

## UWAASA Centenary Award 2013 (Posthumous) – Dr Terry Quickenden (1939 -2005)

When Terry Quickenden died in July 2005, he left an enduring memory of himself dressed as Ali G, cavorting on James Oval for his medicine students' end-of-year-video! Terry was passionate about his academic career: teaching, research and service.

Terry Completed his BSc, MSC (Honours) and PhD at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. After a brief time at the University of Queensland he secured an appointment to the Chemistry staff at UWA in 1971. His first appointment as a Senior Tutor did not give him the opportunity for promotion to Lecturer due to the separate category of the position, so Terry set about to change this and one of his early successes for staff welfare was the reclassification of Senior Tutor to the Lecturer A position that now stands at UWA.

Terry believed in the tripartite of an academic position - teaching, research and service, and he was passionate about each component!

Students enjoyed his lectures, respected his enthusiasm for teaching and noted he was always prepared to spend extra time with those having difficulties. As a teacher, he particularly loved First Year Medical Chemistry and he would tell these students one of their highest duties would be taking care of their teachers in their old age! His rapport with these students was such that he was always asked to play a starring role in their video for the annual Medicine dinner.

Terry was an effective, caring mentor. Eighteen PhD, one MSc and 38 BSc (Hons) students graduated under his guidance. All of whom have gone on to outstanding careers in academia and industry. At the time of his death, he had four PhD students.

Terry believed strongly in conducting curiosity-driven research. He believed an essential part of an academic post was the ability to pursue one's research interests even if these were unfashionable. Much of his research work involved luminescence in areas ranging from bioluminescence of yeasts, the luminal reaction and luminescence in irradiated water and ice. The application of these studies lead him to an interest in forensic chemistry (luminal chemiluminescence is the standard test for blood at a crime scene) and interstellar chemistry (reactions of oxygen containing species on the icy surfaces of outer solar system bodies). His group was also interested in electrochemistry and alternative energy research (including cold fusion) as well as counter-terrorism and chemical archaeology.

Terry's service contribution was equally impressive. He was one of the longer serving members of the University Senate, a member of the Academic Board and member of the Academic Council and over his academic career he served on most subcommittees of the Senate and the Academic Board. In his role as elected staff representative he advocated for staff and student welfare. He opposed increasing student fees and always supported "improving the lot for staff".

Many people described him as the "conscience of the University".

Terry was a long time member and past president of the UWA Academic Staff Association (UWAASA) and the Federated Australian University Staff Association (FAUSA), supporting and helping many staff. Nationally he played a key role improving safety in chemical laboratories; in particular he was instrumental in improving ventilation in laboratories. As a member of the Australian Standards Committee controlling fume cupboard design and operation, he improved the working conditions for all chemists in Australia.