

## News

# 2013 Pitman Medal for Matt Wand

22 AUGUST | 2014

Distinguished Professor Matt Wand of the University of Technology Sydney has been awarded the 2013 Pitman Medal by the Statistical Society of Australia.

Professor Wand has been born and raised in Wollongong and has strong connections with the University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Mathematics (Honours Class I) and University Medal from the University of Wollongong (UOW) in 1986. From 2007 to 2010 he was Research Professor in Statistics in the School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics and he is currently an honorary Professorial Fellow. He has also held appointment at other major universities: Texas A&M University, Rice University, University of NSW and Harvard University.

Professor Wand has made major contributions to statistical methods in variational approximations, graphical models, generalised linear mixed models, message passing algorithms, nonparametric regression, real-time data analysis, semiparametric regression modelling, spatial statistics, monte carlo methods, computational statistics, analytics and data science. He has published two books and over 120 refereed journal papers and is a member of the 2001 ISI Highly Cited Researchers list.

Matt has received many prestigious awards including the Hannan Medal for research in statistical science from the Australian Academy of Science, New South Wales Scientist of the Year Awards Category Winner (Mathematical Sciences) and is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science.

The Pitman Medal is awarded by the Statistical Society of Australia awards at most once annually, in recognition of outstanding achievement in, and contribution to, the discipline of Statistics. Both the 2013 and 2014 Pitman medal were awarded at the biennial Australian Statistical Conference in Sydney on 10 July 2014. At the same ceremony Noel Cressie from the University of Wollongong, was awarded the 2014 medal.

In accepting the award Matt acknowledged his undergraduate lecturers at UOW for introducing him to the discipline of Statistics. Chandra Gulati was the only statistics lecturer at UoW for about half of his time at UOW and taught about half of the statistics subjects. Chandra is still a valued member of the School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics. Other lecturers who taught Matt at least one statistics subject were Ken Russell, Vic Drastik and Fred Ramsey (U.S. visitor).

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