



2021
Vice-Chancellor's
Staff Awards

RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA



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Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning

The Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning (OCTAL) Award recipients are recommended to the Vice-Chancellor by a committee which considers nominations from colleagues and students, as well as supporting documentation from the nominees.

THE 2021 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO TEACHING AND LEARNING IS AWARDED TO:



Dr Helen Rienits

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

Dr Helen Rienits is a teaching intensive senior lecturer in the School of Medicine. As an experienced medical practitioner, Helen's personal commitment to patients in remote and third world contexts, has driven her passion to teach doctors of the future to be both competent and compassionate clinicians for any setting. Helen's teaching focuses on breaking down the components of complex tasks to scaffold learning for medical students, and enable the novice to transition smoothly to the expert. Her research interests have had a major impact on the process and standards of clinical assessment at UOW, ensuring competence at graduation.

Faculty Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning

Faculty Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning (OCTAL) Awards are awarded to academic staff who are recognised for their contribution to teaching and learning within their Faculty/College.

Awards are presented in the following categories:

- Faculty OCTAL Awards
- Faculty Sessional OCTAL Award
- Faculty Early Career OCTAL Award

THE 2021 RECIPIENTS OF THE FACULTY OCTAL AWARDS ARE:



Dr Sharna Wiblen

Faculty of Business and Law

Dr Sharna Wiblen is a devoted educator who fosters relevant and impactful learning for students within various contexts and levels – from first-years to Executives. By designing authentic, engaging and student-centred experiences, Sharna makes all feel welcome and safe, which facilitates high levels of class attendance and active participation. Whether online or face-to-face, she approaches each class with the same rigour, preparation and energy to positively influence a students' appreciation for knowledge creation and life-long learning by developing frameworks and relationships which transcend the classroom.

Dr Gai Lindsay

Faculty of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities

Dr Gai Lindsay is an organised, dedicated, creative and supportive lecturer and colleague. Her considerable sector experience motivates her to inspire and equip the next generation of quality early childhood teachers. A description commonly used by students and colleagues to describe Gai's work is that she 'always goes above and beyond.' Gai's high expectations and respect for all students is evident in her development of professional, creative teaching and learning resources and in her consistent support for student engagement and wellbeing. Gai's leadership in blended learning innovations, collegial support and training have been recognised at school, faculty and university level.



Dr David Porter, Helen Jamieson and Adrian Moody
SMAH Ed-Tech Team

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

Since its establishment in in 2016, the SMAH Educational Technology Team has strived to provide outstanding, responsive support to staff in their use of educational technologies and technology-enhanced learning approaches. The team endeavours to build staff capability and promote excellence in learning and teaching by appealing to staff intrinsic motivation and recognising and promoting good practice. The result has been the development of an environment that supports and progresses learning and teaching innovation and a positive student experience.



L to R: Dr David Porter, Helen Jamieson, Adrian Moody

Associate Professor Alison Thirlwall

UOW Dubai

Associate Professor Alison Thirlwall has provided a wide range of examples of her work with numerous supporting materials and references. In particular, she focuses on an international project that has deepened students learning experience and she provides many other examples that illustrate her passion for student learning. Simultaneously, she documents her commitment to providing an environment in which students can thrive through her leadership and advisory activities. In summary, Alison demonstrates her approach as a committed and successful educator and a caring, proactive leader.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Dr Yim-Mei Kiano Luk

UOW Hong Kong

Dr Kiano Yim-Mei LUK is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Social Sciences, UOW Hong Kong who has inspired students for 16 years. She is a dedicated teacher in leisure and tourism management and mentor to Associate Degree students. Kiano believes that every student has his/her own potential and that a teacher acts like a wizard to assist them discover, appreciate, and ignite their potential so as to exemplify strong moral fibers. Apart from obtaining good academic results, Kiano believes that working with the students together is very important in her teaching journey.



KIU Kin-yan, Judy

UOW Hong Kong

Judy Kiu is an enthusiastic and caring person. She generally creates a sense of bonhomie and inclusiveness among her students. She has an innate ability to inspire them to strive to do their best with her passion for education. In addition to her dedication to teaching, she actively organises extra-curricular activities for our students to broaden their perspectives and outlook through field visits, orientation camps, study tours and in-depth laboratory training programmes. She is versatile and willing to accept new challenges such as adopting new teaching strategies as well as incorporating new technologies into her lessons. Judy is a good team player and has consistently performed with excellence in her areas of academic responsibility; always incorporating significant input in course development. Very positive feedback is received from her students, peers and collaborators.

THE 2021 RECIPIENTS OF THE FACULTY SESSIONAL STAFF OCTAL AWARDS ARE:



Dr Armin Alimardani

Faculty of Business and Law

Dr Armin Alimardani is a motivated and enthusiastic teacher, one that is passionate about the discipline and genuinely interested in teaching and instilling his own love of learning in students. He approaches teaching with boundless enthusiasm and energy, and this is reflected in his consistently excellent Student Evaluation reports. His ability to engage students and to establish a strong sense of community in his classes is admirable. Armin's ultimate aim is to make the classroom a place that students enjoy and love learning, as much as he enjoys and love teaching.

Jiahong Zhao

Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences

Jiahong Zhao has been a diligent and enthusiastic sessional tutor and lab demonstrator at the School of Electrical, Computer and Telecommunications Engineering since 2017. He inspires students in his classes with clear and passionate delivery, professional responses to questions and an extreme patience to help. He brings his rich experience in industry into an engaging and empathetic approach of teaching and learning, empowering his students to equip independent learning skills and proactive mindsets towards avoiding potential pitfalls in an enjoyable and safe environment. During the unpredicted pandemic in 2020, he pivoted quickly and effectively when laboratories moved online, guaranteeing and enhancing the students' learning outcomes and experience. Jiahong's continuous accomplishments have received positive feedback and recognition from his students, colleagues and subject coordinators.



Dr Nikki Curthoys



Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

Dr Nikki Cuthoys is a passionate teacher who knows that cell biology will heal the world. Teaching at UOW since 2017, Nikki is known for bringing fun into difficult subjects: engaging students with dynamic lectures, interactive practical classes, and her own exuberant “Backyard Biochemistry” videos. Her challenging, innovative teaching material develops and elevates student's critical thinking skills. Nikki's classes are renowned as non-judgmental spaces where learners are compelled and enabled to master complex concepts. Even with hundreds of students, she shows honest respect for each as an individual. Nikki knows she has the world's best job, and loves exploring biology awesomeness with students.

Dr Trudy Costa

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

Dr Trudy Costa is a lecturer within the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Life Sciences. She has been teaching on a sessional basis since 2010 and has demonstrated and lectured into eight different subjects across two different faculties. Trudy's teaching philosophy is centred on helping students achieve academic success by developing self-efficacy and enjoyment of learning. Trudy is passionate about the marine environment and inspiring students towards environmental stewardship. She has been privileged to learn from some wonderful teaching mentors and looks forward to contributing to the positive learning experiences of students at UOW in the years to come.



Dr Ellie Crookes

Faculty of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities

Dr Ellie Crookes has been a sessional tutor, lecturer and subject coordinator for six years. In this time, she has been involved in teaching into six different undergraduate English Literature subjects (at the University of Wollongong and at Macquarie University) as well as supervising an Honours thesis. Her love of teaching, her passion for English literature and her reflective and informed approach to education has ensured that her students feel respected, welcome and empowered, which has in turn fostered better learners and literary scholars.

Corinne Green

Faculty of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities

At the core of Corinne Green's approach to teaching and learning is a commitment to grounding students' learning in theory, connecting students to real-world practice, and actively involving students in their learning alongside their peers. Corinne expects this not only for her students in the School of Education but also for herself as she participates in school-university partnerships, conducts research in the field of teacher education, and contributes to the tertiary educator community locally and internationally. At every opportunity, Corinne seeks to 'practice what she teaches', leading to high esteem from her students, her colleagues, and university executive staff.



THE 2021 RECIPIENTS OF THE OCTAL EARLY CAREER FACULTY TEACHING AWARDS ARE:

Dr Searat Ali

Faculty of Business and Law

Dr Searat Ali's ability to simplify the subject matter, provide timely, flexible, and individualised student support in a friendly atmosphere, as well as actively working in teams for continuous improvement makes him a highly valued, inclusive, and reflective academic in the Faculty. Searat has made exceptional achievements in teaching and learning through the integration of Bloomberg financial technology in the subject matter and the introduction of Work Integrated Learning. By inviting guest speakers into classes and exposing students to networking events and industry awards opportunities, he has deepened student learning and enhanced participation in professional circles.



Dr Conor West

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)

After completing an undergraduate degree in primary education, Dr Conor West was hooked on the theory and practice of excellent teaching. While honing her knowledge through postgraduate studies and casual primary teaching, Conor also began communicating her passion and expertise to a higher education audience. She adopted and refined an interactive, socio-constructivist approach to ensure her teaching was aligned to learners' motivations, subject learning outcomes and cognitive principles. Conor has sustained this approach in her new position as an academic developer, where she continues to help academics communicate their own expertise to students through theory-driven resources and programs.

Program Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning

Program Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning (OCTAL) are awarded for any project, initiative or cohesive effort to improve teaching and learning.

THE 2021 RECIPIENTS OF THE PROGRAM OCTAL AWARDS ARE:

Master of Educational Leadership

Faculty of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities

Dr Kylie Lipscombe, Dr Paul Kidson, Associate Professor Sharon Tindall-Ford

The UOW Educational Leadership Program (ELP) is a holistic and integrated program comprising two postgraduate degrees, a range of professional partnerships and educational leadership training programs, and a community initiative. The purpose of the ELP is to develop and nurture educational leaders' practices so they can positively impact the educational communities they lead. The Program is continuously refined through collaboration with practitioners, a diverse range of education sectors, and is underpinned by our own, and wider, current research and adult learning theory. The success of the ELP is evidenced by enrolment growth and impact across the wider educational leadership landscape.



L to R: Dr Kylie Lipscombe, Associate Professor Sharon Tindall-Ford, Dr Paul Kidson

Professional Services Staff Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning

THE 2021 RECIPIENT FOR THE OCTAL FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES STAFF AWARD IS:



Dr Faisal Tubbal

Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences

Dr Faisal Tubbal's teaching knowledge and his experience in teaching different subjects at the School of Electrical, Computer and Telecommunication Engineering were the key in providing effective training to new casual academics and professionally managing all teaching laboratories across the School. His philosophy is based on action research in education where change is implemented and then investigated to determine the positive improvement in students' learning. Faisal's contribution has shown a significant improvement in students' survey results. Faisal has developed different lab notes and online activities to enhance students learning experience. During COVID-19, Faisal has implemented a novel approach of mixed-mode delivery for hardware-based laboratories where every online student was paired with an on-campus student.

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Research

The Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Research recognise:

- Researcher of the Year: Acknowledging outstanding contributions by individuals or teams
- Emerging Researchers: Encouraging outstanding achievement within the first seven years of a research career
- Interdisciplinary Research Teams: Recognising outstanding collaboration across discipline boundaries
- Outstanding Achievement in Research Partnership and Impact: Recognising the importance that UOW research staff play in the process of initiating, developing, enhancing and managing UOW's research partnerships and contributing to the translation of UOW research outcomes to industry, government and the community.
- Research Supervision: Acknowledging ongoing commitment and dedication to successful research student supervision.

Research Excellence Award for Researcher of the Year

THE 2021 RECIPIENT OF THE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR IS:



Professor Jun Chen

AIIM Research Facility

Professor Jun Chen's research areas fit within UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy. In this capacity he provides leadership in areas related to green catalysis and graphene technologies and their application to energy conversion and storage systems. In addition to Jun's academic achievements, he has been involved in two successful spin-off companies where he has facilitated the translation of his research that underpins this UN SDG activity. The spin-offs include: AQUAHYDREX - as one of the key inventors in relation to sustainable Hydrogen generation; and INTELLIGENT MATERIALS (IMAGINE) as one of the scientific co-founders. In total, over \$10 million in Venture Capital funds have been raised to cover this R&D investment.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Senior Professor Chris Gibson

Faculty of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities

Senior Professor Chris Gibson is internationally renowned for his work on the intersection of economy, culture, creativity and sustainability. He is among the most influential and highly cited Australian human geographers, recognised in his election as an ASSA Fellow (2017). His work directly addresses UN Sustainable Development Goals 8, 11 and 12. His 2021 book (with Warren) *The Guitar: Tracing the Grain Back to the Tree* (University of Chicago Press) has been reviewed as “entirely original and unprecedented”... and “(a) shining example of what geography can be”. Chris’ research leadership has been catalytic, including his directorship of UOW’s flagship interdisciplinary research program *Global Challenges* (2013-2020). His commitment to mentoring is exceptional, particularly to ECRs, many of whom have generated outstanding research careers.



Professor Justin Yerbury

Faculty of Science, Medicine & Health

Professor Justin Yerbury is a world-leading expert in Motor Neurone Disease (MND), a rapidly progressive disease that attacks the nerves that control muscles. His research aims to understand what goes wrong at the molecular level when this disease strikes, a process we know remarkably little about. He and his research group have made tremendous progress and give us real hope that someday, we will be able to beat it, addressing UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 - Good Health and Well-Being. Facing the realities of MND himself, Justin is a tireless advocate for others living with MND and for disabled researchers, further addressing UN SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities.

Research Excellence Award for Emerging Researcher

THE 2021 RECIPIENT OF THE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR EMERGING RESEARCHER IS:



Dr Yun-Xiao Wang

AIIM Research Facility

Dr Yun-Xiao Wang is a young and highly talented female researcher in the field of materials science and electrochemistry. With her PhD completion only 6 years ago, she has published more than 70 papers in prestigious refereed journals, such as Nat. Chem., J. Am. Chem. Soc., and Adv. Mater. Dr Wang is currently an ARC DECRA Fellow, and has also

successfully secured a number of research grants to fund her research programs, including a Linkage Project and four UOW internal grants. Yun-Xiao has also established productive and strategic collaborations with many organisations and industry partners.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Dr Aimee Silla

Faculty of Science, Medicine & Health

Dr Aimee Silla has quickly become an international leader in the development of reproductive technologies for wildlife conservation; notably the development of innovative IVF techniques to address the accelerating loss of global amphibian biodiversity. Aimee's academic achievements and research calibre are evidenced by an esteemed list of well-cited publications in high ranking journals. She has established an impressive network of national and international collaborators and has forged enduring and highly productive partnerships with conservation practitioners from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, The Taronga Conservation Society and Zoos Victoria. Through these strategic partnerships, Aimee's research has precipitated significant change in threatened species management.



Research Excellence Award for Interdisciplinary Research

THE 2021 RECIPIENT OF THE EXCELLENCE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH TEAMS AWARD IS:

Project Openability

Associate Professor Karen Walton
Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

Dr Alison Bell
Faculty of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities

Dr Alaster Yoxall
External Collaborator, UK

Being able to open food packaging supplied by hospital food services is essential to improve nutritional status, functioning and the recovery of older Australians. By examining patient-pack interface, the Openability interdisciplinary research team has influenced the design and delivery of hospital and retail food and beverages, enhanced packaging engagement and intakes, with the vision of informing health policy that is centred on food service delivery and nutrition support in health care. Openability is actively contributing to UN Sustainable Development Goals 17 - Partnerships for the Goals and 3 - Good Health and Well Being, through partnerships in healthcare, aged care and ergonomics.



L to R: Associate Professor Karen Walton, Dr Alaster Yoxall, Dr Alison Bell

Research Excellence Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research Partnership and Impact

THE 2021 RECIPIENT OF THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP AND IMPACT AWARD IS:

Project SMART Recovery

Associate Professor Peter Kelly, Dr Alison Beck, Senior Professor Frank Deane, Liz Dale, Briony Larance, Dayle Raftery
Faculty of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities

Professor Kathleen Clapham
Faculty of Business and Law

Dr Rowena Ivers
Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

Industry Partners:

SMART Recovery Australia and SMART Recovery International

SMART Recovery provides community based and online, mutual support groups for people impacted by substance use and other addictive behaviours. It plays an important role in addressing the UN Sustainable Development Goals 3 - Good Health and Wellbeing and 10 - Reducing Inequalities. The UOW research team has been working in partnership with SMART Recovery since 2012 to advance the evidence base for SMART Recovery mutual support groups for people impacted by substance use. Their work has been externally funded by NSW Health and the National Centre for Clinical Research on Emerging Drugs. The partnership was previously recognised at the NSW Non-government Alcohol and Drug Awards (2018) where they were awarded the Excellence in Research and Evaluation Award

First Row L to R:

Angela Argent
Assoc. Prof. Peter Kelly
Rowena Ivers

Second Row L to R:

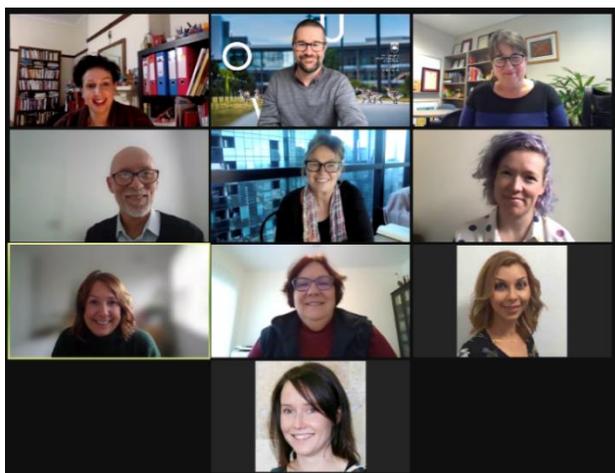
Snr Prof. Frank Deane
Kim McCreanor
Dayle Raftery

Third Row L to R:

Briony Larance
Prof. Kathleen Clapham
Liz Dale

Bottom:

Dr Alison Beck



HIGHLY COMMENDED



Associate Professor Lezanne Ooi

Faculty of Science, Medicine & Health

Industry Partner: GenieUS Genomics

As we age our chances of developing a significant neurodegenerative disease increases. The lifetime risk of developing Motor Neurone Disease is approximately 1 in 400.

Despite this, there are no effective treatments for this disease. This partnership aims to promote UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 - Good Health and Well-being, and to promote well-being at all ages by specifically tackling motor neurone disease. Through multiple projects Associate Professor Lezanne Ooi and her team are working with their industry partner, GenieUS genomics, breaking ground in the search for better understanding and a treatment for Motor Neurone Disease.

Research Excellence Award for Excellence in Research Supervision

THE 2021 RECIPIENT OF THE EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH SUPERVISION FOR EMERGING RESEARCHERS AWARD IS:



Dr Thomas Birtchnell

Faculty of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities

Dr Thomas Birtchnell's expertise is in sustainable urban development and technological innovation as he focuses on possible futures involving the production innovation of 3D printing and the containerisation distribution system. Thomas is a dedicated research supervisor who shares his knowledge and experience with his students who are directly connected to his own research activities. This enables his students to experience being part of a research team and research community. Thomas provides counsel to students both on campus and via distance, taking the time to nurture individual strengths, while providing guidance. He is an excellent research supervisor.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Dr Nicole Cook

Faculty of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities

Dr Nicole Cook's research is oriented towards social justice in housing and urban planning with recent focus on food waste and household sustainability. Nicole is a sought after supervisor who always shows a commitment to collegiality and the success of students. She embraces intellectual openness as she supports doctoral research to empower her students. Nicole is skilled in combining pedagogy, inclusiveness, and mutual respect making her truly deserving of her commendation for research supervision.



**THE 2021 RECIPIENT OF THE EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH SUPERVISION
AWARD IS:**



Professor Kris French

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

Professor Kris French is highly regarded as an excellent High Degree Research (HDR) Supervisor. Kris demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to the development of her HDR candidates and serves as an exemplary role model and mentor who coaches candidates to work with their strengths and develop their skills to achieve their research goals. She is skilled at ensuring each student establishes a scientific framework for their project as well as encouraging independent thinking. Kris is a leading research ecologist, specialising in invasion ecology, urban ecology and conservation biology. Her research strongly aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Global Strategy

The Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Global Strategy recognises staff who have achieved outstanding success, given exceptional service and/or have demonstrated extraordinary leadership or innovation in their work with a specific emphasis on driving UOW’s global strategy and profile.

THE 2021 RECIPIENT OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY AWARD IS:

Amanda Hiron

Transnational Education and Alliances

Amanda Hiron displayed exceptional service in organising all of the offshore virtual graduation ceremonies. Throughout 2020 and into 2021, Amanda worked tirelessly with all partners to negotiate and renegotiate alternative dates and arrangements, while juggling an enormous amount of uncertainty and frequent changes. The innovation she displayed in so many elements of the virtual graduation ceremonies that were ultimately held is commendable, resulting in our offshore graduates being given the opportunity to celebrate their achievements and mark their graduation in a meaningful way.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Kristine Sheridan

Governance and Legal Division

Kristine Sheridan from Legal Services provides a competent and diligent legal service at the exceptional level, to support UOW’s global strategy and profile. She knows both the law and the operation sides of international education, and provides applicable advice under laws and regulations. Kristine is solution-focused to ensure UOW’s international footprints maintain its legal risks under the risk appetite.

Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Community Engagement

The Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Community Engagement recognises that integrating teaching, research, community and business enhances our research and enriches student and community development. Connecting communities is considered to be an integral part of the work of the University.

THE 2021 RECIPIENT OF THE EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD IS:

Food+ With Care Initiative

Lorelle Pollard
Faculty of EIS

Erin Snape, Jonas Ostersen
Faculty of BAL

Craig Youd
FMD

Sarah Lisle
PVC (Students)

Katrina Gamble, Ian Butler
Faculty of ASSH

Thomas Quinn
UOW Pulse

This initiative would not have been a success without the input of the wider working group that included: Juliana Cavalieri Pelocche (AASH) Justin Luzuriaga (PVCS), Valbona Merxhushi (EIS), Sarah Andrews (AASH), Amie Simmons (EIS), Jason Aquilina (SWS Campus)

The Food+ with Care staff led initiative arose in direct response to the consequences of the pandemic that led to students, particularly those from overseas, becoming extremely vulnerable with little if any resources to support their subsistence. Together with community organisations and numerous volunteers, the Food+ with Care Team swiftly offered tangible assistance, showing by their action that UOW cares for our students and their wellbeing. Across 2020, the Team worked tirelessly raising more than \$150,000 in donations, and for over 35 weeks, supplying food, essential items and comradeship to more than 5,000 UOW students in Sydney and Wollongong

First Row L to R:

*Erin Snape, Juliana Pelocche
Katrina Gamble*

Second Row L to R:

*Amie Simmons, Sarah Lisle
Lorelle Pollard*

Third Row L to R:

*Jonas Ostersen, Sarah Andrews
Ian Butler*

Bottom: *Thomas Quinn*



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Science Space

Dr Johanna Howes, Amanda Kruger, David Lukins, Kim Noble, Meg Gibson, Wayne Elton

This nomination celebrates the Science Space team's ability to react and adapt during the challenges that the COVID-19 Pandemic brought to our community. The closure resulted in the instant switch to online activities, which supported our families with STEM engagement in their homes during the lockdown period. This was adapted at various times during the easing of restrictions to enable high levels of engagement with our schools and community while maintaining a COVID safe experience. An outcome of the online interest through the Science Space online platforms resulted in an increase in the community returning at the end of 2020.



Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Outstanding Service for Professional Services Staff

The Vice-Chancellor’s Outstanding Service Awards are presented each year to Professional Services Staff who have achieved exceptional success, delivered outstanding service and/or have shown a recognised initiative or innovation in their work or have demonstrated sustained leadership.

THE 2021 VICE-CHANCELLOR’S OUTSTANDING SERVICE FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICE STAFF RECIPIENTS ARE:

Emma Leslie

Strategic Marketing and Communications Division

Emma Leslie has played a critical role in UOW's alignment and commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), undertaken through her role at Global Challenges Program and then more broadly within UOW. Emma’s contributions include developing the UOW Sustainability Report, creating a web presence and mapping research projects to the SDGs. Through her work, Emma has propelled UOW forward in sustainable development. We are ranked 6th in the world, and this would not be possible without Emma’s tireless efforts.



Lisa Simmons

Research Services Office

This Award acknowledges Lisa Simmon’s initiative in proposing a Peer Support Program aimed at supporting staff through the implementation of One-UOW. As a result of this proposal “The Peer Connect Program” was launched with over 50 staff participating. The Program consisted of a registration process, dedicated web page with relevant resources and information session and newsletters. The outcomes of the Program not only included providing a collegial and genuine support network for staff, it also provided an opportunity for those staff not directly impacted by One-UOW to support their colleagues.

Darren Smith

Human Resources Division

There is no other work that has been undertaken at UOW in the past 12 months that has underpinned both the breadth and depth of change in work practices than the work implemented by Darren Smith and his team, seeing a constant stream of improvements to WHS practices that impact every single staff member at UOW. He continues to approach his work with the same professionalism, excellence and dedication, unabated by the many months of this crisis. His expert advice has kept the UOW community safe. Darren has cheered on safety initiatives that have been initialised elsewhere and celebrated successes in all their forms. His work has been unparalleled in its contribution to a healthy campus environment.



Library Business Continuity Team (on behalf of the UOW Library Team)

Georgina Konstanta, Keith Brophy, Leanne Webster, Brian Cox, Donna Dee, Joanne Lombardi

Library

When COVID-19 hit, many libraries in Australia and across the world closed their physical buildings and this had major impacts on the services they provided. The UOW Library was a noticeable exception and maintained continuity of physical and digital services, seven days a week; minimising the impact on staff and students. COVIDSafety was swiftly enabled through the Digital Workplace Collaboration Platform, Virtual Service Point, Real-Time Occupancy Counter, digital tiered services model and early adoption of contact tracing. These innovations were recognised as national and global exemplars. The high level of uptake and sustained satisfaction with services and innovations during a period of turmoil delivered an outstanding benefit for UOW.



L to R: Donna Dee, Keith Brophy, Georgina Konstanta, Joanne Lombardi, Brian Cox, Leanne Webster

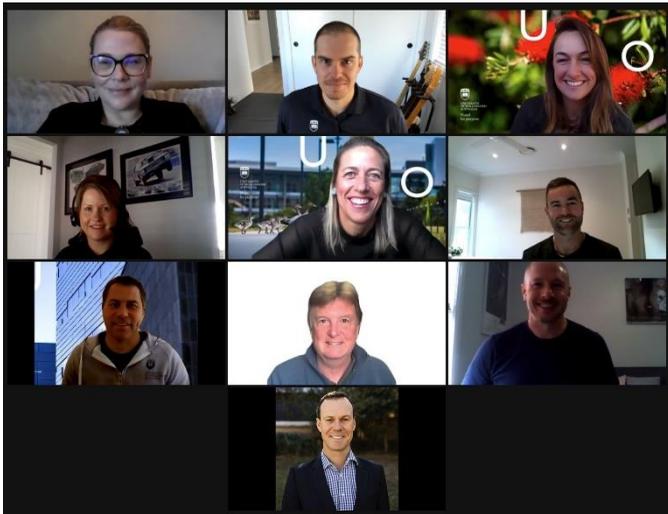
Early Admissions Team

Doug Sweeney, Emily Laycock, Stewart Mailer, Deb Neich, Jeremy King,
Patrick O'Connor, Brooke Dixon, Kev Rhodes
Student Recruitment Division

Xanthe Knox
Future Education

Chris Hadley
Shoalhaven Campus

The reenvisioning and execution of 2020 Early Admission (EA) events, admissions and communication components in a COVID-19 impacted year to deliver record applications and offers, provided a foundation for growth in Session 1 domestic undergraduate student commencements, which well exceeded target and average growth in competitor institutions. The Early Admission Team, worked collaboratively with colleagues across the institution to conduct a comprehensive review of EA in light of COVID restricted assessments and a disrupted year 12 school year. Their reimagining of the student engagement components of EA has resulted in a shift from face-to-face activity to a virtual experience along with the enhancement of targeted student communications to ensure a clear and definitive 'call to action' for the prospective journey.



First Row L to R: Xanthe Knox, Jeremy King, Emily Laycock
Second Row L to R: Brooke Dixon, Deb Neich, Doug Sweeney
Third Row L to R: Kev Rhodes, Chris Hadley, Patrick O'Connor
Bottom: Stewart Mailer

Financial Hardship Grant Scheme Team

Deb Porter, Rowena Sullivan, Georgie Mason, Alexander Duda, Nhan Nguyen
Student and Accommodation Services Division

Amanda Jennings
Student Recruitment Division

Brett Mackey
Future Education

Meagan Torrens
Financial Services Division

During the COVID-19 pandemic UOW received an unprecedented call for support from our students. Within weeks of the impact, the Financial Assistance Grants Scheme was introduced to provide critical financial assistance to currently enrolled onshore domestic and international students most in need. A team led by Deborah Porter worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic, in addition to their current roles, to award over four million dollars in assistance to students by assessing over 6600 applications and providing all high risk students with personalised welfare checks. This team efforts ensured students had the support they needed during crisis.



Top Row L to R: Nhan Nguyen, Amanda Jennings, Meagan Torrens
Middle Row L to R: Deb Porter, Georgie Mason, Brett Mackey
Bottom Row L to R: Rowena Sullivan, Alexander Duda

Rosemary Cooper Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award

The Rosemary Cooper Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award has been provided in honour of Rosemary Cooper who worked in the Faculty of Commerce from 1988 to 2011. The Award recognises the achievement of an Academic or Professional Services Staff member who has either developed initiatives or programs that address the University's strategic goals around diversity and inclusion, or has overcome significant personal barriers in their employment and career or made a significant contribution in supporting staff or students to overcome such barriers.

THE 2021 RECIPIENT OF THE ROSEMARY COOPER EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD IS:

Penny Williamson and
Associate Professor Brian Jones

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

Penny Williamson and Associate Professor Brian Jones aspired to create a vibrant educational display space in the Science



Teaching Facility foyer, which they brought to fruition in 2020/2021 with a range of 11 different permanent displays, sourced mainly from donations.

Together they had an overall vision which successfully passed the various committee approvals. They were responsible for organising funding and all the minute details for each display. The result is a foyer which retains its purpose of a safe transiting space and now includes informative, colourful representation of our local area, research and learning within UOW Science, incorporating a unifying Indigenous component.



Marie Lewis Award

The Marie Lewis Award has been provided in honour of Marie Lewis, a graduate of the University of Wollongong who worked in Student Administration from 1978 to 1997. The award recognises the achievement of a member of Professional Services Staff who is completing a degree at UOW. Selection is based on academic performance as well as service to the University and its students.

THE 2021 RECIPIENT OF THE MARIE LEWIS AWARD IS:

Bethany Pye-Respondek

Future Education

Bethany Pye-Respondek has achieved excellent results in her studies and accomplished significant outcomes for the School of the Arts, English and Media as School Manager during an incredibly difficult year. Her achievements in this role ensured the school was able to comply with UOW's financial sustainability plan while still delivering student focused outcomes. Her compassion towards her colleagues, and leadership during difficult transition periods, have earned her respect from professional and academic staff at all levels. The knowledge from her studies will be invaluable to the Future Education unit where she has commenced her new position as an Enabling Officer.



HIGHLY COMMENDED



Meaghan Koch

Advancement Division

Meaghan Koch has maintained a high distinction GPA in her Master of Human Resource Management to date. Meaghan seamlessly connects the aspirations of the University to those of potential donors - supporting the endeavours of UOW colleagues to address wicked real-world problems through the provision of resources that would otherwise not be available. Meaghan has been a sophisticated catalyst for change within the Advancement Division, bringing contemporary best practice to recast UOW's approach to campaign-based fundraising. Her contribution to critical projects has been fundamental to the successful outcomes the Division have enjoyed.

Vice-Chancellor's Reconciliation Award

The Vice-Chancellor's Reconciliation Award recognises the commitment and valuable contributions of individuals and teams across UOW who have achieved outstanding outcomes within the University and beyond, in their efforts toward Reconciliation. The award is a symbol of achievement in fostering an inclusive community environment, actively creating cultural safety for staff and students and building relationships with Indigenous Australia by way of their contribution in a positive and meaningful way.

THE 2021 RECIPIENT OF THE RECONCILIATION AWARD IS:

Jaymee Beveridge

It only takes one look at the work Jaymee Beveridge has done on the UOW Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) - the sought after "You Can't Say That!" booklet, the Forging United Safe Environments (FUSE) Committee and the Working Group on Strategies to Support Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Law Students - to see how close Jaymee holds her work to her heart. Jaymee commits herself to ensuring that the University offers a culturally safe and enriching environment. She has forged a network of staff, students and community that celebrates cultural diversity. She is, quite simply, our reconciliation inspiration.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Indigenous Trauma Recovery Team

Karen Fildes, Josie Atkinson, Helen Jamieson, Associate Professor Karen Walton
Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

Professor Kathleen Clapham, Marlene Longbottom, Georgia Stewart
Faculty of Business and Law

Liz Dale
Faculty of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities

Joel Keen
Woolyungah Indigenous Centre

The Indigenous Trauma Recovery Team Program is unique in that it is developed and delivered by Aboriginal academic and health delivery experts in collaboration with local Aboriginal elders and is designed to respond to issues that have particular relevance in Indigenous communities in Australia. Offered for the first time in 2016, the course has undergone significant developments in 2020 beyond the UOW Reconciliation Plan.



Top Row L to R: Liz Dale, Helen Jamieson, Georgia Stewart

Middle Row L to R: Professor Kathleen Clapham, Joel Keen, Josie Atkinson

Bottom Row L to R: Marlene Longbottom, Karen Fildes, Associate Professor Karen Walton

25 Years Service Awards

Awards are presented each year to Academic and Professional Services Staff who have served the University for 25 years.

THE 2021 RECIPIENTS ARE:



Alex Beleski

Information Management and Technology Services

Alex Beleski originally joined the University support team helping staff and students to configure their modems to dial into the University. He then became a foundational member in establishing how the University has managed its Windows Server environment. He helped establish the capabilities and developed the skill sets of other members as they joined the team, which has now more than tripled in size. Alex eventually went on to lead the team for five years as he continued to improve the reliability and service levels. He now heads up the team for Identity and Access Management, work that is critical to the modernisation of how IT services are provided to the University.

Jodie Douglas

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

Jodie Douglas has made a valued and sustained contribution across varied managerial roles including Facilities Manager at URAC, Business Manager at the former Graduate School of Business, Student Service Centre Manager at the former Faculty of Education, Curriculum Manager in Graduate Medicine and most recently in leading the SMAH Education Team. Jodie is always diligent, personable, enthusiastic, well organised and connected. She is a highly valued and professional manager who leads well with a solutions focus to situations and has contributed to many positive course and subject changes within SMAH for over 12 years.





Associate Professor Rob Gordon

Faculty of Business and Law

Associate Professor Rob Gordon has been an integral member of the Australian Health Services Research Institute (AHSRI). Joining shortly after establishment of the Centre for Health Service Development (CHSD) as it was then known, Rob's contributions were critical to the Centre's growth, culminating in the formation of AHSRI in 2011. As Deputy Director of AHSRI and Director of CHSD, Rob's strategic vision and leadership is fundamental to the Institute's continuing success. Through his commitment to research excellence and impact, he has significantly improved health outcomes for individuals and influenced health policy and system reform in Australia.

George Guo

Information Management and Technology Services

George Yuan Chang Guo began as an academic before spending most of his years as a member of IMTS. He has been key in supporting HR's IT systems for many years, with whom he has earned the highest admiration and respect. Any behind-the-scenes issues that risk your pay being delivered would often have George working tirelessly to resolve. He has been pivotal in numerous upgrades, tax changes and end of year panics, while learning new systems in a fast-changing IT environment. He has always been able to use his analytical skills to address new challenges that arise and is impeccable with his work output and his reliability.



Distinguished Professor Xu-Feng Huang

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

Distinguished Professor Xu-Feng Huang is a research and teaching leader in the School of Medicine. He has taught and inspired thousands of students, has supervised 26 PhD students to completion, and mentored numerous junior colleagues. He established the Centre for Translational Neuroscience at UOW, has published over 250 research articles and attracted funding from the ARC, NHMRC and Industry. His extensive research in neuropharmacology, metabolism, and molecular nutrition has led to significant impacts in combatting obesity induced by diet and antipsychotic drugs, establishing himself as a world leader in these fields. He has received many prestigious awards throughout his career

Professor Peter Innis

AIIM Research Facility

Professor Peter Innis is recognised as a world leader by his peers around the globe, and has made significant contributions to the development and success of IPRI, ACES and the ANFF Materials Node. Peter's enthusiasm for fundamental research and his commitment to translating research to the benefit of end users is legendary. Many have benefited from his pioneering work and the facilities he has enabled in Wollongong and further afield. Peter's ability to build complex interdisciplinary research teams and to lead by example has empowered many younger researchers to achieve great things.



Wayne Ireland

Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences

Wayne Ireland began his time at the University employed on a limited term contract with Buildings and Grounds in the Joinery. He was soon employed full-time in Maintenance where he became well known across campus for his strong work ethic and commitment to campus maintenance. Wayne undertook WHS studies that saw him promoted to Maintenance Support Officer. He now monitors and implements safety for students and staff in the high-risk labs and workshops. Wayne has made an enormous contribution to WHS within the faculty and the broader UOW community and has been recognised with a number of safety leadership awards.

Professor Mike Lerch

Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences

As Head of School, Professor Mike Lerch has played a substantial role in shaping UOW Physics over the last decade. His leadership has made it an exemplary School for strong education, and his effective mentoring of younger colleagues reveals the best of their talent and outstanding career prospects. His leadership in research, project management and team building was vital in the success of the Centre for Medical Radiation Physics since its foundation in 2000. An especially remarkable contribution of Mike's is in the establishment and leading of the outstanding research program on Microbeam Radiation Therapy at the Australian Synchrotron, which is on track to clinical trials, providing hope for a cure of brain cancer.





Chia-Lei Irene Mar

Information Management and Technology Services

Irene Mar is a dedicated professional who is always striving to improve the way we work and support our clients. She worked for many years in the UOW Library before accepting a role in the Web and Digital Services team in IMTS where she has excelled. We could not have launched the new UOW website without her teaching skills and patient empathy towards every staff member she trains. Irene happily takes on new challenges and adjusts to the ever-changing workplace whilst keeping her great sense of humour and customer focus. She is truly a valued and integral member of our team.

Senior Professor Sharon Robinson

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

Senior Professor Sharon Robinson joined UOW as a lecturer, and she is now a Senior Professor in the School of Earth Atmosphere and Life Sciences, having supervised 14 HDR and 40 Honours Students. With a passion for Antarctic moss, Sharon is a world-leading plant ecophysiological and climate change biologist. In 2019, she was named UOW Researcher of the Year and in 2021 named Deputy Director of ARC Securing Antarctica's Environmental Future initiative. She is an active champion of women in STEM and equity, diversity and inclusion, exemplified by her role as Homeward Bound Faculty and her appointment as inaugural Dean, Researcher Development and Integrity.



Dhammika Ruberu

Learning, Teaching and Curriculum

Dhammika Ruberu has been an integral and sustained operational contributor to the landslide research program in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences. He has helped to build an outstanding online near real-time field-based landslide condition monitoring network for the research industry partners (Road, Rail and Local Government) which is very highly respected in industry. This has been done within an environment of change, as Dhammika has worked for CEDIR, CASR and now LTC where he is currently Manager, Educational Resource Development. This collaborative research partnership is essential and valued so highly.



Dean Trifunovich

Information Management and Technology Services

Dean Trifunovich started at the Faculty of Engineering, then moved to the Faculty of Commerce and for the past 10 years has been working in IMTS. As a Windows Systems Engineer, Dean has worked on many IT systems, which have been used by almost all staff and students at some time or another at UOW. He has been able to keep up to date and bring that technology to many of us to keep us more efficient, bring us better tools and keep us at the forefront of the education and research sector. Dean is the quiet achiever. He is always happy to help, polite and a pleasure to work with. Whether you are working with him as a colleague or a customer, his non-judgmental dedicated and proficient character will always help you deliver the desired outcome.

DVCE Recognition of Learning and Teaching

Each year students, colleagues and alumni are invited to nominate an individual or team for an Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning (OCTAL) Award. Individuals or teams with two or more valid nominations and an endorsement from their Faculty, Division or Unit receive a DVCE Recognition of Learning and Teaching. This certificate marks strong learning and teaching practice.

Successful nominees are also invited to develop and submit an application for an OCTAL Award. These awards recognise and reward UOW staff who make a difference and enrich the learning experience of students.

THE 2021 NOMINEES WHO HAVE RECEIVED A DVCE RECOGNITION OF LEARNING AND TEACHING ARE:

Faculty of Business and Law

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Roba Abbas | Shiguang Ma |
| Fariba Ahmadi Pirshahid | Mahdi Mahdilloo |
| Sarah Ailwood | Abdullah Mamun |
| Abdullah Al Mamun | Meredith McLaine |
| Shamika Almeida | Michael Mehmet |
| Irit Alony | Karina Murray |
| Yvonne Apolo | Rabindra Nepal |
| Amir Arjomandi | Quynh (Quinn) Nguyen |
| Lowell Bautista | Alfredo Paloyo |
| Gabriel Garcia | Xiaofei Pan |
| Luis Gómez Romero | Oriana Price |
| Warwick Gullett | Dr Luis Gómez Romero Romero |
| Thi Han | Mark Saunders |
| Xiaoshan/Valerie He | Cassandra Sharp |
| Mercedez Hinchcliff | Lynnaire Sheridan |
| Jwana Jireis | Sue Slowikowski |
| Ping Kattiyapornpong | David Tan |
| Maria Kim | Farzana Tanim |
| Niamh Kinchin | Kate Tubridy |
| Kingston Knight | Erin Twyford |
| Shiva Kusi | Markus Wagner |
| Elias Kyriazis | Sarah Wright |
| Marett Leiboff | |
| John Littrich | |
| Pariz Lythgo-Gordon | |

Faculty of the Arts, Social Sciences
and Humanities

Tatiana Andersen
Peter Andersen
Jennifer Atchison
Amanda Baker
Kate Bowles
Chris Brennan-Horley
Shawn Burns
Michael Burri
Amy Chan
Shady Cosgrove
Emma Darragh
Tim DiMuzio
Shoshana Dreyfus
Michelle Eady
Amanda Gigliotti
Tam Ha
Laura Hammersley
Kate Harris
Hassan Hosseinzadeh
Aaron Hull
Jeffrey Jacobs
Alyson Johnson
Rachel Jones
Katharina Elisabeth Kariippanon
Byron Kemp
Kenny Kor
Kylie Lipscombe
Anthony McKnight
Renee Middlemost
Teodor Mitew
Christopher Moore
Hironori Onuki
Mariolina Pais-Marden
Mitchell Parker
Roger Patulny
Ee Ling Sharon Quah
Mark Rogers
Heike Schütze
Elise Thurtell
Izabela Da Costa Pereira Watts
Amanda Webster
Wes Wickham

Faculty of Science, Medicine and
Health

Eleanor Beck
Rebecca Bosworth
Pippa Burns
Alex Chan
Stephane Cordier
Bonnie Dean
Joanne Dearlove
Paul Else
Lorraine Fields
Carol Kendall
Grant Kinghorn
Theresa Larkin
Kimberley Livingstone
Jeremy Lum
Kylie Mansfield
Kelly Marriott-Statham
Pamela McAllan
Christine McComb
Shahla Meedya
Suzanne Middleton
Jody Moller
Clare Murphy
Jessica Nealon
Cathie Rooney
Suzi Russell
Martina Sanderson-Smith
Sibylle Schwab
Baylie Trostian
Johanna Turnbull
Fiona Whitelaw
Wilfred Yeo

DVCE Portfolio

Wendy Dowler
Emily Purser

IMTS

Adam Lynch

Faculty of Engineering and
Information Sciences

Lucy Armitage
Azucena Cabello
Mahdi Fahmidehgholami
Ashley Heath
Emma Heffernan
Douglas Henness
Wayne Ireland
Zhengyi Jiang
Essam Jnead
Andrew Johnstone
Usman Khalil
Buyung Kosasih
Son Lam Phung
Muhammad Salman Raheel
Yuxi Ruan
Panagiotis Ioannis Theoharis
William Tibben
Elena Vlahu-Gjorgievska
Khin Win
Tieling Zhang

UOW Global Enterprises

Nidhal Abdulaziz
Man Kit Butt
Bostjan Gomiscek
Mohan Guruswamy
Zeenath Khan
Mosquito Wai-King Leung
Hock Chuan Lim
Kiano Yim Mei LUK
Mark Micallef
Said Muhammed
Mona Mustafa
Dr Munyaradzi W. Nyadzayo
Maria Jose Pareja Lopez
Jason Rodriguez
Balan Sundarakani
Sum Kuen TO
Norhayati Zakaria

Technology Enhanced Learning
Education Specialist Team (DVCE)

Alyce Mason
Melinda Plumb
Murray Stace
Tim Boniface
Bethany Muscat
Stafford Lumsden
Conor West

Faculty of Social Sciences Early
Admissions Team (ASSH)

Julie Kiggins
Martin Hesse
Chris Hadley
Suzana Kouzan
Jodie Cleaves
Sarah Andrews
Sarah McInnes
Rebecca Griffith

Faculty of Social Sciences TEL Lab
Team (ASSH)

Amanda Gigliotti
Anna Nicholls

Indigenous Geographies Teaching
Team (ASSH)

Vanessa Cavanagh
Laura Hammersley
Chantel Carr
Jennifer Atchison
Craig Lyons
Carrie Wilkinson
Hilton Penfold
Rebecca Campbell
Jade Kennedy

Health Research Methodology Team
(ASSH)

Heike Schutze
Belinda Balhatchet

UOW FutureLearn Podcasting
MOOC: The Power of Podcasting for
Storytelling Team (ASSH)

Siobhan McHugh
Bethany Muscat

Geology Online Learning Team
(SMAH)

Amy Dougherty
Dominique Tanner
Penny Williamson
Megan Williams
Jessica Walsh
Kirti Lal

Molecular Horizons Animal Facility
Technical Officers Team (SMAH)

Carlee Mottley
Josh Snow
James Hodgson

Careers Central WIL Team
(PVC Students)

Tracey Glover-Chambers
Sofie Kokalevski
Oliver Batten
Sylvia Sheridan
Whitney Spooner
Jennifer Porter
Stephanie Abel

Associate of Business
Administration in Accountancy
Program Team (UOWGE)

Shirie Pui Shan Ho
Giew Leong Julian Liew

