2019 Vice-Chancellor's Staff Awards Ceremony

University of Wollongong

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2019 Vice-Chancellor’s Staff Awards Ceremony

RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG AUSTRALIA
Program

Master of Ceremonies
Mr Damien Israel, Chief Finance Officer

Welcome by the Vice-Chancellor
Professor Paul Wellings CBE, Vice-Chancellor

Presentation of the Vice-Chancellor’s Awards and Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning
Dominic Riordan, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

Presentation of the Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Research
Professor Jennifer L Martin AC, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation)

Presentation of the Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Global Strategy
Professor Alex Frino, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Strategy)

Presentation of the Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Community Engagement
Ms Melva Crouch, CSM, Chief Administrative Officer

Presentation of the Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Outstanding Service for Professional Services Staff
Ms Melva Crouch, CSM, Chief Administrative Officer

Presentation of the Vice-Chancellor’s Special Award
Ms Melva Crouch, CSM, Chief Administrative Officer

Presentation of the 25 Years Service Awards
Mr Damien Israel, Chief Finance Officer

Closure by the Vice-Chancellor
Professor 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.

THE 2019 VICE-CHANCELLOR’S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO TEACHING AND LEARNING AWARD IS SHARED BY:

Dr Anura De Zoysa
Faculty of Business

Dr De Zoysa’s life-long curiosity and authentic enthusiasm for learning is contagious. Ambitious for his students’ intellectual independence and critical thought, Anura fosters an inquisitive nature and encourages them to challenge existing management accounting practices and industry approaches. In doing so, he technically and ethically prepares his students for an innovation-based economy. Using technological teaching innovations and uniquely developed management accounting case studies, Anura inspires a diverse student body. Through his significant contributions of curriculum development, delivery innovation and pedagogical research and publications over many years, Anura is an inspiring leader of learning and teaching excellence.
Systematic data collection and timely data reports help improve the quality of learning and teaching delivered to students. Over three years the Data for QA project team reviewed the data needs for quality assurance of learning and teaching. The group examined the type of data captured and reported, the timing and method of delivery of that data, how to better target reports to end users, data governance and the procedure for monitoring and reporting, and the process for closing the loop. The team developed seven data reports to support critical processes including: School Assessment Committee meetings; the comprehensive course review process; annual monitoring of student, subject and course performance; and the annual review of courses delivered in collaboration with partner institutions.
Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning

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

Awards are presented in the following categories:
- Faculty OCTAL Awards
- Program OCTAL Award
- Faculty Academic Sessional OCTAL Award

THE 2019 RECIPIENTS OF THE FACULTY OCTAL AWARDS ARE:

Dr Alfredo Paloyo

Faculty of Business

Dr Paloyo champions diversity in Economics, inspiring women and other minorities to succeed in a male dominated discipline. His leadership of the School’s Honours Program has resulted in substantially more students and diversification of students in each incoming cohort. Publications in high-quality journals and presentations at conferences and research seminars attest to the value of his sustained contributions to the scholarship of teaching and learning. He has modernised Economics at Wollongong, leveraging data analytics, subject expertise, and evidence-based educational practices. As a result, Alfredo consistently excels in measures of teacher and subject quality, and his students fully realise their potential for outstanding scholastic achievement.

Dr Le Chung Tran

Faculty of Engineering & Information Sciences

Dr Tran inspires students with his high-quality teaching, enthusiastic delivery, clear and in-depth explanations and endless willingness to help. He facilitates teaching and learning progress by developing engaging, industry-focused curricula, establishing a clear learning experience framework, and encouraging students to challenge their abilities within a controlled learning environment. He enhances student learning experience and learning outcomes though his innovative approaches as well as providing invaluable academic advice to a broad range of students. Le Chung has also contributed significantly to the broader community through his governance roles, his teaching in overseas campuses, and his educational publications.
Dr Michelle Eady (Shared Award)

Faculty of Social Sciences

Communication, collaboration and creativity form the foundation of Dr Eady’s approach to teaching and learning, which encourages students to become motivated and inspired lifelong learners. A fellow of HERDSA and Senior Fellow of AdvanceHE, Michelle encourages and creates innovative teaching experiences that challenge the norm and produce meaningful research opportunities in quality teaching and partnerships. She creatively explores strategies to leverage a range of approaches and technologies to deliver enhanced learning opportunities for students. Michelle utilises valued student feedback to inform the next steps in her teaching and shares her knowledge with students, faculty and colleagues worldwide.

Dr Kellie Buckley-Walker (Shared Award)

Faculty of Social Sciences

As stated in the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers, teacher quality has the largest influence on students’ achievement. Therefore, Dr Buckley-Walker strives to create high quality graduate teachers. This involves Kellie providing opportunities for her students to expand their knowledge and skills and reflect on their learning, in a non-judgemental, growth-orientated setting. Kellie provides an environment where students interact with each other and herself. She is able to use her knowledge of her students to modify her teaching practices to suit the cohort she is teaching. Kellie also strives to model good teaching practice to develop her students’ passion and enthusiasm for teaching.

Meredith Kennedy

Faculty of Science, Medicine & Health

As UOW dietetics placement coordinator and clinical educator, Meredith Kennedy has implemented numerous successful work integrated learning experiences in teaching the next generation of dietitians. She has worked to support and inspire students, academics and placement supervisors through her engagement in innovative teaching and assessment. This has included a complete review of the assessment processes for dietetic students on placement, with a specific focus on providing opportunities for students to engage in the nutrition care process throughout their coursework and provide evidence of their competency through a portfolio of evidence across their studies.
Annie Werner
Faculty of Law, Humanities & the Arts
Dr Werner is an inspiring and positive force on the regional campuses. She is a deeply committed educator who is effective in forging relationships with students and staff at all levels, across campuses, in ways that are beneficial to the University at both a cultural and academic level. Annie pioneers new approaches to videoconference teaching and learning through her dedicated commitment to evidence-based reflection of research and evaluation. Through her ESDF (Education Strategies Development Fund) project Annie has shown that regional campus students and staff have valuable experience in teaching and learning via videoconference, and her project will be instrumental in disseminating this expertise and knowledge in ways that benefit the University community as a whole.

Dr Flevy Lasrado
UOW Global Enterprises
Dr Lasrado is a future-thinking academic with an absolute passion for teaching and learning. Flevy is a recognised industry leader with extensive business excellence and innovation expertise, the value of which has been recognised in her Higher Education Academy fellowship and American Society of Quality award. Using coaching techniques, active learning strategies, authentic assessments and exceptional pedagogical practices, she inspires and enables young professionals to pursue successful professional careers and become knowledge hubs who see learning as a lifelong journey. Using her cutting-edge research, she has developed over 21 internationally published teaching resources to contextualise quality management practices to the Middle East region.

THE 2019 RECIPIENTS OF THE FACULTY SESSIONAL STAFF ACADEMIC OCTAL AWARDS ARE:

Quynh Xuan Nguyen (Shared Award)
Faculty of Business
Quynh Nguyen has a love of teaching and helping others. This generates a strong motivation for her to remain in the profession, while her assiduous preparation, self-reflection, and care for her students assist in achieving her teaching objectives. She prepares herself for classes by making notes of any potential obstacles students may face and creates valued weekly handouts to facilitate their learning. Quynh shares her personal, research, and professional experience to prompt students to discover the link between theories and real life. Her willingness to relinquish her time to support students demonstrates her respect and commitment for them. To Quynh, enthusiasm and perpetual determination are the pivotal keys to success.
Xinru (Sarah) Wang (Shared Award)

Faculty of Business

Sarah Wang is a dedicated teacher who is committed to her students, always prepared and passionate about making a difference in students’ learning experience. The heart of her teaching philosophy is the concept of creating a stimulating learning environment that encourages collaboration and curiosity, supporting students in a way that creates enthusiasm and passion in them and acting as a learner who is continuously improving herself. Beloved by her students and highly regarded by her colleagues, Sarah applies a student-centred teaching method, using a range of innovative strategies, to make learning interesting.

Yvonne Apolo

Faculty of Law, Humanities & the Arts

Yvonne Apolo demonstrates a genuine passion and flair for legal education. Student feedback consistently describes her as an enthusiastic, engaging and effective teacher, who inspires students to take an active role in their learning and to feel confident in their potential to achieve. Yvonne continuously strives to create well-prepared and organised learning environments, in which students can participate in a range of collaborative learning activities, and feel comfortable expressing ideas, posing questions and engaging critically with the law. Yvonne is eager to continue to strengthen her understanding and implementation of effective and innovative approaches to legal education.

Zein Saleh

Faculty of Engineering & Information Sciences

Zein Saleh is a self-motivated, dedicated, and enthusiastic sessional tutor whose commitment to teaching and mentoring has positively impacted, influenced, and encouraged hundreds of students over the past three years. As a tutor and demonstrator, Zein has succeeded in gaining the respect, appreciation, and validation of his students, peers, and supervisors. His teaching philosophy is tailored to the best interest of his students and creating a positive learning environment for all students to prosper equally.
THE 2019 RECIPIENTS OF THE OCTAL EARLY CAREER FACULTY TEACHING AWARD ARE:

Dr Tingru Cui

Faculty of Engineering & Information Sciences

Dr Cui is wholeheartedly committed to exploring knowledge undertaken at the crossroads of teaching, learning, and research. Her enthusiasm in teaching has driven her to promote valuable knowledge, engage with her students in the learning process, and transform future generations into autonomous, lifelong learners. In addition, Tingru makes a significant contribution to curriculum development as the Academic Program Director of the Master of Information Technology; and innovation and scholarship of e-learning research through her high impact publications and major ARC and ESDF (Educational Strategies Development Fund) grants.

Dr Elizabeth Neale

Faculty of Science, Medicine & Health

Dr Neale is an Advanced Accredited Practising Dietitian who implements a student-centred and inclusive approach to teaching that prioritises engaging students in their learning. Elizabeth has embedded opportunities for critical thinking skill development in 1st and 2nd year nutrition subjects, which underpins students’ research skill development in later years. She also leads systematic teaching reviews in Nutrition and Dietetics. Elizabeth regularly evaluates her teaching practice through a range of metrics, with evaluation results providing evidence of her high-quality teaching. She is a reflective teacher, committed to continually improving her teaching.
THE 2019 RECIPIENTS OF THE PROGRAM OCTAL AWARD ARE:

UOWX TEAM (DVCA/PVCS)

Kylie Austin, Amy Thompson, Jenna Thorn, Samantha Stiff, Jade Andrews

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students)

UOWx is firmly positioned in UOW’s Strategic Plan with the aim of recognising transformational learning experiences for students outside of the formal curricula, contributing to our goal of developing graduates who are 21st Century learners. UOWx has experienced enormous growth in student engagement over the last four years. When launched in 2015, 866 students commenced their engagement with UOWx. In 2018, those numbers increased to more than 7,500 students. This initiative is uniquely positioned across the sector as it provides a framework for co-curricular activities that promote personal development and active citizenship. UOWx translates the learnings from these opportunities to the community and workforce.

Pictured L to R: Jade Andrews, Jenna Thorn, Kylie Austin, Amy Thompson and Samantha Stiff

THE 2019 RECIPIENT FOR THE OCTAL FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES STAFF AWARD IS:

Susan Leppan

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students)

Sue Leppan describes her role as the Student Support Adviser at the Shoalhaven campus as the best job that she has ever had. She sees it as an enormous privilege to be given the trust, tools and unique opportunity to support students to achieve their goals in regional campuses. Sue accompanies students on their journey through tertiary studies, providing them with the information and support they need to succeed, often helping the students to navigate personal challenges to achieve their degree. Sue credits her achievements to working within a supportive and generous team and her ability to develop meaningful relationships.
Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Research

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

- Researcher of the Year: Acknowledging outstanding contributions by individuals or teams
- Emerging Researchers: Encouraging outstanding achievement within the first seven years of a research career
- Interdisciplinary Research Teams: Recognising outstanding collaboration across discipline boundaries
- Outstanding Achievement in Research Partnership and Impact: Recognising the importance that UOW research staff play in the process of initiating, developing, enhancing and managing UOW’s research partnerships and contributing to the translation of UOW research outcomes to industry, government and the community.
- Research Supervision: Acknowledging ongoing commitment and dedication (nominations received from Higher Degree Research students)

THE 2019 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR IS SHARED BY:

Distinguished Professor Zaiping Guo

Faculty of Engineering & Information Sciences

Distinguished Professor Guo has been an outstanding academic member since she received her PhD in 2003. She has made significant contributions to research excellence and performance, leadership, and inter-disciplinary research collaborations. The significance of her research with high impact has been widely recognised both nationally and internationally. Zaiping has published more than 350 papers with more than 20,000 citations and her h-index is 75. This is outstanding for an academic in the field of energy storage and materials science/engineering.
Senior Professor Sharon Robinson

Faculty of Science, Medicine & Health

Senior Professor Robinson is an internationally respected plant environmental physiologist and Antarctic climate change biologist. Her research develops tools that can be applied around Antarctica to determine how vegetation is affected by climate change. She is applying new technologies, including the use of drones to monitor plant health and productivity, and is developing novel sensors to track future crop and forest health. She is currently a member of the UN Environment Programme Environmental Effects Assessment Panel and Homeward Bound Women’s Leadership Program. Sharon has been on 12 expeditions to Antarctica and is passionate about conserving its biodiversity.

THE 2019 RECIPIENT OF THE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR EMERGING RESEARCHERS IS:

Dr Briony Larance

Faculty of Social Sciences

Dr Larance has an exceptional track record, and has achieved important policy and clinical impacts. Her research is strongly applied and centres around evaluating strategies to minimise the unintended consequences of opioid medications (dependence or overdose, for example) and innovations in the treatment of substance use disorders. Briony is being recognised for her efforts in community engagement and in developing important research partnerships with clinicians in government and non-government sectors, an example of which is her work examining the health service utilisation and care pathways among people who use methamphetamine.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Dr Katrina Green

Faculty of Science, Medicine & Health

Dr Green is making significant contributions to improving the pharmacological treatment of mental illness. She led her team in world-first discoveries that a venomous lizard-derived salivary protein prevented cognitive impairment and metabolic side-effects of antipsychotic medications, and a non-intoxicating cannabis compound treated learning and memory deficits in schizophrenia. Her findings are significant steps in addressing gaps where existing medications are ineffective. Katrina’s upwards trajectory and growing reputation are evident through her top-tier international publications, funding, invited presentations, her team’s success, and the widespread interest in her research from the broader community.
THE 2019 EXCELLENCE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH TEAMS AWARD IS PRESENTED TO:

DEMENTIA KNOWLEDGE, ART, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (PROJECT DARE)

Dr Michelle Eady
Faculty of Social Sciences

Dr Pippa Burns and Professor Victoria Traynor
Faculty of Science, Medicine & Health

Dr Penny Harris
Faculty of Law, Humanities & the Arts

And Corrine Green, Carinya Barkley, Jess Baker and Jennine Primmer

Seventy five percent of people with dementia report experiencing stigma and social isolation. One way to address this is through educating the next generation. Project DARE (Dementia knowledge, Art, Research and Education) utilises art as a medium by which children can express their understandings of dementia. The interdisciplinary project supported by Global Challenges brings together educators, artists, dementia experts, psychologists and health professionals, providing opportunities to younger children to visually express concepts that they may not have the vocabulary to convey. Trialled in Thirroul, this program has now been replicated in Aberdeen, Scotland and has gained international interest from others who want to be involved in Project DARE.

Pictured L to R: Penny Harris, Corinne Green, Pippa Burns, Carinya Barkley, Jennine Primmer and Michelle Eady
THE 2019 RECIPIENT OF THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP AND IMPACT AWARD IS:

FOSTERING EFFECTIVE EARLY LEARNING (PROJECT FEEL)

Dr Catherine Neilsen-Hewett, Associate Professor Steven Howard, Professor Marc de Rosnay
Faculty of Social Sciences

And Professor Iram Siraj and Professor Edward Melhuish

The Early Start ‘Leadership for Learning’ research program is transforming approaches to effective professional development across Australia. Partnering with the NSW Department of Education (DOE), the team initiated the FEEL study: a world-first randomised controlled trial investigating the impact of an evidence-based in-service professional development program on early years educators’ practice and children’s outcomes in key areas of learning, development and wellbeing. This has culminated in over $3 million in funding. This study has provided the NSW DOE and early childhood organisations with an effective, evidence-based and affordable model for practice and workforce development.

Pictured L to R: Steven Howard, Cathrine Neilsen-Hewett and Marc de Rosnay
HIGHLY COMMENDED

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP WITH CHINA BAOWU STEEL GROUP

Senior Professor Zhengyi Jiang, Professor Huijun Li, Senior Professor Kiet Tieu, Professor Cheng Lu, Dr Hongtau Zhu, Haibo Xie, Dr Dominic Phelan, Professor Jingwei Zhao
Faculty of Engineering & Information Sciences

Distinguished Professor Shi Xue Dou AM
and Distinguished Professor Hua Liu

AIIM Research Facility

This team has worked tirelessly over a number of years in establishing and strengthening the collaboration with China BAOWU Steel Group. Since the foundation of the Centre, the team has been successful in attracting 14 Baosteel-Australia Joint Research and Development Centre (BAJC) projects. With outstanding results achieved, it has proven to be a model of academic-industry collaboration, ensuring a highly satisfactory suite of applied outcomes for the industry partner. It has provided the University with an extraordinary platform to implement industrial research, by which our reputation has been greatly enhanced internationally.

Pictured L to R: Haibo Xie, Hua Li, Hongtao Zhu, Kiet Tieu, Shi Xue Dou, Zhengyi Jiang, Cheng Lu
THE 2019 RECIPIENT OF THE EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH SUPERVISION AWARD IS:

Senior Professor Willy Susilo

Faculty of Engineering & Information Sciences

Senior Professor Susilo has made substantial contributions to HDR supervision. He regards HDR supervision as a journey shared between supervisors and students and approaches it by providing clear direction, guidance and support during supervision. Willy’s enthusiasm for supervision has turned into an outstanding supervision track record. As a popular choice for many HDR students for his recognised expertise in Cybersecurity and Cryptography, he has successfully supervised 28 PhD students and 17 Master by Research students.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Dr Anura De Zoysa

Faculty of Business

Dr De Zoysa has made substantial and sustained contributions to HDR supervision. He is a dedicated and diligent supervisor, making him a popular choice for many HDR students in his area of expertise. Anura inspires students to complete dissertations in even the toughest of circumstances and remains an important mentor for his students throughout their academic careers. Through his supervision, Anura also mentors other academic staff in the complexities of HDR supervision, breaking the research journey into manageable tasks ensuring all students succeed. He has supervised 14 HDR students to completions and is currently supervising four students.

Professor Grace McCarthy

Faculty of Business

Professor McCarthy is a highly sought after HDR supervisor with extensive experience and dedicated commitment to each of her, mainly part-time, students. For Grace, the research candidate is always at the centre and she is there for each student striving to achieve the completion of quality research. Her research students all speak to her kindness and consideration in her supervisory approach. Her approach assures them that their higher research degree aspirations will become a reality if they stick at it! Grace is currently supervising nine students and has achieved eight higher degree completions at UOW.
Professor Elizabeth Halcomb

Faculty of Science, Medicine & Health

Professor Halcomb has made substantial and sustained contributions to HDR supervision. She is a popular choice for many HDR students for her expertise in primary health care nursing. She seeks to build nurses’ capacity and capability to undertake high quality independent and multidisciplinary research to improve health and build the nursing profession. Liz has supervised eight Doctoral candidates and ten Bachelors honours students to completion. Additionally, she also mentors other academics in the complexities of HDR supervision and provides advice on models to ensure all students feel supported to succeed.

Associate Professor Jane Herbert

Faculty of Social Sciences

Associate Professor Herbert has made substantial contributions to HDR supervision. She is a sought after HDR supervisor for her internationally recognised expertise in developmental psychology, her belief in her students and her inclusive approach to supervision. Jane has supervised ten doctoral students through to completion (who have now become university professors, lecturers and research fellows). She is currently the primary supervisor of three PhD students.
Vice-Chancellor’s Award For Global Strategy

The Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Global Strategy recognises staff who have achieved outstanding success, given exceptional service and/or have demonstrated extraordinary leadership or innovation in their work with a specific emphasis on driving UOW’s global strategy and profile.

THE 2019 RECIPIENT OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY AWARD IS:

Jessica Sun

International Engagement and Coordination

Jessica Sun has made a significant and sustained contribution to the development of our strategic partnerships in China and an outstanding contribution to International Services and Development and the UOW community. Jessica has been instrumental in managing relationships with three twinning partners in China, and has made an invaluable contribution to the establishment of UOW’s first Joint Institute operation in China with Central China Normal University. Her exceptional understanding of China’s education system and her significant experience in working with not only Universities, but also government and industry bodies, has ensured the establishment and development of both premier educational partnerships and major research partnerships.
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.

THE 2019 VICE-CHANCELLOR’S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD IS SHARED BY

STRONGER CULTURES KOORI KIDS

Dr Rebecca Stanley, Anthony McKnight, Senior Professor Anthony Okely, Sarah Ryan
Faculty of Social Sciences

Dr Yasmine Probst
Faculty of Science, Medicine & Health

Enabling Aboriginal people to build a strong connection to Country through cultural practices, knowledge and expression, is fundamental to their health and wellbeing. In partnership with Cullunghutti Aboriginal Child and Family Centre, Ulladulla Land Council and the local Culburra community, this afterschool program has enabled children to learn about healthy lifestyles through activities that represent their culture. This is the first program of its kind that uses a connection to culture as the focal point for improving children’s healthy lifestyle behaviours and building confidence in who they are. So far, the program has been delivered to 120 children living in Ulladulla, Culburra and Nowra.

Pictured L to R: Anthony McKnight, Rebecca Stanley, Sarah Ryan and Tony Okely
PATHWAYS TEAM - ANCORS

Professor Neil Andrew, Dr Thomas Brewer, Brooke Campbell, Ruth Davis, Dr Aurelie Delisle, Dr Owen Li, Dirk Steenbergen, Dr Astrid Vachette, Lisa Wraith

Faculty of Law, Humanities & the Arts

The ‘Pathways’ project aims to strengthen institutional structures, processes and capacity to implement and sustain national programs of community-based fisheries management. The project is funded by the Australian Government’s investment in the Pacific region. This award recognises the Pathways Team working with their in-country colleagues, who have made significant contributions to the welfare of coastal communities and practice of fisheries management in Vanuatu and Kiribati. Their commitment to ‘research for development’ as a central principle sees the research feed into on-the-ground action that strengthens capacity for better fisheries management in communities and government agencies.

Pictured L to R: Back row: Brooke Campbell, Lisa Wraith and Dirk Steenbergen
Middle row: Ruth Davis, Neil Andrew and Owen Li
Front row: Aurelie Delisle
Stephen Lowe, Erin Acton
Regional and Metropolitan Campuses

Tania Goodman
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students)

Stephen Lowe, Erin Acton and Tania Goodman are the key community engagers for UOW in the Southern Highlands. In 2018 they launched the Year 12 University Preparation Program (UPP) with nine schools in their region, as well as forming a partnership with the Country University Centre in Goulburn - a region with high unemployment and low tertiary education attainment. Their effort has resulted in a 217% increase in participation in UPP from the Southern Highlands, and Goulburn in 2019, creating positive engagement for UOW with schools, parents and students across both regions. This has created a platform for expansion of cooperation particularly in Goulburn in future years.

Pictured L to R: Tania Goodman, Erin Acton and Stephen Lowe
Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Outstanding Service for Professional Services Staff

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

THE 2019 INDIVIDUAL RECIPIENTS ARE:

Carlee Mottley

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

Carlee Mottley, currently Acting Animal Facility Technical Coordinator, is a proactive team member, always looking for ways to improve animal welfare, researcher training and technical services offered to researchers. In addition to her required duties, Carlee always has an innovative project, or two, on the go. These projects are generally aimed at improving animal welfare, training, services, team morale and community engagement. Carlee is an engaged and active staff member. She is currently working on two new and innovative projects that will improve animal welfare, researcher services and community engagement.

Sarah Smith

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students)

Sarah Smith is an exceptional leader, dedicated team member/mentor and project implementer extraordinaire! Over the last eight years, Sarah has developed and fostered the growth of the Learning Labs Program, which has grown to over 3,000 students engaging in the program and four UOW campuses each year. In addition to this, Sarah has established the high school work experience placement process at UOW. Her ongoing commitment to increasing a love of learning amongst young primary and high school students epitomises the values of UOW.

Siobhan Christian

Governance & Legal

For staff involved in supporting students, “better call Shev” is a catchcry for complex cases. Siobhan Christian’s dedication to her role, expert institutional knowledge, and ability to manage expectations of both staff and students intelligently and sensitively, allow her to achieve mutually satisfactory outcomes for students and the University. Students, academics and professional services staff rely on Siobhan to provide support and mediation for some of the most sensitive cases. Siobhan consistently has a direct positive impact on student wellbeing.
Catherine Lancaster

Faculty of Science, Medicine & Health

Cathy Lancaster is to be commended on her outstanding contribution to the delivery of excellent laboratory based learning in Chemistry. In particular, her ingenuity in solving the problems of providing students with automated feedback within the Moodle platform has contributed to huge improvements in student outcomes in analytical chemistry and will provide major cost savings in future through automated marking. This is just the latest example of dedication and commitment that Cathy has shown throughout her long career at the University.

Nik Milosevski

Faculty of Law, Humanities & the Arts

This nomination is in recognition of Nik Milosevski’s outstanding leadership in bringing to fruition LHA’s blended learning strategy. Nik led the conversion of 23, or approximately 58%, of the faculty’s subject offerings at South West Sydney to a high-quality, student-centric blended format. The strategy has considerable significance and value for the faculty, enabling cost-effective teaching delivery, optimising expense management of existing operations, and creating opportunities for expansion. This achievement involved managing highly complex issues, processes, relationships and resources. Nik’s leadership was pivotal to the project’s success and the significance of realising this strategy cannot be overestimated.

Nhan Nguyen

Student Services Division

Nhan Nguyen has excelled within his current leadership role and has been instrumental in leading the holistic review of UOW’s Fee and Scholarship presence. Nhan has contributed to many important University achievements, most recently creating a more impactful Equity Scholarship Framework for students. He has delivered extensive value through establishing and leading a high performing team and he willingly takes on additional tasks, namely leading and managing the Fees and Compliance team. Nhan’s ability to apply his vast organisational knowledge to deliver complex programs has been invaluable. He has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to customer service delivery and collaboration in the pursuit of excellence and student-centric service delivery.
Vice-Chancellor’s Special Award

The Vice-Chancellor’s Special Award recognises exceptional performance. This Special Award is not necessarily awarded every year. The Vice-Chancellor selects recipients for their exceptional contribution to the University.

THE 2019 RECIPIENT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR’S SPECIAL AWARD IS:

Heidi De Coster

Government Relations

Heidi De Coster is the person most responsible for the University’s outstanding reputation for its major events and the way it welcomes visiting dignitaries. As Principal Specialist, Protocol, Heidi has for many years organised events at UOW for visiting international and national dignitaries, from overseas Royalty and Governors to Prime Ministers, senior Government ministers, eminent scholars and captains of industry. Heidi’s attention to detail, knowledge and understanding of the complexities of protocol and cross-cultural issues ensure that her events always run smoothly and create an outstanding impression. Heidi’s service goes above and beyond the day to day expectations of her role. She has made a sustained contribution and is an outstanding ambassador for the University.
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 Professional Services Staff who is completing a degree at UOW. Selection is based on academic performance as well as service to the University and its students.

Bethany Just

For the past 18 months Bethany has been the Acting International Admissions Manager, supervising a team of 18 staff within the Student Services Division. Beth has driven significant change, process improvement and developed a culture of first-class student-centric service within her team. Beth has a magnificent eye for detail and drives innovation, proving that operational units can be strategic. She is a subject matter expert who is trusted by her team and colleagues across the University. Alongside work Beth is studying for her MBA and she has recently been appointed to the Manager, Compliance, Fees and Scholarships role. This award is in recognition of Bethany’s leadership and service to the University and academic performance.
25 Years Service Awards

Awards are presented each year to Academic and Professional Services Staff who have served the University for 25 years.

THE 2019 RECIPIENTS ARE:

Tina Booth

Academic Quality & Standards

Tina Booth began her UOW career in Client Services and Infrastructure before moving to the Centre for Educational Development and Interactive Resources to assist with the delivery of teacher evaluations and the administration of academic professional development. She was the Education Evaluation Coordinator, managing UOW’s teacher and subject evaluation systems. Tina demonstrates consistency, resilience, meticulous attention to detail, and a commitment to getting the job done. She has made a significant contribution to the collection of data that underpins the continuous quality improvement of teaching. Now a member of the Academic Quality and Standards team, the University continues to benefit from her extensive corporate knowledge and experience.

Afrodita Brbevski

Library

Afrodita Brbevski has been a valued and committed member of the Library team. She began her career in Lending Services before moving into Collections, where she has long been known for her dedication and work ethic, demonstrated through hard work, willingness to take on additional tasks, and her tireless commitment to process improvements. Afrodita is often called upon to contribute her expertise to projects and innovations, and it is a demonstration of her great generosity that she can always be relied upon to share her knowledge and provide training to others. This is testament to her professionalism, positive attitude, and commitment.
**Professor Peter Caputi**

Faculty of Social Sciences

Professor Caputi has been an integral member of the School of Psychology. Peter’s strong academic background has produced a substantial contribution to the student experience through quality teaching focussed on engaging students in active learning using a variety of teaching strategies and techniques. Peter is also highly regarded for his strong research track record and his inspiration to and mentoring of junior colleagues. Since 2015 Peter’s excellent leadership skills have been evident in his capacity as Head of School. His consultative and collegial approach has seen the School develop and implement strategies for sustainability and growth.

**Distinguished Professor Shi Xue Dou AM**

AIIM Research Facility

Distinguished Professor Dou AM joined UOW as the Founding Director of the Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials. Under his leadership, the institute has grown from two researchers and a small cadre of students into a world-class flagship institute with over 150 researchers. His internationally-renowned research portfolio and passion for engaging with industry have played a substantial role in driving our rise through world university rankings. He was recognised in the 2019 Queen’s Birthday Honours for his significant service to science education in the field of superconducting and electronic materials – a fitting acknowledgement of an illustrious career dedicated to nurturing the next generation of talented researchers at UOW.

**Lara Duggan**

Library

Lara Duggan began in the Library as an Administration Officer before moving into roles focused on collecting and administering UOW’s scholarly outputs, where she contributed considerable expertise in establishing the publications management service. In her current position as Client Relationship Officer Lara is known for her welcoming smile and positive attitude. In her career, Lara has always demonstrated a strong client focus, the courage to take up opportunities, and an enthusiasm for change and growth. She builds strong relationships with colleagues and is invaluable to achieving team goals and objectives.
Associate Professor Richard Dwight

Faculty of Engineering & Information Sciences

Associate Professor Dwight’s commitment, enthusiasm and leadership have resulted in Maintenance Management/Asset Management and Rolling Stock Engineering programs that have established UOW as a distinguished and reputable centre for continuing professional development and research. Beneficiaries range over managers/engineers from a wide range of organisations from BlueScope Steel to Sydney Trains and Hong Kong’s Mass Transit Railway Corporation. He has stimulated and enthused undergraduates through his motivation and practical know how, establishing a mechanical design stream founded on solving real life problems. Research contributions cover a range of engineering and engineering management areas.

Donna Edwards

Faculty of Engineering & Information Sciences

Donna Edwards commenced her career at the University in the Academic Registrar’s Division. During this time, Donna worked on the Student Counter, Postgraduate Office and Student Records. In 2005 Donna brought her wealth of knowledge and vast network of University connections to the School of Information Technology and Computer Science (Faculty of Informatics). With the transition to the Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences, Donna became a valued team member in the centralised School Administration Unit. This award acknowledges Donna’s dedication, knowledge, humour and, most of all, her genuine care for both colleagues and students.

Dr Maureen Edwards

Faculty of Engineering & Information Sciences

To paraphrase Dale Kerrigan, if Heads of School have been the backbone of the School of Mathematics and Applied Science, then Dr Edwards has been the other bones—all of them! Maureen’s work as Deputy Head, coordinator of the BMath, architect of outreach activities, Lynchpin of Personal Academic Mentoring Program, and wonderful teacher of it’s key first-year subjects, has made the mathematics and statistics experience a wonderful one for many hundreds of students. And rarely does a colleague go a month without consulting Maureen’s encyclopaedic knowledge of the School and programs. In short, Maureen has truly been the heart and soul of the School.
Professor Paul Else

Faculty of Science, Medicine & Health

Professor Else was originally a student at UOW. His research into lipid and membrane physiology has allowed him to undertake research sabbaticals at the Universities of Cambridge (UK), Aarhus (Denmark) and Brest (France). Paul has been an integral member of the School of Medicine and has served as Head of School and Head of Students. He has guided thousands of students through their undergraduate studies in Medical Sciences. He has also provided mentorship to many junior staff members in the School. Moreover, Paul is a warm and supportive colleague; his contributions to the School and University are highly valued.

Helen Fletcher

Library

Helen Fletcher started in the Commerce Faculty’s Resource Room. In 1999 she received the Vice-Chancellor’s Outstanding Service Award through the establishment of this service. Helen began working in the Library in 2007, working in a number of client-centred roles including within the Curriculum Resources Centre in Education, and more recently as a Scholarly Content Officer where she contributes to capturing and coordinating UOW’s scholarly output. Helen is well known for her client focus and her numerous travels to archaeological digs in countries such as Chile, Cyprus and Jordan. Helen’s passion and student perspective have been valuable contributors to her high standards in delivery of client service.

Dr Kerry Gilmore

AIIM Research Facility

Dr Gilmore is an integral member of the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute, where Kerry summarises the environment as “there’s certainly never been a dull moment”. Kerry has excelled in her ability to deliver high quality research work over a sustained period of time to overcome significant research challenges. Kerry has been instrumental in expanding the cell culture activities and expertise available for researchers and students within the Research Institute as well as ensuring they are compliant with the new and changing regulatory framework. In all her work, Kerry has shown a very high level of dedication, determination and reliability. Her strong work ethic has set an example for all her colleagues.
Senior Professor Brin Grenyer

Faculty of Social Sciences

Professor Grenyer established Psyc101 Introduction to Psychology (1994-2000). As a Director of Clinical and Professional Training he transformed and oversaw the building of Northfields Clinic, and NFC@Early Start. He has regulated the profession of psychology as Foundation Chair of the Psychology Board of Australia. Brin has supervised over 25 Doctorates, obtained over 45 grants resulting in over $18 million in funding, and has over 175 publications. He founded and directs the award winning Project Air Strategy for Personality Disorders, which is being implemented in mental health services in NSW and across Australia.

Associate Professor Muhammad Hadi

Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences

Associate Professor Hadi has made substantial and sustained contributions to teaching, research, and administration. He has contributed significantly to structural engineering research, especially to the development of reinforced concrete infrastructure using advanced composite materials. Muhammad has published over 170 highly cited, high quality journal articles. He has been an outstanding supervisor and a role model due to his passion and dedication to the supervision of research students. He has supervised to completion 25 PhD and nine MPhil graduates. A few of them are now faculty members in internationally reputed universities. Importantly, he has assisted colleagues in excelling in research and in progressing their careers.

Associate Professor Joseph Horvat

Faculty of Engineering & Information Sciences

Associate Professor Horvat joined UOW as a Research Fellow at the Institute of Superconducting and Electronic Materials, and led its Applied Superconductivity Program. Joseph joined the School of Physics in 2005, keeping research ties with the Institute. His research was initially focused on high-temperature superconductivity, to later “cross-pollinate” into nanomagnetism, terahertz spectroscopy and frustrated spin systems. This work was published in over 200 papers and was recognised through thousands of citations. He was a recipient of the Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research Partnership in 2012. Joseph’s research work is complemented by enthusiastic undergraduate teaching, inspiring younger generations to pursue their research careers.
Marie Johnson

Faculty of Social Sciences

Marie Johnson started out in the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences. For over 18 years she has provided professional administrative assistance in the Illawarra Institute for Mental Health, a research unit in the School of Psychology. She possesses a wide range of skills that enable her to support students and staff in research, teaching and administrative functions. She provides both practical and emotional support for professional psychology trainees and Higher Degree Research students and is always a sympathetic ear. Marie is known for her warmth and willingness to go the extra mile to provide support to colleagues.

Professor Paul Keller

Faculty of Science, Medicine & Health

Professor Paul Keller has made significant contributions to research and teaching in organic and medicinal chemistry at UOW. He received a Vice-Chancellor’s Award for postgraduate supervision and has achieved success in NHMRC and ARC funding, especially in the area of the development of antibacterial agents against drug-resistant pathogenic bacteria. He has served the School of Chemistry for many years as an effective honours and postgraduate coordinator.

Shelley King

Governance & Legal Division

Shelley King has held various roles during her career. She is currently the Legal Assistant in the Legal Services Unit and Executive Assistant to the Director of Governance and Legal. Shelley frequently demonstrates significant initiative and judgement in her role, which has enabled her to provide consistently outstanding support. Often going above and beyond, Shelley is best known for her superb organisational knowledge, enthusiasm to serve and collaborate, sense of humour, and ability to effortlessly connect with people of all levels. Shelley is the proud holder of a Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Service and has won the award of PA of the Year Australasia (Runner up).
Catherine Lancaster
Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health
Cathy Lancaster is an experienced analytical chemist with the UOW offshoot “BACAS”. She switched to being a (part-time) technical officer in Chemistry and since then she has employed her knowledge of things analytical to help guide students (and staff) through the sometimes arcane, sometimes just baffling world of quantitative chemistry. She has been outstanding in her commitment to finding ways to get things done efficiently and simply so that everyone knows what they need to do, and when to do them.

Toni Lanyon
Library
Toni Lanyon is an avid learner and never shies away from challenges. Her sustained capacity for professional growth is evidenced in the many and varied roles she has played. Known for her strong work ethic, she can always be relied upon to deliver results, which is why she has been assigned significant projects over her career, ranging from service design and innovation, technology management and more recently, leading the digital content strategy initiative which has transformed the Library’s web presence and delivered contemporary online content reflective of the Library’s digital ambition. Throughout her career Toni has demonstrated a very high level of dedication, pride and enthusiasm in all she does.

Dr Zheng Li
Faculty of Engineering & Information Sciences
Dr Li joined the School of Electrical, Computer and Telecommunications Engineering (SECTE) in 1994 as a lecturer specialised in control systems. He has contributed to the School by developing and teaching various subjects in the discipline of control systems such as Classic Control, Modern Control and Intelligent Control. He has been constantly improving and expanding the undergraduate teaching laboratory for control systems. Currently the laboratory runs the system that he specifically designed and developed for SECTE courses. Zheng has also been active in research and supporting the activities of the Centre for Intelligent Mechatronics Research.
Karin Maxwell
Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health
Karin Maxwell started work at the University having just completed an undergraduate degree at James Cook University. She left and trained and worked as a secondary school teacher, but then returned to the School of Chemistry as a technical officer. Since then she has taken on many roles as needed, involving research, varied administration roles and teaching laboratory organisation. For the past decade she has been the Chemistry link into the timetabling system. In all these varied roles she has displayed the vital skill of being a person whom you could go to and get things sorted.

Paula McGregor
Learning, Teaching & Curriculum
Paula McGregor has made an outstanding contribution to the University through her professionalism and dedication to supporting innovation and best practice in learning, teaching and curriculum. Since 2002 she has held leadership roles within Learning, Teaching and Curriculum (LTC), where she continues to facilitate the successful delivery of a diverse range of educational resources. Paula's demonstrated ability to build and lead a cohesive, positive and productive team is testament to her own strong work ethic, optimism and commitment. She is an exemplar to those who work around her.

Leonie McIntyre
Faculty of Engineering & Information Sciences
Leonie McIntyre began her time as the Dean's Assistant. Her interest in computers grew and in 1998 Leonie began studying a Diploma in Network Engineering. She joined a small team, being the only woman, who supported the IT needs for Engineering. Leonie has successfully managed to transform three disparate IT groups into a cohesive team. She created a new engineering computing system to manage all computer laboratories and all staff computing needs. She is always available to assist and provide advice and has made substantial and sustained operational contributions to the IT environment at a time of rapid change and expansion and is a highly valued member of the EIS technical team.
Dr Frank Neri

Faculty of Business

Dr Neri has made a significant contribution to the University. Frank is a respected researcher and a successful supervisor. His major contribution has been as an outstanding lecturer to large first year Economics classes, where he has encouraged curiosity and understanding of the economic environment confronting his students. He has been a member of Academic Senate, has served as Deputy Head of the School of Economics, and is currently a Head of Students. He has also shown a high regard for his colleagues, serving for several years on the Business Faculty Workload Committee. In all, Frank has made an enduring contribution to the Faculty and to the University.

Kim Noble

Science Space

Kim Noble has been an integral part of the Science Space. She joined the team when it was a relatively new organisation within the University and has witnessed, supported and been a key part of the Science Space through its growth and continues to be the essential stitching that pulls everything together. She is the first friendly point of contact for our customers and has booked thousands of schools’ excursions as well as ensuring all income is processed and the casual staff are paid in a timely manner. As a valued key member of the team she has been, and continues to be, the ‘go to person’ in the organisation as a font of all Science Space knowledge.

Stuart Parker

Research and Innovation Division

Stuart joined UOW as a Budgets Officer in Finance. He was in Financial Services until 2000 in roles such as Research Accountant and Accounts Payable Supervisor and from 2000-2008 as the Business Administrator in the Smart Food Centre. Stuart then joined Innovation and Commercial Research (ICR) as a Commercial Research Officer and was promoted to Commercial Research Manager. In his 10 years at ICR Stuart has been delivering commercial contracts and working effectively with UOW researchers, government and industry research partners.
Deborah Porter

Student Services Division

Deb Porter has held many positions across UOW, delivering excellent service to students in all of them. One of Deb’s greatest achievements has been transforming scholarships at UOW. Deb created the Scholarship Unit from a sole operator to a streamlined online application and efficient allocation and eligibility management system. She established an amazing culture built on the principle of positive student-centric service that still flourishes. Deb leads by example and her passion for changing students’ lives through access to education and delivering the best customer experience is infectious. Deb has been fundamental in shaping and guiding many careers and continues to do so with her remarkable kindness.

Professor Marie Ranson

Faculty of Science, Medicine & Health

Dr Marie Ranson is a Professor in the School of Chemistry and Molecular Bioscience (Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health), Research Fellow at the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute, and Deputy Director of the Cancer Institute NSW funded CONCERT Translational Cancer Research Centre. She has ongoing research interests in solid tumour biology with a particular focus on molecular biomarkers of metastasis and leads and/or significantly contributes to several anti-cancer drug development projects. This includes the patented drug Deflexifol for colorectal and other solid tumours, which successfully completed Phase 1 clinical trials. This award is in recognition of her 25 years’ service to the University.

Steev Selby

Faculty of Engineering & Information Sciences

Steev Selby commenced work with the Microwave Applications Research Centre and then moved to a technical support role with the Advanced Engineering and Automation Control Centre. Steev’s excellent fabrication skills and creative problem solving abilities were soon recognised by the Engineering Faculty where he has since contributed to many major research projects. Steev joined the UOW Motorsport program as a technical mentor and has enjoyed much success with the team including their world championship win in the USA. His ability to realise a conception coupled with his excellent computer-aided drawing and modelling skills are an asset and a rare talent that many research academics have valued.
Sharon Twyford

Learning, Teaching & Curriculum

Sharon Twyford has been an integral member of the University community. Sharon’s commitment to supporting, mentoring and inspiring students from diverse backgrounds has made a substantial impact on the transition and success of many UOW graduates. She has been a valued member of UniCentre, Woolyungah Indigenous Centre and most recently within Peer Learning. Sharon has been the driving force behind the Global Communicators Program, through which she has advocated for the importance of sharing culture and valuing inclusivity. As a proud Aboriginal woman, Sharon has generously shared her culture and knowledge to support many Indigenous students.