New Creative Arts Faculty
Wollongong to host University Games
Trainee Teachers visit Beijing
Are Universities Elitist?
I am happy to report that your executive was re-elected unopposed at the 1994 Annual General Meeting in February. Thank you so much for the vote of confidence expressed in us, but let me say that I will be looking for a successor next year. I do believe that one can stay in a job too long - a new face brings fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

Nevertheless I shall be working very hard this year to build on the sound foundation already created. I do urge you to become a financial member of the Association, and to keep in touch with your chapter by endeavouring to attend at least one chapter function each year. If there is not yet a chapter in your area of interest, you might consider starting one up!

Speaking of functions, I attended the inaugural general meeting and launch of the Education Chapter in March. Congratulations to those elected, and many thanks for being prepared to put your names forward as members willing to do the hard slog necessary to get a new chapter off the ground.

The Campus Chapter of the Association also deserves to be congratulated for its initial bestowal of two book scholarships for honours students. Each scholarship is worth $300 for books purchased at the University Union Bookshop.

The Campus Chapter runs a secondhand bookshop at Campus East, opening on the afternoons of the fourth weekend of each month. These stalwart volunteers have raised considerable funds, from which the interest earned is used to provide the book scholarships, and it is their hope to build up these scholarships over the years.

Do you enjoy books? Any alumni who would like to become involved in the Campus Chapter bookshop would be very welcome. Please contact the Alumni Office for details.

To all alumni overseas, perhaps in Malaysia, Hong Kong or Indonesia, to name but a few of the countries where our alumni now live, I ask that you think deeply about participating in a chapter group in your area. We do need some stimulus to promote the development and growth of our overseas chapters, and we value your support in this.

Finally, to all of you who graduated between 1980 and 1983, you are warmly invited to come to this year's reunion to be held on Open Day, Sunday 28 August. A relaxed day for all the family, comprising tours of the campus, an official welcome and then a reunion lunch, this is a day to explore your old haunts and see what the University has to offer these days. We look forward to seeing you!

Keith Phipps
President, Alumni Association

Games are being hosted by Wollongong in September, an event which lasts a week and will involve about 4,500 athletes - see centre pages. Alumni are invited to participate in this sporting extravaganza.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ken McKinnon, has announced his resignation at the end of the year, after 13 years at the helm (page 9). Excerpts from his address given on University Day in May will be a feature in the next issue.

The new 'Keira View' building, which houses the Law and Education Faculties, was opened earlier this year and is an impressive sight (page 29).

The Alumni Association AGM held in February was a great success, with a large audience enjoying Dr Karl Kruszelnicki's talk (page 18). For those who missed hearing him, a specially commissioned article appears on pages 10 and 11 of this issue.

Turning to the future, I hope to meet many of you at the reunion of graduates from 1980-83 to be held on Open Day, Sunday 28 August. Full details are given on page 31.

Juliet Richardson
Editor & Alumni Executive Officer
THE OUTLOOK
Autumn/Winter 1994

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The front cover shows third-year Bachelor of Creative Arts students (majoring in acting) in a production of ‘The Chapel Perilous’ by Dorothy Hewett, staged by the School of Creative Arts in 1993. The Director was Janys Hayes, and the Set Director was John Senczuk. See pages 4-6 for a special feature about the new Faculty of Creative Arts.

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Profile of our ninth and newest Faculty

CREATIVE ARTS:
A FACULTY FOR THE IMAGINATION

On 1 January 1994 the School of Creative Arts became a faculty, in recognition of its substantial artistic and academic programs and its steady development as a cultural community. This profile of the new faculty looks at some of the many activities of its highly talented staff and students, and the range of innovative projects and research that they undertake.

Hamish Brown - third-year Bachelor of Creative Arts student, majoring in writing

Special events, such as the Festival of Creative Arts being held from 3-18 June 1994, aim to raise public awareness of the University's commitment to creativity and its support for the creative arts within the Illawarra and surrounding areas.

Taking on the myriad tasks of organising a full-scale Festival of Creative Arts, with a public program of creative writing, music, theatre and dance, visual arts, social functions and events, is typical of the ambitious goals pursued by the Faculty.

Outstanding artists associated with the University, including the One Extra Company, The Song Company and the RAAF Air Command Band have been invited to perform, and the SBS Youth Orchestra is making a special concert appearance. Exhibitions range from artworks selected by Arthur Boyd from the Bundanon Collection, to the launch of the 'Keira View' Permanent Collection. 'Prodigal Son', a major sculpture by the late Guy Boyd, has been donated to the University by his family and is to be unveiled during the Festival on Sunday 12 June.

Other highlights of the Festival of Creative Arts include a Grand Opening Concert; a performance of Carl Orff's 'Carmina Burana' featuring over 150 singers and musicians in the Union Hall (Saturday 11 June); the Festival Open Day, including an International Food Fair and various Fringe events (Sunday 12 June); the SBS Youth Orchestra in the Union Hall (Friday 17 June); and a Gala Dinner/Dance (Saturday 18 June).

Festival Producer and Theatre Strand Director, Dr Ian McGrath, with a team of staff and students, has been fully committed to organising the Festival of Creative Arts, as well as maintaining the Faculty's schedule of academic programs and artistic events.

Another major event hosted by the Faculty for the first time was the Dissonance Students Conference. The theme for 1994 was 'By Women'. This annual conference is a state-wide forum for women to discuss their experience as artists in contemporary society. Hundreds of artists and students travelled from Sydney, Canberra, and Newcastle to the Illawarra region on 20 May to enjoy a lively and purposeful day consisting of discussion, performance, music and visual arts.

Recent appointments

With the attainment of faculty status for the former school, some new developments and changes of personnel are under way. Distinguished Australian composer, Professor Barry Conyngham, who as former head co-ordinated the transition of the School of Creative Arts to a faculty, left the University in April to take up the inaugural post of Vice-Chancellor of the Southern Cross University at Lismore.

The new Dean of Creative Arts is filmmaker Dr Sharon Bell, former Head of Studies at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School, who will take up her appointment in July. Dr Bell comes to the University with 20 years' experience as a documentary filmmaker, with an emphasis on anthropology and ethnography amongst the indigenous peoples of Australasia. One of her ongoing projects is a film based on Bruce Chatwin's book 'The Songlines'. The calibre of Sharon Bell's achievements in cinema and intercultural studies will be important as the Faculty of Creative Arts continues to develop its interdisciplinary approach to both research and artistic practice.

Several other appointments within the Faculty this year include acclaimed pianist Marilyn Meier in the Music Strand, Filipina poet Merlinda Bobis in the Creative Writing Strand and screen production artist Frances Dyson in the Visual Arts Strand. Simon Luckhurst from the Sydney Opera House has also recently accepted a position as Technical Officer in the Theatre Strand.

Four strands of study

Each of the four strands within the...
Faculty of Creative Arts offers programs of research and artistic practice which encourage the participation of the University and the community. A number of positive and active relationships have evolved with various arts enterprises locally, nationally and internationally.

For several years there has been a public program, The Art of Lunch, offering a variety of performances and guest artists presenting their work on Thursdays at 12.30pm during session. This is just one of the many artistic events which take place within the Faculty each year.

**Creative Writing**

The Creative Writing Strand offers studies in poetry, prose, arts journalism, and scriptwriting for theatre, film and television. Strand Director and prolific poet, Ron Pretty, co-ordinates an active program of regional writing and publishing through the bi-annual literary magazine SCARP, Five Islands Press and the New Poets Series, and the Illawarra Writers group. This year the Illawarra Writers Centre is being established.

Popular events include the annual Big Read, the Visual Poetry competition and the travelling writers Omnibus tour which visits rural areas for public readings and workshops. The Illawarra Artists anthology is another project well under way. Writers-in-residence also contribute their skills and talents on a periodic basis. Student writers produce their own publication ‘Figments’, and contribute to a variety of local publications.

**Music**

The Music Strand offers studies in composition, performance and musicology, and is an active agent in the musical life of the Illawarra. A close relationship exists with the Conservatorium of Music at Gleniffer Brae, with its emphasis on music education. Music staff and students are involved in the City of

Wollongong Symphony Orchestra (directed by John Wayne Dixon), the University Singers and the BHP Youth Orchestra (both conducted by David Vance), presenting a full program of concerts and recitals each year, while others participate in musical theatre staged at the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre. The music program has done much to raise the profile of Creative Arts nationally.

Dr Andrew Schultz (featured in the Spring/Summer 1993 issue) composed the ground-breaking opera ‘Black River’, based on the Aboriginal deaths in custody report, the film version of which was awarded the 1993 Grand Prix Opera Screen prize in Paris. This year the much-acclaimed vocal ensemble, The Song Company, is in residence at the University.

Music students are also active performers and composers in both classical and contemporary repertoires.

**Visual Arts**

The Visual Arts Strand offers studies in ceramics, design, media arts, painting, printmaking, sculpture and textiles. An accomplished team of staff and students contribute to an ongoing public program of exhibitions and installations held in the faculty’s Long Gallery, and campus venues such as the new ‘Keira View’ building and the Illawarra...
Profile of our ninth and newest Faculty

A major sculpture called ‘Prodigal Son’ by the late Guy Boyd and donated to the University by his family.

Technology Centre. Close links have been established with artistic communities at the local, national and international levels and with organisations committed to cultural policy and planning.

The University maintains a large permanent collection of artworks which is steadily growing. The natural environment of the campus has been enhanced greatly by outdoor art installations. There is an increasing focus on Aboriginal art and society in the Faculty of Creative Arts, especially since the University was the venue for the 1993 World Indigenous Peoples Conference.

The current exchange of major exhibitions of art between Australia and Taiwan, organised by Associate Professor Peter Shepherd, is an outstanding example of the vision and commitment of Faculty staff. This is the first time the work of contemporary artists from each country will be viewed by the other. Both the Australian and Taiwanese components of this significant exhibition, ‘Identities’, can be seen at the Wollongong City Gallery during its 94/95 program.

In 1994 the Faculty of Creative Arts has over 50 academic and general staff, and 500 students in its undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Over 100 postgraduate students, including many successful arts practitioners and staff from Australian and overseas universities, are taking masters or doctoral degrees.

Creative Arts enrolments include over 50 international students, many of whom come from Asia. The Faculty also offers theoretical and critical studies in the arts, various interdisciplinary studies, and, together with the Faculty of Law, a combined undergraduate degree program. Research activity generated within the Faculty of Creative Arts is directed towards a diversity of programs and issues concerning the arts. Much of the research is on a group basis or integrated in projects such as the Studies in Contemporary Arts Practice and Performance in Australia Program.

There is close cooperation with major bodies such as the ABC, the Australian Opera, Musica Viva, NIDA, national and regional art galleries, theatre companies and performing arts centres. Many Creative Arts staff have performed or exhibited their works regularly around Australia, as well as in Europe and North America.

Since the School was first formed in 1984, Creative Arts have achieved an outstanding level of success in a variety of careers in the arts, entertainment, education and media. Musicians such as Mitchell Whitelaw and Paul Stanhope, who is visiting Taiwan this year, are setting very high standards, while Tina Gray is the most recent of several voice majors who have been accepted by the prestigious Opera School.

Daniel Everett successfully auditioned for a chorus role in the Sydney production of Phantom of the Opera. Nicole St Ilan, a BCA graduate, has subsequently been awarded a Master of Music degree from the University of New South Wales and now contributes to the teaching of the music program that trained her.

Graduates Sandra O’Sullivan and Alison Smith are 1994 artists-in-residence at Wollongong City Gallery developing sound and text installations. Theatre students have been employed with companies such as Theatre South, Gordon Frost, Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras, the Australian Opera, The Bell Shakespeare Company and the World Indigenous Peoples Conference.

Womangong Press, a co-operative publishing venture started by former students for women writers in the Illawarra, recently launched its first anthology, ‘Not patting the Dog’ (see pages 26 & 27). Creative Writing graduate Alison Rice has devised a Young Poets Earthbook, and has enlisted the support of international artists and adventurers in helping young people to express their aims of healing themselves and the planet.

This first decade of achievement augurs well for the necessary challenges and likely successes still to come for the Faculty, which is now recognised as a major multi-arts centre in tertiary education nationally and internationally. Both the University and the Illawarra region will continue to benefit culturally and educationally from the innovative artistic programs and events presented by the Faculty of Creative Arts.
Law Students Win
International Competition

After winning the Australian round of the Louis M Brown International Client Counselling Competition, University of Wollongong law students Zoe Nielsen and Patrick Culbert recently won the International Grand Final held in Glasgow, Scotland.

Competition was tough between the seven finalist countries: Australia, Canada, England and Wales, Scotland, USA, Northern Ireland and Eire. Australia, represented by the University of Wollongong team which won the national competition in February, scored highest in the preliminary rounds, followed by the other finalist, Northern Ireland.

Zoe Nielsen is a final-year law student, whilst Patrick Culbert studies part-time and is a Policy Officer with the NSW Department of Transport.

The competition, which is affiliated with the International Bar Association, consists of two preliminary rounds and a final round. Patrick said the final interview was a difficult one with two aggressive clients who supposedly had a problem in a partnership. One of them was resisting new business initiatives and the two actually shouted at each other during the interview! Even the judges described the clients as ‘clients from hell’ - they had apparently been rehearsing for two days to be as difficult as possible.

The problems raised at this interview involved a number of legal, ethical and moral issues, which Patrick and Zoe evidently tackled in an appropriate manner. They were also judged on their teamwork and on their approach to what Patrick describes as ‘preventive law.’ This means looking at the background situation, which may be social, economical or personal, as this can often contribute to legal problems. ‘It’s a case of treating the cause as well as the symptoms,’ says Patrick.

Skills training has been incorporated into the law degree program at Wollongong. Students must undertake a communication skills course, in which interviewing is an important component. Participation in this annual client counselling competition is one of the ways in which students are encouraged to develop a high standard of interviewing.

Wollongong team coach, senior lecturer Robin Handley, says, ‘The high level of skills demonstrated by the competing teams is an indication of a new emphasis on legal skills training in law schools, which is very encouraging for the future of the legal profession.’

Patrick, Zoe and Robin were able to fly to Glasgow because of the support they received from the NSW Law Foundation, the University of Wollongong, the University Union, the Friends of the University, the Campus Chapter of the Alumni Association, NAB Travel and a number of other sponsors including Blake Dawson Waldron, Cowley Hearne and Taylor Szekely Kelso.

Zoe and Patrick received the Louis M Brown International Client Counselling Shield which will be proudly displayed in the new Faculty of Law premises in the ‘Keira View’ building. They each also received a unique souvenir - a silver replica of an ancient Scottish drinking cup called a ‘quaich’.

The pair will attend the 1995 Client Counselling Competition in Florida as judges of the international final. The 1996 final will be held in Australia.
Quality assurance recognised

WOLLONGONG: TOP NINE IN QUALITY REVIEW

The federal government's Committee for Quality Assurance in Higher Education recently ranked the University of Wollongong with the top nine universities in Australia. It is the only regional university to gain this distinction, as well as being the only medium-sized institution in a group consisting mainly of the older, larger universities in each capital city.

The Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Simon Crean, announced in March that all universities will receive some of the $76.8 million committed by the federal government to rewarding quality assurance practices and outcomes in higher education.

The government’s decision endorses the recommendation of the Committee for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, an independent advisory committee which includes senior members of the academic community and industry experts on quality. The Committee’s recommended grouping of universities is indicated in the table below (Wollongong is listed in Group 2).

Mr Crean said the Committee’s recommendations recognised institutional outcomes in research, teaching and learning and community service, their quality assurance processes and performance within a national and international context.

Australia has a high quality university system in an international context,’ he said. ‘However, to maintain international competitiveness, quality practices and outcomes must continue to be pursued. This funding supports that objective.’

The University of Wollongong will receive 2.5 per cent of its operational grant, which amounts to $1.86 million.

Responding to what has been referred to as Wollongong’s ‘spectacular result’, Vice-Chancellor Professor Ken McKinnon said that Wollongong’s placement was recognition of its status as a ‘world class university’, and evidence that it is possible to create such an institution outside a capital city. He also said that he was very pleased to see that ‘the quality of the University has been recognised by a national body.’

Proposals from the campus community have now been called for to determine an expenditure strategy, to be submitted to the government before funds are granted. Although this is a ‘one-off’ grant, it is also an opportunity for the University to undertake projects that will be permanently beneficial. A further quality review in 1994 will focus on teaching and learning.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Group 1 - (Funding: 3% of operational grant)</th>
<th>Group 2 - (Funding: 2.5% of operational grant)</th>
<th>Group 3 - (Funding: 2% of operational grant)</th>
<th>Group 4 - (Funding: 1.5% of operational grant)</th>
<th>Group 5 - (Funding: 1% of operational grant)</th>
<th>Group 6 - (Funding: Less than 1% of operational grant)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Australian National University, University of Adelaide, University of Melbourne, University of NSW, University of Queensland, University of WA</td>
<td>Monash University, University of Sydney, University of Wollongong</td>
<td>The Flinders University, Griffith University, La Trobe University, RMIT, University of Tasmania</td>
<td>Deakin University, Macquarie University, Queensland University of Technology, UTS</td>
<td>Charles Sturt University, Curtin University of Technology, James Cook University, Murdoch University, Southern Cross University, University of Canberra, University of Central Queensland, University of New England, University of Newcastle, University of South Australia</td>
<td>Australian Catholic University, Ballarat University, Edith Cowan University, Northern Territory University, Swinburne University of Technology, University of Southern Queensland, University of Western Sydney, Victoria University of Technology</td>
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Professor McKinnon resigns

**VICE-CHANCELLOR STEPS DOWN**

The University's innovative and highly-regarded Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ken McKinnon, moves on.

Professor Ken McKinnon recently announced that he will be resigning at the end of 1994. Under his leadership of 13 years, the University of Wollongong has quadrupled in size and has become one of Australia's most respected universities.

Professor McKinnon said he felt it was 'better to risk going a little early than to hang on too long.' He added, 'The University has achieved an excellent reputation. 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.'

Although not yet in a position to make any statements, Professor McKinnon said that he anticipates returning to scholarly work and writing. The University Council received his resignation with great regret and with unanimous gratitude for his demonstrable achievements and great vision. A committee has been formed to select a new Vice-Chancellor.

An interview with Professor McKinnon will appear in the next issue of The Outlook.

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HEARTBEATS

By Dr Karl Kruszelnicki

A few thousand years ago, Aristotle, the famous Greek thinker, claimed that the heart was the seat of the intellect. It sounded like a reasonable theory at the time. After all, didn’t the voice come out of the chest, so shouldn’t the controller of that voice be in the chest as well? Well, that was then, but now there’s a new theory about the heart - the Piggy Bank.

This theory says that we humans get given about 2.8 billion heartbeats, and that once we use them up, we die. With this theory, and a bit of clever mathematics, you can probably work the system to get an extra quarter century of life.

Back in the old days, people really didn’t know exactly what the heart did. One Greek author claimed that ‘Man’s intelligence, the principle which rules over the rest of the soul, is situated in the left chamber’. He was talking about the left ventricle of the heart which pumps red blood, loaded with oxygen, at a high pressure, out into the various organs and systems of the body. Other people thought that the heart controlled not intellect, but strong emotions, such as love and sorrow, joy and bravery.

The heart is certainly connected to the emotions. People say, ‘I love you with all my heart’. They don’t say, ‘I love with my pancreas, and my kidneys’. In one study about 80% of mothers of small babies held their babies on their left side - closest to the heart. It didn’t matter whether the mother was left- or right-handed - they always came up with a ‘logical’ reason as to why they held their baby near their heart. If they were right-handed, they said they held their baby with their left arm, so as to leave their stronger right arm free. And if they were left-handed, they said they held their baby with their left arm, because it was their stronger arm.

So even though the heart is somehow connected with the emotions, it took William Harvey, in 1628, to show, with a few elegant experiments, that the heart was actually a pump. But what a pump it is! This tireless organ runs for about 75 years. Roughly once each second, it pushes blood through some 100,000 kilometres of blood vessels (roughly three times the distance around the equator). And in an average human life, it will pump about 200,000 tonnes of blood - roughly the weight of three very large, fully-loaded nuclear-powered aircraft carriers. And to shift all that blood, it will pump about 2.8 billion times.

This leads us to a strange quirk of nature. Practically all mammals, regardless of how big or small they are, seem to get allotted about one third as many heartbeats as we humans get. They get only about 800 million heartbeats.

Now when we look at the animals, we find that it seems to be a general rule that the bigger the animal, the slower the heart rate. The other general rule is that the bigger the animal, the longer the life span. So a tiny mouse will use up its non-renewable quota of heartbeats in about 2 years, while an elephant spreads them out over half a century. If we got only 800 million heartbeats, we humans should live for just 26 years. We really have no idea why we humans get so many extra heartbeats as compared to the other mammals.

So humans are already on top of the system, but doctors Stoller, Adler and Holland from Cleveland, Ohio, reckon we can work the system even more, and they claim to have done the numbers. Some people say that ‘runners live five years longer, but they spend all of those five years running’, but the doctors from Ohio disagree.

Your average human will have a resting heart rate of about 72 beats in each minute, and live for about 75 years, and, in that time, use up about 2.8 billion heartbeats.
But the American doctors looked at a person who decides to get fit once they reach 20, by exercising for 45 minutes a day for five days a week. Now for that 45-minute window, you're using up more heartbeats - in fact, your heart rate rockets up from 72 to 180 beats each minute. But that short amount of exercise soon conditions your heart, and makes it pump more blood on each beat, so at rest your heart can actually slow down. This new slower heart rate, in place for most of the day, more than compensates for the 45 minutes of increased heart rate.

So prime athletes can get their resting heart rates down to 30 beats per minute, but our American doctors were conservative, and assumed that the heart slowed down to 55 beats per minute from its previous 72 per minute. So by the end of the week, you've actually used up less of those precious, non-renewable heartbeats from your Piggy Bank. And by the time you've reached 60 years of age, you've still got about 1.5 billion heartbeats left in your Piggy Bank. This works out to an extra 25 years of life, and living to around age 100. You'd have an even chance of getting that congratulatory telegram from the Queen. And to get that extra quarter century of life, you had to exercise (from age 20 to age 60) for a total of less than one year - about 332 days to be exact.

Nobody has actually proved this theory about stretching out your heartbeats over more years. But millions of citizens around the world are doing the experiment right now, and in the next 20 or 40 years or so the results should be in. But, on the face of it, the odds seem good - better than 25 to 1. You put in less than one year, and you get back some 25 years. So now ask yourself, do you feel lucky?

They used to say, 'Live fast, and die young', but maybe they should say, 'Run fast, and die old'

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Karl Kruszelnicki's first degree was a Bachelor of Science which he completed in 1967 at the then Wollongong University College, making him one of our earliest Alumni. He went on to complete a number of other degrees, ranging from medicine to biomedical engineering, and has worked as a physicist, tutor, filmmaker, car mechanic, doctor and now as a media personality. Karl is best known for his contributions both radio and TV as a science and technology commentator - he makes regular appearances on The Midday Show and also presents Great Moments in Science on ABC Radio's 70s - as well as being the author of several books on science. Karl was the guest speaker at this year's Alumni Association Annual General Meeting (see page 18)
Edward Lassau-Wray has wanted to help people with medical problems, particularly disabled people, ever since he was a young boy. A bad fall by his grandmother inspired Edward’s unique research for his honours bachelor degree, in which he provided evidence that the decrement in neuromuscular response accompanying ageing is further confounded during walking. The published results of Edward’s research further support the theory that delays in the central processing of information during reaction tasks may occur with ageing.

Edward gained an average of more than 80 percent (or distinction). His excellent academic ability is matched by his great community spirit, both of which were acknowledged when he won a St George Bank Youth Endeavour Encouragement Award last year.

At the time Edward had enrolled in a masters degree, also in the Department of Biomedical Science, although he has since converted this new research project into a PhD.

The focus of Edward’s current research reflects his continuing interest in helping the disabled, which he readily admits stems directly from his father’s confinement to a wheelchair when Edward was still a boy. He recalls his father’s discomfort in the wheelchair. ‘The chair was heavy and difficult to manoeuvre. It was something I just never forgot.’

Edward is studying wheelchair efficiency, the primary purpose being to examine whether an optimal seating position can be found for each individual in his or her own wheelchair, to permit minimal energy requirements and thus to reduce ‘huffing and puffing’ when propelling the wheelchair. This would have significant benefits for those reliant on wheelchairs as their main or only form of transportation.

As the wheelchair is a very inefficient mode of transport, large amounts of energy are wasted during wheelchair propulsion. By altering the seating position of an individual in relation to the rear pushing wheels, and by fitting the body dimensions of the user to his or her chair, the energy demands for pushing can be reduced. In short, Edward is applying the principles of ergonomics to the wheelchair.

A unique prototype wheelchair has been designed by Edward’s supervisor, Dr Graham Ward, and built in the Department of Biomedical Science at the University. It is fully adjustable in multi-planes to accommodate users of different body sizes. This means that the same wheelchair can be fitted to a child as young as five, and also to an adult who is obviously larger.

This introduces the potential for significant financial savings to the user, as only one chair may need to be purchased as a child grows, instead of several. A simple readjustment of the wheelchair’s dimensions will accommodate the child’s growth.

This is the only wheelchair design known that offers such features. It is also lightweight (which most wheelchairs are not), is made of strong materials, and is fully collapsible. When collapsed, it can even be carried under the arm! The design also enables alterations in seating positions with relation to the rear drive wheels.

As Edward says, ‘We’ve designed an everyday wheelchair to fit the person, instead of fitting the person to the chair – and a way of improving energy efficiency.’

Edward has recently put his wheelchair research ‘on hold’, whilst he undertakes a bachelor of medicine degree at the University of Newcastle. He finds that not having medical qualifications is restricting the progress of his research. ‘The straight medical degree and the exercise physiology will complement each other, especially when doing research in the disabled area,’ he says.

Edward is confident that he will return to Wollongong to complete his PhD, as he never loses sight of his overall goal to help improve the lifestyle of disabled people. In fact he can’t wait to revolutionise wheelchair design on an international scale.
Jenny Dunkley

BEd 1984, GDipCom 1993

Jenny indicates the progress made by client Ted Hoskens, Manager of Auto-Rentals of Wollongong (Photo courtesy of the Illawarra Mercury)

In 1980 the Wollongong Institute of Education ran its first degree program in physical and health education. Jenny Dunkley was amongst the first-year students making the decision to undertake four instead of three years' study to gain formal teaching qualifications. This was a decision which initiated the direction of Jenny's career path - to impart the health knowledge she would acquire to others who had not had that opportunity.

Since 1985 Jenny has gone a long way towards bridging the gaps in her own knowledge. She has taught in high schools, and in corporate and community settings comprising groups of all ages.

Her natural enthusiasm and energy is contagious, as is her genuine belief in what she teaches. 'I experienced the effect that knowledge had on my own health, fitness level and body shape, and wanted to share this with others,' she says. As a teenager Jenny was a little overweight. She says she never expected to end up looking a trim, fit and healthy type, teaching others how to be the same. 'I learned to modify many aspects of my life without much conscious effort,' she explains. 'Sure it was (and still is) hard to get out there and 'do it' when it comes to exercise and resisting those no-no foods, but knowledge changes attitudes, and this makes lifestyle habits quite easy to change, if the change is believed to be worthwhile.'

Since graduating Jenny has worked in many areas related to community and corporate health. She has also gained numerous certificates and experiences to complement her skills - in fact her qualifications now place her in the top bracket of Australia's physical education instructors. She has also worked for the University, preparing first-year students for university life with courses in study skills, use of the library and so on.

In 1986 Jenny was offered a job as an activities/entertainment officer on Great Keppel Island. The 12-month experience was to prove invaluable in terms of character and personality development, but was not so good for her weight control program. Returning to the mainland in 1987, Jenny enrolled at the University for another four years of part-time study to further her management skills.

In 1992 she travelled to America in search of information for a research project on 'the effect of health knowledge on exercise behaviour'. Unfortunately the studies she had hoped to find did not exist, and so her project was temporarily abandoned. However, last October Jenny bought the Illawarra franchise of a company called GutBusters. As a result she is now beginning to collect many figures which would support the theories she was searching for in the United States.

Jenny explains that GutBusters is a six-week scientific waist loss program, designed to educate men in better eating and lifestyle habits. Anyone interested in finding out more can ring Jenny on (042) 25 9166

Jenny indicates the progress made by client Ted Hoskens, Manager of Auto-Rentals of Wollongong (Photo courtesy of the Illawarra Mercury)
Bernadine Cantrick-Brooks graduated in May 1990, after tutoring in business communications during the University’s 1989 Summer Session. Although she had never considered teaching as a career, Bernadine found that she really enjoyed the experience.

Together with her husband David and son Adam, Bernadine went to live in Wagga Wagga. There she was employed as an associate lecturer in the School of Commerce at Charles Sturt University, teaching management and marketing. Whilst in Wagga she also taught a part-time subject at TAFE about management principles for small business.

As a result of frequent enquiries from small business owners for marketing advice, Bernadine set up BCB Marketing. ‘By setting up this business, I found a way to integrate the teaching I enjoyed with practical assistance for small business,’ says Bernadine. BCB Marketing is a consulting service to small business on issues ranging from strategic planning (business and marketing plans) to promotions, advertising and staff training.

Whilst in Wagga Bernadine began studying towards a Master of Business degree in human resource management, through Charles Sturt University’s External Studies program, which she intends to complete in 1995. Although this is a change of direction from marketing, Bernadine finds these studies helpful in strategic planning undertaken with clients.

Bernadine has recently completed a five-week ‘train the trainer’ certificate, and she has enrolled to undertake an Aussie Host Leaders program in customer service. ‘I believe that ongoing professional development is important in any field, but particularly in a marketing and management consultancy. My clients can feel confident that the information and advice that I give them incorporates the latest standards and knowledge available in the marketplace.’

Bernadine has recently joined the Commerce Alumni Committee and she is also the Commerce representative on the Alumni Board of Management. ‘Because I enjoyed my studies at Uni so much,’ she says, ‘I felt I would now like to use the skills and experience I have gained in order to contribute to the continuing growth of the University’
Early in June 1992 Tim Mills arrived in Chiang Rai, in northern Thailand, as an Australian Volunteer Abroad (AVA), having applied for the position through the Overseas Service Bureau.

With little more than a shoulder bag and a spirit of adventure, Tim prepared for the next two years of his life as an English language teacher at the local teachers’ college. ‘Little did I know how profound this experience would be,’ he reflects.

Tim was surprised to find that an American volunteer called Sharon Jackson was also at the college, which provided a terrific opportunity to share the coming weeks and months. As foreigners and teachers, they were highly visible figures, and their actions and conduct were always noticed. In this sense it was sometimes a burden knowing that they were in the inescapable position of representing all Westerners - for better or worse.

Occasionally the locals’ intrigue went a bit further. Tim explains that Thais do not have much body hair, and when he was at a petrol station one day, the attendants gathered round to play with the hair on his arms. Tim was given a new name - ‘the monkey man’. He realised that although this sort of difference made things difficult at times, it was also a source of humour and through this, friendship and goodwill.

Being native English speakers and volunteers, Tim and Sharon were expected to accept heavy workloads and to be able to teach any aspect of the language, including linguistics and literature courses. Class sizes ranged from 18 to 50 and single subjects were usually taught in three-hour blocks.

The department head had a standard response to all the frustrations they ever voiced. ‘You can, you can, you are the native speaker, it is good for you, you can make a tape, I think it is better, you can, thank you.’ Such an unworkable and incomprehensible attitude certainly fostered self-reliance and resourcefulness. Tim adds, ‘In the long run, I suppose it was better for us!’

The obedience and respect shown to them by the students made it a pleasure for Tim and Sharon to teach them. They had total control regarding teaching materials and the way they taught. This made it easier for them to accept regular setbacks.

‘For example,’ Tim says, ‘A student came to me one day shortly before class and said, ‘Teacher, I’m sorry, we cannot study today.’ In all seriousness she explained that they had to climb a mountain.’

Tim’s favourite memory of the dubious educational standards concerns a bookshelf that appeared in the office one day. Apparently some students who had previously failed their exam then earned a pass through their clever carpentry skills! Cleaning teachers’ homes appeared to be another means of gaining academic merit.

As to Tim’s distinction as the ‘monkey man’, he explains that just days before he was due to leave Thailand, he was injured in an accident involving fire. With a congregation of well-wishers at his hospital bedside, Tim proudly held up his newly hairless limbs and pronounced, ‘Look, now I’m a Thai person!’

Tim says that living and working abroad has been a wonderful experience for many reasons. Not the least of these is the fact that his colleague Sharon is now his fiancée, and they are to marry in December! Tim and Sharon plan to live in America, but they both hope to teach English overseas again - maybe in Spain next time.

‘It’s a tremendous feeling knowing that I’ve been part of the AVA program, whose ideal of extending expertise, goodwill and our common humanity around the world endures long after a volunteer’s contribution is finished,’ says Tim. ‘Because it never really finishes’
The facilities offered by the Recreation and Sports Association at the University of Wollongong are now recognised as among the best of any Australian campus. Testimony to this is the award of the second Australian Universities Games to Wollongong.

The artificial hockey surface was opened in 1991.

The problem was that to gain access to these buildings, you had to first obtain the key from the Sports Association, located at the squash courts which at the time were part of the Union building, then tramp across campus through the coalwash car park to a small shed connected to the pavilion. All this simply to shoot some baskets. This did not help to promote sport on campus; in fact it was a hindrance.

Under the direction of Paul Manning, currently Executive Director, the Sports Association has moved through a decade of massive changes. Not only have our facilities been improved, but so have our name, image, mission, and the professionalism of Australian university sport. The time line shown within the table on this page illustrates the scope of the changes made in the last ten years.

Alumni who graduated prior to 1987 would barely recognise the University, let alone the Recreation and Sports Association facilities on campus. Not only do these facilities give sporting activities and clubs a home, but they also provide opportunities to increase participation in recreation on campus. The Association provides the University community with an extensive range of passive and active recreation and sporting opportunities both on and off the campus.

The Games

Many of you may be wondering, 'What are the Australian Universities Games anyway?'

The concept is very new - it replaces the old inter-varsity sports competition where each university held competitions to determine the Australian University Champion. The Games are similar to a mini Olympics - in Wollongong 20 sports will be played over six days by 4,500 participants.

Many Changes

No doubt many alumni will remember when sporting facilities on campus were a different story. Cast your mind back to the early eighties, when being a member of the Sports Association (as it was then known) gave you access to no more than a tin-clad hall, three squash courts and a couple of mainstream sporting clubs.

In acknowledgment of Wollongong’s fine facilities and progressive sports administration, the Australian Universities Sports Federation has decided that Wollongong should host the next Australian Universities Games, to be held 25-30 September 1994.

This is a great honour - never before has a regional tertiary institution held such a prestigious university sporting event. This is only the second Australian Universities Games, the first having been held at the University of Queensland last year. However, more about the Games later...

A decade of progress

| AUG 1984 | Sports Association office set up, creating its own corporate goals and changing emphasis to Recreation and Sports. Sports Association renamed as Recreation and Sports Association. |
| MAY 1986 | Recreation Centre opened, becoming the most accessible building on campus, with seven-day operation. |
| SEPT 1987 | 50m outdoor heated pool opened - the first in the Illawarra. |
| JUNE 1991 | Artificial hockey surface opened. |
| SEPT 1993 | The University of Wollongong is awarded the Australian Universities Games. |
| DEC 1993 | Four new tennis courts completed behind the pool. |
| APR 1994 | Aerobics room, pool change rooms and Sports Lounge/link area completed. |
The University's 50m outdoor heated pool is one of the best in the Illawarra participating athletes. This is more than the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane.

The Australian Universities Games Opening Ceremony will be held on Sunday 25th September at North Wollongong Beach. So, if you are planning a trip down memory lane back to the 'Gong, why not take a look at this extravaganza? There will be a lot of activity and entertainment from 6pm onwards.

The sporting competition follows over five frantic days. The University's fine facilities will be tested to their limit. Spectators are welcome free of charge, so please make the time to come and watch some of Australia's best athletes in action.

Games will be played from 8am to 5pm at all venues, with a twilight session concentrating the action on campus from 5pm to 8pm. The semifinals and finals will be held on the Thursday and Friday, so why not get involved and be part of the action?

The University campus will host ten sports. Other venues in the Illawarra include the TAFE College and adjacent high school grounds, Beaton Park Sporting Complex, Fred Finch Park at Berkeley, the BHP stadium at Unanderra and finally Croome Road Sporting Complex.

The Games will end with the Closing Ceremony and the announcement of the Champion University. This will be held at the Snakepit (Beaton Park Basketball Stadium).

This immense event is the largest sporting 'Games' staged in the Illawarra, and further identifies the quality of the University of Wollongong. As alumni, this is your opportunity for a 'homecoming' to Wollongong, maybe even a reunion of your year and to support the Wollongong Australian Universities Games team (affectionately known as the 'Wombats') as it strives to become the Champion University.

As host this is probably our best opportunity to win this trophy against the larger capital city-based universities. Last year the University of Wollongong team finished sixth out of more than 50 competing institutions at the inaugural Australian Universities Games in Brisbane - a truly fine effort. Two gold medals were won by the women's touch football and tennis teams, and two bronze medals were awarded to the men's touch football and beach volleyball teams.

Volunteers Needed

To organise this huge sporting extravaganza the Games Management Committee is appealing to all alumni to 'take up arms' and get involved. We need assistance from anybody who has had experience in organising or assisting with sporting events.

The organisational structure has six divisions: administration, ceremonies, marketing, operations, social and sport. Each division has specialist jobs which need volunteer labour involvement. Some of the jobs in each division are listed in the table on this page.

If you have experience or skills in any of these areas please contact Stephen Heslop, Games General Manager, on (042) 28 1266. Each volunteer will receive a uniform, references stating involvement and possibly passes to use University facilities at subsidised rates.
Wollongong graduate speaks at AGM

The Association's Annual General Meeting, held on 26 February in the Union Function Centre, was a highly successful event featuring one of our earliest and most well-known alumni as guest speaker.

Over 150 people attended the meeting and then listened to a talk by Dr Karl Kruszelnicki on 'Bizarre Moments in Science.' Karl graduated from the then Wollongong University College in 1968 with a bachelor of science, and although he has since gone on to obtain many other qualifications, including medical ones, he still remains a scientist at heart.

Covering scientific facts from how snails fire love darts at each other, to how a volcano gave rise to the creation of Frankenstein, Karl entertained and informed the alumni and other guests present. He says he tries to make science fun by focusing on the bizarre. 'By concentrating on odd angles, people enjoy and remember.' Karl has become well-known in recent years as a media commentator on science and technology. He presents Great Moments in Science on ABC Radio's 2JJ and makes regular appearances on The Midday Show. He has also written several books and has an innate ability to bring science to life for the reader. Not all alumni were able to hear Karl speak at the AGM, so we have asked him to write a special article for this issue called 'Heartbeats.' (It appears in this issue on pages 10 and 11).

AGM Elections

Elections were held at the AGM for the office bearers on the Board of Management. Those already holding office were willing to stand again and were elected unopposed. They are Mr Keith Phipps (President), Mrs Ruth Procter (Vice-President), Ms Wendy Raikes (Secretary) and Ms Rosemary Cooper (Treasurer).

All are congratulated on their re-election and sincere thanks are extended for their hard work and support. Congratulations also go to Mr Keith Phipps who was recently successful in being elected to the University Council as one of the four Convocation representatives. He was elected for a four year term. The other three are currently Mrs Shirley Nixon, Dr Winifred Ward and Canon Ray Heslehurst. These four representatives of Convocation (which basically means the alumni) are very important, as they offer an opportunity for alumni to have a say in the affairs of the University at the highest level. Once again the Board of Management is planning a reunion - this time of graduates from the years 1980-83 - to be held on Open Day, Sunday 28 August 1994.

Any alumni are welcome of course, but the main aim is to bring together graduates and staff from the early eighties. So do come along and enjoy the day - there will be a combination of planned activities (- campus tours, official welcome and lunch) and time for you to explore the campus and see the changes. This is a family day, so children and friends are invited too.

New Education Chapter

A BBQ reunion was held in March to mark the formal launch of the Education Chapter. About 70 people attended this function, which was held in the Food for Thought restaurant in the new 'Keira View' building. A display
honors from the former College and Institute, as well as the University, was the source of much enjoyment, and a live band entertained the more energetic alumni.

The inaugural general meeting was also held and a committee of ten elected to continue the development of this chapter, with Mr Allan Petersen as President. The others elected were Mrs Lenore Armour (Vice-President), Ms Rosemarie Dowe (Secretary), Mrs Hazel Holmwood (Treasurer), and committee members Ms Dawn Atkinson, Ms Christine Carr, Ms Kerrie Eyding, Associate Professor Malcolm Harris, Mr Marcel Laaban and Mrs Elizabeth Sandeman-Gay. Several activities are already planned for education alumni members, including a seminar to be held on campus on Wednesday, 6 July 1994, entitled 'Collaborative and Reflective Practice', which is being organised with the assistance of Global Learning Communities.

Honorary Chapter

At a meeting held on University Day in May, the members of the Honorary Chapter agreed, as an initial project, to raise funds for a scholarship to be awarded to a student enrolling in a degree in the recently established Faculty of Creative Arts. Although no specific target has been set, it is anticipated that the scholarship amount will be around $3,000. Terms and conditions of the scholarship will be determined following consultation with the Faculty of Creative Arts.

Campus Alumni

The monthly Bookshop at Campus East continues to assist this chapter to raise funds for book scholarships for honours or fourth year students. Two $300 book vouchers, tenable at the University Union Bookshop, are being offered for the first time this year.

The Chapter would like to encourage more alumni to participate in the running of the Bookshop and invites anyone interested to contact the Alumni Office. Members of the Campus Chapter and other alumni assisted in the smooth running of the graduation ceremonies during May by acting as ushers. The University is always appreciative of this support, as administrative staff resources are stretched thinly during that week.

Engineering Chapter

A most successful 'Spit Roast' buffet was held in the atrium of the new Engineering building in March. About 50 people attended, the main aim of the evening being to encourage contact between alumni and faculty staff, and to enable alumni to see the new facilities. Associate Professor Bill Upfold also spoke about the history of the Faculty.

This Chapter is in the process of setting up an annual prize to final-year students from each of the three departments in the Engineering Faculty. The prize will be in the form of an engraved plaque and will recognise achievement and endeavour.

Commerce Alumni

The Commerce Alumni held their AGM on the same evening as the main Association's AGM. This meant that members could enjoy listening to Dr Karl Kruszelnicki's talk and join the other alumni for refreshments afterwards.

Those elected to office were Mr David Winton (President), Mrs Rita Tibbits (Vice-President), Mr Ron Perrin (Secretary), Mr Joe Solano (Treasurer) and committee members Mr Damian O'Connor and Ms Mary Day. Ms Cantrick-Brooks has since been co-opted to replace Mr O'Connor, who resigned due to other commitments.

An alumni award, based on criteria such as leadership, professional success and community spirit, was also presented to graduate Paul Mazzola (BCom 1985).
Harold Hanson, a prominent local identity and steadfast supporter of the University, was recently appointed a Member of the Order of Australia. Harold has been practising as a solicitor in Wollongong since 1960 and is currently a partner in Hansons.

During the last thirty years he has been involved with numerous community organisations, as well as being chairman of Tourism Wollongong (formerly Illawarra’s Leisure Coast Tourist Association) and the Illawarra Regional Tourism Body since 1982.

Harold’s enthusiasm and support for the University was acknowledged in 1991 when he was made a Fellow. He has also been a member of the University Council, and is currently chairman of the University of Wollongong Foundation. The University congratulates Harold on his award.

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**Graduation Plaque**

Members of the University’s alumni can now purchase a personalised testamur plaque, laser engraved on gold-plated metal and mounted on a solid rosewood base. Recommended retail price for this superb plaque is $188.00, but we are able to offer it for $75.00 to Financial Members and $80.00 to other alumni members. (Prices include postage and handling, but please add $25.00 to overseas orders).

Just complete the order form below and return it with your payment and a clear photocopy of your testamur. (Allow 28 days delivery in Australia).

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**Order Form**

Name

Name at graduation (If different)

Postal address

Postal code

Country

Tel: Home

Tel: Business

I enclose a photocopy of my degree testamur, and also my cheque (or postal money order) payable to the University of Wollongong: $75.00 (for Financial Members of the Alumni Association) or $80.00 (for other alumni members). Plus $25.00 for overseas orders (where applicable).

Alternatively, please charge this amount to my: Bankcard / MasterCard / Visa (Delete as applicable)

Card No

Expiry date

Signature

Date ____ / ____ / 1994

Please return with payment (and photocopy of your degree) to: Alumni Office, University of Wollongong, Northfields Ave, WOLLONGONG NSW 2522.

Orders may also be faxed on (042) 21 4299 - All enquiries to the Alumni Office on (042) 21 3249
Prize to commemorate accountancy lecturer

ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE
ALLAN COOTE
MEMORIAL PRIZE

On 29 March 1994, Accountancy teaching fellow, Allan Coote, died at the age of 66. Damien Considine recalls his career.

Allan joined the Department of Accountancy as a tutor in 1966 and retired as a senior lecturer in 1988. The word 'retired' was inappropriate when referring to Allan, because he was almost immediately appointed as a teaching fellow, and spent just as much time in the Department as a teaching fellow as he had as a senior lecturer.

Amongst those who knew him, Allan is remembered for many and diverse activities. He worked tirelessly to further the interests of, and make welcome, overseas students and he was the unpaid accountant for numerous community organisations, including the university-based Illawarra Committee for International Students.

For many years Allan also sat on the executive of the University of Wollongong Academic Staff Association, usually as treasurer. He joined the University when it was in its infancy, and contributed to its growth in many different ways over the years.

Those who knew him, staff, students and friends, would not be surprised to learn that he died at his desk. As a colleague, and as a teacher, Allan was in a class of his own. As a colleague, he had boundless energy to help and advise. If you needed help to sort examination papers, Allan was there. If you needed a hand with staff / student functions, Allan was there. He was always there.

To have a conversation with Allan was an enjoyable experience at any time, bad puns and all. His reading was wide, and his conversation eclectic. As a teacher, his door was always open. His accessibility to students was legendary, and he set standards few could match.

One story in particular illustrates his commitment. The results of a subject survey included the comment that Allan was never available. This not only shocked but amused the entire department. He managed to track down the student concerned and discovered that instead of reading the consultation hours on his door as 'any times other than prescribed lecture times', the student had read 'only at the prescribed lecture times'.

At Allan’s memorial service, Gary Tibbits, a long time member of the Department of Accountancy, a former sub-dean in the Faculty of Commerce, and now professor of accountancy at the University of Western Sydney, remarked about his old friend:

'He was kind, friendly, amusing and a source of strength and stability in times of crisis. A man who left the world a better place. He will be mourned in many parts of the world by people of many races and religions. A man who made a real impact on his fellow travellers.'

That he was so loved is merely a reflection of Allan’s own love for the University. To commemorate his life, the Department of Accountancy has established the Allan Coote Memorial Prize.

If you remember him fondly, as so many do, please donate in his memory. Cheques should be made out to the University of Wollongong and may be sent to Barbara Cornelius in the Department of Accountancy, or to Damien Considine in the Faculty of Law. Donations over two dollars to the University are tax deductible.
Since 1988 groups of trainee teachers from the Faculty of Education have been visiting Beijing annually. The students teach English in local schools, which gives them first-hand teaching experience as well as exposing them to another culture, whilst the Chinese school students have the opportunity of being taught by native English speakers.

In 1985 George Gedge from the Faculty of Education took study leave at Beijing Normal University. He was impressed there by the importance placed on the teaching of English at the elementary and middle (secondary) schools he visited. It was during these visits that the idea of taking a group of trainee teachers to Beijing was conceived.

After returning to Wollongong, George continued to investigate the possibility of students from the Faculty of Education teaching English in Beijing. In 1987 he stayed at the Beijing Normal University once again, and unravelled the web of bureaucracy required to establish a link between the University of Wollongong and the Beijing Bureau of Foreign Affairs and Beijing Bureau of Education.

In 1988 Bob Colvin accompanied George and 15 students who taught English at Middle School No 143, a selective school preparing students to work in the tourist industry. This first visit was such a success that the Chinese authorities were eager to extend the scheme to an annual project. With the exception of 1989, visits to Beijing have occurred annually ever since.

In 1993 Brian Ferry and Bob Colvin moved to selective vocational schools which prepare students for commercial industry. These schools were very keen for their students to practice listening and speaking skills.

This time 16 trainee teachers were involved, comprising DipEd and BEd students, with 15 females and one male. They taught classes of Chinese senior middle school students for about three hours each day for 13 days. Their work was well received and they were told that a group from Wollongong would be welcome this year.

Brian Ferry describes one of the highlights of the 1993 visit as being a bicycle excursion to a nearby park. The visit was designed to make the Chinese students use their English skills in a real-life situation, as all of the planning and instructions had to be in English.

The Australians were each allocated a bicycle to ride and then guided through the streets of Beijing to their destination. Brian says, 'We were amused to see that each bicycle had a number plate, and we were warned not to park illegally as the owner would be fined, or even worse the bicycle could be towed away!'

According to Brian, the ride to the park took about 25 minutes and involved negotiating several major intersections. On hearing that there are more than eight million bicycles in Beijing, one of the students reckoned they saw most of them on the trip to the park. Every space on the road seemed to be filled with bicycles, with few if any rules governing them. 'The only rules seemed to be to keep up with the traffic,' says Brian, 'and avoid cars and buses, as they won't avoid you.'
The group arrived at the park without mishap and then parked at a parking station for bicycles. Brian explains, 'This works in the same way as a car park in Australia, except there are no boom gates. When you park your bike you receive a ticket with the time written on it, and when you return you pay for the time that you parked your bicycle.'

After hiring rowing boats at the park, the group had to brave the traffic once more to return to the school. It took considerable skill to weave through the many buses, trucks, cars, bicycles and other assorted vehicles. All of them agreed this was a novel experience and not one for the fainthearted.

This year 20 trainee teachers, to be accompanied by Brian Ferry and Michael Wilson, will be returning to Beijing in June. During this visit the Faculty of Education will be exploring the possibility of teacher exchanges and short-term employment of graduates from the Faculty. Trainee teachers from Wollongong also regularly teach English in two other countries with whom the Education Faculty has developed a relationship.

A visit by the Australian trainee teachers to a private kindergarten in Beijing. The building is 400 years old and was the residence of the Secretary to the Emperor.

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UNIVERSITY LODGE

Operational since late last year, the University Lodge is located at the western end of the campus, just east of Kooloobong off Northfields Avenue.

The accommodation includes a VIP suite, five one-bedroom units and one studio unit, and is intended for use by guests of the University at reasonable rates.

Guests can receive fully catered meals delivered to their suite, eat on campus or cater for themselves with the cooking facilities provided in all except the studio unit. There is also a spacious private dining room and lounge area, which is designed to be a venue for social use.

In addition to the wide range of food and refreshments which can be delivered to patrons, other services include car hire facilities, telephones, fax, TV, board games and access to computers.

Bookings can be made by contacting the University Union on telephone (042) 29 7833 or fax (042) 26 4280.
Recent appointments include Deans of the Health and Behavioural Sciences and Commerce Faculties, and professorial positions in the Departments of English and Accountancy.

DAVID JOHNSTONE was appointed as the second professor in the Department of Accountancy in January this year. His previous positions were at the University of Sydney and the University of California at Berkeley. Amongst his qualifications are a BA and BCom (Hons) from Wollongong.

Professor Johnstone currently serves on the NSW State Premier’s Accounting Advisory Panel, and he is assisting the Treasury in writing accounting competency standards for public sector accountants and financial officers.

As a teacher he has won prestigious awards at both the universities mentioned above. He has taught at universities in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the United States, and in professional education programs in Singapore, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Seoul.

Professor Johnstone’s research, which has been published in highly regarded international journals, is concerned primarily with the foundations of statistical research methods in accounting and finance.

He is currently working with a group from Stanford University on a professionally funded review of the methods of statistical sampling employed by large public accounting firms in the United States. This year he was honoured as the plenary speaker at the annual University of Southern California Audit Judgement Symposium.

TOM PARRY took up the position as a Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Commerce in April this year, after some 17 years in the School of Economics at the University of New South Wales.

Professor Parry has also held academic positions at New York University Graduate School of Business Administration, the Australian National University, the University of Reading in the UK and the East-West Center in Honolulu. He has also worked in the private sector, both in finance (broking) and as Principal Advisor to Price Waterhouse Economic Studies Group.

Professor Parry is also Foundation Chairman of the Government Pricing Tribunal of New South Wales, a position he has held since 1992.

He has broad interests in public policy, with extensive research publications in the areas of competition policy, industry policy, technology policy and international business. He has acted as a consultant to Australian governments, international agencies and the corporate sector in these and other areas of public policy.

Professor Parry brings to Wollongong a strong vision of leadership and commitment to lead the Commerce Faculty in the changing period of the 1990s.

CHARLES WATSON took up the position as a Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences in early March.

Professor Watson comes to Wollongong with a strong background in public health administration, having served as Director of Disease Control and Chief Health Officer in Western Australia.

His teaching experience spans more than ten years as an Associate Professor of anatomy at the University of New South Wales, and four years as a lecturer at UNSW and the University of Western Australia.

As well as being a registered medical practitioner, Professor Watson is a recognised authority in health promotion and disease control, particularly in the AIDS area. He has been a member or chairman of national committees on injury control, health promotion goals and targets, AIDS, communicable diseases
and public health medicine.

Professor Watson is co-author of a laboratory brain atlas, which was the second most cited book in science in 1993. He has published widely in the areas of public health and neuroscience.

His main interest is in contributing to social justice through the development of accessible health services and through the education of health professionals.

JAMES WIELAND was recently promoted from Associate Professor to Professor of English. He was appointed to the Department of English as a lecturer in 1978.

Professor Wieland graduated from the University of Western Australia with first-class honours and went on to Queen’s University, Ontario, where he completed his PhD in post-colonial poetry.

In 1985 he was appointed Chairman of the Department of English Literature and Drama, and when it amalgamated with the Department of English, he was appointed head of the new department. He became Associate Professor in 1988.

Professor Wieland is the author of ‘The Enspering Mind’, a study of six post-colonial poets, and is working on two books: a bibliography of Australian literary criticism, and typical Australian responses to experiencing the First World War.

He established the New Literatures Research Centre within the Department of English in 1987. The Centre now organises the annual Film Festival, HSC Day and lectures to teachers. Through a grant from the Graduate Faculty, the research interests of the Centre are conducted under the highly successful program ‘Literature and the Colonial Legacy’.

As head, Professor Wieland has seen the department evolve into one of the best medium-sized English departments in Australia - a claim confirmed in a report by the Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee in 1991.

OTHER SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

Some other recent appointments at the senior level include Dr Brian Gillett, who has been re-elected as Deputy Chancellor by the University Council for a further two-year term; and Professor Jim Falk, who has been elected by his academic colleagues as Chair of the Academic Senate. Professor Christine Ewan was appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) last year, and Professor Bill Lovegrove has now been appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research).

Associate Professor John Patterson, who has had a long association with the University (and prior to that with Wollongong Institute of Education and Wollongong Teachers’ College) has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Education for an initial 18-month term. Two other new deans, who are also new professors on campus, are profiled opposite this page; and a third, Professor Sharon Bell, will take up the position of Dean of the new Creative Arts Faculty in July. Professor Bell will be profiled in the Spring/Summer ‘94 issue.

UNIVERSITY BADMINTON WIN

The University’s badminton team has won the 1994 Eastern Conference Badminton Game in Canberra. This was the first Eastern Conference, which is now an annual event bringing together all the universities from NSW and the ACT. Teams were competing for a place in the Australian Universities Games later in the year (see pages 16 and 17).

Wollongong was represented by the team pictured on the right (top row, left to right: Simon Thoong, Hock Heng Ooi, Anthony Wong and David Chong; bottom row, left to right: Larry Goh, Danny Goh and Huck Theng Ch’ng - Captain). The team would like to extend their thanks to Mr John Steinke, chairman and founder of the club, all current and ex-players who have helped and encouraged them, and also the Recreation and Sports Association.

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Opportunity for local women writers

WOMANGONG PRESS FORMED

Four Wollongong women have pooled their time and talent to publish works by aspiring women writers of the region. The first anthology of creative writing from Womangong Press, called 'Not patting the Dog', was launched in April.

The four women whose vision has created Womangong Press are all either graduates or are currently enrolled at the University. For Julienne Van Loon (BCA (Hons) 1992), Sam Wild (BA (Hons) 1991), Fran Walder and Narelle Trezise-Hardy (currently enrolled in the BA course), publication of the book is a collective triumph.

Pooling their experience in books and publishing early last year, the four formed an editorial committee and set about raising funds for the project. At the same time they invited submissions of stories, poems and other material from local women.

Julienne explains that it all started with a telephone call. 'Sam rang me with the idea. I had been trying to get a similar thing happening on my own, and so had Fran. It turned out the four of us had had the same idea, and we decided we'd be better off working together.'

Sam says she had a large circle of friends who had not found a publisher for their writing. It seemed to her that excellent material was just waiting to be tapped. 'The problem is that women don’t feel they’ve got a support system to help them write,' she says. 'It’s probably the same in every city, and we want to change it here.'

We decided we’d be better off working together

The women wanted to get something published as soon as they could, and then look at setting up workshops and other activities to complement the book. As Fran says, 'We wanted to make the Press a central point, where people can find contacts to help them in their work, and provide a support network.'

The foursome set about promoting the idea of Womangong Press in the local community and on campus. They distributed leaflets, sought attention through the media and held stalls at Uni market days. A fund-raising night was also held at the Uni, and gradually support for the project began to grow.

'Everyone who’s been involved at every level has been very supportive of the project, and often helped us at no cost,' says Fran. This support ranges from performers such as readers, to people who cooked food for the stalls and others who provided T-shirts for free.

It was not all plain sailing, however. All four women had other commitments, either to full-time work or study, and inevitably there were frustrating moments. Getting word round about the project was sometimes difficult, but the response from contributors was strong. 'We were getting stuff from

Opportunity for local women writers

teenagers still at school,' says Narelle, 'and from others who hadn’t been published before, right up to women in their seventies and older.'

Contributor Helen Williams thinks the idea of Womangong Press is 'absolutely wonderful. The state government doesn’t seem to support this sort of writing and there’s a lot of young talent out there that should be exposed.'

Writer Jane Taylor found out about Womangong from an ad in a cafe and says, 'There can never be enough publishing of people - it gives value to the local area, to the readers and the writers.'

Comedian Lina Kastoumis, also a Wollongong graduate (BA 1991), says she’s proud to be included from the multicultural perspective, even though her work is not obviously Greek. 'A regional anthology is a really great coup, and a great opportunity,' says Lina.

The cover illustration of 'Not patting the Dog' is by Mary-Anne Cornford

'Everyone... has been very supportive of the project'

It soon became obvious that publishing all the material received would be unworkable. It was at about this time that poet Roz Baker (another Wollongong graduate - BCA 1993) joined the editorial committee, bringing with her experience in publishing, editing and local community arts projects.

'It doesn’t matter if we don’t make any money,' said Roz at the time, 'the important thing is to get the book out there.'

By late 1993, however, it became obvious that a substantial amount of money was required to get the book published - and money was something they did not have. So the five women began to apply for grants, and it was the University of Wollongong Union who came to the party.

The Union was prepared to offer $5,000 for the production and promotion of the anthology, to be paid back only if a profit is made from sales. Nigel Pennington, General Manager of the Union, says that Womangong Press had proved itself to be an effective organisation. 'They had a thoughtful, costed proposal, and we agreed to underwrite the cost of the anthology,' he says. 'The readings and fund-raisers were supported very well, and we will always try to support projects like this if we think they have such merit.'

This offer was conditional upon Womangong Press becoming affiliated with the Union. This meant that as well as a community focus, the Press would have to represent more work from staff and students, and arrange performances and workshops on campus. Fran says this is not a problem. 'Uni is a nexus, a meeting place for writers, and we can always draw from that.'

With funding secured, the editorial committee made their final selection for 'Not patting the Dog'. The material ranges from humorous to sexual or surreal; some pieces are about local people and places, others are set elsewhere. 'Subject matter wasn’t a factor in deciding whether or not a piece was chosen,' says Julienne. 'It was more the quality of the writing, and whether a writer made her point well.'

'Not patting the Dog' was launched in Wollongong in late April, with launches following in Sydney and Canberra during May. Roz, now located in Melbourne, plans to take the anthology around to bookstores and set up a stall at the 6th International Feminist Book Fair being held in Melbourne in late July. A member of Womangong Press has also been invited to speak about 'Hands on Publishing for Young Women' at one of the trade fair sessions. This is the first time this Book Fair has been held in the southern hemisphere, and organisers are expecting 20,000 people to attend.

With the realisation of this project, Womangong Press can now look to the future. They hope this year to bring out a number of small collections of individual women writers, which is part of their overall aim to become established as a support group for aspiring writers.

As Sam says, 'The best thing is to work on something like this with positive people, where ideas are always worked on and not forgotten or left untouched. 'Not patting the Dog' is really the first big step for all we want to do in the future'.

This article is based on one written by David Weber, BA 1992, MA 1994.
Alumni profile

CHRIS KNOBLANCHE

BCOM 1981

Australia’s taxation regime is set for another year of upheaval. Following the 1993 Budget debacle, when several tax initiatives were thrown out or watered down, the Australian Taxation Office is determined to look at other revenue-raising options or revisit existing ones.

Wollongong graduate and tax expert, Chris Knoblanche, is the new chairman of the Taxation Centre of Excellence within the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants (ASCPA). He says his hectic work schedule, between 60 and 70 hours a week, has seriously curtailed one of his major passions - windsurfing.

But Arthur Andersen’s Australasian partner-in-charge of tax still manages to sneak out for an occasional ride of the waves on his sailboard near his weekend home at Pittwater.

A partner for four years, the demands on Chris intensified late last year when he became chairman of the two-year-old Taxation Centre of Excellence. His added workload, which is voluntary, amounts to between six and nine hours a week.

Chris has indeed accepted an onerous task. Taxation is one of the largest of the ASCPA’s centres and the subject is certainly in the spotlight following the 460-page report recently handed down by the Public Accounts Committee. The report has made some ground-breaking suggestions that have important ramifications for taxpayers, tax officials and tax advisers.

As far as Chris is concerned, the Committee’s key recommendations are:

- a complete overhaul of the Tax Office, with better control of the business audit program and penalty procedures;
- simplification of the 5,000-page Income Tax Assessment Act; and
- improved liaison between the Tax Office and tax agents.

Chris says the report is ‘a significant document’ and the first time the Tax Act has been properly examined since it was introduced in 1936. He thinks that 5,000 pages is ridiculous. ‘I would dearly love to get it down to one page,’ he chuckles. ‘Realistically, though, I think you could halve it as a starting point.’

He acknowledges the irony of a 460-page document recommending simplification of the Tax Act, but believes that Tax Commissioner Michael Carmody - whom he describes as an ‘open-minded person’ - will take the document to heart. ‘The Centre of Excellence wants to encourage the Commissioner and the government to digest the report and have a plan to deal with the issues, because they are real issues,’ Chris says.

‘We must not forget the rights ... of individual taxpayers’

Ranking just behind a reduction in the size of the Tax Act is the improvement of relations between the Tax Office and tax agents. ‘I think we have to get away from the us-and-them mentality and understand the professionalism of each of the parties involved’.

The suggestion to rein in the Tax Office’s business audit program is
an ‘interesting recommendation’ and is an attempt, Chris says, to put more objectivity into the audit process. He endorses this push for independence and says it would lead to the removal of ‘the emotional side of things.’

Commenting on his tenure as chairman of the ASCPA’s Taxation Centre of Excellence, Chris says that the Centre will work closely with the Tax Office and Treasury. He adds that it is also important to remember the Centre’s main function - to digest the views and feelings of certified practising accountants (CPAs) and to reflect these in recommending changes to the Tax Office. He hopes to improve the level of communication with each CPA and encourages them to make contact with his committee if they want to discuss an issue.

Taxpayers are also included in Chris’ vision. ‘We must not forget the rights and obligations of individual taxpayers, whether they be corporate or otherwise,’ he says. ‘The Tax Centre has a significant charter to represent those bodies.’

In spite of his heavy workload, Chris has found time recently to work with the Faculty of Commerce in developing a new student prize sponsored by his employer, accountants Arthur Andersen.

This article is based on one which appeared in Financial Forum, Volume 3 No 1, February 1994.

‘Keira View’ Building Opened

A major construction project known as the ‘Keira View’ building, which forms a central focus at the western end of the campus, was completed at the beginning of the year.

Home now to the Faculties of Law and Education, this landmark building is located on the major pedestrian axis between the University campus and that of the former Institute of Education. It replaces ‘The Greenery’ cafeteria and several demountables which were used for teaching purposes for more than two decades.

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 rainforest theme provides light and a restful view for the central offices and seminar rooms.

As well as the academic facilities, the ‘Keira View’ building also provides the western sector of the campus with food outlets in the Keira Cafe and the Food for Thought restaurant, both of which have indoor and outdoor seating. A private dining room is also available for special functions.

The project cost of $13 million was funded jointly by the federal government Department of Employment, Education and Training, the University of Wollongong and the University Union. The design criteria utilised the same range of materials and colours as other new buildings, to ensure the development of a unified character on campus.

‘Keira View’ also had to be unique and identifiable as the centre point of the campus - its central location on the amalgamated campus was identified by site planners as long ago as 1984.

Ten years later, this magnificent building is a reality, complete with landscaping, flood-mitigation works and linked ponding system, and it is a fine addition to the campus.
Access to knowledge

Are Universities Elitist?

The Macquarie Dictionary defines ‘elitism’ as having several meanings. The first is belief in rule by an elite, an anti-democratic type of rule; but there is another meaning: belief in belonging to a select or privileged group.

The problem of academic socialisation

A problem arises because academics have to go through the hoops of higher degree studies to gain the intellectual tools they need to access the leading edge of knowledge, and in order to do so they have to develop a particular style of expression.

If they do not use appropriate words and phrases (which may be mathematical notation rather than an ‘ordinary’ language) and do so properly, their academic masters cannot be satisfied that they can demonstrate they understand the full range of knowledge.

Yet, to be able to teach undergraduate students, and to write work that can be understood outside narrow academic circles, they also have to be able to use ordinary English.

I think that many charges of elitism made against academics are based on the way they use specialist language. This can perpetuate the idea that their special knowledge is a mystery - the preserve of an elite.

Many academics think that unless they use specialised language, their colleagues will not regard them as proper members of the academic community. So students, too, are socialised into thinking that they have to use specialist language. And they do have to, but because they are privileged and specialised, the rest of the community depends on...
them to gain access themselves to this knowledge.

That is the responsibility which falls upon academics with their privileged access to knowledge. If they fail to fulfil their responsibility, universities and academics will properly be accused of elitism.

Today, in most universities, the pressure is on academics to do research and to publish it in expected ways. The government, which pays the bill, wants universities to turn out trained people for the workforce, but it also wants to see results for the research dollars it spends.

The people who dominate research policy are largely scientists, and the model of research they impose on us all is the model of empirical, laboratory-based scientific research, which is published in learned journals. If academic staff want career advancement, they have to publish in this way.

The collection, clarification and organisation of knowledge, and its expression in a clear way, which is necessary for writing textbooks and preparing good teaching material (and also for most scholarship in the humanities and social sciences, including law), does not enjoy the same recognition or priority in university as research on the scientific model does.

Taking undergraduate teaching seriously

The University of Wollongong takes its responsibility of undergraduate teaching seriously. It requires academic staff to tell students what they are expected to learn. Teachers are expected to present material in ways that help students learn; students are surveyed regularly and student opinion is listened to.

Every member of academic staff who seeks confirmation of a probationary appointment or promotion must present evidence of student reaction to his or her teaching.

This university also takes its responsibility to the community seriously. Most faculties and departments offer regular programs of continuing professional and community education, taking the latest developments in their areas of knowledge to the community.

If universities take their undergraduate teaching responsibilities seriously, they deny the charge of elitism in two ways: first, they are making knowledge directly accessible to a wider audience, and secondly, they are translating the specialised jargon of the various disciplines into relatively clear language, because that is what most undergraduates can understand.

Why do people say universities are elitist?

Some academics are not fully aware of their responsibilities to the community. The obligation is not because they are an intellectual aristocracy, but because the community pays them to do it - it is simply part of their job.

Others feel insecure about their own knowledge. If they do not use the jargon of their particular discipline, they think that the people who matter will not think highly of them.

But who are the people that matter? Certainly, for their own career, their academic peers and superiors do count. But in a wider sense, the community counts for much more.

 Unless the community feels a sense of ownership of universities, it will lose the political will to support them - academics cannot afford to be elitist.

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