University and RNS Hospital patent "artificial muscle glove"

The University of Wollongong and Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH) have patented a rehabilitation glove that will dramatically improve the recovery of patients following surgery or trauma to their hand.

The glove has wearable artificial muscles integrated into it and provides a patient with assistance to make movements.

The University's Intelligent Polymer Research Institute (IPRI) have created fibres that will be integrated into the glove allowing it to move similar to contracting muscles. The Research Director of the RNSH's Quadriplegic Hand Research Unit, Dr Tim Scott applied IPRI's recent developments in muscle-like fibres into a device that would fit the hand like a glove and support rehabilitation following hand surgery, hand trauma hand paralysis and other problems affecting the hand.

IPRI Director, Professor Gordon Wallace, said the research team was only several months away from establishing advanced prototypes for the glove. Continued on page 2

Wollongong preferences soar by 28%

The University of Wollongong for the 2003 enrolment year has achieved record levels of preferences from currently-enrolled HSC students from NSW and ACT schools.

Current first preferences from school leavers have jumped 14 per cent from 2,208 this time last year to 2,523. Most other NSW universities' first preferences retained similar levels to previous years.

The bulk of the first preferences for UOW have come from the Illawarra and Southern Sydney areas. Total school leaver preferences for UOW have jumped a staggering 28 per cent from 12,723 to 16,248.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wollongong, Professor Gerard Sutton, said he was delighted with the result and it was especially pleasing to see the record numbers of first preferences coming out of areas such as southern Sydney. He said the achievement was even more noteworthy for the fact that the overall number of New South Wales HSC students seeking applications to universities were down compared to the previous year.
Value graduate nurses, or lose them

Value graduate nurses, or lose them warns Professor PATRICK CROOKES
Department of Nursing, University of Wollongong.

The National Review of Nursing Education 2002 and the Senate Inquiry Into Nursing have both confirmed that the place for the education of registered nurses, now and in the future, is clearly within the university sector.

This is not to denigrate those nurses who were trained in hospitals, but rather to reinforce the point that universities do an excellent job in preparing nurses for the challenges of modern nursing.

However, universities should not rest on their laurels, as improvements are needed, particularly in the area of increasing clinical training for students during their studies.

Unfortunately though, despite several submissions in relation to targeted funding to allow us to improve and increase clinical training, that was not part of the Review’s final recommendations. And that’s unfortunate, because a few million dollars could address the clinical training budgets for all universities in Australia.

A further problem is that the hospital system doesn’t necessarily welcome nursing graduates, or value them. This is contributing to the problem of nurses leaving the system and creating the shortages that have attracted so much media and public attention of late.

Australia does have a chronic shortage of nurses, with vacancies predicted to climb to over 30,000 by 2006. But simply training more nurses isn’t as easy as it sounds, and neither is it the solution to the problem. Even if we doubled the nursing intake at courses across Australia, we’d still have the problem of nurses leaving the system faster than we can produce replacements.

Nursing is like a leaking bucket. The hose is turned on, pumping new nurses in, but there are some big holes in the bucket – and people are leaking out.

They look for work in related fields such as medical sales and health services, where their nursing training and knowledge can be put to good effect.

So if we want to have enough nurses for our hospital system, we’ve got to find ways of keeping the people there once they’ve been trained, and find out what it is that puts them off.

There is no doubt that the reality of a chronically under-funded hospital system is a shock for new graduates. It is reflected in nurses’ wages, conditions and services.

And as I said, graduate nurses often feel undervalued by a system that doesn’t always welcome them warmly, or treat them as beginning practitioners who deserve and need help to settle into their job – just as a new teacher, lawyer or any other professional does.

One answer is to improve the transition from new graduate to registered nurse, through traineeships offered through regional health services. The Illawarra Health Services has embraced this idea and we are continuing to work with them to make sure the transition from student to RN is as smooth and supported as possible.

It’s all about supporting the new recruit, guiding them through their first months on the job, and showing them they are valued assets.
Should middle aged people stay out of the sun?

Ground breaking research in the University of Wollongong’s Australian Cataract Research Foundation (ACRF) suggests that middle-aged people should possibly avoid too much sun if they want to retain their vision.

Associate Professor Roger Truscott’s team is leading the world in the field of ocular ultra violet (UV) filters — in fact they have discovered, and identified, half of the total number of known human UV filters.

“It’s commonly known that we make UV filters in our skin (melanin) in response to exposure to UV light but few people know that we also make them in our eyes. They are different from melanin, but are formed in the lens from an essential amino acid – tryptophan,” Professor Truscott said.

Why are they there?

It emerges that they have evolved to assist our vision. Primates are highly visual animals and we are diurnal. The UV filters help our visual acuity, in much the same way as a daylight filter on a camera lens reduces haze and sharpens the image. In addition, the presence of UV filters in our lenses protects the lens and the retina from UV-induced damage.

“We manufacture these UV filters in our lenses. In young people the filtering system works very well but, after middle age, the situation changes for the worse,” according to Professor Truscott.

It turns out that this change from a highly beneficial one, to one that may be detrimental, is due to physical alterations in the lens. The lens interior (nucleus) becomes uncoupled from the active outer half (cortex) of the lens at age 40-50 due to the onset of a barrier within the lens. This barrier may also play a role in presbyopia — the major reason for people needing to wear reading glasses!

The internal lens barrier, which has also been discovered by the ACRF researchers, has major implications. When small unstable molecules that are present in the lens finally pass the barrier they are trapped inside the barrier for a long period of time.

Under these conditions, these unstable molecules have time to decompose and then the breakdown products bind to proteins and therefore change their structure and properties. They become coloured and insoluble.

“This is bad news for a lens that needs to remain clear and transparent in order to focus and transmit external light to the retina,” Professor Truscott said.

How do UV filters fit into this scheme?

Dr Truscott’s team has shown that our UV filters are unstable. In young people this instability is not a problem since the barrier is not present in their lenses and molecules such as UV filters diffuse into and out of, the lens freely.

The University of Wollongong’s Steel City Racer received the perfect rev-up for its defence of the Australian Formula SAE-A title, when motor racer Wayne Gardner gave the car the thumbs up.

Wayne Gardner, the 1987 world 500cc motorcycle champion, who now races cars for Toyota in Japan, returned to his home town in November to launch UOW Racing’s new 2002 Steel City Racer for its title defence.

He put the car through its paces at the Kembla Grange Prokart track, and declared himself impressed with its design and performance.

Formula SAE-A is an Australia-wide competition run in conjunction with the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) for university engineering students. The students design and build race cars for a series of assessments based on design, presentation and cost analysis, and performance competitions in acceleration, autocross, endurance, fuel economy and skid-pad.

This year’s 28-strong UOW Racing team is made up of 25 Mechanical Engineering students, augmented by representatives from Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and Commerce. The students have been working all year designing, building and testing their car, which is powered by a Honda CBR600 motorcycle engine, and is capable of speeds of 170 km/h and accelerates from 0-100 in 3.7 seconds.

“This is an exciting time for us,” said team project manager Justin Ulland at the launch. “We know we have a hard act to follow with last year’s entry winning the Australian competition, and going overseas to the finals in the United States.

“But that success has just inspired us all the more. We know other universities are looking at Wollongong, and wondering what we’ve come up with this year.

“And having Wayne Gardner launch the car for us is a big boost. Wayne has a lot of experience racing cars in Australia and overseas, and we’re really excited about having him involved, driving the car and giving us feedback from a professional driver’s perspective.”

For his part, Gardner said he was delighted to be back in his home town to launch the Steel City Racer.

“The car looks really good – a credit to the guys who designed it and built it,” said Gardner.

Continued on page 10
Bird metabolism finding triggers overseas recognition

An Advanced Science student from the University of Wollongong has had her significant finding into the metabolism of birds published in a highly regarded Cambridge-based scientific journal.

Sally Faulks was looking for a topic for her second year undergraduate research project last year.

She approached Associate Professor Tony Hulbert, of UOW’s Metabolic Research Centre and Department of Biological Sciences, who suggested she might like to join a research team examining the metabolism of birds.

Sally chose to examine the types of fats that make up the muscle cell membranes of bird species ranging in size from small (14 grams) zebra finches to large (35 kilograms) emus.

The team from Wollongong, together with Dr Martin Brand from Cambridge, had shown that the high metabolic activity of small mammals, such as mice, was associated with cell membranes that were highly polyunsaturated while the low metabolic activity of large mammals, such as horses, was related to cell membranes that were monounsaturated.

They wanted to see if the trends they had previously observed in mammals were also present in the other group of vertebrates that had independently evolved endothermy and its high metabolism (also known as “warm-bloodedness”).

Sally showed that this was the case. Her findings were considered so significant that they were accepted for publication in “The Journal of Experimental Biology”.

She found that the muscle membranes in small bird species (such as zebra finches, sparrows and starlings) were highly polyunsaturated while those in larger bird species (such as geese and emus) were highly monounsaturated.

This finding agrees with the similar observations previously made in mammal species and supports the emerging awareness of the important role for membrane composition in determining the metabolic activity of different species.

Professor Hulbert said Sally’s findings were very significant. The team at the University of Wollongong, which also includes Associate Professor Paul Else, and their students, have developed a strong international reputation for their novel research showing that membranes can act as pacemakers for metabolism.

Sally Faulks will join the team again in 2003 for her Advanced Science Honours research into the mechanisms underlying metabolism.

Academic Senate unanimously endorses review of assessment practices

A six-month University of Wollongong Academic Senate Review of Assessment Practices and Processes has found that the University has “well developed policy” in place but has also highlighted the need for policy amendments.

The seven-person review committee, headed by the Chair of Academic Senate, Professor David Griffiths, tabled 22 recommendations.

Overall, the review committee has reported that it was “impressed by the range of practices that has evolved to meet the diverse needs of the complex University environment”.

The review was based on submissions, interviews and relevant background material from the areas of government and academia.

It arose from a proposal from the University Council which had noted in April this year that there had been widespread allegations of assessment misconduct across Australian universities. In an endeavour to resolve allegations about marking standards at UOW, Council supported the proposal of the Chair of Academic Senate that Senate institute a broad ranging review of assessment practices and processes at the University.

The committee received 58 submissions and conducted 29 interviews. The committee consisted of staff members elected by Academic Senate, student representation and a Macquarie University academic with no close connections to UOW.

Professor Griffiths said as one would expect, a number of submissions from students related to marking – hard marking as well as soft marking.

“There is no question that in some disciplines, the broadening of entry opportunities has been accompanied by significant change in the student cohort and in the size of that cohort.

“There is also no question that teaching standards have improved, a change reflected in the University’s capacity to cater for the varying cohort of students attending the University,” Professor Griffiths said.

Council noted the report at its 29 November meeting and commended the review committee.
Alumnus Scott Lysaght (B.Eng 1991) was killed in the Bali bombing. He had been working in Jakarta and was in Bali that night with an Australian expats Rugby team – the Dragons – competing in a weekend competition.

When he spoke to his wife Melissa, he was confident that the team could win the final the next day and then return home.

Four of Scott’s team mates died with him and a fifth member of the team died in a Singapore hospital 20 days later.

Scott and Melissa, also a UOW graduate, had been working with International SOS, a medical and security assistance company, providing medical and emergency services, health care, evacuation and repatriation services.

The couple had been in Jakarta since the beginning of 2001 and their daughter Madeleine was born in December that year.

Scott and Melissa had worked in Asia before having lived in Hanoi for three years where Scott, working for ICI, was involved in establishing a water purification project with the Vietnamese government.

Scott became fluent in Vietnamese and was a favourite among the children in the villages he visited. While in Vietnam he also completed his MBA, through the University of New England, on corruption in Vietnam and its effect on western businesses.

His sporting passion was Rugby which he had played since school days. He was known among Rugby clubs in Asia and Australia for his friendly and gregarious personality, quick wit, and regard for the well-being of others. He also had the reputation for being an energetic and enthusiastic organiser of Rugby and other sporting and social events throughout the region.

Scott coached Rugby to children both in Thailand and Indonesia. He firmly believed that sporting collaboration brought together people of all cultures in an atmosphere of friendship and cooperation.

Pauline Lysaght, Scott’s mother and Sub Dean of Education here at UOW, writes

Last year (July 2001) when I graduated with my doctorate, I was asked to give a vote of thanks on behalf of the student body. In that brief speech, I used a quote from a book by Tim Bowden called “One Crowded Hour”. The book is about one of my heroes, an Australian journalist and combat cameraman called Neil Davis. He reported without fear or favour on events in war-torn countries of Southeast Asia during the 1960s, ’70s and ’80s. On the flyleaf of every work diary he kept during that period he wrote the following lines taken from a poem by Thomas Osbert Mordaunt, a writer in the 18th century:

One crowded hour of glorious life
Is worth an age without a name

Davis adopted these lines as his motto and they summed up his philosophy to life.

Tim Bowden noted that his colleague’s remarkable run of crowded hours ended abruptly during a coup in Bangkok in 1985.

Scott gave me a copy of ‘One Crowded Hour’ when we visited him not long after he and Melissa had moved to Hanoi in North Vietnam. He said, “Mum, you’ve got to read this book straight away. This guy knew how to live.”

He quoted the motto that Davis had adopted and went on to talk passionately about how important it is for all of us to live each minute of our lives to the full. We had shared this topic of conversation many times before and, after reading the book, I realised that these two lines encapsulated the way in which Scott had chosen to live his life.

I was also struck by aspects of Neil Davis’ personality that I recognised in Scott: a competitive but lovable larrikin, a perceptive student of other cultures, an instigator of wild wagers, a fiercely loyal friend.

In Scott’s case, hidden behind the quick wit, the gregarious and friendly personality, was someone committed to the well-being of his family and to providing opportunities, through education and sport, for those less fortunate than himself.

As I think about what all of this means in the light of his recent death, I am reminded that rather than referring to the tragedy of a life that has been prematurely ended, the phrase “One crowded hour of glorious life” reflects the joy of one who lived life to the full.

Scott certainly did that and we are grateful for each second that we were able to share with him.
The University of Wollongong has been recognised by Federal and State Governments and by independent analysts as being at the pinnacle of higher education in Australia. Here is a cross section of awards and achievements bestowed on your University in recent years.

Institutional awards and achievements

University of the Year Twice
UOW is the only university in the country to win successive Australian University of the Year Awards. In 2000-2001 UOW was named joint winner for Preparing Graduates for the e-world while in 1999-2000, UOW was named joint winner for Outstanding Research and Development Partnerships.

AsiaWeek Top 10
Ranked in the top 10 Australian universities in the AsiaWeek magazine peer ranking, Wollongong draws talented students and academics from around Australia and more than 70 nations.

Good Universities Guide
Named by the Good Universities Guide as the country’s top ranked university for the guide’s two key categories of students’ “educational experience” and “graduate outcomes”. To date, Wollongong has been number one in the country in three successive years for the above two categories.

Employment prospects
Latest (2001) Graduate Careers Council of Australia figures reveal that employment prospects for UOW graduates are about 10 per cent higher than the national average.

Number one rankings
Based on statistics from the Federal Department of Education, Science and Technology in 2002, The Australian newspaper in a special higher education “league table” listed Wollongong number one in the country for:
- a combined ranking of graduate employment
- undergraduate students going on to postgraduate study
- student satisfaction and progress
- attrition rates for undergraduate students.

International links
UOW named Australia’s number one university for linkage international funding from the Australian Research Council for 2002 recognising the strength of the University’s international collaborations.

Wollongong’s pacesetting achievements
- UOW was the first Australian University to have compulsory student evaluation of teaching
- The first university to have new staff undertake teaching skills courses
- The first university to make information technology skills compulsory for students (which complements the fact that the University is one of the largest sites of information technology and telecommunications research in the southern hemisphere)
- The first university to offer year-round teaching
- The first Australian university to develop a business relationship with the World Bank and today remains one of the bank’s largest partners in the nation’s tertiary sector.

Making their mark
UOW alumni are making their mark all over the world. Please send your profile to us at alumni@uow.edu.au

Dr Muhammad Akhyar Adnan (MBA ’91, PhD ’96) is Vice-Rector for Collaboration Affairs at Universitas Islam Indonesia (UII). UII is the oldest university in Indonesia with 20,000 students. Prior to this position, Muhammad was Director of International Programs and Director for Doctoral Programs for Economic and Management Studies.

Aziah Ahmad (BCom ’89) joined Coopers and Lybrand in Johor Bahru, Malaysia as an accountant. Her responsibilities include reviewing numerous forecasts of companies within her portfolio. Aziah has been involved in restructuring, due diligence and listing exercises and is presently Audit Manager with the merged firm PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Amin Baki (BCom ’88) is Head of Engineering Services for the Indah Water Konsortium Sdn. Bhd which is the national sewerage company in Malaysia. He is responsible for administration, planning, budgeting, control, recruitment and training.

Kip Callender (MSc (Hons) ’79). After graduating from Armidale Teachers College, Kip taught Science. He later became a Field Geologist and then Divisional Manager with Newbold General Refractories. He was also a part-time tutor at UOW. Multiple injuries sustained through a car accident saw Kip returning to high school teaching on a casual basis as well as working as a geological prospector and in a ceramic laboratory. He is a deacon with the Cabramatta Spanish Church.

Professor Jun Chen (PhD Materials Engineering ’99). As an academic researcher at the Institute of New Energy Material Chemistry at Nankai University in China, Professor Chen has been involved in the Research and Development (R&D) of new hydrogen storage materials and hydrogen/oxygen fuel cells that belong to the World Energy Network. He is the author of more than 60 published papers, 10 patents, two books and has been invited to present at a number of international conferences. He is currently focusing on the research area of hydrogen energy (production and storage) with inorganic nanomaterials.

Quincy Govin (MBA, MIB 2000) is Area Operations Manager for French car maker Renault in the Asia Pacific. His role includes strategic and operational development of brand, dealer network and marketing.

David Lewis (BA, LLB 2000) has taken time out from his career in the Commonwealth Public Service to serve two terms with the neutral, regional Peace Monitoring Group (PMG) in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea where he holds one of the most senior positions in the PMG, that of Deputy Chief Negotiator. He has been involved in weapons disposal and activities coordinating the peace process on the ground. In his position in Canberra with the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs he is responsible for legal and international issues. On his return David has been seconded to the Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He is also studying for a Masters of International Law at the Australian National University.

Sarah Locke (MBA 2000). Prior to her MBA Sarah worked in education and theatre. She is now a management consultant specialising in work relationships and their effect on productivity. Through her consultancy Locke Hayes Associates, her work centers on workplace conflict such as bullying and intimidation. She also consults, coaches and trains work teams for creativity and innovation and is the creator and mentor for the UOW Business Women’s Online Network.
Diana Mackintosh (W'gong Teachers College Teacher's Certificate '63).

After graduating, Diana taught at Yanko Primary and Cabramatta Primary before teaching in British Colombia Canada for six years. On her return to Australia, Diana taught in the ACT and a number of schools in Sydney where she became Executive teacher. She has retired from teaching and is living on the Gold Coast.

Dr Emma Mayhew (BA (Hons) '93, PhD 2001). Since graduating in August, Emma has been teaching 'Australian Studies and Electronic Publishing' at UOW and an introductory sociology course 'Culture, Identity and Society' at Macquarie University. At the same time she has been subscriptions manager for Kunapipi magazine, a journal on postcolonialism. Emma has been offered a graduate position with the (federal) Department of Communication, Information Technology and the Arts where she hopes to gain experience in all the areas of the department especially in arts policy.

Dr Chidiadi Nwogu (M Public Health 2000). Chidi is an international consultant with the World Health Organisation in Ethiopia. His work is in global polio eradication. After completing his degree at UOW, Chidi worked with the Medecines Sans Frontieres Belgium in the Tuberculosis control program as manager for the Somali region.

Louise Pearson (BA (Hons) Psych '93, M ClinPscy '96) is currently working in Ireland as a clinical psychologist for the Brothers of Charity in the Autism field. Prior to this position, she worked for the Autism Association of NSW. While she was completing her Masters Degree and immediately after, Louise also worked for the Wingecarribee Health Service as a member of the Child and Family team.

Warren Pearson (Grad Dip Com '99). As the National Director of the National Australia Day Council, Warren is responsible for inspiring national pride in 19 million Australians. He manages and markets the Australia Day celebrations and the Australian of the Year Awards. Warren is responsible for the development and implementation of national corporate and marketing strategies, leading the state/territory network of Australia Day Councils, raising sponsorship and liaising with all levels of government.

Kerri Tyrell (BSc '95) recently received a national science and innovation award. The Department of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries Australia presented Kerri with the award to further her research into parasite control in sheep. Kerri has worked for the CSIRO since 1999 and has completed a graduate Diploma in Agriculture through the University of New England.

Kappa Yarka (MA '90) has recently been appointed Papua New Guinea's Minister for Defence. Kappa was elected for the first time to the PNG parliament as the Member for the Lagapi-Porgera Open Electorate in the Enga Province. Kappa's previous post was as Papua New Guinea's Charge d'Affaires and Permanent Representative to UNESCO in Paris.

Mahyun Mohd Yunus (BCom '89) is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Internal Auditors Malaysia. She is currently Head of the Internal Audit Department for the Malaysian Technology Development Corporation Sdn. Bhd. MTDC is a venture capital-based company established by the Malaysian government and the private sector. Mahyun oversees internal auditing in the areas of control, risk management and corporate governance.

You may have recently finished your degree, or it might have been a while since you studied. If you’ve been thinking of undertaking further study – now may be the time. A postgraduate program from one of Australia’s leading universities will give you a distinct advantage to further your success.

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Tel +61 2 4221 3218 (International)
Email uniadvice@uow.edu.au
Web www.uow.edu.au/discover/

(D) Also offered by distance education
(S) Also offered at the Sydney Business School
(O) Also offered in other countries
Alumni

Better than the World Cup

Alumni in Kuala Lumpur have a strong network continued from their days at UOW. Samsul Ikram Bahrom writes of a recent alumni activity:

“Our so called Xgong soccer team basically comprises of all former students and those otherwise associated with UOW. I suppose it would be fair to mention that we do not strictly follow the rules of soccer as we have numerous substitutes and one can actually play for only 5 minutes, take a rest and join in again. (I notice that those with pot bellies and those approaching 40 find this rule very much in their favour).

The final score in our last game (against an architectural firm in KL) was 5-1. We lost. But our spirits are still high, we had great fun and we even had some moments that Pele and Beckham would both have been proud of.

We are now thinking of extending our repertoire…perhaps Rugby 7s next or better still…Aussie Rules! That would be a laugh and something to shout about.”

Alumni in Malaysia wanting to make contact, please email aminbaki@hotmail.com

Professional Development and Networking at its best

The Commerce and Business Alumni Chapter has come up with a fresh way for alumni to improve their knowledge, share their personal professional experiences and network without having to take any time off work.

The Chapter’s Briefing Breakfast Series is structured in such a way that the guest speaker, an expert in his/her field, gives a brief presentation and then facilitates a dynamic discussion involving all participants - alumni, friends and university academics. All this over a healthy breakfast, starting at 7am and finishing at 8.30.

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A proposal from the University of New England is to host a Masters Games in 2004 for all NSW universities alumni. If you are interested in being part of the UOW team, please contact Grant Jacobs at URAC on 4221 4704 or gjacobs@uow.edu.au

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Professional Development and Networking at its best

The Commerce and Business Alumni Chapter has come up with a fresh way for alumni to improve their knowledge, share their personal professional experiences and network without having to take any time off work.

The Chapter’s Briefing Breakfast Series is structured in such a way that the guest speaker, an expert in his/her field, gives a brief presentation and then facilitates a dynamic discussion involving all participants - alumni, friends and university academics. All this over a healthy breakfast, starting at 7am and finishing at 8.30.

To be on the mailing list for invitations to the Briefing Breakfasts, please email alumni@uow.edu.au

Uni Games

A proposal from the University of New England is to host a Masters Games in 2004 for all NSW universities alumni. If you are interested in being part of the UOW team, please contact Grant Jacobs at URAC on 4221 4704 or gjacobs@uow.edu.au
The Kirby Lectures began in 1979 and Employment Relations hosted the public lecture. The title of the address was “Into the 2nd Century: The Continuing Significance of the Industrial Tribunal.”

The Kirby Lectures began in 1979 when Sir Richard Kirby delivered the first address. He had a long association in the industrial relations sphere including his position as Chief Judge with the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration from 1956 to 1973. Past lecturers have included Simon Crean, Bill Kelty, John Hewson, Bob Hawke and Justice Michael Kirby.

Pictured above, from left to right, are Katherine Asmore (joint winner of NSW Industrial Relations Society prize for best combined 1st year results in IR and the Ern Ferris Australian Industry Group prize for the best results in MGMT348 Employers and IR), Diane Barneston (joint winner of NSW Industrial Relations Society prize for best combined 1st year results in IR), Hon Lance Wright, Philippa Shorthouse (ACTU Eric Derra Young prize for best essay in MGMT341 International and Comparative Employment Relations) and Jade Poland (Hilda Kirby prize for best essay in MGMT140/240 Wage Determination in Australia on previous year’s Sir Richard Kirby lecture).

The University of Wollongong is introducing a new degree that offers students the opportunity to study health issues as they affect whole sections of the population, and to work on ways to prevent illnesses rather than cure them.

The Population Health program starts next year. Students will learn about patterns of health and illness, key risks to health and how to reduce the risks. The program also has a strong practical component, with students spending half of their final year working in the field with community organisations that provide health programs. Dr Heather Yeatman of UOW’s Graduate School of Public Health described the course as providing an opportunity to study whole populations of people, and to work on ways to promote their health.

“It will fill a gap that exists with the current focus on the health of individuals and curative measures,” Dr Yeatman said.

“Increasingly, it is being seen as important to look at health issues in terms of identifying community problems, like the increasing number of overweight children, or the high incidence of diabetes and working on ways to prevent them,” she added.

The first students at the University of Wollongong's Loftus Education Centre in 2003 will be participating in an innovative degree structure that will set the pace for training teachers.

UOW is running the first two courses to be offered at Loftus – Bachelor of Science Education and Bachelor of Mathematics Education – through the Faculties of Education, Science, Informatics and Engineering.

What sets the courses apart from the standard method of training teachers is the integration of subject areas and how to apply them in the classroom right from the start of the course. This integration provides an opportunity for students to learn what to teach and how to teach it at the same time.

As UOW Faculty of Education’s Southern Sydney project manager Dr Gwyn Brickell explains, the traditional way to train secondary teachers is through a degree in the subject area, followed by an additional one-year teaching qualification, such as a Graduate Diploma in Education.

“The two courses at Loftus will apply the educational theory to teaching of the course content material right from the start,” Dr Brickell said. “We are seeking to give students more classroom awareness from the beginning, so they will be getting teaching experience throughout the four years of their degree.

“This is an innovative way of approaching teacher development. You won't find a course like this operating anywhere else in Australia, and we feel this integrated approach will provide better cohesion between science and maths, and education.”

Dr Brickell said while the degrees would focus on education and be aimed at a career as a secondary school teacher, they would provide a full Science or Maths major in a specialisation of the student’s choice, that could be applied in other workplace settings.

The courses will help address a critical shortage of maths and science teachers in secondary schools in NSW.

For first semester next year, students will be housed at the TAFE until UOW’s premises are completed.

For more information of the courses at Loftus, contact UOW’s UniAdvice on 1300 367 869 or visit UOW’s website at www.uow.edu.au.

New degree focuses on population health

Security and privacy conference for Wollongong

ACISP 2003 - the Eighth Australasian Conference on Information Security and Privacy will be at the University of Wollongong from 9-11 July 2003.

The conference will cover a variety of topics regarding all aspects of computer systems and information security including cryptology, authentication and authorisation, access control, security management, network security, secure commercial application, smart cards, risk assessment, copyright protection, software protection and viruses, security protocols, database security, intrusion detection, privacy and policy issues and computer forensics.

Conference organisers are seeking papers on any of these topics. Authors are asked to submit their papers electronically to acisp03@uow.edu.au or mail to School of IT and CS, University of Wollongong, Northfields Ave, Wollongong NSW 2522.
Cataract research (continued)

Once inside the barrier of an older lens though, the UV filters decompose and bind to the lens proteins, causing them to become yellow. This progressive lens yellowing means that oldies see blue colours less well than they did as children or teenagers. So, for the first time, the mystery of the yellowing of our lenses with age has been solved. Understanding the molecular basis of this may have even more profound implications. Once the lens proteins become loaded with UV filters after middle age, they become susceptible to damage by the wavelengths of light that normally pass unhindered through the cornea (the outer clear part of the eye). Now these same wavelengths can cause oxidation of proteins.

Is this the reason for the later onset of cataract? This is a key aspect now being explored by Professor Truscott research group.

These major discoveries have been rewarded by the key medical research bodies in Australia and the USA.

In 2002, Professor Truscott became the first NHMRC Senior Research Fellow at the University of Wollongong (and one of only three outside of the major capital cities). The award of this prestigious five-year fellowship will allow him to focus his energies on research. Coupled with this achievement, Professor Truscott also became the first person ever at the University to be awarded a grant from the National Institutes of Health in the USA. It is rare for these research grants to be awarded to groups outside of the USA and this reflects the high international standing in which his research is held.
The travelling Irish memorial came to UOW in early November before going on tour around Australia and overseas. The memorial takes the form of an installation of textiles/music and dance.

It is called the Irish Linen Memorial and has been created by Creative Arts doctoral student Lycia Trouton who is a Canadian/Irishwoman visual artist and sculptor. Lycia has printed the names of the 3,658 Irish killed between 1966-2000 on to linen handkerchiefs, as linen is emblematic of the North of Ireland due to the history of this industry there.

The travelling Irish memorial is known as "Horrific Hankies – the Irish Linen Memorial". The memorial takes the form of an installation of textiles/music and dance.

The conference was held under the auspices of the University's Institute for Social Change and Critical Inquiry. It also received support from an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant, The Australian-India Council, the Centre for Research in Image, Performance and Text and the Centre for Canadian-Australian Studies.

The conference represented one of the main focal points of the ARC-funded grant totalling more than $200,000 that has been awarded to researchers who include Dr Paul Sharrad, Dr Diana Wood Conroy, Dr Anne Collett and Dr Dorothy Jones of the University of Wollongong.

Keynote speakers included Professor Janis Jeffries, Goldsmiths College, London; UNESCO consultant Jasleen Dhamia, of New Delhi, India; Professor Kay Lawrence, University of South Australia; Jill Baird, Museum of Anthropology, University of British Columbia, Canada; and other international practising indigenous and non-indigenous textile artists.

Many other leading world academics and textile practitioners were presenters at the conference. One of the conference aims was to generate new literary critical work, innovations in postcolonial theory and fresh approaches in fabric arts scholarship.

Conference organiser Lycia Trouton, a doctoral student in the Faculty of Creative Arts, says the conference was of great significance to the visual arts, English literature and materials cultural anthropology, as well as cultural communications studies communities, and aboriginal communities.

An art exhibition, Unfolding Territories, which features indigenous and non-indigenous artwork was held in the Cloisters Gallery, Faculty of Creative Arts, in conjunction with the conference over the period 28 November to 5 December. A larger travelling exhibition, featuring the unusual pairing of historical colonial textiles with contemporary textiles, will follow in 2003-2004.

Horrific hankies – a moving art/musical tribute

Two doctoral students from the University of Wollongong (UOW) with Irish heritage are paying a tribute to the thousands who have lost their lives over the past 30 years of sectarian violence in Ireland in a moving art and music peace installation known as "Horrific Hankies – the Irish Linen Memorial".

Providing performer safety for our future

Kylies, Mels and Bazs . . .
King of Thailand receives first Doctor of University degree

The University of Wollongong conferred the degree of Doctor of the University of Wollongong on His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej, of Thailand, at a special ceremony in Thailand on 27 November.

The degree is in recognition of His Majesty’s distinguished leadership and humanitarianism and is the first time the University has ever awarded such a degree. The Chancellor of the University, Mr Michael Codd, AC, conferred the degree.

In a citation read at the ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wollongong, Professor Gerard Sutton, highlighted how His Majesty was revered for his commitment to a goal that is closely identified with the mission of the University of Wollongong.

That goal is the development and bonding of human and technological potential for the benefit of the region, the nation and the international community.

The award for the King of Thailand continues a long and close association between the University of Wollongong and Thailand. Thailand’s youngest Royal, respected scientist Professor Dr HRH Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol, visited the University of Wollongong in December 1999 to accept an Honorary Doctorate of Science and sign an Education and Scientific Agreement with the University. It was the first time Princess Chulabhorn has accepted a degree from an Australian university.

The University currently has about 300 Thai students enrolled as undergraduate and postgraduate students with a further 50 taking part in preparatory programs at Wollongong University College. There are also eight institutions with which the University of Wollongong has formal links with Thailand – Assumption University, Chulalongkorn University, Chiang Mai University, Thammasat University Prince of Songkla University, Chulaborn Research Institute, Kasetsart University and Mahasarakham University.

Wollongong students France bound for research

Pictured just before their departure to France are Tegan Morrison (left) and Begonia Palominos.

Two University of Wollongong students have left for France as part of an international research collaboration.

Begonia Palominos is undertaking a Mechanical Engineering degree and she will be working in an experimental program of research involving the mechanics of fine powders, while Tegan Morrison, who is an Advanced Project student in the School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics, will be working on the mechanics of ultra fine particles, sometimes referred to as nano particulates.

They are both going to undertake research work for a period of three months at the Albi School of Mines, located near Toulouse in the South of France.

The Albi School of Mines is an elite institution that is funded by the Ministry of Industry, and is designed primarily to undertake industry related research, and to prepare a small number of exceptionally talented undergraduate individuals who intend working in an industrial context.

There are only 400 undergraduate students (four years each with 100 students) and each year these 100 students are selected from a staggering 10,000 applicants.

As part of their conditions, the undergraduate students are not allowed to stay on for the PhD. Accordingly, the School of Mines also has a very generous vacation work scheme, which is designed to attract prospective PhD students.

Professor Jim Hill, of the School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics, said the students were prime examples of females excelling in non-traditional areas.

Professor Hill has several close colleagues at the School of Mines, and the intention is that both students, who have just completed their third year, will continue the work undertaken there for their Honours projects next year.

The air fares for the two students were each provided by the two deans of their respective faculties at UOW, and Associate Professor Bill Zealey was also helpful in ensuring this outcome.

Beach culture focus wins student the 2002 NSW History Fellowship

A University of Wollongong student, whose book project will focus on the sexual and social relationships between young people on Sydney’s northern beaches between the 1950s to 1980s, has been awarded the 2002 NSW History Fellowship.

The $20,000 fellowship to Ms Margo Beasley from the Department of History and Politics, is awarded annually by the NSW Ministry for the Arts. Ms Beasley is currently in the final stages of another project – her PhD thesis which is centred on work, men and women on the Sydney waterfront in the early 20th century. However, it is her other project involving the northern beaches which has won her the fellowship. Although the PhD and northern beaches projects are separate, one intersection they have is Ms Beasley’s interest in gender – that is how men and women live their lives and how they relate.

Ms Beasley’s book will contrast the generally positive image of surfing culture with the darker side of life for young people. There were high levels of unreported gang rape and other kinds of sexual assault on Sydney’s northern peninsula.

“In addition, willing and unwilling sexual activity resulted in unplanned pregnancy, abortion and adoption,” Ms Beasley said.

She said such events had long-term consequences for boys as well as girls and the book will examine the cultural circumstances within which beach boys and girls interacted with each other.

Creative Writing lecturer’s book takes out another prize

Alan Warrne says he writes for an audience, not for money. He gets a thrill at the thought that people he doesn’t know read his work.

His epic verse novel, The Lovemakers, has won the Judith Wright Calanthe Prize for Poetry at the Brisbane Writers Festival. Early in the year The Lovemakers won the Kenneth Slessor Poetry Prize and the Book of the Year at the NSW Premier’s Awards.

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