The Chancellor’s Award for Distinguished Contribution to the University

This award recognises distinguished service of a high degree. Staff, students and alumni of the University whose contribution to the economic, cultural, scientific or social development of Australia or the international community has demonstrated distinguished service of a high degree are eligible for the Award.

Professor Hilary Charlesworth AM

Internationally Professor Hilary Charlesworth is considered to be a pioneer in feminist international legal scholarship. She works on the relevance of feminist theory to understanding international law, the structure of the international human rights system, and the protection of human rights in Australia and internationally. She has held numerous visiting appointments as professor at leading local and international tertiary institutions and contributes to numerous leading publications as an editor and author. Professor Charlesworth’s current research projects include her ARC Laureate project on the regulation of human rights, rights ritualism, the legitimacy of UN Security Council decisions, and the impact of international law on Australian law.

Within the University, Professor Charlesworth has served in formal leadership roles with great distinction, as Director of the Centre for International and Public Law in the College of Law and as Head of Program for RegNet – institutions that are synonymous with research excellence in law and social sciences at ANU. Most recently she established the School of Regulation, Justice and Diplomacy and was instrumental in the establishment the ANU-wide Gender Institute. She directs RegNet’s Centre for International Governance and Justice. Professor Charlesworth has served for 8 years on the board of the Arab and Islamic Studies Centre, College of Arts and Social Sciences. She participates willingly and tirelessly in committees and working groups at all levels of the institution.

Informally, her collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to the pursuit of knowledge has allowed her to forge alliances and productive partnerships across the ANU campus. As a female professor of law appointed at time when ANU had very few senior women, she has assumed a pivotal role in appointing and mentoring women across the humanities and social sciences at ANU. She is widely recognised as continuing to be inspirational and influential in candidates’ decisions to join ANU.

Professor Charlesworth’s qualities of modesty, generosity and selflessness are remarked upon by all who encounter her at ANU. She models in her professional life the qualities of justice that she pursues in her scholarship. She is an outstanding ambassador for the university in the community, to Australian governments and within scholarly communities worldwide.

Professor Hilary Charlesworth AM is awarded the Chancellor’s Award for Distinguished Contribution to the University in recognition of her tireless dedication to excellence in research and academia at the University, which brings great pride and prestige to ANU.

Citation will be read at the Conferring of Awards Ceremony in July 2013, on presentation of the Award by the Chancellor.