



AUCEA launches Fellowship Program

The Australian University Community Engagement Alliance (AUCEA) recently announced a new Fellowship Program to recognise and acknowledge excellence in the field of university community engagement.

AUCEA President, Professor Martin Fitzgerald, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Corporate Development and Community Partnerships) from Newcastle University, said the Program also aims to promote the scholarship of engagement, encourage professional development and high quality standards in the field, and build an AUCEA panel of experts.

The inaugural recipients of an AUCEA Fellowship were announced at the recent AUCEA national conference. They are: Professor Janice Reid (Vice-Chancellor at the University of Western Sydney UWS), Professor Barbara Holland (PVC University Engagement at UWS), and Professor Steve Garlick (Professor of Regional Engagement at University of the Sunshine Coast).

AUCEA is an alliance of 34 Australian universities committed to university-community engagement in order to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural development of communities.

With the vision 'to be the leading inclusive national forum for the discussion and development of university-community engagement, encouraging collaboration, innovation, the exchange of knowledge and the scholarship of engagement', AUCEA has undertaken a national leadership role to:

- raise awareness and disseminate best practice in university-community engagement;
- facilitate collaborative research in university-community engagement between AUCEA members and their communities;
- promote the integration of engagement into curriculum and the student experience;
- promote the recognition of the scholarship of engagement as a valid pedagogy;
- collaboratively develop resources that support university-community engagement.



UOW's Monique Harper-Richardson (Manager of Alumni, Community & Development) has been elected to the AUCEA Committee of Management for 2008-09. As such Monique will play a key role in moving the community engagement agenda forward in Australia.

For more information about AUCEA visit: <http://www.aucea.org.au/>

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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

WHO'S AFRAID OF HUMAN RIGHTS?

Julian Burnside QC will present the 27th Sir Richard Kirby Lecture later this month under the title "Who's afraid of human rights?"



Julian Burnside is a nationally respected human rights lawyer (Tampa, asylum seekers) who came to national prominence when he represented the trade unions in the national wharf dispute a decade ago. He is a recipient of a Monash University Distinguished Alumni Award and was elected a Living National Treasure in 2004.

The Kirby Lecture has been presented by figures of national standing since 1979, including Bill Kelty, John Hewson, Bob Hawke and Michael Kirby.

This is a public lecture and the Faculty of Arts is pleased to welcome everyone from within the university and the community.

Date: Thursday, 25 September 2008
Time: 6:30pm to 7:30pm
McKinnon Building 67, Room104
Contact: Di Kelly di@uow.edu.au

AUCEA Principles of University Community Engagement

University community engagement is based on a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and expertise between universities and communities.

The university produces graduates who are ethical and engaged citizens.

The university engages with its communities to create a more accessible, outward reaching and inclusive society.

The university identifies its communities by acknowledging community values, culture, knowledge and skills, and works with those communities to develop a mutually-beneficial agenda.

Engaged research is designed, managed and disseminated as a partnership that addresses both academic and community priorities.

Engaged learning and teaching programs respond to individual and community needs and opportunities and links to specific learning goals and experiences for students. Programs are designed and managed in partnership with communities, and are socially inclusive and globally and locally relevant.

Community Engagement is embedded in the governance, operations, budget, curricula, plans, policies and life of the university.

Engaged universities articulate their mission, culture and values for the community, and regularly reflect on these in the context of community conditions and partnerships.

The University and community work together to monitor partnerships, measure impacts, evaluate outcomes, and make improvements to their shared activities.



Staff Profile

Alison Bell

Lecturer in School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences



Community Engagement Activities

Community engagement to me means a two way sharing of knowledge and expertise between UOW and the local industry community - I frequently invite guest lecturers into my subjects to provide valuable insight to my students on practical, real-world challenges and activities. Often this leads to work experience for students, as well as fostering and promoting the relationship between the University and the community.

As an Ergonomist, and Occupational Therapist, I am involved in consultancy work with both Industry and Government agencies. This maintains currency in my professional work which enhances the teaching aspect of my role as a Lecturer by making theory come alive with real examples from the workplace. Again this provides an avenue for linking external industry professionals into the program here. It also provides an avenue for field-based collaborative research.

As an active member of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia (HFESA), I have established an Illawarra branch of our Society, which has been running for over 3 years. This has proved a popular forum for local Ergonomics professionals, and as UOW is the venue for the group meetings, is a tangible way of bringing the community to our site.

My links with Industry led to the recruitment of my colleague, A/Prof Brian Davies. This in turn has led to a relationship with BP International to develop a number of professional training modules for Occupational Hygienists, which has led to increased program offerings within the OHS and Occupational Hygiene courses.

I am a member of the UOW Cares Staff Committee which oversees the Workplace Giving Program.

Why is community engagement important?

Active community engagement is fundamental to my role within the Uni. I feel very strongly that the University has a responsibility to the community in which it is situated, and engagement and partnership with that community provides valuable benefits to both partners.

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

SINet Launch and Inaugural Seminar

The Social Innovation Network will hold its official launch and inaugural public seminar this Thursday at the new Innovation Campus. SINet is a collaboration between researchers at UOW who are interested in investigating strategies and tools that empower individuals, communities, profit and non-profit organisations and the government to improve quality of life (where quality of life means material standard of living as well as personal well-being in terms of health and environment, and social harmony).

Come along to hear four speakers talk about: child friendly communities; strategies to improve the health and wellbeing of children in local communities; international students building social networks whilst living and studying in the local community; and rural festivals as a mechanism for making and remaking communities.

A cocktail party and opportunities to build your community networks will follow the presentations.

Date: Thursday 11th Sept, 2008
 Time: 5.00 for 5.30pm start Finish - 8.00pm
 Place: Innovation Campus, Squires Way, Fairy Meadow
 RSVP: Jessica Mantei jessicam@uow.edu.au Ph 4221 3465
 All welcome

Collaborative Community Projects receive funding

Six collaborative community projects will receive funding under Round 4 of UOW's Community Engagement Grants Scheme. A summary of the projects follows:

Supporting children with cerebral palsy

Dr Sim Kim Lau - Faculty of Informatics

Community Partners: Wollongong Hospital SESIAHS; The Disability Trust

Amount: \$9,940

This is a community-driven project developed to respond to the needs of children with cerebral palsy (CP) between the ages of four to 10. This project seeks to develop a DVD resource kit to help children with CP in home-based stretching exercise programs in a fun and engaging way. The DVDs will be disseminated in the Illawarra and South Coast region as well as the SESIAHS and be made available to children with CP Australia-wide through deployment of a project website. The project team also aims to submit the DVD resource kit for demonstration at the International Cerebral Palsy Conference to be held in February 2009 in Sydney.

Young people and the impact of government fines

Ms Debbie Langton, Faculty of Law

Community Partner: Illawarra Legal Centre Inc

Amount: \$10,000

This collaborative project between the University and Illawarra Legal Centre (ILC) aims to assess the impact of government fines on young people and their families. This is a new venture identified from the existing work of the local Children's Court Assistance Scheme. The project will involve three aspects:

- (1) Research into the existing work on young people and fines, primarily train fines and how this impacts on lives as well as current law enforcement, debt recovery strategies etc.
- (2) Production of educational information and resources for use in schools and youth centres.
- (3) Identification and submission of possible law reform issues associated with young people and fines.

Establishing a representative community of Patient Volunteers

Ms Isabelle Potter, GSM, Faculty of HBS

Community Partners: Women's Health Centre, ALCO – The Spanish and Latin-American Community Organisation

Amount: \$9,990

This project involves the expansion of the Volunteer Patient Program at the Graduate School of Medicine in Wollongong and Shoalhaven. It aims to establish a community of patient volunteers that is reflective of the cultural make up of the local communities. It aims to improve both the relationship between the GMS and the local multicultural communities, and the care offered by non-Indigenous Australian health professionals. It will also seek to raise the awareness and understanding of medical students to multicultural issues, so that their approach to patient care will be respectful of cultural issues.

Blakwrite Symposium

Dr Erine Blackmore, Woolyungah Indigenous Centre (WIC)

Community Partner: South Coast Writers Centre

Amount: \$7,840

This inaugural three-day residential symposium will focus on creative development for Indigenous writers, publishers and editors located throughout Australia; strengthening existing



Above: Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton (far right) and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International) Professor Rob Castle (third from right) are pictured with the UOW award recipients and their community partners.

relationships and initiate new ones amongst a geographically dispersed population; and develop mentoring relationships between emerging and established Indigenous writers. Held at the University's Campus East residence, the Blakwrite Symposium will include keynote addresses and workshops focusing on the topics of editing and publishing; poetry; prose; and scriptwriting. The project builds on the collaboration between WIC and South Coast Writers Centre in fostering and promoting Indigenous literature and self-representation.

Creative Community Connections:

Dr Lindsay Oades, International House

Community Partner: Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families (SCARF) Illawarra

Amount: \$8,795

This project involves a mutually beneficial collaboration between UOW's International House and SCARF. It is specifically designed to complement existing government offerings to refugee families aimed at leveraging the value congruence of the two organisations; the positive attitudes to diversity within the International House community; existing facilities of International House and the ongoing supply of student volunteerism. The project has four key components: an interactive food and music function; computer skills coaching; international friendship and mentoring program and periodic transport assistance to refugee families.

Kids Guernica: 15 years of peace

Associate Professor Ian Brown- Faculty of Education

Community Partners: DET, Bulli High School

Amount: \$3,932

This project involves the collaborative development of a mural (7 by 3.5 metres) for the 15th Anniversary of Kids Guernica, a large scale peace project for children globally initiated by the Art Japan Network in 1995, the year of the 50th anniversary of World War II. The sole Australian contribution to the exhibition, the mural will involve 15 different local schools and approximately 250 students, coordinated by the Head Teacher of Visual Arts at Bulli High School, Mr Scott Copland. This CECS funding covers the first stage of the project – the design, construction and realisation of the project as well as the mural's transportation to the United States for the exhibition.

Public Interest Events

PUBLIC LECTURES

Spring is the season for public lectures and forums at UOW. In September and October you can learn more about:

CLIMATE CHANGE

The role of ICT in reducing our carbon footprint.
The impact of Climate Change on Australian Terrestrial Biodiversity
The impact of Climate Change on Antarctic plants

PEOPLE

How child friendly is my community?
Social Innovation Research at UOW
End of Life Care for People Living with Dementia
Power to the People: The Legacies of 1968

OUR RIGHTS

Human Rights in Australia
Common Land and the Challenges of Native Title

For dates and speaker details visit: www.uow.edu.au/events

PUBLIC FORUM

Power to the People: The Legacies of 1968
Thursday & Friday, October 2-3
UOW Communications Building 20, Room 5

Sponsored by the Faculty of Arts, the Gramsci Society (Asia-Pacific), the Illawarra Branch of the Australian Labour History Society, Wollongong University Undergraduate Students' Association, and the South Coast Labour Council.

Sessions include: The Labour Movement, The Student Movement, The Women's Movement, Resisting the Draft and Stopping the War, Cultural Protest and Resistance, Anti-Racism, Communists and Conspiracies.

Keynote Speaker: Professor Raewyn Connell, Sociologist University of Sydney

Other speakers include: Meredith Burgmann, Jack Munday, Fred Moore, Diane Fieldes, Michael Matteson, Hall Greenland and many more.

Book Launch: **ASIO The Enemy Within** by Michael Tubbs launched by Jack Munday at 5:15pm 2nd October.

For catering purposes, please RSVP
Contact: Dr Anthony Ashbolt aashbolt@uow.edu.au

For more info visit <http://www.uow.edu.au/arts/research/gramsci/1968.html>

AOSC forms partnership with Nowra historic home

Engaging with the local community is an important strategy of the Australasian Occupational Science Centre (AOSC) which is located at UOW's Shoalhaven Campus.

AOSC's mission is to promote an occupational perspective which views occupation, the everyday things we do, as central to human life.

AOSC Director, Dr Alison Wicks, said community engagement was an effective way of informing the public about the relationship between occupation and health and raising awareness of influences that shape occupation.

AOSC has formed a partnership with Meroogal, a well-known historic home in Nowra. Meroogal runs an annual Art Prize which is open to women living on the south coast. This year, AOSC proposed the theme, celebrating the everyday things women do. AOSC also sponsored a prize for the work that most effectively portrayed an occupational perspective.

Dr Wicks said that choosing a recipient for the AOSC prize from the 150 entries was very difficult, however, Bethany Thurtell has been announced the winner. "Bethany's painting portrayed an occupational perspective with insight and sensitivity. Her painting of a woman's hands highlighted productivity and purpose and had a very positive feel," Dr Wicks said.

The exhibition of the Meroogal Women's Art Prize '08 is on at the Shoalhaven Arts Centre in Nowra. It opened on 30 August and finishes on 24 September.



Above: Dr Alison Wicks alongside the winning painting by Bethany Thurtell

UOW *Community News* is produced by the Office of Community & Partnerships. Your contributions and comments are welcome. Please email community@uow.edu.au or phone 4221 3110.

Submission deadline for next edition: 11 October 2008.