community by supplying professional decal and signage for the Faculty of Engineering's Steel City Racer.

Mr Bob De Jong
Faculty of Engineering

Bob De Jong commenced employment as a Technical Officer at the University of Wollongong Metallurgy Department in February 1978 and was previously employed at Steelhaven Electronics BHP. During his employment at the University Bob has enhanced his skills in hydraulics, pneumatics, vacuum systems, computer IT and electronic control, enabling the design of "one off" purpose built research equipment. Some of Bob's work duties include:

- Managing Gleeble Thermo mechanical test simulation (providing training, consultancy, repairs and maintenance)
- Designing and constructing Postgraduate Research Projects ISPP (Steel Institute)
- Designing and constructing research equipment for Materials Engineering
- Repairing and modifying scientific equipment in the Engineering Faculty
- Operating equipment for undergraduate laboratory classes.

Ms Linda Deitch
Faculty of Science

Linda Deitch was one of the first appointments to the general staff of the Department of Biology after its establishment in 1975. On her appointment, Linda was responsible for the animal breeding and experimental facilities in the department. Animal house management requires a rare blend of compassion and detachment and Linda has these qualities to an admirable extent.

With a high level of competence and dedication, Linda is independent, resourceful and reliable, a hard working person who undertakes her work with a great deal of accuracy and using a considerable amount of personal initiative. Linda displays good communication skills in the difficult task of integrating the input of academic staff, technical staff, practical demonstrators and students.

Linda has been an integral part of the rapid growth in the Department of Biological Sciences since the late 1980s. Her responsibilities now, as a Technical Officer, include such activities as supporting practical classes, scientific photography, developing computer support, and expertise in a range of scientific instruments and much more. In reaching the milestone of 25 years at the University of Wollongong, Linda has not only displayed a long span of service but also a very high level of technical skill and performance.

Dr Phillip D'Alton
Faculty of Arts

Dr Phillip D'Alton began his career at the University of Wollongong as a foundation member of the Sociology Department. His key intellectual fields of interest and endeavour are globalisation, socialisation, the media, ideologies and belief systems, sport and the military. Dr D'Alton's long-term focus has been on developing and delivering the Sociology 100 level course to provide students with a strong foundation as their starting point.

Distance education links with the Berry Campus have been ongoing since 1997 and have also included demonstration lectures to Years 11 and 12 students from the schools in the South Coast region. Dr D'Alton co-edited the book *Four Dimensional Social Space: Class, Gender, Ethnicity and Nature.* He has also contributed to *War, Violence and the Modern Condition* and *The Unknown Country: Death in Australia, Britain and the USA*, as well as writing seven quasi-fictional works.

Halina Majer
Vice-Chancellor's Unit

For almost 23 years Halina Majer has managed all three of the University's Vice-Chancellors. The University of Wollongong's first Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Birt appointed her in July 1980, just a year before he left to become Vice-Chancellor of the University of New South Wales. Professor Ken McKinnon and Professor Gerard Sutton were determined to keep Halina at the control panel of the "flight deck" because of her wide respect among University staff and the wider community, and for her dedication, professionalism, discretion, charm and dignity.

Prior to 1980, however, Halina worked in many other areas of the University. She started in February 1972 and worked as Secretary for the Departments of Education, Psychology, Economics and Biology, and as an Administrative Assistant in Student Services. In February 1979 she was appointed Personal Assistant to the University's first full-time Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alex Clarke.

A wise man once said: *One machine can do the work of 50 ordinary people. No machine can do the work of one extraordinary person.*

Halina Majer is one such extraordinary person.

Associate Professor Animesh Basu
Mechanical Engineering

After receiving a Fullbright Scholarship and Indian Government Scholarship for undergraduate and postgraduate studies, Animesh Basu commenced his

academic career in Australia at Duntroon, Canberra. Shortly afterwards he moved to Wollongong to serve as a Tutor/Senior Tutor in Civil Engineering before moving to Mechanical Engineering in 1982 as Lecturer. This appointment was followed by successive promotions to Senior Lecturer then Associate Professor consistent with involvement with senior committees including Academic Promotions and Research.

Animesh exemplifies the quiet, theoretical, analytical achiever with significant long term and varied industrial collaboration. This involvement culminated in the receipt of collaborative ARC grants with BHP Collieries, Lucchini Engineering Pty Limited and Southern Prosthetics and Orthotics. This latter resulted in the eagerness to introduce the study of Biomechanics into the Mechanical Engineering program here at the University of Wollongong.

Due to his international reputation Animesh received appointments as Visiting Professor at Dalhousie University (Canada), ITT University (India), University of Otago (NZ), University of Newcastle (UK) and University of Kentucky (USA). To date these academic activities have resulted in authorship of two books, the first addressing Boundary Value Problems in Mechanics of Solids and the other on Biomechanics.

Outstanding Service Citations

The Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Outstanding Service 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.

This year's recipients are:

Katie Singh
Personnel & Financial Services

Katie receives her award for outstanding professional service and the development of excellent training material. Katie has met the challenge of providing useable financial and personnel information to the University community.

Katie enthusiastically embraces the complexities involved in the development and delivery of new course material. She is a professional and dedicated member of the University staff who constantly demonstrates initiative and exceptional understanding of the intricacies required for training within the University as a whole. Her contributions in this area benefit all of those associated with her.

Sally Rogan
Student Services

Sally receives her award for developing the Peer Assisted Study Session (PASS) program, which assists students with their academic progress and transition to university. Sally was asked at the end of 2001 to develop a program that would assist first year students in subjects that historically had a high failure rate or were perceived as being very difficult. By the end of 2002 she had successfully implemented the program and demonstrated that it contributed to improved pass rates and grades. PASS now operates in four Faculties.

The outstanding aspects of Sally's management of the PASS program is the level of professionalism and innovation demonstrated in the development of the program and the implementation of methods of quality assurance for evaluating the effectiveness of the program.

Shelley Johnson
Faculty of Law

Shelley demonstrated exceptional performance as the administrator of the Australasian Tax Teachers' Association Conference (ATTA), which she undertook in addition to her normal duties. Her organisational skills and ability to anticipate the needs of the convenors of the conference, the speakers, and the delegates, enabled the ATTA conference to be an outstanding success. This showcased the Faculty of Law as an innovative host and reinforced our collective image as a "can do" University. Her dedication, initiative and enthusiasm have contributed outstanding service to the Faculty of Law and the University, which is worth acknowledging and celebrating.

David Ryan
Academic Registrar's Division

In 2002 as the University's Timetables Officer, David carried out on a day-to-day basis the implementation of the "Syllabus Plus" software for the University timetable. This was an immense task and one that was little understood by the University as a whole, which greatly added to the challenges posed by the implementation. David rose to the occasion and gave an enormous amount of himself to the task. It is due to his outstanding effort, dedication and abilities that so many of the problems have been overcome. David's outstanding service, efforts and abilities leave the University very much in his debt.

Electronic Readings Team - Library

- **Donna Dee**
- **Margaret Williams**
- **Rodney Horan**
- **Frances Pinkerton**
- **Andrew Giesajtis**
- **Lesley Smith**

The Electronic Readings Team receive their award in recognition of their achievements in progressing the online delivery of digitised reading material through the Electronic Readings Service. This Service is essential to students studying at the University's campuses and education centres, both on and off shore, providing equity of access to high demand material in a timely manner.

The team is responsible for ensuring that all material scanned and made available is accurate, of high quality, in a format which is easily printed or downloaded, and compliant with copyright legislation. Members of the team are dedicated, motivated and proactive and they have shown a great deal of flexibility and initiative in meeting the challenges of developing a service which is integral to supporting online teaching and learning programs of the University.

Research Student Team
Research Student Centre, Office of Research

- **Lenore Lyons**
- **Susan Clarke**
- **Julie King**
- **Tim McDonald**
- **Jenny Sheridan**
- **June Toussis**

The members of the Research Student Team receive their reward in recognition of their outstanding performance in transforming the delivery of service to research students and to those in academic units who manage and support them.

Some of the ways in which this has been accomplished include the establishment of a dedicated email enquiry service; a new enrolment process for commencing students which brings research students on campus for a dedicated 'Enrolment Day'; a new process for the administration of Annual Progress Reports, tied to a simplified process for re-enrolments; and the ongoing monitoring of candidacy.

As a group they have demonstrated extraordinary competence, courtesy and helpfulness in their assistance to research students, research student administrators and supervisors.

Outstanding Contribution Citations

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.

This year's recipient is:

Dr Brett Lemass
Faculty of Engineering

Dr Brett Lemass joined the University of Wollongong in 1999, after thirteen years of professional practice in the field of Civil Engineering. His move to academia was motivated by the desire to make a significant contribution towards improving the competence-based teaching of future Engineers.

Brett not only inspires his students, but also takes a genuine interest in seeing that his students fully understand each topic as it is taught. His approachability, patience and innovative delivery of course content are testament to his dedication to holistic teaching.

Widely admired by his students for being an excellent and supportive teacher, Brett's motivation and enthusiasm for teaching are constantly shown through his clear and interactive delivery of course content.

Dr Lemass combines extensive industry experience with considerable theoretical knowledge to provide students with comprehensive and enjoyable subject matter, and is greatly deserving of this prize for outstanding contribution to teaching and learning at the University of Wollongong.

In 2003 the OCTAL Award was expanded to include Faculty categories with an individual or team from the Faculties and Academic Services Division acknowledged for outstanding contribution to teaching and learning.

This year's recipients are:

Associate Professor Irene Kreis
Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

Associate Professor Irene Kreis is a staff member in the Graduate School of Public Health and is responsible for the development of Zinc Violet, the successful teaching tool used in Applied Epidemiology, a core subject in the Master of Science (Environmental Science) and an elective of the Master of Public Health. This teaching tool is also used at the University of Nijmegen (Netherlands) as a core subject in their Master of Science (Health Science) program.

Epidemiology is an abstract and statistical discipline that is often difficult for students to grasp. Irene's teaching tool, Zinc Violet, aims to give teachers a chance to use a simulated real life problem of great complexity and to give students the experience of conducting a real public health study in a safe environment.

Working within public health has been Irene's passion for many years and her work is exceptionally original both in its subject matter and in the approach used to grab the students' interest.

Associate Professor Irene Kreis' teaching program in environmental epidemiology is completely novel and, through her demonstrated commitment to good teaching and her general attitude of enthusiasm and energy, has visibly made an outstanding contribution to teaching excellence at this University.

Professor Mark Walker
Faculty of Science

Professor Mark Walker is an enthusiastic, dedicated and innovative teacher and is the Head of the Department of Biological Sciences. Professor Walker constantly strives to innovate and deliver engaging materials that are designed to motivate and enhance learning outcomes for students. The latest of these innovations is the web-based *Modern Perspectives in Science: Genetic Engineering Module*, a core component of the new Bachelor of Science Education at the University and adopted by NSW Education as a 1 unit HSC subject for talented high school students interested in Science.

The Module provides a stimulating, self-paced curriculum that introduces the concepts, premises and ethics of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering. It is accompanied by the textbook *Unravelling Genes: The*

Layperson's Guide to Genetic Engineering, based on teaching material developed by Mark over the years.

Professor Mark Walker's enthusiasm and dedication for his teaching and students is evident in his use of relevant, up-to-date and in-context lectures to engage his students and facilitate their learning. He displays long-standing teaching achievements, both as an educator and an educational manager and is more than worthy of this award for outstanding contribution to teaching and learning in the Faculty of Science.

Dr Elizabeth Thomson
Faculty of Arts

Dr Elizabeth Thomson is the convenor of the Faculty of Arts Modern Languages Program, and among other publications and teaching responsibilities, was responsible for the development and publication of the CD-ROM, *Academic Writing: A Language Based Approach*.

Elizabeth has developed as a teacher who is committed to equitable education and who has a keen interest in developing explicit curricula. She has been engaged in teaching both the Japanese and ELS majors and has coordinated and taught subjects across the curriculum at 100, 200, 300 and Honours level.

Dr Elizabeth Thomson's teaching is grounded in a philosophy that locates the student as the central stakeholder in learning and through her demonstrated commitment to explicit teaching has visibly made an outstanding contribution to teaching excellence at this University.

Dr Carey Freeth, Dr Paul Nulsen and
Associate Professor Bill Zealey
Faculty of Engineering

Dr Carey Freeth, Dr Paul Nulsen and Associate Professor Bill Zealey are responsible for successfully initiating and implementing the breakthrough project: The Astronomy of the Southern Skies.

As team players they have contributed to teaching and learning at the University of Wollongong and beyond in a way that has exceeded the possibilities open to any one of them individually.

Their project, The Astronomy of the Southern Skies, encompasses a whole range of teaching innovation and is an outstanding example that stands as a model for others who strive to develop exciting, marketable, internationalised and resource-effective teaching modules.

Their project showcases international team teaching and collaboration, and all the academics involved are

enthusiastic about the subject matter and in imparting that excitement to their students.

Dr Freeth's, Dr Nulsen's and Associate Professor Zealey's innovative project and ongoing contribution to curriculum development make them most worthy recipients of this award.

Dr Anne Porter
Faculty of Informatics

Dr Anne Porter is an innovative and enthusiastic lecturer in the School of Maths and Applied Statistics and is heavily involved in Statistical Literacy. Anne has a creative and unique approach to teaching Statistics and a strong personal philosophy of teaching that is, in itself, evidence of her professional and systematic approach to teaching development.

Anne's approach to education is based on both psychological and educational principles, and underlying all her teaching is the belief in the inherent dignity of her students and the need to treat them with respect and compassion as they struggle to learn in, what is for many, an extremely difficult discipline.

Growing out of Anne's interactive, activity-based approach to teaching has been her development of materials for resources based learning. This includes subject based web sites, a teaching and learning statistics resource site, *StatRes* and multimedia clips for use within the lecture and web site medium.

Dr Anne Porter's commitment to both the discipline and teaching are inspired by her own love of teaching and fascination with seeing things from a different perspective, visibly making her a worthy recipient of this award.

Dr Jan Skillen
Learning Development

Dr Jan Skillen is a widely recognised teacher who brings expertise in the teaching of linguistics and tertiary literacy to the University of Wollongong. Jan had a key role in designing and implementing Learning Development's innovative strategy of integrating the teaching of academic skills into core curricula. This is a developmental rather than a remedial strategy that is based on the premise that all students have something to learn about the conventions and genres of the university context and of the disciplines they are entering.

The strategy not only ensures that good writing is taught and rewarded by practices within curricula but it also enhances learning and curricula in general. Dr Jan Skillen's enthusiasm and commitment to changing the way students learn about writing and her work in shaping this change make her a worthy recipient of the Academic Services Division award for outstanding contribution to teaching and learning.

Marie Lewis Citation

The Marie Lewis Award

The Marie Lewis Award is in honour of the late Marie Lewis, and recognises the achievement of a member of the general staff who is completing an undergraduate degree. Selection is based on academic performance and service to the University.

This year's recipient is:

Lorelle Pollard
Steel institute

The Marie Lewis Award has been provided in honour of the late Marie Lewis, a graduate of the University of Wollongong who worked in Student Administration from 1983 to 1997.

The prize is to recognize the achievement of a member of the general staff who is completing an undergraduate degree. To be eligible, the recipient must be a full time member of the general staff who has been enrolled in an undergraduate degree at the University of Wollongong for one or more academic years. Selection is based on academic performance and service to the University and its students.

The winner of the Marie Lewis Award for this year is Lorelle Pollard. Lorelle has been employed at the University on a full time basis since 1995 at the BHP Steel Institute as an Administration Officer. She is currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Communication Studies and Asia Pacific Studies. Lorelle's achievements have gained her a place in the top 5% of the Faculty of Arts; she was on the 2002 Dean's Merit List as well as being a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society, which is limited to the top 15% of students in the University.

Her supporter, Professor Rian Dippenaar, commented that Lorelle "has performed exceedingly well in the Institute and has made an enormous contribution to the performance of the unit. Not only has she performed very well in her academic endeavours, but her studies have enriched her intellectually and her motivation and quest for excellence have increased also".

Congratulations to Lorelle Pollard on receiving this award.

Special Awards Citation

Special Awards for Outstanding and Exceptional Achievement

Special Awards are presented to a Department or Unit of the University, selected by the Vice-Chancellor, in recognition of outstanding and exceptional achievement.

Technical Staff of the Steel City Racer Team

- **Steve Selby**
- **Ron Marshall**
- **Andrew Scobie**
- **Stuart Rodd**
- **Martin Morillas**

The Society of Automotive Engineers is a worldwide organisation, which sponsors the Formula SAE International Racing Car Design competition involving universities from all over the world. The University of Wollongong recently entered the 'Steel City Racer' in this competition and achieved outstanding success.

This success has been achieved by sustained collaborative teamwork among technical staff from the Faculty of Engineering, students, and academic staff, culminating in remarkable wins in the latest competition held at Pontiac, Detroit in May 2003. The 'Steel City Racer' won major events including Engineering Design, Endurance and Fuel Economy.

These results were achieved against world class competitors which included winners of previous Formula SAE competitions from Japan, USA and Germany. The reputation of the Wollongong effort is such that several of the students involved who have since graduated are now working for car manufacturers and with top international design consultants, providing expertise to Formula 1 and the Australian V8 Supercar series in key positions.

This team provided vital technical input with tremendous dedication. Team members have worked overnight and weekends to meet impossible deadlines and have carried out emergency repairs and modifications with great professionalism.

The team members have been generous with their own time and contributed enormously to team morale and enthusiasm. They are also an important constant link that enables teams, though made up of different students every year, to maintain a uniformly high standard.