COMMUNIQUÉ
ARD NEWSLETTER

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INSIDE THE ISSUE

First Up

1 >>> Letter from the Academic Registrar
1 >>> Council News

Staff Profiles

2 >>> Academic Staff: Associate Professor Graham Williams
2 >>> ARD Staff: Ms Yoko Robertson

What You Need To Know

3 >>> New Student Awards & Prizes Policy
3 >>> 2009 Student Experience Questionnaire Report - continues page 4
4 >>> July 2009 Graduation
5 >>> Academic Senate News
6 >>> O Week Festival
6 >>> 2009 Committee dates

Final Words

7 >>> 2009 Faculty Liaison Officers
7 >>> ARD Contacts
Welcome everyone to the first issue of Communiqué for 2009. Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the compilation of the 2008 Annual Report. I would also like to extend my thanks to everyone for their efforts in preparation, and for the success, of Graduation in 2008.

December Graduation involved over 2700 students in 11 ceremonies over 5 days. The Chancellor provided direct feedback to the Business Solutions & Policy & Governance units saying that the ceremonies were “the best he has ever seen”, which was great to hear.

In addition to the success of graduation, we also saw the launch of the new ‘Get started’ @ UOW program which included the revamped O Week Festival. This proved to be one of UOW’s most successful orientation programs in recent years.

The Student Experience Questionnaire was completed from November 2008 to January 2009 and achieved a 20% response rate. The results featured some impressive outcomes which will be detailed in a further report available in April 2009.

Finally, I look forward to working with you on future challenges in the year ahead. With the end of Autumn session nearing, new enrolments and July Graduation to follow, the next few months will prove to be a very busy time for the Academic Registrars Division.

The first meeting of the University Council in 2009 took place on 6 February. The following new or revised rules / policies were approved by Council:
- Revised Student Conduct Rules and Procedure for Managing Non-academic Misconduct;
- Revised Delegations of Authority Policy;
- NEW Honorary Postdoctoral Research Associate Policy

The Vice-Chancellor noted the December 2008 release of the Report from the Bradley Review of Higher Education and highlighted significant issues in the report such as the proposal for a national accreditation body and for a voucher system of education funding.

The Capital Management Plan (2009-2013) was presented to Council. The plan outlines the strategic development of University buildings and infrastructure (such as IT), flagging the major upgrades and building construction projects on hand and monitoring the University’s use and management of resources.

More detailed summaries of University Council meetings can be found online at: http://www.uow.edu.au/governance/committees/council/UOW000324.html

The next University Council meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday, 17 April 2009.
Academic Staff Profile: Associate Professor Graham Williams

Background
Graham was born in Adelaide. He came to UOW in 1985 and has lived in beautiful Kiama ever since.

Hard at Work
Graham completed his Bachelor of Science at the University of Adelaide majoring in mathematics followed by a PhD in pure mathematics. He then went on to complete a postdoctoral at ANU and a Postgraduate Diploma of Computer Studies at the University of Melbourne.

In his time at UOW Graham has been Head of the School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics and has served on most University committees. He is currently Sub Dean, Associate Dean (Teaching & Learning), Chair of FEC and Deputy Dean of Informatics. Graham was recently elected Deputy Chair of Senate. For the past 10 years Graham has been the University representative on the UAC Technical Scaling Committee which determines UAI.

Motivators
One of Graham’s main motivators is working with and helping people in a relaxed and caring environment. He believes a sense of humour and patience are essential for surviving at the University.

More about Graham
Graham has 6 children ranging from ages 15 to 35, all 4 years apart. He says they seem to absorb all of his time not spent at work. Any spare time he has is spent on Mathematics.

ARD Staff Profile: Ms Yoko Robertson

Background
Yoko was born and grew up in north-west of Sydney. After moving around for work reasons she has landed in the Illawarra where most of her family live.

Hard at Work
After School Yoko went on to study Arts (mostly History and Anthropology) at Macquarie University. She deferred her degree to complete numerous Certificates in Sport-Coaching & Fitness, which are all part of her ‘master-plan’ to start a Taekwondo-Do school with her two younger sisters.

Work-wise, Yoko has spent the last 5 years in the Australian Public Service (Department of Defence & Centrelink). Yoko will be the new Records Management Content Officer in ARD.

Motivators
Yoko sees herself as borderline obsessive with the need to have everything ‘organised’, she believes in the old saying “if something is worth doing, it’s worth doing well”.

More about Yoko
Yoko is absolutely mad about sport – she participated in many sports during her school years. Since 2001 she has been involved in Taekwondo-Do, achieving her black belt at the end of 2004, umpiring at Junior World Championships in 2006, and competing at the World Championships in Birmingham, UK in 2007. Yoko and her sisters are aiming to qualify for the 2010 World Championships in South Korea.

Yoko is the second of 8 children. She is happy to be back in the Illawarra with all her family.
### New Student Awards & Prizes Policy

The **Student Awards and Prizes Policy** is a new policy that took effect in Autumn Session 2009. The Policy replaces a range of policies and procedures which previously regulated the student awards and prizes that recognise academic excellence. The review of student awards and prizes has resulted in a number of significant changes, including:

- Using the single designation of ‘University Prize’ for all prizes.
- More detailed criteria for University prizes.
- A revised Prize Specification Template for new prize proposals.
- Introducing (from 2010, following necessary systems changes) the concept of “top student recognition”, where the top student in each subject is recognised and this noted on their academic transcript.

Procedures to accompany the Policy are now being developed by the Policy and Governance Unit. All existing prizes and awards in recognition of academic excellence will still operate according to the pre-existing policies, procedures and guidelines until their next review date, at which time they will also be regulated by the new Student Awards and Prizes Policy.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the new Policy please contact Catriona Taylor, Policy Analyst in the Policy and Governance Unit on x5972 or at taylor@uow.edu.au.

### 2009 Student Experience Questionnaire Report

The 2008 Student Experience Questionnaire was conducted online from November 2008 through to January 2009 and achieved a response rate of 20% with a total number of 3,732 respondents. Improved marketing and communication strategies have resulted in a more representative sample across key cohorts such as international students whose sample size has increased to 21% from 17% with a University population composition of 26% for both 2007 and 2008.

There are four core questions and four questions that relate specifically to the UOW Performance Monitoring Framework targets:

- **Satisfaction with overall experience at UOW** has increased from 84% in 2006, and 86% in 2007 to 90% in 2008.
- **Satisfaction with teaching quality** has increased from 73% in 2007 to 80% in 2008.
- **Satisfaction with course quality** has remained relatively stable at 80%
- **Students’ sense of belonging** is an overall index figure of 56% comprised of a number of questions relating to “connectedness” and the “social expectations” of students. There are high quantities of neutral responses in this range of questions requiring further investigation.
- **International student engagement with UOW** has shown some decrease in results; however, the wording in this question was changed slightly in 2008. As this result is associated with a student’s “sense of belonging” it will be included in further investigations.
- **Satisfaction with UOW communications** has increased slightly to 83%
July 2009 Graduation

**Graduation is happening again in July!**

**Key Dates**
The key dates for July 2009 Graduation are **Wednesday 22nd to Friday 24th July**.
Planning for July 2009 Graduation is already underway, and the closing date for students to apply to graduate is **15 May 2009**. Faculties will be allocated to particular ceremonies shortly after this date.

**Volunteers**
A call for volunteers to help out at the ceremonies will be sent out in mid May. Once again, the Academic Registrar’s Division really appreciates staff who volunteer each year and we look forward to seeing some new faces.

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**Academic Procession**
All Academic staff members are encouraged to share in the success of their graduates by attending graduation ceremonies as part of the Academic Procession.

**Graduation Enquiries**
Should you have any enquires please contact Paola Ciccarelli, Graduation Coordinator on 4221 5014 or by email at: paolacic@uow.edu.au
You may also like to refer to the **Graduation website** at: [www.uow.edu.au/student/graduation/](http://www.uow.edu.au/student/graduation/)

**Our Graduation Frequently Asked Questions** are a great resource to use for any Graduation enquiries that are directed towards your unit. You can view them online at: [http://www.uow.edu.au/student/graduation/faqs/index.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/student/graduation/faqs/index.html)

For any other enquires contact Paola Ciccarelli, Graduation Coordinator on 4221 5014 or by email at: paolacic@uow.edu.au

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* **Satisfaction with Learning Support** is at 82% and support services have increased on average, across all areas in 2008 (eg Peer Associated Study, Counselling Services, Learning Development, etc).

* **Satisfaction with the social experience** has dropped slightly from 62% in 2007 to 60% in 2008.

A more detailed report will be available in April 2009 and outcomes can be considered as part of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) faculty planning cycle 2010 consultations. Results will also be incorporated into future Student Experience initiatives.

Thank you to all who supported the development, implementation and reporting of the 2008 Student Experience Questionnaire (SEQ08) and please feel free to contact Fran Walder (ARD) for more information. P: 5154, E: fran@uow.edu.au
Academic Senate News

Election of Academic Senate members for new two-year term

Academic Senate is the peak body for advising the University Council and the Vice-Chancellor on academic matters and broad issues which affect the academic excellence of the University. Academic Senate is chaired by A/Prof Diana Kelly from the Faculty of Arts and meets six times each year.

There are 92 members of Academic Senate including academic staff, general staff and students. Of this number, 44 members are elected from the Faculties, the Academic Services Division and the Research Institutes. Elected members are elected every two years and may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms on Senate.

Elections will be conducted during April and May 2009 to elect members of Senate for the term 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2011. The following table shows the total number of elected positions from each Faculty, the Academic Services Division and the Research Institutes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty/Division</th>
<th>Number of elected positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>&gt;=4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>&gt;=5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Arts</td>
<td>&gt;=3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>&gt;=3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>&gt;=4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate School of Business</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Behavioural Sciences</td>
<td>&gt;=7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informatics</td>
<td>&gt;=5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>&gt;=5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Services *</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute Directors</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further information about these elections can be found by contacting Faculty Officers, or via the Academic Senate website at: [http://www.uow.edu.au/governance/committees/academicsenate/UOW000264.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/governance/committees/academicsenate/UOW000264.html)


Any questions about Academic Senate or about the process of elections can be directed to Nerida Margrie, Academic Senate Executive Officer, via nerida@uow.edu.au or on xt 5954.
O Week Festival Success

O-Week 09 proved to be one of UOW’s most successful orientation events in recent years – stated Project Manager Megan Huisman. It was the final event in the new ‘Get Started @ UOW’ program launched this year.

During O-Week new students met ‘O Hosts’, participated in faculty activities like the ‘Kickstart to Arts’ Festival, the Commerce Amazing Water Race and the Science Great Race, enjoyed faculty barbecues and came to the fantastic O-Week Festival on the Duckpond Lawn.

UOW hosted almost 1000 new students each day. The festival included some great attractions for the entire UOW community, including ‘Salsa Under the Stars’, and ‘Comedy on The Duckpond Lawn’ featuring Tripod.

The attraction of Tripod filled the Duckpond Lawn with 1500 students and staff. The campus atmosphere during O Week was vibrant, friendly and exciting.

This year faculties, divisions and students worked hard to deliver an integrated and student-focussed welcome and orientation program. The program started with a strong communications strategy and included new welcome events such as the Get Started Festival at the end of January and the International Arrival Festival preceding O-Week 09. O-Week was a highlight of the new welcome and orientation experience for new UOW students. Feedback from students about all events has been very positive.

2009 Committee Dates

Upcoming meetings:
* EPRS Wednesday 24th June @ 10am
* Academic Senate meeting - Wednesday 8th July @ 9:30am
* UEC meeting - Wednesday 20th May 2009 @ 9:30am
* FEC Chairs meeting - Wednesday 27th May 2009 @ 12:30pm
* Student Awards Committee meeting - Wednesday 3rd June 2009 @ 9:30am
* UIC meeting - Thursday 11th June 2009 @ 9:30am
* University Council - Friday 19th June 2009 @ 2:00pm

Please follow this link for a full schedule of Committee meeting dates for 2009: http://www.uow.edu.au/content/groups/public/@web/@gov/documents/doc/uow053987.pdf
## ARD Contacts

Staff in ARD act as liaison officers for Faculties and Units to ensure there are consistent lines of communication.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty/Division/Unit</th>
<th>Policy &amp; Governance Liaison</th>
<th>Conferrals Officer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>Leonie Kirchmajer (x 4790)</td>
<td>U/G - Liz Davidson (x3925)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>P/G - Sandra Ragnoli (x4181)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>Julia Payne (x 3216)</td>
<td>U/G - Liz Davidson (x3925)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>P/G - Sandra Ragnoli (x4181)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Arts</td>
<td>Leonie Kirchmajer (x 4790)</td>
<td>Sandra Ragnoli (x4181)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Caroline Hartcher (x5309)</td>
<td>U/G - Elaine Thompson (x3343)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>P/G - Nerys Webb (x4857)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>Nerida Margrie (X5954)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Behavioural Sciences</td>
<td>Deborah Arnold (x 5408)</td>
<td>Nerys Webb (x4857)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sydney Business School</td>
<td>Julia Payne (x 3216)</td>
<td>Elaine Thompson (x3343)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate School of Medicine</td>
<td>Catriona Taylor (x 5972)</td>
<td>Sally Norrish (x3795)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informatics</td>
<td>Catriona Taylor (x 5972)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Elaine Thompson (x3343)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Nerida Margrie (X5954)</td>
<td>U/G - Liz Davidson (x3925)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>P/G - Sally Norrish (x3795)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Paola Ciccarelli (x5014)</td>
<td>Sally Norrish (x3795)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Deborah Arnold (x 5408)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel (Recruitment, OH&amp;S, PODS, Personnel &amp; Payroll)</td>
<td>Dominic Riordan (x 4136)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance (Finance/Disaster Recovery/ COGNOS)</td>
<td>Dominic Riordan (x 4136)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EED/ Library/CEDIR</td>
<td>Paola Ciccarelli (x5014)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Planning/ Audit/ UniAdvice</td>
<td>Julia Payne (x 3216)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ITS</td>
<td>Leonie Kirchmajer (x 4790)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accommodation and Student Services</td>
<td>Deborah Arnold (x 5408)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buildings &amp; Grounds (Cleaning, Security, Parking)</td>
<td>Catriona Taylor (x 5972)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WCA</td>
<td>Paola Ciccarelli (x5014)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Campuses: Shoalhaven, Bega, Batemans Bay, Moss Vale and Loftus</td>
<td>Paola Ciccarelli (x5014)</td>
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