

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

STUDENTS

- Bachelor of Environmental Science and Management student, Melinda Brown, received one of three global Rolex Scholarships from the 'Our World Underwater Scholarship Society.' Designed for young divers in the scientific community who support conservation, the scholarship will provide Melinda with up to \$30,000 to travel and learn from leaders in her field.
- Master of Architecture graduate James Ellis won the top design award, the NSW Design Medal. James' project offered a vision for a public urban food factory that made adaptive reuse of the corporation baths in Newcastle's CBD. Brendan Boyle, who also completed a Master of Architecture, received the runner-up prize.
- Local band 'Jones The Cat' walked away as Unisounds 2017 winners with a package including mentorship, an international record release and a national campus tour valued at more than \$100,000. Band members Jarrod Wilton, Jack Waterson, Cameron Macey and Tristan Lacey met while studying for a Bachelor of Music. Jarrod and Jack are currently completing their Master of Teaching (Secondary.)
- Youth Advocate for the UN for 2018, Andreena Kardamis is completing her final year, studying a Bachelor of Law (Honours)/ Diploma of Legal Practice at the University of Newcastle. A passionate advocate for young people since high-school, Andreena is one of only eight participants to avail of this twelve-month training and networking opportunity.
- Students who embrace life on campus and support others are recognised every year through our Campus Life Awards. Stand-outs for this year included Campus Life Award winner Christy Mullen, who is enrolled in a Bachelor of Business/ Bachelor of Laws and is the current Newcastle Youth Council Mayor as well as the Vice-President of the Newcastle University Student Association and the Deputy Convenor of the Women's Collective. Global Citizen Award winner, Ashraf Abdelbaky is completing a PhD in English Literature. The award recognised his work as founding president of the Newcastle Arab Student Society and president of the University of Newcastle Islamic Society. Ellen Parker was named Volunteer of The Year for her tireless work on-campus and in the community where she supports new students through mentoring and puts her Bachelor of Communication theory to practical use through her work with local disability support group, Community Disability Alliance Hunter (CDAH).
- The University won the 'Spirit of the Mountain' trophy for the second year in a row (and for the fifth time in the trophy's 10-year history) at the Snow Unigames. Undergraduate Ryan Pelluchon who studied Exercise & Sport Science was also crowned Men's Ski Slopestyle Champion.

STAFF

- Postdoctoral fellow in molecular nutrition at our Ourimbah campus and researcher with the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI), Dr Emma Beckett, was one of nine NSW Young Tall Poppy recipients - and the only winner from outside Sydney.
- Computer scientist, engineer and applied mathematician Professor Erol Gelenbe, from the University of Newcastle and Imperial College London, received The Mustafa Prize, one the world's most prestigious science and engineering awards. Professor Gelenbe, Global Innovation Chair in Data Networks, Clouds and Energy, is the inventor of the eponymous G-networks or Gelenbe Networks that underpin the science used to evaluate the performance of computer networks. Professor Gelenbe and his colleagues are also credited with inventing a patented, multi-hop computer architecture for conveying voice and images over packet networks - a feature used extensively in the telecommunications industry.
- Two of our researchers received the prestigious 2017 Premier's Prizes for Science and Engineering. Spanning the fields of secure communications and biomedical technologies, Associate Professor Sarah Johnson was the category winner for Excellence in Engineering and Information and Communications Technology. Dr Susan Hua received the NSW Early Career Researcher of the Year for her work in identifying promising research avenues in therapeutics and drug delivery.
- Associate Professor Marguerite Johnson won the 2017 Australian Book Review (ABR) Gender Fellowship. Marguerite's project is titled 'Mapping Gender, Sexuality and the Environment: Picnic at Hanging Rock Fifty Years On.'
- Associate Professor Hans-Lukas Kieser was awarded the \$10,000 President of the Republic of Armenia Prize for his significant contribution to the history of the Armenian Genocide.
- Dr Cathy Smith from the School of Architecture and Built Environment received the inaugural Turnbull Foundation Women in Built Environment Scholarship. Dr Smith will use the \$95,000 award to develop her research into the interactions between grassroots and mainstream urbanism.
- Global authority in neurogastroenterology and University of Newcastle Laureate Professor Nicholas Talley is Australia's most cited academic, a new report from Google Scholar confirms. Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Research, Professor Talley is the highest ranking in a list of the top 1,000 scientists from Australian institutions according to their Google Scholar Citations profiles. Researchers are ranked by h-index, which combines measures of both their productivity and citation impact.
- Global Innovation Chair in Cybersecurity, Professor Vijay Varadharajan received the 2017 Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Samman award, which recognises the outstanding achievements of people of Indian origin who have made a significant contribution outside of their home country.
- Professor Xiaofei Zhang is the first alumnus from the University of Newcastle to receive Australia China Alumni of the Year. Since graduating from the University in 2006 with a PhD in Clinical Epidemiology, Professor Zhang has established himself as a leader in the field of non-communicable diseases and is currently the Director of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Tsinghua Beijing Changgung Hospital, Medical Center of Tsinghua University.