Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Wednesday, 11 November, 2015

Mentor and student win national awards for excellence in drug and alcohol sector

University of Tasmania researchers won two out of five national awards at the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs (APSDAD) conference in Perth, Western Australia, last night (Tuesday, November 10).

Associate Professor Raimondo Bruno won the Mentor Award for his outstanding research supervision track record, and Postdoctoral Fellow Amy Peacock won the Early Career Award for her significant research achievements. Both work in the Faculty of Health’s psychology discipline.

Since 2006, Associate Professor Bruno has mentored 29 Honours, 17 Masters and 21 PhD students - and Postdoctoral and Research Fellows - while teaching and conducting research in the alcohol and other drugs sector.

He has also created a legacy of mentoring excellence as Psychology Graduate Research Co-ordinator to support the PhD student experience, and nationally by establishing and chairing the APSAD Early Career Researcher Network.

Associate Professor Bruno described the award as an honour, and said good mentoring had been pivotal in his own career.

“I have been privileged to work with many excellent students over the years, and these sorts of collaborations are often the best parts of my job,” he said.

“Given the current level of competition for scholarships and research funding, it is particularly important for people in senior roles to help support those in their early careers wherever they can.”

Dr Peacock completed her PhD in 2014, for which she received the Royal Society of Tasmania PhD Award, and has already achieved 29 publications. Dr Peacock has developed an international reputation through her research on the harm associated with mixing alcohol and energy drinks.
Dr Peacock said the award was an unexpected but pleasant surprise, and said it would not have been possible without Associate Professor Bruno’s support.

“I believe this award serves as a broader acknowledgement of the quality of alcohol and other drug research being conducted in Tasmania, not only in addressing concerns in the community regarding alcohol and drug use, but also in respect to informing local, state and national policy,” she said.

Faculty of Health Dean Professor Denise Fassett congratulated both award recipients and said their success demonstrated not only the significance of the research being undertaken by the faculty, but the importance of supporting its young talent.

“The University’s reputation is built on the high calibre of research such as that by Dr Peacock, and the world-class quality of our teaching staff such as Associate Professor Bruno, who not only share their extensive knowledge with their students, but also nurture them to succeed,” she said.

Information released by:
University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office
Phone: 61 3 6324 3218
Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au