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For further information about Monitor Online contact John Martin, Monitor Editor, at: monitor@Canberra.edu.au
Students find home among the gum trees

By E J Sewell

Over 400 international students were welcomed to The University of Canberra last week, up100 on last year.

The students included many who have moved to Australia to complete their studies, and also a contingent of international exchange students.

International Students Advisor Noor Fleming, said the students have come from vastly different cultures.

They are from all over the place, she said, including Turkey, Asia, Africa and America.

She said the experience was a challenge for many, especially those from Asia.

They all cope differently with the experience, she said. Asia is so culturally different from Australia, yet they put in a lot of effort to try and adjust, they work really hard.

Ms Fleming said the American students also found it difficult to adapt. Surprisingly students from the USA have more trouble adapting because they compare, she said.

The American students think because Australia is a western culture they believe it is going to be quite similar to America, she added.

Ms Fleming said international students come to Australia for various reasons. They come for the quality education. At the moment it’s on a par with Britain and they look up to the British system, Ms Fleming said.

Comparatively the cost is cheaper than most countries. Australia is also relatively peaceful and secure from a terrorist threat: Australia is still seen as neutral.

This semester UC is abuzz with 35 international exchange students. The students have come from eight different countries including Canada, Finland and Mexico.

Kevin Millan, a 22-year-old industrial engineering student from Mexico City, is thrilled to be in Australia. Kevin decided to be involved in an exchange program to gain more life experience.

I did it to open my horizons, to learn more from other cultures and to improve my English, he explained. He said choosing Australia and UC for an exchange was easy.

I love the love you have for your country, he said. I like how you manage everything. He said the biggest challenge of being in a different country was learning to organise his life. It’s hard to make decisions by myself, he said. Sometimes you have your family to help. It’s not that easy to decide what to do with your money or your time, but I’m enjoying it a lot.

UC had a goal of increasing the number of international exchange students by 15 per cent by 2005. At least 20 per cent of Australian students should include an international component in their studies, according to the Australia Vice-Chancellors Committee.

Ms McDonald said these increases could only be achieved with substantial financial backing. Only when the University of Canberra provides financial assistance for students to study overseas will we meet the kind of numbers stated by the AVCC, Ms McDonald said.

For further information about Monitor Online contact Louise Rugendyke, Monitor Editor, on: lar@adminserver.canberra.edu.au

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Enrolment numbers remain steady for 2003

By Kate Andean

The number of students at the University of Canberra is expected to remain steady this year with around 9000 on campus.

According to UC Director of Student Administration Robert Kominek, it is difficult to gain a clear idea of numbers until the HECS census date on March 31.

Around 3200 new students will be welcomed to UC in 2003, including Australian undergraduates, postgraduate and research students, and 400 internationals.

Mr Kominek said UC received preferences from up to 6000 applicants through the University Admissions Centre (UAC), but thousands missed out on a place. We made 2236 offers through UAC which is on par with the same time last year, he said.

Students must have achieved an admission ranking of 73 to be accepted into UC, to ensure they have a high likelihood of success, Mr Kominek said.

He stressed there are a number of alternative entry programs available to students who have missed out on a university place. This year for the first time, CIT diploma graduates are guaranteed a place at UC, he said.

There is also the UC College, which in 2003 has seen a huge increase in demand for its domestic pathway programs.

Business Development Manager for the College, Greg Draper said there is a waiting list of over 100 for the UC-Connect program, and more than 240 offers have been made for just 125 places in UC-Start.

While diploma programs have some vacancies, International Access continues to be popular, Mr Draper said.

The new UC Brisbane campus has 24 confirmed enrolments, with the Bachelor of Business Administration proving the most popular.

Campus manager Melinda Trembath expects this number to increase now that Queensland university offers have been made. We are a good option for people up here, she said, referring in particular to students with high scores who just missed out on other places.

UC also has students enrolled in Off Shore programs, run for international students in countries including China, Singapore and India.

For further information about Monitor Online contact Louise Rugendyke, Monitor Editor, on: lar@adminserver.canberra.edu.au

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Patching-up Canberra with woolly rugs

By Louise Rugendyke

The University of Canberra community is being invited to knit one pearl one in support of the Canberra families who lost their homes in the January fires.

They are being encouraged by Wrap-Up Canberra, a community group of local women who are aiming for 33,390 knitted woolen squares to patch together into 530 rugs.

Group spokesperson and Head of UCs School of Landscape Architecture, Dianne Firth, said the response so far from the university community had been "overwhelming." "I've been absolutely inundated," she said. "I've even had people in Ireland, Germany and France who have university email addresses wanting to make squares."

So far 120 UC people have offered to put their knitting needles together and Dianne hopes if enough squares are gathered from UC, they can put together some rugs made exclusively by the university community.

Overall, Wrap-Up Canberra are hoping to put together 530 rugs and Dianne stressed the squares didn't have to be perfectly formed masterpieces.

"It doesn't have to be perfect, we can add bits on," she said. "We just want to make woolly quilts, happy quilts, pretty quilts and we'll be happy with the blocks that come in."

It is hoped the rugs will be completed by June or July and then handed over to the people who lost their homes as a "keepsake" and representing the support of the Canberra community.

Many people in Canberra are keen to do something to help those who have lost everything, Dianne said. These rugs, handmade with love by the people of Canberra and beyond, will be a constant reminder to 530 families not of their loss, but of the true spirit of Canberra. We will also keep a record of all contributors who provide their names and these will be wrapped up with each knitted patchwork rug.

Those wishing to contribute a knitted square or ten can contact Dianne Firth on dianne.firth@canberra.edu.au.
UC scientists named ACT's inaugural Tall Poppies

By Louise Rugendyke

University of Canberra scientists Dr Leah Moore and Professor Jennelle Kyd have been recognised as scientific heroes by the Australian Institute of Political Science.

They were named the ACT's inaugural Young Tall Poppies for 2003 on January 27.

The awards aim to promote and encourage young researchers and to inspire other young people to follow in their footsteps, as well as creating an environment and culture in Australia that recognises, values and supports achievements in science.

Dr Moore, an internationally recognised volcanologist and geologist, is the Director of the Dryland Salinity Hazard Mitigation Program and has recently been appointed UC's Dean of Students.

Prof Kyd was recognised for her work with vaccines for middle-ear and respiratory tract infections which she combines with post-graduate teaching as well as holding UC's chair in Forensic Studies.
Ressies overflowing

By Kate Andean

The University of Canberra Residences are overflowing, with over 100 students on the waiting list and many more told not to bother applying.

Off Campus Accommodation Officer Sally Shaw, said there are around 150 students hoping to find other accommodation. Ms Shaw, whose role it is to find accommodation for those who have missed out on a room at ressies, admits she has only slim hopes of finding places for everyone on the list. The last few weeks have been very frantic, Ms Shaw said. I think we've only had lunch three times.

There are three different types of off campus accommodation available: UC rentals, where students sub-let a house from the university directly; homestay, where the student lives with a family and; share accommodation, where the student is placed with a group in a private rental property. All have been hard to find.

An advertising campaign run over the past few weeks has improved the situation with many local families offering rooms. We've been overwhelmed by the response from Canberra, Ms Shaw said. A lot of people say Canberra has no heart, but the generosity shown in this instance has been amazing. I've increased the amount of off campus accommodation threefold, but I don't really know where any more will come from, she said.

Ms Shaw said the Canberra rental market is extremely competitive, and it is especially difficult for students with no references to find a home by themselves.

According to Director of Residences Peter Fyfe, there are no university plans to increase the number of students who can be housed on ressies, which is currently 1030. But I am keen to increase the numbers and further develop the residential community, Mr Fyfe said. I think ressies is an important feature of one of Australias best small universities.

Ms Shaw stressed the need for students to be more prepared in the future. We have some students who just turn up and expect to have somewhere to live, she said. They really need to explore accommodation possibilities when they are thinking about a placement at UC.
Cartoon (by JayBee)

The Drum

1983 - Walking with Dinosaurs

when I was your age
we didn't have
half the
advantages you
young people
have today,
blah blah blah

2003 - Walking with Beasts

WAHHHH!

Dad, can we
have an ice cream?

Dad, can we see the
new Harry Potter movie?

Cartoon copyright Jaybee 2003.

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Photo feature

A home away from home...

A new batch of UC students made the university residences their home for the academic year on February 8. They will become part of the 1500 Australian and international undergraduate and postgraduate students who call 'ressies' home.

Photos: Louise Rayfield.
It's not just chopped liver

By Louise Rugendyke

At least the 15 chooks died for a good cause.

But little did they know, their livers were to be the most hotly contested item of the afternoon's bidding.

It certainly wasn't one of the great auction houses of the world, but lecture theatre 2B11 set the scene for a spirited afternoon's bidding to help raise money for those affected by Canberra's January bushfires.

Hosted by the Division of Health, Design and Science, the auction raised over $2500 through its collection of 34 items and services donated by university staff.

But, back to those chicken livers

They weren't the most talked about item on the list (that honour went to item five in the catalogue: a VIP prostrate examination by Pro Vice-Chancellor Mohamed Khadra), but the 100 grams of chicken livers soon attracted all of the attention.

Wrapped in plastic and nestled among the ice in a small blue styrofoam esky, the livers' appearance on the auction plate sent a big cheer up from the crowd.

"Fifteen little chickens gave up their lives for this" yelled out the donor of the livers, Arthur Georges.

The bidding kicked off at $10 and was soon pushed upwards into the $50 mark with each bidder quickly outdoing their rivals.

But if you thought $50 for 100 grams of chicken livers was a lot, you ain't seen nothing yet.

Auctioneer Khadra couldn't quite believe his ears, as the price continued to climb and then stall at $100.

"Going once, going twice... $103.50," was yelled out.

No rival bids launched "Sold for $103 and 50 cents!" Auctioneer Khadra declared it a world record price for chicken livers (averaging out at roughly $1.04 per gram), while the purchaser of the livers, Tara Goodsell, was keeping quiet.

"I can't give away my secrets," replied the vegetarian when asked if there was any funny business going on with the livers. A black market trade in chicken livers perhaps, that the rest of the university knows nought about?

Tara would only reply, however, that she would use the livers to "throw at Arthur [Georges]."

The other hot item in the catalogue, the prostrate examination, was left until last.

After some heated bidding by two private parties, the double digital lot went for $100.

Other notable items up for auction were: a hand-knitted jumper for $120; $70 for a trailer load of "sheep and horse manure with a sprinkling of chicken" that was described as being aged to perfection; Prof Khadra coughed up $50 for the pleasure of Prof Marie Carroll to iron a basket of his washing, "I have several kaftans," he quipped; five-days worth of home-cut lunches went for $25; while a mornings gardening by four ladies was sold for $105.

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Monitor Online - It's not just chopped liver
Wanted: new SA president

By Kate Andean & E J Sewell

The University of Canberra Students Association is still without a president following the resignation of Joel Clapham at the start of O-Week.

According to SA Media Officer Gordon Hayes, Mr Clapham came into the office at 11pm on Sunday night, packed up his belongings and sent out a resignation email.

He said Mr Clapham cited personal issues as the reason behind his departure.

He resigned because he wanted to focus on his university work, Mr Hayes said. There were no reasons concerning the Students Association.

Mr Hayes admitted that the position of president was extremely stressful, particularly when combined with full time study as Mr Clapham was attempting to do.

Nobody had any problems with his representation of the students, he said. But I think its fair to say [Mr Clapham] felt the association was getting caught up in internal strife.

Mr Claphams resignation followed a no confidence motion passed against him last November.

Vice President Brett Jones was dismissed at the same time, due to outstanding issues extending back to when he was president. A new president will be elected from the student body.

The SA is still undecided as to when the bi-elections will be held.

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Bronwyn has her eye set firmly on the target

By E J Sewell

For the ordinary University of Canberra student, the Olympic games are something we tune into every four years, but for UC student Bronwyn Matthews they are another bow in her illustrious archery career.

"I started archery when I was 12 or 13," she said. "And I basically just kept shooting."

Bronwyn is one of Australia's top archers and that is part of the reason why she chose Canberra for her higher education.

Matthews began her archery career using a compound arrow and only last year changed to a recurve bow, the type that is used at Olympic level.

She said it has been a tough transition.

"The technique is extremely different but I'm getting there," she said. Getting there? Ms Matthews said she is aiming for the 2008 Olympics and should reach her goal if all goes to plan.

"It's going to be a lot of hard work, but 2008 would be the one I should definitely be at," she said.

She was on scholarship with the ACT Academy of Sport but has taken a year off to train privately in order to hone her new skills.

Already her sights are set on the 2008 Olympic games.

Bronwyn combines a university career along with full time employment and training five-days-a-week, which often turns into an everyday event.

"Technically I train five days a week, but the other two I go to the gym so it's actually seven days," she laughed.

Currently working in an administrative role at Mercury Telephones, she is focused on the national archery championships being held in Brisbane later this year.

She has generated her success through a simple philosophy.

"You've got to work hard or you pretty much don't get anywhere."

Her ability to juggle archery, study and full-time work is commendable, but somehow Bronwyn copes.

"It's just time management," she said.

"Basically you just do a schedule for yourself and everything fits in."

However, she is quick to point out she is not prude and doesn't let her life slide while she stays focused. "You still go out, you don't be nerdy."

One of her favourite indulgences is coffee, and while she said she wouldn't be at university a lot this year, the Iguana cafe was once her favourite hang out. "I like the Iguana," she said. "The reflux food is a bit dodgy."

In 2002 she completed her first degree in sports administration and now five years later she has recommenced her original psychology degree.

"I hadn't planned on that," she insists. "I thought, I'll be a psychologist then I found sports administration and really loved that. "Two years ago I didn't know what I wanted to do and then it all fell into place."

Bronwyn is lucky to have her family near by. Over the years they have gradually made their way to Canberra, and now, all live just down the road from her. "We're a pretty close family," she said.

Bronwyn is humble and thinks nothing of her high level of achievement. "I think most people are driven," she said. "Whether it's to save to go overseas or to get through uni or to survive the next day. I think you have to work out what you want and you just have to go for it."

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Last Updated on 6th May 2003
UC and St Vinnies come together to give Indigenous students a "hand up"

By Kate Andean

Democrats Senator Aden Ridgeway said a new University of Canberra scholarship would provide some relief from the heavy burden that has been felt by Indigenous Australians for so long.

"The scholarship is a stepping stone to achieving leadership and nationhood in this country," he said.

Senator Ridgeway was speaking at the launch of a new UC scholarship for Indigenous postgraduate students on February 20.

The scholarships are a jointly funded initiative between the Society of St Vincent de Paul, UC’s Division of Communication and Education and UC Access Scholarships.

St Vincent de Paul Society’s Stan Lewis said the society had been looking at ways of encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in tertiary education for a long time.

"We are aiming to overcome the imbalance in education between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students," he said.

He described the scholarship as a hand up rather than a hand out, and stressed that it would do more than just assist the recipients.

"Our target is really beyond them," he said. "We are looking for the graduates to go out as teachers and influence and encourage the next generation of Indigenous students to study, and increase their options."

The scholarships will be available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying Master of Education, Master of Educational Leadership, Doctor of Education and Doctor of Philosophy (Education) degrees at UC.

The new scholarships expand the existing scheme designed for undergraduate Indigenous students, which has been running since 1998 and has benefited around 40 students.

Roslyn Brown, a community education student who welcomed guests on behalf of the Ngunnawal community, was awarded an undergraduate scholarship in 2000.

"It is wonderful," she said. "I really encourage others to apply for a scholarship. It takes so much pressure off."

A total of $240,000 will be available each year to assist undergraduate and postgraduate Indigenous students.

Senator Ridgeway thanked the university and the St Vincent de Paul Society for their contribution to Indigenous education, at a time when other support is lacking.

"The university is doing very important work in relation to social equity and trying to achieve change in society," he said.

UC Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean said the scholarship was another example of the university meeting its commitment to the local region and its people.

"The scholarship is to improve the number of students and teachers in the teaching system in order to encourage Indigenous students to remain at school longer and so enhance their career opportunities," he said.

Senator Ridgeway encouraged students of education, labelling their potential to impact upon the lives of others as the ripple effect. The students are like stones being thrown into a pond, he said.

The Senator said he always feels humble in the presence of young students, as he did not complete high school and instead found himself welding paper hand towel dispensers together in Sydney. It was his contribution to keeping the nation's hands clean! he said.

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Cotter River catchment comes back to life

By Louise Rugendyke

The Cotter River catchment has mostly survived its trial by fire with green shoots and wildlife frequenting the area again, according to University of Canberra researchers.

Dr Fiona Dyer, Associate Professor Richard Norris and Tom Nelson visited the catchment recently, which is the site of their ongoing study into the river flows and habitat, and found some positive signs of rejuvenation.

"It was really, really pleasing," Dr Dyer said. "We are used to it being green, so it was really nice to see some of the trees making a comeback."

The fires that swept through Namadgi National Park in January burnt much of the undergrowth and tree litter, leaving the hill slopes and streams around Vanities Crossing exposed.

In parts, the heat was so intense that it fractured rocks that lay on the edges of channels or in the exposed parts of the stream bed.

Dr Dyer said she also found the prevalence of animal carcases disturbing, especially as it was evident that many of the animals had tried to make it to the stream for protection. "It looks terrible, really harsh," she said. "It used to be one of life's little pleasure going there and getting paid to work now its not a relaxing landscape to be in. You just hang on to the fact that its coming back."

Much leaf litter and charcoal from the burning pine trees has also been deposited in the streams.

Dr Dyer said it was too soon as this stage to determine whether this would have any effect on the stream's ecosystem, but it was something they would have to take into account when renewing their studies.

The team have spent the last 18 months studying the stream flows, freshwater creatures and structure of the Cotter River. They have also been measuring the rivers reactions to changes in flow and the drought and fire have now added new dimensions to their study.

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Film festival keeps it short

By Louise Rugendyke

Move over Tropfest, a University of Canberra student and 2002 graduate are launching their assault on the short film festival circuit.

Short::Seasons, a bi-annual short film festival, is the brainchild of Media Production student Matthew Fallon and Media Production graduate Marisa Martin.

Mr Fallon said the aim of the festival was to encourage young Canberra film-makers to show their wares in a non-competitive setting. It's a really important start for young film-makers to watch an audience appreciate their work, he said. We hope it will spur them on. They will meet other film makers, make contacts and it will be a first step on to bigger and better things.

Of the 15 films showing on the night, eight have been produced by UC students: Pole Position, Omega, Have You Ever Been Overpowered?, Crash, Honour Killing, Get Used To It, Attraction and Monday.

Of these, Monday is Fallon and Martin's award winning entry in last year's Shoot-Out Film Festival in Newcastle.

It is hoped the festival will run twice-a-year during alternate seasons: autumn and spring this year and winter and summer next year.

To add to the exclusivity of the event, Fallon and Martin have created limited edition t-shirts chronicling each season and these will be given to each entrant.

Fallon said he hopes the t-shirts would become a badge of honour among Canberra film-makers, who knows, it might be fun to collect a set.

The short::seasons Autumn 2003 Festival is on at the National Museum of Australia on March 14 from 7.00pm. Entry is free and restricted to over 18s only.

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Cartoon (by JayBee)

The Drum

Yes Sir, it's a major bust. At least three dozen knitted 'Bananas in Pyjamas'' and about 5 kilos of 'Chocolate Crackles'**

* © Australian Broadcasting Corporation  
** Patent Pending

Cartoon copyright Jaybee 2003.
Honey creates a buzz among fans

By Louise Rugendyke

Elizabeth Honey likes to get up-close to her audience.

The children's book author and illustrator regularly holds informal readings of her works-in-progress at primary and pre-schools to hear from her potential audience.

"The test audiences quite often give me ideas or reinforce the decisions I've made," she said.

However, for the next three weeks Ms Honey will be the one sharing her ideas, talent and opinions with University of Canberra students as the 2003 May Gibbs Fellow.

Until March 28 she will lecture and tutor students in disciplines as diverse as children's literature, graphic design, creative writing and arts education.

Fellowship coordinator Professor Belle Alderman said Ms Honey was at the top of her fellowship request list.

"She's such a great combination," Prof Alderman said. "She's got the creative writing and design skills—everything!"

Based in Melbourne, Ms Honey said she "leapt at the chance to come to Canberra for three weeks: I've never been a fellow before."

There were many reasons I wanted to come, she said. Its more the academic side of what [authors and illustrators] are doing: it reinforces what you're on about.

A keen writer since childhood, her first picture book, Princess Beatrice and the Rotten Robber, was published in 1988. Since then she has written, illustrated and published over 100 novels, picture books and poetry books, including the 1997 Children's Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year award winner Not a Nibble.

She describes her style as "playful—feeling happy" that encourages readers and their audience to get in there and do this.

"Picture books are performed by the readers for the listeners—it gives the listeners something to play with and then they'll read it better."

However, finding the right combination of words and pictures is a "curious chemistry."

"Sometimes it just works. But it definitely takes a lot of drafts and testing."

As well as passing on her knowledge of the book industry to UC students, Ms Honey will also divide her time between finishing her next novel, conducting workshops at the national Museum of Australia and readings at ACT public libraries.

Ms Honey is only UC's second May Gibbs Fellow following the program's launch last year. The fellowship is funded by the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust, which was founded in 1998 to honour one of Australia's best-loved writer and illustrators and the creator of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie. It aims to support contemporary Australian writers and illustrators of children's books by providing time-out for them to help develop and coming children authors and illustrators.

Elizabeth Honey will hold a reading and book signing at the University of Canberra on March 26. Sponsored by the Co-Operative Bookshop the Arts Café Lunch will be between 12.30pm and 2pm in Building One.

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Problems & Technical Issues?
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Last Updated on 6th May 2003
UC under the AUQA microscope

By Louise Rugendyke

The University of Canberra has undergone a bout of navel gazing as part of its preparation for a quality assurance audit. Conducted by the Australian Universities Quality Agency, the audit examined the university’s self-monitoring and self-improvement strategies as part of an Australia-wide audit of the nation’s universities.

Staff and students were interviewed over three days, March 19, 20, 21, by the auditors as they dissected UC’s performance in areas such as teaching and learning, research, student services, human resource management and information management.

They looked in detail at four UC courses: Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications, the Bachelor of Nursing, the joint Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies with CIT and the Master of Internet Communication.

Secretary of UC’s Quality Assurance Committee Christine Wise said the audit could only be useful for the university. I don’t see it as an exam, she said. It will be extremely helpful to the university in terms of [UC’s] strategic planning.

We have been working towards the audit; we know what we are doing.

The audit came at a reasonably good time, Ms Wise said, as the university had implemented a new quality assurance framework when it was restructured into three divisions in 2001.

Under the new framework the divisions were given 20 indicators, which they were to assess their performance against in terms of good, best and advanced practice.

As a result of the self-audit, Ms Wise said the divisions had just started to implement any changes that were identified when the AUQA audit was announced.

It’s a most appropriate time to be audited, Ms Wise said, because we can use the audit to inform the development of the framework.

The panel interviewed approximately 300 staff and students, as well as council members and community representatives. Ms Wise said it was important to acknowledge that while complaints and appeal procedures come within the scope of the audit, AUQA’s objectives give it no mandate for investigating individual cases or hearing appeals.

She said this would detract from the audits ability to provide an independent and coherent focus on quality performance issues as well as being incompatible with AUQA’s emphasis on encouraging and assisting the improvement of quality in this sector.

The audit panel is a mix of academic and non-academic members: AUQA audit director Robert Carmichael, panel chair Professor Robin McTaggert (James Cook University), Professor George Gordon (University of Strathclyde), Professor Alex Radloff (RMIT) and chief executive of the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Lyndon Rowe.
Turtles, foxes and quartz equal grant success

By E J Sewell

Fire droppings and turtle tissue were the key elements in gaining two of Canberra scientists Hermon Slade Foundation grants.

Dr Nancy FitzSimmons and Dr Stephen Sarre were awarded the grants, $49,120 and $30,823 respectively, for their projects, how landscapes influence speciation and biodiversity: comparative phylogeography of freshwater turtles and A new DNA-based approach to studying invasive mammalian predators.

The Hermon Slade Foundation provides financial support for scientific research, particularly on topics that are related to improving the relationship between Indigenous, communities and their natural environments.

For Dr FitzSimmons, a lecturer in resources and environmental sciences, the grant has been a long time coming. "I've been trying to get funding for this for a while now."

Her project focuses on the genetics of tissue gathered from turtles in Western Australian Kimberly region and is in her contribution to the preservation of the environment. "My ultimate interest is in the management for conservation of the environment, she said.

It is important, she said, to inform the Kimberly's surrounding communities of unique populations located near to the border to ensure the species survival and prosperity.

"I'm not just interested in turtles and genetics, I'm also involved in ecological studies there," she said.

She has collected the turtles over four years and several trips to the remote Kimberly region.

The grant will allow for genetic research of the tissues, which will form the basis of an understanding of the history of the region.

By understanding the relationships among turtle populations in the different rivers it tells researchers something about the historic isolation of rivers or whether populations were interconnected during a time of lower sea levels.

The research will be conducted at UC where Dr FitzSimmons said the facilities were fantastic.

For Dr Stephen Sarre, a lecturer with the Applied Ecology Research Group, and his PhD student Oliver Berry, their grant was hard fought: "It was a nationally competitive fund, he said.

Dr Sarre's project is based on researching the DNA found in Tasmanian fox scats in order to determine the number and uses of foxes found on the island.

Foxes are implicated in the decline of many species, and Dr Sarre said: "It is a real problem. Potentially it could have a big effect on the wildlife of Tasmania."

"The fox is a real problem. Potentially it could have a big affect on the wildlife of Tasmania," he said.

"You need to do more than just have sightings," he said. Developing DNA tools from fox scats at places where there have been previous sightings is a way of verifying the identity and number of foxes in an area.

The Fox Free Task Force, a group aimed at keeping Tasmania fox free, will supply Dr Sarre with scats.

Dr Sarre said it will be necessary to use genetic research on the DNA in the scats, and it will lead to a conservation project in Tasmania.

"We will still have to do more genetic testing on the DNA in these scats and it's a long-term project," he said.

"This is a multi-year project to develop a DNA approach to studying invasive mammalian predators in the wild."

The project involved looking at mineral quartz using a Pixe micro-scanning probe. The Pixe micro scanning was a high priority within the project, he said.

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"It will serve as a proof of concept then we can take it to the next step," he said.

"We are looking at a new way of using quartz in the field, he said.

"It will allow us to develop a new way of using quartz in the field."

The research methods to be used on this project by Dr Sarre are relatively new, he said:

"I'm interested in the relationship between individuals, communities and their natural environments."

"By understanding the relationships among turtle populations in the different rivers it tells researchers something about the historic isolation of rivers or whether populations were interconnected during a time of lower sea levels.

"The research will be conducted at UC where Dr FitzSimmons said the facilities were fantastic.

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Music soothes a nation's troubled soul

By Kate Andean

Senior Education lecturer Dr Frank Sofo was one of 16 members of the Sydney Peace Orchestra who performed at a peace concert in Indonesia on February 18.

The Orchestra was invited to perform in Jakarta by Indonesian rock group DEWA, who have topped the charts and sold 2.5 million copies of their latest album.

"The crowd knew every DEWA song from the first chord," Dr Sofo said. "It was as if they were the Beatles!"

The Australians agreed to play, but only if they could promote peace, a decision they found supported by the 10,000 Indonesians who attended the event.

"We all want the same thing," he said. "People want peace, there are enough problems without war."

"The atmosphere was amazing," he said. "I can't describe it!"

The auditorium was booked out and there were people standing. They were packed in like sardines!

The Sydney Peace Orchestra was assembled for the concert by Dr Sofo's son James, who plays the double bass and also composed a special piece for the night, 'A Time For Peace'.

The Australians combined with DEWA's own backing musicians to make an orchestra of 50 strings, flutes and horns.

The one-off event attracted a great deal of media coverage in Indonesia, and during their three days of rehearsals the orchestra also recorded a CD and filmed a television special.

Dr Sofo has been learning the cello for five years and joined the Canberra Community Orchestra last year. It was the first time he had been involved in an event of this kind.

'I wasn't expecting an opportunity like this, it came so fast,' he said. 'It is the musical highlight of my career.'

Dr Sofo admitted he was a little daunted by the event.

'We had no idea what we were going to be playing until we turned up and they stuck the music in front of us,' he said. 'We only rehearsed 'A Time For Peace' once, but when the pressure is on, you can do it. I was a bit scared though!'

Although the group was warned by the Australian Government not to travel to Indonesia, Dr Sofo said they did not have anything to fear throughout their five day trip.

'We didn't even think about the danger,' he said. 'We were so busy, and there was someone looking after us the whole time.'

And everyone was so friendly. They were really nice people.

Dr Sofo said events such as the peace concert are vital in the current international climate.

'I don't know if it'll make a difference,' he said, 'but every little bit counts.'

'Music is the heart and soul of living. Music can bring peace.'

For further information about Monitor Online contact Louise Rugendyke, Monitor Editor, on: lar@adminserver.canberra.edu.au

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Last Updated on 6th May 2003
It’s a full-time job keeping up with Leah

By Louise Rugendyke

Leah Moore is a hard woman to pin down.

After several phone calls and a couple of false starts, I finally in office ready for the interview. She is, after all, the saddest thing, three-year-old Amy, is busy drawing a picture that will eventually stick to the wall.

Yet another in the series of Academy officers, and yet another of the array of attractions a young woman, chasing another geology bug, several boxes of rocks, piles of rolled up maps, course outlines, a spiked bag and mini-white the Princess is tucked away in the corner.

She is just trying to catch up with her, so what do I actually live for her?

I don’t know sometimes, she says. She can’t comprehend three roles at once, Dean of Students, Senior Lecturer in Physics and education director of the Earth System Stability in Global Environment Program (DiSHMoP).

And it is her babies that Leah says are her greatest achievements. She’s not even got to her role as Dean of Students or her involvement with the Graduate Certificate in Physics, so maybe a part two is warranted one day.

And it is her babies that Leah says are her greatest achievements. They ground you. The babies are pretty special. I’ve been to places and people in Bangladesh that really made them think. I was interested in early childhood. She says.

Molly was born on Tuesday afternoon. They arrived in Canberra at 6.30 in the morning and then finally it was time to talk. She’s been at the university for a month now and her oldest daughter, three-year-old Amy, is busy drawing a picture that will eventually stick to the wall.

The high levels of achievement of students in the program have rewarded her efforts. One notable example is Paul Southwell, who was awarded the University of Canberra medal last year. The team were drilling the Kerguelen Plateau (between 1500 and 2000 metres of water), which is largely Australian territory and one-third the size of Australia.

But, I can’t be whizzing around the world quite so much [with children].

Since then it has been a role she took on at the beginning of this year.

As an undergraduate at the University of Technology, she spent her time on engineering, but has now moved on for a full-time role as a student. It is very much oriented in major physics, chemistry. It was very difficult to see its applications when starting out.

But it was a bizarre year in free education – maths, physics, chemistry, maths. It was a year that I was interested in Australian science and in Australia, and then there was a baby in the equation. It was very much oriented in major physics, chemistry. It was very difficult to see its applications when starting out.

The babies are pretty special. I’ve been at places and people in Bangladesh that really made them think. I was interested in early childhood. She says.

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But not being one to stand still for too long, she joined an Antarctic drilling program in the summer of 1998 for two months.

It’s been a busy week. She comes from not only PhD degrees in volcanology, probably some of a Claudette, there was some practice something and a bit of chasing.

I can’t comprehend three roles at once, Dean of Students, Senior Lecturer in Physics and education director of the Earth System Stability in Global Environment Program (DiSHMoP). She can’t comprehend three roles at once, Dean of Students, Senior Lecturer in Physics and education director of the Earth System Stability in Global Environment Program (DiSHMoP).

So, what follows are the edited highlights of Leah Moore’s life thus far.

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When she was in the Philippines. I raced off looking at volcanoes and worked in Italy, Japan and New Zealand and later I contributed to an international program in the Philippines.

It was a year that I was interested in Australian science and in Australia, and then there was a baby in the equation. She says.

In 1997 Leah returned to Canberra and in 1998 she began her second association with UC (she tutored geology in 1990 as a PhD student).

I was really excited

I was interested in early childhood. She says.

And consider this, it’s hard to get in

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It's 5:30am, and while the rest of Ressies are tucked safely away in bed, Mick Sullivan heads off for a two-hour stint in the pool.

After eight years the 19-year-old says he's used to the early starts, but admits that living on Ressies can make it a little tough sticking to his training schedule. It's a bit hard, especially on bar nights and other party nights, he says. It was a bit easier living at home, there were no distractions.

Originally from Goulburn, Mick began swimming at age 11 and, while he also played soccer, cricket and rugby league, he started training seriously a year later. Throughout high school he trained at 5am on most mornings and again in the afternoon, and was selected in ACT State and NSW Country squads.

Although his teenage years have been hectic, Mick said he didn't feel he missed out on much growing up. "Maybe I missed a bit of socialising, going out, and a holiday every now and again," he says, "but you make really good friends at swimming. You get close to them spending about five hours a day together."

Now in his final year of a Sports Administration degree, Mick trains at Ginninderra Swimming Club, home of world butterfly champion and fellow UC student Petria Thomas.

Training relaxes you, it takes your mind off things, he says. Plus it's a personal challenge. No one else can help you and no one else can hold you back.

He still swims most mornings and evenings, but says he doesn't find it hard to balance his sport with study. "I had to do it all through high school, and there was probably more study involved then, he says. I got myself into good habits back then and have carried them through."

He is also Vice-President of the UC swim team, whose competitive and recreational squads train at Kaleen Sports Club.

Mick competes in breaststroke sprints, regularly against AIS swimmers, and at the recent ACT Open found himself next to former Australian and Commonwealth champion Simon Cowley. "I nearly beat him, it was pretty close!"

He sees his biggest achievement in swimming as being competitive on a national level, but said he really enjoys the social side of his sport. "You meet lots of people, he said. You get to know everyone from all different places across the country."

Mick hopes to get a job in the sports industry after he graduates at the end of the year, possibly at a national sporting body or as an agent. But his current focus is the World Championship Short Course Selection Trials in August, where he hopes to make a final. "And I want to keep having fun and enjoying it, he says. I like doing it for fitness, and for something else to do apart from study. As long as it's fun, I'll keep doing it. But if it starts becoming a chore, I'll give it away."

For further information about Monitor Online contact Louise Rugendyke, Monitor Editor, on: lru@adminserver.canberra.edu.au

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Cartoon (by JayBee)

The Drum

Rule number one is always focus on your "Core" business...

Management Seminars for Invertebrates

Cartoon copyright Jaybee 2003.
Heritage back on the books

By Louise Rugendyke

The University of Canberra has re-opened enrolments in its Cultural Heritage Studies course for 2004 following a controversial suspension last year.

However, the course will be a revised version and will not include the Conservation of Cultural Materials strand.

UC Vice-Chancellor Professor Roger Dean said the decision created the best outcome from an academic and financial point of view.

The decision to suspend the courses was taken in September last year when the university decided they were financially untenable and outside financial support would be sought to operate the courses in the future.

Dr Dean said he approached the Federal Government, Australian national conservation institutions and private donors all of who declined the university’s request for funding.

He said all that was needed was 25 subscribers who were willing to donate $20,000 each and the university would have picked up the remaining cost.

I remain sorry, but I don’t think there was anything the university could do,” he said.

Any one of [the institutions approached] could have solved the problem. It was well within their means but they chose not to do it.

The Vice-Chancellor’s Advisory Committee approved the revised version of the course on March 25 in time for it to be included in the University Admissions Centre’s guidebook for 2004.

Coordinator of UC’s Cultural Heritage Studies, Dr Brian Egloff described the re-opening of enrolments as a very positive step.

Its not on a trajectory. We have no money and we must accomplish our objectives quite well and bring it all back together.

He said the university was now very well positioned to fill in with the changing needs of [cultural heritage].

Now the action is in education departments, public programs, collection management – a niche our students are able to fill.

We have lost one of the really central elements of Cultural Heritage studies course for 2004 following its controversial suspension last year.

Dr Linda Young, who coordinates the Cultural Heritage studies postgraduate program, said while she was disappointed to see the closure of the Conservation of Cultural Materials strand.

We were used to have a corridor full of staff, now we have two-and-a-bit people. It's not the direction of the future and it will be really hard to build it up again.

I remain sorry, but I don’t think there was anything the university could do,” she said.

Any one of [the institutions approached] could have solved the problem. It was well within their means but they chose not to do it.

Dr Egloff said he would have preferred the option of continuing the program while [the Vice-Chancellor] seeks a solution but closing the program was preferred the option of continuing the program while [the Vice-Chancellor] seeks a solution.

As soon as you pull away one of those strands you weaken the course.

We are now left without any of those essentials you need to run the course.

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Dr Linda Young, who coordinates the Cultural Heritage studies postgraduate program, said while she was happy and relieved the Cultural Heritage studies course was being reinstated, it was a tragedy the Conservation of Cultural Materials course was not.

I remain sorry, but I don’t think there was anything the university could do,” she said.

Any one of [the institutions approached] could have solved the problem. It was well within their means but they chose not to do it.

However, he was still disappointed to see the closure of the Conservation of Cultural Materials strand.

It had a good reputation in the [local conservation] area and internationally, he said.

A reputation that was built up over 25 years.

While he acknowledged that throughout the world the training of conservators is awkward because it is an expensive activity,

By allowing the two to work

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Blood out of a lawyer? Impossible!

By Kate Andean

It’s hard to get a serious answer out of Professor Eugene Clark, Head of the University of Canberra’s School of Law.

When asked about what it was like to donate blood with other staff from the law school he replied, “It’s like what Woody Allen said about death, it’s a good idea I just don’t want to be there when it happens.”

Throughout the trip to the Woden Blood Bank, there were plenty of jokes about the difficulty of taking blood from a lawyer, but all of the staff seemed happy to be involved.

Every year they call for blood donors in the lead up to Easter, said Nicole Riding, the administrative assistant who organised the blood drive.

“We thought it was a good idea to jump in early,” she said.

“And it was a good chance to get a bit of blood out of Eugene!”

A first time donor, Nicole admitted to nerves and wobbly legs in the waiting room, but didn’t find giving blood painful. “It was fine,” she said. “The needle was huge, but I just didn’t look.”

I thought the most painful thing was when [the nurse] tested my iron levels at the start.

It was the first time in over 20 years commercial law lecturer Jann Lennard had donated blood, but she wasn’t phased by the ordeal. “I used to give blood regularly, but stopped after I had my kids, she said.”

I hope to make it regular now, it’s a good thing to do. Its just one of those things I never got around to.

While sitting in the recovery room, the lawyers debated in terms of property law, who actually owned the blood they had just donated.

Eugene however, seemed content to attempt to find the best (or should that be worst?) pun to sum up the excursion.

“In the law school we are now all blood brothers and sisters,” he said, drawing immediate groans from his audience. “And we’re all like our budget — in the red!”

“We came here to find out whether teaching was in our blood!”
From the press gallery and back again

By Louise Rugendyke

After 25 years in journalism of one kind or another, Greg Turnbull reckons he owes his start in the business to what was then called the Canberra College of Advanced Education.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Professional Writing, Greg recalls his most enthusiastic help in his search for a job came from the then head of journalism department, the legendary Maurice Dunlevy.

"I remember Maurice cast an eye over my application for a graduate cadetship with the Sydney Morning Herald, and let's just say he made a few improvements," Greg said.

They must have been good improvements, because Greg started at the SMH in Sydney in 1979, and two years later became the paper's Medical Reporter.

In 1982, the SMH posted him back to Canberra to join the paper's bureau in the old Parliament House.

He moved to radio and television reporting with the ABC news bureau in Parliament House in 1983, just in time to carry a radio microphone around the central tally room the night Bob Hawke was elected Prime Minister.

In 1986 he moved to Brisbane to report State politics for ABC-TV. Over the next few years in Queensland, he worked for the now-defunct Times on Sunday newspaper, for the media division of World Expo 88, and then as a political reporter for the ABC's 7.30 Report.

Early in 1992 I got a phone call that changed my life. I was sitting in an ABC office in Brisbane when a mate who formerly worked for Paul Keating rang and asked me if I wanted to return to Canberra to be the new Prime Ministers press secretary, Greg said.

"It was a wild and crazy idea, with very little security of employment - so naturally I jumped at it.

Over the next nine years, Greg worked for Labor Party leaders - first Paul Keating, then Kim Beazley.

They were both great bosses, and fascinating people to work for. As a journalist, it was very educational to see what goes on behind closed doors at that level of politics.

After Labor's defeat at the 2001 election, Greg returned to the Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery as a political reporter for Channel TEN News. This provoked controversy and mutterings in some quarters because of his long history as a political warrior for the Labor Party.

Many other people have crossed the line between political staffer and journalist, but my transition back to journalism was unusually swift, which got up the noses of some of my former political opponents. In the end I have been happy to be judged objectively on the fairness of my work - and so far so good.

One of the great things about journalism - and I think it also applies to political staff work - is that no day is ever identical to another. The variety keeps you keen.

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Last Updated on April 14, 2004
It's the logic behind the numbers Ann prefers

By Louise Rugendyke

For somebody who spends their days dealing with numbers, Ann Harding has a most unusual confession to make.

’I’m not very good at numbers, she laughs.

Instead, the director of the University of Canberra’s National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling relies on the logic behind the numbers she prefers.

Thinking the steps through in the models trying to replace in computer code all the social and economic consequences of policy change, I find that fascinating.

Nestled amongst the Lego-land like townhouses of Bruce and inner-city Fern Hill, NATSEM has been working away quietly for the last 10 years, producing the kind of economic data that can make or break a politician's policy pitch.

Want to know how much paid maternity leave will cost the Australian government? Ask NATSEM.

Want to know how much it costs to raise an Australian child? Ask NATSEM (and they’ll tell you it’s about $418,000 for two children over 20 years).

NATSEM has the highest media-profile of any UC organisation and was responsible for providing the Senate with analysis about the distributional consequences of the GST tax reform package before its implementation.

And they have achieved all this from humble beginnings on top of a fish and chip shop in Civic, where Ann says, ‘My real love is research, not meetings! I’m a typical academic. I’d like to do more research instead.

But at some stage I will have to do some management and do more research instead.’

For the time being Ann says she is happy to keep doing the job that fascinates her so.

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James proves politicians can have a heart

By Kate Andean

James Sorahan wants to be the Prime Minister one day, and already he has developed a greater sense of social justice than our current breed of politicians.

The 22-year-old Arts/Law student is a home tutor, a volunteer who visits recently arrived refugees or migrants for up to two hours a week.

"As a tutor you have two main roles," says James, "helping your student with their English skills and introducing them to the Australian culture and way of life."

The Home Tutor Scheme is organised by the Canberra Institute of Technology, where the students attend English classes, and funded by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.

James is currently tutoring a refugee from Sudan, and says it's been an educational experience for both of them.

"I've learnt so much about the difficulties new migrants experience coming to a new country," he says.

They've given up so much to come to Australia and it's very hard to settle into a completely new culture.

He admits that tutoring a non-English speaker isn't always easy.

"Sometimes it's difficult and you have to use sign language," he says. "But my student has learnt English very quickly."

James says growing up he always wanted to be a politician, and in his degree he has majored in politics.

He says the tutoring program is a good way for people who are against the government's immigration policy to do something practical about it, and to prove wrong the "redneck view" that refugees are taking all of Australia's money.

It's also a good way to find out about the world.

"I've always had an interest in other cultures and countries, and this is a great way to learn about them," he says.

Tutors are matched up with their students of a similar age and location in Canberra, and are required to assist them for at least six months while they attend CIT.

Most however, form friendships that last beyond the classes.

"My student and I have become really good friends," says James, "and even if I'm not tutoring him we will stay in contact."

James became involved in the program after seeing it advertised in a newspaper, and is now doing his best to promote it to other students.

There are not many young tutors, he says. "I have been trying to make people aware of this program through the Golden Keys Society and by having a stall on Harmony Day."

James hopes to get a job in the public service after he graduates next year, preferably in Foreign Affairs or the Department of Immigration, but plans to continue his involvement with the tutoring program.

It's been very rewarding. "It's given me a different perspective on Canberra and Australia," he says.

You realise how lucky we are in Australia.

He urges anyone interested in the Home Tutor Scheme to contact CIT on (02) 6205 9611.

You are trained as a tutor, and you get lots of advice and resources, he says. And you keep the skills you gain forever.

It's great for people in the community to be part of programs that have such a practical significance, rather than things just being done by the government.

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Photo feature

Diversity and difference on an Autumn day

Harmony Week was all about celebrating diversity and living in peace. On a sunny Autumn morning no better example of those ideals could be found than at the University of Canberra.

Photos: Rebecca Kenny.

For further information about Monitor Online contact John Martin, Monitor Editor, on: monitor@Canberra.edu.au

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Last Updated on April 14, 2004
Cartoon (by JayBee)

Cartoon copyright Jaybee 2003.
Celebrating 25 years at UC

By Louise Rugendyke

Collectively they have been at the University of Canberra for 225 years; give or take a few months. And they are an excellent reflection of the diverse population that makes a university community work – from administrators through to academics.

Owen Cartledge, George Cho, Bob Foster, Anthony Hickey, Trevor Lund, Barbara Mapley, John Masterman, Laurie Spencer and Graham Taylor were all honoured last month for their 25 years of service to the university.

They were all presented with an official 25-year service pin at April UC Council meeting by Chancellor Wendy McCarthy.

Owen Cartledge, Senior lecturer in resource and environmental sciences, says he "never imagined" he would be at UC for 25 years. "I think it's wonderful," he says. "Although, I came here with black hair and I'm leaving with white, he chuckled, but you can't blame this place, it happens to all of us.

Associate Professor George Cho is a familiar sight in Building Three. As Deputy Director of the division, George is well known for his sense of fun and in organising the division's annual Christmas Revue.

Senior lecturer in resource and environmental sciences, Dr Owen Cartledge said he never imagined he would be at UC for 25 years. "I think it's wonderful," he says. "Although, I came here with black hair and I'm leaving with white, he chuckled, but you can't blame this place, it happens to all of us.

Bob Foster was an apprentice painter when he started work at UC in 1977. He is now the university's leading hand painter: "If I didn't enjoy it I wouldn't be here by now.

Senior Stores Officer Tony Hickey started work in the print room as an 18-year-old ("The first five years here were great," he laughs). He says he likes working at UC and has plans to stay for another nine years.

Dr Trevor Lund, Senior lecturer in computer technology, says it is the interaction with the students that has kept him at UC for 25 years. "Every time I get fed up with the piles of paperwork, the accounts or administration, going and dealing with the students cheers me up," he says.

In her 25 years at UC, Barbara Mapley has been a fixture what is now the Division of Business, Law and Information Technology. The administration assistant says her 25 years have "gone so quickly. "It's a pleasant place to work, there are lots of benefits although the parking gets a bit tight on Tuesdays, she says.

John Masterman, Human Resources personnel manager, echoes the sentiments of his fellow awardees: "I love working here, I love the people and the variety.

He says he enjoys the company and is known for regularly shouting his HR staff to ice cream.

Professor Graham Taylor is known in some circles of UC as the cock of the wok because he was born in the Chinese Year of the Cockerel and is well known for his culinary skills.

Laurie Spencer, who has since retired from the university, was instrumental in the establishment and ongoing development of the computer and electronic design and support services for the staff in Building 11.

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Problems & Technical Issues?

Content & Data Custodian

Last Updated on 20th May 2003
Election called for SA president

By Kate Andean and EJ Sewell

After 14 weeks without a president the University of Canberra Students Association has finally got its act together by announcing an election date.

Voting day is Wednesday, May 14, and two nominations have been received for president; former president Brett Jones and current Welfare Officer Kim Laybutt.

Ms Laybutt said she is keen to erase the SA’s troubled past.

"This is the first term I’ve been here, and I realised how much potential this place has," she said.

"What I can bring is a non-political party aligned view, and a bit of honesty and level-headedness."

SA General Secretary Adam Verwey said the delay in organising the election was caused by the committee’s indecision in selecting a returning officer to run the election.

He said originally they were not happy with nominee Aaron Matthews, but then elected him one week later.

The committee took so long to elect a returning officer, he said. They kept putting it off and then it turned out they chose the original nominee in the first place.

UC students, who Mr Verwey said pay $70 a year for SA services, have been without a spokesperson in the form of a president since the beginning of O-Week.

"It [disadvantages] students’ not to have a spokesperson," Mr Verwey said. "It limits the amount we can communicate with students and the media."

When asked how UC students have benefited from the SA in 2003, Mr Verwey was blunt.

"I think they’ve got jack shit," he said. "I don’t think students have got what they paid for."

Andrew White is an IT student at UC and he agrees with Mr Verwey.

"It think it’s been bloody outrageous," he said. "You don’t pay money to an organisation for them to do nothing."

Mr Verwey said a major problem was the disinterest and general laziness of some committee members.

"Most people are there to make up the numbers, not because they care for the cause," he said.

Nominations for the election were open between April 11 and April 29, but only three of those days fell within the study period—the remaining days were during the holidays.

Mr White is sceptical about the fairness of the election process because of the selected dates.

"They advertised for new people when nobody’s here," he said. "It sounds a little convenient to me."

Mr Verwey said the SA were merely following a procedure that requires the election to be held within three weeks of the returning officer being elected.

A new Women’s Officer will also be elected on polling day following the resignation of Serina McDuff, along with three SA Committee Members.

Nominee Brett Jones, a former president of the SA, was unable to be contacted for comment.

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Last Updated on 20th May 2003
Angela juggles students and athletics

By EJ Sewell

The circus is calling University of Canberra Coaching Science lecturer Angela Calder.

Canada's Circus Ole has asked Ms Calder, as one of four international specialists, to help improve the recovery techniques of the performers from the strong man to the acrobats.

The Canadians have invited me once before, to up skill them in this area, she said.

Her experience with the recovery of ballerinas and even rugby will valuable she added.

The recovery techniques Ms Calder implements are wide and varied. They range from the sophisticated: the AFL players you see wading in the sea on a freezing winters day, to simply teaching athletes to have a glass of cordial or soft drink with every glass of alcohol.

Her trip to Canada follows a memorable experience as a guest presenter at the World Class Coaches Conference held in Birmingham in November of 2002.

UK Sports, an organisation much like the Australia Sports Commission, handed the invitation to Ms Calder and the event was the highlight of the UK High Performance Coaching year with over 300 coaches representing many sports and national organisations present.

Ms Calder presented a lecture on recovery, but her expertise in recovery training was also used in a variety of workshops, practical sessions and seminars.

Ms Calder said it was a whirlwind lecture tour but was very enjoyable.

The UK tour enabled Ms Calder to me involved with a variety of sporting organisations and some very high profile coaches, including Olympian Paula Radcliffe's coach.

Ms Calder is highly acclaimed because of her wide knowledge and because of her ability to make science user friendly. I try to translate the science so they can use it, she said.

After 13 years in the area, she is glad to offer to both coaches and athletes a way of recovering effectively, which doesn't involve illegal substances.

I offer people a better alternative so coaches and athletes own what they are doing, and its legal, she said.

She is humble about her important role in the recovery training of athletes, but it is clear from her UK trip, and her upcoming trip to Canada, that she is elite in her field.

I don't think I do it very well, she said. But we have to at least try to do it.

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Last Updated on 20th May 2003
Women's AFL in the spotlight

By EJ Sewell

The struggles of women in football, of overcoming the stereotypes and making a mark in a male dominated game was the inspiration for the first time documentary, Women's Aussie Rules, by UC graduate Rommel Lenon.

The documentary premiered this month and was the story of women's AFL in Canberra as it followed the Ainslie and Canberra representative teams during the 2002 season.

The documentary contained interviews with players, officials and the ACT Minister for Sport, Ted Quinlan.

As the producer, writer and director, Mr Lenon graduated from a Bachelor of media/multi media in July of 2002 and the idea of capturing the women's AFL story was first proposed to him by a classmate who played in the league.

"It was my last year (at UC) and I thought it would be a challenge to do the whole season," he said. The documentary featured training sessions, both day and night; game days and social occasion and was a refreshing insight into women's sport.

'I think its charm really is in the topic," he said. I never realised how little coverage women's sport was getting in the media.

The project was costly for Lenon, with travelling and equipment escalating into the tens of thousands, all of which came out of his own pocket after he was denied funding from the ABC and SBS.

'We applied for funding from the ABC and SBS but they rejected us," he said. "They just said they didn't have the money to give us.

Mr Lenon said after university, and making short films, he was looking for a new challenge.

'I was tired of making short films and this seemed the perfect idea at the time," he said. At the Australian Institute Documentary conference in Byron Bay in February, Mr Lenon pitched his idea to the History Channel and the two have been corresponding about the possibilities ever since.

Making the documentary did offer Lenon challenges, but it was the experiences like talking to the History Channel that has offered him another learning experience.

"Doing this documentary I was forced to look at the reality of the industry and it made me more courageous about approaching people in the industry," he explained.

The documentary has also turned into a publicity tool for women's AFL in Canberra.

AFL player and participant in the documentary, Emily Diprose, said the story was exciting to watch and make and would be a good marketing for the future.

'I think it was a great promo for women's footy," she said. "It showed what we do at training and in games and the social side too.

She said the documentary could only offer positives for her sport, because of the way it showed the players without bias or stereotype.

It has footage of what the game's about, the skills required, she said. Some people have stereotypes of butch, bitchy players but the interviews show we are normal girls with normal lives.

A member of the ACT Women's AFL committee, Ms Diprose is currently organising the ACT team for the national championships to be held in the Northern Territory at the end of May.

She said last year they only required $7000 to play because the championships were in Sydney, but this year it was estimated at a massive $50,000.

'It's hard to find sponsors," she said. Having the bushfires hasn't helped.

Although the cost of playing in the national championships is high, Ms Diprose said it would be worth it.

She is excited at where women's AFL is heading, and said this documentary was a small indication of what the game has to offer.

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Last Updated on 20th May 2003
In Rod the Canberra Raiders trust

By EJ Sewell

As a 17-year-old he debuted with the Adelaide Rams in what was to become a thing of the past - a not so super Super League.

Rod Jensen couldn't believe his luck when an official from the Rams interrupted his packing on the last day of high school and offered him a job.

He was expecting to go quietly back to Cairns, and maybe head to Brisbane to study, but the chance to play rugby league was waved enticingly at his face.

"He said I've got a ticket to go to Adelaide if you're interested," Jensen explained.

I rang my parents from Adelaide and told them I'd signed a contract!

That was in the days when he was at boarding school playing schoolboy rugby and already training with another Super League squad the North Queensland Cowboys.

He played for two years in Adelaide before the competition disintegrated and it was then his real opportunity came.

After a practice match between the Rams and the Canberra Raiders then coach and rugby league legend Mal Meninga asked him to move to the Raiders.

That was 1999, and after five years with the club the 24-year-old is still part of the team.

They (Canberra Raiders) had the best team, the Daleys, the Meningas, they had all the big names, he said. I thought if you're going to be anyone that's where you have to play.

He never saw Cairns as his immediate future and conceded he had to "get away" to become something more.

Cairns can be a negative place to grow up in, he said. I didn't want to get stuck there, I always wanted to do something to change the world.

In 2002, Jensen decided it was time to plan for the future and he began a Bachelor of Education, primary teaching, at the University of Canberra.

He said it was the influence of his school teachers that pushed him towards teaching, a trade which he practices daily with the Raiders through a program called Healthpack where he visits schools talking about health and fitness.

I've always wanted to do it, it was just basically time, he said. I am little older, I can handle my time a lot better, I'm playing alright footy and you only really have ten years in the game.

He was recently awarded the Meningans annual scholarship.

The scholarship, granted by a supporters group, is granted to young Raiders players who undertake study in order to secure life after football, yet Jensen is humble about the achievement.

I was surprised, I just do what normal people do, he said. Football would be my first love, but I'm learning to learn and to teach and when that transition stage comes I'll be moving into an area I enjoy.

The kid from up north has matured into a professional footballer with a secure future, but he still maintains some endearing child-like characteristics and a true love for his club.

As a kid I was always going to try and be as good as Laurie Daley, he smiled. And then I was playing with him and it was surreal.

Jensen is content with the chisels he has made, moving from Cairns to Adelaide and then the move to Canberra to play with the Raiders. It's been a pretty good choice for me, he said. I get paid to do something I really like.

UC Education student and Raider Rod Jensen.
War orphan finds inspiration in his past

By Kate Andean

At just two-and-a-half-years old Patrick O'Flaherty was dumped outside an orphanage in London.

Eight years later the PhD student was shipped to Australia with 10,000 other orphans as part of the post World War II Child Migration Scheme.

"It was a very sad chapter of Australian history," Patrick said. "I see it as related to the Stolen Generation issue. We were dislocated from our parents and we were lied to. Now years later people are starting to look back and realise the impact it had on our lives."

But Patrick has used his experience to gain the most out of his life. "It has given me a tremendous optimism," he said. "I look for good and expect it. Going through that very negative experience has given me a very positive outlook."

Patrick, soon to be 64-years-young, has been in Canberra for the past 35 years and says he was a late developer in terms of education. While working for the Honourable Al Grassby in immigration, he became the first public servant to complete a Diploma in Multiculturalism.

Patrick then tutored in this area at the University of Canberra, while completing his Bachelor of Education, followed by a Masters in Family Policy.

Throughout these degrees, he was actively involved in student activities on campus and was the president of the Post-Graduate Students Association, and member of the university council.

"I am passionately committed to supporting the needs of post-graduate students at UC," he said. He also went on a tour of migrant source countries, a series of cultural and business delegations from Canberra to China and Ireland, and sponsored by UC, he attended the first International Conference on Child Migration.

Patrick used these trips to reunite with his mother, and visit the grave of his father in the United Kingdom.

"People are surprised at the things I've been able to do," he admits, "but the rediscovery of my family has been a terrific springboard. It helped me find my identity."

After a life-threatening illness Patrick was told by his doctor to slow down, so he is currently completing his PhD, a case study of child migration to Australia, part-time.

"I'm working my way back after my illness," he said. "I'm regrouping."

The resources at UC are great, and I have two very good supervisors, he said.

Winner of a UC Harmony Day Award earlier this year, Patrick has always viewed multiculturalism and respecting difference as extremely important. It is an essential skill in the modern world to be able to appreciate difference, he said. That's what makes Australia, and this campus - difference.

He has had a long-term involvement with the ethnic community in Canberra, and currently works with the ACT Multicultural Council who organise the annual Multicultural Festival.

"I'm like the leprechaun who drives [the festival] behind the scenes!" he laughs.

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Cartoon (by JayBee)

The Drum

Him? He's my 'altar' ego...

Jaybee '03

Cartoon copyright Jaybee 2003.

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Last Updated on 20th May 2003
Students to bear budget's burden

By Louise Rugendyke

As expected, higher education was one of the major topics of national debate following the introduction of the 2003 Federal Budget, with opinion among academics, politicians, students and interest groups markedly diverse.

Within the University of Canberra community, however, there was some convergence of view. Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean said on initial examination the Budget represented a step forward in financial terms and indicated a proper recognition by the government of the fact that higher education is a national priority.

However, he said, as always, concerns were reserved about equity, and he had concerns with the financial effects on students and their families, particularly those from the lower socio-economic areas.

Professor Dean added that the Budget document was extremely complex and so quite incomprehensible.

Along with my counterparts and the Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee I shall therefore be examining the document in far greater detail in the next few days.

Compulsory student unionism discouraged

Extra university places will also be made available in teaching and nursing degrees and these will attract lower HECS fees. However, the Government has compulsory student unionism in its sights, with plans to introduce legislation to make membership of such organisations compulsory.

HELP (Higher Education Loans Programme) fees to domestic students. Universities have also been given the green light to charge variable HECS – HELP (Higher Education Loans Programme) fees to domestic students.

Increased fees

Universities have been set a five-year, government funded, time-limit to complete their university degree. Also on the increase is an increase in the HECS threshold – up from $24,365 per year to $30,000.

HELP (Higher Education Loans Programme) fees to domestic students. Universities have also been given the green light to charge variable HECS – HELP (Higher Education Loans Programme) fees to domestic students.

Compulsory student unionism discouraged

Extra university places will also be made available in teaching and nursing degrees and these will attract lower HECS fees. However, the Government has compulsory student unionism in its sights, with plans to introduce legislation to make membership of such organisations compulsory.

The Federal Budget at a glance:

- Increased funding: up to $3.5 billion worth of funding over the next six years.
- Increased fees: Universities able to charge up to charge variable HECS – HELP (Higher Education Loans Programme) fees to domestic students.
- Increased paid places: Universities to increase the number of students paying up-front fees from 25 per cent of a course to 50 per cent.
- Increased HECS threshold: Students will not have to begin paying back their accumulated HECS debt until they are earning $30,000 per annum – up from $24,365.
- Five-year degree: Students allocated a five-year, government funded, time-limit to complete their university degree.
- More money for academics: Up to $1.5 billion worth of funding over the next six years.
- Workplace reform: Staff will be encouraged to take up individual workplace agreements and the right to industrial action will be discouraged.

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Problematic technical issues?
Current & Upcoming Events
Last Updated on 26th June 2003
National forensics centre at UC

By Kate Andean

ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope launched the National Centre for Forensic Studies at the University of Canberra last week.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the three institutions involved in the cooperative venture: UC, the Canberra Institute of Technology and the Australian Federal Police.

Dr Chris Lennard of the AFP, who will oversee the research and development side of the project, said the establishment of the Centre will formalise what is already a good working relationship.

It will consolidate the efforts of the three institutions in education, training and research and development, he said.

Head of the new Centre, UC's Professor Jennelle Kyd, agreed saying the concept of the exciting initiative had been on the books for years, and would benefit all those involved.

The Centre will enable us to develop a far more strategic approach to education and research in the broader fields of forensic application, she said.

It will provide undergraduate [courses] and ongoing education in postgraduate areas for people to gain knowledge and qualifications in those fields.

Dr Lennard believes the new Centre will further strengthen training and education in forensics and will create a more consolidated approach to research.

The Centre will build on the strengths of CIT particularly in crime scene investigation, he said, and combine that with UC's strengths, for example in biology.

The AFP will provide industry input to ensure that what is developed is relevant to the industry.

The Centre will also provide services to the forensics professions at the local, national and international levels.

According to Prof Kyd, forensics is about more than just law enforcement, it is about the linkage between law and a discipline.

Its techniques are becoming increasingly important in the technological age, with various forms of computer crimes, including those involving identity theft, on the rise.

It can be incredibly difficult to prove a case against someone, but also to protect those who are innocent victims, she said.

Prof Kyd, the first woman to be appointed Chair of Forensics at an Australian university, believes the National Centre will greatly benefit UC.

It fits beautifully within our mission of providing professional training, she said, and it is an exciting enhancement to the research endeavours of this university.

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Last Updated on 3rd June 2003
Drink safe, stay safe

By Louise Rugendyke

Watch your drink, watch yourself and watch your friends is the message in the latest anti-drink spiking campaign implemented by the University of Canberra Union.

In conjunction with the UC Students Association and the Department of Fair Trading the message has been printed on fluorescent orange drink tags and coasters that have been distributed with drinks at the uni bar.

The tags are placed around the neck of bottles, while the coasters are placed on top of the glasses.

They are printed with a warning about drink spiking and the Australian Federal Police phone number to report any incidences.

Security staff have also contributed to the offensive by carrying anti-drink spiking test kits.

UCU General Manager Tony Loneragan said the tags, coasters and anti-drink spiking kits were just protection for students.

Canberra is a prime location [for drink spiking], Mr Loneragan said, and the two uni bars [UC and ANU] and would be the most likely targets.

With around 800 students attending the Thursday night bar night each week, Mr Loneragan said the UCU wanted to raise awareness of drink spiking among its bar patrons.

There is a whole group of young people gathered in the one place [on bar nights] - especially young females, he said.

What we want to do is make people think twice about drink spiking and thats obviously going to be a big advantage for the students.

And so far, it seems to be working.

Since the tags, coasters and testing kits were introduced earlier in the year, Mr Loneragan said no drinks had tested positive for spiking.

He said the visibility of security staff checking drinks was as much a preventative measure as the actual testing kits.

If [drink spikers] see security staff shining their torches in drinks its going to make them think about what they are about to do, Mr Loneragan said.

Cultural Heritage Studies student Holly Pender said since the anti-drink spiking initiatives were introduced she has felt a lot safer attending uni bar nights.

The things you used to hear before [about drink spiking] would put you off from going to the bar, she said.

But I definitely feel a lot safer now they are [testing the drinks].

The UCU bar has also undergone a refurbishment in the last month.

A new coat of paint, new furniture and the soon-to-be installation of gas heaters will all contribute to a new homely, friendly and congenial atmosphere at the bar, Mr Loneragan said.

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Last Updated on 3rd June 2003
UC rowers in oar of the green and gold

By EJ Sewell

University of Canberra student Tim Westgarth has been chosen in the Australian Under 23 rowing team after his success with the UC rowing squad at the national championships.

At the national championships held at Lake Barrington, Tasmania, in April, UC rowers won a total of 12 medals - six gold and six silver.

An Open Science student, Westgarth won two national titles in the Under 23 single and double scull.

On May 11 his performances at the nationals were officially recognised with his selection in the Australian Under 23 rowing team for the second year in a row.

"It doesn't lose any of its appeal (being selected for a second time)," he said.

I was struggling for a while with my back, so yes it was a bit of a surprise.

While Westgarth is an elite rower, he said competing with UC was very important to his training.

"UC rowing is more of an outlet, more of a social gathering," he said.

"We're still furious about it when it comes to racing but it's more of a social thing.

It's important because it gives me the opportunity to relax [rather than intense training]."

After placing fourth in the 2002 World Championships in the quad scull, Westgarth remains passionate about the UC rowing club and insists they have the potential to dominate the rowing scene.

"I reckon UC is one of the strongest rowing units in Australia, he said.

Because you have people from the AIS and ACTAS, UC at the uni games this year will place really highly.

The rowing club made its first official appearance in the annual Disher Cup earlier this month, the race tagged as the supreme rowing event for universities and features the ANU, ADFA and RMC.

It was great to compete, UC rowing committee member Taryn Langdon said.

We have a local event and it great to compete on a level playing field with the other universities.

Prior to the race the men's eight were tipped take out their event, but they stopped inadvertently just before the finish line and were overtaken to place second.

The women's eight came third, while the men's four tasted victory.

UCU rowing club president Ian Morgan was proud of the team's performance.

"The results were good especially for our first time in the competition as an equal member - what is more pleasing than the result was that we fielded all four boats into the regatta," he said.

For six girls it was their first ever race, that was certainly very satisfying for the members who have been around the club for a while watching it grow.
Noor finds inspiration walks through the door

By Louise Rugendyke

Her office walls are covered with fabric hangings, artwork and masks.

Her filing cabinet, desk and every other available space are covered with photographs of students from every country conceivable.

I get wedding invitations, photographs of kids, thousands of [students] have gone through and some I only vaguely recognize, Noor Fleming says with one of her trademark laughs.

As the University of Canberra’s International Student Advisor and Welfare Officer she is the surrogate mother to the university’s international student population.

They come and see me and I play mother, she says, but I can be tough and severe!

And here comes another laugh, before she quickly adds, but they don’t take it personally.

With around 1200 internationals attending UC this year, Noor is their point of contact for any problems they may be experiencing or if they just want to talk.

Every time there is a knock on the door I am always surprised, she says.

The students are so honest and they don’t take being [at UC] for granted.

They really want to make it a successful stay and, coming from across the other side of the world and seeing the struggles they go through, you can’t help but admire their resilience, determination and they do it [finish], she says.

We have very few [international student] dropouts and that indicates their level of dedication.

Noor says she finds the variety of her day inspiring – as she never knows what’s going to come next.

It’s fun to me because I am still fascinated and interested by the diversity of people on campus, she says, yet, generally, on the bottom of it how similar we all actually are.

It doesn’t matter if you are black or white, Indian or Chinese, we all suffer the same life challenges.

What also inspires Noor is the bonds the international students develop with each other.

These students are from countries on the opposite sides of the world and they’re off talking to each other as good friends, she says.

They are bonding because they are in a strange land together and to see the instant trust that develops between them, that never stops fascinating me.

Noor knows, first-hand, what it is like to be an international student.

At 18-years-old she left Malaysia and moved to Canberra to study English at the Australian National University.

I’d studied English in Malaysia – we did Shakespeare and Wordsworth – but I made a mistake – too much can be too much, she laughs.

Coming to grips with Canberra the lifestyle and climate was also something here had to contended with.

It was a huge culture shock, everything was so different, she says.

Canberra was so different to any place I had been to. I was looking for these big tall buildings and the vibe of Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta but it just wasn’t there.

She has since adjusted and now she has lived in Australia longer than she ever did in Malaysia.

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Last Updated on 3rd June 2003
Darrin hits a homerun at the Masters Games

By Kate Andean

It's hard to know what to say first about Darrin Hebditch. The 37-year-old is in his second year of a Sports Administration degree at the University of Canberra; he was recently awarded the Volunteer of the Month for his work at the Australian Masters Games; and he is a former state softballer who has coached at an elite level in Australia and abroad.

Darrin began working at the Masters Games when his lecturer mentioned that his course required him to do some work placement.

"I want to get out of uni with a degree, but also have some volunteer experience to put on my resume," he said. "It might give me a jumpstart when I finish."

Darrin's role involves a lot of liaison with the different sports bodies involved in the Games, and he says it has been a great experience.

"It's been good getting in and doing some work for a major event," he said. "I've also made a lot of contacts and gotten to know all the major players in the sports industry in Canberra."

He admits to being "totally surprised" when he was chosen as the April Volunteer of the Month, due to his outstanding for the organisation of the Masters Games.

Australian swimming legend Dawn Fraser presented Darrin with the award. The presentation was tied in to the volunteer launch held at the Canberra Centre, he said.

They kept on asking me if I was coming to the launch, but didn't mention that I'd been nominated!

The Ninth Australian Masters Games begin on October 31, and Darrin plans to continue his volunteer work until they close. He says that although it will be satisfying to have been involved from early on right through to the end of the Games, he will miss all the friends he's made through his time there.

But then he'll still have softball to keep him busy.

After starting coaching in his teens, Darrin ended up in charge of the Australian Under-19 softball team, and has also coached professionally in Sweden.

His own softball career began when at 19-years-old he switched from baseball, which he had played for about four years and found was more expensive.

He played in the ACT softball team for many years, and was selected as a reserve for the national side in 1988.

Although not playing at the moment, he is assisting the Under-19s again, and has recently nominated to be the ACT Women's coach.

But thats all Im doing due to uni, he said.

Darrin began his Sports Administration degree in order to improve his employment prospects.

I was spending six months of the year overseas coaching softball professionally, I was coming back here to no job, he said. I needed to find something to do outside of softball.

Darrin is extremely grateful of the support he's received from his lecturers and says he has really enjoyed his degree so far.

The fact we get to do a lot of field work is great, he said, and also the subjects in the sports management stream are very interesting.

For further information about Monitor Online contact Louise Rugendyke, Monitor Editor, on: lar@adminserver.canberra.edu.au

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Last Updated on 3rd June 2003
The Drum

"Ram Raid"
Alright! Don’t nobody move!

Cartoon copyright JayBee 2003.
UCIC on track for October opening

By Louise Rugendyke

The University of Canberra's $10.5 million Innovation Centre is on target for its October opening and already half of the building has been leased.

Director of UC Commercial and Business Development Robert Kominek said three organisations have signed leases with UCIC and negotiations were underway with several other potential clients.

So far the UC College, Professional Management Programs (PMP) and the Centre for Customs Studies have all signed on for occupancy.

Centre for Customs Studies Executive Director David Widdowson said their move into UCIC was stimulated by the Customs Centre becoming an "independent entity, separate from the Division of Business, Law and Information Sciences."

"We will be operating in a more commercial mindset," he said. "So therefore it is appropriate we are one-step removed [from UC] in the Innovation Centre. We see ourselves very much as a conduit between UC's special awards and overseas customs students."

In the two years Customs Studies has been at UC, Mr Widdowson said there had been a lot of expansion within the customs industry and this also stimulated their move.

"In the two years we have built links with 15 overseas customs agencies throughout the world," he said, "and we are looking to further these ties with UC through the [Innovation] Centre.

Mr Widdowson said customs hoped to move into the Centre the first day available.

Were here to stay, he said.

Were looking for a long-term relationship with UC.

Mr Kominek said he was also currently in talks with the Australian Technology Expertise Network and a number of other unnamed clients.

We have agreements to lease half of UCIC and we are in negotiations with a number of other clients, he said.

We are on track for [full occupancy in] October 2003.

He said quite a bit of interest had been shown in leasing the remaining spaces.

We want anyone in the university community who has a relationship with an organisation who feels they will benefit from being placed on campus to get in contact with [the university].

Mr Kominek added the university was seeking tenants who would agree to a minimum five-year leasing term, however, he said UC would consider other leasing proposals.

Situated on the corner of College Street and Haydon Drive, the 5500 square metre centre will comprise of two, Buildings 22 and 23, two storey office wings.

The wings will combine business space with teaching space and it is expected to become an integrated research and technology centre.

Subsequent stages will include further office and business accommodation and undercroft parking.

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Last Updated on 15 July 2003
Postgraduate students not forgotten

By EJ Sewell

A preliminary working party will be established to look into the reformation of a University of Canberra post-graduate students association.

The need for the party was identified following a meeting held last month to discuss post-graduate representation within the university.

According to Dr Leah Moore, the Dean of Students, post-graduate students have had no formal representation since early 2002 because their previous association could not account for its finances and was shut down by the UC council.

Chairing the meeting, Dr Moore said it was important to gauge the need for the organisation and what form it should take.

Its more about giving the responsibility back to the post-graduate students, Dr Moore said.

Its quite an exciting time.

The main aim of the meeting was to identify the way the group was going to organised, in terms of joining with the current undergraduate SA, or as an independent body.

Students present at the meeting voiced concerns about the state of the current SA; they lacked faith in the structure that is there or the people that are there.

They also said their needs were different from undergraduate students, so an independent organisation seemed more appropriate.

Dr Moore was keen to discuss options, but a decision regarding the future of the association was left open because of the small number of people in attendance at the meeting.

She said the general consensus from the meeting was for a separate organisation.

However, she said it was unfair to make a concrete decision regarding an association due to the lack of post-graduate student representation on the day.

At the meeting concerns were also voiced over the use of post-graduate money being directed to undergraduate activities.

Matthew Lawrence, research and advocacy officer with the SA, said he was concerned about the potential size of the post-graduate association and whether it would have enough impact.

Being small can be nice but not very useful, he said.

Nasser Al-Mawali, who is completing a PhD in economics, was one of the few post-graduates to attend the meeting.

He said it was very important to re-establish an association regardless of the form.

We need to find a place to meet and gather to exchange views, he said.

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Last Updated on 15 July 2003
The mourning after

By Louise Rugendyke

We come to mourn the passing of public higher education

And so it was to be a very different kind of funeral.

The University of Canberra’s chaplaincy coordinator, the Rev Ivor Vivian, added his voice recently to the growing cries of protest over the Federal Government’s 2003 budget.

Rev Vivian delivered the eulogy at a rally organised by the UC Students Association in support of the national day of student protest by Australia’s universities.

The protest was to commemorate the death of higher education and was in response to the proposed changes to the tertiary sector as forecast in the budget.

Rev Vivian was joined in the protest by SA president Kim Laybutt and Democrat MLA Roslyn Dundas.

He said he thought it was an important issue to big to ignore.

"I felt what the Students Association was doing was worthwhile and of interest to all students," he said.

"It is the university chaplain’s role to support all good initiatives on campus. I thought [the mock funeral] was for the benefit of all students and deserved my support."

Rev Vivian also added that he felt strongly about the value of higher education.

"Our society has an obligation to develop students to their full potential."

His eulogy read:

"But there is always hope of a resurrection, or perhaps a reincarnation," he read.

"We must fight hard by lobbying and exercising our votes to eliminate the current mean-spirited gnomes in the government at the next election and prepare the way for a more enlightened prophet who will raise again free Public Education to benefit this proud land, its peoples and its neighbours."

Ms Laybutt said the funeral was only the first step in an ongoing protest against the budget.

"It’s important for the campus [to have protests] so people become aware of the issues regarding higher education, she said.

Ms Laybutt said the SA had also invited students from Lake Ginninderra and Radford College to join in the protests because, they are the ones who will be affected by the changes.

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Last Updated on 15 July 2003
Tourism students rally behind local events

By Kate Andean

University of Canberra tourism students braved bad weather and speeding cars to complete an event evaluation of the 2003 Subaru Rally of Canberra.

Angela Smith from the Centre for Tourism Research, said it was a good experience for the 25 students involved, despite the disgusting conditions.

The event was very useful for tourism students, and especially those doing tourism research projects, she said. They learn about the processes and it teaches them things they can use in their own work.

Fifteen students and three staff members were divided into crews and attended the Rally to collect contact details from spectators and competitors. It was starting to rain and hard to get around, but the students all did pretty well, Ms Smith said. There weren't too many complaints.

The tourism research office was then turned into a call centre and visitors were interviewed about their behaviour at the event.

Ms Smith said information was collected about attendance numbers, spectator demographics and how much they spent, visitor satisfaction and where else those from out of town visited while in Canberra.

The Rally will use the results to evaluate the success of the event.

The client looks at the results to work out what they need to change, Ms Smith said. They also evaluate whether it was important for Canberra and worthwhile holding the event.

The Centre has also been approached to evaluate other local events such as Floriade and the Christmas Carols, and some students have volunteered to assist the Rugby World Cup later this year.

Ms Smith said projects like this were a great benefit to UC.

The Rally was held over the ANZAC Day long weekend, and Ms Smith said organisers tried to utilise a lot of forest sections destroyed by the January fires in order to bring the public back to those areas.

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Last Updated on 15 July 2003
By Robin Poke & Louise Rugendyke

Creativity and innovation were rewarded across all sector of the University of Canberra last month with the inaugural Vice-Chancellor’s Distinction Awards.

It was an occasion that promoted among both academic and general staff the efforts of an eclectic mix of people passionate about their work.

Professor Dean described as exciting and gratifying the number and standard of nominations.

He added that he hoped the awards would serve as a stepping stone and encouragement towards national recognition.

The sentiments of most winners were summed up best by Jo Baskett who, when accepting an award for her work with Mary Hewett in supporting the transition to university for students, said, “This award is the icing on the cake: being recognised for something we love doing.”

Innovative and Creative Teaching

Peter Donnan, Peter Delgado and Matt Bacon: For their work on the learning package that supports the subject, Online Learning: Course Design.

Dr Mary Walsh: For her innovative and creative teaching methods.

A/Prof Andrew Cheetham, A/Prof John Rayner and Dr Jim Woolnough: For their work in contracting, developing and teaching a web-based course in physics and physics teaching for experienced science teachers to upgrade their qualifications.

Dr Nancy FitzSimmons and Dr Margi Bohm: For their innovative and creative teaching in the subject, Concepts in Biology.

Jo Baskett and Mary Hewett: For their innovative and creative approach to supporting the transition to university for students, particularly international students.

Dr Margaret Kiley, Louise Cooper, Dr Coralie McCormack, A/Prof Bill Maher, Bruce Mum, Dr David Tait, Dr Ruth Shrensky, Kate Wilson, Dr Judith Anson, Brian Fisher, A/Prof Carole Kayroz, Prof John Halligan, Gay Landau, Prof Allan Cripps: For their innovative and creative Research Education Program.

Creative Innovative Partnerships

A/Prof Bill Maher: For developing creative and innovative partnerships across the Australian Capital Region, and in particular the south coast region.

Dr Leah Moore: For the development of creative innovative partnerships through the Dryland Salinity Hazard Mitigation Program.

Bronwen MacNamara: For her work in developing creative, innovative partnerships internal and external to the university in relation to English language teaching.

Dr Mark Sayers: For building creative innovative partnerships with external organisations in the area of sports science.

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Last Updated on 15 July 2003
Loren achieves her goals at the Darters

By Kate Andean

Loren Trimble jokes that one of the best things about being selected in the Canberra Darters netball team is the hot pink lycra body suit she gets to wear.

"You stand out a bit, she laughs, but they look good when we're all together!"

The 20-year-old sports coaching student grew up near Merimbula and began playing netball aged seven.

She also did athletics as a kid, and, although a little embarrassed, admits to doing dancing for a bit.

Netball became a serious priority for Loren when she was selected in the NSW Under-17 side and the NSW Institute of Sport program in 1999.

While playing for NSW she had been training a little in the ACT, and says it was good for everyone in 2001 when she moved into Arscott House at UC.

"The ACT were happy to grab me off NSW," she said. "I started playing in their state teams as soon as I arrived."

In 2003, the AIS Canberra Darters entered the National Netball League and the six-foot tall defensive player, was named in the squad.

Although she hasn't taken the court yet, she has enjoyed the experience, and not just because of the bodysuits.

"It's great to have elite level coaching," she said. "And you also have more of an ID and get your name out there."

The Darters are the youngest team competing in the Commonwealth Bank Trophy, being comprised of 13 AIS scholarship holders and Australian Under-21 players, and three members of the ACTAS netball program, including Loren.

She admits being involved in the world's premier netball league, can get a little bit nasty sometimes.

"There's definitely a lot of sledging on the court," she says. "But off the court it's fine, the girls all get on well."

Loren's commitment to netball takes up around 25 hours a week, and she says it can be tough juggling her sport with third-year uni work.

"I travel up to Sydney every Wednesday to play in the NSW State League with the Academy," she said. "It is difficult, especially at the moment because uni's so crazy."

She also admits her social life is lacking a bit.

"When I find the time I'll go out!" she laughs. "Sometimes I make it to the Lighthouse on Wednesdays when I get back from playing."

"It can be hard in Arscott. As much as I love it, I also hate it sometimes. But I love it most of the time!"

Loren will graduate from her degree in the middle of next year, and is considering completing further study.

"I really want to try and get into a post-graduate physiotherapy course," she said. "But off the court it's fine, the girls all get on well."

She admits that her social life is lacking a bit.

"I travel up to Sydney every Wednesday to play in the NSW State League with the Academy," she said. "It is difficult, especially at the moment because uni's so crazy."
Cartoon (by JayBee)

The Drum

The 'Liar' Bird...

Maaate! There I was, fossicking for grubs - as you do - when down comes this dirty great UFO! Sounds crazy, I know, but...

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