



## Cataract prevention now in sight

By Tina Sorenson

Discovering why the lenses of healthy human eyes yellow with age has put University of Wollongong scientists a step closer to finding a preventative treatment for cataract – the major cause of world blindness.

The breakthrough by biochemists at the Australian Cataract Research Foundation, based at the University, has been published in the prestigious American Journal of Biological Chemistry.

Associate Professor Roger Truscott, who made the discovery, said: "For the first time, it allows us to get a handle on what's happening in nuclear cataract at a molecular level, which gives us the opportunity to intervene in the process."

Professor Truscott said that until now, no one knew why the transparent eye lens yellowed with age. Elderly humans were the only animal species affected by the condition, which gradually diminished their ability to see shades of blue.

"The process of lens colouration becomes much more pronounced in nuclear cataract where lenses turn yellow, orange, brown and in extreme cases black," Professor Truscott said.



Pictured from left to right are the team from the University's Australian Cataract Research Foundation: Ms Lisa Bova, Ms Samantha Littlejohn, Associate Professor Roger Truscott and Mr Brian Hood.

"Cataract too, nearly always occurs in older people. We set out to find out why."

Professor Truscott found that as people age, UV-filters inside their eye lenses spontaneously break down and bind with neighbouring proteins, causing lenses to take on a yellow hue.

"Now we know the basis of why human lenses become coloured with age, it's highly likely that we'll find a related chemical process is responsible for cataract lenses becoming coloured," Professor Truscott said.

"It opens the door to understanding cataract. Now that we understand the link between colour and UV filters, it

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## UOW snares large slice of ARC grants

The University of Wollongong has again confirmed itself as one of Australia's leading research institutions following the release of the Australian Research Council (ARC) grants for 2000.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Chris Brink, has praised the performance of the University's researchers.

"Both in grant numbers and in amounts awarded we matched our performance of last year in the categories of ARC Large Grants and SPIRT grants," Professor Brink said.

"The University as a whole is extremely proud of the achievements of our researchers," Professor Brink said.

He said UOW has again won 13 Large Grants and 21 SPIRT (Strategic Partnership in Industry Research) grants.

Professor Brink said the University's overall success could be gauged by the fact that in SPIRT grants, UOW

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### Season's greetings from our new-look Campus News

As this is the last Campus News for 1999, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a happy and safe Christmas/New Year.

Thank you to everybody for your story contributions. We hope you like the new-look Campus News which now reflects UOW's style guide for printed publications.

Please note that Campus News can also be found on the web through the University's home page (see News category). The next issue will be published at the start of the academic year in 2000.

Bernie Goldie, Editor

# Internet news – the death knell for newspapers?

**The death of newspapers, the demise of the mass media and the dawn of an age of technological advancement from which there will be no return, are some of the apocalyptic predictions cast by media theorists grappling with the Internet.**

But how much has our preference for news delivery really changed since the Internet rose from obscurity to transform global communications?

Very little, if the preliminary results of Australia's first independent academic study of on-line news service users is any indication.

University of Wollongong postgraduate researcher Mr Morris Jones has found that despite the growing proliferation of on-line news services and efforts by mainstream media to establish an Internet presence, Australians remain faithful to the 'old ways'.

"Judging from early responses to my survey, people are not as disenchanted with traditional sources of news and current affairs as has been anticipated," Mr Jones said.

The former journalist and university lecturer in space technology, said that with the Internet still in its infancy, it had previously been

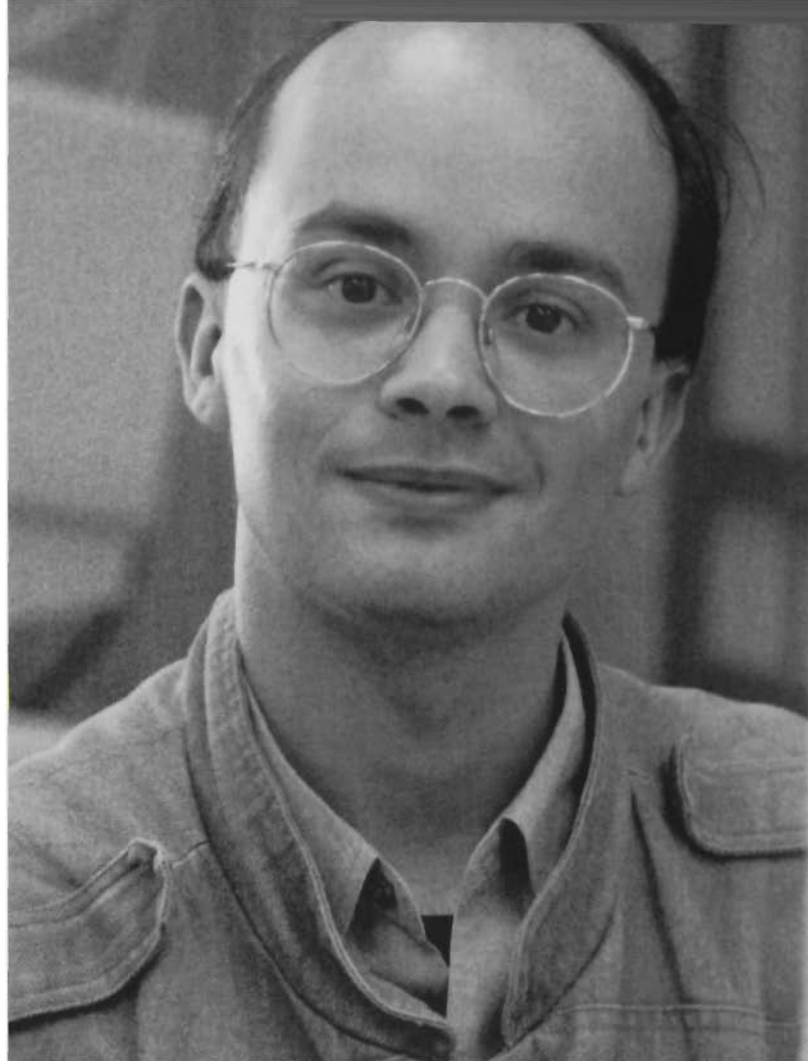
difficult to test the fears of media theorists.

"But the Internet is no longer new and the time has come to stop talking about what it might do and start looking at what it has done. In 1999, we are in a position to make conclusions. The Internet has reached a certain level of sophistication that I don't think will change substantially in the near future," Mr Jones said.

By learning more about Australians' on-line news habits, Mr Jones hopes to determine if the threat to traditional modes of news delivery is real; and whether news publishers are satisfying the public's thirst for more detailed knowledge.

"Ultimately, I hope to find whether all this information now available to us makes us any better informed."

Web users are invited to complete an on-line survey form at



Mr Morris Jones (photo courtesy: Illawarra Daily Mercury)

[www.uow.edu.au/crearts/journalism/morris/survey](http://www.uow.edu.au/crearts/journalism/morris/survey)  
So far, more than 160 responses have been received. Responses will be accepted until early next year; the results of the survey will be known by late next year.

## Film industry comes to Wollongong

**Hollywood film producers are scouting the South Coast for film locations as word of the region's visual potential is spread to the world via Film Illawarra, a University of Wollongong initiative. The project is expected to generate a sustainable new industry for the region.**

Since its inception earlier this year, the joint venture between the University's Faculty of Creative Arts and Wollongong City Council has achieved remarkable success in promoting the Illawarra and South Coast to Australian and international film-makers.

Project Manager, Ms Julia Hammett-Jamart, has handled several inquiries channelled through the NSW Film and Television Office from Los Angeles-based film-makers.

"I've had requests from film-makers in Australia and overseas for an enormously diverse range of locations, from Mad Max-type post-apocalyptic industrial landscapes to Arizona pine forest wilderness and a lighthouse on an island with vehicular access via a tidal spit," she said.

Australian film director David Caesar (Idiot Box, Water Rats), known to ABC Television viewers for his provocative opinions as a judge

on Race Around the World, visited Wollongong and Kiama recently scouting for locations for his next feature film, Mullet.

It is anticipated that the feature film Diving for Pearls, by Austinmer-based director Geoff Burton (The Sum of Us) and Bad Debts in Wollongong, a 26-part television series being produced by Tony Buckley, of Caddie, Heroes, Bliss and Poor Man's Orange fame, will be filmed in the region next year.

Ms Hammett-Jamart said the project's primary goal – to establish a database of Illawarra film locations and local facilities and expertise on the World Wide Web – was well under way.

Assisted by Film Illawarra, the Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Shoalhaven and Wingecarribee councils had formulated a draft Regional Film Policy, with the aim of providing streamlined access and filming conditions across the Illawarra.

Ms Hammett-Jamart said affordable fees and minimal red tape would make the area attractive to film-makers,

*Pictured: Australian film-maker Scott Hicks (left) and Federal Minister for the Arts, Mr Peter McGauran (right), who attended the Australian Screen Directors Conference at the University, were welcomed by the Dean of the Faculty of Creative Arts, Professor Sharon Bell.*



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# International meeting focuses on human smuggling and maritime crime

An important international meeting was held at the University of Wollongong from 6 to 9 November involving the Maritime Cooperation and Transnational Crime Working Groups established by the Council for Security Cooperation in Asia Pacific (CSCAP).

CSCAP is the principal non-government organisation in Asia Pacific dealing with problems in the region that create instability and threaten security (details of CSCAP may be found on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.cscap.org>).

Membership of CSCAP comprises the ASEAN countries, North and South Korea, Russia, Mongolia, Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, United States, Canada and the European Union while India is an associate member. Most members sent representatives to the meeting, as well as Papua New Guinea and Taiwan.

The meeting had two main themes. The first part of the meeting addressed the problem of human smuggling (unlawful population movement) in Asia Pacific, especially trafficking in women and children, while later sessions considered ways of reducing the incidence of maritime crime in the region. Maritime crime includes activities such as maritime fraud, piracy, illegal fishing, drug smuggling by sea, and criminal acts of pollution, as well as unlawful population movement by sea ("boat people").

Transnational crime (including maritime crime) is now a major problem worldwide with serious social and humanitarian implications, whereas human smuggling, especially involving the trafficking in women and children, is a social and humanitarian problem with serious transnational criminal involvement, according to one of the meeting's organisers, Commodore Sam Bateman RAN (Rtd). Commodore Bateman is now a Principal Research Fellow at UOW's Centre for Maritime Policy.

He said the meeting, and its possible outcomes, were of great importance to Australia.

"The threat of unlawful entry into Australia is now a major concern, as evidenced by the numbers of boat people trying to enter Australia illegally by sea during the past year, while illegal fishing in our waters is also increasing. Large quantities of illegal drugs enter Australia by sea, and piracy appears to be increasing in the waters to our North, particularly in the Indonesian and Philippine archipelagos," Commodore Bateman said.

"Cooperation between regional countries was essential but unfortunately some countries were still reluctant to cooperate because they perceived, that by doing so, they could be giving up a degree of independence or sovereignty and admitting some inability to deal with the problems themselves at the national level", he said.

"Meetings such as the one held in Wollongong were essential in promoting dialogue and cooperation between countries", Commodore Bateman said.

Sessions at the meeting addressed factors encouraging illegal immigration in, or through the region, the modus operandi for illegal immigration, the nature and threat of maritime crime, and cooperation for the maintenance of law and order at sea.

Key speakers included:

- General Anselmo Avenido, Executive Director, Philippine Centre on Transnational Crime
- Ms Fiona David, Research Expert to the United National Drug Control Program
- Professor Zhiguo Gao, Executive Director, China Institute for Marine Development Strategies
- Ms Anne Gallagher, Adviser on People Trafficking to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights
- Dr Edna Keeble, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Canada
- Professor Martin Tsamenyi, Executive Director, Centre for Maritime Policy, University of Wollongong

The meeting dinner held at the University of Wollongong on 8 November, was addressed by the Federal Minister for Justice and Customs in Australia, Senator Amanda Vanstone.



Key participants at the conference included (from left) co-chair of the CSCAP Working Group on Transnational Crime and Maritime Cooperation, Mr John McFarlane (an Australian Federal Police Visiting Fellow at ADFA, Canberra); Dr Pranee Thiparat, of Thailand, who is a Co-Chair of the Transnational Crime Working Group; Brigadier General Jeanne Mandagi, formerly head of legal services with the Indonesian police; General Anselmo Avenido, Executive Director of the Philippine Centre on Transnational Crime; and UOW's Commodore Sam Bateman, a Co-Chair of the CSCAP Working Group and a Principal Research Fellow at the Centre for Maritime Policy.

Commodore Sam Bateman; the Federal Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Amanda Vanstone; and UOW's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Robinson.

# Mourning the loss of Justice Hope

**The University of Wollongong's long-serving founding Chancellor, Justice Robert Marsden Hope, was farewelled at a packed memorial service at Sydney's St James Church in October.**

Former Prime Minister, Mr Gough Whitlam; Chief Justice of the High Court, Sir Murray Gleeson; and former Chief Justice of NSW, Sir Lawrence Street, were among those who came to pay their respects to the former barrister and Supreme Court judge.

Mr Justice Hope died on October 12 at the age of 80.

Those who spoke at the service, including Shakespearian actor John Bell and former University of Wollongong Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ken McKinnon, remembered a tolerant, unflappable man with a maverick streak just below the surface.

University staff and students and council members travelled to Sydney for the occasion – evidence of the high esteem in which Justice Hope was held by the University, which he served for a record 22 years.

During his time as Chancellor, the University's student body grew from 1,500 to 12,000 and a campus was established offshore in Dubai. His commitment and dedication lay the foundation for the University's emergence as one of the most highly respected tertiary institutions in Australia today.

Regarded as one of the University's greatest assets, Justice Hope, who retired as Chancellor in 1997, was known for his wisdom, deft touch, sensitivity and invariable good humour.

He is remembered as the QC and former NSW Court of Appeal judge who

headed two landmark royal commissions into Australia's security and intelligence services. The inquiries led to major reforms that made the Australian Security and Intelligence Agency (ASIO) more accountable.

He presided over three controversial security-related hearings: the Coombe-Ivanoff affair; aspects of the Sydney Hilton Hotel bombing; and the Melbourne Sheraton Hotel break-in by members of Australia's Secret Intelligence Service.

During his two-year term as President of the Council of Civil Liberties in the late 1960s, Justice Hope became interested in the way NSW police treated Vietnam student protesters. He believed the students' rights were being infringed and sought to have the regulations changed.

Justice Hope was admitted to the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in 1991. On presenting the award to him, UOW's then Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ken McKinnon, said: "Robert Hope has long served this University, as he has the law and the nation, with distinction and grace. Chancellorial impartiality he has always shown, but this characteristic is only one of many other profoundly important personal characteristics – generosity of spirit, compassion, personal warmth and consistent courtesy to all."

Justice Hope was made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George in 1977 and admitted to the select company of Companions of the Order of Australian in 1989.

He is survived by his wife, June, daughters Deborah and Elizabeth, and son John.



## Affirmative action strategy hits its mark

**The Federal Affirmative Action Agency has recognised the University's success in being the first Australian university to achieve equal gender representation at the highest level of academe.**

The achievement, acknowledged in the University's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Unit's 1998 Affirmative Action report, helped the Unit win its first National Best Practice rating from the agency.

Few regional Australian universities have ever achieved Best Practice for affirmative action, a feat made more remarkable since the Wollongong EEO Unit is one of the smallest in the country.

Last year, only 35 of 260 Deans nationally, were women. Five of the 32 women Deans were at Wollongong where they accounted for half of the University's 10 Deans, heading even the traditionally male-led disciplines of Commerce and Law.





# First stand-alone electronic journal goes on-line

The Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia, the Hon Michael Black, launched the University of Wollongong's first stand-alone electronic journal at the University on 4 November.

Chief Justice Black is a contributor to the first edition of *The Journal of Social Change and Critical Inquiry*. He penned the first of a two-part photo essay introducing the journal and its theme of the significance of the architecture of courts.

He was welcomed at the launch by Wollongong District Court judge Joe Phelan and other distinguished guests.

The journal's Managing Editor, the Head of UOW's Sociology Program, Dr Mike Donaldson, said the journal was unusual in a number of ways.

"We believe that knowledge should be free. The journal is without charge and requires no subscription. Anyone can access it, read it and download it from the Internet for free," he said.

"The journal is also interactive. Readers can engage with the authors and with each other on



*Pictured at the launch from left: the journal's Managing Editor, Dr Mike Donaldson; Chief Justice Michael Black; and UOW Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton.*

the content of the articles. Hypertextuality is its strength."

Dr Donaldson said the journal was committed to Humanities and Social Sciences research concerned with the social, cultural and political causes and effects of globalisation, economic restructuring and social change.

It explores processes of social disadvantage and strategies for empowerment; and strives to present ways of achieving social justice and the

fuller participation of previously excluded groups -- locally, nationally and internationally. The first edition of the journal concerns architecture, courts and justice. It features an article by Aboriginal scholar Barbara Nicholson of the Illawarra's Wadi Wadi people, which argues that the differences between Aboriginal and Western law making can only be understood within a framework of landscape. The journal can be found at <http://www.uow.edu.au/arts/joscci>



However, since the appointment of the Dean of the faculty of Law, Professor Helen Gamble, to the position of NSW District Court judge, there are now only four female Deans on campus.

EEO Unit Director, Ms Christine Hayward, said the gender balance was due largely to the University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton, who was "more open-minded than most".

"He is very involved with selection of senior staff, very keen to ensure the best person gets the job, and in those cases, the best people were women," Ms Hayward said.

The measurable success of a Workplace English Literacy and Language (WELL) Program, organised by the Unit for the University's cleaning staff, also contributed to the Best Practice rating.

Almost 70 of the 100 cleaners, many of whom had limited formal training and spoke English as a second language, participated in the program that was run last year in conjunction with the Illawarra Institute of Technology (TAFE).

"We have had to be entrepreneurial in seeking external funding for programs that regional universities could not otherwise afford," Ms Hayward said.

"Yet during a four-year process of re-shaping, the University has emerged with a better equity record than ever before and we've been able to demonstrate this in a very tight financial environment."

Evidence of successful outcomes and efforts to track people through the system to see tangible results, had also played a role in winning the rating. Ms Hayward said that to this end, the work of Mr Chris Edmondson, of the University's Information Technology Service (ITS), in revamping databases, was crucial.

The Unit's Deputy Director, Ms Robyn Weekes; the University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Director of Affirmative Action, Professor Peter Robinson; Vice-Principal (Administration), Mr David Rome; and the EEO/AA Committee were recognised for working consistently to achieve this outcome.

The University is well on the way to meeting its 50 per cent female representation target by 2005. The current female/male staff ratio is 47.53 per cent.

*Pictured from left to right are the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Robinson; Administrative Assistant, Miss Leanne King; the University's Equal Employment Opportunity Unit Director, Ms Christine Hayward; the Unit's Deputy Director, Ms Robyn Weekes; and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton.*





## Staff and students spend Christmas in Antarctica

**At least six University of Wollongong staffers will forsake the hot pleasures of the Australian summer to weather Christmas and New Year's Eve in chilly Antarctica.**

PhD Student Jane Wasley, Honours student Jodie Dunn and field assistant Johanna Turnbull – of the University's Flora and Fauna Research Centre – will investigate the effects of global climate change on Antarctic mosses.

They will be joined by the Faculty of Engineering's Ms Joanne George, Dr Ric Morris and PhD student Andrei Woinarski. Ms George

will work for the Australian Antarctic Division as laboratory manager at Casey Station; while Dr Morris and Mr Woinarski will study the impact of waste water on marine ecosystems and devise methods for remediating contaminated Antarctic sites.

All have passed physical examinations and exhaustive psychological testing to prove they are fit enough to spend the summer, including Christmas and New Year's Eve, at Casey.

They sailed to Antarctica aboard the Russian ice breaker *Kapitan Khlebnikov* early in November.

Ms Wasley, who recently beat top scientists from around the world to a prestigious

Smithsonian fellowship, which allowed her to study mosses in the United States and tropical Costa Rica, is returning to Casey to continue her study on the effects of global change on Antarctic mosses. She will examine how mosses cope with desiccation, a major environmental factor that limits moss growth in Antarctica, the biggest desert on Earth.

Mosses are one of few plant and animal species that, if deprived of water, can shut down their cells in a state of suspended animation indefinitely, and then reconstitute themselves when water again becomes available. A better understanding of the process could have implications for the future of cryogenics.

Ms Wasley will be assisted in the field by Ms Turnbull and Miss Dunn, who will be gathering data for her Honours year comparative study on the effects of ultra-violet (UV) and solar radiation on mosses.

The projects are part of a wider study by UOW's Dr Sharon Robinson on the effects of ozone depletion and increased ultra-violet radiation on Antarctic moss species. The results of the study, funded by the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD), could determine how climate change will affect crops throughout the world and may result in the discovery of new sunscreen agents.

**By Tina Sorenson**

*Pictured from left to right are the Antarctica-based crew from the University's Flora and Fauna Research Centre: laboratory assistant Ms Johanna Turnbull; Honours student, Ms Jodie Dunn; and PhD student Ms Jane Wasley.*

## Chancellor's Circle members dinner

The Chancellor, Mr Michael Codd, (centre back row) joined with the Chairman of the University of Wollongong Foundation, Mr Harold Hanson, (left) to host the annual dinner for the Chancellor's Circle members of the Foundation including Mr Peter Tyree, Mr Rod Oxley, Dr Carl Munoz-Ferrada and Mr Peter Kell.

Special guests were Dr Bruce Gordon and Miss Sinead Campbell.

Dr Gordon, the Chairman of WIN Corp and President of Paramount Studios International Sales Division, had earlier in the day received an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree at the University. (See page 8 for a photo of Dr Gordon after gaining his award.)



## Rhodes from Oxford to UOW

**Life throws up some interesting twists and turns. In 1968 a rising political aspirant by the name of Bill Clinton arrived on the hallowed turf of Oxford University with current UOW statistician, Professor David Griffiths.**

Now more than 30 years later, the two Rhodes Scholars' spouses have their own very special political agendas.

While the US President's wife, Hillary Clinton, is making strong overtures to run for the US Senate as a New York State Senator in the coming elections, Professor Griffiths' wife, Carolyn, has made her move into politics, having been elected recently to Wollongong City Council.

Councillor Griffiths' interest in politics extends also to the University of Wollongong where she is now a Bachelor of Arts student majoring in politics.

In fact, for Carolyn and David the divide between the city of Wollongong and the University is barely distinguishable. Both speak with one voice when they sing the praises and possibilities ahead for the overall Wollongong community.

The dynamic duo have done more than just make utterances about the future of Wollongong since they moved to the region more than a decade ago – they are actively helping to shape its direction.

High on their interest list is promoting the special environment of the region as well as the emerging artistic/cultural activities.

A resident of Ward 4 (which actually takes in the University of Wollongong), Carolyn was elected as an independent member of the Active Community Team.

She has been a community representative on Council's Ecologically Sustainable Development Liaison Committee. She is a strong advocate for the retention of public reserves and other open space and was involved in Council's process of mapping, identifying and assessing their community resources. Her environment credentials also extend to her role as a foundation member of the Illawarra Escarpment Coalition on which she has served as convener and secretary.

Carolyn is also a foundation member and secretary of the local environment group, Friends of Keira. She has been co-ordinator of the Keiraville Foothills Bushcare Group since its inception. The Group is now involved in a bushcare rehabilitation project in conjunction with the Keiraville Community Pre-School.

Matching his wife's outreach between town and gown, David also wears his community hat with pride. He has served as Chair of Keira Green

Corridor and Neighbourhood Committee, Area 5.

Apart from their obvious shared interest in matters of the environment, the Griffiths predict a bright future for the arts in the Wollongong region. Both are friends of the Wollongong City Art Gallery and strong supporters of the University's Faculty of Creative Arts. More than half of the paintings and sculptures adorning their home are the work of staff and student artists from the Faculty.

At a recent local government association conference in Dubbo, they contributed to a successful bid by Wollongong City Council to win the 2001 Local Government Conference for this city. Carolyn sees the conference as a major boon for the city's economy in terms of accommodation, restaurants and ecotourism.

While David serves on the University's Planning and Development Committee, Carolyn serves on the corresponding Council Committee. Her other Council and committee roles include membership of Council's Cultural Advisory Committee (she is also on the board of the Art Gallery and the Conservatorium of Music), Healthy Cities Illawarra Management Committee, and various escarpment/flood plain and environmental committees.

Bill Clinton may have been a classmate of David at Oxford, but Oxford also has lasting memories for other reasons for David and Carolyn. It was there in 1969 that they married, after David's first year as a Rhodes Scholar.

David completed his doctorate while Carolyn worked at Oxford in an administrative capacity for the University's foreign service course, which served as a training ground for people from underdeveloped countries wishing to enter the diplomatic corps.

It was at a rugby union match (sporting prowess is not a Rhodes prerequisite, but it helps!) that Carolyn first met David.

In Australia, he played for the University of New South Wales and captained the combined Australian Universities sides in 1967 and 1968. In 1969, David, a breakaway, played for Oxford against the South African Springboks and Oxford won!

Would a statistical expert have predicted that?

David assumed the chair in Statistics at the University of Wollongong in 1988. Before undertaking a PhD in Biomathematics at Oxford University, David received first class honours in mathematical statistics and was awarded the University Medal at UNSW.

His post-doctoral career began at CSIRO where he rose through the ranks to become Senior Regional Officer (NSW). He became a Senior Lecturer at UNSW and set up that university's

Industrial Mathematics and Statistics Group.

During his time at UOW he has been Dean of the Faculty of Informatics (1995–96) and served two periods as Head of Departments which have now merged as the School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics.

David has played a role on many campus committees and working parties through election, invitation or appointment. He has held visiting positions at Imperial College, London; Oxford University; Open University, UK; Nottingham Trent University and the University of Waikato.

David is consulted widely in the areas of statistics and quality management by industry, commerce, government and the scientific and medical research communities.

Drawing on his academic expertise, he has collaborated with the Illawarra Area Health Service, BHP, Southern Copper, Corrimall Coke Works and Wallace Tugs.

He has served on many professional bodies including two years as president of the Statistical Society of Australia (NSW Branch).



*David and Carolyn Griffiths*

His expertise does not stop on the doorstep of Informatics. He has supervised postgraduate research students in five of the University's nine faculties. With colleagues in Commerce and Engineering, he introduced the postgraduate program in Quality Management and the associated innovative delivery program, including in-house, off-shore and block delivery.

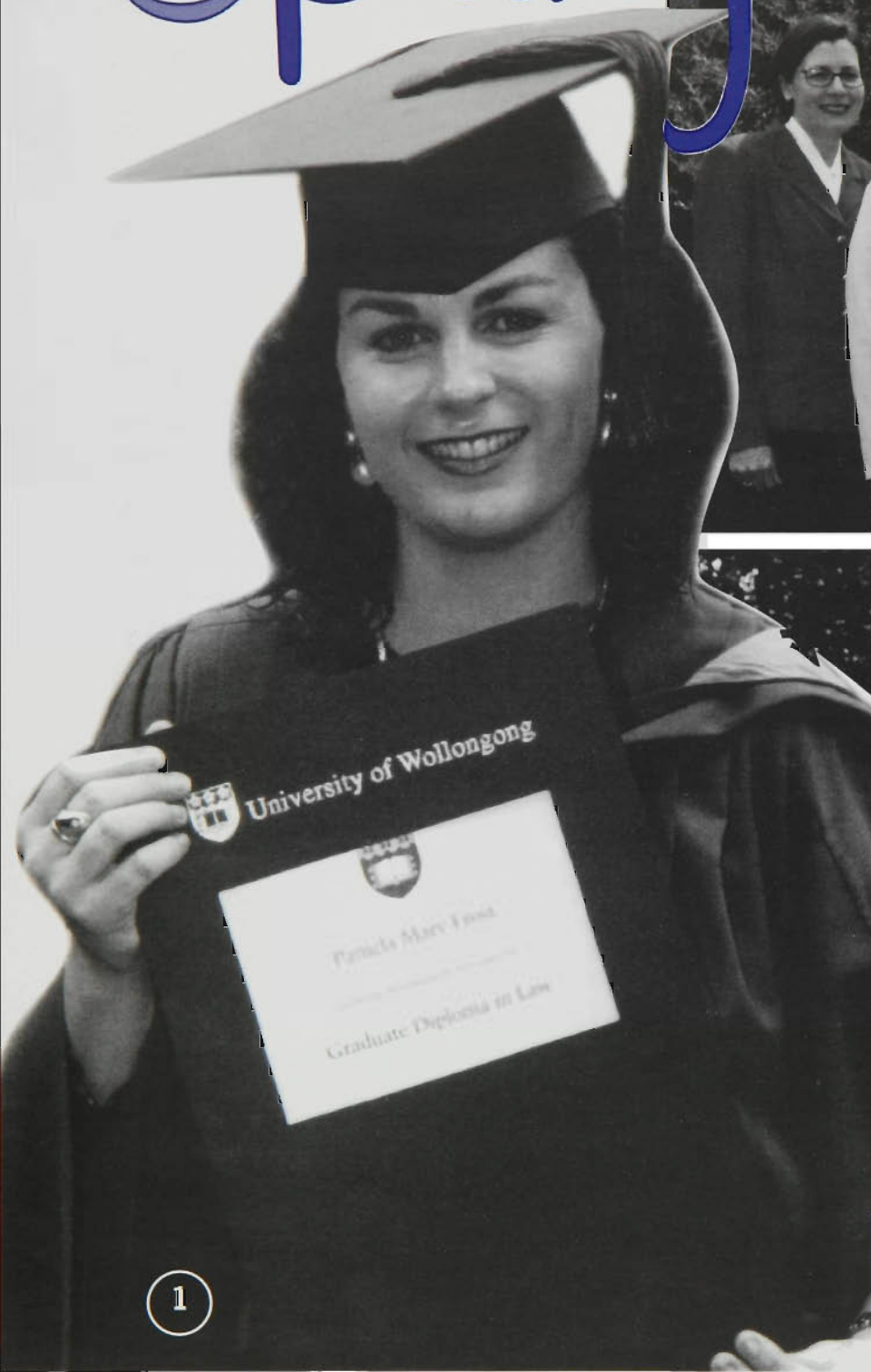
**Note: Professor David Griffiths, of the School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics, is the only Rhodes Scholar currently at the University of Wollongong.**

• *By Bernie Goldie*



# Graduate

## Spring



1. The University's Manager Personnel Operations, Ms Pam Frost, received a Graduate Diploma in Law, which she said had helped her keep abreast of legislation pertinent to her profession.

2. An Honorary Doctor of Letters degree bestowed on Mr Frank Hayes, one of Australia's leading social workers, was accepted by his sons Christopher and Michael Hayes (pictured left to right with family members Frances Hayes, Margaret Hayes, Nerida Thiering and Ann Hayes). Mr Hayes Snr, who was recognised for his considerable contribution to penal reform and the theoretical development of criminology in Australia, was seriously ill in hospital on the day of the graduation ceremony. Mr Hayes is a PhD student at the University where he has been a popular teacher of Arts and Law students and the driving force behind a proposal to establish a Crime and Justice Centre on campus.

3. Dr Joyce McIver with daughter Lindy and son Joe. Dr McIver, a school counsellor with the Department of Education and Training (DET), received a PhD for her thesis on "Powerless and Meaningless: Youth Perceptions of the Senior Schooling Experience".

4. Dr Bruce Gordon, the Chairman of WIN Corp and President of Paramount South Australia International Sales Division, received an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree. He was lauded for his achievements in the national and international television and entertainment industries; his contributions to the Illawarra community; and his services to the University as a founding and contributing member of the University Foundation. Dr Gordon is pictured here with the University's Chancellor, Mr Michael Codd (left), and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Codd (right).





# Graduations



5. Australian Democrats Senator Aden Ridgeway, who delivered the Occasional Address, and Wollongong MP Col Markham, with Koori student Ms Michelle Gardner who received a Bachelor of Laws degree. Ms Gardner works in the Aboriginal Unit of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board.

6. The University's Manager of International Programs, Ms Kerry Lyon, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and spoke on behalf of students at her graduating ceremony.

7. Bachelor of Commerce (with Merit) graduate Ciauciau Kusumawati, of Bali, with her father Mr Kesuma Nusantara and mother Mrs Harjeni. Miss Kusumawati, a dedicated scholar who made the Dean's Merit List

last year, worked part-time for the University's UniAdvice Call Centre calling prospective students in Bali and answering their questions about Wollongong. Her brother Lunlun Fesuma is studying for a Master of Business Administration at the University's Sydney Business School.

8. Dr Abul Jalaluddin, with his wife Mrs Tengku Mahmud and daughters Nadra and Nabila, received a PhD from the Department of Economics. Dr Jalaluddin was congratulated by the Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Professor Gill Palmer (far left), Economics academics Professor Don Lewis (second from right) and Professor Rob Castle (far right)

9. Mr Danny Chung, of Hong Kong, pictured here with his girlfriend Miss Joyce Tsang, flew to Australia to collect his Master of Journalism degree

10. Associate Professor Hema Wijewardena (far left) and Professor Michael Gaffikin (second from right), of the Department of Accounting and Finance, congratulate Dr Premasiri Yapa and Dr Frances Miley on gaining their Doctorates of Philosophy (PhDs).

## South Coast centres prepare for first students

The University's new South Coast centres at Nowra, Batemans Bay and Bega are being readied to accept their first students early next year. The three centres are part of the South Coast Education Network that aims to deliver quality education services from the NSW South Coast to the Victorian border. The network is a partnership between the University, the Illawarra Institute of Technology, the NSW Department of Education and Training and the Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley shire councils.

The \$1.8million Batemans Bay Library and Education Access Centre was completed in September. The University's partners, TAFE and Eurobodalla Shire Council have been operating a TAFE study centre and new community library there since October. The University will begin operation at the new centre in February.

Work on the \$1million Bega Education Access Centre is progressing with a completion date set for mid December. The University and its partners in the Bega centre, TAFE and the Department of Education and Training, will begin operation there in February.

The University's Developments Officer, and Project Director for the South Coast Education Network, Mr David Fuller, said unseasonal weather has delayed completion of the new \$13million Shoalhaven Campus at Nowra.

"While this has been an unavoidable disappointment, the impressive new facility will be fitted out, commissioned and ready for operation by mid-session break in April next year," Mr Fuller said.

"Until that time, arrangements are being made for students in Nowra to study at the University's existing Graham Park Campus, in Berry."

University Centre Coordinators will be appointed this month (December) to head up the Batemans Bay and Bega access centres. Where necessary, local tutors will be employed to support local students.

Enrolments are coming in for courses offered at the new centres. Students can do full degrees in Arts (Communications, History and Society) and Business Administration at all three new centres. In addition, students can study up to two years towards a Bachelor of Commerce degree and also do first year subjects in Engineering, Information Technology and Science at the new Shoalhaven Campus. For further information on courses and enrolments, contact UniAdvice on 1800 680 320 (FreeCall).

## Film industry comes to Wollongong

•From Page 2

while consideration of community activities would prevent inconveniences to local residents.

A former Paramount Pictures location manager, who scoured Sydney for sites for the filming of Mission Impossible II, will conduct an Illawarra site survey for the database, which will be launched in May.

Much interest in the region was generated by the Fourth Annual Australian Screen Directors Conference, which was hosted by the University in early October.

A highlight of the conference was a pre-release screening of Australian film-maker Scott Hicks' first Hollywood film Snow Falling on Cedars. Hicks, the director of the Academy Award-winning film Shine, and Federal Minister for the Arts, Mr Peter McGauran, spoke at the opening of the three-day event.

## Cataract prevention now in sight

•From Page 1

it might be possible to develop drugs to stop the body making the UV filters. If they are not made, they can't break down.

It is the second major cataract-related discovery by Professor Truscott in 12 months. Last year, he and researcher Matthew Sweeney, also of the Foundation, found evidence of a barrier to the body's natural defence against cataract.

They found that even in old age, the human body produces enough antioxidants to ward off cataract growth. But as people age, a barrier grows within the lens, stopping these protective chemicals reaching the centre of the eye where they are needed.

Scientists from the Foundation, which is recognised as a world leader in cataract research, are now working to understand how the barrier develops to determine if it can be prevented or delayed by drug treatment.

This, and a better understanding of the chemical binding responsible for lens yellowing, may put the Foundation a step closer to finding a solution to the disease, which poses a tremendous financial burden to the health systems of developed nations.

In the United States for example, more than 1 million cataract operations cost \$3billion annually. In less developed nations such as India, surgery simply cannot keep pace with the development of cataract.

## Major honour for UOW academic

Professor Guenter Arndt, Professor of Manufacturing Engineering at UOW, has been unanimously elected as a Member of the CIRP Council -- the world's leading institution for manufacturing engineering research.

The council has an exclusive membership limited to 175 active members and 125 "corresponding" members worldwide, all of whom are research leaders collectively controlling the major manufacturing engineering research laboratories around the world.

Council members are elected for three years based on their eminence and experience in the field. One aspect behind Professor Arndt's appointment is linked to his role as Chairman of the Organising Committee of CIRP2000 to be held in Sydney (at which he is also co-authoring a keynote paper).

The Sydney event, from 20-26 August 2000, will mark the half century of CIRP General Assemblies.

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# University plays host to future Asian environment leaders

**Future environment leaders from Asia and the Pacific toured sites of environmental significance in the Illawarra, South Coast, Sydney and Canberra on a nine-day visit during November.**

Sixteen delegates from 12 countries were selected to participate in this year's Young Environment Envoys Program -- an initiative of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) for Asia and the Pacific, in partnership with the University of Wollongong, Environment Australia and QANTAS.

The visit followed the success of the first Young Environment Envoys Program coordinated by the University and Environment Australia last year.

The young envoys were young professionals and university students from Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

They were accompanied by UNEP representatives and journalists and camera crews from the Bangkok Post, Radio Thailand and Thai Television Channel 11.

The visit, hosted by the University of Wollongong's Environment Research Institute, directed by Professor John Morrison, included an international forum on environmental

education and management, focusing on the role of young people in environmental decision-making. It involved the envoys and undergraduate and postgraduate students from several Australian universities.

While in Australia, the envoys toured the Booderee National Park, BHP, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) at Lucas Heights, the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games site at Homebush Bay, QANTAS Flight Services in Sydney and Environment Australia headquarters in Canberra.

The University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton, said the program would not be possible without the personal support of the Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Robert Hill.

"The program aims to increase the awareness of future leaders of environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources in the Asia Pacific Region. Over the next 10 to 20 years, many

countries, particularly in the Asia Pacific Region, will be faced with major environmental challenges which will impact on their ability to establish a sustainable economic and social development base", Professor Sutton said.

Professor Sutton said the program would provide a valuable opportunity for tomorrow's environmental leaders to discuss and collaborate on significant environmental issues in conjunction with Australian experts and fellow tertiary students in Australia — and to develop a network of contacts they could maintain throughout their careers.



*The envoys flank the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton (centre). Behind the V-C are Professor John Morrison, of the Environment Research Institute and the Vice-Principal (Administration), Mr David Rome.*

## International exchange opportunities abound for students

**More than 180 University of Wollongong students took the opportunity to study abroad this year. Some spent time in formal studies at a partner university; others undertook practice teaching placements in Fiji, China and Thailand, or attended a Japanese language program in Japan over the summer.**

The University's latest exchange partners include the University of British Columbia, Canada; the Politecnico di Milano, Italy; Umeå University and the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Sweden; University of Sheffield and the University of Southampton, UK. Students will also have access to a further 27 European universities in a new Australian-European network from 2001.

Prospective exchange students are encouraged to check the noticeboard in the UniAdvice office (ground floor, Administration Building) and the display opposite the Sal Paradise café, for closing dates for applications to international institutions. Some programs close as early as mid-December.

### Canada:

University of Alberta  
University of British Columbia  
McMaster University \*

### United States of America:

University of California  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
University of Kansas, Lawrence  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
University of Miami, Florida  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
Indiana University, Bloomington  
California State University, Long Beach  
Colorado School of Mines  
Humboldt State University, California  
Montana State University  
Whittier College, California

### Europe

Umeå University, Sweden\*\*  
Uppsala University, Sweden \*\*  
University of Karlstad, Sweden \*\*  
Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Sweden  
Université d'Orléans, France  
Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Techniques Avancées, Paris, France (for postgraduate Engineering)  
Université de Pau, France\*  
Politecnico di Milano, Italy  
University of Bologna, Italy  
University of Hannover, Germany\*  
University of Exeter, UK  
University of Sheffield, UK  
University of Southampton, UK

### Japan:

University of Tsukuba  
Doshisha University

Sophia University  
Otaru University of Commerce\*\*  
Obirin University\*\*  
Kobe University  
Hiroshima Shudo University  
University of Electro-Communications\*\*

### Thailand:

Prince of Songkla University- Thai Studies program in the Summer Session.

### Indonesia:

Australian Consortium for In-Country Indonesian Studies (ACICIS program) @ Gadjja Mada University

\* under negotiation

\*\* programs taught in English

# Labour History conference helps forge community links

**The 6th National Biennial Conference of Australian Society for the Study of Labour History attracted almost 200 delegates from throughout Australia, the UK and the USA to the Wollongong Town Hall and Community Centre over 2-4 October.**

The conference, with the theme of Labour and Community, was the first to be held outside a capital city and was hosted by the Illawarra Branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History, in which members of the University play a major role.

The president of the Illawarra branch of the society, Associate Professor Ray Markey of the Department of Economics, was the conference organiser. Other members of the organising committee from the University included Mr Rob Hood of the Department of Economics (secretary of the Illawarra branch of the society), Ms Frances Laneyrie (Department of Management) and Ms Shirley Nixon a member of the University Council (and the vice president of the Illawarra branch of the society). The organising committee also included various community representatives -- Neville Arrowsmith (a former university employee), Margaret Bronneberg, Val Dolan and Bronwyn James (former university students).

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton, supported the conference with a Challenge Grant enabling the employment of Ms Robyn Troughton as an administrative assistant. The Department of Economics, and the Labour and Human Resource Program of the International Business Research Institute also provided substantial assistance. Further sponsorship was provided by the Amalgamated Manufacturing Workers Union, Australian Education Union, Croatian Democratic Union, Grand United Order of Oddfellows, Illawarra Arab Sports Association, Labor Council of NSW, NSW Joint Coal Board, NSW Nurses' Association, and Public Service Association of NSW.

*The Federal ALP Shadow Minister for Finance, Mr Lindsay Tanner, (left) is pictured with Associate Professor Ray Markey, Shirley Nixon who is vice president of the Illawarra branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History; and Professor Terry Irving (University of Sydney), who is the national president of the society.*

Professor Markey said the broad level of support indicated by this list of sponsors emphasised the community aspect of the conference.

Mary Davis welcomed delegates on behalf of the indigenous community of the Illawarra. The Illawarra Arab Sports Association provided a display of Arabian dancing by young girls at the dinner, as part of its sponsorship.

A special exhibition of Labour and Community art works was curated by the Wollongong City Gallery and opened during the conference by Gregor Cullen of the School of Creative Arts. The City Library had an exhibition of Labour Heritage collected by society treasurer, Neville Arrowsmith, a number of unions provided banners for the conference, the Illawarra Folk Club organised a special show the evening before the conference to introduce delegates to the mood, and Jeff Kevin and his students in the School of Creative Arts gave a special performance for delegates of "Strike Me Lucky", especially developed around the conference theme.

Professor Markey said the community theme of the conference was evident in the subject matter, activities and participants of the conference in ways which represented a new departure for conferences of this kind.

The mix between academic and more community-inspired papers, also confirmed this theme. Of the 50 or so papers at the conference, seven came from UOW, including those by Professor Markey ('Female Industrial

Organisation in the NSW PSA, 1899-1999'; and with Neville Arrowsmith, ('Cooperation in Australia and the Illawarra'), Dr Maree Murray (Industrial Relations) and Dr Glenn Mitchell (Science and Technology Studies) debating the significance of the Port Kembla copper smelter, and Dr Peter Sheldon (Business School - Rethinking Postwar Immigration: Comparing Israel and Australia). In addition, Ms Jo Kowalczyk, who is majoring in Industrial Relations for her Masters of Commerce degree was awarded the Perth branch Paddy Troy Memorial Essay Prize (worth \$500) at the conference dinner, for her essay comparing the maritime disputes of 1998 and 1890, originally written as part of her work for ECON 953 'Political Economy of Australian Wage Determination', taught by Professor Markey. Shirley Nixon also received a Certificate of Recognition from the society for her contribution to labour history as participant and recorder.

The Federal ALP Shadow Minister for Finance, Mr Lindsay Tanner, delivered the opening keynote address on 'Learning from History: New Challenges to the Labour Movement'. The other keynote speakers were Professor Eileen Yeo from the University of Sussex, speaking on 'Labour and Community, Past and Future: Or Why Merrie (White, Male) England and Mateship Are Not Enough', and Dr Pat O'Shane, Chancellor of the University of New England and Magistrate of NSW, who spoke on 'For the People? Australian Democracy in Crisis - A Layperson's Viewpoint'.

Copies of the conference proceedings, including refereed and general stream papers, are available from the Department of Economics for \$20.





# Declining numbers of science students hits home

**The stark reality of the declining number of students choosing to study science at schools and universities has been brought home by organisers trying to organise the Siemens Science program at the University of Wollongong.**

The three-day Siemens Science Experience program is aimed at Year 9 students entering Year 10 in 2000 and to date only 21 school students have applied with organisers hoping to attract at least 55 students.

For the Dean of Science at the University of Wollongong, Professor Rob Norris, the Illawarra situation reinforces a worrying trend he says is occurring across the whole science spectrum in Australia.

Professor Norris is also the President of the Australian Council of Deans of Science and his organisation recently sounded major warning bells for the future of science studies in this country.

"I am now seeing at my own local level the concerns my Council of Deans has at the national level for the decline in student numbers at the secondary school and tertiary



Professor Rob Norris

sectors undertaking studies in the basic sciences and mathematics.

"Such sciences will be vital for the future

growth areas such as biotechnology, information technology and nanotechnology," Professor Norris said.

The Siemens program is organised by the Science Schools Foundation and sponsored on a national basis by Siemens Ltd. It aims to introduce students to as many aspects of science, engineering and technology studies as possible to help encourage them to pursue such studies in their final years at school and then at university.

- The University of Wollongong Siemens Science Experience will be held from 18 to 20 January 2000 and the program will include the Magic Chemistry Show, a visit to the Science Centre (including the Planetarium), a tour of BHP, and hands-on activities in biological sciences, biomedical science, chemistry, geosciences and engineering physics. The local director is Marian Pearman and she can be contacted through the Faculty of

Science office on (02) 4221 3530. Application forms can be obtained from Chris Peacock in the faculty (Room 258, Building 41) or phone (02) 4221 3530.

**ITC was recently contracted through the World Bank and Australian Trust Fund to undertake an in-country needs analysis and to prepare a World Bank/Japan Trust Fund study tour to Australia for senior education and World Bank officials from Kenya.**

The needs analysis was undertaken in August by the Deputy Director General, (NSW) Department of Education, Dr Terry Burke, and the Director of International Business Development, ITC, Ms Kaye Cox.

The purpose of the study tour was to expose the officials to the education systems in three Australian states (NSW, Victoria and South Australia).

They made a brief visit to the University of Wollongong on 6 October at the request of ITC to meet acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Robinson; the Dean of Education, Professor John Patterson; and other key Faculty of Education staff.

The group expressed particular interest in the Faculty of Education's Interactive Multi Media Laboratory and in the role of ITC as the commercial arm of the University.

## Senior Kenyan education and World Bank officials visit UOW



*The visiting Kenyan delegation with UOW representatives (from left) are: Mr Gabriel M. Muita, Director of the Curriculum Development and Research Centre, Kenya Institute of Education, Kenya; Mr Wilfred K.K. Kimalat, Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Education, Science and Technology, Kenya; Professor Peter Robinson, acting Vice-Chancellor; Mr James M. Kamunge, Education Specialist, World Bank, Kenya; Mr Isaac C. Cherotich, Deputy Director and STEPS Co-ordinator, Ministry for Education and Human Resource Development, Kenya; Mr Anthony M. Kathima, District Education Office, Makueni District, Kenya; Mr Benjamin K. Sogomo, Secretary, Teachers Service Commission, Kenya; and Ms Kaye Cox, Director International Business Development, ITC.*

## Smart Foods Centre successes

A delegation from the Smart Foods Centre, including Professor Peter Howe, Associate Professor Linda Tapsell, Dr Barbara Meyer, Ms Anne McMahon and students Leisa Ridges, Vanessa Brenninger, Janelle Barnard and Suzie Burrell presented a total of eight papers at the Pacific Partners in Nutrition and Dietetics Conference in Auckland.

Dr Meyer won a \$250 prize for Best Poster Presentation sponsored by the New Zealand National Heart Foundation. She discussed the findings of a study conducted by the centre on the sources and amounts of beneficial Omega 3 and Omega 6 fatty acids consumed by adults in the Illawarra region.

The project, which found Illawarra people were eating more of the fatty acids than previous estimates suggested, is the precursor to a broader study that will seek to determine if Australians are eating enough Omega 3 fatty acids to obtain health benefits. The study will be supported by Meadow Lea Foods and the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

Ms Ridges, PhD student, won the

Nutrition Society of Australia prize for Best Student Oral Presentation. She presented the findings of a study that showed eating soy and linseed foods could help lower cholesterol levels. The study was funded by a UOW University Links grant in conjunction with industry partner Goodman Fielder.

Other recent presentations by PhD students from the centre include: Greg Peoples at the International Society of Heart Research Conference in New Zealand; and Renee O'Leary at the Australian Physiological and Pharmacological meeting in Newcastle.

Smart Foods Centre director,

Professor Peter Howe said: "It's really pleasing to see our students receiving recognition at national and international conferences for the outstanding work they are doing on new industry-funded research projects on nutrition and the prevention of cardiovascular disease."



*Pictured: Smart Foods Centre director Professor Peter Howe, with PhD student Ms Leisa Ridges (left) and lecturer Dr Barbara Meyer (right).*

*Research on nutrition and cardiovascular disease by the University of Wollongong's Smart Foods Centre is gaining attention at conferences locally and overseas.*

## Engineering rising stars honoured

Mechanical Engineering students Adam Edmonds, Jenny Green and Tim McEwan (pictured left to right) have proved they are among the best young engineers in NSW. Jennifer, a recent graduate employed by BHP, beat thousands of students from universities across the state to a prestigious professional award. She won the coveted NSW Institution of Engineers' Engineering University Bachelor of Engineering Senior Student Award for best final year thesis. Adam Edmonds won the NSW Society of Manufacturing Engineers Oral Presentation Competition for NSW engineering students; while Tim McEwan won the National Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating's Final Year Project Award for a state of the computer-controlled refrigeration system he developed during his degree.





## Against the wind: students invent a sustainable future

Keira Technology High School students Matthew Morgan and Tajeen Huq beat second year engineers-in-training to take out seventh place overall in the Department of Mechanical Engineering's recent Design and Build Competition. The Year 11 students won the high school division of the contest, which required teams to invent devices that could convert wind energy (via a fan) to mechanical energy, generating enough power to drive themselves back into the wind. University students Luke Holzhauser, Jason Magee, Philip Reuter and Brett Solanov were the overall winners of the contest sponsored by the Faculty and Integral Energy.

Integral's Environmental Manager, Anthony Patterson, awarded prizes to high school division winners.



## World's largest materials body honours UOW researcher

**The American Society for Materials (ASM International), the largest materials professional body in the world with more than 70,000 members, has bestowed its Distinguished Fellow 1999 award to Associate Professor Tara Chandra of UOW's Department of Materials Engineering.**



*Associate Professor Chandra*

The Board of Trustees of ASM International has bestowed the honour on Professor Chandra as international recognition of his distinguished contributions in the field of materials science and engineering.

The award especially recognises Professor Chandra for his outstanding contribution in advancing the understanding of thermomechanical processing of high strength low alloy steels.

His award was recently presented at the gala ASM dinner attended by more 500 invited guests at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Cincinnati, USA. The Scientific Adviser to President Bill Clinton, Dr Hans H. Portisch presented the award. The dinner was part of an overall ASM International Conference, attended by about 6,500 delegates in Cincinnati.

The selection for Distinguished Fellow Award by ASM International is very complex and can take up to five years after nomination. The candidate must be nominated by at least five internationally known researchers/scientists relevant to the nominee's research area.

The nominee does not know who has nominated him or her till the award is given. Professor Chandra was nominated by seven

internationally renowned materials researchers from Canada, USA, Japan, Germany, France, Korea and Australia.

Professor Chandra is only the fourth Australian in the past 30 years to receive such an award. The award recipient's portrait, along with a UOW profile, will be displayed in the ASM International Headquarters in Pittsburgh for the next five years in the ASM Hall of Fame.

Professor Chandra's photo, with a UOW profile, was also displayed in the foyer near the registration desk at the ASM International Conference for the 6,500 delegates from four continents to view.

Meanwhile, Professor Chandra has also been selected ASM Ambassador to visit India to deliver lectures at three universities and two defence laboratories in India in February 2000 under an ASM International and Indian Institute of Metals joint program. Only two such ambassadors are selected each year from the nominations of over 250 candidates.

## StageStruck wins again

The interactive CD-ROM that beat Bill Gates to a British Academy of Television Arts (BAFTA) award has won again.

StageStruck, a theatrical training product created by the University of Wollongong's Interactive Multimedia Learning Laboratory (IMLL) and the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA), can now add an Australian Interactive Multimedia Industry Award (AIMIA) to its portfolio.

The product won best Arts/Cultural Title or Site, beating the ABC's Headspace and The Space web sites to the honour. StageStruck was also a finalist in the Best Young Adult category of the competition, which was held on

the Gold Coast early in November. In October, StageStruck won another international award - a gold medal in the Education section of the New York Festivals International Interactive Multimedia competition.

The IMLL, headed by Associate Professor Barry Harper and Professor John Hedberg, sprang to international prominence last year, when StageStruck beat the latest offerings from Microsoft and Douglas Adams to win the Interactive Treatment category of the BAFTA awards.

StageStruck takes users into the world of performance, with an on-stage and behind-the-scenes look at opera, musicals and dance.

Partners in the project included the Sydney Opera House, Opera Australia and the Australian Ballet and NIDA.

The BAFTA award followed StageStruck's earlier success in Dublin where it picked up a Gold EMMA award. It won the EMMA Education and Home Learning category for 12-18 year olds, before winning the Gold EMMA, for the most outstanding entry in all categories.

Another interactive CD-ROM, *aspire*, was recently created by the IMLL, with the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET), for the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG). *aspire*, distributed to schools throughout Australia, gives more than three million Australian students a 'virtual experience' of the Olympic Games movement and the Sydney Olympic site.

# UOW signs software development contract for Australia's first totally free Internet service

Free.Net Corporation Ltd has announced a revolutionary new free access to Australians featuring unlimited access to all information on the Internet.

Free.Net chose the University of Wollongong's Communication Technologies Division (part of UOW's private company, ITC) as its software implementation partner.

"Web technologies are revolutionising the way in which people interact with the world around them. We are proud to be associated with Free.Net as it pioneers the next step in getting people connected," Communication Technologies Business Development Manager, Mr Peter McNamara said.

The service began from 15 November this year and will initially be available to 50,000 people in Sydney and Melbourne with access for other capital cities and regional centres by March 2000.

The Free.Net service will operate from Wollongong with marketing and general administration located in Sydney. [Free.Net's web site can be accessed at <http://www.free.net.au>]

The Free.Net company is hoping to capture a large slice of the estimated \$40 million Australian Internet advertising market. Advertisers will be able to buy viewing time and can deliver potential advertisers the pinpoint demographic they seek. In exchange for access to the free service Free.Net users will register demographic information such as residential postcode, gender, marital status and income range but not credit card details.



Signing the Memorandum of Understanding at ITC are (from left) the General Manager of ITC's Communication Technologies Division, Mr James Gibson; senior engineer with Communication Technologies, Eric Willigers; and Free.Net's System Services Co-ordinator, Dr Ian Piper.

## Stop Press

### Kirsten in running for national title

Kirsten Benkendorff, who recently completed her PhD in Biological Sciences/Chemistry has been announced the winner of the NSW Division in the Science and Technology category of the Young Australian of the Year for 2000.

Kirsten, who was supervised in her studies by Dr Andy Davis and Professor John Bremner, is now in the running for the overall national Science and Technology category. Campus News earlier ran a feature story on Kirsten who has discovered a new antibiotic and, at the same time, help preserve a marine species.

### UOW student selected as Australia's youth representative to UN program

A University of Wollongong student representative and Arts/Science student, Andrew Stanton, has been selected as Youth Representative for Australia to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Asia Pacific Regional Youth Forum on the Environment to be held in Singapore in December.

Andrew's initial contact with UNEP was through the Young Environment Envoys program hosted by the University of Wollongong last year. Andrew attended the program again this year (see page 11 of this issue) and he was selected from other young Australians on the basis of his involvement with the program.



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## UOW snares large slice of ARC grants

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ranked seventh overall in Australia -- without any adjustment made for the size of our university.

In the ARC's Research Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities (RIEF) grants, the University received funding for a state-of-the-art mass spectrometer valued at \$700,000 and a further boost to UOW's health research via a whole room calorimeter.

The calorimeter facility will enable researchers to measure total metabolic rate and the relative contributions of fat, protein and carbohydrate oxidation in humans over appropriate periods under relatively normal living conditions.

UOW's web page lists the University's grant successes and a short summary of the projects. The site can be located by calling up the University's homepage ([www.uow.edu.au](http://www.uow.edu.au)); then clicking on Research & Development and when in the research site click on "Research Newsletter".

Those wanting information on grants allocated across all Australian universities see the website --<http://www.detya.gov.au/highered/research/outcomes.htm>