Centre for Multicultural Studies awarded grant for intercultural relations study

The Centre for Multicultural Studies at the University of Wollongong has been awarded a major grant by the German Volkswagen Foundation for a research project entitled Intercultural Relations, Identity and Citizenship: A Comparative Study of Australia, France and Germany.

The two-year project will be carried out in cooperation with the Centre for International Studies and Research (CERI) in Paris, which is part of the French National Foundation for Political Sciences; and with the Institute for Migration and Intercultural Studies (IMIS) at the University of Osnabrück, Germany.

The Volkswagen Foundation is a non-profit independent body, originally established with financial support from the Volkswagen motor company.

Its object is to support science, the humanities and technology in research and university teaching. It is one of Europe’s major research funding bodies.

The central theme of the project is the way national identities and political institutions are challenged by large-scale immigration and growing cultural diversity.

- The initial reception conditions for various immigrant groups;
- The degree of inclusion in or exclusion from welfare systems;
- The historical background to national responses, in particular migration experiences and concepts, of the nation and of the citizen;
- Ethnic group formation, and social and political mobilisation;
- Challenge to the concept of citizenship arising from cultural diversity.

The project will be coordinated by the Director of the Centre for Multicultural Studies, Professor Stephen Castles.

The total funding from the Volkswagen Foundation will be 644 000 Deutsch marks ($536 000 at current exchange rates).

This will be split between the three research centres.

The French research group will be led by political scientist Catherine Wilhelde Wenden, and the German group by sociologist Dr Michael Bonnes.

Each centre will employ a post-doctoral research fellow and a research assistant for the project.

The teams will communicate by email, and will hold research meetings in each of the three countries.

The project is expected to lead to major publications comparing national experiences, as well as on the theory of intercultural relations.

An international conference is planned at the end of the project.

IMP wins another software prize!

Interactive Multimedia Production (IMP) recently was awarded the inaugural Bonsai Prize for its multimedia computer game ‘Eggsterminator’ at the MediaTools ‘96 conference held in Sydney.

The Bonsai Prize is an annual award that recognises the best small multimedia project or fragment.

Each entry had to be created in a commercially available authoring tool and fit on a 1.4 mb floppy disc.

‘Eggsterminator’ was created during the three days of the recent Expo held by Educational Media Services, in a ‘live exhibit’ run by the IMP team.

Basically it is a ‘shoot-em-up’ game, using eggs instead of bullets and people who attended the EMS Expo could have their photograph taken and be included in the game.

For anyone interested in seeing ‘Eggsterminator’, drop in at IMP, top floor of the Communications Building and ask Carole for a demonstration.
Eager to get the project up and running (from left) Head Department of Information Technology and Communication, Joan Cooper; Shammi Singh from URY, lecturer Robyn Lindley and Graham Covers (URYS) unpack the equipment.

IACT selected for pilot Internet project

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (IACT) in the Faculty of Informatics has been selected as a pilot site for an Internet project with Microsoft Australia, Acer Computer Australia and URSYS Pty Ltd.

Managing Director of URY, Mr Graham Covers, recommended the department as the location for the site after his experiences here as a Masters student.

This pilot project will consist of providing an Internet gateway, with a World Wide Web server, e-mail server and the necessary browsers.

This installation will be used to support the Advanced Telecommunications Network Planning course being run by Robyn Lindley during Spring Semester.

IACT has received, at no cost, the server, operating system, and necessary support and services to ensure that the server and software operate correctly.

In return the department will provide a critical analysis of the system which will enable Microsoft to gain a better understanding of the needs of tertiary institutions as this is the first time such a project has been undertaken at a university.
Mitigation of maritime natural hazards in the Indian Ocean region

An international workshop will be held at the Australian Emergency Management Institute, Mt Macedon, Victoria, from 8-11 October on ‘The Mitigation of Maritime Natural Hazards in the Indian Ocean Region’.

The workshop is sponsored by Emergency Management Australia with the assistance of AusAID.

It is being arranged by the Centre for Maritime Policy, University of Wollongong, under the auspices of the Indian Ocean Research Network (IORM).

This network is coordinated by the Indian Ocean Centre in Perth, Western Australia.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- promote broader awareness and understanding of maritime disaster hazards and related risks to the sustainable development of Indian Ocean countries;
- enhance the regional capability to prevent and mitigate the effects of maritime natural hazards in the Indian Ocean region;
- develop recommendations to further technical cooperation between developed and developing countries in the Indian Ocean region to build the capacity of developing countries to manage maritime natural hazards; and
- develop and strengthen a network of researchers in relevant fields from throughout the Indian Ocean region.

Maritime natural hazards are those arising from tropical storms, tsunamis and other severe oceanic conditions.

Although they originate at sea, the most serious impacts are onshore on littoral and island countries, although shipping and offshore oil and gas installations may also be exposed to risk.

Indian Ocean regional countries are vulnerable to these hazards and the consequences can be very severe, particularly as most of these countries are relatively poor and ill-prepared to manage the problems posed by natural hazards.

Also, the occurrence of natural disasters may be increasing as a result of high levels of volcanic activity this century, changing weather patterns, and the stresses of economic development.

Natural disasters are pervasive in time and space in the Indian Ocean region.

Tropical storms occur in most areas, drought and famine are prevalent in Africa, floods in South Asia, and there are several notoriously hazardous sea areas for shipping.

The threat of tsunamis may have been under-estimated in the region.

Furthermore, many natural disasters are predictable, particularly in the case of climatic hazards with developments in satellite monitoring and the technology of weather forecasting.

The workshop will investigate the scope to mitigate the consequences of natural disasters in the Indian Ocean region through coordinated research and regional cooperation.

Countries in the region face similar natural hazards and would benefit from co-operation in prediction systems, information exchange, technology sharing, common education and training schemes and response planning.

The workshop will include papers by researchers and experts in relevant fields from both Australia and overseas, as well as syndicate discussion of major problems with the mitigation and management of maritime natural hazards.

Sessions at the workshop will include the following topics:

- Impacts of Maritime Natural Hazards on the Coastal Zone, Offshore Installations, Ships and Shipping
- Prevalence of Storm Surges in the Indian Ocean
- Weather Forecasting and Prediction (including Tropical Cyclone Warning)
- Climate Change and Sea Level Rise
- Tsunami Warning
- Marine Safety and Search and Rescue
- Technology Transfer, Education and Training

For further information or registrations phone the Centre for Maritime Policy (042) 213 224.

University of Wollongong

NO OPEN DAY THIS YEAR

The University of Wollongong will not be holding an Open Day on the advertised date of Sunday 25 August, 1996.

Prospective students should contact the University if they have any queries about their options next year.

Phone (042) 21 3927.

Students and their parents are welcome to visit the campus at any time.
Insects used to monitor the health of urban waterways

Large populations of insects and other invertebrates are often a good indicator of the health of a waterway.

In the next 20 years much of the West Dapto area, which is drained by several creeks that empty into Lake Illawarra, will undergo large-scale urban development.

Mick Gregory from the University of Wollongong's Australian Flora and Fauna Research Centre, and Wollongong City Council will attempt to monitor any changes in the health of these creeks.

Mr Gregory is already studying the insect fauna of several creeks in the West Dapto area to see what is in these streams before the developments go ahead.

Mr Gregory said small invertebrates are an important component of the stream ecosystem.

They consume most of the plant and animal material that enters these streams from the surrounding catchment, and keep in check the amount of algae and bacteria,' he said.

In turn they serve as a vital food source for fish and birds.

The presence of a large and diverse invertebrate fauna is a good indicator of the health of the stream system and its surrounding catchment.

Small invertebrates are an important component of the stream ecosystem

'Even though some of the creeks in West Dapto are in areas that have been farmed for well over 100 years, there is a great variety of invertebrate life in these streams,' Mr Gregory said.

'In some of the more productive areas of these creeks, I found more than 7000 invertebrates per square metre.

'However invertebrate numbers can change quite dramatically in a short time and over very short distances.

'This makes using these creatures as a monitoring tool very complicated.

'However, they are quite sensitive to any changes that occur in their environment, such as increased water flow due to rainfall, or to changes in the vegetation along the course of the creek.

'So despite the difficulties, they are quite a sensitive indicator of environmental change.' In fact, Mr Gregory found that many of the creeks have rather distinctive invertebrate faunas.

Although they change considerably throughout the year, a creek can often be distinguished from other creeks (even ones less than 100 metres away), solely by the community of invertebrates that live in it.

Urbanisation produces changes to the physical environment of these systems that are unfavourable to many of invertebrates, which may disappear from the system.

The reduced diversity of invertebrates can have catastrophic effects for the other animals and plants in the creek.

These unfortunate physical changes can make creeks into rank, weed-choked gutters infested with mosquitoes and other biting insects.

Such urban creeks are just not aesthetic eyesores but in some cases can represent real health hazards.

'My challenge has been to document the nature of the intrinsic or natural changes that occur in the invertebrate fauna of these creeks,' he said.

'Then, by monitoring, we can detect those changes that are not part of the natural pattern.

'This gives us an early warning mechanism that allows our local land managers to act appropriately to ensure that these creeks remain healthy.'

This article is part of a series produced by staff and students of the Flora and Fauna Research Centre in the Department of Biological Sciences.
Poor water quality, especially in urban areas, has been identified as one of the most pressing environmental problems in Vietnam.

As a result of 30 years of war and 15 years of political isolation, much of the water infrastructure was destroyed or failed because of inadequate maintenance programs. Increasing populations have also placed great pressures on the water resources.

Water-borne diseases represent a continuing threat to the local populations. There is also an urgent need to quantify the health impacts of poor water quality.

Using funds awarded under the Environmental Cooperation with Asia Program (ECAP), the Environment Research Institute (ERI) sent a team to Vietnam in early July to undertake a cooperative project with the National Environment Agency (NEA) to address some of these issues.

The team consisted of ERI Director John Morrison, Associate Professor Paolo Ricci (Public Health), Neil McLaren (Education) and Renato Ramsey of Sydney Water.

The main aims of the ECAP project are to assist NEA with the establishment of a system for community monitoring of water quality, skills upgrading in water quality data management, and health impacts and risk assessment.

The project, which is also being supported by Sydney Water Corporation, involved the ERI team going to Vietnam to trial and develop a program to establish community participation in water quality monitoring along the lines of Sydney Water's Streamwatch program.

The activities included training workshops on water quality monitoring, data management and assessment, risk assessment, and environmental health impacts.

Four key NEA water quality staff will undertake a study tour in Australia in August to look at water operations and to develop collaborative programs with relevant Australian agencies/companies.

NEA is the body responsible for water quality control and for environmental impact assessment in Vietnam, and realises that effective environmental management will depend upon its ability to measure baseline environmental conditions and to monitor change.

The outcomes of the project will include an improved capacity of NEA staff to undertake monitoring of water quality, impact assessment, and drafting of environmental control regulations, together with the acquisition of skills to integrate water quality activities with environmental health programs.

The project is considered to be a critical component of Vietnam's social and economic development.

As Vietnam develops its industrial and urban infrastructure from its largely rural base at present, environmental problems, especially water quality, are likely to intensify - requiring a well trained and resourced NEA.

If such environmental problems are not planned for and regulated, the pace of economic and social development may well be severely hindered.

**Hands-on Environmental Education in Vietnam**

In early July Neil McLaren, from the Faculty of Education, and Renato Ramsey, from Sydney Water's Streamwatch program, conducted in-field training for technical staff in Vietnam.

The project was funded under the Federal EPA's Environmental Cooperation with Asia Program.

Hanoi, the main focus of the work, is an exciting place to work with development projects approved for the city of $204 million in the first half of 1996.

As Vietnam is undergoing rapid changes from a third world country to a modern economy, there are substantial environmental problems to overcome.

The training was firstly directed at skills for in-field water testing and involved 20 regional staff drawn from the environmental monitoring stations throughout Vietnam.

As the second part of the training, a further 10 participants from the regions surrounding Hanoi joined the course to test the train-the-trainer skills of the original participants.

Staff of the National Environment Agency (NEA) and the monitoring stations were both very capable and very receptive to the input from the ERI team.

Most of the staff had science training particularly from Russia and eastern Europe.

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Hands-on Environmental Education in Vietnam

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Participants were keen to see the variety of approaches and methodology to environmental education.

Much of the training took place in the field on two lakes in Hanoi.

Mr McLaren said part of the enjoyment of the project was watching the faces of passerby from very young to very old that stopped to see what was going on!

He said: ‘Many of the ideas and methodology of environmental education transfer across cultures, but it was necessary to be aware of the differences in approaches to learning.

‘Much of the participants’ thinking is subject-based which presents problems when you have a complex environmental problem that cuts across the sciences. Also, most times there are quite often social problems to consider.’

Mr McLaren mentioned an example that is not unlike Australia.

‘The central lake in Hanoi is moderately polluted but contains turtles which have a cultural significance in their legends,’ he said.

‘The water flowing into and out of the lake is controlled by six different government bodies.

‘So far, the caretaker of the pagoda that is on an island in the lake, has not been able to arrange a meeting of these bodies.

‘A considerable challenge still exists on how to establish a viable national water quality monitoring system that is both reliable and cost effective.

‘The system will need to enable corrective action to be taken in response to environmental problems.

‘The solutions to this challenge will be up to the people of Vietnam. However, they are obviously willing to learn from overseas experience.’

Australian Information Technology Spring School

The Department of Information and Communication Technology will hold the 1996 Australian Information Technology Spring School at the University of Wollongong campus from 1-3 October.

It is the only school of its kind in Australia.

It is available to Year 11 students in NSW who are studying 3 Unit Mathematics and or 2/3 unit (Related) Computing Studies.

Several places have been reserved for teachers or interested parents.

It is envisaged that 80 students will enrol in the Spring School, each paying a registration fee of $60.

The 1996 Australian Information Technology Spring School will include talks from high-profile speakers, ‘hands-on’ workshops and a site tour of technology in action.

Three of the four ‘hands-on’ workshops will provide students with an opportunity to use the Internet.

Students will explore bulletin board services, e-mail and use Netscape, an Internet browser.

The HTML workshop will show students how to make their own homepage.

A selection of these will be displayed on the Web.

The fourth workshop will introduce students to programming.

More advanced students may move to the Robot Programming Challenge in the optional sessions.

A live video-conferencing session with students in Oregon, USA and e-mail exchange with students in Obninsk, Russia and Texas, USA may also take place.

A site tour to the local Telestra exchange, to view the optic fibre installations is an integral part of the three-day schedule.

Each day students will hear talks from Information Technology specialists and participate in ‘hands-on’ workshops.

Guest speakers include: Richard Chirgwin (Editor, COMMS Network); Mr Peter Castle (Department of Computer Science, University of Wollongong); and Sgt Miles Maxwell from the police forces’ Fraud Enforcement Agency.

Topics covered will include the information super highway; computer fraud; computer special effects in movies and IT and social change.

The Stannell Tops Christian Conference Centre has been booked for participants requiring accommodation.

Participants will stay in Boronia Lodge which consists of four beds, ensuite and storage cupboards.

The cost has been heavily subsidised by sponsors – the University of Wollongong and Nortel – and participants will be charged $40 for two nights and $60 for three nights stay (this includes meals).

On the last day of the 1996 Australian Information Technology Spring School a lucky participant will receive a cheque for $200 from the Department of Information and Communication Technology.

As well, their school will receive an Apple Macintosh computer with colour monitor, keyboard, mouse and Claris Works.

This has been donated by Campus Personal Computing, at the University of Wollongong.

Applications close on 30 August. Inquiries: Sonia Jennings, phone (042) 214 382.

Recognition for Irene Kreis

Senior lecturer in the Environmental Health Unit, Dr Irene Kreis, has been invited to become a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine, which is a part of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

The unit is a joint initiative between the University, Illawarra Area Health Service and NSW Health Department.

The invitation was based on the fact that she was an established Public Health Practitioner in her country of origin (The Netherlands) with many years’ practice.

She had done considerable formal training in both The Netherlands (four years post-medical school) and the USA (Masters at the Harvard School of Public Health) and holds a PhD in the field.
Building bridges between Engineering and Commerce through TQM

Sub Dean of Engineering, John Montagner, will be spending half his time in the Business School within the Faculty of Commerce where he has been appointed Associate Professor and Director of the University's postgraduate courses in Total Quality Management.

This arrangement reflects the emerging realisation in commerce and industry of the intrinsic link between Management and Engineering and the need to enhance this relationship to remain competitive internationally.

The international pressure to conform to the International Standard Organisation's (ISO9000) series of standards for Quality Systems requires that processes must be put into place within organisations to ensure quality technical management, which must be supported by the appropriate training.

Wollongong started offering short courses in TQM in the early '90s through the Illawarra Technology Corporation, the University's commercial arm.

These offerings have become a mainstream activity with courses available at Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Masters levels; with a PhD planned for the near future.

TQM courses are available on campus, at the University Centre in Sydney, through the Professional and Graduate Consortium (PAGC) (which offers lectures via SBSTV), through Wollongong Online and internationally in Dubai and Singapore, with firm proposals to make them available in Malaysia and Indonesia and with enquiries coming from other Asian countries.

There are more than 100 students enrolled this year.

Associate Professor Montagner plans to spend most mornings in Commerce and afternoons in Engineering.

In the future he would like to work on a pilot program implementing TQM principles with a unit on campus and would like to talk to anyone interested in exploring this proposal.

While in Commerce, Associate Professor Montagner can be found in Building 40 Room 226.

Contact numbers are: Teresa Brugnara 213 751 (Admin support); Heather Hill 214 918 (Professional Officer); Associate Professor Montagner 214 567/mobile 0419 444 513; Fax all three 214 709.

Library workshops

During Spring Session, the Library will conduct the popular Thursday lunchtime and Saturday morning workshops.

These workshops are designed to give participants both an awareness and basic grounding in the use of various information sources.

Classes include sessions on the Internet, library services for postgraduate students, electronic discussion groups and as well as library survival classes.

Brochures for the workshops are available from the Library Information Desk and the brochure stand in the Library Foyer.

Classes are also listed on the library catalogue under L3 - Library Information in the section What's on in the Library This Week.

CD-ROM instruction workshops will also be conducted during the Spring Session for both beginner and advanced users.

The CD-ROM class schedule is displayed on the Information Post in the Library foyer and on the noticeboard in the CD-ROM room.

'Hands on Help' from a librarian in the CD-ROM room will also be available at the times shaded in yellow on the CD-ROM booking sheet.

Library notices via e-mail

The Library is providing an e-mail service to deliver Library notices.

This will provide a more timely service by avoiding postal delays.

If you would like to have your Library notices sent via e-mail, inform the Loans staff on your next visit to the Library.

You will need to know your e-mail address, as the Loans staff will need to record the details in your patron record. Enquiries: Loans Coordinator, Margie Jantz, ext. 3330.

International Rugby here

The All-American Universities Rugby team are on an international tour as a program to develop their game.

They will play in Sydney and Wollongong at the beginning of August and will come up against the University of Wollongong team at 12.30pm Thursday, 8 August, Oval 3.

Spectators welcome.
31 August: Annual Union Dinner. Special guest: Dr Karl Kruszelnicki.

16 September: 1996 Kirby Lecture, 6.45pm in the Hope Theatre, by Deputy Chairman, and Chairman Designate, BHP, Mr Jerry Ellis. Enquiries: Di Kelly, phone 213612, or Rob Castle, phone 215666.

Meeting dates for the Human Research Ethics Committee and the Animal Ethics Committee for this year are: Human Research Ethics Committee: 20 August, 22 October, 19 November, 17 December. Animal Ethics Committee: 21 August, 20 November. Agenda items are due two weeks before meetings. Enquiries Karen McRae, Office of Research, by email or on ext. 4457 on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

The Campus Alumni Bookshop is open on the second and fourth weekends of each month (Saturday and Sunday 1-5pm). Come and browse through a wide selection of preloved textbooks and fiction. Location: Campus East, Cowper Street, Fairy Meadow (opposite Science Centre). All proceeds directed towards Campus projects. Donations of material are invited. Enquiries to Alumni Office, phone 213249 or 291951.

Cell and Molecular Seminar Series: Held on Wednesdays in the Department of Biological Sciences (Building 35), University of Wollongong. Dates: 31 July, 21 August, 18 September, 23 October, 30 October. Enquiries: Associate Professor Ted Steele, Associate Professor Ross Liley, Associate Professor Mark Baker, Dr Mark Walker, Ms Wendy Russell, Dr Ren Zhang, or Dr Mark Wilson, phone (042) 213013, fax: (042) 214135.

Creative Arts

Creative Arts productions ‘96
Each year students and staff in the Faculty of Creative Arts produce a diverse range of performances. They are presented in numerous venues across the campus depending on the nature of the performance. Following is the provisional timetable for this year. Watch Campus News for confirmation and more details.

Graduation Production – 11-14 September, Hope Theatre and 18-21 September, Newtown HSPA, director Janys Hayes, producer Jeff Kevin and assistant producer Jacqui Clarke.

Classic Production (Shakespeare, Marlowe, Jonson etc) – 23-26 October, directed by John Senczuk and Jeff Kevin, Performance Space, Black Box Production.

Australian One-Act Plays excerpts – 4-8 November, Kate Newey, Sharon Bell, Peter Shepherd possibly to direct. Performance Space.

Art of Lunch

Every Thursday during session, from 12.35-1.25pm. Venues are the Hope Theatre, Union Hall Foyer and Faculty of Creative Arts Music Auditorium. Brochures and information are available from Marilyn Meier, ext. 3990, and Jenny Fullerton, ext. 3996.

Long Gallery


11 October-9 November: Postgraduate Show, Brenda Palma/ Bert Blazen (glass), Ju-Lan Huang, Travelling Box Show - Miniature tapestries by British artists.

15 November-7 December: BCA Graduating Exhibition/Honours student works.

University Social Club

Become a member and enjoy a variety of social events. A chance to meet others across the campus. Contact Jim McKee by email or ext. 3376.

Stop Press

University of Wollongong
Department of Civil and Mining Engineering

GEM ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTRE
Presents two seminars in Environmental Engineering

i) Membrane Processes in Water and Wastewater Treatment.
ii) Membrane Technologies in Cleaner Production

Date: Monday 5 August
Time: 11am-12.30pm
Venue: Photogrammetry Room
Speakers: Professor Roger M Ben Aim, University of Technology of Compiègne, France
Professor (Viggi) S. Vigneswaran, University of Technology, Sydney
(Morning Tea will be provided at 10.30 am)
All are welcome
Enquiries: Associate Professor M. Sivakumar, phone: 213 055,

Campus News is published weekly on Wednesdays. Send material, preferably by Microsoft Mail or on disk, to E-Mail account ‘Campus News’ by noon on Monday of the week before that of publication.
For any other enquiries contact the Editor, Gillian Curtis (042) 21 3926.
Campus News has a circulation of 3500. It is distributed on campus to staff and students. 1500 are mailed to the community and overseas including schools in Illawarra, southern Sydney and Canberra; local, Sydney and Canberra media; Friends of the University; business representatives; MPs and numerous individual requests.