Monitor: 2000-August 2002 vol 4

UC student to address big issues at youth CHOGM

Christmas cartoon by AA

Commonwealth writers unite

Photo page Women's Health Forum

International women's health forum

World events spark fiery response at UC

Work helps his axes break down barriers

UC linked to website hailed best

A student wins at 2001 film competition

UC: a role for all seasons

Terminal studies teach UC students

UCU future in doubt

UC Olympians still teaching in the field

Coca-Cola, tennis, chocolate, sexy soprano

Recording the termination of a use

Island home welcomes Loretta's loss of sight

Audience of millions to benefit from translation

Business, master and apprentice collect industry features

Olympic torch run

Big week for 20th anniversary events

UC scores a winner with Youth Coaches

Norman estimates about becoming men surprising but refreshing

Sydney's students making great in Australia and abroad

A cyber medal surprise for Richmond

Back home certified an Australian

Mixing sense of thinking styles

UC and international colleagues still working

Graham hits an ace with new tennis scoring system

Internet the playground of the rich

Evolving the indigenous heart alive

ALP quashes for new open government

Olympic glory instead Thomas emulates Commonwealth and Australian records

Legal restrictions for UC's Most Court

Olympic lodged racial debate

Scholarship stars give their sporting all

Atonement degree for the sexist city

Audiences flock to Canberra Short Film Festival

Young film-makers Shoot Out at festival

Theatre companies put themselves to the test

Female spirit expressed through camera lens

DC launches in competition success

Students solving farmers' woes

Research breakthrough shows virus sabotages 'killer' cells

Rowers sink competitors

Rock music producer, Pro Vice-Chancellor talk television

Relaunch of Monitor Online

Listing workforce shortages in nursing

Best wife's secrets revealed
Youth CHOGM

UC student to address big issues at youth CHOGM

By Viva Goldner

When University of Canberra student Lianne Halling followed her older brother into Scouts at the age of 13, she never thought she would one day be representing the movement at a national level.

However, after almost a decade with the organisation, Lianne will have the chance to share her views as an Australian delegate to the Commonwealth Youth Forum on the Gold Coast in October.

The five-day forum coincides with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, and includes workshops, cultural activities and formal presentations to the Australian Government and Commonwealth Secretariat.

While Lianne will attend the forum on behalf of Scouts Australia, the 22-year-old graphic design student was keen to interact with delegates on a broad range of issues.

"This is an opportunity to go and meet people from all the other countries in the Commonwealth and discuss the issues that affect youth in all those countries," she said.

"We'll be discussing how people in each country are differently affected, and ways that we can address the issues on a global level."

The theme for the Youth Forum will be the role of young people in the Commonwealth during the 21st century, with sub-themes including youth participation in democracy and bridge-building opportunities, enterprise development and youth entrepreneurship, as well as social development.

Lianne was particularly interested in examining the ways these themes interacted with health, education and drug abuse.

No stranger to tackling problems affecting young people, Lianne also represented Scouts Australia at the National Youth Congress held in Canberra last year, where she worked on strategies to address drug and alcohol abuse.

Lianne said the Scout movement had evolved to remain relevant to Australians in the 21st Century, with the establishment this year of a national youth council.

"We had our first meeting in May, with 30 people aged from 13 to 23-years from all around Australia. The council is basically a sounding board for the national team. They go out into the community, then come back with a range of different issues," she said.

"It is not only about Scouting issues, like uniforms and the awards scheme, but also other youth issues–youth health, the environment and information technology, for example."

Lianne has also been an active member of other youth organisations including the Duke of Edinburgh, for which she has been training fellow members for seven years.

Having served as a Scout leader in England and earned her Queens Scouts Award, Lianne is now working towards the Baden Powell Award, which is the highest Scouting achievement.
I was the night before Christmas

Who are you?

I'm your new Toy-Delivery Operative from Christmas "R" Us. Here's my card.

What about Santa Claus?

Santa's taken a package. The whole Toyshop operation's been out-sourced and now runs on a full-cost-recovery model. Here's the invoice for your toys.

And the reindeer?

Dog food. Too expensive to run.

Hmm... "Blitzen Bites! Nice..."

Christmas Cattle-dog
Commonwealth writers unite

By Greg Welsh

Possibly the largest international conference on Commonwealth literary studies ever held in the Asia Pacific region took place in Canberra from July 9 to 14.

The XIIth international triennial Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS) conference, which was co-hosted by UC, ANU and ADFA, brought together more than 300 delegates from all over the world to consider the theme Resistance and Reconciliation: Writing in the Commonwealth.

The conferences most famous speaker, South African author J.M. Coetzee, who won the Booker Prize in 1983 for The Life and Times of Michael K and again in 1999 for Disgrace, spoke on The Humanities in Africa, True to his calling as a novellist, Coetzee’s address was a rendition of an allegorical tale about two South African sisters, one a nun and the other an academic, who confront the issues of reconciliation, religion and the study of humanities in attempting to reconcile their own disparate views.

South African writer, academic and freedom fighter, Mbulelo Mzamane, who lived in exile for three decades, followed his countryman’s “aesthetic and humorous flight of the imagination”, with a more plain, yet more passionate, 10-point plan for reconciliation and reconstruction in South Africa through literature.

“The Truth and Reconciliation Commission let us start the healing process, but this will take the writer to complete over several generations,” Mzamane said. “That may be the significance of J.M. [Coetzee] and a host of others.”

Among Mzamanes recommendations were that South Africa’s “silences” must be broken by discovering an “ancient African world view” and telling the country’s “great untold stories” rather than merely adopting the histories, languages and religions of colonising nations. In particular, he focussed upon the enormous creative potential of women writers.

“Women are the mainstay of our society-there are no productive males in this society, they were swallowed up long ago by apartheid towns and cities,” he said.

“The women are the shirkers of continuity, who sustain that, making sure life continues from one era to the next. Women have known the agony and the ecstasy. They have known tragedy, rejection and betrayal, but they have also known validation and vindication.”

Mzamane also called upon his fellow writers to confront many of the difficult, unspoken issues of the day, such as the grave threat of HIV Aids and the act of land “invasion” or “repossession”.

“The emerging South African writer is one that is dedicated to breaking these taboos,” Mzamane said.

A number of new books were released at the ACLALS conference, including UC Professor Satendra Nandan’s autobiography, Requiem for a Rainbow, which was launched by Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Reconciliation and the Arts, Senator Bob McMullan.

A group of the international writers in attendance, including Chandani Lokuge, Ken McGogan, Sudesh Mishra and Canberra’s Adrian Caesar also gave readings from their works at a special UC lunchtime.
Toys give Woomera children hope

By Greg Welsh

Despite all the national focus in recent months on asylum seekers being held at Woomera Detention Centre, University of Canberra Journalism Program Director Wendy Bilboe became concerned that one group had been forgotten—the children.

When she heard that the children of the detainees only had balloons and cardboard boxes as toys, she decided to appeal to UC staff in order to set up a toy library at Woomera.

"I thought, each of those kids—even regardless of what their parents have done or what my viewpoints on immigration and refugees are—deserve at least one soft toy," Ms Bilboe said.

She has since been "overwhelmed" by the response.

Initially I tried to keep track of all the people who had donated things so I could get an individual letter of thanks to them, but I've had stuff left outside my door.

"Somebody has even donated some money because they have no toys in that age range, she said.

Church fete organisers and a child support agency have also donated toys.

I've even had responses from people who actually disagree with asylum seekers or illegal immigrants but still say 'I agree that kids are kids', Ms Bilboe said.

Forty kilos of soft or plastic toys have already been sent and Ms Bilboe has heard a first-hand account of children being moved out of the camp who were carrying cuddly bears.

Toys such as Lego, which are able to be recycled among the children, have been used to set up the toy library and there's plenty more to come.

I'm going to Adelaide in a few weeks, and I'll take my two children, and we'll have 20kg each, Ms Bilboe said.

She has been personally touched in particular by many children who donated their favourite toys to those less fortunate.

That's a really personal response and I think that's fantastic, Ms Bilboe said.

I'm just astounded by the response in so far as there are some really genuine, caring people on this campus and that makes you feel really good.
By Viva Goldner

Delegates from around the world met to discuss the future of women’s health at a World Health Organisation forum hosted by the UC, from April 4 to 6.

The Second International Meeting on Women and Health, organised by WHO's Centre for Health Development in Kobe, Japan, addressed ways to maximise women's roles in promoting welfare systems.

The conference pooled the knowledge of a broad range of health leaders to develop strategies for empowering women.

Speakers from the United States, Switzerland, Egypt, Nepal, Canada, Thailand, Samoa, Malaysia and Australia addressed global problems such as poverty, domestic violence and HIV/AIDS.

Other issues included globalisation, aging, urbanisation, technological change, war and the trafficking of women.

Barriers to women's health in specific regions, such as the continuing practice of female genital mutilation in the Middle East and North Africa, and challenges facing Australian indigenous women, were also canvassed.

UC Nursing Lecturer Linda Reaby led one of the working groups that followed each session of presentations.

Dr Reaby said the workshop involved brainstorming to develop strategies for maximising women's leadership and empowerment. "It was a group of about 15 women and after we'd brainstormed, we actually developed a position paper. The paper says that 'the participants call for the integration of women's perspective and decision-making at all levels and levels to bring the necessary courage and creativity to our endeavours to advocate and promote well-being and equality of life throughout the world,'” Dr Reaby said.

The paper will be taken to the Kobe Centre, which will use the recommendations to initiate empowerment of women in communities worldwide.

"The women alone can't do it, the Kobe Centre alone can't do it, they need the help of governments, policy makers and other relevant bodies in order to make these strategies actually take place," she said.

According to the UN and women's rights organisations, women's inalienable rights to control their own lives are often violated, with serious consequences for gender equality and women's health.

Research shows women suffer more from diseases, distress and discrimination and therefore deserve access to redress their disadvantaged position in society.

Poverty is also a global health concern, with women accounting for 70 per cent of the 1.3 billion people who live in absolute poverty.

"I found the conference so inspiring because there were people from all over the world - all these women leaders who were coming together. The thing that struck me was how lucky we are to be white women living in Australia, to look at some of the other obstacles that women throughout the world have to encounter still, in 2001," said Dr Reaby.

Dr Reaby, who had extensively researched Australian breast cancer issues, said the meeting sparked a desire to work on problems facing women of the third world.

"I've been involved with women's health here in Australia, and I was really very naive about what was actually happening on a world-wide basis and what we had access to in relation to women in third-world countries," she said.

"It's inspired me to actually become more involved in women's health globally rather than being isolated, focusing on women's health in Australia and the developed world. You have to start thinking about the health of all women and how we can improve that world-wide rather than just in your own safe little niche."
Debate on world events

"Fight fire with fire, it'll only make it bigger. You need to fight it with water."

Australian and American citizenship. He said hoped all countries involved would act responsibly and in accordance with international law.

"The world is full of problems, but we need to solve them through dialogue and cooperation."

Also speaking at the gathering was Science and Design Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Eugene Clark, who holds both Australian and American citizenship. He said hoped all countries involved would act responsibly and in accordance with international law.

Professor Turner said while revenge may be sweet and should be considered, the response should be proportionate.

"The world is full of problems, but we need to solve them through dialogue and cooperation."

Also helping the campus to heal were the International Office's student advisor Noor Fleming and Student Residences director Peter Fyfe, who offered counselling and assistance to students immediately after the attack on the US.

"We need to remember that every action has a consequence."

Also helping the campus to heal were the International Office's student advisor Noor Fleming and Student Residences director Peter Fyfe, who offered counselling and assistance to students immediately after the attack on the US.

"One of Islam's teachings is to seek justice with patience. We need to learn from this."

"The only way to conquer evil is by being good."

Father Vivian, who had conducted a multi-faith service at the campus the previous day, said the attack needed a considered, ethical response.

"It's another example of lust for power and greed. You find it everywhere. It's not just peculiar to Afghanistan," he said.

"Father Vivian said the attack had "nothing to do with religion"."

While some sections of society were blaming Islam as the terrorist's motivation, UC Chaplaincy coordinator Father Ivor Turner said while revenge may be sweet and should be considered, the response should be proportionate.

"Otherwise, we become what we detest. By a full-scale attack on Afghanistan, who knows what the consequences may be?"

Dr Michael Jones, a senior management and policy lecturer was one of few voices supporting military action against Afghanistan.

He alleged the main suspect, Osama Bin Laden, was the "evil genius" behind the terrorist attack.

"But his guilt had not yet been determined, Dr Jones believed there was enough evidence of Bin Laden's involvement."
Mark helps his peers break down barriers

By Melissa Halls

"Do you want to learn how to eat tomato soup with chopsticks?"

This is the new approach taken by Mark Whitechurch, an academic assistant for a program conducted on-residences at the University of Canberra.

And it appears that Mark's ingenuity is working. A third-year business administration and law student, he is attracting record numbers of residential students to his Tuesday academic session, held each week in I5 from 7-10pm.

The reason for the unusual and unorthodox messages is "because a lot of academic assistants are perceived as nerds and academic losers," Mark said, "and I wanted to change this image, by using silly phone messages to attract more people to the program."

Mark wants to break down the barriers associated with studying and asking for help with assignments, often seen as the "nerdy" thing to do.

"I have a very positive response so far," said Mark.

Complete strangers have responded favourably to his unique approach, and increasing participation for his academic sessions have spurred him on.

Mark said his specialty is exam preparation, study skills and essay writing, but he also offers general assistance in business administration and law.

However, Mark said he would help students from any discipline if they come to him with an academic problem.

"I have had a very positive response so far," Mark said. "Complete strangers have responded favourably to his unique approach, and increasing participation for his academic sessions have spurred him on."

Mark said the main function of the program was "provide academic support" and it was "aimed mainly at first-year students to assist with the transition from high school to university study."

The main benefits of the academic assistance program were that it covered all study disciplines, and all academic assistants had undergone training in people management and diversity management, Mark said.

Known to his friends as "Whitey", Mark is white by surname, and white by nature.

He was given the name from his cricket playing days, and although the fair hair he had as a child has all but disappeared, he has maintained his pale white skin.

When away from his studies, Mark enjoys playing and watching sports, including rugby union, AFL and rugby league. Mark also has a position on the Western Districts Cricket team, and until last year played in the first grade squad for the local competition.

A knee reconstruction and a dislocated shoulder slowed down Mark's cricket career, and he now has resumed playing in a fourth grade team.

While not graduating until 2004, Mark has already set goals for the future.

"I'm not going to sit there and do nothing," he said. "I have to set my own goals and try and achieve them."

But for now Mark is content to finish his studies and assist others who are having difficulties.

And he has some words of advice for students on residences who are having difficulties.

"Just do it. Because I am not a nerd and I can help you!"
UC linked to website hailed best

By David McKenzie

A University of Canberra graduate's web design skills have earned him international recognition for consumer-friendly design.

Jeremy Lane, who works for CSC Australia, was project leader for the design of BHP Billiton's web site, recognised in an international survey of web-pages, which placed two Australian companies in the top three.

BHP Billiton was ranked top in the survey, followed by Germany’s Daimler Chrysler Corporation and Australia’s Commonwealth Bank in third place.

Mr Lane, who graduated from UC with a Bachelor of Engineering in 1996, said CSC worked with BHP Billiton and Icon Media Labs to produce a site which was easily accessible to both the public and content providers.

Conducted by international research group ProfNet, the study analysed the "customer friendliness" of the Internet presence of companies operating within the major share indices, using 125 criteria in general areas like layout, content, handling and interactivity.

The study looked at the web-presence of 325 international companies listed on the ASX 50, Dow Jones, DAX, Nemax 50, NASDAQ, Nikkei and ATX.

The Australian arm of ProfNet is headed by UC’s Petra Bouvain and Raveena Singh. It was founded in Germany in 1997 and its international head, Dr Uwe Kamenz, is currently visiting Canberra.

Ms Bouvain said BHP Billiton had the best worldwide presence with regard to investor relations, scoring 81 points out of a possible 100. The Commonwealth Bank received a score of 70.5 points, and tenth-ranked Suncorp Metway, also Australian, was awarded 65.5 points.

Speaking at UC on August 21, Dr Kamenz also announced the results of a similar study into websites aimed at children in Germany.

The study analysed 265 brands and companies with websites aimed at six to 12 year-olds. TV stations and their children’s programs made up most of the top ten.

Dr Kamenz said companies, on the whole, failed to make effective use of the Internet’s capabilities—particularly the use of interactivity.

According to Dr Kamenz, children are the future of the Internet, but were relatively uncatered for, and in some cases, unprotected from people or companies who might exploit children.
IT students hope to WAP the competition

Four IT students are making their mark in the technology world with their progression to the semi-finals of the Nokia WAP mobile phone competition. The team of UC students - Kate McNamara, John O'Brien, Luke O'Keeffe, and Franjo Turcic - have made the final 54 entries and hope their WAP (Wireless Application Protocol) development will earn them the $50,000 first prize. WAP is the technology that allows links between wireless devices like mobile phones and the Internet by translating Internet information for display on the screen of a mobile or other portable device.

The UC team will submit a functional model of their development to Nokia for judging by September 30. The students are working on an application called “e-minder”, an electronic reminder service that sends scheduling and appointment details to users via their WAP-enabled mobile phone. While “e-minder” was devised with the needs of a specific client in mind, Luke said the product has broader commercial appeal. “The client’s needs were very limited and very simplistic, so we looked at doing extra functions,” said Luke. “From Nokia’s vantage point, that means more customers.”

The four had begun work on a WAP development for their university course and Kate chanced upon the Nokia competition while browsing for on-line information. Following registration, the group attended a Nokia seminar in Sydney for a briefing of entry requirements, including the development categories of productivity, innovation, entertainment, media and education. Given “e-minder’s” potential for improving business efficiency, the group placed their development in the productivity category.

“WAP will be very useful for managers. For example, if you're the manager of an electrical company, you can use ‘e-minder’ to allocate jobs to your employees.”

Despite these limitations, WAP provides fast and convenient access to information including stock market updates, sport reviews, e-commerce and e-mail. Franjo said the WAP project has been a challenging experience for the group, who all juggle study with full-time work. “It’s been difficult meeting deadlines and we had to learn Java, a programming script we’ve never really touched on,” he said. The group hopes to be able to celebrate their efforts in style, with a slice of the $50,000 prize money already allocated for a party. “A lot of guys around Uni are referring to us as hosting the graduation party at the end of the year,” said Luke.
The University of Canberra has found a Renaissance man in its search for a new Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Roger Dean, current Foundation Executive Director of the Heart Research Institute in Sydney, was appointed by Chancellor Wendy McCarthy and the University Council on August 21st position effective from February 2002.

Professor Dean is a man of the humanities and of science, being a cell biologist and an internationally established improviser and composer of music.

In making the appointment, Chancellor McCarthy said she and the council wished to pay tribute to Professor Don Aitkin, who will retire in January 2002 after 10 years with the university.

“He has been an outstanding Vice-Chancellor and leader in higher education. The character and growth of the University of Canberra reflects his commitment and leadership. The university is now well-positioned for its next era of leadership,” she said.

In reply, Professor Aitkin gave his successor an unequivocal endorsement.

“You all know how I feel about this place. I can’t tell you how pleased and relieved I am that Roger is replacing me,” Professor Aitkin said.

When asked about notable achievements during his administration, Professor Aitkin said the campus’ ethos of educating professionals professionally was something of which he was particularly proud.

“The university needed a sense of what it was going to be and I directed, articulated, led and persuaded on it.”

On future directions, Professor Dean in a manner true to his scientific background said the university could be best thought of as an “organism” that continued to be cohesive and innovative.

Core to this was promoting “knowledgeability, the capacity to gain, transform and create understanding”.

“I advocate these objectives and I look forward to encouraging the high quality staff and students throughout the university to advance even further its achievements regionally, nationally and internationally,” he said.

The new Vice-Chancellor received his PhD at Cambridge University, UK, and was a full Professor of Cell Biology at the early age of 35. He has worked extensively abroad.
US terrorist attacks touch UC students

By Alex Konrad and Liz Gooch

The University of Canberra community has extended its deep sadness over terrorist attacks in New York and Washington last week to all students from the United States currently studying at the campus.

The International Office and the Health and Counselling Centre was on alert after learning of the news, providing staff and students with support as events unfolded.

UC has approximately 20 students from the United States, and its overall international student component is almost 1000.

UC Chancellor Wendy McCarthy expressed her sympathy to all students of all backgrounds.

She said that the university's student body should heed the incident as an example that "we all need to learn to live together".

"There's a limit to how much hate there can be," she said.

The only way to stop incidents like this happening in the future was for individuals to take responsibility for achieving harmony in their communities, she said.

This was something that had been achieved on the university's campus.

However it appears not all Australian campuses have been as lucky.

The National Union of Students said it had received reports from several campuses of racist attacks against students of Middle Eastern appearance.

"Some students of Middle Eastern appearance have been taunted with racial abuse from fellow students," NUS President David Henderson said last week.

NUS called on campuses to be proactive in discouraging vilification.

"We'd like people to be on the lookout to protect students who might be on the end of this abuse," Mr Henderson said.

At UC, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Meredith Edwards confirmed the safety of Vice-Chancellor Don Aitkin, who had been travelling in North America.

"Our Vice-Chancellor rang in from Canada today and he is safe and well. He will probably reschedule his flights and avoid Washington," she said.

Professor Edwards said everyone at UC was "shocked and numb by the tragic and horrific events in New York and Washington DC," she said.

Meanwhile, Science and Design Pro-Vice Chancellor Eugene Clark, who is originally from the United States, said both American and Australian citizens would be affected.

"Given that the world is now such an interconnected place, and particularly because many people from all over the world work in Washington and New York, many people are going to be affected, including Australian families," he said.

"I hope that out of this tragedy we may have closer cooperation among countries to ensure these incidents don't happen in the future.

"We need to make greater progress towards peaceful resolutions."

Professor Clark said the disaster showed how fragile security was and that this could not be taken for granted.
December 5.
The UCU Board will be taken has been rescheduled for a special general meeting where a vote of no confidence in the President, Mr. Marsden-Ballard, is expected to be taken due to concerns by students and staff. Mr. Marsden-Ballard also assured Mr. Storey that staff would be consulted on any changes to the structure of the union.

Mr. Marsden-Ballard said the Union was "not moving anything in the direction of anything commercial expertise, and that the funds should be used for the benefit of students." He claimed the UCU was using funds which should have been allocated to clubs and societies to support other ventures.

He said the SA and Postgraduate Students Association had an extra $500,000 in fees.

Mr. Storey said the increase in the SA's share would represent a "commercial venture."

"Where do our fees go?" he asked.

The society's decision stemmed from the UCU's failure to adequately inform people. The society was unhappy with the UCU's management of people that are competent and in touch with the market on a minute-by-minute basis.

Mr. Storey said he was not aware of any problems and said the union had received no complaints from students.

However, UCU general manager Phil Storey said he was not surprised by the conflict of interest.

Mr. Storey said the SA and Postgraduate Students Association had an extra $500,000 in fees.

"We are now being penalised and receive less money in fees," he said.

Mr. Storey said the UCU went from making a loss of $400,000 in 1997 to making a profit of $130,000 in 1999.

"The UCU has been able to reduce the portion it takes from the fees because we've been able to turn this organisation around and get the conflict of interest," he said.

The society's share would be spent in the wrong areas, he said.

"The UCU has spent $19,000 on clubs and societies. We would spend $70,000 in the first year." He claimed the UCU was using funds which should have been spent in the wrong areas, he said.

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"The UCU has spent $19,000 on clubs and societies. We would spend $70,000 in the first year."

The UCU currently receives $1 million in amenities and commercial services fees.

The society's share would be spent in the wrong areas, he said.

"The UCU has spent $19,000 on clubs and societies. We would spend $70,000 in the first year."
UC’s Olympians still basking in the glow

By Robin Poke

The major feature of Australia’s Olympic Games team in Sydney was, of course, its size. Taking advantage of its host status, the Australian Olympic Committee selected 650 athletes and officials for Australia’s largest and most successful team ever. What is not so widely known is that of those 650, 31 had an association with the University of Canberra and of that number, four won medals and eight helped win them.

Pride of place goes to swimmer Petria Thomas, who won silver in both the 4 x 100 medley relay and 4 x 200 metres freestyle relay, and bronze in the 200 metres butterfly. Petria deferred her Bachelor of Applied Science studies to concentrate on the Olympics - but told Monitor at the Canberra victory parade she would almost certainly resume her studies. “I’m so far into it,” she said. “It would make sense to complete the course.”

Also winning silver were Jaime Fernandez and Nick Porzig, members of the Australian men’s rowing eight. Jaime is a 1998 Bachelor of Education graduate, while Nick graduated this year with a Bachelor of Architecture. Petra, Jaime and Nick completed their studies as members of an Australian Institute of Sport program that encourages the pursuit not only of sporting but also academic excellence.

Rowing coach Paul Thompson, also at the AIS and a Bachelor of Applied Science graduate from UC, guided the women’s pair of Rachael Taylor and Kate Slater to a silver medal. Paul, who also coached Slater and Megan Stiller another UC graduate, to gold in the pairs in Atlanta, said at the victory parade that his UC studies had given him a great grounding in issues relating to both sport and the community.

Rowing coach Paul Thompson, swimmer Petria Thomas and sailor Michael Blackburn are just three of UC’s Olympic representatives.

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Paralympics Home Page
UC’s Paralympic coach

“This particularly applies to planning, problem-solving and program management,” he said. “Moreover, the people I studied with remain part of an extremely valuable sporting network.” Another water-borne graduate, Michael Blackburn, won a sailing bronze medal in the Laser class. Michael has a Sports Studies degree from UC and has since obtained a doctorate in human movement studies from the University of Queensland. “I have fond memories of UC,” Blackburn said at the victory parade, “and still apply what I learned there.”

Among a large number of other athletes who are studying or have graduated from UC are track and field competitors Dion Russell, Benita Willis and Grant Cremer; water polo player Daniel Marsden and wrestler Ben Vincent. However, UC graduates also played a significant administrative role at the Games. Craig McLachlan, a 1985 Bachelor of Applied Science graduate and a distinguished alumni recipient during the University’s recent 30th anniversary celebrations, is Secretary-General of the Australian Olympic Committee.

David Pyne, who has a Masters in Sports Science, was Sports Science Co-ordinator with our hugely successful swimming team, while Paul Sloan, a Bachelor of Education, was swimming’s Assistant Section Manager. Among other graduates to make a great contribution was Media Liaison Officer with the Australian sailing team, Megan Sinton, while Peter Hugg, Donna Blay, Julian Jones, Reuben Birdie and Nick Hunter all obtained jobs with SOCOG.

Liz Broad, Wayde Clews, Simon Alston and former staff member Emily Hinkin all held senior positions with national sporting federations, Gayle Wills worked with the ACT Government organisation Project 2000, and Kerryn Pratt reported for the Channel Seven cable network.
Once bitten, never turtle-shy, says scientist

By David McKenzie

A turtle bit Tara Goodsell on the leg, and she knows this sounds strange. “My friends would say ‘How can you get bitten by a turtle?’” Obviously, you weren’t running fast enough!

But according to Tara, being bitten by a turtle is just part of the job. In recent years collecting turtles can be dangerous.

For four weeks in April and May, Tara and her colleagues from the University of Canberra’s Applied Ecology Research Group were based in Cooper Creek (in Queensland), trapping over 1000 turtles, measuring them and taking tissue samples.

Cooper Creek turtles live for up to 100 years, growing as large as 6kg. But their life cycle is affected by the “boom and bust” ecology of the rivers they live in.

During flood times such as Cooper Creek can be a dangerous place, but for most of the year they are reduced to chains of waterholes.

Tara says while some of the bigger waterholes are permanent, others are only semi-permanent, drying up over time.

These waterholes can work well, so as their waterholes dry up, these turtle numbers, and the turtle’s chorus becomes connected again allowing the turtles to share these knowledge and reproduce.

Tara says this would mean taking out of the system and altering the natural flow.

Tara says this impairs such regulatory work, and further ecological studies are needed to determine how to best manage (dangerous) rivers.

Studies into their ecology might help determine how to best manage these waterholes.

Tara has been on two research trips to Cooper Creek, saying she has fallen in love with such a “fantastic” place.

She says you can’t go out there without it changing you. There is a real spirit of the land out there.

The local people showed great interest in the project, welcoming the researchers and eagerly awaiting the results.

Tara says one of the important tasks of such research is to produce a newsletter, establishing a strong communication with the locals, learning from their comments and feeding their interest for knowledge.

Back at the Molecular Ecology Lab on campus, Tara is hard at work analysing the tissue samples she took, determining the occurrence of specific DNA sequences (microsatellites) to track genetic diversity and inheritance in turtle populations.

The lab is hidden away on the third level of UC’s Applied Science building, looking over the roofs of the campus’ administration blocks.

Researchers bustle past the pictures of reptiles and turtles, and Tara is hard at work scrutinising the sample she collected, examining the occurrence of specific DNA sequences (microsatellites) to track genetic diversity and inheritance in turtle populations.

But lab work is a world away from where she originally expected to be. After leaving school, Tara worked at the Australian National University as a scientific illustrator. “It was a good job,” she says. “But I ended up becoming more and more interested in the science and less in what I was doing. I always loved animals and had a real connection with the land.”

So she enrolled in an undergraduate ecology and environmental management course at UC, and is now studying for her Honours in Applied Science. Tara says she couldn’t have done the work without the support of her husband. Moreover, her creative skills still get used in her new life. Earlier this year at the conference of Australian Society of Herpetologists, Tara won an award for her design of a poster detailing her Cooper Creek Turtle research.

She says the work of the AERG is well received by other researchers, and the award was a bonus because it was great to get positive feedback on her project.

But Tara says her current focus is to finish her research. In a recent field trip to Cooper Creek a UC team caught over 1000 turtles. Pictured is a turtle catching a tiger bill, estimated at 80-100 years old.
Recording the turntable’s uses

By David McKenzie

Since Thomas Edison invented the phonograph in 1877, turntables gained widespread use reproducing music for a mass audience.

Caleb Stuart is researching a different use for turntables—experimental sound production.

For his thesis, Mr. Stuart, who recently transferred to the University of Canberra, is examining the development of turntables from sound reproduction devices to musical instruments.

Such experimentation began in the 1920s and 1930s as record players rose in popularity. Early experimenters pushed the device into new areas, playing foreign items like carpet and cymbals instead of vinyl records, or replacing the needle with an unusual object.

Mr. Stuart said in the 20th century music expanded to incorporate noise like this, but that sound also emerged as an artform in itself. Artists embraced the opportunity to create new and interesting noises by stretching their instruments to the limits.

According to Mr. Stuart, the first use of a phonograph as an instrument was by John Cage in the 1930s, who composed pieces for the turntable using a pictorial method.

In the 1960s, the Fluxus art movement in New York, Germany and Tokyo embraced the new noises, incorporating it into their multi-media artworks. Perhaps the most famous member of the Fluxus was Yoko Ono.

Despite the Fluxus subsiding into relative obscurity, using turntables continues, especially with American and Japanese artists.

Some of the practices include breaking records and gluing different records together to create new music, and destroying parts of the record-player to create new sound effects.

Although the sounds produced are certainly interesting and intriguing, Mr. Stuart said sometimes the ideas involved are more interesting than the music itself.

Himself a music promoter, Mr. Stuart has been conducting extensive primary research, interviewing some of the early audio experimenters. But he says the artform, though largely unknown, is still very much alive, especially in Japan, France, England, Canada, and to a small extent in Sydney.

While CDs may have superseded the old vinyl LPs, some artists are finding new uses for broken and cracked records, and the machines designed to play them. Photo: Louise Rugendyke.
Sports Studies student
Island home welcomes Loretta’s love of sport
By Liz Gooch

Work experience is often associated with coffee making and letter opening, for Loretta Hollands, however, the practical component of her course meant a trip to the Solomon Islands.

Before leaving Australia, Loretta completed five months of research and preparation work on the Solomon Islands project.

During the last university holidays, Loretta worked with the Solomon Islands National Olympic Committee on behalf of the Australian Sports Commission.

Loretta spent two weeks in the Solomon Islands, working as the sole ASC/UC Resource consultant.

The third-year sports administration student completed an internship at ASC in Canberra as part of a Special Sports Studies unit.

Loretta’s role involved resource taking and vote tallying.

"That’s why you need to learn the culture," she said.

"You really need to get to know the people in order to help them," she said.

Before leaving Australia, Loretta completed five months of research and preparation work on the Solomon Islands project.

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"You really need to get to know the people in order to help them," she said.

Loretta Hollands (above at left, and below at right) in the Solomon Islands.
Audience of millions to benefit from translation

By Melissa Halls

The classic Australian novel, The Tree of Man, by Patrick White, has been translated into Hindi for Indian readers with the assistance of Professor Satendra Nandan from the University of Canberra’s School of Creative Communication.

Almost three years in the making, the 500-page narrative was the result of the collaboration between Professor Nandan and Professors Santosh Sareen and Raj Gupta of the Jawaharlal Nehru University.

The book appealed to Indian readers greatly, Professor Nandan said, as it was a story of two people beginning their life in the wild.

The ideas of spirituality in the novel were linked to Buddhist ideology, he said.

Australian studies, especially in literature are becoming increasingly popular in India for postgraduate students. One contributing factor to this popularity was a connection with British colonial history, Professor Nandan said.

And the revoking of the immigration policies of the 1960s had created new opportunities for the people of India. Australia closed its doors on the rest of the world with the White Australia Policy, Professor Nandan said.

But in the last 30 years there had been the opening of the Indian imagination towards Australia, which was previously inaccessible, he said.

Professor Nandan is currently writing the introduction for the translation, which will provide Indian readers with background information on Patrick White, the relationship between culture and academic literature, and the development and importance of literature and culture.

With a publishing deal to be finalised, Professor Nandan expects the book will be published at the end of the year, or early in 2003.

Professor Nandan recently attended the inaugural conference of the Indian Association for the Study of Australia at the University of Madras. More than 300 delegates attended the meeting including the Australian High Commissioner to India, and the chairman of the Australia-India Council.
Tourism’s master, apprentice collect industry honours

By Greg Welsh

A recent University of Canberra graduate and a former staff member have underlined the university’s contribution to ACT tourism – an industry Urban Services Minister Brendan Smyth recently said earned $1 billion dollars a year for the territory.

Tourism graduate Kristen Benn will spend six months with British Airways in London after winning the Tourism for Tomorrow Scholarship.

The scholarship is offered annually to an Australian graduate of tourism, environmental studies or a related area, to undertake a 12-month research and work program.

Scholarship winners investigate best-practice environmental management techniques of benefit to Australian tourism and establish international links in the travel and tourism industry.

Ms Benn flew out of Australia on July 8 to spend six months working in British Airways’ Sustainable Tourism Unit in London. She will follow the placement with two, three-month periods at the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Tourism and the Sport and Tourism Division of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources in Canberra.

Upon graduating from UC, where she was the first tourism student to be awarded the prestigious Chancellor’s Commendation, Ms Benn gained employment as a research and development assistant with the Canberra Tourism and Events Corporation.

UC tourism Professor Trevor Mules referred to Ms Benn as “the best student we have had in the 11 years the tourism program has been running”.

Meanwhile, founding UC tourism program director Dr Bryan Ward was awarded the prestigious Australian Public Service Centenary Medal at a function in the Great Hall of Parliament House on June 19.

The medal recognised Dr Ward’s outstanding service to the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, particularly in the field of tourism.

He has been closely involved with major tourism related policy initiatives including the uniform regulation of travel agents in Australia; the introduction of rewards duty free shopping at Australian international aviation gateways; and the research and publication of the first report on the economic benefits of tourism shopping in Australia.

Dr Ward was seconded from the APS in 1988 as the foundation program director to develop the undergraduate tourism degree at UC. When he returned to the department in December 1993, he left behind one of the most successful and popular courses on campus, with a number of graduates having achieved national and international recognition.

Although he retired in 1994, Dr Ward returned to the university briefly in Semester One last year to teach the Tourism Economics and Policy unit.

ACT Tourism Minister Brendan Smyth announced recently that tourism was the ACT’s first billion-dollar industry.

“Tourism is our biggest private sector industry, employing over 14,000 people and bringing into the region in excess of a billion dollars annually,” Mr Smyth said.

“With visitor numbers approaching four million per year, tourism is now big business in the ACT, with the industry one of the most dynamic and rapidly-growing sectors of our economy.

“There has been a profound shift in the public perception of tourism from a leisure activity to a vital component of the economy,” he said.
Student Joanne Duffy ran a leg of the torch relay with her guide dog, Patience. Afterwards, Joanne had to run the media gauntlet, above.

Professor Linda Reaby, pictured above, ran her leg of the relay in Barton.

Director of Community Relations, Robin Poke, said he felt like “a Beatle” with the public reception of his running of a leg in the torch relay, pictured below.

International and Community Relations staff, Jenny Linardakis and Martin Aspley-Davis, took the chance to pose with Robin Poke and his torch.
Big week for 30th Anniversary events

A number of graduates were presented with Distinguished Alumni Awards at the Reunion Lunch on August 27. Left: Brand Hoff, Managing Director of Tower Software, with the V-C, Don Aitkin.

Below: Greg Turnbull, Press Secretary for the Leader of the Opposition, Kim Beazley, was also on hand to be presented with his award.

Left: Staff Member, Professor Linda Reaby, was a recipient of the award. Linda's celebrations will continue when she runs her leg of the Olympic Torch Relay on September 7.

Right: The opening of Building 20 was another event for the 30th Anniversary celebrations. ACT Chief Minister, Kate Carnell, opened the new building, which is home to the School of Languages and International Education, the UC College and the flexible Learning Delivery Program.

Left: The UCU Camel helped out with market research on the 30th Anniversary events.

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30th Anniversary Homepage
UC scores a winner with Youth Cosmos

A new sponsorship agreement between the University and the Canberra Cosmos will serve the dual purpose of promoting UC nationally as a place to study as well as serving to keep Canberra's young sportsmen in the region.

The University announced it will sponsor a Cosmos Youth team in the National Youth League (NYL) soccer competition at a press conference on September 7. The National Youth League was established in 1984, and has provided an introduction to elite competition for a host of current stars, including Socceroos Mark Viduka, Paul Okon and Brett Emerton.

The deal, which is for an initial term of two years, will promote UC throughout the important academic catchment regions of Sydney, Western Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle in a similar way to the UTS sponsorship of National Soccer League team, Sydney Olympic.

"It's important because it gives you depth in your playing talent, it's important because it keeps your talented youngsters in Canberra," said Danny. "There is a lost generation of Canberra youngsters who have finished playing, say with the Academy, say with their junior teams, and have gone looking for opportunities elsewhere."

Coach of the youth squad, Tony Brennan, agreed that the team will serve an important function within the club and the community. "For the last five years, Canberra Cosmos has only been a team. Today we're a club and that's important," said Tony.

Acting Vice-Chancellor, Graham Pollard, with members of the UC Youth Cosmos

UC's Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Graham Pollard, said the sponsorship of the team, which will be known as the UC Youth Cosmos, also provides an important stepping stone between the ACT Academy of Sport team (for 16 and 17 year olds) and the Cosmos senior side. "This is the first year in some time that Canberra will have a youth team in the National Youth League, and so our young people will no longer need to go elsewhere in order to develop at the elite level," said Graham.

Graham said the sponsorship merely confirms the University's commitment to the community and to the region's youth. "It shouldn't be any great surprise that the University is sponsoring this team. The University has a history of a keen interest in sport," Graham said.

Cosmos Chairman, Danny Moulis, said the development of the new youth team is fundamental to the new Cosmos. With only a 20 man first team squad, compared with 28 to 30 at some other clubs, Danny said the Cosmos are committed to providing opportunity and a career path for talented players.
Boys' attitudes about becoming men surprising but refreshing

Adults shouldn't be making assumptions about what teenage boys think or feel—they should be asking the boys themselves. This is one of the major outcomes of research by a UC Masters student, Anna Prosser, who surveyed a group of boys about their attitudes on becoming men.

According to Anna, the survey which kept cropping up were words like equality, balance, relationships and family. In the man they most admired—34 per cent chose their father, 15 per cent chose a sportsman—the quality they most admired was that they were caring. In the same vein, 70 per cent of the boys disagreed with the statement that men needed to be aggressive to prove their masculinity, and 67 per cent disagreed with the idea that communicating their needs was a sign of weakness.

The survey was not designed so that results could be extrapolated to the general population—the decision to focus on a more privileged group of boys was also deliberate.

"There's a lot of research about problem youth, but not much on the so-called privileged," said Anna. "I was really open to whatever they told me. I didn't have an agenda or a stance," she said. The survey was conducted anonymously during class time, and so Anna believes the responses were not subject to outside influences.

"I think that's more likely to happen if you had interviews or a focus group, where the researcher is actually present," said Anna. She was also heartened by the types of issues the boys chose to write about and their response to the whole survey.

"I got little notes at the bottom of the surveys thanking me for doing the research," she said. Anna stressed that the survey results were based on the boys' attitudes, not how they would behave.

"The study wasn't looking at behaviour, but attitude. When they get out and test their attitudes, they may not be able to hold on to them," she said.

"In society today I think that many men are scared of being an outcast, and so often assume a stereotypical role and become one of the crowd."

"I am sometimes confused about what it means to 'be a man' but every man is different—he should not have to conform to society's definition of a 'man', and each man should be able to express their masculinity in a way that is uniquely theirs."

"At the moment I am somewhat confused about what being a man in today's society entails. The main reason for this is the rapid and dramatic change in the position that women take. The traditional manly role has been discarded and a new role imposed. This new role is not yet clear cut... and as a result it is hard to know where we stand."

"I don't want to marry a submissive, subservient woman, nor do I want in any way to force my wife to stay at home and mind the children. I want to marry a woman who is intelligent and who provides me with great intellectual stimulation. I want a woman who is willing to take me on and challenge me..."

"If I ever marry it would be to a career and life focused person who understood that if we had children the responsibilities would be shared, as would housework."
Journalism students making gains in Australia and abroad

By Anthony Mason

Three UC journalism students will gain first-hand insights into the operations of newspapers in Cambodia, The Philippines and Thailand with the announcement of the Ken and Yasuko Myer Fellowships for 2001.

Amy Bainbridge has been assigned to The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Karen Ingram will work for The Pnohm Penh Post, and Monitor intern Liz Gooch will write for The Bangkok Nation. They will each have a one-week orientation at the Australian embassy before their four-week stint at the papers.

The Myer Fellowships, worth $3000 each, covers the cost of the airfares and accommodation. It is the second time the Myer Fellowships have been awarded. In January this year, the inaugural winners, Lyndal McFarland and Fleur Leyden, worked in Manila and Bangkok respectively. Lyndal is now working for Agence France Press in Sydney and Fleur has been appointed to a prestigious journalism cadetship at The Age in Melbourne.

Honorary Professor in Communication, Richard Broinowski, said helping students establish their careers was "precisely what we want to do" with the Fellowships. Richard, who set up the Fellowships, said UC was leading the way in giving journalism students this kind of experience. "We're one of the few universities in Australia running this kind of program," he said.

Head of the School of Professional Communication, Warwick Blood, said the standard of applicants was exceptional this year. "We're always faced with an impossible task to send all of the finalists but just haven't got the resources," said Warwick. "But I think the students who have been chosen are absolutely outstanding and they will learn so much from this internship in Asia," he said.

"We are very grateful to the Myer Foundation for continuing to support it and also for our Honorary Professor Richard Broinowski for his support, particularly his time in setting these things up and getting everything done and organised."

Richard said he would like to try and expand the programme by holding discussions with the Myer Foundation in Melbourne in February and he is also seeking other funding sources. He would also like to see placements in countries such as Korea and Indonesia, and also explore the possibility of reciprocal exchanges. "Wouldn't it be great if some of these papers sent their top cadets here?" he said.
powerlifter wins silver medal at paralympics

A silver medal surprise for Richard

By Greg Welsh

Sydney 2000 Paralympian silver medalist in powerlifting, Richard Nicholson, needed only think back to the Atlanta Games in 1996 when he was searching for motivation in Sydney. “I placed eighth. In retrospect it was a fair result but I under-performed on the day,” Richard recalled.

“I’d competed internationally before but never at that level. I only got one lift on the board out of my three so it just wasn’t a good day at the office. I’m not disappointed with it now, but I certainly was at the time.” The reason Atlanta no longer fazes the 30-year-old Canberran, of course, is the silver medal he won in Sydney.

“I was really surprised — I didn’t expect to get a medal,” Richard said. “I was happy when I finished because that was a personal best, the national record and the first triple-bodyweight bench press in Australia.” What makes the medal — the only one won by Australia in powerlifting in Sydney — even more special was that Richard had to do it the hard way.

Being the lightest lifter in the 60kg category meant that Richard automatically placed above competitors lifting the same weight, however as he was drawn into the B Group, Richard had to lift before the top lifters in the tournament. Powerlifter Richard Nicholson was the lightest lifter in his category but still managed to win a silver medal at the Sydney Olympics.

“I just watched them fail and crumble around me, and came up with the silver medal. It was a nerve-racking way, but it just came off,” he said. Richard, a second-year Sports Administration student at UC, rates the 1,000,000-plus crowd as one of the highlights of the Games.

“The more I think about it the more I realise how lucky we were as athletes to have one in our own country,” he said. “Even if Athens does the impossible and pulls off the best event ever, it will never be the same for us.”

At the powerlifting there was a queue, it was sold out as soon as they opened the doors every day. Most of the other events around town were like that as well. Richard believes the families who attended the Paralympics got a lot more than they’d bargained for.

“They’ve got a better appreciation of certainly the skills involved and the level of competition and sport. Many people were pleasantly surprised at how competitive it was. When you see people without arms running sub-11 seconds for the 100 metres you realise that’s it pretty serious stuff.”

In particular, Richard felt the participation of hordes of schoolchildren from around the country, subsidised by the Federal Government, was beneficial. “That was just brilliant because there is a whole generation of schoolkids now growing up who only have an understanding of the Paralympics but just have a better understanding and perception of people with disabilities,” he said.

“When they see someone on the screen in a chair or an athlete they probably want to work. They probably think: ‘I wonder what sport that person does?’ and they don’t see them as so different any more.” Many of the spectators at the powerlifting might not have known is that he is also a more than useful sprinter in a wheelchair.

“When I was in Atlanta I was getting hassled out by a few of the track coaches, particularly Louise Sauvage,” Richard said. “They saw my body type — I’ve got small legs and big upper body — and said ‘You’d do really well in a chair’.

“Louise” continued to pester Richard until 1087 when he conceded he would try the sport if she had a racing chair. Two weeks later Sauvage and Richard met one of her old ones. “By the Nationals this year in April, I was running second to the national champion in the 100 and 200 and actually qualified for the 100 in the Paralympics.”

But due to “silly sporting red tape and bureaucracy” Richard was unable to compete in his Olympic Stadium in Sydney. The International Paralympic Committee had said he would have to use one of the 61 track and field places allocated to the Australian team as well as his powerlifting place, effectively excluding another athlete from the team.

Richard’s priorities for the next two years are to finish his degree at UC and perform well at the Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games which will include powerlifting for the first time at a five of four Paralympic sports.
The University of Canberra's Dr Amareswar Galla had the rare honour of receiving an award for outstanding service to heritage conservation during 2000.

The award was conferred by Mr Ha Van Hien on behalf of the Vietnamese Government, the Chairman of the Peoples Committee and the Secretary General of the Party of Quang Ninh Province.

The presentation was made at a dinner in Ha Long Bay, which was hosted for 93 Association of South East Asian Nations museum dignitaries - the setting having some of the world’s most unique heritage resources despite being one of its poorest communities.

UNESCO recognised Ha Long Bay World Heritage Area for its outstanding aesthetic and landscape values in 1994, and for its geological values in 2000. Inspired by their surrounds, the dignitaries - museum directors, heads of cultural ministries, as well as Interpol and Customs from each of the Southeast Asian countries - discussed strategies for the prevention of illicit traffic in cultural property.

Dr Galla chaired the workshop in his capacity as the President of the Asia Pacific Board of the International Council of Museums.

Mr Van Hien said that Dr Galla was considered a rare genius at formulating community economic development initiatives based on culture and heritage resources.

Dr Galla was currently examining sustainable development, using Vietnamese, Indian and South African case studies.

He had given his valuable time and expertise for developing strategies that dealt with the conflicts between the heritage and environmental conservation in the face of rapid urbanisation, unprecedented growth in tourism and the pollution from some of the largest open cut coal mines in the world.
Thinking styles
Making sense of thinking styles
By Viva Goldner

Albert Einstein, who went on to become last century's definitive genius after failing school twice, believed imagination was more important than knowledge. If Einstein were alive today, he would almost certainly have been categorised as a creative thinker, according to the University of Canberra's Dr Francesco Sofo.

Dr Sofo, of the School of Professional and Community Education, has developed an inventory to describe the various thinking styles people use to deal with ideas and everyday situations.

The Thinking Style Inventory includes five different ways of thinking, including conditional, inquiring, exploring, independent and creative.

While most people would like to be associated with the creative style of great thinkers like Einstein, Dr Sofo insisted his inventory was not hierarchical, with each style suited to certain situations, and not others.

"Thinking is the particular ways you manage your thoughts, feelings and intuitions," Dr Sofo said.

"Because thinking is situational, to be a truly effective thinker requires mastery of all the types."

Conditional thinking relied on an acceptance of the status quo, for example, an employee obeying the request of a supervisor without question.

Similarly, inquiring thinkers would accept the request, but would clarify their supervisor's motivation in order to increase their own understanding.

"Exploring thinkers search all sides of an issue and tend to go beyond just understanding the situation, to create options and alternative ways of thinking of the context," Dr Sofo said.

He said Mal Meninga's dramatic withdrawal from political contest during a recent ABC radio interview could be an example of how independent thought surfaced during particular situations.

"Independent thinkers form their own views and say what they think. They do not accept, without challenge, the credentials that have led them to their thoughts and actions," he said.

The Thinking Style Inventory categorised creative thinkers as those who preferred to invent images and pictures to facilitate thought.

"This style is very different from the other styles, where there seems to be a power relation between you and the rest of the world. In the creative style, it is simply your capacity to create pictures," Dr Sofo said.

He made a further distinction between convergent thinking, encompassing conditional and inquiring styles, and divergent thinking, which could be exploring, independent or creative.

"Convergence is when you bring all your thinking to focus on a particular point that is given to you. Divergent thinking, which is also known as lateral thinking, is moving beyond analysis and synthesising the capacity to interpret the same event in different ways," he said.

Dr Sofo said society had not yet harnessed the full potential of collective thought.

"I believe that thinking can change the world. More than 90 per cent of good ideas go undeveloped to the graves with their owners," he said.
Thai nurses

By Louise Rugendyke

Australian nursing practices are under close examination by a group of visiting Thai nursing students.

The eight undergraduate students and one academic staff member from Burapha University are currently spending four weeks at the University of Canberra observing UC nursing students and Australian hospital practices.

They have been attending lectures, prac and have also spent time at the Canberra Hospital, Calvary and John James Hospitals.

The exchange is part of an on-going link between UC's nursing school and a number of Thai universities.

Pictured at a recent practical exercise are (L-R): Miriam White, Kim Sturgess, Mark Hanna, Lydia Windsor, Anjelica Brown, Kristin Wegener, Evelyn McDonald, Holly Thompson, Meghan Draper, Arawan Choolerd and Mullika Sawatprongaihoon. Photo: Louise Rayfield.
changes to tennis rules

Graham hits an ace with new tennis scoring system

In over 100 years of play, tennis scoring has been changed only once, with the introduction of the tiebreak game about 30 years ago. But now, a study by UC's Graham Pollard has led to the International Tennis Federation (ITF) deciding to trial changes to tennis scoring systems during 2000 and 2001.

Between February and May this year, Graham, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Division of Management and Technology, undertook probabilistic analyses for the ITF, the Association of Touring Professionals (ATP) and the Women's Touring Association (WTA). Working with him was Dr Ken Noble, who was a mathematician and Lecturer in Operations Research at the CCAE in the mid-1970s.

So far, the ATP and WTA have shown greatest interest in the approved option of replacing best-of-three tiebreak sets with best-of-five shorter sets which are won 4 games to 0 games, 4-1, 4-2, 5-3 or 5-4 following a tiebreak game of 4-4.

The shorter sets have two major advantages over the current system: they progress more quickly to the most exciting end part of the set, and provide extra opportunities for fresh starts, momentum changes and exciting stages. Already some men's professional futures tournaments have been held using this scoring system.

The analyses for the ITF drew on software for analysing nested scoring systems which Graham and Ken first developed in the mid-1980s. "The trials are part of the profession's process of striving for continuous quality improvement in the game," said Graham. "There is no suggestion that the present scoring system is 'broken', rather that there may be a scoring system which is even more popular and successful for some situations."

"Given that the last time scoring in tennis was modified was about 30 years ago when the tiebreak game was introduced, even a trial change is a major development in tennis," he said. Graham has had an interest in scoring systems for some time. In 1983 he published a paper which gave the first full probabilistic comparison of classical and tiebreak tennis. In that paper he outlined the methodology for fully analysing any "nested" (points within games, within sets, within the match) scoring system.

In 1986 Graham established within a general theoretical framework a mathematical relationship between the "efficiency" of any scoring system, and the "importance" of the points within that system. The shorter sets described above remove the less important (and less exciting) games within that set.

Graham's work on scoring systems in sport has been paralleled by related work in non-sporting areas, such as scoring systems for assessment. In 1991 he was presented with the David Hilbert Award by the World Federation of National Mathematics Competitions for a paper on optimal scoring systems within the multiple choice framework. Graham's interest in scoring systems in sport did not develop in a vacuum. He was formerly a first grade tennis player and State squash champion.
Internet the playground of the rich

By Greg Welsh

A new study by the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) has exploded the theory that rural and regional Australians are not connecting to the Internet because of poor services. The report into Internet take-up, commissioned by telecommunications giant Telstra, found that income, age and educational factors were of far greater importance than location when it came to home use of the Internet. "Even if we have perfect connections throughout the whole of Australia then there's still going to be a lot of people who aren't going to be able to access it," said one of the report's authors, Rachel Lloyd of NATSEM.

"We found that education first, income, age and whether or not there were children in the house were the main factors. "Once you took those variables out, region itself wasn't a main factor. There are differences in regional take-up rates but that's because they've got lower incomes, educational levels and there's probably more old people as well." The study found that adults with a tertiary education were 2.3 times more likely to have Internet access at home than adults with a primary/secondary school education.

Seventy per cent of households earning $84,000 or more were connected compared to 22 per cent of those earning less than $19,000. People younger than 55 years of age were twice as likely to have access than those older than 55. In comparison, region and gender were only mild variables. Forty per cent of adults in metropolitan areas are connected compared to 30 per cent in non-metropolitan areas, while males were only 1.3 times more likely than females to have access to the Internet at home.

NATSEM analysed data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and KPMG for the report, which was undertaken in conjunction with the Australian Council for Social Service (ACOSS) and the Communications Law Centre (CLC) and released on August 24. Although Rachel believes the study will help Government plan their telecommunications strategy, she cautions that Internet research is still quite volatile.

"There is bit of a lack of data on the Internet and it is changing so fast," Rachel said. "In the last six months there has just been such an increase. We did do some projections but it's very difficult to predict what will happen because there has been just a huge take-up." For more information, contact Rachel on 6201 2764.
Keeping indigenous heart alive

By Louise Rugendyke

Director of the Agamonement Centre, Tracey Bunda. Photo: Louise Rugendyke

"Curly hair, white sleeve, white shirt; she doesn't look like an academic," I comment. And Tracey Bunda certainly doesn't look like the kind of person I'd expect to see at an academic conference, yet that's exactly what she is doing, seated in her office at the Agamonement Centre, dressed in a sharp suit, with her hair tied back in a bun.

"I have a reputation for being on time," she says, as she moves through a stack of papers on her desk. "I'm known for being a bit of a perfectionist, so I try to be on time for everything." She laughs, revealing her white teeth.

But if Tracey is known for being a bit of a perfectionist, she's also known for her dynamic approach to indigenous education. "We are dynamic, we are viable, we are strong," she says, speaking with conviction.

She describes the Ngunnawal Centre as small in comparison to similar universities, but strong. "There are centres at Curtin and James Cook Universities, but strong."

As for the future of the Ngunnawal Centre, Tracey hopes to get people coming through in maths and sciences and encourage success in maths and sciences in indigenous studies.

The low numbers enrolled in these disciplines can be traced back to high school, she says, which she feels hasn't "actively" back to indigenous students. "Many of the gains indigenous people made in the late 80s and early 90s have been eroded since the 1980s.

"Last year Dr Aileen Morton-Robertson provided the Ngunnawal Centre with funding to celebrate its 100th indigenous graduate and we're really proud of that." She sings as she speaks, her voice full of pride.

In terms of indigenous education at UC today, last year the Swag mentality associated with funding is always difficult, but it's not the only issue. Lack of funding is not specifically to blame, she says. "It's the swag mentality associated with funding..." She pauses and continues, "It's the swag mentality associated with funding..."

"That is, if you are indigenous in this country you may participate in higher education only if you bring your swag [that is] if you..."

"And it's not just about funding. It's about the way institutions determine whether we are guests or a troublesome guest."

"The goodwill of the institution determines whether we are a good guest or a troublesome guest."

"Paradigm, that we are guests within our own country and the..."

"But, I think that the moment we move beyond that paradigm, the..."

"The moment we move beyond that paradigm, the..."

"It's really insulting. Our right to self-determination has been stripped if that's the treatment..."

"As sovereign people [of this land] that's really insulting. Our right to self-determination has been stripped if that's the treatment..."

"It's the swag mentality and depending on the goodwill of the..."

"Many of the gains indigenous people made in the late 80s and early 90s have been eroded since the 1980s."

"Having been at the forefront of tertiary indigenous education for 18 years, Tracey believes the profile of indigenous education has dropped and, if anything, we have taken a step back since the 1980s."

"I was inspired to go to university," she says. "It was a responsibility." She smiles, her eyes shining with pride.

"I wanted to be able to make the transition from school to..."

"After completing her degree, Tracey stayed in Queensland and was the first of her family to complete a tertiary education."

"A Wakka Wakka-Geonpul woman, Tracey hails from Queensland, so I really had to be mobile."

"I left my Aboriginal community and took the position at..."

"From 1986 she moved around, working at Monash University in Gippsland."

"I wanted to be able to make the transition from school to..."

"As for the future of the Ngunnawal Centre, Tracey hopes to..."

"We need to be able to address that..."

"She describes the Ngunnawal Centre as small in comparison to similar universities, but strong.

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"She describes the Ngunnawal Centre as small in comparison to similar universities, but strong.
ALP pushes for more open government

By Anthony Mason

Shadow Minister for Finance, Lindsay Tanner, has used an National Institute of Governance address to announce new ALP policy on restoring openness to government. In the November 2 seminar at the UC Staff Club, the Federal Member of the House of Representatives said the Howard GovernmentÕs push for outsourcing has resulted in a lot less scrutiny of public spending.

The announcement came ahead of a report by the Joint Committee on Public Accounts and Audit on public accountability. "The Howard Government has enormously extended the use of commercial-in-confidence as a reason for refusing scrutiny of government contracts," said Lindsay. He said commercial-in-confidence was being used as a "veil of secrecy". "Basically, the Department and the contractor make decisions about what is to be scrutinised, and they do it on the run," he said.

Lindsay said a Labor Government would ensure public access to government contract information in a number of ways, including ensuring agencies maintain accurate registers, ensuring agencies reveal reasons for keeping information secret, and increasing the Auditor GeneralÓs and OmbudsmanÓs powers relating to cover private practices.

"That Parliamentary scrutiny of how tax payers money is spent is crucial to the process of the Westminster system," he said. The Shadow Minister also announced related changes to availability of budget information. He said these changes were needed because, as part of the introduction of accrual accounting, the Government had substantially reduced the amount and quality of budget information. "There is a degree of abrogation of information which has got out of control," said Lindsay. Under the ALP framework, forward estimates and budgets for specific agencies would be more detailed, and more meaningful outcomes and benchmarks would be developed, said Lindsay.

The Shadow Minister said the availability of budget information was critical, especially on the world stage. "The integration of information does have an effect on how we are perceived," he said.
Olympic Glory relived: Thomas smashes Commonwealth and Australian records

By Greg Welsh

A new Commonwealth record by dual Olympic silver medallist and UC student Petria Thomas inspired the University of Canberra Union Swim Team to a comprehensive victory at the inaugural Eastern University Swimming Championships held at the AIS from April 8 to 10.

Ms Thomas set the new mark of 58.26 seconds in the women's 100m Butterfly, eclipsing her previous record by .07 of a second.

UCU Sport and Recreation Coordinator Brett Bowden said the Championships, hosted by the UC, were a huge achievement.

"The three days were such a success," he said. "The swimmers, the managers that came down with the swimmers, and the officials all thought it was one of the best championships that they'd been involved in. It couldn't have gone smoother."

"We were very happy because we were the overall winners. The women won their section overall - we - the University of Canberra actually did very well."

Mr Bowden said the UCU had offered to host the event after last year's Australian University Games held in Ballarat. "The swimming's always held at the Australian University Games but it's never been a conference Championship," he said.

"The swimmers seemed to be the ones missing out, they only had the one event throughout the year, but the talent that's out there just needed to be seen."

Nearly 100 swimmers, including Sydney Olympians Thomas, Regan Harrison and Bill Kirby, represented 12 ACT and NSW tertiary institutions at the event.

"The only downer was the drugs scandal that came out on the Monday," Mr Bowden said, referring to the suspension of AIS swimming coach Gennadi Tourestski.

"Tuesday night it felt a little bit flat, but it was probably flat because the night before Petria Thomas broke the Australian and Commonwealth record and there was such a good feeling being there and witnessing it."

"Mr Bowden said he believed Ms Thomas was "using the event for the 100 metres fly" - an event she had not swum for 18 months owing to a shoulder injury - a situation he is perfectly happy about.

"I think the UCU team have set the standard right now at the Championship for the rest of the universities to come and try to beat us. Usually it's always been come and try and beat Sydney Uni but I think this year they're going to be looking at our standard."
Supreme Court
Legal milestone for UC's Moot Court
By Viva Goldner

In an innovation designed to link legal education with professional practice, the University of Canberra's Moot Court hosted the first case heard outside the ACT Supreme Court on October 19.

UC law Professor Don Fleming said the decision to hear an appeal from the civil case of Lyristakis vs Argus Real Estate Holdings Pty Ltd was made in consultation with Supreme Court registrar, Jill Circosta.

"The court was interested in making proceedings more transparent so that people could see how the courts work, rather than simply how the media tells them it works," Professor Fleming said.

Presiding Judge Ken Crispin, the first postgraduate student awarded UC's PhD in law in 1995, said the case was the realisation of a vision to bridge the gap between academia and the courtroom.

"There was a view within the university, which I share, that there has been a wider gulf between legal practice and legal education than what exists in other practices; for example, in medical school where students spend time in hospitals," Judge Crispin said.

While legal workshops were run for graduates, there were limited opportunities for students to experience law in action before completion of their degree.

"The hearing proceeded exactly as it would have in the Supreme Court, with the same barristers and arguments developed," Judge Crispin said.

Instructing solicitor for the appellant, Rod McDonald, said the appeal concerned a mental injury sustained in the workplace.

"Although the appeal was somewhat dry in the sense that there was not any interesting cross-examination of witnesses, we hope it gave some insight to the students as to how a Supreme Court matter is conducted," Mr McDonald said.

"It can only benefit both the legal community as well as the students and general public to hold these types of cases outside the precincts of the Supreme Court building."

Professor Fleming said considerable interest from law students and teachers demonstrated the success of the Moot Court trial, which was relayed via closed circuit television to a separate viewing room within the university.

"We had a lot of help on the technical side of things from Helene Walsh and James Steele in the Division of Communication and Education, who took a tape of the whole proceedings," Professor Fleming said.

The tape would be used with documentation from the case as a teaching aid for future law students.

Professor Fleming would meet with Judge Crispin in November to discuss further initiatives, such as a clinical legal education program, where students would assist in case preparation for people unable to afford legal representation.
Indigenous stereotypes
Olympics bridged racial divide
By Melissa Halls

The running of the women’s 400m at the Sydney Olympics was a defining moment for all Australians. At least one, Aboriginal runner Cathy Freeman stepped up onto the winner’s podium and Advance Australia Fair echoed around Stadium Australia – nationalism was at a new high. But did the Sydney Olympics help bridge the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians? Were previous stereotypes of indigenous Australians discarded in favour of a more positive approach?

These issues have been explored by University of Canberra Masters student Jenny Wheeler and were presented at campus seminar on October 12 by the Centre of Applied Psychology’s Dr Tricia Brown.

Ms Wheeler conducted research on non-indigenous Australia’s perception of Aborigines, with her findings indicating an attitudinal change during the Sydney Olympics. This was partly due to the Opening Ceremony, which presented Aboriginal culture to both Australia and the world in a positive way, Dr Brown said.

A Newspoll survey conducted after the Olympics revealed 87 per cent of people enjoyed the Opening Ceremony of the Olympics and the Australian public had identified reconciliation as a major theme for future debate, Dr Brown said.

Ms Wheeler’s study found similar results, of a positive shift in attitude towards Aborigines. The study was conducted by surveying 128 first-year psychology students. The first survey was conducted in July and August 2000, a few months before the Sydney Olympics, and the second shortly after the Games.

With the support of a coding system, adjectives were used to describe their impressions of Aboriginal people. Before the Olympic Games, indigenous Australians were again stereotypically described as lazy, drunks and troublemakers, according to Ms Wheeler. Post-Olympic Games, more positive adjectives including spiritual, respectful-of-the-land and artistic, were found in the top 10 coding list.

Ms Wheeler argued that these descriptions directly correlated with the effect of the Opening Ceremony.

Dr Brown said the other big event at the Olympic Games was the running of the 400m, and the victory of Cathy Freeman.

The media representation of this event led to further discussion of reconciliation.

Despite a change in attitudes, cultural stereotypes were often resistant to change, she said.

In the future, Ms Wheeler hopes to investigate the stability of this stereotype change.

"It would be interesting to learn if there has been a real change in attitudes towards indigenous Australians,” she said.
It seems the University of Canberra Union has awarded its annual sports scholarships to the campus' most talented athletes, with this year's recipients enjoying recent success in their chosen fields.

Each year, the UCU awards two full scholarships worth $1000 each and two half scholarships worth $500 each to student athletes.

On a full scholarship this year is swimmer Paul Nicholson, who has returned from the National Short Course Championships in Perth where he made several semi-finals and recorded personal best times.

Nicholson will contest the Australian University Games in September with high expectations after his successful campaign last year.

His medal haul from the 2000 Games in Perth consisted of six gold, one silver and one bronze.

While Paul has no specific future goals, his aim is to continue getting faster in the pool.

After competing at last year's Olympic trials, Paul hopes to contest the 50m backstroke at the next trials in 2004.

"As long as I keep improving I'll be happy," he said.

Meanwhile, Rower Suzannah Welsh, also a full scholarship holder, recently took out the women's double scull at the Eastern University Games.

Welsh is confident of defending her title in the event at the Australian University Games in September and has her sights set on making the Under 23s team for next year's Nations Cup.

While UC's rowers finished third overall at last year's AUGs, Welsh believes this year the team has the potential to finish in top position.

UC's rowing strength and number of competitors has improved during the past year due to the formation of a rowing club, according to UCU Sport and Recreation officer Brett Bowden.

While last year's team consisted of a mere six rowers, this year 23 UC students will test their rowing abilities against students from across Australia.

Bowden also credits the number of additional swimmers to the creation of a UC Swim Club, coached by Lynn Fowlie.

While only two students represented UC in the pool at last year's AUGs, 20 students will compete at this year's Homebush event.

One of the team's stand-out swimmers, Heath McDermott, a half-scholarship holder, has been in great form recently, taking out the 100m individual medley and 50m breaststroke.

McDermott has clear future goals, stating he is hoping to pull on the green and gold soon, possibly as early as next year.

His main rival for a spot on the Australian team in the 100m and 200m individual medley is fellow UC student, Justin Norris.

McDermott is currently preparing for the AUGs where he will contest the 200m individual medley and 50m breaststroke.

Meanwhile, Lisa Herbetson is representing the UC Hockey Club in the Canberra semifinals.

The half scholarship holder and shadow Canberra Stingers players most satisfying achievement to date was travelling to South Africa with the Australian Indoor Hockey team last year.

Herbetson hopes to play in the National Hockey League in 2002 as well as making the Inaugural World Cup.

Mr Bowden said the field of scholarship applicants was always very competitive.

"Each year we get really good applicants. It's always difficult to narrow it down," he said.

"The applicants are all very deserving."
Perfect degree for the smart city

An integrated degree comprised of Information Technology, Information Management and Communication is the degree for "the smart city", according to Trish Milne from the Communication faculty. "Canberra is now being seen as the 'smart city' and we believe this is the degree for the smart city," said Trish. "We are responding to a change in the marketplace by creating a hybrid graduate that can move across these areas. It is a degree for the times," she said.

Sarah Young is one of the first students to undertake the relatively new BA Information Technology/BA Communication Information degree. "I was enrolled in just the Information Management course but within the first two weeks I changed over because it sounded interesting and I didn't just want to do an IT degree," Sarah said. She said the perception that IT and library related degrees are for "nerds" is not true-these areas are exciting because they are constantly changing and expanding.

"It's a good opportunity because it links two degrees, so you have the skills for two things in an occupation," she said. The four-year double degree was established three years ago and Trish said as far as she knows it is unique to UC. "It is an integrated degree that socialises students into both areas. As far as we know there is no comparative degree in Australia with the three strands of IT, Communication and Information Management, so it is a unique opportunity for graduates to become leaders in the information sector," said Trish.

As well as coursework it involves a 12 month part-time internship-students are currently undertaking these at the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the ACT Public Library Service. So far, Sarah has been involved in web page work, indexing cataloguing and seeing how the overall systems work at the Australian Sports Commission Library.

Overseeing her internship is UC graduate, Alan Cockerill, who said this practical component is extremely important. "Canberra is library heaven with the major departments here and the concentration of resources," he said. "I've been trying to show Sarah what there is to do here and expose her to possible librarian and IT options." Alan believes there are not enough IT graduates with "decent management skills," something that the course includes. "Librarianship is changing and every occupation can't afford to avoid IT. Librarianship is all about information management because the web is so pervasive with mismanaged information," he said.

"They can be socialised into both aspects of IT-management and technology-topped up with a communication core, so they can talk to people," agreed Trish. "This degree will see our graduates entering all sorts of areas where they will become leaders into the 'new world' of information," she said. The unique blending of these three key areas has already seen a response from potential employers.

"Industry is approaching us for graduates. One has offered a starting salary range of $41,000 to $45,000 for someone who is almost a graduate," said Trish. "This is a degree whose employment opportunities include high starting salaries and a buoyant job market," she said. For more information about the degree, contact Trish on 6201 2053.
Audiences flock to Canberra Short Film Festival

By Anthony Mason

Canberra audiences have flocked to the Canberra Short Film Festival, with a total of 888 people attending the weekend sessions. The audience numbers were very pleasing for Festival Director, Cris Kennedy, who said that one session nearly outstripped the total audience from 1999.

"The atmosphere was so good. Everyone was really there to support the films," said Cris. The program, which included a category for young Canberra filmmakers, was well received.

"We had a lot of filmmakers and family and friends, so their reaction was over-the-top as expected. But their mood was infectious, and all our audience spent the weekend cheering and applauding every film," said Cris.

The festival, which is part of the Canberra International Film Festival, kicked off on Friday with a screening at UC which included an address by Peter George, the producer of the award-winning Australian short, Original Schtick.

Organisers invited Canberra high school students to this session, with students from Lake Ginninderra College, Dickson College and Narrabundah College attending. Lake Ginninderra College media teacher, Eleanor Morison, accompanied a group of mostly year 12 students to the screening. Eleanor explained that the students, who have been working on their own productions, have already seen films from Australia’s most prestigious short film festival, Tropfest. "They're eager to see more contemporary Australian shorts. They want to be making them," she said.

Peter George gave an animated address at the UCU Theatre screening.

One person who is making them, and making a name for himself at the same time, was special guest Peter George. Peter's film, Original Schtick, tells the story of American artist, Bob Fischer, who bamboozled the Melbourne art scene in 1997 with his dominating presence. Fischer comes across as a rude, bullying, manipulating, psychic-obsessed, lazy, self-promoting guy who actually sells very few paintings, as he himself confesses.

Peter had met Bob Fischer during an earlier visit to Melbourne when Bob said he would be returning to do some shows. Peter realised it was a great chance to make the documentary. "All I knew, intrinsically, was that he was an interesting character," said Peter. But Peter wasn't prepared for what eventuated-instead of just making the documentary Peter became Bob's assistant and, as such, a character in the documentary.

The move from behind the camera to in front of the camera was a hard but necessary decision, according to Peter. "I was the least of difficult positions (put myself) in to go along for the ride," said Peter. While Peter ended up putting up with a lot of abuse from Bob, and suffered a lot of stress, he thinks it was worthwhile in the end, especially as the film has given him access into the industry and won a lot of awards. "Bob hates my guts now. He still bad mouths me, but that's alright. I got a film out of it," he said.

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Canberra International Film Festival
Original Schick home page
"Film Festival lays them in the aisles"

"We had a lot of filmmakers and family and friends, so their reaction was over-the-top as expected. But their mood was infectious, and all our audience spent the weekend cheering and applauding every film," said Cris.

Producer of the award-winning Australian short documentary, Peter George, at left, with Director of the Canberra Short Film Festival, Cris Kennedy, after a screening at UCU Theatre.

Peter George and Cris Kennedy at a screening of Peter George's film, Original Schick.
A film without dialogue was the unlikely winner of the scriptwriting prize at a recent short-film festival. Matt Fallon, a University of Canberra new-media student, took the honours for his film script, Monday, at the recent Shoot Out short film festival in Newcastle.

The film is about a man who wakes up one day to discover "he's unsure of the reality presented to him," said Fallon, who admitted he was surprised by the award. "It was quite unexpected," he said. "It was a fairly out-there script."

Fallon was part of a four-person UC film crew who placed in the festival's final top ten. This is no small feat when you consider 162 teams entered in the festival.

Director Marisa Martin, director of photography Simon Cadman and actor Dave Evans—media production students—all pitched in to complete the film within the festival's tight, 24-hour deadline.

Unlike any other film festival in the country, Shoot Out required contestants to shoot the film and edit it without removing the tape from the camera. Another festival requirement was that several objects—a swing, water bubble and a piece of street art—had to be included in the film, to prove it was shot over the designated weekend.

Even though they were working under a strict deadline, the foursome all agreed having a script with no dialogue worked in their favour.

"Shooting in sequence makes it easier to finish," she said. "I don't think it was that hard… it took longer to do the sound mix."

"I preferred it… if you rely on dialogue too much you don't get to act and explore some things like movement," he said. "It's better not to spoon-feed the audience."

It was this ambiguity that Fallon believes was the key in winning the scriptwriting award. The plot was "open to interpretation," he said, with many viewers left with different opinions as to what the film was about.
Shire councillors put themselves to the test

Councillors from around Australia tested their media-savvy at the 55th Australian Centre for Regional and Local Government Studies (ACRLGS) course held at UC from 18 to 22 September. Nine recently elected members of Local Government from Western Australia, Northern Territory, Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales attended the course, designed to improve Councillor efficiency.

Topics covered included dealing with the media, financial management and the roles and responsibilities of elected members. The Councillors took part in simulated interviews to develop skills in press relations. ACRLGS Director Chris Aulich and Accounting lecturer Mark Hughes joined journalist and author Christine Wallace as presenters.

Christine has spent two decades in federal politics and reported from Canberra's press gallery for ten years. She authored controversial biographies including "Hewson: A Portrait" (1993) and "Greer, Untamed Shrew" (1997) and is currently working on an exposition of Carmen Lawrence and the Marks Royal Commission. The book, "Carmen's Crucifixion", has already caused disruption in Western Australian local Government.

Chris said the national context of the course gives participants the opportunity to meet senior and local members of Federal Government. Participants develop a broader understanding of both local and general Government issues through discussion with Councillors from other areas. ACRLGS has provided training for Elected Members in Australia and New Zealand since 1974 and aims to develop skills to allow Councillors to effectively represent their local community.
Female spirit expressed through camera lens

By Melissa Halls

The University of Canberra Union's Sense of Self photographic exhibition has allowed campus women to have complete creative control over media depiction of the female image.

The exhibition opened on September 24 in the Gallery Café and features the work of photographer Michael Thorne.

With a diverse range of subjects, from water conservation to Hungarian folk dancing as well as from choosing one's destiny to motherhood, Sense of Self includes photographs of 30 UC women.

Mr Thorne pursued the concept after judging in a 1993 photography competition, in which a picture of a woman was declared degrading and demeaning and therefore invalid.

He wondered how women would respond if they were given complete control of the photographs in which they were to appear.

The result is an exhibition that features personal stories such as battling cancer, getting married, and maintaining the child within.

Sense of Self is on display until Friday October 12.

Pictured above is third-year journalism student Amy Bainbridge, who described the exhibition as a "celebration of women". Sense of Self allowed Ms Bainbridge to express herself, with the globe representing travel as well as an important part of her identity. The message portrayed in the photograph was "the world is yours to live," Ms Bainbridge said. Photo: Michael Thorne/MTE Photography
University of Canberra student Kristian Kaufmehl has won the men’s alpine championship for the third time at the Australian University Snow Sports Championships in Thredbo.

After taking out the title in 1997 and 1999, the 23 year-old regained his title at the event which attracted over 200 skiers and snowboarders.

Kaufmehl, who strapped on his first set of skis at age two, said a couple of his fiercest competitors came from Victorian universities.

“There were a couple of young guys who were pretty good. But it was good to beat the Victorians,” he said.

The state and junior national team representative said the event, held on September 2 to 7, was getting bigger each year.

“The competition is getting tougher because more ski racers are finding out about the event,” Kaufmehl said.

The standard of the event had improved over recent years because the races now met of International Ski Federation guidelines, he said.

Fellow UC students also enjoyed considerable success on the slopes to help UC finish in the top six.

Skiers Andrew Circosta won the men’s individual cross-country event while Sarah Phippen came third in both the women’s individual cross-Country and the alpine slalom.

Snowboarder Jaime Pinkerton finished third in the boarder cross and fourth in the snowboard giant slalom.

Kaufmehl urged more students to compete in next year’s championships and said UC would have a great chance at winning the championships if more of the university’s skiers and boarders took part. “We could really have a competitive team. Lots of people don’t know about it, but it’s a great week. And skiing is just part of it,” he said.

And it seems the action on the slopes didn’t end when the sun went down with students enjoying a hectic nightlife which included a toga party, a “Retro Thredbo” night and a black tie presentation dinner on the last night of competition.

“The only problem was getting up in the morning,” Kaufmehl said.

Despite his skiing success, Kaufmehl, whose parents own a ski shop in Sydney, does not plan to pursue the sport as a career.

The fourth-year industrial design student said he would like to work overseas in sports design and ski in his spare time.

To find out more about the University Snow Sports Championships contact the University of Canberra Union.
A project to map regolith landforms, features of the landscape that help explain the distribution of dryland salinity, is reaping benefits for both landholders and University of Canberra students.

The Dryland Salinity Hazard Mitigation Program, or DiSHMoP, is a student-centered learning group that produces detailed, local-catchment-scale regolith landform maps for landholders in central west New South Wales, as well as giving students hands-on mapping experience.

The maps produced by the students are then used to develop land management practices between the Department of Land and Water Conservation and the local Landcare groups to help improve the management of dryland salinity.

Program director Dr Leah Moore, a UC senior lecturer and research scientist, described the program as a “win, win situation,” saying it benefited both the students and the community enormously.

She said the students gained invaluable hands-on experience in the field, experience that could not be replicated in laboratory-based mapping exercises.

“A lot of universities still operate traditionally,” she said. “Everything we do is new – good, breakthrough stuff.”

A combined project with the DLWC, the Central West NSW Salt Group, local Landcare groups and UC, supported by the Cooperative Research Centre for Landscape Environments and Mineral Exploration, the program sends students out into the field to produce maps on a scale of 1:10,000, which allow for a detailed examination of catchment features.

This scale is “incredibly useful,” according to Dr Moore, as it allows for a detailed profile of where regolith materials and soils lie within the landscape, as well as where water flows through the weathered rock materials near the land surface.

Once the different characteristics of the landscape have been identified, Dr Moore said the maps provided a “powerful tool for getting to the next step” in identifying the causes of the salinity.

Once the cause has been established, Dr Moore said strategies could then be put into place to mitigate the problem, such as strategic tree planting, modification of farming practices and ensuring drains are functioning efficiently, “often these are very simple small scale things”.

This year, the program’s second, will see the number of students taking part in the undergraduate mapping program jump from eight last year to 22 involved in the upcoming Cucumgilliga camp.

The students are given a landowner to work with on the project and they also have to juggle scheduling, timetabling and equipment management.

Dr Moore said by giving the students “real clients, a real job”, it instilled in them a sense of “professional integrity” and “ownership” of the mapping project.

“It gives them a tangible product,” she said, with not only the hardcopy of the map, but also a published report, an professional letter of reference, as well as contacts and networking opportunities within the DLWC.

Students who take part in the program come from diverse backgrounds, either through Masters or Honours level, senior undergraduate level via a research project in applied science, professional practice or the field mapping component of the third-year subject, Land Appraisal.

“The success of the program is a credit to the staff of both the earth and land science course and the ecology and environmental science course,” Dr Moore said.

Students and land-owner Mr McInerney survey a farm at last years Warrendale Field Mapping Camp. The students hope mapping regolith landforms will help identify areas at risk of salinity. Picture courtesy of CRC LEME.
Research breakthrough shows virus sabotages ‘killer’ cells

By Alex Konrad

University of Canberra virologist and lecturer Dr Brett Lidbury has been busy unraveling the mechanisms that underpin Ross River virus infection, with his research having possible implications for the treatment of AIDS, respiratory syncytial virus and dengue fever.

The Ross River virus, or RRV, causes disease in up to 7000 Australians each year and is spread by mosquitoes. It can result in debilitating arthritis and other symptoms such as muscle ache and lethargy, sometimes recurring over many years. How the virus causes these symptoms is still not well understood.

Helping to change this, Dr Lidbury of UC's Gadi Research Centre and Dr Surendran Mahalingam of the Australian National University's John Curtin School of Medical Research became research partners in order to find more about RRV.

The pair was selected via a national science competition to present their latest findings at the ScienceNOW! conference in Melbourne on August 26.

They explained how molecular changes had observed in cells infected with RRV, which underlined antiviral defence systems. UC and ANU researchers showed that abnormal activity of an immune cell called the "macrophage" – a "killer" immune cell that is the body's first line of defence – was responsible for muscle damage after infection by RRV.

Further to this, Dr Lidbury and Dr Mahalingam discovered that RRV had developed an ingenious strategy for avoiding antiviral defences.

Using the body's own immune response to its advantage, RRV attached itself to antibodies in order to enter macrophages undetected.

Once inside the macrophage, RRV halted production of the antiviral immune chemicals.

"The virus appears to use our own immune response to defeat the antiviral action of our body's cells," said Dr Mahalingam.

"The Ross River virus uses these antibodies to get into the body's macrophage cells and sabotage their beneficial antiviral actions from deep within each cell's molecular machinery," Dr Lidbury said.

These findings will help researchers identify possible ways of stopping the growth of RRV, as well as provide insights useful for future "tricky virus" vaccine design.

The pair will continue their research, this time looking for a protein that is responsible for the mechanism observed in RRV. The researchers have appealed for appropriate funding to carry on their groundbreaking work.

The findings have also resulted in professional acclaim for Dr Lidbury and his collaborators through recent publication in two prestigious scientific journals – Journal of Infectious Disease and Journal of Virology.
By Robin Poke

One of the University of Canberra's most recently formed sporting clubs is already proving to be one of its most successful.

The UC Rowing Club, formed by a small group of participants at last year's Intervarsity Regatta and boosted by a recruitment drive during Orientation Week in February, can already boast two national champions.

Mitchell Punch and Donna Martin, who won their respective single sculling championships for UC at 2000's Intervarsity event, have also won the 2001 national under-23 single sculling titles.

This most recent win was achieved at the King's Cup and National Regatta, held on Queensland's Lake Wivenhoe during April. Punch was in the ACT eight that contested the prestigious King's Cup, while Martin was in the women's crew that rowed in the Governor-General's Cup.

A driving force behind the new club is Simon Leonard, a rowing coach and former UC tutor.

During Orientation Week, Leonard recruited some 70 students on a "come and try" basis, having arranged with the Capital Lakes club on Lake Burley Griffin to extend its program to include the UC students.

Capital Lakes has since provided the students with a program that involves several early morning training sessions each week for more experienced rowers and scullers, and lessons for beginners on Sunday mornings.

Both Leonard and Capital Lakes hope the program will extend into a second year.

Leonard was honest enough to admit that neither of UC's national champions were beginners but said that the UC club hoped to put in place a program that will allow other students to work towards what Mitchell and Donna have achieved.

"Both Donna and Mitchell spent some time at the ACT Academy of Sport and are now AIS scholarship holders," Leonard said. "Mitchell in fact represented Australia at the world junior rowing championships in Croatia last year and Donna came very close. Both have now been selected to contest the East Asia Games in Japan at the end of May and appear almost certain to be in the national under-23 squad this year."

"However, most of the other recruits had not been near a rowing boat until recently. I'm naturally hopeful Mitchell and Donna will provide real inspiration.

Not content with UC recruits, Leonard is setting out to establish a college base for Capital Lakes and the UC Rowing Club. Lake Ginninderra, Narrabundah and Canberra Colleges are all involved.

"It's the opportunity to offer rowing outside its traditional private school base, while at the same time providing an alternative to the more traditional school sports," he said.

As a result, there may be community and commercial benefits accruing. The Canberra Labor Club has offered $25,000 for the purchase of two boats to be housed on Lake Ginninderra, on the strength of which the UC club was approaching other organisations in Belconnen for sponsorship.

This entailed the preparation of an equipment plan incorporating 16 boats of varying sizes, to be based at Lake Ginninderra and at the Capital Lakes boatshed at Kingston. Simon Leonard has also submitted a funding application to the ACT government's health promotion arm, Healthpact, and to UCU.

"Being part of founding a new club is virtually a full time occupation," the irrepressible Leonard said. "However, the rewards have already come, and I'm certain others will follow."

The UC Rowing Club is also hoping the ACT will bid for the Eastern Universities Championship Regatta next year.

"That will really give the UC club the chance to strut its stuff."
Rock music producer, Pro-Vice-Chancellor talk television

By Alex Konrad

The exciting world of television broadcasting may be coming to the University of Canberra this year.

Rock music producer Robie Porter met with Australian rock-music producer Robie Porter tour UC’s impressive television facilities.

A veteran of the media industry, Mr Porter was the winner of the 1963 Logie Award for Recording Artist of the Year. He was currently involved in Transact’s emerging pay television service, Prime Star, of which Triple C will form a part.

Mr Porter will soon be negotiating with corporate sponsors for Triple C. The station would be a working school for people who wanted to be in the performing arts, such as set decorating, lighting, as well as in front and behind the camera, Mr Porter said.

The station would provide excellent material for the bulletin, Ms Kitchener said. Also, there were many newsworthy local stories, which would provide an opportunity for students, she said.

Not many places in the world give students the opportunity to get on TV right away, Mr Porter said. It’s the perfect opportunity for students and entrepreneurs who are serious about the industry.

Mr Porter was adamant that anything that Triple C puts to air will be worth watching. It’s not going to be Prime Television, it’s really going to be a good community station, he said.

Mr Porter said his approach is to walk before we run, and for Triple C to be a frontrunner by broadening the students’ experience base, Mr Sergi said.

“Triple C will be coming to the University of Canberra this year,” said Mr Porter.

Mr Porter said he had been involved in American television production until 1993. Based in the USA, Mr Porter said he had been involved in Cool and Marcia Hines, to Air Supply and Rick Springfield, Mr Porter said.

Music programs could also be the perfect opportunity for students.

Before this was possible, however, Mr Porter said that there needed to be enough Transact subscribers and funding for Triple C to provide the necessary material. If we had to sell transact subscribers and more, we’ll have to sell the idea of Triple C.

“Mr Sergi will provide mentoring for aspiring students,” Mr Porter said. The program could also provide a bridge between study and employment in the industry, particularly in the big networks, Mr Porter said.

Additionally, Mr Sergi could hold seminars on the media and television program could form the backbone of the future media fraternity, particularly among those at UC.

As well as UC students, pupils from other universities and TAFE colleges would also be involved in the project, Mr Porter said.

UC’s media experts need to be involved in Triple C, Mr Porter said, especially in the area of news broadcasting.

Televising journalism lecturer Jennifer Kitchener welcomed the idea of a UC news bulletin, she said. We’re very enthusiastic about the possibilities for students.

The proposal could also provide a bridge between study and employment in the industry.

“Immediately in the future, I’m talking about Sydney and Melbourne here,” Mr Porter said. “People are thrown in the deep end, particularly in the big networks, so it’s talking about Sydney and Melbourne here.

Mr Sergi said the Division of Communication’s film and television program could form the ‘ foundation’ of the future media fraternity. This placed the program in a unique position, as no other television program could form the backbone of the future media fraternity, Mr Sergi said.

“Triple C” is a community television station, called Triple C, which he hopes UC will take a leadership role in establishing.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Communication & Education Peter Putnis and Triple C’s Pro-Vice-Chancellor Peter Putnis on May 1 to discuss his vision for an ACT community television station, called Triple C, which he hopes UC will take a leadership role in establishing.

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Re-launch of Monitor On-Line

The Monitor On-Line web site, which goes live today, will be in an almost permanent state of "construction", according to Editor, Anthony Mason.

"We were going to get a focus group to look at the site, but we decided to open it up to the entire community," said Anthony. "For the site to be successful, it needs to be used by everyone in the UC community. So why not let that community be involved in the site from the earliest possible stage," he said. "I'd encourage people to make suggestions about any aspect of the site, from navigation to design to content."

Anthony wanted to stress that the site is not complete, with a number of planned features still to come on-line. These include a searchable archive of the web site and a section for publication of press releases. "We are still developing a number of things, but we wanted to open up the process," said Anthony.

Monitor On-Line has existed in a number of forms over the last few years. Initially, the contents of the paper version were converted into a PDF file, but this proved inadequate. "Putting a reproduction of a paper version on the web was like stripping the sound from a television report and suggesting that it would be suitable for a radio broadcast," said Anthony. "The follow-up version was better, but it still didn't take full advantage of the technology," said Anthony.

The new version will be updated more frequently, with Monitor journalists now working to daily deadlines. Monitor On-Line will also publish different content to the paper version. "In some cases the stories in Monitor On-Line will be more comprehensive. In some cases the paper version will be more comprehensive. It depends on the timing, the availability of pictures and the story itself," said Anthony.

And of course, Monitor On-Line will also have more photos and in colour. "We plan on big splashes for things like graduation ceremonies," said Anthony. Having more frequent deadlines will also allow better coverage of events, which sometimes fall between the gaps in Monitor's schedule.

Monitor On-Line will also help promote other web sites, particularly those at UC. "We want to use Monitor On-Line to re-direct readers to other sites related to particular stories. In some cases, they will be internal sites," said Anthony.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK
Addressing workforce shortages in nursing

ACT Minister for Health, Michael Moore, has presented graduation certificates to the students of Refresher Course for Registered Nurses on December 15, 2000.

Of the 21 graduating students, 18 were recipients of ACT Government Scholarships made available to encourage nurses to refresh their qualifications with a view to returning to a nursing career.

Lecturer in the School of Nursing, Jenny Owen said the success of these candidates is not just a great personal triumph but also a triumph for the team efforts of the School of Nursing, the ACT Government and local health facilities.

At least one of the students has already rejoined the health system. Sandra Clapson is now working at Calvary Hospital in the clinical ward where she completed a placement during the course.

Further information regarding the Refresher Course can be obtained from Jenny Owen on 6201 5203.

Sandra Clapson, left, was joined by her daughter, Lowanna, an undergraduate nursing student, for the presentation of certificates by Health Minister, Michael Moore, right.
Red earth’s secrets revealed

By Louise Rugendyke

A dilapidated courthouse and the flat, red plains used in the Mad Max movies were the settings for the latest project headed by the University of Canberra’s Cooperative Research Centre for Landscape Evolution and Mineral Exploration.

Silverton, 30 kilometres out of Broken Hill, provided the base camp for a week-long regolith mapping project led by Dr Ian Roach and Dr Steve Hill in conjunction with the Minerals Council of Australia’s National Geoscience Teaching network.

They were leading a team of 21, made up of university students from UC, the Australian National University, La Trobe and Melbourne Universities as well as professionals from the NSW Department of Mineral Resources, the Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Geoscience Australia.

Regolith mapping, which covers everything above the bedrock such as sand, soils and other materials, has the potential to uncover the earth’s secrets and could lead to the key for Broken Hill’s ongoing survival, Dr Roach said.

"It’s an interesting area," he said.

"The rock could host the next Broken Hill.

"You never know, the students could actually find the key to [Broken Hill’s] next exports. There are exciting spin-offs."

One of the reasons for taking the students to such a desolate area, Dr Roach said, was they had "very little experience reading landscapes" and Silverton was a great introduction to the regolith-mapping process.

He said UC was also the only university offering the "most coherent [regolith mapping] course in the world," a situation that he described as "a great niche to be tapped into".

Honours student Andrew Christin, was one of two UC students in the group and described the project as an "exciting experience."

Pulling together three years of theory, the project allowed Mr Christin to apply his skills in a different environment his Honours project is based in the environmentally dissimilar, lush, green surrounds of the Shoalhaven River mouth.

As well as mapping the regolith around Silverton, the team also undertook several safety exercises coordinated by Glen Fisher, CRC LEME’s senior technical officer.

Mr Fisher took the students through four-wheel-driving and safety skills, as well as mapping, surveying and digitising maps via Geographic Information Systems.

All three agreed it was important for students to have not only the theoretical skills, but also practical and on-the-job skills.

"It’s a different approach where giving students the practical skills they need to work in any Australian workplace," Dr Roach said.

Mr Fisher agreed, saying it was important students had the practical skills to survive in the geological field and the safety training was an integral part of this, "they need to know how to do it and not perish in the outback," he said.