

Karlie Noon, a Kamilaroi woman from Tamworth, was the first Indigenous graduate in New South Wales to obtain a double degree in science and mathematics.



Awards and achievements

UON takes pride in celebrating the achievements of our outstanding students and staff. Their contribution to the global research agenda, and to learning and teaching excellence, was recognised at an international, national and local level.

Students Who Made a Difference



Li Kheng Chai

Li Kheng Chai, an Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) and PhD candidate, won the 2016 Emerging Researcher Award from The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) for her research into the dietary intake of young children and the nutritional recommendations in the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating (AGHE).



Stephanie Holm

Stephanie Holm, PhD student, received the prestigious Children's Literature Fellowship from the State Library of Victoria which includes funding to develop a graphic novel exploring representations of Australian fauna and flora in early Australian children's book publishing, workspace and special access to the library's collections for 3 months.



Olsen Garland

Olsen Garland became the first Menzies Scholar in Engineering from UON winning The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Scholarship for Engineering. Olsen is working to bring cheaper, more efficient, zero-emission electricity to market by combining his electrical engineering and commercial skills.



Breanne Hobden

Breanne Hobden, a PhD student of Behavioural Science, was the recipient of the 2016 Adam J Berry Memorial Fund from the Academy of Science and the Foundation of the National Institute of Health in the USA. Breanne travelled to the USA to undertake research at the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). Breanne is one of only two UON students to receive this award since its inception in 2005.

Students Who Made a Difference



Lauren North

Lauren North, a Chemical Engineer, secured a three-year PhD scholarship under the Australian black coal industry's research program (ACARP).



Dan Smith

Dan Smith, a Bachelor of Visual Communication Design student, was hand-picked from over 900 international entrants, to produce his animated film Blair and the Sea Pancake, for children's television network Nickelodeon.



Catherine Richards

Engineering Graduate, Catherine Richards, received a John Monash Scholarship, valued at \$200,000, to support her postgraduate research into sustainable energy, water and land management at Cambridge University in the UK.

Staff Who Have Made Their Mark

INTERNATIONAL



Laureate Professor John Aitken

Laureate Professor John Aitken received the prestigious Carl G. Hartman Award 2016, recognising his career and scholarly activity in the field of reproductive biology.



Professor Shin-Chan Han

NASA appointed Professor Shin-Chan Han to an elite research group measuring climate change from space. Joining NASA's GRACE and GRACE FO (follow on) missions, Professor Han will help increase scientific understanding of widespread floods/droughts, climate changes, earthquakes and ice loss in Greenland, Western Antarctica and Eastern Antarctica.



Professor Robert Melchers

Professor Robert Melchers with a team of national and international researchers and water utility companies, received an International Water Association award for innovation by solving a major water-supply problem: failure in critical pipes to deliver fresh water. UON led one of three core activities in the winning project: estimating how to assess current corrosion and deterioration of buried pipes to accurately predict likely future deterioration.



Professor John Forbes AM

Professor John Forbes AM, Director of the Australia and New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group, was named one of 'The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds' by Thomson Reuters for the second year running.



Laureate Professor Graeme Jameson AO

Laureate Professor Graeme Jameson AO was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the International Mineral Processing Congress.



Professor Ravi Naidu

Professor Ravi Naidu received a Doctor of Science from Massey University, New Zealand, for his world-class research into environmental contamination and his original contribution to knowledge in his field.

Staff Who Have Made Their Mark NATIONAL



Associate Professor Mark Baker

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) awarded a Research Fellowship to Associate Professor Mark Baker, an international leader in sperm-cell proteomics. Dr Baker is well-recognised in the field of male infertility research.



Dr Emma Beckett

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) awarded a Fellowship to Dr Emma Beckett for research into the complex interactions that exist in the way we taste food; genetic variations and the interplay with our internal gut bacteria.

NHMRC fellowships were also awarded to:

Dr Chantal Donovan on the potential of a new target (IL-33), and therapy (anti-IL-33) which may lead to a new treatment to reverse and/or prevent lung disease.

Dr Andrew Gardner, a research clinician, for his study into how sports concussion, acts as a risk factor for accelerated ageing and dementia.

Mr Hopin Lee working to translate evidence into practice to produce more efficient health services with a clinical focus on obesity, smoking and musculoskeletal pain.

Dr Jessie Sutherland for medical research and education in the field of reproductive biology and infertility and the crucial role of early ovary development in determining a woman's future fertility.

Associate Professor Luke Wolfenden for his work to address impediments to the translation of chronic disease prevention research.



Dr Kristen Cohen

Dr Kristen Cohen from the Priority Research Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition, received the Ray Debus Award for Doctoral Research in Education from the Australian Association for Research in Education.



Associate Professor Seamus Fagan

Associate Professor Seamus Fagan, Director of the English Language and Foundation Studies Centre, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Chair of English Australia, the sector's peak body for English courses.

Staff Who Have Made their Mark NATIONAL



Dr Gillian Gould

Dr Gillian Gould, received the Alan Chancellor Award, the GP's highest accolade, for her NSW-based research into smoking cessation in Aboriginal tobacco smokers of reproductive age.



Dr Kim van Netten

Engineering researcher, Dr Kim van Netten, won the inaugural Australian Falling Walls Lab competition for innovation across research projects for her breakthrough treatment of the toxic waste and contaminated water sent to tailing dams as by-products of mining.



Dr Jesper Gulddal, Dr Bonnie McBain, Mr Sean Sadler and Ms Gail Tillman

Four academic staff, Dr Jesper Gulddal, Dr Bonnie McBain, Mr Sean Sadler and Ms Gail Tillman were recognised for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning at The Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT).



Laureate Professor Rob Sanson-Fisher AO

Laureate Professor Rob Sanson-Fisher AO was inducted as a new Fellow into the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS) for his work combining behavioural and public health approaches to health promotion, health service evaluation and cancer control.



Associate Professor Sarah Wright

Associate Professor Sarah Wright was awarded an ARC Future Fellowship worth \$930,000, for her research into the relationship between weather, people and place and our cultural responses to environmental change.

Staff Who Have Made their Mark STATE



Laureate Professor Kevin Galvin

Laureate Professor Kevin Galvin was awarded the NSW Premier's Prize for Energy Innovation in NSW. As Director of the Centre for Advanced Particle Processing and Transport and Director of the ARC Research Hub for Advanced Technologies for Australian Iron Ore, he is internationally-recognised for his minerals processing research and for inventing the Reflux Classifier and related technologies.



Professor John Wiggers

Population health trailblazer Professor John Wiggers, was named the Hunter's top researcher for 2016 at the annual HMRI Awards for his work to reduce the chronic disease risks imposed by smoking, poor nutrition, alcohol consumption and inadequate physical activity.



Dr Gillian Gould and Dr Flora Tzelepis

Dr Gillian Gould and Dr Flora Tzelepis received Early Career Fellowships totalling \$450,000 and \$592,000 from the NSW Government, to support ground-breaking cancer projects.