

## **Macquarie Graduations: Honorary Doctorate, new PhD graduates and new Masters of Chiropractic graduates!**

The Macquarie University chiropractic graduation event of 2012 saw Dr Ed Devereaux honoured with a Doctor of Science *honoris causa*, alongside 3 new PhD admissions and 107 graduates of a Master of Chiropractic degree.

Dr Devereaux, inaugural CAAN President and former President of the UCAA was recognised for outstanding contribution to the chiropractic profession spanning 40 years. Following the formal citation of his admission detailing his long and untiring service, Dr Devereaux delivered the Occasional Address to the graduates, invoking a vivid picture of past challenges to the chiropractic profession whilst contrasting many milestones and achievements along the way, igniting a sense of pride in the newest 107 members of the profession.

With the Masters program looming overhead, the Bachelor's graduation felt a mere preface for a grander occasion. The Masters of Chiropractic graduation ceremony represented an unparalleled experience, as students officially transitioned from eager students of chiropractic to fully-fledged doctors of Chiropractic. It was truly the closure of one era and the beginning of a remarkable new journey many students had dreamed of for years.

The burgeoning body of Chiropractic research is further strengthened with the superb contributions of Dr Benjamin Brown, Dr Roger Engel, Dr Wayne Hoskins, and Dr Aron Downie in four distinct subject fields. Their respective titles - *A biopsychosocial approach to primary hypothyroidism*, *The effect of manual therapy on COPD*, *The effect of manual therapy on hamstring injury prevention in AFL* and *Development of a tool for objective measurement of the HLVA spinal thrust* are a credit to the dedication of themselves and Macquarie University to outstanding excellence in research. Dr Engel gave the student's response, depicting a storm of confusion inherent in being both mentor and student, emerging certainly not unscathed - but with a newfound sense of the spirit and meaning of life-long learning. It was a fulfilling insight into the long journey involved in research and an exploration of the profound learning experience of higher education as a quest for understanding, surpassing knowledge for knowledge's sake. This body of Chiropractic research now encompasses 8 PhD's from Macquarie in recent years.

The celebrations continued at the Graduation Ball thanks to The Chiropractic Alumni (tCa) and the Sydney College of Chiropractic. The intimate venue was host to a wonderful turnout

of students, family and staff all dressed to impress. The class of 2012 proudly swore the Chiropractic Oath. The 2012 Graduation Ball was a smashing success, and one attendees knew to expect following months of planning by tCA and its small band of chiropractic students. Dockside proved a stunning location, complete with the beautiful backdrop of Darling Harbour, tremendous food and an exquisitely timed array of fireworks - an auspicious herald to the success of the night ahead.

Highlights of this gala evening included presentation of the Academic awards. These included: The CAA National Award, presented by Dr Laurie Tassell and awarded to Dr Joshua Fitzgerald, who in superlative fashion also won the NSW CAA X-Ray Excellence Award and The ASRF Research Prize. The inaugural Sports Chiropractic Australia Graduate Award was won by Adam Shorter, while thunderous applause accompanied crowd favourite Dr Daniel Spears' awarding of The Chiropractic Alumni Award. Dr Daniel Irvine joined a prestigious list of recipients of The Gary Stavrou Award for Adjustive Skills.

Dr's Matthew Marten and Tiffiny Olsson, shift mates in the Macquarie University Chiropractic Clinic were joint recipients of The Chiropractic Education Aust. Award for Clinic Internship. Students displaying outstanding effort outside traditional education were recognised as The Ed Devereaux Award for contributions to the Student Body was won by Dr Matthew Posa and The CAA Queensland Ellie Fernie Award for significant contribution to community projects was received by Dr Sharni Meyer. Several first year Masters students also received special recognition as the COCA Award for proficiency in Preclinical Studies was won by Colby Stevenson and the CAA NSW First Year Masters Award was presented to Derek Page.

Master of Ceremonies Dr Andrew Stevenson conducted a hugely entertaining evening and is thanked by both ball organisers and students alike. All delighted in speeches by Dr's Stevenson, Eaton and Tassell. In typically outrageous and unexpected but ultimately rewarding manner surely befitting students' time and memories at Macquarie University, they were presented by a gloriously kilted MC, a seated speaker hobbling from an acute knee injury and a man with a vehement passion for the power of chiropractic. Alongside tutors cum colleagues and friends, students and their families shared the first of what are surely many exciting experiences in their fledgling careers. Capped by an extensive display of original (hilarious) dance moves, the 2012 Graduation Ball was a sterling reflection of who we are today and the sweat, tears, and triumph everyone has shared together. To put it simply - perfect.

Attendees and especially graduates would like to thank the tremendous and irreplaceable contributions of Anthony O'Reilly, Larissa McGlade, Aron Downie, Rosemary Giuriato and

Rebecca Travers, without whom this event would not be possible. The graduation ceremony and Ball were widely considered a perfect echo of students' time at Macquarie University and an experience worthy of both memory and pride.

Matthew Marten, Aisha Strand and Anthony O'Reilly