

## 2010 Faculty Alumni Award Recipients



### *International Achievement*

#### **Dr Barry McCleary**

BSc Agr (Hons 1) '72

PhD '75. DScAgr '89

**CEO and Owner, Megazyme**

**International Ireland Limited**

**Adjunct Professor, Faculty of**

**Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources**

Dr Barry McCleary is in the unique position of managing a successful agricultural chemistry company while remaining an internationally recognised author and scientist.

He graduated with a PhD in Agricultural Science (biochemistry) in 1976, and began his career researching the cause of massive sheep losses in the north of NSW which led to identification of the toxic principle as the enzyme thiaminase present in the plant, Nardoo. The enzyme was purified and confirmed as the toxic principle through feeding trials. The importance of the Nardoo in the poisoning of the ill fated Burke and Wills expedition was realised, and a note was submitted and published in Nature. This discovery was front page news in many United Kingdom papers, and appeared in television programs and in National Geographic magazine.

Recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship in 1978 and a Nuffield Foundation Scholarship in 1982, McCleary started his own company in the garage of his family home in 1988. This company, Megazyme, won the NSW

Small Business of the Year award, and the Australian Small Business of the Year Award (Manufacturing) in 1993 having just three employees and still operating from the garages. The company relocated to Bray, Ireland in 1996 where Megazyme built a "purpose-built" research facility, and McCleary continued to develop analytical reagents and test kits for the cereals, food, feed, fermentation, wine and dairy industries. Seven of the methods developed are now world standard methods, and the method for dietary fibre is about to become the new international standard.

For his research, McCleary has received many awards, including the Guthrie Medal in 1992, prestigious Harvey W. Wiley Medal from AOAC International for outstanding contributions to analytical chemistry. He was named "Innovator of the Year" in both 2007 and 2009 by the Small Firms Association of Ireland and this year represents Ireland in the European SME Week in Brussels. He is the author of over 100 scientific papers and many book chapters in the areas of carbohydrates and enzymes, and President Elect of the American Association of Cereal Chemists.