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University of Wollongong



Vice-Chancellor's Awards



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Vice-Chancellor's Awards Ceremony

Friday 20 April, 2007

*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 Awards and Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning – Professor Rob Castle, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International)

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

Professor Lee Astheimer, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)

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

Professor Rob Castle, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International)

Commendation to the staff of the Graduate School of Medicine

Professor John Patterson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations)

Closure by the Vice-Chancellor - Professor Gerard Sutton



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MEMORANDUM

TO : [Illegible]

FROM : [Illegible]

SUBJECT : [Illegible]

[Illegible text follows, consisting of several paragraphs of faint, unreadable text.]

25 Years Service Citations

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

Christopher Cook **Faculty of Engineering**

In 1982, Chris Cook set the scene for his subsequent career at the University. He arranged for the loan of a substantial Industrial Robot to be placed in Crown Central shopping centre for public promotion of the University, the Profession of Engineering, and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Chris is known for his ability to transfer University research and technology into the community. This is demonstrated by his pivotal roles in gaining Industry and Government funding to build several major initiatives. For example, the Automation and Engineering Applications Centre to which he was appointed Managing Director in 1985; the Industrial Automation Research Program – now the Engineering Manufacturing Research Strength; the Energy Efficient

Research Centre - now the Integral Energy Power Quality and Reliability Centre; the Australian Training School for Advanced Manufacturing, which involved TAFE, industry and union partnerships; and his role in ensuring the University was, for 13 years, a leading member of the CRC for Manufacturing.

During his time at Wollongong, Chris has been sentenced to three terms as Head of Electrical and Computer Engineering and two terms as Dean of Engineering. He was not allowed to serve any of these sentences concurrently and got no time off for good behaviour. Despite this, he has successfully juggled the sometimes competing demands of staff, students and industry to help build UOW's strengths in engineering. Today, as the Dean of Engineering, he continues to enjoy his roles as engineer, public relations officer, manager, educator, researcher, and builder.

Des Jamieson
Faculty of Engineering

Des Jamieson has actually been associated with the University of Wollongong for the past 37 years. He started his undergraduate degree in 1970. During his student years he was involved with the Student Representative Council, holding various positions including President. He helped in the formative years of UniMovies and held elected student positions on the UniCentre Board.

Des commenced part-time tutoring in Computing Science and research projects in Engineering and Mathematics. His first fulltime position was with the Computer Centre, programming for the Engineering, Science and Mathematics faculties. He joined Engineering in the late eighties. During his working years he continued his association with the UniCentre Board as a Council appointed member and other positions as a committee member of the CPSU and Staff Club.

Des is Supervisor of the Engineering IT team which is responsible for a large Windows Domain, many software applications and computers used for research, covering laboratories and users in nine different buildings.

Ellen Manning
Personnel Services Division

Ellen Manning joined the University in 1982 after completing a Bachelor of Science here and has been an important member of the Department of Chemistry for the vast majority of her 25 years at UOW. During her time in Chemistry, as a technical and later a professional officer, Ellen made substantial and sustained contributions to teaching and research support and completed a Bachelor of Computer Science in 1995.

In particular, Ellen did an outstanding job providing IT and instrument support and made enormous contributions to OH&S in Chemistry at a time of rapid change. In all her work Ellen has shown a very high level of dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm. Ellen has contributed in many other areas and played a major role in the social life of the Department.

It was a sad day when Ellen left to join the OH&S Unit in 2005 – Chemistry's loss was definitely their gain. In this new role as OH&S Coordinator for both Engineering and Science, Ellen has made great inroads in assisting both faculties to implement the OH&S management system to

make UOW a safer place to work and study. Ellen frequently visits Chemistry where she will always be considered to be a "part of the Chemistry family".

Dr Ian Piper
Faculty of Informatics

Ian Piper is unusual in that he has contributed to the University as a member of both technical and academic staff. He commenced employment in 1977 as a Research Programmer in the University Computer Centre. The Centre has since become ITS and has changed dramatically.

Ian was very involved in providing user support for programmers working on many projects in the faculties. In particular he was the first Head of the Software Support group.

In 1997 Ian left the University to serve as Director and Head of research and development for a large Internet Service Provider. After four years of exciting times there he returned to the University as an academic doing teaching and research in Computer Science. Ian's extensive practical and business experience has been invaluable to the School. In particular a whole host of students from

first year to postgraduate researchers are grateful for the help and advice provided by Ian.

Many projects worked on by Ian have at various times been a central part of University life. Some of these have been the University Plot Package (with Peter Castle), the University-wide document processing system, the first successful automated library system (called PALS) and the University's Security Policy and Procedures.

In recent times Ian championed and developed a curriculum review of the core degrees in Computer Science which resulted in a degree which uses the current best practice and has the flexibility to move with the rapidly changing scene.

Nicola Ronan
Faculty of Health & Behavioural Science

Nicola Ronan's period in the School of Psychology spans the time from when she was a tutor in a small new department, to her lecturing position in the large, thriving, teaching and research school that it is now.

For generations of Psychology students, Nicky has been one of the first and most important

Psychology lecturers they meet and she has patiently guided them through their early years, shaping their choices, advising on courses and helping them out of trouble. In spite of the increasing demands on lecturers' time, she has always managed to keep her door open to interested students, talking through their burgeoning ideas about the discipline and supervising their research.

Equally important has been Nicky's contribution to that part of the work that the students do not see: preparing materials; keeping up with the technical changes in teaching; organising courses; participating in discussions about policy and direction and quietly contributing to the functioning, growth and esprit of the School for 25 years.

Professor Kiet Tieu
Faculty of Engineering

Professor Kiet Tieu has made a very significant contribution to the Faculty of Engineering and the discipline of Mechanical Engineering over the past 25 years. He is best known for his world class research program in rolling mill technology and metal forming. He has worked tirelessly to build

strong research collaborations with both local industries and research groups from overseas. Kiet has also played a pivotal role in the governance of the Faculty of Engineering over many years, most recently in his role as Head of School of Mechanical, Materials and Mechatronic Engineering.

Kiet has an extremely wide range of knowledge and experience from both industry and academic research/teaching, which he has used to foster a supportive relationship with all academic staff and students in his School. Kiet's commitment to the University is exemplified by the fact that, despite his significant leadership and administrative commitments, he has maintained formidable research productivity publishing over 189 refereed journal and conference papers over the past five years.

Professor Rob Whelan
Faculty of Science

When Rob was appointed as Lecturer in Biological Sciences, it was clear that he approached research in a creative and analytical manner and showed a flair for lateral thinking. For example, Rob and co-researchers refuted the

ability of a popular ecological model to predict the composition of ecological communities by showing it failed to detect structure in Bach's First Cello Suite.

Rob's collegial nature and broad thinking has encouraged collaboration with a range of researchers, mainly in areas of fire ecology and conservation biology. His expertise in fire ecology was responsible for his invitation to serve as an expert panel member for the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management, and the establishment of the Centre for Environmental Risk Management of Bushfires at UOW.

Rob is a natural leader: co-founding the Australian Flora and Fauna Program; serving as Head of Department of Biology for 8 years; initiating the Institute for Conservation Biology and Law; and becoming Dean of Science in 2002.

Rob's colleagues have enjoyed their association with him, despite his bad puns, and know his enthusiasm for science and research will serve us well in dealing with the burning issues ahead of us.

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:

Ms Cathie Andrew
Personnel Services Division

Cathie is given this award for her exceptional commitment and customer service to the University's staff in her role as Injury Management Coordinator.

The rigour with which Cathie conducts her work is reflected in the outstanding results the University has achieved in reducing the amount of lost time injuries, as well as the time taken for people to return to work after an injury. Cathie's diligence in raising awareness of accident prevention and early reporting of incidents through the use of the University's online hazard and reporting system, 'SafetyNet', has helped ensure that hazards and

incidents are actioned accordingly. This combined with a determination to be constantly available for specialist advice when an accident has taken place has also led to the significant reduction in workers compensation claims that result in lost time.

One of her supporters says, "Cathie is driven by a wish to help people return to normal functioning as quickly as possible, both at work and in their personal lives."

Cathie demonstrates an impressive amount of care and responsibility towards the staff of the University of Wollongong, epitomising outstanding service.

Mr Ron Kinnell
Faculty of Engineering

Ron receives this award for providing much-needed dedication and professional support to the Institute for Superconducting & Electronic Materials (ISEM), one of the most influential research establishments in the world. Ron's competency at his job is witnessed in the work he completes within his role as Senior Technical Officer, in which he is called on to provide a wide range of services to over 50 staff and postgraduate students, assistance in experimental set-up and maintenance of several laboratories.

Alongside his already high performance within this role, Ron supports ISEM with extra service and dedication. One example is his assistance in the repair and maintenance of a helium liquefier, an indispensable piece of equipment for ISEM. Despite having no previous experience, Ron took on the project, working weekends and coming back from annual leave, to ensure that problems with the helium liquefier were solved. Through his extraordinary personal sacrifice and persistence, Ron will be saving ISEM over \$100,000 per year.

Ms Jo-anne Lombardi
Library

Jo-anne receives this award for her role in planning and coordinating the Library Extension Project, which will respond to students' need for additional and more flexible learning spaces. Jo-anne participated in all facets of the design and planning process and then took on the challenging role of managing the logistics of preparing the building for each stage of construction including relocating staff, shelving, books, furniture and equipment. With her exceptional organisational skills, Jo managed to meet exacting deadlines and minimise costs to ensure the University receives maximum benefit from this significant project.

When a key member of the project team resigned Jo-anne demonstrated her flexibility and commitment by swiftly and seamlessly assuming additional responsibilities such as liaising with staff, consultants, suppliers and builders. The potential disruption to students during construction has been minimised as much as possible, largely thanks to Jo-anne's exceptional efforts and her dedication to maintaining the Library's excellent service standards.

Mr Nic Masi
Buildings & Grounds Division

Mr Nic Masi receives this award for his dedicated and valuable efforts in landscaping, contributing wholeheartedly to the improvement of the campus landscape at the University of Wollongong.

Nic is well known within and outside of the Buildings & Grounds Division as a committed and enthusiastic worker who has, since 1985, been instrumental in the undertaking and completion of many hundreds of landscaping projects. In completing these projects, Nic has often been called on to become proficient in a variety of skills such as landscape paving, carpentry, irrigation and garden construction, many of which were outside his formal training, and has performed these functions with willingness, efficiency and in the manner of a first class tradesman.

Over the past 20 years, Nic has enhanced the level of expertise in landscape construction while providing the University, its staff and students with quality and variety of services.

Mr John Martin
Financial Services Division

John Martin is given this award for his crucial involvement in the implementation of eProcurement, a web-based purchasing system that allows for direct communication with suppliers. Displaying great dedication to quality and accuracy throughout the project, he helped to ensure that the system would be functional, accurate and user-friendly, whilst continuing to fulfil his normal duties as System Support Officer.

John also continued to provide prompt and reliable customer service, which included personally visiting customers at a moment's notice when problems could not be resolved remotely. The challenging and innovative nature of the project, and an indication of the importance of John's contribution, is illustrated in the fact that the University of Wollongong is the first university in the country to have an integrated eProcurement system.

John's performance exceeded the call of duty and exemplified commitment to quality and a high standard of customer service.

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:

Ms Joanne George
Faculty of Engineering

Joanne has been a Technical Officer in the Faculty of Engineering since 1986 and is about to complete her last subject for a Masters of Science with a high distinction average.

Joanne played a major role as the first Environmental Technical Officer in the School of Civil, Mining and Environmental Engineering. Her direct contributions and assistance were instrumental in the successful launch of the Environmental Engineering degree, demonstrating her enthusiasm, dedication and sound training (B.Sc). She continually updates her skills gaining

a Diploma of Frontline Management in 2003, and a Graduate Diploma of Environmental Engineering in 2006.

Joanne has taken a leading role in OH&S both within the School of CME and the Faculty of Engineering as the Chair of the School Safety Committee and an active Faculty Workplace Advisory Committee (WAC) member. Her close liaison and teamwork with staff and students is commendable.

Joanne has made a major contribution not only to the Faculty of Engineering but also to the University of Wollongong.

Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning 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:

**Dr Gary Noble
Faculty of Commerce**

Gary Noble's contributions to the University have been made as a classroom teacher, as an educational administrator and by supporting students. Gary's aim is to ensure students graduate from UOW with the skills and ability to apply the theoretical marketing concepts they have learnt in the classroom to their future careers as professional marketers. He achieves this through the adoption of problem-based learning strategies and innovative teaching techniques such as role-play and imagery.

As an educational administrator, Gary has led major reviews of the UOW marketing curriculum and the introduction of new subjects and approaches to subject delivery. In the area of student support Gary encourages the growth of his students as individuals and as positive contributors to society. He actively assists in their transition from university to work.

Consistently high teaching evaluations, strong industry support for the marketing curriculum at UOW and unsolicited student comments demonstrate Gary's success and the commitment he has to teaching and learning.

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

**Dr Karen Daly
Faculty of Arts**

Karen Daly has taught Spanish language and literatures for more than 12 years, both in Australia and the United States. Karen fosters an atmosphere of cooperative learning in the foreign languages classroom and has worked to integrate multimedia and Hispanic culture through: the viewing of news bulletins from Spain; and short films and videos concerning cultural practices in Latin America and Spain.

At UOW, Karen instituted a weekly Spanish Conversation Hour, which was an informal get-together to practice Spanish outside the classroom. Conversation Hour is attended by both current and former Spanish-language students, as well as exchange students visiting from Spain and Latin America.

Karen also made contact with the University of León in Spain, and helped establish the exchange agreement that now exists between it and this University. In addition, Karen regularly

encourages her students to take advantage of exchange opportunities in Spain and Latin America whenever possible, to expand their knowledge of both the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures.

The recipient of the inaugural Sessional Tutor/Demonstrator Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning is:

**Ms Maureen Morris
Faculty of Informatics**

Maureen's experience as a teacher of mathematics and statistics for over fifteen years has afforded her opportunities to observe and reflect upon the learning of her students and her assessment of that learning. Her current PhD research has built upon these foundations in an effort to devise and evaluate strategies which not only facilitate student learning at this University, but which promote the development of meta-cognitive knowledge and skills which will create independent and effective life-long learners.

By making the intent of teaching and assessment transparent to students, Maureen endeavours to provide students with a guided path to achievement.

Maureen's aim has been for students to develop confidence and a deeper learning by working in a supportive framework which encompasses collaborative, experiential and modelled learning opportunities, peer review and the use of learning portfolios. Evaluation at this stage has indicated that students are challenged but learning to recognise what they know and to distinguish it from what they do not know.

The recipients of the inaugural General Staff Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning are:

**Ms Sally Rogan, Mr Phil Dawson and the PASS Peer Leaders
Student Services**

The PASS (Peer Assisted Study Sessions) Program is an academic mentoring program for students. Running since 2002 at UOW, the program is usually attached to subjects with historically high failure rates or a high student perception of difficulty. PASS aims to help students master subject content while gaining academic skills for their discipline and establishing learning communities. PASS integrates "how-to-learn" with "what-to-learn" in a series of weekly, voluntary peer-facilitated sessions.

Each session is run by a Peer Leader, who is a student who has successfully completed the subject, demonstrates strong interpersonal skills and has undergone a two-day training course. The Peer Leader is charged with facilitating group discussion and problem solving that combines the subject material, relevant study skills and promotes the development of independent learners.

In 2007, the PASS Program has nearly 40 student Leaders assisting students across all nine faculties. In its five years of operation, over 100 Peer Leaders have assisted 5,500 UOW participants to progress their studies.

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

**Dr Nelson Perera
Graduate School of Business**

Nelson Perera's primary teaching objective is to produce confident graduates who are equipped with effective and innovative problem solving and communication skills. In order to achieve this objective Nelson stimulates independent learning and development of critical analysis using learning

activities which are related to the Australian context.

Nelson works to develop course materials and to present their content cogently and imaginatively. He uses subject materials that are related to the Australian workplace and he delivers those materials in such a way that students are eager to absorb them. Nelson is a confident lecturer and has contributed to teaching and learning by publishing two computer manuals and a textbook which are widely used in many Australian universities.

Through curriculum development, Nelson has contributed to the teaching of statistics to business students at UOW by developing new subjects and revising current subjects in order to keep up with new developments in the area.

Dr Annette Worthy
Faculty of Informatics

Annette Worthy's teaching philosophy is not simply to transfer information but to aid in the understanding of concepts and to enable self-development of students' skills within a supportive

environment. Annette has a continuing commitment to and knowledge of the teaching profession.

Her dedication and enthusiasm as a teacher have developed through her multi-layered experiences as a student, tutor, and lecturer, and this experience continues to help her generate an excellent rapport with students and display sensitivity to their needs.

Annette actively seeks excellence in innovation, learning methods and strategic direction in her teaching. Annette's achievements include the development of computer-aided learning modules, work on a joint grant aimed at bridging the mathematical gap between school and university and a joint grant aimed at improving the delivery mechanism for students.

Also throughout her teaching career, Annette has integrated mathematical applications into engineering service courses and developed innovative curriculum designs within her Faculty.

Dr Pauline Harris
Faculty of Education

Although she now works in teacher education, Pauline began her teaching career in the early-school years. Her teaching is located in the nexus of research, policy and practice. As Language and Literacy Co-ordinator in the Faculty of Education, she has played a lead role in the restructuring of the Language and Literacy teaching strand and coordination of the ARC-funded Literacies Research Initiative.

Pauline's teaching and research in the areas of children's literature and classroom literacy instruction has earned her national funding and an international award. Pauline has also led the development of three highly successful literacy textbooks in her area. In terms of her teaching, self-study has provided Pauline with a framework for developing an integrated play-based pedagogy for adult learners, which is widely disseminated.

The constant thread running through Pauline's work is her desire to motivate and inspire students in a collaborative learning culture.

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

Ms Deborah Langton
Faculty of Law

Deborah has been employed as a sessional academic at the University of Wollongong since 2000. In 2003 she was appointed as an Honorary Fellow to the Faculty of Law in recognition of her outstanding contribution to teaching and learning. Through her experience, she has formulated the view that teaching is about inspiring and supporting students to enjoy and embrace learning. For Deborah, teaching involves being prepared, professional and accountable, for the experience students are offered.

In 2006, Deborah spent time reviewing and redeveloping a major undergraduate law subject including, developing a new eLearning site for the subject. Deborah used this experience as an opportunity to create a course designed to make learning Law informative and fun for a diverse range of students.

Deborah's outstanding contribution to teaching and learning at UOW has been making law fun and being influential in the quest for knowledge.

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 Marie Ranson **Faculty of Science**

Associate Professor Marie Ranson has been awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research Supervision for 2006 for her exemplary support and guidance of her research students.

Marie has been a Lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences since 1998 and has been the principal or co-supervisor of ten higher degree research students. Marie has managed this considerable load whilst juggling a successful professional career in cancer research, teaching, supervising, as well as raising a family.

Despite her many commitments, Marie always has her office door open for impromptu meetings.

She makes her students feel that their work contributes to the community and to the field of cancer research in general. One of her students was the recipient of the 'Premiers Award for Outstanding Cancer Research Scholar' from the Cancer Institute of NSW. He feels this would not have been possible without the support, training and direction that Marie provided him throughout his project. The students also point to her caring attitude and how she often invites them to family dinners and other social events.

Marie inspires her students to do their best work through her own example and through her encouragement and support. Their nomination of Marie for this award was one way of expressing their appreciation.

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.

This year's recipient is:

Mr Daniel Saffioti
Faculty of Informatics

Daniel Saffioti receives this year's award for Excellence in Community Engagement for his significant and sustained commitment to community engagement.

Through programs such as the High Schools Enrichment Program, Daniel has extended the University's partnerships with local high schools and fueled his passion for developing school students' interest in informatics disciplines.

His colleagues speak of his genuine enthusiasm and readiness to volunteer his services to assist across faculties at the University. He assisted the

Faculty of Education with its Sun Centre of Excellence and presented a program within the Faculty of Science's Siemens Science Experience. He has also raised funding through his role with the Apple University Consortium to send staff from across the campus to training events and conferences and he has invested a significant amount of his own funds into the University Art Collection to purchase indigenous artworks to be placed in the Informatics Faculty corridor for the enjoyment of staff and students.

Daniel is well respected for both his technical abilities and personal attributes which reflect his philosophical belief that the University, and its employees, have a fundamental duty to engage with the community in which they operate.

The recipients of a Highly Commended Certificate for Excellence in Community Engagement are:

**The Centre for Social Marketing Research Team
Faculty of Commerce**

**Dr Gary Noble
Professor Gerard Hastings
Dr Elias Kyriazis
Dr Jenny Algie
Mr Alan Pomeroy
Ms Mary Papakosmas
Ms Alison Lamb
Mr John Cantrell**

The Centre for Social Marketing Research (CSMR) receives a special commendation for this year's award for Excellence in Community Engagement in recognition of the work and commitment by the members of the team to community collaboration and service.

Since the team's inception in 2004, members have worked to assist and support a wide variety of community organisations such as The Disability Trust and local councils, to bring about positive

social development, and in so doing, enhance the reputation of the University.

The CSMR team members show a belief that an academic's role includes using their skills and knowledge to improve society and to be active contributors to the well being of the community in which they live and work.





