Research ranking keeps UOW in world top 2%

The release of the highly-respected 2008 Jiao Tong rankings in August saw the University of Wollongong significantly strengthen its position among the world's top two per cent of research universities.

Wollongong made the Top 500 list last year and increased its standing in 2008. The Academic Rankings of World Universities by the Institute of Higher Education at Shanghai Jiao Tong University are strongly weighted in favour of research.

The Institute scans universities that have Nobel Laureates, field medals, highly cited researchers, or papers published in prestigious journals such as Nature or Science, as well articles indexed in major citation indices.

UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton said the ranking was a testament to the University’s growing international reputation as a research-intensive institution.

“This is a well regarded rankings list and the latest result clearly demonstrates that UOW is not only in the top two per cent of universities world-wide for research but is markedly improving its position,” Professor Sutton said.

While the Top 500 list reinforced UOW’s international research reputation, UOW also reinforced its domestic reputation with a five-star performance in the 2009 Australian Good Universities Guide and news that the University has again topped the country for learning and teaching citations.

Under the guide’s ranking system, only the top 20 per cent of universities can be awarded a five-star rating in any one category. UOW retained all six five-star rankings it achieved last year.

continued on page 2.
Ethics are back in business

By Faculty of Commerce Dean
Professor Shirley Leitch

We have come to this planet for a short visit. So this time should be used meaningfully. This means helping others wherever possible. If you cannot help others, do not create pain or suffering for others. - Dalai Lama

As a 19-year-old student I took a job in a factory. Shocked by the Dickensian practices that ruled this sweatshop, I quit after three days. The inhumane treatment of workers, mostly vulnerable migrants and students, included the use of acid that resulted in permanent scars on the workers’ faces. The experience had a huge impact on me and entrenched an appreciation of ethics and human rights as a necessity in good business.

Since then much has changed. Whether it was Enron, Al Gore’s An Inconvenient Truth, or Britain’s Stern Report, a global tipping point was reached sometime in 2006. It wasn’t just about climate change. It was about massive change in the relationship between business and society. It is no longer acceptable for business to just be about business.

The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said: “...business schools can play a crucial role by ensuring that tomorrow's business leaders understand what responsible business means and how it can have positive effects for both the company's bottom line and the society in which it operates.”

Two years ago, UOW's Faculty of Commerce embraced that challenge and re-imagined our purpose. It was clear the Faculty wanted to be a force for positive change and produce graduates who believed in genuine corporate social responsibility. To that end, our purpose is to “inspire socially innovative commerce”.

Socially innovative commerce is about ethics. It is humane, environmentally sustainable and underpinned by business innovation. True socially innovative commerce is also about creating wealth, well-being and producing strong societies.

The graduates of the next decade have the opportunity to lead organisations that exemplify ethical decision-making, expand ethical leadership and live up to business responsibility in society. Business schools need to equip students with the necessary skills in ethical decision-making to encourage positive social change.

It has been said that you cannot teach business ethics. I believe you can. And we are. It goes back to connecting the head with the heart.

Ethics is a highly subjective and reflective type of study. Dr Mario Fernando, who teaches our ethics course, says it is best described as an ‘unlearning process’ which involves intense discussion of confrontational issues such as corruption, euthanasia and violation of human rights. This type of emotional engagement gets students to re-examine their values and think in terms of individual behaviour versus collective benefit. It is about making implicit values explicit.

We are the only undergraduate commerce or business school in Australia focused on socially innovative commerce and already it appears to be awakening a positive force in students.

For example, a recent graduate from the Faculty was appointed to a position with a large multinational organisation and witnessed decision-making by her manager that breached ethical business behaviour. The graduate was new to the company and her manager had 12 years experience. After numerous sleepless nights this young graduate needed to make a choice. Should she be ethically mute or ethically assertive? She chose action and prepared to join the ranks of job seekers. To her surprise the manager was fired, she got to keep her job and two co-workers were reinstated.

As the Illawarra transforms from old economy to new economy, our graduates will be the ones to lead the business community by developing the moral courage to address unethical practices and create a socially innovative landscape.

The Faculty of Commerce is currently undertaking a major review of its undergraduate program. The review will expand on the work we are presently doing and ensure our graduate qualities (informed; innovative and flexible; socially responsible; connected; communicators) are embedded into every aspect of our teaching and research.

From my experience as a 19-year-old to my role as Dean, I’m passionate about leading organisations that are a positive force in society. It goes back to shifting perspectives, from me to we, from get to give, and embracing positive ways to make a meaningful contribution.

Research ranking in world top 2%

continued from page 1.

The five star rankings were in:

- Research intensity
- The educational experience (generic skills)
- The educational experience (graduate satisfaction)
- Graduate starting salary
- Getting a Job
- Positive Graduate Outcomes

The guide’s authors highlighted the fact that UOW had scored consistently well across many major indicators and its “great success for Graduate Starting Salaries and Employment Prospects”.

Professor Sutton said it was extremely pleasing to see UOW again retain all its five-star successes in categories which were key indicators of a university performing at a very high level.

Meanwhile, the Australian Learning and Teaching Council in August announced its Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning – with UOW again listed as number one university in the country. UOW was the only university to receive the maximum 10 citations.

Over the three years that the program has been running, UOW has gained a total of 28 citations from a possible 30 from the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (formerly called the Carrick Institute), the highest of any university in Australia.

The citations, worth $10,000 each, went to:

- Alisa Percy, Paul Moore, Bronwyn James, Dr Ruth Walker and Dr Jan Skllen - For sustained work to collaboratively integrate contextualised academic integrity into curricula
- Dr Holly Tootell and Annette Meldrum - For developing leadership through a sustained and responsive teaching approach to curriculum development in a core ICT subject
- Dr Margaret Wallace - For creating stepping stones to evidence-based practice in nursing
- Dr Michael Clements and Dr Matthew Pepper - For fostering cumulative student engagement with core concepts in supply chain management
- Associate Professor Garry Hoban - For developing innovative teaching approaches to engage preserve primary teachers and school students in new ways of learning science
- Associate Professor John McQuilton - For challenging student perceptions through inspirational learning journeys in history, and driving the development of key learning and teaching policies
- Associate Professor Narottam Bhindi - For scholarly contribution to the promotion and development of educational leadership
- Associate Professor Rebecca Alban - For enabling university recognition of diversity in teaching excellence and guiding cross-disciplinary teams to design a flexible arts curriculum
- Professor Sandra Wills - For strategic leadership to ensure learning technologies promote active, collaborative and global student learning
- Professor Stephen Tanner and Marcus O'Donnell - For the engagement of media professionals and local community in ongoing review, implementation and refinement of a responsive and creative curriculum for journalism students.
Pilot training course takes off

The University of Wollongong is entering the field of international aviation training in collaboration with Lund University, Sweden.

UOW will help deliver courses in Australia for the Lund University School of European Aviation (LUSA). This collaboration, called the International School of European Aviation (ISEA), allows complete beginners to become JAR (Joint Aviation Requirements) European-accredited pilots in around 18 months.

The aviation industry is experiencing worldwide growth for all categories of aviation professionals, including pilots. JAR qualifications are in high demand as they allow pilots to work for European and other airlines where there are currently pilot shortages.

The ISEA program is taught in both Australia and Europe, with flying time in Australia and flight-testing conducted at LUSA in the final five weeks of the program. The Australian flight program will take place at LUSA satellite campuses in Port Macquarie (NSW) and Bacchus Marsh (Victoria).

UOW’s role will be to recruit students on behalf of LUSA and its two satellite campuses. A UOW team of enquiries and admissions officers will be providing customer service to assist ISEA’s prospective students with their enquiries and the application process.

The training program is delivered by LUSA and students receive a balance of theory and practical training. Students can be in command of the cockpit just 10 weeks after their first flight.

Lund University has more than 20 years of flight training experience. Many of its graduates fly for the world’s leading airlines, and its flying instructors work with commercial airlines.

LUSA and UOW are currently taking applications for the first course at ISEA, which is expected to start in late 2008. For more information contact enquiries@isea.edu.au or phone 1300 367 869.

CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE AGENDA

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and three of his senior Ministers attended the launch of the University of Wollongong’s Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) research agenda in Canberra on 3 September.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Attorney-General Robert McLelland, Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon and Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Minister Kim Carr to the launch at Parliament House in Canberra.

The function, in the Private Dining Rooms, was hosted by Member for Cunningham Sharon Bird and Member for Throsby Jennie George.

ANCORS’ research agenda looks at the impact that climate change, particularly any rise in the sea level, will have for ocean and maritime policy in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region in the 21st century.

ANCORS Advisory Board Chairman Vice Admiral David Shackleton, UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton and ANCORSDirector Professor Martin Tsamenyi and senior ANCORs staff launched the centre’s research agenda to the audience of senior government ministers and departmental representatives.

ANCORS Senior Research Fellow Associate Professor Lee Cordner said the launch function had been a great success, particularly with the interest shown by the Prime Minister and other senior Cabinet members. Their presence had reflected well on the importance of the research agenda, as well as ANCORs’ standing.

The ANCORs research agenda is called: Addressing Maritime and Oceans Policy in a Changing World.

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The ANCORs research agenda is called: Addressing Maritime and Oceans Policy in a Changing World. It has a critical sub-agenda: "Understanding the Maritime and Oceans Policy Implications of Climate Change for Australia and the region."

ANCORS is Australia’s only multi-disciplinary university-based research centre dedicated to maritime policy. It provides research, advice and training to Australia and Asia-Pacific nations on national and international oceans governance and law, maritime security and cooperation, and ocean resource and environmental management.

Professor Cordner says the centre has a long history of working closely with Pacific island nations and providing advice on issues ranging from security to fisheries.

Professor Cordner said climate change and the potential for rising sea levels to dramatically alter land boundaries in parts of the South Pacific during the 21st century had major regional implications.

"In the maritime environment security, science, climate change and international affairs all merge with issues such as claims for territorial waters and exclusive economic zones," Professor Cordner said. "Security issues rub up against social, environmental and political considerations."
OUR NEW DEANS

Art ‘essential for a healthy society’

T he arts in Australia will grow as the population ages, UOW’s recently-appointed Dean of Creative Arts Professor Amanda Lawson has predicted as she prepares to revitalise the Faculty she now leads.

“More and more we will see the arts being recognised as an essential part of a healthy society,” Professor Lawson said. “They will be seen as a vital place for thinking about and experiencing social change, engaging with big picture issues as well as being central to the texture of our everyday lives.”

And she envisages that Australian indigenous cultures will be increasingly recognised for the unique resources that they are - and as a model of integration of the arts, in their broadest senses, into society.

“As Australia’s population ages we will see the arts grow and participation will broaden alongside the professional structures that have been established over the past 40 years,” Professor Lawson said.

“We’ll see new disciplines and practices emerging, growth in the use of new technologies for audiences and producers, links with therapeutic practices, regional developments and engagement with the environment.”

The new Dean has a number of plans for the Faculty including:

• to gain national recognition for the quality of UOW Creative Arts staff and their creative research and for their unique cluster of creative programs
• to revitalise, promote and internationalise postgraduate research degrees, as the Faculty has been a leader in creative research higher degrees for more than 20 years
• to build on the successes of its thriving undergraduate Journalism program with a new approach to postgraduate studies in this field
• to develop interdisciplinary partnerships with researchers across UOW, including the humanities, computing, engineering, science and health
• to create distinctive undergraduate programs that integrate its expertise in new technologies and its growing partnerships within the creative industries to benefit students. For example, an innovative new degree in partnership with TAFE Illawarra in the fields of digital media, animation and screen production, will be launched in 2010, located at a state-of-the-art building on the Innovation Campus.

Professor Lawson said the Faculty’s ever-expanding links in the community would continue as they provide all kinds of enriching and entertaining experiences for the Illawarra and the UOW community, from performances to exhibitions, concerts and writing events.

Professor Lawson was appointed professor and head of the School of Art and Design at UOW in 2004. She has more than 20 years’ experience in the arts in Australia. She has been director of various arts organisations including the Meat Market Craft Centre in Melbourne, the Crafts Council of NSW and Bathurst Regional Art Gallery from 1998-2004.

Professor Lawson has also worked at the Australian Council for the Arts, with NSW State and Regional Development and AusIndustry and as an independent arts consultant. At UOW she teaches in the areas of curatorial practice and art history and theory.

Science of balancing research and teaching

N ew Dean of Science Professor Will Price has diverse research interests ranging from conducting polymers and nanotechnology to food chemistry and the environment.

The former head of the School of Chemistry says his greatest satisfaction as a researcher has been working across different research areas and faculties, helping particular groups solve problems to assist in their specialised research.

And that, he says, has prepared him well for the Dean’s role, which he has taken over from Professor Rob Whelan who has been appointed President of the University of Wollongong in Dubai.

“The Dean’s role has a lot to do with solving problems, and overcoming challenges,” Professor Price said. “For example, the Faculty of Science is a research-focused faculty that clearly has many research success stories at a national and international level. The challenge is to find the right workload balance between research and other core activities such as teaching.

“I think it is important for the Dean of Science to continue to be involved in research – both for a leadership and perception role, and to stay up to date so that you know what is going on in your field, because it changes so quickly.

“Professor Price is excited by the research opportunities that will emerge with the new Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute, that will be based at UOW. The Institute will draw on the research strengths of the Faculties of Science and Health and Behavioural Sciences, as well as the Graduate School of Medicine and other research teams across the University.

“The Faculty of Science has existing strengths in various biomedically related areas, ranging from fundamental biochemical and molecular biology research to direct application to improve health outcomes. This new institute is a long-term project which is a real opportunity for the University to make a major contribution in medical research, and we need to grasp it with both hands,” he said.

Professor Price joined UOW from the Australian National University in 1989, so has a deep knowledge of and respect for the Faculty and its staff, which he describes as “very collegial”. NH
The University of Wollongong has reversed the “brain drain” of talented Australian researchers heading overseas by luring Professor Judy Raper back after almost five years in the United States as its new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

Professor Raper, who made Australian academic history in 1997 when she became the first female Dean of Engineering at the University of Sydney, had been based in Washington DC with the National Science Foundation (NSF).

As NSF Division Director of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental and Transport Systems for 2½ years, Professor Raper was responsible for the allocation of an annual US$131 million budget to fund research and teaching innovation across the US.

But she has no regrets about leaving one of the most influential research jobs in the US to return to Australia.

“The NSF job was a huge opportunity. I was surprised to be offered the job, and it was very exciting for an Australian to have the chance to work for such a major US research organisation,” Professor Raper said. “It was a great learning experience and I enjoyed it a lot.

“However, I didn’t want to end my career in the US. After almost five years in the US (the first two spent at the University of Missouri – Rolla as chair of the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering) I was ready to return home, and this opportunity at the University of Wollongong was exactly what I was looking for.”

Professor Raper said major attractions of her new job included UOW’s strong culture of supporting research and the way the University encouraged cross-Faculty collaborations among researchers.

“I also liked the University’s size, and the flexibility and attitude of the senior group. I see myself as an ideas person who likes to think outside the square … and I could see the opportunity for my ideas to come to fruition here,” she said.

“Wollongong has a well-established reputation for research, so I haven’t come here seeing things that have to be done. Rather, I see my prime role as nurturing existing strengths while investigating new areas and trying to forge more inter-disciplinary research.

“We obviously have some great opportunities with the advent of the Graduate School of Medicine, and the announcement of funding for the new Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute.”

Professor Raper grew up in Sydney and studied Chemical Engineering at the University of NSW. Armed with a PhD, she spent three years from 1979 doing post-doctoral work at Cambridge University with the Atomic Energy Authority.

Returning to Australia in 1982, she spent four years as a lecturer at the University of Newcastle before returning to UNSW for 11 years, where she became a professor and chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering.

In 1997 she was appointed Dean of Engineering at the University of Sydney, a post she was to hold for 6½ years before she moved to the US to join the University of Missouri.

“Both my sons were studying at Harvard, so my husband (engineering geophysicist Bob Raper) and I thought it would be a bit of an adventure to go and work in the States for a few years,” Professor Raper said. “It was a great experience but after nearly five years we were ready to come home. We missed Australia, and after living in Missouri and Washington we definitely missed the beach, so Wollongong was an ideal place to come back to.”

The University of Wollongong’s new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Judy Raper.
FOCUS ON RESEARCH

Proton therapy future of cancer treatment

 Patients with certain brain, spine and eye tumours that cannot be treated in Australia will benefit from funding awarded to the University of Wollongong’s joint Centre for Medical Radiation Physics and Centre for Proton Therapy Research and Education. Australian Rotary Health and Rotary Riverside Clubs have combined with the University to award a $75,000 PhD scholarship to Stephen Dowell, who is comparing proton therapy with traditional treatment for certain brain tumours, with a particular emphasis on brain tumours in children.

Stephen is a PhD student under the supervision of Centre for Medical Radiation Physics (CMRP) Director Professor Anatoly Rozenfeld, Professor Peter Metcalfe (CMRP) and Associate Professor Michael Jackson, Director of Radiation Oncology at the Prince of Wales Hospital in Sydney.

“Basically instead of using an x-ray beam to deliver radiation therapy, which is what is used in Australia at the moment, we are studying the use of a proton beam,” said Stephen.

“It is more precise, so a higher dosage can be used without risk to the healthy brain tissue surrounding the tumour. Proton therapy is thought to be particularly beneficial in paediatrics as it lowers the risks of secondary cancer and complications.”

There are 49 proton therapy facilities worldwide, but none in Australia, which means that Australian patients currently have to travel overseas for proton therapy.

Professor Jackson and Professor Rozenfeld have been collaborating on proton therapy research for the past decade to bring proton therapy technology to Australia in close collaboration with Mrs Sue Bleasel, who is a Director and CEO of Proton Therapy Australia P/L.

“It’s true that its best uses are yet to be established but our view is that we should be part of that process. We shouldn’t just sit back and wait for other countries to do it,” Professor Jackson said. BG

Grant for study of foster care

A research partnership between UOW and not-for-profit foster care provider CareSouth will address the growing problems facing the Australian foster care system.

The project attracted $480,000 from the Australian Research Council Linkage Project scheme to implement the five-year study in the Illawarra and surrounding regions on identifying and attracting more successful foster parents.

The project team includes Dr Melanie Randle, Professor Sara Dolnicar and Professor John Rosserter from the School of Management and Marketing, Dr Joseph Ciarrochi from the School of Psychology, CareSouth CEO Mr Andrew Munro and CareSouth Senior Clinical Psychologist Dee Neveling.

CareSouth has been operating in the Illawarra, Southern Highlands, Shoalhaven and South Coast since 1994 to provide accommodation and support services for children, young people, adults with disabilities and their families. KM

SiNet aims to improve quality of life

The University of Wollongong has launched a social innovation research network designed to help organisations tap into a range of academic expertise across various disciplines.

SiNet (or Social Innovation Network) aims to find solutions to many of the critical problems now facing humanity such as work-life balance and environment issues.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Lee Astheimer officially launched SiNet at UOW’s Innovation Campus in September.

It is a networked collaboration between complementary groups of UOW researchers in the field of social innovation. SiNet will enable research into strategies and tools that empower individuals, communities, profit and non-profit organisations and the government to improve quality of life.

“This is where quality of life means material standard of living as well as personal well-being in terms of health and environment and social harmony,” according to SiNet co-convener Professor Jan Wright of UOW’s Faculty of Education.

“In a nutshell SiNet’s aim is to create better futures for people,” Professor Wright said.

SiNet will:

• Strengthen the position of all SiNet members by developing and jointly promoting a brand name.
• Provide a platform for sharing ideas, expertise and networks
• Strengthen social science research at UOW
• Facilitate the information flow between researchers with similar research interest

The launch saw three presentations on the theme Building Stronger Communities, which showcased socially innovative work at UOW.

These talks were delivered by:

• Professor Kathy Eagar – translating research into practice: evidence-based strategies to improve the health and well-being of children in local communities
• Associate Professor Chris Gibson and Associate Professor Gordon Watt – looking at the re-emergence of the festival in the lives of people living in non-metropolitan NSW
• Associate Professor Karen Malone – looking at how child friendly is my community. KG

Pictured at the SiNet launch (from left): Professor Jan Wright, Professor Kathy Eagar, Dr Frank Neri, Faculty of Commerce Dean Professor Shirley Leitch, Associate Professor Chris Gibson, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Lee Astheimer, Associate Professor Gordon Watt and Associate Professor Karen Malone.
Megafauna hunted to extinction

Researchers from the University of Wollongong are part of an international team which has shed new light on the role that our ancestors played in the extinction of Australia’s prehistoric animals.

The study, published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA, provides the first evidence that Tasmania’s giant kangaroos and marsupial ‘rhinos’ and ‘leopards’ were still roaming the island when humans first arrived.

The findings suggest that the mass extinction of Tasmania’s large prehistoric animals was the result of human hunting - and not climate change as previously believed.

The research has been led by Australian and UK scientists, including UOW academics Professor Richard ‘Bert’ Roberts and Dr Zenobia Jacobs from UOW’s School of Earth and Environmental Sciences. It was supported by The Royal Society and the Australian Research Council.

Professor Roberts said that scientists have long argued over the reasons behind the worldwide mass extinctions that took place towards the end of the last ice age. The main culprits are generally thought to be climate change or some form of human impact. People only arrived in Tasmania around 43,000 years ago, when the island became temporarily connected by a land bridge to mainland Australia. None of Tasmania’s giant animals, known as “megafauna”, were thought to have survived until this time.

“This appeared to clear humans of any involvement in the disappearance of the island’s large megafauna,” Professor Roberts said.

However, this latest international study reports the discovery of giant kangaroos surviving in Tasmania until people arrived, placing humans back on the list of likely culprits for the subsequent extinction of the megafauna.

Using the latest radiocarbon and luminescence dating techniques, the team was able to determine the age of the fossilised remains of the megafauna more accurately than ever before. The results showed that some of these animals survived until at least 41,000 years ago – much later than previously thought and up to 2000 years after the first human settlers arrived.

As climate in Tasmania was not changing dramatically at this time, the researchers argue that this is evidence of these species being driven to extinction through over-hunting by humans.

Former UOW academic Professor Chris Turney, now at the University of Exeter, was a co-author of the paper after undertaking the work while at UOW. He said: “Ever since Charles Darwin’s discovery of giant ground sloth remains in South America, debate has ensued about the cause of early extinction of the world’s megafauna. Now, 150 years on from the publication of Darwin’s seminal work The Origin of Species, the argument for climate change being the cause of this mass extinction has been seriously undermined.

“It is sad to know that our ancestors played such a major role in the extinction of these species – and sadder still when we consider that this trend continues today.”

Previous research by Professor Roberts and Professor Flannery has shown that 90 per cent of mainland Australia’s megafauna disappeared about 46,000 years ago, soon after humans first settled the continent. But humans did not reach Tasmania until a few thousand years later, when the island became connected to the mainland by a land bridge as sea levels fell during the last ice age.

“The Tasmanian results echo those on mainland Australia, putting humans squarely back in the frame as the driving force behind megafaunal extinction,” said Professor Roberts.

ANCORS studies Indonesian fisheries

A research team from the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) at the University of Wollongong has won a major four-year, $1.5 million research grant that could have a significant impact on marine fisheries in Indonesia.

The project is funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

The UOW team is led by Associate Professor Ron West, a leading Australian fisheries scientist and includes ANCORS Director Professor Martin Tsamenyi and Dr Mary Ann Palma, who are both experts in ocean law and policy. The CSIRO (Marine and Atmospheric Research) and the Indonesian Ministry for Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) will be collaborators in the research.

Indonesian fisheries are among the largest and most productive worldwide, and are critical to that nation’s economic development and in providing food resources to millions of people.

Based on the UN’s Food and Agricultural Organisation’s (FAO) data for 2004, about 4.5 million tonnes of marine fish (valued at about $US3.2 billion) are harvested annually by millions of people using a wide range of fishing gear, including hundreds of thousands of fishing boats.

Professor West said this places Indonesian marine capture fisheries among the top five in terms of production.

FOA documents show many regional, provincial and national government agencies are involved in administering these fisheries and the current arrangements have led to a confused situation where “effective management is difficult to achieve”.

As a result, illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing throughout Indonesian waters has become a major issue that confounds attempts to manage fish stocks.

“Consequently, there is an urgent need to develop effective assessment and policy frameworks to better manage Indonesian fisheries,” Professor West said.

The primary objective of the research will be to develop a better understanding of the characteristics of the many district and provincial fisheries throughout Indonesia and to investigate new and innovative assessment and management approaches.”

The ANCORS research team involved in the study of Indonesian marine fisheries (from left) Associate Professor Ron West (team leader), Dr Mary Ann Palma and Professor Martin Tsamenyi.

FOCUS ON RESEARCH
Record graduates reflect growth

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 2500 students undertaking Bachelors and Masters degrees in Business and Computer Science at its location in Dubai’s Knowledge Village.

Enrolments up for 2008-2009

The University of Wollongong in Dubai’s enrolments have increased by 37% from 2007, with more than 650 new students enrolling for the September intake.

In one of his first official duties, UOWD’s new president Professor Rob Whelan addressed the students and their parents at the Orientation and Enrolment Day on 30 August.

Professor Whelan encouraged the students to adopt an open mindset to take advantage of opportunities in a rapidly changing world.

“A recent survey of leading CEOs has shown that the most successful ones were those who had an open mindset reflecting willingness to take on new challenges and handle new projects, and readiness to take risks,” Professor Whelan said. “This message will serve you well as you embark on the next stage of higher education.”

UOWD Marketing manager Jay Jayatilaka briefed the new arrivals and their parents on aspects of the University, including its strengths, policies, faculty, student facilities and employment opportunities.

Logistics partner coup for UOWD

Maersk Logistics, a recognised leader in the international logistics market, has signed a collaborative agreement with the University of Wollongong in Dubai to build an ongoing partnership working towards commercial benefits and enhancement of knowledge.

The agreement forges initiatives like collaborative research projects, graduate recruitment, guest lectures by Maersk Logistics and intellectual capital sharing.

Globally, Maersk Logistics conducts joint research with selected business schools, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cranfield School of Management in the United Kingdom, the University of Queensland in Australia, the University of Gothenburg in Sweden and Erasmus, in The Netherlands. UOWD is the first university in the Middle East to be chosen by Maersk Logistics for such a partnership.

The agreement was signed by UOWD Vice-President (Administration) Raymi van der Spek and Maersk Logistics Middle East Managing Director Klaus Dahl Tindborg recently.

“The partnership represents a great honour for UOWD, as there are just a handful of business schools worldwide that enjoy such status,” said UOWD Graduate Studies Chair Dr David Van Over. “Our students will be able to conduct research with the involvement of Maersk Logistics’ companies, clients and partners. We will also be able to enrich our classroom material.”

Maersk Logistics is part of the A.P. Moller - Maersk Group which employs more than 110,000 people in over 130 countries. Besides shipping, the group is involved in the exploration for and production of oil and gas, retail, shipbuilding and other related industries.
Students to witness US history in the making

University of Wollongong students Lily Frencham and James Deane couldn’t have picked a better time to be selected for internships at the United States Congress in Washington DC.

Lily and James’ eight-week internships start on 2 January, so they will be in the US capital for the inauguration of the new US President on 20 January.

“It’s going to be an amazing time and a historic occasion, whoever wins the election,” James said. “We’ll either be witnessing the inauguration of the first African-American President if Barack Obama wins, or the first female Vice-President if the John McCain-Sarah Palin ticket wins.”

Lily and James are among 12 Australian university students chosen for the 2009 Uni-Capitol Internship program – the first time UOW has had two representatives in the prestigious US-Australia study trip.

Lily, 20, is in the third year of a double degree in Law and Arts (Media and Communications) while James, 23, is in his second year studying English Literature and Politics in the Faculty of Arts Dean’s Scholarship program.

Both undertook a rigorous screening and assessment process to win their spots.

They have already started to get to know the other 10 students in the program through a Facebook connection. The students will spend eight weeks in Washington, sharing three apartments organised by Uni-Capitol.

They will be assigned to the offices of different Congressmen who have nominated for the program.

Lily has been assigned to the office of Democrat John Tierney, a noted Human Rights advocate, while James will join the office of Democrat James Clyburn – currently the House Majority Whip and highest-ranked African-American politician in Washington (a situation that will obviously change if Barack Obama becomes President).

Lily, who is a member of the UOW Campus Chapter of Amnesty International, is excited about the opportunity to work in Congressman Tierney’s office.

“We had to write five essays explaining what we thought we’d bring to the program, and how we could be of value to the offices we wanted to be assigned to,” Lily said. “I wrote about my passion for human rights and how my experience with Amnesty International would help because my nominated Congressman has such a big reputation in that field, but I didn’t really think I had a chance of being selected.

“I am just so pleased that I have been, and that we are going at such an interesting time.”

James said he had an interest in working with disadvantaged communities, and that Congressman Clyburn had a strong record for his work with poor African-American groups, particularly in the field of drug rehabilitation.

He said the group had been told that there was a good chance they would be allocated tickets to the Presidential inauguration ceremony itself. “The inauguration will be an electric time, so it would be incredible if we could get to see and hear it,” he said.

Lily and James paid tribute to UOW’s International Relations Manager Trish Tindall and the Study Abroad team for their support and advice through the assessment process. NH

Rajaa’s study exchange a family affair

Rajaa Banjar is a 29-year-old Masters student on exchange from Saudi Arabia. Like many Saudis at UOW and other Australian universities, she is here on the King Abdullah Scholarship Program.

Scholarships and exchange have served Rajaa’s family well. She was born in the United States while her father was completing a Masters degree on a scholarship. Now she and her four brothers and sisters have the same chance to experience exchange in Australia.

Rajaa studied English Literature in Saudi Arabia, but because of her strong interest in business, decided to complete a Master of International Business at UOW.

After already owning small businesses in graphic design and advertising in Saudi Arabia, as well as working as a teacher to support herself, Rajaa hopes to head her own company in the future.

“As a woman in Saudi Arabia, I think owning my own business will give me more freedom and allow me to balance family and work,” she said.

Family is an important part of Rajaa’s life. She lives in Wollongong with her mother, her brother Ameen (who studies a Master of Information and Communication Technology) and her sister Areej, who is studying at Wollongong College Australia. Her sister Haneen studies computer science in Melbourne and her brother Abdulamjeed studies medicine in Sydney.

She said her family enjoys living in Wollongong – despite finding it very quiet at first – and loves the beach lifestyle as well as the central role UOW plays in the community.

While studying, Rajaa has taken every opportunity to get involved in campus life. She is president of the women’s section of the Saudi Students Club and has helped to organise many activities - including lectures, support and celebrations - to help Saudi women be involved in the UOW life.

“Living abroad gives Saudi women the chance to do many activities, while respecting our values,” she said. “The main goal of the scholarship is to get ideas from other cultures, without breaking our own culture.”

Recently Rajaa and her sister Areej took part in the UOW Global Highway, where students living and studying at UOW set up stalls and activities representing their culture. (See Page 12).

“The University really takes care of Saudi students through awareness of Saudi culture,” Rajaa said.

While very different to Saudi Arabia, Wollongong feels a lot like home to Rajaa and her family because there are so many Saudis studying at UOW.

“The large community of Saudis here help each other and care for each other, but being in Australia gives us the chance to improve our language and interact with another culture too.” KM
Awards, achievements and accolades

Water polo sisters win bronze at Beijing

Two sisters who study at the University of Wollongong won bronze medals as part of the Australian women's water polo team at the Beijing Olympics.

They were the University's first student summer Olympic athletes – and now also our first medal winners. (Michelle Jones won silver in the triathlon in Sydney in 2000 as a graduate).

Mia Santoromito is an Arts/Communications student studying on the main Wollongong campus while her sister, Jenna, is studying Business Administration and Hospitality at UOW's Loftus Education Centre.

Mia scored the winning goal in the medal play-off when Australia defeated Hungary 9-9 (3-2) in a penalty shoot-out after two periods of extra-time could not separate the teams.

Locked 2-2, Mia flung the ball low and right into the net to break the deadlock. The Australian goalkeeper Emma Knox then saved at the other end to give Australia victory.

The Australians only lost one match during the whole tournament – to the US in the semi-finals.

Before leaving for the Olympics, the UOW sisters received congratulatory letters on their selection from Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton and Rebel Sport gift vouchers on behalf of the University Recreation and Aquatic Centre (URAC) and the UOW Alumni Network. BG

Chicharo president of new peak body

UOW Dean of Informatics Professor Joe Chicharo has been appointed president of the first ever peak body to represent the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector across all Australian universities.

Professor Chicharo was elected Australian Council of Deans of ICT president at the inaugural meeting of the new peak body held in Sydney on July 25.

Professor Chicharo said it was a very successful meeting and the new body was already preparing a submission for the Higher Education Bradley Review. He said universities across Australia were determined to turn around the dramatic decline in undergraduate student enrolments in ICT degrees.

Between 2001-2007 there has been a 50 per cent decline in Australia in the number of undergraduate students enrolling in ICT degrees. And yet, according to the Federal Government’s Labour Supply and Skills Branch, the marketplace is crying out for ICT graduates with indications of strong long-term growth in employment for ICT professionals.

ICT disciplines generally include electrical engineering, computer engineering, computer science, information systems, information technology, software engineering and telecommunications engineering.

Professor Chicharo said the ICT sector has been fragmented for too long and the new peak body could now speak with one voice to the government, industry and other professional bodies and education providers. BG

Geotechnical honour for UOW academics

Two academics from UOW’s School of Civil, Mining and Environmental Engineering have received international awards for their geotechnical research.

The International Association for Computer Methods and Advances in Geomechanics (IACMAG) announced the awards for School of Civil, Mining and Environmental Engineering head Professor Buddhima Indraratna and Dr Cholachar Rujikiatkamjorn during its conference in Goa, India, in October.

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Professor Indraratna received the Excellent Contributions Award. Regional given to individuals who have made significant contributions over the years in research, academic activities and professional service in the interdisciplinary area of geomechanics, while Dr Rujikiatkamjorn received his award for the best contribution via scholarly journal publications in the young professional category.

Dr Iathurai Sathananthan of Coffey Geotechnics (Sydney), a 2005 PhD graduate of UOW supervised by Professor Indraratna, shared the award in the young professional category with Dr Rujikiatkamjorn for their contributions to ground improvement research.

These awards are announced every four years by IACMAG and are decided by international committees comprising six individuals who are prominent in the field of geomechanics. BG

Artist’s contribution acknowledged

Acclaimed artist and sculptor Ian Gentle’s art welcomes everyone who enters the University of Wollongong’s Library.

Ian’s prints and highly original eucalypt stick sculptures are distinctive features of the University’s art collection, and his Whispering Ant and Salivating Crocs sculptures welcome every student and visitor to the Library foyer.

Many other prints and sculptures enliven study areas throughout the building.

Now UOW has reciprocated, welcoming its former staff member back as a Fellow of the University. He was admitted as a Fellow at the mid-year Graduation Ceremony in July.

UOW Librarian Felicity McGregor, who presented the citation about Ian’s contribution to UOW and the wider community through his art and teaching, said: “Ian Gentle has been a significant and generous contributor to both the aesthetic character of the University, to the wider community as well as to the education and development of many Creative Arts students.”

Ms McGregor said students using the Library had become very attached to Whispering Ant and Salivating Croc, and many returned on their graduation day to be photographed in their graduation gowns in front of the sculptures.

Ian said he was honoured by the Fellowship, just as he was honoured to have his works on exhibition around the University campus. NH
Book takes pain out of bra choice

Wearing the wrong bra during exercise can cause discomfort and pain, as well as affecting sports performance.

However, although the right bra is an essential piece of sporting equipment for all women a UOW study of 115 adolescent girls found 88% did not wear correctly fitted bras during sport and 85% failed a simple knowledge test on bras and bra fit.

To help women of all ages buy well-fitting bras, Breast Research Australia (BRA) at UOW’s Biomechanics Research Laboratory has developed Sports Bra Fitness. This booklet, written by Deirdre McGhee, Dr Bridget Munro and Professor Julie Steele from the Biomechanics Research Lab, has easy to follow information on how to choose the right bra and how to tell if it fits correctly.

The booklet includes instructions and tables to calculate bra size, and provides a “Bounce-O-Meter” tool for women to measure the amount of bounce and breast discomfort they are likely to experience during sport.

"About 10 years of research has gone into the making of this book," co-author and physiotherapist Deirdre McGhee said. “Poor breast support and poor bra fit has caused many of the health problems I have treated over the years.”

Sports Bra Fitness combines science and facts with fun diagrams and photographs to make finding a well-fitted bra easy. The information is not brand specific and caters for people with different breast size and exercise habits so that all women can exercise in comfort.

“This will allow women to independently buy a bra from anywhere they choose, in all budgets, and they won’t have to be fitted professionally,” Ms McGhee said.

The success of the booklet has already been proved by an intervention on the group of girls who participated in the initial survey. Using the booklet improved their knowledge about bras and changed their bra wearing behaviour.

To continue educating women and improving bra wearing habits, the authors presented girls from two local high schools with copies of Sports Bra Fitness at the book launch.

Professor Steele said that the booklet would play an important role, because breasts are an important part of the self image of adolescent girls and poor self image can be a barrier to physical activity in this age group.

“When you think about the issue of obesity, removing any discomfort associated with exercise is even more important,” Professor Steele said.

Along with UOW, Professor Steele said that many Illawarra organisations had contributed to the booklet. The NSW Sporting Injury Committee and the IMB Community Foundation were major sponsors, two athletes from the Illawarra Academy of Sport modelled for the photographs in the book and a local photographer and graphic designer worked to publish the book.

Copies of the book can be bought or ordered from the UniShop and profits will go towards further research funding. KM

Community projects win $50,000 in funding

The University of Wollongong has provided $50,000 in funding for six far-reaching community projects.

UOW’s Community Engagement Grants Scheme (CEGS) funded the diverse projects, which include a resource kit to help children with cerebral palsy, a symposium for indigenous writers and the development of a large-scale children’s mural which will be Australia’s only contribution to an important global peace exhibition.

The projects also include a partnership between students living on campus and refugees, research looking at the impact of train fines on young people, and a project creating links between the Graduate School of Medicine and community volunteers.

The grants are awarded for University projects that are collaborative - working with a community partner – and that have a clear community benefit.

CEGS was introduced in 2005 to encourage and support these projects, and has awarded $170,500 to 23 projects since then.

The successful CEGS projects for 2008 are:

- Supporting children with cerebral palsy – Dr Sim Kim Lau, Faculty of Informatics. Community partners: Wollongong Hospital, South East Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service (SESIAH), The Disability Trust
- Young people and the impact of government fines – Debbie Langton, Faculty of Law. Community Partner: Illawarra Legal Centre
- Establishing a representative community of patients in volunteer patient programs for medical education at the Graduate School of Medicine – Isabelle Potter, GSM, International House. Community Partners: South Coast Writers Centre
- International Foundation for Indigenous Health. Community Partner: SCARF Illawarra
- Creative Community Connections: International House and Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families (SCARF) – Dr Lindsay Oades, International House. Community Partner: SCARF Illawarra.

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

Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences. Community Partners: Illawarra Women’s Health Centre, ALCO Spanish and Latin-American Community Organisation

- Creative Community Connections: International House and Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families (SCARF) – Dr Lindsay Oades, International House. Community Partner: SCARF Illawarra. KM
The University of Wollongong’s annual multicultural celebration Global Highway in September was a major success with about 1000 staff and students joining in activities. Organised by the students living in the university residences, Global Highway is an annual celebration of the cultural diversity of students studying at UOW and living in University accommodation.

“Global Highway is such a wonderful opportunity for all students living in residences to get together and showcase our cultures to the rest of the UOW community. We have such a diverse mix of nationalities and cultures living in the residences, and Global Highway is always a fun and informative event,” said International House student and Global Highway co-ordinator Swati Dharmaraj.

“Global Highway is important on two levels. Firstly, it allows everyone from around the world to have fun in so many different ways. Secondly, it shows how truly international the University of Wollongong and its residences have become,” International House Student Residence Manager Dr Lindsay Oades said.

As Sean Maguire’s pictures show, students and staff enjoyed a range of activities from the 14 nations represented - Australia, Britain, Slovenia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, India, Kenya, Japan, China, USA, Canada, Morocco, Scandinavia and Colombia. They ranged from henna painting and incense at the Bollywood-themed Indian stall to Hesteskokasting (or horse shoe throwing) at the Scandinavian stall, Arabic name writing at the Saudi Arabian stall, Slovenian egg painting, Japanese origami and Persian make-up demonstrations at the Iranian stall. 

Campus News is produced by the Media Unit.

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