

20 Years of Chiropractic Masters at Macquarie: An Extravaganza

On Saturday the 14th of September, The Chiropractic Alumni (tCa) celebrated the Anniversary of 20 Years since amalgamation between The Sydney College of Chiropractic and Macquarie University. The theme of the celebrations was 20 Years of Chiropractic Masters at Macquarie. This encompassed the anniversary of the first chiropractors (internationally) to graduate with a Masters degree; modern university chiropractic education and contemporary topics in chiropractic research.

The tone of the events started with a Research Seminar and Forum. Participants were updated with the latest in research from Macquarie led by A/Prof. Rod Bonello who in his synopsis of research identified the Department's strengths in Biomedical Sciences; Clinical Research; Chiropractic Educational Research; and Professional Studies. Dr. Heidi Haavik-Taylor from the New Zealand College of Chiropractic presented her ground-breaking research. She took the audience from concepts of hierarchy of evidence to the Neuroplasticity Working Model of Subluxation and chiropractic care. Heidi's lecture made an outstanding impact on all participants.

Researchers from the Department of Chiropractic had much to share. Head of Neurosciences within the Department, Dr. Michael Lee explained tools of researchers such as functional MRIs and Magnetoencephalography (MET). Much was demystified. Dr. Roger Engel caught the audience's attention with his elegantly simple and relevant research into chiropractic benefits for Chronic Obstructive Airway Disease. Dr. Aron Downie piqued everybody's interest with his work into how we deliver adjustments and teach technique; Dr. Katie de Luca shared her international award winning research into chiropractic management of hip pain. Dr. Martin Harvey President of the Australian Spinal Research Foundation outlined the current work of the Foundation and how it had successfully funded key research. Following this, senior lecturer Dr. Peter Tuchin chaired an open panel discussion and the meeting was left with the stark understanding of the benefits of research and the overwhelming necessity for rapid support for chiropractic research.

The key celebrations were The Chiropractic Alumni's Annual Celebration Dinner. This year, two Honour Boards were unveiled. Chiropractors Association of Australia National President Dr. Simon Floreani launched the Student of the Year Award Honour Board. An Honour Board for 10 years of teaching service to the Sydney College and/or Macquarie University was unveiled by the Dean of Students Dr. Julian de Meyrick. The service to the Sydney College of Chiropractic by Dr. Leonie McMahon was honoured by presenting her with the Knox Medallion, and the meritorious service to the tCa award to Dr. Aron Downie. Both were thanked for the contribution they have made to the profession over the years.

Graduates from around the country gathered for reunions. There was a great attendance from all the reunion years including the Classes of 1980, 1985, the inaugural Masters of 1990, plus the classes of 1995, 2000 and 2005. We hope to see everyone again next year, as well as a whole bunch of new faces. All Sydney College and Macquarie graduates are welcome to attend the annual celebration and meet with their fellow graduates for a catch up every year.

Larissa McGlade and Anthony O'Reilly
The Chiropractic Alumni