

VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the University of Newcastle we are clear that access to a high quality university education is the key to a stronger Australian workforce, economy and society.

Australian employers are seeking university graduates who possess a range of professional and generic skills that underpin what is needed for successful and productive participation in the workplace. The engagement and support of our industry and government partners is central to the success of Work Integrated Learning (WIL) at the University, and has contributed significantly to the delivery of our world-class degree programs.

The experience of working in a 'real-world' environment produces confident graduates who possess a competitive-edge in the labour market. In the 2012 Australian Graduate Survey, 82 per cent of our graduates reported that they had the right skills for the job market; and 75 per cent of our bachelor graduates reported securing a full-time job within four months of finishing their studies.

Engaging with our national and international institutional partners is also important to ensuring that the University continues to deliver quality outcomes for all our graduates. In 2013, the University participated in the World Association of Cooperative Education conference in Durban, South Africa. This provided a wonderful opportunity for our staff to participate in global debates, showcase best practices in WIL, advance high quality research, and foster international networks and exchanges with delegates from 21 countries.

This year, I am delighted to announce the launch of the inaugural 'University of Newcastle WIL Hall of Fame' which is a commemoration of the significant contribution our partners make to the success of WIL. The first inductee will be named at the 2013 WIL Student and Staff Awards night.

It is through engagement with our partners that the University will continue to produce exceptional graduates and support the development of strong and prosperous communities.

Professor Caroline McMillen

Vice-Chancellor and President



DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR'S (ACADEMIC) MESSAGE

Developing career-ready graduates is a key focus at the University of Newcastle. As an assessable part of more than 90 per cent of our undergraduate programs, Work Integrated Learning (WIL) is available across all of our schools ranging from medicine, health, teaching and engineering, to emerging areas such as the creative industries, business, science and information technology.

Through WIL, we engage with the business and government sectors, and also provide placements in a number of community organisations and charities. Our Industry Scholarships program raises over two million dollars annually in sponsorship. This is a significant investment in the development of Australia's future industry leaders.

We are also working to expand our WIL program to include internationally based opportunities and I am proud that over 150 students have recently been given the opportunity to undertake WIL overseas. In particular, we are working with international institutions to enhance our globally focused opportunities for students.

The WIL Student and Staff Awards recognise the outstanding work of University staff who develop and oversee student activities, and who provide them with opportunities to participate in relevant, innovative and practical projects. The Awards also recognise the exceptional benefits gained by both our students and their WIL hosts.

Please join with me in congratulating all our awardees for 2013.

Professor Andrew Parfitt

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

AWARDS

FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND LAW

WIL Student of the Year: Megan Colby, Bachelor of Business

Undertaking her WIL Placement at Newcastle Port Corporation, Megan made a significant contribution to an evolving topic of interest for the corporation. While on placement, she conducted a rigorous review of the Newcastle Port Corporation's organisational health. She was commended for her initiative in integrating the latest in academic literature with the reality of the strategic goals of Newcastle Port Corporation. Her report will be referenced extensively and shared with other Port Corporations during a national management conference in Brisbane next year. Her WIL placement supervisors praised her professionalism, depth of academic knowledge and ability to translate that into a real-world workplace setting.

WIL Staff of the Year Award: Dr Tony Drew and Donna Reedy, Newcastle Business School, China WIL Academic Coordinator and Administrative Officer

Dr Drew and Ms Reedy developed a valuable international WIL placement that saw 10 students travel to China – Beijing and Shanghai – in July 2013. International WIL opportunities like these contribute to making students globally ready for life after university and enhance employability for graduates who have completed such significant international WIL placements.

Dr Drew also worked to ensure low-SES students had the opportunity to participate and as a result of his efforts, the international WIL placement was an affordable to most students.

Highly Commended:

Dr Lisa Barnes,
Newcastle Business School



AWARDS

FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND ARTS

WIL Student of the Year:

Karen Dimmock, Bachelor of Arts

Karen conceptualised and curated the 2013 Grotto Exhibition at the University of Newcastle's Ourimbah Campus. The project was immense and required multiple stakeholder management. The exhibition featured the works of professional artists alongside university students and represented an invaluable link between professional artists, industry, The University and the community. Karen demonstrated skills far beyond that of an undergraduate student in running this project.

Highly Commended:

Cassandra Renshaw,
Bachelor of Social Science

Highly Commended:

SPIN VIETNAM

Erin Fraser, Emma Whalley,
Tabitha Pethybridge, Kate Connolly,
Sophia Thibaudeau and
Lauren Woodbridge

WIL Staff of the Year Award:

Lou Johnston, Lecturer, School of Humanities and Social Science

Lou has made significant contributions to WIL activities within the Bachelor of Social Work with a particular focus on the Group Program Development Project. The course is for third year students and promotes learning work and practice-related knowledge through placements. Since establishing the project in 2012, 20 programs have been created for the University's students within 18 agencies in the community.

Highly Commended:

Miranda Lawry and Kris Smith,
School of Creative Arts

Highly Commended:

Dr Sally Hewat, Head of Program and
Ms Joanne Walters, Director of Clinical
Education in Speech Pathology

Highly Commended:

Amanda Howard and Tamara Blakemore,
School of Humanities and
Social Science/Social Work

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

WIL Student of the Year:

Catherine Richards, Bachelor of Engineering (Civil)/Bachelor of Engineering (Environmental)

Catherine's final year research project on the extraction of energy from sewage water using heat pumps could have significant outcomes for Hunter Water Corporation operations. To complete this project Catherine was able to develop a complex and realistic model that linked her academic results to the workplace. In her role as a cadet engineer at Hunter Water, Catherine works on industrial projects related to water treatment and energy utilisation. She completes her work to a high standard, manages project contracts far beyond her qualification level and is already operating at a level of a fully qualified engineer.

Highly Commended:

Declan Clausen,
Bachelor of Engineering
(Environmental/Bachelor of Science)

Highly Commended:

Aileen Pohl, Bachelor of Mathematics

Highly Commended:

Anthony Samuels,
Bachelor of Construction Management

WIL Staff of the Year Award:

John Smolders, Lecturer, School of Architecture and Built Environment

John has been instrumental in promoting ties between industry and the University's Construction Management discipline.

Past president of the NSW Australian Institute of Building, which is the professional body that accredits the University's Bachelor of Construction Management program, John has facilitated industrial placements for students. The placement component requires students to complete a 16-week industry experience before the commencement of final year studies. Some examples of his students' placement projects include the Hunter Expressway and Ravenswood Mine. It is worth noting that in the present economic climate, securing a placement for students is becoming increasingly difficult and John's networking events "BBQ with the Boss" give students a direct line to their future employers.

WIL Staff of the Year Award: **Ramsey Awad, Senior Lecturer, School of Architecture and Built Environment**

Ramsey obtained a 2011 WIL Grant to develop Newcastle Architecture Student Jobs Network. Since then he has worked closely with industry partners to develop and implement the project. Ramsey identified a 40-50 per cent drop-out rate between Newcastle Architecture students' undergraduate graduation and postgraduate studies, with focus groups citing an inability to obtain work locally in their gap year the reason. Ramsey's job network has created a streamlined recruitment processes for both firms and students, made it more affordable for employers to take on students and in turn, has created more student jobs.

AWARDS

FACULTY OF HEALTH

WIL Student of the Year: Charlotte Ismay, Bachelor of Nursing

Charlotte is a third year nursing student who has immersed herself in a range of engaged learning activities both in Australia and overseas. Most recently, Charlotte spent a four-week WIL placement living and working with nurses in the Northern Thailand village Boromrajonani College of Nursing. Charlotte worked with the nurses to improve their communication skills and educated them in best practice care. She is currently working on a resilience and well-being program to support nursing students in completing their studies.

Highly commended:

Nicole Williams,
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy

WIL Staff of the Year Award: Pamela van der Riet, Deputy Head, School of Nursing and Midwifery

Pamela established an exchange link with the Boromrajonani College of Nursing in Northern Thailand in 2009 and has since conducted five cultural study tours with students. In 2012 she led the development of a third year undergraduate elective course titled Supervised Project for students enrolled in Bachelor of Nursing and Bachelor of Midwifery programs. Students can undertake voluntary health care WIL experiences in developing countries including: Maldives, Cambodia, China and Thailand.

Highly commended:

Janet Wallace,
School of Health Sciences (Oral Health)

FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

WIL Student of the Year: Angus Fanning, Bachelor of Environmental Science

Angus worked with the water resources team at Hunter Water where he tested the effectiveness of a decertification system at Chichester Dam. His work identified a flaw in the system and saved the company \$140,000 in energy costs a year. More recently Angus has worked in Hunter Water's wastewater planning and has built his project management skills. He is regularly given projects that would typically be assigned to qualified engineers.

Highly commended:

Michael Burleigh, Bachelor
of Natural History Illustration

Highly commended:

Madeline Sanders, Bachelor of
Environmental Science (Honours)

WIL Staff of the Year Award: Paul Scott, Lecturer, School of Design, Communication and Information Technology

Paul's Public Affairs and Communication course provides the opportunity for students to apply academic communication skills to a practical project beyond common university assessment formula.

By preparing a real submission to a Government Inquiry in Semester 1 2013, his group chose the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Inquiry into the involuntary sterilisation of people with disabilities in Australia. Students gained greater understanding of the Australian political process and disability advocacy, an individual's involvement and organisation's influence in the public policy arena. Consequently Paul's students contributed to the Australian political process and potentially enacted social change.

WIL Staff of the Year Award: Dr Judith Sander, Program Convenor School of Design, Communication and Information Technology

Dr Sander is the course coordinator of the School's Professional Placement course. This year, 90 students undertook a diverse array of placements. Dr Sander offers an information session that allows students to find and complete placements in the mid-semester break. This is a huge advantage for students juggling work and study commitments. The nexus between real-world experience and theoretical learning is finely honed in this course due to Dr Sander's innovative approach to course design.



AWARDS

DIVISIONS

WIL Staff off the Year: Belinda Munn, Manager, Equity and Diversity Unit

Belinda manages AIM High, a program which offers extensive and varied work experience opportunities to complement the studies of University of Newcastle students, while supporting low-SES communities. In 2013, student crew members delivered engagement in 80 schools. Activities included outreach programs, education, story reading, science displays and mentoring.

POST-GRADUATE STUDENT

WIL Post-Graduate Student of the Year: Lorrae Kerr, Master of Pharmacy, Faculty of Health

Lorrae undertook a two-week placement at the University of Newcastle's Department of Rural Health at Manning Base Hospital in Taree. She prepared and delivered two educational sessions to medical students on correct inhaler techniques and advice on antibiotics. She worked at an advanced level with effective communication, knowledge and professionalism, excelled at medical reviews and was able to identify potential pharmaceutical issues. Lorrae understands the importance of confirming the accuracy of the patient's medication history and provided possible solutions to assist in the appropriate management of patients. All skills of pharmacists far beyond her experience level.

STUDENT WIL VIDEO COMPETITION

Emily Leary, Bachelor of Communication – Winner

In July 2013 Emily completed her Placement (WIL) at 2NUR FM radio in the newsroom. This placement was part of the course "Communication Professional Placement" for the Bachelor of Communication degree. Writing, interviewing, editing, communication and presenting skills for Radio Journalism were enhanced by this placement.

Ahmad Syafiq Akbar Ali, Bachelor of Medicine – Runner Up

In 2012, Syafiq completed an eight-week WIL placement course Health Equity Selective (HES) in Malaysia. He is an excellent amateur photographer who kept a record of his WIL journey in photographs as well as well researched and thorough reports. During HES he thought outside the square, learned about holistic approaches to culturally challenging problems and learned how this way of thinking works in the wider sense towards his development as a medical practitioner of the future.

Highly Commended –

Grant Gibbins,
Bachelor of Communications

Highly Commended –

Mathew Payne,
Bachelor of Construction Management