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Vice-Chancellor's Awards 2008

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Vice-Chancellor's Awards 2008

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Vice-Chancellor's Awards





Vice-Chancellor's Awards Ceremony

Friday 27th June, 2008

*McKinnon Building
University of Wollongong*

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

BY

W. H. CHAPMAN

Author of "The History of the United States for the People"

Program

Musical Item - Serenading Strings

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

Welcome by the Vice-Chancellor - Professor Gerard Sutton, AO

Presentation of 25 Years Service Awards

Mr James Langridge, Vice-Principal (Overseas Operations)

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

Mr Chris Grange, Vice-Principal (Administration)

Announcement of the Marie Lewis Award - Mr Chris Grange, Vice-Principal (Administration)

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 Awards for Excellence in Research

Professor Lee Astheimer, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

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

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

Closure by the Vice-Chancellor - Professor Gerard Sutton, AO

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been
 appointed to the various positions in the office of the
 Secretary of the Board of Education for the year 1920.
 The names are listed in alphabetical order of the surnames.
 The positions are listed in the order in which they appear in the
 list. The names of the persons who have been appointed to the
 positions of Secretary and Treasurer are listed in the order in
 which they appear in the list. The names of the persons who
 have been appointed to the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
 are listed in the order in which they appear in the list. The
 names of the persons who have been appointed to the positions of
 Members are listed in the order in which they appear in the list.
 The names of the persons who have been appointed to the positions
 of Ex-Officio are listed in the order in which they appear in
 the list. The names of the persons who have been appointed to the
 positions of Honorary are listed in the order in which they appear
 in the list. The names of the persons who have been appointed to
 the positions of Corresponding are listed in the order in which
 they appear in the list. The names of the persons who have been
 appointed to the positions of Life are listed in the order in which
 they appear in the list. The names of the persons who have been
 appointed to the positions of Emeritus are listed in the order in
 which they appear in the list. The names of the persons who have
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 who have been appointed to the positions of Life are listed in the
 order in which they appear in the list. The names of the persons
 who have been appointed to the positions of Emeritus are listed in
 the order in which they appear in the list.

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25 Years Service Awards

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

This year's recipients are:

Heidi De Coster
Vice-Chancellor's Unit



It's hard to imagine the University of Wollongong without Protocol Officer Heidi De Coster, who has achieved 25 years of outstanding service.

She is one of the best-known, and certainly most highly regarded, members of the University staff.

Heidi's organisational skills are legendary.

She's the person everyone turns to when they want an event to run without a hitch, or want something special organised.

Since taking on her current role in 1996 Heidi has organised well over 500 UOW events – from visits by Royalty and Prime Ministers to official openings and major dinners for hundreds of people.

Heidi's professionalism, eye for detail and her engaging personality ensure that her events are always superbly organised and reflect great credit on the University.

25 Years Service Awards

Marina Evans **Faculty of Engineering**



During her 25 years at UOW Marina has made substantial contributions across a wide range of key administrative roles.

Starting as a cashier, Marina rose through the ranks to supervise examinations, graduations and enrolments, and acted as Manager Student Administration.

In 2004 Marina joined the Faculty of Engineering, much to the delight of this exceptionally high achieving Faculty.

Since then Marina has been instrumental in recruiting Engineering students through careers markets all over NSW and through her contributions to the Faculty's Early Entry Program. Marina supervises Engineering's Enquiry Centre and runs major Faculty events. She also has the unenviable and demanding task of timetabling for the Faculty.

In every one of these areas Marina's calmness, efficiency, consistent courtesy and grace bring out the best in all of us and make her a trusted, stabilising and constructive influence in all workplaces lucky enough to have enjoyed Marina's presence.

Marina is one of life's quiet achievers and is very much appreciated and admired by all staff and colleagues.

Professor John Fulcher **Faculty of Informatics**



John Fulcher joined the University in 1983 as Professional Officer in the Department of Computer Science, where he maintained the laboratories' computer systems.

A highlight of this time was setting up the second Apple Macintosh teaching laboratory in the world in 1984.

25 Years Service Awards

In 1985 John transferred to a Lectureship and set himself the goals of tenure, promotion and PhD. During this time John wrote a best selling textbook on Computer Interfacing.

John had the honour of being awarded a PhD by publication in 1999.

John jointly developed higher-order neural network models, and successfully applied them to face recognition for airport security, satellite weather prediction and financial time series forecasting. John has received over \$2m in industrial R&D funding.

In 2001 John was appointed to a Chair in Computer Science. In June of this year, his 'Compendium of Computational Intelligence' was published by Springer.

Carlo Giusti **Faculty of Informatics**



Carlo Giusti joined the University's Department of Electrical Engineering in 1983 as a Senior Technical Officer. He had just left BHP Steel with 20 years of service.

Carlo brought with him a very strong base in experience of heavy industry and the Head of Department Professor Brian Smith did not fail to

notice this. Very quickly Carlo was actively involved in various projects that made extensive use of his expertise.

Some years later, Carlo's career took a slight deviation when the Head, Professor Hugh Bradlow, took Carlo aside and told him that he was now the sole person responsible for getting the department's network up and running and it was to be done ASAP.

Carlo took on that project and has not stopped running with that and other IT matters since.

Throughout his time within the School, Carlo has continued to deliver and maintain a high standard of service to all clients and, most importantly, has retained his sense of humour and friendly attitude.

25 Years Service Awards

Dayna Hilton
Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences



There are some people who make coming to work a pleasure – they are pleasant, upbeat, helpful and competent. Dayna Hilton is such a person.

Dayna has worked in various areas of the Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences over the past 25 years and

has made numerous significant contributions.

Dayna has consistently demonstrated an ability to grasp the nuances of any job, always finding a way to do the job efficiently and to the highest standards.

She has always been willing to lend a helping hand. Her demeanour is such that she is liked by all her colleagues.

The people who most appreciate Dayna are those who have been fortunate enough to have her work directly for them, as she has made them more efficient and effective in their work.

Dayna's range of talents, her organisational abilities, her decision making and her loyalty make her, without question, a special person and a special employee.

Ian Laird
Faculty of Engineering



Ian joined the Department of Civil and Mining Engineering as a technical officer to support undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and research.

Ian is a passionate unionist, and has been a member of the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) since his first day of work. His commitment to promoting the

25 Years Service Awards

interests of all general staff members has led to his significant involvement in industrial bargaining, ensuring fair and equitable conditions for general staff.

Ian is still an integral part of the Faculty of Engineering's research activities but he now has a much wider scope.

He continues to promote the welfare of general staff as Vice President of the CPSU, General Staff Representative on the UOW Joint Consultative Committee and Chair of the Occupational Health and Safety Central Committee.

A unique sense of humour, sometimes misinterpreted as sarcasm, helps Ian make it through each day.

Deborah McGavin Faculty of Education



In 1980 Debbie commenced her career at the University of Wollongong as a research assistant in what was then the Department of Education in the Faculty of Arts.

Later that year she became the Professional Officer of the Department, one of two administrative staff looking after a department of

eight academic staff and a mere 40 students.

After leaving the University briefly, Debbie returned in 1984 to work as a Professional Officer in the newly formed Faculty of Education.

Debbie has taken on many roles over the years including Executive Officer in the Centre for Language Education, Professional Officer in the Graduate School of Education and Manager of the Student Services Centre.

Debbie is now part of a team of 10 administrative staff, supporting 40 academics and over 1,000 students. She has an outstanding work ethic and is a highly valued member of staff.

25 Years Service Awards

Bruce Robertson
Centre for Educational
Development and Interactive
Resources (CEDIR)



Bruce Robertson is a well respected and popular figure around the University, who is the ultimate quiet achiever.

Starting with ITS as a Senior Technical Officer, Bruce completed a part-time computer science degree

and then looked after video conferencing in its early years. When CEDIR was formed his skills were invaluable to this Unit, and he now maintains software and hardware in the University's lecture theatres.

Bruce has a habit of giving away rose blooms (from his garden), to unsuspecting women and describes this as 'random acts of kindness', or something like that.

Bruce is a well known "fix it" man, often taking on items that everyone else has had a go at fixing, and given up on.

Bruce is also a very committed member of the Wollongong Welsh Choir and, with his wife Christine, gains much pleasure from being part of a local bush-walking group.

Professor Julie Steele
Faculty of Health & Behavioural
Sciences



In the early seventies when Australian Helen Reddy released her feminine anthem "I Am Woman" she launched a frenzy of bra burning. Little did Helen know that a young female pupil at Kuringai High School in Sydney would, many years later, be celebrated for 25 years of service at the University of Wollongong where

25 Years Service Awards

she is recognised for designing better bras rather than burning them.

Professor Julie Steele entered the University in 1983 having completed her initial studies at UTS and the University of Western Australia, where her passion for her discipline area Biomechanics was ignited.

Julie entered UOW as a lecturer in the Faculty of Education. Her extensive participation in teaching, research and University governance has seen her recognised as a Professor in the Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences and as Head of the School of Health Sciences.

Julie has been active in the many positions held her professional domain. She served as President Elect of the International Society of Biomechanics and has been on the board of directors and editorial boards for other national and international organisations. In running major research projects Julie has

demonstrated her commercial acumen.

The total professional academic and business package culminated in Julie winning the Telstra NSW Business Woman of the Year in 2005 and being a national finalist.

Locally, Julie has been recognised for the quality of her contribution to UOW. She was awarded the inaugural UOW Postgraduate Supervisor of the Year Award and has received a Vice-Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence.

In 25 years Julie's willingness to contribute has allowed her to achieve a great deal at UOW. Undoubtedly, Helen would be proud.

Associate Professor David Vance Faculty of Creative Arts



Although we are celebrating David's 25 years' employment at the University of Wollongong his presence on campus goes back to 1969 when he enrolled in a BA (Hons) in English Literature.

David was appointed as Music Development Officer in 1982. He has contributed widely to the academic

25 Years Service Awards

and cultural life of the campus through his teaching in the Faculty of Creative Arts, as well as through diverse musical enterprises including founding the University Singers, staging children's operas, directing music for over 30 Theatre South productions, and the provision of music for ceremonial occasions, including around 250 graduations.

David was appointed to his current position as Sub Dean of Creative Arts in 1997: this has led to an increasing role in academic governance, in which his goal is to help create a university environment where the student experience is intellectually and personally fulfilling. He is a major contributor to the University Education Committee and a tireless contributor to projects that benefit students.

Along the way, David has maintained, besides his sense of humour, an active professional life as a conductor, chamber musician, vocal accompanist and music critic.

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:

Grant Jacobs
University Recreation & Aquatic
Centre (URAC)



Grant receives this award for his contribution to URAC during a challenging time. The introduction of Voluntary Student Unionism has meant doing more with less, and when faced with this challenge Grant has exceeded expectations by

embracing it as an opportunity to re-focus on customer service.

Grant has contributed to a number of recent improvements related to marketing, IT development and improving URAC's planning focus.

In 2007 he championed a new branding and logo, investigated, purchased and implemented a new point of sale computer system, project managed severely needed renovations, undertook market research through both focus groups and surveys, and implemented a new member retention system including extensive customer service training for all URAC staff.

Grant's commitment to service excellence has continued to move URAC closer to its goal of implementing the Australian Business Excellence Framework which will enable URAC to be internationally recognised for the best practice organisation it is.

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Outstanding Service for General Staff

Toni Lanyon
Library



Toni Lanyon receives this award for leadership in the coordination and delivery of superior client service.

Her achievements have been many during her time with the Library, but it is during the last 18 months that Toni's exceptional qualities have been demonstrated to the full. Her ability to motivate others, create enthusiasm

and sustain professional and responsive services was constantly challenged throughout the Library's major capital works project. In spite of these obstacles, she sought opportunities to reassess services and processes and be ready to launch improvements to coincide with the new facility.

Toni's recent achievements include: extending service hours, introducing student-mediated services such as room booking systems, improving client communications, optimising space utilisation and enhancing borrowing conditions.

She plays a key role in promulgating a University-wide approach to excellence in client service through her membership and active contribution to the UOW Customer Service Support Network.

Toni is an exceptional role model who has long personified the values of quality and service excellence.

Cathy Nicastrì
ITS (formerly Faculty of Commerce)



Cathy Nicastrì has been an outstanding performer for the University and her qualities became more apparent during her 18 months as both Commerce IT Manager and Acting Commerce Faculty Manager.

Cathy ensured that 'business as usual' continued but, on top of this,

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Outstanding Service for General Staff

led a significant development in establishing Commerce Central.

Cathy provided leadership for every aspect of the Commerce Central initiative, from design and construction of the physical site to staff and student consultation and negotiation of the scope of Commerce Central Services with Schools. These were all complex processes and in many instances led Cathy to develop whole new areas of expertise.

Cathy is a true leader as opposed to a silo specialist – able to apply her leadership skills generically and gain the respect and cooperation of a diverse range of people.

While serving as Acting Faculty Manager, Cathy also continued to provide leadership within the Faculty in the area of IT. Her team are well respected in the Faculty and the general consensus is that they provide Commerce staff with a high level of support and advice.

Stuart Rodd **Faculty of Engineering**



Stuart receives this award for his dedicated and enthusiastic efforts in the Engineering laboratories and workshop.

Stuart has worked at the University for 24 years and has always met any challenge asked of him with a tireless enthusiasm and 'Can Do' attitude.

In 2007 Stuart's effort during the Building 8 refurbishment was outstanding.

Stuart was able to coordinate and condense a number of labs from Building 8, including the Manufacturing, Control and Laser labs, and fit them into the existing and already refurbished Thermodynamics lab.

Stuart was able to support all of the lab classes and research during this period and all activities ran smoothly.

This was an extraordinary effort considering he also maintained his duties within the Engineering workshop, building research rigs, supporting student thesis and mentoring the Engineering workshop apprentices.

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:

**Arpana Sharma
UOW Dubai**



Arpana enrolled in the Master of Business Administration in 2006 as part of her professional development to support the expanding responsibilities of her role at UOW Dubai. Thus far in her degree, Arpana has obtained a High Distinction in all subjects undertaken.

Arpana has been employed at UOWD since 2003 and is currently the Executive Assistant to the President of UOWD.

In 2007, Arpana was given the task to organise the graduation ceremony only two months before the event. In spite of not having an event management background, she took on responsibility for all facets of the ceremony as well as her regular duties.

The 2007 graduation event was described as exceptionally well organised by both staff and students. Arpana's close liaison and teamwork with staff and students is a key to her successes.

Arpana is striving to make continuous contributions towards the growth of UOWD. She is highly respected by her peers and a valuable member of the UOW community.

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching & Learning

The Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning (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.

Vice-Chancellor's Award category

This year's recipient is:

**Dr Sue Bennett
Faculty of Education**



Sue is committed to student learning and holds a strong belief in the importance of authentic resources and assessment. She seeks to challenge students to advance their thinking and skills, at the same time

offering the necessary support and guidance to enable them to achieve their learning goals.

Sue applies authentic learning principles to the development of an integrated curriculum of postgraduate design subjects in Education. She advances her understanding of teaching and learning through the implementation, evaluation and dissemination of innovative strategies and approaches. Sue also applies novel theoretical approaches and research findings to her teaching, and collaborates with colleagues across disciplines, using her expertise to design innovative resources.

Sue contributes to ongoing discussions about university teaching and learning through her publications, presentations at national forums and activities outside the University. Her teaching is continuously refined through critical review of formal and informal feedback from students and colleagues.

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching & Learning

Early Career Academic Award category

This year's recipient is:

Dr Corinne Cortese
Faculty of Commerce



Corinne uses three words to encompass her teaching philosophy: Lead, Inspire and Encourage. She leads her undergraduate and postgraduate Commerce degree

students with enthusiasm, inspires them to enjoy their learning experiences, and encourages them to succeed.

Corinne teaches the core subjects that must be completed for the students to be eligible for their degrees and she finds that some of her students do not want to do accounting, they may not like accounting, indeed some may even fear accounting.

However, Corinne aims to demystify the concepts and make accounting something that is relevant to students' everyday lives. She achieves this by integrating interesting and easy to understand examples, dispelling misgivings about accounting and motivating her students so that they have a positive learning experience.

Corinne believes the greatest measure of her success is hearing the words: "Corinne, you actually made accounting fun!"

Sessional Tutor / Demonstrator Award category

This year's recipient is:

Mr Joakim Eidenfalk
Faculty of Arts



Joakim, originally from Sweden, has been teaching at the University's Faculty of Arts since 2004, alongside his PhD studies. He aims for a relaxed teaching environment,

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching & Learning

includes variety and diversity in his teaching and listens to the needs of the student group.

Joakim has been coordinating the second year subject, The European Union, for four sessions, as well as tutoring in a number of history and politics subjects.

In addition to this, he has been running a voluntary International Relations Reading Group for those students who have an interest in international politics.

Joakim believes that variety and diversity in teaching enhance the students' interest in the subject, thus increasing their performance.

He also believes that learning should be fun and that, by having fun, students will learn more.

General Staff Award category

This year's recipients are:

**Dr Lindsay Oades and
Ms Alison Hemsley,
Accommodation Services**



Lindsay and Alison co-manage the multi-national residential community at International House. Their iLIVE program has the clear and distinctive purpose of enabling UOW students living within the residence to be intercultural leaders who can promote global wellbeing.

iLIVE engages the residents to organise, run, participate in and evaluate a wide range of activities that enhance relationships with residential peers in International House, other UOW residences, UOW faculty, and local and global members of the community.

The program has multiple impacts, including fundraising, marketing, expansion of alumni and increased community engagement. Concern for equity and diversity remains the key reason for International Houses worldwide, and the UOW iLIVE program in particular.

With the support of the staff and student leaders, Lindsay and Alison have removed four key equity barriers over the past five years, and have taken multiple strategic actions to enable intercultural learning to flourish and ensure iLIVE is sustainable.

Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching & Learning

Faculty recipients of Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning (OCTAL) Awards are those academic staff who are recognised for their contribution to teaching and learning within each Faculty.

Faculty of Commerce Award

This year's recipient is:

Dr Anne Abraham
School of Accounting and Finance



Anne is a committed and enthusiastic teacher, who uses a variety of blended teaching methods to present accounting and financial management to her students in the faculties of both Commerce and Engineering. She

believes that learning must be student centred, and feels privileged to have the opportunity to impact on the learning experiences of so many people.

Anne creates a safe, yet challenging, atmosphere for all her students, to ensure they are motivated and enabled to learn. Her ongoing design of the learning experience aims to provide a supportive and student-focused environment where the individual is valued and encouraged to become an independent learner. This is particularly important in the light of the high number of international students in her classes.

Anne quality-assures her teaching through evaluation and reflection. She is committed to ongoing educational development of online resources and flexible delivery modes, innovative subject design and assessment, and shares her work through presentations and publications of her teaching and learning research.

Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching & Learning

Faculty of Education Award

This year's recipient is:

Dr Mohan Chinnappan



Mohan is a mathematics teacher and teacher educator. He is internationally known for his contributions to the development of mathematical knowledge and integrated learning via a multi-model approach. The nexus between his research into

mathematical modelling and learning has resulted in significant innovation in teaching strategies. These include the construction of Model-Eliciting Activities and Schemas as tools to help students attain high levels of Numeracy and support teachers to develop deeper understandings of the mathematics required for effective practice.

Mohan leads a team of senior academics, mathematics curriculum developers and experienced teachers in NSW and Malaysia on practical ways to integrate mathematics, science and technology in classroom practice. He is also a member of a team that is currently investigating mathematics and pedagogy needs of faculties across UOW. Mohan's innovations have received national and international recognition through publications in leading mathematics teachers' journals, invitations to conduct workshops and seminars for teachers of Numeracy, inter-government consultancies, and grants

to support student achievement of quality mathematical learning outcomes. He is the Numeracy coordinator of the Summer School for Literacy/Numeracy funded by the Australian Government.

Faculty of Science Award

This year's recipient is:

Dr Stephen Ralph
School of Chemistry



Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching & Learning

Stephen uses the message “Chemistry is fun, interesting and relevant” to motivate his students. His classes are infused with demonstrations, stories and animations to engage students in learning about key chemical principles. He has contributed to the development of animations that illustrate how organic molecules react and modern approaches to pharmaceutical development.

These resources for university and high school subjects are one component of more substantial curriculum development, including the restructuring of two chemistry subjects offered by Wollongong College Australia to facilitate transition to UOW courses. Quiz development has significantly supported the College students’ development of basic chemical skills.

In his role as Chief Examiner, Stephen oversaw the preparation and marking of the NSW HSC chemistry

exam, and worked with teachers to clarify the intent of the new HSC syllabus.

Faculty Early Career Academic Awards

This year’s recipients are:

**Dr Deepa Samantha
Liyanapathirana
Faculty of Engineering**



Formerly a full-time researcher, Samantha moved into university teaching, taking small and large classes in a variety of subjects across the Civil Engineering curriculum.

Samantha’s primary teaching objective is to produce knowledgeable graduates who are innovative thinkers and effective problem-solvers. She uses applications-based teaching where a new theoretical concept is centred around the practical significance, and the application of the concept to solve practical engineering problems. This enables students to think critically about the application of theory to practice.

Samantha believes that quality teaching plays a major role in achieving learning outcomes, and that enthusiasm and knowledge of the subject matter in her teaching are critical. She has contributed to curriculum development through revising subjects in the Geotechnical Engineering stream, aligned with new

Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching & Learning

developments in engineering practice, and uses technology effectively for flexible learning.

Dr Bridget Munro **Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences**



After finishing her BSc (Honours) and PhD degrees at UOW, Bridget completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship at CSIRO Textile and Fibre Technology. At the end of 2006, she

gained an academic teaching position in the School of Health Sciences, whilst maintaining an active research career.

Bridget has had a significant impact in both undergraduate teaching and postgraduate supervision in Biomechanics at UOW, taking an enthusiastic approach to her teaching by challenging her students to integrate the theoretical concepts they learn into real-world situations.

Bridget combines a multimedia approach with interesting assessment tasks that require thought and creativity, thus improving students' understanding of the teaching material.

Dr L. Celeste Rossetto **Student Services**



Celeste contributes to learning and teaching at Moss Vale and Wollongong campuses through the learning support she and her peers at Learning Development provide.

Her strengths lie in the links she has forged between scholarly teaching, teaching research and community engagement, and her work across

Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching & Learning

multiple disciplines which are a direct result of the support, mentoring and collaboration she received from her colleagues in Learning Development.

Celeste has contributed to the learning community at Moss Vale campus by fostering student learning through individual consultations, workshops and integration of academic skills within a subject. She supports sessional tutors through email contact and meetings designed to stimulate discussion, criticism and collegiality.

Celeste's innovative work in the Faculty of Commerce has enhanced the professional skills of graduating students; she has reviewed these practices and submitted research in this discipline at an international level.

In addition, she has supported the learning of enrolled nurses in the Health and Behavioural Sciences Faculty wishing to upgrade their qualifications, and worked

collaboratively with Informatics students to successfully enhance their skills and aid their learning.

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Research

The Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Research recognise:

Senior Researchers

Acknowledging outstanding contributions to research by individuals or teams.

Emerging Researchers

Encouraging outstanding achievement within the first seven years of a research career.

Research Partnerships

Recognising the important role of research staff in developing and managing research partnerships.

Research Supervisors

Acknowledging on-going commitment and dedication (nominations received from HDR students).

Research Excellence Award for Senior Researchers

This year's co-recipients are: Professor Shi Xue Dou (Faculty of Engineering) and Professor Gordon Wallace (Faculty of Science).

Professor Shi Xue Dou



Prof Shi Xue Dou is the Director of the Institute for Superconducting and

Electronic Materials (ISEM), an interdisciplinary centre with six research programs, 30 staff (including 10 ARC fellows) and 35 postgraduate students.

Prof Dou is one of the world's leading scientists in the fields of applied superconductivity and energy storage materials. He has published more than 500 refereed journal papers that have been cited more than 6700 times. His achievements were recognised by the Award of the Centenary Medal for Service to Australian Society in Materials Science and Engineering by the Australian Government in 2003. He was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Science and Engineering in 1994.

Prof Dou has been highly successful in winning many competitive ARC grants and other sources of funding, totalling \$21 million in the last decade as first named chief investigator. He was awarded an ARC Senior

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Research

Research fellowship in 1993 and ARC Australian Professorial Fellowships in 2002 and 2007 respectively. He has been pro-active in promoting collaborations with industry, national and international institutions and has played a leadership role in the materials science community. He has established a world class laboratory serving a number of institutions around Australia and the world. He has supervised or co-supervised more than 60 PhD graduates. His former PhD graduates, postdoctoral fellows and visiting fellows are widely dispersed in the science and engineering communities in North America, Europe, Asia and Australia.

Professor Dou's achievements in the materials science field and his leadership of ISEM, a world-renowned team which has made a significant contribution to superconductor technology and its applications, makes him a very worthy recipient of this Award.

Professor Gordon Wallace



Professor Wallace and his team from the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute are internationally recognised as a Centre of Excellence for advanced materials research, with a large network of collaborators and industrial partners around the world.

The work has led to the development of advanced materials including those

based on conducting polymers and carbon nanotubes, for a broad range of applications including energy storage and conversion. Of particular note, is the pioneering role played by the team in the area of Intelligent Polymers (commencing in 1988) and more recently the field of Nanobionics. Prof Wallace leads a team of researchers as Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science with funding of \$12M over a five year period. In addition, the Centre attracts funding from other sources including industry amounting to over \$1 million per year.

Prof Wallace has published over 500 refereed publications including 436 articles in international journals and 35 book chapters. In the last ten years alone there have been a remarkable 350 refereed publications, including 272 refereed papers in high quality international journals as well as a monograph on conducting polymers. The international impact of these publications is evidenced by their high

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Research

number of citations, including some 1,000 in 2007 alone. He is co-inventor on over 20 international patents.

In the last five years Prof Wallace has been awarded an ARC Australian Professorial Fellowship, a Science Foundation Ireland Walton Fellowship, the Stokes Medal of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and an ARC Federation Fellowship. He was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Science and Engineering in 2003 and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Sciences in 2007.

His achievements have made significant contributions to cementing the University of Wollongong's position as a research intensive institution of international standing and repute. He is a very worthy recipient of this award.

Research Excellence Award for Emerging Researchers

This year's recipient is:

**Dr Zenobia Jacobs
Faculty of Science**



Just three years on from being awarded her PhD, Dr Zenobia Jacobs is recognised internationally as a pre-eminent researcher in her field.

Zenobia and her colleagues are undertaking a globally significant reassessment of when and where *Homo sapiens* first became modern in their behaviour. Their 2007 publication in the journal *Nature* reported findings that were critical in closing the gap between the oldest fossils of *Homo sapiens*, the oldest genetic evidence for the origins of our species, and the first archaeological traces of modern human behaviour, all of which now converge on a date of about 200,000 years ago.

Zenobia's particular contribution has been to develop and refine many aspects of the luminescence dating procedures, especially the analysis of individual grains of quartz.

Zenobia has an impressive and expanding track record of grants and publications, including papers in *Science* and *Nature*. She also actively mentors postgraduate and undergraduate students, and contributes to the intellectual life of

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the School of Earth & Environmental Sciences. Dr Jacobs is a very worthy recipient of this Award.

Highly Commended:

Dr Adam Dolnik
Faculty of Law



Dr Adam Dolnik receives a special commendation for this year's Emerging Researcher Award in recognition of his outstanding

research performance since his appointment at UOW less than two years ago. Adam's commitment to research outcomes derives from his sole and unambiguous focus on enhancing the understanding and interpretation of the dynamics of terrorism.

Since 2006, Adam has produced two books, a monograph, a journal article, and six book chapters. His contribution to the Centre for Transnational Crime Prevention, in its first research-dedicated appointment, has given the centre an international profile, as evidenced by his invited expert advisory positions to national security institutions in Australia and overseas.

Outstanding Achievement in Research Partnership Award

This year's recipient is:

Professor John Norrish
Faculty of Engineering
(Partners including Thales Australia Ltd and DSTO)



Prof John Norrish is presented with this award for the project titled "Establishment of the Defence

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Materials Technology Centre", involving the nominating partners Thales Australia Ltd and the Defence Science & Technology Organisation.

Prof Norrish played a key supporting role in establishing the multidisciplinary and multi-partnered Defence Materials Technology Centre (DMTC), which competed nationally to receive \$30 million of Commonwealth funding and a further \$52 million from the collaborating partners.

DMTC will focus on four key research programs: air platforms, maritime platforms, armour applications and propulsion systems. Prof Norrish was recently elected to the Board of the DMTC and is the Program Leader for the armour research program, where he was able to obtain the commitment of the key industry players in the Australian steel armour supply chain to participate in the DMTC - within the required timeframe of just 8 weeks! Such trust and influence is only earned through sustained success at

working with industry. We would also like to thank these partners for their commitment and ongoing support of research at UOW, in particular the nominating partners Thales and DSTO.

Highly Commended:

**Professor David Steel
Faculty of Informatics
(Partner The Australian Bureau of
Statistics)**



A Highly Commended mention is made of Prof David Steel's research partnership with the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the project titled "Statistical and Survey Methodologies".

This partnership involves a range of activities that have underpinned the establishment of the Centre for Statistical and Survey Methodology and have led to the establishment of an ABS-funded Professor of Statistical Methodology.

The partnership has also led to several successful ARC Linkage projects, undergraduate scholarships, and cadetships.

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Excellence in Research Supervision Award

This year's recipient is:

Professor Mark Wilson
Faculty of Science



This award is presented to Professor Mark Wilson for the outstanding support and guidance he has provided to his research students.

Mark began lecturing in Biological Sciences in 1994, and his flair earned him the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching award as early as 1997. Mark is passionate about research and has promoted it at this University through many research leadership roles. Despite these commitments, Mark has made time over the years to provide exemplary supervision to 12 Higher Degree Research and 35 Honours students.

Mark's knowledge and guidance is available to his students at all times. He has an informal supervision style, making him very approachable. His own research drive sets an example to the students and his presence in the laboratory means that he is always up-to-date with each student's present work and the most current techniques. This award represents a recognition and appreciation from past and present students for his enormous support and contribution towards their research degrees.

Highly Commended:

Associate Professor Minjie Zhang
Faculty of Informatics



Associate Professor Minjie Zhang, from the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering, Faculty of Informatics, was also deemed to be in the top echelon of those nominated for the Excellence in Research

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Supervision Award and was highly commended by the Committee.

Minjie is described by her students as a kind, warm-hearted supervisor, who has always provided them with continuous encouragement, patience, motivation and support, along with her research expertise and guidance, despite having a heavy teaching workload.

Minjie has been active in encouraging her students in their professional development and in becoming productive researchers. The nominations are evidence of her commitment and dedication to her students.

Vice-Chancellor's Awards 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 recipients are:

Associate Professor Philip Laird
Faculty of Informatics
Individual category



Philip Laird receives this award for his significant and sustained contribution to the community in multiple roles over many years. As a strong advocate for sustainable transport, he has given generously of his time and expertise over three decades. During

the 1980s, he established many connections within the Illawarra region and beyond and supported projects that have led to improved road safety and public transport, including electrification of the South Coast railway line. This was followed by an active role with Healthy Cities Illawarra Inc. His community engagement has also extended to environmental protection, organising a school maths competition, participating on professional bodies, and opinion pieces in the media.

Philip has prepared various submissions on transport and the environment to Wollongong City Council, government inquiries at a federal and state level, the Garnaut Climate Change Review, and the 2020 Ideas Summit.

The impact of his engagement activities has been felt at a regional, state and national level; Philip Laird is a highly regarded and very visible 'face' of the University of Wollongong.

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**Associate Professor (Siva)
Muttucumaru Sivakumar and
Associate Professor Paul Cooper
Faculty of Engineering
Team category**



This 'dynamic duo' from the Faculty of Engineering receive this team award in recognition of the active role they have played over more than a decade in community education on sustainability issues and, in particular, for their contribution to the establishment and ongoing operation of the Futureworld Eco-technology Centre in Wollongong.

They have both shown outstanding leadership in helping to create this unique Centre, having not only lent their technical expertise, but also assisted in a very hands-on way with the more mundane tasks of preparing grant submissions, budgets, and plans and developing displays, marketing and learning materials.

They have also been actively involved in the development of the Centre's schools education program, have organised and delivered numerous public lectures, built strong relationships with industry and government bodies and, importantly, have involved their own students in the Centre for learning purposes.

Siva and Paul both share a belief that an academic has a social responsibility to share their skills and knowledge with the community and to produce graduates who can think globally but are able to act locally in a sustainable manner.

Highly Commended:

**Associate Professor Ron West
Faculty of Science
Individual category**



Ron West is to be commended for his work over many years on regional and community development projects, his passion for the protection of the environment, the promotion of sustainable marine and freshwater industries and his work in developing

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beneficial relationships with external organisations.

Ron is a respected adviser to local councils and government departments on marine and estuarine issues and has given freely of his time to a range of expert panels and committees.

His colleagues cite the generous and collaborative nature of his contribution and the importance of his work for regional sustainability.

Highly Commended:

**Associate Professor Ian Brown,
Dr Pauline Lysaght and
Ms Ros Westbrook**
Faculty of Education
Team category



A/Prof Ian Brown & Dr Pauline Lysaght

The "Voices of Children" team from the Faculty of Education receives a special commendation for their work

over a number of years in developing links and programs between the University and other organisations at a local, national and international level.

In particular, through the Voice of Children: A Sense of Community project, the nominees worked with indigenous children (and schools) in the Shoalhaven region to provide them with an opportunity to participate in a creative project that helped them explore their identity and improve their self esteem, thus contributing to the University's equity and school outreach endeavours.



