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# Vice-Chancellor's Awards Ceremony 2012

University of Wollongong

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# Vice-Chancellor's Awards Ceremony 2012

## **Publication Details**

Vice-Chancellor's Awards, University of Wollongong, 2012, 32p.



# VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS CEREMONY

Friday 22nd June 2012  
University Hall  
University of Wollongong

UNIVERSITY OF  
WOLLONGONG



# PROGRAM

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## **MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

Mr Chris Grange, Vice-Principal (Administration)

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## **WELCOME BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**

Prof Paul Wellings, Vice-Chancellor

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## **PRESENTATION OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS AND FACULTY AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO TEACHING AND LEARNING**

Prof Rob Castle, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

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## **PRESENTATION OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH**

Prof Tim Marchant, Dean of Research

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## **PRESENTATION OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE FOR GENERAL STAFF**

Mr Chris Grange, Vice-Principal (Administration)

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## **PRESENTATION OF THE MARIE LEWIS AWARD**

Mr Chris Grange, Vice-Principal (Administration)

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## **PRESENTATION OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Prof Rob Castle, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

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## **PRESENTATION OF 25 YEARS SERVICE AWARDS**

Prof John Patterson, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor

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## **PRESENTATION OF THE ROSEMARY COOPER AWARD**

Prof Trevor Spedding, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce

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## **CLOSURE BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**

Prof Paul Wellings, Vice-Chancellor

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# VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO TEACHING AND LEARNING

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**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 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S TEACHING AWARD IS SHARED BY:

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## **DR HONGLIN CHEN**

### **Faculty of Education**

Dr Honglin Chen has a long standing commitment to high quality teaching and learning evidenced in her enthusiasm for innovative approaches to teaching. Her use of problem solving activities and inquiry based assessment tasks has created stimulating and enriching contexts in which students can communicate, explore, experiment and create. Dr Chen has led the development and implementation of many important innovations that have provided equal access to resources and opportunities for all students and contributed to highly successful student learning experiences. Her enthusiasm and passion for learning have inspired many to do the best they can and strive for excellence.



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## **DR MONTSERRAT ROS**

### **Faculty of Informatics**

Dr. Montserrat Ros encourages students to operate at the edge of their capabilities by simultaneously challenging their skills and abilities whilst providing support and guidance.

Inspiring each student to achieve their highest level, Dr Ros influences student motivation by establishing a rapport, explaining the relevance and importance of the material and by her own enthusiasm for the topic. She encourages students to learn by ensuring the content includes the latest topics in modern computing, whilst still demonstrating relevance to daily life.



## THIS YEAR'S VICE-CHANCELLOR'S EARLY CAREER ACADEMIC AWARD IS SHARED BY:

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### **DR MICHELLE EADY**

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#### **Faculty of Education**

Dr Michelle Eady is known for her exceptionally high levels of expertise, enthusiasm and passion in her approach to teaching and learning. She aims to provide her students with authentic learning opportunities that include a balance of practical and theoretical aspects. Michelle restructured a core subject in the Bachelor of Primary Education and took the students out of the lecture theatre; and in partnership with our local demonstration schools, taught her course in the school environment giving students an opportunity to apply teaching theories and strategies in the classroom. In addition to this, Dr Eady has achieved remarkable progress in discovering new and innovative ways in incorporating technology in all areas of student education.



### **DR AELEE JUN**

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#### **Faculty of Commerce**

Dr Aelee Jun loves finance. She loves teaching finance to students even more. Dr Jun's passion for finance and teaching, together with her sense of responsibility toward student learning, has inspired her to be a great teacher.

Dr Jun believes that education extends beyond the walls of the classroom, and motivates students to learn by maximising their contributions and supporting students in a more personalised manner. Her nomination for the OCTAL award and comments from students support this belief. Dr Jun values her students' dreams and aspirations and will never stop learning to be a better teacher.



THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SESSIONAL TUTOR/  
DEMONSTRATOR AWARD IS:

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## DR JULIA AHRENS

### Sydney Business School

Dr Julia Ahrens teaches Business Coaching at the Sydney Business School and merges an academic and industry approach. In addition to her international work experience as an academic, Dr Ahrens has worked extensively as a business coach and as such she regularly applies evidence-based research to real-world applications in her teaching. Dr Ahrens role models coaching in her classes and supports students' development by providing in-depth feedback on their academic performance, coaching skills, as well as career strategy advice for those interested. Her commitment and passion for teaching is highly valued by students.



THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S GENERAL STAFF  
AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO TEACHING & LEARNING IS:

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## STUDENT SUPPORT ADVISORS TEAM

### Academic Services Division

Student Support Advisers (SSAs) are an enthusiastic team who tackle complicated student problems. They see many students on an individual basis and make a difference for both the students and academic staff who rely on their expertise and judgement.



The SSAs have led a number of programs aimed to help students make the transition to their university studies. Notable achievements have been contributions to the Welcome to Wollongong Project , developing the Edstart Scholarships , Global Communicators English conversation groups and the development of the International Student Arrival Guide. They also are frequent and vocal contributors to a wide range of committees, projects and activities aimed at improving the student experience.

(Pictured Back L-R: Jenny Walsh, Viv McIlroy, Danial Morgan, Virginie Schmelitschek, Kerry Banks / Middle L-R: Michelle Collis / Front & Centre L-R: Anne Marie Smith)

# FACULTY AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO TEACHING AND LEARNING

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**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 Awards**
- **Faculty Early Career Academic OCTAL Awards**

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS OF THE FACULTY AWARDS ARE:

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## **DR CORINNE CORTESE**

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### **Faculty of Commerce**

Since joining the University of Wollongong in 2006, Dr Corinne Cortese has made the learning environment a place where students want to be. Dr Cortese's teaching philosophy is based on her belief that enthusiasm, encouragement and positive energy promote learning and inspire student engagement. By providing a positive learning environment, students feel welcomed, supported and respected and thereby develop a commitment to learn and develop knowledge. This commitment translates to motivation to; succeed and to continue to strive for excellences beyond university studies.



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## **DR SHIRLEY AGOSTINHO**

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### **Faculty of Education (shared)**

Dr Shirley Agostinho's academic teaching focuses on educational technology. She teaches both undergraduate and postgraduate students from large face-to-face classes to totally online subjects.

Dr Shirley Agostinho's teaching is based on four principles: provide relevant and challenging tasks; instill a culture of community where learners learn from each other; provide support through guidance, clear instructions and positive feedback; and provide a range of resources to stimulate critique of multiple perspectives.

Recurring themes in Shirley's teaching are the enthusiasm and the passion she exhibits, and the respect and empathy she provides to all her students. Shirley is an active researcher who has published widely about teaching and learning, and her work is internationally recognised and applied.



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## DR JESSICA MANTEI

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### Faculty of Education (shared)

For Jessica Teacher Education is about making space for teaching professionals to grow and understand themselves as teachers. Whether pre-service or in-service, all teachers need to consider their story of teaching and reflect on the questions of professional identity. 'Where am I in my teaching story?' and 'What kind of teacher do I want to be?' Dr Mantei expects her students to engage with challenging and rich content in lectures, tutorials and workshops, with other practitioners, to gather the knowledge required to be a good teacher, and more importantly, to develop the beliefs that guide their practice as classroom researchers and practitioners – that is, their professional identity.



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## DR BRAD STAPPENBELT

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### Faculty of Engineering

Dr Brad Stappenbelt endeavours to enthuse and inspire students by engaging them in active learning. Dr Stappenbelt strives to establish genuine learning relationships and is always willing to go the proverbial "extra mile" to support individual student aspirations. He employs a variety of teaching approaches to create a relaxed, interactive learning environment characterised by student questioning and discussion. Through his teaching and the mentoring of humanitarian and sustainability related extra-curricular activities, Dr Stappenbelt aims to encourage the development of a generation of socially and environmentally conscious engineers with the drive and the vision for a better world.



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## **DR AMY CHAN**

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### **Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences**

As a Senior Lecturer in Psychology Dr Amy Chan is driven by her passion for supporting students' academic development and wellbeing, Dr Amy Chan continually seeks ways to engage students with innovative and pedagogically rigorous learning activities. Dr Chan has used her experience and teaching leadership to; improve the first year student experience; foster a positive learning environment for students across all levels of their academic progression, and; share the outcomes of her innovations and ongoing reflective practice with the broader university teaching and learning community.

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## **DR LUKE MCAVEN**

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### **Faculty of Informatics**

Dr Luke McAven's teaching philosophy is to assist, encourage and enthuse students into being eager and capable of independent learning. Dr McAven is an educator in the cutting edge area of IT security. By applying theory to a range of historical and contemporary scenarios, he gives students the opportunity to develop tools and terminology to adapt to this fast moving environment. Dr McAven challenges students to connect, with each other, with their studies and with the world. In his duties as a Lecturer, degree coordinator, academic program director for Singapore, and tutor coordinator, he supports many facets of student learning.



THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS OF THE FACULTY EARLY CAREER ACADEMIC AWARDS ARE:

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## **DR TIM DIMUZIO**

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### **Faculty of Arts**

Dr Tim DiMuzio was appointed lecturer in public policy and international relations in the School of History and Politics in February 2011. Dr DiMuzio is an active researcher and educator, and since 2003 has taught at a range of universities including York University, Oxford University and the University of Helsinki. Dr DiMuzio's approach to teaching is strongly influenced by the school of critical pedagogy as well as his own experience as a student and educator. His primary goal is to help students recognise that nothing is self-evident, the world can be changed, and that they are transformative agents.



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## DR THERESA LARKIN

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### Graduate School of Medicine

Dr Theresa Larkin commenced her position as lecturer in Medical Sciences (Anatomy) in the Graduate School of Medicine in January 2009. Since then, Dr Larkin has improved the Anatomy curriculum by enhancing the clinical application and relevance of the content. A range of educational activities are used to engage the various student learning styles. Dr Larkin delivers interactive and engaging lectures, using STET, class discussions and clinical cases to promote deeper understanding of the content. Dr Larkin is an enthusiastic educator, informed by pedagogical literature, innovative in her teaching activities and resources, and effective in relation to educational outcomes and scholarly activity.



# VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

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

- **Senior Researchers:** Acknowledging outstanding contributions by individuals or teams
- **Emerging Researchers:** Encouraging outstanding achievement within the first seven years of a research career
- **Research Supervisors:** Acknowledging ongoing commitment and dedication (nominations received from higher degree by research students)
- **Interdisciplinary Research Teams:** Recognising outstanding collaborations across discipline boundaries
- **Research Partnerships:** Recognising the important role of research staff in developing and managing research partnerships

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS OF THE SENIOR RESEARCHERS EXCELLENCE AWARD ARE:

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## PROFESSOR RICHARD (BERT) ROBERTS

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### Faculty of Science

Professor Roberts has a track record of formulating and leading large, multi-national and cross-disciplinary projects addressing 'big questions' in archaeology, human evolution and animal extinctions. His research has stimulated debates that intersect the biological, geological and archaeological sciences and have been the catalyst for much subsequent research. Amongst his most innovative contributions are the design and execution of systematic studies that span entire continents, in tandem with pioneering developments in scientific dating and statistical modelling techniques. These studies often underpin the sensational, and sometime serendipitous, discoveries, such as the Hobbits of Flores.

Since joining UOW in 2001, Professor Roberts has played the key role in enhancing UOW's international standing in the scientific study of human evolution and



the analysis of archaeological remains. In 2010 he established the *Centre for Archaeological Science*, of which he is the current Director, and leads research conducted by his group in the *Luminescence Dating Laboratory*, which has been acknowledged in the journal *Science* as "... the world's premier [OSL dating] facility".

Professor Roberts has published more than 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and has been cited more than 4,000 times. Many of his papers have been published in high-profile outlets such as *Nature*, *Science* and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA*.

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## PROFESSOR NICHOLAS DIXON

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### Faculty of Science

Professor Nick Dixon is an ARC Australian Professorial Fellow and Director of the Centre for Medicinal Bioscience. At UOW, the principal focus of his research has been on the mechanism of DNA replication in bacteria, a field in which he is an internationally recognised leader. His work is of importance not only to our fundamental understanding of DNA replication, but also has applications in diverse areas from antibody detection to antibiotic discovery.



Since joining UOW in 2006, Professor Dixon has provided leadership in establishing a centre for protein science with nodes at UOW and ANU. He is accomplishing this by attracting and mentoring additional staff, many of them on externally-funded Fellowships, and providing a collaborative research environment.

Profesor Dixon has published 148 peer-reviewed articles and reviews, including one paper that has been cited over 400 times, and 11 with over 100 citations. He has attracted over \$1.6 million in funding to the University since 2009. Several of his discoveries are patented, and with partners in the biotech industry, are being developed for commercial applications.

Nick Dixon's achievements have significantly enhanced the University of Wollongong's reputation in biomedical research and its international standing and repute.

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT OF THE EMERGING RESEARCHERS EXCELLENCE AWARD IS:

**DR ADAM BRUMM**

**Faculty of Science**

Dr Adam Brumm was awarded his PhD from the Australian National University in 2007, then took up a Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge University. He came to UOW as an ARC Postdoctoral Research Fellow in 2009.



He is a key participant in several interrelated research projects that have made ground-breaking contributions to our knowledge of early hominin and modern human dispersal in island Southeast Asia. His associated publications in premier refereed journals include first authorship on two papers in 'Nature'.

Dr Brumm's rapidly expanding network of contacts in many disciplines across Australia, Europe, the United States and Southeast Asia, will be invaluable in future collaborative projects.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

**DR DYLAN CLIFF**

**Faculty of Education**

Dr Dylan Cliff receives a special commendation for this year's Emerging Researcher Award in recognition of his research performance over the past five years.



Dr Cliff's work is making a significant contribution to improving our understanding of children's physical activity and sedentary behaviour and addressing gaps in our knowledge base through enhancing measurement, examining patterns, and investigating determinants of these behaviours among children.

Since 2007, Dr Cliff has authored 21 peer-reviewed journal articles and two book chapters. His contribution to the Interdisciplinary Educational Research Institute's, as its first post-doctoral research fellow, has enhanced the Institute's national and international profile, as evidenced by his current and prior advisory roles on projects in Australia and overseas.

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT OF THE EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH SUPERVISION AWARD IS:

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR HELEN HASAN**

**Faculty of Commerce**

Dr Helen Hasan received her 25 years service award from the University in 2011. She obtained a PhD in Information Systems in 2000 and completed her Masters by Research in Bio-Physics in 1978. She has served in a number of capacities at the University including Head of the School of Business and Information Systems. Her record of HDR supervision is outstanding, having successfully supervised 23 research students to completion. She leaves an important legacy through the knowledge and assistance she has provided to these students. Dr Hasan has examined over 30 theses during her academic career indicating her passion and collegiality in regard to HDR supervision and examination, and in the training of future academics. She is an exemplary and collegial researcher and supervisor.



HIGHLY COMMENDED:

**DR IRINA VERENIKINA**

**Faculty of Education**

Dr Irina Verenikina has made substantial and sustained contributions to HDR supervision in the Faculty of Education over the past 10 years. She is a popular choice for many HDR students for her recognised expertise in Vygotskian sociocultural theory, her belief in her students and her friendly (and good humoured) approach. Through her supervision she also mentors other academic staff in the complexities of HDR supervision as she models how to break the research journey into manageable chunks so that all students succeed. Dr Verenikina has supervised 10 doctoral students and five honours students to completion. She is currently supervising 11 doctoral students, three of whom will submit their theses in 2012.



## HIGHLY COMMENDED:

### DR PING YU

#### Faculty of Informatics

Dr. Ping Yu has made a major contribution to teaching and research in the School of Information Systems and Technology. Her research interests include factors that influence the use of information and communication technologies by health and aged care organisations, and the impact of these technologies on policy and practice. Dr. Yu's expertise in these areas is widely recognised and she has built strong collaborations with residential aged care providers. Dr. Yu has provided outstanding supervision and mentoring to the many research students who have worked with her in these areas.



## THE RECIPIENTS OF THIS YEAR'S EXCELLENCE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AWARD ARE:

**PROFESSOR TONY OKELY**  
**PROFESSOR JULIE STEELE**  
**DR DYLAN CLIFF**  
**DR RACHEL JONES**  
**DR DIANE HARLAND**  
**DR KAREN MICKLE**



#### Faculty of Education

#### Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

Tony Okely, Julie Steele, Dylan Cliff, Rachel Jones, Diane Harland, and Karen Mickle are presented with this award for their interdisciplinary research program in the area of child obesity. Their interventions have successfully combined behavioural and biomechanical factors to improve motor skill proficiency, foot structure and function, and activities of daily living in overweight and obese children.

The research collaboration among the team has kept UOW and Australia at the forefront of international research in this field. This is evidenced by 10 co-authored publications in international journals and training of researchers from a number of disciplines. The team has received more than \$1 million in competitive funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council and National Heart Foundation for grants and fellowships to continue their collaborative research program will make a significant contribution to our understanding of how to effectively prevent and treat child obesity.

(Pictured L-R: Dylan Cliff , Julie Steele, Diane Harland, Tony Okely  
Not Pictured: Rachel Jones, Karen Mickle)

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS OF THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP AWARD ARE:

**ISEM SUPERCONDUCTOR  
RESEARCH GROUP  
INSTITUTE FOR SUPERCONDUCTING &  
ELECTRONIC MATERIALS**



The research team led by Prof Shi Xue Dou at Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials (ISEM) has fostered a long standing collaboration with industry partner Hyper Tech Research Inc (HTR). With four consecutive successful ARC Linkage Projects which have placed both ISEM and HTR as world leaders in research and development of magnesium diboride superconductors. The team has established very strong IP position: First discovery of the special effects of nano-scale doping in magnesium diboride, achieving a record high critical current density in magnetic fields. A US patent was granted in 2010 that gives HTR a significant technological advantage for commercialisation of the MgB2 superconductor wires in the world. The success of this partnership has enabled this team to extend the partnership to more industry partners with more than 10 ARC Linkage projects and other contract projects. This consortium is now in a leading position to develop superconductor MRI and other applications."

(Pictured L-R, Back: Xiaolin Wong, Germonas Peleckis, Sihai Zhou, Wen Xian Li / L-R Front: Xun Xu, Alexey Pan, Joseph Horvat, Chris Cook, Shi Xue Dou, Olga Shcherbakova)

**PROFESSOR ROSS BRADSTOCK**

**Faculty of Science**

Prof. Ross Bradstock joined the School of Biological Sciences in 2006 under a research partnership with the NSW Dept of Environment and Conservation (DEC). Soon after, he extended this partnership to include the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS). He has secured over \$4 million dollars from these two agencies, with commitments currently running until the end of 2015. This funding has been used to establish the Centre for Environmental Risk Management of Bushfires, which currently employs three research fellows and a range of part-time staff. He is generous with his time, and is keen to share his expertise with staff and students alike.



# VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE FOR GENERAL STAFF

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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 OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS ARE:

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## MARY SPARKS

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### Accommodation Services

During her 14 years service with Accommodation Services, Mary Sparks has made many and varied contributions to the success of the Division. In the past year as the Student Residence Manager, Mary again demonstrated outstanding leadership in opening the University's newest residence, Marketview. Whether it was working with the PASS programme to launch "ResPASS", a first for Australia; coordinating a team of administrative, housekeeping and maintenance staff; liaising with the many other University units; or recruiting, training and inspiring her Student Leadership Team, Mary does so with a strong sense of purpose, a good sense of humour, and a great deal of personal dedication.



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## BRIAN BIEHL

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### Faculty of Informatics

As the Faculty Officer Brian Biehl is committed to ensuring all students, both domestic and international in the School of Electrical Computer & Telecommunications Engineering within the Faculty of Informatics feel valued and have a sense of belonging. Brian takes a personal approach to provide outstanding customer service. This includes learning the name of most students in the school and learning key greetings in a variety of languages to make our international students feel at home. In particular Brian's involvement in running SECTE Soccer brings down barriers, stimulates communication, creates friendships and brings students and staff together.



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## DEBORAH PORTER

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### Academic Registrar's Division

Debby Porter has been an integral member of the Academic Registrar's Division for 18 years. As the University has rapidly grown, Debby has guided the UOW Scholarship program with empathy and determination. Debby's commitment to people and her honest, approachable style have helped thousands of UOW students access the financial support they need to complete their studies. Recently, Debby's understanding of student needs and her ability to bring people together have been instrumental in redeveloping the UOW Scholarship program including the policy, governance, marketing and administration aspects. As a result, the University now has a scholarship program to position it well, as the higher education setting becomes more competitive.



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## LUCY ROGERS

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### Information Technology Services Division

Lucy Rogers has been an integral member of the Student Management Package team for the last 5 years, Lucy has been developing core functionality in SMP, supporting the systems and ITS users, co-ordinating team efforts and mentoring junior colleagues. Lucy's commitment to development has been outstanding, in particular, her contribution to the implementation of the Student Services and Amenities Fee has been a significant factor in its successful delivery.



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## ERA MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS TEAM

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**MAN YUEN TJOE**  
**ANDREW GRAY**  
**RACHEL HAN**  
**YI GAO**  
**BEN CORNWELL**  
**ANN HOLLIFIELD**

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### **Information Technology Services Research Services Office**

The EMS team were tasked with developing a management system to enable efficient compilation and analysis of research data for the University's 2012 ERA submission. The team successfully overcame a range of technical challenges, built an abundance of useful functionality, trained the entire user base and managed to complete it all in a very short time frame. The development was an outstanding success with all users uniformly praising the implementation that now allowed them to focus on the analysis of the data and decision-making for the ERA submission. This was a very important project and the EMS team delivered in spades.

(Pictured Top L-R: Andrew Gray, Man Yuen Tjoe, Ben Cornwell / Bottom L-R: Ann Hollifield, Rachel Han, Yi Gao)

## THE MARIE LEWIS AWARD

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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 OF THE MARIE LEWIS AWARD IS:

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### MELISSA LAVERY

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#### Faculty of Commerce

Melissa Lavery has been a valued member of the University community for over seven years, providing exceptional organisation in both her executive support roles and now as an Administrative Officer (Events) in the Faculty of Commerce. Melissa has presented at National conferences on leadership and provides mentoring to staff in the successful management of job share positions.

In 2010, Melissa won a scholarship to study the Bachelor of Commerce degree. Melissa has inspired staff to undertake further study as a result of her diligent and organised approach to juggling work, study, motherhood and home life. In all her roles Melissa shows exceptional professionalism, dedication and generosity and her 'can do' attitude is a persuasive force in the University.



# VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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**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 OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARDS ARE:

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## **DR NICHOLAS GILL**

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### **FACULTY OF SCIENCE**

Dr Nicholas Gill Senior Lecturer in Earth & Environmental Sciences, receives this award in recognition of the depth and diversity of his engagement activities with community partners through his teaching, research and professional activities, which have enriched student learning and understanding of the social and natural environments they live and study in.



He has developed a range of research relationships, including the Rural Fire Service and Kiama Municipal Council, collaborated on teaching projects with Conservation Volunteers Australia and Mount Kembla mining heritage, and secured CRC funding to evaluate a bushfire management education program run by the Rural Fire Service and Nature Conservation Council of NSW. A member of Wollongong City Council's Heritage Advisory Committee and a previous member of the National Parks and Wildlife Service's Sydney South NSW Community Advisory Committee, Dr Gill was also the founding convenor of a campus Bicycle User Group in 2009 and co-organiser of UOW Ride to Work Day in 2010 and 2011.

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## IN2UNI PROGRAM MANAGEMENT TEAM

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**Tara Loty – ITC**

**Kylie Austin – Academic Services Division**

The In2Uni Program Management Team of Tara Loty and Kylie Austin is awarded the Team Award for Excellence in Community Engagement for their dedication and commitment to school students from disadvantaged backgrounds in the region and the program's contribution to the University's Social Inclusion Strategy.



The team has embraced the challenge of developing an innovative outreach program for schools in the region which is embedded in 55 schools and engages 2,000 primary school students and 2,000 high school students per week and 1,000 parents, guardians and siblings each year.

Key initiatives developed by the team include Academic Mentoring, Leadership and Transition Workshops, on-site experiences for school students, road shows and online activities for students, parents and teachers in the In2Uni Program.

(Pictured L-R: Tara Loty and Kylie Austin)

## 25 YEARS SERVICE AWARDS

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

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS ARE:

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### PROFESSOR ROGER LEWIS

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#### Faculty of Engineering

Roger Lewis has risen from Physics Lecturer to Professor over his 25 years at UOW. He has been Head of School and is currently the Faculty Research Committee Chair. He has attracted competitive external teaching grants from the Committee for the Advancement of University Teaching and the Apple University Development Fund. His teaching quality has been recognized by an OCTAL Award (2005), NSW Minister for Education/Australian College of Educators Award (2006) and Carrick Citation (2006). His research has attracted millions of dollars in ARC (Large, Discovery Project, LIEF, Linkage International, SPIRT, Network), NSW government (SERDF), Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology, and Australian Academy of Science grants. He has acted as an assessor for the ARC and NHMRC, thesis examiner for 4 universities, referee for 23 journals and serves on 7 national and international conference program committees. His research at UOW has resulted in 152 journal publications. He has been appointed a Fellow of the Royal Microscopical Society and Fellow of the Australian Institute of Physics.



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### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RODNEY CLARKE

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#### Faculty of Commerce

Rodney Clarke started his academic career in Information Systems in the Faculty of Commerce 1989 and is currently an Associate Professor in the School of Management and Marketing. He completed his PhD in Information Systems and Semiotics (2000) and a postdoctoral Docent in business processes and services, hypermedia and decision-making from Karlstad University, Sweden. Rodney has an international profile in communication theory and systems in organisations. He has won industry and teaching awards and numerous research grants. He is a founding member of the Institute for Innovation in Business and Social Research, the Commerce Faculty's Research Strength and is now Director of the Collaboration Laboratory (Co-Lab) at the SMART Infrastructure Facility.



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## **KIM CALLAWAY**

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### **Research and Innovation Division**

Kim commenced with the University in 1987 as an administrator in the Office of Research and has gained experience in several key project and policy roles across the University. Cumulating in her current role of Director of the Research Student Centre since July 2003.



Kim has been the general staff member on the University Council for the past five years, a position she has been elected to twice by her peers. She has developed extensive networks in her 25 years at the University and is highly regarded for both her innovative approach to her work and her collegial and inclusive relationships with fellow staff.

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## **PROFESSOR LESLEY HEAD**

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### **Faculty of Science**

Lesley Head has been an integral member of the Faculty of Science and the School of Earth & Environmental Sciences since 1987. In her roles as research leader, prolific publisher, Head of School and now Director of the Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research, she has inspired and mentored colleagues, and advocated for recognition of women's contributions to science. Lesley's commitment to the development of physical and human geography, environmental studies and archaeology, and her leadership as President of the Institute of Australian Geographers have had a significant impact on interdisciplinary environmental research. She is an inaugural ARC Australian Laureate Fellow, pioneering cultural research to address problems of sustainability, climate change and environmental management.



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## PROFESSOR DAVID GRIFFITHS

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### Faculty of Informatics

Appointed Foundation Professor of Statistics in 1987, David Griffiths has served longer as a Professor, than any other current UOW staff member. David has also held positions as Head of School, Dean and as Chair of Academic Senate and Member of Council for substantial periods during his career. He has taught across all Faculties, as well as the Sydney Business School and the Graduate School of Medicine, and supervised research students in five. He built a sound base for the statistics discipline, and initiated interdisciplinary postgraduate Quality Management courses, which pioneered off-campus, in-house and off-shore teaching at UOW. David also instigated the discussions which led to the creation of the Chancellor Robert Hope medal. David greatly values the many collegial opportunities his diverse roles have provided.



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## KIM DRAISMA

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### Academic Services Division

Kim Draisma has been a member of the academic staff of the University of Wollongong since 1987, initiating the first learning development support at the University in that year. She was appointed Head of the Learning Development Centre in 1992 and was re-appointed to the role of Head, Learning Development in 2009, a role she continues to fulfil. Kim has made a substantial and sustained contribution to the teaching of academic writing, most notably with postgraduate thesis writing students, and in 2009 was a recipient of the Vice Chancellor's Outstanding Contribution to Teaching Award. Kim has served on University Council, is a member of Academic Senate and is a long-servicing staff representative on the Academic Enterprise Bargaining team, Academic Staff Consultative Committee and associated committees.



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## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MICHAEL ZANKO

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### Faculty of Commerce

Michael has made and continues to make a great contribution to the University as an academic in the Management discipline. He has undertaken a variety of leadership roles within the Faculty of Commerce. Recently, on the teaching side he has been Associate Dean (Academic Programs) since 2007, implementing curriculum and learning innovations. On the research front he founded and has jointly led the successful People and Organisation Research Centre. He has been awarded a mix of external competitive grants from the ARC, ALTC and APEC. Michael is popular as a collegial, open-minded and inclusive University staff member. He places importance on having fun at work while getting things done and, on occasion, can be seen lapping pools at UOW and the northern beaches.



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## DR PAM DAVY

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### Faculty of Informatics

Pam Davy is a highly valued member of the School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics. While her research is in Statistics (particularly Geometric Probability, Data Mining and Financial Statistics), she is a rarity these days, a mathematical all-rounder, often seen at Pure and Applied Maths seminars. Pam is a popular project supervisor, from the undergraduate to the PhD level, because of her wide interests and constant willingness to help students. Her outstanding teaching skills have led to her often being selected to teach large and not necessarily popular classes. Pam's outside interests include squash, cycling and marathon running.



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## NOLA HURT

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### Faculty of Health & Behavioural Science

Nola Hurt has made an outstanding contribution to UOW for over 25 years especially within the School of Health Sciences. Nola's professionalism and enthusiasm touches all staff members on a daily basis and her commitment to providing quality executive support to our Heads of School has contributed significantly to the School's growth. Nola has this ability to make everyone feel important. Her work truly exemplifies the University's mission to connect and the School's vision to work with excellence in everything we do. Her contribution cannot be valued enough.



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## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR PAUL SHARRAD

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### Faculty of Arts

Paul Sharrad has led teaching and research in postcolonial literatures at Wollongong, supervising nearly fifty students and producing over 100 research publications. He was foundation head of the New Literatures Research Centre, led the Literature research group, and has led the operation of the University Press. As organiser of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, editor of scholarly journals and leader of research collaborations in Asia, he has generated international recognition for the University. His administrative roles have included being Head of School, acting foundation Head of School, & Head of Postgraduate studies, FRC chair, and Associate Dean Research in Arts.



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## MAGDALENE HEASLIP

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### Faculty of Health & Behavioural Science

Magda Heaslip has been a key administrative member of the School of Nursing, Midwifery & Indigenous Health for over 25 years, encouraging and supporting a broad range of colleagues who sought her expertise in a range of computer applications. As a most adventurous, creative and patient computer user Magda has a well-earned reputation as a 'computer whiz'. Magda's other outstanding attributes are her keen intellect and thorough approach, which are evidenced in her successful completion, as a part time student, of a Bachelor of Arts (with Distinction) majoring in European Studies, and, most importantly, her passion for all things 'sci-fi'.



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## ZOFIA MCKECHNIE

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### Vice Chancellors Unit

Zofia Mckechnie has worked at the University for over 35 years during that time she has worked in Commerce, Health & Behavioural Sciences and the Vice-Chancellor's Unit. For the past 17 years Zofia has worked for the PVC(A)s, Christine Ewan and Rob Castle. She is renowned for her efficiency, calmness and ability to organise the disorganised. Rob Castle on his first day as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic), remarked to Zofia that he was "glad one of us knew what they were doing". Twelve years later, that is still the case. Zofia's administrative skills have made a major contribution to the success of teaching and learning at the University of Wollongong and she has been a major player in making the Vice-Chancellor's Unit a great place to work.



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## ROGER KANITZ

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### Faculty of Science

Roger Kanitz has been an integral member of the First Year Chemistry teaching team for many years; staff and students have greatly appreciated his ever present smile, supportive but laid back ways and endeavours to help. This help is in many forms – last minute lab changes, chemicals for a lecture demonstration or calming a stressed student. Additionally Roger has seen many years of work associated with the Mass Spectrometry group in the Research part of the School of Chemistry. Perhaps the most grateful are the many dozens of students Roger has tutored over the years, either informally or as Bridging Course tutor. His reputation in this sphere is to be envied.



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## PETER SARA

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### Faculty of Science

Peter Sara has been a member the School of Chemistry since 1986 and during that time he has provided valuable support in his position as electronics technician. Peter has applied his extensive knowledge and expertise in electronics and IT to assist students and departmental staff by making specific and sustained contributions to the school's teaching and research objectives and demonstrating a very high level of dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm. In a time of rapid scientific and technological change Peter has expertly adapted with a diverse range of equipment demands, ranging from repairing simple heating mantles to troubleshooting state-of-the art and very expensive mass spectrometers.

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## NEIL CAIRNS

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### Library

Neil Cairns, Associate Librarian, has been influential in positioning the Library as an early mover and adapter in the use of innovative information technologies. An early milestone was his vision for IT enabled Library services through the full automation of services; making UOW one of the first academic libraries nation-wide to do so. His contribution to the Library and UOW has been outstanding as noted in the development of now ubiquitous access to networked eresources. More recently he has been instrumental in directing the strategic development of high end IT services to complement the Library extension, multi-campus hardware and software infrastructure and content management systems for rapidly expanding digital collections.

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## NEIL GRANT

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### Library

Neil Grant has been a valued member of the Library for over 25 years commencing as the Loans Librarian before taking on the role as the Library's first Electronic Resources Librarian. This role was crucial to ensuring the Library navigated the change from print based information resources to the wide range of online information resources now available to University staff and clients across our many campuses. Neil's expertise and knowledge has been highly valued by his colleagues through this rapidly changing period. Neil's involvement on campus has extended to the membership of the UOW Toastmasters Club for many years, including stints as President.



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## ROB GEORGE

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### Facilities Management Division

Rob George joined UOW's Buildings & Grounds Division in 1987, commencing as a carpenter within the Construction team and working on a number of projects including the refurbishment of student accommodation blocks at Weerona and Campus East, the construction of the URAC pool, the extension of Engineering and Creative Arts, and the construction of the B&G (now Facilities Management Division) Building. In 2000, Rob moved to B&G's Maintenance team. Rob's gregarious nature is well-known to all. Amongst his many duties, Rob is responsible for carrying out daily checks of the safe operation of seats and writing tablets in all lecture theatres.



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## DOUGLAS SIMPSON

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### Faculty of Science

Doug Simpson has worked in financial services and computer systems at the University within the Financial Services Division and more recently in the Faculty of Science as Faculty Business Manager. Doug is the consummate professional and team player. He is always prepared to go the extra yard to help his colleagues to complete a task or project. Whilst in Financial Services Doug worked on a number of major systems projects including JDE finance, Alesco HR and SMP student package. He has also made many contributions across campus including organising the Children's Christmas party. A keen tri-athlete and runner, Doug is also a regular member of the Thursday lunchtime running group.



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## RAY STACE

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### Academic Services Division

Ever the quiet achiever, Ray Stace has worked in central units for 25 years, balancing creativity, integrity and patience in negotiations. As the Head of Centre for Academic Systems and resources, Ray's creative expression in online interactivity has given us some of the most valued and recognised resources in language study within and beyond UOW. Ray's patience and fair mindedness means he is the trained negotiator you recommend for translating concerns into solutions. Offering a listening ear, a warm smile and deep, genuine concern, Ray Stace has managed staff with compassion and meticulous attention to detail within CEDIR and CASR.



# THE ROSEMARY COOPER AWARD

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The Rosemary Cooper Award has been provided in honour of Rosemary Cooper, who worked in the Faculty of Commerce from 1988 to 2011. The prize is to recognise general staff who have overcome significant barriers across the spectrum of diversity or who have had a significant role in supporting staff or students within this spectrum of diversity.

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT OF THE ROSEMARY COOPER AWARD IS:

**SUZANNE KOTEVSKI**

## **Faculty of Commerce**

Suzanne Kotevski has been a part of the Faculty of Commerce for over 10 years - first as an undergraduate, then as a Postgraduate Student, and for the past several years as a highly valued staff member. Despite her disability Suzanne's sheer will to lead a normal life has been a true inspiration to everyone around her. She always gives her best, never shirks her responsibilities, is guaranteed to be the first to offer to take on a new challenge and always delivers. Suzanne is an inspiration and exemplary role model, to all of her colleagues in the way she goes about her work with such great skill, enthusiasm, dedication and perseverance.



