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In 2007 the Research School of Physical Sciences and Engineering continued to be successful in securing external funding with 22 Discovery internal and one external grant totalling \$8.3 million. One internal LIEF and one external both included in a total of \$480,000. This brings the external funds to \$8.8 million for 2007 with \$13.5 million industry related – a total of \$22.3 million. The School's commitment to a leading national role is reflected by its involvement in four Australian Research Council Centres of Excellence, a Cooperative Research Centre and our hosting of three Australian Research Council Research Networks.

Honours and Awards

The following honours and awards were presented to some of the School's researchers:

- Dr Ken Baldwin was awarded the W.H. Beattie Steel medal, the highest award of the Australian Optical Society;
- Professor Murray Batchelor won the bid (jointly with Dr Jan De Gier, University of Melbourne) to host the 24th International Union of Pure and Applied Physics Conference on Statistical Physics in 2010;
- Professor Stephen Buckman was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Contribution to the ANU;
- Professor Aidan Byrne was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Career Achievement;
- Dr Tiziana Di Matteo was appointed Editor for the European Physical Journal B;
- Professor Chennupati Jagadish was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was also awarded a Fellowship of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, UK and was invited by the Minister for Education, Science and Technology to join the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund Advisory Panel for three years;
- Professor Yuri Kivshar was awarded the Peter Baume Award, the highest ANU award, recognising eminent achievement and merit of the highest order and also a second ARC Federation Fellowship, to commence in 2008;
- Professor Wieslaw Krolikowski was elected as a Fellow of the Optical Society of America;
- Dr Andrew Stuchbery was elected Vice-Chair of the Gordon Conference on Nuclear Chemistry (Nuclear Reactions) 2008 and Chair of the Gordon Conference on Nuclear Chemistry (Nuclear Structure) 2009;

- The Research School won the ACT Chief Minister's Export Award 2007 in the education category; and
- The LINAC Team won the ACT Government New Technology & Innovation Award and also the Canberra Division 2007 Engineering Excellence Award.

Promotions

During 2007 the following staff received promotions:

- Level B: Susan Bellm, Michael Gao, Mattias Johnsson (Faculty), Chaohong Li, Andrey Miroshnichenko, Andre Ricardo Ribeiro de Carvalho (Faculty), Simon Ruffell and Michael Went;
- Level C: Jodie Bradby, Lan Fu, Frank Mills and Elena Ostrovskaya;
- Level D: Tiziana Di Matteo; Joe Hope (Faculty); and
- Level E: Kenneth Baldwin.

Students

In 2007 the School welcomed 98 students (both local and international) with 16 completions. In 2007 the new Le Couteur Building link was opened and contains a new large common area for students furnished with the assistance of a donation from John Hindmarsh construction.

Commercialisation

The School always actively pursues any commercialisation opportunities that arise from research. For example in 2007 a new company, Digital Core Laboratories, was created based on the ultra high resolution x-ray tomography technology developed within the School.

Outreach Activities

The School's Founder's Day was held on 18th October 2007 with invited guests from the ANU, government organisations, industry and the media, as well as former employees. As in previous years, the School hosted students from the National Youth Science Forum and the Siemens Science and Engineering Experience.

Oliphant Endowment Fund

The Oliphant Endowment Fund was publicly launched at a dinner (sponsored by ACTEW Corporation) in the Great Hall, University House on Friday 19 October, 2007. It was held at the conclusion of the annual celebration of Founder's Day which honours Sir Mark Oliphant. The occasion provided friends, colleagues and alumni with an opportunity to renew their association with physics at ANU, to learn of plans for the future, and to become ambassadors for the Oliphant Endowment Fund.

Professor Jim Williams, Director