Professor Ron Johnston to lead expert consortium

The Minister for Resources, Senator Peter Cook, has announced that a consortium of experts has been appointed to undertake an evaluation of the National Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Program (NERDDP).

The Consortium is led by Professor Ron Johnston, Director of the Centre for Technology and Social Change (TASC) at The University of Wollongong. TASC specialises in research, consultancy and training in technology policy, strategy and management. It has carried out evaluations of a number of major research programs and organisations in the past two years.

The consortium also includes Dr Hugh Saddler of Energy Policy Analysis Pty Ltd of Canberra and Professor Ian Lowe, Director of the Science Policy Research Centre at Griffith University. Both Dr Saddler and Professor Lowe have extensive experience in energy research.

Senator Cook said: 'The NERDD program, which started in 1978, is designed to help meet the energy policy objectives of the Government through selective support of energy research, development and demonstration projects (RD&D).'

'Since its inception, the program has funded about 1,500 projects involving about $230 million of NERDDP funds, together with substantial contributions from other sources, including grant recipients.

'The evaluation is designed to assess that extent to which the program’s objectives have been met, including its effectiveness and achievements.'

Particular emphasis will be placed on:

1. the processes used to effect Program delivery, including the methods and criteria for evaluating the achievements and effectiveness of grants;
2. the development within reasonable time frames of technologies which are relevant to energy policy objectives and are cost competitive;
3. the transfer of technology to prospective users, including developments leading to Australian manufacture and export of energy technologies, and
4. the cost effectiveness of the Program.

Senator Cook continued, 'It is expected that the evaluation will be completed by about April next year and will provide a sound basis on which any changes to the program parameters can be considered. It will also enable the proposed new Energy R&D and Coal Industry R&D Corporations to have at their disposal an up-to-date and comprehensive analysis of the program.'

Establishment of the two R&D corporations was announced in May. Their objective is to stimulate research, innovation and competitiveness in the primary industries and energy portfolio industries.

Campus News

There will be no issue of Campus News on November 21. Next publication date is November 28 with copy deadline noon on Monday November 20. The next and final issue for this session will be dated December 12; copy deadline for that issue will be December 4.
General Notices

Are you computer literate?

The University requires all students who first enrolled in an undergraduate course in 1989 to be computer literate before graduating.

Students who successfully complete one of the following will satisfy the literacy requirement.

- Computing Science: CSCI111
- Education: EDTL101, EDTL102
- Electrical & Computer Engineering: ELEC132, ELEC133, ELEC135, ELEC191
- Mechanical Engineering: MECH122
- Information Systems: AICA111, AICA113
- Mathematics: MATHS141
- English: GENE114:

Computers and the Arts (a Summer Session subject) and On-Line Library Catalogue Training (refer to the Library)

Other students should enrol for a two-hour course and literacy test by contacting Carole at Computer Services Reception (ext. 3850) – for a course using the IBM-compatible P.C., or Nola at Apple Consortium on the first floor of the Library (ext. 3775) – for a course using the Macintosh.

The cost of each course is $35.

Barry Jones, Stephen Hill and the Bridge between History and the Future

At the start of this Session Barry Jones launched Stephen Hill’s latest book, The Tragedy of Technology at the Commission for the Future in Melbourne. The book was about history. At the end of the Session, Stephen Hill and Barry Jones appeared together in Melbourne again, this time both talking about the future, and up the road from the Commission for the Future, in the Council Chamber of the University of Melbourne.

The occasion was a major colloquium sponsored by the University of Melbourne, called, Futures for Australia and the Pacific. Barry Jones and Stephen Hill were followed by five other speakers through the day – including the Director of the Commission for the Future, and the previous Secretary of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The audience was largely a mixture of senior industrialists and academics.

According to all reports, Stephen Hill’s presentation was the highlight of the day. It looked at the future as a ‘200 year present’, and therefore drew from history to identify what we are constrained by now, and what we can expect to achieve. The keys, as Professor Hill said, were the way that the culture we created for ourselves years ago still provides a conservative ‘trailing edge’ for what we can do in turning our ‘imaginings’ into reality, and the way that Australians had learnt to treat technology as ‘trinkets’ to adorn our lifestyle, not as forces we had to build upon.

Stephen Hill’s speech evoked immediate supportive stories from the industrialists present about the problems they confronted in ‘turning around’ business enterprise.

For anyone with an interest in how the future is seen through the eyes of Barry Jones, Phil Ruthven, Laurie Cosgrove, David Yencken, Stuart Harris, Richard Slaughter, and Stephen Hill, Melbourne’s Centre for the Study of Higher Education is selling videotapes of the speakers.

Help for the intellectually disabled

The Equity in Education Program within the School of Learning Studies is investigating the educational needs of disadvantaged groups within our community. Equity issues in relation to gender, non-English speaking language/culture/Koori background and socio-economic status are being addressed under the DEET-funded Secondary Schools Links Project and DEET/BHP-funded Girls and Non-traditional Employment, Study and Training Project. The projects focus, in particular, on the links between school and university and how to enhance the transfer of all students into higher education and further training. People with mild intellectual disabilities experience great difficulty in gaining access to employment, further training and education and are often denied the use of basic community service and recreational facilities.

Ms Deslea Konza has had considerable experience in issues to do with IM classes, their teachers and parents. She is concerned, as an educator, at the apparent lack of concern by educational policy makers towards the lack of employment prospects and community services available to such students and her project reflects such concerns. The project addresses the expectations and aspirations about future independence of IM adolescents and the expectations held by their teachers and parents.

Ms Konza has spent hundreds of hours in 1989 interviewing mildly intellectually impaired adolescents, their families and their teachers. The responses have provided a body of data that will be analysed over the Summer session. In the short term the material will be incorporated into the Program’s Equity Indicators for schooling and teacher training. In the longer term particular educational, employment and training needs for these disabled students will be identified in the hope that these will be more closely matched with community services and employment opportunities, leading to more productive lifestyles and less dependence on pensions and benefits. Enquiries: Ms Deslea Konza, ext. 3603.
University Forum: Thursday November 16

In view of the variety of possible developments at national, state and campus levels which may be of interest to members of the university community, it seems desirable to have a university Forum. Accordingly, a Forum has been scheduled for Thursday November 16 in Lecture Theatre 14 from 12.30 to 2 pm.

Members of the university community will be aware that the objective of these Forums is to provide for open two-way communication between the executive of the university and members of the community whatever their positions.

Executive staff will convey information about actual and possible developments, dispel rumours and listen to all points of view. Those attending are free to raise any matters about the operation of the university.

At present the matters which seem uppermost in people's minds include: Salary restructuring - likely developments; New awards - including redundancy provisions; Salary packages; Appointment of Deans; Campus lighting; Due process for students; Academic developments: Faculty of Law, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, Faculty of Information Engineering and Science; Graduate Schools, Illawarra Technology Corporation and research centres.

I or one of the other executives will bring those who attend the Forum up to date on those and any other matters raised and take into account the points of view expressed in the development of future policy. If you wish to raise any matter which necessitates information gathering prior to the meeting, please let my Secretary, Halina Majer, know so that we can be well enough briefed to give a helpful answer.

K. R. McKinnon, Vice-Chancellor

Staff Roundup

Notices about Recreation and Long Service Leave Applications and Christmas Pay Periods appeared in Campus News last week; they will be repeated in the November 28 issue.

Staff Development Course

Selection Techniques for Academic Staff December 13 and 14 (9 am to 4.30 pm)

Targeted toward academic staff who have responsibility for selecting both academic and general staff.

Nomination forms for Staff Development Courses can be obtained from Shirley Jergensen ext. 3946.

The symmetry, definition and grace of Paige Dowd

Paige Dowd, 22, in her final year of study for an Associated Diploma in Sports Science, may soon become the first well-known female Aboriginal body builder.

Sponsored by Cleary Brothers who have covered her travel, equipment and personal expenses while appearing in competitions, Paige is starting to find that dedication to her hobby is showing results.

From Coonabarabran in north-west New South Wales, Paige played an active part in her school sports, representing the State of New South Wales in athletics, in basketball and in netball. In addition, she played for the Australian under-19 basketball team while in year 12 at Coonabarabran High School. After school Paige spent a year in Sydney and was able to take a serious interest in body building and develop the symmetry, definition and grace on which competitors are judged.

This is her first competitive year. In October she came third in the Novice Division of the South Coast Body Building Championship and on October 22 she came third in the over 57 kg division of the IFBB Australian body building championships.

Her studies complete at the end of this session, Paige intends to take a year off from competition and find work, probably as a fitness instructor, which will involve both her University training and her enthusiasm for body-building.
Concerts, exhibitions and entertainment

The University of Wollongong Conservatorium of Music - end of year activities

Staff Concert
November 24, 8.15 pm at the Bruce Gordon Theatre, Illawarra Performing Arts Centre.
Tickets: adults $9, concession $3.

Grand Finale Concert
November 28 at the IMB Theatre.
Three student concerts in one. 6.30 to 7.30 pm for juniors (five to 10 years) foyer items; 8 to 9 pm for seniors; 9.15 pm orchestra.
Tickets: full concert, adults $9, concessions $3; two concerts, adults $6, concession $2; one concert, adults $3, concession $1.
Tickets and bookings for both concerts are on sale at the Performing Arts Centre. Contact the Conservatorium Office, (042) 281122, for further information.

Seminars

Department of Biology
Seminars will be held in Lecture Theatre G.19, Building 35, at 12.30 pm.
November 14: Patrick Tap, Topic to be announced.
November 21: Sue Carthe, Sex in banksias
November 28: Kerry Withers, Protein energy malnutrition and cellular metabolism

Biomedical Evening Series
Each seminar will be preceded by dinner at the Union Bistro at 6.30 pm. All those interested are welcome to meet the speaker at the Bistro. Please contact the Convener, Dr E.J. Steele (042) 270 0434, so that appropriate table bookings can be made. Seminars begin at 8 pm in the Biology Meeting Room, Building 35.
Wednesday November 15: Sponsored by BDH Chemicals. Dr Bruce Pussel, Renal Unit, Wollongong Hospital, Pathogenesis of post streptococcal nephritis

Centre for Information Technology Research
Friday November 17 at 11 am in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering seminar room (Building 35, Room 22): Professor Bill Melody, Director of the Melbourne-based Centre for International Research on Communication and Information Technologies (CIRClT), will discuss the new regulatory regime in telecommunications and where he sees his centre participating in policy-making and in contributing to public debate.
Professor Melody will be accompanied by Dallas Smythe, one of the pioneers of communications studies and Bill Melody's predecessor as Professor of Communications at Simon Fraser, who will contribute to the discussion. The seminar will be of importance to all those interested in telecommunications.
Please contact Sally Brownlow on 27 0076 if you are intending to attend.

Advertisements

FOR SALE
Two single beds in excellent condition. Ring 286691.
AU PAIR AVAILABLE
Young woman graduate (music and maths) from Germany seeks au pair position in family with children from mid December to mid February. Please ring Mrs Margaret Spira 84 9626 (work) 67 3699 (home).
LECTURER SEEKS TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION
Recent member of staff is seeking temporary accommodation (room only) for two to three nights a week from mid December to late January, preferably near the University. Please call Paul Patterson, Dept of Management, 27 0761.
ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
Non-smoking person required to share lovely 2 B.R. unit overlooking Thirroul Beach. Available immediately. $72.50 plus expenses. Phone Lynne Baker 67 4661.
FOR SALE
Doberman pups, five weeks old. Telephone ext 3081 or see them at No 8 Vickery Street, Gwynneville.

Like to win a computer?
Two President XT-088 computers are being given as prizes for the best entries of either:
(i) an essay on the effects of technology on our society by the decade 2000-2010;
or
(ii) a science fiction story taking place in the decade 2000-2010.
One of the computers will be reserved for students successfully completing the Computer Literacy Test - see page 2 article, Are you computer literate?
All entries must be received by December 12.

Department of Civil and Mining Engineering
Water Engineering and Geomechanics Research Program Seminar and Research Discussion Program by Distinguished Visitor, Professor E. Dembicki
Thursday November 16: 12.30 to 1.30pm, Photogrammetry Room - Geotechnical Research Group Discussion: Block Foundations Subject to Horizontal Forces - Part 1
Tuesday November 21: 12.30 to 1.30pm, Photogrammetry Room - Geotechnical Research Group Discussion: Block Foundations Subject to Horizontal Forces - Part 2
Any further enquiries to Dr R.M. Arenicz (ext. 3035).

Department of Economics
Seminars are held in room 19.2085. Information from Dennis O'Brien,(042) 270 654 (ext. 3654) or in Room 19.2076. Wednesday November 15, at 12.30 pm: Sandra Mark, MCom (Honours) student, Department of Economics, the University of Wollongong, Rural income and employment in Indonesia

Department of Management
Seminars are held on Thursdays at 12.30 pm in Room 19.1003.
November 17: Dr Muayyad Jabri, Management of professional R&D scientists: The case of a British pharmaceutical company
November 23: Dr Stephen Little, Institutional versus task environments: the organizational context of technical projects