

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: TUESDAY 2 OCTOBER 2012

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Top marks for teaching and learning at UTAS

Three University of Tasmania academics have received national recognition for their contributions to teaching and learning.

Dr Andrew Seen, Associate Professor Greg Dicoski and Associate Professor Justin Walls were today (**Tuesday 2 October 2012**) awarded Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning as part of the Australian Awards for University Teaching at a ceremony in Melbourne.

The focus of Dr Andrew Seen from the School of Chemistry, who is based at Newnham, is on environmental science and chemistry; currently his and his students' practical research efforts are in herbicides and heavy metals in the waterways of northern Tasmania. Dr Seen's passions are in his personal relationships with students and making it possible for students to follow their science interests in practical ways; he especially values taking on consultancies that can inform his teaching and provide a link with the community.

Assoc Prof Dicoski (Head of the School of Chemistry and based at the Sandy Bay campus) was previously a recipient of the 2008 Royal Australian Chemical Institute's (RACI) Chemistry Educator of the Year Award as well as a 2009 RACI citation. A researcher with a broad range of interests, he considers that good teaching goes hand-in-hand with good research, where research-derived initiatives are implemented into the teaching program.

Currently the Associate Dean of Learning and Teaching in the Faculty of Health Science, Assoc Prof Walls is responsible for the organisation and delivery of key medical and health science units in the School of Medicine and has played a key central role in the design and implementation of a new five-year undergraduate medical curriculum.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Learning), Professor David Sadler, who on behalf of the Federal Minister for Tertiary Education presented citations to staff from 10 institutions in Victoria and Tasmania at today's ceremony, said the national recognition was a timely underscoring of UTAS' commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.

"The citations come less than a week after the University's own Celebration of Excellence Awards ceremony, which saw another 16 academics honoured by the Vice-Chancellor for their outstanding contributions to teaching, learning and research training.

“Excellent teachers have knowledge of content, curriculum, and learning and teaching strategies appropriate to their discipline. They know about their students and how they learn and have an understanding of the context in which they are working. Above all there is recognition that excellence in teaching is a process of continual enhancement,” Prof Sadler said.

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