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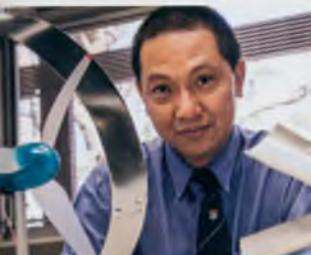
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Vice-Chancellor's Awards Ceremony 2013

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VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS CEREMONY

Friday 30th August 2013
University Hall
University of Wollongong



PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies

Mr David Reynolds

Welcome by the Vice-Chancellor

Prof Paul Wellings CBE, Vice-Chancellor

Presentation of the Vice-Chancellor's Awards and Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning

Prof Eeva Leinonen, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)

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

Prof Judy Raper, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

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

Ms Melva Crouch, CSM, Chief Administrative Officer

Presentation of the Marie Lewis Award

Ms Melva Crouch, CSM, Chief Administrative Officer

Presentation of the Rosemary Cooper Award

Ms Melva Crouch, CSM, Chief Administrative Officer

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

Prof Joe Chicharo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International)

Presentation of 25 Years Service Awards

Mr Damien Israel, Chief Financial Officer

Closure by the Vice-Chancellor

Prof Paul Wellings CBE, Vice-Chancellor

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

The Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning (OCTAL) Award recipients are recommended to the Vice-Chancellor by a committee which considers nominations from colleagues and students, as well as supporting documentation from the nominees.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S TEACHING AWARD:

THE LAW FIRST YEAR INTEGRATION TEAM

Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts

The First Year Integration Team, with its student-centred approach to learning, ensures that law students have the best possible transition to university while laying the necessary foundation for law studies at university and beyond. The Team's success in doing so has been achieved by:



- the ongoing development of the First Year Immersion Program;
- the creation of student pods, where students are allocated to the same group for each subject, which creates a nurturing first year;
- the delivery of integrated course content and coordinated assessment regimes; as well as
- the Team's passion for and dedication to high quality and enthusiastic teaching.

(Pictured L-R: Dr Cassandra Sharp, Margaret Bond, Trish Mundy, Dr Julia Quilter, Karina Murray)

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S EARLY CAREER ACADEMIC AWARD:

DR KAREN FILDES

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

Dr Karen Fildes has taught as a lecturer at the University of Wollongong since completing her PhD in 2009. Her personal commitment to high quality education is evidenced in her collaborations with colleagues from Biology, Chemistry and CEDiR and the innovations introduced, and evaluated, as a result. These include promoting student community and communication through authentic learning tasks designed for group work in 1st year biology; introducing active learning POGIL (process orientated guided inquiry learning) workshops designed for group work in 2nd year biochemistry, as well as developing online prelabs and online learning modules and assessments. These innovations have improved student community, skill development and increased student interest and motivation.



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SSESSIONAL TUTOR/LECTURER/DEMONSTRATOR AWARD IS SHARED BY:

STEPHANIE PERKISS

Faculty of Business

Stephanie Perkiss is a third year PhD candidate and a dedicated tutor and mentor in the School of Accounting and Finance. Drawing on her professional experience working in accounting, and her research interests in social accountability, Stephanie brings energy and enthusiasm in helping students grapple the technical and theoretical aspects of commerce along with creating a relaxed and informative learning environment. Stephanie's value extends beyond her responsibilities, where she displays leadership and offers inspiration in all aspects of her work.



RAY TOLHURST

Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences

Ray Tolhurst has had an extensive career in education, both as a lecturer/teacher and as a manager. Throughout this, his approach has been centred on creating the broadest possible learning opportunities and adding value to the students' educational experiences. For his impact on mineral industry education, he has received the 2013 Australian Coal Operators "Contribution to Mining Education" Award, the 2011 Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy Institute Service Award and the NSW Department of Education and Training's "Service to Students" Medal. Surveys of student feedback have also demonstrated students high regard for his work.



FACULTY AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO TEACHING AND LEARNING

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

Awards are presented in the following categories:

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

RECIPIENTS OF THE FACULTY AWARDS:

DR XIAOPING GAO

Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts

Dr Xiaoping Gao is an enthusiastic, experienced, and self-motivated language teacher. With a long-standing commitment to teaching excellence, integrating innovative technologies and engaging teaching approaches in her teaching practice, she creates dynamic, comfortable, and authentic learning environments for students. Xiaoping has led innovations in teaching, assessment, curriculum and resource development, and initiated international collaborations to provide comprehensive learning opportunities for students. Her enthusiasm, dedication, professionalism and pastoral care have continually motivated her students to face challenges, seek ongoing growth, and strive for excellence.



DR LAETITIA VEDRENNE

Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts

Dr Laetitia Vedrenne has been instrumental in the integration of Information and Communication Technologies in the curriculum since she started at UOW in 2011. Her skills have been recognised by the School of Arts making it one of the leaders of the early adopters in the transition to Moodle for the Faculty. Laetitia is committed to excellence in learning and teaching: she is the recipient of two team ESDF grants. She is a warm, inspirational teacher with a knack for making learning safe and fun.



JOHN BURFITT

Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts

In 2007, a newspaper editor commented to journalist John Burfitt, *"I don't think you realise this, but you are a natural teacher."*



Six years, six subjects, almost three hundred classes and well over 400 students later, along with a Masters degree and a teaching diploma, John has developed a unique style of practice-based journalism education at the University of Wollongong. A practitioner who learned his journalism skills in a variety of newsrooms, John strives to recreate that style of professional practice learning with UOW students, not only through the years of their studies, but also often as a mentor when they graduate into the marketplace.

DR IRINA VERENIKINA

Faculty of Social Sciences

Over a decade of teaching at the University of Wollongong Dr Irina Verenikina has been highly committed to the preparation and continuing development of education professionals and researchers. She has made a significant contribution to the development of the School of Education's postgraduate program, has led the design and delivery of Educational Foundations courses, and has mentored beginning educational researchers. Her dedication and desire to provide positive learning experiences have won her wide recognition among students and colleagues. Irina's ongoing reflection on her educational practice and her continuing dialogue with both peers and students warrants her reputation as a caring, thoughtful and efficient educator.



DR BUYUNG KOSASIH

Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences

Dr Buyung Kosasih's teaching philosophy is to assist students to become capable independent learners. His teaching approach focuses on supporting, inspiring and challenging students to acquire a solid grasp of the fundamentals.

Buyung uses teaching methods where problem solving, real life cases and theory applications are integrated in an engaging active learning environment. Because of his genuine interest in student learning his teaching often continues beyond the end of the session. He supports many of his past students as they continue in their learning journey and in some cases beyond the University.



RECIPIENTS OF THE FACULTY EARLY CAREER AWARDS:

DR AMIEE ZHANG

Faculty of Business (shared)

Dr Aimee Zhang takes a student-centred approach in crafting learning experiences in a range of Economics subjects that link closely with the world of practice. Aimee's commitment to enhancing student learning is highlighted by her innovative Tutors in Pockets (TIPS) application for the iPhone (and soon for Android). Aimee has conceptualised, organised and implemented the project to create this app that allows students to more readily come to grips with key introductory economics concepts through their phones anywhere and at any time. Needless to say, this TIPS app has great commercialisation potential. Aimee's enthusiasm, commitment and innovative approach to improve the student learning experience over and above classroom teaching, are highly appreciated.



DR FREDA HUI

Faculty of Business

Dr Freda Hui is passionate about her teaching, especially that which involves first year students. She is committed to creating a positive learning experience for students and ensuring every student has an equal opportunity to achieve their learning goals. She also aims to provide a strong foundation for lifelong learning with a particular emphasis on the linkage of learning in class with real world applications in order to best equip students for future career challenges.



FADI KOTOB

Faculty of Business

Fadi Kotob's motto is "committed to excellence in teaching". To deliver this excellence, Fadi blends theoretical and practical teaching with a process of going beyond and delivering a fair, supportive and caring teaching environment where class education is just the beginning. Fadi supplements his teaching by a support process of building CV's, providing references and assisting students to increase their knowledge by helping them engage with business and community groups. This has resulted in students trusting that he cares and knowing that they can rely on him during and after their time as students. This reflects the University's care and commitment to excellence.



SARAH TILLOT

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

Sarah Tillot's philosophy entails facilitating a positive and supportive learning environment, whereby each student feels respected, valued and empowered to engage within the classroom. To Sarah, teaching is about interacting and relaying information to the students in a manner that they can understand, and empowering students with the knowledge and skills to maintain an open mind and critically reflect on the topics of discussion. As cited by Stewart (2004, pg. 6) Sarah believes her role as a teacher is about '*transforming the way a person perceives the world around them and helping to build an individual's belief that they can go out there and make a difference*'.



DR NATHAN BROWNLOWE

Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences

Dr Nathan Brownlowe is an early career academic and lecturer of mathematics in the School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics. He has been recognised by students as an innovative and engaging lecturer, who is strongly committed to student learning. Mathematics can be intimidating for students, and Nathan works to break down the barriers that can make mathematics inaccessible. Nathan enjoys the challenge of making mathematics easier to understand, and making it fun. He nurtures students' interest in mathematics, and strives to open their minds to the simplicity, beauty and power of the subject.



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

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 research students)
- **Research Culture:** Recognising on-going commitment and dedication to developing a positive culture of research integrity and quality
- **Interdisciplinary Research Teams:** Recognising outstanding collaborations across discipline boundaries
- **Research Commercialisation:** Recognising the importance that UOW research staff play in the process of initiating, developing, enhancing and managing UOW's research commercialisation activities
- **Research Partnerships:** Recognising the important role of research staff in developing and managing research partnerships

RECIPIENT OF THE SENIOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD:

PROFESSOR HUA KUN LIU

Australian Institute for Innovative Materials

Professor Hua Kun Liu is an international leader in clean energy materials development and commercialisation and the founder of the internationally renowned energy program at the University of Wollongong. Her research focuses on developing innovative technology for a new generation of clean energy storage devices with high energy density, long life cycle and low cost. Her major contributions to the energy field include a number of important breakthroughs which have had a significant impact on the field of materials science and technology as evidenced by the fact that her group has contributed



to 60% of Australia's total citations on lithium ion batteries. Hua Kun has held four consecutive Australian Professorial Fellowships from 1994 to 2010. Her publications have 13600+ citations with H-index 52. Her PhD graduates are widely spread among prestigious institutions and companies around the world and many rise to senior leader positions in the clean energy field.

RECIPIENT OF THE EMERGING RESEARCHERS EXCELLENCE AWARD:

DR MELANIE RANDLE

Faculty of Business

Dr Melanie Randle joined UOW in 2004 from a marketing career at Qantas Airways. Since entering academia, Melanie's primary research focus has been on applying social marketing concepts to increase the number of people engaged in volunteering and foster caring. Her findings have been published in many high-level journals and have been used by community service organisations to develop more effective marketing campaigns. In 2012 Melanie's achievements were acknowledged when she won the Australia and New Zealand Marketing Academy 'Emerging Researcher of the Year' Award. Melanie was the first academic in the Marketing discipline to have been awarded an ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award fellowship (DECRA). She remains one of only three Marketing academics to be awarded a DECRA out of the 477 fellowships awarded to date.



RECIPIENT OF THE EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH SUPERVISION AWARD:

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MINJIE ZHANG

Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences

Associate Professor Minjie Zhang is a member of the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering. She has made substantial and sustained contributions to the supervision and management of HDR students. With her professional guidance, all her HDR students have been published in top-tier journals and conferences, as well as previous HDR students having completed their study on time. Minjie has performed exceptionally well as the Head of Postgraduate Studies for the School. With a very high level of dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm, she has greatly improved the HDR completion rate of the School, which is now one of best performers in the Faculty in HDR completion.



HIGHLY COMMENDED:

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR STEPHEN RALPH

Faculty of Science Medicine and Health

Associate Professor Stephen Ralph employs a student-centred approach for training research students, in which development of skills and personal attributes is given centre stage. This is accomplished in part through encouraging students to pursue challenging projects on what are sometimes unfamiliar topics, and play a role in wider University activities. Stephen appreciates that each student is an individual, with strengths and achievements that should be celebrated, and provides mentoring so that each student reaches their full potential. These strategies have resulted in successful PhD completions both in Wollongong and Finland, and awards bestowed upon students for presentations given at conferences and contributions to University safety.



RECIPIENT OF THE OUTSTANDING ACHEIVEMENT IN RESEARCH CULTURE

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DAVID PASK

Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences

This award recognises Associate Professor David Pask's profound impact on the research culture in mathematics at UOW, the continuation of a career-long commitment to promoting and exemplifying research intensity and excellence in his academic team.



David's investment of time, research effort, and substantial ARC funding, has established a collegial and focussed research culture delivering cutting-edge research while remaining inclusive and encouraging of both postgraduate and undergraduate students. His generous sharing of ideas, expertise and enthusiasm, as well as his own exceptional research achievements, have established a culture of collaborative research excellence in mathematics at UOW which is recognised worldwide.

THE RECIPIENTS OF THE EXCELLENCE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AWARD:

DR BRIDGET MUNRO & PROFESSOR GORDON WALLACE – AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATIVE MATERIALS

PROFESSOR PHILIP CLINGAN,
PROFESSOR JULIE STEELE,
PROFESSOR PHILIP CLINGAN &

PROFESSOR DON IVERSON. - FACULTY OF SCIENCE, MEDICINE AND HEALTH

PROFESSOR GEOFF SPINKS & PROFESSOR GURSEL ALICI - FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION SCIENCES

This interdisciplinary research team is presented with an award for their program titled "Controlling lymphoedema in an intelligent fashion". This program successfully combines biomechanics with materials science, materials engineering, robotics, oncology and health service delivery to offer an alternative treatment option to patients with breast cancer related lymphoedema. As an incurable disease, 1 in 3 men and women who have already been through a breast cancer diagnosis will develop breast cancer-related lymphoedema of the arm. This disorder leads to swelling and heaviness of the arm that often requires



daily treatment and the wearing of compression garments. This project, funded by the National Breast Cancer Foundation, aims to use the multidisciplinary backgrounds of the team to develop a fully wearable device which may be able to provide an alternative and complementary treatment regime to the patient to reduce the effects of this lifelong condition and improve their quality of life.

(Pictured L-R: Geoff Spinks, Julie Steele, Philip Clingan & Don Iverson).
Not pictured: Gursel Alici, Gordon Wallace and Bridget Munro.

RECIPIENT OF THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN RESEARCH COMMERCIALISATION

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR STUART JOHNSTONE

Faculty of Social Sciences

Associate Professor Stuart Johnstone was responsible for the invention and development of the world's first evidence-based neuro-cognitive training tool for the improvement of behavioural control in children with ADHD. He was instrumental in securing an industry licensee to the UOW IP, and continued research into the efficacy of the approach, now embodied as two software products being sold internationally. The invention is a system of cognitive training incorporating objective attention levels obtained via a wireless brain electrical activity recording device. A research study using the "Focus Pocus" software has been conducted in China, and two randomised control studies are currently underway in the Illawarra and Sydney areas. There is strong interest in the use of the software in other treatment domains, for example in adults with Traumatic Brain Injury and children with Post Traumatic Amnesia.



RECIPIENTS OF THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP AWARD IS SHARED BY:

PROFESSOR BRIAN CULLIS WITH GRAINS RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Professor Brian Cullis has established an outstanding research partnership with the Grains Research Development Corporation (GRDC). This partnership has been in place for over 20 years and has resulted in 10 research contracts in the past 10 years. Brian joined UOW from the NSW Department of Primary Industries in 2010 and brought with him a GRDC funded project which was novated to UOW



and had a budget of over 2.4 million. Since then Brian has secured two more major research contracts with the GRDC with total funding of over 6.6 million over 5 years.

CENTRE FOR GEOMECHANICS AND RAILWAY ENGINEERING AND PARTNER COFFEY

Since 2009, Coffey and the UOW's Centre for Geomechanics and Railway Engineering (GRE) have collaborated under an ARC-Linkage project on vacuum consolidation with two other industry partners including Road and Maritime Services (RMS) and Douglas Partners. The project was coordinated and led by Professor Buddhima Indraratna with Associate Professor Cholachat Rujikiatkamjorn and Dr Geng Xueyu taking leadership in different phases of the project. This research partnership has led to tangible results in terms of improved delivery of services and design techniques with user-friendly charts used by industry, numerous high calibre journal articles and invited Keynote lectures at top-rated international conferences. The research outcomes are proudly an integral part of the new Australian Standards on the "Execution of Vertical Drains in Soft Soils" launched in February 2012. The techniques developed in this research have been tested in the field and applied to Port of Brisbane reclamation and Sandgate Rail Track construction. PhD graduates who worked in this area of research have been employed by Coffey. The significant impact made to industry has further cemented the Centre for Geomechanics and Railway Engineering led by Buddhima, as one of the world's most dynamic and influential soil improvement and rail transportation research units.

(Pictured L-R: Cholachat Rujikiatkamjorn, Buddhima Indraratna and Xueyu Geng)



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

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

RECIPIENTS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS FOR GENERAL STAFF:

ERIN MISKELLY

Academic Registrar's Division

Erin Miskelly has made significant contributions to the international student experience, drawing upon her extensive visa and compliance knowledge to support students and staff in overcoming the complications associated with international study. In light of recent sweeping changes to University responsibilities in the compliance sector, Erin has shown unwavering dedication, working diligently and tirelessly to keep UOW on track with our compliance obligations. In 2013, we received the highest possible compliance assessment level rating by the Department of Immigration, placing us above the sector average in the area of student visa compliance. This result is a testament to Erin's commitment to our international clients.



DEBBIE SARTORI

Academic Registrar's Division

Debbie Sartori has designed, developed, tested, and implemented the UOW Student System for 11 years. This award recognises the enormous value Debbie brings to UOW through her thorough analyses and deep understanding of the business processes of the organisation. Debbie always enhances the outcomes of any project she undertakes and deserves particular recognition for the solution she has implemented to support the Faculty Transition. Debbie is also able to identify risks, interdependencies and opportunities for improvement that can be difficult for others to see. Her technical expertise, corporate knowledge and professionalism are beyond comparison.



VALBONA MERXHUSHI

Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences

Valbona Merxhushi has been a member of the Faculty of Informatics for 5 years and in that period she has demonstrated the highest level of initiative, resourcefulness and "can do" attitude. She has an indefatigable passion for continuous improvement and innovation. In particular Valbona has made an outstanding contribution to the implementation of the quality assurance process for the University's international offshore operation. Her contribution to the subject moderation management system has streamlined the quality assurance process, reduced waste and facilitated communication and electronic documentation and most importantly, created a platform for TEQSA compliance.



VICKY WALLACE

Research and Innovation Division

Anyone who has had the pleasure of working with Vicky Wallace will know that she is thoroughly deserving of this Award for Outstanding Service. As leader of the Research Promotions & Marketing Team in the Research Services Office, Vicky has made an extraordinary contribution to enhancing the University's research reputation and profile. Vicky has initiated and delivered a range of highly successful activities and events including: the Research and Innovation News Magazine; Research and Innovation website; research related multi-media and social media tools; UOW TEDx events and the Big Ideas Festival, as well as the 'Uni in the Brewery' series. Vicky's role is one requiring creativity, innovation and outstanding communication skills. Vicky possesses all of these in spades and her first class support to research staff and students across the University has enabled them to showcase their important work to a broad range of stakeholders and the community - locally, nationally and globally.



HDR STUDENT REPORTING TEAM
CHRISTOPHER TORRENS
DAMIEN MENANTEAU
CRAIG NAPIER
ELLENIE PETROU



Performance Indicator's Unit

The HDR Student Reporting Team developed a high quality Higher Degree Research (HDR) reporting system unique to the University of Wollongong. This HDR System houses one of the broadest and most comprehensive sets of research data that is the envy of other Universities. The success of the system is in no small part due to this team who went above and beyond the scope of their role to make sure this system captures every possible data set and is of the highest quality. Their technical knowledge and skills, their commitment to customer service and their ability to interpret stakeholder needs is astounding.

(Pictured L-R: Christopher Torrens, Craig Napier, Ellenie Petrou & Damien Menanteau)

LIBRARY OUTREACH TEAM
LUCIA TOME
RACHEL CARR
DEBRA NOLAN
JEANETTA KETTLE
MELANIE THOMPSON
BERNADETTE STEPHENS



Library

The Academic Outreach team fosters close relationships between the Library and the academic community, which allows it to continue to align Library services and the scholarly information it provides to the contemporary research and teaching needs of the University. Each Faculty has an Outreach Librarian who articulates a customised value proposition and provides agile responses and tailored creative solutions to meet the needs of each academic in the University. The Outreach team is a dynamic and energised group of librarians led by Lucia Tome.

(Pictured L-R: Melanie Thompson, Jeanetta Kettle, Lucia Tome, Rachel Carr, Bernadette Stephens, and Debra Nolan)

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 award recognises the achievement of a member of general staff who is completing a degree at UOW. Selection is based on academic performance as well as service to the University and its students.

RECIPIENT OF THE MARIE LEWIS AWARD:

CASEY POTTER

Faculty of Business

Casey Potter is highly motivated and professional in everything she does. She balances high grades in her study towards her Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Human Resource Management, while providing excellent administrative support in her role as Sub Dean's Assistant and also in the International Unit in the Faculty of Business. Casey has also worked in the Recruitment Unit within the Human Resources Division. She has excellent interpersonal skills along with the ability to multitask and undertake complex tasks such as assessing courses for accreditation. She is a valuable staff member of the University.



THE ROSEMARY COOPER AWARD

The Rosemary Cooper Award has been provided in honour of Rosemary Cooper, who worked in the Faculty of Commerce from 1988 to 2011. The award recognises 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.

RECIPIENT OF THE ROSEMARY COOPER AWARD:

SAM HARDAKER

Academic Registrar's Division

Sam Hardaker is the Digital Content Management Officer in ARD. From the time he commenced working at the University in 2006, Sam has shown determination, drive, ambition, loyalty, a great sense of humour, and a positive attitude to work and life that is infectious. There is nothing that Sam can't do - he just does some things differently. Sam has not let his disability define him; rather he works with his abilities to get the job done in the most effective and efficient way for him. Whilst working at UOW, Sam has completed a Bachelor of Communication and Media Studies and is now studying at night to gain a graphic design qualification. Sam is an amazing role model to all his colleagues.



HIGHLY COMMENDED:

AMY RUPA

Graduate School of Medicine

Amy Rupa is positive, enthusiastic and reliable. She is an integral part of the Graduate School of Medicine. Amy takes her own particular workplace challenges in her stride. Her primary desire is simply to do her job to the best of her ability. But Amy is also keenly aware of and sensitive to the challenges faced by others who also have unique hurdles in their workplace and always seeks to help in whatever way she can. For example, where the workplace has hindered the ability of either herself or others to show their full potential, she has actively sought and brought about change. There is no stopping Amy at work or at home. Travelling to 3 states in 4 days to see Keith Urban concerts, that's Amy!



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We recognise that integrating teaching, research, community and business enhances our research and enriches student and community development. Connecting communities is considered to be an integral part of the work of the University.

RECIPIENT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD FOR AN INDIVIDUAL:

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ROBBIE COLLINS

Shoalhaven Campus

Community Engagement is at the heart of Associate Professor Robbie Collins' leadership at the University of Wollongong's Shoalhaven Campus. Robbie's ongoing commitment to community collaboration has led to a significant number of mutually beneficial partnerships which have profound impacts in the Shoalhaven community and the student experience on the Shoalhaven campus. Robbie's community engagement has fostered a change in the discourse about who can come to university; shifting it from university being a place for 'others' to being a real possibility for 'me'. Beyond just enrolment, her ongoing relationship with the communities that students come from helps them to feel 'safe' at university, increasing their confidence to achieve their goals. Robbie extends the University's core values in everything that she does, both with the University and in the community. Over a sustained period her service and contribution has exceeded the expectations of her role. She has embodied the principle of community engagement on behalf of the University of Wollongong in the Shoalhaven.



HIGHLY COMMENDED:

PROFESSOR SANDRA JONES



Faculty of Social Sciences

Professor Sandra Jones has had a sustained relationship with the community since her arrival at UOW a decade ago. A significant portion of her research has been conducted in the community on issues that are important to the community. Her research and work has addressed issues such as influences on adolescent alcohol consumption, increasing peer support for children with autism, and community-based interventions to reduce disease risk. She has worked continuously to increase the social marketing capacity of staff of government and non-government organisations, thereby enhancing their ability to deliver high quality, evidence-based services and programs. Sandra has enhanced the University's relationship with the community and above all else, used her talents and energies to make our community a better place to live.

RECIPIENT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD FOR A TEAM:

MUDGEES STUDENT ACCOMMODATION MODEL
DR GARY MOORE
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DAVID GARNE
KEITH SMITH
KATHY MARCHANT
BELINDA SMITH



Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

This team has contributed significantly to the implementation of a high quality community-based clinical training program in Mudgee, which has been embraced by patients, clinicians and the community. Gary and Kathy have provided local clinical leadership and support; Keith was integral in facilitating community support and the development of a brand new community funded student accommodation facility; and David and Belinda have provided leadership and operational management for this program in Mudgee, along with other UOW medical training hubs across NSW. The team is honoured by the recognition that this award provides to the Graduate School of Medicine as a whole, in working to address the critical shortage of doctors in regional, rural and remote Australia. The team would also like to acknowledge the contribution of foundation staff members, and especially the Mudgee community for all their support.

25 YEARS SERVICE AWARDS

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

SUSAN BRANCH

Faculty of Business

Susan Branch, a BA (Sociology) graduate of UOW has worked in a variety of units at the University. Her administrative roles have included Personnel and Recruitment Officer and Executive Officer in two Research Strengths in the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Informatics. Susan's roles in the Faculty of Business have seen her provide valuable support to staff and students as Administrative Manager in Economics and Business Central. Susan's enthusiasm and commitment delivers a positive experience for everyone and she regularly mentors junior colleagues, encouraging their professional development. Susan currently leads the Student Services Team in Business Central providing leadership and setting high standards to ensure that staff and students receive high quality service, continuing the commitment Susan has shown throughout her 25 years of service.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SARATH PERERA

Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences

Associate Professor Sarath Perera has made substantial and sustained contributions to research and teaching in electrical engineering. He continues to have a significant impact on electrical power engineering, both in Australia and internationally, contributing to the development of standards and undertaking research into power quality. As the Technical Director of one of Australia's longest running industry-university research partnerships, the Australian Power Quality and Reliability Centre, Sarath has been pivotal in ensuring that the Centre is widely recognised as the leading Australian institution for research in the area of power quality. His expertise and enthusiasm, alongside his dedication to his profession, has made Sarath a respected leader in his discipline.



DR PETER THOMAS

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

Dr Peter Thomas has been a member of the nursing academic staff for over 25 years, drawing on his background in science and science education to inform the development of curriculum at undergraduate and postgraduate level and writing several chapters in a key nursing textbook. For many years, Peter played a pivotal role in managing student admissions to the Bachelor of Nursing and overseeing the coordination of timetabling. More recently, in his role as Sub Dean over the past three years, Peter has applied his extensive knowledge of UOW organisational processes and structures to support students across the whole faculty.



PROFESSOR PAUL COOPER

Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences

Professor Paul Cooper joined the Department of Mechanical Engineering in 1988. Since then his pursuit of excellence in teaching and research and his passion for environmental responsibility has inspired his colleagues and countless students. His collaborative and inclusive leadership talents have seen him implement many 'firsts' such as: a peer observation program to improve teaching quality; the running of many major initiatives in Sustainability and Energy Efficiency including the recent multi-million dollar Sustainable Buildings Research Centre (SBRC); and overseeing UOW's successful entry to the International Solar Decathlon competition. As a Head of School, and now as Director of SBRC, Paul has shown us all how it is possible by inspiration, passion and talent to leave the world a better place for future generations.



NIC MASI

Facilities Management Division

Nic Masi has made substantial contributions to the development of the campus landscape for over 28 years. Nic has continually worked hard to lay, re-lay, repair and replace paving on campus so that our vast network of paths is kept in top shape and free from trip hazards. Nic's continued hard work and 'can-do' attitude has been inspirational for all members of the landscape team. Leading by example and always offering a helping hand are just some of Nic's trademark characteristics. In all his work he has shown a high level of dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm.



PROFESSOR COLIN WOODROFFE

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

Professor Colin D. Woodroffe is one of the world's leading authorities on Coastal Geomorphology, particularly in the investigation of tropical coasts. He has published four books on aspects of coastal evolution and sea-level change and over 150 papers in international literature. Colin has played an instrumental role in supervising a large cohort of postgraduate students, many of whom have continued the tradition of scholarly research in coastal geomorphology through their appointments to university positions. Colin's sustained contribution to research and teaching over 25 years has been truly outstanding.



ANDREW MULLIGAN

Financial Services Division

Andrew Mulligan commenced at UOW in 1987. Initially, Andy was employed as a spritely young Office Assistant within Financial Services, before moving to the Central Registry for a number of years. In the mid-1990's, Andrew returned to Financial Services where he has been an important cog in that office ever since. He has seen many changes in the workplace. Smoke-filled offices drowning in paper have given way to smoke free buildings where the computer work station dominates. Andrew prides himself on his loyalty to his work colleagues, his ability to cut through to the crux of a problem as well as his efficiency in dealing with everything that comes across his desk. He is highly valued by fellow members of the Accounts Payable team, and by his colleagues within the wider Financial Services Division.



CHRIS HADLEY

Academic Registrar's Division

Chris Hadley has been an integral part of UOW for over 25 years. Chris facilitates the admission of thousands of students each year, supporting the University's growth from a small institution to its present success. Each year, he liaises between faculty and central staff to make sure our course information is accurate and that the right students are made offers and enrolled in their subjects. Having Chris at the helm of these crucial processes gives us confidence.

Chris' expertise has also been valued across the sector, most particularly by the University Admissions Centre (UAC), where he has been a long-standing member and occasional chair. Chris is highly regarded for his humour, diligence and positive approach. As someone who is always prepared to allow others to take the spotlight, Chris is congratulated for reaching this milestone.



IRENE BURGESS

Human Resources Division

Irene Burgess has been a valued member of the Human Resources team since 1988 and has been involved in many significant milestones and projects during that time. Starting as a Personnel Officer Irene went on to manage the payroll function. In this role her team received a VC's Award for Outstanding Service for implementing the forerunner of today's Payroll system. Since then she has managed the OH&S function and moved into her current role as Manager Staff Relations in 2001. In this role Irene contributes to HR strategic planning and is closely involved in staff consultation, playing a key role in four rounds of enterprise bargaining. Other major responsibilities include managing complex legal aspects of the University's employment framework and HR policy review and development. Through all this she remains relatively sane.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ED WILSON

Faculty of Business

Associate Professor Ed Wilson has an international research reputation for promoting economic growth and alleviating poverty through his publishing and work with national and international agencies including Indian research councils, the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations. Ed has received international recognition for innovative teaching and learning in the form of the Award for Excellence in Educational Publishing from the Australian Publishers Association and the Vice Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning. Ed has been Head of the Economics Discipline, Chief Examiner of the NSW Board of Studies HSC, and President of the Economic Society of Australia and is currently a national school curriculum advisor to the Australian government.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AH BA SIM

Faculty of Business

Associate Professor Ah Ba Sim was a founding member of the then Department of Management and has made a significant contribution with his high level of dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm. He brought with him substantial industry experience having held senior industry positions in Asia. Following his award winning PhD dissertation from UCLA, he has continued to provide a significant impact on Strategy research with substantial and significant international publications as well as the development of networks in emerging Asian multinational firms. As Associate Professor, he has inspired and mentored junior colleagues and provided academic and teaching leadership including a period as Head of the Department.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SHARON NIGHTINGALE

Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences

Associate Professor Sharon Nightingale has made substantial and sustained contributions to the support of teaching and research in the School of Mechanical, Materials and Mechatronic Engineering. In particular, Sharon has done an outstanding job providing academic leadership in the discipline of materials engineering for many years. She has made an enormous contribution to the teaching and learning practices in the Faculty of Engineering – the most notable one being to lead a team to map “Learning and Assessment of Graduate Capabilities in the Faculty of Engineering” which deservedly received the 2009 Vice Chancellor’s OCTAL Award. In all her work, she has shown a high level of dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm.



IAN BRIDGE

Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences

Ian Bridge has been an integral member of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences for over 25 years. Over this period he has provided professional development for thousands of students as well as his colleagues. Ian’s commitment and leadership within the profession as a Senior Technical Officer, has had a significant impact on the development of structural testing facilities in the Faculty. In particular, Ian was one of the main contributors to the design for the newly built strong floor and test frames in the SMART Building. He is one of three specialist licensed welders in the Faculty. Ian has also been an avid sportsman organising sporting events and competitions on and off campus.



DESMOND FITZSIMONS

Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts

Des Fitzsimons has completed an Associate Diploma in Computer Applications (1993) and a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Science and Technology Studies and Business Information Systems (2000) from UOW. He has worked in Information Technology Services as Technical Support Manager for ten years and the Faculty of Law, Arts and Humanities as Senior Technical Officer, supervising a team of six technicians for sixteen years. Des is described as a 'go-to man' when it comes to getting things done. Des' good grace and calm presence over the years have ensured that staff and students' needs have been well catered for.



PROFESSOR EDWARD P WOLFERS

Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts

Professor Edward P. (Ted) Wolfers is Foundation Professor of Politics, responsible for developing Politics curriculum, the maritime policy centre, and the postgraduate International Relations programme – whose graduates include senior diplomats around the world. Ted has served on the UN Panel on Opportunity and Participation, and as a Decolonization Committee expert. He has advised successive Papua New Guinea Governments on foreign policy and the Bougainville peace process, and contributed to security policy, and the White Paper on Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology. These opportunities led to prestigious Papua New Guinea awards: Companion, Star of Melanesia, and 30th Independence Anniversary Medal; and the imperial Companion, Order of St Michael and St George. Needless to say, Ted is a great international ambassador for the University.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR GRAHAM BARWELL

Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts

The mark of Humanities scholarship is curiosity, and Associate Professor Graham Barwell has been a role model for adventurous thinking since he came to Wollongong as a medievalist with expertise in Old Icelandic and the literature of Ben Jonson. He quickly became a pioneer of digital textual editing and early internet studies, working online with students well before the advent of social media; and in 1995 he developed one of the first digital culture subjects in Australia. Graham's generosity, patience and attention to administrative detail are legendary; and the world's first cultural history of the albatross is his latest adventure.



ROMA HAMLET

Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences

Roma Hamlet is one of life's quiet achievers. She has been a godsend as a Personal Assistant to Heads of Departments/Schools, Deans, Executive Dean, Administration Managers and handled practically every administrative, student, space and interpersonal issue imaginable in a Faculty for over 25 years. She is absolutely unflappable, as a previous Dean once said, "*the world could be on fire and Roma would just be there calmly working at fixing it all, and succeeding*". Roma is held in very high esteem by all in the Faculty and her colleagues across campus.

