RESEARCH INTO UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Early in 1969 the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee published a working paper entitled 'The Australian University Student: Admission, Selection and Progress'. This paper attempted to highlight the many complexities involved in the admission, selection, examining and progress of university students in Australia. Following its publication the Committee appointed a Steering Committee on Research and Experiment into Education Matters to advise it on the best way to deal with the problems expounded in the working paper.

During the last two years, the Steering Committee, under the chairmanship of Professor P.H. Partridge of the Australian National University, has identified problems which require investigation, has made proposals to the Vice-Chancellor Committee on how these problems should be tackled and has submitted recommendations for financial assistance to support specific projects related to aspects of undergraduate teaching in the Australian universities.

In accordance with the Steering Committee's recommendations, the Chairman of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (Professor J.J. Auchmuty, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Newcastle) announced the award of grants totalling $23,000 to support the following projects:

A Study of Small Group Teaching Methods (J.A. Powell, University of Papua and New Guinea); Explorations in Small Group Learning (Dr. A.E. Wood, University of New South Wales); Use of Audio-Visual Methods in Physics (Dr. J.R. Hanscomb, University of New South Wales); Research, Development and Evaluation of Audio-Tutorial Teaching Methods in Introductory Mapping and Structural Geology (Dr. K.L. Burns, Macquarie University); The Role of Discussion Groups in the University Teaching (Dr. W.A. Simpkins, University of New England); Development of New Teaching Strategies in Economics (Professor J.W. Neive, University of New South Wales). The reports on these projects would be made available to Vice-Chancellors and University staff.

The Vice-Chancellors feel that perhaps the best way of tackling the problem of failure rates is to improve the effectiveness of teaching and learning in the Universities.

Professor Auchmuty has also announced the appointment of Professor P. Scott, Head of the Department of Geography at the University of Tasmania, as Chairman of the Steering Committee for 1971/72 in succession to Professor Partridge.

In addition, the Committee has appointed Dr. K.H. Star as its Research Information Officer; he will be located in the Tertiary Education Research Centre at the University of New South Wales and will be responsible initially for producing, at regular intervals, a bulletin containing details of work either completed or in progress on research and development in matters relating to university education.
A C A D E M I C A P P O I N T M E N T S

Mr. P. Kavanagh has taken up duties as Lecturer in English. Mr. Kavanagh is a Bachelor of Arts, a Diplomate in Education and a Master of Arts in the University of Sydney. He wrote a thesis on poet Robert Lowell for his M.A. degree. Mr. Kavanagh was attached to the Department of Education from 1964 to 1968 and worked as a Tutor at the University of Queensland in 1969 and 1970.

Mr. D.A. Shortle has joined the University as Lecturer in Education. After taking out a degree of Bachelor of Arts with honours and a Diploma in Education at the University of Sydney, Mr. Shortle worked as a Demonstration Teacher at high schools and as a Demonstrator and Lecturer in Geography at the School of General Studies, The Australian National University.

Mr. F.McL. Sutherland has been appointed Tutor in Geography. Mr. Sutherland graduated in Arts in the University of Otago, New Zealand, in 1966 and is a candidate for admission to the degree of Master of Arts in the same university. He was a Teaching Assistant at the University of Otago in 1970.

A P P O I N T M E N T S S E R V I C E

The giving to students of assistance to find career employment, vacation employment, part-time and casual jobs is now the responsibility of the Appointments Office, which is located in Room U10 of the Temporary Staff Building (the building nearest to Rankin Drive). The telephone extension is 510.

More than 60 students have already registered for casual and part-time jobs, including baby-sitting, typing, waitressing, retailing, lawn mowing, gardening, coaching at High School and University level, car cleaning, bar attending, driving and labouring.

People hearing about employment opportunities in any of the above fields, or in similar fields are requested to inform the Appointments Office. Many students are available for work at very short notice.

During the course of the academic year it is hoped to build up an extended library of career information and opportunities. Visits to the University by some prospective employers will be arranged.


Associate Professor D.B.O. Biggins, of the Department of English, has returned to the University after an absence of 10 months on study leave. Professor Biggins spent his study leave in England, where he was associated with the English Department of University College, London, and carried out research into Chaucer and Shakespeare in the Library of Senate House and in the British Museum. Professor Biggins read a paper at a mediaeval seminar held by London University Society for Research in English. He and his family lived in Blechingley, Surrey.

"D O N ' T R U B B I S H A U S T R A L I A"

The Secretary-Manager of the Union (Mr. W.V. Bridgwater) has made the following appeal:
"Litter and pollution have become a real hazard in community life today and constant publicity on the subject keeps the problem before us all.

"The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines litter as 'a state of untidiness - a disorderly accumulation of papers, etc.'

"At the onset of another University Year, I would suggest that this problem be tackled by students using the many facilities provided for and by them in their own Union Building and that they make every effort to assist the Servicing Staff by the constant use of litter bins provided within the building.

"Who knows? - the assiduous cultivation of this practice here may save you a $5 to $300 fine for litter offences in the cruel world outside."

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING ELECTION

The constitution of the Engineering Undergraduate Studies Committee provides for the appointment of two student members, elected by the Engineering student body, as full members of the Committee. The Engineering Undergraduate Studies Committee was set up by the Faculty Board to make recommendations to the Board on any matters affecting undergraduate studies referred to it by the Board or the Departments of the Faculty.

The term of appointment of the present members terminates on 31st March, 1971.

Nominations of candidates for election are hereby called for the following positions on the Committee:-

(i) One Senior Student being a final year undergraduate (i.e. enrolled in Year IV or in Stages 5 or 6) or a postgraduate student, elected by the final year undergraduates as defined above and the postgraduate students;

(ii) One undergraduate not being a final year student (i.e. an undergraduate enrolled in Years I, II or III, or in Stages 1, 2, 3 or 4), elected by the undergraduate students as defined in this paragraph.

The candidates elected to these positions shall hold office until 31st March, 1972.

Nominations shall be made by two persons eligible to vote in the election for the position concerned; shall be in writing and contain the names of the proposer and the seconder and the written consent of the candidate to his nomination. Nominations must be addressed to -

The Secretary,
The University of Newcastle,
NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY. N.S.W. 2308

and reach him no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, 29th March, 1971.

The names of the candidates for election will be placed on the Departmental notice boards in the Faculty of Engineering on Wednesday, 31st March, 1971.

If a ballot is necessary (i.e. if there is more than one nomination for any vacancy), arrangements will be made for this to be held during the week commencing Monday, 5th April, 1971.
LIBRARY STAFF POSITION NO. N27/71

Applications are invited for appointment within the University Library in the following categories:

**GRADUATE**

Applicants must be adults with the Registration Certificate of the Library Association of Australia, or its equivalent. Cataloguing experience is essential. Commencing salary will be $4,520 p.a. or $4,733 p.a. or within the range $4,913 - $5,634 p.a. depending upon experience.

**NON-GRADUATE**


Interested persons should apply immediately to the Personnel Office.

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**COMING EVENTS**

Orientation of overseas students

Last December the Newcastle Co-ordinating Committee for Overseas Students was formed to co-ordinate and intensify efforts to introduce overseas students into the community life of Newcastle.

The committee is conducting talks and discussions to assist students from overseas who have recently been admitted to the university. The first session of talks were given in the Union on Saturday, 20th March, and the final session will be held on Saturday, 27th March: The programme for both days:

**20th March** - 9.30 a.m., Registration; 10, Welcome and official opening, Mr. P. McLoughlin, Department of Foreign Affairs; 10.10, "Australian Manners and Customs", Dr. D. Keats; 10.40, "Health and Medical Insurance", Mr. R. Ainsworth; 11.40, Film; 12.10 p.m., "The Library and How to use it", Mr. B. Mitchison; 12.40, Lunch; 2.30, Film; 3, "The City its Services and Facilities", Ald. F.J. Purdue; 2.30, Film; 3, "The Student Association", Mr. A. Chia and 3.30, "Credit and Hire Purchase", Mr. P. Crethery.

**27th March** - 9 a.m., Registration; 9.30, "Public Safety and Police Service", Senior Constable Morante; 10.15, "Insurance - Personal and General", Mr. F. Harris; 11.20, Film; 11.50, "Counselling and Guidance", Mrs. A. Furner; 12.20 p.m., "Banking Services", Mr. W. Duff; 1, Lunch; 2, "Surf Life Saving", Mr. C. Conrick; 2.30, "Student Amenities and Facilities at the University", Mr. H. Bradford; 3.10, "Immigration - Policy and Implementation", Mr. G. Kearns; 3.50, Film and 4.15, afternoon tea.

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Annually meeting

The University of Newcastle Tutors/Demonstrators Association will hold its annual general meeting in Room AL59 on Wednesday, 24th March, at 1 p.m. Full and part-time members of the sublecturing staff are invited to attend and raise any issues that require action. New members of staff are especially welcome.
Mathematics Seminar

Dr. J.R. Giles, of the Faculty of Mathematics, will speak on "A Banach Space With Support Homeomorphism Is Reflexive" at a seminar to be held in Room AG24 on Friday, 26th March, at 2 p.m.

Psychological Society meeting

A meeting of Newcastle Branch of the Australian Psychological Society will be held in the Council Room on Friday, 26th March, at 8 p.m. Mr. J. Miles, a postgraduate student within the Department of Psychology, will speak on "The New Look At an Old Format - the Multiple Choice Test Re-examined". Sherry will be available in the Psychology Department from 7.30 p.m.

Art lecture

Newcastle City Art Gallery, The Gallery Society and the University have arranged a public lecture to be given by Dr. Joachim von Moltke, Director of the Kunsthalle, Bielefeld, West Germany, on Tuesday, 30th March at 8 p.m. in the City Art Gallery. Dr. von Moltke will speak on the subject "The Contribution of German Artists to Painting in the Sixties". The lecture will be illustrated with Colour-Slides of significant recent works. Dr. von Moltke is Director of the $3,250,000 Kunsthalle in Bielefeld which has such revolutionary features as a children's room, an auditorium and a cafe. It was designed by American architect Philip Johnson, who has built a total of six art museums.

SPORTING NEWS

Jogathon

The Amenities Office holds entry forms for a Jogathon to be held at Newcastle Athletic Field on 27th March. Mr. H. Bradford will be a starter and it is hoped other people from the university will enter to raise money for sporting and charitable organisations.

Newcastle and Central Coast Amateur Athletic Organisation which is organising the jogathon will receive 50% of the funds raised and joggers will be able to contribute the remaining 50% to either sporting groups they represent or charities they specify. Mr. K. Booth, M.L.A., a member of the University Council, participated in the 1970 jogathon and completed 21 laps.

Rowing

Mr. G. Conway, of the Amenities Office, is recording the names of students who nominate themselves for selection in rowing teams to represent the university in the Inter-varsity rowing championships in Brisbane next May. Mr. Conway said it was proposed to take teams for both 4's and 8's events. A team from the University of Newcastle rowed at Taree recently and had performed very satisfactorily, he said.

Basketball

University Women's Basketball Club is endeavouring to enlarge its membership by joining up Freshers interested in basketball. The Club is looking for players for both International and netball teams.

International rules matches are played at Broadmeadow Stadium on Sundays and Tuesdays at night, while matches in netball are played at National Park on
Saturdays in the afternoon. In addition the Club participates in Inter-varsity competitions (International rules, Monash University, next August; Netball, Adelaide, next May.)

The University's International rules teams practice at Broadmeadow Stadium on Saturday mornings between 8 and 10 o'clock. Practice sessions for Netball will be arranged soon. Further information can be obtained from Sue Richards at 68 1886 and Coleen Clark at 57 3003.

Swimming

The University's Swimming Championships were held at Lambton Swimming Centre on 15th March. The overall women's champion was Pam Jones and Clive Mitchell won the aggregate for men. The outstanding performer was Peter Brereton, who swam 50 metres in 27.4 seconds and 100 metres in 1 minute 11 seconds. In the 4 x 50 metres staff relay G.H. Clarke, D. Robertson, Mrs. I. Heath and G. Conway defeated E. Jacobs, W. Crook, G. Curthoys and H. Floyer.