Education

University Open Days 2015

In August, our Faculty participated in an Information Day in Port Macquarie and Open Days in Newcastle and Callaghan. Over 6,900 prospective students and their families attended the events, which were an opportunity to learn more about our degrees, see our facilities and meet staff and current students.

New JMP website launched

The new JMP website was launched on Monday 10 August. With applications to the Bachelor of Medicine – Joint Medical Program now open, the user-friendly site showcases our world-class medical degree and the University.

Faculty High Achievers Scholarship Celebration

On 28 July, four High Achiever Scholarships were awarded to the highest ranked commencing student for a specific degree in each school, plus one Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholarship. Recipients included: Vineta Edmonds from Biomedical Sciences and Pharmacy; Kristy Marquett from Health Sciences; Rose Smith from Nursing and Midwifery; and Catherine Mao and Hannah Shorten from Medicine and Public Health.

Dr Peter Saul delivers the John Irvine Hunter Memorial Lecture

A Senior Intensive Care Specialist, Dr Saul’s presentation focused on medical ethics and end-of-life decision making. We were pleased to have John Irvine Hunter’s son and event donor, Dr Irvine Hunter, in attendance.

Sydney workshop showcases partnerships

A recent residential workshop held in Sydney highlighted the strength of our partnership with the NSW Ministry of Health and the NSW Health Education and Training Institute. These mutually beneficial partnerships enable us to deliver our Master of Clinical Medicine (Leadership and Management). The workshop was attended by senior Faculty and government representatives, including the Hon. Jillian Skinner, NSW Minister of Health.
Podiatry students invest in their local community

On 7 July, UON podiatry staff and students offered more than 141 free foot health screenings and 54 health referrals to Indigenous community members at a health check event hosted by the Nunyara Aboriginal Health Unit of the Central Coast Local Health District.

Outstanding research scholarship awarded

On 13 August, PhD student Jason Woods received a 2015 Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Research Candidate scholarship. The $10,000 per annum scholarship is awarded to up to three of the highest ranked PhD applicants.

Future workforce

UON congratulates Professor Brian Kelly

Stepping away from his role as Deputy Head of School, Professor Brian Kelly will commence as Head of the School of Medicine and Public Health on 1 October. Over the next 12 months, we will be conducting a thorough recruitment process to fill the position on a permanent basis.

Research and Innovation

Researchers in focus

Professor John Forbes
received the 2015 Premier’s award for Outstanding Cancer research. This award follows a string of other achievements, including a Member of the Order of Australia in 2012.

Laureate Professor Robert Sanson-Fisher
will lead a multi-disciplinary team in dementia research, with $3.38 million in federal funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Conjoint Senior Lecturer receives NSW Lifetime Achievement Award

Conjoint Senior Lecturer Chris Piggott received the award from the NSW Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. It was presented in recognition of his outstanding achievements to the profession. Mr Piggott organised a successful Pharmacy workshop at the Hunter Wetlands in July, and will host the discipline’s 10th Anniversary Celebration Dinner in November.

Equipment grants to assist cancer research

Professor Xu Dong Zhang and his team have been awarded a $500,000 Cancer Institute NSW Research Equipment Grant for a mass spectrometry platform that will enable the discovery of novel cancer biomarkers and drug targets. Conjoint Professor Stephen Ackland, head of the HMRI Cancer Program, was awarded a $125,000 Research Equipment Grant for a “live cell imager” that will enhance pre-clinical cancer studies in the Hunter Cancer Research Alliance.

MRI equipment being trialled to diagnose neck pain

Physiotherapy researcher Associate Professor Suzanne Snodgrass is collaborating with researchers in physiotherapy and neuroscience to determine whether advanced MRI scanning can be used to better diagnose neck pain and personalise treatment.

GM ICTN grants awarded

Providing financial support for individuals/groups of Healthcare and Education Providers, the Greater Metro Interdisciplinary Clinical Training Network aims to enhance their ability to provide clinical placements for students within a healthcare setting. Six of the eight available grants have been awarded for projects led by Faculty staff members.

Increasing student outbound mobility in the Indo-Pacific Region

Our Faculty secured three grants under the 2016 New Colombo Plan Scholarships and Student Mobility Grant Projects, including a $39,600 grant that supported a recent Thailand study trip for nursing students.

$220k to develop a community nutrition program

Dr Lesley MacDonald-Wicks and Kerrell Bourne secured Department of Social Security (Communities for Children) funds to develop a community nutrition program, encouraging health and wellbeing in Raymond Terrace, Karauh, Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens.