

VICE- CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS 2017



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dear colleagues,

Throughout 2017, staff in all Faculties and Divisions have made outstanding contributions toward the realisation of our NeW Futures goals and the increasing reach, impact and performance of our University. During this busy and challenging year for UON, I have been impressed with the remarkable leadership, collaboration and professionalism of all colleagues, and the commitment we share in working to ensure our University delivers both excellence and equity in our education, research and innovation endeavours.

There is much to celebrate in 2017. This year we were proud to transition the Faculty of Business and Law and the School of Creative Industries into NeW Space – our \$95 million flagship city campus – a momentous feat made possible by the hard work and dedication of our staff. We were also honoured to receive a \$26 million gift from the Jack Ma Foundation to UON to support 500 students over ten years through the new Ma-Morley Scholarship. 2017 has also been an outstanding year for our talented researchers, many of whom broke new ground with innovations and discoveries that will have a significant impact in the community, industry and in advancing fields of knowledge.

With many successes to celebrate, it is my great privilege to host the 2017 Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence and to take an opportunity to recognise the exceptional achievements of our colleagues. I look forward to acknowledging the successes of individuals and teams across seven award categories, representing the great diversity and span of our important work.

To all nominees of the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence – a sincere congratulations – you can be exceptionally proud of your achievements and your hard work. Thank you for going 'above and beyond' in your roles and for your outstanding contributions to our University.



Professor Caroline McMillen
Vice-Chancellor and President
The University of Newcastle

ABOUT THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS

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 our Faculties and Divisions.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS 2017

PROGRAM

5.30PM - 6PM

Drinks and canapés in the foyer of the Conservatorium of Music.

6PM

Guests will move into the Harold Lobb Concert Hall for the awards ceremony.

Welcome address

Professor Caroline McMillen

Vice-Chancellor and President

Overview of Teaching and Learning Excellence Awards and presentation

Professor John Fischetti

Head of School, School of Education

Overview of Professional Staff Excellence Awards and presentation

Tina Crawford

Interim Director, People and Workforce Strategy

Overview of Research and Innovation Excellence Awards and presentation

Professor Kevin Hall

Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)

Overview of Research Supervision Excellence Awards and presentation

Professor Kevin Hall

Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)

Overview of Health and Safety Excellence Awards and presentation

Tina Crawford

Interim Director, People and Workforce Strategy

Overview of International Engagement Award and presentation

Winnie Eley

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Advancement)

Overview of Collaboration Excellence Award and presentation

Tina Crawford

Interim Director, People and Workforce Strategy

Closing comments

Professor Caroline McMillen

Vice-Chancellor and President

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.

FACULTY TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Dr Tim Connor

Faculty of Business and Law

Dr Tim Connor has transformed Company Law – a compulsory course covering dense and complex legal material – from one many students found dry and uninteresting into one of the most popular courses in the Faculty. Tim breaks complex topics down into sub-topics and replaces traditional lectures with a variety of online resources that assist students to master each sub-topic before moving to the text. Tim also designs highly engaging in-class activities, draws on current social issues to highlight the course's relevance and establishes a supportive classroom culture that students value highly. Tim's commitment to challenge and motivate his students has ensured a highly improved learning experience.

Dr James Welsh

Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment

Dr James Welsh developed an innovative study-tour option for the Advanced Control System Design course based on a four-week intensive version of the standard semester course. The goals of the study-tour were to enhance the student experience, inspire students to learn and to facilitate the internationalisation of both the students and the University of Newcastle. In this course, the lectures/tutorials are delivered in Singapore and Vietnam. Students visit industry and other university campuses in both countries and are also involved in culture/volunteering activities and experiences. James' approach has increased student motivation and willingness to think more broadly of the range of opportunities available in electrical engineering.

Dr Rachael Unicomb, Joanne Walters, Dr Nicole Byrne, Dr Sally Hewat, Dr Elizabeth Spencer and Gwendalyn Webb

Faculty of Education and Arts

The 2017 speech pathology teaching team demonstrates teaching excellence and successful student learning through effective use of educational technologies and teaching innovations across all teaching modes. The team developed and implemented incremental changes in teaching pedagogy, transitioning from face-to-face teaching in first year to fully online teaching in the final year of the program. Moving from a traditional pedagogy to a fully online environment can be challenging for students. However, the team have achieved consistent satisfaction across the program by scaffolding this transition and ensuring students are supported, and taught in a way that influences, motivates and inspires them to learn.

Pauletta Irwin

Faculty of Health and Medicine

Pauletta Irwin, as Coordinator of the Simulated Learning Environment (SLE), has demystified learning via simulation for staff and students. Pauletta has thoroughly revised and transformed the culture of the simulation program through the implementation of imaginative teaching strategies that have resulted in a dynamic and innovative program. Simulation provides students the much-needed lynchpin between the theoretical content, controlled laboratory environment and real patients. Pauletta states that “Simulation learning should be challenging but achievable, structured but unpredictable, and provocative, yet safe. By providing authentic and safe learning environments we can improve student engagement and their learning outcomes”.

Associate Professor Kathy Mee

Faculty of Science

Associate Professor Kathy Mee has provided superlative educational leadership and contribution to innovative program design for the Bachelor of Development Studies. This program is now recognised as an exemplar of best practice in teaching and learning, student engagement and graduate outcomes in the field of community development. Kathy has introduced close mentoring of students, successful internationalisation of the program, national best practice in indigenisation of curriculum, highly successful work integrated learning opportunities, and innovative use of social media to engage students and connect current students to inspiring alumni.

DIVISION TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Craig Williams, Chris Hildebrandt, Gaute Rasmussen, Zee Nastalski, Dr Lyn Ebert, Donovan Jones, Amanda Morris and Oceane Campbell

Resources Division / Faculty of Health and Medicine

The IT Innovation Team and the School of Nursing and Midwifery jointly developed a virtual reality enabled Neonatal Resuscitation application that teaches midwifery students how to resuscitate a compromised neonate. The application simulates a midwife resuscitating a newborn baby where the students: Learn the correct procedure in a realistic, repeatable and failsafe environment; Practice proper use and preparation of equipment; and Communicate effectively with hospital staff and parents to ensure a positive outcome. The application is planned to be used in 2018 courses and puts UON at the forefront of midwifery education internationally.

SESSIONAL STAFF TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Dr Simon Iveson

Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment

Simon has been a sessional staff member in FEBE since 2007 and routinely teaches over 25 credit points of course work per year, ranging from first year general courses with 500 students through to specialised Chemical Engineering electives. He has continually invested energy into improving course materials and implemented numerous innovative teaching methods and technologies into his classes to help influence, motivate and inspire students. These include using in-class small group exercises to encourage critical engagement, implementing flipped classroom approaches, using interactive technology to collect real-time in-class feedback, inviting industry speakers and integrating data collected during site visits into assignments. Simon is highly regarded in his discipline for his dedication and sustained contribution to teaching and student learning.

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.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Damian Burke

Resources Division

As the Project Director responsible for the delivery of the NeW Space project, Damian's exceptional leadership in the design and delivery of the building will be enjoyed for generations to come. Standing as a beacon for a city on the cusp of emergence, Damian has guided the project delivery of NeW Space over a four year period, embracing challenges and leading collaboration with confidence, bold thinking, respect, and strong direction and leadership in achieving significant strategic priorities.

Elmari Smit

Vice-Chancellor's Division

In only 12 months at UON, Elmari has stepped up from the role of Business Support Officer to Insurance Officer and has excelled in this position. Elmari implemented a process to support Researchers recouping over \$500,000 in outstanding insurance funds arising from the April 2015 storms. Elmari created improved processes to remove administration which supported Researchers to do what they do well—research. Further to this, in response to the increase in international incidents, and to ensure our travelling staff and students are supported and assisted when impacted by events abroad, Elmari redesigned UON's response times and communications. Both of these major projects have had a tangible financial and safety improvement for UON, its staff and students.

Carolyn Clark

Faculty of Health and Medicine

Carolyn provides exemplary technical service to human physiology teaching in the School of Biomedical Sciences and Pharmacy, which teaches approximately 450 students per year. Weekly laboratory sessions require meticulous records of equipment use and storage, the spacing around equipment for multiple users and safety, when repairs and calibration are required and an understanding of the equipment interface with computerised data collection. Carolyn has pioneered the use of kuraCloud software whereby laboratory data is migrated to the cloud. Students and staff can then review and manipulate data outside the laboratory which significantly enhances the student experience in these courses.

TEAM AWARDS

Mechanical Engineering and Mechatronics Workshop Team

Ian Clarke, James Bradley, Dean Ferry and Phillip Dombkins

Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment

The team were outstanding in their effort and commitment to develop equipment for a new course, ENGG1500 - Introduction to Professional Engineering. The course has a strong problem based learning focus. Students are required to work on and complete an open-ended practical project within semester. These practical projects required highly specialised equipment to be prototyped, developed, and commissioned for this component of the course to be successful. Working tirelessly, problem solving and fine-tuning new equipment ensured an issue-free performance throughout semester. The team's dedication and proactive approach resulted in a successful implementation of this course across the 450+ students.

Student Communication (Peer to Peer) Team

Susannah Lynch and Jayne McCartney

Academic Division

An innovative example of student and staff co-creation, the UON Navigator is a SSAF-funded initiative that utilises the skills, knowledge and experiences of current students to translate tier-0 service delivery into content that is engaging, relevant, timely and meaningful. In late 2016, using an evidence-based strategy as its foundation, Susannah Lynch and Jayne McCartney from the Student Communication team developed a peer-to-peer communication platform known as The UON Navigator. The Navigator was developed to address the decline in self-service information-seeking behaviour by students. The key innovative and creative elements of this initiative are the student-staff co-creation model and the flipped student communications strategy – a unique approach that seeks to communicate messages with an audience-need focus rather than an institutional push focus. The flipped model of communications provides a much stronger sense of engagement and relevance for the audience.

Gift Governance Project Team

Alison Kinder, Kade Hinds, Katrina Cowie, Laura Beever, Shirley Savy, Elaine Abery and Alice Jackson

International and Advancement Division, Resources Division, Faculty of Health and Medicine, Vice-Chancellor's Division

The Gift Governance Project Team was established to address the ethical management of UON's \$41.5 million plus repository of philanthropic funds through the appropriate acceptance and management of future legacies to meet donor intentions. The team of over 90 stakeholders worked determinedly and conscientiously to review and restructure the existing administration processes. The 12 month project has seen the development of a robust policy governance framework which will serve all stakeholders in the fulfilment of legal and financial obligations in the carriage of philanthropic activities. This development serves as the foundation of philanthropic sustainability of the University for generations to come.

EARLY CAREER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXCELLENCE

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Early Career Researcher of the Year is presented to the most outstanding winner of a Faculty Research Award.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Dr Alicia Kulczynski

Faculty of Business and Law

Alicia is an outstanding young researcher. Her papers appear almost exclusively in the top tier journals in the Discipline of Marketing. In three short years, Alicia has developed successful national and international research collaborations to lay the foundations for a strong interdisciplinary research agenda. Her pioneering research spans marketing and consumer psychology and investigates pictorial homophones and phonetic symbolism in children's advertising. Alicia is an inspiring young researcher and a role model for her peers and her four doctoral students with whom she works closely to ensure they are part of a meaningful research community.

Dr Narelle Eather

Faculty of Education and Arts

As an early career researcher Narelle is developing an international reputation for her research that focuses on the promotion of physical activity, physical fitness and well-being among children, youth and adults. She has secured 17 research grants, one fellowship and one scholarship totalling over \$1.8 million in research funding. Narelle is a highly productive researcher, publishing 28 journal articles in high quality journals. She has also developed relationships with community and industry groups who wish to utilise her research expertise and use her successful research programs, most notably her 'Fit 4 Fun' program.

Dr Jason Von Meding

Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment

Jason has positioned himself in the public discourse on disasters, with a focus on systems of injustice that underpin vulnerability both in Australia and internationally. He has published over 70 peer reviewed papers and secured over \$3 million in research funding. Jason is gaining traction in writing for non-expert audiences via magazines, online media outlets and blogging, while securing media appearances on the ABC, BBC, AP and various radio shows. His feature documentary, *Deviate*, is due for release in 2018 and represents his plunge into film as a medium to communicate about his field of expertise.

Dr Andrew Gardner

Faculty of Health and Medicine

Andrew is an early career researcher and emerging world leader in the field of sports related concussion. He received his PhD in 2015 and has published a series of high quality publications that have attracted remarkable citation rates given their recency. He has established the only public health Sports Concussion Clinic in Australia and regularly engages with community athletes, local sporting organisations, and governing bodies via free public education sessions. Andrew is the concussion consultant to the Australian Rugby Union, and was appointed as one of the independent clinicians for identifying concussion in the State of Origin series in 2017.

Dr Guy Hawkins

Faculty of Science

During his PhD studies, it was clear that Guy was a rising star of the Australian cognitive science community. In the four years since his PhD, he has become much more than this – he is now recognised for his research excellence well beyond Australia's borders, and also well beyond the borders of cognitive science. Guy has made research contributions of the highest quality to several research fields. He has had measurable research impact in industry-facing research on consumer behaviour, while at the same time raising the benchmark for analytic research methods in systems-level neuroscience.

RESEARCH SUPERVISION EXCELLENCE

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.

FACULTY RESEARCH SUPERVISION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Dr Sarah Bankins

Faculty of Business and Law

Sarah is a Lecturer in the Newcastle Business School and early career academic in the fields of organisational behaviour and innovation management. Sarah views Higher Degree Research candidate supervision as an essential and rewarding part of academic work, viewing the opportunity to guide, mentor and ultimately generate new knowledge with the next cohort of scholars, innovators or business and community leaders as an exciting part of an academic's role. Sarah's supervisory practice is guided by several theoretically-informed supervisory frameworks, models from her fields of research and her own professional experience.

Professor David Lubans

Faculty of Education and Arts

David provides a supportive and motivating environment for his Higher Degree Research students, who testify to David's ability to not only provide the guidance and support that they needed as they embarked on their HDR but to also encourage them to develop the skills and confidence to become independent researchers. In particular, David's students appreciated the way that he fostered their research careers by providing opportunities to attend conferences and publish their work, as well as facilitating networks and collaborative relationships with researchers in the same field. They cite David's own research success as inspiring them in their research careers.

**Associate Professor
Christine Paul**

Faculty of Health and Medicine

Christine is an exceptional role model for her Higher Degree Research students. She has trained eight PhD students and currently supervises nine PhD students, four postdoctoral fellows, and three health service professionals. She won the University Postgraduate Student's Association (NUPSA) Supervisor of the Year in 2009 and the Faculty of Health and Medicine Award for Supervision Excellence in 2012. Testimonials from her students emphasise her generosity, inclusiveness, capacity to listen, and role as a life-long educator and mentor. Importantly, she continues to support her students' careers after their training by providing advice and input to their fellowship, grant and award applications.

Dr Quan Vuong

Faculty of Science

Quan has encouraged and inspired his research students to work effectively on a variety of projects. Effectiveness of the students' performances are reflected through a sustainable publication rate for the last three years. His group published 16 journal articles in 2015, 15 journal articles in 2016, and 17 journal articles so far this year. Quan has encouraged students to publish while they are working on their project, which not only develops the students' skills, but also improves the reputation of UON. Quan has demonstrated himself to be a supervisor as a teacher, a mentor and a role model.

**Associate Professor Andrew
Fleming, Dr Yuen Yong and
Dr Arnfinn Aas Eielsen**

*Faculty of Engineering and Built
Environment*

The supervision team of Fleming, Yong and Eielsen set the highest standard in student supervision, from a sound basis of good communication and clearly articulated expectation. They invest heavily in their students, both in terms of opportunities to engage across the globe and through the generosity of their own time. Through excellence in mentoring for technical writing in English, they have achieved demonstrable benefits such as the best paper awards won by their students.

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXCELLENCE

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Jason Harris

Faculty of Health and Medicine

Jason successfully managed the delivery and installation of 43 research freezers and fridges and six research incubators on time, within budget and with no incident. This remains an exceptional achievement, over and above his day to day level of role within the Faculty of Health and Medicine as a Senior Technical Officer. This project has been the largest single order of temperature controlled environments (TCE - fridges and freezers) that the University has ever undertaken. It is a testament to Jason's meticulous planning skills that the delivery and installation across seven locations was achieved without any health and safety incident. At John Hunter Hospital this required extensive knowledge of the site's ring road capability, including the width of the road and load bearing capacity, to ensure that the semi-trailers delivering the devices would not impact on any emergency entry or egress of this critical site.

Dominica O'Reilly

Faculty of Business and Law

Dominica was heavily involved in Health and Safety matters for University House during the difficult construction period of NeW Space and the external refurbishment of University House. Responding promptly to any health and safety issues and regularly communicating updates during this period of significant change helped minimise the impacts to staff and students in the city. Dominica contributed significantly to the health and safety aspects of the transition from University House to NeW Space which was over and above her substantive role level. She provided input to the selection of first aiders and wardens and personally undertook induction of Faculty team members during the location move. During this time, Dominica continued to be a very active participant of the FBUSL and the newly established City Precinct Health and Safety Committees.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Professor Xu Dong Zhang

Faculty of Health and Medicine

The recent rise of Chinese Universities and Research Institutes in world rankings provides UON with an opportunity to increase its global presence. Xu has been a willing ambassador in promoting UON-China relations, acting selflessly to promote the University by leading delegations to China and hosting Chinese visitors at UON. These activities have produced tangible outcomes that include attracting Chinese Higher Degree Research students, in particular those supported by Chinese government scholarships, and research partners. Xu has also facilitated research collaborations and helped establish undergraduate co-badged degrees. Xu's contributions have broadened the global footprint of UON.

Dr Christo Moskovsky

Faculty of Education and Art

Christo demonstrates an exceptional commitment to advancing UON's international engagement and profile. He builds a strong research profile in Applied Linguistics. Christo has established a platform to establish viable collaborative research projects with suitable institutions overseas, as well as to recruit a diverse cohort of international Higher Degree Research students, all of outstanding academic calibre. Christo works resolutely to develop a broad network of international contacts and partnerships.

Through consistent international engagement and pursuit of excellence, Christo makes a very substantial contribution to promoting UON's international standing and reputation, with Linguistics consistently featuring in the QS Rankings in the Top 250.

COLLABORATION EXCELLENCE

Department of Rural
Health Allied Health
Discipline Mentors Team

**Alexandra Little, Luke Wakely
and Rebecca Wolfgang**

Faculty of Health and Medicine

The UON Department of Rural Health (UONDRH) encourages students of Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health to pursue a career in rural practice by providing opportunities for UON, and other higher education students, to complete part of their studies in rural locations.

The Commonwealth provided an opportunity for the UONDRH to receive additional \$2.9 million funding for its Rural Health Multi-disciplinary Training program this year. The key criteria of this funding was for student placement week targets to double. This required an ambitious expansion into new sites where no previous relationships were in place.

Located at the UONDRH Tamworth Education Centre, Alexandra Little (Speech Pathology), Luke Wakely (Physiotherapy) and Rebecca Wolfgang (Occupational Therapy) faced the challenge of bringing together new staff within new UONDRH locations, working with new clinicians

whilst building capacity to meet the Commonwealth targets. Completely outside the responsibilities of their roles, the team created a collaborative environment with various parties that has enabled the expansion of clinical placement opportunities and provided on-going support to new staff in locations remote from the main campus.

The Allied Health UONDRH team achieved the Commonwealth target by increasing placements from 3,000 weeks to 6,000 weeks.

Ma & Morley Scholarship Program Project Team

**Adrienne Lindsay, Emily
Cox, Sheena Martin, Clare
Nader, Jamie Daniluck, Peter
Eckermann, Lauren Miles,
Kieran McGeachie, Rachel
James, Joanna Harrison and
Jemma Bowman**

*International and Advancement
Division, Vice-Chancellor's
Division and Resources Division*

The Ma & Morley Scholarship is a life-changing program made possible through the beautiful lifelong friendship between two families: Ma and Morley. The generous philanthropic support through the Jack

Ma Foundation to honour the 30-year plus friendship means by 2037, close to 500 Ma-Morley Scholars will have a transformational education. The announcement event on 3 February 2017 is the result of incredibly meticulous and unified collaboration.

Colleagues from across the University worked tirelessly over a period of 20 months to ensure UON was well-appointed to graciously receive the largest philanthropic commitment in the University's history, US\$20 million, and to honourably foster a notably remarkable Scholarship Program.

The solid team working capabilities of all involved has transitioned an extraordinary opportunity into a significantly positive impact to UON, ensuring the smooth evolution from proposal to the epic announcement of the gift and program. Holistically, the prodigious legacy and the enormous task executed by a keen and steadfast project team, encompasses every aspect of the NeW Futures Strategic Plan.

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