Agent Update 96 – May, 2008

Professional accreditation for Master of Science (Logistics)

Students undertaking the Master of Science (Logistics) course through the University of Wollongong’s Graduate School of Business can be sure that their studies are well recognised by external industry bodies. The course has now been formally accredited by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) – making it the first such accreditation for a NSW university. For further information see http://media.uow.edu.au/news/UOW043323.html

For detailed information on the Master of Science (Logistics) and other UOW and WCA courses see Coursefinder:  http://coursefinder.uow.edu.au/coursefinder/view5.aspx

New Higher Degree by Research application form

A new application form for Higher Degree by Research degrees (PhD, DBA, Masters by Research) is now available. Agents are requested to discard any stocks of the old form and use the new form from now on. This can be downloaded at: http://www.uow.edu.au/prospective/international/applying/index.html

Stocks of all materials, including application forms can be ordered on the materials order form found at: http://www.uow.edu.au/prospective/international/agent/materials/index.html

New On-line application system: UOWApplyOnline

We are pleased to announce that we are in the process of implementing an apply-on-line facility for UOW coursework degree and WCA package offer programs.
The roll out of UOWApplyOnline has commenced with enthusiastic and positive feedback from agents trialling our new on-line application system. UOWApplyOnline provides a convenient real-time interface with the UniAdvice Student Admissions system. Applications that are submitted on UOWApplyOnline are instantly uploaded onto our system in Wollongong and will be allocated to your unique agent identification code for processing by Admissions Officers.

As an incentive to apply on line, all applications submitted by agents via UOWApplyOnline will be exempt from application fees. Where hard copy applications are submitted by post or fax, a $75 charge will remain for postgraduate coursework applications, and a $75 application fee will be introduced for bachelor course applications.

The following hard copy (paperbased) applications will remain exempt from an application fee:
- English language only courses at WCA;
- foundation studies/diploma courses at WCA;
- and all research degrees.

Thank you to our agents that have assisted us by trialling the system. We will provide more information and training as the roll out continues and expect to have UOWApplyOnline available to our agents for applications to most coursework degree programs in July.

**Australian government scholarships for international students**

A range of scholarships are offered by the Australian government for study at Australian universities, including University of Wollongong.

These scholarships include:

- Endeavour Awards
- Australian Development Scholarships
- Australian Leadership Awards (ALA)

Applications are now open for both Endeavour Awards and Australian Leadership Awards. Application dates and procedures for Australian Development Scholarships will vary from country to country.

For full details and information on application procedures and eligibility criteria please visit: [http://www.australianscholarships.gov.au/](http://www.australianscholarships.gov.au/)

**Friendship program welcomes new International Students**


The IFP promotes cross-cultural friendship, matching international students at UOW with member of the Wollongong community. The Friendship Program is just one of the activities of the Illawarra Committee for International Students (ICIS) to help international students to settle into their life in Wollongong, make friends and have fun.

**Faculty of Engineering Newsletter**

Please find attached the May Edition of the Faculty of Engineering newsletter.
Bluescope Steel Scholarship

The PYROmetallurgical Group of the BlueScope Steel Metallurgical Centre has just secured a three-year PhD scholarship with BlueScope steel. BlueScope Steel have agreed to fund a PhD stipend, student fees and associated scholarship project costs to the value of $190,000. The scholarship is open to both local and international students. The research project will relate to steelmaking and focus on understanding the effects of liquid steel processing on inclusion composition and morphology. Given the level of funding the scholarship is highly competitive and should attract a high quality graduate.

For more details contact Dr Brian Monaghan at monaghan@uow.edu.au.

Dean’s Spot

The Shanghai Institute of Microsystem and Information Technology (SIMIT) (http://www.sim.ac.cn) is the oldest institute in the Chinese Academy of Sciences System (CAS), one of the world’s most prestigious and largest science and technology organisations. The Shanghai Institute was founded in 1928, 31 years before the current Chinese Government commenced in 1949. It was originally named the National Research Institute in Engineering before expanding into its current role as one of the most respected research organisations in the world. It now has research links with many leading universities worldwide and other internationally respected research institutes.

SIMIT built China’s first 8-digit and 16-digit microprocessors and many other electronic devices. SIMIT now concentrates on areas including developing and fabricating advanced state-of-the-art electronics. These have applications in areas such as: improving the life and performance of batteries and other new energy technologies; providing faster and more powerful computers; and providing more intelligent sensors for engineers and physicists to use to build intelligent machines, robots, communication systems.

SIMIT currently has a staff of 451, including 281 scientific or technical personnel and 99 research scientists. In addition, it has 318 graduate students and 47 postdoctoral and visiting scientists.

Our Faculty has had very close and long standing research links with SIMIT for over 15 years. This joint research covers important areas of superconductivity, terahertz optoelectronics and energy materials. Last year, University of Wollongong signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding with SIMIT to further strengthen our relationship. Three of the University’s (and our Faculty’s) most distinguished researchers (Prof. Dou, Prof. Liu, and Prof. Zhang) are currently Guest Professors of SIMIT and we have several visitors and fellows in our Faculty from SIMIT. There are also several joint research projects underway between our Faculty and SIMIT, with funding provided by both the Chinese and Australian Governments.

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Journal Publication

A research article written by Dr Dominic Phelan (a member of the Engineering Materials Institute) in conjunction with external authors, has been selected for publication by the Journal of Advanced Engineering Materials (Vol. 10, Issue 4, 9 April, 2008). The photo "Directional Atomic Rearrangements During Transformations Between the α- and γ- Phases in Titanium Aluminides" has also been chosen for the front cover of the journal.

In 2002 Dominic completed a PhD at UOW in higher temperature phase transformations in iron alloys. His supervisor was Prof. Rian Dippenaar. Dominic then took up a postdoctoral fellow position with Rian (2002 - 2005) working on a number of BlueScope Steel Linkage grants researching the Zinalume process. In 2005 Dominic was awarded an ARC - Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship to study phase transformations under rapid solidification processing. This position recently expired.

He is currently utilising the free time to write up research papers on the peritectic reaction in iron alloys, which combine in-situ confocal microscopy and phase field modelling.

Staff News

Prof. Buddhima Indraratna delivered his presentation on CRC-Rail Research on Track Modernisation for Faster and Heavier Trains at the Engineers Australia - Illawarra/Sutherland Regional Group Meeting on 9th March 2008 at the University of Wollongong. His presentation captured the essence of the high level research activity conducted at the University of Wollongong in Civil Engineering.

Prof. Buddhima Indraratna is an external reviewer for Port of Brisbane Development especially for Ground Improvement works, probably the most extensive earthworks carried out during the past decade or so. The University of Wollongong’s expertise in the areas of vacuum consolidation of soft soils and sub-surface drainage with prefabricated wick drains have been put into practice here. The Australian Geomechanics Society (Queensland Chapter) has invited Prof. Indraratna for its Special Guest Lecture on the Research and Development of Vacuum Consolidation Technique on the 27th May 2008 at Hawken Auditorium, Engineering House, Brisbane. This presentation aims to present the recent advancements of soft ground improvement by vacuum consolidation via vertical drains based on UOW research activities including the new theoretical and numerical models now adopted in design by practicing engineers throughout the world.

A consortium of EU Universities and Industry organisations has been very active in a number of large Ground Improvement projects funded by the EU including annual Workshops and the occasional Symposium. Prof. Buddhima Indraratna has been invited to present one of the three Keynote papers at the forthcoming EU Ground Improvement Symposium and Workshop organised by University of Strathclyde, ETH-Zurich, University of Stuttgart, University of Glasgow, Helsinki University of Technology and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology among other organisations. His presentation will cover a range of recent UoW developments including chemical stabilisation, sub-surface drainage, vacuum consolidation and bio-engineering of soft and weak ground formations. The EU Ground Improvement Symposium and Workshop will be held in Glasgow, Scotland in early September 2008. This further reflects the recognition of active research within the Centre for Geomechanics and Railway Engineering in soft ground improvement.

Diary Dates

13 May Faculty Education Committee
20 May Faculty Research Committee
21 May Prize Night
27 May Faculty Committee
ECS Summer Fellowship

Sau Yen Chew (Sophie), a PhD candidate, has been awarded the prestigious ECS summer fellowship for 2008, specifically the F. M. Becket Summer Fellowship, while conducting research at the Battery Group Electrochemistry Laboratory, Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI), Switzerland. Sophie is currently in her third year and is supervised by Prof. HK Liu and Dr. Jiazhao Wang. She is working on the lithium-ion battery project with the ARC Centre for Electromaterials Science (ACES) and the Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials (ISEM).

Competition for this fellowship is extremely strong and competitive and she is one of only five students awarded the fellowship worldwide. The award consists of a cheque for US$5000, funded by The Electrochemical Consolidated Fellowship Fund. The aim of the fellowship is to assist students during the summer months (June-September) in the pursuit of work in a field of interest of The Electrochemical Society.

Sophie has been appointed a visiting scientist at PSI and her research relates to thin film electrodes fabrication and characterization for the lithium-ion batteries, which is one of the highest priorities of ACES project milestones. During her stay at PSI, Sophie will conduct her research on the LiMn2O4 thin film project. This thin film cathode will be used as a model electrode to understand the electrochemical behaviour of the system via the in-situ analytical tools available at PSI. Thin film batteries are also in high demand for other applications such as the chips industry for miniaturization of electronic devices and for implantation in “smart” credit cards.

At the conclusion of her fellowship, Sophie will be required to submit a written report of her research work. This work will be published in the Society's quarterly magazine, Interface. Sophie’s excellent performance certainly contributes to raising the ACES/ISEM, Fac Eng, UoW international profile.

Appointment as Technical Editor

A/Prof Gursel Alici has been appointed to the prestigious position of Technical Editor for the IEEE/ASME Transactions on Mechatronics.

Nomination for this position is made by existing technical editors to the journal Editor in Chief, who then invites nominees to provide a CV which must include their research track record and expertise. The CV is submitted to the management committee of the journal, which consists of the past editor-in-chief and some renowned senior academicians and researchers, for the final decision and appointment.

Being appointed as the TE is evidence of being internationally active and well-known, making significant contributions to the field of mechatronics not only as an author, but also a reviewer to the journal, and taking an active role in the international mechatronics conferences.

The appointment is initially for 1 year, and is extended to another three years depending on performance in the first year.

Gursel said “I am pleased to be appointed as a technical editor of this prestigious mechatronics journal, which is accepted as the best peer-reviewed international journal in the field. I will be managing and evaluating the review of papers submitted to the journal in my areas of expertise. This is a very serious and significant commitment. However, this is great not only for my academic career, but also for our university’s international image and research activities in the broad area of mechatronics.”
Former Student King’s Appointee

A/Prof Paul Cooper writes that former Mechanical Engineering student Tashi Wangmo, who graduated in 1997, was one of the first engineering students to come to us from the small Himalayan mountain kingdom of Bhutan. Bhutan has just become the latest democracy in the world. The former king, His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who is revered throughout the country, ordained that the country would no longer be a monarchy and elections for the first ever Bhutanese parliament have now been completed and abdicated the throne in favour of his son, His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. Twenty representatives were elected and five were appointed by the King.

Tashi has been chosen by His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, as one of his five appointees – a truly great honour. Paul has kept in touch with Tashi over the years and when he wrote to her saying that we at UOW were very proud of her achievement in Bhutan, she replied with some quite inspirational feedback on her time with the UOW Faculty of Engineering. This is part of what she said:

“I am so delighted that the news specifically made you feel really proud. It is not my success alone, it is also the success of all my lecturers and faculty members at the University of Wollongong. It is that four and half years of my study at the UoW and my interaction with Australian society that has provided me with a strong foundation necessary to build my way up to where I am now. ….

Honestly speaking, I got everything I needed to make myself a better person from my study and stay in Australia. Even today I keep referring to the good old days I spent in that beautiful country with lovely people around. There was never a person in the Mechanical Engineering Department who did not give me attention – I was received cordially whenever I needed help be it at the lab, Dean’s office, general administrative office, etc. I had all those great faculty staff who genuinely supported and encouraged me… So …. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to each and everyone at the Mechanical Engineering Department in particular and UoW as a whole for nurturing me in the right direction. Today, I feel proud to be standing out as one of the 5 eminent appointees of His Majesty the King to the National Council, not as an individual but as the product of the University of Wollongong.”

Assessment Workshop

Carrick Fellow Professor Geoffrey Crisp, the Director of the Centre for Learning and Professional Development, Adelaide University, presented an Assessment Workshop for the Faculty of Engineering on the 28th of March.

Participants explored ways to improve assessment in their own subjects; considered the uses of diagnostic, formative, and summative assessment; and the idea of aligning learning outcomes, learning activities, formative and summative assessment tasks. Questions such as, "How much assessment is too much?" and "Do we seek divergent or convergent responses?" were discussed,

Geoff’s disciplinary background is in Chemistry. He has won several teaching awards and is well known for his work in laboratory learning, plagiarism, and online assessment. At present he is a Carrick Associate Fellow with a brief to develop effective online assessment in the sciences.