

ACADEMIC BOARD & COUNCIL

Report title HONORARY AWARDS COMMITTEE: REPORT TO ACADEMIC BOARD & COUNCIL
Prepared by Angela Cowburn, Senior Executive Officer, Governance Services
Reviewed by Professor Adrienne Clarke, Chancellor
Date 10 May 2011

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Background

The Honorary Awards Committee is a joint Committee of Council and Academic Board and meets at least twice annually (and out-of-session as required) to consider nominations:

- for the award of all honorary degrees;
- for the award of the titles Emeritus Professor and Emeritus Scholar;
- for the Chancellor's Medal;

and to recommend the award of other honours, apart from academic honours, as may from time to time be instituted.

1.2 Summary

The Distinguished Alumni Awards Selection Committee, a sub-committee of the Honorary Awards Committee, met to consider nominations for the 2010 Alumni Awards. The Committee considered 36 nominations, and recommended that the following six be approved as Alumni Award recipients:

- (a) David Atkin, Chief Executive Officer, CBUS – Distinguished Alumni Award.
- (b) Linda Beilharz, Polar Adventurer and Executive Officer of Women's Health Loddon Malee – Distinguished Alumni Award.
- (c) Dr Yong Qiang Cai, Physicist at the Photon Sciences Directorate, Brookhaven National Laboratory – Distinguished Alumni Award.
- (d) Dr Patricia Edgar AM, Founding Director of the Australian Children's Television Foundation and President of the World Summit on Media for Children Foundation – Distinguished Alumni Award.
- (e) Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM, Chief Executive Officer of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre – Young Achiever Award.
- (f) Dr Tony Radford, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Cellestis Ltd – Distinguished Alumni Award

The Honorary Awards Committee, via circular resolution, approved the six nominations.

The Honorary Awards Committee also considered and approved a proposed change to the composition of the Distinguished Alumni Awards Selection Committee to add the new position of Director, Alumni and Advancement, and remove the requirement for the Executive Director, Marketing and Engagement, to attend the Committee.

1.3 Issues (including any financial, legal or compliance issues)

Not applicable.

1.4 RECOMMENDATION

Academic Board and Council are invited to receive and note the Report of the Honorary Awards Committee.

2. LIST OF DOCUMENTS ATTACHED

Attachment A: 2010 Alumni Award nominees.

ATTACHMENT A: 2010 Alumni Award Nominees

David Atkin Chief Executive Officer of CBUS (Construction & Building Industry Super). VIC, Australia
Nominated for a Distinguished Alumni Award

Professor Carol Adams nominated David on the strength of his outstanding professional achievements and for his active advocacy of environmental, social and corporate governance integration. During his time at CBUS the company won the Melbourne Financial Services Symposium Investment Stewardship Award for the second time.

David was also the first Australian elected to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment Board and is on the CEO panel for the Investor Group of Climate Change.

Linda Beilharz Polar Adventurer and Executive Officer of Women's Health Loddon Mallee. VIC, Australia
Nominated for a Distinguished Alumni Award

Linda was nominated on the strength of her personal achievements and in recognition of her work in community strengthening, participation and leadership. She was the first Australian woman to ski from the edge of land to both the north and south poles and is believed to be the first Australian woman to have journeyed across the Greenland icecap.

As Director of the Community Capacity Building Unit at St Luke's Anglicare (Bendigo) Linda piloted a community development approach that contributed significantly to the models of community development incorporated into the State Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Programs (1998-2007).

Since 2003 she has been utilising her outdoor skills as a member of Alpine Search and Rescue (where she is currently President).

In 2006 Linda was inducted onto the Victorian Women's Honour Roll and also awarded the 1974 Memorial Grant by the Australian Women in Aviation. In 2010 Linda was chosen by Australian Geographic as the Adventurer of the Year.

Dr Yong Qiang Cai Physicist at the Photon Sciences Directorate, Brookhaven National Laboratory. NY, USA
Nominated for a Distinguished Alumni Award

Dr Cai is arguably the foremost expert in the area of Inelastic X-ray scattering (a technique for the precision investigation of the electronic properties of materials, which is hoped will advance the development of energy saving technologies. He was chosen, following a world-wide search, to head the team to design, construct and use a high-precision instrument for inelastic X-ray scattering at the prestigious Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Emeritus Professor Robert Leckey nominated Dr Cai due to the significance of his career achievements which followed his time as one of the first Chinese students permitted to study at La Trobe before the Tiananmen Sq incident. He has received a number of important honours and awards, and is a highly respected researcher with an extremely impressive history of research output and publications.

Dr Patricia Edgar AM

Founding Director of the Australian Children's Television Foundation and President of the World Summit on Media for Children Foundation. VIC, Australia
Nominated for a Distinguished Alumni Award

Dr Mary Debrett nominated Dr Edgar on the basis of her distinguished professional achievements across the fields of media education and children's television.

Patricia has been both innovative and pioneering in the field of tertiary media education and has continued that distinction, becoming the first woman appointed to the Australian Broadcasting Control Board, where she oversaw the establishment of ground-breaking regulations for children's television standards for advertising and programming.

Dr Edgar's most exceptional professional and community service achievements lie in her work as the founding director of the Australian Children's Television Foundation (ACTF) where she pioneered an innovative collaborative approach to program concept development for children's television, one that put the interests of children as independent thinking individuals at the centre of the endeavour. Dr Edgar's approach was to build creative teams that worked on integrating educative goals with imaginative storytelling. The resulting productions won more than 100 awards at both national and international festivals, the most significant of these perhaps being an International Emmy Award and a Grand Jury Prize at the New York Festival.

As a recognised world leader in the field of children's television Dr Edgar established the World Summit on Media for Children Foundation in 1995 and remains the president of this event.

Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM

Chief Executive Office of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. VIC, Australia
Nominated for a Young Achiever Award

Professor Paula Baron, Head of the School of Law, describes Kon as is an outstanding ambassador for the University's founding mandate of community involvement (La Trobe University Act 1964, s 5 (a)) and for the School of Law's commitment to social justice. His own experiences of racism within a working class, Greek migrant family in a small country town in Victoria have inspired him to use his wide-ranging skills to assist and advocate for some of the most marginalised members of our society.

In 2001, aged only 29, Mr Karapanagiotidis founded the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) which has now become Victoria's premier facility for providing a variety of welfare and legal services to asylum seekers.

Before the ASRC, Mr Karapanagiotidis was a Homeless Support worker at Oznam House (1996), a Disability Advocate at La Trobe University (1997-1998) and a lecturer in welfare studies at Victoria University (1999-2001).

Mr Karapanagiotidis's passion for helping people in need, his skills in harnessing others to volunteer their services and his commitment to raising public awareness of the plight of asylum seekers have been widely recognised. In 2011 he received an Order of Australia Medal for service to the community. In 2010 he was awarded a Churchill Fellowship and the Kookaburra Award for the Best Community Group. In 2009, he received the Victorian Multicultural Commission's Ambassador Award for Excellence. He was also a finalist for Australian of the Year (Victoria) (2008); was an attendee at the 20/20 Summit; and was named one of the Age newspaper's "100 Most Influential People" (2008).

Dr Tony Radford

Managing Director and Chief Executive Office of Cellestis Ltd. VIC,
Australia
Nominated for a Distinguished Alumni Award

In the 27 years following his PhD graduation, Tony has had an outstanding career in biotechnology research and management. He has held positions of Head of Development at AMRAD and Senior Research Scientist at CSIRO Animal Health. During his time at CSIRO he was a senior member of the team that invented QuantiFERON® a highly specific and highly sensitive blood test for tuberculosis.

Dr Radford and Dr Jim Rothel, together with venture capitalist funding, acquired the intellectual property for the technology and founded the company Cellestis Limited.

Over the last ten years under Dr Radford's guidance as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer the company has grown significantly with offices in Australia, Germany, USA, Japan and Singapore, as well as commercial distributors in major jurisdictions. In April 2011 the German drug development company Qiagen N.V. announced its intention to acquire Cellestis Ltd and valued the company at \$341million (AUS) making Cellestis one of Australia's most successful biotechnology companies.

Over the last 20 years Tony has been a passionate advocate for improved public health through detection and prevention of TB.