Outlook
March Issue 2000

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Professor Gerard Sutton
with Australia's
University of the Year
trophy - full story page 5

Death of
former Chancellor,
Justice Robert Hope
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University of Wollongong
Welcome to the brave new world of 2000. Notice I am carefully avoiding debates about new centuries or millenniums - as they say that's another story!

Apart from all the millennial hype, many real and exciting things have also been happening at the University of Wollongong.

Foremost among these is the award of the University of the Year to UOW. While this is a boon for all staff and students, it also is reflected in the standing of all UOW graduates. Our stocks go up as Wollongong's reputation is enhanced.

The Good Universities Guides University of the Year competition is undoubtedly the most highly-sought accolade in tertiary education. The award to UOW is recognition of a standard of excellence that we are all beginning to take for granted. The win was based on our Outstanding Research and Development Partnerships.

The increasingly international nature of the University is reflected in the growing number of overseas graduation ceremonies. Last year saw ceremonies conducted in Dubai, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, and the Maldives, as well as the ever larger ceremonies in Wollongong - including the start of December ceremonies, which now allow for greater numbers of international students graduate before returning home.

This year will see the first students enrolled in UOW's Shoalhaven Campus at Nowra and at the Access Centres in Batemans Bay and Bega. As part of the South Coast Education Network, UOW will be providing specialised education services to people who might previously have had to travel hundreds of kilometres for a tertiary education.

I hope you enjoy the March edition of Outlook, which is my last as Editor. I have enjoyed editing your alumni magazine over the past couple of years. It's goodbye and good luck from me as well as the Executive Officer of UOW's Alumni Association, Lea Sublett, who guided the University's Alumni program for two years. Lea was a great person to work with and I know many graduates will be sorry to hear that she has moved on to bigger and better things in Melbourne. We wish her well.

Stuart Waters
Editor

The University of Wollongong Alumni Association exists to:

- Provide you with networking, social, mentoring and professional development opportunities locally, nationally and internationally
- Assist you in forming chapters and organising events and reunions
- Provide you with information on the University of Wollongong's postgraduate opportunities
- Keep you informed about the growth of the University of Wollongong

Death of Dr Ron Broadfoot

Dr Ron Broadfoot, a great friend and a Fellow of the University of Wollongong, died late last year while overseas.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton, expressed sympathy to his family and friends on behalf of the whole of the University community.
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Cover Shot: By Sean Maguire
Mourning the loss of Justice Hope

The University of Wollongong's long-serving founding Chancellor, Justice Robert Marsden Hope, was farewelled at a packed memorial service at Sydney's St James Church in October.

Mr Justice Hope died on 12 October at the age of 80.

Obituary

Dr Chris Kohlenberg MA (Applied Ethics) 1998

The July crash of a commuter plane in the mountainous terrain of Fiji deprived the locals of some valuable medical expertise. At the same time it deprived a family of their father and husband, the Nepean Hospital of an important staff member, and the University of Wollongong of one of its graduates.

Dr Chris Kohlenberg was one of a group of aid workers killed when an Air Fiji flight disappeared in remote territory. The Head of the Perinatal Ultrasound Unit at the Nepean Hospital, Dr Kohlenberg was a recent graduate of the University, having gained a Master of Arts degree in Applied Ethics in 1998.

Dr Kohlenberg was survived by his wife Cathy and young daughters Ruth and Hannah.
University of Wollongong voted “best of the best”

The University of Wollongong is the joint Australian University of the Year for 1999-2000. Announcing the win, which will boost the stocks of all students past and present, the Federal Treasurer, Mr Peter Costello, labelled Wollongong the “best of the best”, saying it would serve as an inspiration to other universities.

The Federal Minister for Education, Dr David Kemp, told those attending the ceremony that the award sent a very important message to the students of the respective victorious universities.

The award, presented in August at Parliament House in Canberra, acknowledged the outstanding research and development partnerships maintained by the University and, according to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton, was proof of UOW’s ability to pick the research winners.

“The University of Wollongong has internationally renowned researchers working in close-knit teams in alliances with corporations that will be the dominant players from 2000,” Professor Sutton said.

The Vice-Chancellor said the University of Wollongong’s major industry collaborators represented a Who’s Who of industry including links with multi-national and Australian-based firms.

The University is one of the largest sites of information technology and telecommunications research in the Southern Hemisphere, and the New South Wales Government has declared Wollongong to be the Centre of Expertise for information technology and telecommunications in the state.

Professor Sutton said the University’s diverse areas of expertise also included superconductors, intelligent polymers, steel processing and products, microwave technology, smart foods, policy development such as the Key Centre studying social and cultural change in the Asia Pacific region, biomedical research, medical radiation physics and multimedia.

“Five and 10-year investment plans, links with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, AusAid and the OECD have been part of the strategic direction of the University for about a decade,” Professor Sutton said.

He said the region could boast having a higher education institution of international standing judged by the record levels of competitive government and industrial support for research at UOW.

“Based on its operating budget, the University of Wollongong was the overall best performing university in the country for the very competitive Australian Research Council (ARC) grants for 1999,” Professor Sutton said.

“The announcement that we are Australia’s University of the Year was not only a tremendous boost for UOW but for the Illawarra, the Southern Highlands and the South Coast as a whole,” Professor Sutton said. As the third largest employer in the region, the University is an increasingly important member of the community, and will by 2005 contribute $504 million to the region every year. Major corporations such as Nortel, Telstra and BHP bring millions of dollars in research funds into the region, while 40,000 graduates have spread the Wollongong gospel across the globe.

Professor Sutton said the win would lift the overall prestige of UOW graduates in the eyes of Australian and international employers.

The Vice-Chancellor also acknowledged the efforts of the other joint winner, Deakin University, which was praised for its outstanding education and training partnerships. This was the first time that the award had been won jointly.

The Federal Treasurer, Peter Costello, presents the Australian University of the Year trophy to Professor Gerard Sutton.

The Good Universities Guide University of the Year Award is the most prestigious in Australian higher education.

The focus for this year’s award was ‘Productive Partnerships’, and asked which university in the country is best at delivering research and development and corporate education and training for business, public, and professional organisations.


Professor Sutton said the University of the Year award was hotly-contested and undoubtedly the one most coveted by Universities across the country.

“The award is a recognition of the extremely high reputation our university now enjoys and I would like to thank all staff, students, graduates and industry partners,” he said.

The winning trophy is on display at UOW (in the foyer of the Administration Building) for the first six months before it goes on show at Deakin for the next six months.
Film industry comes to Wollongong

Pictured: Australian film-maker Scott Hicks (left) and Federal Minister for the Arts, the Hon Peter McGauran (right), who attended the Australian Screen Directors Conference at the University, were welcomed by the Dean of the Faculty of Creative Arts, Professor Sharon Bell.

Hollywood film producers are scouting the South Coast for film locations as word of the region's visual potential is spread to the world via Film Illawarra.

Since its inception earlier this year, the joint venture between the University's Faculty of Creative Arts and Wollongong City Council has achieved remarkable success in promoting the Illawarra and South Coast to Australian and international film-makers.

Project Manager, Ms Julia Hammett-Jamart, has handled several enquiries channelled through the NSW Film and Television Office from Los Angeles-based film-makers.

"I've had requests from film-makers in Australia and overseas for an enormously diverse range of locations, from Mad Max-type post-apocalyptic industrial landscapes to Arizona pine forest wilderness and a lighthouse on an island with vehicular access via a tidal spit," she said.

Australian film director David Caesar (Idiot Box, Water Rats), known to ABC Television viewers for his provocative opinions as a judge on Race Around the World, visited Wollongong and Kiama recently scouting for locations for his next feature film, Mullet.

It is anticipated that the feature film Diving for Pearls, by Austinmer-based director Geoff Burton (The Sum of Us) and Bad Debts in Wollongong, a 26-part television series being produced by Tony Buckley, of Caddie, Heroes, Bliss and Poor Man's Orange fame, will be filmed in the region.

Ms Hammett-Jamart said the project's primary goal - to establish a database of Illawarra film locations and local facilities and expertise on the World Wide Web - was well under way.

Assisted by Film Illawarra, the Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Shoalhaven and Wingecarribee councils had formulated a draft Regional Film Policy, with the aim of providing streamlined access and filming conditions across the Illawarra.

A former Paramount Pictures location manager, who scoured Sydney for sites for the filming of Mission Impossible II, will conduct an Illawarra site survey for the database, which will be launched in May.

Much interest in the region was generated by the Fourth Annual Australian Screen Directors Conference, which was hosted by the University in early October.

South Coast Centres prepare for first students

UOW's new South Coast centres at Nowra, Batemans Bay and Bega are accepting their first students this year.

The three centres are part of the South Coast Education Network that aims to deliver quality education services from the NSW South Coast to the Victorian border.

The network is a partnership between the University, the Illawarra Institute of Technology, and the NSW Department of Education and Training and the Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Shire councils.

The $1.8million Batemans Bay Library and Education Access Centre was completed in September and the University's partners, TAFE and Eurobodalla Shire Council have been operating since October a TAFE study centre and new community Library. The University will begin operation at the new centre in February.

Further south, work on the $1million Bega Education Access Centre has been progressing well.

The University's Developments Officer, Mr David Fuller, said unseasonal weather has delayed completion of the new $1.3million Shoalhaven Campus at Nowra.

"While this has been an unavoidable disappointment the impressive new facility will be fitted out, commissioned and ready for operation by mid session break in April. Until that time, arrangements are being made for students in Nowra to study at the University's existing Graham Park Campus, in Berry," Mr Fuller said.

Enrolments are now starting to come in for the courses at the new centres and students can do full degrees in Arts (Communications, History and Society), Business Administration at all three new centres.

In addition, students can study up to two years towards a Bachelor of Commerce degree and also do first year subjects in Engineering, Information Technology and Science at the new Shoalhaven Campus.

For further information on courses and enrolments, contact UniAdvice on 1300 367 869.
Michellie has sights set on gold at Sydney’s Games

Michellie says the thing which impressed her most about the teaching course was the fact that she was actually out in the classroom in no time, getting practical training from first semester on.

Having received her qualifications though, Michellie put her teaching prospects on hold and left for the USA to try to make a name in the competitive field of triathlon.

“As soon as I finished my three-year course I left Australia to head to the USA to start my career as a triathlete,” Michellie said.

“My mother wanted me to have some kind of a qualification just in case I couldn’t support myself as an athlete. I feel it is really important to gain some kind of higher education or career background and I am glad I had smart enough parents to realise this as well.”

That was in 1990. In 1999 Michellie has a firm grip on her top billing as an international athlete. Currently ranked number one in the world, the Thirlmere girl has twice been world champion and six times been named US Triathlete of the Year.

But there is one major goal left, and a few hurdles to negotiate before she achieves it.

“My goals for 2000 are to qualify for the Sydney 2000 Olympics. The Australian team has been allocated the maximum number of three spots. The first spot will be selected in April at the Sydney World Cup and the second at the World Championships in Perth in May. Finally the third spot will be by a selection committee.”

While selection in the national team for 2000 would appear to be a formality for the world number one, the issue is complicated by the fact that Australian women dominate the sport internationally, and with a maximum of three positions available, the competition to get to the Olympics will be intense.

As Michellie says: “There are never any guarantees, especially in sport.”

But assuming Michellie performs to her potential she should be there in September to give an Olympic gold medal a good shake. The opportunity is one that every athlete would look forward to.

“Words probably can’t possibly describe the emotion, the joy, the excitement of competing in your home country. I am sure I will be over the moon.”

When asked how she thinks she will go at the Olympics, Michellie says simply: “I know if I prepare myself and make it to the start line fit and healthy I have as good a chance as anyone”. But as a warning to her competitors she adds, “I would love to win Sydney”.

World beater Michellie Jones
[photo: courtesy Illawarra Mercury]
It has been an amazing 12 months for Creative Arts graduate, Goknur Ray — a year which saw her finish her studies, compete national competitions, and move to London to one of the music world's great centres of learning.

Described as 'one of the most gifted students ever to pass through the Faculty', Goknur has a voice that could take her to the top, and in 1999 her talents were displayed on a number of occasions.

In July, Goknur won the Dame Joan Sutherland Scholarship at the Sydney Performing Arts Challenge, followed by a win in the vocal final of the Symphony Australia Young Performer Awards. She also contested the McDonald's Operatic Aria Competition at the Sydney Opera House Theatre.

Earlier in the year Goknur competed in her local Eisteddfods, winning the Open Operatic Aria sections at both the City of Wollongong and Nowra/Shoalhaven events.

The 21-year-old local girl gave her final exam performance at the University in July, but was able to squeeze in a “Farewell to Wollongong” concert in the Town Hall in August, allowing everyone the chance to wish her well as she undertook the next stage in her stellar career.

On top of all of this Goknur had to write her 5,000 word final essay, audition for Opera Australia, and enter one last competition — the Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year competition. Held in Melbourne in September and accompanied by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the competition was broadcast nationally on ABC television. While Goknur wasn’t named Young Performer of the Year, she was presented with the Queen’s Trust Award.

This award carries $10,000, which is actually $3,000 more than the Young Performer award, and Goknur was very pleased to have been recognised in this way.

"I'm thrilled with the win. It will help pay for half of the second year of tuition at the Royal College of Music," Ms Ray said.

With all this experience behind her, Goknur is in a position to make the most of her time in London. One of only 13 students to enter the prestigious Royal College Of Music in 1999, she will be learning to perform at the highest level.

Those who know her say there is nothing to stop Goknur achieving anything she wants to in London. Among her admirers is the Sub-Dean of the Faculty of Creative Arts at the University of Wollongong, Mr David Vance, who believes she is a remarkably talented woman.

"She has an extraordinary and exceptional talent which has the potential to bring her international success," said Mr Vance.

Goknur will return to Australia during 2000 to perform with the Western Australia Symphony Orchestra, and other engagements to be broadcast on ABC Radio and 2MBS FM.
Standing on the shoulders of giants after prestigious awards

The dual awards entitle Mr Raina to be elected as a fellow of the Cambridge Commonwealth Society, a nomination sanctioned by the Prince of Wales.

Mr Raina will undertake a PhD in Applied Mathematics at Trinity's Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics. This prestigious department is headed by Professor Stephen Hawking, the institute's famous Professor of Mathematics and author of the bestseller *A Brief History of Time*. The same position was once held by Sir Isaac Newton.

But shortly before departing for Cambridge, Gaurav was still overwhelmed by the awards and the changes they would force on his life.

"I haven't thought too much about working with such famous minds as Professor Hawking and the Master of Trinity College, Professor Amartya Sen, an Indian scholar who won the Nobel Prize last year for Economics - I'm just sorry to be leaving Wollongong," Mr Raina said.

Mr Raina, also an Indian national, has lived in Wollongong for the past three years. He completed an undergraduate Honours degree in Mathematics at UOW in 1998 and then embarked on a Master of Science (Honours) degree on Bond Price Equations in Finance, under the supervision of UOW academics Dr Joanna Gaard and Professor Phil Broadbridge.

Professor Broadbridge said the Ramanujan Studentship, named after India's most famous mathematician, was perhaps the most prestigious award ever bestowed on a University of Wollongong student. He praised Mr Raina as a "natural researcher and all-round good scholar".

It was Sir Isaac Newton who said he had seen so far only because he stood on the shoulders of giants. Three centuries later Gaurav is getting his own chance to repay the favour.

UOW introduces fellowships scheme to reward innovative young scientists

In a bid to retain Australia's innovative young scientists from heading overseas, the University of Wollongong has introduced a new UOW Fellowships Scheme to ensure these researchers are justly rewarded and able to work on their own ideas.

The introduction of the new fellowships were formally announced at the University's annual Planning Conference held from 2-4 February. They will carry an annual salary of around $50,000 which is higher than the usual postdoctoral awards.

Recipients will be required to demonstrate that they will be undertaking innovative research.

UOW's recent PhD graduate, Dr Kirsten Benkendorff, who won the Young Australian of the Year science and technology award for her work with marine organisms, was the first person offered such a fellowship on 8 February. Dr Benkendorff has discovered a new antibiotic and, at the same time, help preserve a marine species.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Chris Brink, said he made the offer of the fellowship to Dr Benkendorff to ensure UOW - and Australia - did not lose somebody of her calibre.

Kirsten is now preparing a detailed outline of her future research proposals and has indicated that she is happy to be able to stay in Wollongong.

Professor Brink said there was a real problem in Australia with the employment of young scientists and that UOW was happy to take the lead in trying to turn this situation around.
UOW wins first licence for a foreign university in United Arab Emirates

The University of Wollongong, has been chosen as the only western university in the world to be issued a licence from the Federal Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to operate an offshore campus in the UAE.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton, has described the announcement as a “major coup for the University” as the only foreign campus licensed to operate anywhere within the Middle East.

A special purpose-built campus will be constructed in Dubai and ready for student occupation in 2001.

The University of Wollongong, through its private company ITC, has been responsible for the running of a full offshore campus in Dubai in the UAE since 1993. It has been doing so in rented premises covered by a licence from the State Ministry of Education to conduct courses as well as holding a trading licence from the Dubai Municipality.

The Vice-Chancellor said the granting of a Federal Government licence would have major implications for Wollongong’s current operation in Dubai.

“As well as the construction of a new campus, we will be able to broaden the courses on offer and appoint more full-time staff. It will also mean expatriates will be able to stay on in the Emirates to do full-time study,” Professor Sutton said.

“We expect overall student interest to grow rapidly because the Dubai campus now has the imprimatur of the Emirates’ Federal Government,” Professor Sutton said.

Past and future graduates will now be major beneficiaries of the new licence.

Professor Sutton said UOW got the nod because it met all the necessary higher education policies appropriate to the Emirates which involved the University providing a development plan for its future presence in the area.

“There is no doubt that the standing of UOW as Australia’s University of the Year and the desire of the Emirates government to be involved with a university playing a major role in its own country aided our win. The quality of our graduates from Dubai will have also helped,” the Vice-Chancellor said.

The Dubai campus now offers international students, both individuals and corporations, English language training, pre-university short courses and a selection of UOW bachelor and masters degree courses. Students can transfer to Wollongong to undertake further studies.

High Commissioner and former Vice-Chancellor heads Dubai campus

A former Australian High Commissioner and university Vice-Chancellor has been appointed Director of the University’s Dubai Campus in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Professor Rodney Hills resigned as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Papua New Guinea to take up the Dubai posting. He replaced Martin Van Run who held the post since 1993.

UOW’s Vice-Principal (International) and Managing Director of ITC, Mr James Langridge, said he was thrilled to have somebody of Professor Hill’s stature directing the future operations of the Dubai Campus.

Professor Hills was Australian High Commissioner to the Kingdom of Tonga from 1986 to 1990 and also worked as Head of Mission for the Australian Diplomatic Service.

In 1990 he was appointed Deputy Director of the Australian National University’s National Centre for Development Studies; and in 1991 became Executive Director of the AIDAB Centre for Pacific Development and Training.

Professor Hills established the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research while working as Director of the Australian Development Assistance Bureau in the 1980s.

He holds a PhD from the University of Bristol and has worked as a lecturer at Britain’s Strathclyde University and as an agricultural meteorologist in Kenya.

UOW’s Dubai Campus was launched in 1993 to provide quality western-style tertiary education for UAE nationals and non-nationals. Previously, students in some undergraduate and postgraduate courses had to finish their degrees abroad or transfer to distance education programs.
Researchers muscle in on major international discovery

A University of Wollongong research team is one of several international teams to be credited with a startling new breakthrough, the discovery of a phenomenon that may lead to the creation of artificial muscle.

The find, published in the prestigious United States journal Science, was reported last year by journalists throughout the world. The discovery is the subject of a pending patent application.

The Intelligent Polymer Research Institute (IPRI) at the University of Wollongong is working with scientists from the United States, Italy and Germany on a three-year project funded by the US Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

The potential benefits in the future for physiotherapy and prostheses development are enormous, according to the Director of the IPRI, Professor Gordon Wallace.

Applied to physiotherapy and prostheses, it could be used to create a fabric or material that could support limbs and amplify the body’s own muscle movement.

This breakthrough may lead to the ability to implant artificial muscle.

Crucial to the breakthrough was the team’s discovery that carbon nanotubes, an organised structure of carbon atoms in the shape of a very small tube, could be actuated to imitate the functions of human muscle.

Professor Wallace’s team, which for years have worked to develop artificial muscle using polymer actuators, was given the task to find ways to efficiently stimulate the material with low voltage electricity.

Millivolts of charge were applied to the material causing it to expand and contract like naturally occurring muscle.

Professor Wallace said scientists had been working to create artificial muscle since the idea was first floated more than 10 years ago. The materials used to generate it had been known to science for only 20 years.

While it would have taken a single organisation or laboratory between three to five years to demonstrate such a concept, the four laboratories involved in the discovery achieved the result in less than two years.

The scientists’ research is also expected to revolutionise the high-tech spheres of nanotechnology and robotics.

Professor Wallace said the newly-discovered function would see the development of tiny parts for tiny engines in the new field of nano technology.
Six of the seven-member Irvine family have UOW degrees. Pictured after December's Faculty of Commerce graduation ceremony are siblings Carolyn and Tom Irvine, who received Bachelor of Commerce and Masters of Commerce degrees, respectively. Their father Rod (pictured right) has an MBA from the University; their mother Helen, (left) recently completed a PhD in Accounting.

Mr Danny Chung, of Hong Kong, pictured here with girlfriend Miss Joyce Tsang, flew to Australia to collect his Master of Journalism degree.

Honorary Fellows of the University, Miss Win Smith and Miss Nancy Reynolds, congratulated Aboriginal health worker Kay Stewart (left), who was the first Indigenous graduate of the University's Bachelor of Indigenous Health Studies degree. She is pictured with Masters of Indigenous Health Studies graduate Gail Guillaume.

There's more than one UOW graduate in Wollongong's Burke family. NSW Deputy Director-General for Education and Training, Dr Terry Burke, who has a Master of Education Studies (honours) from the University, congratulated his son Patrick who received a Bachelor of Teaching (Primary) degree. Patrick's twin sister Peta (pictured) has a UOW Arts/Law degree and Graduate Diploma in teaching from UOW.

Australian Democrats Senator Aden Ridgeway, delivered the Occasional Address at one of the October graduation ceremonies. He is pictured here with Wollongong MP Col Markham and Koori student Ms Michelle Gardener who received a Bachelor of Laws degree. Ms Gardener works in the Aboriginal Unit of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board.

Vitale (Lee) di Milia, of BHP Steel's Human Resource Department was awarded the degree Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) for his thesis on the effects of shift work on sleep and work safety, following a change from an eight-hour to a 12-hour shift. Dr di Milia also has a Bachelor of Arts degree and Diploma in teaching from UOW.
Identical twins Gabrielle and Susan O'Flynn graduated in different ceremonies on the same day. Gabrielle received a Bachelor of Education (Physical and Health Education) degree with First Class Honours. Her thesis involved a study of identical twins. Susan received a Graduate Diploma in Education.

Jazz composer and musician, the late Dr Roger Frampton, was awarded the degree Doctor of Creative Arts for his thesis entitled 'The View from Within', which examined co-relations between his composition and improvisation. Dr Frampton died in Wollongong on 4 January after battling an inoperable brain tumour.

He is pictured with his partner Sherylene.

Graduations...Graduations...Graduations...

Former UOW academic and Southern Cross University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Rarry Conyngham, (right) returned to Wollongong to see his son Samuel graduate with a Bachelor of Mathematics and Bachelor of Computer Science (Honours).

Professor Conyngham, who is now head of Australian Studies at Harvard University in the United States, is pictured with his wife Deborah and UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton.

An Honorary Doctor of Letters degree was bestowed last year on Mr Frank Hayes, one of Australia's leading social workers, who died recently after a long illness. The late Mr Hayes was in hospital when his sons Christopher and Michael (pictured from left to right with family members Frances Hayes, Margaret Hayes, Nerida Thiering and Antonia Hayes) accepted the award on his behalf.

Mr Hayes was recognised for his considerable contribution to penal reform and the theoretical development of criminology in Australia. He was a PhD student at the University where he was a popular teacher of Arts and Law students and the driving force behind a proposal to establish a Crime and Justice Centre on campus.
Thai Princess accepts doctorate and signs agreement with UOW

President of Maldives attends fully televised graduation ceremony
Reverse engineering the gender balance

Students from the Faculty of Engineering continued to win top awards and top jobs last year. On the way they have reverse engineered some traditional gender barriers.

In September, Mechanical Engineering student Jennifer Green won the coveted Institution of Engineers (Sydney Division) prize for the best final year thesis in a competition which offered strong challengers from the Sydney-based universities.

The award is presented for a report covering a significant engineering design and/or development task related to the applicant's field of study. Submissions were assessed on criteria relating to communication skills, design standard, value to the end user, commercial and sustainability issues.

Jennifer's thesis, entitled "Roll bite lubrication in the elastic entry and exit regimes during the cold rolling process", was completed while a cadet at the University. Since graduating in May she has been employed at BHP Port Kembla as a design engineer.

According to Jennifer: "When I was originally told I had won, it didn’t sink in. However, when it did it was nice to be recognised for all the effort that went into the study."

Although Jennifer found being a female engineering student to be "enjoyable as well as challenging", she feels the award transcends such issues.

"I believe this award to be significant for anyone who wins it — male or female. It is a great achievement to be honoured with such an award. I don't believe it is more or less significant being female."

Environmental Engineering student Heather Carter was also awarded one of two prestigious Ove Arup fellowships. Ove Arup is a major employer of engineers, and as a fellowship recipient Heather will work in their London office for the next two years. More impressively for the Faculty, Heather follows UOW engineering students Jonathan Dalton and Louise Unicomb as the 1998 and 1997 recipients of this same fellowship.

The recognition indicated by these achievements is welcomed by staff and students of the Faculty. According to Associate Professor Paul Cooper in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, it shows the University of Wollongong is producing graduates of the highest calibre — benchmarked against some of the top universities in Australia in the field of Engineering — and judged by the engineering profession itself.

"I'm not sure you can get much better than that," Professor Cooper said.

The fact that both these impressive achievements were by female students reflects a new reality emerging in the industry. While in numerical terms male students still dominate engineering departments, by other measures their female colleagues are leaving them behind.

Professor Brendon Parker, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, said that despite women accounting for only 13% of the undergraduate engineering population, many of the high-achieving graduates were among them.

He said it was a little disappointing that more women did not choose engineering since it was a rewarding and well paid profession with enormous potential for Australia in the 21st century.

According to Professor Cooper, the Faculty's women students perform much better than males on average and are sought after by employees.

"The key here is what are the career prospects for women taking up engineering? The answer is exceptionally good."

UOW Engineering graduate Jenny Green, pictured with Mechanical Engineering students Adam Edmonds (left) and Tim McEwan (right), who won, respectively, the NSW Society of Manufacturing Engineers' Oral Presentation Competition for NSW Engineering students, and the National Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating's Final Year Project Award.
Hazel Holmwood profile

Education alumni from 1962 to 1980 will know Hazel Holmwood. Some will recall her as the Warden of Women students and therefore their first introduction to tertiary education. In those protective early days when there was one small car park and no campus accommodation it was the unpaid responsibility of the Warden to spend the January holidays finding students accommodation. In their spare time.

Perhaps she was your netball trainer. While you find a mental image of yourself in the red, blue, yellow and white patterned tunic, ponder on the fact that it had been screen printed by Hazel and her colleague Jim Cramp in their spare time.

Hazel was there from the beginning. She saw the Teachers College become a College of Advanced Education (CAE), then an Institute. Finally she helped prepare the Institute to become part of the University. What you may not know is beyond her role as lecturer in education there was a richly rewarding active life which has continued throughout her retirement.

She is an intrepid traveller and has always remained fit despite some recent knee problems. Asked in The Year of the Older Person where all this started, Hazel said: “I think it all started at the age of seven when I went on a holiday to Jenolan Caves without my parents. I have had an independent adventurous spirit ever since. On a recent visit to India and Nepal I was often asked my age by young men who were amazed that I could do the trip.”

Her career started in primary and infant teaching but soon moved into secondary PE and Fitness. Adventure called and she left Sydney to become a governess in India then moved to England where she confesses to ‘picking fruit with gypsies’. Further teaching in England led her to a Grammar school where she had her first taste of teaching PE in a ‘real’ gymnasium.

After tripping around Europe and hitch-hiking throughout the North Island of New Zealand, she returned to teach PE in Sydney at Burwood Girls High School. This led to her appointment as PE and National Fitness Adviser for the Department of Education located in the Wollongong Area Office. “It was when the Snowy Mountains Scheme was in full swing and I was covering schools to the Victorian border. I would visit a school and three months later not only the school had gone, but the whole village had been relocated.”

In 1961 Hazel became a PE Inspector of Schools based in Sydney. “I was expected to go anywhere in the state. I had to travel in my own time, and not by plane, so there were countless overnight trips in the train. I would inspect that day and go back again by train that night. It was an exhausting job.”

“Thankfully I was offered the position at the newly opening Wollongong Teachers College. It was very interesting because I was also creating the syllabus. This is when I became warden of Women students. The newspapers sometimes referred to me as ‘Warden of Girls’, but eventually titles changed and by the time I retired, I was known as ‘Dean of Students’.”

The seventies were noted for the pioneering inroads to international partnerships. “We had overseas students from Uganda, Lesotho, Samoa, the Gilbert Islands, Fiji, Guyana, Hong Kong and Mauritius. We were also sending students to Papua New Guinea.

“I recall one Christmas entertaining the Ugandans. They always wanted HOT curries which they could not get in Wollongong at the time. We had a curry night at my place and as the students relaxed off came the shoes. Coats were fastened around the waist and African singing and dancing followed. In those days the Salvation Army did street singing, moving to a different house after each song. On this occasion, when singing a song outside my house, the Ugandans moved into the street with drinks in hand and joined in. The Sallies stayed and stayed.

Hazel moved out of the PE field in those early seventies and became a lecturer in Educational Sociology, History and Curriculum Process. When she retired as Senior Lecturer and Dean of Students she began the next phase of her adventures: “I was determined not to fade away but to start another life,” she said.

When asked where she had not been in the world, Hazel had to think. She recounted her visits to Russia, China, Alaska, Canada, America, South America, Scandinavia, Africa, Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong - and then there was the caravanning trips from Wollongong to Adelaide and up to Queensland. “Perhaps Malaysia - I’ll do that soon,” she said. “I’ve always been interested in the sociology of people from different cultures and the variety of cultural values.”

As if all this travel was not enough, Hazel has managed to fit in golf, Zonta charter presidency, bridge, voluntary work at Rhododendron Park, Probus, theatre, ballet and opera, not to mention her involvement in setting up the Education Chapter at this University. “I have lots more to do,” she says.

By Lenore Armour
The Vice-Chancellor of Macquarie University, Professor Di Yerbury, gave a national and international perspective to such issues as industry links, new technologies and internationalisation.

In a session entitled What Keeps Vice-Chancellors Awake at Night?, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) Professor Tony Blake; the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney, Professor Gavin Brown; and the Vice-Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University, Professor Peter Sheehan, outlined the difficulties facing education today.

UOW's Vice-Principal (International) and Managing Director of UOW's private company, ITC Ltd, Mr James Langridge, spoke about Productive Partnerships, outlining how UOW became co-winner of the Good Universities Guides University of the Year Award for 1999-2000.

Other case studies on strategic alliances were covered during the conference including the University of New South Wales's (UNSW) industry support of teaching programs delivered by UNSW Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Chris Fell.

Importance was placed on indigenous education, environmental issues and ethics, emphasising that the bottom line in universities must not only be financial but also social, cultural and educational.

Members of the conference attended a reception hosted by the Governor of NSW, His Excellency Mr Gordon Samuels, and Mrs Jacqui Samuels at Government House, Sydney.

• By Lenore Armour
What's happening?

International graduate Ms Thidarat Thongdang, a Wollongong resident with two postgraduate degrees from the University, will join the Alumni Association Board of Management.

Her appointment came after board members met on 10 August and amended the Alumni Association Constitution. New guidelines are now in place to assist new and existing Alumni committees.

More than 20 Arts and Health and Behavioural Sciences graduates participated in a pilot mentoring program launched by the Alumni Association and the University's Careers Service and 120 B.Ed students undertook mentored interview sessions with the education chapter.

The Alumni Association’s Executive Officer, Ms Lea Sublett, resigned from the post on 27 August to accept the position of Alumni Relations Manager for the University of Melbourne.

What is the Alumni Association?

The Alumni Association offers excellent professional and networking opportunities, as well as a way to stay in touch with colleagues and friends. It also enables you to remain involved with the University of Wollongong.

The Alumni Office organises networking events, reunions and assists graduates with the formation of alumni chapter committees. The alumni magazine, Outlook is mailed twice a year to all alumni free of charge.

As the University's reputation increases in Australia and internationally, the value of your own qualification also increases.

How can I join?

As a graduate of the University of Wollongong you are automatically a member of the Alumni Association and, provided you keep the Alumni Office updated with your address changes you will receive Outlook twice a year.

An optional membership category - financial membership - entitles you to voting rights within the Association and enables you to participate in chapter groups. As a financial member you will also qualify for a range of special rates which have been negotiated on your behalf. These include:

- Competitive pricing on computer equipment purchased through the IT shop on campus
- Special accommodation rates at Medina Serviced Apartments in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne
- Reduced rates on car rental with Hertz
- Reduced rates on travel insurance and group travel and waiving of departure tax for all international tickets purchased through STA travel on campus
- Cheap campus library access
- Discount at the UniCentre bookshop on campus
- Reduced rates at Alumni functions
- Reduced rates on graduation plaques

What does it cost to become a financial member?

Subscription rates are $25 per annum or $95 for a five-year period. You can choose to become a member of one of the chapters, which are faculty or regionally-based.
A consultant in conflict resolution, Robyn Gaspari, had the ‘hot heads’ taking deep breaths and the ‘ambushed’ finding safe ground. In no time at all she had her audience turning potential opponents into conflict resolving partners.

The seminar, run by the Education Chapter, attracted participants from the University TAFE, primary and secondary schools, welfare agencies, the health industry and community organisations.

Ms Gaspari runs a consultancy aimed at making conflict resolution skilling affordable and accessible to business, government, educators, professionals, community organisations and private individuals. She is in demand all over the state.

Participants learned to face stressful work situations by focusing on the issue and not on the person and found ways to choose constructive rather than destructive outcomes.

Evaluation of the workshop was very positive. The Chapter wishes to thank Robyn Gaspari for her warm manner and humorous, yet serious treatment of the topic.

By Lenore Armour
Mentoring program opens new networks

Undergraduate Nursing student Joanne Moore was uncertain of her future until she met Registered Nurse Jacinda Ramage in a pilot mentoring program initiated by the University’s Careers Service.

In the four months since they were introduced, the pair, who share an interest in paediatric care, have become close friends.

Jacinda, who recently completed a Master of Nursing degree, prepared Joanne for the arduous state-wide nursing selection process, teaching her what selectors were looking for and sharing successful interview tips.

Joanne went on to win the first position she applied for - a nursing job at Sydney Children’s Hospital.

“I’d like to think Joanne’s success had something to do with the program,” Jacinda said.

“It’s a very tough selection process and few would-be nurses are lucky enough to get the first of the 10 preferred positions they submit. Some of the people I went through university with didn’t even get jobs.”

The Step Ahead Career Mentoring Program was launched at the University on 11 August last year, with the support of Alumni. It has placed students with mentors from career areas as diverse as environmental science and journalism.

Kate Shane, of The Careers Service, said the program provided an opportunity for students to gain guidance and advice on career options and the transition from university to the workplace.

“We wanted to target students who area of study, renew connections with the University and develop new networks. Some lasting friendships were also formed.

Kate said mentoring was recognised as an effective way to assist people through periods of change and was increasingly being used in business and corporate organisations for professional development, effective succession planning and induction programs.

Jacinda described the program as ‘excellent’ and said she wished it had been offered when she was a student.

“It was good for me to keep up with undergraduate side of nursing education - I hope to be involved in the program again in the future.”

The Careers Service will offer the mentoring program again in 2000 to students from other faculties. Organisers would like to involve as many University alumni as possible in the program. Would-be mentors should contact Kate Shane on (02) 4221 3970 or email kshane@uow.edu.au
Mock employment interviews a ‘resounding success’

Fifteen Alumni primary school principals and education consultants gave a day of their time recently to give mock employment interviews to 120 final year Bachelor of Education Studies students.

The day was organised by the Education Chapter in conjunction with the Faculty of Education.

"This is the first time such a venture has been undertaken and from all reports it was an outstanding success," according to Chapter President Lenore Armour.

Dressed for interview with resumes in hand, students responded to work-related questions from experts in the field.

"For me the mock interview clearly illustrated the need for careful planning and preparation," student Danielle Senior said.

Another student, Elizabeth Hill, said: "I believe this exercise was very beneficial. It allowed me to gain a clearer idea of what real interviews would be like as well as giving me feedback on the responses I would be likely to offer."

Ms Armour said alumni involved in the exercise were impressed with the standard of the students and gave helpful evaluation for the Faculty on the preparation of future alumni for the teaching profession.

"Faculty of Education Sub Dean, Ms Yvonne Kerr, and the Director of the Faculty’s Primary Program, Mr Brian Ferry, welcomed chapter organisation of this pilot program," Ms Armour said.

"It fitted perfectly into the curriculum and Pedagogy subject and was readily supported by Subject Co-ordinator, Dr Ted Booth."

The interviewers thoroughly enjoyed the day. "It was purposeful and it was good to be able to give the students feedback," principal Graeme Akhurst said.

"We don't have that opportunity when we do the real interviews."

Student Danielle Senior said she realised that it's not enough to have internalised educational philosophies, because as future teachers we need to be able to articulate them.

Mr Ferry congratulated the chapter on its initiative and followed up the exercise with specific feedback to the student body.

Ms Armour said the benefit of the exercise went way beyond just practising for an interview.

"It gave students and faculty an understanding of what an alumni association is and what its members are prepared to give back to their university," she said.
University plays host to future Asian environment leaders

The envoys flank the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton (centre). Behind the V-C are Professor John Morrison, of the Environment Research Institute, and the Vice-Principal (Administration), Mr David Rome.

Future environment leaders from Asia and the Pacific toured sites of environmental significance in the Illawarra, South Coast, Sydney and Canberra on a nine-day visit during November.

Sixteen delegates from 12 countries were selected to participate in this year's Young Environment Envoys Program — an initiative of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) for Asia and the Pacific, in partnership with the University of Wollongong, Environment Australia and QANTAS.

The visit, hosted by the University of Wollongong's Environment Research Institute, directed by Professor John Morrison, included an international forum on environmental education and management, focusing on the role of young people in environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources in the Asia Pacific Region. Over the next 10 to 20 years, many countries, particularly in the Asia Pacific Region, will be faced with major environmental challenges which will have an impact on their ability to establish a sustainable economic and social development base", Professor Sutton said.

The University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton, said the program would not be possible without the personal support of the Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Robert Hill.

"The program aims to increase the awareness of future leaders of environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources in the Asia Pacific Region. Over the next 10 to 20 years, many countries, particularly in the Asia Pacific Region, will be faced with major environmental challenges which will have an impact on their ability to establish a sustainable economic and social development base", Professor Sutton said.

Professor Sutton said the program would provide a valuable opportunity for tomorrow's environmental leaders to discuss and collaborate on significant environmental issues in conjunction with Australian experts and fellow tertiary students in Australia - and to develop a network of contacts they could maintain throughout their careers.

Seminar highlights benefits of lifelong learning

The author and presenter of the award-winning television program, Born To Learn, which airs weekly to 26 million households in the United States, presented a breakfast seminar at the University of Wollongong.

The professional development breakfast seminar was organised by the University of Wollongong and the Alumni Office to help push the value of lifelong learning.

Glenn Capelli provides learning strategies for businesses facing fast-paced changing times.

Mr Capelli is the Director of the True Learning Centre, an organisation dedicated to quality and innovation through thinking and learning skills. He is a Sir Winston Churchill Fellowship awardee and the co-author of a 400-page learning text.

The seminar attracted Wollongong-based alumni, Illawarra business people, final year UOW students and UOW staff.

The general manager of UniAdvice, Ms Robin Buckham, told the seminar that UOW was putting into practice the call by Mr Capelli for institutions to be as flexible as possible in the delivery of their studies.
University of Wollongong Memorabilia Order Form

The following items may be ordered by completing the form below and returning it with your cheque or postal money order to:

Alumni Office, University of Wollongong
NSW 2522 Australia
Tel: 02 4221 3249 or 4221 3169. Fax: 02 4221 3128

Note: There are two prices associated with each item. Mail order prices are shown on the right, but you can also buy and collect items direct from the Alumni office (which is located on the ground floor of the Administration Bldg #36). For any items over $15 to be sent overseas, please add $5 for postage.

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Fog fails to foil millennium solar event

Scientists overcame the challenges of New Zealand's notorious weather to capture the first rays of sun of the new millennium on New Year's Day.

Professor Gordon Wallace, the University of Wollongong's (UOW) Intelligent Polymer Research Institute director, said heavy fog enveloped the Palmerston North site in the early hours of January 1 as organisers were putting the finishing touches to the Stonehenge-like stage set.

"This restricted technical demonstrations but the show did go on," Professor Wallace said.

The dawn event was the cornerstone of the Millennium Solar Project (MSP), masterminded by Professor Wallace and Associate Professor David Officer of New Zealand's Massey University, to raise awareness of, and funds for, photovoltaic research.

The largest Gratzel solar cell ever constructed was hung as a backdrop at the remote Tararua Wind Farm site before the arrival of about 50 spectators who were welcomed by UOW Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Robinson, and Massey University Vice-Chancellor, Professor James McWha.

As a small number of photons (light energy) battled their way through the fog, a specially composed musical and dance recital was performed by local artists.

As the photons struggled through a set of 'smart windows', the logos of MSP sponsors and other designs appeared on the glass.

However, reactions that were to have been triggered by other solar technology that works well in low light, but not 'no light', were catalysed by other means.

These included a spectacular thermite reaction creating a flow of molten metal at 2300 degrees Celcius, which when cooled, was preserved as a momento of the event.

A Millennium Torch was also lit and carried by runners from the Manawatu marathon club on a two-hour journey to the Palmerston North town square, where the flame was used to initiate the release of 2000 balloons.

A Millennium Solar Symposium, held in conjunction with the January 1 event, was a great success. Internationally-renowned speakers including Professor Martin Green, of UNSW, and Professor Andrew Holmes, of Cambridge, described how dramatic breakthroughs in materials science and engineering in the 20th century will translate into exciting developments in solar energy conversion and storage in the 21st.

Professor Wallace said the dawn event would be repeated as part of National Science week in Canberra in May, prior to the start of the Solar Boat Race on Lake Burley Griffin.

The project will continue this year and next, continuing the advancement of photovoltaic technology and raising funding for scholarships in this important area of research. An international symposium is planned for Wollongong in January next year.