Number 2, 1994

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

Wednesday, 23 February

CAMPUS NEWS

Vice-Chancellor resigns

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ken McKinnon, announced to the Council meeting of Friday 11 February that he would be resigning at the end of 1994.

Professor McKinnon has been Vice-Chancellor of the University for the last 13 years, during which time it has quadrupled in size and become one of the most respected of Australian universities.

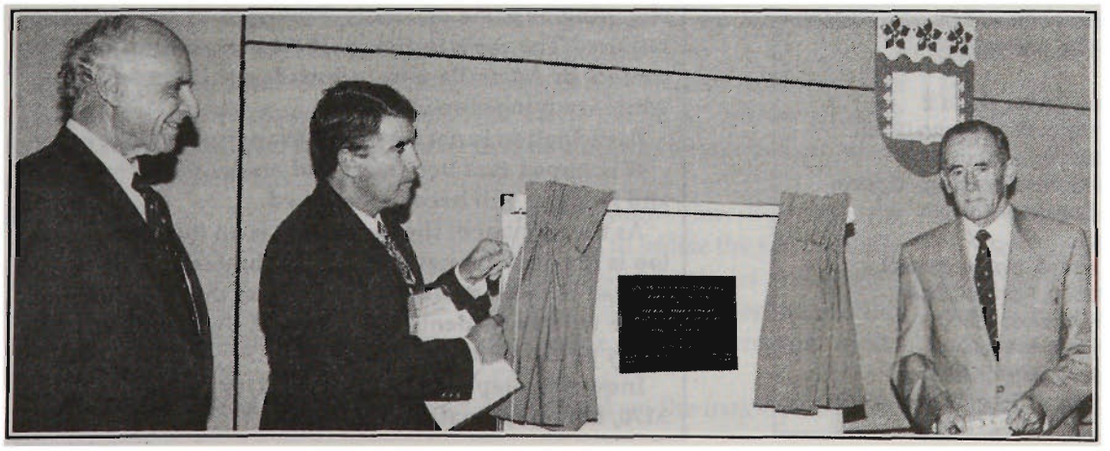
Professor McKinnon said he felt it was 'better to risk going a little early than to hang on too long'.

'The University has achieved an excellent reputation,' Professor McKinnon said. 'On all indicators it is at or near peak performance; it is attracting leading researchers; its physical facilities are now among the best in Australia. It seems like a good moment.'

Professor McKinnon said that he anticipated returning to scholarly work and writing, although he was not in a position to make any statements at present.

Council received his resignation with great regret and with unanimous gratitude for his demonstrable achievements and great vision and approved the composition of a committee to select the University's new Vice-Chancellor.

Professor McKinnon



The day before he announced his retirement, Professor McKinnon attended the opening of the 'Keira View' building. Professor McKinnon has always taken a deep interest in the development of the physical beauty of the campus and sees this building as the focal point of the campus. *Story page three*

Computer labs available

The Illawarra Technology Corporation has three fully-equipped computer training rooms available for hire in Sydney at the University Centre, day, evening and weekends.

Call Kate Shillum, tel. (02) 370 6650 or Michelle Pieri, tel. (042) 26 8884, for bookings.

University of the Third Age

The U3A – the University of the Third Age – which was started in France and came to the Illawarra in 1988, is steadily growing.

The main aim of the organisation is not passing exams (there are none) or of crammed learning, but to present interesting information in interesting ways.

Subjects to be covered during 1994 are Literature, Current Affairs, History, Art, French and German.

Lecturers are either local people, who have specialised knowledge, enthusiastic members of U3A and a growing number of University lecturers, who have given most interesting sessions on local history, bush remedies, personal visits overseas, usually off the well-beaten tourist routes, and comparative religions.

Fees are modest: $20 single or $35 per couple to cover attendance at all classes for the whole year.

Locations are near to transport, with all lessons held during the day. Contact June Walker, tel. (042) 712128.

Farewell

A farewell dinner will be held for Professor Barry Conyngham, Dean of Creative Arts and Chair of Academic Senate.

Professor Conyngham will shortly take up an appointment as the foundation Vice-Chancellor of Southern Cross University, Lismore.

The dinner will be held on Thursday 17 March at the University Function Centre at 7pm.

The cost is $25 per head. Contact: Sheila Hall, ext. 3985

Study Leave

The closing date for Academic Study Leave applications for Spring Session 1994 is 28 February.

Please forward your application to Academic Staff Unit, Personnel Services Branch via your Head of Department and Dean of Faculty.

Enquires to Sue Smithers, ext. 3202, or Robyn Lumby, ext. 3117.

Professor resigns

Professor Ron Johnston, Foundation Professor and Chairman of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, has resigned from the University.

He was responsible for the establishment of the University's first research centre – the Centre for Technology and Social Change (TASC).

He is now Executive Director of the Australian Centre for Innovation and International Competiveness (ACIIC) which is located in the University of Sydney.

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

Dr Karl Kruszelnicki

Well-known science commentator, media personality and graduate of Wollongong University, renowned for his enthusiasm and ability to bring science to life, will speak on:

'Bizarre Moments in Science'

following the

Annual General Meeting of the University of Wollongong Alumni Association Inc.

Members of the public, especially former students and staff of the University of Wollongong, are welcome. Light refreshments will be served after the AGM and talk.

Venue: Function Centre Room 2
University of Wollongong Union
Date: Saturday 26 February 1994
Time: Annual General Meeting - 6.30pm
Guest Speaker - 7.00pm

If you wish to attend, please contact
Juliet Richardson, Alumni Officer,
University of Wollongong,
Northfields Avenue,
Wollongong NSW 2522
Telephone (042) 21 3249; Fax (042) 21 4299

Make links with an International Student

Volunteers are needed to join the International Friendships Program (IFP) for Autumn Session.

The IFP is designed to promote cultural exchange between members of the community and individual international students.

Participants are linked with a particular international student and encouraged to meet the student two or three times during the session.

This would be to invite the student for a home-cooked meal, or some other simple activity such as a picnic, shopping or game of tennis. Provision of board is not required. The aim is to provide the student with a friendly contact in Australia and to broaden their experiences while studying abroad.

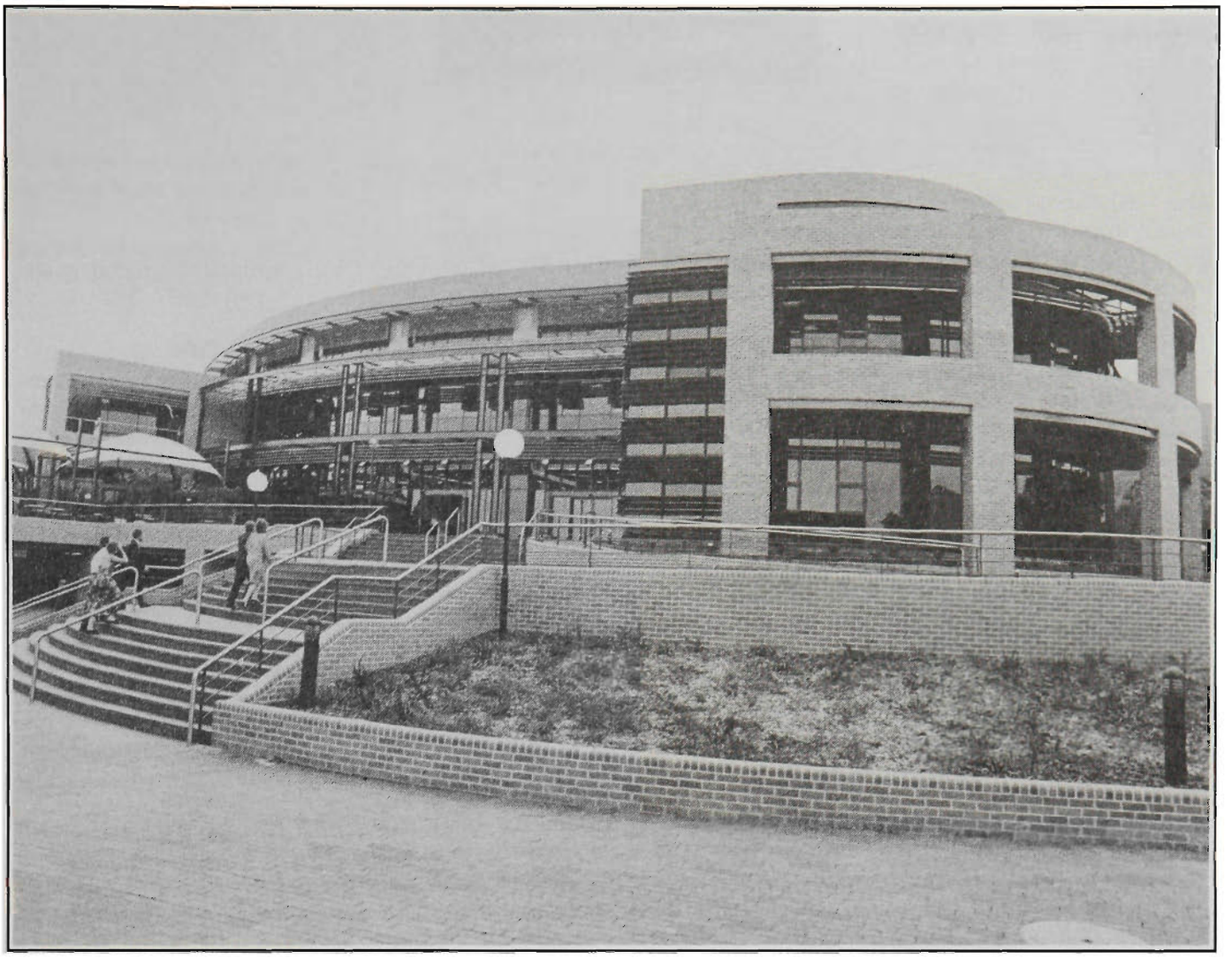
Participation is not restricted to any particular group:

It is hoped that both staff and students, individuals and families will become involved.

As the number of these students is on the increase, so too is the need for new local IFP volunteers.

Most of these students will be from the US, although there will be students from France, Sweden and Germany participating as well.

Inquiries: Stephen Lowe, ext. 4311, or Sue Church, ext. 3170, in the International Office .



The impressive 'Keira View' building

Official opening of 'Keira View'

The official opening of the new 'Keira View' building took place on Thursday 10 February.

The Hon. Stephen Martin MP, Member for Cunningham, opened the building and more than 200 guests attended the function.

Known as 'Keira View' during the construction phase, this landmark building expresses the maturity and remarkable achievements of this university.

It will accommodate the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Education.

It also provides the western sector of the campus with eating facilities in the Keira Cafe and Food for Thought restaurant with both indoor and outdoor seating.

Keira Cafe will be open from 9am-2.30pm and the Food for Thought from 10am-8pm Monday to Friday.

The old Bistro in the Union will be used for functions.

The building is fully equipped with lecture theatres, seminar rooms, computer laboratory, a courtroom and an exhibition area for art works or small trade displays.

A central atrium with a rain forest theme provides light and a restful view for offices, seminar rooms and the Moot Court.

The project cost of $13m was funded jointly by the Federal Government Department of Employment, Education and Training, the University of Wollongong and the University of Wollongong Union.

The design criteria established in the early planning studies ensured that the campus developed a unified character.

For the Keira View Building, the design had to utilise the same palette of materials and colours as the other campus buildings, but be unique and identifiable as the centrepoint of the campus.

The site is on the major pedestrian axis between the University campus and the campus of the former Institute of Education.

It formerly housed the Institute's cafeteria which was known as 'The Greenery', and several demountables that had been used for more than two decades for teaching purposes.

Its central location on the amalgamated campus was identified by site planning studies in 1984. The notional use of the site was an extension of the University Union facilities combined with lecture and drama theatres.

Ten years later, these facilities are a reality complete with landscaping, flood-mitigation works and a new linked ponding system.

This superb setting is part of the carefully planned aesthetic experience that students enjoy during their years on campus; an experience that contributes to the development of environmentally sensitive individuals.

Early teachers' reunion

A weekend reunion of 'Class of '68' alumni from the Wollongong Teachers' College was held in mid-January, 25 years after the students completed their teacher training.

About 60 alumni attended many activities during the weekend, the highlight on the Saturday being a lunchtime barbecue followed by a tour of the campus.

The tour, which focused in particular on the old Teachers' College buildings, was the cause of much nostalgic reminiscences as the alumni relived their student days.

Former students had travelled from as far afield as Perth, Queensland and northern NSW, with many coming from the Sydney area.

The reunion was very timely, quite by chance, as the recent fires brought back memories of the bushfires that ravaged Mt Keira and other local areas in 1968.

'Lectures were cancelled and we were issued with wet sugar bags to beat down the flames that threatened the College,' recalled one of the alumni.

The next function for education alumni will be a reunion barbecue and launch of the Education Alumni Chapter, to which all alumni from the Teachers' College, the Institute of Education and of course the University's Faculty of Education are invited.

This will be held on Saturday 19 March at 6pm in the Keira View Building.

Further information is available from Jan James, Faculty Officer, or Juliet Richardson, Alumni Officer.

Alumni News

Talk by Dr Karl Kruszelnicki and Alumni Association AGM

Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, well-known science commentator, media personality and Wollongong graduate, renowned for his enthusiasm and ability to bring science to life, will speak on 'Bizarre Moments in Science', after the Annual General Meeting of the University of Wollongong Alumni Association Inc.

Venue:	Function Centre Room 2, University Union
Date:	Saturday 26 February
Time:	Annual General Meeting - 6.30pm Guest speaker - 7pm

All members of the campus community , as well as members of the wider public, are welcome to attend.

Former students and staff of the University are especially welcome. Light refreshments will be served after the AGM and talk.

If you would like to attend, contact Alumni Officer Juliet Richardson (ext. 3249) as soon as possible, with the number in your group.

The AGM of the Commerce Alumni will be held the same evening, after Dr Kruszelnicki's talk.

Further details can be obtained from Belinda Schuster, Faculty of Commerce (ext. 4478).

Campus Alumni

The Bookshop and Gallery at Campus East (opposite the Science Centre) will reopen on the weekend of 26 and 27 February from 1-5pm.

Books available cover a wide range of texts as well as fiction and non-fiction. Come and have a browse!

Donations of any books, magazines etc are invited. These may be left any weekend afternoon at the Science Centre (please mark 'Bookshop'), or during the week at the Library or Student Enquiry counter.

The Campus Alumni Honours Year Scholarship is offered for the first time this year.

Two book scholarships, each worth $300, will be awarded to students who are undertaking honours or who are in the final year of a four-year or combined/joint course.

Further details can be obtained from Chris Hadley in Student Admissions (ext. 3794). Closing Date 1 April.

Language skills give graduates an edge

Keeping up with the demand for university graduates with language skills, the Department of Modern Languages is holding a forum on Careers with Languages in the Hope Theatre on Thursday February 24.

The internationalisation of work, both at home and overseas, means that in today's increasingly competitive graduate careers market, languages are a major asset.

A panel of speakers from the areas of commerce, public relations and the media will speak about the importance of language skills in the job market and careers available at the Employment Seminar commencing at 2pm.

The speakers at the forum include Subdean of the Faculty of Commerce, University of Wollongong, Di Kelly; Charmaine Vanderbeek from the Public Relations Department of Readers Digest; language consultant from the South Coast Region Department of School Education, Colleen Martin; script editor and language consultant from the Education Unit of SBS Television, Frances Byrne; and Patricia Webster, Careers and Appointments Service, University of Wollongong.

The second session of the afternoon involves activities to achieve language skills and will be run concurrently in two venues.

In the Hope Theatre at 3.30pm there will be demonstrations of computer-assisted language learning starting with French and then Japanese at 4pm.

Also beginning at 3.30pm in the Department of Modern Languages, Building 19 Level 2, there will be a lecture titled 'Spanish – a language for 300 million', an Italian computer-assisted language learning demonstration, and the opportunity to speak with lecturers about studying French, Italian, Spanish, Greek or Japanese at the University of Wollongong.

The University has invited careers advisers, high school teachers, all students from years 10-12, and parents to take part in the forum.

University of Wollongong/Illawarra Regional Hospital
1 year Master of Engineering Scholarship
$10,000 per annum tax free

Image processing: Medical Image Enhancement and Motion Correction

For further details please contact Dr Philip O. Ogunbona in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Wollongong, NSW 2522, phone (042) 21 3403, fax (042) 21 3236.

Professor Bridie Raban (right) held a seminar to discuss changes in teacher education in England and Australia. She is pictured with staff from the Faculty of Education.

Visiting Professor outlines crisis

Professor Bridie Raban, Professor of Primary Education and Director of the Centre for the Study of Early Childhood at the University of Warwick, England, visited the Faculty of Education recently.

Her research interests include teacher education, language and literacy development as well as curriculum evaluation.

While she was in Wollongong she discussed the prospects for teacher education, locally, nationally and across the world.

She said that in England there are increasing government pressures to reform teacher education.

Such reforms see the training of teachers being transferred to schools and ultimately teacher education will no longer take place in institutions of higher education.

Such institutions are perceived to have been instrumental in subverting the teaching force, in under-preparing the profession for their task of educating the children of the nation and thereby generating a poor quality work force.

Professor Raban said the UK government sees the teaching profession (and especialy those who train them) as solely responsible for Britain's decline in world markets and for the increasing crime rate.

Such powerful beliefs have popular appeal and, of course, significant implications for colleagues in Faculties of Education throughout Britain.

These and other changes in higher education accountability exercises leave the place of education in an ambiguous position.

She asked if there are similar moves in Australia.

Council News

Three new members welcomed

Council's first meeting for 1994 took place on Friday 11 February.

The Chancellor welcomed three new members to the meeting:

Chief Superintendent Bev Lawson (Ministerial Appointee);

Mr Keith Phipps (elected by Convocation);

Mr Neil Trivett (elected by the students);

and congratulated the following members on their re-election or re-appointment:

Ms Shirley Nixon (Convocation member) and Mr Rod Oxley, Dr Brian Gillett and Mr Paul Jeans (Ministerial Nominees).

Council also farewelled Professor Barry Conyngham who was attending his last Council meeting before leaving to take up his appointment as the foundation Vice-Chancellor of the Southern Cross University, Lismore.

On the agenda for the meeting were:

- Election of Deputy Chancellor – Dr Brian Gillett was re-elected for a further two-year term.
- Amendments to the Review Procedures for Academic Units involving a change in the membership of Review Committees and updating of procedures (enquiries to Peter Wood or Lynn Woodley, Academic and Student Services).
- Review of the Department of Civil and Mining Engineering – receipt of Review Report and Senate recommendations.
- Ceremonial and Honorary Awards – approval of recommendations for honorary awards to be conferred at the May Graduation ceremonies. Details to appear in future issues of Campus News.

Medical Physics starts its second year

The four-year (honours) degree program in Medical Physics introduced by the Department of Physics is about to launch into its second year after a foundation intake of 16 high-performing HSC students in 1993.

University of Wollongong is the only university in Australia to offer a Bachelor of Medical Physics, although there is a similar degree at UNSW that was inaugurated in 1991.

In the last decade the increasing use of technology in hospitals and medical laboratories has led to a growing need for professionals with physics training and a strong background in medicine and the health sciences.

Physics is used in the examination, diagnosis and treatment of patients.

Medical Physics is a specific program designed to produce graduates with a background in physics and the basic life sciences as well as special knowledge in areas related to nuclear medicine, ultrasonics, x-ray, magnetic resonance, lasers, particle accelerators and data analysis.

The four-year duration of the course permits the inclusion of new studies without compromising the physics content in the first year.

The final year of study contains significant project work and depending on performance levels, can lead to a student being awarded an Honours degree.

Like other specialist degrees, the program of the BMedPhys is designed to permit students to move into other majors if after the first year they find that their interests lie elsewhere.

The course is co-ordinated by Dr J.N. Mathur and Associate Professor W. J. Zealey.

Dr Mathur's close association with the Illawarra medical profession makes it possible for students to gain access to a variety of the local specialist facilities to support the proposed projects.

In addition, specialists have indicated their willingness to present formal lecture material in their areas to provide the professional content of the course at various levels.

The Department of Physics at the University of Wollongong has been linked with medical physics for many years.

In 1975, one of the first students to graduate with a Master of Science Degree, Mr L K L J Lising, was appointed as a medical physicist at Woden Valley Hospital, ACT.

In 1981, a BSc(Hons) student, Dr K. J. Grant, enrolled in a medical physics-oriented program at ANU and was then employed as a medical physicist in one of the large Sydney hospitals.

Andrew Elliot MSc, who conducted research at Illawarra Cancer Care Centre (ICCC) on the operation of the linear accelerator, is on the staff of the Radiation Oncology Unit at Woden Valley Hospital.

Martin Butson BSc(Hons), who based his project work on the behaviour of the linear accelerator, is employed at ICCC as a medical physicist.

Two medical physicists, Mr Martin Carolan BSc and Mr Steven Wallace, are conducting their PhD research in nuclear physics at University of Wollongong.

One of the supervisors of the PhD program, Dr B. J. Allen, Manager of the Nuclear Applications Biomedicine and Health Program at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), has been appointed as an Honorary Professorial Fellow in our Department of Physics.

In addition, the Chief Medical Physicist at ICCC, Dr Metcalfe, has been appointed as an Honorary Senior Fellow, and Dr V. Fernandes, Director, Department of Nuclear Medicine, The Illawarra Regional Hospital, has been appointed as an Honorary Associate Professor in the Department of Physics.

In a recent NSW Health Department report it was stated that 'there is clearly a need for additional physicists positions as the complexity of equipment and treatment techniques increases and as services expand in volume' and the Medical Physics course at University of Wollongong is well on the way to providing these physicists.

Statistical Computing courses

The Learning Development Centre is running two introductory SAS courses for students at 300 level or higher and staff.

The February course is underway. Another will be held during the first four weeks of the Autumn session.

They are designed for people who are about to analyse research data.

No previous computing or SAS knowledge is assumed. An abbreviated course is available for 200 level students later during the session.

The third of these courses will be run in conjunction with an introductory statistics sourse 'Statistical Methods for Research Workers' on offer through the Statistical Consulting Service, in the Department of Applied Statistics and taught by Dr Ken Russell.

While the two courses will be complementary, there is no obligation on participants in either course to attend the other one.

The course will cover the topics: coding data; writing programs to read raw data; basic statistical procedures; and, for the full course, using permanent SAS data sets.

The course enable students to write and run simple SAS programs and to use several basic SAS procedures on PCs.

The material covered in this course will be assumed knowledge for all clients who seek assistance from the Learning Development Centre in the area of SAS computing.

There will be 8-10 hours of classes for each course. If a participant is not able to attend the first three sessions they are advised not to enrol.

A charge of $20 per student and $100 per staff will be made.

To obtain further information about this course or to enrol in the workshops, either:

- ring the Learning Development Centre, ext. 3977 or,
- send an e-mail message to Anne Porter.

International authority for Systems engineering course

A special course in Systems engineering is being conducted by the Mechanical Engineering Department, University of Wollongong.

Systems engineering is a key part of total asset management and is revolutionising the role of engineers all over the world.

The systems engineering and Life Cycle Management module of the course will be taught by Professor Benjamin S. Blanchard, one of the world's leading authorities on the subject.

Professor Blanchard, from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in the United States, will conduct an intensive five-day training program between 28 February and 8 March.

Classes will be held in the offices of ITC Training and Education at 210 Clarence St, Sydney, and limited places for Professor Blanchard's course are available at a cost of $800.

For more information contact ITC, tel. (042) 26 8884.

Lionel Murphy Scholarship for Wollongong Law graduate

Student Profile

Twenty-four-year-old Rachel Phelan, a University of Wollongong graduate, has been awarded the prestigious Lionel Murphy Scholarship open to all Australian graduates in Law and Science.

Rachel completed her Arts degree majoring in Australian History in 1988 and then went on to complete the LLB degree with First Class Honours.

The scholarship is awarded on the basis of undergraduate results and personal interests because it is a community-oriented award.

Rachel undertook voluntary work at Unanderra and Towradgi nursing homes and has completed work experience at the Public Interest Advocacy Centre.

A combination of this hard work, excellent results and Rachel's field of study resulted in her being awarded the scholarship.

This study in Community Right-to-Know Legislation with an emphasis on 'hazardous chemical output of industry' has continued into her post-graduate research at the Australian National University (ANU) where she is enrolled in the Master of Laws program.

Rachel has chosen to use the scholarship to enable her to conduct this research at ANU where she is supervised by an expert in her chosen field of study.

The research can be applied for example to prospective land buyers looking at chemical problems and negotiation of chemical levels in work environments. It becomes an extension of the Freedom of Information Act.

A local girl who studied at Wollongong High School, Rachel has left her options open and has been careful not to specialise too early.

Rachel Phelan

She has ambitions to practice law but is also interested in becoming an academic and continuing her research in Administration and Environmental Law.

13-16 March
INTERNATIONAL EXHIBIT FABRICATORS WORKSHOP ON THE DESIGN OF CHEMISTRY EXHIBITS
Registration date: February 14
Contact: Geoff Snowden, ASTEN National Science Centre, Canberra (06) 270 2857. Fax (06) 273 4346

27-28 May
NSW STATE AITEA CONFERENCE - (QUALITY)
Date for papers: January 28
Registration date: mid-April
Contact: Peter Wood (042) 213943

28-29 May
AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY RURAL CONFERENCE EDUCATION AND AGING, RELOCATION, CASE MIX FINDINGS
Registration date: 16 May
Contact: Irene Stein (042) 213766

1-2 July
SELF, LIFE AND WRITING: POST-COLONIAL PERSPECTIVES
Date for papers: 28 February
Registration date: TBA
Contact: Dr Paul Sharrad (042) 213705

University of Wollongong Conferences

3-8 July
RACI DIVISION OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY 14TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Date for papers: 29 April
Registration: 29 April /10 June with late fee
Contact: Prof John B Bremmer (042) 214256

4-6 July
ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE 500 YEARS ON - AAANZ Pacioli
Date for papers: 11 February
Registration: April / May
Contact: Janet Moore (042) 214005

8 July
ENGINEERING & THE ENVIRONMENT
Contact: Sharon Beder (042) 214063

27 September-1 Ocotber
AUSTRALIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE
Date for papers: 15 April
Registration: up to the starting date
Contact: Dr Jeff Wragg (042) 213652

1-3 October (Long weekend)
AUSTRALASIAN POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
Contact: Dr Anthony Ashbolt (042) 213675

October
ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY SHORT COURSE
Contact: Dr Bryan Chenhall (042) 213805

-TBA-
PARALLEL COMPUTING AND TRANSPUTERS
Date for papers: 31 April
Registration: November
Contact: Johnathan Gray (042) 213223 or Fazel Naghdy (042) 213411

28 November-1 December
ASIA CRYPT '94
Date for papers: 18 July
Registration: 1 October
Contact: Prof J Seberry (042) 214327

5-7 December
PROTECTING THE FUTURE - ESD IN ACTION
Date for abstracts: July 15
Contact: Dr Siva Sivakumar 042-213055

Visiting Oxford professor receives national award

After the Ninth Australasian Electrochemistry Conference at the University of Wollongong from 6-10 February, Professor Allen Hill from the University of Oxford was presented with an award to mark his involvement in the development of the glucose biosensor.

The glucose biosensor is perhaps the most famous working example in the area of Bioelectrochemistry.

Professor Hill

More than 12 million sensors are manufactured per month and the device has made a significant contribution to the lifestyle of numerous diabetics.

Professor Hill was honoured with the Breyer Medal, an Australian award in recognition of outstanding achievement in electro-chemistry. He will also speak to delegates on Direct Electron Transfer from biological molecules.

A symposium focusing on the most recent advances in bioelectrochemistry was held as part of this conference.

Electrical stimulation can be used to control various biological functions, but only recently the development of new electrochemical technologies have provided amazing insights into the biological world.

Through technology developed at the University of Wollongong in the Intelligent Polymer Research Laboratory (IPRL), true cellular communications are now possible.

Electrochemists also have learned how to utilise the incredible biorecognition properties found in nature which has led to an IPRL invention enabling the development of a revolutionary new sensing technology.

***Campus News* is published weekly on Wednesdays. Send material, preferably by Microsoft Mail or on disk, to Gillian Curtis (042) 21 3027 by noon on Monday of the week before that of publication**
***Campus News* has a circulation of 3000. It is distributed on campus to staff and students. 1000 are mailed to the community and overseas including schools in Illawarra, southern Sydney and Canberra; local, Sydney and Canberra media; Friends of the University; business representatives; MPs and numerous individual requests.**