

# campus news

## University of Wollongong



### Medical history in the making



History will be made on 29 January, 2007 when the first cohort of 80 students begins their Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) studies at the University of Wollongong's new Graduate School of Medicine. The students will be based at specially-designed medical teaching buildings, built with Federal Government funding, at our Wollongong and Shoalhaven campuses. The Wollongong building is pictured above. Turn to Page 3 to meet three of our first Medical students. **CN**

### UOW named Commonwealth University of the Year

The University of Wollongong has been named inaugural Commonwealth University of the Year at an awards ceremony in London in November.

UOW was the only Australian university on a short list of five finalists for the award, run for the first time this year by *The Times Higher Education Supplement* in liaison with the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

The National University of Singapore was runner-up in the award, which was open to all higher education institutions in the Commonwealth excluding those from Britain.

The award focused on how universities achieve community engagement. UOW's submission dealt with its educational, economic and social contribution to the Illawarra Region's transformation over the last two decades from a reliance on heavy manufacturing and coal mining to a more broad-based economy.

UOW is now a major player in the regional economy, providing direct employment for more than 1,500 people and indirect employment for many hundreds more. It has more than 20,000 students and contributes an estimated \$A750 million into the regional economy annually.

The submission highlighted two major UOW initiatives, the Graduate School of Medicine and the \$300 million Innovation Campus, that are expected to provide significant benefits to the community in terms of improved health care and "knowledge economy" employment opportunities in the 21st century.

UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton described the award as "fantastic news" and clear recognition of the University's remarkable community engagement achievements, particularly its contribution to regional development.

"It's tremendous to be recognised for our commitment to a mutually beneficial relationship valued by the University and the community," Professor Sutton said.

The Vice-Chancellor stressed that the award was not just recognition for the University but for Wollongong and the region. "Our whole community should be congratulated," Professor Sutton. "This award goes right back to the start, when the Illawarra community demanded that this region have its own University."

UOW's Manager of Community and Partnerships Monique Harper-Richardson was in London representing UOW at the awards ceremony. **CN**

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Campus News is produced for community, industry, government and other educational institutions as well as staff, students and graduates of the University of Wollongong. It provides an overview of University news and achievements on a quarterly basis.

Submissions for publication can be made to the Media Unit. Phone (02) 4221 5942 or email [media@uow.edu.au](mailto:media@uow.edu.au)

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# Medical School prognosis looks good

The first students at the University of Wollongong's Graduate School of Medicine will start their course on 29 January, 2007 at our Wollongong and Shoalhaven campuses. Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences Dean PROFESSOR DON IVERSON, who played an integral role in the School's establishment, outlines the impact he expects it will have on the region.

A decade from now, I expect the Graduate School of Medicine will have proven itself to be the single best thing that the University of Wollongong has done for the community that it serves.

That's a very big statement, considering the extraordinary educational and economic contribution this University makes to Wollongong and the Illawarra Region, the Shoalhaven and South Coast – and indeed, to the State.

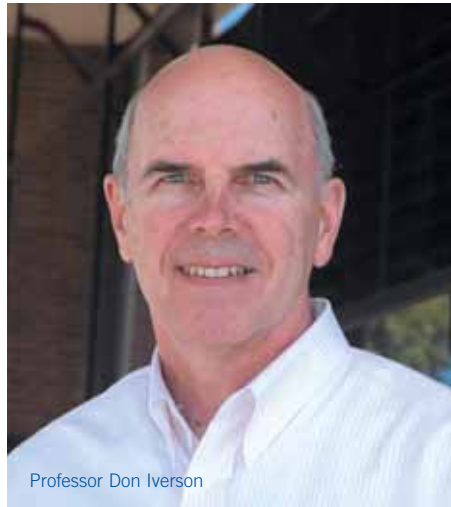
Clearly, the University has played a pivotal role in the region's transformation over the past 25 years, and provided many thousands of residents with the opportunity for a top-class tertiary education.

However, I believe the best is yet to come – and the Graduate School of Medicine will lead the way. The GSM's arrival will change the community forever, providing a quantum leap in the standard of medical facilities and treatment available, thus allowing the region to grow in ways that simply would not otherwise be possible.

From my experience in the United States, Canada and Britain, the arrival of a Medical School in a community makes a dramatic difference to a regional centre, both in medical and economic terms. Closer to home, the Newcastle experience is clear evidence of the advantages of having a Medical School located in a regional centre.

This region has many fine doctors, but not enough of them. This has led to feeling that we are the "poor relation" of the Sydney medical community.

So perhaps most importantly, the GSM will change the psyche of the entire community because of the concentration of medical expertise that will develop around the School.



Professor Don Iverson

Suddenly, instead of struggling to attract enough general practitioners and specialists, we will attract leading national and international practitioners who affiliate with the Medical School but also practise medicine in the local hospitals and clinics.

People will be far less inclined to travel to Sydney for major surgery or specialist medical treatment because everything they need will be on their doorstep, in far greater concentrations than currently exist.

I have seen it happen in other countries, and have no reason to think it won't happen in the Illawarra and the Shoalhaven.

And the existing medical practitioners have much to gain from the Medical School's development. Overseas experience suggests that they benefit greatly, at both a professional and personal level, from this influx of medical expertise and medical students. This will be magnified in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven, where more than 200 doctors have shown their commitment to the GSM by joining as honoraries so that they can be involved in various aspects of our course delivery and in hosting medical students for clinical placements.

I believe the GSM will impact positively on the region in a number of ways, including:

**MEDICAL:**

- Providing a steady stream of recently graduated doctors who have been trained in the region and have developed connections with the medical fraternity who practise and live here, so are therefore more likely to stay after graduation.
- Increasing the number of registrars training in Wollongong and Shoalhaven hospitals, some of whom will stay on and increase the number of specialist physicians.
- Attracting specialist physicians from Australia and overseas to the region who want to be associated with the GSM. We have already attracted top international medical practitioners (who incidentally are greatly impressed by what they find here), and expect the word will quickly spread overseas about the lifestyle, medical and academic opportunities available.
- Further increasing the quality of medicine practised in private surgeries and public and private hospitals – an inevitable outcome when doctors are regularly exposed to medical students and registrars.

**ECONOMIC:**

- Providing impetus for the development of moderate to large private hospitals, generating considerable employment and other economic spin-offs. We can expect major private hospitals to be developed in the Wollongong, Shellharbour City and Shoalhaven areas over the next decade. They simply would not be built if there was no Medical School in the region.
  - Further enhancing UOW's (and therefore Wollongong's) international recognition. We are creating a unique and innovative "UOW Model" for training doctors at the GSM, and expect to develop an international reputation for medical education over time. This will be facilitated by our holding annual training courses designed to attract international visitors.
  - Attracting small and medium-sized medical research companies, as the GSM's research program expands over time. For example, the Peninsula Medical School in south-west England reported three start-up cardiovascular research businesses located nearby shortly after its Medical School started. UOW has an ideal location for such businesses at the Innovation Campus.
  - Helping attract new businesses and professional staff to the region. People considering re-locating to an area cite good health care and good education as two important pre-requisites. Wollongong and the Shoalhaven will be able to present a compelling case on both fronts.
- And, of course, there is one other important factor. The GSM will mean that the region's bright students who want to study medicine will be able to achieve that at our Wollongong or Shoalhaven Campuses – so there will be a much greater chance of retaining that talent and potential in the region. **CN**

## Professor Howard Worner

One of Australia's most eminent metallurgists and scientists, Professor Howard Worner, CBE, died on 17 November, aged 93.

Professor Worner's life and extraordinary contribution to Australia's scientific endeavour was celebrated at a funeral service at the University of Wollongong on 23 November.

He was a true icon of materials science, known as a world authority in the scientific study of dental and surgical materials early in his career, before concentrating on smelting and casting processes. He published widely in the field of metallurgy and developed the "WORCRA" continuous smelting and refining process.

In 2000 Professor Worner donated his collection of more than 1000 rare mineral and rock samples to UOW, along with a first edition copy of his book *Minerals of Broken Hill*. The "Worner Collection" is on permanent display in the foyer of the Sciences Building (41).

In 2002 he became the first Australian to be awarded the Benjamin F. Fairless Award, the most prestigious award in the international steel industry. In 2003 the Federal Government presented Professor Worner with a Centenary Medal for his services to science.

An obituary will be published in the next edition of Campus News. **CN**



# Meet our first Medical students

University of Wollongong Graduate School of Medicine Foundation Dean Professor John Hogg couldn't be happier with the University's first cohort of medical students.

Following confirmation of the GSM's accreditation by the Australian Medical Council, the 72 domestic and eight international students will begin their Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree at UOW's Wollongong and Shoalhaven Campuses on 29 January, 2007.

They were chosen from more than 400 applicants after an exhaustive selection and interview process. As a pre-requisite, all applicants must first have passed the Graduate Australian Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT).

"The selection process was extremely thorough but it went very smoothly," Professor Hogg said. "The only problem was the high quality of all our applicants, which made the final selection extremely difficult.

"However, it does mean that we have an excellent cohort of students to launch the first year of the Graduate

School of Medicine," he said. "It's a great outcome for the University, and for the region."

Professor Hogg said the candidates had a wide range of undergraduate degrees, with an average age of 26. Many were residents of the Illawarra and Shoalhaven.

"As you would expect, many of our applicants had a science background, particularly in the biological and medical sciences and fields like physiotherapy, psychiatry, pharmacy and even dentistry," he said. "We also had some outstanding applicants with degrees in other disciplines including law, engineering, commerce, earth sciences and social sciences."

Professor Hogg said the hard work and planning of the Admissions Committee under the leadership of Associate Professor Lyndal Parker-Newlyn, and the GSM general staff under Executive Manager Jan James, had ensured the selection process went smoothly.

**Campus News spoke to three of the successful applicants:**

## Russell Crighton

Russell Crighton believes being one of the first 24 medical students based at the UOW's Shoalhaven Campus will be a bonus.

Students will be split between the Shoalhaven Campus (24 students) and Wollongong (56) when the University's medical degree officially starts on 29 January, and Russell says being part of the smaller group suits him very well.

"Most of the Medical School facilities will be duplicated at the two Campuses, so the main difference will be the number of students," he said. "I can see some real advantages in being part of the smaller group. It should make it easier to learn, and we should develop into a pretty tight group.

"And we'll have the chance to work with the Wollongong-based students when we come up to the main campus to use the Anatomy Laboratory."

Russell, 23, from Kanahooka, has just completed a Bachelor of Biotechnology degree at UOW, and is looking forward to the move to medical studies and the Shoalhaven Campus.

"The Biotechnology degree was really interesting, especially the research into genetics," he said. "However, it is very much a research-based field and I am looking forward to the opportunities to work with people and help them more directly.

"Studying medicine was my first preference at high school, but when I didn't get the 99.98 UAI that I needed to go straight into a medical degree, I decided to do something in the medical research field and put being a doctor out of my head .... until I heard that UOW was starting a Graduate School of Medicine," he said.

Russell has lived all his life in the Illawarra, and would like to eventually practise medicine in the region.

"I've never really been interested in living in a big city, and I really like the idea of eventually practising medicine somewhere in the Illawarra," he said.



## James Storr

Talk about perfect timing. James Storr was about halfway through his double degree in Commerce and Medical Science at UOW when he decided that he wanted to make medicine his career.

His decision coincided with news that UOW was on track to open its Graduate School of Medicine in 2007. James applied, and was chosen from a strong field to be among the GSM's first cohort of 80 students.

Having completed his Bachelor of Medical Science and Bachelor of Commerce degrees in 2006, James now directly progresses on to the Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS).

"It worked out perfectly, being able to make the transition straight from graduation to the new Medical School," said James, 23, from Corrimal. "I wanted to study medicine in 2007, and it's a real honour to be chosen for the first group of students to study medicine at Wollongong.

"And I like the way new technology will be incorporated into the course in



ways that may be more difficult for older Medical Schools to adopt."

"It was certainly a

moment to remember, when I opened the letter from the University confirming my place," he said.

James also recognises the significance of GSM's focus on training doctors to work in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia.

"With Wollongong being my home town, I am more than pleased with the idea of practising medicine in a regional centre," he said.

James said when he enrolled at UOW his main focus was on his Commerce degree, as he had already started a business in security and event management. He was keen to gain more formal business training. However, he quickly became fascinated by the Medical Science subjects, and was convinced that his future lay in medicine.

## Lauren Piatek

Lauren Piatek has wanted to be a doctor since she was a child, so winning a place in the Graduate School of Medicine's first cohort of students is a dream come true.

Lauren, 22, from Port Kembla, finished her Bachelor of Exercise Science and Rehabilitation at UOW in 2005, and spent most of 2006 overseas, working in a Summer Camp in the United States and travelling before returning for the GSM interviews in September.

Now she is ready to settle down to four more years of study, and can't wait for January, when the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree officially gets underway.

"I always wanted to be a doctor, even as a small child when I used to walk around with a stethoscope around my neck," Lauren said. "I am totally fascinated by the human body and how it works, and particularly liked the anatomy and science subjects in my first degree. I am really looking forward to doing them in more depth."

That first degree reaffirmed her desire to study medicine, so Lauren sat for the Graduate Australian Medical School Admission Test (GAMSAT) and applied to the GSM before leaving for her year overseas.

"I really enjoyed studying Exercise Science and Rehabilitation, but wanted to keep learning. If I'd missed out on a place in the GSM, I would have looked at other options to continue studying," she said.

That won't be necessary and Lauren, refreshed from her year overseas, is excited by the prospect of being in the GSM's pioneering year.

Lauren believes her first degree will not only stand her in good stead with her studies, but also help her approach to medicine. "I helped my father overcome high blood pressure through exercise instead of medication, and I am sure that my background in exercise science is going to be very useful," she said. **CN**





## Commissioner lauds centre's potential for managing bushfires

NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner Phil Koperberg praised the University of Wollongong's new Centre for Environmental Risk Management of Bushfires as being fundamental to the future of fire management.

"We have until now bluffed our way through but we have to manage fires with greater scientific understanding," Commissioner Koperberg said at the centre's official opening in October by the Minister for Regional Development, Small Business, Water Utilities and the Illawarra David Campbell.

Commissioner Koperberg said that researchers were fundamental to best practice in this area and the new centre would be able to link more effectively with the Bushfire Co-operative Research Centre which operates out of Melbourne.

Mr Campbell praised Centre Director Professor Ross Bradstock as being known throughout the world for his more than two decades of research into bushfire management.

The Minister said the centre would concentrate its research focus on an area from the Shoalhaven to the Hunter region and west to the Blue Mountains.

Mr Campbell said the NSW Government was determined to meet the challenge of better managing the State's bushfire risk to both human and environmental assets.

"Bushfires are a fact of life in Australia, but that doesn't mean we can't develop better ways to reduce their impact on human life, on property and on the environment," he said. "This centre has a very important role to play in developing strategies that meet that challenge."

Its development has come about as global climate change and growing human population increase the threat posed by bushfires. It is a joint venture between the Department of Environment and Conservation NSW, the NSW Rural Fire Service and UOW.

Department of Environment and Conservation NSW Director-General



Pictured at the unveiling ceremony for the Centre for Environmental Risk Management of Bushfires are (from left) the Minister for Regional Development, Small Business, Water Utilities and the Illawarra David Campbell, Department of Environment and Conservation NSW Director-General Lisa Corbyn, NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner Phil Koperberg and the centre's Director Professor Ross Bradstock.

Lisa Corbyn said Professor Bradstock had previously worked with her Department for about 20 years.

"I see his appointment as a loan of sorts for the next five years," she said, referring to the fact that the centre has received \$1.2 million in funding from the State Government for that period of time.

Professor Bradstock has a strong research interest in global climate change. His research indicates that the Sydney Basin faces an increase of up to 20% in the area under risk of major bushfires by the middle of the 21st century as a result of climate change.

The centre has been established

following the COAG National Inquiry Into Bushfire Mitigation and Management, which highlighted the challenges of managing bushfires, and the fire regimes needed to help reduce the risk to human life and property and environmental assets.

UOW Faculty of Science Dean Professor Rob Whelan, one of Australia's leading authorities on the ecological effects of bushfires, was a member of the Inquiry's three-person expert panel, which concluded that Australia needed to improve the scientific basis for sustainable risk management of bushfires, especially in the face of increasing human population and changing climate. **CN**

## UOW researcher heads falls prevention projects

University of Wollongong's Exercise Science Senior Lecturer Owen Curtis will lead two teams which have received grants totalling \$488,000 aimed at preventing falls among the elderly.

The falls prevention projects are the first in Australia determining the impact of exercise physiologists on falls prevention and the first to be funded by the Federal Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) involving accredited exercise physiologists in exercise design and delivery.

Mr Curtis predicts the falls prevention grants will establish exercise physiologists as allied health practitioners with the knowledge, skills and competencies to work collaboratively with GPs and patients to deliver health outcomes.

One project valued at \$301,000 partners the UOW Exercise Science program with the NSW Department of

Health, the NSW Aboriginal Vascular Health Program, the Illawarra and Shoalhaven Divisions of General Practice, the Illawarra Retirement Trust and Unanderra Care, and five accredited exercise physiologists – all UOW graduates.

This 18-month project will assess the effectiveness of accredited exercise physiologists in changing risk of fall profiles in elderly patients with complex and chronic conditions identified as 'at risk of falls' by GPs. The intervention, including up to five occasions of treatments with the accredited exercise physiologists, will be funded through Medicare.

The second project of \$187,000 targets individuals in the community living with chronic kidney disease, and links accredited exercise physiologists, the two Divisions of General Practice and the Renal Units at Wollongong and Shoalhaven Hospitals. **CN**

## Licensing agreement for superconducting breakthrough

The University of Wollongong has consolidated its standing as one of the world leaders in the development of superconductivity materials with the announcement that it has signed a licence agreement to patent a breakthrough technology with a US-based company.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Margaret Sheil said the agreement represented one of the largest licensing deals ever entered into by the University.

Researchers at UOW's Institute for Superconductivity and Electronic Materials (ISEM), led by Professor Shixue Dou, have made a breakthrough in the fabrication of wires from the newly-discovered superconductor compound magnesium diboride (MgB<sub>2</sub>) by using nano-scale (minute) silicon carbide and carbon doping. They have achieved a world record high critical

current density and upper critical field in superconducting MgB<sub>2</sub> wires.

The agreement will allow Hyper Tech Research Inc of Columbus, Ohio, to license UOW's patented technology for use in the superconducting wires. The MgB<sub>2</sub> technology will be commercially competitive because of its improved performance and its relative low cost and ease of production compared to other superconducting materials.

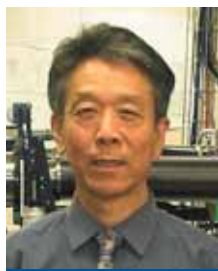
Superconductors are materials that have very low resistance to the flow of electricity below certain temperatures.

Professor Dou said there was great potential for this emerging superconductor to be used for various practical applications.

"Widespread applications of this invention will lead to enormous energy savings and environmental benefits," Professor Dou said. **CN**

# ARC grants confirm UOW's top 10 ranking

This year's Australian Research Council (ARC) outcomes announced in October confirm the University of Wollongong's position as one of Australia's leading research-intensive universities.



Professor Shixue Dou

Total ARC funding sees UOW placed ninth overall nationally in the hotly-contested 2007 ARC grants, announced by Federal Education, Science and Training Minister Julie Bishop.

Under the Discovery Projects Scheme (which represents the largest allocation of grants), UOW researchers were

awarded the ninth highest level of national funding overall with 19 grants totalling \$8.2 million.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Margaret Sheil said the Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials (ISEM) stood out with three Discovery projects, as well as a large Linkage Infrastructure and Equipment grant.

The Discovery Grants include a prestigious Australian Professorial Fellowship to Professor Shixue Dou, a Queen Elizabeth II Fellowship to Dr Guoxiu Wang, and an Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship to Dr C Jiang.

ISEM is one of the University's key research strengths and a flagship research institute that will move to new headquarters on the University's new Innovation Campus in 2008.

Professor Sheil said that a highlight of the outcomes was the award of six Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (APDs) to young researchers at the University, across a range of areas including science, engineering, informatics, arts and creative arts. These include:

- Kira Westaway from the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, whose fellowship will enable her to extend her research on dating methodologies in Indonesia. This work will look at how certain flora and fauna respond to environmental challenges, build on already established collaborations with Indonesian researchers, and pioneer new dating methodologies to further enhance Australia's place at the forefront of geochronology

- Dr Natalie Thamwattana (Informatics), who will examine modelling applications of nanomaterials in biology and medicine.

UOW researchers also received funding for two Linkage Infrastructure grants and four Linkage Project grants (which involve industry partners who provide matching funds), and excelled in the ARC's Linkage International Schemes, achieving success rates well above the national averages. **CN**



Above: UOW biological scientist Dr Tracey Kuit at work in the laboratory. Dr Kuit has been awarded a 2006 Science and Innovation grant to research pneumonia in pigs. Below: Dr Kuit gets acquainted with pigs at a farm near Berry.

## Pig research grant nothing to sneeze at

University of Wollongong biological scientist Dr Tracey Kuit has won a national research grant to study pneumonia in pigs - one of the most economically significant diseases affecting pork production worldwide.

Dr Kuit was one of 20 talented young research scientists to receive a 2006 Science and Innovation Award for Young people in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, granted by the Federal Government's Rural Science Bureau.

The \$10,000 grant sponsored by Australian Pork Limited allows Dr Kuit to continue her research into pneumonia in pigs in Australia and at the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research in Braunschweig, near Hanover.

Porcine enzootic pneumonia (PEP) results in weight loss, damage to the respiratory tract and leaves pigs vulnerable to secondary infection, causing complications and sometimes fatal disease.

Current control measures for PEP do not prevent colonisation by bacteria and vaccinated herds may

remain infected and able to transmit disease to other animals.

"There isn't enough information about the pathogenic mechanisms of this disease," Dr Kuit said.

"We know that bacterial attachment and colonisation are the first steps in the disease progression, and this project aims to find out more about these processes, including how the bacteria causing PEP adhere to host cells and whether they are able to invade those cells."

Dr Kuit aims to develop an anti-microbial therapy to prevent the attachment and colonisation of bacteria to pig respiratory cells, preventing the onset of PEP and reducing the economic burden to the swine industry.

Dr Kuit completed her PhD at UOW in 2004, attracted by the university's facilities and the opportunity to work with Professor of Biological Sciences Mark Walker. **CN**



## Nerve project offers hope

The ARC Centre of Excellence in Electromaterials Science based at the University of Wollongong is one of the partners in the recently-established Bionic Technologies Australia, which is developing a process to encourage new nerve growth which may allow patients with severed nerves in their arms and legs to regain the full use of their limbs.

The centre is working with the Bionic Ear Institute to contribute key nerve growth technology for a chemical-infused device that has the potential to help people hurt in accidents, or patients who lose

nerves and tissue during cancer surgery.

Bionic Technologies Australia Chief Executive Dr Russell Tait said the idea was to stitch a uniquely designed plastic scaffold to each end of a severed nerve in the arm or leg.

"Chemicals impregnated into the scaffold would encourage the neurons to grow more quickly and in the right direction, ultimately rejoining the severed nerve. The tubular scaffold will be biodegradable, designed to break down in the body in about nine months," Dr Tait said.

Bionic Technologies Australia was opened at Melbourne's St Vincent's Hospital in September, with support from the Victorian Government matched by contributions from the ARC Centre partners - UOW, The Bionic Ear Institute, St Vincent's Hospital, the CSIRO and PolyNovo Pty Ltd. **CN**

# Postcard from Dubai



The University of Wollongong in Dubai (UOWD) has been operating since 1993 and is now one of the most prestigious educational institutions in the United Arab Emirates. UOWD currently has an enrolment of approximately 2,200 students undertaking Bachelors and Masters degrees in Business and Computer Science at its location in Dubai's Knowledge Village.

## UOWD success built on 'Emiratisation'

James Langridge uses a desert analogy to describe the first 13 years of the University of Wollongong's presence in Dubai.

"We've dug our well deep, and now we're irrigating widely," says UOW's Vice-Principal (Overseas Operations), who has spearheaded the University's Middle Eastern presence from the start.

His "deep well" is the solid reputation the University of Wollongong in Dubai has forged since it began operating there in 1993.



UOW Vice-Principal (Overseas Operations)  
James Langridge

The "irrigation" includes building on UOWD's impressive research programs and linkages with industry and government agencies in the United Arab Emirates, expanding course delivery in Syria and Lebanon, looking at opportunities to move into other Middle Eastern countries including Libya, and introducing new courses at UOWD, such as an

Engineering degree for the first time in 2007.

Mr Langridge says UOWD has succeeded beyond all expectations over the past 13 years, but it has no intention of resting on its laurels.

UOWD now has around 2,200 students enrolled in Bachelors and Masters courses. It has traditionally concentrated on Commerce-Business and Computer Science courses, but plans to introduce a Master of Engineering degree in 2007, followed by Health Sciences.

"When we established a presence in Dubai in 1993, we had no expectation that within 13 years we would be the leading research university in the country," he said.

"We can attribute our success to a determination from our end to excel at each stage of the development of our presence in Dubai, combined with a reciprocal determination by the Emirati authorities to provide a diverse range of international education options."

Mr Langridge said from the beginning UOWD had committed itself to a process of "Emiratisation".

"We've been committed to training local people to work at the highest levels of government and business in Dubai, and our enrolments reflect that. We attract a very strong body of Emirati students, even though they have access to free public education in some very good institutions," Mr Langridge said.

UAE students represent the highest number in post-graduate programs, while Indian students are the largest group in Bachelor courses.

"The fact that Emirati people choose to study with us at a fee is recognition of the quality of our programs, as well as our longevity. We've been in Dubai since 1993 and were the first international private university to gain a licence for a Branch Campus, in 1999. People appreciate that we are here for the long term."

Mr Langridge said in recent years UOWD had concentrated on developing its research profile, mirroring the emphasis on research at the University of Wollongong, Australia.

"Student numbers are up to their highest levels ever, and research is up," he said. "It's the basis of much of our post-graduate activity (with post-graduate students representing more than half the student population). Businesses and industries are increasingly seeing us as a valuable resource, and seeking to engage with us in research partnerships and industry seminars, and through consultancies."

In recent years the University has been seeking opportunities to expand course delivery into other Middle Eastern countries. It is already accrediting and overseeing English language courses in Syria and Lebanon, and is looking to develop a cohort of students in these countries who would graduate from these courses into other UOWD programs.

Mr Langridge said two Chief Executive Officers, former Federal Government Speaker Professor Stephen Martin (2004) and Professor Nick van der Walt (2005-), had played complementary roles at crucial times to push UOWD's emergence as a leading University in the UAE.

"Stephen Martin was Interim CEO in 2004, supervising our move to Dubai's Knowledge Village and ensuring that we successfully negotiated the emerging regulatory environment in the UAE," he said. "He handed over to Nick van der Walt early in 2005, who is committed to pushing our research agenda and broadening our regional presence." **CN**

## University celebrates largest graduation

UOWD is celebrating its largest ever graduation ceremony with 617 graduates having their degrees conferred on December 21 at Dubai's Jumeriah Beach Hotel.

The graduation highlights a very special milestone in the lives of the graduates. It is not just for the conferring of academic degrees, but a day to congratulate the students for their dedication to achieving their objectives and to reward them for it. For many, graduation is the achievement of a lifetime.

Family is also an important focus at UOWD graduations. More than 1,500 proud parents, family members, well wishers, dignitaries and members of the community were invited to the ceremony to witness the conferral of degrees by University of Wollongong Chancellor Michael Codd AC and pay tribute to the graduates.

"UOW has a long-standing history of tradition in excellence, values that are emulated at UOWD," said CEO Professor Nick van der Walt. "Graduation gives the University the opportunity to honour the students and recognise their accomplishments. Our high quality academic programs combined with our strong industry links prepare our graduates for professional achievement with the skills to handle challenges in today's rapidly changing work environment."

## Iftar helps orphaned and underprivileged children

More than 200 people attended a fund-raising Iftar co-organised by UOWD's social workers and students from its Connexionz and Lighthouse Charity Clubs in October. The charity event raised funds for Manar Al Eman, a private school which educates 3000 underprivileged and orphaned children.

The Iftar was prepared in a traditional Arabic style, followed by Maghreb prayers. A slide show and guest speaker explained how funds would be used.

Games were organised for the children and many guests distributed gifts to the orphans. Handicrafts, sweets, toys, etc were sold to generate funds, while many attendees also gave valuable donations with great enthusiasm. **CN**



## Sarah's room with a view



Sarah Low enjoys the sweeping views of the Shoalhaven River from the Boyd Education Centre.

### Sarah Low

#### Bachelor of Creative Arts 2002

Sarah Low works in what can only be described as an artist's paradise. She has a magnificent Arthur Boyd painting hanging behind the desk in her office in the historic sandstone cottage that was the great artist's home.

The cottage has stunning views over the Shoalhaven River, and it's just a short walk to the Glenn Murcutt-designed Boyd Education Centre or the stunning Bundanon homestead which Boyd and his wife Yvonne bequeathed to the nation as a centre for art and artists.

The property has lived up to Arthur Boyd's expectations, with around 70 artists each year taking up residencies of four to six weeks to take advantage of the studio facilities and extraordinary location.

Bundanon also attracts 11,000 visitors a year, ranging from school children participating in art education programs to eminent architects (including

Murcutt) who conduct architecture master-classes in the education centre.

As Visits Officer, Sarah looks after the visitors to Bundanon and the Boyd Education Centre. Her role involves administration, marketing and co-ordinating events ranging from weddings to concerts.

Sarah, who grew up in the Shoalhaven, started working on weekends at Bundanon while she was studying at UOW. When she graduated in 2002 she was offered a full-time position and jumped at the opportunity.

The Bachelor of Creative Arts graduate, who studied visual arts and majored in textiles at UOW, loves being constantly surrounded by artists and their art.

"This is an amazing place to work," Sarah said. "It is a beautiful location and everyone is just so enthusiastic to be working here. There is a constant flow of creative people, and I have been lucky enough to meet so many high quality visiting artists, and observe them at work. It really is a living art centre, and is fulfilling the Boyds' vision." **CN**

## Card offers range of benefits



You can receive great savings on a range of products and services by using your UOW Alumni Benefits Card at the organisations listed below. Visit the Alumni website [www.uow.edu.au/alumni](http://www.uow.edu.au/alumni) to view the full list of benefits.

- Medina Serviced Apartments • Hertz Car Hire
- Rebel Sport • Table Eight • UOW Library
- STA Travel

If you don't have the latest Alumni Benefits Card (pictured) please email the Alumni Office at [alumni@uow.edu.au](mailto:alumni@uow.edu.au) or phone +61 2 4221 3169. **CN**

## Vipunjit helping tsunami victims

### Vipunjit Ketunuti

Master of Arts  
(International  
Relations) 1996

The 2004 tsunami may no longer be headline news, but the effort to rebuild devastated communities continues for UOW graduate Vipunjit Ketunuti, (pictured) from Thailand.



As an Assistant Project Officer for UNICEF's Thailand office, Vipunjit was heavily involved with the tsunami relief effort from the very beginning. She saw first hand the destruction caused by the tsunami, arriving in the south of Thailand just days after the disaster occurred.

As part of her role at UNICEF, Vipunjit plans and manages programs that help build the capacity of communities affected by the tsunami. These programs focus on a wide range of issues, such as HIV/AIDS, education, child protection, health, nutrition, water and sanitation. For Vipunjit these duties are more than just a job.

"I enjoy working for UNICEF, a non-profit organisation under the United Nations that works solely for humanitarian causes. On a personal level, I enjoy working in the field, being close to people in the community, to have the opportunity to listen to social problems and being able to make a difference," Vipunjit said.

In addition to the tsunami relief Vipunjit coordinates technical cooperation among developing countries in South and Southeast Asia, particularly for issues relating to women and children. She has also worked with children in armed conflict and displaced persons in refugee camps along the Thailand-Myanmar border.

Vipunjit initially wanted to become a diplomat after graduating from UOW with a Master of Arts (International Relations) – a path many of her fellow classmates have since followed in Australia and South Pacific countries. However, a six-month journey around Australia changed her perspective on life, cementing in her mind the decision to pursue a career in the humanitarian field.

Fortunately Vipunjit's UOW degree provided a broad education, opening up many career options and allowing her to work for charity and non-profit organisations like the British Council, a German political foundation and now UNICEF.

Apart from the study, Vipunjit also enjoyed the lifestyle UOW had to offer, describing her time at the University there as one of the best of her life. **CN**

## Saving whales all in Lai's day's work

### Lai Waqanisau

Bachelor of Science 2003  
Master of Environmental Science 2004

Saving the world's environment is all in a day's work for UOW Environmental Science graduate Lai Waqanisau. He is currently employed as an Oceans Campaigner for the Australia Pacific division of Greenpeace.

Whether onboard a Greenpeace ship, or negotiating with politicians, Lai is passionately committed to protecting ocean wildlife. In his role he develops and implements strategies to prevent both the unnecessary slaughter of whales and the depletion of fisheries. A recent highlight for Lai was organising activities in Sydney targeting the International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting in the West Indies.

"I am usually based in Suva, Fiji and travel to other locations in the Pacific for regional meetings and public events," said Lai. "I was in Sydney for three months in preparation for the IWC meeting. This included a trip to Port Stephens for the Whales Festival and organising whale-watching activities for Greenpeace and media groups. There was also collaboration with other non-government organisations such as the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). It was mostly done at a political level.

"Overall the Australian public was supportive of the work, which made it enjoyable."

After graduating from UOW with a Master of Environmental Science in 2004, Lai initially served his country in the Territorial Forces division of the Republic of Fiji's Military Forces. He then held a position with Sinclair Knight Merz, a civil engineering company.

Fate soon intervened. Lai had an interview with Greenpeace and was offered a position the same day. He happily accepted, attracted to



the autonomous nature of this environmental action group.

"The job is apolitical and decisions are made independently from governments, institutions and organisations. It is funded by ordinary people who support the campaigns of Greenpeace," he explained.

Lai feels that his time at UOW made him committed to achieving results. He also believes it helped him to not only secure his position with Greenpeace, but also deal with its challenges.

"The Eco Innovate programs and development programs were great. They gave certificates which were vital for references when looking for a job. I participated in the leadership program, which gave me confidence in handling challenges in working with people and organisations."

He particularly enjoyed the balance at UOW between extra-curricular activities and academic expectations and advises any student to get involved in fun past-times.

"Life at University can be stressful with assignments, exams and deadlines to meet. Students should find extra-curricular activities to do after classes. The lunch time sports were great and I got to meet many students from other faculties and nations. I participated in every sporting event, including rugby union, rugby league and athletics."

Apart from Lai's commitment to the environment his overall life philosophy is to have no regrets. He also believes in the strength provided by family and friends. **CN**

## Please support obesity, prostate cancer research

The 2006 Alumni Appeal has raised over \$18,000 to support research into prostate cancer treatment and childhood obesity prevention.

Our goal is to raise \$30,000 to support these critical projects and help realise a vision for a world without prostate cancer and childhood obesity.

Your gift today can help Australian men and children living with these diseases.

You can donate now online at [www.uow.edu.au/donations](http://www.uow.edu.au/donations) or by calling 1300 367 869. You will receive a tax deductible receipt and 100 percent of your gift will go directly to our researchers.

Your donation will help our internationally-renowned researchers make life more bearable for men living with prostate cancer and for children suffering from obesity. **CN**

## Chancellor's Award

The University of Wollongong in 2007 will introduce the inaugural Chancellor's Award for Achievement in Community Service, for UOW alumni and community members.

The award will recognise activities and service not always acknowledged within the wide community – endeavours and qualities relating to innovation, dedication, creativity, leadership and community spirit.

It will recognise the personal contributions alumni and others make to the enrichment of their community and to advance their society.

The call for nominations will be advertised in April 2007 with nominations closing at the end of June 2007. Please visit [www.uow.edu.au/alumni](http://www.uow.edu.au/alumni) award for the award criteria and more information. **CN**

## In Memoriam

### Emeritus Professor Peter Fisher

Emeritus Professor Peter Fisher passed away in September, aged 75.

Peter Fisher joined the University of Wollongong in 1974 as Foundation Professor of Physics. Since 2000 he has been an Emeritus Professor of the University.

Professor Fisher was a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Physics, Honorary Fellow of the Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering, Fellow of the American Physical Society, and Fellow of the Institute of Physics (UK).

UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton said Professor Fisher provided invaluable service to the University for many years from the time it gained its independence in the mid 1970s.

He said Professor Fisher showed great leadership as Head of the School of Physics and contributed significantly to the University's overall research profile.

Current School of Physics Head Professor Roger Lewis said Professor Fisher left a legacy of classic, archival papers detailing his precision measurements and meticulous analysis in semiconductor spectroscopy.

"His influence has been huge. He will be greatly missed," Professor Lewis said.

### Franco Belgiorno-Nettis

Honorary Doctor of Science 1993

The founder of civil engineering giant Transfield, Franco Belgiorno-Nettis, died in July aged 91.

UOW awarded Mr Belgiorno-Nettis an Honorary Doctorate in Science in 1993 for his services to engineering in Australia, one of many awards he received during his long and distinguished career.

Armed with civil and electrical engineering qualifications from his native Italy, Mr Belgiorno-Nettis came to Australia in 1951 to help build the country's first steel tower high-voltage electrical transmission lines. He saw his future in Australia, and in 1956 founded Transfield with another Italian engineer Carlo Salteri.

From an initial base in Port Kembla, the company quickly became one of the biggest players in Australia's engineering contracting industry. **CN**



# Law lures Kellinde from academic life



**Dr Kellinde Turcotte**  
Bachelor of Laws 2005

UOW Law graduate Dr Kellinde Turcotte may have a University Medal, PhD and successful academic and research career behind her, but she was as excited as any recent graduate when she landed her dream job.

Five years of juggling family commitments, including the birth of her second child, and study to achieve a career change from academia to law paid off when she was offered the position of Researcher in Equity to the NSW Supreme Court for 2007.

Dr Turcotte's role for the coming appointment will be to research equitable solutions for the Court's eight Justices.

"It is traditionally a one-year appointment for a law graduate, who gets an amazing opportunity to work closely with the State's top judges, before going on to other things," she said.

"I was interviewed by Justice Palmer, who liked my research background. He said they'd never had someone with a PhD apply before, and offered me the job on the spot though he asked me to keep it under my hat until the Chief Justice approved it. It was so

unexpected and exciting because it is such a rare opportunity ..... I was smiling all the way home," she said.

"Equity is a wonderful feature of our legal system – the opportunity to find solutions that are not only legally sound but ensure fairness as well."

The new role fits perfectly with Dr Turcotte's background in research.

She was a highly decorated Arts graduate and academic before deciding on a career change, having gained a BA (First Class Honours), University Medal and PhD from the University of Sydney. During her career as an English literature academic at the University of Sydney, she won 18 national and international awards for excellence in research in the Humanities, including an ARC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.

Dr Turcotte, who is married to UOW Associate Professor Gerry Turcotte who is head of the School of English Literature and Director of the Centre for Canadian-Australian Studies, decided that one academic in the family was enough. She set her sights on a new career in law, and in 2001 enrolled as a

full-time student in UOW's Law Faculty graduate program. She had a year off in 2003 for the birth of her second child, and completed the course part-time. Since graduating in December last year she has been working as a Law Clerk at UOW's Legal and Commercial Unit, and was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court in July this year.

Dr Turcotte admitted that in the first year of the Law degree she had to adapt to "a whole different way of thinking", but she has no regrets. "Studying law met all my expectations. It has been wonderful," she said.

After her year with the Supreme Court, she hopes to join an Illawarra law firm and ultimately would like to work as a barrister.

Dr Turcotte said juggling study and family life with two young children, Gerrard, now aged 9 and Sophie, 3, had been hard, and she couldn't have done it without her husband's strong support.

"Gerry's become an expert at doing the washing," she said. "But seriously, he has a full-on career of his own, and has still given me wonderful support." **CN**

## Kevin Dwyer Bachelor of Commerce/ Bachelor of Laws 1997

Kevin Dwyer "wanted to make the world a better place" when he started his Commerce/Law degree at UOW - a desire that still burns after almost a decade practising Law.

He achieved his aim with his first position, arranged by the Law Faculty at UOW, at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Aid Service in Far North Queensland.

Now working as a lawyer in Sydney, Kevin said that early exposure to front-line Law was "mind-blowing", and had a fundamental effect on his life and his career in Law.

"It was a real lesson in the disparate way the Law is applied in Australia," he said.

It was also a lesson in poverty among indigenous communities. "I was based in Cairns, and my first day in court was at a regional courthouse at a community called Yarrabah. I had 15 clients that day, and only one had shoes on," he said.

Kevin said his two years with the Legal Aid Service was a steep learning curve. The service lacked



adequate funding, so he supplemented his income by working as a private investigator, debt collector and musician.

After a particularly severe round of budget cuts, he elected to return to his home base in the Sutherland Shire, where he joined Miranda-based legal firm Warren, McKeon Dickson.

Kevin is now a partner in the firm, specialising in Employment, Family and Criminal Law. He says there are plenty of challenges and rewards, and he still gets his greatest satisfaction from helping people.

Kevin is a proud ambassador for UOW and its Law Faculty, while Warren, McKeon Dickson regularly

employs UOW-trained lawyers and has instituted an annual scholarship for a UOW Law student **CN**.

## Brooke Bailey Bachelor of Arts (Communications) 2004

Brooke Bailey's career is proof that it pays to keep an open mind when you start university studies.

Brooke started her Bachelor of Arts (Communications) degree with ambitions to be a journalist. However, she was determined to keep her options open – and is glad she did.

"I wanted to start with a broad degree, because if I focused only on journalism I might miss out on something special," said Brooke, who grew up at Meroo Meadow in the Shoalhaven.

That "something special" came from a Marketing elective through the Commerce Faculty that she took in her first year. "I took Marketing 101 and fell in love with marketing and advertising," Brooke said.

She continued with her Marketing studies and is now an account manager with Newsnet, the marketing and advertising arm of the global



communications giant News Limited – and loving every minute of it. She looks after all press advertising, promotions and marketing campaigns for major clients such as Toyota.

"The job is so much fun that you don't realise the pressure you're under," she said. "It's ironic that I originally wanted to be a journalist. Now I'm in the right building (at News Limited), just on a different floor!"

This year Brooke took the message of keeping options open to Higher School Certificate students at a Uni & Beyond seminar in Sutherland.

"It's nice to be able to give something back to the University that did so much for me," Brooke said. **CN**

## TNT ensures delivery of books to Pakistan



Faculty of Arts Dean Professor Andrew Wells (sitting in the truck) officially handed over the thousands of books destined for Pakistan to TNT for delivery. He is pictured with Arts Alumni member June Aspley, Alumni Relations Manager Jocelin Kelly and Arts Alumni member Shayne Kearney.

When a Pakistan-based member of the University of Wollongong's Arts Alumni contacted friends in the Faculty of Arts to advise that the October 2005 earthquake had badly affected resources at the University of Jammu and Kashmir, the decision was made to hold a book drive.

As well as the important humanitarian aspects involved in the project, members of the Arts Alumni Chapter took the opportunity to make the Chapter known to potential members as well as including Faculty graduates in on-campus activities.

Initially, an email call went out to all Arts Faculty graduates asking for donations of second-hand academic texts that could be forwarded to the University in Pakistan. With the support of the UOW Alumni Relations Manager Jocelin Kelly the call for donation of books was extended across the university community.

In less than a month the Arts Alumni had received many thousands of books, their content spread across a diverse range of academic disciplines. Among the generous donors was the UniShop which provided many unused texts.

When all the books were boxed and packaged members of the Arts Alumni realised they had a seemingly insurmountable problem - the accumulated mass of books measured four cubic metres. How could they arrange shipment of so many large and heavy boxes to their destination in Pakistan?

Thanks to UOW's Deputy Chancellor and Arts alumni member Sue Chapman, TNT agreed to arrange shipment of the books to Lahore in Pakistan. Organisers say that without the support of TNT the project would not have "got off the ground". **CN**

## Jones wins World Championship

UOW Alumnus Michelle Jones became the first Australian woman to win a World Ironman Championship with her victory in the 2006 Ironman Triathlon in Kona, Hawaii in October.

Michelle's victory makes her the second Australian in history to win this prestigious event - after 1994 Men's World Champion, Greg Welch.

Michelle completed the gruelling

3.8km swim, 180km cycle and 42.2km run in nine hours and 18 minutes to collect the \$US110,000 (\$A145,000) prizemoney. She finished more than five minutes ahead of runner-up, Desiree Flicker of the US.

Michelle was already a prominent triathlete when she completed a Teaching degree at UOW in 1990. She won a silver medal in the Triathlon at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney. **CN**

### Rachel Young

Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws 2004

Most people dream of a holiday in Vanuatu, but Arts/Law graduate Rachel Young is living the dream. For Rachel, the South Pacific nation will be home for the next two years.

When she graduated from UOW, Rachel was one of 30 successful applicants (from 2,000) for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) graduate program.

She started at DFAT in February, 2005 and Vanuatu is her first overseas posting. She moved to Port Vila in July and her duties include managing two Australian aid programs, reporting on land use and environmental issues and preparing speeches for the High Commissioner.

Rachel well remembers what clinched her decision to study Law at UOW.

The Canberra high school student was investigating Law degrees at different universities and was impressed by UOW's course structure and content - not to mention the opportunity to live in a coastal city away from her home



town's freezing winters.

But it was the vision for studying Law expressed by UOW's then Dean of the Law Faculty Professor Helen Gamble that was the deciding factor. "Helen Gamble said the Law should be about social change. That fitted my criteria perfectly," she said.

"I had so many questions about social issues like Aboriginal deaths in custody, and inequality in the world. I chose a double degree in Law and Arts because I wanted to understand the legal framework of the questions I was asking, and because I wanted to learn the skills that would allow me to help people. Studying at Wollongong gave me those skills." **CN**

### Melanie Dean

Bachelor of Commerce/  
Bachelor of Laws 2004

Melanie Dean said she "learned how to learn" and to work in teams at UOW. They are skills that have stood her in good stead in her role in the Risk Management Division of Macquarie Bank, working in the bank's Resources Centre.

Melanie is part of a team responsible for assessing the potential for investment of mining and resources ventures around the world. As part of this team she provides commercial support for the bank's team of geologists. Part of her role is also to provide oversight and support to the bank's metals trading business.

She assesses and analyses mining ventures in Australia and other countries including Peru, Argentina, Mauritania and Indonesia.

"I have found myself one and a half kilometres underground during a mine visit. It is not something I could have imagined when I started uni," she said.

"I didn't know what I wanted to be when I started studying Law, but I thought combining Law with a Commerce degree would open up all



kinds of possibilities. It has, and my job at Macquarie Bank gives me the opportunity to use both my Commerce and Law skills."

Melanie majored in International Business in her Commerce studies, and has found the global focus of those studies particularly useful in her current role.

"The student-centred learning approach in the Law Faculty prepared me to work in teams and I also learned how to learn," she said. "That has been extremely valuable to me in my career because employers care about how you apply your knowledge, not what you know." **CN**



# Northfields Clinic: 25 years of service

Northfields Psychology Clinic at the University of Wollongong has grown from occupying a laundry and lounge room in a small house on Northfields Ave to boasting a modern and high quality facility on campus that has treated and assisted over 8,000 community members and their friends and family.

In October UOW celebrated the 25th anniversary of one of the most valuable community resources in the region, and indeed the country.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton acknowledged the vital community role the clinic has played when he officially opened the festivities.

“Community engagement has been part of the birth of this University, and there is no better example than Northfields Clinic,” he said.

Professor Sutton also thanked the number of community supporters who attended the anniversary celebration, saying that their support and



Pictured at the 25th anniversary celebrations for Northfields Clinic are (from left): Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton, Head of the School of Psychology Associate Professor Patrick Heaven, Clinical Supervision Co-ordinator Mark Donovan, Director of the Rod Power Psychology Clinic at Macquarie University Dr Judy Hyde, Northfields Clinic Director Chris Allan and Clinical Psychology Training Director Associate Professor Brin Grenyer.

partnership plays a vital role in the clinic's survival and success.

“The long list of community organisations associated with this clinic shows what a strong relationship and outreach UOW has with its community

- it's a win/win situation for us all.”

Northfields Clinic - the third-oldest of its kind in Australia - provides low-cost, high quality psychological treatment and assessment services to UOW and the community, treating children and

adults for a range of issues including anxiety and phobias, depression, assertiveness and self esteem-building, anger management, learning disabilities and child behavioural problems.

Over 300 UOW students have graduated from the clinic over the past 25 years as Clinical Psychologists with Masters, Doctorate and PhD degrees, and many now play leading roles in mental health treatment in the Illawarra.

Northfields Clinic has also facilitated many successful clinical research projects in partnership with the Illawarra Institute for Mental Health at UOW.

A recent review by the external accrediting psychology council drew attention to Northfields as one of the best training clinics in Australia.

“Due to the continued high referral rate to the clinic, we are continually exploring a variety of new options in order to continue high quality and timely treatment to the community,” said clinic director Chris Allan. **CN**

## Appeal targets training to save lives

The University of Wollongong is hoping community support will allow it to offer special life-saving training to the region's emergency services using the high-tech virtual patients it is acquiring for the Graduate School of Medicine (GSM).

With the GSM taking its first students in January, UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton would like to open the Medical School's new clinical skills laboratories to the region's paramedics, ambulance officers, nurses, lifesavers, and members of the NSW Police, Fire Brigade, Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Services.

Professor Sutton said the GSM's opening meant that the region would have superb medical training facilities.

He is appealing to Illawarra businesses for support to help the University extend the use of these facilities to the emergency services that protect the community.

“With Federal Government support, we have built first-class medical training facilities at our Wollongong and Shoalhaven campuses,” Professor

Sutton said. “Our skills laboratories are being equipped with the latest technology to teach people how to save lives – including life-size virtual patient simulators designed for students to develop life-saving skills.

“The region's emergency services perform incredibly valuable work in the community, and we want to be able to extend the use of our clinical skills laboratories to provide them with special training in addition to what they already receive.

“We want our skills laboratories to become a great community resource to not only train the next generation of doctors, but to help train emergency services personnel to save lives out there on the front-line. We've had a very positive response from the region's emergency services to this offer, so now we need to make it happen.”

Celestial Beams – a volunteer organisation in the Illawarra that raises funds for worthwhile community projects – has adopted this as its major fund-raising project for 2007.



University of Wollongong Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton (fourth from left) and emergency service and medical personnel (from left) NSW Fire Brigades Superintendent Stephen Pearce, nurse Michelle Fenwick, NSWFB officer Simon Parks, NSW Rural Fire Services representative David Bartlett, NSW Ambulance Service Superintendent Louise Hennessey, surf lifesaver Josh Minogue and NSW Police Southern Region Staff Officer Peter Phillips.

Celestial Beams launched an appeal to the region's business community at the Illawarra Connection's business networking dinner in October, asking businesses to “buy a tile” to help build a stronger, safer community.

Each tile costs \$5,000, and each contribution will be acknowledged on a special wall to be constructed near the GSM building on UOW's Wollongong campus.

The money would be used to buy additional patient simulators, and to make staff available to act as trainers.

Professor Sutton said he hoped the region's business community would recognise the value of supporting the University to extend its training facilities

and expertise to the emergency organisations.

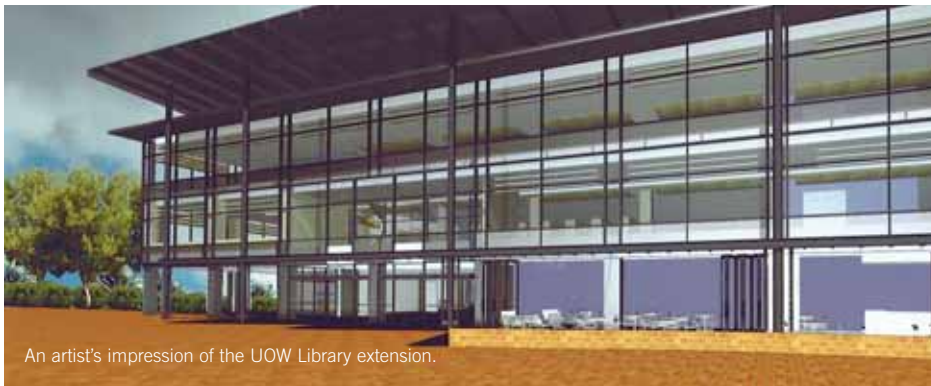
“As a publicly-funded institution, we are not in a position to simply provide this training from our own resources. We need to fund it independently, and the University is very grateful that Celestial Beams has offered to assist us raise the funds we need to do this properly,” he said.

Professor Sutton said donations to the appeal would be tax deductible, under UOW's status as a deductible gift recipient.

For information on how to support the appeal, visit [www.uow.edu.au/donations](http://www.uow.edu.au/donations) or call Canio Fierravanti on 4221 5931. **CN**



# University Library to undergo major facelift



An artist's impression of the UOW Library extension.

Work has started on an \$8.4 million extension to the northern and eastern sides of the University of Wollongong Library.

The project aims to create a flexible design to accommodate changes in learning styles and library services.

Additional space will be used to:

- Expand study areas with the increased availability of computer workstations (an extra 100 computer workstations to be added, taking the number to 340)
- Refurbish Access Room for students with disabilities
- Create teaching spaces which are accessible for individual study when not being used for teaching groups
- Reorganise and refurbish Special Collections area for audio-visual and other non-print materials

- Refurbish group study rooms
- Provide a café with terrace on the ground floor.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International) Professor Rob Castle said it was a project that would have major benefits for students.

"The Library is the centre of the campus for students and this project will provide more seating and computers for students. And the extensions will also enable the Library to greatly expand its overall holdings," Professor Castle said.

The extensions are being part-funded by money awarded to the University by the Federal Government through the high score it achieved in the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund.

Professor Castle said the Vice-Chancellor believed that using the money in this way would bring the single biggest benefit to students. The project is expected to be completed by February 2008. **CN**

## Art Curator's MCA exhibition

University of Wollongong Art Collection Curator Glenn Barkley took his skills to Sydney recently when he was curator of an exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) at Circular Quay.

The exhibition, *Multiplicity*, explores the development of prints and multiples from the 1960s to the current day, tracking the rise of an art form that lies at the core of contemporary art practice.

Drawing on the permanent collections of the MCA and UOW, *Multiplicity* covers the evolution of this influential medium across four decades, from its emergence out of the pop art and conceptual art movements of the 1950s and 1960s.

The diversity of approaches to prints and multiples was evident in the range of works on display including Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein prints, 'ready-mades' by Joseph Beuys, limited editions by Ed Ruscha and Jenny Holzer, politically charged prints by Redback Graphix, works by International collectives Fluxus and General Idea, and more recent

work by Australian artists David Noonan, Deborah Kelly and Ricky Swallow.

After showing at the MCA, *Multiplicity* will tour to regional galleries in NSW, Victoria and South Australia throughout 2007 and 2008.

Mr Barkley also teamed up with another guest curator, fellow UOW graduate Aaron Seeto, to present a curatorial discussion at the MCA. Aaron was guest curator of Primavera 2006: Exhibition by Young Australian Artists at the MCA during 2006. **CN**



Glenn Barkley

## Historian appointed to PM's prize panel

University of Wollongong Associate Professor of History and Politics Greg Melleuish has followed his participation in the National History Summit with appointment to the advisory committee for the Prime Minister's Prize for Australian History.

Professor Melleuish joins Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC, acclaimed military historian and author Dr Tom Frame and Jackie Huggins from the University of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Studies Unit on the committee.



Associate Professor Greg Melleuish

Department of Education, Science and Training Secretary Lisa Paul will chair the committee.

Prime Minister John Howard announced the history prize and the make-up of his advisory committee on 3 November.

"This \$100,000 prize will be awarded annually in recognition of an outstanding piece of work that contributed significantly to our understanding of Australian history," Mr Howard said. "The committee will provide me with a shortlist of potential winners from the nominations received. With such impressive combined expertise, I am confident that the committee's views on nominated works will be invaluable."

Professor Melleuish, who was invited to submit a paper about teaching history in schools to the National History Summit in August, said he was honoured to be included on the committee.

Nominations for the prize closed on 17 November, and Professor Melleuish expects to spend much of the summer reviewing nominated works, which could include books, films, documentaries, CD-Roms and other multi-media entries.

"I really have no idea what will turn up, but it is going to be very interesting," Professor Melleuish said. "And it is really pleasing to see this renewed interest in history (after the Summit). Hopefully this interest will help attract more students to take up history study."

Dr Frame, who combines his work as a historian with the role of Anglican Bishop to the Australian Defence Force, also has a Wollongong connection, having grown up at West Wollongong. **CN**

## Trans-Tasman statistics agreement signed

The University of Wollongong's Centre for Statistical and Survey Methodology (CSSM) has entered a statistical collaboration agreement with New Zealand's Ministry of Health (NZMH).

Faculty of Informatics Associate Dean (Research) and CSSM Director Professor David Steel said the Centre and the Public Health Intelligence Unit in the NZMH had established an effective working relationship over the past year.

This had culminated in a contract for funding of up to \$NZ225,000 over two years.

Professor Steel said the working

relationship to date has involved the presentation of courses, joint conference papers and extensive sample design work by CSSM Deputy Director Dr Robert Clark for the NZ Health Survey, which has recently gone into the field.

The partnership will involve a range of collaborative activities including providing statistical expertise, helping develop capability in the design and analysis of health surveys and the analysis of health data, analysis and research services, a scholarship program to support selected Masters and PhD students, joint research projects and a training program in statistical analysis and health survey design and analysis. **CN**



Signing the agreement are UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton (seated left) and New Zealand Ministry of Health (NZMH) Deputy Director-General Dr Don Matheson, watched by (standing from left) NZMH Public Health Intelligence Manager Dr Barry Borman, UOW Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Margaret Sheil, CSSM Director Professor David Steel and CSSM Deputy Director Dr Robert Clark.



Van Badham

UOW-trained playwright Van Badham ushered in a new era of professional theatre in Wollongong in November when the Merrigong Theatre Co staged her powerful play about terrorism, *Camarilla*, at the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre.

It was the first locally-produced professional theatre in Wollongong since the demise of Theatre South in 2003.

## Van's play re-charges professional theatre

Merrigong has been staging productions from major touring companies, but decided to re-introduce home-grown professional theatre this year.

Merrigong Theatre Co Director Simon Hinton said it was fitting that the company's first professional should be "this ambitious, challenging play by Van Badham".

*Camarilla*, which Ms Badham wrote in London in the wake of the 9/11 attacks on the United States, is a powerful family drama that reaches a shattering climax as it explores themes of terrorism, family conflict and personal liberties.

Merrigong Development Coordinator Anne-Louise Rentell said *Camarilla's* five-performance season had been a

great success.

"We wanted our first locally-produced play to be from a playwright with close ties to the city, and to be a play with contemporary themes," Ms Rentell said. "*Camarilla* was ideal, because Van has strong links with Wollongong. But it wasn't an easy option. This was a brave and bold production, and we were delighted with the response.

"It was a very exciting season, and generated a lot of interest both in Wollongong and from other places."

Ms Badham, who bases herself for half the year in London, doesn't like to be limited to one genre. The UOW Creative Arts graduate and PhD student is working on a musical, a novel, two new plays including one commissioned by the Wilmer Theatre

in Philadelphia, a screenplay and a radio play for the BBC.

She also has a continuing involvement with projects for a number of small theatre companies in London, and will be teaching theatre and film at UOW's Faculty of Creative Arts Summer School.

Far from feeling over-loaded, Ms Badham thrives on the creative energy all these projects generate.

"I can't wait to teach film this summer. It's going to be so much fun," she said.

She will also be working on the musical over the summer with her English co-writer Jonny Berliner, who is coming to Australia to work with her on the show. It is based on a true story of a Soviet rock'n'roll star during the Cold War era. **CN**

## Playwright adds a new dimension

UOW Faculty of Creative Arts artist in residence, screenwriter and playwright Alana Valentine, will have her play *Parramatta Girls* staged at Company B's Belvoir Street Theatre in Sydney in March.

Ms Valentine, who spent the second half of 2006 as an artist in residence and casual Creative Writing teacher with the Faculty, wrote the play about the experience of eight young women

at the notorious Girls Training School at Parramatta – a home for abandoned, at risk and 'criminal' girls that operated from 1912 to 1974. The cast will include Leah Purcell and Annie Byron.

Ms Valentine is currently working on a screenplay for a Bryan Brown film set in community housing estate in western Sydney, having previously worked on other Australian films

including *Mullet*, which starred Ben Mendelsohn.

Creative Writing Lecturer and award-winning writer Alan Wearne said Ms Valentine had been a welcome addition to the Creative Writing teaching staff. He said the Faculty's artist in residence program was an excellent way of bringing students into contact with working professionals.

"We always like getting other perspectives for our students. (Creative Writing) is a broad church and we like to give our students as many visions and viewpoints as possible," Mr Wearne said.

Ms Valentine said she had thoroughly enjoyed her time at UOW.

"I loved the campus and environment, but most of all I was impressed by the students. I thought they were really high quality," she said.

*Parramatta Girls* will open at Belvoir Street on 21 March, with the season extending to 22 April. **CN**



# Awards, achievements and accolades

## US Academy honours Accounting historian

Professor Warwick Funnell of the School of Accounting and Finance has been honoured by the American Academy of Accounting Historians with their Hourglass Award.

This is the Academy's most prestigious award, and the highest international research honour in the field of accounting history.

The award, presented at the World Congress of Accounting Historians at Nantes in July, is in recognition of Professor Funnell's significant contributions to the study and advancement of accounting history in his books and scholarly articles but also his wider service to his discipline.



Professor Warwick Funnell

Among his most highly regarded and influential papers which have secured his international reputation and have led to this award are:

- *Accounting in the Service of the Holocaust* (Critical Perspectives on Accounting, No.8, 1998, pp.435-64), which exposed the role of accounting in promoting the relentless efficiency with which the Nazi Holocaust was prosecuted, and
- *Accounting for Justice: Entitlement, Want and the Irish Famine of 1845-7* (Accounting Historians Journal, Vol. 28 No. 2, December 2001, pp. 187-206), which demonstrated how accounting procedures were complicit in the needless deaths of many thousands of people in Ireland in the 19th century.

Professor Funnell has also established his scholarly reputation on the basis of his innovative work concerning the constitutional nexus between accounting, executive accountability and political liberty.



Associate Professor Narottam Bhindi

## Award recognises educational leadership

The Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL) has honoured UOW's Centre for Educational Leadership Director Associate Professor Narottam Bhindi with its Nganakarrawa Award.

The award, which recognises general excellence in educational administration and contribution to the ACEL, was conferred at the ACEL's national conference in Canberra in October.

Faculty of Education Dean Professor Barry Harper said Professor Bhindi had made an outstanding contribution to educational leadership at UOW and nationally.

Part of Professor Bhindi's award notation read:

"Associate Professor Narottam Bhindi has over many years made significant and highly effective contributions to both the theory and practice of educational leadership in regional, state and national levels within Australia, and to the practice of educational leadership internationally.

"He has an outstanding record as an academic in this field, and has been the head of the educational leadership programs previously at the University of New England, and currently at the University of Wollongong.

"In his current position as Director of the Australian Centre for Educational Leadership, Associate Professor Narottam Bhindi has now run significant international standard conferences in educational leadership each year. These conferences are attracting very significant international and state attendance as well as strong regional support. He has forged international alliances with Asia, and was instrumental in gaining a partnership arrangement in aspects of educational leadership between the Australian Catholic University and the University of Wollongong. He is highly regarded by the region's practitioners and has forged strong and effective partnerships with the State, Catholic and Independent Schools in the Illawarra region."

## Nanson's expertise on deserts acknowledged

Professor Gerald Nanson of UOW's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences has been awarded the Farouk El Baz Award for Excellence in Desert Research.

The announcement was made at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America held in Philadelphia.

The Farouk El Baz Research Award was established in 1999 and is given annually for outstanding work in the field of warm desert research by earth scientists. It is intended to encourage and reward arid-land studies.

Professor Nanson is internationally recognised for his outstanding research on the rivers and dune-fields of the arid Lake Eyre Basin in Central Australia.

The Geological Society of America acknowledged that over a 30-year career Professor Nanson has provided a special insight into processes of landscape evolution, climate change and hydrology across the Australian arid zone.



Professor Gerald Nanson

Collaborating with colleagues and students from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United States and Britain, Professor Nanson has authored more than 90 scientific papers and supervised 15 PhD students since joining UOW in 1977.

Professor Jim Bowler (University of Melbourne) concluded in his letter of commendation supporting Professor Nanson's nomination that "... rarely has an international scientist been able to extend his (or her) systematic studies in such detail on a continental scale as has been the example of Gerald Nanson in Australia. His work stands as a hallmark of excellence at both the national and international levels."

The Society said that the many students and professional colleagues of Professor Nanson from his 30-year career at UOW provide testimony to his ability to inspire young and established researchers to excel in their chosen fields of earth science research.



## Anti-terrorist paper named best at Summit

A research paper by a University of Wollongong academic on designing anti-terrorist perimeter protection for critical buildings received the Best Paper Award at the 5th Homeland Security Summit held in Canberra in October.

Dr Alex Remennikov from the School of Civil, Mining and Environmental Engineering received the award at the summit, which was organised by the Research Network for a Secure Australia (RNSA) and funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC).

Dr Katina Michael and Holly Tootel from the School of Information Technology and Computer Science also presented papers. Ms Tootel's paper was also nominated for the Best Paper Award.

The Homeland Security Summit is an annual event that brings together researchers and practitioners representing government, business and academic communities to discuss new trends that are shaping Australia's homeland security strategies.

A number of Australian and international researchers presented papers on the protection of critical infrastructure against acts of terrorism.

## Hearne honoured for dedication to teaching

After 26 years of dedication to the teaching profession, the last 13 at UOW, Faculty of Education lecturer Doug Hearne has been recognised as one of the state's outstanding teachers and has been honoured with an Australian College of Educators Quality Teaching Award.

The award is given annually to educators working in primary or secondary schools, TAFE, colleges or universities and recognises commitment to high quality teaching and excellence over the course of a career. This year, 37 educators from across NSW received an award from 127 nominees.

"It is a great privilege to receive this award," Mr Hearne said. "My teaching and student learning have always been central to my work at UOW."

Mr Hearne said he admires and respects those who choose teaching as a career path.

"I hold high expectations for my students and encourage them to take risks in their learning. In holding these expectations of my students it is only fair that I accept my responsibility to support their learning in a variety of ways," he said.



Doug Hearne

## UOW student wins share investment award

A UOW student has won a National Student Share Investment Award for his portfolio, which finished in the top 10 category from more than 6,000 portfolios.

Arts/Commerce student Paul Imbree ranked 8th in the competition with a 125% return on his portfolio from September 2005 to August 2006.

It was the first year that UOW has entered the competition with a submission of more than 200 portfolios. A number of other students ranked highly including David Weekes (110.82% return), Daniel Chinchilla-Walsh (94.91%), Geoffrey Rooney (93.59%), Neil Blake Shaw (90.67%) and Ami Spurway (83.19%).

UOW staff also made their mark with Mr Brian Murphy and Professor Andrew Worthington from the School of Accounting and Finance Unit ranking 5th and 10th respectively among the guest university lecturers.

The 2005-06 awards, sponsored by *Business Review Weekly*, the Australian Stock Exchange, CPA Australia and the Financial Services of Australasia, featured a number of industry professionals and senior academics.

Starting with a theoretical \$200,000 to invest, each portfolio needed to contain between five and 10 fully paid ordinary shares or trust units included in the ASX300 Index as at 2 September, 2005. No more than 20% (\$40,000) of the portfolio could be invested in any one stock.

The average UOW student portfolio was worth \$230,471 as at 29 August 2006, representing a market-beating return of 15.23%.

"Paul's achievement is outstanding and the valuable contribution of the student organising committee helped to ensure the successful participation of a large number of UOW students," said Professor Worthington.

## Scholarship rewards talented ICT student

UOW Bachelor of Information Technology student Jason Jennings has won a scholarship designed to recognise talented students in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector.

NSW Minister for Small Business David Campbell said the Australian Computer Society Foundation's NSW Annual Scholarship and Donor Presentation recognised and supported "our future ICT talent".

He said the ICT industry employed close to 100,000 people and generated more than \$7 billion in wages and salaries in NSW, which was almost half of the national total.

Jason's scholarship has allowed him to undertake paid work experience for four days a week for a 12-month period with IBM in North Sydney.

"Just recently my manager agreed to a six month extension to my scholarship, which means I will finish a few weeks after I graduate and will then be eligible for a graduate position mid-07," said Jason. **CN**



International Technology Leadership Award winners Kristy Kervin and Dr Garry Hoban.

## Innovation recognised in two international awards

The University of Wollongong has achieved a world first by winning both 2006 International Technology Leadership Awards for the innovative use of technology in teacher education.

The awards have gone to Dr Garry Hoban, a Senior Lecturer in Science Education and Teacher Education and his honours student, Ms Kristy Kervin.

He and Kristy have now been invited to a world conference on technology in teacher education in San Antonio, Texas, in March next year to receive their awards, present a session at the conference and submit an article to the international *Journal of Technology and Teacher Education*.

The 2006 Technology Leadership Awards are presented annually by the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education – an international society that is a sub-group of the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE).

Dr Hoban's award is for "Exemplary Use of Technology to Teach Content in a Teacher Education Methods Course" which recognises the value of students making animations to learn about science concepts.

"In essence, it is a use of technology that is simple enough for students in schools and universities to make animations in a relatively short period of time (1-2 hours)," Dr Hoban said.

Ms Kervin's award was for "Exemplary Use of Technology to Teach Content in the Induction Years".

Ms Kervin has been teaching for four days a week this year and doing her honours degree as she researched the use of "Slowmation" in the area of teaching mathematics to Year Four students. A mathematics lecturer, Ann Baxter, co-supervised Ms Kervin with Dr Hoban.

Dr Hoban has been promoting the use of a new form of animation, called "Slow Motion Animation" or "Slowmation" that he has developed in his teaching over the past two years. **CN**

## Rugby club graduates with 1st grade honours



Jubilant players, coaches and support staff celebrate the University Rugby Club's 2007 1st grade premiership. Photo: Josh Brightman.

Long-serving University of Wollongong Rugby Club president Dr Paul Webb believes the club can become the perennial powerhouse of Illawarra rugby after breaking through for its first 1st grade premiership this season.

University won the grand final 15-3 at WIN Stadium, beating Tech Waratahs, the team that had denied them in the 2005 grand final. Teachers College won the 1972 Illawarra premiership before merging with Uni, but this was the first top grade title for the merged club.

It was also the club's 15th straight victory in an outstanding season, where it also provided seven Illawarra representative players.

"Finally winning the premiership changes our whole focus," said club president Paul Webb. "Our goal now is to become a perennial power, and I believe we have the infrastructure to achieve that.

"We have a very strong committee, with a good mix of professional people with business skills and strong backgrounds in rugby. Our treasurer Canio

Fierravanti does a great job with fundraising, which allows us to run the club like a small business. We have a strategic plan, a player scholarships program and employ an administrative officer and physiotherapist.

"We will always have a problem with player turnover, as students come and go, but we've got strategies in place to overcome that."

Dr Webb, a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Education, has been involved with the club for 20 years – coaching in 1986-87, and as president since 1988.

"We've had some success over the past 20 years – 2nd grade and under 19 premierships and club championships – but winning the 1st grade grand final was very special. There was a lot of emotion among the supporters, but also a sense of relief. We'd won 14 games straight so there was a lot of expectation going into the game."

Tech Waratahs couldn't have asked for a better start in the grand final, with fullback Trevor Longbottom kicking a

35m penalty goal for a 3-0 lead after three minutes. But Uni were stung into action. Prop Chris Baines scored a try beside the posts minutes later and Wara Hanita-Paki converted for a 7-3 lead. Strong defence kept both teams from adding further points until Hanita-Paki kicked a penalty goal after the half-time siren.

The score remained unchanged until the 65th minute when No 8 Paul Tuala – the club's outstanding player all season – made a break down the right side and beat two defenders to score. Hanita-Paki missed the conversion but Uni tightened the defensive screws and protected their 12-point lead with ferocious tackling.

"It's been a long time coming," Uni captain and committee member Mark Placek told the *Illawarra Mercury* after the game. "We lost last year and we're just so much better this year with that extra year of experience under our belt, and that showed towards the end. We didn't panic when they were attacking our line at the end and we came away with the win. It's great." **CN**

## UOW to host 2007 Indigenous Games

The University of Wollongong has been confirmed as the host of the 2007 National Indigenous Tertiary Education Student Games, for Indigenous students from all over Australia competing in volleyball, touch football, netball and basketball.

Griffith University in Queensland hosted the 11th annual games in September.

This year Wollongong students finished 3rd overall, reaching the finals for volleyball, netball and basketball. Wollotuka (Newcastle University) took out the overall title followed by Queensland University of Technology.

All teams are mixed with at least three female players competing in each team at any one time. The games also include a local Indigenous traditional game which is played by all participants.

The Indigenous Tertiary Games provide an opportunity for Indigenous students to get together and compete in a spirit of camaraderie and also to mingle socially with students from others parts of Australia. The games also provide an opportunity for students to come together and form long lasting friendships, networks and support during studies and for future career prospects.

The UOW team for the 2006 Games acknowledged the support it received from the University, including Lynne Wright from EED, the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Education, WUSA, the Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service and the Woolyungah Indigenous Centre. **CN**

## UOW pair take competing to X-tremes

Natarsha Jazepczyk from UOW's Personnel Services and third year Bachelor of Primary Education degree student Mark Feeney travelled to Maui, Hawaii in November for a gruelling extreme sport challenge.

The X-TERRA World Championships consisted of a 1.5km

ocean swim, a 30km mountain bike ride with more than a 1000m vertical climb up the slopes of Maui's Haleakala volcano and a 11km trail run covering a dozen different surfaces from sand to lava rock.

Natarsha and Mark came in at 11th and 7th place respectively.

"I knocked 40 minutes off last year's time which I'm very happy about," said Natarsha.

The world championship was limited to 450 of the world's best X-TERRA athletes who had qualified at events around the world. It was televised for a one-hour feature in the United States and overseas. **CN**

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<b>Editorial</b>	Bernie Goldie Nick Hartgerink Renée Criddle
<b>Layout Artist</b>	Paul Martens
<b>Photographers</b>	Sean Maguire Mark Newsham
<b>Telephone</b>	+61 2 4221 5942
<b>Facsimile</b>	+61 2 4221 3128
<b>Email</b>	media@uow.edu.au
<b>Web</b>	media.uow.edu.au

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