

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

JULY 2007

School of CME Picnic

In June the first ever School of CME picnic was organised for staff, postgraduate students' and their families as an opportunity to get to know one another.

However, the weather was not favourable and the venue was changed from the Victoria Lookout (Mt Keira) to North Beach. It

was raining in the morning and some of the families would have preferred a postponement, but Cholachat insisted that Engineers must take risks and that the picnic should go ahead as planned. Some students said that they prayed for good weather and indeed, the rain stopped and the dark clouds cleared up. At 10.00 am the Indraratna family was the first to arrive and arrange



The University of Wollongong's School of CME picnic

the BBQ areas. By 11.00 am the sunshine was a pleasant surprise, the prayers had obviously been answered.

The Iranian Chefs' culinary talents and BBQ methods were outstanding and the variety of food was second to none. Jokes and soccer were a good part of the day, except for a slight injury to Cholachat's knee that

required a delicate massage by his wife.

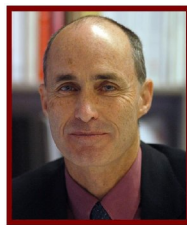
The McCarthy family woke up in time to arrive just before the food ran out, but Neaz's family totally lost their way and went to someone else's BBQ!

Over 45 people attended the picnic (of these, only one person was born in Australia), and it was a day to remember.

Dean's Spot

Every year the University organises a ceremony to celebrate awards given by the Vice Chancellor who is the Chief Executive of our University (in some countries this position is called the President of the University). Staff across the entire organisation are eligible for these awards. There are awards for 25 years of service, awards for outstanding service by General Staff (ie non-academic staff such as administrative, technical or other professional staff), as well as awards for exceptional performance in teaching and research for Academic staff. The ceremony for this year was held on Friday 27th June and we are very proud that several members of the Engineering Faculty received awards.

For example, Marina Evans who is instrumental in our Faculty's recruitment efforts and who organises many events for our students, and is much respected by them, received a 25 year service award. Ian Laird also received a 25 year service award. As a Senior Technical Officer in our laboratories, Ian has provided advice and assistance to several generations of our Civil, Mining and Environmental Engineering staff and



students. Stuart Rodd from our main engineering workshop was given a 'Vice Chancellor's award for Outstanding Service for General Staff'. He has for many years helped students and staff with the mechanical design and manufacture of a huge variety of mechanisms, parts and machines built here for research and teaching purposes, and has managed the redevelopment of major Control, Laser and Thermodynamics laboratories for our mechanical engineering students.

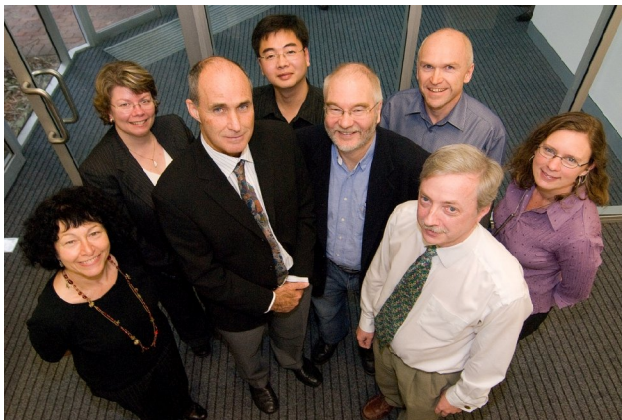
We are also very proud of an 'Early Career Academic Award' given to Dr Deepa Samanthika for her high quality teaching in Civil Engineering. In the area of research Professor Dou received a 'Research Award for Senior Researchers'. He has built up an internationally famous Research Institute in Superconductors and Electronic Materials (ISEM) which now employs 30 full time research staff and 35 postgraduate research students. Professor Dou has been awarded highly prestigious Australian Professorial Fellowships and is a

Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Science and Engineering. Professor John Norrish was given the 'Outstanding Achievements in Research Partnership Award' for being the main organiser and research contributor to the recent 80 million dollar seven year Defence Materials Technology Centre located in the Faculty. Last and not least, Associate Professors Paul Cooper and Siva Sivakumar were given an award for 'Excellence in Community Engagement' for their team effort over 10 years in raising community awareness of sustainability and renewable energy issues, most notably through their leadership and practical support of the 'Futureworld Eco-Technology Centre' in Wollongong.

The Faculty of Engineering was certainly very well represented at this major annual event and we congratulate all the above members of our staff. These staff members are excellent role models, leading by example and showing our young students how engineers at technical and professional levels can positively influence teaching and research, and engage with and constructively influence the community.

Teaching Forum

The first Faculty Teaching Forum held on the 5th June was attended by 35 academics from the Faculty of Engineering. The forum was jointly arranged by the Faculty and CEDIR to showcase good teaching practice.



Five of the many excellent teachers within the Faculty of Engineering gave presentations on teaching strategies that really work, along with a guest speaker from Informatics. Topics included: active learning in lectures, student engagement, practical demonstrations, reflective practice and problem-based learning. Plans for the next forum that will showcase a different group of academics are now underway.

Farewell

Professor Buddhima Indraratna writes...

Some of you may not yet have realized that this week was Naj Aziz's first week in retirement. It is with gratitude that I would like to send this note of appreciation for Naj, both as a close colleague and friend.

For over two decades, Naj's passion for mining engineering education and research, and his leadership have made a major impact on our University and our local mining fraternity. In the mining industry, Naj has often been the 'primary connection' to our University, from the early days when the famous Key Centre for Mines (KCM) was set up through his leadership.

Through a continuous flow of research students, research associates, visiting fellows, ACARP, ARC-Linkage and other industry projects over a long period of time, Naj was always a major player in building a sustainable platform that has



survived to date, amidst inevitable cyclic mining recessions in the past. Naj's dedication to mining education and his passionate way of looking after students has inspired many of us. Naj's dedicated efforts, and the industry support he secured for his teaching and research activities, have also contributed to the high quality mining laboratories in our School.

Naj, thank you very much. Your concerted efforts have contributed immensely to our strong and vibrant Mining Division. We are equally grateful for your continuing commitment to assisting the School in active mining research and teaching in an honorary capacity.

On behalf of the School of CME, wishing you all the very best for the future.

Student News

Postgraduate student Javad Foroughi was invited to be a Keynote Speaker at the recent NanotxUSA'08 Accelerating Nanotechnology Commercialisation Conference in Dallas, Texas. Javad's presentation related to a comparison of chemically prepared and electrochemically prepared polypyrrole films and fibres for artificial muscles.

Javad is a PhD Candidate with the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute (IPRI) and ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES), UOW. His research project is titled Development of Actuators by use of Polypyrrole and Polyamine Fibres and his supervisors are Prof. Geoffrey Spinks and Prof. Gordon Wallace. He has received numerous awards and prizes for his academic achievements including the top award for the best student in a B.Sc degree and a prestigious research license from Ministry of Industries and Mines of Iran. He has written numerous articles based on his research which has been published in three journals and has presented at international and domestic conferences.



Before enrolling in a PhD at UOW, Javad was employed as a lecturer at Isfahan Art and Arak Universities. He also worked as Director of Research at Nassaj Pooya Research Institute and Nassaj-Gostar Asia Institute in Iran.

Javad's interests extend past the academic field into wrestling where he is a member of the wrestling-referees committee and an international referee with International Wrestling Federation (FILA).

Diary Dates

8 July	Faculty Advisory Committee
15 July	Schools Assessment Committee Meeting
16-18 July	Graduation Ceremonies
22 July	Schools Safety Committee Meeting
29 July	WAC Committee Meeting