



Inside this Issue

- Supporting new university-community partnerships 1
- National AUCEA Conference explores the scholarship of engagement 2
- Annual Alumni Appeal raises over \$20,000 3
- Overseas students building Indigenous community links 3
- Open invitation to tour Innovation Campus 4

Staff Profile:

Monique Harper-Richardson,
Manager of Community & Partnerships

Office of Community and Partnerships

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

Contact:

The Community Relations Coordinator on 4221 3110 or email community@uow.edu.au



Supporting new university-community partnerships

In its third year the Community Engagement Grants Scheme (CEGS) will be supporting seven projects which link the University's academic, research and outreach activities with community partners for mutual benefit.

The seven projects funded this year represent the diversity of the University's engagement activities and the diversity of needs and interests in the community.

Linking with Illawarra Association of Private Psychologists

Project Leader: Chris Allen, Director of Northfields Clinic

Partners: Illawarra Institute of Mental Health, Illawarra Division of General Practice, Private Psychologists, Mental Health service providers.

Awarded: \$5,670

Empowering the Community to Respond to Inappropriate Alcohol Marketing

Project leader: Prof Sandra Jones, School of Health Sciences

Partners: Drug and Alcohol Program – Greater Western Area Health Service, The Lyndon Community, NSW Central West Division of General Practice

Amount: \$9,550

Impacts of Climate Change and Community Based Strategic Response in the Illawarra/South Coast Region

Project Leader: Prof Colin Woodroffe, School of Earth & Environmental Sciences

Partners: Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia, Wollongong City Council, Australian Greenhouse Office.

Awarded: \$7,600

Evaluating and Capacity Building Among Members of the Clubhouse for People with Mental Illness

Project Leader: Prof Frank Deane, Illawarra Institute of Mental Health

Partners: Lord Mayor's Light and Hope Clubhouse Committee, Wollongong City Council, Schizophrenia Fellowship, Carers for people with Mental Illness.

Awarded: \$8,600

Story continued page 2.

To learn more about these projects, you are invited to attend the **Community Engagement Grants Scheme 2007 Presentation of Funding on Tuesday 28 August 2007 11am-1pm in the UniCentre Function Room.**

For more info contact: Jan Sullivan on 4221 3110 or email community@uow.edu.au

Closing soon - 2007 Chancellor's Awards

A reminder that nominations for the 2007 Chancellor's Awards for Achievement in Community Service close on Friday 27 July.

The inaugural Awards have been established to recognise achievement in community service and highlight the personal contributions that University of Wollongong alumni and others make to the enrichment of their community and advancement of their society.

There are two categories each relating to support for

the University and service to the community.

Category 1: UOW alumni (graduates) who have contributed significantly to the University.

Category 2: Community members or community groups who have contributed significantly to the University.

Each award carries a monetary prize of \$2000 and will be presented at a special event to recognise the University's volunteers on 12 October 2007.

If you know of someone who has made a major contribution in the area of community service and/or has contributed significantly to the University, nominate them now. Your nomination will ensure that their contribution is formally recognised.

Details about the awards including guidelines and nomination forms are available at: <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/community/chancellorsaward/index.html>.
CN



AUCEA Conference explores the scholarship of community engagement

AUCEA, the Australian Universities Community Engagement Alliance, held its annual national conference on university-community engagement at Charles Darwin University in Alice Springs earlier this month.

Titled 'The Scholarship of community engagement: Australia's way forward', the conference attracted representatives from some 32 national universities including Professor Helen Garnett, Vice-Chancellor of Charles Darwin University and Professor Liz Harman, Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University.

Staff from the University presented three papers at the three-day conference. Dr Alison

Wicks presented "Reflections on community engagement for transforming praxis: Lessons from the Learning and Teaching Creatively Project"; Glen Moore and Monique Harper-Richardson presented "From Steel town to 'City of Innovation': Wollongong and the role of the University in its social transformation"; and Robbie Collins presented "Community engagement as a cornerstone enabling learning and teaching and research in the post modern world." [CN](#)

Above: UOW staff were among conference delegates who accompanied a local Aboriginal childrens' drumming group 'Drum Atweme' at the conference welcome.

continued from page 1

Multimedia Youth Legal Resources

Project Leader: Gabriel Watts, student in Faculty of Law

Partners: The Foundation for Young Australians, The Law and Justice Foundation of NSW, The National Children's and Youth Law Centre, The Marrickville Legal Centre, The Legal Aid Commission of NSW.

Awarded: \$5,000

Voices of Children: A Sense of Community

Project Leader: Assoc Prof Ian Brown, Faculty of Education

Partners: NSW Dept of Education, Local Primary and High Schools in Nowra, Vincentia and Culburra, Shoalhaven City Art Centre, Shoalhaven City Council.

Awarded: \$7,600

Bringing International Experience to Illawarra High Schools

Project Leader: Ekaterina Pechenkina, Momentum

Partners: NSW Dept of Education, Local High Schools in Illawarra, Welcome to Wollongong Community Working Group, Illawarra Ethnic Communities Council Inc.

Amount: \$5,980

Staff Profile

Monique Harper-Richardson

Manager, Community & Partnerships



Why is community engagement important?

Engagement with our communities has been at the very heart of the university's activities, we have moved beyond community service to engagement that provides mutually beneficial outcomes. Those benefits are substantial to UOW and the community and we are strengthened by that partnership. It is a privilege to work in the area of engagement, to see first hand the positive benefits of such outreach initiatives as the Science Centre & Planetarium, to celebrate with Northfields Clinic in providing psychological assessment services to the community for 25 years, to see researchers sharing their knowledge and expertise to strengthen communities.

No doubt the highlight has been for UOW to be recognised internationally for its engagement when in 2006 it received the 'Commonwealth University of the Year' award for community engagement.

Community engagement activities:

- Responsible for developing the University's approaches to key stakeholder groups including Alumni, sponsors/donors, and community partners.
- As manager of UOW's Office of Community & Partnerships, guide and support the core goal of the University for "dynamic engagement with our communities". Eg: UOW's community engagement grants scheme to support staff and student projects that have a clear community benefit.
- Dedicated to developing mutually sustainable relationships and increasing educational access and opportunities, particularly within the immediate region. Eg: led the development of specific access programs including UAP (University Access Program), which assists mature-age students to gain the necessary qualifications to enter university, and STEP to UOW, a preparation program for school students who have experienced long-term disadvantage in their education.
- Member of the University's Community Engagement Committee and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education and an alumni of the Commonwealth Study Conference.

If you are interested in being featured in the Staff Profile, contact community@uow.edu.au

Annual Alumni Appeal raises over \$20,000 in six weeks

The 2007 Annual Appeal was launched in June. This year the appeal is supporting dementia education and training programs and students in need.

Alumni and members of the Circle of Visionaries have been invited to support either (or both) of these important initiatives.

Dementia Care: Dementia is a chronic condition with no cure. It directly affects 1 in 15 Australians over 65 and is now the fourth leading cause of death in this age group. Another one million Australians are involved in caring for a family member or friend with dementia.

There are many forms of dementia including Alzheimer's Disease, vascular dementia and Huntington's Disease to name a few. Without proper care, symptoms such as memory loss, disorientation and hallucinations gradually result in loss of independence and even profound physical disability.

People living with dementia also face social exclusion, neglect and even abuse due to a general lack of awareness about the condition. They eventually require a high level of care either from family members or within an aged-care facility.

Associate Professor Victoria Traynor, Director of **UOW's Eastern Australia Dementia Training Study Centre (EADTSC)** and her team are implementing dementia-based training programs and study opportunities for practitioners and care providers in collaboration with the Queensland University of Technology, Griffith University, the Hammond Care Group, UnitingCare: Aging, RSL Care and Blue Care.

Through these educational initiatives carers learn how to delay the onset of symptoms, reduce the severity of the disease and extend the life expectancy of people living with dementia.

Students in Need: In Australia, 15 per cent of university students come from low-income backgrounds. And an even higher proportion of students at the University of Wollongong are disadvantaged through poverty.

Each year around 500 conscientious new students will contemplate dropping out of UOW due to financial hardships. Another 10 per cent of UOW students face significant challenges during their university studies due to disability.

We believe that disadvantage should not impede the personal and professional ambitions of our talented and enthusiastic students. UOW already provides scholarships for students in need, demonstrating our commitment to social justice.

Despite these good intentions, limited funds restrict the support we can provide to many students with legitimate needs. To ensure no deserving student misses

out on the opportunity to access and fully participate in tertiary studies, the University has established the new **Learning & Development Fund**. Gifts to the fund will provide practical support to deserving students, from vouchers that cover the costs of daily travel and textbooks, to rent subsidies, home internet access and laptops. These simple gifts can be the difference between success and failure.

All donors to the University are invited to join the Circle of Visionaries, a group of committed donors – ordinary individuals who realise the power of collective action.

The Appeal has already raised over \$20,000 to support these projects. If you would like to contribute to the appeal or find out more about supporting UOW please visit www.uow.edu.au/donations or call 02 4221 3918. **CN**

International Week 07

A vibrant celebration of cultural harmony and diversity will begin next month (August 13-19) when the University's annual International Week takes place.

We have an internationally diverse staff, and many incoming, outgoing and off-shore international students, all working together in a supportive and lively environment, characterised by diversity, cultural sensitivity and growing networks of students across all nations.

Staff, students and the general community are invited to participate in this week-long festival of multicultural programs and activities.

A Program of activities will be available soon at <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/internationalweek>

Overseas students building Indigenous community links

The University's international students are building cultural links with the region's Indigenous community.

UOW's Illawarra Committee for International Students (ICIS) has organised a weekly cultural exchange program with the Illawarra Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

Every week ICIS sends selected international students to visit the Cultural Centre in Kenny St, Wollongong as part of a program to promote cross-cultural understanding and social activities.

The students have enjoyed didgeridoo performance and explanations about Aboriginal hunting instruments, and have reciprocated with a

demonstration of Chinese cooking at the Cultural Centre.

ICIS coordinator Komal Chen said the visits were an important



way of building up cultural awareness for overseas students studying in Wollongong.

"It's good to for overseas students to learn about indigenous Australians, and for us to be able to tell Aboriginal

people about the countries we come from," Ms Chen said.

She said ICIS planned to invite Aboriginal musicians and dancers to the campus for a performance.

Meanwhile, ICIS is planning a major Chinese festival on 14 August, during International Week. The festival, to be held on the stage at the Duck Pond lawn, will include demonstrations of traditional Chinese dancing from different regions, Chinese games and Taiji performances. **CN**

Above Left: Aboriginal elder Aunty Mary Davis (second from left) with Chinese student Stella Shen, ICIS coordinator Komal Chen and Japanese student Madoka Nakai at the Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

Upcoming Events

24 July starting at 12noon

Official Opening of Duckpond Lawn

Ribbon cutting by the Vice-Chancellor, entertainment and BBQ

Venue: Duckpond Lawn

All welcome

More info: www.unicentre.uow.edu.au

24 July 6:15pm to 7.30pm

Public Lecture: Older People's Mental Health

Professor John Keady, Professor of Older People's Mental Health Nursing, University of Manchester/Bolton, Salford and Trafford Mental Health NHS Trust, UK

Venue: Graduate School of Medicine Auditorium, First Floor

Contact: Moria Miller moira_miller@uow.edu.au

25 July 5.30pm to 6.30pm

Public Lecture: Uni in the Brewery

Professor Greg Greg Schiemer and Janys Hayes from the Faculty of Creative Arts will give a free talk on "The Pocket Gamelon: Is you mobile out of tune?" at this third presentation for the year.

Venue: Five Islands Brewery

Contact: Vicky Wallace vwallace@uow.edu.au

1 August 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Professorial Lecture Series: Prof Susan Dodds

Professor Susan Dodds from the Faculty of Arts will be presenting her work "Big Picture Bioethics: Public Reasoning and Values Contestations as part of the Professorial Lecture Series at UOW.

Venue: Communications Bld 20 Lecture Theatre 2

More info: www.uow.edu.au/research/proflectureseries/

Until 3 August

Exhibitions: MIRROR and UNFOLDING

Glenda Borchard and Alena Kennedy presents recent works exploring nature with an of expression, colour and emotion

All are welcome to meet the artists and attend an official reception on Thursday 2 August at 12.30pm

Venue: Long Gallery, upstairs Bld 25, Faculty of Creative Arts

More info: www.uow.edu.au/crearts/GalleryLong/index.html

More Events

For the latest *What's On* information: visit <http://www.uow.edu.au/events>

Open invitation to tour Innovation Campus



With construction now underway on the first buildings at the University of Wollongong's Innovation Campus, iC director David Fuller has issued an open invitation to the region's business community to inspect progress at the site.

Mr Fuller issued the invitation at a presentation on the Innovation Campus to more than 300 business people at the Illawarra Business Chamber's monthly *Business After Hours* function, held at the UniBar last month.

"I'll be conducting tours once a fortnight to show the business community of Wollongong what we're doing on the Innovation Campus," Mr Fuller said. "I invite you all to book on one of these tours and have a look for yourselves at this historic development for Wollongong, which will transform the city and the region."

iC is a research and development precinct being developed on a 33 hectare site a few kilometres north of the Wollongong CBD. It will house some of the University's flagship research institutes, as well as commercial operations that will collaborate with and benefit from the work of the research teams.

The iC Master Plan has provision for around 25 buildings to be

constructed over the next 10-15 years, including a hotel and convention centre. Eventually more than 5000 people will be employed there.

"The University is building four major buildings at iC over the next two years," Mr Fuller said. "In addition, we're negotiating with a number of other commercial operations who are considering other buildings.

Mr Fuller pointed to the recent arrival of global IT services company Accenture, which has established a development and client support facility at UOW in preparation for a move to the Innovation Campus.

The first buildings under construction are the landmark iC Central building which will house key administrative and service operations, and the Institute for Innovative Materials that will house two of UOW's flagship research centres.

To book a place on an iC tour, contact the iC team (phone) 02 4221 5115 or email info@innovationcampus.com.au. CN

Above: Innovation Campus director David Fuller (right) with Illawarra Business Chamber president Terry Wetherall.