Staff Awards

The Faculty is very fortunate to have extremely dedicated general staff and it is wonderful when their efforts are recognised by the wider University community.

Congratulations to Ron Kinnell who has received a Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Service for General Staff. Ron is a member of our technical staff and has made a valuable contribution to ISEM in many facets of his work. He has worked tirelessly on the technical staff and has made a wonderful presentation to the entire University community of his day as the Internet, on a larger scale, has had on the world today. After nearly a decade of trying to get his vision accepted, he built the Overland Telegraph Line. His vision was quite breathtaking – as far as he knew nobody had even been able to successfully cross Australia from south to north and return alive, let alone build, install and maintain a telegraph link that would work reliably in all seasons. Understandably, most people were sceptical about the practicality and enormous cost of Mr Todd’s vision. At one stage Todd made a personal and inspirational presentation to the entire south Australian parliament to convince them to support the colossally expensive and risky scheme. He then had to organise and fund a talented explorer (John Macdouall Stuart) to find a safe route – this alone took one failed attempt and Stuart nearly died during the second expedition; he had to find economical ways of producing materials (he made some mistakes – the first poles he used were wooden and were soon eaten by white ants. Not to be beaten he imported iron poles from the other side of the world); then he had to convince teams of people and contractors to stay on the job, in addition to solving all the technical and construction issues as they arose – a remarkable 10-year story of perseverance, talent and determination.

This story is repeated for many major achievements including, for example, the Sydney Harbour Bridge. This was opened in 1932 because its engineer, Dr Bradfield, had a passionate belief in the importance of the Sydney Harbour Bridge to the development of Sydney’s community. To make this happen he spent as much energy on gaining (and maintaining) political and financial support for the bridge as he spent on working on the bridge’s technical design. At one stage he even had to travel the world to find new steels of sufficient strength to support the novel and spectacular design; then he had to organise the 1000s of contractors, the labour force, materials for the construction phase, etc for what was at that time the largest single project ever undertaken in Australia.

Even though not many of us will be involved in such massive and significant projects, most practising engineers will have to spend much of their life on non-technical issues; today’s engineering degrees recognise this and so provide many opportunities for training in team work, presentation and communications skills, and management of technical, financial and commercial aspects of projects – good preparation for a creative challenging and exciting career.
Diary Dates

17 Apr.  WAC Committee
1 May    All School Safety Committees
8 May    All School Committees

Student Engineering Competitions

Developing Initiatives between the Faculty of Engineering and OneSteel

The University of Wollongong, OneSteel's Sydney Steel Mill (located at Rooty Hill), along with the Illawarra/Sutherland Regional Group (ISRG), have recently engaged in discussions regarding the company’s new Cadetship Program and sponsorship of the Engineering Studies Engineering Report Competition to be launched for the Western Sydney Region in 2007.

The Sydney Steel Mill currently employs six cadets, with four students employed from the University of Wollongong across four disciplines (Electrical, Mechanical, Metallurgy and Mechatronics).

The initiatives form part of the Sydney Steel Mill's ongoing commitment to the development and hiring of undergraduate students, and to further developing relationships with the local community and higher education organisations in attracting people to trades and engineering studies in the Metals and Engineering Industry.

AIST Board Director

Congratulations to Professor Rian Dippenaar who has been selected as a Director to the Board of the Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST) – representing the Australia Member Chapter for a two-year term. An AIST Director is a vital component of the organisation's governance, as the AIST relies on the board’s leadership and direction to further the objectives and goals of the Association.

The Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST) was established on January 1, 2004, with the goal of advancing the technical development, production, processing and application of iron and steel. The best practices of two long-standing societies, the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers (AISE) and the Iron & Steel Society (ISS) were incorporated into AIST, and they now have a strong, international, member-based technical organisation that can sustain itself in an environment of continual change.

AIS Board Director

Developing Initiatives between the Faculty of Engineering and OneSteel

The University of Wollongong, OneSteel's Sydney Steel Mill (located at Rooty Hill), along with the Illawarra/Sutherland Regional Group (ISRG), have recently engaged in discussions regarding the company’s new Cadetship Program and sponsorship of the Engineering Studies Engineering Report Competition to be launched for the Western Sydney Region in 2007.

The Sydney Steel Mill currently employs six cadets, with four students employed from the University of Wollongong across four disciplines (Electrical, Mechanical, Metallurgy and Mechatronics).

The initiatives form part of the Sydney Steel Mill's ongoing commitment to the development and hiring of undergraduate students, and to further developing relationships with the local community and higher education organisations in attracting people to trades and engineering studies in the Metals and Engineering Industry.

AIST Board Director

Congratulations to Professor Rian Dippenaar who has been selected as a Director to the Board of the Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST) – representing the Australia Member Chapter for a two-year term. An AIST Director is a vital component of the organisation's governance, as the AIST relies on the board’s leadership and direction to further the objectives and goals of the Association.

The Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST) was established on January 1, 2004, with the goal of advancing the technical development, production, processing and application of iron and steel. The best practices of two long-standing societies, the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers (AISE) and the Iron & Steel Society (ISS) were incorporated into AIST, and they now have a strong, international, member-based technical organisation that can sustain itself in an environment of continual change.

Postgraduate Sports Day

The postgraduate Sport day was held on Friday March 16th 2007. Eight teams from the Engineering Faculty participated in a Volleyball Competition. The Persian team won first place and are shown in the photograph below.

From left to right: Abbas Ranjbar from Engineering Physics, Javad Foroughi from MMM and Behzad Fatahi from CME.