

CHANCELLOR,

I have the honour to present to you, Professor David Parry.

Around the University there is a small group of staff referred to as first fleters. A title referring to the staff who were the first recruits to the new University College of the Northern Territory in 1986. David Parry was a member of that first group of academic staff.

David Parry has a passion for Chemistry. After completing a Bachelor of Applied Science degree from the Queensland Institute of Technology he commenced his academic career as a senior research assistance with the University of Queensland. In 1986 he was appointed to the University College of the Northern Territory as a lecturer in Chemistry. Over the next 25 years his career saw him undertake a number of academic and, increasingly senior, administrative roles, including appointment as the inaugural chair of the Academic Board of the new Charles Darwin University in 2004. In 2006 he was promoted to Professor of Chemistry.

One of David's greatest contributions to the University and the Northern Territory has been in the development and promotion of research and teaching in environmental chemistry. In this area he has authored or co-authored 95 refereed papers, 42 conference papers and 90 commissioned reports. He has also been the principal supervisor of 15 doctoral students taking them through to graduation.

David's research in this area has enabled him to be successful in winning research grants from some of the Nation's most prestigious funding bodies such as the Australian Research Council, the Fisheries Research & Development Corporation, the Natural Heritage Trust, Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, as well as the Northern Territory and Commonwealth Government departments and mining companies.

The need for research and sophisticated analysis in the Northern Territory was great and led David to establish the successful Environmental Analytical Chemistry Unit. The unit conducts work across a wide range of environments: marine, freshwater and terrestrial, and has focussed a significant amount of research and development work in the area of metals and nutrients in aquatic environments. The expert research and analysis skills assembled in this unit were much sort after by large mining companies including MIM and McArthur River Mines, Ernst Henry Mines and Zinifex Century Zinc.

Some of the major research studies undertaken by David and the Environmental Analytical Chemistry Unit in the recent past include:

- Coastal monitoring using metal resistant microbes;
- Managing acid mine drainage in northern Australia using microbial mats;

- Stable lead isotopes, trace metals and radionuclides in sediments of the Alligator Rivers Region;
- Mechanisms of arsenic, metal and sulfate removal from mine waters by sulfate reducing bacteria implications for wetland filters.

In total over the last 10 years alone David has been able to attract over \$6 million in research grants and external consultancy income.

This research has very practical benefits and impact which touches each of us here today in a way that has had the effect of improving the quality of life we enjoy.

David's expertise in this area saw him become a member of a number of boards and advisory committees including the Northern Territory Environmental Protection Board, the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee and the Kakadu Research Advisory Committee.

Throughout his academic career he has won many awards based on his teaching and research including a number of Earth Awards both at the Territory and National level, Institution of Engineers, Australia and Dow Chemical awards for environmental engineering. He also twice won the internal Postgraduate Supervisor of the Year award.

David is highly regarded and well respected across the University and the wider community.

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In recognition of his long term contribution to the development of the University and the advancement of environmental chemistry research, Professor David Parry has been awarded by the Council of Charles Darwin University, the title of Companion of the University