



2013 – the Year at Flinders

Graduation ceremonies are significant events not only for students and universities, but also for the communities in which our graduates will work and live.

For all our graduates, we anticipate that the practical and intellectual skills nurtured in you at Flinders will help you in making valuable contributions to the social and economic fabric of your communities, wherever they may be.

A number of significant achievements in the past 12 months confirm we are meeting our aspiration to be a first-class teaching and research institution with an international reputation and influence. Highlights include:

The commencement of construction on a state-of-the-art building to house the School of Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics at Tonsley Park, having committed \$120 million to the redevelopment in 2012. It will be the centrepiece of teaching, research and business investment activities aligned with the high-value manufacturing vision for the site.

Flinders University students will soon have access to improved world-class communications technology with the announcement of a \$14 million investment with leading international ICT supplier, Cisco, and its reseller, Dimension Data.

Flinders has also offered its first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in collaboration with Open Universities Australia. *The Human Body as a Machine*, written and presented by Professor Colin Carati, uses four modules to give participants an overview and basic understanding of the human body. Another MOOC, *Mental wealth: know it and grow it* has been designed by Professor Eimear Muir-Cochrane and Mrs Deb O’Kane from Flinders University’s School of Nursing and Midwifery, and is thought to be the first of its kind in Australia.

Student Success:

- PhD student Matthew Norris was awarded the Fulbright Australian Alumni (WG Walker) Scholarship which will see him spend 12 months at Princeton continuing his research into synthesising rare natural products for use as new agents, medicines and vaccines to combat the increasing number of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and cancerous cell-lines that pose global threats to human health.
- Ms Ashum Owen, a 22-year-old Aboriginal woman and first-year Flinders University student with a passion for making a difference has been awarded the 2013 Terry Roberts’ Memorial Scholarship for Aboriginal South Australians.
- Mr Paolo De Sciscio, a 2012 medical graduate from Flinders University, has received a Cambridge Australia Poynton Scholarship to undertake studies at the University of Cambridge in England, beginning this year.

- Dana Jamie Chinn, a student in Speech Pathology at Flinders, has received the top Merdeka Award from the Australia-Malaysia Business Council of South Australia (AMBCSA). The award recognizes the top final-year Malaysian students studying at South Australia's three universities.

Research

Flinders University researchers were awarded grants worth almost \$7 million from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to pursue studies ranging from airway surgery in obstructive sleep apnea to the genetic risk factors of blinding eye disease. A total of seven researchers received \$5,826,600 in funding under the NHMRC's Standard Project Grants and another three researchers were awarded \$1,159,407 as part of the council's Established Career Fellowships and the Translating Research into Practice Fellowships.

In addition a further \$7 million worth of grants – including six Future Fellowships, four Discovery Projects, a Discovery Early Career Researcher Award and a Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities – have been awarded to Flinders University researchers from the Australian Research Council (ARC). Announced as part of the ARC's 2014 funding program, the grants will go towards a variety of projects including research into blinding eye disease, femur fractures, plant mitochondria and Australian live performance.

International

At our annual graduations at Nankai University in Tianjin 412 students graduated this year.

Over 2,400 Nankai University students have graduated since the programs started in Tianjin, China in 2000. Flinders has also stepped up research links with China through its joint Education and Research Centre with Hunan University and Central South University in the city of Changsha in Hunan province.

Medical specialists from China's Central South University (CSU) are learning about rural and remote general practice (GP) at Flinders University, as part of a joint venture aimed at bolstering the number of GPs in China. 2013 saw the first cohort of CSU staff coming to Flinders to become trainers under the new China-Australia General Practitioner Education, Training and Research Centre, based at the 3rd Xiangya Hospital of CSU in Changsha, the capital of Hunan province.

Flinders University will receive \$450,000 over three years from a major Chinese corporation to further the University's research into the potential conversion of seaweed into a range of high value products including foods, cosmetics and medicinal compounds. The world class marine biotechnology laboratory on seaweeds at Flinders University will host the research collaboration with Qindao Gather Great Ocean Group.

Flinders is also working with Indonesia's Ministry of Social Affairs that will see the University provide key assistance in the development of Indonesian capacity in social work and disability services. The Vice-Chancellor also hosted an alumni event to celebrate the launch of the University's Indonesian Alumni Network, which was attended by 170 alumni, guests and VIPs. Special guests included Australia's Ambassador to Indonesia, Mr Greg Moriarty, and Dr Daniel Sparringa (a Flinders PhD from 1997), who is Senior Adviser in Public and Political Communications to the President of Indonesia.

Staff Success

Professor David Day, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) was elected to the Australian Academy of Science, joining an elite group of outstanding Australian scientists. Professor Day – an internationally-recognised leader in plant biology – is among 20 new Fellows to be elected to the Academy in 2013. Representing the nation's top research scientists, the Australian

Academy of Science annually elects a small number of Australian scientists to the Academy in recognition of their outstanding contributions to science.

Professor Graeme Young, Flinders University's world-leading gastrointestinal expert, was named South Australia's Scientist of the Year for 2013. The award recognises Professor Young's instrumental role in developing the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program, as well as his tireless efforts to eradicate infant deaths from diarrhoea in developing countries. The Scientist of the Year title has been awarded to a Flinders researcher for two years running, with Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Karen Reynolds, named the 2012 SA Scientist of the Year.

Associate Professor Andy Love, Flinders groundwater hydrologist was named the 2013 Unsung Hero of South Australian Science. The award citation noted his "leadership in both government and academic spheres and, significantly, in facilitating collaboration between the two".

Associate Professor Daryle Rigney, Dean of Indigenous Strategy and Engagement at Flinders, has been named Person of the Year in the SA National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) awards.

Associate Professor Lucie Walters was the winner of the Louis Ariotti Memorial Award, for innovation and excellence of national significance to rural and remote health.

Flinders was successful in receiving five Office for Teaching & Learning Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning. The Citations recognise and reward the diverse contributions that individuals and teams make to the quality of student learning. Receipts were: *Associate Professor Sue McAllister, Professor Jim Mitchell, Associate Professor Steve Brown, Dr Ann Luzeckyj and Professor Heather Smigiel and Ms Jan Thompson.*

December 2013