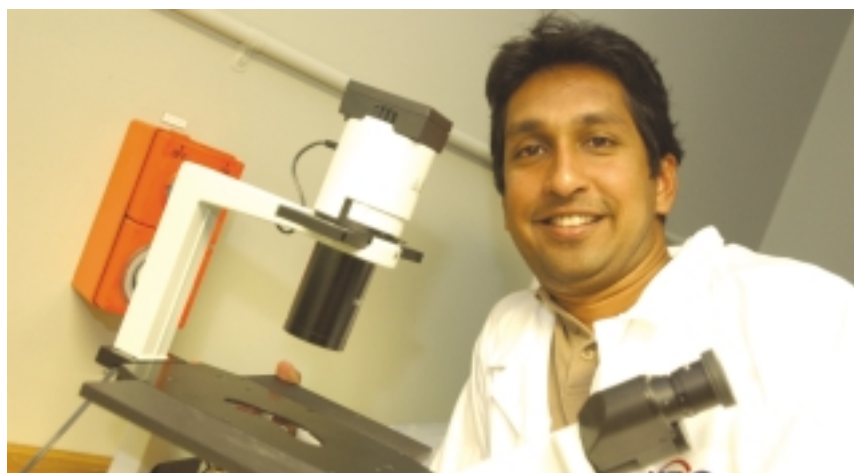


# campus news

## University of Wollongong



Dr Suresh Mahalingam of UOW's Infection and Immunity Group.

### Scientist's seminal contributions helps pave the way for new viral vaccines

Research by a young University of Wollongong scientist, who is already credited with solving a long-held mystery involving Ross River Virus, will provide valuable information for the development of new viral vaccines.

Dr Suresh Mahalingam of UOW's Infection and Immunity Group (Biological Sciences) has made seminal contributions to international understanding of how viruses interact with the infected host to promote disease. He is the holder of the prestigious National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) R.Douglas Wright Fellowship.

Dr Mahalingam, along with collaborators Dr Mark Heise (University of North Carolina, USA) and Dr Brett Lidbury (University of Canberra) late last year received \$750,375 from the NHMRC for a study aimed at alleviating the debilitating arthritic pain suffered

by people after being infected by the mosquito-borne Ross River Virus.

Ross River Virus, which infects up to 7,000 people a year and costs the Australian health system \$7 to \$8 million a year to diagnose, is characterised by sore muscles, joint-pain and flu-like symptoms that last for months. Some patients relapse years after their initial infection.

Dr Mahalingam said that in the majority of cases of Ross River Virus, infection leads to arthritis, or inflammation of joint tissues. One of the disorders includes polyarthritis where the patient's own immune cells appear to invade the joints.

"The virus appears to use our own immune response to defeat the antiviral action of our body's cells," Dr Mahalingam said.

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Campus News is produced for community, industry, government and other educational institutions as well as staff, students and graduates of the University of Wollongong. It provides an overview of University news and achievements on a quarterly basis.

Submissions for publication can be made to the Media Unit. Phone (02) 4221 5942 or email [bernie\\_goldie@uow.edu.au](mailto:bernie_goldie@uow.edu.au)

PRINT POST APPROVED: PP255003/00173



# Wollongong Innovation Campus

## Construction to start this year

Construction will start soon on a unique \$300 million research and development facility offering high-tech companies an alternative to the traditional technology park model.

The University of Wollongong (UOW) and construction giant Baulderstone Hornibrook have combined to build the Wollongong Innovation Campus on a 33-hectare site close to the University, the Wollongong CBD and some of the city's beaches.

Wollongong Innovation Campus will cater for companies in areas such as information technology, communications, multi-media, film and television and biotechnology that are looking to enhance and re-align their corporate direction and establish collaborative partnerships.

It will differ from existing technology parks in other Australian cities because all participants will be connected to the University through a variety of collaborative and inter-related activities.

Wollongong Innovation Campus will build on the international reputation of the University, which already operates one of the Southern Hemisphere's largest information and communication technology research and development facilities at its main campus.

UOW's world-renown flagship research centres in such areas as nano-technology, intelligent polymers, super-conductivity, digital media, smart foods and telecommunications will provide a powerful catalyst for attracting leading corporations to the new facility.

The University has entered into a 15-year joint venture partnership with Baulderstone Hornibrook to transform the site into a park-like campus using best practice environmental design and buildings.

The Wollongong Innovation Campus Master Plan provides for a range of facilities including 84,000 square metres of office and research space, an international hotel/convention centre, on-site childcare centre, recreational and service outlets.

UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton said he expected construction on Stage 1 to begin in the second half of the year.

"The Innovation Campus site is just one hour from Sydney's International Airport, has state of the art high-speed (8Gbit/sec) fibre optic connections, and provides access to partnerships with UOW's world-

class research and teaching groups and trained professionals," Professor Sutton said.

"It also enjoys all the cost and lifestyle advantages of a regional centre, in a superb coastal location. Research laboratories already here find that once staff locate to Wollongong, they want to stay. The research centre that Canadian communications company Nortel Networks has operated on our main campus since 1989 has the highest staff retention rates of any of Nortel's operations world-wide."

UOW Development Officer David Fuller said Wollongong Innovation Campus would provide unique opportunities for enterprising companies.

"Australia has plenty of research and development parks and plenty of universities. However, until now there hasn't been a serious attempt to merge the (university) campus culture with commercial facilities," Mr Fuller said. "We know it works for Nortel Networks on our main campus, providing them with a harmonious and productive environment, interaction with post-graduate research students, and a great source of well-trained graduates."

Mr Fuller said the Innovation Campus would provide opportunities for companies to re-locate to a "clean, green campus environment" while gaining access to quality research. "This gives companies the chance

to look outside the box when they consider their corporate values and strategies," he said.

The NSW Government has provided \$16 million in infrastructure funding and other support to turn the project into a reality. NSW Premier Bob Carr and Minister for Regional Development David Campbell are strong supporters.

"Clearly the Wollongong Innovation Campus is a priority for the NSW Government and our support is part of a deliberate strategy for the economic development of the Illawarra Region," Mr Campbell said.

Baulderstone Hornibrook Chief Executive Liam Forde is also highly enthusiastic about the project, and said the company was "looking to build a community of shared interests rather than just buildings".

"We see a natural alliance between the University's strong reputation and leadership position and our own experience," Mr Forde said. "For us, the future is about delivering integrated and sustainable solutions that create real value for our clients, and we achieve this by developing long-term partnerships with our clients and their communities."

When complete, Wollongong Innovation Campus will employ around 5000 people.



## Paving the way for new viral vaccines

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The finding solved a 38-year-old mystery of how some viruses have their growth dramatically enhanced after infection in combination with antibodies.

He and his fellow research collaborators believe the discovery of how Ross River Virus has developed an ingenious strategy for avoiding the body's natural immune system could have implications to other disease-causing viruses such as AIDS, respiratory viruses and the virus that causes dengue fever.

Dr Mahalingam, in collaboration with Dr Lidbury, were the first in the world to develop a mouse model to study arthritic disease caused by insect-transmitted viruses known as arboviruses. The model will provide an opportunity to explore the basic mechanisms of infectious disease in a complete functioning animal, rather than specific cultured cells.

Other current funded NHMRC work being undertaken by Dr Mahalingam includes a study of the roles of viral infections in the exacerbation of allergic airways-asthma. Related to this project he is studying how children in particular who have asthma appear to be more predisposed towards suffering from the metapneumovirus-induced lung disease. Dr Mahalingam is collaborating with the University of Georgia on the metapneumovirus and

as well as receiving NHMRC funding for this work he also has a National Institute of Health application from the United States in the pipeline.

Human metapneumovirus, a pathogen first identified in 2001, is responsible for 12% of lower respiratory tract infections in young children, a New England Journal of Medicine report issued by Reuters Health stated. Dr Mahalingam was awarded the NHMRC Peter Doherty Fellowship in 2000 to investigate host factors in respiratory viral infections and asthma.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) at UOW, Professor Margaret Sheil, said the University was extremely fortunate to have attracted such a talented researcher. She said he clearly has the potential to make a huge impact in this important area.

"For example, not only does the work by Dr Mahalingam and his collaborators provide key explanations of how viruses cause disease but it will also be valuable information for the development of new viral vaccines," she said.

Professor Sheil said the discoveries in the area of Antibody-Dependent Enhancement (ADE) has potential enormous impact due to the many human-disease virus families that have been associated with antibody-enhancement of infection.

"Dr Mahalingam's contributions to the knowledge of virus infection and associated disease manifestations have been significant," she said.

## Commerce and Business Alumni Award 2004

This year will see the presentation of the 11th Commerce & Business Alumni Award.

The Award is an annual presentation to a graduate, who demonstrates qualities of leadership; personal, professional or academic success; innovation and creativity; and community spirit.

Do you know of a University of Wollongong Commerce or Business School graduate who matches this profile? Help to honour their achievements by nominating someone for this award. Nomination forms and more information can be downloaded at: [www.uow.edu.au/commerce/alumni.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/commerce/alumni.html)

## Auckland's Wollongong College celebrates first anniversary

As a major acknowledgment of the ongoing operation of Wollongong University College (WUC) in Auckland, the New Zealand Government recently announced accreditation for the college's new Diploma of Business and Diploma of IT courses.

WUC expanded its operation into New Zealand in 2003. It already has established sites on the main campus of the University of Wollongong and in a central location in Sydney's business area.

The Auckland operation is steadily growing in stature especially as its international profile develops in India, China, Japan and the Middle East.

A function was held at the campus on 19 February to celebrate Auckland college's first birthday and the launch of its new Diploma in Business Level 6 and Diploma in Information Technology Level 6.

Upon successful completion of the two new diplomas, students can progress to second year university in

commerce/business or IT studies. The remaining starting dates in 2004 for the new Diploma of IT and Diploma of Business are 16 June and 6 October.

Ms Helen Drummond from New Zealand Trade and Enterprise was among guests attending the function to celebrate the joint accreditation announcement and college anniversary.

WUC International Sales and Marketing Manager, Mr Gregory Bondar, said the college had an international reputation for delivering quality English programs and academic pathways to the University of Wollongong and other leading Australian and New Zealand universities.

"The latest government announcement on accreditation will only enhance this reputation," Mr Bondar said.

## Marked overseas interest in Wollongong

The academic year is now in full swing with about 16,000 students on campus at Wollongong, including an international intake of 23 per cent.

Initially around 5,500 new domestic and international students were on campus for Orientation Week ahead of the return of the continuing students. Orientation Week marks the official start of the academic year for new undergraduate and postgraduate students. UOW is increasingly becoming the university of choice for many domestic students with UOW listed as a first preference by school leavers this year increasing by 6.7 per cent over last year.

Wollongong is also becoming increasingly attractive for overseas students with the People's Republic of China and the US being the two standout major drawing areas. The latest international student statistics show changes by level include an increase in undergraduate enrolments of 19%, from 340 to 404; an increase in postgraduate enrolments of 24%, from 673 to 832; and a smaller increase in study abroad enrolments of 5% from 304 to 319.

UOW's International marketing manager, Mr Peter Day said results were encouraging in view of the appreciation of the Australian dollar through 2003, which had been expected to have an adverse impact on international student enrolments in Australian universities.





Launching the new web site at the University, from left to right, are Dr Muhammad Hadi, Ms Gerry Lefoe, Professor Rob Castle, Ms Suzanne Lipu and Ms Bronwyn James

## New teaching strategy website

A web site linking teaching and learning, believed to be the only one of its kind developed by an Australian university, was launched at the University of Wollongong in February.

The web site links teaching and learning (graduate attributes) together for the first time, according to the web project team leader, Dr Garry Hoban. The official web site is known as Teaching Strategies for Graduate Attributes.

The teaching strategies on the site represent contributions from staff across all of the University of Wollongong's faculties.

"Academics spend half of their time teaching and all have favourite strategies but very few people talk about them and you cannot find them

in books," Dr Hoban said. "We do not know of any other university website that highlights such strategies which are the practical knowledge of teaching."

Dr Hoban said the site has been designed to "grow" with ongoing contributions from any UOW academic from any faculty.

Project team members say there has been great interest among contributors in both the site and the insights that the information sharing design process has generated.

The web site was developed with an Educational Strategic Development Fund (ESDF) grant and included representatives from four faculties and the Academic Services Division.

The website address is: [www.uow.edu.au/about/teaching/attributes/](http://www.uow.edu.au/about/teaching/attributes/)

## Leading curator takes up professorial post

Professor Amanda Lawson has capped a memorable few weeks by starting her new post as the inaugural Head of the University of Wollongong's School of Art and Design and accepting appointment as chair of an influential State Government advisory body.

It's a case of returning to her old stamping ground for the former UOW student and senior administrator who has just been appointed to the Chair of the NSW Ministry for the Arts Visual Arts/Craft Committee.\*

This committee advises the NSW Premier Bob Carr in his capacity as Minister for the Arts on funding to the visual arts and crafts statewide, both for projects and organisational infrastructure.

Professor Lawson said she was delighted to be back in Wollongong with a university that feels so full of energy and achievement.

"I hope to play a role in enhancing the already strong national and international reputation of the University's Faculty of Creative Arts," she said.

Her return to Wollongong has certainly not gone unnoticed by the city's artistic fraternity as she has also been invited to join the Board of Wollongong City Gallery.

Professor Lawson gained a BA from the University of Edinburgh and a first class honours degree in Arts at the University of Wollongong before completing her PhD at the University of Sydney with a thesis entitled "From Bohemia to the Bush: the Work of Mrs Campbell Praed".

Before accepting the post as Head of Art and Design, Professor Lawson was Director of the Bathurst Regional Art Gallery and Manager of Cultural Services for Bathurst City Council.

Other appointments have included Acting Director of Museum Studies at the University of Sydney; Client Manager (Cultural Enterprise Development) for NSW State and

Regional Development; an Arts Planning Consultant; Program Manager at the Australia Council; and Executive Director of the Crafts Council of NSW.

Some UOW staff may recall she was also Manager of Planning and Marketing at the University of Wollongong in 1989/90.

Professor Amanda Lawson



Professor Lawson has held a string of professional appointments over the years ranging from the Crafts Council of Australia National Policy Committee to the NSW Museums and Galleries Foundation Board and the Australian Centre for Photography Board.

At the same time, she has either acted as curator or managed a range of selected art exhibitions, some of which have toured Australia and overseas.

\* Postscript: The Dean of the Faculty of Creative Arts at the University of Wollongong, Professor Andrew Schultz, has also been invited by the NSW Government to sit on a key advisory committee – the Music Committee for the NSW Arts Ministry.

## Graduate job prospects soar past national average

The Graduate Careers Council of Australia released its employment prospects for university students late last year with the University of Wollongong scoring impressively above the national employment rate.

While the national employment rate for graduates is 80.1 per cent, UOW has an employment rate of 91.3 per cent for its graduates.

Some standout statistics from the 2003 Graduate Destination Survey reveal that UOW has seen, over the past 12 months, a 100 per cent employment success rate for its engineering students.

At the same time, while the job market may have crashed for some computing science students (national average 68.1 per cent) UOW's computing science graduates have enjoyed a 92 per cent employment success rate.

In terms of median salaries, UOW is again above the national figure of \$37,000 with a statistic of \$38,740.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton, said the results clearly demonstrated the University's outstanding ability to ensure its graduates are more than competitive in the Australian job market.

# Joint universities project sees regional archives go digital

Former University of Wollongong Archivist, Federal Member for Cunningham Michael Organ, visited the University to launch the Electronic Regional Archives Digitisation Project.

Mr Organ was one of the original applicants for the funding of the project known as "Unlocking Regional Memory".

The project began in 2002 and has involved a variety of tasks such as the identification of high-demand archival holdings, digitising of archival holdings, the re-writing of existing

archival guides to international protocol standards and the installation of equipment and website design.

"A year later, readers are able not only to know the holdings of distant archives but summon the actual texts of documents to their own computer screens," according to the principal investigators in the project the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor Andrew Wells, and Professor Jim Hagan, also from the Faculty of Arts.

"We eventually hope to make international archives available to

Australian scholars," they said. They said evaluation results by potential users of the site have so far been extremely positive. It is a joint project involving the Universities of Wollongong, Newcastle and New

England. Australian Archives has also co-operated in the overall project. Funding for the project came from an Australian Research Council Linkage, Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities Grant.



Pictured at the launch (from left), Professor Jim Hagan, Dean of the Faculty of Arts Professor Andrew Wells, Gaun McCathy, Bruce Smith and Michael Organ MP.

## Leading edge engineers visit Wollongong

More than 90 world experts from 20 different countries involved in the areas of chemistry, physics, materials science, electronic engineering and electronics converged on Wollongong last month for the 2004 International Cryogenic Materials Conference (ICMC).

Hosted by the Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials (ISEM) at the University of Wollongong, the topical workshop included workshops and keynote speakers.

The topic for the conference was "Materials Processing, Microstructures and Critical Current of Superconductors" and allowed experts in the field of superconductivity and energy storage materials to discuss critical issues in superconductivity technology and application.

Superconductivity is a major growth area in science with its promise of transmitting and using electricity with near perfect efficiency and much higher capacity. Widespread application of superconductors is expected to bring enormous benefit to society as a whole. A consortium of American

Superconductor Co and US Navy is testing a 5 MW, 23 Ton high temperature superconductor ship motor and is going to design a full scale, 36.5 MW superconductor motor. This technology makes the ship motor 75% smaller and lighter than the normal motor with the same power level. The US navy's vision is to use this type of electric motor for the next generation so-called DDX destroyers. The 5MW superconductor motors will be commercially available by early next year.

Meanwhile GE Co is working on a \$12.3 million project to build a 100 MVA superconductor generator. It is evident that the superconductor promotes a quiet revolution in various technology sectors.

The invited speakers at ICMC included Professor H. Freyhardt, the president of ICMC board, Professor E.W Collings and Prof H. Weber, the ICMC board members, Partner investigators for ISEM's ARC projects, Dr U. Balachandran, Manager of Energy Technology Division at Argonne National Lab, Mr M. Tomsic, the president of Hyper Tech Research Inc and Prof S.I Lee from POSTECH.

## Obesity research turns spotlight on pre-schoolers

A ground-breaking University of Wollongong study is targeting factors affecting the development of obesity in young pre-school children aged between three and five.

The innovative research study, known as "PANDA" (Pre-School Activity 'n' Dietary Adiposity Study) will, for the first time in Australia, examine associations among the children's physical activity and sedentary behaviours, their ability to perform fundamental movement skills, their foot structure and function, their perceived competence, and parental attitudes towards food, eating habits and sedentary and physical activities.

Research project manager, Dylan Cliff, said the pre-school period was a critical period of profound change in the physiology and behaviour patterns of children.

"It is imperative that we better understand factors that may influence the development of obesity in these critical years," he said.

PANDA will provide unique opportunities for children to participate in a wide range of fun physical and non-physical activities,

using the latest technology in an enjoyable, supportive and positive environment in which they can thrive.

"Parents too will play a vital role in the success of PANDA providing much needed answers to some very important questions," Mr Cliff said.

Dr Tony Okely and Associate Professor Julie Steele, together with three research honours students from the University of Wollongong -- Alison Crowshaw, Karen Mickle and Leif Smith are conducting PANDA in pre-schools located on the NSW South Coast during School terms 1, 2 and 3, with proposed follow-ups at four 6-monthly intervals for two years.

"Clearly, childhood obesity is a significant community health problem that requires an urgent and informed response, so let's help curb this current epidemic among our youth and make their current and future lifestyles fun, enjoyable and most importantly healthy," Mr Cliff said.

Note: Parents of children aged three to five who are attending pre-schools on the South Coast who want to know more about the study should phone 0418 860 004.





Anna Maskiell, one of the record intake of Sutherland Shire HSC students from 2003 studying at UOW this year.

## UOW's popularity with Shire students continues to soar

The University of Wollongong's popularity with Sutherland Shire school-leavers continues to soar.

UOW captured 43.9 percent of the first preferences of students who sat for the Higher School Certificate in Sutherland high schools in 2003 and applied to universities. The figure was more than double that of the next highest, the University of Sydney. UOW's leadership in the Sutherland Shire has grown steadily in the last five years, up from 26.7 percent in 1999.

A record number of 416 Shire school-leavers from 2003 have enrolled at UOW this year, with Kirrawee High supplying the most students with 48, closely followed by St Patrick's College Sutherland (44) and Caringbah High (39).

Campus News caught up with one of the first year students from the Shire Anna Maskiell – one of the 18 students from Inaburra School's Class of 2003 who have enrolled at UOW this year.

The 17-year-old from Bangor has just started a five-year UOW Management Cadetship, combining study for a Bachelor of Communications and Media Studies degree with working for the University's administration services.

Anna, who is majoring in marketing and advertising, is working 25 hours a week at the University while she

studies part-time. The Cadetship means Anna is paid the equivalent of a full-time employee while receiving time off to attend lectures and tutorials. Her tuition fees are met by the University – meaning no HECS debt – while the University also covers her student fees and provides a book allowance.

Anna was offered the Cadetship before she sat for the Higher School Certificate at Inaburra School last year, based on her academic record and Trial HSC results. So she was able to go into the HSC free from the stress that usually surrounds the final high school exams.

"Getting this opportunity really is a great privilege," said Anna, who answered a newspaper advertisement placed by the UOW Career Development Unit. "I applied and had the interview, and found out that I had the position before the HSC. I was still very motivated for the exams, but knowing I had the Cadetship certainly removed the stress."

UOW offers the cadetships for the Faculties of Arts and Commerce. Combining work and study, the Cadets take five years to complete their degrees which would take three years of full-time study. For details, go to the scholarships page in the Prospective Students section of the University's website ([www.uow.edu.au](http://www.uow.edu.au)).

## Satellite Campus numbers on the rise

Student numbers at the University of Wollongong's satellite campuses in NSW have risen sharply this year.

Numbers are up at all campuses but the biggest, Shoalhaven, has seen its student numbers increase from 183 in 2003 to 253. This includes increases of almost 40 percent in Commerce and Arts students.

The newest facility, the Loftus Education Centre in Southern Sydney, has quadrupled its numbers from 15 at the end of its first year in 2003 to 60 this year. Moss Vale Campus also has seen a dramatic increase from 54 last year to 93.

On the Far South Coast of NSW, numbers at the Bega Campus are up from 97 to 109, although Batemans Bay has experienced a slight decline.

Shoalhaven Campus Head Robbie Collins believes the increase in numbers reflects the growing community awareness of the Shoalhaven Campus.

"The word is obviously getting out there about the advantages of studying at a smaller campus," she said. "Potential students who would otherwise move away are realising that they no longer need to leave the Shoalhaven area to receive a world-class education. Other advantages of studying locally include students being able to continue their part-time employment positions and also stay at home while they study."

Loftus Education Centre Coordinator Larissa Patti said she was delighted with the increase in student numbers, and that the Centre had developed a great sense of camaraderie and friendship in the short time it had been operating. "The students are a very close group, and we've even started a social club," she said.

Last year Loftus only offered degrees in science and maths teaching (Bachelor of Science Education and Bachelor of Mathematics Education). This year a Bachelor of Business Administration

(Hospitality) and a Master of Management have been added. Seventeen students enrolled for the Hospitality degree, which is run in conjunction with TAFE, while Science student numbers doubled.

Meanwhile, Federal MP Joanna Gash praised the University of Wollongong's role in supporting the Shoalhaven community when she launched a booklet about the Shoalhaven Campus. Titled *Shoalhaven Campus – Real People, Real Outcomes* recently. She said the University was a "quality institution with a quality chief executive" and commended what she described as a quality publication which depicted the views of people who were benefiting from the University's presence in the Shoalhaven.

"The University of Wollongong is a great friend as far as the Shoalhaven is concerned," Ms Gash said. "It leaves nothing to chance, and has established the Shoalhaven Campus as a part of one of the top-performing universities in Australia."

Ms Gash said the booklet was about the relationships between the Shoalhaven community and its University Campus, and reflected the importance of those relationships. "We can all look forward to this (booklet) contributing to the future of this Campus, which I know will go from success to success," she said.

Caption: Shoalhaven Campus Head Robbie Collins speaks to guests at the recent booklet launch, as Member for Gilmore Ms Joanna Gash looks on.



# Awards, achievements and accolades



Professor Simon Ville

## New book explores big business and corporate leadership

A book by University of Wollongong academic Professor Simon Ville, University of Melbourne's David Merrett and ANU's Grant Fleming, provides a comprehensive study of Australian corporate leadership over the past 150 years.

*The Big End of Town* traces the evolution of large business enterprises in Australia, from the giants of the 19th Century such as Dalgety's CSR and BHP to contemporary leaders in NewsCorp and Telstra.

It delves into why the market leaders became the major players, examines what was crucial to their success, and their roles in leading the Australian economy.

## UNESCO honour for UOW academic

The Division of Ethics of Science and Technology of UNESCO has invited UOW's Professor Sharon Beder to join a new group of international experts.

She has been asked to be part of a group of prominent international experts to study the Precautionary Principle and its difficulties and implications so as "to provide conceptual clarification for decision makers and scientists".

The long-term aim is "to present recommendations to UNESCO Member States on the question of how the Precautionary Principle can contribute to a sustainable future".

The group will meet three times this year, twice in Paris and the third time at a location to be determined.

Professor Beder, of UOW's School of Social Sciences, Media and Communication is interested in the

dynamics of environmental and technological controversies and has special interest in the social aspects of engineering, environmental politics, the rhetoric of sustainable development, the philosophies behind environmental economics, and trends in environmentalism and corporate activism/public relations.

## Academic named Citizen of the Year

Long-time University of Wollongong academic Professor Michael Hough was named Wollongong City Citizen of the year by Wollongong Lord Mayor Alex Darling at an Australia Day ceremony in January.

Professor Hough is a professorial fellow of the University's Graduate School of Business and Professional Development where he lectures in management of quality, international business and international human resource management.

His Reserve Force Decoration and Efficiency Decoration are in recognition of his many years of Army Reserve experience.

He is the founding chairman of the board of the Illawarra IteC, a community based, not for profit organisation responsible for a wide range of community assistance projects including Work for the Dole, the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme, the Illawarra Business Advisory Centre and the Migrant Advisory Service.

Professor Hough is a director of the Flagstaff Group of companies which employs more than 120 people with disabilities and runs a Church-based fellowship organisation based on the Corrimal Region Uniting Church.

## UOW graduate wins national open source developer prize

Final year UOW student Matthew Palmer was awarded a development award at the 2004 national Regional Delegates Program award at the Linux community conference held in Adelaide.

The software developer, who completed his studies in computer engineering in 2003, took the national prize for the development and management of eight software packages for the Debian project – a community-based volunteer organisation that produces the world's largest non-commercial Linux distribution. Matthew has also made a significant contribution to the NSW ComputerBank project, an initiative to supply free GNU/Linux systems to low-income individuals, community groups and disadvantaged schools.

Sun Microsystems Australia's sponsorship of the two-year-old Regional Delegates Program recognises and

rewards those who have made an outstanding contribution to the Linux and open source development community. Matthew was selected from among nine state and territory winners, who were flown to the conference and accommodated in a prize package worth a total of \$15,000.

## Mathematics award for top young researcher

UOW mathematician Dr Mark Nelson has been awarded the J.H.Michell Medal which acknowledges him as the most outstanding new researcher in the field of applied mathematics in Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Nelson graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Chemistry and Mathematics from the University of Leeds. He spent a year at the University of Bath where he received a Master of Science degree in Nonlinear Mathematics before returning to the University of Leeds where he was awarded a PhD in Applied Mathematics in 1994.

He went to New Zealand in 1997 as the Royal Society of London Postdoctoral Fellow where he worked both at the University of Auckland and University of Canterbury. This was followed by three years with the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra.

He came to the University of Wollongong as a lecturer last year. During his overall research career, Dr Nelson has written 31 refereed papers.

His specific mathematical area of interest is in non-linear chemical dynamics.

## Teaching award

Dr Pauline Harris from the University's Faculty of Education was awarded the Alan C. Purves Award by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) at the Council's Annual Convention in San Francisco in the US late last year.

The Award is presented annually to the author(s) of an article in the journal *Research in the Teaching of English* (RTE) from the previous year's volume judged as likely to have the greatest impact on educational practice.

Pauline accepted this award on behalf of the team which wrote the winning journal article – Pauline as team leader, together with Jillian Trezise and Dr W. N. Winner of the University of Adelaide.

The article is entitled "Is the Story on My Face?": Intertextual Conflicts during Teacher-Class Interactions around Texts in Early Grade Classrooms". It will be published in RTE in 2004.



# Wollongong to host University Games

The University of Wollongong Recreation & Aquatic Centre will host the 2004 Arrive alive Eastern University Games from 11-15 July.

The Games will attract more than 3,500 participants and over 100 volunteers from 28 universities and tertiary campuses within New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Boasting 16 team sports over four action-packed days, this exciting event is estimated to have an economic impact to the region of between \$2 to \$3 million.

The Games will include AFL, badminton, baseball, basketball, golf, hockey, netball, rugby union, soccer,

softball, squash, tennis, touch, ultimate frisbee, volleyball and waterpolo.

These Games will give competitors an opportunity to qualify for the Australian University Games to be held in Perth later this year.

The 2004 project team is Paul Manning (Chair EUG Advisory Board), Susan Diver-Tuck (Sport Coordinator) and Anita Mant (Project Coordinator).

Those people wanting to become involved in the games as a volunteer should contact the games office on (02) 4221 3308 or email [eug2004@uow.edu.au](mailto:eug2004@uow.edu.au)

Those interested in being involved in the games as a competitor contact Grant Jacobs on (02) 4221 4704 or Kerri Edwards on (02) 4221 5358.



praise, but she has been a huge influence."

Rianna said she has no immediate plans to work as a lawyer. "Ricky is the ambassador for the Children's Cancer Institute of Australia, and I'm going to be working with the Institute raising funds," she said, adding that she had plans for an annual Ricky Ponting Dinner as a major fund-raiser.

Rianna, who grew up in the northern Wollongong beachside suburb of Bulli, was following a family tradition at her graduation. Her father Brian Cantor, a teacher at Picton High School, graduated 25 years ago with a Bachelor of Arts/Diploma of Education from the University of Wollongong and was at this daughter's graduation ceremony with his wife Leanne.

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CRICOS Provider No: 00102E

ISSN 0312-2018

Australia's new Test cricket captain Ricky Ponting congratulates his wife Rianna on her graduation with an Arts/Law degree from the University of Wollongong.

## Pontings celebrate Rianna's graduation

Rianna Ponting resisted the temptation to blow her famous husband Ricky a kiss when she graduated from the University of Wollongong with an arts/laws degree, but she was clearly delighted to have the Australian Test cricket star by her side.

The week before the graduation ceremony last December, Ponting blew Rianna a kiss when he reached 200 in the Test against India at the Adelaide Oval to acknowledge the contribution his wife of 18 months has made to his career – the gesture recorded on national television and in newspapers across the country.

By contrast Rianna stuck to protocol at her own moment of glory, when she received her Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws (Laws) at the University of Wollongong's graduation ceremony. However, she said she was grateful Ricky had been able to attend the ceremony – foregoing the chance to captain Tasmania in a Pura Cup game against NSW starting the same day in Sydney.

"I don't mind being the woman in the background, but it is nice that Ricky is here today to help me celebrate," said Rianna, who admitted to feeling a little nervous about her big day. She said there was "no way" she would have blown her husband a kiss when she was on stage receiving her

degrees. While Ponting credits Rianna's steadying influence for his rich vein of form – he had scored nine centuries culminating in the Adelaide Test's 242 and averaged 85 in Test cricket in the 18 months since they married, had skippered Australia's one-day side to World Cup victory and been named to take over from Steve Waugh as Australia's Test captain in February – Rianna wasn't so sure about her husband's contribution to her studies.

"He makes good coffee, but he definitely doesn't understand the no-talking rule when I am trying to finish assignments!" she joked. "But he has been very supportive."

Ponting said the Tasmanian Cricket Association had been "pretty understanding" about his decision to attend his wife's graduation rather than captain his home State against NSW at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

"This is one of the biggest days of Rianna's life, and we've been excited about it for a while. Rianna's given up a lot to support my career, and deferred her studies a few times to come away on tour to England and South Africa, so this was a chance for me to repay her and I wasn't going to miss it," he said.

"Rianna won't take any credit for the way my career has gone since we got married. She always deflects any