

Dr George Wing AM

An honorary Fellowship of the University was conferred upon George Wing by the Chair Academic Board, Associate Professor Anthony Masters at a Faculty of Dentistry graduation at 4.00pm on 10 March 2017.

Citation

Associate Professor Masters, it gives me great pleasure to present Dr George Wing AM to you for an honorary fellowship of the University.

Dr Wing graduated with a Bachelor of Dental Surgery from the University of Sydney. He also has a Master of Dental Surgery and a Doctor of Dental Science and has maintained a direct connection to the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Sydney for nearly sixty years.

Following a short career as a trained high school teacher, Dr Wing joined the Faculty of Dentistry in a junior teaching position. Of the then-four departments, he had chosen that of Operative Dentistry, whose main involvement was the repair of damaged or decayed teeth. He was at that time deeply committed to research on the dental filling material, (Silver) Amalgam. Whilst it had been in successful and widespread use for nearly a century, the exact science of its metallurgical characteristics was poorly understood. Dr Wing immersed himself in research into this alloy's properties, and in particular its microstructure. Not only did that work culminate in the award of the Doctorate of Dental Science, but he became a recognised world authority on this strategic filling material.

Dr Wing rose to the level of Associate Professor and subsequently became Head of the Department of Operative Dentistry and a Member of the Academic Board. During his tenure, he made a point of fostering graduates, many of whom became leaders in Dentistry, both in terms of future teachers and practising specialists including Professors, Associate Professors, and a steady stream of Masters' degrees obtained by now-leading specialists within the profession, many of whom in turn have contributed valuable graduate and undergraduate teaching for the University.

Dr Wing was an inaugural fellow of the then Australian College of Dental Surgeons in the late sixties; subsequently to be the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons which is the peak body for Dentistry within this country, with a primarily educational focus. He was duly elected a Councillor, and went on to hold executive positions, including Registrar and Secretary, until he became President.

Dr Wing's lengthy contribution to the ANZ Division of the International Association for Dental Research is equally notable. President of the Australian Section 1965-1966, continuing as a Councillor till 1985.

When he retired from teaching, Dr Wing successfully entered private dental practice for the last decade of his career – however, his dedication to the University by no means came to an end.

Dr Wing took on the Secretary's position of the Dental Alumni Society of the University of Sydney during its most formative period, and set in place protocols that were the 'gold standard' for years to come. He has continued to be involved in the Society since his retirement.

While it might be thought the sum of his Dentistry and family commitments would be all-consuming, Dr Wing in recent years became a qualified referee in the field of golf – requiring encyclopaedic knowledge of its rules. He held executive positions in Scouting, and was a long-time contributor at a similar level for St Lucy's School for the Blind at Wahroonga. As a blood donor for the Red Cross, he gave 604 donations.

Dr Wing was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for his services to dentistry and the community.

Associate Professor Masters, I present Dr George Wing AM, and invite you to confer the title of Honorary Fellow of the University upon him.