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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 community@uow.edu.au



Careers Service rates top in Australia for employers

In an Australia-wide university competition, the University of Wollongong's Careers Service has recently been announced the 'Best Careers Service for Employers'.

The UOW Careers Service was short listed in the category, along with Swinburne and Deakin universities, before it was announced that UOW had taken out the top accolade at the Australian Graduate Recruitment Industry Awards.

Manager of the UOW Careers Service, Mr Martin Smith, praised the fantastic team behind him - including the Employer Programs Coordinator, Beth Hammersley, at

the hub of the Service's day-to-day activity - when accepting the award at the Sydney ceremony.

Mr Smith said the University encouraged its staff to engage with business and industry on a regional, national and international basis.

"We understand what employers value in potential graduates and this pervades all programs, services and resources. It ranges from the production of the job seeking resource, 'The Edge' to the provision of a suite of workplace learning programs designed to refine career choices and increase employability," Mr Smith said. He said the last 12 months had

seen a 'war for talent' intensify which presented challenges for how UOW services its employer clients.

Some initiatives in 2007 included:

- A function at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney to showcase UOW's Innovation Campus and the student talent
- A Careers Fair which included revamped marketing material and post fair luncheon with relevant academics on hand to sit with graduate employers
- Guest employer input in pod casts and a job seeking workshop series.

CN

Police ball raises funds for Graduate School of Medicine

A cheque for \$6,000 was presented to the Graduate School of Medicine (GSM) recently by the organisers of the Illawarra Police Charity Ball.

Overall the Ball raised \$12,000 with the other half of the funds going to the Children's Ward at Wollongong Hospital.

A spokesperson for the Police Charity Ball fundraising committee, Kay Kent, said that the Ball has been going for 22 years and is the longest running Police Ball in NSW. It was originally started by the late Deputy Police Commissioner, Bev Lawson, who was from the Illawarra and a graduate and Fellow of the University of Wollongong.

The 2007 Ball held on 28 July in the University Hall was attended by some 380 people including the outgoing Police Commissioner, Ken Moroney, and

his successor, Commissioner Andrew Scipione. Students from SHARP (Student Health Alliance for Rural Populations) volunteered their time to assist with the running of the event and were on hand at the cheque presentation.

Professor John Hogg, Foundation Dean of the Graduate Medical School, said

that the funds will go towards the continued development of the Clinical Skills Laboratory and the advancement of health and rescue services in the region.

CN

Below: Sargeant John Klepczarek, President, Illawarra Police Charity Ball, Michael O'Halloran, SHARP, Naomi Piyaratna, SHARP President





City to host Civic Reception

Wollongong will show its appreciation and support of international students next year when it hosts a Civic Reception to welcome them to the region.

The Civic Reception, hosted by Wollongong Lord Mayor Councillor Alex Darling will be followed by a mini festival including live music, interactive entertainment, markets and information stalls.

Wollongong City Council and the University have provided support for the pilot project which is part of a wider initiative aimed at enhancing the experience for international students at the University, TAFE and local schools, celebrating diversity

and profiling the presence of international students and the contribution they make culturally and financially to the region.

These initiatives have been developed by the Welcome to Wollongong Working Group. This group includes representatives from TAFE, Wollongong City Council, the Illawarra Ethnic Communities Council, staff and students from the University.

The group secured an IMB Community Foundation Grant that will be put towards the Civic Reception and mini festival on February 29, 2008. **CN**

Above: The Welcome to Wollongong Community Group.

Staff get on their bikes for National Ride to Work Day

Staff at the University got behind the first National Ride to Work Day with 59 people registering as part of the UOW Ride 2 Work Team. It is estimated that over 3,000 workplaces and some 90,000 people participated nationwide.

The event was organised by Bicycle Victoria with support from the Australian Government, TravelSmart, Bakers Delight, Trek Bicycles, EPA Victoria, RACV Bike Assist and some local councils.

Some (obviously very fit) staff cycled from distances as far away as Kangaroo Valley, Engadine, Scarborough, and Wombarra. Staff at the Shoalhaven Campus

also participated with one staff member travelling from Longreach to the campus – a return journey of 22 kms. Her GPS watch recorded a fastest speed of 42 k/h, an average speed of 18 k/h and calories burned 1268!

Engineering took the prize for the Faculty with the greatest number of participants with 14 staff riding to work on 17 October. They enjoyed a faculty sponsored breakfast on their arrival.

Next year it is hoped to attract even greater involvement of staff and students as well. The 2008 National Ride to Work Day will be on Wednesday 15 October. **CN**

Staff Profile

Didier Balez

Technical Officer- Visual Arts,
Faculty of Creative Arts



Why is community engagement important?

Community engagement has given me a sense of belonging. I believe as a migrant it is important to give back to your adopted country. Through community engagement I have had the opportunity to teach new skills to lots of people and also learn from them. Community engagement has helped my development as a Public Artist and given me the opportunities to have my work permanently installed in public places.

Community Engagement activities

- Big Tea Pot Project (Year of the older person)
- Bellambi Safe Street Project
- Cringila Community Park
- Healthy City Illawarra
- Scarborough Primary School Art and Craft Show
- Nan Tien Temple Sculpture Exhibition
- Jack Wright Memorial
- Coledale Hospital Miners Memorial
- Mike Dwyer Reserve



Above: 'Comradeship' Sculpture by Didier Balez

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

\$15,000 raised at Pink Breakfast

NSW's largest Pink Breakfast was held at the University of Wollongong on October 31 where the goal to raise \$15,000 was reached within two hours.

The sold-out event attracted almost 600 people to the University Hall.

The breakfast, which has a theme of 'Changing the world one breakfast at a time', was part of an overall campaign to raise breast cancer awareness and help fund research.

Since the Pink Ribbon Breakfast initiative was launched in 2003, nearly 7,500 volunteer hosts around Australia have hosted breakfasts and together have raised in excess of \$4 million.

Participants were urged to 'think pink' when dressing and decorating their breakfast tables.

There were a number of raffles and auctions on the day as well as presentations from Professor Sandra Jones from UOW's Centre for Health Initiatives and Dr Margaret Gardiner from the Exercise Science and Rehabilitation Centre.

Other fundraising activities such as morning teas have also been taking place around campus. Dr Ted Watts from the Faculty

of Commerce even announced that he would dye his hair pink if the Faculty could raise \$500 for the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

After a grand total of \$620 was announced, he arrived at the breakfast with his 'new look'.

This year's breakfast attracted sponsorship and support from a range of organisations including Go Hire, Primavera Flowers, UniCentre and Food Re Thought. **CN**

Top: The University Hall was a picture of pink.

Second from top: Getting right into the pink theme was Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations), Professor John Patterson, and Professor Sandra Jones from the Centre for Health Initiatives who was one of the guest speakers at the breakfast.

Second from bottom: The Witches of RaLDWICK were awarded the title of the 'Pinkest Table' at the breakfast.

Bottom: Staff at UOW's Student Central all donned pink outfits for the day and decorated their offices in support of the Pink Ribbon Breakfast.



2007 Annual Appeal & Thankathon

The 2007 Alumni Appeal is supporting dementia education and training programs and students in need.

Alumni and members of the Circle of Visionaries have given generously to the appeal this year with over \$25,000 donated towards these vital projects.

Over \$14,000 will support the Learning & Development Fund, providing scholarships to students in need in each of our Faculties, while another

\$11,000 will support dementia education programs and research to improve care for people living with dementia.

Students have recently completed calls in a 'thankathon' to thank donors for their very generous contributions to the 2007 Alumni Appeal.

The student callers provided donors with an update on the total raised this year and how their gifts are making a difference to UOW students and researchers.

Research Strengths Series announced

RaID (the University's Research & Innovation Division) has launched a new Research Strengths Series commencing in 2008.

This lunchtime lecture series will showcase research conducted within the University's Research Strengths, and introduces the researchers to the general campus and local community.

The first lecture will be given on Wednesday 12 March by Professor Leon Kane-Maguire from the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute.

Other speakers scheduled for Session One include Professor John Norrish from Engineering Manufacturing and Professor Anatoly Rozenfeld from the Centre for Medical Radiation Physics.



Science conducts Climate Change Workshop

A **Climate Change Workshop** was conducted on 2 November in which members of the Faculty of Science's External Advisory Committee met key researchers to identify national areas of need that match with areas of expertise in the faculty.

Dr Chris Mitchell (CSIRO Research Theme Leader in Climate, Weather and Ocean Prediction) and Professor John Dodson (Head of the Institute for Environmental Research at ANSTO) joined the Advisory Committee and UOW staff.

UOW has considerable research expertise in atmospheric chemistry, sea levels, coastal zone management, environmental planning, biodiversity, plant responses to Ultraviolet (UV) and bushfires.

In fact, Professor Colin Woodroffe, of UOW's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, was one of the lead authors who contributed to the report of the 4th Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC), which received the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee decided that the Nobel Prize for 2007 be shared in two equal parts between the IPCC and Al Gore for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the

foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change.

Professor Woodroffe is an internally renowned coastal geomorphologist. His research is focused on the effects of climate change on island and coastal communities on the east coast of Australia and in Torres Strait, as well as islands in the Pacific Ocean including the Kiribati group and Lord Howe Island.

Apart from Dr Mitchell and Professor Dodson, those taking part in the workshop included Mr Joe Woodward (Executive Director, Operations, Department of Environment and Climate Change); Professor Rob Whelan (Dean of UOW's Faculty of Science); Mr Andrew Knowlson (Director of Environmental Services, Kiama Council); Professor Mike Grant (University of Colorado [Boulder]); Ms Sharon Makin (Dragon Environmental Services); and Dr Steve Morton (Group Executive, Sustainable Energy and Environment, CSIRO). **CN**

Above: Climate change workshop participants (left to right): Mr Joe Woodward, Dr Chris Mitchell, Mrs Christine Peacock, Professor Rob Whelan, Mr Andrew Knowlson, Professor Mike Grant, Ms Sharon Makin, Dr Steve Morton, Mr Glen Sawle, Dr Joe Baker, Professor John Dodson and Dr Annabelle Duncan.

Public Interest Events

2 December 6.30pm

Carols by Candlelight at the Manor

Northern lawns of Gleniffer Brae Manor House.

Come and celebrate the spirit of an approaching Christmas season as you enjoy an informal evening of carol singing, with music led by the Wollongong Symphony Orchestra while overlooking the city as it twinkles into evening.

More information:

<http://www.wollconmusic.nsw.edu.au>

17-21 December

Summer Graduation Ceremonies

More than 2,500 students, their families and friends will celebrate graduation at the University in the University Hall.

More information: www.uow.edu.au/student/graduation/index.html

Pre-loved books

Alumni Bookshop

Open Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.30am-2.30pm and Saturday's 1pm-5pm February to November. Cottage 119 Northfields Avenue, Wollongong.

The Alumni Bookshop sells a diverse range of quality second-hand books at very reasonable prices. All book sales support UOW scholarships and prizes.

More information:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/alumni/bookshop/index.html>

More activities

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