

campus news

University of Wollongong



IPRI Director heads new Centre of Excellence



From left: Professor Gordon Wallace (UOW), Education, Science and Training Minister Dr Brendan Nelson, Professor Maria Forsyth (Monash) and Bionic Ear Institute Director Professor Graeme Clark at the announcement of the new Centre.

The University of Wollongong's internationally acclaimed Intelligent Polymer Research Institute (IPRI) will play a pivotal role in a \$12 million Australian Centre of Excellence in Electromaterials Science.

IPRI Director Professor Gordon Wallace has been appointed Director of the new Centre of Excellence, with UOW forming a team with Monash University in Melbourne and the Bionic Ear Institute to create the electromaterials required for a new generation of bionic ears, artificial muscles and nerve repairs, and the bio-batteries and bio-fuel cells to drive them.

Education, Science and Training Minister Dr Brendan Nelson announced the new Centre on June 15.

Professor Wallace said the Centre would develop electromaterials to enhance human health, renewable energy and sustainable industries.

"Improvements in all these areas are possible by developing electromaterials with improved efficiency in the generation and transfer of electrical charge," Professor Wallace said.

By developing new nano (ultra minute) materials and new theories to explain their behaviour, Professor Wallace said the Centre would make advances in:

- The regeneration of damaged nerves (eg: in spinal injury) and the development of artificial muscles
- Renewable energy (plastic solar cells, lightweight batteries and electronic textiles) and
- Sustainable industries (recovery of precious metals and new corrosion protection technologies)

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ARC chief opens \$1m facility

Australian Research Council (ARC) Chief Executive Officer Professor Peter Hoj officially opened a \$1 million Biomolecular Mass Spectrometer at the University of Wollongong on June 9.

Only two other machines of its kind exist in the world and both are housed at Cambridge University.

With \$500,000 from the ARC and support from UOW, the Australian National University in Canberra and the Clive and Vera Ramaciotti Foundation, more than \$1 million worth of equipment has now been installed enabling UOW and ANU to compete with international laboratories devoted to high sensitivity biomolecular analysis. **Full story – Page 3**

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.

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Bali 9 arrest criticism unwarranted

This Opinion piece by DOUG MacKINNON, Director of UOW's Centre for Transnational Crime Prevention, was published in key newspapers around Australia.

Much has been said and written about the arrest of the so-called Bali 9 at Denpasar Airport and at a Kuta hotel in April this year.

There has been criticism of Australian authorities and in particular the Australian Federal Police (AFP) because they provided their Indonesian National Police (INP) counterparts with the information and investigative support that has led to Australian citizens becoming subject to Indonesian criminal laws which include the death penalty for serious narcotics offences.

Most of this criticism is based on Australia's opposition to the death penalty, although some critics seem to think that the AFP has the power to tell the Indonesians how, where and when they may exercise law enforcement powers within their own country. This notion, of course, is wrong and ignores Australia's international obligations under relevant agreements – not to mention some pragmatic issues concerning law enforcement.

First, both Australia and Indonesia are bound to cooperate by the United Nations Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Treaty, 1988 (Vienna Convention). This establishes a framework in which countries can collaborate to minimise drug abuse, production and trafficking through education and a range of law enforcement and crime prevention initiatives.

It obliges countries to enact implementing legislation and encourages them to establish Mutual Legal Assistance agreements. Such agreements are developed to better enable the exchange of information and transfer of evidence between jurisdictions.

Importantly, the Vienna Convention established a fund to assist less advantaged states to develop their anti-drug regimes and urges those states that can to provide assistance to lesser developed states. Australia has had such a relationship with Indonesia at a police to police level for several years.

The effectiveness of such collaborative arrangements was demonstrated by the understanding between the AFP and the INP that enabled the AFP to support the INP to investigate the Bali Bombing in 2002.

Secondly, Australia, through the AFP and other agencies, promotes capacity-building initiatives for the development of law enforcement and crime prevention to counteract transnational crime in developing Asian and Pacific countries.

Nowhere is this Australian collaboration stronger than with Indonesia. For example, Australia provided the initial funds for the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) with a new purpose-built campus at Semarang in Java. JCLEC was opened last year and is overseen by a committee jointly chaired by the Commissioners of the INP and AFP. The Centre now offers high-level technical training to law enforcement personnel from Asia and beyond.

Significantly, Australia also has supported the establishment of an operational Transnational Crime Centre (TNCC) within the INP with the objective of enhancing the operational and intelligence capability of the INP to address narcotics, people trafficking, identity fraud, weapons trafficking and so on. An Indonesian and Australian committee also oversees this program.

The INP has a cadre of highly skilled investigators, many of whom have benefited from training provided by Australia, European and North American countries. This cadre is small relative to the 240,000-strong INP but it is growing constantly.

Back to Bali and recent events.

Four of the nine Australians taken into custody on suspicion of trafficking heroin in Indonesia (not a heroin-producing area but both a consumer and transshipment state) were arrested prior to boarding an aircraft to Australia with heroin strapped to their bodies.

A fifth person, an alleged overseer not carrying narcotics, was taken into custody on board the aircraft. Another four persons were arrested in a hotel in Kuta, and narcotics and relevant paraphernalia were located there. All had been the targets of an INP-led surveillance operation for days prior to their arrest. The Bali police operation on drugs transited through Indonesia destined for Australia was reportedly based on information initially provided by the AFP.

The decision to terminate the surveillance and place all the alleged traffickers into custody was made by a senior INP officer. This was a sound operational



Doug MacKinnon

decision. The unlikely possibility of an effective controlled delivery being managed in Australia, and the disadvantages to any law enforcement case of letting the five suspects travel to Australia, far outweighed any advantage of continuing surveillance.

Conduct of the arrests in Bali significantly strengthened the case against those arrested at the Kuta hotel in particular. As all suspect offenders in custody are within the one jurisdiction, the same jurisdiction from which both technical and supporting evidence will be sourced (eg. hotel staff), the court will get a wholistic picture of the alleged crimes and will be better informed in its deliberations.

If the proceedings had been split between Australia and Indonesia, the cases against several alleged traffickers would have been weakened significantly.

There are often significant systemic and procedural difficulties in investigating and prosecuting multi-jurisdictional crimes, such as the required meshing of Australia's adversarial common law system with Indonesia's inquisitorial civil law system.

Far more information is available to the public about the circumstances of such a case in Indonesia than ever would be available in Australia. The INP has indicated that in several of the cases they will be proffering charges that carry the death penalty. Subject to conviction it will be the court that decides the penalty and not the police.

Australia's opposition to the death penalty is well known. It differs from our ASEAN neighbours who impose the death penalty for serious narcotic offences. The Australian government seeks to ensure that its citizens are well aware of the serious penalties for narcotics trafficking in South East Asia.

The ASEAN countries notify travellers of such serious penalties through documentation provided to travellers prior to arrival in the relevant jurisdiction. Recent media saturation coverage of another drug case involving Australian citizen Schapelle Corby in Bali has ensured that such penalties are widely known.

Ultimately, the fact that Australia did not shirk its commitments under the relevant agreements may well be viewed favourably by the Indonesian legal system in its determination of sentences. **CN**

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ARC chief launches high mass spectrometer at UOW

The University of Wollongong's focus on its clear research strengths has paid handsome dividends with the opening of a high mass spectrometer machine – a facility so diverse that it can help researchers tackle society's major medical problems, test for drugs or even aid Australia's wine exporters.

Only two other machines of its kind exist in the world and both are housed at Cambridge University.

Australian Research Council (ARC) Chief Executive Officer Professor Peter Hoj officially opened the new Biomolecular Mass Spectrometry Facilities located in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Wollongong on June 9.

The ARC provided more than \$500,000 to set up the facilities. With additional support from UOW, the Australian National University in Canberra and the Clive and Vera Ramaciotti Foundation, more than \$1 million worth of equipment has now been installed enabling the joint institutions to compete with other international laboratories devoted to high sensitivity biomolecular analysis.

Professor Hoj said the ARC helped provide funds for the machine knowing that the researchers had the track record to achieve great value from the facilities now available. "It's vital to tie in good researchers to good infrastructure," he said.

Professor Hoj said ARC funding would go to universities where excellent research was taking place.

He said it also was important for people outside the university sector to know the capabilities of machines such as the customised high mass range spectrometer



The CEO of the Australian Research Council, Professor Peter Hoj, officially opens the new Biomolecular Mass Spectrometry Facilities housed at the University of Wollongong watched by (from left) Dr Jenny Beck (Chemistry, UOW), Professor Rob Whelan (Dean of Science, UOW), Dr Nicholas Dixon (Chemistry, ANU), Professor Margaret Sheil (Pro Vice-Chancellor Research UOW), Professor Gerard Sutton (Vice-Chancellor, UOW) and Dr Stephen Blanksby (Chemistry, UOW).

In the field of medicine, the machine would be of benefit in analysing such things as:

- Proteins that are necessary to reproduce the bacterial chromosome, which may lead to the development of new antibiotics
- The lipid (fat) composition of membranes under different metabolic conditions which will aid understanding of diseases of metabolism such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease

- Changes in proteins that occur with ageing that may contribute to diseases such as cataracts and diabetes

The Q-ToF mass spectrometer has a mass range 10 times that of a conventional instrument and is specifically designed for the observation of large complexes formed between biological molecules such as proteins and DNA.

Drawing on his past experience as Managing Director of the Australian Wine Research Institute, Professor Hoj cited how the mass spectrometer could also ensure the integrity of wine labelling. It was capable of analysing protein to verify the grape varieties used in bottles of wine – an important quality control service for the export wine industry.

"While mass spectrometers are probably best known when used by drug-testing agencies at the Olympic Games and other major sporting events to detect performance-enhancing drugs, the latest generation of high mass spectrometers answer many questions in biology and chemistry," Dr Jenny Beck of UOW's Department of Chemistry said.

Dr Beck, Dr Stephen Blanksby and Professor Margaret Sheil from UOW along with Dr Nicholas Dixon, Professor Gottfried Otting and Professor Barry Rolfe from the ANU were the principal researchers involved with the successful ARC grant.

UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton said that in a country the size of Australia collaboration between universities such as UOW and ANU to share such equipment was simply vital. **CN**

Ray Cleary's "heartbeat" now carries his name



The University of Wollongong building that Mrs Zita Cleary described as her late husband Ray's "heartbeat" now officially carries his name.

Mrs Cleary was speaking at a naming ceremony, when the University Building at UOW's Shoalhaven Campus officially became the Ray Cleary Building in honour of the man widely acknowledged as the single most important influence on the establishment and development of the University's Shoalhaven Campus.

"That building was Ray's heartbeat," Mrs Cleary told the audience of more than 200 who attended the ceremony on June 16. "He spent more time there than he did at home."

Mrs Cleary said she was deeply touched by the number of people who attended the ceremony. They included the University's senior executive headed by Chancellor Michael Codd, AC, Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton, Shoalhaven civic and

UOW Chancellor Michael Codd with Mrs Zita Cleary at the ceremony to name the Shoalhaven Campus Building after the late Dr Ray Cleary.

business leaders including the Mayor Councillor Greg Watson, and many family and friends.

Dr Ray Cleary died in February after a battle with cancer, aged 66. He was a passionate educator and dedicated community worker who spent 20 years as a UOW academic.

Dr Cleary believed that the Shoalhaven community would benefit greatly from a university campus in the area and worked tirelessly to achieve that aim. He was appointed Head of the first UOW Shoalhaven Campus which opened at Graham Park, Berry in 1993 and over-saw the move to the current premises in West Nowra in 2000, continuing as Head until 2003.

"Ray believed the Shoalhaven was deprived by not having a tertiary institution. He thought young people in the Shoalhaven should have the option to stay and study in their local area so he pushed and pushed for it," Mrs Cleary said.

Mr Codd said the number of people who attended the naming ceremony symbolised the esteem in which Dr Cleary was held.

"Ray was the driving force – indeed the unstoppable force – in bringing a physical university presence to this region," Mr Codd said. "He had an outstanding ability to energise and drive others. He was also a great mentor to many who found the way to better lives through their education here (at this campus)." **CN**

Team leads UWB wireless research

Imagine being able to have a DVD downloaded onto your mobile phone while you fill your car with petrol, or being able to electronically tag your children's toys so that when they are misplaced you can simply activate a map of your house on your computer and track them down.

Picture your complete home theatre entertainment system operating without any wires or cables and being able to broadcast your theatre content to any other TV in the house . . .

It's concepts like these that will one day be possible because of Ultra Wideband (UWB) technology, and the University of Wollongong's Wireless Technologies Laboratory is the only one of its kind in Australia working towards such advancements. UWB technology is a revolutionary radio technology whose impact on our lives is expected to be comparable to that of the transistor radio and the personal computer.

The Wireless Technologies Laboratory was established in early 2004 after UOW attracted a research team consisting of seven members from Motorola Research Labs in Sydney.

The team, headed by Professor Eryk Dutkiewicz, specialises in the development of high speed wireless communications technologies and is

researching the next generation of UWB technology - a potential multi-billion dollar market that is being referred to as "bluetooth on steroids". Since its formation, the lab has successfully conducted a major research contract for US-based Motorola and has won several large government research grants.

"Our lab is the only one in the country with the potential to undertake this scale of research, and we have some of the biggest IT companies in the world fighting for the technology," Professor Dutkiewicz said.

"The University of Wollongong is also the only Australian member of the UWB forum - a worldwide forum formed in late 2004 comprised of over 100 companies working toward making UltraWideband technology a reality."

This reality will enable people to download digital camera footage onto their mobile phone or video player within seconds. UWB will also have applications for public safety, the mining industry and military environments.

The Wireless Technologies Laboratory is part of UOW's Faculty of Informatics and has a number of links with institutions throughout Asia and Europe and collaborative



The Wireless Technologies Laboratory team at UOW includes (from left to right) Professor Eryk Dutkiewicz, Dr Kwan-Wu Chin, Mr Raad Raad, Mr Darryn Lowe, Associate Professor Xiaojing Huang, Mr Ricardo Gandia, Mr Ibrahim Raad and Mr Pingzhou Tu. Mr Marc Salem was absent from photo.

agreements with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (equivalent to the CSIRO) and Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

With approval just recently being granted in the United States and some early products becoming available at industry shows, the UOW team is working on standards development and laboratory testing that will result in regulatory approval

for this wireless technology to become available to the Australian public.

Professor Dutkiewicz, who has accepted an invitation from the Beijing Government to speak at an international forum on information technology standards recently, said the lab is on its way to becoming a centre of excellence in Australia for UWB research and a hub from which the industry will be able to grow. **CN**



Maritime policy experts join advisory group

The University of Wollongong has received national recognition for its research strength in maritime policy with the Federal Government announcing the appointment of two academics to serve on the National Oceans Advisory Group.

Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage Senator Ian Campbell appointed the Director of UOW's Centre for Maritime Policy (CMP) Professor Martin Tsamenyi and Associate Professor Gregory Rose (CMP member from the Faculty of

Law) to the National Oceans Advisory Group.

The Advisory Group's role is to provide advice to the Government on the implementation of Australia's Oceans Policy.

The National Oceans Policy was launched by Prime Minister John Howard in December 1998 to improve management of 16 million square kilometres of oceans under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth, with the aim of maintaining ocean ecosystem health and to promote strong, diverse and internationally competitive marine industries.

Professor Tsamenyi and Professor Rose said the National Oceans Policy was being implemented through a series of regional marine plans.

"The National Oceans Advisory Group advises on the scope and effectiveness of regional marine planning processes. By serving as a

forum for exchanging information and views between the various sectors, it is positioned to advise on cross-sectoral and cross-jurisdictional oceans issues in the marine planning process," they said.

"In particular, the National Oceans Advisory Group focuses on gaps, overlaps and priorities related to integrated management and ecosystem-based marine planning."

There are 16 members of the National Oceans Advisory Group plus a Chairperson. Appointments are for two years in the first instance. Members of the Group are appointed for their expertise in ocean issues, including the two positions for law and policy experts which were filled by the UOW academics. **CN**

Picture: Associate Professor Gregory Rose (left) and Professor Martin Tsamenyi who have been appointed by the Federal Government to serve on the National Oceans Advisory Group.

What a Guy! Art Collection blossomed under Warren

When acclaimed artist Guy Warren accepted an invitation to become Director of the University of Wollongong's Art Collection in 1992, he thought he would be making a "minor contribution to a minor collection".

Thirteen years later Dr Warren, 84, is stepping down as Director of an art collection that is anything but minor. It is now what UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton describes as a "remarkable" collection of more than 2,500 pieces.

It contains paintings, prints, sculptures, ceramics and textiles by eminent Australian artists including Lloyd Rees, Arthur Boyd, Judy Watson and Emily Kngwarreye, and one of the most extensive collections of Aboriginal prints in the country. There are also a number of Guy Warren's own works, including his Archibald Prize-winning portrait of his great friend, sculptor and former UOW academic Bert Flugelman, which he donated to the University.

Professor Sutton paid tribute to the man whose contribution to the University and its Art Collection has also been anything but minor.

"The University has what can only be described as a remarkable art collection, thanks to Guy's vision and extraordinary network in the art world," Professor Sutton said. "And he has built the collection up with very little expenditure – a testament to his network and his astuteness. He has purchased very wisely, while other works have been acquired through gifts or on loan.

"Guy built the Collection up to a point where it needed a full-time curator, and he has been training Glenn Barkley very well to take over from him.

"And the other thing about Guy is that he's such a nice person. Everybody loves him."

Professor Sutton also paid tribute to Dr Warren's wife Joy, herself an acclaimed artist whose pottery adorns his office, and who has a Doctorate in Creative Arts from UOW.

Dr Warren said he felt his main function had always been to make the Collection something the University could be proud of.

"When (former Vice-Chancellor Professor) Ken McKinnon asked me to take on this role it was intended to be a minor contribution to a minor collection, but it (the Collection) has grown enormously in vision and content," Dr Warren said.

"It eventually grew to the point where I couldn't handle it all in one day a week, so I asked for a part-time assistant. Glenn Barkley was employed and it worked so well that it was obvious that he should become the full-time curator, while I continued what I was doing – looking at work and buying work."



Guy Warren with his 1985 Archibald Prize-winning portrait of his friend, sculptor Bert Flugelman, which he donated to the UOW Art Collection and is hung in the Faculty of Creative Arts. Mr Warren is stepping down after 13 years as Director of the Collection.

Dr Warren said Mr Barkley had developed professionally with the job, and he was leaving the Art Collection in good hands.

One of the most satisfying aspects of his involvement with the Collection was that many of the pieces now adorned the University's corridors, meeting rooms and public spaces, exposing UOW students to a diverse range of art.

"The art is there for everyone to see and be exposed to," Dr Warren said. "It doesn't matter if they like it or not. The students of this University are very lucky to be able to wander past art as they move around the Campus."

Mr Warren paid tribute to the support he had received from Professors McKinnon and Sutton. He had also received strong support and assistance from the Faculty of Creative Arts, especially in collecting Aboriginal works.

"The Faculty always had strong connections with Aboriginal communities and artists in the Top End. People like Sue Blanchfield and Diana Wood Conroy both spent a lot of time in Aboriginal communities, and have made important contributions to developing the Collection's Aboriginal works."

Dr Warren said the Art Collection had been fortunate to receive a number of significant donations during his time. Highlights included surrealist James Gleeson donating a large canvas, and last year's donation by Melbourne-based art collector Dr Douglas Kagi. The Kagi Gift – a collection of 70 prints by eminent English artists – is valued at more than \$200,000.

"Gifts like this really add stature to the Collection," he said. "It means the Collection can really stand on its own feet now. And Glenn has developed his own networks so I am sure people will continue to donate good and serious works to the University."

The University awarded Dr Warren an honorary Doctorate in Creative Arts in 1998. He was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 1999. **CN**

IPRI Director heads new Centre of Excellence

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UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton hailed the announcement as a major coup for the University.

"It is further evidence of how the University has successfully concentrated its research strengths and is now being clearly acknowledged by the Government and the Australian Research Council," he said.

Professor Wallace said on the bionics front, the University of Wollongong group would provide materials expertise to produce revolutionary new interfaces for coupling biology and electronics.

He said the combined expertise of Monash University and UOW researchers would enable novel biofuel cell and biobattery concepts that will provide energy to allow improved performance of bionic implants. The medical application of these new devices will be led by the Bionic Ear Institute.

Plastics will be made so they have nano-features – hairs and tubes and surfaces that allow them to link directly with nerves and other cells in human bodies. Add very low voltages (energy levels already found in our bodies) and these plastics can be engineered to change their properties. They will, for example, be able to slowly release drugs or growth factors and attract or repel cells.

"These smart plastics could transform the performance of the bionic ear," Bionic Ear Institute Director Professor Graeme Clark said.

"Our aim is a bionic ear that gives near-normal hearing," he said. "For that, we need much better connections between the hearing nerves and the electronics. We hope the research team will create a plastic electrode that conducts electrical signals to the nerves, releases a nerve growth factor, and has microscopic features that encourage nerves to link with it."

Monash University Professor Maria Forsyth said the Monash team would focus on new materials for renewable energy technologies, corrosion protection and the bio-interface.

"Inexpensive, flexible solar cells are a particular goal, as is the development of new corrosion protection coatings for various metals and in particular new light weight alloys. Cutting edge bio-battery and bio-fuel cell technologies would also be developed for both implantable medical as well as everyday domestic applications," she said.

Meanwhile, UOW has also been named as a partner in the Centre of Excellence in Cultural and Media Industries. The new centre will be based at the Queensland University of Technology, and will drive the development of Australia's capacity to maximise the national economic and cultural benefits of digital content industries.

Professor Christoph Antons from UOW's Faculty of Law is a Chief Investigator at the Centre. **CN**

UOW's Fulbright Scholarship success

Australian-American Fulbright Commission Executive Director Mark Darby visited the University of Wollongong recently to acknowledge UOW's continuing success in securing prestigious Fulbright scholarships.

Mr Darby said it was an honour for a university to secure one of the high-ranking Fulbright Senior Scholar Awards – and UOW has now scored two such awards in consecutive years. Last year Professor Tony Hulbert from Biological Sciences won this award and this year it has gone to Professor Mark Walker, also from Biological Sciences.

Professor Walker is one of Australia's leading researchers in recombinant DNA technology to improve the effectiveness of vaccines for infectious diseases. He is researching the flesh eating bacterium known as *Streptococcus pyogenes* which is a serious disease-causing microbe affecting the northern Australian

Aboriginal population.

Doctors often must remove skin, large groups of muscle, or entire limbs to save a sufferer's life. Using a molecular approach, Professor Walker will seek to discover and characterise streptococcal properties in order to identify potential vaccine antigens to combat the disease, which will have a positive impact upon public health.

Professor Walker will be based at the University of Tennessee and the University of California, San Diego while in the US.

UOW also achieved a second Fulbright with PhD student Andrew Wroe from the Centre for Medical Radiation Physics recognised for significant advances in his innovative research into the interaction of proton radiation on the cellular and DNA level.

Mr Wroe's research will also aid advances in manned space exploration, including future missions to Mars. Humans exploring space are exposed to Solar Particle Radiation and



Australian-American Fulbright Commission Executive Director Mark Darby (centre, back row) is pictured during his visit to UOW with (back row, from left) School of Biological Sciences Head Associate Professor Bill Buttemer and IPRI Professor Gordon Wallace; and (front row, from left): Visiting US Fulbright Fellow Professor Richard Kaner, UOW's latest Fulbright Senior Scholar Professor Mark Walker and UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton. [Absent from the photo is Andrew Wroe, UOW's second Fulbright recipient for this year.]

Galactic Cosmic Radiation composed of high-energy protons that cause permanent damage to human DNA.

Mr Wroe's research will allow for radiation shielding to be optimised affording the best possible protection to the crew and spacecraft.

Mr Wroe's research is being conducted in collaboration with the Loma Linda University Medical Centre (LLUMC) proton facility in the United States. His Fulbright Award will support 12 months of research with LLUMC and

Brookhaven National Laboratory.

At the same time, UOW is currently hosting a visiting Fulbright Scholar from the United States. Professor Richard Kaner is a visiting Fulbright Fellow from the University of California, Los Angeles. Professor Kaner has spent a majority of his life researching polymers, particularly conducting polymers – unusual plastics that conduct electricity.

He is working closely with UOW's Intelligent Polymer Research Institute Director Professor Gordon Wallace. **CN**

Thank you to cancer sponsors

The University's Office of Community and Partnerships and the Research Services Office hosted a special afternoon tea at the University of Wollongong recently as a public thank you and an information session between cancer researchers and those people who have made donations to cancer research conducted at UOW.

Professor John Bremner (Chemistry), Professor Phil Clingan (Honorary Senior Fellow in the Biomolecular Science Institute) and Professor Anatoly Rosenfeld (Medical Radiation Physics) presented recent research findings made possible by donations and bequests by members of the University's Alumni, UOW's Rotaract, Rotary (Kiama and Minnamurra), cancer carers' groups and other individuals.

Professor Clingan (an oncologist at the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service) has been working with Professor

Bremner, Dr Marie Ranson and Dr Tamantha Stutchbury on the development of new drug formulations for cancer patients.

They have developed a new drug compound which is showing significant promise in animal experiments, and they hope to further develop this drug combination for use in humans. If successful, the drug combination should greatly ease painful side effects on drug administration and be more effective in the treatment of certain cancers like colo-rectal cancer.

Qantas has recently pledged support for the anti-cancer work through the provision of at least 12 air tickets (Wollongong-Melbourne) to Professor Clingan, Dr Ranson and Dr Stutchbury to support collaboration with Monash University on the further development of the cancer drug formulation work.

Professor Rosenfeld also presented his work in the development of animal Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanner instrumentation, for use in the diagnosis of cancer and brain functionality in patients. **CN**

Rotary helps fund prostate research

A University of Wollongong PhD student has been awarded a scholarship to develop a technique that he hopes will reduce common complications of prostate cancer treatment.

Ian Kwan has received a \$75,000 three-year PhD scholarship from the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund and Rotary Clubs in District 9650.

"Prostate cancer is one of the most common cancers in men," said Mr Kwan. "There are several treatment options available including surgery and different forms of radiation therapy."

"In one common type of radiation therapy, called High Dose Rate Brachytherapy, a highly radioactive seed the size of a rice grain is implanted into the prostate temporarily so that high doses of radiation can be delivered directly to the tumour," Mr Kwan said.

"Although much more accurate than another type of radiation therapy known as external beam radiation, the side effect of this treatment can sometimes be damage to the patient's rectum and urethra because of the proximity of

these organs to the radiation. This in turn can lead to impotence, urethritis (inflammation of the urethra), and rectal bleeding," he said.

"With the help of Rotary we are trying to develop a detector that can be placed inside the patient's rectum and urethra that will let us know exactly how much radioactivity is reaching there at any given moment," Mr Kwan said. "We can then adjust the dose of radioactivity accordingly so that damage to surrounding organs and normal tissue is minimised."

Mr Kwan will conduct his research as part of his PhD studies at the Centre for Medical Radiation Physics where he is supervised by Professor Anatoly Rozenfeld. Researchers from the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York and the St George Hospital and Community Health Service in Sydney are also involved in the project.

District Chairman for the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund (ARHRF), Paul Ying said that the Rotary clubs in his district were excited they could join with the ARHRF to help fund cutting-edge research that will improve the lives of men with prostate cancer. **CN**

Sean decides games people play

Alumni in Profile Sean Jenkin

**Bachelor of Computer Science
(Software Systems), 1999**

When Sean Jenkin was a student at the University of Wollongong's Faculty of Informatics he helped teach a robot to play tic-tac-toe.

Six years later he's Development and Test Manager for Microsoft Games Studios in the United States, heading up a team of 40 developers and testers in the Tools and Technology Product Unit who are developing the platforms for the next generation of computer games.

In fact, the work Sean Jenkin does today will determine the kind of computer games sold around the world this Christmas and for years to come.

Sean says it's the perfect job. "I come to work and make video games every day. Need I say more?" he said. "Seriously though, I work at a place that's on the cutting edge of game development in the world. I've also gotten to travel around the world and,



UOW Computer Science graduate Sean Jenkin, who is now Development and Test Manager for Microsoft Games Studios.

meet game development idols from my childhood."

Sean, 28, from the Wollongong suburb of Figtree is now based at Microsoft's headquarters at Redmond, Washington.

He spent five years at UOW studying part-time and working for a Wollongong software development company before receiving the offer to join Microsoft a few days before he graduated.

"UOW taught me one thing above all else ... I learned how to learn. Without this skill I know I wouldn't be where I am today," Sean said.

He said a highlight of his studies was a year-long software development project. "We had a mechanical robot with a vision system, and four of us spent 12 months teaching it how to play tic-tac-toe against people from around the world," Sean said. "We had a web site that allowed people to control the robot via a Java applet and to see what the robot was doing via the vision system. It exposed me to working in a real-time environment using technologies from a whole host of companies."

Sean said he had many fond memories of his time at UOW. "The best classes were the ones where I was challenged to expand my knowledge to succeed," he said. "I also appreciated being able to take subjects from other faculties (music, management and astronomy) to balance out the technical nature of my degree. I still refer back to work I did in some of those classes." **CN**



Jocelin spreads the e-news

"We are working hard to build up our contact with Alumni all around the world through e-communications and an inter-active website," Ms Kelly said. "Many of our Alumni live overseas but want to remain connected with UOW, and this is helping us capture everybody."

"We've introduced a bi-monthly e-news service to keep Alumni up to date with what is happening in the Alumni chapters and at the University, and have had a really good response to our requests for contributions to our graduate stories page."

"Over the coming months we will be developing an inter-active website that enables Alumni to gain advice and support services."

Ms Kelly said she would encourage any Alumni who are not receiving the e-news service to email alumni@uow.edu.au to update their contact information.

She also urged Alumni to take advantage of UOW's Alumni Benefits Program, which had recently been expanded with the addition of Dell Computers. Dell is offering UOW Alumni a 5% discount on selected Dell products available online from Dell Home and Office web store.

The Alumni Benefits Program offers a range of goods and services at discounted rates for UOW graduates, and a number of the University's partners also provide rebates or donations back to the Alumni Network on every purchase made using the Alumni Benefits Card.

"We use these funds for prizes and scholarships for deserving students," Ms Kelly said. "That means that Alumni using their card to take advantage of the discounts from Hertz, Rebel Sport and Australian Women's Money Magazine actually contribute to the University, as well as saving themselves money."

All graduates and current students are members of the Alumni Network, and therefore eligible for an Alumni Benefits Card. Eligible people who do not have the current card should contact the Alumni Network on 02 4221 4676 or email alumni@uow.edu.au

Organisations interested in becoming partners can also contact the Alumni Network at the same contact.

Detailed information is also available at www.uow.edu.au/alumni/benefits.html

The University of Wollongong's new Alumni Relations Manager Jocelin Kelly (pictured) is excited about the opportunities that e-communications are opening up between the University and its Alumni around the world.

Ms Kelly, who was Alumni Relations Coordinator before being appointed Manager to replace Marta Larzabal who moved interstate in May, said the recent addition of an e-news service for Alumni had been well received.

Check out the
**Alumni
Discounts**
on page 15!

Peacekeeping in Darfur



Commander Seth Appiah Mensah

Master of Maritime Policy 1999

Ghanian Naval Commander Seth Appiah Mensah (pictured) is using the skills he learned at UOW's Centre for Maritime Policy in a key peacekeeping role in the troubled Darfur region of Sudan.

Commander Mensah is on secondment to the African Union (AU), a coalition of African nations which is monitoring the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement (HCFA) in Darfur, where an estimated 180,000 civilians have died and two million displaced in the brutal civil war.

The international Human Rights Watch organisation says the African Union deserves credit for taking the lead in efforts to restore security to Darfur, and has lauded AU plans to help reverse the "ethnic cleansing" that has taken place in Darfur since the conflict began in February 2003.

From July to December last year Commander Mensah was one of six sector commanders of the AU's African Mission in Sudan (AMIS) who were responsible for trying to ensure compliance with the ceasefire agreement.

"The tasks included investigation, verification and reporting all alleged violations," Commander Mensah told Campus News. "In most cases, the investigations put us in harm's way. Our personnel were fired on, fuel convoys attacked, and patrol teams threatened and abducted."

In January he was redeployed to the AMIS headquarters in Khartoum, as Military Advisor to the Head of Mission and Special Representative to the African Union Commission chairperson. His duties

include interpreting and analysing the military situation and providing advice on security in Darfur, liaison with the United Nations Mission in Sudan on military issues, preparing security-related reports for the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa and briefing international observers.

Commander Mensah said he was inspired to apply to study at UOW after reading a paper that the Centre for Maritime Policy's former director Commander Sam Bateman had presented to a Naval Symposium in London in 1997.

"I had a lifetime ambition to become a naval academic, but the narrow scope of maritime dynamics in Africa made this seem an impossible task," he said. "Therefore when I learned about the Masters degree program at the Centre for Maritime Policy my curiosity was aroused. I contacted Sam who mailed some brochures about the Centre to me in Ghana, and the rest is history. God bless Sam for helping me achieve my academic dream."

Commander Mensah, who studied at UOW in 1998-99, said the course had been invaluable in his current role in Sudan.

"The course in Wollongong widened my imaginative, political and strategic views on critical policy issues at government and international levels," he said. "My analytical and research skills were sharpened, and have been very useful in my day-to-day comments, analysis and advice on critical security and humanitarian dynamics in Darfur."

He offered some optimism for the situation in Darfur, and said the AU's presence had helped stabilise the situation. "Although ceasefire violations still occur, there is evidence that the situation could have been a lot worse without the AU. Even with limited manpower and resources, it is evident that where we are deployed the civilians feel secure." **CN**

Appointments

Kieron Ritchard

Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) 1994

UOW Bachelor of Commerce graduate Kieron Ritchard has been appointed Vice-President, Strategy – Greater China for the InterContinental Hotels Group.

He has responsibility for developing and executing InterContinental's growth strategy for Greater China.

Kieron is an experienced hospitality executive with extensive international experience in the hotel and tourism industries. He established himself as a specialist adviser to the hotel industry while working with leading management consultant firms.

Before taking up his current position in April this year, Kieron was Vice-President, Development Asia Pacific at Le Meridien Hotels and Resorts, a role he held since January 2002.

He is based in Shanghai.

Mark Grimson

Bachelor of Commerce 1992

Master of Commerce (Economics) 1996

UOW graduate Mark Grimson has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Illawarra region's peak business body, the Illawarra Business Chamber.

Mark, who completed his Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1992 and a Masters degree in Economics in 1996, was appointed to the IBC's top job in May after serving as Policy Manager for the previous 3.5 years.

After graduating from UOW Mark worked for the Illawarra Regional Information Service. He then moved to Canberra where he worked for the National Farmers' Federation and as a policy adviser to Primary Industries Minister Warren Truss.

Phillip Bragg

Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) 1990

UOW Commerce graduate Phil Bragg has been appointed General Manager of one of the biggest licensed clubs in southern NSW.

In April he took up the post of General Manager at Wests Illawarra Leagues Club in Unanderra, with close to 15,000 members and an annual turnover of \$22 million. Wests Illawarra also owns the Beaches Hotel at Thirroul.

Phil, 43, completed his accountancy studies in 1990 and worked as an accountant for firms in Sydney and Wollongong before joining Wests Illawarra seven years ago as Financial Controller.



UOW graduate and KPMG partner Peter Fitzgerald with three of his children who are studying at UOW – from left Jacqui, Emma and Nicholas (right).

Family affair for the Fitzgeralds

Peter Fitzgerald

Bachelor of Commerce (Accountancy) 1979

The University of Wollongong is very much a family affair for the Partner in Charge of the KPMG accountancy firm's Wollongong office Peter Fitzgerald.

Peter, who graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce (Accountancy) degree in 1979, has three of his five children currently enrolled at UOW.

Nicholas, 21, is following his father's footsteps and is in his final year of a Commerce degree, Jacqui, 19, is in the second year of a Commerce/Law degree and Emma, 18, is in the first year of a Bachelor of Science (Nutrition).

But Peter has a professional, as well as familial, interest in the University and its graduates. KPMG, the only one of the "Big 4" international accountancy firms with an office in Wollongong, employs many UOW graduates both locally and nationally.

"More than 30 of the professional staff at the Wollongong office, which is almost all of them, are graduates or undergraduates at the University," Peter said. "We're obviously very

happy with the quality of the graduates, and one of the measures of their quality is that KPMG seriously recruits from the Wollongong campus in its national recruitment program.

"In fact, one of our biggest tricks is to get to the best graduates before KPMG's national recruiters get to them."

Peter has been with KPMG since his second year of University in 1977, when he elected to combine part-time study with work in the accountancy firm. He has been there ever since, rising to Partner in Charge and also serving as Chairman of Regional Partners at KPMG.

And hard as it may be to believe of Wollongong's most prominent accountant, he actually failed Accountancy 1 in his first year at University. Mind you, he had a good excuse as he accompanied his family on a two-month overseas trip in the middle of the first session and while he passed his other subjects, catching up on Accountancy proved too much.

However, he bounced back with a High Distinction when he repeated the subject in his second session and never looked back, eventually graduating with Merit. **CN**

In Memoriam Joan Brassil

Master of Creative Arts 1991

Acclaimed artist and art teacher Joan Brassil, who graduated with a Master of Creative Arts from the University of Wollongong in 1991, died earlier this year aged 85.

Ms Brassil, who lived at Wedderburn, was described by writer Jill Sykes in an obituary published in The Sydney Morning Herald as an artist of "unique character and singular talents". Ms Sykes wrote that her art was "not

the sort that hangs on walls and brings high prices in auction. She created sculptures and installations that explored many ideas."

She was a remarkable artist whose intellectual curiosity extended to scientific frontiers.

Ms Brassil's work has been featured in the Biennale of Sydney, the Adelaide Festival, the Art Gallery of NSW and the Museum of Contemporary Art. She also exhibited regularly at her local gallery, the Campbelltown Arts Centre.

She is survived by one of her two sons, Greg, who is an art teacher, and four grandchildren.

Scholarship opens up movie mecca

Geoffrey Russell

Bachelor of Creative Arts 1998

University of Wollongong Creative Arts graduate Geoffrey Russell has won an \$80,000 scholarship to study film composition at a United States university renowned for training composers who write musical scores for motion pictures.

Geoffrey won the 2005/6 Brian May Scholarship allowing him to undertake a nine months Graduate Certificate Course in Scoring for Motion Pictures

and Television at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music.

Geoffrey completed a Bachelor of Creative Arts in composition at UOW in 1998, and a Graduate Certificate (Screen Composition) at the Australian Film and Television and Radio School in 1999.

The Thornton course includes eight recording sessions, with one large orchestral. Seven of these sessions are recorded at the Paramount Studios. He will be studying Film

Conducting, Composition for Film and Television, Film Music Production, Film Score Analysis, Composition Forum, Film Orchestration, Electronic Music for Film and Advanced Film Composition.

Geoffrey was the winner of the Johnny Dennis Music Award for best movie theme in 2002 and in the same year won the ABC Newcastle Awards for Best Classical Composition. In 2000 he won the Best Student Composition for Short Film (Icarus) by the Australian Guild of Screen Composers.

The Brian May Trust was established under the will of Brian May who died on April 25 1997. Brian was one of Australia's leading composers whose legacy includes the scores for Mad

Max 1 & 2, Gallipoli, and Nightmare on Elm St.

"This is an incredible dream come true for me. Studying at the Thornton School of Music in LA is a fantastic opportunity to greatly broaden my experience in more specific areas in film music and its related disciplines. It is a chance to nurture and develop my own unique voice as a film composer. I will get to experience the industry first-hand in the film-making mecca of Los Angeles," Geoffrey said.

The Thornton School of Music has one faculty which is focused entirely on scoring for motion pictures and television, with staff comprising America's leading writers on music for well known past and present motion picture and television scores. **CN**

UOW graduate happy to repeat history

Graeme Gulloch

Bachelor of Commerce 1988

When University of Wollongong graduate and marketing consultant Graeme Gulloch formed Waples Marketing with two partners three years ago, he knew where he'd go to look for staff when the business started expanding.

Graeme formed Waples Marketing with former WIN Corporation executives Vicki Tiegs and Tracy Glover-Chambers in January 2003.

In a case of history repeating itself Graeme, who got his start in business after being recruited as a management cadet while completing his final year at UOW, returned to his alma mater to find staff when the business took off.

The Wollongong-based company now has 12 staff – half of whom are University of Wollongong graduates or students.

Graeme, a University of Wollongong Bachelor of Commerce graduate from 1988 who also has an MBA from Edinburgh University (1991), has employed four UOW Marketing and Communications students as marketing assistants. They are gaining invaluable on-the-job experience with the now thriving company as they complete their degrees.

The four – Laura Comacchio (Arts/Commerce majoring in communications and marketing), Brooke Stewart (Commerce – majoring in marketing), Melissa Markovski (Arts majoring in media, communications and marketing) and Stephanie Heard (Arts majoring in communications) – are following in the footsteps of UOW graduates Rebecca Armstrong (Law/Master of Journalism) and Tehla Mostyn (BA) who both got their start at Waples before heading overseas.

Waples' other UOW graduate is the firm's accountant Susan Hegarty, who



Waples Marketing's UOW connection (from left) Laura Comacchio, Brooke Stewart, Graeme Gulloch and Susan Hegarty.

completed her Bachelor of Commerce - Accounting in 1994 and worked with a manufacturing company before finding her home at Waples where she can combine part-time work with family responsibilities.

Graeme said he had appreciated his own experience of getting a job after participating in a screening process conducted on campus. He asked Dr Gary Noble from UOW's Faculty of Commerce to assist with identifying potential staff.

"We wanted to offer young people studying marketing and communications the chance to work in that field, and asked Gary to help us identify talented students who might be suitable," Graeme said. "We couldn't be happier with the outcome."

Laura and Brooke both work around 30 hours a week at Waples while finishing their university studies part-time.

Laura joined Waples in May last year, and is due to complete her double degree in second session this year. She said combining study and work in her field had been a two-way street, with advantages flowing in both directions.

"Working in the real world certainly helps with presentations at uni, because I have already applied the theory to real work situations," Laura said. "And I can apply the way I usually structure proposals (for Waples clients) to my assignments at uni. The theory I learn at uni is also very valuable for the work I am doing."

Brooke started at Waples early this year, and has worked on a number of major accounts assisting with marketing campaigns, publicity, media releases, organising media interviews and research.

"There are real advantages both at uni and at work. Practically applying what we are learning helps with understanding the theory and at the same time we are exposed to the judgment side of marketing," she said. "And Graeme, Vicki and the rest of the staff have been so supportive and flexible about our uni commitments." **CN**

Writer launches first novel



Dr Merlinda Bobis

Doctor of Creative Arts 1994

Faculty of Creative Arts senior lecturer Dr Merlinda Bobis has launched her first novel, *Banana Heart Summer*, at the Sydney Writers' Festival.

The myth of the banana heart inspires 12-year-old Nenita, growing up in the 1960s in a small, impoverished Filipino town under the shadow of an active volcano.

Nenita seeks to appease her family's hunger and win her violent and disappointed mother's affection. She finds the balance between anger and love. And as she cooks, eats and dreams, other love stories unfold in her street as it swelters in the summer heat and pulses to the music of Roy Orbison, Patsy Cline and the Beatles.

Dr Bobis, a Filipino-Australian, has won more than a dozen literary awards and fellowships. She has published five poetry books, a collection of short stories and a monograph on writing fiction. Her theatre works have been performed in Australia, France, the Philippines and China.

A Doctor of Creative Arts graduate (1994) from the University of Wollongong, Dr Bobis' range of literary awards, prizes and fellowships include the Judges' Choice Award at the Seattle Arts Festival 2001 for *The Kissing* (Aunt Lute, San Francisco, 2000). This collection of short stories was published by Spinifex Press as



White Turtle in Australia and the Philippines. *White Turtle* won a string of awards in Australia including the Steele Rudd Australian Short Story Award (for the Best Published Collection of Australian Short Stories) in 2000.

Banana Heart Summer, by Merlinda Bobis, published by Murdoch Books, hardback, recommended retail price \$29.95. **CN**

David's re-connection pays off



The University of Wollongong's Community Engagement Committee chairman David Morgan Williams wants to "open the gates" of the University to the community.

David Morgan Williams

Master of Business Administration 2001

It took prominent Wollongong businessman David Morgan Williams more than 20 years to re-connect with the University of Wollongong as a student, but he says a whole new world opened up for him when he did.

Mr Williams started a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in psychology at UOW in 1975, but didn't complete it. Instead, he moved interstate with his career returning in 1982 to

established the highly successful DMW Group, specialising in staff recruitment and employment services.

His return to UOW 24 years later, however, was a vastly different experience and he is now working to encourage more people to take advantage of what it has to offer in his new role as Chair of the University's Community Engagement Committee.

Mr Williams enrolled in a Master of Business Administration degree at UOW in 1999, graduating in 2001. Since then he has pursued his interest in leadership studies, and is now a candidate for the Doctor of Business Administration.

Last year Mr Williams delivered an academic paper at the Centre for Leadership Studies in Exeter in England and is building an international network of contacts in the leadership field. He will present another paper on leadership in Leeds during May to further support his doctoral studies.

He has also been made a Fellow of the University and has served on the UniCentre Board.

Meanwhile, the DMW Group has gone from strength to strength.

"Study has been an incredibly important way for me to qualify my 20 years' business experience, as well as opening up a whole new world," Mr Williams said. "It made me realise how many outstanding opportunities the University and its engagement with its associated communities can provide. And while study was the trigger for me to engage myself with the University, it's not the only way."

Mr Williams says not everybody has the time or resources to study at the University, but believes there are many other opportunities for people to participate in UOW activities without enrolling in courses.

"The University of Wollongong is an absolutely fabulous asset for this region. It is part of us, and we are part of it," Mr Williams said. "Yet so many people drive past it all the time

without ever venturing in. Our role on the Community Engagement Committee is to 'open up the gates' and encourage the community to engage with the University."

The committee of community and university representatives was formed late last year, and Mr Williams said it was currently developing and confirming an action plan.

"The University already engages with the community in many important ways. Public lectures like the Frontiers of Sciences series and Uni in the Brewery (at the Five Islands Brewery) already provide opportunities for the community to connect with the University, and we're looking at ways we can build on these kinds of activities," Mr Williams said.

"We're looking at all kinds of links from schools to industry, and I'm particularly interested in developing the opportunities for the University to participate in leadership issues, which is a special interest of mine."

Other members of the Community Engagement Committee are Mike Archer (BlueScope Steel), business consultant Bryce Fraser, University staff David Fuller, Robbie Collins, Associate Professor Heather Yeatman, Monique Harper-Richardson, Martin Smith, Lynn Woodley and Dr Glenn Mitchell, and UOW student representative Belinda Foster. **CN**

High Court calls Law graduates

Elisa Arcioni

Bachelor of Laws 2001

James Goudkamp

Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Laws 2003

A second University of Wollongong graduate has been appointed to the prestigious position of Judge's Associate to High Court Judge Justice Michael Kirby.

James Goudkamp, a former Science/Law student, went through a gruelling selection process that involved hundreds of other aspiring graduates.

James is following in the footsteps of



UOW Law graduates James Goudkamp and Elisa Arcioni discuss their experiences working with Justice Michael Kirby.

Elisa Arcioni, a UOW graduate and current lecturer in the Faculty of Law, who was Justice Kirby's Associate in 2002.

"Justice Kirby is one of the most capable judges in the world because he is fiercely independent and has the courage to question and challenge the law when it is discriminatory, oppressive or clearly fails to accord with contemporary national and international standards,"

Mr Goudkamp said.

The first six months of James' position will be based in Sydney and involve general administrative duties. He will then move to Canberra and become more involved in the judgment production process and a variety of other functions including undertaking research and locating material for Justice Kirby's speeches.

"My time at UOW has prepared me for this role. My degree provided me

with an appropriate mixture of theoretical perspectives and practical training," he said.

Justice Kirby recently spoke to a packed lecture theatre at UOW on the United Nations and International Human Rights where he discussed his role in the "engine room" of the UN for Human Rights in Cambodia and his work in Paris on a new international declaration on bioethics.

Elisa Arcioni, who completed an Arts/Law degree at UOW, has been on hand to provide James with information and tips on the year-long position.

"It's long hours and high stress, but it's also a fantastic opportunity that opens up many doors," she said. "Working with Justice Kirby was a wonderful experience. He knows what it feels like to be the minority and he respects each and every person regardless of race, ethnicity or class. He loves meeting people and goes beyond the role of a judge - he's so willing to give his time and advice." **CN**

V-C's Awards recognise excellence

The 2005 University of Wollongong Vice-Chancellor's Awards function was held in April, formally recognising the outstanding contributions and service of staff members.

Chancellor Michael Codd, AC, Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton, Vice-Principal (Administration) Mr Chris Grange, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Rob Castle, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Margaret Sheil and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Operations) Professor John Patterson attended the awards ceremony.

The award recipients were:

Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning

Moira Williamson – Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

Faculty Awards:

Peter McLean – Commerce; Dr Houston Dunleavy – Creative Arts; Associate Professor Roger Lewis – Engineering; Dr Stephen Palmisano – Health and Behavioural Sciences; Holley Tootell – Faculty of Informatics; Dr James Wallman – Science; Dr Garry Hoban – Education.

Outstanding Service for General Staff

Leanne Cambridge – Faculty of Science; Jodie Murrell – Research Services Office; Judy Nolan – Academic Registrar's Division; David Reynolds –



Career Development Unit; Heather Sainsbury – Strategic Planning Unit; Jane Whiteside – University of Wollongong in Dubai (absent).

Excellence in Research Supervision

Dr Anne Collett – Arts; Professor Victor Gosbell and Dr Sareth Perera – Informatics; Associate Professor Diana Wood Conroy – Creative Arts.

Professor Don Lewis from the Faculty of Commerce presented the Marie Lewis Award to Stefanie Gaspari, a Management Cadet with UOW's UniAdvice.

The Marie Lewis Award is in honour of Professor Lewis' late wife Marie Lewis, a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) student and employee of the University who was respected and admired by the campus and general community.

Established in 2002, the award recognises the achievement of a member of the general staff who is completing an undergraduate degree. Selection is based on outstanding academic performance and service to the University.

UOW has established the Vice-Chancellor's Awards website at: <http://staff.uow.edu.au/awards/> to recognise award recipients over the years. **CN**

Left: Moira Williamson from the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences received the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning (OCTAL). She is pictured with Chancellor Mr Michael Codd AC (left) and Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton.

Below: Stefanie Gaspari from UniAdvice received the Marie Lewis Award. She is pictured with Professor Don Lewis, a lecturer in the Faculty of Commerce who helped establish the award to honour his late wife.



Jane's journey to UOW, via Dubai



Vice-Chancellor's Award-winner Jane Whiteside (pictured) spent almost 10 years living just 30 minutes drive from the University of Wollongong, but her connection with

UOW didn't start until she moved to the Middle East.

Jane, who lived in the South Coast town of Kiama from 1989-1999, is now Manager, Library Services at the University of Wollongong In Dubai (UOWD).

This year she was recognised for her contribution to the development of library services at UOWD when awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Service for General Staff.

Jane's award citation said she had made outstanding contributions to the development of library services to support teaching, learning and research programs at UOWD; provided vision and planning that ensured a seamless transfer from UOWD's two previous sites to the new campus at Dubai's Knowledge Village; implemented improved processes for ordering materials requested by

academic staff; been integral to the provision of new and expanded library facilities and contributed to the development of the Information Literacies Introductory Program (ILIP); and prepared the documentation for the successful accreditation process conducted by the United Arab Emirates Government.

Jane, an experienced teacher-librarian, said she hadn't been actively looking for work when she moved to Dubai with her husband Stewart, who is a pilot with Emirates Airlines, and their two sons in 1999.

However, in 2000 a UOWD advertisement for a part-time librarian in the Gulf News newspaper caught her eye and she eagerly applied. "The chance to do the work I loved, for a branch of an institution that exists 30 minutes from my old home, yet still have time for my young sons seemed like

somebody tapping me on the shoulder," she explained.

Five years later Jane is the full-time Manager, Library Services presiding over a greatly expanded library as UOWD continues to grow at the Knowledge Village campus.

"Professionally I have loved the challenge of seeing UOWD's growth into the prestigious organisation it is today – although there is plenty yet to be done and the challenges continue."

She paid tribute to her staff and said she appreciated the support from Felicity McGregor and the staff at the Michael Birt Library at UOW's Wollongong campus. "There is an excellent relationship with the UOW library and we strive to give an equivalent service here," she said. "UOWD library staff are also on the UOW library email list and that is invaluable in alerting us to what is new and exciting and perhaps possible for us."

Jane said she enjoyed living in Dubai, and had formed strong friendships with people from all over the world who live in the expatriate community there. **CN**



Writing students meet Pulitzer chairman

Distinguished United States newspaper publisher and Pulitzer Prize Chairman Andrew Barnes gave University of Wollongong journalism and writing students a rare insight

into the world of American journalism on a recent visit to the campus.

Mr Barnes, a Harvard graduate who started his career in newspapers at the *Providence Journal* in Rhode

Pulitzer Prize board chairman Andrew Barnes and UOW writing lecturer Dr Shady Cosgrove after Mr Barnes' address to Wollongong students.

Island, worked in senior roles for the Washington Post for eight years before joining the *St Petersburg Times* in Florida. He was to rise to the joint positions of chairman and chief executive officer of the Times newspaper group, as well as chairman of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies.

He is immediate past-Chairman of the Newspaper Association of America, and past chairman of the American Society of Newspaper Editors Ethics Committee.

Mr Barnes joined the Pulitzer Board in 1996, and is currently chairman of the board which judges the best-known prizes for excellence in American journalism and writing.

He accepted an invitation from Faculty of Creative Arts writing lecturer Dr Shady Cosgrove to talk to students about trends in American journalism and his experience judging the Pulitzers.

Mr Barnes said he was concerned by

declining resources allocated to newspapers to pay for outstanding journalism. "With a few exceptions American newspapers are owned by companies that are only interested in making money," Mr Barnes said. "They don't provide enough money to pay good salaries or provide space to print enough stories and pictures."

Mr Barnes said the number of significant newspapers in the United States had dropped from 1700 to 900 in recent years and he detected a disturbing trend to "only do what can be done quickly or cheaply".

"Circulation is declining so newspapers are focusing on appealing to wealthy people because that's what their advertisers want, so the intention to inform readers just goes away. There is less emphasis on social justice issues and journalists are being asked to grind out more and more stories with less and less intelligent responses."

However, Mr Barnes said there were some outstanding exceptions and he was proud to serve on the Pulitzer Prize board which recognised excellence in American journalism, writing and the arts. **CN**

Research welds UOW and BOC together

The University of Wollongong has signed a three-year welding research and development agreement worth \$900,000 with the BOC Group.

BOC is a large multinational company of over 40,000 employees with an annual turnover in 2004 in excess of A\$11 billion. Although predominantly a gases company, about 40 per cent of its turnover is in the industrial products sector which includes welding and cutting gases and equipment.

UOW's Professor of Materials Welding and Joining John Norrish said BOC recognises the importance of R&D as a way to maintain its established markets and meet its customers needs. It invests in R&D through its own internal research facilities and by engaging with external research providers worldwide.

"With the help of the CRC for Welded Structures, UOW has established a strong international reputation in the area of advanced welding process control and monitoring techniques over the past 10 years," Professor Norrish said.

Professor Norrish said the ability of the UOW group to win the contract



Signing the BOC agreement (from left): UOW Professor John Norrish, John Duffy from the BOC Group, UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton and Nic Bothma from BOC Australia.

against strong international competition was due in part to its ability to assemble a multidisciplinary team to tackle complex welding research problems.

The team is headed by Professor Norrish but includes contributions from Associate Professor Paul Cooper, Dr Brian Monaghan, Dr Dominic

Cuiuri, Dr Ajit Godbole, Dr Zoran Sterjovski and Dr Chee Too. The team encompasses a range of disciplines including computational fluid dynamics, pyrometallurgy, welding process technology, electronic control, sensor technology and high-speed data acquisition.

Dr Troy Coyle of UOW's Research and

Innovation Division and Mike Wickham at BOC, UK, worked on the potential intellectual property issues and complex contractual arrangements while the BOC Group's Technical Director for Industrial Products John Duffy came out from the UK to finalise the agreement and initiate the R&D project. **CN**

Awards, achievements and accolades

Sticking to science proves a winner

Professor Hugh Brown's scientific research involves getting into some sticky situations.

He has spent the last 20 years studying adhesion - the forces that enable two separate bodies to stick to one another - and his contributions to science have been acknowledged with the Adhesion Society Award for Excellence in Adhesion Science.

It is the society's most prestigious acknowledgement for outstanding achievement in scientific research relating to adhesion.

The Adhesion Society is a US-based organisation that aims to promote the advancement of the science and technology of adhesion and promote education and training in the area, as well as providing recognition of accomplishments in the international adhesion community. The society holds an annual meeting in the United States each year.

Professor Brown, from the Faculty of Engineering, has been a member of the society for 12 years and said he felt honoured to receive the award that acknowledges his large body of scientific work.

"It's nice to know that the research you undertake is being recognised by your peers," he said. "It also looks great on the CV!"

Professor Brown, who originally worked for IBM in the US, has been researching the adhesion of paints to steel, the adhesion of particles to paint (dirt contamination) and studying how different polymers can be made to adhere to each other.

Criteria for the award, which has been given annually since 1987, includes having made a scientific contribution that has significantly improved people's understanding of the phenomenon of adhesion, and world-wide recognition of that achievement. The award is sponsored by 3M, the US company that produce such products as masking tape, scotch tape and post-it notes.

UOW scoops mining, metallurgy awards

The University of Wollongong has scooped the pool in awards presented by the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM).

Co-ordinator of Mining Engineering, Associate Professor Ernest Baafi, from the School of Civil, Mining and Environmental Engineering was awarded the Branch Service Award.



Engineering Professor Hugh Brown, who has won the international Adhesion Society Award for Excellence in Adhesion Science.

The award was presented to Professor Baafi for his consistent and dedicated contributions to The AusIMM Illawarra branch over 15 years, his initiating and convening coal operators' conferences and other branch conferences and for his editorial role in Australasian Coal Mining Practice-Monograph 12 revision.

In addition, research student Claire Horsley received the G.B. O'Malley Medal for the preparation and presentation of her thesis research work *Understanding Upland Swamps of the Illawarra*, at the 35th Sydney Basin Symposium.

The O'Malley Medal commemorates the service to the Institute and its members of Godfrey Bernard O'Malley. It is the Institute's highest student award and is awarded annually to a student member of the Institute for the best preparation and presentation of a technical paper.

Claire's research work was supervised by Professor Baafi and Associate Professor Michael Boyd from within the School of Civil, Mining and Environmental Engineering.

Citations reflect researcher's reputation

A University of Wollongong researcher's international reputation as an outstanding early-career research leader in the field of environmental influences on physical activity has been recognised through high citations of her work.

Dr Nancy Humpel, an ARC Postdoctoral Fellow in the Centre for Health Behaviour and Communication Research, is first author of a paper with colleagues Professor Neville Owen (now at The University of Queensland) and Associate Professor Eva Leslie (now at Deakin University in Geelong).

The paper *Environmental factors associated with adults' participation in physical activity: A Review* was completed as part of Dr Humpel's PhD studies at the University of Wollongong with Professor Owen, when he was Associate Dean in Health and Behavioural Sciences in 2000-2001.

The American Journal of Preventive Medicine recently received a listing of its most highly-cited publications for volumes published in 2002. Dr Humpel's paper has topped the journal's list of highly-cited articles.

Thomson ISI has also identified this paper as the most highly-cited publication in the field of 'how the built environment influences physical activity'. It has already been cited 74 times since 2002.

Dr Humpel's research is now focussed on interventions to promote physical activity in cancer survivors. She retains a strong interest in the role of



Dr Nancy Humpel

the physical environment as a moderator of people's capacity to become more physically active, particularly through walking.

Accolades for CMRP students

The University of Wollongong's Centre for Medical Radiation Physics (CMRP) has been recognised for the excellence of its cancer research with recent awards from national and international institutions.

The Australasian College of Physicists, Scientists and Engineers in Medicine (NSW Branch), held its annual competition for the best research in the field of medical physics among research students undertaking Masters and PhD programs.

It is a very competitive forum for young researchers working in cancer radiation treatment at NSW universities and hospitals. In both Masters and PhD sections students from the CMRP were recognised as the best and were awarded the Curie Prize.

Brad Oborn, a Curie Prize winner, is a Masters student supervised by Professor Martin Butson who is working on a project related to reducing the skin dosage of radiation during cancer treatment on a medical accelerator using an 6MV X-ray.

Dean Cutajar, a PhD student supervised by Professor Anatoly Rozenfeld, was also awarded the Curie Prize for his work on dosimetry in prostate cancer brachytherapy with permanent seed implant I-125.

Dr Iwan Cornelius, a recent graduate at the CMRP was awarded the Australian Institute for Nuclear Science and Engineering (AINSE) Gold Medal for his PhD work on investigation and simulations of silicon microdosimetry. This project was in close association with the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)'s heavy ion microprobe facility.

Kids' Uni gets top marks

The University of Wollongong's Kids' Uni is taking high quality childcare and education to a new level.

The childcare centre has received a perfect score at its latest accreditation by the Quality Improvement and Accreditation System (QIAS).

The QIAS is administered by the National Childcare Accreditation Council and is unique on an international scale as it is the first quality assurance program for child care services in the world to be linked to child care funding through legislation and to be funded and supported by a Federal Government.

Kids' Uni North received 350 out of a possible 350 indicators and Kids' Uni South has received 348 out of a possible 348.

According to the Kids' Uni Manager Michele Fowler such results are almost unheard of in the industry.

"All childcare services aim for a basic level of accreditation, but we've gone way beyond that. This puts us at the top, not just locally but Australia-wide," she said.



Early Childhood teacher Patti Pickering with some of the children at Kids' Uni.

The centre received the 'high quality' indicator for each assessable area — the highest possible indicator achievable. The quality areas included relationships with children, respect for children, partnerships with families, staff interactions, planning and evaluation, learning and development, protective care, health, safety and managing to support quality.

The centre, which cares for about 180 children a day, also exceeds the minimum 1:5 adult-to-child ratio, providing one qualified staff member for every four babies.

Kids' Uni has also recently had its playgrounds upgraded and renovated and is looking at expanding its premises onto the Innovation Campus at Brandon Park, which is expected to be built in stages over the next 10 years.

"We are still waiting for DA approval, but if this goes ahead we will be the first centre in the Illawarra to have its own purpose-built outside school hours care facility for five to 12-year olds," Ms Fowler said.

Education Lecturer elected to international post

Dr Christine Fox, a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Education at the University of Wollongong, has been elected as Secretary-General of the World Council of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES).

Dr Fox's appointment was announced at the WCCES meeting held in Malaysia recently. The appointment, involving an international search and selection process, is for five years and means that the WCCES Secretariat will be based at UOW's Faculty of Education from 2005-2009.

The WCCES is a non-government organisation in operational relations with UNESCO, and promotes research involving scholars in more than 50 countries, with 33 constituent societies.

The study and practice of comparative and international education encompasses such matters as globalisation, internationalisation, national and

regional systems of education, educational achievement, the role of higher education globally, education and migration, human rights, and many other issues. Educational researchers, consultants, teachers and practitioners provide research and policy advice on education to governments and to international bodies such as UNESCO, and the World Bank as well as across universities in a global network.

Created in 1970, the WCCES brings together national, regional and language-based comparative and international education societies in a common forum. It holds periodic world congresses, the latest in 2004 in Cuba, and the 1996 one in Sydney (when Dr Fox was Vice-President). It facilitates research through publication, provision of grants and other activities.

Dr Fox has now been invited to give a keynote address at Beijing Normal University, China, at the 2nd Worldwide Forum for Comparative Education in Beijing from August 22 to 24, and en route to visit WCCES President, Professor Mark Bray, Chair of Comparative Education at the University of Hong Kong, who will be giving the other keynote address in China.

Dr Fox said that because the Secretariat would be in UOW's Faculty of Education it meant that there should be more new opportunities for Faculty staff to liaise with colleagues and universities internationally.

After graduating from the University of Sydney Dr Fox trained first as an editor in publishing and later became a secondary school teacher, spending time in Latin America and the United Kingdom. Her postgraduate degrees were in educational planning and development and in intercultural communication theory for professional communication.

After working as a trainer for AusAID, and then overseas as a consultant lecturer in teacher education, she joined UOW in 1991 and from 1996-98 was Director of Primary Education. Between 1992 and 2000 she directed first the Curriculum Research Group and then the Learning and Teaching Research Group.

Most of her research has concerned the development of policy and programs for teacher education and curriculum change, with an emphasis on equity in education.

She is interested in the ways in which people and organisations change, either through professional development, or through the management of curriculum transformation, or through the building of effective interpersonal (intercultural) communicative relationships.

Dr Fox is the Chief Investigator of an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant that is evaluating a national inquiry into remote and rural education. It is being done in collaboration with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission.

She won the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning in 2004. **CN**

Alumni Discounts

Dell Computers

5% discount on selected Dell products available online from Dell Home and Office web store.

Medina Serviced Apartments

50% off the rack rates, Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.

Hertz Car Hire

Special rates available throughout Australia and New Zealand and selected locations through the USA, Canada, the UK and Europe.

Australian Women's Money Magazine

Special annual subscription price for UOW Alumni \$35 (usually \$39.80).

\$5 from every alumni subscription will be donated to a mature age UOW scholarship.

Rebel Sport

5% discount off all full priced purchases. The Alumni Network receives a rebate from Rebel Sport which goes towards a Physical Education Prize.

Table Eight

15% discount on all full priced women's and men's clothing. Offer available at all stores and Table Eight outlets at David Jones.

University Recreation and Aquatic Centre (URAC)

\$25 off the annual fee for Graduate Membership.

UOW Library

Discounted membership is available for \$50 per annum.

UniCentre Bookshop

12.5% discount on books.

STA Travel

\$50 off selected travel tours (Geckos, Intrepid, Contiki & Think Adventure).

Joanne's flying high as Hawks stay loyal

Stability isn't a word that's usually associated with professional sports coaching, but a University of Wollongong academic has benefited from the Wollongong Hawks basketball team having the same coach for the past eight seasons.

Joanne Joyce, UOW's Director of Clinical Education in the Department of Nursing, happens to be married to the Hawks coach.

While Brendan Joyce has developed into one of Australia's top coaches, guiding the Hawks to a National Basketball League title in 2000 and runners-up this year, and being appointed assistant coach of the national team at the Athens Olympics, Joanne has built a successful academic career at UOW.

Since she moved to Wollongong in 1997 Joanne has completed her Master of Nursing degree at UOW while working as a clinical facilitator, then progressed from part-time tutor to full-time lecturer and now Director of Clinical Education.

She is also currently working on a research project for her PhD, which she hopes to submit at the end of this year.

Prior to that Joanne had been constantly on the move through Brendan's playing career and early coaching days. Juggling study, work and family commitments, the hospital-trained nurse was able to complete a Bachelor of Nursing (majoring in Clinical Education) in Queensland, and a Graduate Diploma in Health Science (Health Education) in Victoria while she and Brendan had four children (now aged 12-17).

But her academic career has really blossomed in Wollongong. She attributes that to the stability of being in one place for eight years. And the good news is that the Hawks have just renewed Brendan's contract for another three years.

"Before we came to Wollongong I found it really difficult to build any kind of sustainable career profile, because Brendan's job was so portable," Joanne said. "But the stability of being in one place for the past eight years has allowed me to develop professionally, and also get involved in research."

Joanne said moving into research for her PhD had been a revelation and an energizing experience. The focus of



Director of Clinical Education at UOW's Department of Nursing Joanne Joyce with her husband, National Basketball League championship-winning coach Brendan Joyce.

her research is on recruitment of people to the nursing profession, and strategies to retain them once they are trained – highly relevant in these times of nation-wide nursing shortages.

"I was always drawn to teaching and am inspired by my students and by the thought that through teaching I can share my experience and contribute to the future of the nursing profession," she said. "I love the contact with students and have found teaching to be really fulfilling, but I have also found research really exciting from a professional development point of view."

"It has provided opportunities to

participate in forums and conferences and really make a contribution to the profession, while this research can also be applied back to my students. It helps demonstrate to them that research is important."

Brendan, meanwhile, has followed his wife into the ranks of academia. For the past two years he has lectured to UOW Psychology students about sports motivation.

"Brendan really enjoys it, and finds it very rewarding. I think the students do too, because they're hearing about sports motivation from someone who actually does it as part of their job," Joanne said. **CN**

Trailblazing researchers recognised



Pictured at the Trailblazers presentation (from left): Managers of Innovation and Commercial Development (Health, Education and Arts) Apo Skorulis (left) and (Engineering, Science and Law) Dr Troy Coyle (right) with student recipients (from second left) Mark Havryliv, Luke Scott, Joonsana Baek (representing Willy Susilo), Peter Kelly, Anna Henningham, Simon Meers, Nuri Elbasha and Bridget Munro.

A first year Biological Sciences PhD student has won the University of Wollongong's inaugural Trailblazer competition for her innovative research into a human vaccine for the flesh-eating bacteria, Group A Streptococci.

Ms Anna Henningham is developing the targeted vaccine as part of a team involving fellow PhD student, Jason Cole, and supervisor Professor Mark Walker.

Ms Henningham said the potential vaccine could provide protection against the diverse range of diseases caused by Streptococcus including skin and throat infections as well as invasive diseases such as toxic shock-like syndrome and necrotising (flesh eating) fasciitis. Streptococcus colonises various human tissues and can cause infections so severe that amputation is required and repeated

infection can lead to life-threatening illnesses such as rheumatic fever.

"It's fantastic that our idea was selected for the inaugural Trailblazer award. It is very exciting to be working on a project that could possibly help prevent diseases caused by group A streptococci," Ms Henningham said.

Engineering PhD student Luke Scott won the student section of the Trailblazer competition with his timely invention that could make it cheaper and more efficient to desalinate seawater or groundwater to drinkable levels.

Their projects were among eight inventions to receive an award from Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton. Recipients shared in total prize money of \$14,000.

"The University was extremely pleased by the enthusiastic response from researchers and students to the inaugural event," Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Margaret Sheil said.

"UOW ran the Trailblazer competition in collaboration with the University of Queensland's commercial arm, UniQuest Pty Ltd, adapting it as an annual event to reward and inspire researchers as well as promote innovative research with commercial potential," Professor Sheil said. **CN**

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