Vice-Chancellor's Awards 2011

University of Wollongong

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Vice-Chancellor's Awards 2011

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Vice-Chancellor’s Awards 2011
Celebrating Staff Excellence
Order of Proceedings

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Prof Gerard Sutton, AO

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Prof Rob Castle, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

Presentation of the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Research
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OUR FIRST 'OPEN DAY'

"Open Day" — the first, will be observed at the Wollongong University College on September 14th. In an interview with W.U.C.S.U. News, the Warden, Prof. C. A. M. Green, gave the following "Open Day" message.

[Text continues with more information about the Open Day event.]

THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW SOUTH WALES
A UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
AT WOLLONGONG
ABOUT THEIR FUTURE
Timeline

Wollongong University College opens
The Wollongong Division of the University of NSW became the Wollongong University College. It had 17 staff members and 308 students (all male), almost all of whom studied part-time while working for local industry.

The University of Wollongong is born
The University of Wollongong began life as a fully independent institution.

UOW Campus in Dubai
UOW established a campus in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates; it now has more than 1,200 students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>The Wollongong Division began as the Wollongong Division of the New South Wales University of Technology (which later became University of NSW). It had four Schools (Applied Chemistry, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics), nine full-time lecturers and some part-time staff.</td>
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<td>1962</td>
<td>UOW Act passes State Parliament in December the University of Wollongong Act passed through State Parliament.</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>Illawarra Technology Corporation established The University's corporate arm, Illawarra Technology Corporation, was established as a division within the Friends of the University of Wollongong Ltd. ITC it now operates in more than 20 countries.</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>UOW announced as Australia's University of the Year UOW was named Australia's University of the Year for 1999-2000 for its outstanding research and development partnerships. The same year it opened new premises for its Shoalhaven Campus at West Nowra.</td>
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<td>1981</td>
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Infrastructure building for Innovation Campus
In December NSW Premier Bob Carr presented the Vice-Chancellor with a cheque for $16 million for infrastructure spending to begin the $300 million Innovation Campus project at Fairy Meadow.

$35 million SMART Infrastructure Facility
In December the Federal Government announced $35 million in funding to create a national infrastructure institute at the University to be called the SMART (Simulation, Modelling and Analysis for Research and Teaching) Infrastructure Facility.

On 24 September Professor Gerard Sutton became the University’s longest-serving Vice-Chancellor, overtaking his predecessor Professor Ken McKinnon’s mark of 13 years, seven months.

UOW turns 60
UOW celebrates its 60th anniversary. The University of Wollongong in Dubai reaches a significant milestone with its 5,000th graduate.

Second title as University of the Year
UOW was awarded an unprecedented second University of the Year title for 2000-2001 for preparing students for the e-world.

Students welcomed to Graduate School of Medicine
In January NSW Governor Professor Marie Bashir welcomed the inaugural cohort of 80 students at the University’s Graduate School of Medicine.

IHMRI opens; first graduates from Graduate School of Medicine
The NSW Health Minister opens the $30 million Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute in July. In December NSW Governor Professor Marie Bashir attended the graduation ceremony for the University’s first Medical School graduates.

Further information about the University’s 60th Anniversary, its key milestones, events and celebrations, can be found on the University’s website: www.uow.edu.au/about/60
Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning

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

This year’s recipients of the Vice-Chancellor’s Teaching Award are:

Dr Lotte Latukefu - Faculty of Creative Arts

Lotte Latukefu matches inspirational teaching with rigorous scholarship and her continued creative practice as an opera singer. She has developed a research-led curriculum model of learning singing in a collaborative environment that has resulted in enhanced abilities and a range of professional singing outputs for students. Lotte’s approach to peer assessment encourages students’ self-reflection, leading them towards self-regulated learning. Her innovations in music education, researched in her recently completed PhD, have been recognised internationally by leading scholars in the field. In combining scholarly research with reflective practice, Lotte has reconceptualised the traditional master-apprentice model of learning singing into a three pronged model involving teaching, research and creative practice.

Friday 10th June 2011
Think Spatial Team - Faculty of Science

The Think Spatial team has developed a unique multi-disciplinary approach to teaching spatial science across both undergraduate and postgraduate cohorts, equipping students to conceptually frame geographic questions and find the best suite of spatial tools to apply in finding a response. Their student success is derived from innovative curricula and service provision that supports and integrates an understanding of geospatial, technical and legal skills. The team teaches spatial science in a practical context, with scenarios drawn from real life applications of spatial science, making it more relevant to students. That students have come to understand and apply this “new way of examining the world” is evident from the postgraduate research activities undertaken in the School that push the ideas, tools and techniques in new directions.

Pictured L-R: Heidi Brown, Laurie Chisholm
Not pictured: Marji Puotinen

This year’s recipient of the Vice-Chancellor’s Early Career Academic Award is:

Dr David Hastie - Faculty of Engineering

David Hastie was appointed as lecturer in July 2008, teaching in some of the largest compulsory Engineering subjects in the Faculty of Engineering. Through researching teaching and learning approaches which have been shown to work elsewhere, he has created positive learning environments to motivate students. David pioneered the use of new technologies such as Tablet PCs, to facilitate improved delivery of lectures and tutorials and create video tutorials for enhanced learning. He introduced formative assessment to encourage independent learning, integrating real-world examples, and has restructured computer-aided design classes to deliver flexible learning. David is acknowledged as an impressive team player and works closely with a diverse group of colleagues in the Faculty.
This year’s recipients of the Vice-Chancellor’s Sessional Tutor/ Demonstrator Award are:

**Nadeesha Dharmasiri** - Faculty of Engineering

Nadeesha Dharmasiri has developed a range of simple ways to relate the often complex theoretical problems she tutors about, so as to engage students and inspire passion for the subject. She has developed a combination of quizzes, videos and real-life examples that not only bring her subjects alive but also focus on a method of delivery that encourages independent learning while offering comprehensive student support. The effectiveness of Nadeesha’s methods is acknowledged by enthusiastic student response.

**Hannah Solomons** - Illawarra Technology Corporation

Hannah Solomons is a teacher in the English for Tertiary Studies program at Wollongong College Australia. She has contributed to her students’ learning through the development of highly innovative materials and methods which have been imitated and used by colleagues, and she takes an active interest in the welfare of her students that extends far beyond what is officially required. Hannah uses humour and varied lesson methodologies to support diversity and tolerance in the classroom, creating a comfortable atmosphere for when serious cultural differences need to be discussed and catering to a variety of learning styles and needs. Hannah’s ultimate goals as a teacher are twofold: to enhance her students’ quality of life; and to promote a more just and progressive society.
This year’s recipient of the Vice-Chancellor’s General Staff Award is:

Sasha Nikolic - Faculty of Informatics

Sasha Nikolic has made an enormous contribution to teaching and learning support in his role as Manager of the teaching laboratories in the School of Electrical, Computer and Telecommunications Engineering. He has redefined the role of Laboratory Manager, taking it well beyond what is expected while also being attentive to personal relationships and ensuring a collaborative approach with both students and staff. Sasha uses an holistic approach to investigate the laboratories’ physical logistics, quality of experiments and casual teaching performance. To make a difference, he has improved laboratory facilities, assisted in the development of laboratories and created a specialised teaching program for casual teachers. Sasha is widely recognised by colleagues and students as hard working, friendly and dedicated to making “his” laboratories the best possible learning environment for students.
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

This year’s recipients of the Faculty Awards are:

**Journalism Team** - Faculty of Creative Arts

Susan Angel and Shawn Burns have built a unique teaching and learning environment to support and develop student multimedia journalism skills for an industry that is facing new challenges and rapid change. Both are experienced industry practitioners who believe that professional modelling and resourcing facilitate student self-discovery. Susan and Shawn have built strong personal relationships with the Journalism students and developed broadcast curriculum that facilitates the completion of complex real world journalism through tasks such as the independent production of UOW TV and UOW Radio broadcasts. The impact this program is having is demonstrated by the many students who have published in mainstream publications or moved from internships into full-time employment as a result of the skills they have acquired in this program.

*Pictured L-R: Shawn Burns, Susan Angel.*

Friday 10th June 2011
Dr Sarah O'Shea - Faculty of Education

Sarah O'Shea is committed to the educational access and participation of all students regardless of background, and this commitment is demonstrated both in her approach to teaching and the practical strategies she has implemented to improve the student experience. Sarah’s teaching experience spans the higher education, vocational and adult education sectors. In her role at the University she has initiated extensive curriculum revision within her specialisations and redesigned on-line modules. Sarah has forged links with training providers to increase course enrolments, and pioneered a transition program across four Faculties to assist the transition of low socio-economic status students to the University environment. She has also assisted the Woolyungah Indigenous Centre to establish a peer orientation program for indigenous students. In all this, Sarah’s commitment to education as a transformative process is evident and exemplary.

First Year Maths Team - Faculty of Informatics

In 2009-2010, the First Year Mathematics Team comprehensively revamped the University’s core first year mathematics offerings. Beyond developing extensive new materials, the team implemented three key changes. Firstly, they devised a student-centred delivery mode that fosters independent learning, where self-learning workshops replace 25% of lecture hours. Secondly, they abolished the existing division of material between parallel subjects based on levels of difficulty, introducing instead a student-oriented, discipline-based split which targets students’ mathematical needs rather than judging their past performance. Finally, the team introduced a coherent, formative-assessment regime whose cornerstone is a novel, dual-examination system. The result: a new, sustainable, holistic, student-focused and highly successful approach to teaching first year mathematics.

Pictured L-R: James McCoy, Maureen Edwards, Grant Cox (dec’d), Caz Sandison, Aidan Sims.

Vice-Chancellor’s Awards Ceremony
Phase 1 Team - Graduate School of Medicine

The Phase 1 Team has created a unique integrated teaching program that makes up the first 50 teaching weeks of the University's Graduate Medical degree. Over the last five years, the team has developed and implemented a complex, case-based curriculum using multiple modes of learning to integrate scientific theory, clinical knowledge and competency, and critical analysis of research together with personal and professional development. By embedding community involvement (both the clinical and lay communities), the program provides realistic clinical experience that encourages students to apply the foundation knowledge gained throughout Phase 1 to understand symptoms, treatment and management of patients.

UOW Indigenous Geographies Program - Academic Service Division

The UOW Indigenous Geographies program responds to the pressing national need for science-qualified Indigenous graduates, as well as non-Indigenous science graduates who are knowledgeable and respectful of Indigenous culture. More generally, it responds to the critical, unresolved issues around entrenched racism and environmental crisis facing Australia. The team for Indigenous Geographies is diverse and dynamic. While engaging with academic colleagues at many levels and locations, the key team players are outside UOW, in government departments and Indigenous communities. Guest lecturers, Aboriginal elders, and field teaching locations and managers are central to the program. Indigenous Geographies ensures that the teaching process is not divorced from the communities, professionals and environments that the teaching is about. It allows and encourages students to progress through undergraduate, honours and postgraduate study, and move into careers where they can make a difference.

Pictured L-R: Michael Adams, Vanessa Cavanagh
Not pictured: Russell Couch, Martin Fortescue, Aunty Julie Freeman, Uncle Max Harrison

Friday 10th June 2011
This year’s recipients of the Faculty Early Career Academic Awards are:

**Dr Michael Flood - Faculty of Arts**

Michael Flood is a passionate, motivated and creative teacher whose teaching philosophy emphasises critical engagement, skill-building, democracy, rigour and reflexivity. His approach has been informed by exposure to critical pedagogies, employment as a community educator, and both research and advocacy regarding violence prevention education. Michael engages students through innovative, practical, and playful classroom activities; stimulates independent learning through debate and reflection; constructs well-organised learning opportunities based on the alignment of course goals, content and assessment; and involves students in learning through teaching. Recognising that assessment drives student learning, Michael constructs assessment schemes which are oriented towards skill-building and are standards-based.

**Dr Christine Howe - Faculty of Creative Arts**

Christine Howe joined the Faculty of Creative Arts on a contract in 2010 after several years as a popular sessional tutor. She quickly researched and introduced effective changes in her subjects, and has shown she is an extremely resourceful and adaptable teacher who values student feedback and is ready to adjust her classes to expressed student needs. Discussion and collaboration are key values in Christine’s creative writing classrooms, where she fosters a supportive, academically rigorous environment in which all students are encouraged to contribute and every contribution is valued. Her students develop a sense of individual agency as their knowledge and expertise increase, and they are made aware of the importance of community engagement as they experience the value of effective, respectful collaboration with their peers.
Dr Tracey Kuit - Faculty of Science

Tracey Kuit is known for her skills in managing and teaching large biology classes. Her teaching is focused on first year cell and molecular biology and second year biochemistry. Students appreciate Tracey’s enthusiastic and empathetic teaching style. Tracey is recognised for her skills at leading large teaching teams and her dedication to innovation in teaching that support student learning. Tracey actively works to engage, inspire and support all students. For example, she uses innovative group work research projects in subjects with up to 500 students. Students overwhelmingly report that project participation enhanced their communication skills, increased their feeling of connectedness to their fellow students, motivated them to learn and achieve and importantly, helped them to better understand the relevance of the key biological concepts learnt in the subject.

Karina Murray - Faculty of Law

Karina Murray has been a lecturer with the Faculty of Law for the past five years and brings an enthusiasm for teaching that stems from her love of the law and her love of seeing students learn. Karina has demonstrated her adaptability in teaching a number of different subjects and her organisational skills have been instrumental in successfully managing large cohorts of students, across multiple campuses, supported by a number of experienced and inexperienced tutors. Karina strives for equity for students and tutors by producing materials that are innovative, up-to-date and shared with all, to produce a consistent level of high quality learning in her subjects. These efforts to provide equity support, the leadership Karina provides to sessional staff, and the development of tutors, have been outstanding.
Dr Diann Rodgers-Healey - Sydney Business School

Although 2010 was her first experience of teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students at the University, Diann Rodgers-Healey has already garnered an impressive reputation with staff and students. Student feedback, both formal and informal, indicates that they value how she engages them in a positive learning environment and how she empowers them in their assessment work. Diann is passionate about teaching, wanting to motivate students to engage in learning to advance their work performance and facilitate change in their workplaces. She brings a clear passion to her teaching and readily incorporates both her industry experience and research into the classroom, focusing on activities that bring management ideas to life and clearly show how they can be utilised in real-world organisational contexts.

Jenny Sim - Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

Jenny Sim's teaching philosophy is student-centred and embedded with a range of reflective devices for both herself and her students. She also brings to bear a deep, scholarly approach to all her teaching and learning activities. Jenny has been particularly successful in using a scientific lens to apply biological science content within a range of subjects in the Bachelor of Nursing. She has developed innovative eLearning resources and environments for students and has played a key role in leading teaching teams and providing tutor support across large subjects. Jenny has also been a key player in providing informal leadership and student support within the Bachelor of Nursing at the Shoalhaven Campus.
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 by research students)
- **Interdisciplinary Research Teams**: Recognising outstanding collaborations across discipline boundaries
- **Research Partnerships**: Recognising the important role of research staff in developing and managing research partnerships
This year's recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Senior Researchers Excellence Award is:

Prof Sara Dolnicar - Faculty of Commerce

Sara Dolnicar is an expert in social science research methodology and measurement. She has – with colleagues – developed a number of novel solutions to unresolved market segmentation problems. Sara’s experimental research in measurement led to the discovery of a binary survey measure of brand attributes which outperforms traditional measures in terms of stability and predictive validity. Sara applies these improved methods and measures to solve practical problems, such as identifying successful foster parents or increasing public knowledge about recycled water. In the past five years alone, Sara published 52 journal articles and has been awarded seven research grants. She is a dedicated mentor of junior researchers and an outstanding research leader.

This year's recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Emerging Researchers Excellence Award is:

Dr Justin Yerbury - Faculty of Science

Justin Yerbury graduated with his PhD from UOW in 2008 and, since then, has been awarded three prestigious research Fellowships and attracted a National Health and Medical Research Council grant for his research into motor neuron disease. In 2009 he undertook research at the University of Cambridge and has authored 15 scientific publications in top-tier international journals and three book chapters, and given a series of presentations at high-profile international conferences. Justin has also made significant contributions to research student supervision, is one of a growing team of researchers based in the newly-established Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute at UOW, and is a highly valued asset to the University.
Highly Commended:

Dr Cholachat Rujikiatkamjorn - Faculty of Engineering

Following his PhD in 2006, Cholachat Rujikiatkamjorn has been a Chief Investigator on five ARC projects and has authored or co-authored a research-based book, over 30 journal articles and 50 conference papers. Cholachat's past achievements and his current research efforts through the Centre for Geomechanics and Railway Engineering will undoubtedly contribute to pioneering Australia's soft-ground engineering technologies in the years to come. His research performance since his appointment at the University of Wollongong is outstanding by any world standard in the areas of ground-improvement technology, soft-clay engineering and rail-track geotechnology. Cholachat receives a special commendation for this year's Emerging Researcher Award in recognition of his contributions to geotechnical engineering.

Highly Commended:

Dr Richard Menary - Faculty of Arts

In the few years since his appointment to the University's Philosophy program, Richard Menary has made a significant contribution to the research culture in the Faculty of Arts. He was a driving force in the recent Excellence in Research for Australia initiative and his effective strategising was pivotal to the excellent rating received by the Philosophy program. Richard's book, "Cognitive Integration: Mind and Cognition", published in 2007 with Palgrave Macmillan, will be released in paperback this year, and in 2006 and 2010 he edited two important collections of essays from leading thinkers in his field. Richard is also the Lead Investigator on an Australian Research Council grant on embodied virtues and expertise that will place Wollongong at the forefront of this pioneering interdisciplinary field.

Friday 10th June 2011
This year's recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence in Research Supervision Award is:

**A/Prof Jenny Beck - Faculty of Science**

Having completed her PhD in Biochemistry at the University of Queensland, Jenny Beck then undertook postdoctoral work at both the University of Illinois in the United States and at the Australian National University. Jenny's research involves aspects of chemistry, biochemistry and physics where mass spectrometry, in combination with other techniques, is applied to understand the interactions of biological molecules. Under Jenny's supervision, her students graduate from the University not only with experience in their discipline but with a grasp of the professional and ethical conduct that is valued in any workplace setting. Jenny has demonstrated unwavering support to her students and colleagues, both past and present, and has shown herself to be an excellent role model for women in academia.

Highly Commended:

**A/Prof Stephen Blanksby - Faculty of Science**

A staff member of the Faculty of Science since 2002, Stephen Blanksby has built a vigorous and vibrant research group in the area of fundamental and applied Mass Spectrometry. Stephen has received many awards for the quality of his research, and places great store in student professional development. He provides outstanding supervision and is an excellent role model for aspiring research scientists, spending many hours a week talking to his research students about their work. His students say his enthusiasm for science is infectious and that he encourages an environment of open and free exchange of ideas. Stephen's commendation is indicative of the strong support he receives from his students and a fitting reward for his excellent supervision.
Highly Commended:

**Prof Jan Wright** - Faculty of Education

Jan Wright has researched and taught in areas that examine sport, physical activity and physical and health education from a critical/socio-cultural perspective. Her work has also covered issues such as the relationship between language and ideology, media representations of sport and sporting bodies and the health of young people. Academics and research students regularly seek out Jan’s expertise and theoretical knowledge and over many years she has made a significant contribution to her students’ research and academic careers. One student described Jan as an academic who is “passionate, engaged and disarmingly modest”; another said that having Jan as a supervisor was like “…having Michael Jordan on your under 12s’ basketball team”. As a supervisor, Jan is generous with her time and always willing to engage with her students about their research.

This year’s recipients of the Vice-Chancellor’s Excellence in Interdisciplinary Research Award are:

**Prof Sandra Jones** - Faculty of Science
**Dr Lisa Kervin** - Faculty of Education

Sandra Jones and Lisa Kervin are presented with this award for their research project titled “An interdisciplinary approach to examining food advertising to children”, which examined food promotions across a range of child-targeted media and investigated the way these commercial messages were attended to, interpreted and responded to by children. The research collaboration between Lisa (whose expertise is in literacy development) and Sandra (whose expertise is in mass media and health communications) has kept UOW and Australia at the forefront of international research in this field. In 2009, they were awarded Australian Research Council funding for this research, and recently applied for funding to further their collaborative research program that will continue making a significant contribution to our understanding of the role of food advertising and marketing to children.

*Pictured L-R: Sandra Jones, Lisa Kervin.*

Friday 10th June 2011
This year's recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Outstanding Achievement in Research Partnership Award are:

**Emeritus Prof Vic Gosbell** - Faculty of Informatics  
**A/Prof Sarath Perera** - Faculty of Informatics

The foundation for more than a decade of productive research and industry partnership was laid in 1996, when Vic Gosbell started a research centre that would later become the Endeavour Energy (formerly Integral Energy) Power Quality and Reliability Centre. One of the longest running associations between an Australian university and an electrical power distribution industry, under the guidance of Sarath Perera the Centre has continued to make valuable contributions to power quality research. There are presently 20 postgraduate students undertaking research under the guidance of the academic staff and assisted by the Centre's facilities and domestic scholarships. As a result of Vic and Sarath's dedication and hard work, the Centre is well placed to continue as a strong and vibrant driver of research in electrical power engineering.

*Pictured L-R: Sarath Perera, Vic Gosbell.*
Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Outstanding Service for General Staff

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

This year’s recipients of the Vice-Chancellor’s Outstanding Service Awards are:

Sandi Aylett - Research and Innovation Division

Any member of staff who can improve a higher degree by research scholarship process that once took hundreds of human hours and hundreds of reams of paper – is a clever person. Anyone who can dedicate themselves completely to developing and implementing a computer system that does it without paper – is a truly outstanding professional. That person is Sandi Aylett. Implementing this scholarship system has demonstrated Sandi’s resilience, dedication and technical ability. She is driven always and only by the University’s best interests. Winston Churchill said “Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference”. Sandi’s can-do attitude has led to an effective HDR scholarship system – a positive change for the University.
Vickie Giffen - Vice-Chancellor's Unit

In 2006, Vickie Giffen was appointed to the role of Director's Assistant on the Innovation Campus Project. She developed numerous systems and procedures which are now in place for all the buildings on the Innovation Campus. In 2010, Vickie took on the position of iC Property Officer and has been successful in converting leads that have led to the signing of new tenants for iC Enterprise 1. Vickie is now in her final year of study to receive her second Property degree. Her outstanding customer service, attention to detail and reliability make her an outstanding asset to not only the Innovation Campus, but also to the University.

Grahame Hynard - Accommodation Services

Grahame Hynard played a major role in the renovation of The Manor, a strategic and time-critical project for the University. He drew concept drawings that achieved a comfortable and economical living environment, obtained competitive pricing, and managed works to a strict budget. Grahame organised all aspects of contractor management, including quality control, and managed complex processes and liaison with certifying authorities and contractors, going well beyond the expectations of his role within Accommodation Services. Grahame also demonstrated his breadth of skills in installation work. The Manor is now being fully utilised by postgraduate students who enjoy the amenity and atmosphere provided by this unique facility.
Deborah Tetley - Human Resources Division

Deb Tetley receives this award for providing outstanding and exceptional service in developing the University's people capability. Some of Deb's key attributes are her thoughtful and innovative course preparation, her energy and humour in facilitating PODS' workshops, and her ability to really engage her clients in learning and development outcomes. She works extremely hard and puts considerable extra time and effort into assessing client needs, working collaboratively on program development and in ensuring the highest levels of professionalism in delivery. There is no doubt that Deb goes above and beyond in providing service to the University's clients. She is a much-loved and greatly valued member of the University community.

The Strategic Planning & Quality Office

The Strategic Planning and Quality Office is notable for their exceptional ability to establish and build University-wide awareness of and commitment to planning and quality assurance. Key to their success is their highly consultative, participatory approach with all members of the University community. This small team is indefatigable. They led the exacting preparations for the recent AUQA audit, while driving numerous reviews, risk assessments and inter-university benchmarking projects. They were integral to the development of the University's new and compelling vision for success – the Strategic Plan 2011-2013 – that ensures clarity of the University's key priorities. They truly are exemplars of the "UOW Way".

Pictured L-R: Dale Dumpleton, Tanya Barton-Saad, Jan Sullivan, Lynn Woodley.

Friday 10th June 2011
The Marie Lewis Award

The Marie Lewis Award has been provided in honour of Marie Lewis, a graduate of the University of Wollongong who worked in Student Administration from 1983 to 1997. The prize is to recognise the achievement of a member of the non-academic general staff of the University who is completing a degree at UOW. Selection is based on academic performance as well as service to the University and its students.

This year's recipient of the Marie Lewis Award is:

Shibani Iyer - Academic Registrar's Division

Shibani Iyer is a Management Cadet studying for her Bachelor of Commerce (Dean’s Scholar) degree while working for the University. She has consistently achieved outstanding results, being listed on the Faculty of Commerce Dean’s Merit List in 2007, 2008 and 2010, and more recently, Shibani has gained entry to the London School of Economics Summer School to further her studies. During her specialisation in the Policy and Governance Unit, Shibani led the project to develop a new Student Charter, and is also leading an implementation and communication project which will improve how University policy is managed in the future. Shibani is a valued, respected and dependable team member who undertakes her work with a calm, intelligent and mature approach and demonstrates excellent commitment to service and standards in all her work.
Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Community Engagement

Community engagement is considered to be an integral part of the work of the University across all levels. Indeed, “community collaboration and service” is enshrined as one of the University’s core values in the University’s Strategic Plan.

This year’s recipient of the Vice-Chancellor’s Community Engagement Award (individual category) is:

Dr Montserrat Ros - Faculty of Informatics

Montserrat Ros receives this award in recognition of her dedication above and beyond the normal expectations in her role as the Women in Engineering Coordinator for the School of Electrical, Computer & Telecommunications Engineering in the Faculty of Informatics. Montserrat has dedicated her efforts to encouraging young women to consider Engineering as a career choice and is also involved in collaborative research with community partners. She sits on the University’s Community Engagement Committee, is Chair of her School’s Marketing and High Schools Liaison Committee, and has participated in a number of outreach programs offered by the University. In addition to her work-related community engagement activities, Montserrat is an active and dedicated volunteer for the Wollongong City State Emergency Service (SES).
This year's recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Community Engagement Award (team category) is:

Alison Hemsley and the International House Team
Accommodation Services

Alison Hemsley and her dedicated team of staff and student leaders have demonstrated an ongoing and innovative approach to identifying opportunities to become involved in the local community. Some of the key programs they initiated include the Global Highway, an annual event that highlights and celebrates international diversity and which has gone from strength to strength; ILIVE, which promotes global well-being by enabling its residents to be intercultural leaders; a joint Creative Community Connection project with the Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families; as well as fundraising and charity events, forums, personal coaching sessions, mentoring and school engagement activities.

Alison and the International House Team have established and encouraged a culture that is committed to championing ongoing community engagement.

Pictured L-R: Alison Hemsley, Tessa Lumsden (rear), Swati Dharmaraj (front), Fiore Costa (rear), Bryn Stamford (rear), Teniele Kitchingham (front) Matthew Pritchard, Dr Lindsay Oades.
25 Years
Service Awards

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

This year’s recipients are:

Joe Abbott - Faculty of Engineering

Joe Abbott was one of the first trades staff employed by the Automation and Engineering Applications Centre Ltd, a University of Wollongong non-profit company that manufactured a wide variety of automation systems for companies all over Australia. Following the integration of the AEAC into the Faculty of Engineering, Joe has demonstrated his multi-skilled abilities in the Civil, Mining, and Mechanical Engineering workshops. He has supervised the Manufacturing Research Laboratory which is involved in robotics, automation and steel rolling work with major national and international companies. Joe’s professional and strict approach to safety and good housekeeping is legendary. He has contributed significantly to the high standing of the laboratory’s research and has demonstrated by example over 25 years how to run a professionally organised and safe workshop.
A/Prof Ernest Baafi - Faculty of Engineering

Ernest Baafi joined the University in 1986 as a lecturer in Mining, specialising in mining systems and geostatistics. Since then he has provided significant leadership to the development of the Mining Engineering program. Ernest takes a highly professional approach to his teaching of engineering students and has developed many innovative practices to enhance student learning. He was instrumental in bringing together a team of multidisciplinary researchers who recently attracted about three million dollars research funding from the Australian Coal Association Research Program. Ernest is a humanitarian and someone colleagues and students are comfortable to approach to discuss any issues.

Terry Campani - Financial Services

Terry Campani joined the Printery when it was located in a small corner of the old Engineering workshops. Space was at a premium – the joke was that every machine could be operated by swivelling on the spot. Terry spent many hours meticulously cutting and pasting in a darkroom the size of a broom cupboard. When the Printery later moved to a larger building, Terry was delighted with the large new darkroom where she ventured into film- and plate-making. With extra space came more machinery, colour printing and, eventually, computers and digital machinery. Terry embraced all these changes with a smile, and with her artistic talent has become an accomplished graphic artist. Terry has shown amazing inner strength in all aspects of her life and has been a wonderful colleague.
Prof Joe Chicharo - Vice Chancellor’s Unit

As the song says, “He’s got the whole world in his hands” – and a considerable part of the University’s future with it. Joe Chicharo has risen to the role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) after 25 years of sustained service to the University. His initial contribution was as a dedicated and skilled teacher and outstanding researcher, and it was Joe’s ability to motivate staff and model desired roles that saw him recognised as a leader. He became Director of the University’s first Centre for Research Concentration, a Head of School and, penultimately, Dean of the Faculty of Informatics. Joe truly is an example of the University’s successful history and exciting future.

A/Prof Damien Considine - Faculty of Law

The name Damien Considine is synonymous with the conception, arrival and maturation of the Faculty of Law at the University. After starting his career in the Faculty of Commerce in 1985, Damien was one of the foundation staff members of the Faculty of Law when it opened its doors to students in 1991. In 2011 – the Faculty’s 20th anniversary year – it is especially appropriate to acknowledge that no-one has made a greater contribution to the Faculty’s reputation for student-centred teaching excellence, genuine collegiality and engaged research and scholarship than Damien. As a teacher, scholar, colleague, mentor, administrator and leader, his contribution to the Faculty of Law and the University has been immense.
Stephen Cooper - Faculty of Science

Steve Cooper is a key member of the Faculty of Science Workshop and has been the Workshop Manager since 1993. Steve first came to the University in 1977 and, after a period away, returned in 1986 where he joined the Workshop as a full time member of staff. His cheerful disposition, good management skills and strong customer focus have been key features of his success and achievements for the Faculty of Science. The outstanding quality of both his work and that of his workshop colleagues has been widely acknowledged and was recognised by a General Staff Vice-Chancellor’s Award for outstanding service in 2006.

Teresa Crosland - Faculty of Arts

Teresa Crosland began at the University in 1986 in the Faculty of Education’s External Studies Unit, then went to the Student Learning Assistance Centre in 1989. In 1993, she joined the Academic Registrar’s Division and spent nine years there undertaking various roles including website administrator. In 2002, Teresa joined the Sydney Business School as Administrative Assistant and Website Administrator, and in 2007, was appointed to the position of Timetable and Website Officer in the Faculty of Arts. In her various roles at the University, Teresa’s systematic and thorough approach to her work has provided staff and students a very high standard of service and support.
Prof Beverly Derewianka - Faculty of Education

Beverly Derewianka has made a significant contribution nationally and internationally as a researcher, curriculum and policy developer, writer, teacher and consultant in the disciplines of literacy, linguistics and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Her leadership of the Centre for Research in Language and Literacy has been profound, with the group receiving numerous Australian Research Council grants and large government contracts. Beverly has previously received the Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Research Supervision, two Faculty Teaching Excellence Awards, the Australian College of Educators’ Award for Outstanding Achievement in Education, and the Australian Literacy Educators’ Citation of Merit Award for Literacy.

A/Prof Christopher Fergusson - Faculty of Science

Chris Fergusson is an Earth scientist who has made outstanding contributions to teaching and research in the fields of Tectonics and Structural Geology, Engineering Geology, and Oceanography. He is particularly interested in very large scale geological processes and has developed a national and international reputation for his work on the geological evolution of eastern Australia. Chris has also conducted research in Canada and Iran, and was involved with the Ocean Drilling Project in the Nankai Trough off Japan. Chris has also been actively involved with postgraduate students from Australia, Indonesia and the Middle East.
Prof Warwick Funnell - Faculty of Commerce

Warwick Funnell has made a tremendous contribution to the research profile of the School of Accounting and Finance in the Faculty of Commerce. He has published extensively and earned a leading international reputation for his work, as evidenced by his continual winning of prestigious awards for his research. Warwick has also served as a first rate mentor to his colleagues and research students, assisting and encouraging them in their research, and is a gifted teacher, inspiring many students and earning their respect and praise. Warwick is always collegial and has been and continues to be a valued member of the University.

Joanne George - Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research)

Joanne George joined the University in 1986 and has played a key role in the development and maintenance of environmental engineering laboratories. She is always willing to learn new areas when assisting both undergraduate and postgraduate research projects. Her ability to inspire and provide positive influence to students from different backgrounds is admirable. Joanne's contribution to running undergraduate and postgraduate laboratory classes has been significant. She took a leadership role and introduced OHS requirements to the School of Civil, Mining and Environmental Engineering. Joanne's commitment and dedication led to her recent appointment as the Laboratory and Safety Operations Officer at the Innovation Campus.
Peter Gray - Information Technology Services

Peter Gray is the bright spark who tends to some of the University's vital IT, mostly those systems behind the scenes that people don't know about. He has been the key architect and developer for email delivery, large-scale disk storage, and the big servers that support critical business applications, such as eLearning, payroll and finance. Peter has championed a method for managing clusters of similar servers, thus reducing maintenance effort yet ensuring security and consistency. He also has a social conscience and has made an extensive contribution to local and central OH&S, his union and UniSuper. Peter is also a stirrer and good-natured debater.

Prof David Griffith - Faculty of Science

David Griffith was attracted to the University of Wollongong from the Max Planck Institut in Germany, with the promise of an Australian lifestyle and the dynamism of a young university. He rapidly took on a key role within Chemistry in the teaching of physical and environmental chemistry, establishing a reputation for excellence. Dave forged a new area of research for the University in Atmospheric Chemistry. This has had many highlights, including memorable bumpy aircraft measurements of bushfire emissions and challenging ground-based measurements in a wide variety of agricultural sites. The Centre for Atmospheric Chemistry that Dave leads remains a unique entity within Australia.
A/Prof Helen Hasan - Faculty of Commerce

Helen Hasan began her academic career at the University in Information Systems and received her PhD in Information Systems in 2000. Helen is a highly active, productive researcher who has received two ARC Discovery grants and has conducted research for organisations such as BlueScope Steel, Centacare and Roche. Helen is widely published and has led several research units, including an international Green IS Association. She has also successfully supervised over 20 higher degree by research students to the completion of their degrees. Helen is also a longstanding member of the University's Social Club Committee, breathing life into the notion that work and play-at-work are compatible and highly desirable.

Jan James - Graduate School of Medicine

Fred Astaire said of Ginger Rodgers, "She does it backwards in high heels" (dance that is). Jan James not only does it as well as Ginger, she looks good in long black gloves while she is doing it. Jan made her mark in the Faculty of Education, where her long-term contribution to the Faculty's management and administration supported its development from disparate schools to the vibrant, productive Faculty of today. More recently, Jan was "tapped on the shoulder" to utilise her expertise and abilities in establishing the complex academic and administrative processes involved in running an innovative medical school. Jan has made a sustained and substantial contribution to the University; is a role model for administrative staff; and is a bloody good dancer.
A/Prof Diana Kelly - Faculty of Arts

Di Kelly is one of the most recognised and active people across the University. Over the past 25 years, she has filled many roles, including Head of the Schools of Economics and History and Politics, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Director of International Studies, Deputy Chair of Academic Senate and, more recently, as Chair of Academic Senate and a member of the University Council. Di has always championed the voice of academics in university governance and has made a significant contribution to quality assurance and planning at the University.

Prof Brian Martin - Faculty of Arts

Brian Martin exemplifies the socially engaged scholar, active in areas where controversial views are attacked and defended, and passionate beliefs can result in legal actions. A leading figure in Whistleblowers Australia, Brian’s commitment to free speech connects with his extensive research into scientific controversies, suppression of dissent, nonviolent action and democracy. He surprises students with classroom experiences and assessment methods that show how creativity and relationship building are essential to learning. To colleagues and research students, Brian is a supportive and respected writing mentor. In the local community, he is easily recognised as the fellow who runs to work each day, his briefcase under his arm.
Sandra Ragnoli - Academic Registrar’s Division

Throughout her career in Student Administration, Sandra Ragnoli has held a variety of roles including Admissions Officer, Administrative Assistant in Student Enquiries, School Liaison Officer and her current position of Conferrals Officer in the Academic Registrar’s Division. In each of these roles, Sandra has shown professionalism and commitment in achieving positive outcomes. Sandra’s pleasant manner and calmness bring out the best in all those working with her. She continues to be a strong asset to the University and her experience and corporate knowledge are invaluable. Sandra is a quiet achiever who is very much appreciated by all staff, students and colleagues.

Moira Ruotolo - Information Technology Services

The voice of the University … that’s Moira Ruotolo. Moira joined the University in 1985 and is the voice that everyone hears when they call the University’s switchboard and many of its call centres. Her warm and friendly manner makes her a pleasure to work with and she is an excellent first contact for the many people who telephone the University. Moira has always shown a commitment to learn and improve her knowledge as her role has changed over the years, and she has never lost her ability to listen and provide help to callers. She speaks several languages and relates extremely well to our staff, students and the local community, and is an integral part of the University switchboard and ITS Call Centre team.