Graduation firsts

Campus News reported last week the graduation of the first group of police officers. There were several other 'firsts' in the May ceremonies.

First PAGE graduates in Health

The first graduates from Wollongong's Master of Science in Mental Health and Graduate Certificate in Health Policy and Management courses through the Professional and Graduate Education Consortium (PAGE) made one of their few visits to the campus to attend the ceremony.

PAGE, a consortium of 12 universities across Australia and New Zealand, offers postgraduate and professional courses through distance education using SBS television to broadcast lectures.

These four graduates, from Sydney and the Southern Highlands, expressed their appreciation at being able to undertake these courses without having to attend lectures on campus.

Julie Williams, who works for the Community Health Centre at the Southern Highlands Mental Health Centre, said: 'I completed the last year through PAGE, which was very good as I work full-time on shift work.'
First PAGE graduates in Health

from page one
and it is very difficult to attend a campus.

'Country people are disadvantaged when it comes to extending their studies, PAGE increases their opportunities.

'I didn't have any problems, assignments were returned quickly and I was able to contact the lecturers.

'The course was very relevant to my job.'

Lynette Lee, from Randwick, completed all the Graduate Certificate in Health Policy and Management through PAGE.

She said: 'It is very good to have this way of studying available as an option.

'It really suited me, having two children. I could watch the lectures after they had gone to bed and really enjoy them.'

Lynette works with HOPE Health Care, the Anglican Deaconess Institute. She is involved with palliative care and rehabilitation.

Graeme White, who now works for the Bowral Community Health Centre, as a mental health worker, said the course changed his attitude, ideas and values and gave him the opportunity to change his employment from a hospital to the Centre.

He stressed that when undertaking a course through distance education, it is important that the lecturers and tutors are easily contactable and good communicators.

Julienne Onley, employed with the NSW College of Nursing as a nurse educator, coordinates courses for nurses in gerontology.

She began her studies at the University of Wollongong initially through part-time mode (first two years).

She then had difficulty travelling as her mother became ill. The PAGE option to finish the last four units of the course suited her perfectly.

'The course was excellent and extremely relevant to my employment,' Julienne said. PAGE made it easy to tailor her workload.

'I was impressed with the way the staff assisted and kept in touch and the courtesy and consideration shown to her during my mother's illness.

'My experience reinforced my belief that what made the University of Wollongong unique was its belief in individual attention for its students.'

First graduates in Early Childhood Education

The ceremony on 17 May for the Faculty of Education saw the first Bachelor of Teaching Early Childhood students graduate.

This course was introduced in 1992.

Most of these graduating students have found employment in the field locally and overseas.

Many are also seeking to return to the Faculty to pursue further studies.

Demand for this course is strong and attracts very high quality students. This bodes well for the standing of the program in academic circles and in the field.

Coordinator, Pauline Harris, congratulates Aaron Gould, one of the group of 27 Early Childhood graduates.
The Master of Science (Midwifery) began at the University of Wollongong in 1993.

The students who completed the course were Ann Grieve, Julie Hattenfels, Sheree Eaton, Vanessa Heaton, Sue McMillan, Leisa Powell, Andrea Kalokerinos, Arja Carter, Jackie Donsante, Donna McDermid and Manette Kearin.

This course enables students to obtain certification as midwives with the NSW Nurses' Registration Board.

Ms McMillan is employed as a midwife at Liverpool Hospital. Ms McDermid is undertaking a graduate program as a registered nurse at Bulli District Hospital.

Ms Heaton is employed as a registered nurse in the High Dependency Unit at Sydney Hospital.

Ms Eaton has casual employment as a registered nurse and midwife at Illawarra Private Hospital as well as undertaking clinical teaching of undergraduate students attending Illawarra Regional Hospital for clinical practicum.

Ms Kearin is working as a registered nurse in the Rehabilitation Unit of Illawarra Regional Hospital.

Ms Powell plans to work as a midwife when she returns to Switzerland.

Since the middle of 1994, the MSc (Midwifery) coordinator has been Ms Georgie Stamp who brought with her a wealth of experience in randomised clinical trials and midwifery practice.

This has strengthened the Department of Nursing's ability to focus the learning in this program on evidence-based practice (as opposed to old wives tales!)

The Master of Science (Midwifery) is the only midwifery program in NSW in which all the clinical practicum is undertaken on a supernumerary basis.

This means that the students have flexibility in when and where they attend their clinical placement and the control of the learning experience is maintained in the hands of the academic and clinical teaching staff.

No account of this program can be written without mentioning the role of Mercy Baafi in the clinical education of the pre-certification MSc(Midwifery) students.

Ms Baafi is the Senior Nurse Educator (Midwifery) appointed by the Illawarra Area Health Service to coordinate the clinical education of the MSc(Midwifery) students.

All the students attribute their success and persistence largely to her work as their advocate.

Ms Baafi graduated with her master's degree on the Thursday morning and was there to support 'her gels' in the afternoon at their graduation.
Graduation May 1995

Paul Rizzo and Neal Hook from CityRail were congratulated by the coordinator of the course, Richard Dwight (centre)

CityRail on track with first graduates

At the Engineering graduation ceremony 24 students from CityRail were presented with the Graduate Diploma in Engineering (Maintenance Management) offered by the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

This was the first group to go through this program which was the result of a course specially tailored for CityRail and delivered in Sydney through a contract between the Illawarra Technology Corporation and CityRail.

Two other groups are at various stages of completion of the program.
The course pays special attention to relating the materials to the actual situations in which CityRail is involved and application of concepts to both the equipment and the issues confronted by the organisation.
It does not mean altering the syllabus or outcomes of the subjects or schedule.

As a result of success with this arrangement with CityRail (and on their recommendation), Mass Transit Rail Corporation (MTRC) of Hong Kong have recently begun a similar arrangement with the University.
Richard Dwight from the Department of Mechanical Engineering has just returned from delivering the face-to-face portion of the first of eight subjects taken over two years to complete requirements for the Graduate Diploma.
There are 15 students in this first intake.
The course will be delivered in a combination of face-to-face and distance education (open learning) modes.

First from Management at TAFE locations

In 1994 the University of Wollongong established a joint venture between NSW and ACT TAFE systems to offer a Graduate Certificate in Management which is delivered through accredited TAFE sites by approved TAFE teachers.
The goal is to make a management course at postgraduate level available to people who have difficulty accessing a traditional regional campus-based management program.
Evaluation and assessment is controlled by the University and the course is coordinated by Professor Michael Hough from the Department of Management.
The course is being delivered at five accredited TAFE sites in NSW and ACT and approximately 100 students have enrolled.
The graduating ceremonies during May saw the first nine students graduating; seven from the Canberra Institute of TAFE and two from the Sydney Institute.
Wollongong keeps in front with computer teaching facilities

The Faculty of Informatic's undergraduate computer science laboratory, Skylab, has been a pace setter ever since its establishment in 1984.

On 19 May it took another quantum leap forward with the installation of 50 new Power Mac PCs.

Wollongong is the first university to have a whole laboratory full of these PCs and, according to Apple Macintosh, it is now regarded as having the best Macintosh undergraduate computer science teaching facilities in Australia.

No doubt this will attract first class students from all over the state to study in Wollongong.

The University's commitment to Computer Science has been significant. This dates back to:

1977: Purchase of Perkin Elmers Mini computers. First laboratory to use interactive teaching of first year in Australia.

1984: Skylab was opened with Macintosh PCs. First laboratory in the world to use personal computers for undergraduate teaching.

1986: Purchase of Pyramid Unix machines for teaching in second and third year laboratories.

1988: Upgrade of Skylab from Macintosh PCs to Macintosh SEs.

1990: Replacement of Pyramid computers with SUN computers.


The upgraded laboratory was opened by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton, and representatives from Apple.
Prestigious award for PhD student

Ms Susan Hunt, a joint PhD student with the Department of Chemistry and BHP Steel Research, has been awarded a prestigious LaPorte Centenary Scholarship. This will allow her to spend three months working with Professor Peter Derrick's group at the Warwick Institute for Mass Spectrometry, University of Warwick, UK.

The scholarship is jointly administered by the Australian Vice Chancellor’s Committee and the Robert Menzies Centre for Australian Studies in London.

It was open to all Australian postgraduates to enable them to spend a period undertaking research at a British University.

Ms Hunt will use her time at Warwick to undertake critical studies comparing novel mass spectrometry methods (which no one in Australia has yet applied to polymers) for the characterisation of synthetic polymer resins. The resins are components of paints used in BHP's coated products such as Colorbond (TM) steel.

Her visit will further strengthen the link between Professor Derrick's group and the mass spectrometry group at Wollongong led by Dr Margaret Sheil.

Dr Sheil will also visit Warwick this July/August to discuss further interactions and joint publications between the two groups.

That visit has been partly funded by an award to Dr Sheil under the British Council Academic Links and Interchange Scheme.

Splish, splash, splosh your way to the Popular Proms

Water and everything you can possibly associate with it is to be the theme of this year's Popular Proms Concerts.

These concerts provide a wonderful opportunity for young children to get to know the instruments of the orchestra and learn all kinds of fascinating things about music as well as having the opportunity to be actively involved with the music making.

Director of the Conservatorium, Penelope Chapple, said: 'The concerts were initiated in 1991, and are similar to those of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra conducted by Richard Gill.'

'The BHP Youth Orchestra and the Conservatorium have developed the concept and each year our audiences just keep growing and growing.'

The administrator of the immensely successful Childhood Music Education program at the Conservatorium, Karen Unicomb, will once more lead the audience in musical hi jinx guaranteed to have toes tapping and hands a clapping.

Violinist Dionne Baker from the BHP Youth Orchestra will play two movements from Winter by Antonio Vivaldi and introduce youngsters to the string family.

Music Development Officer at the University of Wollongong, David Vance, will once again conduct the BHP Youth Orchestra.

Wollongong Town Hall will echo with the sounds of music, dancing and singing as hundreds of children shudder in a storm, skate on ice and toot toot with the ferry boat.

Cushion seating will be limited to 300 tickets in each concert. There will also be chair seating available.

The program will include the music of Beethoven, Gliere, Handel, Tchaikovsky and Vivaldi. Two concerts will take place on Sunday 4 June at Wollongong Town Hall at 1.30pm and 3pm.

Tickets are available from the Conservatorium Office, Gleniffer Brae, Murphys Avenue, Keiraville or at the door. Ticket prices are: $7 per ticket; $5 concession; $22 family of 4; $2 each additional child.

Inquiries: Penelope Chapple or Adell Smith at the Wollongong Conservatorium on (042) 281 122 or (042) 213 533.

NAIDOC WEEK
ABORIGINAL BALL

TIME: 7.00pm SATURDAY 8 JULY
COST: $20 per person
Entertainment provided
MIXED RELATIONS plus SUPPORT
VENUE: PORT KEMBLA LEAGUES CLUB
Wentworth Street, Port Kembla
THEME: Old Deb's Ball (We need Debs 40-plus)

For further information, contact Dorothy, Tess or Rhonda at the Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation on (042) 281 585

Tickets available now

Library News

Academic staff are reminded that Autumn session book loans are due for return on 30 June.

Items can be renewed for the Spring session from 9 June.

To avoid the late return fine of $1 per day, make every attempt to have your library items returned on time.

Inquiries: Margie Jantti, ext. 3330.

The Library also warns about reserve lists and requirements for Spring session.

All lists must be received by Friday 23 June to ensure material will be ready for the first week of session.

Any lists received after this date will be processed in strict date of receipt order.

Inquiries: Bronwyn Donald, ext. 3331.
Education Inquiry ’95 poster display

Education Inquiry ’95 was a poster display of the findings of collaborative inquiry projects undertaken by 3rd and 4th year Bachelor of Education (Primary) students. Topics for Education Inquiry ’95 included:
- A study of ‘gossip’;
- Role of advertising in the choice of fresh fruit and vegetables;
- Who is using sun protection?
- Pre-schoolers’ eating habits at lunch time;
- Peer mentoring in an after-school centre;
- Seating arrangements and participation in university tutorials;
- Balancing study, employment and family;
- TV violence and anti social behaviour in early childhood settings.

The display was held on 22 May in the Foyer of the McKinnon Building after an opening by Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Bill Lovegrove, and Dean, Faculty of Education, Dr John Patterson.

More than 50 inquiry projects were undertaken by small groups of students in school, university and community settings during autumn semester.

The posters will be a means for the students to communicate the outcomes of their research to the wider University community.

Awards to the best posters from studies in each of the three settings were made.

The Union Bookshop, the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) and the Dean of the Faculty of Education sponsored the awards.
The Illawarra Choral Society, conducted by Robert Smith of the Faculty of Education, presents Mozart's Requiem plus Organ Recital by Robert Wagner at Wollongong Town Hall on Friday 2 June, at 8pm.

Tickets from Jurjens, choir members or at the door.

A labour of love discovered

The University of Wollongong will soon be presenting Shakespeare's comedy, 'Love's Labour's Lost', directed by Charles Hambling.

'Love's Labour's Lost' is about hormones and headaches, studying and sex. Written in the same period as 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', 'Love's Labour's Lost' is still relevant and very funny.

Fifteen vibrant second-year acting majors currently studying in the Faculty of Creative Arts play 18 characters.

Mr Hambling, a Sydney-based actor and writer, first appeared here in Theatre South's production of 'Educating Rita' and keeps coming back.

He was the grungy cook in Des Davis production of 'Mother Courage'.

Recently he has been studying for a Masters of Creative Arts degree in directing at the University of Wollongong. His major presentation is 'Love's Labour's Lost'.

The comedy opens at the Performance Space, University of Wollongong on 31 May and continues until 3 June.

Performances are at 8pm with a 2pm Saturday matinee. Bookings, phone: 214 214.