Sculpture by the Sea moves up the coast

Each year, for two weeks, the Coastal Walk along Bondi Beach comes alive with vibrant sculpture. A joint project between Sculpture by the Sea and Sydney Water, the exhibition showcases 100 works by Australian and international artists. Over 300,000 people visit the free exhibition.

The University of Newcastle, at the instigation of Miranda Lawry (Head of the School of Fine Art), entered into an agreement last year with Sculpture by the Sea organisation. “This is a real coup for the University,” Miranda explained. “We are able to showcase selected Australian and international works at the campuses at Newcastle and Ourimbah for a minimum period of two years following the exhibition.”

The work is intended as a human-nature dichotomy. Nature is powerful, even a steel sculpture cannot help but be influenced by the forces of the wind.

Out of My Depth

If you can imagine half a million cubic metres of sand cascading over a 4000 metre cliff each year into blue water that is twice as deep as Mount Kosciusko is high, then you may start to get some idea of where the sand on the Eastern Australian Coast is headed.

Researchers at the University of Newcastle have used new state of the art imaging techniques aboard a CSIRO ship to map sand which they have found is flowing along the east coast to underwater sand rivers near Fraser Island.

Chief Researcher, Associate Professor Ron Boyd from the Faculty of Science and Information Technology says, “This river is not a river in the conventional sense, carrying water and sand from mountains to sea. Rather it is a current that flows along the coastline and transports water and sand from south to north and then over the edge of the continental shelf.”

“The current arises from the climate patterns of the Tasman Sea that direct a south-easterly stream of wind and waves onto the NSW coast. This results in sand travelling from southern and central NSW to northern NSW and southern Queensland where it accumulates in thick sand deposits such as Stradbroke, Moreton and Fraser Islands.”

“We had a theory that sand from as far south as the Hunter and the Blue Mountains was travelling up the East Coast as far as the Great Barrier Reef and research we conducted aboard the RV Southern Surveyor Research Vessel has proved this. By taking samples of the sand and using multiple sounders, high resolution seismic and swath mapping systems we have been able to produce highly detailed maps of the seabed that show how the sand travels.”

“We have found that once the sand reaches the QLD East Coast north of Fraser Island it is actually being dumped over the continental shelf where it runs through gullies into the deep sea.”

“Our maps suggest that the Great Barrier Reef originally extended south of Fraser Island and is now covered by sand. However, a vast majority of the sand is now going down the gullies into the deep ocean and not continuing to cover more of the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef.”

At the moment the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef looks safe but one of the things we need to try to find out on our next trip is, if the shelf and gullies become filled in, would the sand continue onto the reef? We need to know what makes the sand go down into the deep ocean and not continue over the shelf.”

Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor announce retirement

The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor announced their retirement on 28 October until 14 November.

Chancellor of the University of Newcastle, Mr Ric Charlton AM and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roger Holmes have advised that they will retire from their positions this year. Professor Holmes will retire after nearly eight years as Vice-Chancellor.

The timing of his departure was put in place in 2001 when he requested and was granted a second term, concluding in October 2004.

Inside

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New Dean and Deputy Dean of Students

UniNews March 2004
Growth Strategy Set

A Message from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roger Holmes.

The 2004 academic year has commenced smoothly and I have enjoyed seeing the campuses come alive with the arrival of new students as well as continuing students of the University. The various ceremonies were very successful for both the Callaghan and Ourimbah campuses. New students were warmly welcomed and inducted into the operations of the University. I hope that most have gained a good working knowledge of the campuses and services and have met the key staff responsible for providing those services.

We also had a ‘first’ for welcoming internal students this year: a very successful reception and wellbeing organised by the International Studies Department and the University Union. This was an outstanding success and greatly appreciated by all of the international students who attended. Ambassador and other diplomatic representatives of several countries, including India, Zimbabwe, Brazil, China, Botswana, Malaysia and East Timor, were also present to welcome our new international students to Newcastle. Many thanks to NUSA and the University Union for this innovation and welcome to our international students.

Our University has continued as one of the premier learning environments in Australia and has attracted the highest percentage in first preferences compared with total student preferences (12%) than for all other universities based in NSW and the ACT, and, demand this year is more competitive than ever before. Prospective students are not only recognising our traditional strengths in professional courses such as medicine, law, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, but also the arts, business and science programs which have provided an increase in high quality applications.

The major issue this year in terms of planning has been to ensure that the higher education reforms are effectively planned for our future. The key principles underlying this growth strategy are that we will:

- Maintain a clear direction and strategy in response to the key staff responsible for providing those services.
- Provide a robust and sustainable future.

The growth strategy also determines that we will also internationalise every aspect of our operation, particularly research, which is essential and growing. So that our graduates can compete in a global market. The strategy, in conjunction with the 25% HECS increase, has reassured the commitment. Student load (full time equivalent student numbers or EFTSUs) has increased from 125,000 in 1999 to 175,132 in 2003, an 85% increase, including a 14% increase in the last 12 months.

Overall, the University has grown significantly in the last few years. The student intake over the four years from 1999 to 2003 was 119,888 and that has been consistent throughout the history of the University. They include a comprehensive strategy of adding new programs to enhance the number and student experience for coursework and research postgraduate programs.

Importantly this year, we have further increased spending on information technology resources to provide a total of $6.2m for 2004, which reflects our standing as a strong teaching and research based University. This has been increased from previous years by these resources from $3.6m in 2001 to the current level of $6.2m, an increase of 72% over four years.

Finally, I have announced that I will not be seeking a third term as Vice-Chancellor and will retire from the University from 6 October. This will conclude more than eight years at the University of Newcastle, which has been a most enjoyable and a tremendous privilege and honour for me to serve the University in this way. May I thank you for your friendship, support and goodwill which has been shown by so many people since 1996, the Hunter, the Central Coast, in the regional, national and international areas we have served as a University.

The Higher Education Support Act 2003 was passed by the Senate in December last year. This is the fourth major change in the way we respond to the Higher Education Reform process, resulting in a proposal being recommended for adoption at the University Council meeting, held on 5 March.

The University’s proposal was considered by the Academic Senate on 18 February, discussed in a roundtable session with student leaders on 19 February, and presented to staff and students in open forums on 1 and 2 March.

Despite being denied regional status (which translates to the loss of $1.5 to $3 million in regional funding each year), retaining a regional focus with strong links to local communities and industry remains crucial to the position the University has taken on the reforms.

The University also reaffirmed the set of principles which underpin the Newcastle approach to education and which have been consistent throughout the history of the University. They include a comprehensive strategy of adding new programs to enhance the number and student experience for coursework and research postgraduate programs.

Some faculties being ranked in the top five in five key fields:

- Principles of equity – there are currently a number of scholarship schemes available for undergraduate students from regional or rural areas, equity scholarships for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and undergraduate scholarships to assist financially disadvantaged rural students. Equity schemes being introduced include the Unilink Program – a program offered to high school students in the Newcastle region, comments on her first time, both the Callaghan and Ourimbah campuses will have a staff member on-site dedicated to the responsibilities of the portfolio. Professor Graham, Head of the School of Humanities at the University of Newcastle for an exciting and sustainable future.

I wish each of you a very successful 2004.

Roger S Holmes
Vice-Chancellor and President

The Deputy Dean of Students, contrary to the beliefs of some, do not have magic wands which they use to solve problems immediately. They do, however, have the ability to facilitate and communicate.

The Dean of Students’ mandate is to provide advice, assistance or advocacy regarding academic matters. The role is primarily to discuss issues of concern and assisting students to resolve grievances themselves are just some of the activities of the Dean of Students Unit.

Communication between students and academic staff can be aided when necessary but the Dean cannot direct the actions of University staff nor can University rules be changed or waived at any time.

New Dean of Students, Professor Anne Graham, and Deputy Dean of Students, Dr Jennifer Archer took up duty on 2 February and on 30 March, for the first time, both the Callaghan and Ourimbah campuses will have a staff member on-site dedicated to the responsibilities of the portfolio.

An initiative at the Callaghan campus this year is the establishment of the “Resolution Precinct” housing both the Dean of Students Unit and the Grievance Officer in the Student Services Centre. The increased funding has meant that full time administrative support is now available to both units.

If students feel they have been treated unfairly or inequitably, an error has been made, or they have been the victim of harassment or discrimination, we can assist them.

Growth Strategy includes 25% HECS increase

The Higher Education Support Act 2003 was passed by the Senate in December last year. For the sector, this has meant an injection of $1.8 billion over the next four years and over 70 separate reforms which require major changes to the way in which universities operate.

As reported in the last edition of UniNews, the University has been working towards establishing a clear direction and strategy in response to the Higher Education Reform process, resulting in a proposal being recommended for adoption at the University Council meeting.
Information technology continues to pervade the world of higher education but perhaps less intrusively in recent years. We have already absorbed many IT-fuelled advances such as email, online teaching environments, high-speed Internet, online library resources, electronic presentation tools, automated business processes, videoconferencing and so on.

Our growing familiarity with technology makes it less visible. However it would be a mistake to ignore the University's continued and increasing demand for IT services. For example:

- the number of computer workstations provided for students has never been higher;
- electronic presentation facilities have been installed in over 40 teaching venues;
- email message rates continue to grow exponentially;
- the number of Unix servers required to support the University's online services has grown to over 60 (from less than 10 in 1997);
- network bandwidth requirements have grown from 10Mbps to 1Gbps; and
- six major information systems have been implemented in the past seven years and a wide range of web-based applications have been developed.

In addition to this, the Nelson Higher Education reforms herald a level of change in the sector not seen since the Dawkins' era. The current reforms incorporate greatly expanded obligations regarding the collection and reporting of information about the academic activities of the University, and policy changes such as the new student assistance schemes, will require further significant changes to our administrative systems.

More generally, the Nelson reforms represent a partial deregulation of the sector. "In this new environment, institutions must chart new directions and develop new business processes and systems," explained the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roger Holmes. "The University of Newcastle must have an appropriately capable IT infrastructure to survive and thrive in the post-reform environment. The IT MAP represents a significant focussing of University resources on achieving this capability."

The IT MAP, or IT Management Action Plan, outlines the key activities required to maintain and develop the University's IT infrastructure over the next three years. This includes all institution-wide IT systems and services - from campus networks, to corporate information systems, to computing labs and electronic presentation equipment in teaching spaces. The IT MAP includes the projects arising from the IT Review, along with other IT infrastructure projects, and prioritises these against available funding. The broad-ranging IT Review was proposed by Professor Bill Hogarth to the IT Portfolio Committee of Senate in 2002. During 2002/3 representatives from faculties and the administrative divisions participated in 12 IT Review working groups and identified key areas for development of the University's IT infrastructure. Professor Hogarth, Chair of the IT Portfolio Committee explained that, "The IT Map is a result of the work by many, many people across the University and they should be thanked for their commitment and efforts."

Recent IT developments

The Auchmuty Information Common (pictured at right) is an example of how IT continues to offer new possibilities for delivering services to the University community. The Common represents an evolution from the standard computing lab format into a more relaxed free-form environment, incorporating new services such as wireless laptop computers for loan to students and 24 hour access. The Common, located in the ground floor of the Auchmuty Library, was officially opened in late 2003 and has been in heavy demand this semester.

Many other IT developments have been undertaken in recent years. These were largely funded through the IT Infrastructure Development Plan which has been in operation since 1997 (now replaced by the IT-MAP). Some highlights include: the Blackboard online learning management system; a private microwave link between Callaghan/Durham and Sydney; the implementation of major corporate information systems such as NUSTAR and a broad range of web-based online services; electronic presentation facilities into over 40 venues; the ongoing upgrade of the campus network; central staff and student email services; a private fibre link between Callaghan/Newbold/Ourimbah and Sydney; the Auchmuty Library, was officially opened in late 2003 and has been in heavy demand this semester.

The IT-fuelled advances such as email, online library resources, Blackboard, videoconferencing and online computing labs are now a broad range of web-based online services; electronic presentation facilities into over 40 venues; the ongoing upgrade of the campus network; central staff and student email services; a private fibre link between Callaghan/Newbold/Ourimbah and Sydney; and the Auchmuty Library, was officially opened in late 2003 and has been in heavy demand this semester.

In this new environment, institutions must chart new directions and develop new business processes and systems, explained the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roger Holmes. "The University of Newcastle must have an appropriately capable IT infrastructure to survive and thrive in the post-reform environment. The IT MAP represents a significant focussing of University resources on achieving this capability."

The IT funding challenge

While many of the IT developments outlined above have delivered important break-throughs in terms of services for the University community, each new system must be maintained and the equipment replaced every three to five years. This resulted in a growing need to pre-commit IT capital funds to the maintenance of existing services. By 2002, the scale of the University's IT infrastructure had reached the point where its IT capital funding was fully consumed by maintenance projects, leaving little discretion for new development projects. (Illustrated in the graph at left.)

In addition, the operating costs of the University's IT infrastructure would exceed $2.5M in 2004. This budget scenario was presented to the University's Senior Executive Group in late 2003 and a $4 Million increase in the IT capital budget was endorsed by SEG and approved by the Vice-Chancellor in February 2004.

In response to the $4M funding increase, Trevor Gerdsen (Executive Director, Infrastructure Services) stated, "The University executive has responded decisively to this challenge by increasing the IT budget allocation at a time when finances are tight across the University and the university is now on University Services to deliver the benefits to the University community during 2004."

Key development projects for 2004

The University has invested relatively heavily in corporate information systems in recent years. While well justified at the time, this has drawn funding away from the development and maintenance of other IT infrastructure – particularly in support of academic enterprise. There is an immediate need to redress this balance and focus IT investment on rebuilding core infrastructure (such as campus networking and datacentre services) to meet the current and emerging needs of the University.

The key projects to be funded in 2004 (outlined below) were selected based on their overall contribution to achieving the University's objectives.

1. Upgrade of the campus backbone network and ongoing re-cabling of campus buildings to support higher bandwidths and increase reliability.
2. Physical refurbishment of the primary datacentre (McMullin) and refit of datacentre hardware to provide increased compute capacity to meet immediate needs, increased services availability (24x7) for critical services, disaster recovery and to establish adequate online security.
3. Establishment of a University-wide data storage facility to provide data services for teaching, research and administration. The facility will incorporate an 8+ Terabyte storage area network and an automated tape library for backup, recovery and archiving of institutional data.
4. Ongoing replacement of student computing workstations in centrally-managed labs at all campuses, in line with University standards.
The IT MAP projects proposed for 2004 will maintain and improve the IT infrastructure of the University – but how can the individual student or staff member expect to benefit? Some of the tangible benefits you can expect to see are outlined below:

- Data can be downloaded 50 times faster than present from the Internet to the University. (Note: the actual benefit seen by students and staff will differ based on the Internet service provider)
- Internet access will be available to the University community, while allowing Faculty IT staff to focus on the specialised needs of their Faculty.

The project will implement four key strategies identified in the 2002 IT Review, namely:

- Adopt a best practice framework for IT management and service delivery. This involves the implementation of the ITIL service management framework, which has become the globally accepted standard. The University has engaged Lucid IT, a consultancy firm, to provide ITIL training and certification for staff and to advise on the roll out of the ITIL model.
- Commit to a University-wide call centre, linked to local and specialised support teams. A three-tier support structure will be established to unify IT support activities across the University, improve service quality and achieve economies of scale for basic desktop support.
- Establish strong IT standards for desktop computing. The rollout of a standard operating environment (SOE) on University desktop computers will provide a highly reliable work/study environment for staff and students, and reduce the related support costs.
- Exploit remote control desktop management tools. Significantly improve resolution times and increase productivity by using remote diagnostic tools to solve desktop computing problems.

At the end of the project we will have a three-tier model of central and localised support, defined in an "IT Service Charter" whereby:

- Tier 1 support, provided centrally by University Services Division (USD), covers all simple, based on telephone (automated) or email (USDCASE) requests and will be performed remotely.
- Tier 2 support, provided locally by Faculty IT staff, will cover all complex, specialised or corporate research data. The project has been endorsed by the IT Portfolio Committee and subsequently ratified by the University's Senior Executive Group for implementation. Significant progress has already been made. The existing IT Call Centre has been relocated from the CT Building into larger accommodation in Achnut Library and the Clientele online call tracking system has been upgraded. Discussions have commenced with faculties and other stakeholders regarding transitional arrangements to ensure service continuity when existing Service Level Agreements cease.
- Tier 3 support, provided locally by the relevant faculty or division, covers all complex, specialised or corporate applications, and specific project works confined to particular areas.

The project has been endorsed by the IT Portfolio Committee and subsequently ratified by the University's Senior Executive Group for implementation. Significant progress has already been made. The existing IT Call Centre has been relocated into larger accommodation in Achnut Library and the Clientele online call tracking system has been upgraded. Discussions have commenced with faculties and other stakeholders regarding transitional arrangements to ensure service continuity when existing Service Level Agreements cease. Following an external tender process, an implementation partner has been appointed to implement the best practice IT Service Management Framework. During 2004 the University's IT support functions will transition into the new model on a faculty-by-faculty (or division) basis, taking into consideration each group's particular needs.

The project team consists of Neroli Masters (Project Manager), David Kay (Science and Information Technology), David Woolford (Business and Law), Julie Becker (Engineering and the Built Environment), Stephen James (Health), Kim Foster (Education and Arts), Steve Owers (Central Coast Campus), Rod Lewis (Research and International Division), Gran Collin (USD - Education Services), Ann Waters (USD - Infrastructure Services), and Loo Janis (USD - Infrastructure Services).

If you have any questions regarding the IT Service Desk project please contact Neroli Masters@newcastle.edu.au
Mr Ric Charlton AM, Chancellor of the University of Newcastle 1994-2004

Mr Ric Charlton AM, BE, MEngSc, FTSE, FAIM, FACD, has been the Chancellor of the University of Newcastle since June 1994, having served in this capacity for three full terms from 1994 to 2004. He began his appointment as Chairman of the University’s Foundation Board in 1991 and continued as such for a further three years from that position on 30 April 1995.

In 1996 he was awarded the medal of the Member of the Order of Australia for his contribution to the petroleum industry and the community. Ric has served as Director or Chairman of numerous boards throughout his career and has been heavily involved in community organisations: Chairman of the Surf Life Saving Victoria - Building Appeal; membership of the Business/ Higher Education Round Table; and member of the Committees of both the Victorian Racing Club and the Newcastle Valley Racing Club. He has held the positions of Chairman of the Royal Children’s Hospital Research Foundation and Chairman of The Art Foundation of Victoria. He is a patron of the Skiing and Snowboarding Foundation.

Ric has had a long term involvement with sport and is a past Chairman of the National Basketball League. His other sporting interests include golf, horse racing, snow skiing and rugby. He is a Double Blue with Sydney University in Basketball and Rugby.

As Chancellor, Ric has ensured that Council fulfilled its responsibilities in accordance with the functions of the University, namely providing educational facilities, pursuing scholarship, research and teaching activities, contributing to the development of the community and conferring degrees and other awards. He has undertaken all his tasks as Chancellor with verve, excitement and an over-arching energy to project the image of the University as a high quality, internationally renowned educational institution.

On Channel’s part, University interests, perhaps emanating from his science background, was the University of Newcastle. At the Kempsey (NSW) Challenge in June 2003, as guest of honour, he spoke at the Challenge dinner and attended the Challenge the following day. Ric was taken around many of the sites of Kempsey that had engineering or local development sporting interests as his personal enjoyment.

Perhaps the best aspect of the visit however was the genuine rapport Ric immediately established with the undergraduate and postgraduate students that help with the Challenge. His sincere and enthusiastic interest in the students was indeed a testament to the genuine involvement he has in developing the professional people of the future.

Another area of University activity where Ric has invested particular energy has been alumni development where he has made a personal and spoken at these about the role of the alumni and the importance of them to the University. He formally launched the Melbourne Alumni Chapter and gave a stirring speech on the University, its challenges and how the alumni could assist. It was through his presence that the University attracted a significant number of distinguished alumni and top executives from the Melbourne business and industry sector.

As well as all the same for the Newcastle Chapter at its formal launch. Ric placed great emphasis on the role of the alumni in the Newcastle area for the University. He was also a great supporter of the Sydney alumni group.

Through his role as Chancellor and through these alumni connections, he became an ambassador for the Hunter Economic Development Corporation and this Cultural Alumni Luncheon where the strengths and opportunities of Hunter business were presented to prominent business leaders for the University’s Foundation Board from its beginning and has always been extremely interested in promoting its role in the University and in the community. Through his experience with Shell and with other major corporations and companies he has a remarkable network.

While a lecturer at HIHE, Bill completed a Doctorate in Mathematics in 1970 and was seconded to Newcastle Teachers College in 1975 and 1976. In 1977 he was seconded to Newcastle Teachers College as a lecturer and by 1989, Bill was principal lecturer heading a department of 15 staff with responsibility for teaching mathematics, computing and mathematical education. The original Teachers College had undergone several transformations into the Hunter Institute of Higher Education. At the amalgamation with the University of Newcastle there was inevitable reorganisation, splitting his department. Bill regretted the loss of close contact with the special preparation of mathematics teachers.

While a lecturer at HIHE, Bill completed three research Masters degrees at the University of Newcastle.

• M.Ed in 1974 specialising in medical education with thesis – a comparative assessment of a change in medical education courses in terms of its effect on teachers’ colleagues;
• M.Math in 1977 specialising in Banach space theory with thesis – on the topological equivalence of classes of Banach spaces; and
• M.Eng.Sc in 1982 specialising in operations research with thesis – aspects of queueing and scheduling problems related to the loading of coal in the Port of Newcastle.

His Master’s thesis was of outstanding quality with the exposition exhibiting his careful teaching style. It caught the attention of Joe Diebel who suggested that he develop it for publication in collaboration with David Yost.

Bill retired from the University of Newcastle in 1997 at age 59. The first symptoms of his cancer had appeared in 1995 but he continued lecturing full time while undergoing treatment. He became an honorary associate and worked in his University office for three full days a week till six weeks before his death.

Bill produced 16 refereed papers published between 1979 and 2003 mainly on mathematics education and operations research. He had a great number of articles in Australian journals and newspapers. He was an active member of the Newcastle Mathematical Association - he was an organiser of several of their Mathematical Summer Schools for senior high school students and was editor of their School Mathematics Journal for a period of 10 years.

His research activity flourished in his retirement years and he found great fulfillment. Even in retirement he was active relating the University to the community in open days, field days and HSC days. He continued as a moderator of the ‘Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians’ and as a member of the editorial panel of the Australian Senior Mathematics Journal.

At the time of his death Bill had spent 40 years in his various teaching roles.

Bill was a devoted family man and very proud of his children Kevin, Catherine and Terry and step-children Karina and Jamal, and grandchildren Joshua, Sathia, Aidan, Claire and Ciara. He leaves a devoted wife, Margaret. He will be sorely missed by his family, friends and colleagues.

Dr John R. Giles

Uninews is published by the University of Newcastle, monthly except for the January/February, June/July and November/December editions.

Editorial Committee
Sue Beach, Rhys Palmer and Rowena Scaran (Editor)
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Printing
NCP Printing

Our thanks to contributors including the University’s Media Unit and Cae Pattison, Manager Media and Public Relations.

Central Coast Campuses
Letters and/or contributions may be edited due to space restrictions and do not necessarily reflect the University’s official views and/or position.

Copy deadlines for the next few editions are:
April edition – 6 April
May edition – 6 May
June/July edition – 31 May

For Uninews enquiries please telephone (02) 4921 5610 or email: uninews@newcastle.edu.au
Achievements

In this column UniNews would like to pay tribute to those staff who achieve great things... Sometimes, as in this edition, we will also pay tribute to students who achieve because we believe that their achievement also provides a positive reflection of our staff.

A Life of Turbulence Rewarded

Professor Robert Antonia from the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment is considered one of the world’s leading authorities on turbulence.

He was presented with a Citation Laureate by The United States Publishers, Thomson ISI, at the National Press Club in Canberra on 24 March as part of that recognition.

His laboratories are filled with wind and water tunnels, and various types of jet rigged all specially designed to provide a better understanding of turbulence and different strategies for managing it.

In the atmosphere turbulence is the natural state of the air, "explained Professor Antonia. “It is essential for maintaining life and dispersing pollution.”

Turbulence can also be exploited for improving the speed of aircraft, ships and motor vehicles. Even competitive swimmers use turbulence to assist them. I understand that the new swimsuit models for the Athens Olympic Games will have better turbulence management than earlier models, combining the use of turbulence generating bumps and riblets similar to those found on shark skin."

“Several of our current projects use suction to control turbulence as air flows over a surface, that of an aircraft wing for example. The experiments show that drag can be reduced either by eradicating the turbulence near the surface or delaying the location at which the turbulent flow separates from the surface. In either case, the outcome is a reduction in drag with obvious implications for reducing costs. However, we would have to be sure the energy needed to create the suction is less than the energy saved by the process to make it a viable option for commercial aviation."

“We have also found that we can manipulate the turbulence as it emerges from jet nozzles by applying various types of perturbations at the nozzle exit. This can lead to either a reduction in jet noise or improved mixing, with a characteristic benefit to a number of combustion processes.”

Faculty’s combination of experiment and computations, research on roughness elements placed on a surface has identified the optimum spacing which maximises heat transfer and this should lead to an improvement in the efficiency of heat exchangers.

“This work has wide ranging implications with regard to cost and energy savings and pollution control,” said Professor Antonia.

Professor Antonia is listed as one of the world’s most influential engineering authors by the Institute of Scientific Information.

High Class Classics Students

Not one but three highflying Classics students from the University of Newcastle have been awarded the coveted Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) this year.

Postgraduate Awards support postgraduate research training and provide financial support to postgraduate students of exceptional research promise who undertake their higher degree research at an eligible Australian higher education institution.

Mary Galvin from Terrigal on the Central Coast, Jeff Tillitizki from Newcastle and Jennifer Wilson also from Newcastle, all attained first class honours and APA recipients will receive a grant of over $18,000 per year, for three years, to undertake Postgraduate Research in the diverse field of Classics and archaeology.

Professor Harold Tarrant, Head of School, Liberal Arts, says, “Competition for the Awards is strong. Only those students who attain first class Honours are eligible to apply, and it is highly unusual to have three of our top students in such a short space of time.”

Throughout Mary Galvin’s career in Computers and Technology, she maintained an interest in Ancient History and was delighted with the news. “The Award will enable me to further my research into Greek Religion, an area that began as a hobby and has now progressed to full time research.”

Following a distinguished career as a lecturer in the classics, Jeff Tillitizki rekindled his high school passion for the classics. “Receiving the Award is testament to all our hard work and sacrifice and I make in order to pursue the things you want to do in life and will certainly help finance my research into the Roman emperor Dicarius, 3rd century BC.”

COFFE’s Travel Grant to University of Santorini

The School places great emphasis on supporting students in their educational development and we are extremley proud of our students in their achievements. Their success is a reflection of the School’s excellent reputation.

Contributions to UniNews

Welcome newcomers, views and images for inclusion in UniNews (editing may occur due to space limitations). Please send your contributions or suggestions to: uninews@newcastle.edu.au

Focus on Business and Law

Good Mates are easy to find

When you have to relocate to start your studies, good mates can be hard to find but not if you’re a new undergraduate in the University of Newcastle’s Faculty of Business and Law.

The ‘buddy’ scheme (the Rural Students Support Scheme), introduced in 2003 and continuing this year, aims to welcome students from rural and remote areas into campus life by a program of mentoring throughout the year, helping the new students settle into university life, both academic and personal.

Mentors are drawn from current students who have, themselves, come to the University from rural or remote locations. Twenty students are mentors for 45 undergraduates commencing study at the University for the first time this year. The success of the program is demonstrated by the fact that many of the mentors have returned for a second year or they have benefited from the scheme as new undergraduates.

The students who want to participate in the scheme register with the International Recruitment Project Officer for the Rural Students Support Scheme. Mattle herself grew up in an isolated area – she is well aware of the issues students from rural or remote areas have to confront when they relocate to a larger community.

Students taking part in the ‘buddy’ scheme are able to take advantage of a range of activities including social get togethers, study skills and exam preparation workshops, day trips, library tours and guest speaker seminars.

As one student participant commented regarding the orientation week information session, “It was great and very informative. It was very informal, which was good – if I had come into something like a lecture, I don’t think I would have stayed.”

An initiative of the 2004 scheme is the offering of two $2,000 scholarships to assist students with relocation expenses, the scale of tests and general living expenses.

In 2003, the scheme was wholly funded by a Higher Education Equity Program (HEEP) grant. This year, part funding has again been sourced from a HEEP grant with the remainder provided by the Faculty itself.

“The Rural Students Support Scheme has been so successful and beneficial for all those involved that the Faculty is looking to continue its future years, funding permitting,” Mattle explained.

An anonymous student stated, “RSSS has definitely helped me adjust to university life.” And another, “It creates a supportive social and academic environment that one wouldn’t be available to us otherwise.”

FIRS Unit

The Faculty International and Remote Services (FIRS) unit was established in November 2003, following the increased growth in the international and remote activities in the Faculty of Business and Law.

FIRS provides administrative support for international and remote students including: international and remote students and students enrolled at remote campus locations. The FIRS unit provides an accountable administrative structure in a way that assists to avoid any potential conflicts in providing programs offered remotely. The primary goal of the FIRS team is to ensure that offshore students and partners of the University of Newcastle are provided with a high quality, professional service. FIRS also ensures that academic travelling to offshore and remote campus locations is briefed and prepared prior to their first teaching visit.

The Faculty of Business and Law currently has more than 350 students enrolled remotely in Malaysia, Hong Kong and Sydney. The current partnerships include:

• Institute WIRA in Malaysia.
• The Faculty has had a partnership with WIRA since 1997 and currently offers the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program.
• Hartford Institute Hong Kong, MBA program
• Hong Kong Management Association (HKMA)
• SEG International Berhad (SEGI), Malaysia.

In July 2003 the Faculty of Business and Law launched the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) program with the HKMA and SEGI. These programs have attracted strong interest from many high profile business people in South East Asia, "Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Business and Law, Professor Bernard Carey, explained. "The HKMA program currently has 67 students enrolled and it is expected that by the end of 2004, enrolments will exceed 150. In Malaysia we currently have 50 DBA students and we are looking to enroll additional students in the current year.”

In addition to the DBA program, the postgraduate programs of Business and Law will be launched the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program at SEGI this month and at HKMA in May 2004. The Master of Business Administration program aims to deliver courses relevant to the fundamental business areas and upon completion of this award students may progress to year two of the MBA program.

Onshore it is expected that an agreement will be signed in the near future to offer the Doctor of Business Administration and Master of Business programs in Sydney with Holmes Colleges.

Research Cottages for business

Since 1998 when it was first established, the University Centre of Full Employment (COFFE) has been undertaking and promoting research aimed at restoring full employment and providing business with a service delivery pilot scheme, the examination of wages for childcare workers and teachers, and a study of the social impacts of unemployment.

According to Professor Tarrant, COFFE’s researchers enjoyed significant success in the recent ARC funding round. The Director, Professor Bill Mitchell, was awarded ARC Discovery Project funding to explore job creation and job destruction processes. Bill and COFFE’s Deputy Director, Associate Professor Martin Watts, were awarded ARC Linkage Project funding with Jobs Australia to develop a new framework for designing regional employment policy. Bill and Martin were also part of a successful team which was awarded ARC seed funding to develop a national research network in spatial and economic analyses.

COFFE has a strong outreach strategy. It holds training sessions for staff and PhD students in the School of Policy and the wider Faculty of Business and Law, as well as regular public policy lectures, workshops and conferences open to the general public. The Centre is highly engaged with the local region in both its research and outreach activities. External groups and individuals interested in the dynamics of employment and unemployment, the links between economic growth and economic equity, the interaction between financial markets and the labour market, and the impact of policy design on labour market outcomes. The Centre also undertakes contract research and has recently completed an evaluation of a service delivery pilot scheme, the examination of wages for childcare workers and teachers, and a study of the social impacts of unemployment.

Some of the COFFE team is (L to R): Victor Quar, De-Chu Li, Ellen Carlson, Professor Bill Mitchell, Anthea But and Victor Quar (join Wadley, Director COFFE Europe, University of Maastricht, The Netherlands)

Contributions to UniNews

Welcome newcomers, views and images for inclusion in UniNews (editing may occur due to space limitations). Please send your contributions or suggestions to: uninews@newcastle.edu.au
What’s Happening @ The University of Newcastle

Workshops/Seminars

April 6 (1 – 2pm)
Young women, multiple roles and mental health
Research Centre for Gender and Health
Lunchtime seminar
Case Study Theatre, David Maddison Building
(Cnr Watt and King Sts)

May 11 (1 – 2pm)
Are you what you eat?
Research Centre for Gender and Health
Lunchtime seminar
Association between diet and health in the
Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health
Case Study Theatre, David Maddison Building
(Cnr Watt and King Sts)

Ceremonies

April 7 (9.00am)
English Language and Foundation Studies Centre Attainment Ceremony.
Ourimbah Campus

April 19 – 22
Callaghan Campus Graduation Ceremonies held in the Great Hall.
graduation@newcastle.edu.au

April 30 (8.00pm)

Art and Theatre

March 31 – April 18
Watt Space Gallery

April 11 – 24
Watt Space Gallery

April 22 – May 1
Watt Space Gallery

April 27 – May 1
Watt Space Gallery

May 17 – 20
Watt Space Gallery

May 18 – 22
Watt Space Gallery

Music

April 1 (1.00pm)
Lunchtime Concert – Vocal recital
Craig Everingham – Baritone - Associate Artists Newcastle Grammar School Choirs.
Take a journey in the English countryside
then sail the seas towards America with folk
songs from each country. The music of Finzi
and Butterworth.
Adults: $7.00, Conc: $6.00, Child: $5.00.

April 2 (8.00pm)
Musica Viva - Different Realms


No More, No Less

Industrial Beautification

from Real Fantasies by Alf Scott
in the Loading Dock at Watt Space
31 March – 18 April 2004

Watt Space Galleries
University House
Cnr King and Auckland Sts, Newcastle 2300 (entrance off Auckland St)
gallery hours Wednesday – Sunday, 12 noon - 6pm
director Anne M Calughlin
Ph office: 02 4921 5188 Ph gallery: 02 4921 8733
www.newcastle.edu.au/wattspace

watt space is funded by the University of Newcastle Union Limited
ABN 29 091019 153 and the School of Fine Art.

UniNews welcomes contributions for “What’s Happening”.
Please send details well in advance to uninews@newcastle.edu.au