The University of Wollongong has added a new five-star rating for research to its list of achievements in the 2005 Australian Good Universities Guide.

Wollongong has six five-star ratings in this year's Guide, which ranks Australia's universities over a range of criteria.

UOW's five-star ranking for Research Intensity (up from its previous four stars) sees it join an elite group of just eight universities at the top of the rankings in this important category. Wollongong is the only regional university in the top group and one of two from New South Wales. The other is Macquarie University.

Wollongong also added a fifth star in the Graduate Rating section of the Educational Experience, while retaining its five stars for Staff Qualifications.

The University also retained its long-standing five-star ranking in the three Graduate Outcomes categories of Getting a Job, Positive Graduate Outcomes and Graduate Starting Salaries. It is UOW's fifth consecutive five-star ranking in the three Graduate Outcomes.

UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton said the recognition for Research Intensity was particularly significant.

"This recognition for our research is really pleasing," Professor Sutton said. "We have joined an elite group of much bigger universities in being recognised for the intensity of our research. We did well last year and have put a lot of our focus into building our research intensity. We know our research strength gives us an edge, so it is very rewarding to receive this recognition."

Professor Sutton paid tribute to Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Margaret Sheil's role in building the University's research reputation. "Margaret deserves a lot of the credit for the effort, as does the research team who have worked so hard."

STOP PRESS: No HECS fees rise at UOW

University of Wollongong students will not face increased Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) fees next year.

UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton announced on June 16 that the University would not increase the Higher HECS for current and prospective students in 2005.

A decision on HECS was expected to have been made by the University of Wollongong Council at its meeting on August 13. However, the announcement came in June after the Vice-Chancellor received Council support for the current HECS fees structure to remain unaltered.

UOW had previously announced it would not be introducing domestic fee-paying courses in 2005. Under a new Federal reform package effective from January 1 next year, universities could raise HECS fees on all courses (except the exempted areas of teaching and nursing) up to 25 per cent.

The Vice-Chancellor said the University would monitor its budget in 2005 to determine if changes were required from 2006.
Three Nobel Laureates at Wollongong's largest scientific conference

It's hats off to some of the members of the organising committee for the major ICSM 2004 conference.

As Campus News was going to press, the University of Wollongong was preparing to stage the biggest scientific conference ever held in Wollongong - and one of the largest in Australia.

The University of Wollongong outbid the United States and Brazil to conduct the International Conference on the Science and Technology of Synthetic Metals (ICSM 2004) from June 28 to July 2.

The conference titled "The role and impact of nanoscience and nanotechnologies" was expected to reap about $5 million in financial input into the Wollongong region. About 800 scientists from 36 countries - including three Nobel Prize winners - were planning to converge on Wollongong for the week-long conference. Organisers said it has been estimated that as a result of indirect expenditure at least $5 million could be channelled into the Wollongong economy. The University of Wollongong's Intelligent Polymer Research Institute (IPRI), Professor Gordon Wallace, said the conference was a once in a lifetime opportunity for Illawarra businesses either to participate in or sponsor in some way.

The program featured a special symposium on “Business opportunities from synthetic metals and nano-technology” addressed by scientists and entrepreneurs who have been involved in commercialisation in the area of science and technology in the United States, Europe and Asia. This session was a 'first' in the conference's 28-year history. At the close of the Business Opportunities session, a young Australian research scientist or student presenting an Australian innovation/ technology with potential commercial value, was to be selected for the opportunity to have his or her research or Intellectual Property evaluated and developed. The prize, provided by SciVentures, comprised a two-day on-site workshop on Intellectual Property evaluation and development with the intent to commercialise.

ICSM brings together scientists to discuss the latest advances in Synthetic Metals (such as conducting polymers and carbon nanotubes). These materials are finding application in areas as diverse as artificial muscles, electronic noses, plastic solar cells, corrosion inhibition, biosensors, electronic textiles and nerve cell communications.

Ten plenary lectures from eminent international scientists were among the highlights of the scientific program. This included talks from the three Nobel Prize winners, Professor Alan Heeger (University of California), Professor Alan MacDiarmid (University of Pennsylvania) and Professor Hideki Shirakawa (University of Tsukuba, Japan) in a special one-off session. Selected school students from the Illawarra were invited to meet the three Nobel Prize winners at a special event at the Wollongong Science Centre.

The plenary talks are being supported by 20 keynote speakers, 180 oral presentations and 500 poster presentations. A conference dinner was set down for the Wollongong Entertainment Centre for the 800 delegates and their partners.


Continued from page 1

(for this ranking) with her hands-on approach to improving our research focus. She has driven this very strongly,” he said. “And the beauty of it is that it has improved across the board. We’ve had successes outside our natural strengths of Engineering and Science.”

To further reinforce the improvement in the UOW’s research ranking it went from three stars to four stars in Research Grants – an outstanding achievement considering the University does not have a Medical School, traditionally a major source of research grants in Australia.

Professor Sheil said UOW had not only increased the level of traditional government grants but also income derived from industry and Cooperative Research Centres (in Engineering and Information and Communication Technology).

“We have improved the outcomes for existing staff and combined this with a focus on recruitment of staff with research potential. Attracting high quality staff also benefits undergraduate teaching and the experience offered to our research students,” Professor Sheil said.

Professor Sutton described Wollongong’s continuing five-star performances in Educational Experience and Graduate Outcomes as “terrific outcomes” for students and staff. “We tend to take those awards a little for granted because we’ve had five stars for five years in a row in some categories, but it is a wonderful achievement to have been at the top for so long.”

International child obesity expert to head conference

One of the world's most respected researchers in childhood obesity and teenage health will deliver the keynote address at the national conference for Australia's health and physical education educators in July.

Dr Bill Deitz, Director of the Physical Activity and Nutrition Division of the Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion in Atlanta, Georgia will provide an international perspective to the problems of childhood obesity at the conference, to be held at the University of Wollongong from July 6-9.

The conference will also feature Professor Don Hellison from the University of Illinois in Chicago, an expert on developing physical activity programs for at-risk youth.

They will be joined by National Rugby League Chief Executive Officer David Gallop, who will speak on changing a sport's profile.

More than 300 delegates are expected to attend the biennial conference of the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (ACPER), which represents people working in the areas of Health Education, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport, Dance, Community Fitness and Movement Sciences.

ACPER NSW President Doug Heanne, a lecturer in Physical Education at the University of Wollongong, said attracting international speakers of the calibre of Dr Deitz and Professor Hellison gave the conference two major international drawcards. “These two speakers are acknowledged leaders in their field and it is a real coup to have them at the conference,” he said, adding that he also expected widespread interest in Mr Gallop’s address.

The conference theme is Keeping The Dream Alive, which Mr Heanne said referred to health educators’ constant battles to encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyles among young Australians against a backdrop of increasingly sedentary lifestyles.
UOW Art Collection unveils biggest gift

The University of Wollongong Art Collection will unveil its biggest ever donation in an exhibition at the Wollongong City Gallery on July 31. Melbourne-based collector Dr Douglas Kagi has donated a collection of 70 prints by eminent English artists including Richard Hamilton, Peter Blake, Joe Tilson, Frank Auerbach, Victor Pasmore, Paula Rego and William Scott.

The collection is valued at around $200,000 and is considered extremely relevant in terms of the history of print production in the second half of the 20th century. It includes work by artists who have produced iconic works of 20th century popular culture. Blake, for example, designed the cover for The Beatles’ Sgt Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band album while Hamilton designed The Beatles’ White Album cover.

UOW Art Collection curator Glenn Barkley said the collection was one of the most important donations in the Collection’s history. “One of the really important aspects of this gift is that many of the artists, in particular Hamilton, Pasmore and Tilson, are represented by substantial bodies of their work. For example Hamilton is represented by a number of works from his Ulysses series, which was recently exhibited at The Tate, as well as works that explore the interface between fine art and popular culture.”

Dr Kagi, who has been collecting the prints for 20 years, will be on hand when the collection goes on public exhibition on July 31 at the Wollongong City Gallery. The exhibition will continue until September 5 and Mr Barkley said it was “important that a collection of this magnitude gets out into the community”.

He said the Kagi gift was one of a series of significant donations to the UOW Collection this year that had enhanced its growing reputation. Other donations include:

- 21 workshop proofs of prints from the Yilpinji Love Magic and Ceremony collection, donated by Darwin-based printmaker Basil Hall;
- six watercolours of the New South Wales South Coast by Noel McKenna;
- woodcuts and engravings by one of Australia’s most celebrated printmakers Ruth Burgess;
- four major print works donated by renown Sydney based artist Aida Tomescu. The donation consists of a major triptych etching Vis and a closely related work Negru;
- an annual $10,000 donation from Faculty of Informatics academic Daniel Saffioti to purchase indigenous prints. This year’s acquisitions include a full set of portrait prints ‘Puuntu’ by artists from Nyinkka Nyunyu Arts and Culture Centre, Tennant Creek.

The UOW Collection now has more than 1700 works, and Mr Barkley said the latest Aboriginal print acquisitions meant its collection of more than 300 indigenous prints was now among the best in the country.

Mr Barkley said the Collection was attracting important donations because it had built a reputation as a serious collection. “People like Dr Kagi and Basil Hall are prepared to donate to this Collection because they can see that we are serious about what we are doing,” he said.

“And Daniel Saffioti’s support with significant annual cash donations has been extremely valuable in helping expand our collection of indigenous prints. It allows us to buy whole suites of work rather than having to pick them apart and just buy one because that is all we can afford.”

Mr Barkley said Director, artist Guy Warren, had been the driving force behind the Collection’s growth in recent years while Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton also provided invaluable support.

FOOTNOTE: Donations of works or cash to the UOW Art Collection may be tax-deductable under the Federal Government’s Cultural Gifts Program. Contact Glenn Barkley on 02 42215552 or glenn_barkley@uow.edu.au for details on how you can support the Collection.

The University of Wollongong Art Collection unveils its biggest gift

Daniel’s donations come from the art

Faculty of Informatics academic Daniel Saffioti just wanted to make the Faculty corridors “a bit more homely” when he joined the staff two years ago.

To achieve that he’s happily contributed around $20,000 for the University of Wollongong Art Collection to purchase indigenous artworks. Now those previously bare walls Mr Saffioti thought looked “sterile” are decorated with framed prints from some of Australia’s leading indigenous artists.

And that’s just the beginning. Mr Saffioti plans to keep buying art until the Faculty’s academic wing is complete. “Then I’ll start on the student wing,” he said. “I’m keen to finish off the entire building.”

Mr Saffioti doesn’t see anything special about his generosity, which has further enhanced the UOW Collection’s of indigenous prints, considered one of the best in Australia. “The University is always telling us this place belongs to the staff and students. Well in that case the staff and students have a responsibility to take some ownership.”

Mr Saffioti is both a student and a staff member. He has a Bachelor of Computer Science degree and is currently studying for his Masters. He also worked in IT support at the University, my way of saying thanks,” said Mr Saffioti. “But it also makes me feel happier when I come to work.”

Art donor Daniel Saffioti with his favourite work, a Jimmy Pike print called Jumangkarri, which hangs in the corridor outside his office.

Faculty of Creative Arts and Information Technology Services (ITS) before taking up a full-time teaching position.

“This is my way of contributing to the University, my way of saying thanks,” said Mr Saffioti. “But it also makes me feel happier when I come to work.”
Climate change: trees reveal secrets of the past

Most people’s interest in the weather doesn’t extend much past what it will be like next weekend.

University of Wollongong scientist Dr Chris Turney likes sunny Sunday afternoons as much as anybody, but he’s more interested in what the weather was like 50,000 years ago.

That information, Dr Turney says, can help scientists predict climate change and what impact it might have on the modern world.

Englishman Dr Turney is a paleoclimatologist and an international authority on the study and carbon dating of ancient plants and fossils, and how they reacted to their environment. He says these ancient plants reveal important information about how the world’s climate changed tens of thousands of years ago. That information can be directly applied to the modern world and our current concerns about the effect of climate change.

And those concerns, he says, are more than justified. “The last Ice Age peaked 20,000 years ago and ended 11,000 years ago when the world hit the present-day climate conditions,” Dr Turney said. “But at the end of the Ice Age the world suddenly became 10-15°C warmer in a few years. The danger of the world again shifting into a whole new climate state is that you can’t go back – once it happens its here to stay.”

Part of Dr Turney’s current work is to study ancient trees dating back to the last Ice Age that have been unearthed in peat bogs in the northern tip of New Zealand’s North Island. Some are more than 100,000 years old.

The giant trees grew for up to 2000 years before falling over and eventually being covered in the peat that has preserved them until now. With Dr Turney determining their age back to 60,000 years using a pioneering method of carbon dating, he and New Zealand colleagues can then study the annual growth “rings” on the trees and determine what the weather was like during the life of the tree.

“There’s up to 2000 years of climate history captured in those rings,” Dr Turney said. “These are UOW scientist and carbon-dating expert Dr Chris Turney with a 120,000-year-old hippopotamus bone – “a present from my PhD supervisor”.

Climate change: trees reveal secrets of the past

Climate change and what impact it might have on the modern world. He says these ancient plants reveal important information about how the world’s climate changed tens of thousands of years ago. That information can be directly applied to the modern world and our current concerns about the effect of climate change.

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“There’s up to 2000 years of climate history captured in those rings,” Dr Turney said. “These are among those attending the launch of UOW’s Health Management Research Centre on 4 May. Its main aim is to measure and report the impact of health and well-being of every working Australian.

The centre is now undertaking two projects:

- Efficient strategies to increase participation rates in disease management programs (partly funded by a grant obtained through the Australian Research Council)
- Use of complementary and alternative medicines among older Australians

The centre will also attempt for the first time to measure the impact of ‘presenteeism’ on Australia’s workers and economy. As opposed to the ‘sickie’, presenteeism is where employees turn up to work despite lacking the motivation or health to be productive. In the US, the cost of presenteeism is believed to equal the sum of absenteeism, injuries and health care costs.

Among those attending the launch were UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton, AHMG Board chair Mr Michael McMahon; the centre’s management committee chair and AHMG Chief Executive Officer Mr Dan Hook and University of Michigan Health Management Research Center Director Professor Dee W.Edington.
The University of Wollongong has a new Alumni Relations Manager, and she wants all graduates to know that they now are automatically part of the UOW Alumni Network.

Changes to the University’s Alumni structure means graduates are no longer required to nominate whether or not they will join the Alumni Network.

The University’s recently-appointed Alumni Relations Manager Marta Larzabal said the Alumni organisation had been de-corporatised. Membership was now automatic and free for all graduates, Honorary Fellows, Doctors and Emeritus Professors.

“We really want to get the message out about these changes, because there are a lot of membership benefits for Alumni both in Australia and overseas,” Ms Larzabal said. “We want to help our graduates in their life after university (by providing them) with information about networking, professional development, affinity programs and social opportunities.

“We want them to know about the valuable commercial discounts available for UOW Alumni members (see table).

“And we want to keep people up to date with some of the exciting developments that are taking place at this University.”

Ms Larzabal is a UOW graduate herself, having completed a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Marketing and Management, in 1999. She is currently studying part-time for a Master of Strategic Marketing degree. She previously worked at UOW’s UniAdvice, most recently as the Post-graduate Recruitment Coordinator.

Since taking up her new role in April Ms Larzabal said she had been impressed with the obvious pride in the University that she had detected among the Alumni. “We are a relatively young University, but our Alumni are really starting to assert themselves in significant positions in Australia and overseas and there is a lot of pride about where they obtained their qualifications,” she said. “There are great opportunities for networking and for Alumni to benefit from their shared association with UOW.”

There are a number of Chapters operating in Australia and overseas, and Ms Larzabal said the international Chapters were very active.

Check the UOW website (www.uow.edu.au/alumni/chapters) for Chapter details and contacts. Alumni who do not have a free membership card entitling them to Alumni benefits listed should email alumni@uow.edu.au to arrange for a card to be sent to them.

There’s gold in used books. Just ask the Campus Chapter of the UOW Alumni Network, which recently unearthed a book valued at $1000 among the thousands of items donated for its second-hand bookshop.

It was an 1895 publication called The Snake Book, featuring a series of colour plates of snakes found in the Australian colonies.

The Chapter runs the Alumni Bookshop in Northfields Ave opposite the University, having moved last year from its long-term home at Campus East.

The Bookshop raises money to assist UOW students through scholarships and cash prizes. It currently offers two $2,000 Equity and Merit Scholarships as well as $300 prizes presented to an Honours student from each of the University’s nine faculties.

Apart from funding the $6,700 required each year for the scholarships and prizes, the Chapter is closing in on its target of $100,000 to establish a perpetual scholarship at the University.

Chapter chairperson Patricia Anderson, who spent 20 years at UOW’s Faculty of Education lecturing in Physical Education and Health, said the Alumni Bookshop was run on an entirely voluntary basis by former staff and students who “want to put something back into the University”. There is a strong core of around 20 volunteers.

All books are donated, and the thousands of publications on the shelves include text books for every subject from computers to philosophy, art books, fiction and even sheet music. Prices are generally kept low and start at $1, with few books marked above $10. Text books are the biggest sellers, while dictionaries are in high demand with international students.

Occasionally real collector’s items like The Snake Book turn up in the boxes of donated books. Staff researched The Snake Book’s value and decided to donate it to the UOW Library.

The bookshop is open to the public as well as students and operates on Tuesday from 10-2.30pm and on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-5pm.

For more information, contact Patricia Anderson on 42293685 or call 42291951.

Alumni discounts

Discounts to Alumni include:

- Medina Serviced Apartments: 50% off the rack rates - Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane, Adelaide
- Hertz Car Hire: Discounted rates for UOW alumni
- Rebel Sport: 5% discount - offer available at all stores
- AMP Banking Package
- Apple Computers: up to 10% discount on hardware
- Himark Computers: up to 5% discount for hardware, software and peripherals and up to 7% discount for consumables. Sylvania store only
- UniCentre Bookshop: 12.5% discount on all books
- STA Travel: no departure tax and 10% off travel insurance. Available at Miranda Westfield and Uni STA
- University Recreation and Aquatic center (URAC): $25 off annual fee for Graduate Membership
- Table Eight: 15% discount on non sale items; all stores as well as David Jones outlets
- Kenroy’s: 10% discount on non sale items. Offer available at selected stores only
- Williams the Shoeman: 10% discount on non-sale items. Offer available at selected stores only
Alumni in Profile

Dr Chris Doyle

Bachelor of Environmental Science (Honours) 1995
PhD (Fluvial Geomorphology) 2003

Dr Chris Doyle has one of the key environment roles in the Illawarra Region. As Sustainability Coordinator for the Port Kembla Port Corporation he is responsible for the busy harbour’s environmental management and community liaison and education programs.

Chris, who gained his Bachelor of Environmental Science (Honours) degree and PhD at UOW, has been able to enhance the Port Corporation’s already strong links with the University.

He was invited to join Professor John Morrison’s Oceans and Coastal Research Centre as an Honorary Fellow, and now supervises postgraduate students conducting research on the biology of the harbour waters. “I’ve really enjoyed connecting back with the University again, being involved in the Coastal Research group, and having the opportunity to supervise research students,” he said.

One of Chris’ postgraduate students is researching marine life attached to harbour structures such as wharves and breakwaters, while another is looking at marine pests that might be introduced to the harbour in visiting ships’ ballast water. “Their research work is very relevant to our water quality management program,” said Chris.

His role at the Port Corporation includes setting up environmental monitoring and testing for water quality, sediments and the ecology of the harbour’s waterways, structures and foreshores. He is also establishing baseline information and continuing sampling to monitor possible changes in the harbour’s environment. Chris has also created an educational package about harbour activities and its environment which he presents to schools in the area.

Chris completed his Bachelor of Environmental Science, majoring in geography, in 1995. He was then awarded a Masters scholarship, later upgraded to a PhD, to study Fluvial Geomorphology (landforms caused by rivers and water) with Professor Gerald Nanson in the School of Geosciences. The research, on the Nambucca River catchment, was completed with a combination of full and part-time studies and full-time work in the environment field.

He spent a year at Birmingham University in Britain working on river research, a year working with the Hawkesbury/Nepean Catchment Management Trust and a year in Sydney with Rockdale City Council and Eco Logical Australia before taking up the Port Corporation position in mid-2002.

Angela Hilton

Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Laws (1998)

University of Wollongong graduate Angela Hilton has a front-row view of China’s burgeoning economy and increasingly important relationship with Australia.

The Commerce/Law graduate and fluent Mandarin-speaker is a Second Secretary in the Economic Section at the Australian Embassy in Beijing, where she has been based since January 2001.

In that time Prime Minister John Howard has visited three times, while the Embassy also regularly hosts State Premiers, senior Federal and State Government Ministers and trade delegations - reflecting China’s position as Australia’s third largest trading partner.

For Angela, the China posting has been a fascinating experience as she has watched the country’s transition from a planned economy to a more market oriented economy. “There’s an amazing optimism and enthusiasm among the Chinese people, and a tremendous spirit in terms of getting things done. They really have a can-do attitude,” she said. “Even in the time I have been there I have seen big changes, and it is fascinating to look at the development in the major cities and think that just 30 years ago this was an isolated country.”

Highlights of her time in China include the signing of Australia’s biggest ever international contract - $25 billion deal to supply natural gas to China, and the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and China.

“(Former Prime Minister) Gough Whitlam and the first Australian Ambassador Dr Stephen FitzGerald were here and talked about how much things had changed in China. No-one had imagined how quickly the country would develop and how strong the people-to-people relationship (between China and Australia) would become,” she said.

After completing her Commerce/Law degrees at UOW in 1998, Angela moved to Canberra to join the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in February 1999, completing a Graduate Diploma in Foreign Affairs and Trade through Monash University that year.

At the end of 1999 she applied for an overseas posting, nominating China as her first preference. She was duly assigned to the Embassy in Beijing, but first spent a year learning Mandarin full-time at the Australian Defence Language College in Canberra. Her full-time language training continued for another year after she arrived in Beijing, before she started her duties with the Embassy.

“My five-year China posting will be over at the end of this year, and I’ll have spent two years of that time in full-time language training. That reflects the increasing importance being placed on having staff who speak Asian languages, particularly those of our major trading partners,” Angela said.

She now plans to take her experience from China and apply it across multi-lateral trade areas, but hopes to return to Beijing in a more senior role in the future.

Angela said her UOW degrees had prepared her well for her role. “I did International Law and have been able to apply that, but also the research, problem-solving and public-speaking skills you learn. And my Marketing training has been invaluable – I’m marketing Australia every day.”

Sean Perry

Bachelor of Engineering
Master of Mining Engineering (Honours) 1994

Sean Perry says a Mining Engineering degree offers you the whole world.

He should know. Throughout his studies for Bachelor and Masters degrees in Mining Engineering through UOW and in a 10-year career since graduating Sean has worked and travelled extensively throughout Australia and overseas.
The 33-year-old has just started a two-year contract to work at a coal mine in East Kalimantan—the latest stop on a journey that has taken him to many remote and exotic locations.

“Those were some of the best years of my whole life,” he remembers.

Although based in Australia, Sean’s travel odyssey started when he was a student, spending his long university vacations working at BHP’s iron ore mine at Mt Newman in the north-west of Western Australia (twice) and the Mount Morgan mine in Central Queensland.

After his undergraduate degree, he spent a year in England doing a part-time Master of Commerce at the University of Essex, and a part-time Bachelor of Computer Science at Camborne School of Mines in Cornwall, one of Britain’s foremost mining colleges.

Having completed his studies in 1994, Sean spent three years at the Bronzewing gold mine, 600km north of Kalgoorlie in Western Australia’s northern goldfields. “It was a great experience living and working in such a remote location,” he remembers.

“Apart from the mining engineering work I also got to work on airstrips, roads, campsites … whatever we needed to build. I was really flying by the seat of my pants.”

He then took a year off to travel the world with his wife Jacqui, before joining Modular Mining, an American company that makes production management systems for mines. Although based in Australia, Sean’s role as a project manager meant he spent 50 percent of his time at mines across Australia, Asia-Pacific and North and South America—from the Olympic Dam uranium mine in South Australia, to a nickel mine in New Caledonia and copper mines in Chile.

After three years he moved to the Hunter Valley of New South Wales, where he worked at the Bulga open cut coal mine before accepting the posting in East Kalimantan. He and Jacqui and their children Nathan and Ella are based near Sangatta, in a purpose-built mining company town complete with a school (and Australian teacher), and a range of facilities from golf course and gymnasium to fishing club.

Camtu Pham
Bachelor of Computer Science 1993
Master of Commerce 1997

University of Wollongong graduate and former employee Camtu Pham has published a motivational book, Aim High Fly Fast—How to Create a Wonderful World for Yourself and Others.

New South Wales Minister for Regional Development and Minister for the Illawarra Mr David Campbell, who launched the motivational book at the University of Wollongong, described it as a powerful and easy-to-read guide about making the most of life.

“It has been a long journey for Ms Pham since she migrated to Australia from Vietnam 20 years ago, barely able to speak a word of English. She has since completed her HSC, a Master’s degree in commerce and a degree in computer science from UOW.

While at UOW, Ms Pham managed the UOW website and the Y2K projects, the UniCentre Leadership and Business Development Program and lectured for management and e-business in 2000 and 2001. She founded an information technology consultative business called CleverLink in 1998.

Ms Pham has decided to give 20 percent of all sales from her book (which will be published in several languages including Vietnamese) to the Fred Hollows Foundation. She said the book was full of ideas and techniques to help people achieve more in life by understanding themselves better and appreciating what they had.

Aim High Fly Fast is available from www.FoodForMyBrain.com, the UniCentre Bookshop, and Dymocks Wollongong.

In Memoriam

Emeritus Professor Ken Blakey
Emeritus Professor Ken Blakey, who played a major role in the formative years of the University of Wollongong, died in March.

Professor Blakey was the foundation Professor of Economics at the University, and the second Emeritus Professor appointed at UOW. He had a distinguished career as a journalist, international civil servant and academic.

Professor Blakey joined the University in 1968 from the World Bank. He was committed to regional development in the Illawarra and worked tirelessly for the development of Port Kembla.

Professor Blakey was an academic leader at the University. Undergraduate and postgraduate programs he developed in the 1970s had a lasting impact and influenced the curriculum at other Australian universities.

UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton said, “Professor Blakey was a warm and caring leader who created a friendly atmosphere in which academic excellence flourished. He encouraged each individual to develop his or her teaching and research interests for the betterment of society.”

Mavis Miller

Tireless community worker, women’s rights activist and Fellow of the University of Wollongong Mavis Miller died early this year, aged 88.

Mrs Miller came to University late in life, sitting for the Special Admissions Program when she retired from the workforce aged 65. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1984 and obtained a Masters degree in French and Italian in 1986.

Mrs Miller became a tireless worker for the University. She worked in the Alumni Campus Chapter’s second-hand bookshop well into her eighties and was made a life member of the Friends of the University. She also donated her valuable collection of Aboriginal arts, crafts and artefacts to the Aboriginal Education Centre (AEC).

She was made a Fellow of the University in 1995.

Jeffrey Jin Appeal

Jeffrey Jin was in his third year of PhD studies at UOW’s Intelligent Polymer Research Institute (IPRI) when he was tragically killed in December 2003.

Jeffrey left behind his wife, Julie, and 15-year-old son Josh. To help support them in some small way Jeffrey’s colleagues at the IPRI have established the “Jeffrey Jin Appeal” to run from 1 July this year for 12 months.

Members of the University community are invited to make a one-off donation or to arrange a payroll deduction (available to UOW staff and students only) over this period.

The funds raised will be made available to Josh in the form of a scholarship to assist with Josh’s education after high school, which he will complete next year.

For more details, contact the IPRI on 02 42213127.
Welcome to Faculty Focus – a regular feature in the Alumni section of Campus News. It is designed to keep Alumni up to date with exciting developments in their Faculties. In this edition we focus on the Faculty of Engineering, which is celebrating a 100 percent success rate in graduate employment for the past year.

The University of Wollongong’s Faculty of Engineering has traditionally produced strong graduate employment results, so Dean Professor Chris Cook took in his stride Graduate Careers Council of Australia figures showing 100 percent of UOW Engineering graduates had found jobs in 2003. Not surprisingly, he was happy to accept the accolade but didn’t think the Faculty had suddenly discovered a magic formula to helping all its graduates find jobs. Rather, he felt it was more a continuation of the Faculty’s strong reputation for producing skilled graduates who are highly regarded by employers.

“Our employment rate for graduates has always been high, and this figure really just confirms that our degrees are fitting people for the workplace,” Professor Cook said.

“High employment rates show our degrees are up to date and relevant to what industry is looking for,” Professor Cook said. “But, we also had to ensure that our graduates were well prepared for the workplace. We do this by having strong links with industry and the fact staff were involved in high levels of industry-based research and development were key factors in producing highly employable graduates.”

Staff work closely with industry on-site and in cutting edge research institutes with the latest knowledge, technology and equipment. This translates directly to the Faculty’s teaching programs to ensure students are involved in practical and stimulating learning environments.

Professor Cook said strong funding levels for Engineering research through the research institutes and centres (see list) meant the Faculty matched the per capita research funding of the “Group of 8” Universities. This had led to the University being invited to join the Group of 8 Engineering Deans. That, he said, was major recognition of the Faculty and its research strengths which was helping drive UOW’s strong overall performance in research.

The University recently published a booklet called Engineer Your Future, which profiles graduates whose UOW degrees helped them establish exciting careers. Among them were two of the “Class of 2003” – Environmental Engineering graduate Ria Pryce and Lorien Martin, who was one of the first students to graduate with UOW’s new Mechatronics degree which combines Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.

Ria had five serious job offers before she graduated at the end of 2003, finally accepting a graduate position with Environment Australia (the Federal Government’s Department of Environment and Heritage). Lorien accepted a position with French global energy and transport infrastructure company Alstom.

Engineer Your Future also profiles current under-graduate and post-graduate students. Copies of the booklet are available through the Faculty of Engineering.

Faculty overview
Dean Professor Chris Cook
Sub Dean Professor Ian Porter
Head of Postgraduate Studies Professor Buddhima Indraratna

Schools
Civil, Mining, Environmental
Mechanical, Materials, Mechatronics
Engineering Physics
Electrical, Computer, Telecommunications (Faculty of Informatics)

Research Institutes
BlueScope Steel Institute
Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials
Telecommunications and Information Technology Research Institute
Engineering Manufacturing

Research Centres and Groups:
CRC for Railway Engineering & Technologies
CRC for Welded Structures
CRC in Intelligent Manufacturing Systems and Technologies
Key Centre for Bulk Solids and Particulate Technologies
Sustainable Earth Research Centre
Centre for Engineering Mechanics
Geotechnical Engineering
Research Centre for Advanced Materials Processing
Research Group in Mechanics of Structures, Materials and Systems
The Centre for Industrial Automation Research
Centre for Medical Radiation Physics
Intelligent Polymer Research Institute
Integral Energy Power Quality Centre

Consolation victory for 2004 racing team

The University of Wollongong’s 2004 Formula SAE team wasn’t able to defend its title of best in the world in the international finals in the United States in May, but still finished a creditable 11th out of 140 teams. And the team gained a consolation victory in the SVSU Grand Prix event before returning home.

Formula SAE is run by the Society of Automotive Engineers for University student teams who design and build race cars for a series of competitions and trials. UOW Faculty of Engineering teams have won the Australasian title twice in the last three years with their Steel City Racer. Last year Wollongong became the first overseas team to win the international finals held in Detroit.

This year team members went to the United States with high hopes of defending their title, but a series of setbacks affected their progress and team manager Eddie Martin reported that under the circumstances they were pleased with the final position.

They were able to gain some consolation before returning home, winning the SVSU Grand Prix, an autocross event held by the Saginaw Valley State University. UOW beat many other fancied teams including the University of Wisconsin - Madison and the University of Washington.
Imagine a device that enables you to count wads of money in the blink of an eye, or detect dangerous substances such as anthrax in a sealed envelope.

Welcome to the world of terahertz radiation – or T-rays for short. T-ray technology has important implications in a range of applications from medical technology to security to chemical analysis. The University of Wollongong is building its own “T-ray Factory” starting with the installation of the world’s fastest commercially-available laser, made by the Vienna-based company Femtolasers. It is a first for Australia and will add important research capacity to UOW’s Institute of Superconducting and Electronic Materials, which pioneers world-class research in science and technology.

The laser is worth more than $150,000 and was purchased through an Australian Research Council (ARC) grant. It will be used by a team of research scientists from UOW, the Australian National University (ANU), the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) and the University of NSW (UNSW).

The Head of UOW’s School of Engineering Physics Associate Professor Roger Lewis said the new laser produces ultrashort pulses of light lasting less than 12 femtoseconds. (A femtosecond is a millionth of a billionth of a second!) The previous fastest lasers in use in Australia have pulses of around 100 femtoseconds.

The T-ray factory will be used first to determine the properties of semiconductor materials. This will lead better semiconductor devices for data collection and communications. “T-rays can pick up details that X-rays or radiowaves would miss,” Professor Lewis said.

University’s community connections regionally, nationally and internationally.

“We have a history of being very active and playing a significant role in the community,” Ms Harper-Richardson said. “Our people get involved and make real contributions as individuals and through faculties and departments. We want to encourage and expand this involvement, develop new programs, and communicate what we are doing so that more people can benefit.”

The OCP is considering a range of initiatives including major community events to attract visitors to the Wollongong campus and high schools-based programs to support students and teachers.
Students star at Skills Olympiad

A team of University of Wollongong students has finished runners-up in the 2004 Higher Education Workplace Skills Olympiad (HEWSO).

HEWSO is an annual competition for Australia’s universities that is designed to enhance workplace skills, particularly those identified in the Employability Skills Framework developed by the Business Council of Australia and the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The UOW team worked with BlueScope Steel on developing economically and environmentally viable means of recycling by-products from the Port Kembla Steelworks. BlueScope management has already acknowledged that it is starting to use the work in discussions with its contractors and is keen to talk further with some of the students.

The award-winning teams progressed through a rigorous judging process in which they were first assessed by their host employer, and then, as the winning team from their university, presented again to a national panel of judges in finals sessions in Sydney and in Melbourne, with teams from 14 universities around Australia.

UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton acknowledged the students’ achievements at a function at the University after they returned from the national awards ceremony in Melbourne.

The winning team from the Australian National University worked with the Australian Bureau of Statistics and looked at ways to increase the statistical capability of Pacific Island countries and territories through the use of technology.

HEWSO is supported by the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST), the Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee, the Graduate Careers Council of Australia, the Business Council of Australia and the Australian Association of Graduate Employers.

DEST is the major sponsor over a three-year period through the Higher Education Innovation Program and Federal Education Minister Dr Brendan Nelson has expressed his strong support for the program. Websites produced by the teams from the 14 HEWSO finalists can be viewed at www.gradlink.edu.au

Fulbright Scholarship for ageing and obesity expert

Professor Tony Hulbert of the University of Wollongong’s Department of Biological Sciences has received a Fulbright Senior Scholarship to conduct research in the United States - one of only two such scholarships awarded in Australia this year.

Professor Hulbert will take up a six months post from January 2005 at the City University of New York and Columbia University. He will undertake research into ageing and obesity and the role for membrane fatty acids. Professor Hulbert will be looking in particular at why different species of animals have specific and different maximum life spans.

Professor Hulbert was awarded a Doctorate of Science from UNSW in 2002 and is the associate editor of Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology for 2002-2005. He was the “Brenda Ryman Fellow” at Cambridge University for 1998, and was nominated for the prestigious Japanese “International Prize for Biology” in 1991. Professor Hulbert has published more than 90 scientific articles and been invited to lecture at many overseas conferences.

Awards, achievements and accolades

New South Wales Minister for Science and Medical Research Frank Sartor with Dr Suresh Mahalingam at the Tall Poppy Awards ceremony.

Virus researcher wins Tall Poppy Award

University of Wollongong scientist Dr Suresh Mahalingam has received the NSW Tall Poppy Award for Excellence in Life Sciences. The award from the Australian Institute of Political Science recognises Australia’s top young researchers.

NSW Minister for Science and Medical Research Frank Sartor presented the award at a ceremony in Sydney in May.

Dr Mahalingam, who works in UOW’s School of Biological Sciences on virology and immunology research, has made important contributions to international understanding of how viruses interact with the infected host to promote disease.

He was nominated for the Tall Poppy Award for his research into the Ross River Virus. He researched the molecular basis of how the Ross River Virus tricks our immune system using the host’s own immune response, in a discovery that has far-reaching implications for understanding understanding viruses.

Supporting Dr Mahalingam’s nomination for the Tall Poppies Award, UOW Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Margaret Sheil wrote: “Not only does this work provide key explanations of how viruses cause disease, but will also be valuable information for the development of new viral vaccines.”

Professor Sheil said Dr Mahalingam had made an important contribution to world knowledge of viral infection and associated disease manifestations.

Attending the UOW function to recognise the national winners of the Skills Olympiad competition were (from left): Stephen Irving (BlueScope Steel); Sue Rejske (Workplace Learning Co-ordinator, Careers Service); Luke Coombes (2004 HEWSO Yellow Team); Professor Gerard Sutton (UOW Vice-Chancellor); Phil Rouse (BlueScope Steel); Claudia Perry-Beltrame (2004 HEWSO Yellow Team); and seated is Georgia Ivancevic (2004 HEWSO Yellow Team).

Professor Tony Hulbert (left) is congratulated on his Fulbright Scholarship by Member for Cunningham Michael Organ at the Fulbright dinner in Sydney.

Professor Hulbert has spent more than 30 years of research in the field of metabolism, and is an internationally recognised expert in obesity and ageing.

He plans to devote part of his research in the US to examining the role of membrane fatty acid composition in human obesity. He hopes this research at Columbia University may result in the development of a technique for use as a non-invasive predictor of whether the conditions associated with ‘metabolic syndrome’ (such as type 2 diabetes and several cardiovascular diseases) are likely to develop in particular individuals. Furthermore, if successful, the research would provide a method of assessing the influence of specific dietary changes to alleviate these conditions.

The ageing study to be conducted by Professor Hulbert at City University of New York will explore further the link between a species metabolic rate and its rate of ageing. He aims to discover the missing jigsaw piece concerning the important mechanisms of ageing. He intends to do this by collaboratively studying the metabolic physiology and biochemistry of the longlived naked mole rat (which has a maximum lifespan of 28 years as opposed to the maximum 3-4 years enjoyed by most rats and mice).

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Fellowship honour for UOW scientist

The Director of the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute and the Australian Research Council Centre for Nanostructured Electromaterials at the University of Wollongong, Professor Gordon Wallace, has been elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Engineering and Technological Sciences.

PhD candidate wins Science writing competition

A PhD candidate in UOW’s School of Biological Sciences, Rachel Przeslawski, has won the Australian Science Writing competition run by The British Council and New Scientist magazine.

Rachel’s essay entitled “Sunburnt Sea Slugs” was published in New Scientist.

It focused on her PhD project which examines the effects of UV radiation on marine larvae.

Rachel’s research may one day help play a part in the type of protection humans will use against UV radiation.

Nortel group wins Quality Award of Excellence

A team of computer specialists at Nortel Networks, based at the University of Wollongong, has been announced in North America as one of the winners of the 2003 Quality Award for Excellence.

The Mobile Location Centre (MLC) Hardware Architecture Team at Wollongong was announced as one of two winners for the award. The recipients of the award are David Dodds, Olivier Jamart, Jason Cole, Ben Jones and Mathew Foy.

Judges said that the team defined tools and processes outside of their scope and set new standards for existing hardware management that have been picked up by Nortel’s global operations group.

They said the team produced items that improved the quality of the MLC product, the processes used during its development/support and hence the level of service to the end customer. The MLC product, which was created and developed in the Nortel Networks Wollongong Laboratory, is in use across the United States and other countries, providing physical location information to emergency service operators on mobile emergency calls. The product is achieving 99.9987 per cent availability.

Nichole speaks up for youth at Parliament’s Roundtable

A University of Wollongong science student, whose brother was killed in the Sari Nightclub bombing in Bali, went to Canberra in April to join a select group of Australians invited to participate in the National Youth Roundtable.

The tragic events of Bali have made Nichole Sullivan more familiar than most with the effect of terrorism on Australia’s youth. At the Roundtable, she put her ideas on how best the government can help young Australians deal with the very real threat of terrorism.

Nichole was one of only 50 young Australians aged between 15-24 years from nearly 700 applicants selected to take part in the Roundtable. She was the first student from UOW to be chosen to attend a Roundtable.

Nichole is also an active member of SHARP (the Student Health Alliance for Rural Populations) at the University of Wollongong.

“I applied to be part of the Roundtable because I have become involved in a number of youth-related projects in the region,” Nichole said.

She said she wanted to further the research of how terrorism affects today’s youth as well as looking at youth mental health.

Ms Sullivan was instrumental in helping to establish the Dunn and Lewis Foundation in memory of her brother, Danny Lewis, and his mate, Craig Dunn, who also died in the Bali terrorist attack.

The foundation, of which she is secretary, is a non-profit organisation that is in the process of building a youth centre in Ulladulla where Danny and Craig had lived.

Her other passion is helping to integrate early school leavers back into the education system.

“I was an early school leaver myself, but now I am in the third year of a science degree at UOW and I want to show people that it is possible to get an education even if they leave school in Year 10 or before,” she said.

Nichole is majoring in psychology in her science degree and wants to be able to use it in practice to help young people.
An exciting new milestone has been reached in the development of the Wollongong Innovation Campus. The appointment of the first employee for the University of Wollongong/Baulderstone Hornibrook joint venture project is an important step in the progress of the Innovation Campus.

Jonathan Thompson can lay claim to being the project’s official, number one employee – with several thousand construction workers and campus employees to follow over the next 15 years as the project develops on the 33-hectare site.

The first official employee of the Innovation Campus, Jonathan Thompson (right) pictured with Baulderstone Hornibrook Infrastructure Manager, Dale Clark.

4,000 students in town for Uni Games

Over 4,000 university students will descend on the University of Wollongong for the 2004 Arrive alive Eastern University Games from 11-15 July. The Games are the second largest university sporting event in Australia.

The students will be representing 28 campuses from across New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. They will take part in four action-packed days of sporting competition, and a not-to-be missed five-night social program.

The economic impact on the Illawarra Region has been conservatively estimated between $2-3 million, however the human returns of fun, friendship and pursuit of excellence are where the real benefits reside.

Sports include AFL, Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Golf, Hockey, Netball, Rugby Union, Soccer, Softball, Squash, Tennis, Touch, Ultimate Frisbee, Volleyball and Waterpolo.

Entry to the sporting events is free and spectators are welcome.


Federal Minister for Education

Dr Brendan Nelson has appointed University of Wollongong Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton to his new ministerial expert advisory body on international education.

Dr Nelson announced the new advisory body on 21 June, saying it would provide strategic leadership and direction-setting for Australia’s engagement in international education.

Professor Sutton is one of seven leading educationalists on the advisory body representing Australia’s University, TAFE and secondary school sectors, along with Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry chief executive Peter Hendy. The body will be chaired by Department of Education, Training and Science Secretary Dr Jeff Harmer.

The Minister said international education was now Australia’s sixth-largest export earner, bringing $5.7 billion a year to the national economy.

“International students provide the foundation for strong foreign and trade relations, as well as research and scientific exchanges and collaborations that are vital to our continued economic growth and development,” Dr Nelson said.

Jonathan began as a Civil Engineering Cadet with Baulderstone Hornibrook in June having been selected from a group of the University’s final year civil engineering candidates. He is involved in the infrastructure and civil works planning for the $300 million project.

Jonathan is working from the UOW Science Centre which is now located on the Innovation Campus site adjacent to Campus East. He is working alongside Baulderstone Hornibrook Infrastructure Manager, Dale Clark.

The Master Plan for the Innovation Campus allows for 84,000 square metres for research, innovation and office space; 5,000 square metres for retail and service facilities; 8,000 square metres for use for a hotel/conference centre; 4,000 square metres to accommodate the existing Science Centre and its extension; 5,000 square metres for student accommodation; and 18,000 square metres for residential accommodation.

With infrastructure works now underway, construction of the first buildings is expected to begin later this year.

Students – and specifically postgraduates – will have an important relationship with the campus as part of UOW research teams and in collaborative R&D projects with the companies and organisations on site.

The Joint Venture Project Control team, with members from the University and Baulderstones, will manage every stage of the development process, from the identification of the first tenants. Baulderstones will use their leading expertise in sustainable design to meet the clients’ needs and will oversee construction and maintenance.