



UNIVERSITY  
OF WOLLONGONG  
AUSTRALIA

University of Wollongong  
**Research Online**

---

UOW Vice-Chancellor's Awards Booklets

Corporate Publications Archive

---

2010

## Vice-Chancellor's Awards 2010

University of Wollongong

---

### Publication Details

Vice-Chancellor's Awards, University of Wollongong, 2010, 44p.

Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library:  
[research-pubs@uow.edu.au](mailto:research-pubs@uow.edu.au)

---

# Vice-Chancellor's Awards 2010

## **Publication Details**

Vice-Chancellor's Awards, University of Wollongong, 2010, 44p.

# *Vice-Chancellor's Awards*



2 0 1 0



*Vice-Chancellor's Awards Ceremony*

*Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2010*

*McKinnon Building  
University of Wollongong*



# Program

---

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

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

***Presentation of 25 Years Service Awards***

***Professor Joe Chicharo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International)***

***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 - 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)***

***Presentation of the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Excellence***

***Professor Judy Raper, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)***

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

***Professor Rob Castle, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)***

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

REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of the market for renewable energy sources, with a particular focus on solar and wind power. The report is intended for use by policymakers, investors, and industry stakeholders.

2. The market for renewable energy has experienced significant growth in recent years, driven by a combination of factors including government incentives, technological advancements, and increasing public awareness of the environmental benefits of clean energy. This growth is expected to continue as the world transitions towards a more sustainable energy system.

3. Key findings from the research include the following:

- The solar energy market is projected to reach a global capacity of over 1,000 GW by 2030, with a significant portion of this capacity being installed in emerging markets.
- Wind power remains a leading source of renewable energy, with onshore wind capacity expected to double by 2030 and offshore wind capacity projected to reach 100 GW.
- Government policies, such as feed-in tariffs and renewable energy targets, continue to play a crucial role in driving market growth and investment.
- Technological innovations, particularly in battery storage and smart grid systems, are essential for overcoming the intermittency of renewable energy sources and ensuring a stable and reliable energy supply.

4. The report concludes that the renewable energy sector is well-positioned for continued growth and investment. However, challenges remain, including the need for further policy support, improved grid infrastructure, and continued technological innovation. Addressing these challenges will be critical to achieving the global climate goals set out in the Paris Agreement.

## Contents

---

25 Years Service Awards .....	1
Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Outstanding Service for General Staff .....	13
The Marie Lewis Award .....	17
Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning .....	18
Vice-Chancellor's Early Career Academic Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning .....	19
Vice-Chancellor's Sessional Tutor/Demonstrator Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning ...	19
Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning .....	21
Faculty Early Career Academic Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning .....	24
Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Award for Senior Researchers .....	25
Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Award for Emerging Researchers .....	26
Vice-Chancellor's Award for Interdisciplinary Research Excellence .....	28
Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research Partnership .....	28
Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research Supervision .....	30
Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Community Engagement .....	32

ANNEX

1. Introduction

2. Objectives of the study

3. Methodology

4. Results and Discussion

5. Conclusions

6. References

7. Appendix

8. Glossary

9. Index

10. Acknowledgements

## 25 Years Service Awards

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

This year's recipients are:

**June Aspley**  
Faculty of Arts



June Aspley has experienced the University from several perspectives.

She has provided high quality administrative support to a myriad of teaching and research activities.

For thousands of students, conference attendees, research partners and casual tutors, June has been the

telephone voice or email contact with the University.

At the same time June undertook both a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts here at UOW. For her fellow students she was someone who understood the system and could provide practical, as well as personal, support.

June's BA Honours thesis was an analysis of the restructure of Faculty general staff which, at the time, had just been completed.

Through it all, June has been a great colleague and source of information and support.

## 25 Years Service Awards

**Louie Athanasiadis**  
Faculty of Commerce



Louie Athanasiadis was hired in 1985 as a programmer for the Microcomputer Laboratories, at a time when he was completing his second undergraduate degree.

Back then, in the world of computing, everything had to be crafted in hand-written code. Louie was hired because his degrees in Metallurgy and Computing Science meant he knew

how to develop solutions for real problems.

This remains one of Louie's extraordinary skills and over time he has developed numerous innovative systems that support students and staff, including the tutorial preference system and the Commerce early entry system.

In 1991 the computer labs relocated to Building 40, providing facilities for Commerce. Louie rose through the Computer Officer ranks, undertaking greater responsibilities for the technical infrastructure and co-ordinating student software support.

Louie has a vicious sense of humour, he is truthful, original and very talented; he learns continuously, is dedicated and he has great loyalty for workmates, the Faculty and for the University he loves.

**Martin Bramston**  
Buildings and Grounds Division



Martin Bramston was appointed Landscape Supervisor in late 1984. His initial intention was to stay for around three years, but fortunately for the campus he stayed on.

Martin's role as Landscape Supervisor during UOW's period of significant landscape development has ensured that our local environment has flourished to become the envy of other universities.

## 25 Years Service Awards

When Martin arrived, the campus was still in its relatively early days of tree planting and watercourse development. Martin has been instrumental in developing the campus into what exists today for the enjoyment of students, visitors and staff.

In customer surveys, carried out across campus, the beautiful natural environment always rates highly. This is further testament to Martin and his committed landscaping staff.

Martin's professional approach to landscaping, his dedication and persistence, are well known to all. Dare try parking on his beloved lawns!

We all owe Martin a big thanks, for his contribution to the development of the Wollongong campus over the past 25 years.

### **Associate Professor Richard Caladine Academic Services Division**



Richard Caladine has been a key contributor to the University of Wollongong's success in teaching and learning.

In a 25 year career that has encompassed both academic and non-academic positions, Ric has developed a capacity to apply emerging technologies to educational needs in the classroom.

He has received world-wide recognition for this, along with the gratitude of staff and students at UOW for his role managing and developing educational technologies such as eduStream, videoconferencing and interactive whiteboards.

Ric's attention to detail and commitment to service delivery have characterised his 25 years with the University.

## 25 Years Service Awards

**Dr Kathie Cooper**  
**Faculty of Commerce**



Kathie Cooper epitomises the "quiet achiever", having started her working life in the Library. This quiet image masks her tenacity as an academic who investigates corporate crime for fun.

In recent years, Kathie has developed the Master of Forensic Accounting degree, a course which dissects fraud, money laundering and corruption. The course attracts seasoned

practitioners from the Australian Federal Police as well as overseas counterparts. Whether she is developing anti-corruption materials for the Indonesian Government or is a keynote speaker for the Chinese Government, Kathie is never phased.

Kathie's cheerful disposition and strong work ethic reflect the best of UOW.

**Kerrie Gamble**  
**Faculty of Informatics**



When Foundation Professor of Mathematics, Austin Keane, appointed Kerrie in January 1975, she was just 16; she was the University's youngest appointment.

Kerrie has remained with Maths ever since, apart from three brief separations. She took a short maternity leave when her first child was born and resigned before the birth of her second child. However she was enticed to return less than a year later, in 1987. The other separation kept her in the family; when Maths and Statistics split (for 4 years) in 1993, she moved to the new Department of Applied Statistics.

A popular and very supportive colleague, Kerrie is famed for her skills in correcting errors in exam papers and drafts of research publications.

Kerrie has served the University with distinction for a total of 34 years, all in the administration of Mathematics.

## 25 Years Service Awards

**Geoffrey Hurt**  
Faculty of Science



Geoff Hurt has been a stalwart and excellent member of the Faculty of Science Workshop for 25 years.

Geoff's great strengths are that of ingenuity and working out design solutions to one-off problems.

Geoff loves nothing better than being given a problem by a researcher and working through the design and speci-

fication, making a prototype and then tweaking things until the job is done.

Famed for his good humour and his strong opinions, he is always still wearing shorts long after the rest of us have wimped out for the winter.

Geoff is a trusted colleague and an invaluable asset to teaching and research in the Faculty of Science.

**Patricia Little**  
Financial Services Division



Twenty-five years ago Patricia Little commenced work at the Printery, bringing with her a wonderful array of Welsh songs and a warm and friendly attitude that has endeared her to all the staff over the years.

Patricia has always shown a great commitment to learn and improve herself in changing times.

Starting as a printer, she has developed into a talented designer and has had a large input into the growth of the Printery.

All of Patricia's work mates have enjoyed working with her over the years and look forward to the years to come.

## 25 Years Service Awards

**Ron Marshall**  
Faculty of Engineering



Ron Marshall commenced work at the University as a Technical Officer in the Mechanical Engineering Workshop. Ron's excellent machining skills and extensive knowledge of that field allowed him to significantly enhance the design of research rigs being developed at the workshop.

Ron has provided excellent support for student activities which rely on the workshop – in particular the Formula

SAE project and the workshop experience sessions for increasing numbers of first year mechanical and mechatronic students.

In 2005 Ron took on the senior role of Operations Manager for the Faculty of Engineering and has demonstrated his excellent management capacity in this demanding role, as acknowledged by his 2010 Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Service.

The personnel skills, strategic planning, consultation, workshop design and overall management skills Ron demonstrated in the recent workshop relocation and ongoing re-establishment in the new SMART facility are appropriately recognised in this prestigious award.

Ron's contributions to the University have been exceptional and he is very highly valued by his colleagues.

**Keith Maywald**  
Faculty of Engineering



Keith Maywald began his time at the University employed in ITC Bulk Materials Handling on a limited-term appointment. His initial tasks included providing electrical and electronic support in the Bulk Solids laboratory and supporting research projects within the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

In 1991 Keith was employed by Mechanical Engineering as a Technical

## 25 Years Service Awards

Officer in a permanent position and has played a pivotal role in the electronic workshop ever since.

Keith's creative problem solving abilities and electrical expertise have substantially contributed to many major research projects within the Faculties of Engineering and Health and Behavioural Sciences, as well as contributing to many Research strengths.

Keith has always been a valuable member of the Engineering Tech Staff team and is always willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done in a jovial but professional manner.

**Marina McGlinn**  
**Faculty of Science**



Marina McGlinn has made an outstanding and sustained contribution to the University. She has contributed to teaching and research in three academic Units across two Faculties.

Marina joined the University in June 1984 as a Technical Officer in the Department of Biology and was promoted, six years later, to Professional Officer in the Faculty of Arts.

She returned to the Science Faculty in 1992, to the newly created role of Professional Officer in Environmental Science. Her responsibilities included the development and management of outplacements for Environmental Science Honours students and her student support responsibilities now extend across the School of Earth & Environmental Sciences.

Marina has an enormous range of skills and abilities. She has a broad knowledge of University procedures, a well-earned reputation for efficiency, cheerfulness and enthusiasm even under duress, and a great ability to relate well to students, staff and representatives from the University's industry partners.

## 25 Years Service Awards

**Nina Moreno**  
**Library**



Nina Moreno has witnessed the technological transformation of the Library since her appointment 25 years ago as a General Library Assistant, when her responsibilities included operating the telex machine and the early Visual Display Units.

Nina's versatility over time is demonstrated through her many different placements, including document de-

livery, technology support and a range of administrative activities. Nina is particularly known for her exceptional client service skills and her ability to build rapport with others.

**Cathy Nicastrì**  
**Information Technology Services**



Cathy Nicastrì joined UOW in early 1985 as a Computer Laboratory Assistant. Six years later she was appointed Manager of the computer laboratories, which were expanding

from being a resource for the Department of Information Systems to becoming a showcase resource for all students and staff in the Faculty of Commerce.

Over the years, Cathy and her team continued to meet the ever-demanding needs of Commerce staff and students by providing first class IT support.

At the same time, Cathy was also advising and mentoring fellow UOW IT staff and was increasingly involved in numerous working groups to ensure the continual upgrade of IT services across campus. It is no surprise that in 2008 Cathy was appointed Senior Manager, Support Services, in ITS.

Cathy is the consummate professional who has made an enormous contribution to this University. She enjoys enormous respect from all those who have had the pleasure of working with her.

## 25 Years Service Awards

### **Associate Professor Peter Nickolas Faculty of Informatics**



Peter Nickolas epitomises the best qualities of the academic.

In research he has worked in several different areas, and his work is noted for its originality, thoroughness, depth and lucidity.

Peter has contributed very substantially to course development and teaching new subjects and material. He is an excellent teacher who has a

genuine concern for the welfare of his students. His personal qualities make him eminently suited to his position as Sub-Dean of the Faculty.

Peter has a wide range of intellectual and cultural interests, and he is an accomplished musician with an admiration for, and detailed knowledge of, the work of that great genius, J. S. Bach.

### **Dr Don Platt Faculty of Informatics**



Don Platt has had a career at Wollongong distinguished by his technical prowess, especially in the area of electrical machines.

His imagination, creativity and clear understanding of the basic maths and physics of electromagnetism have enabled him to create innovative machines in his research, and to inspire students with the excitement of his discipline. His strong interest in his students led him to pioneer problem-based learning approaches in his teaching.

Don's good nature, approachability and concern for his students, combined with his thoughtful, calm and philosophical aura, have earned him immense respect from students and staff.

## 25 Years Service Awards

**Professor Stephen Pyne**  
**Faculty of Science**



Stephen Pyne joined UOW as a lecturer in Chemistry following post-doctoral experience at Harvard and Purdue Universities in the USA and at La Trobe University.

This early promise as an outstanding talent in organic and medicinal chemistry was quickly fulfilled and Stephen has been extremely successful in research and prolific in publishing.

In addition, he has been highly successful in attracting funding from both government and industry sources. In particular, Stephen's research partnership with Johnson and Johnson Pharmaceutical Company over nearly 20 years has been very significant and productive.

He has also made many excellent contributions to UOW through teaching and governance, including periods as Acting Head of the (then) Department of Chemistry.

Stephen's infectious laughter and dry humour over the odd ale at post-graduate symposia are trademark Pyne characteristics.

Though diminutive in stature, Stephen is lion-hearted, a loyal colleague, a caring student supervisor and a generally top bloke.

**Mario Solitro**  
**Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences**



Mario Solitro came to UOW from the University of Sydney, beginning his time here as a Grade 1 Technical Officer in the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences. By December 1986 Mario was promoted to Grade 2 and his supervisor confirmed that he was an excellent, productive and conscientious worker. In 1991 he was again promoted to the position of Senior Technical Officer.

## 25 Years Service Awards

Mario took on yet another new role in 2008 with the birth of his son, and again with the birth of his daughter the following year.

Mario has always been a valuable member of the Health and Behavioural Sciences Staff team and always conducts himself in a good-humoured and professional manner.

**Brian Webb**  
Faculty of Informatics



Brian Webb started work at the University as the precision tool making expert at the Automation and Engineering Applications Centre Ltd., a company set up by UOW to pioneer the supply of robotic and other difficult and innovative mechanisms to industry. He then provided these skills to Electrical Engineering academics and was well known for providing high-quality workmanship and creative solutions from the workshop.

Meanwhile, Brian evolved into an articulate advocate for the interests of general staff via senior positions in the Community and Public Sector Union. He has served on University Council, and has been involved in several senior Union positions outside the University as well.

Brian can therefore look back with considerable pride on both his technical and staff advocacy achievements.

**Professor Graham Williams**  
Faculty of Informatics



Graham Williams is an all-round academic. His outstanding personal skills have led him to be heavily involved in administration, and he has been Head of School on several occasions and is currently Deputy Dean of the Faculty and Deputy Chair of Senate.

He has the rare ability to retain the confidence of people, even in difficult circumstances.

## 25 Years Service Awards

Graham has a world reputation in his area of mathematical research.

As a teacher he is outstanding, with a commitment to new ideas and an ability to communicate them.

Graham is valued highly by all who know him, and we are all very fortunate to have him at the University.

**Associate Professor William Zealey**  
**Faculty of Engineering**



Bill Zealey is a resourceful and selfless member of the Wollongong University community.

His main research interests lie in star formation regions and wide field astronomy. He has increasingly utilised on-line databases to provide photometric, astrometric and other data in multi-wavelength studies of the Coal-sack and W28 complexes.

When needed, he selflessly put aside some of these interests to contribute to the Centre for Medical Radiation Physics in medical imaging and two-dimensional radiation dosimetry.

Bill has played a significant role in the development of the University of Wollongong as a Sub-Dean, Head of School and Associate Dean.

He was key to the successful move of Physics from the Science Faculty to the Engineering Faculty and the resurgence of Physics at Wollongong.

**Also acknowledged for 25 years service to the University:**

**Professor David Ayre**  
**Faculty of Science**

**Peter Ihnat**  
**Faculty of Engineering**

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

---

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

This year's recipients are:

**Christian Fenn**  
**Information Technology Services**



Christian Fenn possesses an astounding breadth and depth of knowledge that goes way beyond his immediate area of responsibility.

He is recognised as an expert in all the complex areas of infrastructure which underpin essential UOW business services such as email, internet, print and account management.

Whether it is solving performance issues relating to the University website, programming the University Account Synchronisation Script, troubleshooting problems for faculties or simply being the 'go to' man for any technical problem that needs solving, Christian's work ethic is second to none and he has a genuine desire to help stakeholders achieve positive outcomes.

Christian's manner is always approachable, calm and professional. He proves himself constantly as a technical leader and an exemplary colleague, and is a valued member of the University.

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

**Kay Kent**  
Faculty of Health and Behavioural  
Sciences



Kay Kent receives this award for her exceptional service and commitment to students of the University.

Kay's warmth, humour and charm give her a great capacity to connect with students and their families. She brings infinite energy and enthusiasm to every aspect of her role as Student Support Officer and Administrator of

the University of Wollongong's Rural Health Club (SHARP).

The compassion, patience and generosity Kay shows in often difficult situations is admired and greatly appreciated by students.

Kay makes a huge and meaningful impact to literally thousands of students who come to her for help, particularly rural, indigenous and international students. Literally available day, night and weekends if needed, Kay never turns a student away.

Kay is an outstanding and unique person who goes above and beyond in everything she does.

**Ron Marshall**  
Faculty of Engineering



Ron Marshall receives this award for successfully leading the fast-track relocation of the Engineering Faculty's workshops and laboratory spaces to allow construction of the SMART Infrastructure Facility to commence.

Due to the complexity of the labs and equipment housed in the workshops, relocation required an enormous effort in terms of coordinating staff, identifying new ways to operate activities and

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

finding appropriate spaces for operations to continue. Ron's management abilities, along with his calm and considerate approach, enabled this to be achieved in less than one month from a standing start.

Throughout the SMART Infrastructure project, Ron has been a guiding force in ensuring the best possible outcomes for academics and students who will be using the Facility.

### **Howard Zhang** **Information Technology Services**



Howard Zhang receives this award in recognition of his extraordinary commitment to the success of the Planning Services Survey Triangulation Project – a vital part of the University's AUQA audit preparation.

Faced with a problem that had left external technical specialists perplexed, Howard showed great initiative and worked in his own time to troubleshoot, trial and ultimately succeed in implementing the solution.

Despite having no prior experience with server installation, Howard was able to resolve many technically complicated issues through self-training and perseverance.

Howard's exceptional achievement has saved the University a significant amount of money and will have flow-on benefits to Planning Services and the University as a whole.

### **The English Conversation Group Team** **Academic Services Division, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Informatics**



*Left to right: Rachel Weine, Virginie Schmelitschek, Anji Phillips, Johlene Morrison*

The Engineering/Informatics English Conversation Group provides international students with the opportunity to speak conversational English in an informal, friendly environment.

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

The first of its kind on campus, the group meets weekly during session including, for the first time this year, during Summer session as there is such a high need.

Feedback from students and staff has been extremely positive. For some students the Group provides the only opportunity they have to speak English informally, and many have made new friends and gained a better understanding of Australian customs and culture through taking part in the Group. For some students it meant getting over their culture shock much more quickly by seeing the same friendly faces each week.

Virginie Schmeltschek, Anji Phillips, Johlene Morrison and Rachel Weine have been the driving force behind the Group and have demonstrated their passion and commitment to helping international students enjoy a positive experience while studying at UOW.

### The Information Skills Team Library



*Left to right: Nadine Clark, Lesley Smith, Bernadette Stephens, Bernie Carr, Lynda Cooper*

The Information Skills Team receives this award for the development and implementation of 'StartSmart: Essential Academic Information Skills', an online information literacy program which transitions students to the academic information environment.

StartSmart provides first year and international students with a sound foundation in the development of their academic information skills as well as an understanding of academic integrity.

It also provides a basis on which academic staff, in particular, can build progressively as students continue their studies.

From an educational perspective, StartSmart is an exceptional resource. It is outstanding in terms of its scope and quality and is at the leading-edge of online information literacy programs in Australia.

Bernie Carr, Nadine Clark, Lynda Cooper, Lesley Smith and Bernadette Stephens have provided University of Wollongong students with an essential piece of the first year experience puzzle.

## 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 at UOW. Selection is based on academic performance as well as service to the University and its students.

This year's recipient is:

**Daniel Judge**  
**Academic Services Division**



Daniel Judge has worked for UOW since November 1999 and is currently the Web/Multimedia programmer for the Centre for Academic Systems and Resources Unit.

In 2005, Daniel enrolled in a Bachelor of Internet Science and Technology and is currently in his final year of studies. Daniel has achieved outstanding results and has been listed

on the Dean's Merit List in 2005, 2008 and 2009.

Daniel has made major contributions both to the University and to its students. As a talented web and multimedia developer he has constantly demonstrated dedication and commitment to producing high quality learning and teaching resources.

Daniel has been involved in many notable projects, including developing the website for the Independent Learners Introductory Program (ILIP) and its recent migration to the new StartSmart site. Daniel was the lead contributor on the development of the website 'undergroundcoal.com.au' which was successful in receiving a \$200,000 grant from The Australian Coal Association Research Program.

Daniel always takes that extra step to ensure that all projects he undertakes are a success and of the highest standard.

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

### **The Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning (OCTAL)**

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

**This year's recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Award is:**

**Professor Rodney Nillsen  
Faculty of Informatics**



This award recognises Rod Nillsen's characteristic contributions to teaching. These include a capacity to inspire students through a dynamic commitment to teaching, an enthusiasm for ideas, and a clarity of thought which translate into an enlargement of students' horizons, expectations, and

confidence in their own thinking abilities.

Rod has achieved this, in part, by the development of special notes and materials which facilitate the comprehension of abstract ideas and logical argument by means of an interaction between text and pictures.

This has contributed to international research publication that contributes to "bridging the gap" between teaching and research.

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

**This year's recipient of the Early Career Academic Award is:**

**Meredith Kennedy  
Faculty of Health and Behavioural  
Sciences**



Meredith Kennedy is an accredited practicing dietitian whose teaching role is to facilitate the transition that final year students make from the university environment to work in a clinical setting.

Meredith organises and facilitates 18-week practical placements for students, having prepared them for the practicum by teaching the dietary counselling skills of a dietitian.

She enables students to practice their skills through participation in small group education sessions with clients at the Illawarra Diabetes Service.

Students and peers describe Meredith as an enthusiastic and dedicated teacher who is approachable, organised and practical as she explains concepts and assists students to develop clinical skills.

**This year's co-recipients of the Sessional Tutor / Demonstrator Award are:**

**Mercy Baafi  
Faculty of Health and Behavioural  
Sciences**



Mercy Baafi began as a sessional teacher in 1991. Her dual roles of Senior Midwifery Educator at Wollongong Hospital and Honorary Teaching Fellow at UOW allow her to observe students in a clinical setting and intervene to improve knowledge and skills

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

in the context of the work place. Mercy is respected by her students for her passion and her clear presentation, the encouragement of participation and her commitment to the midwifery profession.

Mercy is valued by her colleagues as a reflective teacher who has participated in the development and accreditation of the Master of Science (Midwifery).

**Saskia Ebejer**  
Faculty of Arts



As a tutor at the Batemans Bay Education Centre, Saskia Ebejer shares with her students the teaching and learning practices she has developed through her experiences and which incorporate contributions and feedback from students.

Her understanding of teaching and learning is exemplified by a personal and reflective approach that sees each student as gifted and unique, recognising that academic ability is only one of many important aspects of their lives.

Saskia supports students as they learn the critical skills required in an Arts degree and is recognised as a valuable team member by the coordinators of the subjects in which she teaches.

## Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning

---

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

**Awards are presented in the following categories:**

- Faculty OCTAL Award
- Faculty Early Career Academic OCTAL Award

**This year's recipients of the Faculty Awards are:**

**Dr Anu Bissoonauth-Bedford  
Faculty of Arts**



Dr Anu Bissoonauth-Bedford is a Lecturer in French Studies who combines traditional with innovative modes of delivery and uses communication and information technology to enhance the learning experience of her students. She teaches French language and culture, mentors Dean's Scholars, has negotiated an exchange relationship

with two universities and develops curriculum and learning resources.

Anu's students benefit from field trips, invited guest speakers and electronic resources which contribute to enhance their understanding of the French language in a social and cultural context.

**Dr Venkat Yanamandram  
Faculty of Commerce**



Venkat Yanamandram provides education that encourages students to be

## Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning

socially responsible. His teaching approach extends beyond providing an interesting and entertaining classroom performance to one that engages students to think critically in the context of a large classroom environment.

Venkat sets assessment tasks that allow students to evaluate the role of social responsibility and ethics in improving marketing performance of organisations.

He has worked with others to introduce a systematic means to embed academic integrity in the Commerce curriculum to provide students with a learning experience that supports their development of the graduate quality 'socially responsible'.

### **Professor Lori Lockyer** **Faculty of Education**



Lori Lockyer's academic teaching career has focused on the design, implementation and evaluation of learning in the professions – she has been committed to the preparation and continuing development of education professionals, health professionals and researchers. Lori's teaching is based on acknowledging student contexts and learning needs, designing and engaging in theoretically sound pedagogy that promotes

communication and collaboration, and integrating innovative technology.

Lori has applied this philosophy in the subjects she teaches, the programs and resources she designs, the way she interacts with students, and by leading others in educational innovation.

### **Professor Gursel Alici** **Faculty of Engineering**



Gursel Alici is a student-centered teacher who endeavours to provide

## Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning

current knowledge based on recent research outcomes; to inspire his students to feel enthusiastic about learning, and to encourage students to develop an inquiring attitude.

He relates subject material to professional life using real-life examples and current journal articles. He facilitates active student engagement with learning and encourages students to take responsibility for their learning.

Gursel encourages independent learning through structured reporting during the honours project, offering summer research projects to excellent students. One student has commented that, "He 'teaches' rather than 'lectures'."

### **Dr Karen Walton School of Health and Behavioural Sciences**



Karen Walton's teaching and research is built on a solid foundation of clinical and food service dietetics practice.

She strives to engage students, provide authentic learning scenarios and respect their diversity.

The learning-teaching-research nexus is built in, with food service dietetics and nutritional support of the elderly

being critical research, leadership and advocacy areas. Students are involved in research, conference presentations and journal publications.

Karen has developed a DVD to improve student engagement with food service dietetics topics. Her professional roles provide exposure to initiatives including the Australian and New Zealand hospital menu standards project and food service dietetics advocacy and leadership roles.

## Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning

**Dr Grace McCarthy**  
**Sydney Business School**



Grace McCarthy is passionate about ensuring her graduate students enjoy the best learning experience possible.

She sees her role as helping students develop their understanding, reflect on their experience, and relate their experience to theory. Her curriculum development activities are informed by research, benchmarking with other universities, and acting on feedback from current and former students.

Grace finds working with engaged and motivated students stimulating and rewarding. She loves what she does.

**This year's recipient of the Faculty Early Career Academic Award is:**

**Dr Lam Phung**  
**Faculty of Informatics**



Lam Phung is recognised by colleagues and students as an outstanding lecturer dedicated to student learning. An effective, innovative

and reflective lecturer, he has a reputation as a patient, kind and meticulous teacher.

Lam has received teaching grants, attracted industry support to modernise teaching labs, and developed clear and easy to follow teaching material.

Lam's goal is to be remembered by students, not only for the technical knowledge that they gain, but also for his dedication to their learning.

## Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Excellence

**The Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards recognise:**

### **Senior Researchers**

**Acknowledging outstanding contributions by individuals or teams;**

### **Emerging Researchers**

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

### **Interdisciplinary Research Teams**

**Recognising outstanding collaborations across discipline boundaries;**

### **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).**

**This year's recipient of the Senior Researchers Excellence Award is:**

**Professor Buddhima Indraratna  
Faculty of Engineering**



Professor Buddhima Indraratna is considered as a world leading expert in geotechnical engineering. Since joining UOW in 1991, Buddhima has founded the Centre for Geomechanics & Rail Engineering (now a UOW Strategic Initiative), been a founding leader of the first Cooperative Research Centre for Railway Eng-

ineering in Australia, and is currently a joint leader in the bid to establish an ARC Centre of Excellence with special reference to Transportation and Energy Infrastructure.

Buddhima's significant contributions to geotechnical research have been acknowledged through several prestigious national and international awards; over \$14 million in research funding; and the publication of five books, more than 350 peer-reviewed articles, and over 25 invited keynote lectures in all continents.

Most importantly, Buddhima's scholarly research has made a real practical contribution to society. Two examples are new rail track design methods to improve the safety of rail transport that have already been applied in Bulli and Newcastle areas; and novel solutions to the control of acid soils which have saved several millions of dollars of damage to agriculture and aquaculture in the Shoalhaven floodplain.

## Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Excellence

This year, Buddhima was honoured with the highest accolade in Australian Geotechnical Practice, the EH Davis Memorial Lecture award.

These sustained and significant contributions along with his leadership and mentorship of young researchers and students make Buddhima a most worthy recipient of this award.

### Highly Commended:

**Professor Stephen Pyne**  
Faculty of Science



Stephen Pyne is internationally recognised as a research leader in organic chemistry and has made significant contributions to the discovery of new synthetic chemical methodology, asymmetric synthesis, natural products chemistry, fullerene chemistry and medicinal chemistry.

He has published over 200 peer-reviewed international journal publications, 55 in the past five years, taken out seven patents and published nine book chapters.

In the past 10 years Stephen has brought in over \$13 million from competitive grants and industrial funding and has graduated 15 PhD and two MSc (Research) students. He has received continuous ARC Discovery project support since 1985 and \$5 million from Johnson & Johnson Research, with whom he has worked closely with for nearly 20 years.

Stephen Pyne has made many contributions to his discipline nationally and

internationally. In particular he has played a leading role in the Royal Australian Chemical Institute's Organic Chemistry Division for over 10 years.

### This year's recipient of the Emerging Researchers Excellence Award is:

**Dr Long Duc Nghiem**  
Faculty of Engineering



Long Nghiem is one of the rising stars in Australia in Environmental Engi-

## Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Excellence

neering. He gained his PhD from UOW in 2005 but some of his experimental work was carried out in the laboratory of a collaborator Prof. Menachem Elimelech at Yale University. The quality of the PhD research is evident in Long's invitation to present his work at a Gordon Conference.

Long has since published nearly forty peer-reviewed articles, many in top ranking journals in his field. These have generated a great deal of interest with over 550 citations. He has also produced two books including one as a sole author on trace organic removal from water using membrane processes. Long has already attracted significant external funding from both Competitive Grant sources as well as industrial contracts.

Long Nghiem has quickly built up a significant research group, including being co-supervisor of two post-doctoral fellows and eight PhD students, and has much active

international collaboration. Long is a brightly shining researcher with an even brighter future.

### Highly Commended:

**Dr Heath Ecroyd**  
**Faculty of Science**



Heath Ecroyd was awarded his PhD from the University of Newcastle in 2003. Before taking up a lectureship position at UOW last year, he worked as a postdoctoral fellow in France and

was awarded an NHMRC Peter Doherty fellowship.

Heath's research focus is in understanding the role of protein aggregation, which is associated with the development of neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's diseases. He is particularly interested in the role of specialised 'protector' proteins that somehow seem to fail to prevent protein aggregation in these neurological diseases.

Just six-and-a-half years after obtaining his PhD, Heath has published 28 articles in international journals and one book chapter and his work has been cited 294 times in the scientific literature. Since joining UOW, he has secured funding from a range of sources, including an ARC Discovery project grant.

## Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Excellence

**The recipients of this year's inaugural Interdisciplinary Research Excellence Award are:**

**Associate Professor Stephen Blanksby, Faculty of Science,  
Dr Todd Mitchell, Faculty of  
Health and Behavioural Sciences**



*Left to right: Dr Todd Mitchell, A/Prof. Stephen Blanksby*

Stephen Blanksby and Todd Mitchell are presented with this award for their research program entitled "New

methods to complete the lipidomics puzzle". Lipidomics is a fast emerging interdisciplinary field of research that seeks to understand the formation and fate of lipids within cells, tissues and even whole organisms. Lipidomics promises to provide new knowledge and identify novel targets for the treatment of lipid-related pathologies such as type 2 diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, cardiovascular disease and a number of ocular conditions.

The research collaboration between Todd (a physiologist) and Stephen (a chemist) has kept UOW and Australia at the forefront of international research in this field. This is evidenced by 12 co-authored publications in international journals and the growth of an active research group including five jointly-supervised PhD students. In 2009, Mitchell and Blanksby were awarded more than \$500,000 in project-related funding and one million dollars in infrastructure funding from the Australian Research Council to further their collaborative research

program and establish a unique lipidomics facility: including novel technologies developed at UOW.

**This year's recipients of the Outstanding Achievement in Research Partnership Award are:**

**Professor Frank Deane, Illawarra  
Institute for Mental Health,  
Dr Trevor Crowe, Faculty of  
Health and Behavioural Sciences**



*Left to right: Dr Trevor Crowe, Prof. Frank Deane*

## Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Excellence

Professor Deane and Dr Crowe receive this award for the project titled "Evaluation and Review of Substance Abuse Programs" involving research partner The Salvation Army.

The project provides The Salvation Army with critical and timely research, evaluation and advice on its broad range of alcohol and other drugs and mental health issues, and has helped to develop a culture of reflective and evidence-based practice that has assisted The Salvation Army to improve its service delivery practices.

The partnership spans across five projects, worth more than \$1.1 million and evolving over a three-year period, and has supported three Honours projects, three Masters by Research projects, three PhD projects and three third year research development students from the School of Psychology.

It has led to more than 15 conference presentations, two accepted journal articles and another four submitted.

The research is now developing to consider broader cross-disciplinary aspects and The Salvation Army states that it intends "to maintain the research partnership on a long-term basis as the benefits of the research thus far have provided the organisation, staff and clients with an increased level of competence and confidence in the range of services it performs".

### Highly Commended:

**Professor Kathy Eagar, Associate Professor Rob Gordon, Janette Green, Frances Simmonds  
Sydney Business School**



*Left to right: Frances Simmonds, Prof. Kathy Eagar, Janette Green, A/Prof. Rob Gordon.*

The project titled "Australasian Rehabilitation Outcomes Centre" (AROC), involves research partnership with the Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation

## Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Excellence

Medicine, the Commonwealth Department of Health, all State and Territory Health Departments, all public and private rehabilitation units, all Health Funds and the Department of Veteran Affairs.

AROC represents an important and successful research partnership between UOW and the various stakeholders that make up the rehabilitation centre. The Centre is completely stakeholder-funded, to the value of around one million dollars per annum.

The success of AROC is evidenced by the extent to which it is consulted regarding rehabilitation issues at national, state and facility level. Data on more than 64,000 episodes are submitted each year and the database now comprises data describing more than 400,000 episodes of care.

**This year's recipient of the Excellence in Research Supervision Award is:**

**Professor Xu-Feng Huang  
Faculty of Health and Behavioural  
Sciences**



Xu-Feng Huang is a Professor in the School of Health Sciences and also the Scientific Director of Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute Metabolic Theme, Director of the Centre for Translational Neuroscience and the Director of the Schizophrenia Re-

search Institute Wollongong Centre. Xu-Feng is awarded the VC's Award for Excellence in Supervision for his exemplary support and guidance of his research students.

A Lecturer in the School of Health Sciences since 1995, Xu-Feng has supervised sixteen higher degree research students to date whilst juggling a successful professional career in research and teaching.

Xu-Feng schedules regular meetings with his students and also has his office door open for impromptu meetings. He makes his students feel that their work contributes to the field of translational neuroscience research and to the community in general.

Three of Xu-Feng's students have been recipients of the high achievement award from the Schizophrenia Research Institute NSW. After their training, a number of his students are now working as post-doctoral fellows under NHMRC research schemes.

## Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Excellence

They feel this would not have been possible without the support, training and direction that Xu-Feng provided them throughout their project.

It is very clear that Xu-Feng is admired by his many students, not only for his outstanding research and mentoring capabilities, but also because of his genuine down-to-earth and approachable nature.

Xu-Feng inspires his students to do their best work through his own example and through his encouragement and support. They have expressed their appreciation for Xu-Feng by nominating him for this award.

### Highly Commended:

#### Associate Professor Tony Okely Faculty of Education



Tony Okely is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education and Director of the Interdisciplinary Educational Research Institute (IERI). He has supervised 16 honours and four higher degree research students to completion over the past 11 years since his appointment as an Associate Lecturer in 1998.

Tony's enthusiasm for research and for developing his students' research knowledge and skills is demonstrated in his willingness to provide students with opportunities to meet one-on-one with leaders in his research field and to engage students in regular collegial discussions with himself, with fellow researchers and with visiting academics.

Through these activities Tony engenders continual development of research awareness, understanding and knowledge, and promotes the development of important research and social networks.

Tony is a supervisor who goes the extra mile with his students. He is conscientious and committed, patient and enthusiastic. He inspires his students to do their best work through his own example and through his encouragement and support. Their nomination of Tony for this award was one way of expressing their appreciation.

## 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:

*Individual category*  
**Dr Glenn Mitchell**  
**Faculty of Arts**



Dr Glenn Mitchell receives this award for his significant and sustained contribution to community engagement and engaged student learning at the University of Wollongong and beyond.

Glenn's commitment to promoting the University as a centre of academic excellence and agency for community

engagement is evidenced through his involvement as originator and coordinator of the Faculty of Arts Internship and most recently by his boundless enthusiasm as subject coordinator of the 2009 Summer Session subject, POL340: Politics, the Community and the Common Good.

The first of its kind to be offered at an Australian University, this subject opened enrolments to non-award community students and adopted a new approach to exploring the role of citizens in a democracy, and the importance of self-reflective community engagement and empowerment.

## Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Community Engagement

### **Team category**

**The Illawarra Coal Regional  
Science Fair Team  
Faculty of Science**



**Left to right:** Lisa Hutton, Dr Melissa Thompson

The Illawarra Coal Regional Science Fair team of Dr Melissa Thompson and Ms Lisa Hutton from the Faculty of Science receive the team award for their outstanding work over a number of years in developing the Regional Science Fair from a high school

based event to a large community engagement program involving primary and high school students and teachers, parents, UOW researchers, alumni and industry sponsors.

In partnership with school communities, the team has developed the Science Fair into a major community engagement program.

In 2009 more than 500 participants were involved. A highlight of the program is a complementary Science Mentor Program where University students assist school students to conduct science experiments which they later present at the Science Fair.

### **Highly Commended:**

#### **Individual category**

**Dr Alison Wicks  
Faculty of Health and Behavioural  
Sciences**



Dr Alison Wicks from the Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences, and Founding Director of the Australasian Occupational Science Centre at the Shoalhaven Campus, is highly commended for her work over many years to actively engage with regional and international communities by develop-

## Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Community Engagement

ing and participating in a diverse range of community-based, occupation-focused collaborative projects.

Alison's sustained commitment and enthusiasm to community engagement above and beyond normal expectations has enhanced the reputation of the University – and particularly the Shoalhaven Campus – as one that actively engages with its region and the communities it serves.



