



THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

CAMPUS NEWS

A WEEKLY INFORMATION SHEET

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Editor: Giles Pickford, tel. (042) 282428.

Low School Retention Rates Explained

Australian school systems are failing the children of the poor before they have had the opportunity to show their real potential, according to research studies conducted by a Lecturer at The University of Wollongong.

Dr David Corson, from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Wollongong, has studied the language strengths and weaknesses of secondary school children from low income families in England and Australia.

Dr Corson's research indicates that the children of the poor, at fifteen years, are not ready developmentally to meet what for many of them are their final formal assessments in education.

While a Visiting Fellow at London University Dr Corson examined the oral language competencies of secondary school children in Yorkshire and London. In 1982 he accepted a post at Wollongong in order to repeat and extend his studies amongst users of Australian English in Sydney and Wollongong.

Dr Corson developed his own measuring instruments. These have since been validated in articles which have opened successive annual volumes of an international journal of speech and language. Using these he was able to compare the vocabulary range and communicative capacities of children from different social and ethnic backgrounds. His results in Australia confirm his findings in England, extending them to children's written language. In every setting he found that Australian and English children from poor family backgrounds showed little development in their active vocabulary range from twelve to fifteen years. In Australia the same samples of children fared badly in their year 10 examinations in English, Science, Maths, History and Geography.

Dr Corson's studies in England were reported late last year in London in articles on the main editorial page of *The Times*, in *The Sunday Times* and in *The Guardian*. His work has received wide exposure through invited articles in international scholarly journals. His book, *The Lexical Bar*, is to be published shortly by Pergamon Press at Oxford. A second book has been solicited by a London publishing house.

In explaining the relative language weaknesses of the children of low income families, Dr Corson argues that the narrow life experiences of poor children give them a different conceptual development from their earliest years. They develop world views or conceptual frameworks which are different from those of other children who are favoured by better life opportunities and richer experiences. As a result the complex language forms necessary for success in secondary education are not

readily assimilated into those conceptual frameworks. Relative to other children they are less ready to put into words the complex ideas necessary for school success.

School success is very much a matter of 'language on display'. Those unable to display their language richly and widely are failed in education since the meanings they are able to communicate are inconsistent with the meanings accorded high status in schools.

Dr Corson believes that the children of the poor are late developers in language, as in other areas. It takes longer for their conceptual frameworks to approximate those schemes of meaning necessary for success in academic subjects. This is because they begin later to encounter the abstract distinctions and relationships needed to fill out and extend that academic framework.

For the short term, Dr Corson recommends the deferral of selection of children in education until as late as possible in their school careers. He suggests that the compulsory leaving age for all children be raised to 16 years since he has some evidence that children from low-income backgrounds in schools accelerate and may catch up in their language development in their fifteenth and sixteenth years - perhaps a year or two later than other children.

He argues that the life destinies of children ought not to be decided for them by academic selections made before they have revealed their true potential. He believes that each year in many English-speaking countries thousands of potentially high-level contributors to their societies are failed and forced out of school systems by our inadequate understanding of the discriminating effects of the Lexical Bar.

In the long term Dr Corson believes there are strategies available through schooling which would gradually reduce inequalities. He presents these strategies in his published works. They cover the full school curriculum from pre-school to secondary. Dr Corson is seeking heavy research funding to develop an English Vocabulary Development Project which will strike directly at the problem. He feels that all children before they leave school have as their right an unrestrained access to the lexicon of the language and the meanings it embeds.

Dr Corson suggests that we ought not to despair about the impact schools can have in removing inequalities. However, he also believes that education cannot compensate for society. He argues that policies of social reform which remove gross economic inequalities must accompany changes in schooling if those changes are to have any hope of success.

Seminars

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

The following seminars will be held in Room G25 of the Metallurgy Building at 4 p.m.

6 June "Science and its legitimization: a discussion of the conscious and unconscious tactics of researchers" - Dr. Tom Jagtenberg, Department of Sociology, University of Wollongong.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

The following colloquium will be held in the Physics Lecture Theatre

Thursday, June 9, 12.30 p.m. (Colloquium)

Speaker: Mr. F. Green, School of Physics, University of N.S.W.

Topic: Coulomb Correlations in Solid State Plasmas

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

The following seminars will be held in the Austin Keane Building, Room 204, unless indicated otherwise.

3 June: 3.30 p.m.

Dr. Sven-Ake Gustafson (Royal Swedish Institute of Technology, Stockholm, and Centre for Mathematical Analysis, ANU) "Computing Fourier and Laplace transforms by means of a power series evaluation".

10 June: 3.30 p.m.

Dr. B.G. Quinn (Dept. of Maths., Uni. of W'gong) "Frequency problems in Time Series".

Further information is available from Professor John Blake, Department of Mathematics (042-282878).

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, 7 June, 1983 at 5.30 p.m. in room 101 ACS Building.

Speaker: Dr. A.J. Wright, Department of Geology.

Subject: The Cambrian-Ordovician boundary in New Zealand.

Date: Wednesday, 20 July, 1983 at 4.30 p.m. in room 201, ACS Building.

Speaker: J. Kim, Department of Geology.

Subject: Sedimentation in the South Korea Sea.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Date: Friday, 3rd June, 1983 at 10.30 a.m. in Philosophy Seminar Room (1016), North Wing, Social Sciences Building (enter from Parry Road, off Northfields Ave.)

Speaker: Lindsay Porter (Dept. of Philosophy, University of Newcastle).

Title: "H.J. McCloskey's grounds for saying that we can know something about morality."

BUSINESS PEOPLE & THE TRADE PRACTICES ACT

The Wollongong Chamber of Commerce and Industry presents "Business People and the Trade Practices Act".

The Luncheon will be held at the Wollongong Club, 42 Smith Street, Wollongong - 12 noon for 12.30 on Tuesday, 5 July, 1983.

Speaker: Mr. Brian Given, Regional Manager, Trade Practices Commission.

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

Topic: "People, Productivity and Profitability"

Guest Speaker: Gordon P. Hutton, B.A. (Uni NSW), A.F.A.I.M., Managing Director, G.P. Hutton & Associates, Management and Personnel Consultants

Date: Wednesday, 15 June, 1983.

Time: 5.30 p.m. Refreshments; 6.00 p.m. Address; 7.00 p.m. Question Time

Venue: Illawarra County Council Administration Building, Level 7, Bridge Street, Coniston.

If you, your friends, or business colleagues are interested please contact our Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Thelma Smyth between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday to Thursday at 282419 a/hours 284075 for a reservation before Thursday 9 June. Charge of \$2.50 will be made and light refreshments served. We look forward to your joining us on this occasion.

Education Program: July 4 - Office Filing Systems that Work; July 11-13 Positive Negotiation Skills.

POETS UNION

Wollongong Poets Union announces the first of a new series of contemporary poetry and prose readings by Sydney and local writers at Wollongong City Art Gallery on Sunday, June 12 at 3 p.m. Admission is free thanks to continued support from the Australian Council.

JEWELLERY WORKSHOP

A jewellery Workshop is to be held on the weekend of 13th and 14th August in room 105 in the Institute Lecture building (9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Saturday and 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Sunday).

(Should be 3 or 4 places still available - if interested please phone Jennie on 202301).



DID YOU KNOW that the University needs the support of its graduates and that this can be delivered through the Graduates Committee of the Friends of the University?

Membership of the Graduates Committee is open to all members of Convocation for \$10.00 p.a. or \$40 for Life Membership.

General Notices

PREVENTING NUCLEAR WAR: AUSTRALIA'S ROLE

The Papers from the Symposium on Preventing Nuclear War, held at the University on 10th September 1982 have now been edited by Jim Falk and printed. Contributors are Andrew Mack, Richard Kefford, Roger Shipton, Fedor Mediansky, Keith Suter, Brian Martin, Joseph Camilleri and Dorothy Green.

Now available from Union Shop. Only \$2.99.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Australian and New Zealand Association for Canadian Studies will be holding a multidisciplinary conference from 17-19 May 1984 at the University of Canterbury (Christchurch, N.Z.). Papers will be given on any aspect of Canadian studies or comparative Canadian/Australian/New Zealand studies consistent with the conference theme, "Regionalism and National Identity."

If you are interested in contributing to the conference, please send the organizers two copies of a one-page abstract of the twenty-minute paper you would like to give. Your abstract should reach them by no later than 1 September 1983.

The assessment committee will evaluate the abstracts it receives and let you have a final decision in time for you to apply for travel assistance from your university. (Canadian applicants are advised to apply also to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada).

Enquiries to: James Acheson or Reginald Berry, Conference Co-organisers, Department of English, University of Canterbury, Christchurch 1, New Zealand.

NOTICE FOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE STATE SUPERANNUATION FUND

Pay Period Ending 30th June 1983 - No State Superannuation Fund Contributions.

Contributions to the State Superannuation Fund are calculated on the basis of thirteen periods each year. Most Fund members receive two fortnightly salary payments within each superannuation period and half of the periodic contributions are deducted from each of those payments.

A salary payment free of superannuation contribution occurs when three fortnightly pay days fall within a superannuation period and deductions are only required in respect of two of those three paydays. This will shortly apply to Fund members whose paydays will be 2nd, 16th and 30th June, 1983; these paydays fall within the thirteenth superannuation period this year.

To ensure that contributions are not overpaid during the abovementioned period, payroll arrangements have been made so that there will not be any normal or reserve-unit contributions deducted on the payday of 30th June, 1983.

If further details are required by Fund members they may contact the Salaries Clerk, ext. 950, or the Advisory Service of the State Superannuation Board on telephone (02) 238.2689.

ACADEMIC STAFF ASSOCIATION: ELECTION RESULTS

At the Annual General Meeting of the University of Wollongong Academic Staff Association held on April 28, 1983, the Association elected its office bearers for 1983. The names of the new officers and the departments of which they are members are listed below for your information.

President: Dr. J. Panter (Educational Resources Centre)
Vice-President: Ms. N. Southall (Dept. of Education)
Secretary: Dr. B. Davidson (Dept. of Philosophy)
Assistant Secretary: Mr. H. Jeanjean (Dept. of European Languages)
Treasurer: Mr. A. Coote (Dept. of Accountancy)
Faculty Representatives: Dr. G. Delamore (Dept. of Metallurgy); Dr. J. Campbell (Dept. of Biology)

TRAIL BIKERS BEWARE

Wollongong Police now have a Trail Bike Squad which is specifically set up to regulate illegal use of trail bikes.

Could any staff or students at the University please ring 964444 (Warilla Police Radio) and report on trail bikers who are trespassing on our campus.

Scholarships and Prizes

Details on the scholarships and prizes below are displayed on the Campus News Notice Board situated at the southern end of the Hut.

Rothmans of Pall Mall Rothmans Fellowship

Advertisements

UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC SOCIETY

Mass is held at 12.35 p.m. on Thursdays in the University Union Common Room.

NORTH WOLLONGONG HOTEL

- Free bands Friday and Saturday nights plus Sunday afternoons.
- Films Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights.
- Snack Bar, lunch and dinner every day.
- Student accommodation at very reasonable rates.
- Discount liquor supplied for parties and functions.
- Your hosts Chris, Simon and Adam.

FOR SALE

SUZUKI Hatch 800, 7 months old, less than 2,500 km, rust-proofed. \$4,500. Enquiries to Birgitt Baader, ext. 978.

SKI WEEKENDS

Caravan to rent at Southern Cross Motor Inn - Berridale. 2 double berts, all gas power. \$7.00 per person per night. Dates available - June 17-19; July 15-17; July 22-24; Aug 5-7; Aug 19-21; Aug 26-28; Sept 9-11; Sept 23-25.

Weekdays available also.

Contact Sylvia Rice, School of Education, Ext. 288. Room S6 or 287761 after hours.

Concerts, Exhibitions and Entertainment

THE ILLAWARRA CHORAL SOCIETY

On Monday, June 6, at 8.00 p.m., in the Auditorium of the Institute of Advanced Education, the Illawarra Choral Society will present a concert entitled *Nostalgia 1947*, in which the programme will repeat in almost exact detail, the first concert ever given in 1947 by the Illawarra Singers, the body from which the present society grew.

Our guest artists for the occasion will be Pamela Mildenhall (Soprano) and Grahame McIntosh (Baritone), two soloists of distinction.

Pamela Mildenhall, who is a graduate of the Teachers' College, studied singing at the Wollongong Conservatorium and was the winner of the Olive Brown Memorial Prize in the 1980 National Operatic Aria competition. She has since graduated with distinction in B.A. (Music) from the Canberra School of Music and is both a contributor to the musical life of that city and also of Goulburn, holding a teaching position in both cities. Pamela will be leaving for Geneva in mid 1983 to extend her musical career as a student with Eva Brunner. The Illawarra Choral Society is supporting the Three Cities Scholarship Fund with this concert.

Grahame McIntosh, a native of Edinburgh, completed his musical education at the Royal Academy of Music in Glasgow, and has sung with the Royal Opera Company at Covent Garden, and at Glyndebourne and Sadlers Wells. His career in Europe included singing with the Berlin and Munich Staatsoper and Le Grand Theatre de Geneve. Grahame came to Australia for the opening season at the Opera House in Sydney and somehow could not leave Australia! He began a freelance career and lives with his family in Sydney, from where he visits Wollongong to take classes with students in the Creative and Performing Arts course at the Institute.

We extend a hearty welcome to both our soloists on this occasion.

Other guests who will be most welcome will include some members of the original body, the Illawarra Singers, including Mrs. May Tudor, for many years a stalwart supporter and Life Member of the Choral Society, and Mr. Roy Jackson whose voice will be known by many. With Mr. and Mrs. Norman Tonge, and hopefully, other founder members such as Mr. Tom Brown, there will be a critical frontrow organised for this concert.

Tickets will be on sale at Jurjens - \$10 for a family, \$5 adult, \$3 concession (student, pensioner or child) - or from any Choral Society member. Please contact S. Rice 287761 (home) or 202222 (Institute) if you would like to attend.

Supper will be provided after the concert

ILLAWARRA MUSIC CLUB

Thursday 16 June	Semi-finals of National Operatic Aria Competition
Friday 17 June	National Operatic Aria Competition Finals
Friday 7 October	Albert Landa
Friday 25 November	Sydney Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra

THEATRE SOUTH

"Might as Well Talk to Yourself" started at Wollongong Technical College Theatre on 20th May.

Bookings - ring 282923.

COMEDY OF ERRORS

A public production by 1st and 2nd year Acting and Production students of the School for the Arts, University of Wollongong.

Directed by Peter Duncan, Lecturer in Acting and formerly a Director with the Queensland Theatre Co. The production opens at 8.00 p.m., Friday, June 3, for two weeks in the Drama Hut at the University of Wollongong. Adults \$5; students and concessions \$2. Tickets will be available at the door and through the Union at the University. The venue is quite small so early booking is advised.

WOLLONGONG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The City of Wollongong Symphony Orchestra gives its second concert in the 1983 subscription series on Saturday 11 June, 8.00 p.m. in the Wollongong Town Hall. "A Holiday Evening with Mozart" is the billing for this concert, which will feature three favourite works by that composer, "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik", the "Linz" Symphony and the Clarinet Concerto, in which the soloist will be Donald Westlake, who replaces the indisposed Ronald de Kant.

Single tickets for this concert are available at Jurjens Pianos and Organs, 232 Keira St., phone 292379. (Bankcard only for phone bookings). Ticket prices are \$7 and concession \$5.

THE MAGIC PUDDING

The Marionette Theatre of Australia, an Arts Council of N.S.W. Presentation. "In our fortieth Anniversary Year, with assistance from the N.S.W. Government through the Division of Cultural Activities, and from the Federal Government through the Community Arts Board of the Australia Council".

Tuesday, 7 June, 1983, University Union Hall, 7.00 p.m.

Tickets: Adults \$8; Children, Pensioners, Art Council Members: \$6. Tickets available from University of Wollongong Union (Tel. 297.833).



FRIENDS BOOK FAIR: 22-23 OCTOBER

The Australian Federation of University Women (a member of the Friends) is organizing a book fair to raise money for the University.

Donations of books and journals will be gratefully accepted at the Friends Office in the Hut: Phone 282955 (day) or 289558 (evening) to arrange pick up.



Campus Community Interface

FESTIVAL PHILOSOPHY LECTURE

The Department of Philosophy, as a member of the Friends, organizes the annual Festival Philosophy Lecture during the Festival of Wollongong.

This year the Festival Philosophy Lecture will be held in the Wollongong City Gallery on Tuesday, 30 August at 7 p.m.

Speaker: Professor H.J. McCloskey, Professor of Philosophy at La Trobe University.

Topic: "Social Justice Versus Discrimination and Affirmative Action".

KEIRA CORRIDOR PROJECT

The next meeting on the Keira Corridor Project (the tree planting and beautification programme between Keira Summit Park and the sea) will be held on 5 July, 1983, at 12.30 p.m. in the Northern Lounge of the University Union. Enquiries to David Walker, University Landscape Supervisor, or Dean Miller, Director of Parks and Recreation at Wollongong City Council.

COMMONWEALTH BANK HIGH SCHOOL CHESS TOURNAMENT

The Friends of the University with the sponsorship of the Commonwealth Banking Corporation have organized the 1983 High Schools Chess Tournament for 1.30 p.m. on Sunday, 26 June, in the Pentagon Theatres.

The Commonwealth Bank has donated a perpetual trophy, and \$25 prizes for each member of the winning team; plus \$25 prizes for the best individual female and the best individual male student.

Schools from the Georges River to Nowra and inland to Camden and Bowral have been invited to send a team. Enquiries to John Tong on 282.465.

FRIENDS AND NORTHBEACH INTERNATIONAL SPONSOR WOLLONGONG OPEN CHESS TOURNAMENT

The Friends of the University and the Northbeach International will hold the Wollongong Open Chess Championship during the Festival of Wollongong.

It will be held at the Northbeach International on Sunday, 28 August, at 3 p.m. Enquiries to John Tong on 282.465.

Job Vacancies

Details of the following positions are displayed on the Campus News Notice Board situated at the southern end of the Hut.

New South Wales Rector, University College, Australian Defence Force Academy.

Adelaide Assistant Registrar
Lecturer/Snr. Lecturer in Genetics
Research Assistant in Music
Lecturer/Snr. Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering
Lecturer in Chemical Engineering

Bureau of Agricultural Economics Statistician

Australian National University Research posts in South East Asian History, Prehistory, Arms Control, North Australian Research



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