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Editor: George Wilson, Tel. (042) 270926

7 June 1988

FULBRIGHT AWARD TO ECOLOGIST

Dr Rob Whelan, Senior Lecturer in Biology, is one of eight Australians selected for Fulbright Senior Awards for 1988. The names of the award recipients were announced in the magazine of the Australian-American Educational Foundation, *The Fulbrighter*, in April.

This award will permit Dr Whelan to spend a six-month study leave in the United States in the first half of 1989. The basis for Dr Whelan's award was a research proposal centred on collaboration with colleagues at the University of Florida and at San Diego State University in two areas of research: pollination ecology and fire ecology.

Professor Peter Feinsinger will host Dr Whelan's visit to the Zoology Department at the University of Florida. Professor Feinsinger's research team has been engaged in studies of pollination of Costa Rican cloud forest plants which parallel the research interests of the ecology/ecological genetics group, headed by Dr Whelan and Dr Ayre, at The University of Wollongong. Both groups are examining questions central to pollination ecology, such as: 'Do plant species compete for the services of pollinators?' and 'What are the genetic consequences of different mating systems in animal-pollinated plant species?'

While in Florida, Dr Whelan also plans to continue a long-term research project, with the support of the State of Florida Department of Natural Resources, examining the



Dr Rob Whelan

effects of management burning in different seasons and at different frequencies on the regeneration of native tree species. This same topic concerns land management authorities in many fire-prone parts of the world, including the Illawarra region.

Fire ecology will also be the focus of Dr Whelan's collaboration with Professor Paul Zedler, at San Diego State University. Many studies have attempted to infer the role of bushfires in the evolution of certain plant characteristics. This is certainly difficult, but an important approach is the comparison of plants' responses to fires in regions with very different floras. Professor Zedler is an expert on the responses of plants to bushfires in the chaparral of southern California, and he has recently visited Western Australia and the Illawarra. Dr Whelan will be able to contribute his knowledge of the effects of bushfires on plants in eastern and western Australia and in Florida.

Although fire ecology is the reason for the stay in California, Dr Whelan will take the opportunity of being in the western USA to make a return visit to Dr Nick Waser and Dr Mary Price at the University of California, Riverside. These two ecologists have spent the past month and a half, as University of Wollongong Visiting Fellows, studying the pollination ecology and ecological genetics of banksias with the Wollongong research group.

Wollongong University gift ties and scarves

Wollongong University ties and scarves are available from the Union Shop. They are excellent as

presents to those travelling overseas, or as gifts to colleagues, friends, and graduands.

General Notices



Dr Kevin Mills

University Attracts Second Rainforest Research Grant

The Department of Geography at The University of Wollongong has recently been awarded a \$10,000 grant, under the National Estate Grants Program of the Commonwealth Department of Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories, to enable a detailed study of the conservation needs of the rainforests of the Illawarra region.

The study will be carried out by Dr Kevin Mills, a Research Associate in the Department. Dr Mills has been researching the flora and fauna of the region for many years and has a special interest in rainforests. He recently completed a report to the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service on rare rainforest plants in the Illawarra Region.

Dr Mills said that the aim of the study is to develop a rainforest conservation strategy which will provide conservation and management guidelines for the region's rainforests. 'The objective of this study is an important one. My previous research indicates that approximately 75 per cent of the Illawarra's rainforests were destroyed during the clearing of the vegetation associated with settlement of the area by Europeans.

'For this and other reasons we must ensure that our remaining rainforests are managed appropriately. Special attention must now be directed towards describing the forests, identifying features and sites of conservation importance and making recommendations for their long-term conservation. It is only when we understand the ecology of the rainforests that they can be managed in an effective way. We now have a good deal of information on the way in which these rainforests work and can thus begin to formulate management guidelines.'

The study will begin almost immediately and will be carried out over a period of approximately 18 months.

1989 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The following are the Academic Calendars for 1989 as approved by the University Council.

Summer Session

12 December - 23 December 1988 (2 weeks)
26 December - 30 December 1988 (1 week recess)
19 December 1988 - 27 January 1989 (school vacations)
2 January - 3 February (5 weeks)
6 February - 10 February (1 week examinations)

Session 1

27 February - 26 March (4 weeks)
27 March - 2 April (1 week recess)
27 March - 2 April (AVCC Week)
24 March - 31 March (school vacations)
3 April - 11 June (10 weeks)
12 June - 18 June (1 week study recess)
19 June - 2 July (2 weeks examinations)
3 July - 9 July (AVCC week)
26 June - 7 July (school vacations)
3 July - 16 July (2 weeks recess)

Session 2

17 July - 24 September (10 weeks)
25 September - 8 October (2 weeks recess)
25 September - 1 October (AVCC week)
25 September - 6 October (school vacations)
8 October - 5 November (4 weeks)
6 November - 12 November (1 week study recess)
13 November - 3 December (3 weeks examinations)

PUBLICATION OF SPAN 25

The latest issue of SPAN, the biannual journal of the South Pacific Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (SPACLALS), edited by William McGaw in the New Literatures Research Centre, has just been published.

The 25th issue of the journal contains articles, poetry, reviews and a stimulating interview with the Canadian feminist novelist, Aritha van Herk, who was a visiting Senior Lecturer and Writer-in-Residence in the Department of English last year.

Among the articles is a very entertaining one on resignation and exaggeration in Australian humour by Dorothy Jones entitled 'It's no good farting against thunder'.

Copies are on sale in the Department of English at \$5.

EUROPE TODAY: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

The Monash Centre for European Studies, Monash University, which was founded in 1987 to develop teaching and research in the area of European Studies, is holding its first conference from July 12 to 14. The conference will examine major social, political, economic and cultural issues in contemporary Europe. The program will include distinguished guest speakers from Europe.

Papers are invited from all disciplines and from both academics and non-academics. Part of the conference will be devoted to the concerns of the business community with regard to Europe. Information from Professor Brian Nelson, Centre for European Studies, Monash University, Clayton, Vic. 3168.



See 'Women in Engineering Bursaries...' below. The successful trio are, from left, Snezana Dragisic (Electrical and Computer Engineering), Elizabeth Sharp (Metallurgy and Materials Engineering) and Shiva Ghahreman (Civil and Mining Engineering)

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING BURSARIES AWARDED

For the first time in the history of the Faculty of Engineering, three bursaries valued at \$500 each were awarded at a Women in Engineering Information Evening held on May 24.

Female pupils from Years 9 to 12, their parents and School Careers Advisors from the South Sydney, Liverpool, Campbelltown, Illawarra and South Coast areas, were invited to learn about career opportunities in engineering.

The program included information about courses available, talks by women working and studying in the engineering field as well as a question and answer session.

In order to encourage more women into engineering, each of the four departments within the faculty offers a bursary worth \$500 to the female student enrolling in the first-year full-time (48 credit point) program of the course, who has completed the HSC within the previous two years and has obtained the highest HSC mark of those eligible in the department.

The bursaries were presented to Snezana Dragisic (Electrical and Computer Engineering), Shiva Ghahreman (Civil and Mining Engineering) and Elizabeth Sharp (Metallurgy and Materials Engineering).

PUBLIC LECTURE -- CHARLES J. DILLMAN

As a part of the Expo '88 program a public lecture will be held on June 16 beginning at 7.30 pm. Organised by Dr

Peter Milburn in the School of Health Sciences, the lecture is entitled 'Sports Science and the US Olympic Program.'

The speaker will be Charles J. Dillman, who has a PhD from the Pennsylvania State University and has held academic appointments at the universities of Illinois and Delmore and has been Director of Sports Medicine for the United States Ski Team and is presently Director of Sports Science for the US Olympic Committee. He has published widely in scientific and sports journals. He is also the recipient of numerous US awards.

Further information from Dr Peter Milburn, ext 3496 or 3881.

ACCOMMODATION IN CANBERRA

Wollongong University staff on visits to Canberra are invited to make use of the accommodation available at University House, at the Australian National University. Staff are invited to make the ANU their home, whether their stay is overnight or for several weeks. They are not only eligible but very welcome to stay whenever they are in Canberra. A brochure and current tariff schedules are with the Secretary, Planning and Marketing.

Staff are particularly invited to join members and residents at House Dinner at 6 pm on Wednesday evenings in hall. No booking is necessary and the charge of \$15 per head includes wine.

For those visiting Canberra on either a short or long assignment this is an excellent way to meet people outside their specific fields.

HISTORY OF WOMEN AND EDUCATION

The Gender and Education Unit, School of Learning Studies, and the Australian and New Zealand History of Education Society (NSW Regional) are jointly sponsoring a one-day conference.

Theme: The History of Women and Education.

Date: Friday June 10

Time: 10.30 am to 5 pm

Venue: Northern Lounge, University Union.

Lunch will be obtainable from the Union Cafeteria or Bistro.

Registration: Dr N. Kyle, Deputy Head, School of Learning Studies, Faculty of Education, The University of Wollongong, PO Box 1144, Wollongong, 2500.

ITALIANS ARE NEVER LOST FOR WORDS

In this Bicentennial celebration year, printing presses are running hot, churning out countless publications on the ways in which multiculturalism has shaped our Australian way of life. Among them are works on the Italian influence. However, there will be few, if any at all, which will explore the converse influences that the English language itself has had on Italy's since before it became a united country, with its own national language; one which transmigrated here in the process of cultural modification.

Although several attempts have been made in the past to investigate the phenomenon of inter-linguistic borrowings by Italian speakers from the English idiom, these have been far less exploratory and considerably less comprehensive than Gaetano Rando's *Dizionario Degli Anglicismi Nell'Italiano Postunitario*.

Its introductory pages examine the nature of the marriage between selective parts of idiomatic English, past and present, which has evolved into the current every-day vocabulary of Italian speakers at home and abroad. As language, it should be borne in mind that modern Italian is a relatively new arrival, since it was born out of a highly competitive flux of multi-regional dialects which were only gradually subordinated to a national language from the time of the unification of Italy in 1861.

The author explains the mechanics of this linguistic development, giving copious illustrations of how some words have been (and continue to be) 'kidnapped' unaltered, and others which have been 'Italianised' for one reason or another. A contemporary, global explosion within the communication media has enriched this process at a greatly accelerated pace. This is particularly

LOGOS OR ICONS, PLEASE

There has been an encouraging response from *Campus News* readers and contributors to the changes to the appearance of the journal during the past year and more. In a move to improve the appearance further, departments whose news items appear frequently in our pages are invited to let us have logos or other identifying icons for reproduction with their contributions. Bromides or top-quality art proofs are required. Discuss problems with George Wilson on 3926 or 286691.

evident in the areas of international television broadcasting.

Several fundamental sources of this linguistic marriage of convenience are focused upon in this concise dictionary. For instance, from the world of sport and entertainment we find examples in football, tennis, poker, bowling and indoor, all of which have been adopted unchanged and freely used in modern Italian language.

From modern science and technology we find words (or adaptations) like *Telefono* (telephone), *Telecamera* (television camera), *Scooter* (motor-scooter) and *Scooterista* (motor scooter rider); computer and countdown. It can be appreciated why words like 'computer' have been borrowed when its Italian counterpart would be: *Macchina elettrica a programmazione predisposto per l'elaborazione di dati o di informazioni*.

Tourism, of course, has been another major source for such neologisms now incorporated in retail trading signs. For example 'exchange' (money), 'cameras', 'slides' and 'tourist agency' are commonplace for on-the-spot advertising.

Through the influence of the international world of commerce, the Italians have, for further citation, adopted *Automazione* (automation); industrial design, marketing, supermarket, public relations, *Slogan Pubblicitario* (advertising blurb) and manager. There are many more examples.

This dictionary cites some 2,300 words of this nature, all of them succinctly explained and annotated to give sources and dates of origin.

In Italy, this dictionary has already been acclaimed as a major support in studying the Italian language of today, either for scholastic reasons or for purely practical purposes. It will become a standard work of reference for students in the very near future.

For those who have a basic knowledge of Italian, which they merely wish to improve, the dictionary offers an uncomplicated source for hours of entertainment.

An interesting facet for the community of Wollongong is that the publication of this book was made possible by a grant from The Friends of the University of Wollongong Ltd, which fosters a policy of promoting local talent on every possible occasion.

COMPUTER LITERACY PROGRAM

Did you know that the University has a computer literacy policy or that computer literacy will be a prerequisite for graduation?

Computer literacy requirements comprise keyboard, word processing and on-line library skills.

Don't worry about it. The requirements may be met in any of the following ways:

- a) Successful completion of an appropriate Higher School Certificate subject (eg, HSC Computing Science)
- b) Successful completion of relevant credit-earning computer courses considered to cover the literacy skills required by the University
- c) Successful completion of one of the special courses described below.

A package of courses has been established to provide for present and future computer literacy needs of the student body. The program will be offered by ITC Computer Training in conjunction with University Computer Services. The courses will be held on Fridays.

Contact Computer Services or ITC Computer Training to book your place on a course. Tel (042) 270850 (ext 3850) or (042) 268884 (ext 3777). For details of course outlines see *Campus News* for May 31.

Research Funds

The sources of research funds given below are available to members of academic staff. Further information including application forms may be obtained from Kim Harriss (ext 3201). Intending applicants are reminded that all research applications must be forwarded through the Office of Research and Post-graduate Studies.

MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

The National Council of the Australian Institute of Management is proposing to commission a major research study which will examine

The Manager's Role in Planning Future Directions for a Workforce in Paternership -- Sharing Response and Rewards within the Enterprise. Expressions of interest are being sought. Applications close with the University on July 4.

DIABETES RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

Apex and Diabetes Australia invite applications for grants for diabetes research in basic, clinical and applied (educational, sociological and psychological) areas. Applications close with the University on July 15.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN CAMPUS NEWS

	Internal Closing
Australia-China Education Co-operation Program	June 16
Australian Academy of Humanities Grant-in-Aid	June 16
RV Franklin Ship Time	June 16
Australian National Council on AIDS grants	June 16
Clive and Vera Ramaciotti Foundation Grants	June 16
The Australian Academy of Science and Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering UK Exchange	June 17
Film and Video Grants	June 17
Electrical Research Board Grants	June 23
The NSW State Cancer Council Resarch Grants	June 24
Literature and History	June 30
I W Wark Medal	June 30
Rothmans Fellowships	July 10
Law Foundation of NSW Travelling Fellowships	July 15
Generic Technology Grants	July 15
Australian Academies Exchange Fellowships	July 15
Harkness Fellowships	August 31
Japan Society Exchange Program	September 19
Benians Fellowships	October 30
Academy of Science China Exchange	November 17
Earthwatch	Any time
Criminology Research	Any time
Pig Research Council -- Support for Eminent Visitors	Any time
MERA Project Grants	Any time
Clive and Vera Ramaciotti Travel Grants	Any time
James N Kirby Foundation	Any time
Telecom Research Laboratories	Any time
NSW State Cancer Council Travel Grants-in-aid	Any time

Research grants approved between April 21 and May 20

Australian Telecommunications and Electronics Research Board	\$6000
Bradlow, H.S. -- Intergration of Conversational Voice Communications Into Local and Wide Area Computer Networks.	
Building Workers' Industrial Union Fellowship	\$68,862
Hagan, J.S. -- Post 1942 History of Industrial Relations in the Australian Building and Construction Industry.	
NSW Department of Education	\$6000
Kalantzis, M. and Cope, W.W. -- K-12 Writing Document Project.	
NSW Department of Education	\$35,000
Hagan, J.S., Markey, R. and Castle, S. -- Work Studies in the Curriculum.	
National Estate Program 1987/88	\$10,000
Mills, K. -- Illawarra Regional Rainforest Conservation Strategy.	
Australian Telecommunications and Electronics Research Board	\$8000
Ng, T.S. -- Performance Analysis of Multiple Beam and Optimum Combining Space Diversity Arrays in Digital Mobile Base Stations.	
Australian Telecommunications and Electronics Research Board	\$2000
Paoloni, F.J. -- A Pipeline Two Dimensional Fourier Transform Processor.	

Friends of the University

WANTED BOOKS WANTED

Needed now by the Graduates' Group of the Friends for their bookstall on University Open Day, August 28. Please deliver donations of novels, texts, comics and old publications to Friends' House, 55 Northfields Avenue, Keiraville. Your old stuff can be somebody else's treasure!

For inquiries telephone 612714 (Dapto), 291951 (Wollongong), 672229 (Austinmer).

Book conveners: Johanna de Jonge 672229, Marjory Macdonald 291951.

Concerts, Exhibitions and Entertainment

EXPLOSIVE PRODUCTION OF LOOK BACK IN ANGER

Wollongong Workshop Theatre has begun an explosive production of 'Look Back in Anger', by John Osborne.

This gutsy play is on now at Workshop Theatre, Gipps Street, Gwynneville. Evening performances on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Final performance will be on Saturday July 11.

For bookings ring Wilson's Record Bar 296169. Tickets \$6 with concession \$4.

The production is being staged in co-operation with the School of Creative Arts, The University of Wollongong.



Staff Roundup

SUPERANNUATION NEWS

A representative from the State Authorities Superannuation Board will be visiting The University of Wollongong on June 22 and 23 to talk to interested staff members regarding the State Superannuation Fund (SSF) and the State Authorities Superannuation Fund (SASS). The talks will be held in Room 303 in the Administration Building at the following times:

June 22

10 to 11 am -- State Authorities Superannuation Scheme

11 am to noon -- State Superannuation Scheme

June 23

10 to 11 am -- State Authorities Superannuation Scheme

The representative will be available for interviews with staff members currently in the State Superannuation Scheme from 11 am until noon on June 23.

Those interested in attending any of these sessions should contact Barbara Smith on ext 3930 before June 17.

New general staff who have joined the University since April 1 this year are encouraged to attend one of the talks on State Authorities Superannuation Scheme.

COMING STAFF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The following activities are scheduled in the near future. Staff interested in undertaking any of the programs should complete the blue nomination form, available from Personnel Services, and return by the date given below. Staff must have their Head of Department's recommendation on the nomination form.

Do Finances Baffle You? A Seminar on The University's Financial System -- This seminar looks at the University's financial system and how it works. It especially considers what staff need to know as users of the finance system (eg monthly reports, purchasing items, arranging payments, etc). **Target Audience** -- All staff involved with University funds. **Duration** -- 1/2 day. **When** -- July 28. **RSVP** -- June 27.

Effective Communication Skills Training -- This workshop will emphasise the skills of developing self-awareness and self-confidence, decision-making, and communication. Skills such as listening, constructing assertive and clear messages, obtaining feedback, saying no where appropriate, and handling aggression in ways based on self respect and respect for others will be developed. **Target Audience** -- All staff. **Duration** -- four half days. **When** -- August 3, 10, 17, 24. **RSVP** -- July 4.

Further details: Wendy Raikes, ext 3946.

CURRENT VACANCIES

The closing date for applications is indicated in italics.

Research Assistant, Chemistry, contract appointment, *June 10*.

Research Fellow, History, contract 2 years, *June 17*.

Further details: Ross Walker, ext 3934.

STAFF CHANGES

New Starters

Mrs S.A. Nightingale, Lecturer, Metallurgy and Material Engineering.

Ms I. Burgess, Administrative Assistant, Personnel Services.

Mr S. Selby, Fitter/Welder, Uniadvice.

Ms Y. McLeod, Typist/Office Assistant, International House.

Ms J. Oyston, Typist/Office Assistant, International House.

Mr E. Saglica, Gardener Labourer, Buildings and Grounds.

Mr J. Lees, Lithographic Operator, Printery.

Transfer/Promotion

Mrs H. Hasan, Lecturer, Industrial and Administrative Studies

Departures

Dr M. Shuer, Lecturer, Health Sciences.

Ms L.J. Wyatt, Cleaner, Business Services.

EEO news....

TWO IMPORTANT NEW COMMITTEES

Two of the issues targeted for special attention by the EEO Unit in 1988 were:

- * conditions of service for part-time general staff and;
- * the low numbers of women in academia.

I reported in a previous issue of *Campus News* on the outcomes of an Open Forum of staff in regard to the second matter -- namely, participants wanted the University to be involved in liaison with schools to overcome some of the long-term barriers perceived in the educational system, and more input from women on campus at the University policy level.

To push ahead with these directions I am seeking to establish an *Academic Womens' Co-ordinating Committee* which will follow-up these outcomes, although the unit will undertake to do any organisation (so please don't be put off by the thought of too much work to do -- we want your ideas most of all).

Similarly, we want to set up a *Part Time Employees Sub-Committee* to advise on conditions of employment for part-time general staff.

So, volunteers, please call the unit if you can spare even a few hours and are interested in helping in these two important areas.

Other sub-committees set up through EEO in the past -- such as the Disability and Sexual Harassment sub-committees -- have shown just how effective a small group of dedicated people can be.

I look forward to your response.

Kathy Rozmeta
EEO Co-ordinator

Seminars

WOMEN'S STUDIES SEMINAR

Speaker: Sue Rowley (Creative Arts) with readings by Lisa Scott-Murphy (Creative Arts)

Topic: Haggard Women and Lonely Bushgirls Waiting: Representation of Women in Australian bush Mythology.

Date and Time: June 14, 6.30 pm

Venue: Building 19, room 1034

Inquiries to Sue Uniacke, Department of Philosophy, ext 3604.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

Date and time: Friday June 10, 11.30 am

Speaker: Dr Roger O'Halloran, Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works

Topic: Chemistry in Motion

Date and time: Friday June 17, 11.30 am

Speaker: Professor N. Kane-Maguire, Furman University, South Carolina, USA

Topic: Electro-generated Chemiluminescence in Transition Metal Systems

Date and time: Friday July 22, 11.30 am

Speaker: Mr Ian Carter, Uniadvice

Topic: Commercialising Research and Technology

For further details please contact Dr G.G. Wallace, ext 3504.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Date and time: Thursday June 9, 12.30 pm

Venue: Social Sciences Building Room 1056 (19.1056)

Speaker: Associate Professor Linda L. Viney

Topic: *Interpreting the Interpreters*

WOMEN AND THE LAW

Date and time: Saturday June 18, 10 am to 4.15 pm

Venue: The University of Wollongong, Engineering Science Building 35, Room G19.

Program is designed to provide a forum for women to learn about, inquire into and discuss, legal matters of a diverse nature.

Experienced solicitors will discuss current issues.

The program has been developed by the Business and Professional Women's Club of Illawarra in association with the Wollongong Uniadvice Limited, Division of Continuing Professional Education.

Registration forms from The Co-ordinator, Wollongong Uniadvice Ltd, The University of Wollongong, PO Box 1144, Wollongong 2500.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

The schedule of Department of Economics seminars to August 1988 are:

June 14

D. O'Brien -- *A Theoretical framework for analysis of rice policy in Sri Lanka.*

July 26

S. Mark -- *Rural income and employment opportunities in the Cimanuk River Basin of West Java.*
August 16

D. Kelly -- *Workplace industrial relations in the Australian steel industry.*

The seminars are informal and speakers will report on completed research as well as work in progress.

For further information please contact Dennis O'Brien, ext 3654.

All welcome. Bring your lunch to room 19.2085 at 12.30 pm.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Date and time: Friday June 17, 2.30 pm

Topic: Reasons, Attitudes, and Factive Feelings

Speaker: Dr Robert Dunn, Senior Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, The University of Wollongong

Venue: Department of Philosophy Seminar Room, North Wing, Social Sciences Building, The University of Wollongong (Building 19.1034).

DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING POSTGRADUATE SEMINARS

Time: 11 am (Friday)

Venue: Department of Mechanical Engineering Seminar Room, Building 8.

June 10

Speaker: Zhihong Gu

Title: The Flow Rate of Coarse and Fine Bulk Solids from Mass Flow Bins

July 1

Speaker: Robert O'Meley

Title: Flow Separation from Bluff Bodies

July 22

Speaker: Mukeschandra Desai

Title: Flowability Assessment of Powders During Pneumatic Conveying

August 12

Speaker: Mohammed Islam

Title: Analysis of Machining Accuracies in CNC Machining Operations.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES

Wednesdays 3.30 pm, Building 35, Room G19.

June 8. Professor Andy Beattie, School of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University.

The evolution of ant-plant interactions.

June 15. Dr Tony Hulbert, Biology Department, The University of Wollongong.

Physiological development in the Tammar wallaby: A biomedical model.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY BIOMEDICAL EVENING SEMINARS

Each seminar will be preceded by a char-grill dinner at 6.30 pm in the Union Bistro. Those interested in attending the dinner should contact Dr E.J. Steele, so that appropriate bookings may be made. Seminars begin at 8 pm in Lecture Theatre G19 Building 35. (The assistance of Dr Stephen Andersen is acknowledged).

June 8. *Pharmacina* seminar in Plant Molecular Biology. Dr J. Hasselhoff, CSIRO, Division of Plant Industry, Canberra.

A satellite RNA of a Plant Virus -- Biology and Application.

SIR!

Dear Editor,

Re: The first identification of Acquired Intellectual Poverty Syndrome.

Thank you for forwarding the enclosed letter for our independent assessment as to its veracity. Like yourself, we at the Cognitive Science Group here at The University of Wollongong at first suspected that it was a hoax, but our enquiries in the short time available have led us to believe that an AIPS epidemic might in fact be a serious risk.

So far we have been unable to identify your correspondent or even the institution concerned, but careful analysis of the text of the letter makes us concerned that even your correspondent may have unknowingly succumbed to AIPS.

The content of the letter suggests that your correspondent is fixated on universities as the only possible focus of AIPS infection. In the Cognitive Science Group, we have considered the possibility that such an infection could reach pandemic proportions. In order to assess the true extent of the AIPS menace, and to coordinate research into the possible impact on other institutions in our society and on the public generally, we have decided to establish a National Advisory Council on AIPS (NACAIPS), and I have been appointed taskforce chairperson.

Anyone with information which may assist our enquiries in this matter of public interest should contact me at the address below without delay.

Yours sincerely,
Peter G. Burton

Associate Professor
COGNITIVE SCIENCE GROUP
University of Wollongong
NSW 2500 (tel 0420270505)

The letter referred to above follows (Editor)

Sir,

I wish to draw to your readers' attention some observations which suggest that the early stages of a major epidemic are upon us working in the university system. Though not myself an epidemiologist, a number of distressing instances at my own institution and others suggest that reports from abroad of a major threat to life-as-we-know-it may not in fact be exaggerated. The affliction in question may be hereafter referred to (according to international convention) as Acquired Intellectual Poverty Syndrome (AIPS).

Being confined purely to universities, this syndrome has no direct relation to the similar, well known affliction of *genetic* origin so common in the Public Service. The AIPS syndrome arises not from a genetic defect, since most AIPS sufferers are in fact well endowed genetically, but from a protracted deficiency of *nurture*.

Since this deficiency of nurture includes but is not confined to financial matters, I should perhaps immediately differentiate AIPS from the well known IEPS (Imposed Economic Poverty Syndrome), as publicised in this country in terms of the Henderson Poverty Line. As I understand it the Henderson Poverty Line embodies a Catch-22 element: you are unemployed, have a family to support, and so little money that you can't travel even to the next suburb for a job interview. Naturally nothing like this could exist in universities in this day and age.

The first symptoms of AIPS show as a depression of the morale response caused by protracted exposure to divisive and disorientating rule-making, the imposition of increasingly bureaucratic structures, and the continued avoidance of academic criteria in decision-making in favour of criteria which consolidate the power and influence of those administering (rather than contributing to) the academic enterprise. This phase soon passes.

These early phases of AIPS can seem rather trivial when compared to the later phases, in which insidious destructive changes take hold in the very *brain* of the AIPS sufferer. Enough is known about the brain these days for your readers to guess that this is bad news.

There is first a forgetfulness to do research. It begins quietly enough with the patient making out that he or she is fully occupied first with teaching and then with course developments.

In the case of teaching, of course, background reading, preparation, consultation with colleagues, lecturing, tutoring and marking of assignments, keeping records, enrolling and advising students, answering their queries and preparing, supervising and marking examinations *rarely* exceeds 34.5 hr per week and even this is made more convenient by the flexitime arrangement to break it up into little pieces of time which can be organised any

time of the night or day, leaving plenty of time to concentrate on research.

In the case of course developments there is a ridiculous and pathetic desire continually to change tried-and-true courses. Things like changing entry standards of the students, the need for special courses for students of different preparation and cultural background, the need for greater industry relevance, the need to adjust for the research findings that have been made by his/her church or reported on the television (by journalists who have access to journals and time to read up on such things) are just some of the reasons quoted by AIPS sufferers when they are in their course-change phase. Surely such misdirected efforts won't increase the employability of graduates! Anyway, as they themselves know -- its really just a form of displacement activity to avoid doing any real research.

The sole saving grace to the community in which the AIPS sufferer in these stages resides is that he/she has no trouble at all being *accountable*; this means that each successive tier of administrators above the AIPS sufferer can keep their noses clean with plenty of interest to report to those to whom they are accountable. (It should also perhaps be said that this reporting leads to financial savings since non-promotion is a little easier when the AIPS sufferer gives him/herself away.)

Sir, in warning your readers to be on the lookout for the AIPS menace, I am happy to report that things are pretty good so far at my own institution. For my own part, the fine I got for parking my non-permit car in the university all day outside my office last Sunday week (while working on a grant proposal) is like water off a duck's back. I am also undaunted by the letter withdrawing my library privileges -- I can still sneak in to look at the journals, I can finish reading the books I've kept out too long, and anyway, I've read the remaining 22 books it has in my field over the past ten years. I have been toying with an idea for a new course, but it'll pass.

At least at my university the Vice-Chancellor has said that research in universities has been 'overemphasised', so the pressure in that direction isn't too great. In fact the Vice-Chancellor is quite a literary person, so it surprised some of us to find a few computers becoming available to some of the staff and students. At first we thought he might be promoting 'computer literacy', but somebody told me that he was interested in genuine literacy! As the story goes, he reckons that if enough AIPS-sufferers can forget about research and just tap-tap-tap away on their machines, our place can outdo Shakespeare...

Back to the wider issue. Sir, in closing can I beseech one of your readers to look into the suggestion that AIPS is a 'sleeping' disease to which innocent victims are predisposed by excessive exposure to the school system?

Sincerely,
A Concerned Academic,
BSC, PHD, FRC4X
(name and address withheld by request)

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