

2006

Vice-Chancellor's Awards 2006

University of Wollongong

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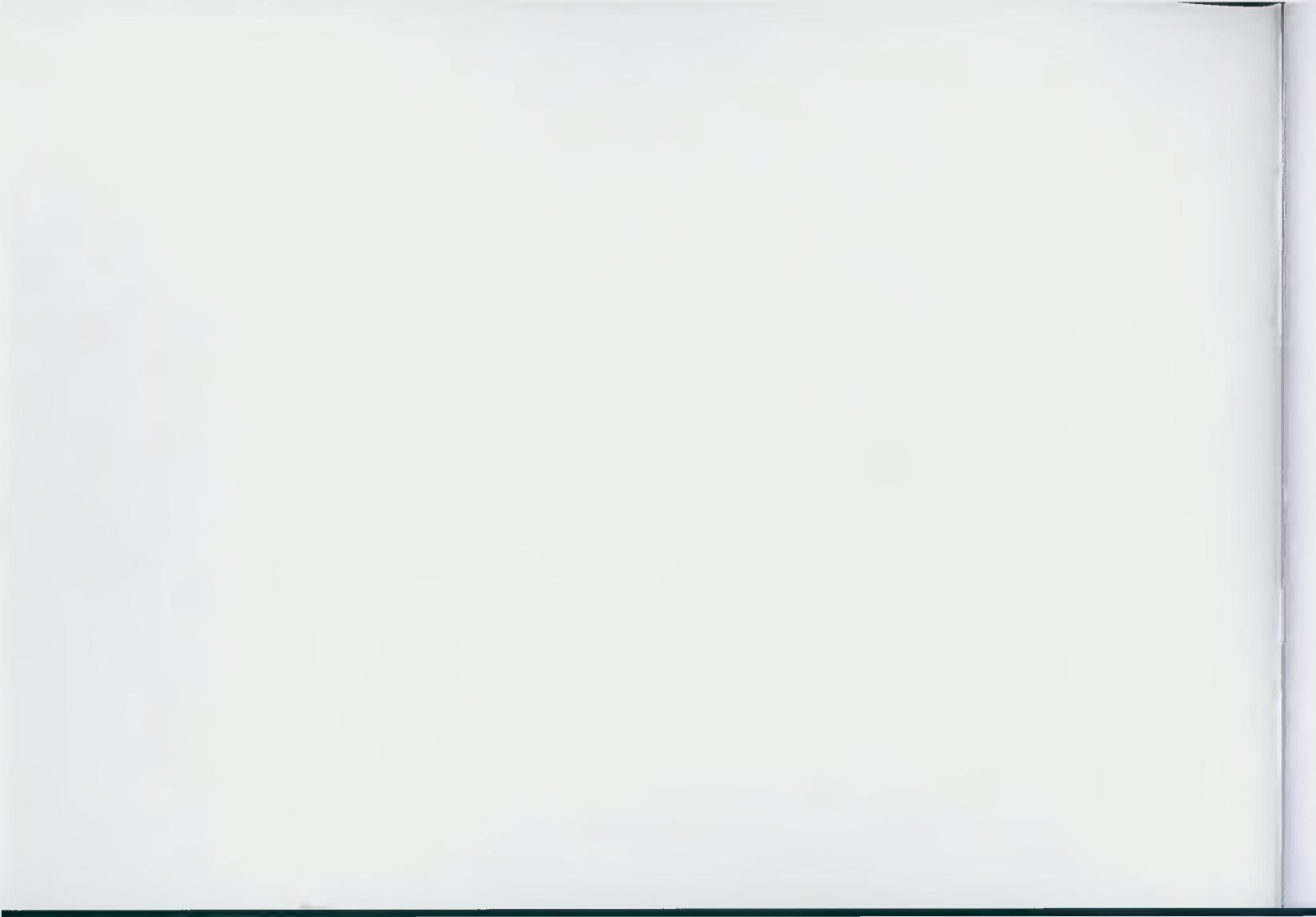


Vice-Chancellor's Awards

Vice-Chancellor's Awards



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Vice-Chancellor's Awards Ceremony

Friday 23 June, 2006

*McKinnon Building
University of Wollongong*



Program

Musical Item - Serenading Strings

Master of Ceremonies - Mr Chris Grange, Vice-Principal (Administration)

Welcome by the Vice-Chancellor - Professor Gerard Sutton

Presentation of 25 Years Service Awards

Professor John Patterson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations)

Presentation of the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Outstanding Service for General Staff

Mr Chris Grange, Vice-Principal (Administration)

Presentation of the Marie Lewis Award - Professor Don Lewis

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

Presentation of the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research Supervision

Professor Margaret Sheil, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

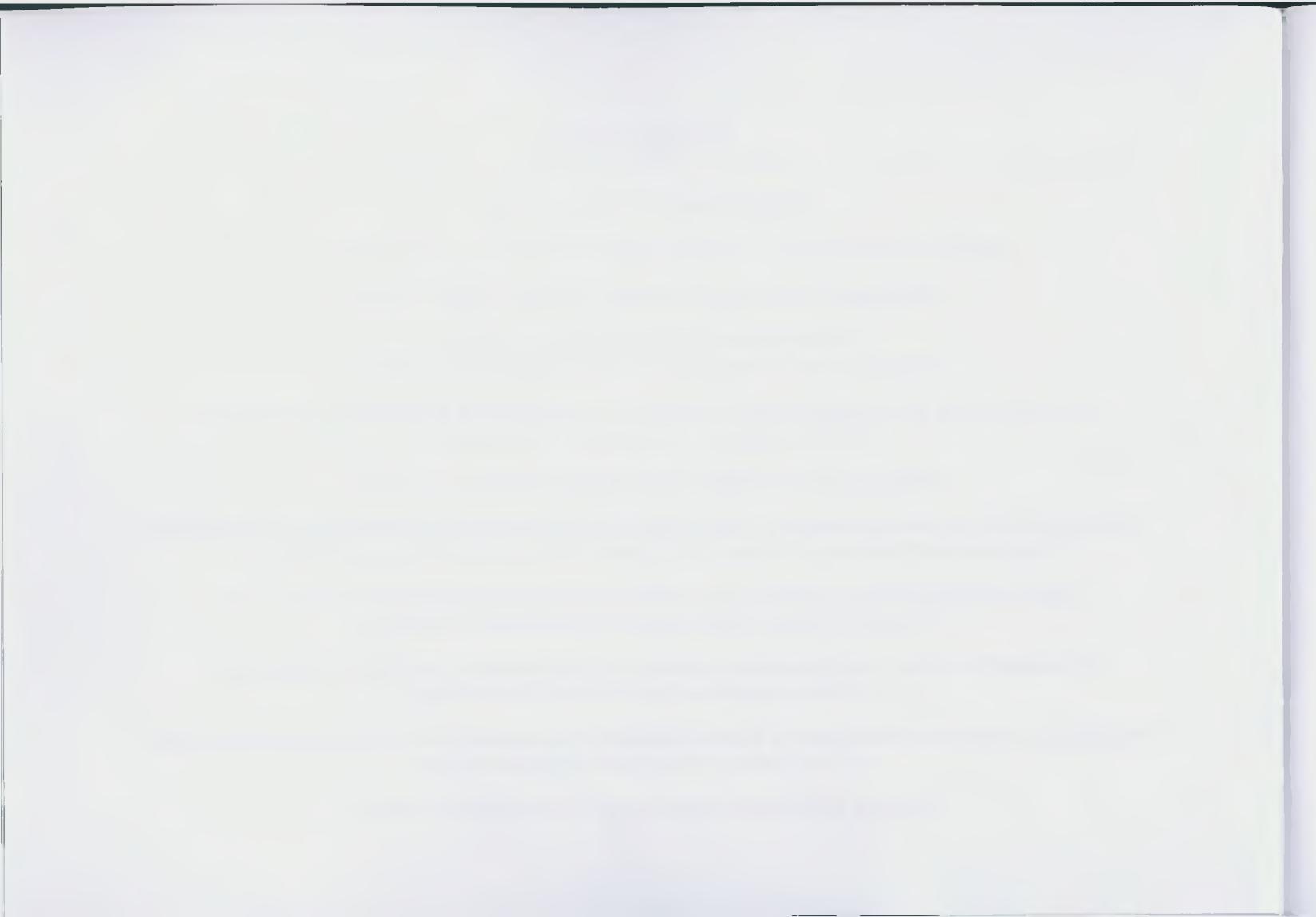
Presentation of the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Community Engagement

Mr James Langridge, Vice-Principal (International)

Presentation of the Vice-Chancellor's Special Award for Outstanding and Exceptional Achievement

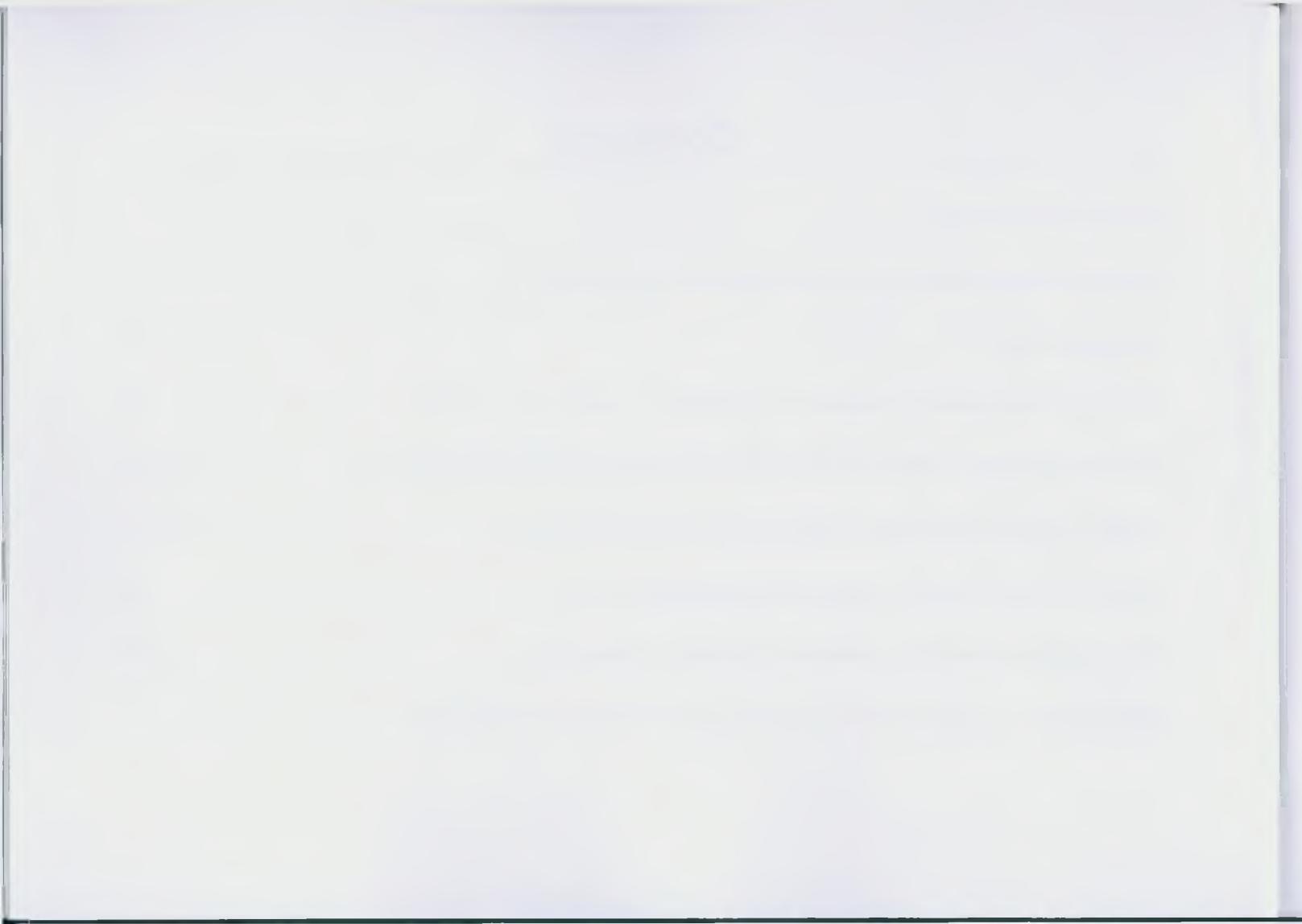
Mr Chris Grange, Vice-Principal (Administration)

Closure by the Vice-Chancellor - Professor Gerard Sutton



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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.

Associate Professor Naj Aziz Faculty of Engineering

Naj Aziz joined the University of Wollongong on the 6th of August 1981, as the first lecturer in Mining Engineering to both lecture and coordinate Mining within the Department of Civil and Mining Engineering. He is now Associate Professor at the School of Civil, Mining and Environmental Engineering.

Between 1990 and 1995, he was Deputy Director of the Key Centre for Mining, a joint initiative between the University of Wollongong and UNSW, whose objective was the provision of post graduate education, research and consulting services to the mineral industry. During that period he organised a number of short courses for the centre.

Naj's research interests include ground control in mines, mine gases, mine dust control, and rock bolting technology. He has successfully supervised more than a dozen PhD and several ME thesis projects. His research strength has attracted significant funding from

both the government and private industry, totaling well over two million dollars. He has strong ties with the industry, has published extensively and has organised various national and international conferences.

Mr Tony Cheetham Buildings & Grounds

After completing an apprenticeship with BHP, Tony Cheetham commenced employment at the Wollongong Institute of Education as the Maintenance Officer in 1981. Following the amalgamation of the Institute with UOW in 1982, Tony transferred to the UOW Maintenance Section as a carpenter and joiner.

In 1987 Tony was appointed to the position of leading hand carpenter, and in 1993 was appointed foreman of carpentry and joinery within the Maintenance Section. In 1998 a changed structure saw Tony take charge of the Joinery Section. Tony has witnessed ups and downs in this challenging role, but has been able to maintain his very positive outlook and has consistently encouraged and supported his team.

Tony's responsibility in his role, of overseeing the manufacture and installation of high quality joinery items to meet the University's major and minor building works programs, is one that is greatly appreciated and acknowledged.

Mrs Debbie Critcher
Faculty of Commerce

Debbie Critcher commenced employment on campus on 18th August, 1980 as a Stenographer in the Department of Mathematics. Following this she worked in the Department of Computer Science.

During this time Debbie developed her secretarial, technical, and administrative skills and in 1983 she was appointed Administrative Assistant in the new School of Industrial and Administrative Studies in the Faculty of Commerce. She continued this demanding work in assisting to establish a new School for five years and then transferred to the University's Equal Employment Opportunity Unit.

In 1993 she returned to the Faculty of Commerce as the Administrative Assistant in the Department of Business Systems. Despite restructuring, Debbie continues to be the Administrative Assistant for the same discipline area - in the School of Economics and Information Systems.

Throughout the 25 years Debbie has made numerous valuable contributions. Above all, she always exercises

the highest professional standards and this has earned sincere respect from all those who have worked with her.

Robyn Foster
Faculty of Arts

Robyn Foster started with the University of Wollongong as a casual employee in 1973 and was appointed to a continuing administrative role in 1981. Since 1981 Robyn has contributed to a number of units in the University of Wollongong, including the Academic Registrar's Division, Buildings & Grounds, and various Faculties.

Robyn came to the Faculty of Arts in 1996 where she is currently the Administrative Officer responsible for policy & academic staffing. Robyn's systematic and thorough approach to her work has provided Faculty staff and students with an exceptional standard of service.

During her time at the University of Wollongong Robyn has enthusiastically engaged with the many technological and organisational changes. She is well known for her memories of UOW events and is fond of recounting her many interesting and amusing experiences. Robyn is a valued and loyal colleague and a highly respected member of the Faculty and University community.

Dr Carey Freeth
Faculty of Engineering

Carey Freeth came to Wollongong from his native New Zealand holding an MSc and PhD in Solid State Spectroscopy from the University of Canterbury.

Carey's research has led to a greater understanding of the Physics of the Solid State. He pioneered piezo-Zeeman spectroscopy - a technique combining stress and magnetic fields to study semiconductors. Carey has developed innovative, laser-based, experimental techniques such as laser-modulation spectroscopy, Raman spectroscopy, and far-infrared-laser magnetospectroscopy.

Carey has taught students at all levels. His spectacular lecture demonstrations are legendary - liquid nitrogen explosion, demolition ball, bed of nails. As First-Year Laboratory coordinator he has introduced new experiments, revamped established ones, and streamlined administration. Carey's teaching prowess has been recognised with an OCTAL Award. Carey, the staff you have worked with and the myriad of students you have enlightened, salute you!

Mrs Michele Grange
Information Technology Services

Michele Grange is a Project Manager within ITS, having commenced her service to the University in the

Computer Centre as a computer trainee on a two-year fixed term appointment.

Michele epitomises the virtues of a trainee scheme, which provides bright, energetic and talented young people the opportunity to develop their potential and establish long term careers. The University, in return, is the beneficiary, especially of that prized ideal of staff loyalty which is a principal reason why the University recognises staff who have achieved 25 years of service.

Michele has established a reputation for delivering client focussed solutions with flair, professionalism and commitment, and she certainly brings a very human face to the delivery of a broad range of IT services.

She is a constant reminder of the mutual benefit gained by the University continuing to strive for thoughtful, fair and appropriate staffing policies which attract, develop and retain such consummate professionals as Michele. By any measure, Michele has provided the University with an outstanding return on its original investment.

Paul Manning
University Recreation and Aquatic Centre

Paul Manning began work at the University in April 1981. His role was varied and challenging, organising bands, political speakers and the odd social sporting event. After three years of canoe trips, ski trips and various scuba diving adventures, all in the name of

work, he became the first Executive Director of the Sports Association, and thus began the whirlwind of building projects and other programs that have seen the development of the Recreation and Aquatic Centre. Paul has been instrumental in talking various Vice-Chancellors out of enough money to create one of the best and most cost-effective, multi-purpose recreation centres at any university in Australia.

While studying for his MBA, Paul served two consecutive terms on University Council in 1985-89, and was a member of the Planning and Development Committee and Student Appeals Sub-committee. Paul has also had an impact nationally and internationally, serving on various committees, boards and forums, the highlight being his selection in the chef de mission role for the Australian team to the 1999 and 2001 World University Games.

Paul's strengths are his vision, flexibility, good humour and tenacity, although the general feeling on campus over all of his time here is that he enjoys his job far too much!

Mrs Annette Mason Information Technology Services

Annette Mason talks with everybody in the University ... everybody who uses a telephone that is. For nearly two decades she has been part of the team that answers the University's telephone number. We still call it the

"switchboard," though the technology has changed quite a bit since Annette started here.

Annette is well suited to her job. She is customer-focussed, tolerant, attentive to detail, modest, good with numbers (as you would expect), and she enjoys a good laugh when it's available too. It's not an easy job because it is such a public role. There are disgruntled students and parents, undecipherable dialects and misinformation. Fortunately, bomb threats are much less frequent nowadays.

Annette has a comprehensive knowledge of the organisation in order to direct calls to the appropriate persons. She probably knows more about all of us than we are aware!

Mr Michael Milway Faculty of Informatics

Michael Milway has excelled in learning new technology over 25 years of exponential development in computer systems, where he feels that 'you have to run as fast as you can just to stay still'. He started as a Professional Officer responsible for the design and maintenance of computer teaching and research hardware. In this capacity, he has designed and built five generations of microcomputer laboratory teaching systems. In collaboration with academic staff he has published several journal papers on the design of computer hardware systems.

Michael has extended his expertise to software, including the maintenance of large networked laboratories. He worked in cooperation with Information Technology Services on the development of campus networking services for the School of Information Technology and Computer Science. In this capacity he is responsible for the operation and maintenance of a large Windows domain. He has risen to the position of team leader of the technical support staff in the School.

Dr Anne Porter
Faculty of Informatics

Anne Porter studied at UOW from 1972 to 2001, when she completed her PhD on Statistical Education, with a sub-theme of drawing cartoons of one of her supervisors.

Matters other than study entered her life: work and motherhood in particular. Anne juggled multiple responsibilities and passions in academic support roles in Psychology, the Faculty of Health and the Computer Centre, and as an academic in Learning Development. Since moving to her current position, Anne's career has blossomed, with Dean's and VC's teaching awards in 1998 and 2003 respectively, and promotion to Senior Lecturer in 2000. Her continuing joys include teaching first year statistics students and leading a faculty working party, QUALITY101, in pursuit of improved learning outcomes.

Anne campaigned for many years for childcare on campus, and was a former President of the Union Board of Management. She is an active member of numerous committees, including the University Senate and Education Committee.

Trish Tindall
UniAdvice

Trish Tindall started work at the Wollongong Institute of Education in 1980, and then transferred to the University in the pre-amalgamation days. From the beginning Trish was well organised, committed to achieving the highest standards in her work, and capable of making a distinctively personal contribution to the UOW of the future.

Trish made significant contributions to the early years of UOW as Faculty Officer for Arts & Social Sciences, followed by a period of writing policy documents as a member of the Planning and Development team, before returning to Student Administration. Her impressive skills and personable approach to people made her an obvious choice to be part of the initial International Office team which pioneered the distinctively Australian contribution to the field of Study Abroad, both in the USA and Europe. Her transition over recent years into the broader field of international relations has seen Trish making an even greater mark in the development of UOW's international reputation.

Dr Ted Booth
Faculty of Education

Ted Booth commenced employment with the Wollongong Institute of Education as an academic in 1981 after a distinguished teaching career and then working at the University of the South Pacific. Following the Institute's amalgamation with the University in 1982, Ted transferred to the Faculty of Education, together with most academics from the Institute.

During his 25 years of service to the University Ted has made a strong and sustained contribution to the Faculty and to education, both in this State and internationally, through his teaching, post-graduate supervision, work with local schools and overseas practicum and consultancies. He has been a leader in curriculum development within the Faculty during this time as well as taking an active interest in the well being of his colleagues through his work in the positions of secretary and president of the academic union.

Mrs Anne Brown
Library

Anne Brown commenced employment at the Wollongong Institute of Education as a Library Assistant in 1981. Following its amalgamation with the University in 1982, Anne transferred to the University Library where she has undertaken a range of duties including lending services, journals services and assisting clients

to locate information. Currently Anne is employed as a Collection Services Officer placing orders for new items for the collection and cataloguing them upon receipt.

During her 25 years of service Anne has been part of many changes that have occurred within the Library. Anne finds the University a great place to work and particularly enjoys interacting with other staff and students. She has found that changes over the years have kept her interested and challenged.

Bernadette Stephens
Library

Bernadette Stephens started work at the Institute of Education Library in 1981 as a Library Officer. In 1982 Bernadette transferred to the University Library when the Institute amalgamated with the University.

Bernadette has contributed in many areas within the Library, working in Lending Services, Acquisitions, Document Delivery and Reference. In 1995, she was awarded the *Rita Rando Merit Award* for her work assisting in the implementation of the automated Acquisitions System. Bernadette has developed her skills and talent through ongoing study. She has completed the Library Technicians Certificate, Bachelor of Arts (Library and Information Science) and will soon complete her Masters of Applied Science (Library and Information Management).

Bernadette's current role is the Faculty Librarian (Wollongong University College). Her patience, the enjoyment she receives from interacting with students from different cultures and her determination to make a positive difference to all her customers makes her a very valued member of the Library team.

Dr Peter Wypych
Faculty of Engineering

In 1981, Peter Wypych was responsible for initiating multi-phase flow research at the University of Wollongong. This effort was successful and resulted in the development of several other major research facilities and projects.

During his time at the University, Peter has been the Chief Investigator of 15 major government/industry research projects, totalling more than \$4 million.

Other major achievements have included: Director of an ARC-funded Key Centre; General Manager of Bulk Materials Engineering Australia; completion of over 240 journal and conference publications, and over 400 industrial projects around Australia and in the USA, Hong Kong, New Zealand, China, Singapore and Korea; Chair of the Australian Society for Bulk Solids Handling, Institution of Engineers Australia.

He is continuing his close relationship with industry and has been expanding his research activities into new important areas, such as dust generation and emission control technology, as well as new computer simulation modelling of industrial processes.

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 exceptional success, given outstanding service and/or shown recognised initiative in their work.

This year's recipients are:

Steve Cooper and Geoff Hurt Science Faculty Workshop

Steve Cooper and Geoff Hurt receive this team award for their innovative and high quality design and construction work for research and teaching projects. Their small unit has provided workshop support right across the Science Faculty and for a range of others in the University.

All the nominators and supporters of Steve's and Geoff's award highlighted their extraordinary skills in problem-solving, their wide range of technical skills and their focus on customer service.

Their approach might be termed 'case management', because they contribute to every stage of a project: from identifying the problem to be solved, through

refining the initial ideas, creating the design and developing prototypes, to the delivery of the final product.

One good example was their solution to the design and construction of force platforms for the Biomechanics laboratory. According to the lab leader, this was a problem that had confounded external consulting engineers but Steve and Geoff came up with a response "... then and there, with an amazingly simple and cost-effective solution."

As another example, Steve and Geoff designed and built a system for measuring metabolic rates of animals, which included a fail-safe oxygen delivery system. This elegant, innovative and simple solution is being prepared for publication so that other researchers worldwide can benefit from their design.

In all, Steve and Geoff combine high level skills, outstanding customer service, lateral thinking and innovative problem solving to the benefit of the Science Faculty and the wider University.

Chris Hadley
Academic Registrar's Division

Chris Hadley receives this award for unflinching outstanding service to UOW and its students. He is known as a consummate professional in all areas of his work. Chris' dedication to his role has been influential in a number of areas including enrolments and orientation, support of all UOW campuses and access centres and advising staff and students on a range of student-related matters.

Chris' work ethic and consideration for individual students during the stressful acceptance and enrolment process helps to define UOW's reputation as an innovative, personable and flexible institution in the eyes of the public. Through his thorough knowledge of the Universities Admissions Centre process, Chris has been able to maximise UOW enrolments which translates into increased income for the University.

One of his supporters says, "I believe Chris was a primary contributor to the University achieving its enrolment targets and the associated funding without sacrificing standards or the quality of programs that are

essential to the reputation and livelihood of the University of Wollongong."

Chris has performed beyond the expectations of his role for almost 20 years and, in doing so, has significantly enhanced the quality of the ARD and the University as a whole.

Owen McKerrow
Faculty of Education

Owen receives his award for planning and leading the technical development and implementation of a web-based information management system within the Faculty of Education. The system manages all the publications produced within the faculty as well as the profiles of individual staff and research centres.

Throughout the project Owen worked closely with academic and support staff as well as software and graphic designers to produce a system that meets a diverse range of needs. Owen's drive to make the system as efficient and responsive as possible saw the emergence of extra benefits such as automated CV creation with flexible inclusion of publications and citation styles and the dynamic generation of staff profile pages. The system facilitates the verification of publication details, the allocation of associated workload points and the generation of publication reports for individuals, research centres and the entire faculty.

The benefits of this system for the faculty are numerous but clearly the system enables the faculty and its staff to present a current staffing and publications profile of themselves with a flexible, time-saving means of keeping this up-to-date. These benefits have been recognised as being applicable to the wider University and Owen is currently leading a team of developers to extend this across the University.

**Victor Ossington and Gloria Wood
Administration of Learning Management System**

Victor Ossington and Gloria Wood receive this award because of their outstanding support for the implementation and operation of the WebCT Learning Management Systems within the University. Their contribution and dedication to this task spans several years, and two major versions of this system. It has been a key factor in ensuring that the University enjoys the benefits of a fully supported and effective Learning Management System.

Gloria's and Victor's on-going support for these systems is highly commendable. However, the commitment and dedication exhibited during the implementation of the latest version of WebCT Vista is particularly noteworthy. Their activities over the past eighteen months have ensured that deployment of Vista occurred with minimum disruption, resulted in vastly improved outcomes for the University, and was completed on time and inside budget. Their team approach has

yielded numerous innovative solutions that have greatly improved and continue to benefit support, administration, management and reporting aspects of the system.

The outcomes achieved by Victor and Gloria clearly demonstrate the value of close collaboration between different units within the University. In this case, Gloria's extensive operational knowledge and understanding of learning management requirements combined perfectly with Victor's technical knowledge to produce a particularly valuable outcome. Their team effort has significantly benefited the University, its students, and its staff.

**Eve Steinke
Research Services Office**

Eve Steinke receives her award for her contribution to research ethics management at UOW. Since taking up the role of Ethics Officer, Eve has overseen a number of significant changes to the ethics portfolio.

In April 2004, Eve developed a *Research Ethics Strategic Plan* recommending a new administrative structure to deal with the increasing research ethics workload and improve quality of work. As a result, much needed resources were allocated to the ethics area, and Eve now heads a team of 3 officers who provide high quality support for gene technology, animal and human research ethics at the University and AHS.

Eve coordinated a *Review of the Ethics Portfolio* in 2004. The Review made recommendations on the ethics structure, including options to reduce the workload of the Human Research Ethics Committee. Changes from the Review have major impacts. Two new committees were established: a Humanities, Social Science and Behavioural Committee and a Health and Medical Committee. Researchers submitting applications can now expect a faster turnaround time, Committee members have more administrative support and the University, AHS and community now have greater confidence in the review process.

Eve's innovative management approach has entirely transformed the fundamental components of research ethics infrastructure to the benefit of researchers at the University and AHS.

Glenn Winter UniCentre

When contemplating outstanding service at the University of Wollongong, Glenn Winter immediately springs to mind.

Of course, as the UniCentre's Hospitality Operations Supervisor, service is Glenn's business. However, it is the manner in which Glenn performs his duties that qualifies him for an Award for Outstanding Service. Glenn is always prepared to go well above and beyond

the call of duty, ensuring the UniCentre and the University enjoy an excellent reputation for the standard of functions.

Glenn is at the front-line of customer service, supervising a vast array of events and functions across the campus and locations. These range from formal dinners, luncheons and cocktail parties to hosting visiting delegations and taking care of seminars, conferences and building openings. Guest numbers can range from a handful to 1000 or more.

Glenn is the ultimate professional. He is never fazed by the challenges that such events present, even when he is supervising multiple functions being held simultaneously across the campus. On one memorable occasion he arrived at an off-campus function for 200 guests to discover that the pastry chef had gone home sick. Glenn immediately donned an apron and started cooking and glazing pastries, before serving a lavish afternoon tea to the guests.

Glenn is a wonderful asset for the University, and a most worthy recipient of this award.

Marie Lewis Citation

The Marie Lewis Award

The Marie Lewis Award has been provided in honour of Marie Lewis, a graduate of the University of Wollongong who worked in Student Administration from 1983 to 1997. The prize is to recognise the achievement of a member of the non-academic general staff of the University who is completing a degree and who has been enrolled at the University of Wollongong for at least one academic year. Selection is based on academic performance and service to the University and its students.

This year's recipient is:

Deb Neich UniAdvice

The winner of the Marie Lewis Prize for 2006 is Deb Neich. For the last four years Deb has worked in Domestic Recruitment in UniAdvice as the Southern Sydney Recruitment Co-ordinator. She is currently completing the penultimate subject of a Master of Strategic Marketing with a Distinction average.

One of her supporters commented that "during Deb's time in this role, overall market share of Sutherland Shire school leaver first preferences in 2004 climbed from 31.3% to 47%. Deb continually displays an exceptional level of performance and commitment to

her role. I have only ever known her to give 110% to anything she does at the University." Another supporter noted that "Deb Neich has made an outstanding contribution to the University of Wollongong and its students".

In addition to her outstanding academic results and her exceptional performance in her role as the Southern Sydney Recruitment Co-ordinator, Deb has made significant contributions in assisting the Alumni Office, many of her fellow students throughout her course of study, and also the Faculties of the University of Wollongong.

Outstanding Contribution Citations

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

The OCTAL Award recipient is 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:

Ms Judith Marychurch Faculty of Law

Ms Judith Marychurch has been a tertiary teacher since 1996. She has made important and innovative contributions to the learning and teaching of students in law and legal studies programs. Her student-centred approach to course design, teaching, assessment and student care has enhanced the learning experience of students enrolled in her subjects, instilled an enthusiasm for learning and assisted students to prepare for the intellectual and applied challenges they will face in their future professional lives.

To this end Judith has designed and implemented innovative assessment tasks that challenge students to develop professional skills as well as address the subject content.

She led the design and implementation of innovative assessment tasks in *LLB301 Evidence*. Through their participation in moot *voir dire* hearings, students are challenged to apply their knowledge of law to develop and present oral arguments in a public forum that replicates an authentic legal environment. She has also led the design and implementation of a cross-disciplinary witness examination assessment, jointly with the Master of Forensic Accounting (*MFA*). *LLB301* students act as legal counsel, examining and cross-examining *MFA* students acting as expert witnesses. Students gain a unique perspective of courtroom processes through interacting with students on the 'opposite' side of the examination process.

Judith developed and implemented an integrated learning package for students of *LAW302 Law of Business Organisations*. Together with her enthusiastic

teaching and a passion for helping students learn, this has consistently improved student satisfaction levels since 2000. Students appreciate the relevance of the subject to their professional lives, and their learning is enhanced and deepened as a result.

The recipient of the Early Career Academic Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning is:

**Dr Julie Kiggins
Faculty of Education**

Dr Julie Kiggins has been involved since 1998 in the Knowledge Building Community (KBC) Program, an integrated teaching model that has a problem-based curriculum. She has worked hard to promote student centred learning in a curriculum that encourages students to take responsibility for their learning through collaboration, reflection and problem-based learning.

Students respond strongly to Julie's teaching style that provides opportunities for them to develop the friendship and trust needed to develop responsibility and confidence when critically examining their own and each other's ideas.

Students are also enthusiastic about innovations such as learning about literacy, by helping students who are experiencing reading difficulties. She is a supervisor of many successful Honours students.

Julie is open to student needs and feedback about their learning. She has recently revised the major assessment task in the second year of the KBC Program in response to that feedback. The result has been that the students are openly stating an increase in their knowledge, professionalism and classroom readiness. Julie herself is active in professional activities and has linked her research to her teaching practice.

The recipients of Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning are:

**Dr Mario Fernando
Faculty of Commerce**

Dr Mario Fernando is a lecturer within the School of Management and Marketing. Mario believes that learning is a process of discovery and his role as a tertiary teacher is to act as a catalyst for discovery. When provided with favourable learning conditions, most students become intrinsically motivated to learn on their own. All aspects of Mario's teaching are supportive of these beliefs.

Mario adopts a student-centred approach to promote active learning. He believes that students should be evaluated from a variety of sources. He uses written assignments, class participation, group projects, term papers, and examinations in some combination. He has

experimented with using a mix of individual work and teamwork.

Throughout his teaching career, Mario has demonstrated that teaching is a privileged position that demands humility as much as respect. Students appreciate his willingness to thoroughly explain complex or abstract matters in a down-to-earth style. Mario is self-reflective about his actions and is mindful of his position as a role model among his students.

Dr Deslea Konza
Faculty of Education

Dr Deslea Konza has spent 17 years at the University of Wollongong sharing her passion for teaching and her vision of excellence when teaching all special needs students.

She has demonstrated her long-term commitment to teaching and to special needs students through classroom teaching, the development of professional development modules for practicing teachers, research, writing textbooks that have been adopted in ten universities and many enrichment programs for student teachers.

Deslea believes that it is her responsibility to develop in graduating teachers an understanding of the basic right of every child to an education and the responsibility of every teacher to teach *all* students in the class, and not

simply to 'teach to the middle'. Her students appreciate her commitment to helping students focus on the key points and the way that assessments suit different learning styles and make students think more deeply about the content.

Deslea has recently become Director of the Primary Program. She has developed the framework for a major review and has led the review. The review represents a complete redevelopment of the Faculty offerings to address new mandatory requirements from the DET and integration of teaching standards as required for accreditation by the NSW Institute for Teachers.

Dr Brett Lemass
Faculty of Engineering

Dr Brett Lemass is a Senior Lecturer in Engineering and is a past OCTAL winner. His practical background in design and project management, his applied research, and his ability to motivate and effectively teach students have made him a valued member of the Engineering staff since 1999.

Since his previous OCTAL award Brett has written two practical books on design to serve the needs of students within and beyond his classroom and industry professionals. The books, *Structured Conceptual Design: the New Frontier* and *Fundamental Structural Analysis for Design* (written with Anne Gardner, UTS)

aim to ignite a passion for design and to provide the necessary foundation upon which the advanced principles of limit state design and structural analysis modelling of indeterminate structures can be based. Both books have been warmly received as a necessary contribution to teaching resources by teaching staff at other universities.

Brett has worked with the Engineering Faculty Education Committee to improve the competency level of graduates. He has been a driving force in overhauling the management stream and revised ENGG361 to align the UOW graduate attributes with the formal competency expectations of international and domestic certifying authorities that provide a framework for engineering education.

Ms Deirdre McGhee
Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

Deirdre McGhee is a part-time academic and accredited sports physiotherapist. Her strength is her background as both a teacher and a practicing clinician, which has given her an understanding of the structure and dynamics of the rehabilitation workplace, and allowed her to design subjects that are structured and taught to provide students with vital clinical skills necessary for the workplace.

Deirdre's vast experience enables her to think like a clinician and know what students need to thrive in a real

work environment, as well as understand the skills and knowledge that students need to assess and treat a patient. She has redesigned a sequence of subjects to provide theoretical knowledge and practical hands-on examples drawn from her clinical practice.

She takes her role as a teacher very seriously and puts her heart and soul into it. She believes that the ability to think critically and the desire to learn should never leave anyone, even once they have physically left university. This is how she inspires her students and prepares them with the abilities they need to be useful and active members of the rehabilitation profession.

As a teacher Deirdre is able to inspire her students so that they graduate with a continual desire to learn, an ability to think, and an ability to work as a proactive member of the rehabilitation team in the real world.

Associate Professor Kenneth Russell
Faculty of Informatics

Associate Professor Ken Russell is a statistician who has taught at the University of Wollongong since 1989 after working in the Victorian public service and at several universities. Ken enjoys teaching and finds the walk to the classroom an opportunity to leave other cares behind in order to concentrate on his communication with students.

Ken has taught many service subjects and rises to the challenge of convincing students why a subject is required through his choice of demonstrations that are clear and understandable. In his mainstream statistics subjects, Ken is motivated by students who suddenly realise that statistics is fun or useful. At the upper level he teaches students how to design and analyse statistical problems with a focus on teamwork and critical thinking.

In addition to teaching, Ken makes a contribution to high quality research through his work in statistical consulting. He assists staff and postgraduates from other faculties who are often very anxious about statistics.

He is careful to use language and concepts consistent with his client's background knowledge. Ken is the mainstay of the Statistical Consulting Service, having alone contributed half of the total hours with clients during 2005.

Dr Wendy Russell
Faculty of Science

Dr Wendy Russell has been a lecturer of Biology and Biochemistry for ten years. Her work in the teaching and learning area ranges from innovations in the design and delivery of courses, to collaborations with other educational specialists and staff in developing new materials and innovative teaching approaches, to

research conducted into Faculty and University wide initiatives. In the course of this development work, she has presented to University, National and International forums, won an Australian College of Education award and published several refereed articles.

Wendy's efforts are driven by a desire to constantly improve as a teacher, to create a nourishing learning environment for students to learn and grow personally, and to promote teaching practice and innovation as scholarly activities as significant in universities as research. Wendy's work is also influenced by the contributions that she perceives universities should make in contemporary society, to solving problems and contributing to social development and democracy, and in providing graduates who can do the same.

The foundation of Wendy's teaching is a deep respect for all students and a belief in their (sometimes latent) potential, and a mission to support their learning and their growth. She believes that a learning environment where all students can reach their potential is more valuable than an environment in which only a few will.

Dr Colleen McGloin
Academic Services Division

Dr Colleen McGloin is an early career academic who has made a considerable contribution to teaching and learning in the discipline of Aboriginal Studies.

Her teaching practice reflects a strong commitment to student learning. She maintains enthusiasm for teaching by keeping abreast of new developments in Aboriginal Studies and incorporating these into the core subjects that she has redesigned. The subjects are designed to develop high level critical thinking, independent and group learning and academic writing skills. They reflect the promotion of Indigenous education as specified in the Woolyungah Indigenous Centre's vision statement and the University's official reconciliation statement. Colleen's innovations include new and more contemporary subject matter, redesigned assessments and enjoyable learning experiences.

Colleen plays a significant role in mentoring students from equity groups, in particular, formal mentoring support for Aboriginal students. Colleen's teaching covers a broad cross section of students, domestic and study abroad, both in Wollongong and at the University Access Centres. She continues to seek new and innovative ways of delivering Aboriginal Studies subjects to this broad and diverse student body.

Excellence in Research Supervision Citation

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research Supervision

Nominations are received from higher degree research students and the award recognises on-going commitment, dedication, and successful research student supervision.

Associate Professor Beverly Derewianka Faculty of Education

Associate Professor Beverly Derewianka has been awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research Supervision for 2005 for her exemplary support and guidance of her research students.

Bev has attracted a substantial group of international and Australian research students to the TESOL research program, primarily through their introduction to her research during the coursework Masters. Over the last five years she has been a supervisor of up to sixteen students at any one time. Bev has managed this considerable load by encouraging her students to form a collegial group of TESOL research students, resulting in an environment in which research flourishes.

Her students speak particularly about her welcoming them as important members of the Centre for Language

and Literacy community. She makes them feel that their work contributes to this community and to the field of language research generally. One student says, "she makes me believe I am one of the centres of her work". The students who nominated Bev point to examples like midnight emails suggesting ideas and thoughts, or useful articles, websites and seminar notifications sent between meetings. Despite her many commitments she meets regularly with each student and they never feel that they are far from her thoughts. She inspires her students to do their best work through her own example.

Her students also point to her support for their personal and research problems and to social gatherings in her home, both of which are important for her international students who face many challenges when undertaking research in Australia. Their nomination of A/Prof Derewianka for this award has been one way they can express their deep gratitude for her thoughtfulness.

Excellence in Community Engagement Citation

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Community Engagement

Community engagement is considered to be an integral part of the work of the University across all levels. Indeed, community collaboration and service is enshrined as one of the University's core values in the University's Strategic Plan.

Owen Curtis **Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences**

Owen Curtis receives this inaugural award for his significant and sustained contribution to community engagement over a 15 year period. He has developed what has been referred to as a "living laboratory" for staff and students in the School of Health Sciences which has brought mutual benefits to the University and the community.

Owen has established many connections within the Illawarra region and beyond. These connections, involving a wide range of exercise intervention and rehabilitation programs, have resulted in increased health and wellbeing for indigenous populations and the elderly in particular, and have helped to ensure that the University of Wollongong's graduates are skilled, competent and responsive to local needs and issues.

Some of Owen's other contributions to the community include the introduction of an exercise intervention program at Port Kembla Hospital; development of the Exercise Science and Rehabilitation Clinic which provides the community with access to University staff and student skills; development of the Workfit Model at the Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital; development of Self Management Education Camps for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with diabetes and delivery of the exercise component of the Care for the Carers Program sponsored through NSW Health.

Finally, as a testimony to his community engagement, Owen has been able to attract grants and scholarships from community groups and foundations to support student involvement in these programs over many years.

Special Award Citation

The Vice-Chancellor's Special Award for Outstanding and Exceptional Achievement

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

Heidi De Coster Public Affairs

Tonight we honour a person who can only be described as an institutional treasure. Heidi De Coster began in a full-time capacity at the University of Wollongong in July 1983. Over the next 13 years she undertook various executive support and coordination roles. In 1996 she stepped into her current position as Protocol Officer for the University.

This position has seen her manage strategic top level visits to the University; organise building, campus and research centre openings and events, as well as provide protocol guidance to the university community and general community including advice on events planning, itineraries, cultural, religious and political sensitivities.

The role has also seen her write and coordinate successful funding submissions to Federal and State

Governments, industry and corporations (including international corporations).

She has organised over 500 high profile visits and events ranging in size from a handful of participants to 4,000 participants. These have included national and international conferences; higher education Executive Training Programs; Vice-Regal visits; Diplomatic Corps visits; and visits by Prime Ministers, Ministers, CEOs and Royalty. She has also administered the Young Environment Envoys Program. In fact, in one year she organised 128 visits alone. Many of the visits she has organised have resulted in agreements with some of our highly valued international university partners.

Her corporate knowledge is simply unrivalled. She is generous with that knowledge and expertise and has acted as wise counsel to many. Heidi has wonderful interpersonal skills and is highly respected – to reiterate, she is our institutional treasure.





