University and school students praise Link program

The Secondary Schools Link Program has achieved very positive results for both school students and participating university students, according to Student Role Model, Trudi Marshall.

Trudi, pictured with students at Port Kembla High School, has been involved in the program since it began.

The Secondary Schools Link Program is co-ordinated from within the Faculty of Education Research Programs by Mr Ted Booth with Gay Tapp as Professional Officer.

Both have been involved in the Program since its inception in 1989 when 11 schools were targeted.

In 1992, 25 schools are incorporated into the program including schools in the Illawarra, Nowra, Southern Sydney and Campbelltown areas.

The successful feature of the program is the use of University Student Role Models (SRMs) who, like Trudi, are close in age and background to the school students they visit.

Since the program began in 1989, over 90 students have been trained as SRMs for the program.

They are not chosen on the basis of academic achievement, but are carefully selected to fit within certain categories to maximise their impact with the school students.

Among those selected are Non English Speaking Background (NESB) students, Koori students, students studying in non-traditional areas and ex-students of the targeted schools.

Trudi was selected for the program because she attended a targeted school, Bomaderry High, and was studying in a non-traditional area, Geology.

Over the four years of the program Trudi has visited most of the targeted schools.

School students, who have remembered her visits in previous years, have approached Trudi at various times and in various locations to discuss the visit and their decisions regarding further study.

This year the program has incorporated SRMs now studying at Wollongong University who attended schools targeted by the program in 1989.

These SRMs remember the Link visit and are keen to become involved in the program.

The university students are well suited to tell secondary students about the kinds of experiences they have had as well as providing information about support services and degree structures they are familiar with.

Above all, the SRMs are presenting the image to school students that "if we can do it, so can you" thus stimulating school
Brief News

A $380,000 grant from the NSW Department of Agriculture will strengthen the University’s move into the area of Biotechnology research and training.

A collaborative effort between Dr Mark Walker in the Department of Biology and Drs Eamens, Chin and Djordjevic of the NSW Department of Agriculture, will seek to provide, for the first time, a range of radical new approaches to the administration of vaccines to pigs.

They will seek to deliver recombinant vaccine antigens through the use of live bacterial vectors.

These vectors, which themselves are harmless to pigs, other animals and humans, will be delivered orally or through the nasal passages where they elicit an immune response in the host during the process of multiplication in the mucosal surfaces.

The technology developed in these studies may be used to produce safer human vaccines.

During September the Office Services Section will not open until 8.30am each day.

This will mean that car pool users will have to collect car keys the afternoon before if 8.30am is too late for departure.

Yoga classes are available for people with disability in Wollongong.

There are very few yoga classes for those with disabilities in Australia. Wollongong’s class is taught by Cynthia Delaney, who has 23 years of teaching experience, and a delight in making yoga accessible to everyone.

‘These classes have been modified to suit people with MS, and those who have physical disabilities, including the wheelchair disabled,’ Ms Delaney said.

‘They consists of gentle exercise, breathing techniques and relaxation, all done either on the floor or in a chair.’

The students who attended for the last 18 months found that they benefitted from improved muscle tone, flexibility in the joints and back, and an improvement in their stress levels.

The class is in the Congregational Church Hall, Market Street, Wollongong, which has wheelchair access.

It is held on Tuesday mornings during school term, between 11am and noon. The cost is $3 per lesson.

For further information, or to enrol, contact Ms Delaney on 85 2086.

Applications are invited for University funding for new grants and renewal of grants in the following categories:

- University Programs/Groups/Development Groups;
- University Project Grants;
- University Small Grants (up to $500)

Closing date for applications is 9 October, 1992.

Further information is also available from the Research Office.

Christmas-New Year holiday arrangements

The following arrangements will apply to the 1992/1993 Christmas-New Year period:

- Thursday 24 December: working day
- Friday 25 December: Christmas Day (Public holiday)
- Saturday 26 December: Boxing day (Public holiday)
- Sunday 27 December: Sunday
- Monday 28 December: concessional day
- Tuesday 29 December: concessional day
- Wednesday 30 December: New Year’s Day (public holiday)
- Thursday 31 December: New Year’s Day (public holiday)
- Friday 1 January: Saturday
- Saturday 2 January: Sunday
- Sunday 3 January: working day
- Monday 4 January: working day

1. the days falling between Christmas and New Year’s Day which are not gazetted as Public Holidays in the state of NSW are granted as University Concessional Holidays, and
2. such concessional days are granted on the understanding that they are in lieu of previously existing University holidays, bank holidays, Picnic day (where appropriate) and the concessional half-days before Easter and Christmas Day.

Staff who are required to work on these days granted as University Concessional days will be granted the same period off duty at a mutually convenient time within the ensuing two months.

Staff required to work on those days gazetted as public holidays (25 December 1992, 26 December 1992, 1 January 1993) will be paid at penalty rates.

Staff members working under Award 19-day, four-week arrangements whose rostered day off would normally have fallen within the close down period should arrange with their supervisor to take their day off either before or after the Christmas break.
VC comments on the health of the university system

Wow, everything from unmet demand to performance indicators in 500 words!

Big topics no doubt come to everyone’s mind. But the small things, cumulatively, are also very important. For instance, the number of agencies in Canberra struggling to tighten Gulliver’s bonds has increased enormously. Not only DEET. Other sections of the bureaucracy also seem to want to control aspects of universities.

Every week there are more preparation-intensive submissions reporting on some matter, or seeking allocations from scarce funds and small grant monies.

The preparation effort diverts attention from the main game. Dividing the higher education appropriation into small allocations tightens Canberra control.

It is often said to be divided in the interests of accountability; but divide and rule is an antique form of accountability. The universities need a new overall compact with funding authorities.

What is the main university game? Well, the terminology of industrial management, the jargon of competencies and misleadingly objective performance indicators is not it.

The seminal idea in each is good, but their application to universities is strictly limited. The attention currently being given to this type of specification and measurement has been at the expense of actually improving teaching and the educational experience of students in other fields.

Universities do not need those artificial spurs. There is a huge and pervasive effort going on to improve all aspects of their operations.

All, including the largest and oldest, are energetically and thoroughly overhauling their organisation, administration, distribution of resources, teaching and research arrangements.

A side effect of that effort has been appreciable staff discomfort and insecurity, but the important point is that universities have responded vigorously to the challenge of the new age.

A more outward orientation is very noticeable. The partial privatisation brought about by the enrolment of fee paying international students has made them all service and presentation conscious.

Moreover, management techniques have had to become more sophisticated to cope with variable cash flow – especially in relation to staff employment and resource allocations.

Universities are much better placed to handle even radical policy changes, if they should occur, or even the possible change of government, than they were five years ago.

The gale force winds generated by Dawkins have made us leaner – but also meaner about our own and the nation’s best interests.

Of course, if in the future there are significant cuts in per student resources, universities will experience great difficulties. There is no spare fat. The cuts of recent years have seen to that.

Working conditions have undoubtedly deteriorated. Possible cuts are always in the air. Yet another strong rumour about the removal of the remaining research infrastructure funds from general grants currently has everyone at action stations.

The present efforts to overcome unmet demand and resource availability problems by promoting Open Learning alternatives to normal universities were entirely predictable.

Increasingly, courses will be able to be delivered anywhere in Australia (or for that matter, the world) by the powerful new telecommunications technologies.

Clearly the planning of DEC universities must be based on new criteria, an issue the government squibbed in 1987.

The cost-benefit issue is being brought to the fore in an urgent way.

Fundamentally, Dawkins did the country and the universities a good turn by challenging us. In many specifics he was wrong: amalgamations for instance. But the system benefits are there.

Moreover he made higher education a national policy issue: he successfully argued for expansion.

I am sure he thinks universities are perennially ungrateful; perhaps he himself rues stirring up the ant-bed (since the white ants have been pursuing him ever since).

But fundamentally his best achievement was to provoke new energy in the system (initially in opposition to his initiatives). It is more alert, organised and responsive.

It can defend better its own interests. These results may not have been exactly what Dawkins wanted, but that’s what has happened. There are no remaining sleepers.

Will there be first, second and third league universities? Of course. There always have been.

The big change over the last five years has been greater openness and understanding that old and big doesn’t necessarily equate with good.

In future first leagues, some universities will be old, some new; some will be big and some not so big. It will be reputation and perceived quality rather than a formal roster which determines the first league.

Recognition will more directly equate with performance and particular knowledge of areas of excellence. The resulting greater spotlight on excellence has to be in the national interest.
Focus on teaching History

An enthusiastic response has been received from the Illawarra History Teachers' Association to trial a course for the more effective professional development of teachers.

This project is co-ordinated by Professor Jim Hagan and Ms Josie Castle from the Department of History and Politics, and Professor Russell Linke, Faculty of Education.

Funds come from a $150,000 grant from the Department of Employment, Education and Training.

DEET allocated $450,000 earlier this year between the universities of Wollongong, Curtin and Tasmania to upgrade teacher education in the areas of History, Science and Mathematics.

The course will focus on Australian History and will lead to the award, Graduate Certificate in Education (History); a one-year, part-time course that is equivalent to one half of a Masters degree and will be given full accreditation towards that degree.

The course has been designed specifically to enhance the knowledge and skills of teachers as historical enquirers; to develop teachers of History who are competent in the use of information technology; and to involve teachers in a project that requires them to plan, implement and report on a program designed to examine innovations in the ways History is taught.

The course will involve lectures (held after-hours), tutorials, skills development workshops, and collaborative inquiry activities to examine the nexus between theory and practice. The course will:

- address the changes that recent research and debate have effected in the discipline of Australian History;
- address the skills and techniques involved in historical enquiry, and interpretation of documents, commentaries and contemporary social processes, together with the use of information technology in providing enhanced learning experiences for students of History;
- involve the teacher in a classroom inquiry project that requires the diagnosis of learning needs, the setting of goals and priorities and the design and implementation of an information technology-based learning program and its evaluation.

Teachers interested should contact Professor Jim Hagan or Ms Josie Castle.

Wollongong contributes to International Photosynthesis Congress

Associate Professor Ross Lilley recently attended the ninth International Congress on Photosynthesis in Nagoya, Japan, in September.

He presented a symposium paper on his research into chemiluminescence by the plant carbon-fixing enzyme, rubisco.

Rubisco, the most abundant protein in the biosphere, is present in all photosynthetic organisms.

The restricted performance of this enzyme is one of the major limitations to photosynthesis.

Rubisco is regarded as a prime target for modification by genetic engineering, since this could fundamentally improve the productivity and water use efficiency of crop plants.

Notable aspects of this international congress included a strong contribution by Australian scientists in this competitive field.

Of the work presented at the congress, the importance of genetic engineering techniques for dissecting the complex light-harvesting apparatus in leaves was apparent.

High praise for Link program

From page one

students to consider tertiary studies. Trudi maintains that SRMs have much to gain from their involvement.

'I have gained a great deal of self esteem and confidence and have enhanced my public speaking ability,' she said. 'Also, I have made many friends from different backgrounds and degrees. The program has given me these opportunities.

'Being an SRM is a very gratifying experience and if the chance arises for anyone to join the program I would recommend that they do.'

The response to the program has been very positive from all concerned.

All schools involved have indicated a willingness to continue in the program and requests have arisen from non-targeted schools for inclusion next year.

Other tertiary institutions have taken up the idea of using SRMs in school liaison activities following the success of our program.

Currently, a video is being produced on campus using experienced SRMs for distribution to remote and isolated schools.

Advances were reported in understanding how the energy in light is utilised by plants to make sugar and starch.

Modified plants generated in the research reported at the congress included potatoes with greatly increased protein content.

On a global scale, the interactions between the atmosphere and photosynthesis received much attention.

The likely effects of greenhouse gas emissions on plants, and the extent of the contribution of photosynthesis to buffering the rapidly rising carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere were subjects of debate.

Of the many contributions at this congress, the most sensational was a brief report by American, Professor Andrew A. Benson.

He and a co-worker have shown that the rate of growth by plants may be greatly increased by spraying once or twice with a solution of methyl alcohol in water.

The mechanism of this effect is not yet fully understood. However, since it seems to work best on crop plants stressed by drought, this finding may have immediate application to agriculture.
Confronting the human paradox

'We are confronted by a major human contradiction as we enter the 21st Century. At a time of the greatest technical power of human knowledge, our society is handling this power through the most self-interested and short-term mechanisms, and with the least attention to imagining and building the future we want. Australia is a market leader in this visionless enterprise.'

This was the claim of Professor Stephen Hill, Director of the Centre for Research Policy at the University of Wollongong, one of the Australian Research Council's Special Research Centres or Centres of Excellence. Professor Hill warned of the dangers Australian society confronts in the Opening Plenary Address on the Social and Technological Sciences to ANZAS in Brisbane on 15 September.

'All around us in Asia are countries with 30-year plans and major commitments to building science and technological enterprise,' he said.

'Under the influence of economic rationalist philosophies, Australia has opted for a path where public science is increasingly being called on to pay its own way in quite immediate market terms.'

Professor Hill said what was happening in Australia was a mirror of deep changes in the culture that surround science that have taken place since the 1960s when science was seen as the liberator of the world.

He argued that the liberating power of science is seen far more narrowly in terms of commercial market advantage.

'Science, worldwide at the leading edges of enquiry is increasingly moving into private domains, and out of public access, and is guided by face-to-face contacts between scientists rather than the commonly accepted medium of publications,' he said.

Studies conducted by the Centre for Research Policy demonstrated that the structures and cultures of universities have adjusted accordingly.

However, as Professor Hill emphasised, while this move to put science to work is of major importance, we may at the same time be losing the ability to envision our future except through the values of making money on the marketplace.

'This is an extraordinarily limited way of viewing human potential,' he said.

'There is a kind of blindness among the social sciences and humanities to the importance of what is happening.

'Yet these disciplines, if they were more closely connected with science and technology disciplines, could lead us into the future, even in economic terms.'

'For example, many of the new economic opportunities of the 1990s could have been predicted by basic social science analysis years ago, e.g. concerning information, environment protection and technology, and trade-in-services such as education.

'Whole new more human centred opportunities may lie over the horizon of the next millennium if only we have the interest and tools to look.'

Professor Hill said in closing his speech: 'There are just seven years to go before we will awaken, not only in the next Century, but in the next Millennium. That's not long for us to stir from our present sleep and have a look at what we want our world to be like.'

Society presents
Many Faces of Dante

The Wollongong Chapter of the Dante Alighieri Society is celebrating the 15th anniversary of its inauguration with a week-long festival of Italo-Australian cultural activities entitled The Many Faces Of Dante.

The Campus community is invited to attend the official opening ceremony to be followed by a cocktail party at the Wollongong City Gallery 3pm on Sunday 11 October at which time the work of Italian artists, historic documents and artifacts will be previewed.

RSVP (for catering purposes) by Monday 5 October Tel. 71 6822 (AH) 72 1881. Donation $10.
Materials Engineering careers evening

The Department of Materials Engineering will hold a careers evening for year 10, 11 and 12 school students at 7.30pm on Friday 25 September, in Pentagon Lecture Theatre 20.1.

Information about course entry requirements, the scholarships available for students of materials engineering and the career prospects for graduates will be provided during the evening.

Several recent graduates also will talk about their studies, and their careers. Invitations have been sent to all schools in the region. For further information contact Rhondalee Cambareeri, ext. 3012.

Library report reveals significant gains

Statistics in the 1991 Annual Report for the Library reveal some encouraging progress despite the continuing difficulties being experienced by academic libraries throughout Australia in acquiring sufficient information resources to support the academic and research activities.

The number of monographs held rose from 285,039 in 1989 to 303,824 in 1991 and serials rose from 115,655 to 121,368 in the same period.

There was a marked increase in the number of requests to Wollongong from other libraries for interlibrary loans -- from 5,932 in 1989 to 7,807 in 1991.

The popularity of CD ROM and Online searches continue to increase. 14,364 CD ROM searches were carried out in 1991 compared to 1,913 in 1989.

The Library has produced a discussion document Prospect 2001 which identifies the challenges facing university libraries and the possible innovative approaches that may help to overcome them.

A significant aspect of the report was the recognition that the physical development of the Library collection may be of lessening importance as it becomes increasingly important to provide access to Online electronic data bases.

Graduates Group monthly book sale

The Friends of the University Graduates Group will hold their next monthly Booksale at the Campus East Shop, Cowper Street, Fairy Meadow (opposite the Science Centre) on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 September from 1-5 pm.

Good mixed textbooks, fiction for all ages, music and art will be available. Donations of any material are also invited.

These may be left at the Science Centre on any weekend afternoon, or at the Library (AV area) or Administration (student enquiry counter) during the week (please mark 'Friends Booksale').

All proceeds go towards Campus projects.

Enquiries to 291951 or 621536 at any time, or to the Friend's Office on 213100 during office hours.

University of Wollongong
CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC

CHILDHOOD MUSIC EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (Wollongong/Kiama 1993)

WORKSHOP
24th/25th October, 1992

The Wollongong Conservatorium of Music will conduct a Children's Music Education Program training workshop on 24-25 October.

Practical lecture demonstrations will cover hands-on experience with a number of musical instruments.

Desirable Qualifications: A working knowledge of three or more instrumental studies; experience with class/group teaching.

All applicants will be interviewed prior to acceptance into the workshop.

Applicants close 18 September.

Enquiries and application forms, contact Conservatorium of Music, tel. 28-1122
A delighted Ms Yvonne English from Helensburgh was presented with the Apple Macintosh Powerbook 100 by Mr Greg Naimo, Director, Information Technology Services. The computer was donated by Campus Personal Computing as the prize for the lucky draw for visitors who completed the Open Day Questionnaire.

Ms English was among many people who indicated in the questionnaire that they had not visited the University before and was impressed with its size and beautiful environment.

The survey also revealed that whilst the majority of visitors came from the Illawarra followed by Southern Sydney, there were also visitors from Lithgow, Wagga, Griffith and Melbourne.

Security warning on thefts

The recent increase in petty theft and break-ins on the campus requires all persons on campus to take greater care of their own property as well as University property.

August saw an assortment of bag, wallet and purse thefts as well as a spate of vehicle break-ins.

Security Department inquiries indicate that the offenders may have been apprehended by Police, but awareness of this threat should continue.

Please remember to secure your bags and purses in locked storage in your work-areas. A desk top or drawer is not secure against a thief with intent.

Contact the University Security Office on phone ext. 3936 or 3116 to report any incident.

Teaching staff show Interactions

Interactions, an exhibition of works by staff teaching in the School of Creative Arts was opened by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ken McKinnon on Friday 18 September.

The exhibition reflects the way that artists work today showing a great diversity of content and media.

Personal and universal experiences are used in the works which include response to place in watercolours from Cyprus by Bert Flugelman, mixed media works about the Yemen by Liz Jeneid and quilts that look at man’s imposition on the land by Sue Blanchfield.

Personal and social relationships are explored in the works of Peter Shepherd, Richard Hook, Sue Rowley and Lindsay Duncan using paint, photography and ceramics.

Lyn Brunet’s humorous works where more than life-size figures are built into chairs using stitched and painted canvas, address the roles of men and women in our society.

The exhibition closes on Sunday 18 October.

Professor Wallace in Dublin

Professor Gordon Wallace attended the Royal Society of Chemistry Congress during September at Trinity College, Dublin, on the occasion of its 400th anniversary.

Professor Wallace delivered an invited plenary lecture on Molecular recognition using conducting polymers – the basis of a new sensing technology.
HOPE THEATRE

Bookings Ph 214214
Western Entrance Northfields Ave

Wed 23 September: The Conservatorium Youth Choir Concert 8pm.
Fri 16 Oct: Aboriginal & Islander Dance Co. 8pm.
Sat 17 Oct: University Singers Concert 1pm.
Mon 19 Oct: Kirby Lecture Jenny George Vice-President ACTU 6.30pm.
Sat 21 Nov: Michelle’s Ballet School - Concert 7pm.
Sat 5 Dec: Conservatorium Grand Finale Concert 2.30 & 7.30 performances.
Thurs 10 Dec: BHP Youth Orchestra concert 8pm.

LONG GALLERY

Enquiries 213996 Building 25
Opening hours Mon-Fri 9am-4pm. Sun 1.30-4pm. Visit the Gallery Shop

Sept 18-Oct 18: SCA Staff show Opening Friday 18 September 7pm by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Ken McKinnon.
Oct 22-Nov 15: Tori de Mestre and Jill Chisholm MCA Cand. Opening Thursday 22nd October at 7pm.
SCARP LAUNCH - North Wing, SCA. HONOURS EXHIBITION, ITC.
Nov 19-Dec 13: Graduating exhibition. Opening Friday 20 November at 7pm by Professor Barry Conyngham.

GENERAL

The Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce lecture by Rt Hon Sir Zelman Cowan, Australia - Looking Ahead to the 21st Century, will be held on 1 October, at 8pm, in Maclaurin Hall, University of Sydney. Tickets (free) from The Secretary, NSW Chapter RSA PO Box 83, Rockdale, NSW 2216.

The Department of Business Systems is hosting the Third Australian Conference on Information Systems, ISOP ‘92 from 5-8 October. More than 70 expert speakers will present highly relevant research findings on the effect of computer technology on a wide range of business organisations. Enquiries to Rob MacGregor, tel. (042) 213758, or Gaye Herbert, tel. (042) 21 3958, or e-mail cathy@wampyr.cc.uow.edu.au.

1992 Graduation Ceremonies: 8-9 October. Venue: Sports Hall. Thursday 8 October, 2.30pm – Education, Engineering, Health & Behavioural Sciences, Informatics and Science. Friday 9 October, 10.30am Arts, Commerce and Law. Speaker Mr Moosa Baqer, President of Best Enterprises and former Director-General of Industry and Commerce in Oman

Upcoming Illawarra Committee for Overseas Students events: 11 October, Harbour Cruise and Sydney Aquarium; 5 December, Australia’s Wonderland. Tickets and details are available from the ICOS office in the Union Building next to the Careers and Appointments Service, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9.30am-2pm. Tel. (042) 21 3158 or ext. 3158.

The Immigrant Women’s Speakout Association is holding a conference on October 16-17 at the Ashfield Town Hall. The conference will examine the achievements of Non English Speaking Background women in the last decade and develop an agenda for NESB women’s issues to the turn of the century. Enquiries to Dimitria Groutsis, tel. (02) 646 1170.

Agenda deadlines for the 1992 Human Experimentation Ethics Committee meetings are: 24 October, 5 December. It will no longer be possible to table late items. Late applications will be held over until the next meeting. Contact Kim Roser, ext. 3079.

The Annual International Development Program National Conference on International Education is being held 27-29 October at the National Convention Centre, Canberra. The theme of the conference, International Education in the 1990s: Lifting the Barriers, is designed to address the necessity of developing strategies and taking action to lift the barriers to international education in Australia, effecting beneficial change and growth. For further information please contact Aurelia Balpe, International Development Program, Conference Secretariat, tel. (062) 85 8227.

Stop Press

Science Centre extends opening hours during school holidays. 1-5pm every day $3 children $5 adults

Campus News is published weekly on Tuesdays during Autumn and Spring sessions. Send material, preferably by Microsoft Mail or on disk, to Gillian Curtis [042] 21 3110 by noon on Monday of the week before that of publication