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Vice- Chancellor's Column

1998 is rapidly drawing to a close and I would like to wish all staff and students of the University an enjoyable Christmas season and best wishes for 1999. I found it to be a challenging year but one that was both stimulating and enjoyable. We have many things to be thankful for at this University but I am most grateful for the commitment of our staff and their excellent endeavours in teaching, research and research training, and service activities. We also enjoy full support from the Hunter and Central Coast communities, which we cannot take for granted.

1998 saw the implementation of the Change Management Plan, initiated following the announcement in August 1996 of major funding cuts for the University and the higher education system. The savings and revenue enhancement target of $14 million over 1997-98 will be met, albeit at some cost to staff positions. The plan has provided the University with a sound platform for the future and created opportunities to strengthen our profile as a result of the reviews and planning activities. Staff have responded well to the challenges and it is appropriate that we recognise excellent performance.

For the first time, the University is giving special recognition to a number of general staff members who have been nominated and judged as providing excellent service. I would like to congratulate Paula Jarvis, Giorni Di Gravio, George Florek, Elaine Swift, Peter Thomas, Chris Cuthbert and Helen Doheny on the high standards in their work and on receiving the Vice-Chancellor's Award for General Staff Excellence. High commendations also go to Richard Bale, Jenny Kirkby and Rod Lewis. The Awards provide for the recognition of excellence by general staff and I strongly endorse and commend them.

Congratulations to the 23 academic colleagues who were promoted this year. It is particularly pleasing to congratulate Associate Professor Geoffrey Samuel on his promotion to the position of Professor of Anthropology. Three women will join the Associate Professorial ranks next year — namely Dr Mary-Anne Williams of the School of Management, Dr Mirka Miller of the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering and Dr Lynette Lim of the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

Among the many highlights for me during 1998 are:

• the opening of the Sports and Aquatic Centre, The Forum;
• the retreat in February which initiated our 1998-2002 Strategic Plan;
• new senior academic appointments in Australian Studies and Business (Central Coast Campus), and in Fine Art, Clinical Psychology, Economics, General Practice, Clinical Pharmacology and Biological Sciences;
• the opening of the Ian Stewart Wing of the Chemical Engineering building;
• the graduation ceremonies and celebrations of the achievements of our graduates at Callaghan, Ourimbah and in Singapore;
• honorary degrees and awards for Dr Bruce Baird, Dr Peter Hendry, AO, Professor John Harding, Justice Michael McHugh, AC, Dr Rein von Gendt, Ms Robyn Walmsley and Dr Tan Chin Nam;
• the inaugural Exceptional Service Medal awarded to Dr Brian Smith;
• the reappointment of our Chancellor, Mr Ric Charlton, AM for a further four year term;
• the establishment of Hunter Medical Research Ltd as a joint venture with the Hunter Area Health Service and the local community;
• my appointments to the Board of the Hunter Area Health Service and the Hunter Institute of Technology Council.

• the visit to China with a University delegation;
• the Association of Commonwealth Universities Congress in Ottawa;
• the Sir Ninian Stephen lecture delivered by the Honourable Gordon Samuels, AC;
• the ongoing visits to the Departments, Faculties and other Divisions of the University;
• the Federal election in October, and the enhanced participation of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee and the University in raising major issues concerning higher education;
• the restructuring of the Faculty of Art and Design and the International Office;
• the introduction of Finance One as an electronically based administrative finance system;
• Emeritus Professor John Dutton's farewell;
• the ongoing and further development of partnerships with the Hunter and Central Coast Area Health Services, and Baptist Community Services;
• planning for the new Central Coast Regional Model for our Central Coast Campus;
• watching the Knights win the rugby league;
• meeting with local industry groups over lunch at the University;
• the appointment of new Deans of Medicine and Health Sciences and Economics and Commerce;
• the development of the 'Graduate School' concept as a major vehicle for developing our coursework postgraduate profile.

Again, best wishes for the Christmas/New Year holiday season to you and your family. I hope that 1999 will be a successful year for the University and for each of you personally.
Heart project one of major grant recipients

A patient exercises in the John Hunter's congestive heart failure clinic

A three-year program to improve the quality of life for people with a debilitating heart condition and reduce hospital re-admission rates has received substantial funding in the latest round of National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Grants.

A project team headed by Newcastle PhD student Patricia Davidson has received $123,041 to trial the program at the St George Hospital and Community Health Service, where Patricia works as a Clinical Nurse Consultant. The randomised controlled trial at St George will assess the impact of program interventions on re-admission rates for patients who have been previously admitted to the hospital with heart failure.

"We will be taking a multidisciplinary approach to working with people who have congestive heart failure. This will involve physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers, pharmacists, dietitians and nursing staff at St George, in consultation with cardiologists," Patricia explained.

Congestive heart failure is the most common reason for admission and re-admission to the St George Hospital Cardiology Unit. Through education about the importance of appropriate exercise and the encouragement of dietary modifications and symptom management, the team hopes to reduce the number of hospital re-admissions.

Other team members include Dr Jill Cockburn, Head of the Discipline of Behavioural Science in Relation to Medicine from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, and Professor Laurie Howes, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology at St George Hospital.

"This is a significant grant, as it's the first time such a rigorous approach to improving the re-admission outcomes for heart failure patients has been proposed," Jill explained.

"It will not only lead to greater quality of life for people with congestive heart failure, but reduce the financial burden on the health system which results from the amount of time these people are re-admitted to hospital."

The University received a total of $3.77 million for new and continuing grants - more than last year’s total of $3.18 million. While the average success rate for organisations applying for NHMRC funding this year was 24 percent, Newcastle had a success rate of around 29 percent. Of the 22 research organisations in NSW to receive funding, the University received the third highest amount.

Research in the areas of cancer, heart disease, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and preterm labour are among the new projects to receive funding.

Newcastle tops table for new research grants

The University has achieved the highest success rate of any Australian university for new research grants.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Ron MacDonald, said the University had received $1,381,297 in new research grants from the Australian Research Council (ARC). "That means 32.4 percent of new first year ARC grants we applied for were funded," he said.

The national average was 20.7 percent. "Ours was the highest success rate of any Australian university and was a better achievement than the major metropolitan universities."

"ARC funding is extremely competitive and Newcastle has done extremely well."

A readership survey was conducted in the July edition of Uninews and results were published in the August edition. In response to your feedback, we will make a few changes next year.

We currently run several stories or sections over one or two pages and the rest as half page or less. As a result of the survey, we’ll reduce the number of full page stories in favour of a greater number of shorter stories. This will allow us to increase the number of stories we do on various areas of the University, including those on academic and administrative staff, students and research. A greater emphasis will be placed on pictorial stories as our feature article and the photographic content will be maintained.

Thank you to all those who responded to our survey.

The editor and Marketing and Media Services staff wish you a safe and joyous Christmas and look forward to reporting on the University’s stories and achievements in the New Year.

Enquiries and contributions should be directed to the Editor, Uninews, Marketing and Media Services, phone: (02) 4956 1869 or (02) 4956 2829, email: prkib@cc.newcastle.edu.au

Classified advertisements and other contributions for Etcetera should be sent to Rose Roohan, phone: ext 6463, email: prrr@cc.newcastle.edu.au

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Publisher - Fran Flavel
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Doubling your chances of employment

Combined or double degrees that allow students to undertake two courses of study simultaneously are becoming increasingly popular. University looks at what they are, who does them and why.

A double degree program is an integrated one, leading to two awards. For example, the Faculty of Education offers a number of double degrees. Students undertake their Bachelor of Teaching course simultaneously with studies in the discipline area in which they wish to specialise as a teacher e.g. Bachelor of Teaching/Bachelor of Music. All the courses take four years of full-time study to complete. A student must satisfy the requirements for both awards together, as the degrees cannot be taken out separately.

Combined degree programs are those which lead to two separate awards at graduation. Two courses are undertaken simultaneously, but the student can take each award out separately e.g. one after the other, rather than together (as in the case of the double degrees). Combined degree courses attract high achieving students (mainly school leavers), who have the option of dropping back to a single degree course if they find the combined degree studies too demanding. This option is not available under the double degree structure.

University Secretary and Registrar, Gem Cheong, believes that combined degrees give students a breadth of general education that isn’t provided in specialist courses. Countless employer surveys have shown that graduates entering the workforce after completing a single discipline course lack a broader perspective, Gem said. “The surveys tell us that universities need to give their students a more rounded education. Skills needed in the workplace include the ability to work as a team member, good oral and written communication skills and the ability to work across disciplines.

“The demand for combined degrees is high,” she said. “By choosing studies that provide them with a broader education, combined degree students make themselves more marketable to employers and more adaptable in the workplace.”

Engineering offers more combined degrees than any other Faculty. Dean, Professor Adrian Page, said engineering combined degrees have been around for 20 years but the offerings have widened to reflect industry needs. “Offering a range of combined degrees allows us to address the needs of the profession and to stay at the forefront of developments. We also have to compete against other institutions offering these flexible options in order to attract the top students.”

Basically you can combine just about anything with an engineering qualification, provided it is an approved course of study and it can be timetabled. For an extra year’s study, you come away with two degrees but combined degrees also involve a lot more work. Despite very high entrance requirements (a minimum of 85 TER score or equivalent UAR), some students find it difficult.

Jamie Bailey, who is doing a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical)/Bachelor of Mathematics, got a TER of 99 but struggled with the workload in his first year. Jamie had just turned 18 and left his family’s Gorokan home for the first time when he came to study at Newcastle. “I should have had a year off,” he said of his poor performance in first year. “It wasn’t a matter of not being capable. I didn’t want to drop back to a single degree so I decided I’d better wake up to myself.” Having sorted out his time management and settled into independent living, Jamie is now doing well in his course.

While he chose to study engineering as a career path, his real passion is for maths. “I thought maths would be interesting and that the two degrees would look good to an employer,” he said.

Combined degrees can provide an art student with the skills to manage a business or a scientist the ability to write a highly literate essay. Music student, Ricky Walla, is combining his Bachelor of Music with a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in German. Ricky, who has played violin since he was five, will use his combined skills when he goes on a student exchange to Germany next year.

“For an Australian musician to be respected, they must first go overseas,” he said. “Most people go to England or America but I’ll be going to Germany.”

In terms of appeal to employers and value for money, combined degrees offer top students an undeniable edge. At the University of Newcastle, the possible combinations of study are only limited by the ability to work out the timetable.
Governments responsible for health

The prime job of governments is to guard people’s health, not the economy, a former head of Harvard School of Public Health told an audience at the University in October. Emeritus Professor John Cairns, who was delivering the inaugural John Irvine Hunter Memorial Lecture, said that the function of having a healthy economy was to look after people.

Professor Cairns, renowned for his work in the fields of genetics, cancer, virology, molecular biology and public health, was speaking on the importance of public health interventions throughout history. One of the first manifestations of the disintegration of the Soviet Union, for instance, had been changes in life expectancy and infant mortality. “The message is that we are in the hands of our government and they really should do the right thing by us,” Professor Cairns said.

Increased affluence in a society did not necessarily lead to improved health outcomes. The more doctors a country has, for instance, the higher the infant mortality rate. “This figure, which came from the great epidemiologist Archie Cochrane...is part of the message that governments should remember that their job is to look after the people," he said. “If a government is not primarily interested in the welfare of people but in the economy, and it lets doctors and nurses and hospitals proliferate to the point the market will take, that is the basis for this effect.”

Costa Rica, the poorest country in central America, showed that the correlation between affluence and the control of untimely death wasn’t necessarily straightforward. “In the 1920’s, the country...got rid of their army. They were able thereby to concentrate on looking after the very poor population and as a result, the life expectancy in Costa Rica is just about the same as in the United States.”

Professor Cairns delivered his lecture, entitled Public Health and the War against Untimely Death, at the conclusion of a two day workshop organised by the University’s Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, in association with the Newcastle Institute of Public Health. The Molecular Epidemiology in Relation to Cancer workshop was held to explore new research areas made possible by the molecular biology revolution.

The John Irvine Hunter Memorial Lecture honours Dr John Hunter, one of the three John Hunters from whom the region’s major hospital takes its name. His visionary work led him to become a professor of anatomy at the age of 25, before his untimely death at 27. Medical education today still draws from his work. The memorial lecture, to be delivered every two years, has been funded by a $100,000 donation by John Hunter’s son, retired pathologist Dr Irvine Hunter.

Dr Hunter didn’t ever meet his father, who died before he was born. He said the lectures were a suitable means of remembering him. “They epitomise what he was striving for, excellence in education and research.”

Brainpower on display at student exhibition

A new EEG telemetry system that eliminates many of the usual wires and equipment was one of the highlights of a project exhibition by final year Engineering students last month.

The EEG system was built by Peter De Lore, a Computer Engineering student and employee of the John Hunter Hospital’s Biomedical Engineering Unit. It uses a radio link to transmit data from sensors on a patient’s head to remote monitoring equipment. Current systems use a nest of wires to transmit the data.

Peter demonstrated the machine by operating a computer with his brainwaves.

He built the system because of the ever present need to make hospital patients as comfortable as possible.

“This system allows us to move the monitoring system away from the patients’ bedside,” he said.

“It can often be an unnerving experience to be surrounded by medical equipment when you are sick in hospital. There are similar machines in the United States and the technology is fairly widespread, but this sort of EEG equipment wasn’t available in Australia.

“Given that there was an obvious need I used the knowledge I gained from my Engineering course to build the machine, with assistance from the University and funding from the Biomedical Engineering Unit at John Hunter.”

The exhibition featured a number of innovative projects including a security system which runs through an existing PC network, a robot designed to fetch a ball, and a solar powered vehicle.
I wouldn’t ever have expected it

Brian English didn’t ever form an ambition to be a Deputy Vice-Chancellor. He simply did what he had done several times before in his working life - stepped in to act in a position that became vacant suddenly. Yet it is his lack of a planned career path that he believes gives him an independent approach.

“It never crossed my mind that I’d end up in senior roles. Each one of them just came to me. However, it makes you very free. I have never been in a position where I felt compromises by fear of losing a title or a perk like a company car. I have always felt free to act responsibly.”

Brian’s first ambition was to leave the small town in Wiradjuri country, on the south-west slopes of NSW, where his family on both sides had been known for four generations. “Everyone knew everything about you. I was desperate to get away. I left school every year from the time I was 14 but kept coming back.” Eventually he made it and after various diversions including working as a beekeeper and spending a couple of years as a Trappist monk, he went to Sydney to work as a parole officer in the Department of Prisons and to study part-time at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). He majored in sociology, social work and industrial relations.

On graduation, Brian joined the UNSW’s Family Research Unit in 1972 as a research officer and part-time PhD student. It was then that he got his first unexpected career change by stepping into a vacated position. “On the sudden death of the Unit Director, I was asked to take over and stayed in that position for several years. “Set up to research why marriages and families were “breaking up” in Australia, the Unit broadened its scope under Brian’s leadership and convinced the Australian Bureau of Statistics to undertake the field work for national studies to research a broader range of demographic and social phenomena related to families. “Our unit also changed the whole nature of the 1976 census in Australia and those that have followed. So it had a big influence.”

The Family Research Unit closed in 1982 when the Institute of Family Studies was established in Melbourne under the Family Law Act. But the experience Brian gained working on nationally significant projects had a big influence on him.

“Working with a broad range of people to get major projects up and running made me determined to do things well. It is no use running a project, offering a course or working for a University that you don’t think can be the best.”

He brought this enthusiasm to Newcastle in 1990 when he was appointed to the Foundation Chair in Social Work. “To come as the Foundation Professor, with the freedom to select a team and create the courses, was a fantastic opportunity. Then with Lois Blyson, who became the Foundation Dean, and others, we established the Faculty of Social Science.” Another unplanned move came soon after when he took over from Lois as Acting Dean and then as Dean. He has also been President of the Academic Senate (1994-7) and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

After acting as Deputy Vice-Chancellor from August, Brian was the successful candidate for the position in November, 1997. He believes that professional organisations like universities, health systems or legal practices are primarily about encouraging and supporting the talents of the people working in them. “Respecting and appreciating people, helping them to develop their talents and supporting teams to work together have always been important to me and that happens to be in accord with many of the latest themes in management theory. It also helps to have a broader perspective, to place yourself outside of the change occurring within an organisation and see the demographic, political, cultural and social context of that change.”

As a result of the challenges presented by dwindling government funding for education, Brian thinks universities are more aware and have more control over their direction than they’ve previously experienced.

“We have had limits to growth in the past three years and that presents a serious challenge to the old assumptions about funding and about ways to approach new developments. The University is addressing these issues in its strategic plans. Within the constraints of limited growth, we are re-emphasising research and research training, maintaining a diverse range of undergraduate and postgraduate awards and our commitment to no undergraduate fees. We have also emphasised the value we place upon our staff and our students, upon devolving responsibility to Faculties, upon partnerships within and beyond the region and to achieving internationally recognised and relevant programs. There is no reason why staff in the University of Newcastle can’t be world leaders in research and education.”

But above all, Brian believes in the value of education, to individuals and to society. “Education provides knowledge and skills. It makes us reflective about values and goals, it increases tolerance in people and in society and it enriches culture.”
Warrior symbolises future links

Ancient civilisations and modern partnerships in teaching and research come together in the form of a replica terracotta Chinese warrior recently installed in the grounds of the University.

A gift from Xi'an Jiaotong University of the People's Republic of China, the figure is a symbol of commitment and cooperation between the two organisations. It is a replica of one of the 7000 life-sized terracotta warriors so far unearthed in the tomb of Qin Shihuangdi, the first emperor of China. The tomb's existence was unknown outside China prior to 1974 and is now a major attraction for visitors to the country.

"It's interesting to note that the warriors were created over 2000 years ago by the emperor Qin Shihuangdi who, history records, attempted to limit learning and often punished scholars," Vice Chancellor, Professor Roger Holmes, said.

"Qin Shihuangdi is better known in history, however, as the creator and first emperor of China."

The gift of a warrior has now become a symbol of the strong links between the People's Republic of China and other societies.

"In this particular case it is a symbol of the commitment to cooperation between Xi'an Jiaotong University and the University of Newcastle for the enhancement of research and learning through collaborative endeavour and cultural exchange," Professor Holmes said.

Mr Wu Keming, Consul-General of the People's Republic of China officially installed the replica in the grounds on October 28.

"The warrior will stand close to the Language Centre and will be a daily reminder to all of the close links that now exist between the two universities, and the growing relationship between Australia and the People's Republic of China," Professor Holmes said.

The Vice-Chancellor and Mr Wu Keming with the terracotta warrior at the presentation ceremony.

Warrior represents 'antipathetic' values

Several universities had refused gifts of replica terracotta warriors or not displayed them prominently in protest at the values that the terracotta army represents, retiring history scholar, Henry Chan, said.

"The terracotta army was created to guard the tomb of the first emperor of China, Qin Shihuangdi, who unified China in 221 BC and reigned until he died in 210 BCE," Henry explained. "Unfortunately, he is regarded by Chinese historians and scholars as one of the very worst tyrants in Chinese history, who is credited with the burning of books in 213 BCE and the burying alive of Confucian scholars in 212 BCE."

The memory of Qin Shihuangdi was revived in China by Chairman Mao during the Cultural Revolution in 1974, and the discovery of the army guarding his tomb was revealed to the world, Henry said. "Mao did not have a very high opinion of intellectuals and scholars.

"The warriors represent values very antipathetic to those that are cherished and upheld by universities."
New professor imagines republics

Professor Lyndall Ryan, Foundation Professor of Australian Studies, traversed the issues of the debate about an Australian republic when she delivered her inaugural lecture at the Central Coast Campus last month.

Professor Ryan, who took up her Chair in September, has had a distinguished academic career. The daughter of pioneer feminist Edna Ryan, who died last year, she is writing a biography of her mother.

"She was a persistent campaigner for the equal status of women," Lyndall said. "Her great work was the introduction of a minimum wage for women in 1974. I am very proud of her achievements."

Lyndall trained initially as a teacher, and taught English and history at Campbelltown High School. She then occupied the position of research assistant to Professor Manning Clark at the Australian National University in Canberra for three years, an assignment she described as "most interesting and instructive."

Later, as a postgraduate student at Macquarie University, she completed her doctoral thesis on the survival of the Tasmanian Aborigines. She was appointed to the Women's Affairs Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet under Prime Ministers Whitlam and Fraser.

"I even had the privilege of taking minutes at cabinet meetings," she recalled.

In the 1980s Professor Ryan pioneered Australian and Women's Studies programs at Griffith University in Brisbane, later becoming Reader in Women's Studies at Flinders University in Adelaide.

Delivering her inaugural lecture, Imagined Republics, Australia in the 21st Century, on November 11, Professor Ryan began by referring to the dismissal of the Whitlam government on that date 23 years before.

"This event was a turning point in the ways we Australians perceived ourselves as citizens in an independent state," she said. "The events of 1975 forced us to begin a journey in search of new possibilities as a nation state."

She went on to consider six kinds of imagined republics since 1975, "the anti-monarchist republic of the late 1970s; the Aboriginal sovereignty republic of the late 1980s; the Keating republic of the early 1990s; the One Nation republic of the mid 1990s; the middle Australia republic of the Constitutional Convention; and my own imagined republic of the 21st century. In presenting these imagined republics I hope to show how our ideas and beliefs about a republic have shifted and changed over the last 23 years."

She described each of these in detail, the anti-monarchist republic arguments published in Geoffrey Dutton's An Australian Republic, Michael Mansell's plan for an Aboriginal Republic in 1987 on the eve of the Bicentenary, Keating's move in 1992 to establish a Republican Advisory Committee, Steve Vizard's republic of middle Australia based on his attendance at the Constitutional Convention this year, and Pauline Hanson's view of the Republic of Australia 2050, published in 1997:

"Australia's new president is Poona Li Hung. Ms Hung, a lesbian, is of multiracial descent, of Indian and Chinese background, part machine - the first cyborg president. Her neuro circuits were produced by a joint Korean-Indian-Chinese research team. In the near future Australasian presidents are likely to be purely synthetic cybernetic systems."

Lastly Professor Ryan described her own imagined republic for the 21st century, considering the role of the president, the parliament, the republic as a product of middle Australia, Australia as a republic in Asia, and Australia as a young republic.

"I strongly support a republic for Australia and endorse the present process," she said.

"One underlying reason is the fact that the monarch is likely to call the Governor-General before long to announce that she/he no longer wishes to remain as head of state of Australia, and I believe it would be better for all of us if we chose to leave first. We need our imaginings more now than ever. It is vital that we do not leave the field to Pauline Hanson."

Copies of Professor Ryan's lecture are being printed and may be obtained from the Secretary of the School of Humanities at the Central Coast Campus, Ms Lyn Hunter, on ext 4120.
Industry scholarship scheme launched

An innovative scholarship scheme that will see industry play a part in the education of engineers was officially launched last month by the Chancellor, Ric Charlton.

The scholarship, worth $40,000 over five years, involves 84 weeks of industry attachment as part of the course, including the scholar's fourth year being spent entirely in the sponsor's industry. A total of three scholarships have been awarded for 1998 with scholars selected by both sponsors and the University. Competition was intense for the available positions and criteria went far beyond academic performance. An additional 10 scholarships are available in 1999 in electrical, civil, software, chemical and mechanical engineering.

Dean of the Faculty, Professor Adrian Page, said it is important that engineering education remain innovative and relevant. “We at Newcastle take great pride in the quality of our graduates but as technology and the work place change we need to develop new ways to ensure we remain at the forefront of engineering schools both nationally and internationally. “UNISS has been developed to meet this challenge and by involving industry partners we will be able to improve the quality of our courses for all students, not just those involved in the program.”

Professor Page paid tribute to the work of Dr Ian Webster in developing the program from concept to its launch. “I know that Ian has worked tirelessly on this project and it is in no small part due to his vision and above all his enthusiasm that the Faculty is able to offer this modern and creative program,” he said.

The launch, held on October 30, was hosted by Energy Australia, who are assisting in the electrical engineering program and were one of the first sponsors to take up UNISS. Other foundation UNISS sponsors include Transform Composites (mechanical), TYP Consulting (electrical), Sulcal constructions and ABI Group (civil), BHP Research and Technology Development (chemical and software), Tomago Aluminium (chemical) and Pacific Power (electrical and chemical).

The Faculty hopes to expand UNISS in 2000 and will be looking for potential sponsors.

The Vice-Chancellor said the award provided "an excellent tribute to innovation and achievement through collaboration".

"We are particularly proud of this program. The result has been a win for all parties involved. In particular I’d like to congratulate Sandra Sirasch of the Faculty of Education who has managed the project."

The program was an outstanding example of how the education system and the private sector could marry their skills and knowledge to not only adjust to change but to initiate it, he said.
When art collector and pilot Helen Read was a child, she asked her Australian mother about a souvenir boomerang on display in her home in Somerset, England. After listening to her mother’s stories about Aboriginal people and Australia she resolved straight away to live and work with Aboriginal people. That resolve carried her on a journey to the Simpson Desert - the first of many journeys into Aboriginal Australia.

It was while working as a nursing sister and pilot for the Pintupi people in the mid-1980s that Helen first saw the beautiful artworks being produced by Aboriginal people. Captivated by the idea of introducing others to the art and culture of Aboriginal Australia, Helen formed Didgeri Air Art Tours in 1987. Based in Darwin, she flies groups to art producing communities in Arnhem Land, the Tiwi Islands, Kimberley and the Western Deserts.
Over the years, she has amassed a splendid personal collection of artworks. A chance meeting with Pauline Guthrie, Curator of Tin Sheds Gallery in Sydney, resulted in a travelling exhibition of some of Helen's collection, *A Thousand Journeys*, which is being shown in the Faculty of Art and Design Gallery.

Opening the exhibition, Helen said the purpose of *A Thousand Journeys* is to help highlight the indigenous cultural diversity and strength in north-west Australia. "These works are chosen from my heart - for their power, beauty, education and sometimes for their added sentimental value."

The exhibition, which closes on December 13, will tour regional galleries in NSW and Victoria until December 1999.
Books

Australian first in education of vision impaired

The first Australian reference book on the education of children with vision impairments was launched at the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children on October 22. With very little literature available in Australia addressing this area of special education, the new textbook, Towards Excellence: Effective Education for Students with Vision Impairment, will fill a wide gap and will greatly augment professional resources that are available internationally.

The text was produced at Renwick College, the Centre for Professional Training and Research operated by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children in affiliation with the University. Co-editors of the book, Gillian Gale and Pat Kelley, said they hoped it would become the seminal text for this area of special education because it comprehensively covers a wide range of subjects and issues. It is intended primarily for student teachers but will be of great value to those who live and work with vision impaired children, including families and health and education professionals.

Senior lecturer in Special Education at Renwick College (and the Faculty of Education), Mike Steer, said the book covers such areas as accessing the school curriculum, optics, communication, living skills, the special needs of vision impaired children and technology available to assist them with their education.

"Towards Excellence represents a launching pad towards greater understanding about contemporary theory, facts, ideas, techniques and practice related to the education of students with vision impairments."

Students excel at University Games

A team of University athletes performed with distinction at the 1998 Australian University Games held in Melbourne recently, bringing home gold, silver and bronze medals in various sports.

A team of 128 students competed in 13 different sports against 49 other Australian university campuses and three New Zealand universities at the games. The largest multi-sport event held in Australia, the games were supported by the Victorian Government through the provision of $90,000 in sponsorship. They were opened by the Victorian Premier, Jeff Kennett and are thought to have injected over $4 million into the Victorian economy.

Fifty two Newcastle competitors made it to finals and several individual athletes were selected in Australian Universities Green and Gold Merit Teams. Gold medal winners were: Christie Newton (javelin), Knut Isaksen (judo), Bill Watt (Kendo) and Martin Kelly, who won the over 100 kg judo category as well as being named Champion of Champions.

A useful tool for small business

A workbook for advertising students developed by a lecturer with the Faculty of Economics and Commerce could be useful for small business owners looking for practical ways to develop their businesses and make the most of limited advertising budgets.

"How to Prepare a Promotional Plan has been written by David Waller, a Lecturer in Marketing, who has taught advertising and promotion management at the Callaghan and Central Coast campuses since 1991.

"I noticed there was a gap between the theory being taught in the textbooks and the reality of planning an advertising campaign," David explained.

His solution – a workbook which gives practical advice on how to write a promotional plan. Publishers Irwin/McGraw-Hill Australia agreed to publish the book, which is now being used at a number of universities and TAFE colleges in Australia and New Zealand.

David believes the book has greater scope, particularly as a tool for small business owners.

"Many businesses advertise but they don't know whether the advertising works. It’s very important to be as effective and efficient as possible in communicating your message in the marketplace."

"This book is a useful, easy-to-follow tool which people can use when planning, implementing and evaluating that message. Most importantly, it shows you how to make the most of a limited promotional budget," he said.

A feature of the book is a collection of short quotes from people in the industry, many of whom are from Newcastle. Among the more notable names are John Church and fellow lecturer Phillip Morgan. Former students who now work in the advertising industry are also quoted. The publishing company plans to market the book overseas next year.
Setting a blistering pace

An exhibition of the work of final year architecture students was held at Elder's Wool Store in Wickham last month. Featuring a wide variety of works compiled over 12 months, the exhibition featured a number of different architectural styles and concepts.

Head of the Department of Architecture, A/Professor Rob Cowdroy, said the projects on display provided vehicles for the students to demonstrate their mastery of the whole of their course.

“The final year project tests model building and drawing skills, planning abilities and skills in dealing with real clients and presenting their work at the end,” Rob said. “The best of them have a major second agenda that allows the examiner to see that the student can handle a multiple agenda.”

One of the projects on display that demonstrated a social agenda, for instance, was plans for an Aboriginal housing development in Redfern, in inner Sydney, which was formulated in cooperation with the local Aboriginal community. Other projects included plans for a highly controversial extension to the Contemporary Art Museum in Sydney’s Rocks area and a series of projects for a development site in Singapore.

Stephen Mackay Gray, pictured with his work at the exhibition, planned a Sydney Institute of Literary Art to be constructed adjacent to the University of Technology and the Sydney University faculties of art and law in the Haymarket. “The project ties in with the existing cultural and education zone, with the centre designed to promote literature and the work of Australian writers.”

Stephen, whose second passion is for literature, said it was important that students choose a theme for their full-year project that won't bore them. “You create your own problem and then solve it but you have to find a working client who helps create your brief.” Stephen hopes to work for an architectural firm in Newcastle.

The exhibition was also shown at the Australian Technology Park in Sydney on November 13, where it attracted attention from other architecture students and academics as well as providing a market for student employment. “Newcastle sets a blistering pace for the other schools,” Rob Cowdroy said. “There is always keen interest in what our students are doing.”

Breakthrough in asthma diagnosis

More than two million Australians are affected by asthma, making it the nation's most widespread chronic health problem. A study by a Newcastle PhD student could lead to more effective diagnosis and treatment of people with asthma and chronic cough.

Dr Peter Wark, with the support of Dr Peter Gibson and the Airways Research Group in the Department of Medicine at John Hunter Hospital, has discovered that induced sputum (which measures white blood cells in the airways) is a more effective means of measuring airway inflammation than the more traditional breathing test. “Doing breathing tests alone do not reveal if a person's airways are still inflamed despite treatment. Some people have the classic asthma symptoms of cough, wheeze and breathlessness even though their airways aren't inflamed,” he explained.

Determining whether a person's airways are inflamed, or knowing the degree of inflammation, could be important when deciding the most effective treatment. This is particularly relevant when prescribing the newest forms of asthma treatments, such as Flixotide, Serevent, Foradile and Singulair. Until now it has been unclear as to what medication to choose and when to start it.

“Before this study, the usefulness of induced sputum analysis in a clinical setting had not been determined. Our research now shows that it may be a useful guide to therapy,” Peter said.

He delivered the results of his study to the Asia Pacific Society of Respirologists in October. In addition to these findings, Peter is studying allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis, a fungal complication of asthma that leads to permanent lung damage. He is trying to secure research funding to investigate the effectiveness of the antifungal antibiotic, Itraconazole, in controlling the problem.
Vigilance needed in recycling effort

Australia consumed around 3.37 million tonnes of paper in the 1994/5 financial year or around 40 million trees. We currently recycle over 1.4 million tonnes of paper, with each tonne estimated to save 0.3 cubic metres of landfill space, 30,000 litres of water and 4,100 kilowatt hours of electricity.

The University uses almost 120 tonnes of paper each year or more than 1,500 average sized trees. A waste audit of the Callaghan campus conducted this year indicated that 85 percent of paper suitable for recycling is being collected.

Physical Planning and Estates (PPE) Environmental Project Officer, Leanne Gardiner, says this is a good result but leaves room for improvement, with over 20 tonnes of recyclable paper dispatched to landfill this year. Leanne is also concerned about an increase in the amount of inappropriate material being found in the paper collected for recycling.

“Most of the material is plastic wrap, tissues, handtowels, napkins and lolly wrappers but there are also some hazardous items like broken glass and food scraps creeping into the bins.

“These materials have to be removed by hand and we are concerned that the mounting cost of labour makes recycling less viable.”

Leanne believes that familiarity with the blue recycling bins has led people to become complacent about using them and allowed contaminants to creep in. She asks that staff remain vigilant about what makes its way into the distinctive blue paper recycling bins. If you need additional deskeid bins or a larger 73 litre bin for your photocopying room, contact Leanne on ext 7328.

Let them eat waste

Another project initiated this year is diverting virtually all of the food waste generated by Union outlets and residential colleges at the Callaghan campus away from landfill. From humble beginnings with the purchase of two standard worm beds, Mim Woodland of PPE has established a system of worm farms in the landscaped area to the west of the Forum sports centre.

Bachelor of Environmental Science student, Kristy Ashendon, cared for the worms in the standard beds in a specialist study undertaken as part of her final year major in Environmental Management. The findings from her study showed that worm farming (vermiculture) was an effective means of minimising waste on campus and led to the decision to expand the operation.

“Watching Kristy working with the worms, I thought it was very labour intensive and wondered if there might be an easier way to go about it,” Mim said. “I visited Lake Macquarie Council and saw them using a travelling wall that I thought would work so we modified the design to allow us to use a Bobcat instead of shovels.”

Ten travelling worm walls and two “winrow” beds were added to the standard beds in August and have been tended by ‘Work for the Dole’ teams. As well as recycling food waste, the worm castings provide a rich organic fertiliser for use in the grounds.

Mim is hoping to enlist some volunteers among the staff to retrieve food scraps from office buildings across the campus. “Most of the material is plastic wrap, tissues, handtowels, napkins and lolly wrappers but there are also some hazardous items like broken glass and food scraps creeping into the bins.

“These materials have to be removed by hand and we are concerned that the mounting cost of labour makes recycling less viable.”

Leanne believes that familiarity with the blue recycling bins has led people to become complacent about using them and allowed contaminants to creep in. She asks that staff remain vigilant about what makes its way into the distinctive blue paper recycling bins. If you need additional deskside bins or a larger 73 litre bin for your photocopying room, contact Leanne on ext 7328.

Sustainable solutions recognised

The worm farm project recently won a Newcastle Council Environmental Achievement Award. The awards acknowledge organisations that seek environmental sustainability in their activities. The project won the ‘Waste Management Category’. The University also won the ‘Resource Conservation Category’ for the Environmental Education on the new Nursing Building. The overall winner was the ‘Private and Public Enviornment Division’. The overall winner acknowledges the University’s work, site enhanced landscaping, and conservation in new buildings.
Participants in the cultural education symposium, held in the Faculty of Art and Design Gallery

Knowledge...Our Way

Copyright issues involving contemporary Aboriginal art was one of the topics discussed at a day-long symposium on Aboriginal culture involving representatives from all areas of education.

The Department of Aboriginal Studies held the Symposium of Cultural Education, "Knowledge...Our Way", on November 23 as an opportunity for participants to look through the educational window of Aboriginal art and culture.

The organisers hoped that by bringing together people from different areas of education – high schools, TAFE, the community and the University – they could develop a cohesive approach to teaching, and understand the influence Aboriginal culture has on learning. Their expectations were exceeded with workshop participants proving that even though they teach and learn in different educational spheres, cultural education is evident. Everyone is benefiting from cultural education. As people become more culturally aware themselves, it's allowing them to provide a better understanding of cultural difference and tolerance toward diversity.

Heather Zeppell and Delvene Parkin from the Department of Leisure and Tourism Studies delivered the keynote address at the symposium when guest speaker Chris Bonney, project office for the National Indigenous Arts Advocacy, had to cancel.

Organisers felt that the day presented a great understanding of the influence cultural education has on teaching and learning, and showed that interaction between people can only broaden the understanding of education.

Australia’s first information package that asks Aboriginal people to identify the cultural issues which need to be considered when delivering health services to specific communities was launched at the University last month.

“Healing...Our Way: Aboriginal Perspectives on Aboriginal Health” has been developed by the Discipline of Aboriginal Health Studies of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

“Aboriginal culture is very sophisticated, and can have a strong influence in how health care should be delivered,” explained Discipline Head of Aboriginal Health Studies, Ms Gail Garvey. “The package we have developed is designed to give medical students and health care professionals an idea of the cultural issues of a particular community, as well as details of existing health services, and general information on the area.”

The package, which took two years to develop, was funded by a $200,000 grant from the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA), through the National Priority Reserve Fund. Using an interactive CD-Rom, “Healing...Our Way” provides a snapshot of four communities – Broome in Western Australia, Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory and Newcastle and Kempsey in New South Wales.

Those four communities were selected because of their diversity, and their Aboriginal Medical Services. It is hoped that with further funding, other communities can be added to the package.

“We have spent considerable time discussing issues with the local communities – both when gathering information and as we were putting the package together - to ensure it correctly reflected their views,” explained Research Officer John Shipp.

He said the multimedia package has several benefits, not only for medical students and health professionals, but also for the communities.

“The communities themselves have spoken about how difficult it is to get doctors, or particular health services. They hope that by providing information on their area in this way they will encourage people to practice there,” he said.

Attending the launch, which was held in the Faculty of Art and Design Gallery on November 12, was Mr Ray Kelly of the Awabakal Health Service (Newcastle) and Mr Steve Blunden of the Durrie Medical Service (Kempsey). Mr Craig Ritchie, Program Coordinator of Awabakal Medical Service, executive member of Aboriginal Health Resource Centre (AHRC) and Board member of Hunter Health launched the package.
The value of volunteers

The value of volunteers at the University is regularly acknowledged - without them, many programs such as the Family Action Centre’s HomeLink and Home-Start programs simply wouldn’t exist.

On November 24 their contribution was formally recognised at the External Relations Division’s Volunteer Luncheon and Volunteer of the Year Award. Held for the volunteers of the Family Action Centre, International Students’ Care Program, International Office and 2NUR-FM, the day included special guests Hazel Hawke and Dr John Irvine.

Vice Chancellor Professor Roger Holmes announced Lillian Morgan from Maitland Home-Start as the ‘Volunteer of the Year’, her name drawn out of a basket.

“The Volunteer of the Year is selected this way because it would be too hard to distinguish one particular volunteer who should receive the honour...they all do an equally great job,” explained Di James, Director of the Family Action Centre.

The 35 graduates of the HomeLink and Home-Start training programs received certificates and congratulations from the Patron of the HomeLink program, Hazel Hawke.

Following some touching and entertaining accounts from volunteers of the work they do, Dr John Irvine offered valuable advice on the importance of people remembering to take care of themselves while they are caring for others - still getting the message across as he kept the audience roaring with laughter.

Entertainment by the extremely talented Broadmeadow School Concert Band helped make the afternoon highly memorable for the 250 guests.

‘It’s just a small way we can show our volunteers that we appreciate what they do. One afternoon of entertainment, though, can’t equate with the many hours they give to the various community programs run by External Relations,” Ms James said.

Is anyone listening?

Despite concerted campaigns by the Australian Vice Chancellor’s Committee (AVCC) and National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) to bring increased funding and support for higher education, there is still a feeling that, at federal political level, nobody is listening, and the higher education policy vacuum goes on.

In his talk titled ‘Rapid Change in Higher Education’ Professor Harold Pomeroy highlighted the fact that the Australian government does not have an easily defined policy in this sphere, and that governments around the world are also grappling with similar policy issues.

In adjusting to these changes Professor Couldrake said it is important that staff are informed and play an active part in planning for the future. He was critical that university spending on staff and investment in postgraduate education, problem based learning and information technology. The six member team were gathering experiences from Australian universities to inform an extensive review of policies and infrastructure being undertaken at MSU.

Swedish visitors take advantage of successful solutions

A contingent of visitors from the Mid Sweden University (MSU) recently visited the Faculty of Nursing to look at successful solutions to a range of education issues. The visitors, from the Division of Health Sciences and Social Work at MSU, met with several panels of staff from nursing to discuss issues including flexible delivery modes, research policy concerning postgraduate education, problem based learning and information technology. The six member team were gathering experiences from Australian universities to inform an extensive review of policies and infrastructure being undertaken at MSU.
Postgraduate study room opened

The Vice-Chancellor last month opened the Postgraduate Study Room in the Auchmuty Library. Adjacent to the Flowers Reading Room, the new room has four computers providing a full range of services including internet access. It demonstrates the commitment of the Information and Education Services Division (IESD) to supporting postgraduates.

A display focusing on the University's first doctoral candidate, William Coleboume, coincided with the opening. Dr Coleboume presented his dissertation, a linguistic analysis of Hermas' The Shepherd, to the Department of Classics in 1965 and was awarded his PhD the following year.

Dr Coleboume taught classics at Maitland Boys High before joining the staff of St John's College, Morpeth in 1948, where he lectured for 30 years. Following his death earlier this year, his collection of books on classical languages and the scriptures was donated to the University. It is housed in Archives and Special Collections, where it complements other collections from St John's College, including a magnificent theological library donated by the first Anglican Bishop of Newcastle, William Tyrrell. The Archives of the College, comprising administrative and academic papers, are also stored there.

Researchers can consult any of these collections by visiting Archives and Special Collections or at the website, www.library.newcastle.edu.au/archives/archives.html

IESD Information Resources Program Manager, Greg Anderson, said that a fee of $40 would provide registration to a host library. In support of Newcastle students, however, IESD will pay $30 towards this fee, reducing the cost to $10 per institution. IESD will pay the fee in full for postgraduate and external students. Reciprocal borrowing rights between the institutions are free for staff.

From Semester 1 next year, students can register by completing an application form on the library homepage or from the Loans Enquiries desks. Applications must be completed and fees paid before using another library. Host libraries won't accept phone or fax verifications.

Contact Loans Enquiries Desk staff:
Auchmuty ext 5850
ulaed@dewey.newcastle.edu.au
Huxley ext 6692
ulmag@dewey.newcastle.edu.au
Central Coast ext 4020
ulmar@dewey.newcastle.edu.au
Music ext 8880
libmus@dewey.newcastle.edu.au

Year 2000 problems is being established by IESD. Ph: ext 5847,
email:Y2000@newcastle.edu.au
Semester break hours - libraries and student computing services
Auchmuty Library
8.30am - 5.00pm
Huxley
9.00am - 5.00pm
Conservatorium
9.00am - 5.00pm
From December 7 - February 5
Summer School services will be provided:
Auchmuty
Monday and Tuesday
8.30am - 8.00pm
Huxley
Monday and Tuesday
9.00am - 8.00pm
All libraries will be closed from Thursday, December 24 to Monday, January 4. During semester break, student computer laboratories and service points will operate from 9am to 5pm. No weekend services will be available. These services will also be closed from noon, December 24, reopening January 4.
FOR SALE

Yacht - Fibreglass, 26 ft with roomy 9 ft beam providing double V berth plus 2 single berths. As new Yanmar 8 hp diesel. 12 v lighting with solar cell and two batteries. VHF Seaphone plus stereo. Galley with pressure water, two burner stove, enclosed toilet. Heaps of sail and gear. Solid and stable boat providing reliable cruising or club racing. $15,950. Phone/Email for no obligation trial sail. Ext 5907 (W) 49 635152 (H) edpjm@cc.newcastle.edu.au

Girls bike 16” with detachable training wheels. Good condition. $50.00

Three seater lounge with two chairs and foot stools in golden oak pine with green tartan covered seating and back, with matching cushions. This is a very solid lounge suite, built to last forever. It is only two years old and well worth the asking price of $1,500 (ft cost over $2000 - new). Ring Anne on ext 6444 or a/h 4975 2139.

Bed - black steel frame, queen size bed - near new - $350.00ono, ext 8845 or 0411 588228.

Above ground driclad ambassador pool - 4.5m x 3m x 1.1m. Fully dismantled, includes all fittings/pump and filter - $400. Also white pool fencing and gate - $300. Grey upright computer stand - $75.

Glen ext 5276 bugla@admin.newcastle.edu.au

K2 Three side cut skis 178cms - one season old - with Salomon 850S bindings - ideal skis to increase skiing level quickly - $350 - willing to sell for the price of the bindings. Ski boots Salomon ProForma Size 8 (42) moccasins (black) and skisuit - Bollé Blue Mens Sized Large (fits 34-36” waist) - open to offers. Skipants - Bollé Black Sided Large (fits 34-36” waist) - worn twice - $50. Snowboard boots - K2 Sherpa for Clicker bindings - size 8 - one season old (6 days boarding) - new $299 will sell for $150.00

Paul Munro, ext 5278, email buprm@admin.newcastle.edu.au

FOR RENT

Urgent - Three bedroom house available, Warners Bay, while staff member on leave, Jan - June 1999, fully furnished. Rent negotiable. Contact Alison Ferguson, ext 5716 or 4947 2424.

Ultra modern one and two bedroom apartments available for short or longer term accommodation. These apartments are fully furnished including linen, cutlery, etc. Centrally located in Newcastle on bus route to University. Please contact Dianne Priefke ext 7072

Meredewther, Walking distance to beach, schools and the Junction. Cavity brick and Tile 3 bedroom 2 bathrooms, formal lounge and dining rooms plus large family room, double garage plus workshop, yard. $349,500 Ph 49 635623 (H) or ext 6458

Give Blood and Save Lives

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service is pleased to advise of a transport service to convey groups of three to 11 people to our Newcastle Centre and Donornetiles sites to donate and return. This courtesy vehicle will operate as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 7.30 am to 3pm.

Blood donors will be able to help boost much needed blood supplies by attending. By doing so, they will be providing blood needed for many purposes, including cardiac surgery, haemorrhage in child birth, cancer patients, haemophiliacs and other cases where people have suffered severe blood loss.

If you would like to organise a group to attend the Blood Bank, please call our Public Relations Department on 4923 6745 and we will be happy to make the necessary arrangements.

Building name change

Please note that Lecture Theatre E (E01) has been renamed Science Theatre to enable easier identification and avoid confusion. The building code has also been changed to STH and the actual room number.

For the theatre will be STH01. All University campus plans, maps and signage are being updated by Physical Planning and Estates to reflect the changes. Please advise all members of staff and any visitors to the campus.

Sandra Jones
Senior Facilities Officer (Space Management)
Physical Planning & Estates

Vacation Care

Vacation care will run from January 18-22, 1999. Your child can join the fun making a chicken wire dinosaur, cylinder puppets, a kaleidoscope and a monster puppet. Other activities include a handball competition, volleyball, tennis and marbles. Full and half day care is available and bookings sessions will be held in the Atrium Room of the Chancellery from 12.30 - 1.30pm on Thursday, December 3 and from 12.00 - 1.00pm on Tuesday, December 15 or contact Kerrie Japp, ext 6547, fax 5285/5288, email knatters@uninews.com.au. Fees will remain at $15 per child per day and an annual booking fee of $5 will cover you for the year. Payment in advance will ensure your child's place.
The Special Education Centre has some places available in 1999 for children aged around 4 years in its integrated preschool program. The program operates 9am-3pm on Mondays and Tuesdays. Children with and without a disability are enrolled on a 50:50 basis. The advantage to the children with a disability is the opportunity to model normal language and social skills. The advantage to the children without a disability is individualised attention (two teachers and an aide for 14-16 children), a well-planned program, and the opportunity to gain an understanding of children who learn a bit more slowly. Fee is $15 per day. Enquiries: Anne Porter, ext 6265

Physics students heading overseas

Two Newcastle postgraduate students are heading overseas to take up important posts at internationally renowned Universities.

Gareth Williams has accepted a postdoctoral position at Pennsylvania State University in the United States and Ronny van Moere has accepted a scholarship to the University of Twente in the Netherlands.

Ronny’s scholarship is particularly notable because the standard of his work has been so high, he has been offered the scholarship prior to receiving his final grades.

Ronny has been working in the area of surface Physics and last month his work on the surface structure of stainless steel was presented at the Australian Institute of Physics Congress.

He also has the distinction of being the first student to use the University’s new Scanning Tunnelling Microscope. At the University of Twente, he will be working under the guidance of Professor Bene Poelsema who is internationally renowned for his work in surface physics.

Ronny completed his Bachelor of Science at Avondale College then transferred to Newcastle for his honours year after ‘experiencing’ the Department during one of his third year subjects.

Gareth Williams is also waiting for his final results, but is set to join Professor Barbara Garrison at Penn’ State in the next few weeks.

Gareth who is from the Hunter, completed his Bachelors’ degree at ANU before returning to Newcastle to do his PhD. His project has involved a combination of computer simulation and experiments with one of the most powerful lasers in Australia.

Earlier this year he presented a paper on his work at an international conference in Japan, and was well received.

Printers and photographers chosen

Following a tender process undertaken by Marketing and Media Services (M&MS), the following printers and photographers have been selected to undertake University work for 1999:

Printers
Lloyd Scott
Newcastle Camera Print (NCP)
Dobson McIwan

Photography
IBSD Media Design, Production & Publications Program
Intervision Photography
Gray Callan Photography

The printers selected in tender have strengths in various types of printing. Production of promotional materials should be discussed with M&MS initially, who can advise staff on the most appropriate supplier for their particular requirements.

For further or more information contact Pam Howanson on ext 5594.

As a general guide to what type of printing might be appropriate to your job, Martin Heagle, Promotional Materials Manager in M&MS, has prepared a brief overview of the two main types of printing:

Offset involves making thin and plates from hard copies (originals) or electrically imprinted plates that can be used more than once.

Advantages:
- the more you print, the cheaper the unit cost becomes
- images or graphics can be run to full page area
- line resolution 2440 dpi
- any colour, quality and type of paper stock can be selected.

Disadvantages:
- more expensive on short runs
- print times generally longer
- some print experience required.

Electronic involves producing a photography directly from an electronic file, postscript-based or from an original via a photopying machine.

Advantages:
- cheaper on low quantity runs
- very fast turnaround
- minimum knowledge of print required.

Disadvantages:
- low to medium quality finish
- longer print runs don’t show significant savings on unit cost
- images can’t be printed to the edges of standard print area (unless oversized stock used).

*Martin has worked as a designer and art director at some of the leading advertising agencies in Europe.
Students stamp their mark on Australia Post

Six University design students will be included in Australia Post's pool of designers, to help create Australia's stamps.

The students created a number of stamp designs as part of their second year coursework in Graphic Design.

"When Australia Post commissions a new stamp, they call on a pool of designers to submit work in the style they are looking for. "Our students are now part of that pool."

The Head of the Department of Design, Allan Morse is particularly proud that this opportunity has arisen out of the students' coursework.

One of the students, John Atsalos, was awarded the inaugural Visual Communication Postage Stamp Design Award, which has also arisen from the students' success.

Katrina Graham of the Australia Post Stamp Advisory Committee, who judged the award, attended the presentation ceremony last month.

The award of $100, presented by the Dean of Students, Professor Philip Foreman, recognises the high standards the students have achieved.

Artist - Camilla Seamer

Their lecturers, Katie Williams and Cynthia Boyle, were so impressed with the work, they submitted it to Australia Post who were similarly impressed.

"This will give the students an opportunity to undertake professional practice in illustration design," Ms Boyle said.

Artist - John Atsalos

Artist - Timothy Chenery