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Vice-Chancellor's Awards 2009

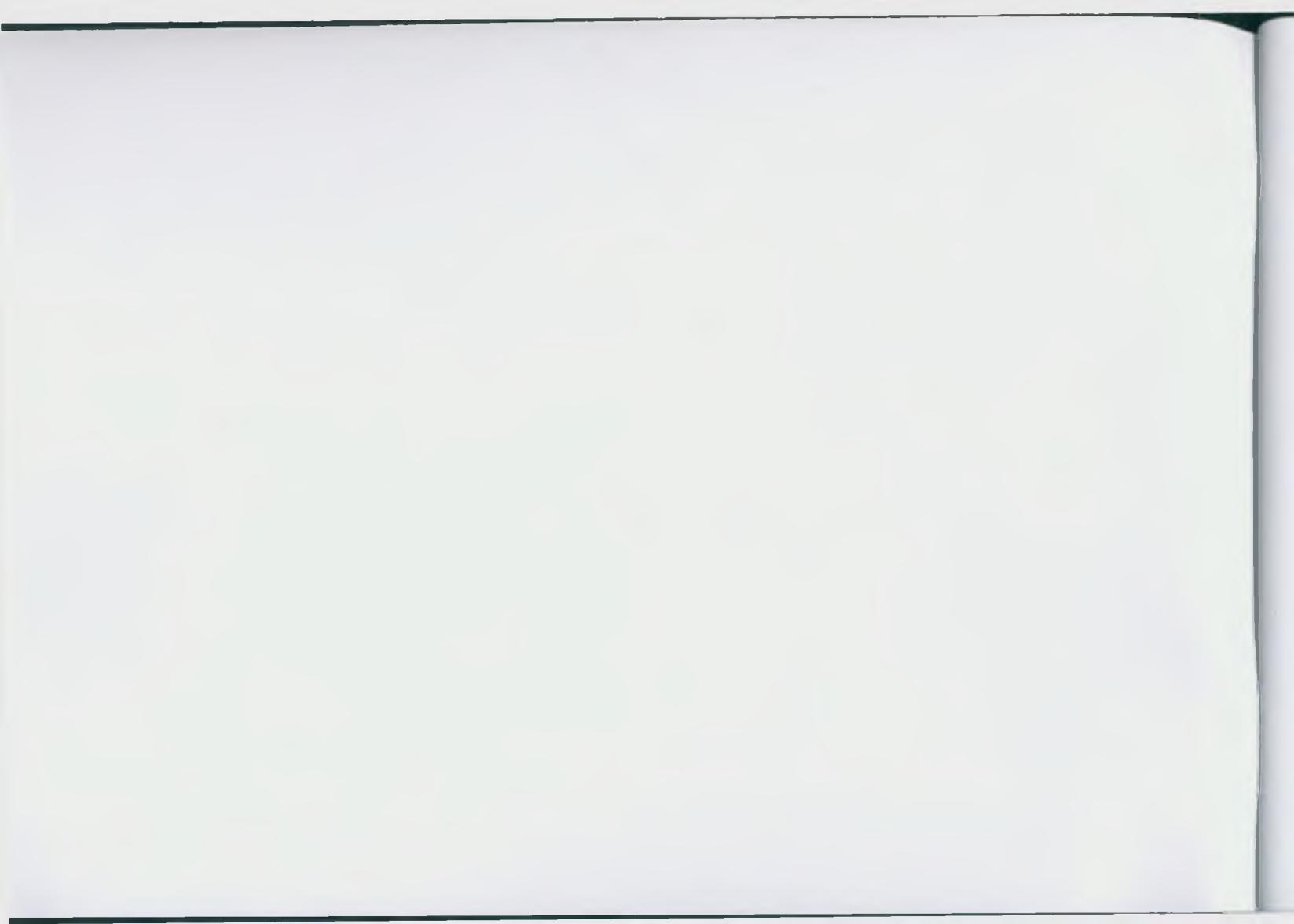
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Vice-Chancellor's Awards





Vice-Chancellor's Awards Ceremony

Friday 19th June, 2009

*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 John Patterson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations)

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

Mr Chris Grange, Vice-Principal (Administration)

Presentation of the Marie Lewis Award - 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)

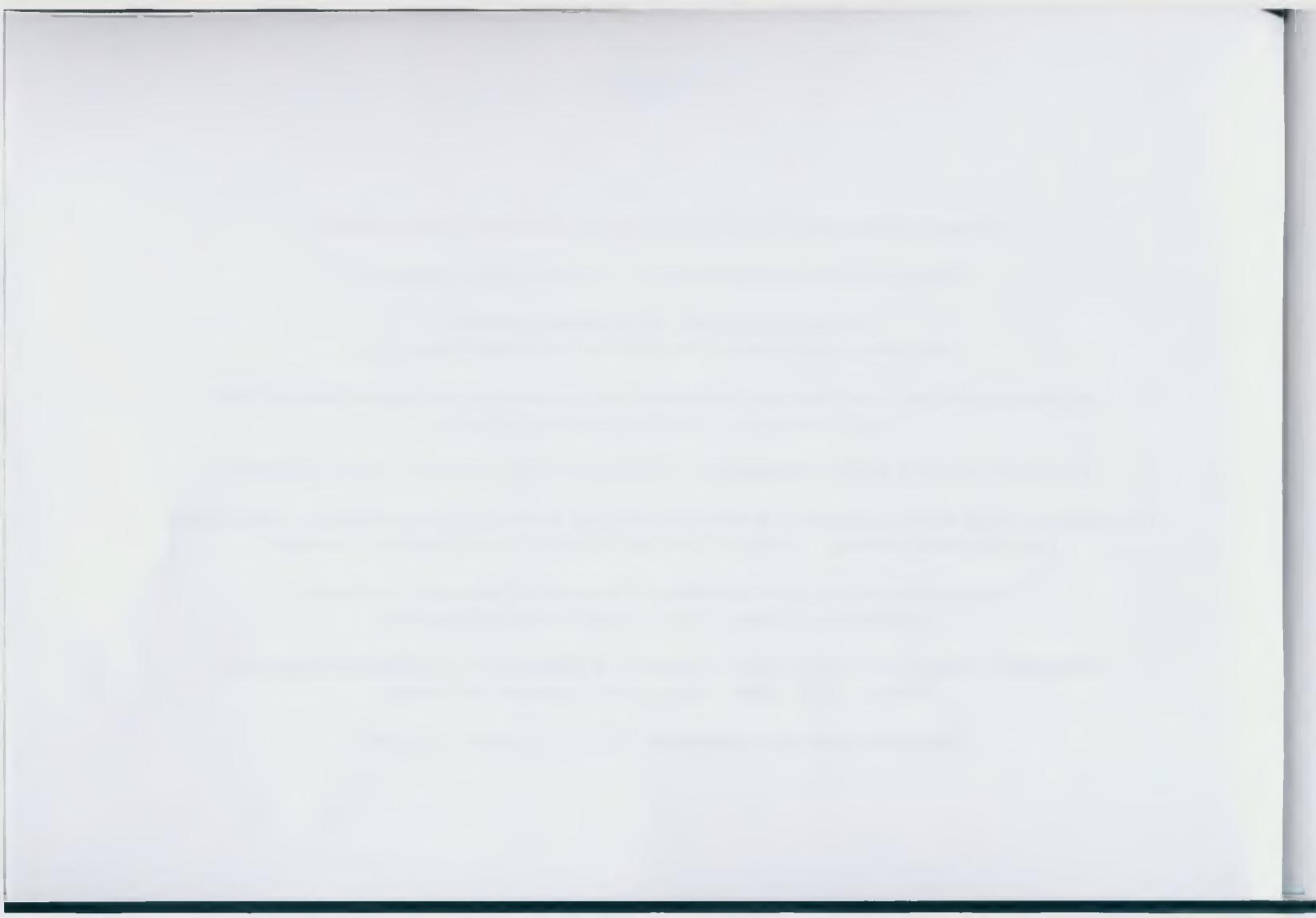
Presentation of the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Excellence

Professor Judy Raper, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

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

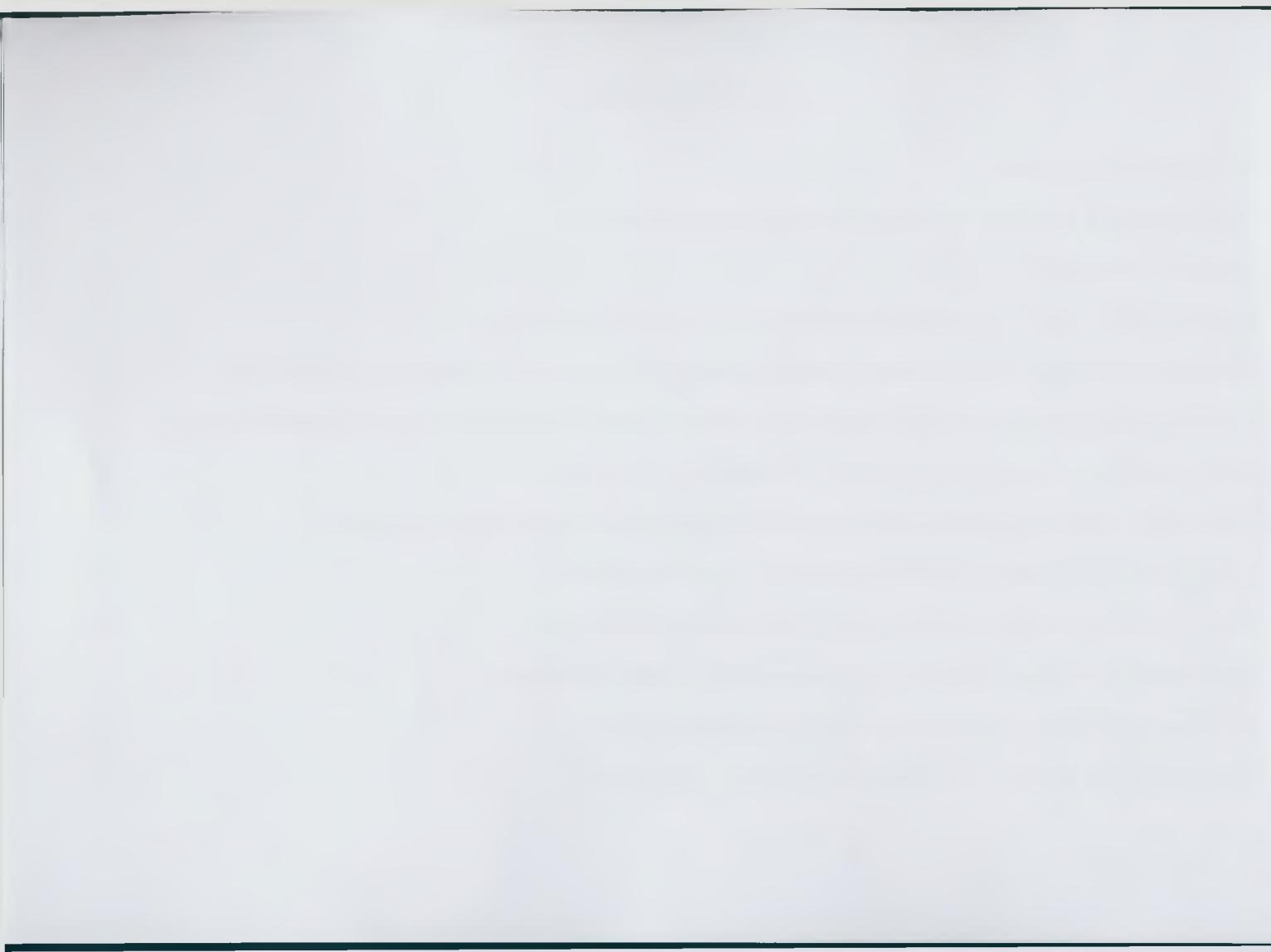
Professor Rob Castle, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

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



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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:

**Associate Professor
Rebecca Albury
Faculty of Arts and Academic
Development Unit**



Rebecca Albury engages students and staff across Arts, Nursing, Engineering and Law in the enterprise of social science (sociology and politics). Rebecca's interdisciplinary feminist scholarship is shaped by research and political activities in women's reproductive health.

Universities need people to challenge prevailing notions, engage colleagues

fearlessly in debate, and inspire them to share carriage of change. From the Affirmative Action Working Party in the mid 1980s, through the development of the BA on the South Coast and Southern Highlands, to EDITS in recent years, Rebecca has fostered debate and mentored colleagues to shape the University's approach to learning and teaching.

**Harry De Bruin
Information Technology Services**



Harry De Bruin is an IT nerd. He's the technical expert who supports the

25 Years Service Awards

University's central databases, those repositories that underpin SOLS, JDE financials, payroll ... and dozens of other critical systems. He is not known to the broad University community, and prefers it that way. Not one to say much, when Harry talks about Oracle databases, people listen. Over the last ten years Harry has encouraged and mentored many new graduates, providing a sage, steady presence amid a dynamic team of developers and database administrators. And when Harry goes home, he relaxes by building and maintaining databases.

Jenel Elrick
Academic Registrar's Division



Jenel Elrick has enriched her varied roles with intelligence, versatility and a wonderful sense of humour.

Jenel's story begins, as good career stories do, literally at the bottom - retrieving files in the basement of Building 21 (where she says she managed to get on well with the rats!).

She moved upwards through records management, graduation, support for committees, student orientation and exams management. She has even been "secretary to the permanent art collection".

Jenel's rare ability to brighten the day has been cherished by her colleagues and by countless students and their families for over 25 years.

Alan Grant
Faculty of Engineering



Alan Grant actively inspires others with his attitude to work by viewing challenging technical tasks as an absolute pleasure.

Alan's ability to support academic staff and students in a friendly and most professional manner is highly commendable. Alan has consistently shown the ability to deal with the complexities of any technical job and complete them most efficiently.

Through his technical contributions, Alan has also made countless students very

25 Years Service Awards

happy during his 25 years with the Faculty of Engineering. Academic staff in Civil Engineering are most grateful to Alan because it is his assistance and leadership in the laboratories that have directly facilitated successful career paths for many. Alan's expertise in designing and casting novel equipment is a rare talent and his dedication and enthusiasm at work makes him an outstanding colleague and employee.

Richard Hook Faculty of Creative Arts



Over the past 25 years artist and educator Richard Hook has been a leader and role

model in the evolving pedagogy and research culture in the Faculty. Richard's teaching is informed by his exemplary work in the fields of Printmaking and Painting. His vision and commitment is reflected in his recent initiative to establish a Print Research Facility in partnership with Printmaker Tom Goulder, which is evolving as a major research focus in the Faculty. Richard is highly regarded by staff and students, and the Faculty has benefited immeasurably from his dedication and expertise.

Professor Leon Kane-Maguire Faculty of Science



The leadership provided by Leon Kane-Maguire, as Head of Department from 1984 through to 1993, revolutionised Chemistry at the University of Wollongong. He established one of the strongest Chemistry Departments in Australia and it became recognised around the world for a number of high profile areas of research.

His mentorship assured the development of individuals within the Chemistry Department – while maintaining a strong collegial spirit.

Leon also had a significant presence and impact across the campus, with his involvement in helping UOW forge its own research identity and in ensuring that collaborative research activities, encumbered by traditional academic boundaries, had every chance to flourish.

Since 1990 Leon has made an amazing contribution to the growth of the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute and the ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science at all levels. His research in the area of chiral conducting polymers is acclaimed by the international research community. He is indeed a UOW legend!!

25 Years Service Awards

Dr Rob MacGregor **Faculty of Informatics**



Rob MacGregor is a true renaissance man, a quintessential academic. In his time at the University he has been a successful teacher and researcher. He completed his PhD so quickly, he had to have special permission to submit it early. He served as a Head of School and was the founding editor of a highly acclaimed Information Systems journal.

At the same time, Rob has been a successful musician and composer, he has written children's stories and murder mysteries, and he's a great person to have

a cup of coffee with. An outstanding academic.

Associate Professor Nigel Mackay **Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences**



Nigel has not chosen an easy academic path. As a theoretician he invites colleagues and students to reconsider what they take for granted.

Not everyone feels comfortable with challenges, but Nigel manages this gently and in innovative ways that engage learners. His integrity and intellectual depth have been recognised by

secondment to the Boston School of Psychoanalysis and by his publications.

Within the School, Nigel is valued for his unselfish contributions as a reluctant (but effective) administrator and his general good citizenship. In pursuit of intellectual inquiry Nigel focuses on goals for intrinsic importance, not personal gain, valuing intellectual inquiry above career.

Frank Mikk **Faculty of Informatics**



"Can we fix it? Yes we can!" These words could be the mantra that Frank chants

25 Years Service Awards

each day, however he doesn't need any mystical powers to carry out his job.

As a highly skilled technical officer, Frank has an uncanny ability to strip down the most complex piece of technology, find out what is wrong, promptly repair the problem and reassemble the parts back to a working device.

Frank is always willing to lend a helping hand. From the smallest, tedious tasks through to the larger than life jobs, Frank is always ready to help.

During his 25 years of service, Frank has provided an invaluable contribution to the teaching and research activities of the University.

Chris Peacock
Faculty of Science



Chris Peacock has worked within the Faculty of Science as Dean's Assistant for the vast majority of her 25 years at UOW.

Chris is the longest serving Dean's Assistant and has worked with six Deans, all of whom have found her a wonderful colleague and fount of all knowledge. Her organisational skills, attention to detail and expertise have made their jobs much easier.

Chris is the ultimate professional. Her

calm, unflappable manner and pleasant disposition, as well as her exceptional management of the Faculty of Science Office, have been highly valued and appreciated by all staff and students.

Stephen Petrou
Faculty of Informatics



Stephen Petrou joined the University of Wollongong as a Technical Officer within the School of Electrical, Computer and Telecommunications Engineering, bringing with him a wealth of technical expertise and experience from industry.

Stephen is by nature a gregarious and

25 Years Service Awards

positive individual who has contributed consistently to all aspects of the School's operations with relentless enthusiasm and professional commitment.

In many ways Stephen is what we might refer to as a "jack of all trades" which coupled with his "can do" attitude means that nothing is impossible. He is always willing to lend a helping hand, and is extremely popular with his peers, colleagues and students alike.

On a broader University level, Stephen served for many years on the University's Children's Christmas Party Working Committee and played an instrumental role in establishing and running the very popular National High School Science and Engineering Challenge event at the University of Wollongong.

Associate Professor Ian Porter Faculty of Engineering



Ian Porter joined the School of Civil, Mining & Environmental Engineering in 1984 and rapidly became a highly valued staff member. Ian has worked closely with the mining industry, and has attracted many industry funded research projects and scholarships for his students.

Ian has always encouraged students to achieve their goals. He has been a leading force in educating students, serving as Sub Dean and Chair of the Faculty's Education Committee. He has also served on the University Education

Committee and on the University Senate. Ian has made a significant contribution to the School, the Faculty of Engineering, and the University over the past 25 years.

Stuart Rodd Faculty of Engineering



Stuart joined the University as a 4th year fitting and machining apprentice in 1984 and the year after became a Technical Officer in the Mechanical Engineering Department. Stuart is an exceptional person in many ways and the University has been extremely fortunate to benefit from his presence here. One of his key attributes is his "can do" attitude to every

25 Years Service Awards

task, no matter how big or small. Tasks that would daunt most other people are taken as seemingly an enjoyable challenge by Stuart who will get these tasks done with maximum efficiency while maintaining his always cheerful and cooperative approach. Stuart is now a Senior Technical Officer in the Faculty of Engineering and plays a key role in the Faculty's workshops and laboratories. Stuart's positive attitude, excellent work ethic and extensive experience make him the ideal mentor for apprentices, students and staff alike.

**Associate Professor
Muttucumaru Sivakumar
Faculty of Engineering**



Siva's 25 year association with UOW is unquestionably "commitment". His dedication to teaching is admired by his peers and also very much appreciated by the 2,500 plus students he has taught.

The Fluid Mechanics and Environmental Laboratories in the Faculty are a couple of his "trademarks". He is the founder of environmental engineering programs at UOW and also one of the founding directors of Futureworld.

Siva is a well respected researcher with 20 PhD completions and many publications to his credit.

His recent invitations by UNEP, UN Healthabitat as technical expert on water and environmental management and sustainability confirms his international standing.

**Bob Slater
Buildings and Grounds Division**



Bob Slater is the University's Construction Manager, managing a team of construction professionals and the Joinery workshop in Buildings & Grounds Division.

Bob has been engaged in an array of capital works projects valued in excess of \$100 million. He has been personally involved in the construction of buildings accommodating Faculties as well as facilities for ITS, UniCentre and URAC. Bob has left his mark far and wide across campus. During 1996-1997 Bob was the Acting Director of Buildings & Grounds.

25 Years Service Awards

Bob is highly respected and highly regarded by the many people with whom he deals. His knowledge of the Wollongong Campus is an invaluable asset to the University. We hope he stays another 25 years.

Janice Tinham **Financial Services Division**



Janice started on a temporary part-time basis with the University in May 1984 at a time when the University had an Administrative Data Processing Unit. She then moved to full-time and eventually to a permanent appointment. Janice has continued to work within Administration

and has been with Financial Services Division for the majority of those years. Through this time Janice has worked with many people past and present and has seen many changes through the organisation, and in particular Administration.

Janice has mentored numerous cadets over the years and her qualities and attitude to her work, make her a pleasure for others to work with. Janice continues to make a valuable contribution to the work of Financial Services.

Joseph Tiziano **Faculty of Informatics**



Joe has spent 25 years working in Informatics, initially as a young 2nd year electronics and communications technology apprentice.

Since then Joe's innate talent and technical ability has enabled him to keep abreast of many technology changes. He has mastered Macintosh, PCs and computer network support generally; set up and maintained several sophisticated teaching laboratories; and has been solely responsible for all IT support for a whole School.

Joe's interpersonal skills are also legendary - he has provided friendly advice and help to countless staff and students and considerable support for his Faculty's non-technical work, such as Women in Engineering and many other activities for High School and Faculty students.

25 Years Service Awards

Dr Paul Webb
Faculty of Education



Paul Webb is an international leader in the field of Physical and Health Education.

Paul has contributed to the University in many different roles, including: Director of Physical and Health Education, 1st Grade Coach and President of the University Rugby Club, and board member of URAC. Paul has received the Confederation of Australia Sport's Distinction Award and the Australian Sports Commission Eunice Gill Coach Education Award.

Paul has rarely missed a day swimming in

the University pool and his relaxed and friendly disposition has enabled him to establish excellent rapport with all students and staff.

Professor Andrew Wells
Faculty of Arts



To start a citation for an erstwhile Dean of Arts with some poetry seems to be appropriate. It was written:

"I must go down to seas again,
To the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship
And a star to steer her by....."

(John Masefield)

Professor Andrew Wells, after 25 years of outstanding service at UOW, now has his tall ship and at least a sextant (a gift from a fellow Dean) to steer her by.

Following a strong career as an academic sailor Andrew emerged to spend the past one and a half decades as a researcher and research academic leader.

The Faculty of Arts is rated as one of the highest publishing Arts faculties in the country. There is no doubt that this, in no small measure, is due to Andrew who has held every research leadership role in the Faculty since 1996.

His leadership skills, characterised by personal integrity, vision and managerial prowess, were recognised by the University when he was appointed as Dean in 2003. In that role Andrew was described by a staff member as a scholar, leader of ideas, stabiliser and mentor, a valuable colleague whose advice was always based on common sense.

To paraphrase a peer Dean: Andrew was a lighthouse in the otherwise often stormy irrational sea of a university.

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:

**Susan Boyd
Faculty of Law**



Susan Boyd receives this award for driving a number of initiatives within the Faculty of Law. These include implementing the Faculty's early entry program, enhancing the alignment of marketing and alumni development activities, participating in the LUCY mentoring program, enhancing community engagement and the Faculty's orientation program for 'O' Week. Susan regularly takes the initiative and implements programs in an enthusiastic, determined and thorough manner.

In all her interactions with staff, students and their families Susan is extremely organised, energetic, professional and helpful. She is not only an extremely supportive colleague, but she also works tirelessly in her endeavours to improve the services offered by the Faculty of Law and is passionate about assisting current and future students.

**Cathy Campbell
Personnel Services Division**



Cathy has provided the University with exceptional service and commitment, which has most recently been demonstrated in her contribution to the

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

Alesco Version 11 payroll system upgrade.

Cathy has overcome complex issues to deliver the required outcomes, despite many competing priorities, within a challenging and inflexible time frame.

Cathy's willingness to 'go the extra yard' to manage the challenges associated with the upgrade was exceptional. She is commended for her professionalism, dedication and caring nature – attributes that have been key to the success of the system upgrade.

Despite the pressures, Cathy managed her team with good humour to make sure it functioned brilliantly and met all of the challenges with a smile to spare.

However, such achievements by Cathy are not unusual. This is a recent example of her dedication that has often been repeated over her years of service to the University.

Mark Haining Accommodation Services



Mark Haining is receiving this award for the dedication, value and commitment that he provides to the University through Accommodation Services.

In particular, Mark has excelled in two major landscaping project works.

Mark's attention to detail and enthusiasm for any project he undertakes are genuinely outstanding – as is the final product of his work. It is not uncommon to see Mark staying back in his own time to do the finishing touches on his work, or to

discuss a better way he had found to do something. Mark's "can do" attitude is reflected in his staff, whom he has inspired to achieve great beauty within the landscaping of their assigned areas. Mark works tirelessly and relentlessly for the benefit of Accommodation Services and the wider University.

Leonie Kirchmajer Academic Registrar's Division



Leonie Kirchmajer receives this award for her contribution to the design and implementation of the course management system, which was

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

implemented within the University during 2007 and 2008.

This system has brought about more streamlined approval processes, strengthened the relationship and consultation between key non-academic units and the Faculties, and allowed for new course proposals to be assessed more rigorously.

Leonie has also been responsible for the design and maintenance of the supporting Course Management intranet site and coordinates the production of the annual UOW Course Handbooks.

On top of this Leonie has also been a key draftsperson on the new UOW Academic Review Policy, which was approved in November 2008 and provides a rigorous and comprehensive framework for ongoing curriculum review and development at UOW.

Leonie is a highly able, client focussed and innovative officer who deserves recognition for her outstanding contribution to the University.

Beth Peisley Library



Beth Peisley is recognised for her leadership of the team formed to deliver a new way of presenting the Library's Resources for Assignments pages to improve student learning and teaching practices.

The LibGuides project enables students to access and re-use the guides as a resource throughout their studies and helps to locate, use and navigate the appropriate materials to inform their research.

This project was worked on by a large team and it was Beth's coordination and motivation of this group to meet targets and deadlines that was critical to the project's success.

Beth is described by her colleagues as an inspiration to work with and is highly respected by all those who have had the opportunity to work with her.

Her sharp mind and dedication, coupled with her sense of humour and wit make her a valuable asset to the University of Wollongong.

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

The "Graduation Module" Team Academic Registrar's Division and Information Technology Services



Front Row (l to r): Yuemin Qin and Bindu George, Information Technology Services.

Back Row (l to r): Debbie Sartori, Tori Funnell and Manuela Abrantes, Academic Registrar's Division; Ying Guan and Lee Mathieson, Information Technology Services.

The Graduation Module is a new development in the UOW student system which represents outstanding outcomes for student communication, service,

efficiency and quality - making for a more positive UOW graduation experience.

A team of staff from Information Technology Services and various Academic Registrar's Division units designed, developed, tested, process re-engineered and implemented the Module.

The team met the many difficult challenges with an outstanding level of initiative and a high degree of efficiency.

They successfully converted a very complex, challenging set of requirements into an intuitive and easy to use set of programs that make up the Graduation Module.

Exemplary teamwork, determination to see the project through to a successful completion, and a dedication to ensuring the highest quality outcome possible for the University are all hallmarks of this project team.

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 and service to the University and its students.

This year's recipient is:

**Maree Horne
Faculty of Commerce**



Maree Horne has worked for the University of Wollongong since 1990 and is currently Research Publication and Quality Coordinator in the Faculty of Commerce Research Unit.

In 2006, Maree enrolled in the Master of Human Resource Management degree, where she has been achieving excellent results while balancing a full-time job and a large family including foster care children.

Maree is a highly effective “problem solving machine” just like a Swiss Army Knife, except that Maree learns new things every day and does the problem solving with enthusiasm and a smile on her face. Maree is as ‘solid as a rock’, standing firm for what she believes in, has an extraordinarily strong sense of fairness and a strong sense of right and wrong.

Most importantly Maree lives what this university stands for: integrity, hard work and excellence from the position of the underdog.

Maree has a friendly nature and up-beat attitude, always willing to help both academics and students in any way possible, which makes her a valuable asset to the Faculty of Commerce and widely respected by her peers and students at the University.

Her positive attitude means that Maree delivers a high level of service to staff and students frequently above and beyond expectation, referred to by many as the ‘Maree Magic’.

Vice-Chancellor's Award 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.

Vice-Chancellor's Award category

This year's co-recipients are:

Dr Tonia Gray
Faculty of Education



For Tonia, the most important aspect of teaching is to connect with the class and to honour each individual student's learning journey.

She is committed to experience-based learning, self-development through reflection, the power of story telling and

the creation of a caring, safe and supportive learning environment.

Tonia's passion is Outdoor Education. Risk and adventure are central to her classes. Students on bush treks quickly become problem solvers and storytellers.

The life changing effects of these outdoor activities are evident in the way that students keep in touch with her long after graduation.

In addition to Outdoor Education, Tonia has taught a variety of Health and Physical Education subjects.

Tonia takes the same principles of risk and adventure to create challenging assessment tasks that stretch the students to achieve more than they thought possible.

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

The "Engineering Graduate Capabilities" Team Faculty of Engineering and Academic Services Division



Front Row (l to r): Anne Melano, CEDIR; A/Prof. Sharon Nightingale, Faculty of Engineering; Kim Draisma, Learning Development.

Back Row (l to r): A/Prof. Brett Lemass, A/Prof. Rodney Vickers and A/Prof. Paul Cooper, Faculty of Engineering.

Not Pictured: Dr Anna Carew and Tom Goldfinch, Faculty of Engineering.

This multidisciplinary team developed a map of graduate qualities that met the requirements of both UOW and Engineers Australia. The Engineering Graduate Capabilities Continuum has received praise from professional bodies in Australia and internationally.

The team, with the support of CEDIR, developed a database to record and summarise many elements of teaching practice. The team supported Faculty members as they identified elements of the Graduate Qualities in individual subjects and recorded them in a database. An initial audit of subjects against the capabilities has provided invaluable information for curriculum design.

Curriculum development is directed to strengthening the weaknesses already identified. The database provides the basis of individual maps of each degree that are made available to staff, students, potential employers and to the Accreditation Committee from Engineers Australia. Graduate Quality teams across UOW have praised the project and looked to the Engineering team for advice.

Early Career Academic Award category

This year's co-recipients are:

Dr Mark Freeman
Faculty of Informatics



Students appreciate Mark's down-to-earth teaching style. He creates assessment tasks that prepare students for problems they will face in future careers.

Mark's teaching practice reflects his respect for and understanding of the needs of students.

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

Mark builds on his own student experience to create a safe classroom where students can ask any questions in comfort. He is particularly mindful of the needs of individuals in project groups and strives for equity in group work.

Mark is actively engaged with tutors in the subjects he coordinates to support them in their work and to gain further insight into student learning. He takes feedback seriously and is quick to modify learning activities to make them more accessible.

Dr Nicola F. Johnson
Faculty of Education



Nicola leads the Faculty's implementation of an ePortfolio for pre-service teachers.

She has led a 'best practice' example by integrating the use of the portfolio into her own teaching.

Nicola supports student learning of the critical and eLearning skills that they will need when they begin teaching in 21st century schools through up-to-date resources, well-led face-to-face and on-line discussion plus interesting and engaging lectures.

Nicola's commitment to the world of her students and their future students is evident in the publication of *The Multiplicities of Internet Addiction: The Misrecognition of Leisure and Learning* in early 2009.

When leading a teaching team, Nicola supports tutoring staff with equal care and thoughtfulness.

Sessional Tutor / Demonstrator Award category

This year's recipient is:

Kerryn Hopkins
Faculty of Arts



Kerryn is a graduate of the South Coast and Southern Highlands Network BA program, and the first UOW HDR student to tutor at the Batemans Bay Education Centre.

As a tutor on a satellite campus, Kerryn's role as a conduit between Wollongong

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

based subject coordinators and Batemans Bay students involves both teaching and supporting the general welfare of students.

Central to Kerryn's teaching approach is motivating students to be active learners in a multi-locational environment. This enthusiasm overcomes the obstacle of geographic distance, and is clearly evident to both subject coordinators and students, as reported in general conversation and formal teaching surveys.

Kerryn's efforts to create a stimulating classroom environment that encourages active learning are underpinned by a teaching philosophy based on self reflection as a tool to improve teaching practice.

Kerryn's commitment to teaching is also reflected in her role as facilitator of the Batemans Bay Tutor's Network, a group that aims to foster staff collegiality, promote career development, and encourage social exchanges amongst tutors across faculties.

Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and 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.

This year's recipients are:

Faculty of Arts Award

**The Spanish Teaching Team
School of English Literatures,
Philosophy and Languages**



Lidia Bilbatua and Dr Karen Daly.

Lidia and Karen approach language learning from opposite yet related perspectives: as a native Spanish speaker living in an English environment and as a native English speaker who has lived in Spain.

Learning and living a foreign language is a continual and lifelong project, as languages and cultures are ever-changing and evolving. The real challenge lies in revealing the relationship between language and culture, especially when that culture (with 400 million speakers in 22 countries) is neither uniform nor cohesive.

Getting students to embrace the challenges of foreign-language learning is the primary goal of the Spanish team at UOW.

While communication is the focal point of their teaching, Karen and Lidia incorporate contemporary multi-media (short films), audio-visual (contemporary music) and computer-based learning technologies in their student-centred learning strategies.

Lidia and Karen emphasise Hispanic culture in the everyday aspects of language practice and the active oral participation of students in the learning process.

Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning

Faculty of Commerce Award

Peter McLean
School of Management and Marketing



Peter is known for his interactive teaching style, and his capacity to structure learning experiences so that students do not feel overwhelmed by the complexity of the discipline. He models critical scholarship through engaging students with the literature and asking questions that challenge an uncritical acceptance of the assertions of others. He promotes the development of professional networks for students through his professional

associations and local industry contacts, demonstrating that learning is not only for assessment, but applied in the workplace.

Peter is highly respected by his peers, who often seek advice on ways to improve their teaching practice or increase student engagement. He has made a contribution to UOW through his involvement with the University Learning and Teaching Course, and through his mentoring of newly arrived academics.

Faculty of Education Award

Dr Ken Cruickshank



Ken uses multiple strategies to assist local and international students to achieve comparable learning outcomes and to develop networks of learners that extend beyond the classroom.

He regards the diversity of students at UOW as both a strength and a challenge: local and international students come from a range of language and cultural backgrounds, bringing different learning experiences, motivations and expectations.

Ken has a track record of developing successful programs and subjects in response to changing community and professional needs. They are based in research-led teaching and community outreach.

He has also worked to develop access to further education for teachers from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Ken has worked with colleagues to develop coherent pathways in TESOL from undergraduate to postgraduate coursework and then to research.

Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning

Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences Award (co-recipients)

Alison Bell
School of Health Sciences



Alison is a member of the academic team in the Occupational Health and Safety post-graduate program. In this role, she seeks to develop professional competences, transforming students as people and professionals – moving them from novices to expert practitioners. She seeks to link theory with practice in her teaching to enhance the students' ability to construct meaning and has reviewed

subjects and developed new subjects to reflect changes and trends domestically and internationally.

Alison took the opportunity provided as a Faculty Scholar in 2008 to consult with the Occupational Hygiene industry to develop matrices combining industry competencies, professional competency categories, learning outcomes and assessment tasks. This facilitated a gap analysis in the subject offerings and assisted the industry to further articulate competency statements.

Mitchell K. Byrne
School of Psychology



Mitchell brings together his past and current experience as a practicing psychologist, his professional engagement with peers in the field and his roles as lecturer, researcher and clinical supervisor to provide students with the experience of how to 'do psychology' and how to 'do it properly'.

Using a formative approach, he has built into his teaching learning and assessment tasks that incrementally target skills enhancement and then applies this through the stages of undergraduate and postgraduate study.

Mitchell has made contributions to the practice of clinical supervision at a state and national level which were derived from his teaching materials and has produced online training materials developed from international research consultancies.

Mitchell embeds competency into assessment practices, creating rich student learning experiences and thus continues his commitment to maintaining professional standards.

Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning

Faculty of Informatics Award

The “Loftus BMathEd” Team School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics



Paul Wakenshaw and Dr Annette Worthy.
Not Pictured: Dr Gwyn Brickell, Joanne Dearlove, A/Prof. Gregory Doherty, Kevin Gosbell, Dr Luke McAven, Maureen Morris, Dr Jennifer Rowley.

Since the implementation of the Loftus BMathEd program in 2002, it has been served by a team comprising educationalists, mathematicians,

statisticians, computer scientists and a learning development lecturer. This dedicated multidisciplinary team of primarily sessionally employed staff deliver discipline knowledge and support student-centred learning and skill development. They strive to achieve the graduate aims for the program and to sustain graduates in their chosen teaching profession.

Team knowledge and experience is enriched through networking across distinctive institutions and with those teaching at multi-campus locations in dissimilar faculties. The rare continual connection between members during multiple sessions has led to shared professional activities.

The strategies devised and implemented across the BMathEd program have specifically targeted developing collaborative, yet independent and reflective learners, who as teachers will provide a sound foundation for the next generation of discipline experts.

Faculty of Law Award

The “Professional Legal Training Program” Team



Ian McCall and John Littrich.

Ian and John have developed a Professional Legal Training program that prepares students for admission to legal practice using an online enhanced problem based learning design that challenges and engages students.

This blended learning program builds on the original design by Ainslie Lamb and

Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning

meets the requirements of the National Competency Standards for Entry Level Lawyers using an innovative and flexible array of resources, tasks and supports for student learning.

The resources set up learning tasks similar to those asked of entry level lawyers. The flexibility of the eLearning design allows for the last minute changes in information or advice that frequently confront practising lawyers and so develop key competencies.

Student learning is supported by face-to-face teaching and discussion sessions as well as face-to-face assessment by senior practitioners where appropriate.

Local legal practitioners praise the program, offer workplace placements for those in the program and employ its graduates.

Faculty Early Career Academic Awards

This year's recipients are:

Meeta Chatterjee-Padmanabhan Student Services



Meeta is a highly motivated and competent teacher who quickly establishes rapport with her students and engages them in an active learning process.

As a Learning Development lecturer, she has unique opportunities for forming relationships with students and for

tailoring her support to meet their specific needs.

She has provided discipline specific writing resources for subjects in the Graduate School of Business and the Faculties of Education and Informatics. Her colleagues and her students appreciate her 'simple and straightforward' approach to academic reading and writing.

Meeta has a gift for working with international postgraduates to help them negotiate the rules of the game in both English and their own disciplinary writing practices.

She extends her role as language expert to that of mentor and sensitive supporter for those confronted by the challenges of producing their best work in a new language and culture.

Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning

Dr Judy Mullan **Faculty of Health and Behavioural** **Sciences**



Judy started work in the Graduate School of Medicine in mid-2008. Originally trained as a pharmacist, she has taught pharmacology and other subjects in public health and health sciences since 1996.

Judy has accepted the challenge of contributing to the integrated curriculum of the Graduate School of Medicine. Her teaching strengths include the ability to adapt quickly to any given situation or new subject while focusing on the needs of the students.

Judy bases subject development on thoughtful evaluation of current subject materials, adding to fill gaps and to provide tools and resources that enhance learning.

Judy's many years of professional experience as a hospital and community pharmacist have provided a wealth of examples to draw on for a problem-based learning curriculum. Population Health students were the most recent group to respond enthusiastically to Judy's teaching style.

Dr Long Duc Nghiem **Faculty of Engineering**



Long teaches several core subjects in Environmental Engineering. He has updated them to provide students with recent developments and knowledge in the area, and he works to connect students with industry in upper level undergraduate subjects.

Long's contribution to curriculum was recognised by his peers following the 2007 Engineers Australia Accreditation Committee visit to the School. He has developed a practical exercise to measure air pollution of a relatively old car in response to student feedback asking for practical work. Subsequent evaluations have demonstrated the student enthusiasm for and learning from this exercise.

Long is an active supervisor of final year student projects. His commitment has resulted in four scholarships for honours students, three peer-reviewed articles and four peer-reviewed conference papers with undergraduate students.

Long is an innovative teacher who supports the intellectual development of students.

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Excellence

The Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards 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 recipient is:

**Professor Mark Walker
Faculty of Science**



Internationally recognised microbiologist Professor Mark Walker is Director of the Centre for Medical Biosciences. Recently, his research group made a major discovery which described how group A streptococci can transform into a strain that aggressively penetrates deep within tissues to become life-threatening. This

groundbreaking work was published in Nature Medicine.

Over the last five years, Mark has been awarded more than 13 million dollars of research funding, has supervised over 50 research students, and has published more than 30 papers in international, peer-reviewed journals. He was awarded a highly competitive Fullbright Senior Research Fellowship in 2005, and was a finalist in the Eureka Prize Peoples Choice award in 2008.

Mark lends his expertise widely: serving on the grant review panel for the National Health and Medical Research Council, taking a leading role in organising the Lancefield International Symposium on Streptococci and Streptococcal Diseases, and advising a number of other universities in their preparation for University quality assessment.

Prof. Walker is one of the most successful researchers at the University of Wollongong, and makes a substantial contribution to our international reputation as a research intensive institution.

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Excellence

Highly Commended:

Professor Geoffrey Spinks
Faculty of Engineering



Professor Geoffrey Spinks is one of Australia's pre-eminent materials engineers. He has made exceptional research contributions to materials science, being internationally recognised as a leader in the area of conducting organic polymers and carbon nanotubes, whose properties his research team is exploiting.

Geoff has been the driving force in the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute's

widely acclaimed actuator (or "artificial muscle") research, which is being successfully applied in areas such as the Cochlear bionic ear implant, an electronic Braille screen, rehabilitation garments and robotics.

He is a world leader in the development of high speed and high strength conducting polymer/carbon nanotube actuators, superior in many respects to human muscle.

Geoff has published extensively and has been prodigious in winning external research funding. His research has been recognized by a number of national awards.

Geoff is an outstanding research leader - always enthusiastic, cooperative and insightful, and an inspiring research supervisor and mentor to his students and postdoctoral Research Fellows.

Professor Spinks has clearly made an exceptional contribution to the research reputation of the University and to ensuring its future success.

Research Excellence Award for Emerging Researchers

This year's recipient is:

Dr Simon E. Moulton
Faculty of Science



This Award recognises Simon Moulton's strong research track record, both nationally and internationally, as well as his leadership role in the Bionics Program within the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute (IPRI) and the ARC Centre for Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES).

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Excellence

The high quality of his research is demonstrated through numerous publications in high impact journals and successful grant funding including ARC Discovery Grants totalling \$2.1 million for 2008/9 in collaboration with St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne. In 2008 Simon was awarded the prestigious ARC Queen Elizabeth II Fellowship.

Simon demonstrates all of the essential ingredients of a top flight researcher - the ability to quickly grasp multidimensional challenges; the self discipline to ensure complex tasks are completed; the ability to engender enthusiasm in other research team members; and a very good sense of humour.

His colleagues speak of his genuine enthusiasm and readiness to participate in community outreach programs, and hosting visits to IPRI/ACES to foster interest in nanotechnology and science at the grass roots level.

Simon is well respected both for his research and leadership abilities, serving as an excellent mentor for younger researchers.

Highly Commended:

Dr Todd Mitchell Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences



Dr Todd Mitchell receives a special commendation in recognition of his significant contributions to his research field.

Todd's overall research performance since being employed by the University 18 months ago has been outstanding by any measure. His research has focused on the lipid composition of cell membranes, how that composition may change as a

result of events or conditions, and the consequences of those changes as seen in a wide range of disease states including cataract, type 2 diabetes and cancer.

Over the past 18 months Todd has published seven articles in highly respected scientific journals, been the lead investigator on a successful ARC LIEF grant, and been a critical member of research teams that won an ARC Discovery Project grant, an NHMRC Project grant and an ARC Linkage Project grant.

As would be expected given his range of research talents and achievements, Todd is continually being asked to join established research groups at a variety of universities and research institutes.

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Excellence

Highly Commended:

Dr Aidan Sims
Faculty of Informatics



Dr Aidan Sims was appointed to the University of Wollongong in 2007, just three years on from being awarded his PhD. By 2008 he was a chief investigator on two new ARC Discovery Project grants, a rare achievement in any field.

Aidan's research is in the highly technical area of Pure Mathematics called Functional Analysis, which requires a significant background in techniques for handling operators on infinite dimensional

vector spaces. His outstanding work on the development of product systems and of higher rank graphs has quickly established him as an international leader in his field. Experts now seek his opinion when they want answers to their questions.

Aidan's research is of the very highest quality, with a third of his publications in the top journals in his field. Moreover, his publication rate compares favourably with that of leading Pure Mathematics researchers who are considered to be high achievers.

Aidan Sims has a bright research future ahead of him. With this special commendation we recognise his achievements and look forward to hearing of his further successes.

Outstanding Achievement in Research Partnership Award

This year's recipient is:

Professor Stephen G. Pyne
Faculty of Science
(Partner Johnson & Johnson Research Pty Ltd)



Prof. Stephen Pyne is presented with this award for the project titled "New Pharmaceutical Drug Discovery", involving the nominating partner Johnson & Johnson Research Pty Ltd (JJR).

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Excellence

Stephen worked in collaboration with JJR for more than 20 years.

In 2004, funding of over \$1 million per annum was achieved resulting in the building of a new laboratory and offices to support the expanded project. The ongoing funding has supported one to six post doctoral fellowships a year, three PhD scholarships, and has resulted in two patents being filed and 21 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Testament to the strength of the relationship, despite JJR's announcement in December 2008 to cease operations in Australia, the key individuals within the company maintain a strong collaborating relationship with Prof. Pyne and are seeking start-up funding to continue the research program.

Highly Commended:

**Professor Buddhima Indraratna
Faculty of Engineering
(Partners CRC for Rail Innovation and
RailCorp NSW)**



A Highly Commended mention is made of Prof. Buddhima Indraratna's research partnership with the CRC for Rail Innovation and RailCorp (NSW) for the project titled "Innovation in Design and Construction of Ballasted Rail Tracks".

Buddhima has been leading the CRC-Rail major theme on Track Innovation and Upgrading, and has worked diligently with

the rail industry to ensure that research deliverables are put into practice, particularly in the field of rail track modernisation.

Excellence in Research Supervision Award

This year's recipient is:

**Associate Professor Brian Jones
Faculty of Science**



Associate Professor Brian Jones has been in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences since 1974 and has been the

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Excellence

principal or co-supervisor of 41 graduated higher degree research students and 90 Honours research projects. He has shown a long-standing commitment to support and guide his research students.

Brian has always been available for impromptu meetings with his honours and post-graduate students both within and outside office hours. He makes his students feel that their work contributes to the fields of sedimentological and environmental research in general as well as contributing to the national development of their home countries.

Several past students are now in very senior positions such as director of a national Geological Survey or head of exploration in major mining and petroleum companies.

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

Highly Commended:

Professor Xu-Feng Huang Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences



Professor Xu-Feng Huang has been highly commended for his exemplary support and guidance of his research students.

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

translational neuroscience research, teaching and supervising.

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.

Two students were the recipients of the high achievement award from Schizophrenia Research Institute NSW. After their training, three of his students are now working as post doctoral fellows under NHMRC research schemes. They feel this would not have been possible without the support, training and direction that Xu-Feng provided them throughout their project.

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.

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:

Peter Castle
Faculty of Informatics
Individual category



Peter Castle receives this award for his significant and sustained contribution to the University of Wollongong's culture and to the local community.

For close to forty years Peter has been an integral part of UniMovies, providing access to cinematic culture to students, staff and the wider Wollongong community.

Peter has demonstrated significant dedication to Unimovies, and now also supplies the audio visual support for functions held in the University Hall.

The time that he dedicates to these activities is voluntary, and in addition to the commitments of his academic workload as a lecturer in the Faculty of Informatics.

Peter has established many connections in the community and has been involved with local arts events such as the non-profit short film festival Short Sited at the University.

The goodwill created through these activities is immeasurable and assists in promoting the University's goals including dynamic engagement with our community and students engaged with learning.

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Community Engagement

The "Voices of Children" Team **Faculty of Education** *Team category*



L to R: Roslyn Westbrook, A/Prof. Ian Brown, Dr Pauline Lysaght.

The "Voices of Children" team from the Faculty of Education receives this award for their outstanding work over a number of years in developing links and programs between the University and other organisations at a local, national and international level.

Through the "Voices 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 identities and improve their self esteem, thus contributing to the University's equity and school outreach endeavours.

To date, over two hundred young people from different countries including Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, U.S.A, Samoa, Zambia, Mexico, New Zealand, Canada, Greece and India have participated in the project.

At an international level "Voices of Children" allows participants to engage with their local communities and to experience other communities through its website www.voicesofchildren.org.

Highly Commended:

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



Ron West is to again be commended and recognised 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 beneficial relationships with external organisations.

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Community Engagement

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.

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

Highly Commended:

"Welcome to Wollongong" Team *Team category*



Front Row (l to r): A/Prof. Peter Kell, Faculty of Education; Danial Morgan, Office of Transnational Programs; Mardella Bassett, Careers Service.
Back Row (l to r): Jan Sullivan, Strategic Planning; Ann-Maree Smith and Virginie Schmelitschek, Students Services; Leanne Crouch, Innovation Campus; Katie Moran, Centre for Student Engagement.

The "Welcome to Wollongong (W2W)" team, with representatives from across the University, are commended for their excellent work in facilitating better interactions and relationships between international students and the Illawarra Community. Activities conducted as part of the W2W initiative included a formal civic festival, a mini international festival as well as developing and maintaining a website.

The team has also developed collaborative relationships with the wider community through the W2W Community Working Group. Community sponsors, in particular an IMB Community Foundation grant, were also critically important to the success of the project.

The visibility of international students and the importance of global student mobility to the City of Wollongong and the Illawarra have been enhanced through this initiative.





