Agent Update 93 – February, 2008

WCA News

- New Online Placement test at WCA
- Online Lessons at Wollongong College Australia

Autumn Session Commencement

- Late enrolments
- Arriving in Wollongong
- Welcoming new international students to Wollongong

Course updates

- Two-year Master of Science to start July 2008
- Other two-year postgraduate study programs
- New majors in Bachelor of Commerce
- IELTS requirements
- Certificate in Global Workplace Practice

Staffing and policy

- UniAdvice staff movements
- Changes to Agency Agreement Guidelines
- Agency Agreement renewal
- New Fees Policy

Facilities

- Wollongong Campus library extension

Faculty news

- Faculty of Engineering Newsletter
**WCA News**

**New Online Placement test at WCA**

WCA has launched an online placement test on the College website. The test can be accessed from the College homepage [www.wca.uow.edu.au](http://www.wca.uow.edu.au) or direct at [www.wca.uow.edu.au/courses/test](http://www.wca.uow.edu.au/courses/test).

The test contains three sections - reading, listening and grammar - and can be used to estimate the amount of English students will need to take to meet UOW entry requirements.

Please note the test provides an estimate only and all students will need to take the College placement test on day one of their English course.

Please encourage your students to use this placement test and we welcome any feedback about the test.

**Online Lessons at Wollongong College Australia**

WCA has also added English language lessons to its website available at [www.wca.uow.edu.au/courses/lesson](http://www.wca.uow.edu.au/courses/lesson). The first of twelve lessons is available to students to improve their English language skills and learn more about Wollongong. We encourage you to advise your students about this tool and welcome your feedback on this.

**Autumn Session Commencement**

**Late enrolments**

As usual we are requesting agent assistance to ensure that new students arrive in Australia in time to commence their classes. Late arrival may seriously impact on a student’s capacity to successfully complete their studies.

Late enrolments will not be accepted into the Master of Public Health and Master of Science (Population Health) courses. UniAdvice Admissions staff are not able to issue extension letters for students who arrive in Wollongong late to commence these courses.

Agents handling prospective students for these courses are requested to counsel students whose arrival is delayed to consider deferment and contact their Case Manager at UniAdvice for a new offer letter.

**Arriving in Wollongong**

All students commencing at UOW, including WCA students with a WCA/UOW package offer, receive a free Airport Pick-Up and transfer to Wollongong. Airport Pick-Up Services can be booked on-line for arriving students at: [http://accommodation.uow.edu.au/about/accommodation/airport/index.html](http://accommodation.uow.edu.au/about/accommodation/airport/index.html). Please ensure that requests are made at least 48 hours prior to arrival. For students arriving on a Saturday or Sunday, requests should be made by no later than 4pm on the preceding Thursday. This also applies to any changes in arrival schedule.

Temporary accommodation bookings can also be made on this website.
Welcoming new international students to Wollongong

A new project, "Welcome to Wollongong", aims to welcome international students to the region, provide important community information and help Wollongong residents learn about the international student population studying at the university. A Civic reception and mini festival will be held at the commencement of Autumn session as part of the project. See http://w2w.uow.edu.au/about.html for further information. Bookings for the Welcome to Wollongong Reception can be made at: http://coursefinder.uow.edu.au/coursefinder/EventBookingDetail.aspx

Course updates

Two-year Master of Science to start July 2008

From Spring (July) Session 2008 the Master of Science (in the Faculty of Science) will be offered as a 72 credit point program of up to two years’ duration. The purpose of this change is to meet student demand for a two-year program, as well as to introduce new subjects focusing on laboratory work and science communication skills, to help students achieve better overall performance.

The majors available in the Faculty of Science’s new 72 credit point MSc will remain the same as for the current 48 credit point program: Biotechnology; Environmental Biology; Chemistry; Medicinal Chemistry; Geology; Human Geography; Physical Geography; and, Coastal Planning & Management.

The 48 credit point (one year) program will not be offered from Spring (July) 2008. The 72 credit point program will only be available for commencement in Spring (July) Session annually.

To manage the transition to the revised course structure, the following arrangements are being put in place:

- students who have an offer for July 2008 or for 2009 and who have not already accepted their offer and been issued with an eCOE have been contacted individually to advise that their offer to the 48 credit point program has been withdrawn, and to contact their UniAdvice Case Officer directly if they would like an offer to the new 72 credit point program.

- for those few students who have already been issued with an eCOE for July 2008 or for 2009, we will not change the duration on their offer at this time. Options will be discussed with the student at the time of enrolment.

Further information, including updated entry requirements for the MSc, will be provided in future updates.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the change, or any particular student cases you need to raise, please direct your enquiry to the relevant UniAdvice Admissions Officer.

Other Two-year Postgraduate study programs

The University now has an expanded range of two-year study programs, for those students who wish to complete two years of postgraduate study in Australia; these programs are registered as meeting the full-time study requirements for those who may be interested in fulfilling this requirement for the purposes of Graduate Skilled Migration. The three broad types of programs available, all of which include substantial tuition fee discounts, are:
- a Double Masters degree;
- an Articulation program allowing completion of two Masters degrees; and,
- a two-year Masters degree.

A flyer describing in detail all of these course options is available at: http://www.uow.edu.au/prospective/international/agent/index.html

New majors in Bachelor of Commerce

New majors in Business Innovation and Public Relations are available in the Bachelor of Commerce.

The **Business Innovation** major combines concepts from management, marketing and economics in a non-technical and accessible manner. These frameworks provide the skills and knowledge to successfully create and adopt innovations in a commercial environment. The four compulsory core subjects of the Business Innovation major are: Economic Essentials for Business Innovation; Economics of Small and Medium Enterprises; Managing Knowledge in Organisations; and, Innovation and Electronic Commerce.

The **Public Relations** major is unique in that, alongside commercial imperatives, it will emphasise social innovation and empowering communities and non-profit organisations in their interactions with government and commerce. Students of this major will undertake the core subjects: Business Communications; Public Relations Concepts; Public Relations Strategy; Public Relations Campaigns; Corporate Identity and Branding; Managing Across Cultures; Social Marketing; and, Marketing Communications and Advertising. Read more about this major at: http://media.uow.edu.au/news/UOW041320.html

Details of the Bachelor of Commerce course and all of its majors are available at: http://www.uow.edu.au/handbook/yr2008/ug/commerce/H08006744.html

IELTS requirements

The IELTS requirements for Master degrees within the Centre for Transnational Crime Prevention – Master of Transnational Crime Prevention, Master of Maritime Studies and Master of Maritime Policy - are now as follows: Overall: 6.0, Reading and Writing: 6.0, Listening and Speaking: 5.5.

Students who attain these results will be admitted directly to the Masters program with no requirement for additional concurrent English language study.

English language entry requirements for all UOW and WCA courses are at: http://www.uow.edu.au/prospective/international/english/index.html

Representatives are reminded that students that successfully complete English language courses at Wollongong College Australia with the required grades can proceed directly to University of Wollongong courses without undertaking IELTS testing.

Certificate in Global Workplace Practice

The Certificate in Global Workplace Practice (CGWP) is a new program for international students who want to improve their employment prospects in the Australian and international workplace.

This program assists international students to:
Develop the English language skills necessary for Australian and international workplaces;
Understand the culture of Australian and international employers and workmates and how best to work with them;
Understand the Australian job search process and how best to look for and obtain a job in Australia; and,
Obtain work experience placements with employers in Sydney and the Illawarra region.

The pilot program for the Certificate in Global Workplace Practice recently concluded with 42 students in the Graduate School of Business’s MPA program developing their employability through the program and 26 of these gaining an industry work experience placement. The following is a testimonial from a recent graduate of the program.

Rabin Bartaula (MPA)
Nepal

"When I was in Nepal, friends gave me different suggestions about selecting a university. I finally selected UOW, because I knew that it has a very good faculty and teaching in the field of accounting. During my two years of study, UOW has proven this reputation.
"When I finished my study, UOW provided me with another opportunity—to learn about Australian organisations. Though I had theoretical knowledge, practical knowledge is quite important.
"Through the Certificate in Global Workplace Practice, I did a work placement of four weeks with a local accounting firm. They always encouraged me to learn something new and useful in a practical sense: BAS preparation, bank reconciliation, and accounts receivable and payable. Moreover, I learned about the working environment of a real Australian organisation.
"My four weeks on placement felt like four days because of the encouraging behaviour and putting all my knowledge to work into practical field!"

The next CGWP intake commences in March 2008 and applications close soon. See the Careers Service website for information and eligibility criteria: http://www.uow.edu.au/careers/discover/CGWP.html

Staffing and policy

UniAdvice Staff movements

Ramya Acharya has taken up a new position of the second Marketing and Admissions Officer (India). Many of you will already know Ramya from her work on the Customer Service Team. She will be working in conjunction with Babu Islam on Marketing and Admissions for the Sub-Continent and can be contacted on ramya@uow.edu.au. Babu will rejoin the Team upon his return from Bangladesh in July.

Yenny has taken up another position and admissions for Indonesia are now looked after by Team 2. Please contact Debbie Dee regarding Admissions (dee@uow.edu.au) and Kaye Osborn regarding marketing for Indonesia (kaye@uow.edu.au).

Sandra Lee will shortly move to University of Wollongong’s Dubai Campus where she will be Admissions Manager and Acting Registrar.

A full UniAdvice contact list is available at: http://www.uow.edu.au/prospective/international/agent/contact/UOW005089.html
Changes to Agency Agreement Guidelines

All representatives are requested to note the changes to Agency Agreement Guidelines. The new Guidelines are on the Representative website at:


The changes that have been made are:

- List of citizenships updated to reflect DIAC changes to assessment levels.
- Additional information included on:
  1) Payments required on package offers
  2) Approved Authorities for Direct Applicants (for certification of documents)
  3) Documentation Requirements for China
  4) eVisa process
  5) Length of English Language Courses
  6) English language requirements for course entry

Agency Agreement Renewal

Thank you to all those agencies that promptly returned their renewal forms and agency agreements following our recent contract renewal. Please return any outstanding agreements to Vesna Todorovski (vesna@uow.edu.au) as soon as possible so we can maintain a current agreement with your agency.

New Fees Policy

As a result of the introduction of the new National Code effective 1 July 2007, the University of Wollongong has reviewed and updated the tuition fee policy, effective 23 November 2007.

The new Fees Policy can be found at the following link:


As the previous Tuition Fee Policy is no longer available on the UoW website, the major changes and inclusions to the new Fees Policy are below:

Changes

1. **Name Change** from Tuition Fee Policy to Fees Policy to address both tuition and other fees in one policy.
2. **Amendments** to the specific clauses regarding International Fees to accommodate for possible changes to practice in the future.
3. **Structural changes** have been made such as:
   a. General conditions sections for all students
   b. Refund section addressing domestic and international refunds and;
   c. Two sections defining special circumstances and document requirements for refunds.
4. **International student refunds** and the percentage of refund granted to the University before course commencement. Refunds after course commencement and census date remain the same.
5. Clarification on the allocation of payments made by students covering tuition fees and/or charges.
6. Clarification of the definition of sponsored students and administration.
7. **Definition of special circumstances** aligned with other University policies to ensure consistency. This includes requirements in regards to supplying supporting documentation.
Inclusions

1. The new Fees Policy now clearly defines how funds held by the University are forfeited after a period of time. This occurs when students cease studies and or gain an approval for a partial refund.
2. Due to compliance responsibilities with the US Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) program, the new policy now allows the University to refund any portion of unused tuition fees in accordance with the US Department of Education program regulations.

Facilities

Wollongong Campus Library Extension

Extensions to the University of Wollongong library are now complete in time for the commencement of the Autumn semester. An additional 460 seats have been added bringing the total number of seats to over 1,300. The library’s collection includes over 700,000 book volumes and a further 7,032 ebooks and 300 databases, along with 350 computers, wireless networking and laptop facilities. University of Wollongong’s library was the first Library to win an Australian Business Excellence Award in 2000 and the first in Australia to achieve accreditation against the Investors in People and the International Customer Service standards.

Faculty news

The latest Newsletter from the Faculty of Engineering is attached.
Happy New Year everyone for 2008! Our Faculty is really looking forward to another successful year in research and teaching in engineering. It’s a great time to be an engineer as there is a strong worldwide need for engineering skills. For example, India and China are very keen to improve the quality of life of their citizens. Engineering design and creativity are essential to provide the basic necessities such as clean drinking water, sustainable energy for heating, cooling and lighting, new infrastructure to support the community’s need for transport, health, etc. and our Faculty is leading research in these areas. For example, we have just been notified that we have been awarded over 2 million dollars in new research contracts to develop: new methods of mining automation; software simulation of mining operations; new and safer methods for roof support for underground coal mines; research to improve the reliability of electricity supplies; and research to improve the operations of railways.

In addition there are a number of new engineering education initiatives which have received recent funding to further assist engineering students at the University of Wollongong. In Electrical Engineering new initiatives have been funded in: ‘Problem-Based Learning Using Autonomous Robotics for Computer Engineering’ (Dr Zengxi Pan in School of Electrical, Computer and Telecommunications Engineering-SECTE); ‘Development of an Immersive Learning Environment and Platform for Microcontroller Study’ (Dr Montserrat Ros, SECTE); ‘Building Employability Skills in ICT Master Courseworks Curricula (Professor Fazel Naghdy, SECTE); ‘A Multi-Institution Approach to Predicting and Addressing Student Performance in Fundamental Engineering Mechanics’ (Professor Tim McCarthy, Civil Engineering).

Another indication that the value of an engineering education is not only good preparation for a technical career but also for senior executive posts is that the University has announced that an engineer has been appointed as our Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research. She is Professor Judy Raper who is currently serving at the National Science Foundation (USA) as Division Director of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental and Transport Systems. Other engineers in our University’s management structure include our Vice Chancellor, Prof Gerard Sutton, who is an Electrical Engineer, and the Deans of Informatics and Engineering who are also Electrical Engineers (Prof Joe Chicharo and myself).

Judy Raper has been Department Chair, Chemical & Biological Engineering at the Missouri University of Science and Technology with Endeavour Scholarships

PhD Engineering Graduates

Congratulations

Hands on Engineering

Medical Physics Students Awarded

Visiting Professor

Diary Dates

Contents

Endeavour Scholarships

Educational Development in the Faculty

PhD Engineering Graduates

Congratulations

Hands on Engineering

Medical Physics Students Awarded

Visiting Professor

Diary Dates
Gyanendra Regmi

Mr Gyanendra Regmi from Nepal is the recipient of an Endeavour Scholarship. Gyanendra completed an undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from the Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University, Nepal in 1999. He then worked at the Thapathali Campus of the same University for four years as a lecturer, and was Acting Head (Department of Civil Engineering) for two years. In 2006 he received a Masters Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Saitama University, Japan with the assistance of a scholarship from the Asian Development Bank.

Under the supervision of Professor Buddhima Indraratna and Dr Long Nghiem, Gyanendra will carry out research in the performance investigation of a permeable reactive barrier installed for remediating acidic groundwater. This study is expected to bring about a breakthrough analysis in the remediation of acidic groundwater, with much relevance to practicing engineers in infrastructure development in coastal of Australia.

Muthu Karpagam

Muthu Karpagam, a Geotechnical Engineering graduate from Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has been awarded a 2008 Endeavour scholarship to study for a PhD at UOW under the supervision of Professor Indraratna, Dr. Khabbaz and Dr.Cholachat in the field of geotechnical and railway engineering.

Muthu completed her Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering with Distinction at Anna University, Chennai, and was ranked within the top 1% of Civil Engineers in the GATE examination (Graduate Aptitude Test for Engineers). She then pursued a Masters degree at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IITM), which is the one of the most prestigious engineering institutes in India, and received a gold medal at for the best academic record in Civil Engineering. She was also ranked 3rd out of over 5000 candidates for the Teacher’s Recruitment Examination (TRB 2006), which enabled her to work as a lecturer at AC college of Engineering and Technology in Karaikudi, Muthu’s hometown.

Maureen Bell is the Faculty’s CEDIR representative this year.

Maureen is available for consultation with academic staff members interested in any aspect of teaching practice. Please contact Maureen if you would like to:

- talk through subject/teacher surveys
- arrange a teaching workshop for your tutors
- discuss your design of a subject or assessment task
- start/finish the ULT course
- discuss any other aspect of teaching/learning.

Maureen will be located in the Faculty office on Tuesdays during session time.

E-mail: mbell@uow.edu.au
Phone: 3946

Maureen Bell (Photo: Adam Orvad)
Dr Behzad Fatahi

Dr Behzad Fatahi received a PhD in Engineering at the Tuesday afternoon graduation ceremony in December. Dr Fatahi has conducted extensive research, under the supervision of Professor Buddhima Indraratna, into how railway infrastructure can be improved by identifying and managing surrounding vegetation, refuting the age-old belief that vegetation is detrimental to railway tracks. He was also named Young Railway Engineering of the Year 2007 by the Railway Technical Society of Australasia. Dr Fatahi is currently working with Coffey Geotechnics in Sydney as a Professional Geotechnical Engineer and will take up a role as a lecturer in UTS’s Faculty of Engineering early next year. Congratulations to Behzad Fatahi on receiving his PhD at the recent UOW Engineering Graduation.

Dr Scott McGovern

Dr Scott McGovern was rewarded on Tuesday afternoon for his years of research, under the supervision of Professor Geoff Spinks, into assessing the strength of aluminium joined with engineering adhesives. He worked with an adhesive so strong that when it was applied to steel and stressed, the steel broke before the adhesive. Scott completed pioneering work applying intelligent polymers to welding on boats, planes and cars. If his research is perfected it may be possible to gauge the strength of an adhesive joint in real time, giving drivers, pilots and captains precious moments to avert a catastrophe. Dr McGovern was awarded the Best Paper prize at an international conference in the USA for his contribution to the new engineering area of ‘structural health monitoring’.

Dr Zhenguo Huang

Dr Zhenguo Huang (Bernie), ISEM student, received his PhD at the 2007 Spring Graduation Ceremony. Bernie’s PhD project studied hydrogen storage materials and his thesis title was “Effects of compositions and mechanical milling modes on hydrogen storage properties”. He was supervised by Hua Kun Liu, Zaiping Guo and A. Calka. Dr. Huang has published 12 papers (first author in 8 papers) in refereed international journals, 5 conference papers (first author in 4 papers) and has delivered 3 oral presentations at national and international conferences in the past two years. His research has been recognized by the Chinese Government through the prestigious award “Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-Financed Students Abroad” in 2006. He also received the ISEM postgraduate student merit award in August 2005 due to his excellent performance in the previous year. Bernie was elected as a University of Wollongong Council Member 2005-2007 and was the first international student to be elected to the University Council. He is also the Chairman of the Chinese Students & Scholars Association in the University.

Engineering student Damon Bishop has been awarded the University Medal. Damon was awarded a High Distinction mark of 98% for his thesis in the Faculty of Engineering.

During his studies Damon produced outstanding research which resulted in the submission of four papers to internationally recognised scientific journals. His Honours thesis was described as one of the best two theses produced at an undergraduate level in the past 10 years.

On 2 November 2007, 42 students from Priority Funded Schools (previously disadvantaged schools) attended the “Hands on Engineering Day”. This was a day organised as part of the Engineering Faculty’s Equity Project in collaboration with Sue Rosskelly, from Uniconnections. We had the help of two volunteers, our own students Kirsty Last and Ashley Davies and many of the Faculty’s staff provided assistance. The students were given two hands-on workshops: a Physics Lab and a Surveying practical, as well as tours of the campus and Thermo Lab. The racing car was especially popular! Two academic staff members, Ian Porter and Montse Ross, gave the students valuable information about Engineering as a career. They were also given morning tea and a sample bag put together by the EEC, and each student received a Certificate of Attendance.

The students had a great day, and we hope that more will follow. Many thanks to all involved.
Medical Physics Students Awarded

Four postgraduate students from Centre for Medical Radiation Physics were recently awarded prizes for their outstanding research.

Scott Penfold (supervised by Prof Anatoly Rozenfeld and Dr Reinhard Schulte, LLUMC USA) was awarded First Prize for his innovative work on Proton Computer Tomography presented at the Workshop on Innovative Technology for Hadron Therapy at IEEE NSS MIC 2007 in Honolulu, USA.

Scott is a first year PhD student at CMRP, and was among experienced researchers in competing for this prize.

Both Scott Penfold and Lakshal Perera (supervisor Dr Michael Lerch) were awarded prestigious Trainee Grants from IEEE NPPS to support their participation and presentations at the IEEE NSS MIC 2007 conference and to attend training courses.

These awards demonstrate the high standard of preparation our PhD students receive and the importance of the research they are conducting at CMRP.

Postgraduate students from Medical Radiation Physics were also recently awarded prizes at conferences in Australia.

At the Medical Physics 07 conference in Sydney, Amy Zeibell (supervised by Professor Rozenfeld) was awarded the 1st Prize for the best PhD work in 2007 on the Microdosimetry Project (our NASA research project and ARC DP grant).

At the medical physics student competition held in Victoria, Joanne McNamara, a recent Masters Medical Radiation Physics candidate, was awarded first prize for a project in Radiation Therapy.

Supervised by Professor Metclafe, the project was on talk on gating signals to account for patient breathing during radiotherapy treatment for lung cancer.

Diary Dates

5 Feb Faculty Education Committee
12 Feb Faculty Advisory Committee
19 Feb CME Subject Outline Assessment Meeting
19 Feb MMM Subject Outline Assessment Meeting
19 Feb Physics Subject Outline Assessment Meeting
22 Feb Engineering Orientation Day
26 Feb Postgraduate Research Student Orientation Day
26 Feb CME Safety Committee
26 Feb Physics Safety Committee
26 Feb MMM Safety Committee

Visiting Professor

Professor Felix Darve from the Institute National Polytechnique de Grenoble (INPG, France) visited UOW during 20-24 January 2008. Professor Darve is an expert on railway engineering and is collaborating with Professor Indraratna on an ARC Discovery project on Railway Ballast Behaviour. As well as being a well-known academic and Editor of the International Journal of Analytical and Numerical Methods in Geomechanics, Professor Darve has been an adviser/member of a number of important French Government and European Union Committees in Civil Engineering.