Review of activities

Teaching and Learning

Academic honours
Our long-standing tradition of producing Rhodes Scholars continued with three awards this year. Medical student Chris Layton was named Queensland Rhodes Scholar; and graduates Stephen Daley (veterinary science) and Ingrid Barnsley (first-class honours component of arts degree) won two of three Australia-at-Large Scholarships. 

We recognised the best of our first-class honours graduates with 83 University Medals. These go only to those with Grade Point Averages (GPAs) of 6.45 or better from the maximum 7 – and this year’s winners included seven people with perfect 7s and nine people with 6.9. Other high-achieving scholars earned national and international recognition, including the following.

- Dennis Foley (PhD in management) won the Fulbright Postgraduate Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and will study indigenous Hawaiian entrepreneurship at the University of Hawaii.
- Luke Hearnden, David Lock, Amy Warren and Robin Yates (final-year veterinary science students) won four of 25 Leader Programs offered at Cornell University, USA. Only five awards were offered in Australia and we had the strongest contingent of students of any university in the world.
- Amanda Robbins (PhD in mechanical engineering) received one of 35 Zonta Amelia Earhart Fellowships given worldwide to women working in aerospace-related fields. She used the $US6000 to work with NASA in the USA, researching the burning of metals in oxygen-enriched environments.
- Thomas Linsky (PhD in biomedical sciences) won the American Elasmobranch Society’s Donald R. Nelson Behaviour Research Award for research on sensory systems in sharks.
- Shane Scott (third-year social work) became the first person with a disability to win a $US25,000 Rotary International Academic-year Ambassadorial Scholarship.
- Jean Anderson (first-year engineering) won one of five national Ford Australia Women in Engineering Scholarships, worth $32,000 over four years.
- Andrew Stumer and Jonathon Crowe (final-year law) beat teams from 16 Australian universities to win the International Humanitarian Law Moot Competition in Canberra.
- Kim Wilkins (PhD in creative writing) won an Aurealis Award (best horror novel category) for Angel of Ruin. She won two Aurealis Awards in 1997 and one in 2000 for earlier novels.
- Two PhD students earned AMP Biomedical Research Awards. Delvac Oceandy won the pre-doctoral category for his studies of Cystic Fibrosis lung inflammation disease; and Christopher Dayas won the award for young Queensland researchers.
- Will Mulholland, a 2000 arts/engineering graduate now completing a PhD at Oxford, received the inaugural national award for the best undergraduate thesis in space engineering, at the Australian International Aerospace Conference in Canberra.
- Joanne Elsden (final-year agricultural science) won the W. W. Bryan Memorial Medal given by the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science for the best fourth-year applied science project.
- Sarah Jones-Trifelly (second-year agribusiness) won the $5000 Grainco Australia International Student Exchange Scholarship and will study at Purdue University, Indiana.
- Jillian Thomson (second-year agribusiness) won the $6000 Queensland Cotton International Exchange Scholarship and will study at the United States University, Texas.
- Rossllyn Cooper (second-year information environments) won the inaugural $5000 City of Ipswich Scholarship.
- Inaugural UQ Ipswich valedictorian Leesa Muller (agricultural science) won the first $5000 AgForce/Westpac Bursary.
- Jacinta Menkens (first-year science) was one of three Australian solo pianists to receive a prestigious Trinity College of London Exhibition Award for the Performer’s Certificate examination. She received 91 percent – one of the highest marks in the country.