FEATURE: DISTANCE EDUCATION

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"Van Gogh's Ear" is published monthly and is edited by Lindy Burns, with layout and design by Gillian Stack. Letters to the Editor (no longer than 300 words and signed), reports on outstanding and unusual research, news and human interest stories are welcome. Please contact either Lindy Burns or Rosemary Roohan at the University's Information and Public Relations Unit on 21 6440 or 21 6463. "Van Gogh's Ear" is printed on recycled stock.
Bridges

For this feature, we have focused on the bridges we build between the University and the global community. We have canvassed space, time, age, race and language to define the ways in which people build paths to better communications.

Bridging the Cultural Distance • GRAHAME STEEL

The manager of the University’s radio station, 2NUR-FM, is keen to involve the station in training Aboriginal broadcasters. Before taking up the position last year, Mr Grahame Steel spent several years with the ABC helping to develop Aboriginal broadcasting in North Queensland, the Kimberley region of Western Australia and the Northern Territory. In 1985, he was looking for a venue to establish a course in broadcasting and journalism for Aboriginal people, because research he had done with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people said that they wanted a piece of paper to prove they were broadcasters. So the search was on to find an institution that was able to provide the “goods” both academically and vocationally and also one that would be able to cope with strongly traditionally based people. The answer was Batchelor College, an Institute of Higher Education about 95 kms south of Darwin.

To Grahame it is one of the most beautiful towns on earth. “It’s a lovely spot, full of wonderful poinciana trees; a really idyllic rural setting,” he said. The College was established by the Northern Territory Government to help provide adult education to Aboriginal people, particularly those from remote communities.

Grahame started his work in Aboriginal radio when he was Manager of the ABC in Townsville. During that time, he helped set up the Townsville Aboriginal Media Association and the Torres Strait Islander Media Association on Thursday Island. He then moved to Sydney, and eventually Canberra, to work on the ABC’s input into the development of indigenous broadcasting nationally. “Although I was based in these cities, I used to spend two weeks of every month sitting out in the remote parts of the Australian bush with groups of Aboriginal people, some of whom had had no access to radio at all. At that time, [mid-80’s], there was no radio in the Kimberley and here was I trying to explain to them that satellites were coming, that radio was coming, that television was coming and the notion of things coming down from the sky was a bit confusing to them. It became clear that we had to do something about the education and training process, because if Aboriginal people couldn’t have radio on their terms, then radio was going to destroy them utterly,” Grahame explained.

The course took three years to develop because many people told Grahame that there was no need, as there wouldn’t be enough students. On the contrary, today they turn people away and have increased enrollment to 30 per year. The program uses a mixed mode delivery where students spend most of their time in their home community working on their own radio and television approach, doing assignments that they send back to the college for assessment. Lecturers visit each student two or three times per year. In addition, the students come into the college three times per year, each for a three week period. If they have to come in for any longer than that, particularly those who are traditionally based, they are allowed to bring their family with them. Grahame explained the reasons; “Social dislocation for Aboriginal people is often a frightening thing. You can’t take Aboriginal people away from their family for any length of time. The family is central to their well-being.”

After eight years with the program, Grahame felt that it was time his job was done by an Aborigine, so he recruited Patrick Malone who, took over the position when Grahame stepped down. “I’m still involved with the course. Last July we had one of the trainees, Margaret, come here to 2NUR for three weeks. I’d like to see the station accept Batchelor students on work experience for several weeks at a time. Having Wollotuka here is a terrific help. When Margaret was here, I held classes in their building because it was an environment that she could relate to.”

It’s a long way from Batchelor to Newcastle but in Grahame’s mind the “distance” is negligible. “I was involved in something for eight years which was fascinating. The experience has left me very strongly influenced by Aboriginal values.”

Broadcasting lessons in a bush setting
The concept of virtual reality is opening new doors and visually impaired people might be the latest to benefit through research being undertaken in the USA. Associate Professor Don Parkes from the Ecology of Blindness and Audio-Tactile Graphics Research Unit has just returned from giving a series of workshops in Japan, England and the US and was deeply impressed by research into virtual reality and virtual acoustics being undertaken at the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB). He presented the 10th Annual Golledge Lecture on the topic of Multi-Media Cartography for the disabled while at UCSB and saw development on a personal guidance system that could assist visually impaired people navigate unfamiliar territory without assistance.

"Reg Golledge is formerly from Dungog and is well respected for his work with the blind and is a developer of a prototype system that is largely experimental but could have great advantages for the blind," said Don. "The guidance system includes an audio headset, a head-mounted electronic compass and a backpack containing electronic gear. The system uses the compass and a Global Positioning System receiver to pinpoint a user's orientation and location and the information is then fed into a computer that can retrieve maps of the surrounding area."

"A speech synthesizer and a virtual acoustics display are connected to the maps to produce speech and other sounds that are heard through the headphones. To the user, it seems as if the sounds are coming from a nearby landmark," Don explained. The virtual acoustics display uses direction and distance cues such as sound intensity to create the impression that sounds are coming from a precise location. A micro­phone allows the user to select a destination or add names of the locations.

Don said a blind person could navigate a suburb or university campus by following a moving virtual beacon or by moving from landmark to landmark, guided by stationary beacons that "speak" the names of the locations. "Reg Golledge, who is blind himself, and the project team are conducting some marvellous research which is experimental, but it will be quite a few years before a feasible guidance system is fully developed," said Don.

A major part of Don's trip was devoted to demonstrations and the further development of his NOMAD system, the world's first electronic system that gives visually impaired people interactive access to text and pictorial information through the use of a computer connected touch sensitive pad with a built-in speech capability. In Japan he introduced the system to the Nippon Lighthouse, one of the country's major organisations for the blind. He also visited Dr Hideo Makino at the University of Niigata, who is developing a stereo camera based system linked to speech devices for the reading of maps by blind people. In the UK, Don gave workshops at the Royal National Institute for the Blind National Education Centre as well as discussing with Rev. Dr Andrew Tatham from the Royal Geographical Society, a project to assist blind travellers on the London Underground.

Bridging the Policy Distance

Professor John Hotson, University of Waterloo, Canada, recently presented a seminar here on "New Zealand's Economy in Reality and in New Right Propaganda". Hotson described the worsening social and economic problems associated with the depression in New Zealand, the Western industrialised nations and Japan. He talked of the difference between the claimed results of the ten year old economic rationalist order in New Zealand and what the reality is - the chronically high unemployment, the dismantling of its once proud cradle to grave social security system, and its rising levels of social alienation. Most notable was its enormous foreign debt in spite of drastic cuts in government expenditure and the sale of almost all government utilities.

He argued "that the public, private and international debt crisis cannot be solved by raising taxes or cutting expenditures, because these contractionary moves will make the depression worse, perhaps even increasing the deficit and the rate at which debts grow. The solution involves a drastic cut in interest rates and an end to government borrowing from private money creators i.e. private banks, and an expansionary monetary-fiscal-incomes program to end the depression." Hotson also claims the present fractional reserve/debt system is unsustainable because of the "excessive growth of debt and interest relative to income with which to repay". He went on to explain that, throughout recent centuries "real output only grows when aggregate demand grows, demand only grows when the money supply grows, the money supply only grows when debt grows."

This is why the North American Committee on Monetary and Economic Reform, of which Hotson is Chairman, has currently put before the US Congress a draft Bill to have the Government create $300 billion interest free to pump into the economy for public works whilst providing many jobs for the unemployed. Why can't the Australian Government do something similar?" Hotson asked. "After all, up until 1984 the government was providing loans for the Reserve Bank at only 1% rather than at commercial rates as at present."

Hotson concluded by emphasising that a sovereign government should never, under any circumstances, "borrow money from any private bank". He argued that a sustain­able financial system can be established "which enables the real economy to be maintained decade after decade, and century after century, at its full employment potential without recurring inflation or over-indebtedness crises".
The University's Department of Community Programmes has been providing alternative education opportunities to businesses, professions and the general public since 1973.

The Department takes it to the streets in the traditional areas of general, liberal adult education courses and lectures - short courses and public lectures in a wide range of disciplines, topics and issues.

Taking it even further are the Department's one-day education excursions with temptations such as a garden excursion to Mt. Wilson in the Blue Mountains, an historical and agricultural trip to the Upper Mountain near Bulahdelah and a geological excursion to the Ku-ring Gai National Park. Sound educational content, on site, in relaxed and pleasant surroundings.

So too, are the longer courses run through summer schools in projects such as agricultural studies at the C.B. Alexander Agricultural College at Tocal and botanical and marine studies at Smiths Lake.

Putting even more distance into the learning are the Department's Overseas Study Tours. Intelligent travel and tourism is in demand these days, and the Department and the University's academic staff will travel with you on tours to hand picked destinations.

The most popular of these tours is the "Volcanoes in the Seas" Hawaiian Study Tour hosted by experienced field geologists. 1994 will be the third year this tour has been run and while it is billed as a geological tour, it also is popular with astronomy "buffs" as it provides access to the Mauna Kea Science Reserve International Observatory for a full day, at a time when it is generally closed to the public. This tour draws people from all over Australia. It has even welcomed a number of travellers from the U.S. who joined the group in Hawaii and then returned home.

Past tours have also been arranged to Rome, Greece and Borneo, but these have all been "one-offs" in response to a specific request. The Department is now organising a geological tour to the Antarctic, which they hope to see up and running in a couple of years.

Director of the Department, Mr. John Collins, said the tours that have been most successful have been those that link-in with the known strengths of the University. "For example, the Rome and Greece tour capitalised on the excellent reputation of Professor Godfrey Tanner and the Classics Department," John said. "People knew that if Godfrey was even remotely involved, then the tour would be worthwhile and authentic."

Similarly, Dr John Turner's historical knowledge, not only of Newcastle but of Australia in general, means that his tours, such as his annual week-long trip to Norfolk Island, are most sought after. These tours have seen a change of vision for the Department. Once upon a time their aim was simply to make the University more accessible, via the Open Foundation program. Today, they hope that these local, national and international educational tours will build the University's academic reputation on the world stage.

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**Bridges to the People • “COME IN CINDERELLA”**

by Senator John Tierney

One of my first tasks upon entering the Senate was to take part in the first comprehensive review of adult and community education to be undertaken in 40 years. Our report “Come in Cinderella” is now a university text for preparing people in the field of adult and community education.

The report was compiled following extensive hearings and accepting submissions from across Australia. For example, we spoke to Aboriginal prisoners in Darwin and groups of Turkish migrant women. Most of these people are studying short courses to gain a particular skill or develop a particular interest. This sector provides educational opportunity where it has previously been denied and creates pathways out of powerlessness into further education and training.

Adult and community education operates throughout the length and breadth of the country - from the central business districts of our capital cities to isolated mining settlements; amongst urban migrant communities and in remote Aboriginal groups. It responds to the needs of a diverse client group - from the disenchanted school leaver to the professional seeking continuing education or the woman returning to the workforce. Many of them want to go into a more formal course of training following their initial ACE studies but are blocked by either social or geographical isolation.

The report contained a number of recommendations. These include:

- priority consideration be given to increased funding for the sector,
- the establishment of a professional development fund,
- modification of funding guidelines to provide for both vocational and non-vocational criteria in determining grant allocations in ACE,
- the establishment of a National Institute of Research, Innovation and Teaching in ACE, over which the ACE sector should have significant control,
- the extension of support for existing projects directed towards the establishment of national schemes for competency standards, recognition of prior learning, credit transfers and other related matters while specifically requiring that such projects take into account the needs of, and recognise the skills formation role of, the adult and community education sector.

Senator Tierney is the Hunter-based Liberal Senator for NSW and a former University of Newcastle academic.
Bridges to the World • SWEDEN

A brief holiday in Australia two years ago has attracted a Swedish student to the University to work on a research project for his Master of Science degree.

Ulf Stein visited the tourist spots in 1991 but this time is hard at work in the physics laboratories as part of a collaboration between the Ion Surface Group and Dr Harry Whitlow of Lund University in a joint effort to study the use of heavy ions in surface analysis.

A routine method of analysing the structure in composition surfaces is to bounce energetic atoms off the surface in much the same way as billiard balls are scattered. One common form of analysis is to use helium ions, a well characterised technique though it has serious limitations. The Ion Surface Group has put a major effort into the use of higher mass projectiles, such as carbon, to obtain much more detailed information about the surface structure in composition. The techniques required to use these higher energy projectiles are more complicated and are the subject of extensive research by postgraduate student, Yang Qing, who has just completed his thesis and by another postgraduate student, Zewei Fang, who is constructing an apparatus to be installed at the Australian National University.

The most important parameters in the study are the depth resolution and mass resolution. This is the ability to resolve different parts of the solid with high precision. The techniques under investigation are able to measure features in a surface which are less than 10 atomic spacings apart.

During his stay Ulf is assisting Zewei Fang in the calibration of the time-of-flight detector and study the conditions under which optimum depth and mass resolution are obtained. He is also studying the information that can be obtained about where impurity atoms sit in semiconductor single crystals, thus assisting in the understanding of the electrical and physical properties of devices.

During a break in his research Ulf said many Swedish students looked for opportunities to study overseas and exchange programs were popular as they also gave students the opportunity to improve their English language in addition to concentrating on their research.

"My adviser at Lund University of Technology knew Professor O’Connor (Head of Department of Physics) and suggested that I study at Newcastle because of its excellent reputation," said Ulf. "This is my first project in nuclear physics and I’m hoping that it will open doors into the Swedish research field where I hope to gain employment as a research scientist."

Bridges to the World • PARIS

After submitting her work for the Canson Print Award, Rachel Burgess, rang to check if it had arrived safely.

What she was told nearly caused her to drop the phone with shock. Not only had it arrived safely, but it had won the Award. And the prize, something to dream about, was an all expenses paid trip to Paris.

The Award, open to all graduating and postgraduate students of printmaking from recognised tertiary institutions in Australia, is made by Canson Australia, the makers of a range of art paper.

Rachel, 22, enrolled in the University’s Postgraduate Diploma in Art, is specialising in printmaking after completing a Bachelor of Visual Arts with a major in ceramics at the Australian National University in Canberra.

The prize will take Rachel to France for two weeks in February to visit museums and galleries and to work in a Paris print workshop. Visits to the Canson paper mill at Annonay and the Lefranc & Bourgeois factory at Le Mans are also part of the itinerary.

Naturally Rachel is very excited to have won the Award. She describes her submitted work entitled ‘Soulcage’ as a memorial to her grandmother who passed away earlier this year and a positive way to express her grief.

“I have never travelled out of Australia” Rachel said. “It is an opportunity for me to also extend my work and artistic knowledge by visiting the paper manufacturers and the print workshop,” she said.

Rachel Burgess - Paris-bound.
Addressing the annual conference of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO in Canberra in September, the Head of the University's Department of Communication and Media Arts, Mr Frank Morgan, identified a number of opportunities for increased Australian involvement in UNESCO's communication program. Of particular relevance to the University is the opportunity for Australia to provide education in various fields, including communication in Asia and the Pacific.

Frank, a long time communication consultant to UNESCO, observes that Australia, in the eye of its neighbours, does not appear to pay its dues to the organisation.

"Ten years ago, Australia helped to prepare, but failed to support, the PACBROAD (a professional training program for radio broadcasters) project put to the IPDC (International Program for Development of Communication) by the South Pacific Commission. Instead, the German, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, provided the funding and the project staff. The Germans did an excellent job and now enjoy a level of respect and gratitude in the Pacific that could easily have been Australia's," Frank said. "Also, in 1983, in response to a request from the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information, Australia established the ASEAN-Australia Media and Information Program (AAMIP) to provide training and study tours for print and broadcast journalists. AAMIP flourished, yet was not renewed at the end of the trial."

Worldwide, the regional communication development institutions established during the 1970s are increasingly difficult to sustain. In particular, they suffer from the rapidity of technological, cultural and structural change and the shortage of skilled and imaginative trainers. Digital electronics have not only transformed the production and transmission of information, but redefined the media, now known individually as print, sound, video, graphics and numerical data; bringing them together as one medium. Producers still need the finesse to put pictures and words and sounds together artfully, but broadcasting, be it terrestrial or by satellite, will now be able to accept the work of individual contributors, as print has previously. All these changes mean that the short-course professional training provided previously now needs to be augmented by formal-award education. This need was identified by the AIBD-Australia Media Project, by an AIBD (Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development) workshop on training development, by meetings of the Pacific Islands Broadcasting and News Associations, and by two international Journalism Education Association meetings.

In response to these needs, Frank recommended that Australia should support several of the projects proposed in Unesco's 1994-95 Draft Work Program. These include the establishment of a modern communication technology network in the Asia-Pacific region to provide distance education for media and communication professionals. He called for support for the broadcasting, in developed countries, of radio and television programs produced in developing countries. "Both the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union and the Pacific Islands Broadcasting Association have news and program exchange schemes," explained Frank. "They and independent producers all require assistance to have programs shown in developed countries such as Australia."

He also called for support for the planning and implementation of a network communication diploma/degree program to be provided by Asia-Pacific universities and professional training centres in collaboration with one or more Australian universities. "While instructional materials are available to support professional communication education in Australia and developed countries, they are lacking in Asia and the Pacific. They would provide an essential component of the network course proposed and could further be sold to other education and training institutions in the region," he said.

Frank's proposals have been referred on to the General Conference of UNESCO in Paris and provided they attract the necessary support there, the resultant projects may well provide an increased role not just for Australia, but also for this University.
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**BRIDGES to the World • SOUTH AFRICA**

The University's Employment Studies Centre in the Department of Economics was the target for a one-day visit from Mr Max Sisulu, Director of the National Institute for Economic Policy (NIEP) in South Africa, during October.

During his time with staff at the Centre, Mr Sisulu discussed a number of issues including the formulation of policy advice for a new democratic ANC-led government in South Africa and the education and training of black economists for this government and other organisations.

Dr Roy Green, Senior Lecturer in the Department said that the Employment Studies Centre would be conducting research with the NIEP on the labour market and industrial relations in South Africa, with an emphasis on the development of a "Reconstruction Accord" between the ANC and the COSATU (the South African equivalent to the ACTU). "This Accord will draw upon the international experience of structured economic and social ties between governments and the trade union movement and will take into account the special conditions of South Africa, where the life chances of the majority have been severely restricted," Dr Green added.

In addition, the ESC is in the throes of developing a one or two year course in the Faculty of Economics and Commerce, which will be designed to suit the needs of black South African economists and advisers.

"The course will provide expertise in a range of areas, including industrial relations, labour economics, macro-economics, economic doctrines and methods and political economics," Dr Green said. "It will result in a qualification, and will provide access, if desired, to Australian Labor Party politicians and senior trade union officials," he added.

**BRIDGES to the World • CAMEROON**

When Dr Pius Ngassa travelled from his home in Cameroon to attend the University’s Clinical Epidemiology course in 1988, he established a link that led to him receiving a degree of Master of Medical Science for his work on the association between malaria and preterm labour.

Dr Ngassa is now Senior Lecturer in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology as well as the Clinical Epidemiology Unit at the University of Yaounde, Cameroon. Africa. His particular interests lie in the field of perinatal medicine, particularly in the area of preterm labour and premature deliveries. In achieving his Masters, he studied over 400 women, and was able to determine that women who experienced preterm labour were more than six times as likely to have evidence of malarial infection than women whose pregnancies went full-term. This relationship was independent of socio-economic factors such as social class, occupation, education and marital status.

These findings have important clinical and public health implications, both for the mothers and their babies. Not only does Cameroon have an extremely high perinatal and infant mortality rate, but malaria is one of the country’s major health problems. Dr Ngassa argues that improved prescription of, and compliance with, weekly anti-malarial drugs during pregnancy may not only reduce the risk of preterm labour but also the subsequent high perinatal mortality that is associated with it in developing countries.

**BRIDGES to the World • CHINA**

The words are those of Chinese poet and literary critic, Yang Lian, currently Visiting Writer at the University of Sydney and were written in reaction to the Tamannen Square incident which occurred in China on June 4, 1989. They are from his collection of his poems entitled The Dead in Exile, which when published in 1990 evoked a national controversy in China.

Lian, regarded by literary critics as one of the main writers of modernist poetry from the People’s Republic of China, is now in exile saying “it is quite impossible to return to China.”

Lian left his native land after the Tianamen incident and has since travelled and lectured extensively in the West. His works have been translated into more than a dozen languages.

“It is very hard for a writer to say what is right or wrong,” says Lian. “The Dead in Exile deals with feelings of death in my heart and mind. It is an intrinsic death. It not only takes place in the dead, but also in the living,” he says.

Lian says that this, his fifth visit to Australia, has reinforced his appreciation of Australian people. "Australians are close to the land, and close to their country," he says. "There is a contrast between the short history of Australia to the heavily loaded culture and history of China which presents rich material for a writer. In China, nature has almost taken on human qualities," he says.

His latest work, the subject of one of his talks, is entitled Where the Sea Stands Still. For him it is a chance to pay a debt he feels he owes to the ocean. "The Chinese culture is specifically related to the earth. To us the ocean is a word or a kind of a myth, something distant and not to be touched," he adds.
Bridges to the World • CHINA

On August 7, 1993 Professor Peng Dexi arrived in Newcastle, a visiting scholar to the Department of Curriculum Studies. His purpose was to research the interrelations between language learning and culture in second language teaching, and to investigate the development of language education in Australia. Professor Peng has been teaching Chinese here and has visited other classes. The active thinking of the students in class, the pleasant and harmonious class atmosphere, advanced teaching facilities and the efficient teaching methods employed by teachers have left a deep impression on him.

Professor Peng stated, "In class, students are very active in thinking. They are not reluctant to give their own views. Ideas between teachers and students are fully communicated. Comparative speaking, Chinese students are less active in class. They are used to listening to lectures and taking notes. Thus the Chinese atmosphere in classrooms is not so active and harmonious as in the classes I have attended here."

"I find teachers here often use different teaching methods to achieve best results. They arouse students' interest, enthuse them in their study and cultivate their ability to apply what they have learned. I have seen

Shakespearean performances given by students and from intonations, gestures, facial expressions and actions, I know they have a very good understanding of his works. In China, some teachers like to dominate the class and give little room to students to develop their own talents," he said.

"I also visited ELICOS, where the language laboratories provide a range of modern equipment and are available for formal, structured lessons as well as for individual access. The video equipment enables objective self-assessment by students. The microcomputing laboratories allow students to use well-designed software to facilitate language recognition and usage. The two major computerised libraries have a huge collection of books, journals, microforms and audio-visual materials which provide teachers and students with quick service for their research."

"My stay at the University is short, but I am sure I can learn a lot here and I will apply what I have learned to my future work in China."

The visiting scholar comes to stay...
by Tony Hanson

While in Australia, Professor Peng has been living with eight young Australian students in Wallsend. They have enjoyed listening to his observations of the differences between the two cultures and also the tasting of traditional Chinese food. His friends have shown him around the city and pointed out a few of the local icons such as beer, vegemite, poker machines, McDonalds, Aussie food and cigarettes. He has also enjoyed looking at churches and religions, television, films and the trading of cultural stories among friends.

While Professor Peng has formally researched and studied the language, his Australian flatmates also know that the communicated insights between each other on the balcony of their Wallsend home have expanded each other's education.

Bridges to the World • CANADA

A University lecturer who specialises in producing students with a high level of competence in a second language has been awarded a research scholarship to study language immersion programs operating in Canada.

The $5000 scholarship, funded by both the French and Canadian Governments, was awarded to Mr Michael Berthold after he was initially approached by the French Embassy in Canberra. The main purpose of the scholarship is to heighten Australian awareness of the innovative and successful programs which have been operating in Canada for almost 30 years.

Michael, a language teaching methodology lecturer from the Department of Curriculum Studies at the University, is President of the Australian Association of Language Immersion Teachers (AALIT) and was invited to be the inaugural recipient for his groundbreaking work on immersion language in Queensland and his promotion of immersion language teaching throughout Australia.

Although the scholarship will enable Michael to travel to Canada, he has also gained assistance from the University to visit four other countries during a seven week period from December. Michael will study French/English programs in Canada as well as language programs in California (Spanish/English), Wales (Welsh/English), France (English/France/German) and Hong Kong (English/Chinese).

"Immersion is a fairly new field in language education in Australia and relies on the second language being the medium of instruction for content areas within a school's curriculum. In this way students are fully immersed in using the second language and therefore become much more confident and proficient," said Michael.

The scholarship could be the forerunner for similar bi-national scholarships to encourage more lecturers and teachers to study in Canada. It had taken about 18 months of discussion with the French and Canadian Governments to bring the scholarship to fruition and Michael's research report will be vital to possible continuation of the scholarship.

Michael said the scholarship would allow him to study teaching techniques and research material in Canada and to compare them with work being conducted by colleagues in the other four countries.

"The scholarship will allow vital feedback through AALIT to immersion language teachers and researchers and bring them up to date with techniques being used by countries where a second language is part of their normal culture."
DECLINE IN LITERACY: A MYTH

A person is literate when he has acquired the essential knowledge and skills which enable him to engage in all those activities in which literacy is required for effective functioning in his group and community, and whose attainment in reading, writing and arithmetic make it possible for him to continue to use these skills towards his own and the community development and for active participation in the life of his country.

Professor Sid Bourke, in an inaugural lecture delivered to mark his appointment to a chair in Education, quoted this 1963 UNESCO definition of literacy. He suggested it was not just the gender bias that was questionable in the statement. What constitutes effective functioning for instance? Is it the ability to read street signs and simple messages or to construct a 3,000 word technical or academic essay? And is literacy declining in our society, as we are frequently told by educators and the media?

According to Professor Bourke, the perception that literacy has declined in Australia over the past 20 years is a myth, with assessment figures indicating a slight improvement in standards. Instrumental in the first national literacy and numeracy testing in Australia in 1975, Professor Bourke said assessment was first introduced in the interests of public accountability of state funded education. While national testing ended in the early 1980s, there is still a demand for accountability amid continuing cries of falling standards.

Professor Bourke analysed current methods for assessing literacy, including some international studies. He postulated on why people perceived there to be a decline in literacy, when the figures indicated otherwise. "There is no evidence that there was a golden age of literacy. So why do some people believe there has been a decline? Taking a cynical view, I could say it's because it sells newspapers. We are constantly being told that things are worse than before and it is nice to be able to blame someone for our economic problems. But I am not sure how much the school system should be blamed for the state of the economy. And this view that sees the past through rose-tinted spectacles cannot be supported with any evidence."

NURSING ACADEMICS - ADVANCE OR RETREAT?

"...if it is somewhat unusual, and for many unsettling, to see a woman ordained a bishop... it is also relatively unusual and dare I suggest unsettling, to see a nurse appointed a university professor."

In her inaugural lecture, Professor Irena Madjar, Newcastle’s first app-ointee to a Nursing chair, referred to Dr Penny Jamieson’s ordination as bishop in New Zealand as a parallel to her own position. "What on earth are nurses... doing in the university, the academy... where learning and scholarship, pursuit of knowledge for its own sake, and search for truth are paramount?" she asked. "Do professors of nursing have anything to profess? Does nursing have anything to offer to other university disciplines..." Professor Madjar went to the heart of the dilemma currently facing nurses. Nursing and the Academy: Advance or Retreat?

"Is being in a university an advance for a profession finally coming into its own, or a retreat from the problems and realities of practice into the ivory towers of esoteric theories," she asked.

While the antecedents of modern nursing were as old as human kind, nursing education as a formalised activity goes back only a little over a hundred years. Professor Madjar outlined the major directions taken during this time, concluding that neither the nursing profession nor the universities alone could answer the question of where and how nurses should be educated. "It is ultimately a question of the social mandate to provide a certain kind of service in a changing and increasingly complex environment..." she said. "I would suggest that to meet the health needs of the people at the end of this and the beginning of the new century, we need a well educated and multi-skilled nursing and midwifery workforce, rather than an on-going proliferation of new sub-specialties, generic carers, and ancillary staff expected to perform nursing work."

The professor said it was unfortunate that nursing had entered Australian universities, at least in part, as a result of political concerns with "economies of scale". While this presents some challenges to nursing academics, Professor Madjar thinks having nursing in the University is a definite step in the right direction. "Despite the hurdles...the wider international picture should give us cause for real optimism. The range and quality of nursing research and scholarship internationally is something in which we can take pride and inspiration," she said. After providing some examples of international research breakthroughs in nursing, Professor Madjar called on Australians to be critical readers, and to contribute to the debate. "I have great expectations of where we will be in five years and then ten years down the track, but I have no illusions about the work which lies ahead. Being in a university is an opportunity to try, not a guarantee of success."

Professor Madjar concluded with an excerpt from T.S. Eliot: "There is only the fight to recover what has been lost And found and lost again and again: and now, under conditions That seem unpropitious. But perhaps neither gain nor loss. For us there is only the trying. The rest is not our business."
FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR...

The overall result of the visit of the Government representatives to consider our Profile is as follows.

Firstly, we have to take more school leavers than we now do. As a matter of fact we are among the highest in school leaver intake in New South Wales. About 39% of our intake is school leavers, and they are defined as persons who are less than two years away from finishing secondary school. Even so we have to take more, but this should not have major effects: 300 EFTSUs can be accommodated across the University without major qualititative change. I am well aware that many of the Departments and Faculties think that we should be taking fewer young students, since there seem to be many who are uncommitted, and really unconcerned by their results until they are weeded out at the end of First Year. But this argument does not wash with the political and administrative figures that govern us (it was said to be "based on anecdotal evidence"), and it is obvious that it is very difficult to defend in the political arena the fact that most of the new places generated in the last few years have been taken up by students who are mature age or second degree students. Some 150,000 new University places have been brought into being in the last six or seven years, but not many of these have gone to school leavers.

The second main issue raised was the new policy on HECS. This has been subjected to political debate and the original budget package has been defined in recent days. The thrust of Government policy was originally to penalise second degree students, and students who were taking too long to complete their first degrees, in order to push some such students out, allowing them to be replaced by school leavers. The increase in HECS for second degree students was intended as a disincentive. Whatever the Senate does with the budget package we can certainly expect that this political purpose will be present as a force in university affairs, and will manifest itself again. However for now, the Senate has forced the dropping of the penalty on those who take too long. The double HECS on second degree students remains in the Budget at this stage.

The most blatantly unfair aspect of this is the retrospectivity of it, whereby the increased HECS debt is to be backdated for students who were caught in mid-stream. Retrospective penalties are always to be avoided and it is obvious that the injustice of this lies in the fact that students were encouraged to embark on the basis of a certain contract with Government, and then were caught with the rules being changed not only prospectively, but also retrospectively. We have asked for this to be reviewed.

Lastly, we have been asked to reduce slightly our postgraduate intake. This amounts to a change in the triennial arrangements, and the Government has in fact welshed on the 1990 enrolment figures which it had agreed on. We can live with the proposal since there is only a minor reduction of postgraduate places involved, but this is no way to run a chook yard. It now appears that complaints have been so great over this issue that the Government may soften its position, and we have applied, through Professor Macdonald for a return to our original Profile figures.

Watch this space for further developments...

EXTERNAL RELATIONS - NEW FRONTIERS

Good name - it's intangible, hard to procure, but a university's "name" is one of its most important assets.

Our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Raoul Mortley, believes that the name of The University of Newcastle is a strategic asset which should be carefully nourished. He considers that the University of Newcastle is not well known outside the immediate region, apart from its Faculty of Medicine, and that there is an immediate need to make the University of Newcastle a presence in the thinking of the broader Australian community.

He said the University has always enjoyed comprehensive support from the Hunter and Central Coast regions, the institution having gained autonomy in 1965 and being an important part of the community it serves.

"This must be steadfastly maintained. However this has been a year for review and forward planning, and we have to look again at our external relations and envisage the future of the University across a much broader canvas," he added.

First step in the new look has been an external review of public relations and attempts are being made to find what community perceptions are of the University.

Professor Mortley believes that the efforts involved in external relations should all be brought together, and that a much more planned and coherent approach to the various ways in which the University seeks to position itself in the wider community must be taken. Accordingly the new post of Assistant Vice-Chancellor for External Relations has been established, and Associate Professor Jenny Graham, at present the Head of the School of Health and Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, is settling into her new role.

The new Division will seek to bring together the activities of the International Students Office, the Public Relations Unit, Convocation and Alumni activities and networks, and fund-raising activities related to the University Foundation. The University Foundation is to be established as a means of receiving private donations, and will develop a 20 year target. The University Foundation will provide for the next generation of University staff and students.

Professor Mortley said that the new funding levels for universities, which have in effect reduced greatly their supply of funds, mean that no university can refrain from seeking to develop a substantial private income. This is necessary both to boost ordinary operating budgets and also to provide for some freedom of decision in relation to university activities at a time when Government is tying almost every dollar of expenditure to some Government project.

There was also a need to co-ordinate all University literature production and to link overseas graduations to Alumni functions as well as to University marketing functions: a single division would be in a much better position to use expenditure wisely and would be much more effective in its organisation.

"Previously disparate efforts will be brought together and given some overall planning and organisation."

So far as Australian students are concerned, Professor Mortley said that the new position was intended to lift the profile of

Continued over...
the University and to make it the first preference University for as many Year 12 students as possible.

"More effort is required in the area of Convocation, setting up Chapters in capital cities in Australia and overseas countries and in developing networks which may be of use in assisting graduates to find employment."

"The more energetic a university is in establishing Alumni networks and in establishing a clear profile for itself in the community generally, the more benefit there is to past graduates, as well as to future graduates. All graduates have an interest in the quality of their university."

Professor Mortley said there would be few short-term gains from the creation of the new Division, but over the longer term there were great potential benefits. "But above all, the University's role in presenting itself must be based on substance. An educational institution is only credible if its deeds match its words. We will not fall into the trap of manufacturing a University rhetoric which is not backed by policies and by policy development, policy implementation and action."

Associate Professor Jenny Graham... new Assistant Vice-Chancellor

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**NOTES FROM AVCC**

*The AVCC met on September 21.*

**FEDERAL BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

AVCC expressed concern that the Federal Budget contained changes that make it difficult to plan activities on the basis of the rolling triennium. They strongly opposed the breach of Government/Institution agreements on recurrent funding and the profile of student load for rolling triennium, and the consequent erosion of University autonomy.

**ARC**

AVCC received a report concerning moves by the ARC to inject "relevance" or national interest criteria into the research assessment process for large grants.

One proposal involved four evaluation criteria:

1. intrinsic merit of the research;
2. research performance competence;
3. effect of the research on the nation's research effort; and
4. utility or relevance of the research.

AVCC resolved to communicate its view that criteria 3 and 4 should only apply after criteria 1 and 2 were met, and then only at the funding margins.

**AVCC MISSION STATEMENT**

The following AVCC mission statement was adopted: "The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee seeks to advance higher education through voluntary, co-operative and co-ordinated action. The Committee is non-partisan and exists exclusively for educational purposes. Its continuing aim is to serve the best interests of the universities and, through them, the nation and higher education. In fulfilment of this purpose, the AVCC:

- provides a forum within which to discuss higher education issues, including teaching, research and research training;
- promotes the needs, interests and purposes of Australian universities and their communities to government, industry and other groups;
- provides an information clearing house for Australian universities;
- administers programs involving Australian universities; and
- serves and assists Vice-Chancellors in the performance of their university responsibilities."

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**ACADEMIC STAFF GRIEVANCE RESOLUTION**

Academic staff members who are feeling disgruntled or unfairly treated by a colleague or department head now have an outlet. Perhaps you are being asked to administer the same old course yet again, while others consistently avoid it, possibly your ire is over a colleague being allocated the best office in a reshuffle? You know your problem is not suitable for the University's grievance advisers, not related to EEO issues or staffing disputes, but you feel unable to solve it and it's affecting your peace of mind. Fear not, help is at hand.

The University has set up a panel of conciliators trained to deal with mediating this type of dispute. Established as a result of a joint initiative by the University Administration and Academic Staff Unions, the panel will implement procedures intended to prevent personal conflicts becoming entrenched. Chair, Dr Monica Hayes, said the panel will try and solve the sort of interpersonal problems that can take up enormous amounts of time in an informal, effective manner. "This type of dispute can seriously affect a person's happy functioning in their work environment," Dr Hayes said.

This form of mediation is becoming increasingly popular in the community, particularly in the civil courts. "The family law courts are increasingly attempting to solve disputes through conciliation," Dr Hayes said, "and other Australian universities are setting up similar initiatives. Employing the same sort of techniques used to help solve disputes between neighbours in the outside world, we offer an impartial referee who helps the parties to reach an amicable resolution. We encourage people to talk to each other and find a solution that arises from a compromise between them that is not imposed by the referee."

The nine panel members have all been trained in mediation by Carol Dance from the Australian Commercial Disputes Centre. They include five former members of academic staff at the University, one person with extensive industrial negotiation experience and a representative from TAFE, as well as Dr Hayes who is a solicitor. With a dispute resolution centre opened recently in Newcastle, the push to provide impartial mediation in disputes is community wide. "I think it is an up and coming thing in society to replace confrontation with negotiation and what we are doing at the University is part of this," Dr Hayes said.
RESEARCH

University postgraduate students continue to produce high quality research work. This year’s graduates include Robert Lukes who earned his Doctor of Philosophy through a thesis entitled “Political content in the narrative works of Guenter Grass”.

Robert first became fascinated by the writings of Grass through his first novel, Die Blechtrommel (The Tin Drum). “I remember reading it in the tram on the way back from the factory where I was working during university vacation. He was still considered outrageous by many Germans then, and I could see why... Here was a writer who seemed to want to reform society both through his literature, and outside it,” Robert explained.

After finishing his degree at the University of Mainz (German/Italian) Robert worked as a translator and language teacher, before he returned to Newcastle to write his doctoral thesis. He is currently working as a freelance translator and language teacher in Stuttgart, and still closely follows the activities and writings of Guenter Grass who remains one of the most critical voices in the country.

Another recent PhD graduate is Scott Sciffer whose thesis “Differentiability properties of locally Lipschitz functions on Banach spaces” was completed in the Department of Mathematics. Scott completed a B.Eng. degree (Chem. Eng.) in 1987 and a B.Maths degree in 1989. After two years with Koppers Australian Coal Tar Division he joined the staff here and began his doctoral work.

Scott’s research is in non-linear and non-smooth analysis, an area which has increasing application in optimisation theory. Essential to this study is a knowledge of particular differentiability properties of certain classes of functions on general spaces. Since the 1970s there has been considerable development of the theory of the differentiability properties of convex functions on such spaces. It was only in the late 1980s that a notable advance was made in the knowledge of the differentiability properties of the more general class of locally Lipschitz functions. The emphasis of Scott’s work has been to establish how previous results for convex functions can be extended for locally Lipschitz functions. Scott is currently working at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.

Also in the Department of Mathematics, Ian Searston recently earned his Master of Mathematics. A part-time student since 1990, his thesis was entitled “A New Fenchel Duality Theorem with Applications to Optimization”. His work expanded the exposition of a new Fenchel type duality theorem developed in a series of papers by J. Borwein and A. Lewis. Its emphasis was on the power of the theorem which was illustrated with references to financial economics, transportation and the market area problem.

Ian completed his first degree here in 1966, and then a Dip. Ed. he has been a Maths teacher at Macintyre H.S. in Inverell since 1975.

“It was always my intention to do further study, but it took me 23 years to get back to it. When I finally did get started I wasn’t going to give in,” Ian said. The persistence has paid off.

Our concept of computer-generated “beings” has been heavily influenced by such television programmes and movies as Lost in Space and Star Wars, but the reality is that researchers see the creation of the first domestic robot as a long-term proposition.

The fundamental problem facing the field of Artificial Intelligence has been how to create a computer capable of “reasoning” and “learning” for itself. The aim is to develop a machine which can reason like a human: able to monitor the changes it sees in the world and alter its behaviour accordingly. For example, think of how we put together a shopping list. We have certain funds available and we have a list of items needed. When we get to the shop we find that apples are more expensive than we thought and therefore, if we still want to buy six apples, we will have to buy less bananas. The “reasoning” is working out how we can balance the budget when unexpected changes in price means we have to alter our buying plans.

Associate Professor Graham Wrightson of the Department of Computer Science, and Ms Mary-Anne Williams of the Department of Management recently joined forces to organise the first “Automated Reasoning Workshop” held in Australia.

Graham has been working in the area of Automated Reasoning for almost 30 years, and Mary-Anne is interested in the area of Belief Revision, which involves the modification of an intelligent agents’ beliefs about the world in the light of new information.

Although both see the introduction of a domestic robot as being decades away, the work being carried out at present is still of consequence. Indeed, actual applications for Automated Reasoning have been developed in many areas such as medical and industrial diagnosis, manufacturing, financial prediction, legal consultation.

Over 30 participants from around the world came to Newcastle to look at the work being carried out here, and to share information and solve problems that they have been facing in their own research.

The outstanding success of the workshop took everyone by surprise.

“For the first time in Australia researchers in Automated Reasoning and Belief Revision were brought together and were able to see rich areas of overlap and scope for future investigation,” Mary-Anne said.

Professor Wrightson is an editor of the Journal of Automated Reasoning, and a member of the programme committee of the Annual International Conference on Automated Reasoning. He has recently received funding from DITAC to continue collaboration with researchers at the
“Warning...Warning...”

University of Munich, Germany.

Ms Williams, together with Professor Norman Foo from the Knowledge System Group at the University of Sydney, are two of the organisers of a special Workshop on Belief Revision at the Australian Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence to be held in November this year. Financial assistance from the Department of Management in Newcastle has enabled the participation of two leading international researchers; Professor Peter Gardenfors from the University of Lund in Sweden, and Professor Hans Rott from the University of Saarbrucken in Germany.

It may still be a fair distance from “R2D2” in Star Wars or “No. 5” in Short Circuit but thanks to people like Graham and Mary-Anne, our great grandchildren may find their lives a little easier.

WILDLIFE SCHOLARSHIP

A student from Victoria who is studying plant and wildlife illustration in the Department of Fine Arts is this year’s winner of the Margaret Senior Wildlife Illustration Award.

Kate Thompson earned the Award which is presented in collaboration with the National Parks and Wildlife Service in recognition of one of Australia’s top wildlife illustrators, Margaret Senior.

‘FINIS AT THE OPERA HOUSE’

The work of the University’s final year design students has been on display at the Sydney Opera House. It is the first time a university or college design group in New South Wales has been invited to exhibit at the venue.

The exhibition, entitled ‘Finis’ is the work of graduating graphic design and industrial design students. Course co-ordinator, Mr Allan Morse, said the exhibition was a culmination of the design skills of the students and the embodiment of the design process. The course saw its first students graduate last year.

“The first graduate group has created an awareness of the Design course of which we are very proud,” Allan said. “Feedback from employers states that their design work is refreshingly different, that they are able to direct lateral thought in a creative manner and that they are able to articulate their ideas in a clear, assertive, non-arrogant manner.

The reasons for the capital city exhibition are manifest in the nature of graphic and industrial design practice. With design graduates, as in many other professions, the student leaves the cloisters of the learning environment and proceeds to an internship. It’s a time to establish important links with some of the best practitioners in the country in the largest market sector of the economy,” he said.

“CUNNING RUNNING” CHAMPIONS

Two Newcastle University students have emerged as Australian champions for 1993 in the increasingly popular ‘thought sport’, Orienteering. They won their titles at the Australian Orienteering Championships held at Evans Crown Nature Reserve at Tarana, about 45 kilometres out of Lithgow.

Shane Trotter, mechanical engineering student and 1992 Australian champion, retained his title in the men’s 21A class, a 9.4 kilometre course commonly known to competitors as “longs”. In the same Championships, commerce student, Anthony Darr, won the men’s 21A “shorts” class, a 6.7 kilometre course.

Both runners were competing for high stakes. Shane wanted to retain his title. Anthony was running to win a bet for a $130 compass. Anthony now has his new compass and Shane has gained eligibility for the elite class and is aiming to compete in the World Orienteering Championships to be held in Germany in 1995.

Orienteering is cross country navigation using a highly detailed map and a compass. It is not easy and relies on ability, endurance as well as running the distance in the quickest possible time. Hence the terms “the thought sport” and “cunning running”.

The University Orienteering Club, is always on the lookout for new members. Enquiries can be made by telephoning Anthony on 52 9815.

Anthony Darr (l) and Shane Trotter - Orienteering champions.
ACHIEVEMENTS

NEWCASTLE ATHLETES PRODUCE "GOODS"

The Australian University Games is the flagship of University sport in Australia and the 1993 version was hosted by the University of Queensland from September 26 to October 2. Newcastle teams across 15 sports joined the 5,000 participants from 50 universities around Australia, as well as entrants from Japan, Fiji and New Zealand.

To qualify for the games, teams had to have placed in the top five of their respective competitions at the State Universities Championships, held earlier in the year. Teams qualifying for the Australian Games from Newcastle were Women’s Netball, Men’s and Women’s Tennis, Men’s Hockey, Men’s Soccer, Women’s Waterpolo, Men’s Cricket, Men’s and Women’s Touch Football, Men’s and Women’s Volleyball, Women’s Basketball, Men and Women’s Squash and Men’s Baseball.

At the conclusion of the week, Newcastle’s Netball and Women’s Waterpolo teams had achieved first place in their respective competitions, interestingly both by one goal. The men’s hockey team had been pipped at the post by Queensland for 2nd place and the Men’s Volleyball and Women’s Squash teams had finished a creditable third. Most importantly, the University team overall had played themselves into 7th position out of the 50 competing universities.

Further honours were to go to individual players who achieved representation in the Australian University Combined teams announced at the conclusion of the competition. Ashley Bosworth, Dave Nyman, David Rollings and James McKenzie were all selected in the Men’s Hockey team; Rachael Long, Kristie Baxter and Fiona Wilton in Netball; Elizabeth Haren, Roslyn Eyers, Kelly Lane and Jocelyn Bell in Women’s Waterpolo; Paul Mounter, Keiron Rochester for Men’s Volleyball; Chad White and Dave Sokulsky for Cricket; Corrine McMillan and Melinda Wilson in Women’s Squash and Jason Dormor, Joel Pembroke, Andrew Daly and Adam Davies for Baseball.

SEIZING THE DAY

Horace would have been proud. The Augustan poet laureate, long remembered for his advice “Carpe Diem”, would have found the pomp and ceremony much to his liking.

Although place names such as Yatteyatah, Koolewong, Graveyard or Mandurama would not have been in the poet’s vocabulary, the fact that students of Evatt House had “seized the day” maintained the tradition. “Carpe Diem” (recently made famous again by the film Dead Poet’s Society) has been adopted by Evatt House as its motto and was prominent in official proceedings for the recent opening of the University’s newest residential college by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Raoul Morley.

Warden of Evatt House, Dr Bernie Curran (a classicist in his own right), said it was important for the College to have its own tradition. A strong component of this was to harness the strengths of country students who make up 90 percent of the population at Evatt House, the prime focus of the College being in providing accommodation for students from rural areas studying at the University.

Soil from about 60 towns in New South Wales was brought to Newcastle by resident students and placed in a hole for the planting of a tree to mark the opening of the $7 million College which has been in continual development since mid-1989. Providing self-catering accommodation for 200 students, the College also was blessed by most of the moment, to seize the day and to enjoy it to the full. He believes Evatt House and its students have done that - Carpe Diem!

THANK-YOU

International House received welcome donations towards its building appeal for a common room at the recent Valete Dinner held in the Shortland Union.

Governor for Rotary District 967, Mr Ted Atchison, presented a cheque for nearly $15,000 while Mr Colin Offen, on behalf of the Howard Smith Group, handed over another cheque for $5,000. International House has launched an International Hall Appeal to build a common room expected to cost about $300,000.

Pictured are (I to r) Mr Atchison, Mr Offen and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Carter, who accepted the cheques on behalf of the University.
CYBERSPACE - SUPER MARIO BROTHERS OR BLADERUNNER?

What is Cyberspace?
Mr Michael Ostwald, lecturer in Architecture at Newcastle, will tell you it is a community of people in a computer simulated world.

Simple, but it also sounds frightening.
"Not necessarily so," says Michael.
"Cyberspace is frightening, but also has great potential. Virtual Reality and Cyberspace have practical applications for teaching students. It is a computer medium whereby whole communities can be set up. They operate with their own laws, currencies, parliaments, buildings and the social customs of a normal community. The only difference is that they are not physical."

"Architects are always interested in how people use their buildings and space and how this affects the communities in which they live. Cyberspace is one possible future for the urban environment. It is important that the students of today understand both its perils and potential," he says.

Michael has been awarded an international prize in the "Transition, architectural writing competition" for his highly original paper about the relationship between architecture and cyberspace.

He says that the award is a great honour and that winning this type of architectural theory award is quite unusual for a young architect. In that respect, it has been quite daunting, although very pleasing. His paper is the culmination of three to four years of research on the subject, even though he looks on it as a specialised hobby.

"This issue of 'Transition' has already been listed as essential reading for final year Architecture students in Melbourne and that is very exciting for me," he added.

THIS MONTH IN PRINT

Staff at the University have released several publications recently.
One of the most timely is the book by Associate Professor Eric Andrews entitled "The Anzac Illusion: Anglo-Australian Relations during World War I".

Professor Andrews reassesses Australia’s role in World War I and its relations - military, economic, political and psychological - with Britain. "The war had an impact on the Australian attitude to Empire and on the psychology of those who lived and were born in Australia, but who considered themselves British," he said.

A new book by Associate Professor Geoffrey Samuel from the University’s Department of Sociology and Anthropology deals with a sociological issue in another part of the world. "Civilized Shamans", published by the Smithsonian Institution Press, examines the nature and evolution of religion in Tibetan societies from the ninth century up to the Chinese occupation in 1950.

Employing anthropological research, historical enquiry, interview material and an understanding of religious texts, Professor Samuel explores the relationship between Tibet’s social and political institutions and the emergence of new modes of consciousness that characterise Tibetan Buddhist spirituality.

Dr Alan Barcan, Honorary Associate in the Department of Education, has heard that his book, "History of Australian Education" will be translated into Japanese and republished early next year. This will be the first book on Australian education to be translated into Japanese.

Another book to be released soon will include chapters by three members of the Department of Leisure Studies. Dr Betty Weiler, Mr Kevin Markwell and Mr Michael Labone have written on specific topics for the textbook, "New Viewpoints in Australian Outdoor Recreation Research and Planning", to be published by Hepper Marriott and Associates (Melbourne) in early December.
The University's Drama Department presented a "tour de force" in "Agnes of God" for its production in October.

The scant cast of Julie Kirby, Peggy Thompson and Sarah Aubrey delivered a powerful characterisation in John Pielmeier's interplay of personality, pressure and pain.