

## CITATION

**Professor Robert W Robertson, MA(UVic), FRAIPR, FATRI (2000)**

**Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*)**

Conferred at the graduation ceremony for graduates from  
The Faculty of Business

Greenhalgh Theatre, Kuring-gai Campus, Wednesday 30 March 2005, 2.30pm

This award is made to Bob Robertson in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the University.

Bob Robertson was born in Ontario, Canada. He graduated in 1967 with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Victoria, Canada. In 1969 he received a Master of Arts from the same institution. He held a number of research positions in Canada prior to coming to Australia in 1970 as a Research Scholar at the Australian National University. During the 1970s he was involved in the areas of environment, conservation, tourism, sport and recreation; initially as a private consultant and subsequently as a university lecturer. This culminated in his appointment as Deputy Director of the NSW Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation from 1980 to 1982.

Professor Robertson's first association with UTS was in 1982 as Head of the new School of Recreation and Community Studies at the Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education, one of the antecedent institutions of the current University. Throughout the 1980s he presided over the development of a range of undergraduate, postgraduate and research degrees in the areas of leisure, tourism, arts and sports management. In 1990 the school he headed became the School of Leisure, Sport and Tourism, within the Faculty of Business, when the Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education amalgamated with the old University of Technology, Sydney and other Sydney colleges of advanced education to become the current UTS.

From 1990 to 1992, Professor Robertson was seconded to Hong Kong Polytechnic as Head of the Tourism and Hotel Department. He returned to UTS in 1993 and was appointed as Associate Dean in the Faculty of Business, before being appointed as Dean of the faculty, a position he held from 1994 to 1999. While Dean, he made a number of enduring contributions.

These included building up the faculty's research profile; presiding over the review, restructuring and reaccreditation of all undergraduate and postgraduate award programs; and developing the faculty's offshore programs. A particularly noteworthy example of the latter is Professor Robertson's contribution to the twinning arrangement between UTS and Taylor's College in Malaysia, which celebrated a successful ten year partnership in 2003 and under which over 1500 students have graduated with UTS degrees.

Bob Robertson was appointed Vice-President and Executive Director (University Enterprises) in 2000, and held this position until his retirement in 2004. His period of tenure saw a threefold increase in international enrolments, further development of the University's international profile with particular emphasis on programs with China, formalized relationships with major Australian and international companies such as IBM, Alcatel, AMP, and the ABC, and an overhaul of the University's approach to its alumni.

Throughout his career at UTS, Professor Robertson has contributed to the work of numerous boards and committees, both within the University and outside. His approach has been one of enthusiasm and wise counsel. Since the formation of UTS, he has committed himself to enhancing the growth and reputation of the University. Through his many outstanding contributions, Bob Robertson has left a major mark on the innovative, collegial and international culture of UTS.