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Office of Community and Partnerships

Please keep us informed of your community engagement activities and initiatives so we can help to heighten awareness of this important aspect of the University's operations.

Contact: The Community Relations Coordinator on Ext.3110 or email: ocp@uow.edu.au.

New Appeal launched to help save lives

The University is seeking community support to allow it to offer special life-saving training to the region's emergency services using the high-tech virtual patients it is acquiring for the Graduate School of Medicine (GSM).

It hopes to be able to open the Medical School's new clinical skills laboratories to the region's paramedics, ambulance officers, nurses, lifesavers, and members of the NSW Police, Fire Brigade, Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Services.

"We want our skills laboratories to become a great community resource not only to train the next generation of doctors, but to help train emergency services personnel to save lives out there on the front-line," says UOW Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton. Read more at: <http://media.uow.edu.au/news/2006/1019d/index.html>



The University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton, pictured with emergency service and medical personnel.

Award to recognise University/community engagement

For the second year, the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Community Engagement will be awarded to an academic or general UOW staff member, or team of staff, in recognition of significant community engagement activities. The award carries a prize of \$2000.

The winner of the inaugural award in 2006 was Owen Curtis from the School of Health Sciences in the Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences. The award recognised Owen's significant and sustained contribution to community engagement over 15 years, including initiatives which have brought real and tangible benefits to the community such as the introduction of an exercise intervention program at Port Kembla Hospital and the development of Self Management Education Camps for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with Diabetes in conjunction with the Aboriginal Medical Service.

Nominations for 2007 are now open and can be made via the following website: <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/community/staffaward.html>

UOW short-listed for University of the Year Award

The University of Wollongong has been short-listed as the only Australian university for the inaugural award – The Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) "Commonwealth University of the Year". The award, open to all higher education institutions in the Commonwealth excluding those from the UK, was focused on how universities achieved community engagement. UOW's submission was based on its own community engagements, particularly in regards to regional development between 1 July 2005 and 30 June 2006 namely the establishment of the Graduate Medical School and Innovation Campus. The Commonwealth University of the Year will be announced on November 15.

Special Feature: Working to prevent falls among the elderly

UOW researcher heads falls prevention projects

Two teams of researchers in the Exercise Science Program at the University of Wollongong have been successful in receiving grants totaling \$448,000 aimed at preventing falls among the elderly.

The teams will be headed by Owen Curtis, Senior Lecturer in the Exercise Science Program, and winner of the inaugural Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Community Engagement in 2006.

"One in three people over 65 years of age are reported to fall annually, with 10% of these experiencing multiple falls," Owen said.

The falls prevention projects are the first in Australia determining the impact of exercise physiologists on falls prevention and the first to be funded by the DoHA involving accredited exercise physiologists in exercise design and delivery.

Read more at:

<http://media.uow.edu.au/releases/2006/1013c.html>



UOW Early Childhood Education students provided hours of fun and education for local youngsters at the recent 'Principals in the Park' event.

Education students help local children prepare for school

Early Childhood students from UOW's Faculty of Education took part in a recent community event called 'Principals in the Park', aimed at assisting local children and their families to prepare for school next year.

Organised by Illawarra Children's Services' Transition to School project and funded by Families First (a Federal Government initiative), the event attracted 250 children and their families to Blackbutt Amphitheatre.

The third-year UOW education students gave a full day of their time and organised a range of 'fun' but learning-based activities such as face painting, craft, story reading with puppets, playdough and parachute games. Children rotated between the activities while their families discussed 'starting school' with the principals and other school representatives.

It is hoped that this will become a regular community service carried out by the Early Education students.

Environmental students present their research

Do you want to obtain a broader understanding of the range of environmental issues under study in the Illawarra? Then come along on Tuesday, 14 November to the presentation by final year Bachelor of Environmental Science students on their research projects for 2006.

Projects include: An investigation into the environmental status of Tom Thumb lagoon and lower Garangaty waterway; The better management of Wollongong's beaches; An assessment of the condition of Fairy, Towradgi and Bellambi Lagoons; and The effects of wildfire, habitat and seasonal change on terrestrial invertebrate abundance, diversity and community composition within the Booderee National Park,

Students complete their projects as part of a practical placement. Among the host organisations for 2006 were the Port Kembla Port Corporation, ANSTO, Department of Primary Industries and the Shoalhaven, Shellharbour and Wollongong City Councils.

The presentations will take place from 9:30am-2:30pm in G016 Building 19. All welcome.

IMB Community Foundation UOW Seminar

The University's Research Services Office is holding an information seminar on Wednesday 6th December, for staff and students interested in applying for community projects to be funded in 2007.

The IMB have allocated \$450,000 to the Foundation in support of projects that reflect its objectives, which include enhancing the economic diversification and development of the communities, promoting mutual and self-help philosophies and enhancing the economic self sufficiency of communities.

Contact Sue Dellit at sdellit@uow.edu.au for more information about the information session at UOW.

Workplace Giving Program – Staff Survey

Thank you to the 231 staff who completed the Workplace Giving Survey in September. Congratulations also to Robyn Douglass from Creative Arts who was the winner of the \$100 gift voucher for completing the survey.

We received more than 70 suggestions for the official Workplace Giving Program (WGP) title and the WGP Steering Committee has narrowed this down to five for further consideration. The information received from staff on the types of causes and organisations that they support, or would like to support, will be used to determine the final list of organisations to be included in the program.

More news on the program will be forthcoming early in the new year. In the meantime, visit our website at <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/community/give.html> or contact the Office of Community & Partnerships on 4221 3110.

Upcoming Public Events



Conferences

1 Dec: Fabulous Risk: Danger and Performance in Circus and Sideshow Conference

Fabulous Risk is an interdisciplinary, performative conference co-hosted by UOW, the Centre for Canadian Australian Studies, The Australian Circus and Physical Theatre Association and Circus Monoxide.

Venue: Stuart Park and the Northbeach Novotel, Wollongong

Contact: Annie Werner, aew06@uow.edu.au

13 Dec: Australasian Law and Society Conference "Right or Racket? The Protection of Law"

This three-day event will be a meeting of socio-legal researchers and postgraduate students from Australasia and beyond.

Venue: McKinnon Building, UOW. Contact: Gemma McAndrew glm92@uow.edu.au

Free Exhibition

Opening 17 Nov : 2006 GRAD SHOW: "Who is Mark?"

3rd year graduating Art and Design student's exhibition opens on 17 November and running for 2 weeks.

Venue: Long Gallery, Faculty of Creative Arts.

Performances

1 Dec: 7.30-10pm Wollongong Conservatorium Presents 'Kammer'

International Chamber Music Group performing works by Haydn, Brahms & Schoenberg. Vocalist Karen Cummings will join the ensemble to perform songs by Australian composer Peggy Glanville-Hicks

Venue: Wesley Church on the Mall, Crown St, Wollongong

Tickets: Adult \$25, Concession \$20 Phone 4228 1122

3 Dec: 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight @ The Manor

Members of the public invited to come along and sing their way into the festive season and be entertained by Conservatorium artists. Carols led by the Bluescope Steel Youth Orchestra. Sausage sizzle, ice creams, drinks and cake available

Venue: Northern lawns of Glennifer Brae Manor House, Murphy's Ave, Keiraville

Graduation

11 Dec to 15 Dec: Ceremonies for students graduating from UOW in 2006

12 graduation ceremonies will be held over five days for UOW graduating students and their special guests.

Venue: University Hall UOW. More information:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/student/graduation/>

A more detailed listing of events on campus is available at <http://webevents.uow.edu.au/>

Staff Profile

Glenn Barkley

Position:

Curator, University of Wollongong Art Collection (UOWAC)

Faculty/Unit:

Faculty of Creative Arts



Community Engagement Activities:

- Curator 'Multiplicity: Prints and Multiples from the collections of the MCA and UOW' October 2006-March 2007 MCA Sydney then touring nationally
- Since 1997 has curated over 14 exhibitions in a variety of venues notably Hazelhurst Regional Gallery in Gymea, Wollongong City Gallery and the National Gallery of Australia
- Board member of the Illawarra Chapter of Museums Australia
- Co-founder and Co-director (with UOW alumni Lisa Havilah and Nathan Clark) of Project Centre for Contemporary Art in 1995.

Why is Community Engagement important?

The UOWAC is an important public resource. We are charged with making sure the collection is accessible and available for the research and enjoyment of not only the UOW community but the communities of the Illawarra and beyond. The UOWAC has been working within the field of community engagement almost since its inception – from hosting tours by local and national groups to major exhibitions of its holdings.

One of the most gratifying parts of the job is in acquiring works by local and emerging artists, being able to offer very real support financially, and the professional assistance of being included in a major institutional collection at an important time of their career.

The UOWAC is innovative in its exhibition program and works collaboratively with a number of partner institutions both locally such as the WCG and nationally most recently with the MCA in Sydney. These partnerships assure the UOWAC is exposed to and enjoyed by as many people as possible.

The UOWAC has also been fortunate to work with local indigenous artist most notably in facilitating a printmaking workshop with 5 local women artist and printmakers Franck Gohier and Tom Goulder (Duckprint, Port Kembla) in 2005. We have also recently made a purchase of a group of works from Boolarng Nangamai Aboriginal Art and Culture Studio in Gerringong.