



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

UONVC'S AWARDS 2016



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The NeW Futures Strategic Plan sets a bold path for UON in the decade to 2025. Our people are our greatest asset in delivering on our NeW Futures goals, and this is reflected in the plan itself. One of the eight pillars of NeW Futures is *Staff Who Make Their Mark*, in which UON staff are characterised as “distinguished by their willingness to change the status quo when required, take on new challenges and provide inspirational leadership. Our staff engage cooperatively to deliver agile solutions and the best outcomes possible for our students, partners and communities”.

In every faculty and division of the University, we have remarkable academic and professional staff who actively contribute in a multitude of ways to delivering on this mission. The 2016 Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence celebrate the exceptional achievements of our colleagues over the past year in driving UON's performance and building our reputation for innovative and engaged teaching and research.

I am delighted as always to be part of this year's awards ceremony, which will recognise the inspirational successes of individuals and teams across seven award categories. In 2016 we have introduced a new award to honour staff who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to enhancing UON's global standing through international engagement.

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

Recognises the outstanding and diverse contributions of individuals and groups to the quality of student learning.

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Professional Staff Excellence

Recognises outstanding and exceptional performance by professional staff.

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Early Career Research and Innovation

Recognises excellence in outstanding early career researchers.

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Supervision Excellence

Recognises the important role that supervisors play in supporting PhD and research masters students.

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Health and Safety Excellence

Recognises outstanding leadership and contribution to health and safety by an individual or team.

Vice-Chancellor's Award for International Engagement

Recognises an individual or team that have enhanced UON's global standing through international engagement.

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Collaboration Excellence

Recognises outstanding work across faculties and divisions.

I am proud to be in the company of so many excellent colleagues who are leading the way for UON's curious, collaborative and courageous culture and shaping the future of this remarkable institution. On behalf of the University, I offer my sincere congratulations and gratitude to the recipients of the 2016 Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence for their dedication to achieving positive results, and for daring to think differently and drive innovation in that pursuit.

Professor Caroline McMillen

Vice-Chancellor and President

PROGRAM

Time	Details
5.30pm - 6pm	Drinks and canapés in the foyer of the Conservatorium of Music
6pm	<p>Guests will move into the Harold Lobb Concert Hall for the awards ceremony</p> <p>Welcome address Professor Caroline McMillen Vice-Chancellor and President</p> <p>Overview of Teaching and Learning Excellence Awards and presentation Professor Liz Burd Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching)</p> <p>Overview of Professional Staff Excellence Awards and presentation Nat McGregor Chief Operating Officer</p> <p>Overview of Research and Innovation Excellence Awards and presentation Professor Kevin Hall Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)</p> <p>Overview of Research Supervision Excellence Awards and presentation Professor Kevin Hall</p> <p>Overview of Health and Safety Excellence Awards and presentation Sharon Champness Director, People and Workforce Strategy</p> <p>Overview of International Engagement Awards and presentation Winnie Eley Pro Vice-Chancellor (International and Advancement)</p> <p>Overview of Collaboration Excellence Award and presentation Sharon Champness</p>
Close	<p>Closing comments Professor Caroline McMillen</p>

UONVC'S AWARDS

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND CONTRIBUTION TO STUDENT LEARNING

FACULTY TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Dr Alicia Kulczynski

Dr Stacey Baxter

Faculty of Business and Law

Dr Alicia Kulczynski and Dr Stacey Baxter have demonstrated a superior commitment to the development of a suite of integrated curricula and resources that motivate students to learn and engage across both traditional and blended modes of teaching delivery, in the discipline of marketing theory and research methods. Alicia and Stacey draw on a variety of pedagogical approaches, including active and experiential learning, to develop resources that equip students with the tools to be in control of their own learning process by facilitating the making of meaning through direct experience and practical application. Their ability to work together, and with others, to share and expand their capabilities and outcomes is impressive and appreciated by their colleagues.

Dr Trevor Hilaire

Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment

Dr Trevor Hilaire is a lecturer in Construction Management where approximately 50 percent of students study by distance. Trevor has a professional background in the construction industry and utilises this to foster a collaborative learning environment where mutual respect is valued and student development is supported. To provide learning opportunities not available elsewhere, he has developed an exclusive agreement with a leading global software developer to provide students with unique learning opportunities and support to prepare them for graduate life. Trevor is a valuable member of the Construction Management team, earning the respect of his colleagues and peers and building a strong rapport with his student cohort.

Dr Michael Sala

Faculty of Education and Arts

Dr Michael Sala has combined his professional insight as an award-winning writer with extensive teaching experience to help develop a more accessible, equitable, craft-based creative writing program that emphasises the program's strength in practice-led teaching and research. Using a range of mutually reinforcing learning approaches that incorporate online and classroom teaching, as well as podcasts and state-of-the-art lightboard video recordings, Michael has designed a suite of courses that stimulate student creativity and self-directed learning while teaching practical writing and communication skills in a manner that is accessible and responsive to individual student needs and aspirations. Michael is recognised as an emerging teaching and learning leader in the School of Humanities and Social Science.

FACULTY TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Sean Sadler

Faculty of Health and Medicine

Sean Sadler is an outstanding educator who motivates students to engage with the Bachelor of Podiatry program at Ourimbah through interactive and research-driven classes, facilitating his students' development as life-long learners. His excellent teaching practice, and demonstrated capacity to motivate and inspire students is clearly reflected in his consistently high student feedback scores of above 4.5/5, and in the positive comments for both the courses he coordinates and for his own personal teaching. Sean's outstanding contributions to student learning were recently recognised with the Australian Award for University Teaching Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning.

Dr Ian Renner

Dr Garth Tarr

Faculty of Science and Information Technology

Dr Ian Renner and Dr Garth Tarr have successfully adopted educational technologies and online resources that have greatly improved the satisfaction, organisation and other key aspects of Statistics for the Sciences – the largest course offered at UON with over 1,000 students. This is a challenging course, however by employing real-world examples, new and effective online content, employing new technology and dedicating significant time and effort to ensure students are getting the support they need to succeed, Ian and Garth have developed a statistics course that students love. In addition to these achievements, Ian and Garth have assisted in the professional development of their tutors and graduate students, which in turn leads to improved student learning and satisfaction.

DIVISION TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Jenny Hyde

Academic Division

Jenny Hyde is a Maths Learning Adviser whose consistent and sustained delivery of numeracy support through quality teaching and resources has had a significant impact on Ourimbah students' participation and success in courses with a numeracy or mathematics component. Her exceptional teaching practice and command of mathematics is revealed through her ability to differentiate content and instruction to target the diverse and unique needs of the Ourimbah student cohort, while working across multiple discipline areas simultaneously. The quality of Jenny's knowledge, her approach, the resources she has developed, and her professional but friendly manner has benefited many students, both enabling and undergraduate, and has greatly improved their outcomes and tertiary experience.

SESSIONAL STAFF TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Dr Elena Levchenko

Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment

Dr Elena Levchenko is an inspirational tutor and sessional academic, teaching in a wide range of courses in Engineering and Mathematics. She has developed and implemented an innovative, integrated and targeted approach which consists of segmenting the real world problem into manageable blocks of knowledge. Her approach is student-centred and makes complex concepts clear and practical, motivating and inspiring students to learn and fostering student development by stimulating curiosity and independent learning. Elena is highly regarded in her discipline for her valuable and sustained contribution to teaching and student learning.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND CONTRIBUTION TO STUDENT LEARNING

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence and Contribution to Student Learning is presented to the most outstanding winner of the Faculty, Division, and Sessional Staff Awards.

UONVC'S AWARDS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF EXCELLENCE

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Shree Andrew

Faculty of Business and Law

In 2016, UON was accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International. Less than five percent of the world's 13,000 business programs achieve AACSB Accreditation, which is a multi-stage, multi-year process, involving extensive engagement with international accreditation committees, internal and external stakeholders and an international peer review team. Shree, as leader of the AACSB professional team, worked consistently and to great effect over a three year period, in partnership with an academic leader, to develop and implement a mission-driven plan that evidenced how UON met the 15 AACSB quality standards. Shree's contribution to the AACSB project was key to the successful accreditation of business programs at UON.

Amanda Hall-Griffin

Faculty of Education and Arts

Amanda Hall-Griffin developed a series of outstanding initiatives to reduce HDR attrition in FEDUA, by providing an enhanced student experience. Using exceptional research skills, Amanda analysed UON data as well as publications on best-practice retention strategies to ground FEDUA's HDR retention strategy in evidence. She was instrumental in developing initiatives to retain students most at risk: those without scholarship support, enrolled part-time and off-campus and in the first nine months of candidature. Her implementation of new induction procedures, training days tailored to candidature stage and development of an HDR blog are three outstanding initiatives that translated her research into practice.

Hugh Gordon

Academic Division

Hugh Gordon was responsible for the coordination of this year's Uni Revue. Once a regular feature of UON's calendar, the Uni Revue was re-introduced as part of Autonomy Week activities and revived a proud tradition. Hugh's determination and commitment to this student experience activity produced an entertaining showpiece that featured student talent and emphasised the sense of community at Callaghan campus. Hugh is an exemplar of the courageous and creative behaviours which will drive change and best practice across UON, and has set a bar for being able to achieve outstanding results relative to someone in a HEW 5 position at UON.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF EXCELLENCE

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Professional Staff Excellence is presented to the most outstanding winner of the Individual and Team Awards.

TEAM AWARDS

Writing Drop In Team, Ourimbah, Centre for Teaching and Learning

Academic Division

Emma Joel, Catherine Chinnery-Doyle, Michael Kilmister, Meg Vertigan, Carol Martin, Mata Taulilo, Amanda Clarke, Carol Lindell

The successful implementation of the Peer-supported Writing Drop In program is a courageous initiative in establishing a model of learning support that is unique to the Ourimbah campus and its students' needs. The Writing Drop In program has achieved its two goals; to significantly increase student access to "just-in-time, just-for-me" academic support, and to offer a mode of support targeting the continuum of transition uniquely experienced by some Ourimbah students (those who transition into TAFE or enabling programs, and then continue on to a university degree).

Pre-Award Team, Research Grants

*Research and Innovation
Division*

Kylie Hugo, Adam Koppers, Angela McPherson, Belinda Peden, Laura Medioli, Neroli Finlay

The Pre-Award Team within Research Grants introduced an innovative online booking system for the review of research applications which enabled reviews to be undertaken on a rolling basis over a defined period to deliver increased quality client service. This significantly reduced the turnaround time for application review in peak period, from an average of three days in 2015 to under one day during the same period in 2016. Not only was this very well received by researchers but it also resulted in the team not having to work weekends or excessively long days to handle this peak workload.

IT Security and Legal Team

Resources Division

Tess van Weerdenburg, Patrick McElhinney, Ritesh Bhakuni

Patrick McElhinney and Ritesh Bhakuni of IT Services and Tess van Weerdenburg of the Legal Office, tackled an unprecedented cyberattack on UON. The professionally and personally challenging work was undertaken in a changing environment, as new and escalating developments appeared almost daily for over six months. Patrick, Ritesh and Tess all demonstrated admirable leadership and courageous qualities as they sought to achieve the best possible outcome for UON, its staff members, students and community partners. The team worked under extreme pressure, demonstrating expertise and capacity, which set a precedent by successfully managing these issues internally, resulting in extensive cost savings while protecting the University's reputation.

UONVC'S AWARDS

EARLY CAREER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXCELLENCE

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Dr Hedda Askland

Faculty of Education and Arts

As an early career researcher, Dr Hedda Askland has been an enormously productive scholar. She has 49 publications and received 11 grants totalling AU \$169,288. She was central in the success of a recent UON tender for the Department of Employment Research and Education Panel, submitted by the Centre for Social Research and Regional Futures, and is the CI of two industry-funded projects where her research has been recognised by industry and government partners, resulting in an invitation to sit on a NSW Government working group. Hedda was recently invited to be an International Research Fellow at the University of Oslo, Norway.

Dr Natalie Lockart

Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment

Since graduating with her PhD in 2013, Dr Natalie Lockart has established herself as a significant contributor to research on climate change adaptation of water infrastructure. Through her funding successes in the ARC Linkage scheme and the NSW Emergency Services, she has contributed research which has underpinned our understanding of climate change impacts, including revisions within the Australian design manual for flood control infrastructure (Australian Rainfall and Runoff). Impressive research outputs in her short career include co-supervision of three PhDs, 13 refereed papers, 15 conference presentations, two industry research reports, whilst maintaining a significant teaching load with excellent teaching scores.

Dr Jane Rich

Faculty of Health and Medicine

Dr Jane Rich has made a substantial contribution to research and innovation in the field of rural and remote health and in industry related research development. Her achievements include a number of internal grants to support her research engagement activities and ECR support to oversee a PhD scholarship in this area. Jane has a significant publication record for an early career researcher, contributes positively to student engagement, particularly through her PhD supervision. Jane's research has also contributed significantly to industry outcomes through an interdisciplinary and partnership approach, while reducing the risks and impacts of mental illness.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Dr Raymond Chiong

Faculty of Science and IT

Dr Raymond Chiong has an exceptional track record and research outputs. He completed his PhD at University of Melbourne in 2012. In less than four years, he has produced more than 50 research publications including 23 journal articles in outstanding, high impact, high ERA (A/A*) journals. Raymond's excellence in research and innovation comes from high quality research ideas and the search for innovative solutions using various mathematically grounded solutions to basic manufacturing, energy, social and business problems. Given Raymond is still an early career researcher, his accomplishments and contributions to the research field are outstanding.

Dr Amy Maguire

Faculty of Business and Law

Dr Amy Maguire's research investigates the legal complexities of topical issues such as the rights of refugees and Indigenous peoples, climate change governance, self-determination and capital punishment. Amy's research pushes productively across traditional disciplinary boundaries to produce work of significant originality that appears in leading Australian and international journals. She also makes her research publicly accessible through publishing outlets like *The Conversation*, through writing for newspapers and giving interviews on radio and television. This has led to her becoming one of Australia's leading public intellectuals contributing to our understanding of key human rights questions and other international law issues.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Early Career Researcher of the Year is presented to the most outstanding winner of a Faculty/Division research excellence award.

UONVC'S AWARDS

RESEARCH SUPERVISION EXCELLENCE

FACULTY RESEARCH SUPERVISION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Dr Mick Seamer

Faculty of Business and Law

Dr Mick Seamer is respected for the openness and caring attitude he brings to the supervisory relationship. He treats his students as colleagues and encourages them to take every opportunity to expand their skills, knowledge and networks. In addition to 10 co-authored papers and publications with students in the past three years, his encouragement has resulted in four of his five current students winning awards. His inclusivity of cultures and research approaches along with his interest in innovative ideas makes him an all-round model supervisor.

Dr Ann Taylor

Faculty of Education and Arts

Dr Ann Taylor has successfully supervised 13 HDR students to completion and is currently supervising six candidates. Testimonials acknowledge her ability to lead by example, her dedication, insight, encouragement and support, with particular note of Ann's ability to guide HDR students through their candidature by developing their confidence and autonomy; providing timely, detailed and constructive writing support; and developing individualised supervision for each candidate. She is recognised for mentoring students to become independent researchers and to develop professionally by encouraging them to present at conferences and network with colleagues.

Dr Mariko Carey

Faculty of Health and Medicine

Dr Mariko Carey has consistently demonstrated excellence in research supervision of PhD students and early career researchers. Her exceptional research supervision has not only inspired many students to pursue a career in health behaviour research, but also contributed greatly to the research group's high quality research outputs, including numerous competitive grants, publication records and a high ratio of externally funded research fellows. Mariko is committed to effective, reliable and inspiring supervision of her PhD students. She also provides outstanding mentorship to her research associate and research assistant colleagues within the Health Behaviour Research Group.

FACULTY RESEARCH SUPERVISION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Associate Professor Olivier Buzzi

*Faculty of Engineering and
Built Environment*

Associate Professor Olivier Buzzi is an extremely enthusiastic academic who has an outstanding track record of excellent research training with industry engagement, quality research and academic integrity. He has supervised many HDR students instilling in them his own passion for research. Olivier has a demonstrated ability to nurture, respect and inspire his students, to successfully teach them complex concepts and to train them well beyond simple research skills. As a devoted supervisor, Olivier thoroughly prepares his students in every way for their future career, be it in academia or industry.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR RESEARCH SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Supervisor of the Year is presented to the most outstanding winner of a Faculty Research Supervision Excellence Award.

UONVC'S AWARDS

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXCELLENCE

INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Shaun Manning

School of Engineering

Laboratory Manager, Shaun Manning, independently developed a structured matrix for managing the process of addressing the safety compliance gaps identified in an external Laboratory Audit. He also included in the matrix gaps in safety best practice that he had identified himself. Through initiative and a collaborative approach in a diverse environment, he was able to respond to the audit findings and assign corrective action tasks to staff members according to their skills, expertise and areas of interest. Shaun has shown leadership, courage and commitment above and beyond his position. Shaun has led by example in creating positive change and enhancing the workplace safety culture which will lead to greater compliance with WHS legislation.

TEAM AWARD

Melissa Musicka

Human Resource Services

Monica Rossignoli

School of Environmental and Life Sciences

Melissa Musicka and Monica Rossignoli represented UON at forums with Safework NSW concerning the Global Harmonisation System for chemicals which is to be implemented on 1 January 2017. Their combined knowledge and engagement with external bodies has led to the development of a major compromise, one that delivers the aims and objectives of the original proposal, but without the workload and financial impost to the University that the original legislation would have required of re-labelling all chemicals held in stock. Building on their experience in chemical safety, the team has presented UON as a leading light in workplace safety presenting novel approaches to implementation with minimal impact. This is a team that has made a national statement on behalf of the University.

UONVC'S AWARDS

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Associate Professor Jamie MacKee

School of Architecture and Built Environment

Associate Professor Jamie MacKee is recognised for his dedication and outstanding contribution in driving international growth and success for FEBE and for UON as a whole. He has driven impressive initiatives that have demonstrated collaboration across faculties, such as training key international agents, developing a new FEBE Faculty Scholarship, and establishing a team from across UON to develop relationships with the China Scholarships Council program, growing enrolment numbers from higher degree research students from China. Jamie has improved the Faculty's international reputation through developing partnerships and opportunities for staff and students to engage internationally.

Dr Kevin Sobel-Read

Newcastle Law School

Dr Kevin Sobel-Read has worked diligently in internationalising the curriculum for Newcastle Law School, helping students to gain an international perspective on the judiciary system. The mobility program he designed allows students to take away an experience that will shape future law careers. In convening a trip to the Cook Islands with 11 senior law students in 2016, Kevin provided the students with hands-on and relevant legal experience with the local community. He has surpassed what is expected from the normal job requirements and paved the way for his students to be exposed to high-level government and legal work.

TEAM AWARD

School of Nursing and Midwifery Team

Faculty of Health and Medicine

Professor Sally Chan, Associate Professor Sarah Jeong, Associate Professor Pamela Van Der Riet

This team has demonstrated commitment in forming new global education and research partnerships. They have shown outstanding innovation in internationalising nursing curriculum and learning experience while facilitating outbound and inbound student and faculty mobility, greatly enhancing the School of Nursing and Midwifery as well as UON's profile in world university rankings. The team has facilitated new global partnerships resulting in International Research Visiting Fellowships and new MOU's with more than 15 universities in Hong Kong, China, Finland, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Macau, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, UK and Canada - contributing to UON ranking in the world's top 100 for nursing.

TEAM AWARDS

Conversational English Program – Auchmuty Library

UON Library, the Centre for English Language and Foundation Studies

Rebecca Heath, Anne Burnett, David Probert, Jacqui Harris, Jane Neave, Sarah Coleman, Helen Robertson, Ben Bourke, Alison Edginton, Shaista Poonawalla

The program exposes ELFS students to conversational English in a colloquial setting, with students accompanying a library staff member while they work, informally conversing in English, sharing personal interests, life experiences, cultural differences and information about Australia, UON, the Library and Newcastle. The program's success illustrates the enormous duty of care provided by staff. The simple, cost-effective program has had a demonstrable impact on international students who have benefited greatly from the interactions and support structures.

Shaun McCarthy Briony Johnston

Newcastle Law School

Shaun McCarthy and Briony Johnston are recognised for innovating internationalising services through creation of the 'Know the Law' mobile application. Supported by SSAF funding, the app helps international students learn about the Australian legal system. UON's Legal Centre developed the app in response to legal issues that can arise for international students studying in Australia. Students can access information about a variety of legal issues, creating confidence with rules and laws that may affect them in NSW. The app is more than innovative. It is simple and strategic in targeting the needs of international students trying to connect with their studies.

ABOUT THE AWARD

Supporting our NeW Futures theme of Engaging Across the Globe.

The Vice-Chancellor's Awards for International Engagement recognise the pivotal role staff play in ensuring that The University of Newcastle succeeds in its global ambitions. These awards recognise quality activities and demonstrable success from those individuals or teams that have worked diligently to enhance UON's global standing through international engagement.

UONVC'S AWARDS

COLLABORATION EXCELLENCE

Natural History Illustration MOOC Development

*Faculty of Science and IT,
Resources Division, Academic
Division*

**Andrew Howells,
Bernadette Drabsch, Clare
Lloyd, Chris Hildebrandt,
Kyle Holmes, Luke Boulton,
Nick Barham, Daniel Atkins,
Elizabeth Burns, Mali Webb**

The team developed a world first Natural History Illustration (NHI) MOOC, pioneering ways to teach online drawing and related scientific observational skills. This was challenging as NHI had never delivered digital teaching nor designed an edX course. This cross-unit team delivered in less than half the average MOOC development time. This has been a stellar team collaboration effort that has radically changed the culture of the NHI discipline into a cutting-edge digitally enabled team; put UON on the map for a unique MOOC in the world; proven to UON staff and stakeholders that UON can develop a MOOC and attract enrolments; and, “skilled-up” staff across UON enabling knowledge sharing and transfer.

