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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 Ext. 3110 or email community@uow.edu.au



Overseas students help fill skills gap

Changes to the General Skilled Migration Program to take effect from 1 September this year will impact on international students studying at UOW. They will also impact on local firms looking for graduates with a professional qualification in a field where there is a current skills shortage, for example, accountancy and engineering.

Martin Smith, Manager of the Careers Service, said that international students will be permitted to stay in Australia for an additional 18 months to gain degree-related work experience and improve their English language skills, thus strengthening their eligibility for permanent residency.

To improve students' employability and to improve UOW's marketability to international students, the University's Career Service is developing a new careers readiness certificate program, the *Global Workplace Practices Certificate*. This program will cover English language, cross cultural studies, job search skills and include a placement component. It will be open to domestic students as well.

Local employers who are interested in finding out more about the work placement program are encouraged to contact the Careers Service on 02 4221 3325 or email careers@uow.edu.au



The Global Workplace Practice Certificate Launch will take place during International Week on Monday 13 August. The Department of Immigration & Citizenship will also be running an Information Session on that day. **CN**

Above: Martin Smith, Manager of the Careers Service

Packed program of activities coming up during Iweek

International Week 2007 commences on 13 August and will kick off with a special breakfast, an information session about the changes to the skilled migration laws (and how this will impact on international students) and a Great Aussie Bush Dance in the evening.

A highlight at lunch time on Wednesday will be a free concert by members of the Wollongong Symphony Orchestra: "Music with an International Flavour".

UOW has 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. International Week is about celebrating this diversity.

All students, staff and community members are invited to participate. Find out more at <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/internationalweek> **CN**

Presentation of Funding to selected University-Community Engagement Projects in 2007

You are invited to attend the Presentation of Funding to selected University-Community engagement Projects in 2007

Time: 10:45am - 12:15pm

Date: Tuesday 28 August

Venue: UniCentre Function Room 4, Building 11, UOW

Morning tea will be served

RSVP by Tuesday 21 August to Jan Sullivan/Leanne Crouch on 4221 3110 email community@uow.edu.au





United in fight against cancer

Researchers at the University of Wollongong have joined forces with local community members in the fight against cancer.

John Bremner and his team from the Department of Chemistry, Associate Professor Marie Ranson from the School of Biological Sciences and Professor Philip Clingan an Honorary Clinical Professor at UOW and Director of Medical Oncology at the Southern Medical Day Care Centre met with the members of the Illawarra Cancer Carers, Kiama Rotary and the Robert East family to explain how they have

been working to reduce the debilitating side-effects of drug uses in chemotherapy. This is of particular interest to these three community-based groups whose donations to UOW for cancer research totals close to \$300,000 to date.

Professor Bremner said that the University was very grateful for the support from these groups and these donations have been "invaluable in supporting research and key chemical and biological studies. **CN**

Above: Community group representatives pictured at the Graduate School of Medicine.

Keira High School artworks on display at UOW

The Faculty of Creative Arts is hosting an exhibition of student works from Keira High School.



The exhibition is curated by Gerardo Guevara who completed his BCA in 2005 and went on to complete a Master of Creative Arts with the Faculty in 2006. Gerardo is currently undertaking a Graduate Diploma

in Education at UOW and teaching at Keira High School.

Gerardo has dedicated the exhibition, titled HIGH ACTS, to the staff and students of Keira High School.

The exhibition is open 9am-5pm weekdays until 17 August. Blutac Gallery, Building 25, Faculty of Creative Arts, UOW. For more information visit <http://www.uow.edu.au/crearts/GalleryBlutac> **CN**

Above left: Artwork by Michael Hedger 2007 Oil Pastels on paper, 23cm x 29.7cm.

Staff Profile

Sandra Jones

Professor and Director, Centre for Health Initiatives (CHI), Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences



Why is community engagement important?

- For both myself and the research teams with the Centre for Health Initiatives, research and community engagement are part of the same process. Most of our research questions are drawn from observed or expressed community needs. While day-to-day work as a researcher consists of collecting and analysing data, the questions asked and the conclusions drawn from our research are in the context of the world in which we live.
- What motivates us to do the work is seeing the very real impact that this can have on the community in which we live, both locally in the Illawarra and in Australian society more generally. As director of CHI, I have been able to surround myself with people who are equally passionate about finding ways to improve the health and well-being of Australians, and sharing their knowledge with our community.

Community Engagement activities

- Working with the Greater Western Area Health Service, the Lyndon Community, and NSW Central West Division of General Practice to develop materials to enable the community to respond to inappropriate alcohol advertising and marketing; provide training to increase the skill base of the partner organisations in addressing these issues; and develop and disseminate resource materials to better enable a response at the local community level.
- Actively lobbying regulators and government for improvements to the marketing of alcohol, including contributing to the Department of Gaming and Racing's review of the packaging and marketing of ready-to-drink alcohol beverages.
- Ongoing collaborative research and training projects in social marketing with The Cancer Council, National Breast Cancer Centre and National Breast Cancer Foundation.
- CHI is currently working with the Illawarra Division of General Practice and other partners on their 'HeadSpace' project to investigate ways in which a youth-oriented GP service may be promoted to young people of various backgrounds within the Illawarra.
- Member of the Advisory Committee of the Community Alcohol Action Network, the Coalition on Food Advertising to Children research reference group, the NBCC Information Advisory Group and the Raising Children Network Steering Committee.

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

Antarctic visions on show at UOW's Science Centre

Most of us are unlikely to have the chance to visit the coldest place on Earth - so now it's been 'brought' to us.

The exhibition, "Aurora: Extraordinary Visions of Antarctica", is visiting UOW's Wollongong Science Centre.

The exhibition is a collection of photographs taken by scientists and technical people who live and work in the Australian Antarctic Territory.

Brimming with colour and exposing rarely-seen magnificence, the collection captures the themes of animals, auroras, icebergs, moons, and underwater images. Even the beloved Weddell seal makes an appearance.

"Aurora", thanks to the Australian Government's Antarctic Division, will be on display from the beginning of August until the September school holidays. **CN**



Viva La Gong returns to Wollongong in 2007

Australia's only dedicated street arts festival, Viva La Gong, is returning to Wollongong in 2007.

Viva La Gong is taking place between 5-7 October, and will combine street performances and art with specialist food and creative arts vendors at multiple locations including the Crown St Mall, Civic Plaza and the city foreshore.

Wollongong City Council is busy sorting through submissions from local dancers, musicians, sculptors, comedians and other performers to be part of this year's program of events.

The program will be focusing on "Exploration and Celebration of Street Arts". Festival Coordinator, Alexie Bull, said she is looking forward to

delivering a diverse street arts focused event, which will provide the local arts community with an opportunity to demonstrate their creative ability.

"Our focus is to produce a festival which consists of a variety of activities to appeal to all ages and interests within the community" she said.

Performers and artists interested in being part of Viva, can download an expression of interest from <http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/Residents/2004.asp>, or email vivalagong@wollongong.nsw.gov.au for more information. **CN**

Source council E-news <http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/YourCouncil/2819.asp>

Scholarship to honour Professor Howard Worner

The late Professor Howard Worner influenced many thousands of students during his long and stellar career as one of Australia's most renowned scientists and metallurgists.

Now one of those students, whose life changed dramatically after a chance meeting with Professor Worner more than half a century ago, is determined to make sure his legacy is preserved through the establishment of a memorial scholarship.

ITC Group of Companies Chairman and University of Wollongong Councillor Dr Brian Hickman is leading

the establishment of the Howard Worner Memorial Scholarship Fund at the University. Dr Hickman said the Howard Worner Scholarship will recognise Professor Worner's rural origins by providing scholarships for students from rural backgrounds to study Engineering or Science at UOW. It will encourage recipients to draw upon Professor Worner's ideals and achievements as guidance for their own development.

All gifts to the Howard Worner Memorial Scholarship Fund are tax deductible. For more information, go to www.uow.edu.au/donations

Allan Sefton Memorial Lecture

'The role of the private and non-governmental sectors in nature conservation in Australia' will be the topic of the 2007 annual Allan Sefton Memorial Lecture.

The lecture will be given by Dr Nick Reid, Associate Professor in Ecosystem Management from the School of Environmental and Rural Science at the University of New England.

It will take place at 6.30pm on Tuesday 4 September in the UniCentre Function Centre (Bld 11) at the University of Wollongong.

The Lecture is held annually in recognition of Dr Allan Sefton's contributions to the conservation of the environment in the Illawarra.

The Allan Sefton Memorial Prize, awarded to the top graduating student in the Bachelor of Environmental Science Program at the University, will be presented at the Lecture.

There will also be a poster display on environmental research at the University which can be viewed prior to the lecture at 6.30pm.

For more information or to RSVP (by 28 August) please call Sandra Quin on 4221 4134 or email sandra@uow.edu.au **CN**

Upcoming Events

13 August to 17 August

International Week 2007

Week-long festival held at UOW celebrating the cultural diversity of the campus and international achievements of staff and students

Full program of events:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/about/internationalweek/2007/index.htm>

15 August 12.20pm - 2pm

Wollongong Symphony Orchestra Concert

Come along to enjoy a FREE performance by the Wollongong Symphony Orchestra of Music with an International Flavour.

Carlos Alvarado, the conductor, has a Columbian/Russian background and the music will feature a range of International composers, Spanish Guitar, Flamenco Dancing, Singers and a Pianist. Duck Pond Lawn Stage. Two sets of approximately 30 minutes each starting at approx 12.20.

Until 31 August

Exhibition: Mind the Gap... Between the Folds

An exploration of the importance of cloth by Sue Blanchfield. It retrieves the identity of a female convict, Rosina Smith, who arrived in Hobart in 1828 with a trunk of valuable dresses

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

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

22 August 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Professorial Lecture Series: Prof Wood-Conroy

Professor Diana Wood-Conroy from the Faculty of Creative Arts will be presenting her work "The Paphos Theatre, Cyprus: conjunctions of art and archeology"

Venue: Communications Bld 20 Lecture Theatre 2

Contact: Vicky Wallace vwallace@uow.edu.au

4 September 6.30pm

Public Lecture: Allan Sefton Memorial Lecture

The School of Earth & Environmental Sciences presents an address by Associate Professor Nick Reid from School of Environmental Sciences and Natural Resources Management at the University of New England.

Venue: UniCentre Function Centre

More info and RSVP: Sandra Quinn sandra@uow.edu.au

More Events

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

International students initiative - Welcome to Wollongong Project



A voluntary working group focused on exploring ways for international students to feel a greater sense of belonging in the Wollongong community has been successful in securing a \$20,000 grant from the IMB Foundation.

The Welcome to Wollongong Community Working Group (WWCWG) is a broad group made up of representatives from UOW, Wollongong City Council, student groups and representatives from social, faith, community and business organisations.

It was formed in 2006 in response to research carried out by a UOW research team of **Assoc Prof Peter Kell** and **Dr Gillian Vogl** in the Faculty of Education into the needs of international students at Australian universities.

The Working Group has identified three major activities as part of a project which will seek to connect international students and the local community.

The first activity is a **civic reception** for commencing international students (including University, TAFE and schools) in the heart of the city to welcome them to the Illawarra, commencing in 2008. This will

coincide with the second activity, a **mini festival to celebrate diversity** and to profile the presence of international students and highlight the valuable cultural and economic contribution they make to the region. The third activity is the **development of a community website** to provide information for international students.

These activities are also being supported by the University's Office of Community & Partnerships and Internationalisation Committee. This Project is intended to complement and enhance programs that already exist in the Wollongong area such as the Illawarra Committee for International Students' Friendship Program and Momentum, a program organised by the Wollongong University Postgraduate Association.

If University representatives or community residents or other groups would like to get involved in the Working Group email Gillian Vogl at gillian@uow.edu.au **CN**

Above: Members of the WWCWG pictured with the plaque from the IMB Foundation.