Soo Young Jung is from South Korea and wants to learn cricket, Chih-wen (Wen) Chang is from Taiwan and part of her post graduate specialist training. She needs some volunteers to complete several anonymous parts of her research in a design research project. But for some UC residential students the opportunity to share more than just their fabric softener with their washing machine or dryers. Eight months ago three University of Canberra students started a band called Tripitide for some fun. As a person with a love of music and a strong interest in performing, I was inspired to create a band where I could express myself creatively and engage with others through music. The band members share a passion for music and a desire to create something meaningful together. The combination of our skills and styles creates a unique and exciting sound. The band's name, Tripitide, incorporates the idea of exploring new paths and experiences through music. The name is both a reflection of our musical journey and a symbol of our commitment to pushing boundaries and creating something fresh and original. We look forward to sharing our music with the University of Canberra community and hope to inspire others to explore their own creative potential through music.
New faces introduced at drinks reception
Fun and games for University sports teams
UC joint host of international conference
Law school stars on world stage in China
UNIFEM president shares world view
International issues on menu at women's lunch
Grease from scratch a hit with singers and fans
Honour roll recognises UC's history of Indigenous achievement
Student masters web to give society online presence
Australia's sports event pedigree inspires Beijing students
University of Canberra and Riverina TAFE sign MOU
Charity walk welcomed home
Line-dancing in the USA's Bible belt
Every day to be Red Nose Day at Innovation Centre
University beams into national research machine
Reciprocal library access as uni and institute work together
How NATSEM can see the future
Centre Stage: National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling
University academic addresses Scandinavian opinion makers
Filmmaking graduate inspired by humanity's 'weirdness'
Local international students discover campus
Next generation of games, robots and stereos on show
Feathered friends farewelled as Canadian heads home
Exchange student won't miss the Aussie birds
Fans flock to hear O.C. favourites rock the Uni bar
Psychology research promotes positive parenting
Former Monitor Disney Adventure Journalism graduate lives her own
Canberra's Casual Projects speak out on eve of uni gig
Talk's founder finally shares her creative process
's own Margaret and David give their verdict on A night of stars as reviewers hit theatre restaurant
New law school head brings international expertise
PhD helps top swimmers
Course covers latest in electrical and telecoms engineering
Uni gives specialist training to Indonesian lecturers
The Sleepy Jackson awakens bar crowd
Centre Stage: Schools and Community Centre
Cleo Case study aims to keep p-platers alive
Research helps tired mums
Three finals wins as footballers' winning streak continues
Students take design skills to schools in teaching project
Customs team extends 100% export awards record
University snake handler is puts slithery subjects on conservation radar
Honour bound to save snakes
Calling all women cricketers
University's new centre attracts world leaders in voice security
Voice experts speak out at biometric security conference
Not-for-profit organisations benefit from University expertise
A floral romance: how plants could help treat diabetes
Monitor's Jacquelyn Curtis shares blood donation experience
First-time donor overcomes fears
Schoolkids experience science firsthand as labs open doors
Students mingle with future employers at law school
Volunteer's route to Philippines begins on catwalk
- an anthology of new work
Researcher asks if we're ready for a bird flu pandemic
Student brings home medal from world rowing champs
UC celebrates $1.2m grants success
Poster projects help linguists learn
TESOL students flex research muscles
Discovery day for high school English elite
We went to stonefest and asked the important questions
Stonefest: Which act did you come to see today?
Meet bird-watching advocate of rural living Leone Gregory
New HR director has strategic vision
Gallic gags aplenty open Uni-sponsored movie event
Canberra Film Festival review: The Valet
NEW! Monitor meets... Francesca Rendle-Short
Student news website archived for generations to see
An unusual race on Lake Burley Griffin launches next Canberra Biennial
Image makeover and computing fun help address skills shortage
Relationship with Country Education Foundation formalised
Scholarships smooth rural students' path to UC
Boorowa girl Munique Webb reveals what a scholarship meant to her
Lecturer's lip service raises mo money for men's health
Pharmacists to conduct roadside drugtesting
Frontline safety for high-tech soldier researched at UC
Are You Being Served?
Two students to present research at next year's OzWater conference
Potential to aid elite standard canoers and kayakers
Winning poster for 2007 job fair
Business students clean up at young achiever awards
Creative showcase displays future talent
Watery toast launches river health conference
Tourism industry joins students to celebrate achievements
National cultural conference visits UNAUSTRALIA
Find out how the ABC made this designer 'very angry'
Student helps defeat England in Ashes curtain raiser
News and feature stories August - December 2006
About Monitor Online

Welcome to the online version of Monitor, the newspaper of the University of Canberra. Previously, Monitor was a 12-page tabloid newspaper published about twice a month during semester. The more timeless features were also posted on the website.

Student and academic demand and a desire and need to provide information and features more often and with more flexible sizes and media led to the development of Monitor Online in 2005.

The website is updated weekly during term time and fortnightly during the holidays.

The savings on printing and distribution are now dedicated to producing a twice-yearly magazine.

What if I want a printed version of a page?

If you prefer to read a story in hard copy, you'll like the fact that we've formatted this site to print on A4 width paper.

For example, in Internet Explorer, click File -> Print. If the whole width of page does not print, check the default page setup (File -> Page Setup) and reduce the margins. Test it out on page preview.

What's with the logo?

For enquiring minds, our lizard logo, is based on the Monitor (Lizard) or common name for a genus of lizards, called goannas including the largest living lizard, the Komodo dragon.

According to Microsoft Encarta, monitors live in tropical and desert areas throughout Africa, in Asia from Arabia to southern China and Malaysia, and in the East Indies and Australia. There are about 30 species in the genus, ranging from 20 cm to 3 m (8 in to 10 ft) in length. They all have a long, forked tongue. They can engulf large prey and swallowing it whole. Check out this multimedia link for more.
UC senior research fellow writes on creative writing

Gabby McMillan

March 31, 2005: Senior Research Fellow Hazel Smith has put 10 years of creative writing experience to use with the publication of her book, The Writing Experiment-Strategies for Innovative Creative Writing.

“I have a desire to hand over my experiences and ideas to other people,” Dr Smith said. “I also want to share my love of writing and my interest in the creative process because I'm very interested in how we write texts, not just the final product.”

The Writing Experiment explores the writing process and encourages writers to take an “explorative and experimental approach”. It breaks writing down into numerous stages, revealing new or unexplored processes and shows how they can be used as a systematic writing technique.

“It will have you exploring different sorts of writing,” she said. “As a writer, you can get caught in a rut. This book can be a push in a different direction.”

Dr Smith said she felt there was a need for a creative writing text aimed at higher education students of all abilities as well as the general public. She wants readers to use writing strategies from the book and challenge themselves because “writing can always surprise you”.

“The function of the book is to stimulate writers by giving them strategies to work with.”

Among her strategies were to use word association (or brainstorming) to create a short piece.

“I ultimately hope the strategies I give them will inspire them to work out new strategies for themselves.”

Dr Smith has published two books of poetry, two performance CDs and worked on numerous multimedia and new media works.

“I take the writer off the page and into new areas,” she said. “It includes information about performance poetry, multimedia and new media. This distinguishes it from most creative writing texts.”

Dr Smith, found her experience producing The Writing Experiment relevant.

“The creative writing process isn't always inspiring. It can be very arduous but I always return to the excitement of generating the ideas. I love the feeling of exploring new ideas finding new things with language and genre.”

Hazel Smith: “The creative writing process isn't always inspiring. It can be very arduous but I always return to the excitement of generating the ideas.”

Photo: Gabby McMillan

More About The Author:
Hazel Smith is Senior Research Fellow in the School of Creative Communication, Co-leader of the Sonic Communications Research Group and Deputy Director of the University of Canberra Centre for Writing.

She is also part of the multimedia arts group australYSIS where she is involved in performance and new media collaborations.

Opinions of the Book (from back cover):

"By suggesting that students who are not born poets can yet learn to become good ones, Smith performs a very important service" - Professor Susan M, Schultz, University of Hawaii

"This is an impressive book, because it covers areas of creative writing practice and theory that have not been covered in published form links radical practice with radical [but better-known] theory, and will appeal to anyone looking for a different approach" - Robert Sheppard, Edge Hill College of Higher Education, UK

Links:
The Writing Experiment website
Allen and Unwin
UC School of Creative Communication
Sanskriti club opens under VSU cloud

Rebecca Stones

**March 30 2005:** The newest club at the University of Canberra, Sanskriti, was launched amidst pink-and-green faces on March 24 as members celebrated the colourful Hindu festival of Holi.

For bystanders unaware of the festival's origins it was a confusing sight as club members chased each other, rubbing coloured powder onto anyone within reach.

Holi, the 'festival of colour', is an Indian celebration of spring and the death of Holika, an evil figure in Hindu mythology conquered by Lord Vishnu.

Founder of the Sanskriti club Abhi Dholakia said in India, celebrations of Holi were a huge public occasion and a lot messier than those seen at UC on Thursday.

"Dry colour is fine, but we used to play with water colours. That's really hard to get off after a few hours... (so) we're supposed to wear old clothes," he said.

The staging of Holi celebrations within the University was part of Sanskriti's wider agenda of spreading cultural awareness.

The word Sanskriti means 'culture' in Hindu. The club hopes to celebrate many cultural events of the Indian subcontinent.

"It's a learning thing, I've been told the Sri Lankan New Year is coming up in April...so (Sanskriti) will be a celebration of cultures;"

While most of the 65 members have an Indian background, Abhi said anyone was welcome to join the club if they wanted to learn about other cultures and meet people.

Yet storm clouds hover over this new club. Like most UC clubs, Sanskriti is run through the UCU. The Voluntary Student Unionism legislation could threaten the club's viability.

UCU Members' Services officer Josh Hill said, if the legislation passed in its current form, UCU clubs such as Sanskriti would face huge problems.

"If that happens, worse case scenario, clubs and societies would have to become self-sufficient. Become self-sufficient or non-existent," he said.

The UCU provides not only funding for clubs, but administration services and without this help Mr Hill said club organisation would be insurmountable for members.

Student Association President Jennifer Newman, a member of Sanskriti, said VSU legislation would mean an end to Sanskriti's $5 joining fee and possibly the club as well.

"The UCU makes it possible for people to go in, fill out a form and start a club...they have a way of making it happen even if they have no marketing experience," she said.

"The VSU will take away not only the funding but the people who will help walk them through it."
March 29, 2005: The University of Canberra Tsunami Appeal received a major boost last Wednesday when the Chinese Ambassador in Australia, Madame Ying Fu presented a cheque for $3000 to Vice-Chancellor Professor Roger Dean. The money for this donation was raised in the charity sales for tsunami relief during the Embassy's Open Day in February.

The Vice-Chancellor hosted a morning tea to mark the occasion with staff of the Chinese Embassy and members of UC's Tsunami Response Committee meeting together to hear an update of the work taking place in Sri Lanka.

The University of Canberra Tsunami Appeal was launched by Chancellor Wendy McCarthy AO in February and aims to raise $20,000 for the rebuilding of a classroom in Hambantoa in Sri Lanka.

Over 4,500 people in Hambantota, located on the south coast of Sri Lanka, perished in the tsunami and a further 30,000 people are displaced. Those that survived face the mammoth task of rebuilding their lives from the devastation that wiped out their homes and belongings.

The recent donation means the appeal is inching closer to its $20,000 target.
Getting on together: preschool research at Wiradjuri

Gabby McMillan

March 29, 2005: “I wanted to work with children right at the beginning of their social lives,” Affrica Taylor, a lecturer in social contexts at the University of Canberra, says.

Together with Wiradjuri preschool teacher Carmel Richardson, Ms Taylor has been studying the preschool for their research project, Early Belongings.

Wiradjuri is a Preschool and Child Care Centre located in the School of Teacher Education in the Division of Communication and Education at the University of Canberra. The Centre operates as an integral part of the Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) program.

How young children came into a centre of diversity, like Wiradjuri Preschool, and negotiate with other children on a daily basis to find their sense of belonging, remains a continuing question.

As a diversity lecturer, Ms Taylor explores how young children get on with each other.

“When they come to preschool or childcare, it’s the first time they’re away from their family and in the broader society having to negotiate social relationships across their differences.”

She said they probe underlying patterns and their explanation, which can vary from year to year. Ethnicity was important at the preschool in 2003. But gender emerged strongly in 2004.

“They already notice the gender, racial and ethnic differences. Most (children) already have it hierarchically ordered,” Ms Taylor said.

Ms Taylor and Ms Richardson also pay attention to the behaviour of children that ‘cross-over’ gender boundaries.

“We wanted to see what it was about those children that enabled them to cross into other groups and how that differentiated them from the children that always play with children of the same sex;” Ms Taylor said.

“We’ve ended up looking at patterns of inclusion and exclusion.”

Ms Richardson said the research confirmed the complexities of children’s lives.

“We tend to underestimate how complex their lives are and how hard they work just to be who they are and to be accepted by a group.”

Up to seven other ACT pre-schools are conducting Early Belongings research throughout the year in collaboration with Ms Taylor and Ms Richardson.
Chekhov's four course plate for Theatre Restaurant

Gabby McMillian

**March 24 2005**: Cast members of The Players Company production of Chekhov's Funniest will spend the next week preparing and seasoning their performances for opening night on April 1 at the Staff Club.

Chekhov's Funniest offers four of Chekhov's delicious farces: The Bear, The Proposal, A Tragic Role and A Jubilee and a three-course gourmet dinner.

Director Jasan Savage chose the pieces because they were funny and very different to what he had done before.

"I enjoy the challenge of directing, working with different spaces, different locations," Savage said. "No two productions are ever the same. Performing at the Staff Club is fiendishly difficult because of the set-up."

Oliver Baudert, who had performed as an amateur actor for over 50 years and professionally for six liked the idea of Chekhov in a theatre restaurant setting.

Working on a Chekhov production was interesting because of its strong use of farce, he said.

"The more seriously you play it, the funnier it is. The characters take their lives very seriously, take themselves very seriously, too seriously. That makes it so funny to the audience."

Baudert features in The Proposal and A Tragic Role.

University of Canberra student and actor Amber Gallagher auditioned to put skills she'd acquired in an Audition Techniques class in college into practice.

"I auditioned for the first thing I saw in the paper, and I got the role of a daughter in The Proposal. I didn't think there'd be anyway that I'd get into this company, " Gallagher said.

Mr Savage said the focus for the next week was to "learn lines, get it going perfectly, not too perfectly, and start praying."

He added audiences can expect "very good food, very good wine and a very good show".

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Chekhov's Funniest

Four comedy vaudevilles plus three-course gourmet dinner

- The Bear
- The Proposal
- A Tragic Role
- A Jubilee

Directed by **Jasan Savage**

**Featuring:**

- **Oliver Baudert** (Dealer's Choice, My Three Angels)
- **Perpetua Kish** (Amadeus, On the Razzle, Fallen Angels)
- **Roger Beckmann** (On the Razzle, Amadeus)
- **Amber Gallagher** (Alice Unplugged)

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Stephen Brooke (Absolutely Fabulous)

Marie Carroll (Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy, A Few Good Men)

Steve Kennedy (feature films)

**Where:** The Staff Club, University of Canberra.

**When:** Friday and Saturday from April 1-23 2005; Bar and dining from 7pm, show starts at 8.30pm

**How much:** $55 per person

**Bookings and enquiries:** 62012645

**Links:**

UCU Theatre
The Players Company
Possum art graces UC landscape

March 23 2005:

"Possum art" created by the ‘Possums’ of the University of Canberra is on display from 22 March between 9.30am and 10.30am throughout the campus including in the area between the Hub and buildings 3, 6 and 7.

‘Possums’ are actually 20 second year Landscape students who create ephemeral outdoor art inspired by poetry.

Head of Landscape Architecture, Dr Dianne Firth said the project is designed to use natural materials.

"Possums gather leaves or anything from the environment to build their nest," she said.

"It’s not only created for shelter but to look pretty as well."

The project draws on the tradition of embracing cultures of art that enhance an appreciation of the environment and its changing shape and inspiration.

The artwork attracts a lot of interest by the university community and will be on display for a mere two weeks. Check out gallery 22 of the photo album to see more samples captured by Benjamin Brillante and May Leow.
March 18, 2005:

There was a sign of the front door of the Students Association yesterday morning to say the centre would be late opening because of "unforeseen" circumstances. It was right next to another sign that said: Under VSU, this service would not exist.

Hmm. What would visitors to the centre have made of that?

The Students Association, like student associations across the country, were enraged this week when Education Minister Brendan Nelson tabled legislation seeking to outlaw compulsory student unionism.

Had they pulled the pin early and closed shop in the knowledge that from July the Government will take control of the Senate and push through this and any legislation it jolly well likes?

No way, according to Student Association president Jennifer Newman.

Both Jennifer and SA Education vice-president Marc Emerson were actually on the other side of the concourse receiving Harmony Day awards in the library foyer. There simply were not enough people left to staff the centre.

Jennifer picked up two awards - one as head of the Students Association for "visionary and practical support for Harmony activities over the past three years" and the other for her role earlier this year as an Orientation Week Leader caring for newly arrived international students.

"I decided to do OWLs because when I came here I was just 18, hours away from my family in Griffith NSW and I knew no-one in Canberra," Jennifer said during training for that program.

"I wanted to help rural students but came across Internationals instead."

When the Students Association office did finally open yesterday and students came in to buy cheap sandwiches, bottles of water or use the cheap printing facilities, it seemed odd to see Harmony Week banners and flags from different countries intermingled with posters promising a fight to VSU.

(But no odder probably than memories of Brendan Nelson riding a motor bike and wearing a stud in his ear when he was the head of the Australian Medical Association in Tasmania).

The Student Association is that kind of place: always a hive of activity with many different things going on. Projects to plan, students to help etc

That's not to say they are not focussed.

This VSU battle has been thinking very carefully about what to do next, and they are not about to give too much away.

There is a national Day of Action planned for April 28, which will include something at University of Canberra as well as something in concert with ANU.

Jennifer said she believed that students felt very strongly about VSU.

The Students Association has had a petition against it in its office since October. In a five-hour stretch during Orientation Week, she said that 600 signatures were collected and there had been a steady flow since.

"Students do care; they're just busy," she said.

"It will be a very concerted campaign."
Blood donors almost too generous

Rebecca Stones

March 23 2005: The only complaint that could be made about the number of blood donors for the Red Cross mobile blood bank at the University of Canberra on March 22nd was that there were too many.

Donors from UC, Radford College and the general community lined up, with mobile nurses staying after the scheduled 1:30pm finish time to accommodate the queue.

Therese Engelbrecht from UC's Health and Safety Unit organised the blood bank's station at UC and was impressed with the strong turnout despite rain.

"It's fantastic [blood bank staff] said they've been busier than they thought they'd be," she said. Ms Engelbrecht also apologised for delays the large attendance may have caused. Some people that booked had to queue with 'drop-in' donors. "It's the (blood bank's) first time at UC it's a learning curve. Hopefully next time things will work out a little better."

Ms Engelbrecht said the van provides a convenient way for the UC community to donate and problems with bookings would be changed for next time. "I've had a few people say 'I'd love to donate but it's too far away or it takes up a whole day' but if the service is here, they'll do it."

The donor mobile will remain at UC on Pinaroo St, near Building 14 until Thursday March 24. Ms Engelbrecht advised anyone that wished to donate should sign up at the van between 9:30am and 1:15pm. The van should return in three months for another three days.

Ms Engelbrecht hoped to organise one day for UC members only, so people who do not normally have time to donate can get involved. Side Column: The mobile blood bank started in Canberra in December 2004 and has four donor beds. Six registered nurses work in the van: two conducting pre-donation interviews and four monitoring the beds.

link:
To save yourself and blood bank staff time, you can find out if you are able to give blood by reading the Red Cross donor guidelines

The Australian Red Cross website also gives basic information on the donation process and what you need to do before you can donate.

Did you know?

The blood donating process takes approximately 8 to 12 minutes.

The size of the donation is usually about 470ml.

Before you donate, a small blood sample is taken and your blood iron levels are tested.

Drinking plenty of fluids before donating will increase blood flow and therefore reduce the time it takes to collect blood.

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

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UC upgrades access to Children’s Book Council records

John Hilvert

March 23 2005: What have the following Australian books in common?

Looking for Alibrandi, Playing Beatie Bow, Master of the Grove, So Much to Tell You and The Story of Karrawingi the Emu.

Each was awarded book of the year by the Children’s Book Council of Australia (CBCA) in their year. Established some sixty years ago, the council promotes not only books for children but continues to provide guidance for librarians and parents on what makes a good read for kids.

So far the CBCA has generated some 34 boxes of records which the Lu Rees Archives of Australian Children’s Literature at University of Canberra has housed since 1988. CBCA records provide an insight into the development of children’s literature in Australia, especially those related to Children’s Book Awards.

The records reveal which books were ruled ineligible, who were the judges, what books were entered, how the judges selected the winners and more. For social and arts historians, the 60 years of records also cover the establishment of the council as well as the art of the book posters from the 50s and original artwork created by Australia’s leading children’s book illustrators for Children’s Book week.

On March 22nd the National Library of Australia agreed to become the new custodian of the Council’s records. These will now be available to a wider community of registered readers through the National Library.

Professor of Children’s Literature and Custodian of Lu Rees Archives, Belle Alderman said their growing size and state made it increasing hard finding certain documents among the collection. About a year ago, twelve members CBCA from all around Australia responded by reviewing the records, organizing and labelling them and produced a comprehensive inventory list of the holdings involving 430 person hours.

"Before this we had no index at all. It was a case of looking through some 34 boxes," she said.

The National Library will now refine and propagate the indexes of the collection, which will be available on the web and alert researchers to the nature of the material that is available.

This will give the collection more standing nationally and globally, she said. It can help overseas researchers understand how awards were judged across national boundaries now.

"The records will complement not only our vast collection of children’s literature but also the papers of distinguished authors such as Ethel Turner, Colin Thiele, Ivan Southall and Mem Fox," Director-General of the National Library, Jan Fullerton said.

The collection was officially handed over to the National Library by Mark Macleod, National President CBCA on Tuesday 22 March 2005.

In attendance also were Irene Copping, widow of Laurie Copping, the original custodian of the records, Senator Kim Carr, the opposition spokesperson for Education and Graeme Powell, the National Library's Manuscript Librarian.

A national archivist for the CBCA will continue to ensure new CBCA records are maintained and organized for adding to the current collection.
Security says 'Look, lock and leave'

Rebecca Stones

March 17, 2005: Owners of cars parked at the University of Canberra are urged to follow basic security measures after a spate of car break-ins at the Australian National University.

An ACT Police spokesperson said police had received at least five incident reports about cars at ANU on March 15 and 16, ranging from smashed windows and stolen valuables to attempts to steal vehicles.

A staff member at ANU's Ursula Hall said there had been 10 break-ins reported from the Ursula Hall and John's College resident's car parks on the morning of March 16.

The staffer, who had worked at the residence for six years, said she was surprised as she had never seen so many break-ins reported in one day.

Sarah Midgley, whose car was one of those broken into at the Ursula Hall car park, said she was angered by the wanton crimes.

"I don't know if they (the thieves) could make a profit out of it ... They smashed my window... (then) they just took the face off my CD player - you could see they tried to get the rest, but it was obviously too difficult to get out," Ms Midgley said.

"I used to take the face off (the CD player) all the time, but then I thought, nah, nothing will happen."

Ms Midgley was amazed no one heard the thefts, which occurred right outside the residences, and said it just showed how quickly thieves could work.

The Manager for ANU Security and Campus Services, Alex Chryss, believed car break-ins were one of the biggest security issues in Canberra and car owners needed to be vigilant about securing vehicles.

"We distribute AFP literature on locking up...(and) we always want people to report (break-ins) to security and police," Mr Chryss said.

"People seem to think it's often a waste of time reporting to the police, but its necessary for insurance, tracking down stolen items and seeing if a particular area is being targeted."

While UC campus security said there had been no increase in car break-ins at UC, they warned people should never become complacent about their own security.

UC and ANU security, as well as ACT policing said car owners could greatly decrease the risk of theft if they followed simple security measures.

They advised motorists to invest in car theft deterrent systems, such as immobilisers or steering wheel locks, hide valuables from sight and always check doors are properly locked.
Fathmath reads all about it: equity

March 15, 2005

Ministers of Education student Fathmath Riyaz felt at ease at University of Canberra, who could blame her?

She comes from the Maldives with many cultural differences and she has to have a note taker at lectures because she is somewhat hearing-impaired.

But she told a gathering of about 40 people gathered in the Great Hall that she feels quite at home here at Bruce.

She said people had been very helpful in her in a kind and timid years.

Fathmath has now seen the new handbook, the first 126 copies of which are hot off the press.

She is very interested in reading, seeing as she is one of the very people it is designed to cater for.

The handbook, nine months in the making, was developed in response to an identified need to improve levels of awareness among staff about obligations under sex, racial and disability discrimination legislation.

It was compiled after extensive consultation across campus, and many staff were interviewed by Associate Professor Barbara Chambers from the Australian Institute for Sustainable Communities to produce a handbook to support the workshops.

The handbook provides practical information about how to apply these obligations, whether in administrative or teaching work.

It is compiled from extensive consultation across campus, and many staff were interviewed by Associate Professor Barbara Chambers’ team, which included Ms Sandra Heaney-Mustafa and Ms Mahaasin Didi.

Associate Professor Chambers told the launch: “Life isn’t a level playing field; we don’t come to the starting gate all the same.”

She said the handbook provided practical information about how to apply these obligations in administrative or teaching work, and was relevant for everyone.

It was compiled from extensive consultation across campus, and many staff were interviewed by Associate Professor Barbara Chambers’ team, which included Ms Sandra Heaney-Mustafa and Ms Mahaasin Didi.

Fathmath reads all about it: equity

For further information about Monitor Online, contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au


[29/08/2013 1:39:27 PM]
Homing in on Harmony Week

An especially harmonious end to the week
University of Canberra's third annual Harmony Day awards ceremony created such an enthusiastic response in the library, spectators were asked to hold their applause until the end to ensure all the winners could be announced. Time limitations didn't prevent staff and students from showing their support. Cheers of 'here, here' and 'good on you' erupted after each of the 32 award presentations.

Click here to check out all the photos for the awards

Yellow sun disappears but orange comes out in droves
The rain poured down on Harmony Week's Market Day but it failed to weaken the spirits of staff and students at the University of Canberra.

And check out our market day picture gallery
Photographers Gabby McMillan and Benjamin Brillante were out and about in the Refectory. Revellers flowed out to the Concourse in the rain. Our pictorial spread of the big day

Fathmath reads all about it: equity
Masters of Education student Fathmath Riyaz is an international student who is hearing impaired but she feels very at home here, she told the people gathered for the release of the UC Equity Handbook.

Let the harmony begin
The large Indigenous artwork hanging above the refectory was officially welcomed with didgeridoos playing in the background as part of the Harmony Week official opening ceremony.

Turning orange harmoniously
Do not be surprised if the University of Canberra campus looks a little more orange than usual on Monday, March 14, as Harmony week starts.
Outdone by the Done at sculpture opening

John Matts

March 11, 2005

Don Aitkin wore his colourful "Celebration" tie. Just as well. His found pump was happy about when he laid eyes on the University of Canberra’s latest acquisition outside the Innovation Centre.

UC’s former vice-chancellor thought renowned glass artist Warren Langley’s sculpture, The Collective Memory, was ideal to stimulate senses on the campus.

Many visitors to the Innovation Centre have wandered in recent weeks after the 2.4 metre glass structure actually was and Emeritus Professor Aitkin seemed to like that sense of mystery. He was confident that few people would just walk past it, saying bluntly: "If there is to be a plaque on it, I hope it doesn’t give away a lot about it."

The sculpture was stylishly open, unusual or whatever you do like a large cube (that contains 16 square metres of glass, fibreglass and arrived at the campus in six pieces some Saturdays ago and took four men three or four hours to assemble) on

Thursday, March 10.

Artist Warren Langley told the gathering that he was thankful he was able to deliver it when there were not many people about. He has installed 50 or so major works in buildings around the world over the past 25 years but usually they were on building sites where there always laidback workers around.

But this time, he told the gathering, he and his helpers came to UCIC when no-one else was there, put it together and went to Dickson for a laksa. Bliss.

"I wear it when I have something to celebrate."

Roger Dean has the best collection of colourful ties on campus, but he was clearly outdone by the done. Anyone at the UC campus could be forgiven for thinking that incumbent Vice-Chancellor Professor Aitkin bought his glass suggesting alienation from their environment."

 whatsoever. Everyone at the opening seemed to like it, especially Professor Aitkin, who had chosen his former VC Emeritus Professor Don Aitkin wore his colourful March 11, 2005: Don Aitkin at a glance

Emeritus Professor Don Aitkin

Professor Don Aitkin has 51 years worth of flotsam and jetsam in Yarralumla and he is a frequent visitor to the campus. He never worries of what the university will be like.

He said he had visited all but three of Australia’s 116 university campuses and rates UC up as the best for its beauty and its practical features."

"This is a very successful project. It’s survived the drought well. We have room for a lot of students and a lot of cars but you never feel cramped."

He believes that if you provide a beautiful campus, it will be appreciated and loved and looked after by students.

Witnesses, he said, the lack of graffiti on campus.

Since he left the top job, Professor Aitkin has been busy, busy, busy. He has had his second novel published, he has three more books, one a novel, and he writes a weekly newspaper column on higher education.

He also maintains some academic interests, including keeping that paper out of UC office.

"Hmm, I should throw one of that paper out one day," he said.
Hip-hopping his way back to us

Gabby McMillan

March 10, 2005: DJ Nino Brown is coming to the University of Canberra Bar on Friday, March 11 and he plans to "keep the records hot, fast and funky".

He said he was looking forward to the gig because his first interstate gig was in Canberra.

"It's going to be crazy," he said. "Canberra is the bomb."

Nino, who has worked as a DJ for around 15 years, was the first Australian hip-hop DJ to be signed as an individual artist by a major label.

He said the performance highlight of his career was touring Australia with American hip-hop performers Ja Rule and Ashanti.

Despite his success, Nino said the path to working professionally as a DJ wasn't an easy one.

"I never got a break. I have always worked hard to get and do what I have."

Nino released Blazin', Australia's first official hip-hop and r'n'b mix CD through Universal Music Australia in 2002.

"Blazin'" is the only legal street style mix tape in Australia.

"It's a great concept; respected world-wide."

After sales skyrocketed, Nino continued to work on the Blazin' series, and is currently working on Blazin' 5.

He said "reading the crowd" keeps his audience excited. It involves watching how people reacted to different tracks and choosing songs to suit the mood of the night.

"I always read the crowd. If I have to DJ for two hours, I always have about four hours of stuff so I can decide what to play when I get there."

"There are some tracks you always want to play though, especially when they're super-hot."

DJ Nino Brown is presented by the UC CPA Commerce and Economics Society.

The night begins on Friday, March 11 at 8.30pm.

A BBQ will be run from 9.30pm to 10.30pm.

Drinks are $2.50 until 11.30pm for CES members.

There will be CD give-aways and cash prizes on the night.

UC students receive free entry.

Non-students pay an entry fee of $10.

For further information about Monitor Online, contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Last Updated on August 1, 2005
More than 1000 students live in the University of Canberra’s on-campus residential accommodation, known colloquially as Ressies. It’s like stepping into a different world. Journalists Rebecca Stones and Gabby McMillan and photographer Benjamin Brillante, who all live on Ressies, bring you this special package:

New Residential Director, new direction
After only a few months in the job, Residential Service’s new director, Peter Dahl, is keen to enforce some fresh practices into residential life while continuing to focus on prominent campus issues.

Ressies asked to ‘please close the door’
Residents at the University of Canberra can expect to see more security in 2005, with a security office now in the Residential Services’ Office, Cooinda Hut.

Students support residences and each other
At “ressies” the support system is officially called the Residential Support Staff and it is an extension of the support provided by the Residential Services management team. There are Senior Residents; commonly older residents employed as part of the Pastoral Care unit of “ressies”. They voice the opinions of their fellow residents, help with emergencies and generally support students in their stay.

New role for RSO
In past years, the University of Canberra Residential Students’ Organisation was often viewed as a functions organiser, but RSO President Nick Anderson said this year advocacy was their major role.

Training For a Productive Year
Sharing bathrooms and washing machines all year might not be a desirable way of life for many people, but for some UC residential students the opportunity to share more than just their fabric softener with their peers was too good to resist.

Fast facts

- The first area of Ressies was built in 1971. It is now called Old Ressies.
- Over 1000 students live on campus at the University of Canberra.
- The resident ratio is approximately 35 per cent international students to 65 per cent Australian students.
- Approximately 60 per cent of Ressies are female.
Rainforest was where it all started for Jill

Gabby McMillan

Tuesday March 8, 2005: May Gibbs Fellow Jill Morris was inspired to write her first poem by a rainforest when she was nine.

Jill and her husband Richard now live on a 56-acre farm, affectionately referred to as the Book Farm, which includes her very own, "inspiring" six-acre rainforest.

"Everything I do there inspires me," Jill said. "When I was nine-years-old, my father had died so my mother took my sister and I to a rainforest to try and stop thinking about it. It was so exciting, so beautiful, that I started writing then and haven’t stopped since."

Jill, who has worked as a radio and television producer, author, playwright, and director of her company Greater Glider Productions, completed her first lecture as the University of Canberra May Gibbs fellow on Monday, March 7 but she said she still had a few lessons up her sleeve.

"I’m very interested in working with the graphic design and creative writing students on their Get Real projects. I think I can help them out. I’m pretty good at getting the best out of other writers."

Jill said it was important for writing students to "isolate their own passions".

"They need to find what they want to write about. It’s about being passionate about what you want to write about. If they don’t know what they’re passionate about, it can be very hard to write."

One of Jill’s personal passions explores the issue of animal and environment preservation.

Jill’s first major children’s book, Harry the Hairy-nose Wombat, has continued to validate current issues involving extinction and it was initially published in 1970.

"People sometimes say, ‘oh you’re still writing your little animal books’ and I find it insulting because I’ve written the only books on the hairy-nosed wombat, which is down to only 100 in population.

"I’m the only one doing it; getting the information out at the moment."

Jill also had advice for writers: alternate your environment to increase inspiration.

"Changing environments works well for me, because I like getting the new perspective,” she said.

"I often think of something different if I’m in a new environment."

Quotable quotes by Jill Morris

“I always wanted to be a farmer, and I am. I’m a farmer of books.”

"Radio it’s the most creative medium. It’s the most imaginative medium because everything is imagined.”

"When you’re nine years old, you haven’t got a father, and you’re a bit cross-eyed and not very good at football and you write something and someone says, hey, that’s good. It got through to me.”

"I used to say I wanted to wash towels. But I think it was because it was very easy and it would allow me to think. Writing involves a lot of thinking time too.”

Links

Greater Glider Productions
May Gibbs Children’s Literature Trust
May Gibbs Fellowship Program
Artists Talk: Making Creative Work
UC ad graduate hits paydirt

March 7, 2005: University of Canberra graduate Monika James has landed a job at Sydney ad agency Hammond & Thackeray.

Monika achieved her Advertising/Marketing Communication Degree in December.

She is one of a number of graduates who gained a highly prized Graduate Trainee positions within Sydney Ad Agencies this year.

The AFA launched its Graduate Trainee Program for 2005 with drinks at the Sydney office of the Advertising Federation of Australia to welcome the successful applicants.

Ten applicants have been placed this year in the following leading international and Australian owned agencies: M&C Saatchi, Arnold, Hammond & Thackeray, Saatchi & Saatchi, George Patterson Partners, JWT, Sudler & Hennessey, Young & Rubicam and Clemenger BBDO.

If you want to contact Monika James e-mail her.

Monika James.

Click on the picture for a more expansive pic of graduates.
UC design students in world-first project

Rebecca Stones

March 4, 2005: Five University of Canberra design students will work with design world stars, such as confronting New York designer Stefan Sagmeister, in a world-first design research project.

The project, called Creative Waves, allows design students from 30 institutions worldwide to work together online with interaction from mentors and professional designers.

"This faculty has put its hand up and said we wanna try this out ... they're being brave here, there's a will to provide quality teaching," said Rick Bennett, Creative Waves' founder and Senior Design Lecturer at the University of NSW.

The students will not meet their fellow designers during the project, instead communicating online with a software package called Omnium, also created by Mr Bennett.

Creative Waves students will be provided with a topic, which is kept secret until the project begins and then make images expressing their interpretation of the topic's theme.

The images will then be shared online in project groups, and members can give each other feedback or even make changes to each other's work within the Omnium 'virtual studio'.

UC Graphic Design lecturer Mary-Jane Taylor, who initiated UC's involvement in the project, believed participants would benefit immensely from the "start from scratch" approach.

"They'll be making images in a slow and studious manner ... like a slow-cooking project ... they'll be doing it for the pleasure of doing it exceptionally well."

The Omnium software used for Creative Waves has also been introduced for fourth year UC Graphic Design students, to give them a chance to collaborate within the university.

Mr Bennett gave a presentation of Omnium software to design students at UC on March 2, emphasising the need for education systems to change to suit modern situations.

"Communication has changed but education is still trying to push an old model into a new system...education is one of the last bastions where we're saying 'technology won't affect us,'" he said.

"Business - professional practice, is using collaborative design, while education models are in danger of lagging behind."

While UC already had the WebCT software system as an online extension of the classroom, the Omnium software will cater directly for design students, with larger file and real-time interaction capabilities.

While Mr Bennett believed all systems had their 'pros and cons', he felt the introduction of software packages for specific education areas was a step in right direction for students and technology.

Lessons for us all

University of Canberra Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean also attended Rick Bennett's presentation of Omnium software. Professor Dean believed the active nature of the Omnium program had great potential to increase student involvement in the learning process.

"The active aspect of it (Omnium) interests me - you can attend a lecture and still be passive...with this you have to interact."

Links:
- Omnium
- Stefan Sagmeister's work
- UC Design School

For further information about Monitor Online, contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Last Updated on August 1, 2005
Inside stories of intimate relationships wanted

March 4, 2004: A study being conducted at the University of Canberra aims to further understanding the influence of individual factors on long-term satisfaction in intimate relationships.

The research is being conducted by intern psychologist Annette Gloeckler as a part of her post graduate specialist training. She needs some volunteers to complete several anonymous questionnaires.

Problems in long-term intimate relationships are common and divorce rates in Western societies have been rising for many years. This is associated with high personal and economic costs.

Marital dissatisfaction has been identified as being responsible for this gradual decline in relationship stability.

Although research has been conducted on enhancing interaction skills such as communication and conflict management, less focus has been on individual factors contributing to relationship dissatisfaction.

This has important implications for relationship counselling since it may help determine more effective interventions and subsequently enhance relationship satisfaction.

"I am asking participants to complete three anonymous questionnaires relating to marital satisfaction and underlying personality determinants, which are usually not difficult to complete," Annette said.

"To participate in this study you need to be a) at least 22 years old, b) have preferably been separated within the last five years from a relationship that lasted at least 18 months and in which you lived together. If point 'b' does not apply to you then you can also participate if you are currently in a long-term relationship in which you have been together for at least 18 months and have lived together for an extended period of time (months).

"If this is the case, I would ask you to complete the enclosed questionnaires, which will take around 45 minutes to complete. The questionnaires (either completed or not) should be returned to me in the reply-paid envelope. You may wish to retain this covering letter for your information. E-mail versions of the questionnaires are also available from a.gloeckler@student.canberra.edu.au

If you consent to take part in this study all information obtained will be kept confidential and no information will be personally identifiable.

For further information about Monitor Online, contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
Overseas students mind their language

John Martin

March 3, 2005: Soo Young Jung is from South Korea and wants to learn how to play cricket, Chih-wen (Wen) Chang is from Taiwan and can hardly wait for her husband to join her from ANU, Yi (Alex) Gao is from China and wants to pursue his interest in golf in Canberra and Ekaterina (Katerina) Panova is from Russia and lists psychology as a hobby.

So what do these people have in common?

Well, they are four of the 28 students who have embarked on the new ELICOS (English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students) UC English Access Program.

The program is a 14-week full-time Direct Entry Pathway course for international students to gain entry into the university.

They already have good spoken English language skills. By the time they are finished this course, however, they will be highly proficient, not just with oral skills but with skills needed to study and thrive in an Australian university.

A special emphasis will be placed on the development of academic reading skills and strategies. They'll be taken to a lecture hall where they will learn to take notes with a critical eye. They will cover a range of themes, including ‘education’, ‘clan and kinship’, ‘campus issues’, ‘the news and media’, ‘the environment’, ‘language’ and cross-cultural communication.

And by semester two, they will be ready to start their university study.

Soo Young Jung will do a Masters degree in law.

He came to Australia just before Christmas with his wife and six-year-old daughter Seo In. She is in grade one at Hughes Primary School. "It is in Australia that she started her first school study. Therefore, it could be a priceless experience for her."

Soo Young said, aside from study, he would like to learn to play cricket in Canberra.

"I've never seen the cricket game," he said. "It is rather unfamiliar to me but, for that reason, it is an interesting sport. I've heard that cricket is one of the most popular sports in Australia so, if I get the chance, I'd like to play cricket."

Chih-wen (Wen) Chang, who wants to be a teacher, came to Canberra four months ago with her husband to learn English.

That was a deliberate decision because they wanted to maximise their circle of friends and experience.

But they have found that learning English at UC has more advantages and her husband is now planning to move here from ANU.

Yi (Alex) Goa wants to complete his Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) at UC.

He is also a keen golfer and can't wait to get on to a public course here.

Ekaterina (Katerina) Panova came to Australia to continue her Masters degree of International Business. She already has a Bachelor degree from Russia specialising in Asian countries, is interested in Asian culture and Japanese language.

She lists psychology as a hobby, even though for now she is not pursuing it academically.

But she reads psychology books for fun and said he enjoys observing people and relationships.
Arabian Nights learning about technology issues in education

Gabby McMillan

March 2, 2005: When University of Canberra student Amelia Morgan left for her international student conference in Abu Dhabi, she wanted to brainstorm ideas on improving technology in universities with 500 students from around the world.

After spending a week at the E-ducation Without Borders conference, Amelia, an insulin-dependent diabetic, said she now understood other countries have much more demanding technological issues.

"I kept thinking about how lucky I was, coming from a fairly wealthy country," Amelia said. "Technology is such an issue for third world countries; India, some Asian countries, European countries. The use of technology is a huge issue for me because of my diabetes, but a massive issue for them."

"It's made me so much more tolerant of other cultures. I feel so grateful for what we have here. Our university is a lot more advanced than many of the others."

The three-day conference brought together more than 500 students from over 70 different nations to discuss how information technology is affecting and changing education. UC assisted Amelia with her travel expenses.

Amelia said the international students were interested in forming little forums with each other to see if they could get together to improve things for less developed countries.

"We've set up forums on the Internet already. We're still in contact, e-mailing each other all the time."

"I'd like to bring some of what I learnt back there to here."

The students had e-technology sessions with around 30 distinguished speakers including Nobel Prize winners, CEOs and former politicians.

Amelia said she "gained something different from each of the speakers" but her favourite speaker was BBC HARDtalk presenter, Tim Sebastian.

"He was fantastic. He asks all the questions people are scared to answer. It made me feel really motivated meeting him."

Amelia said some of the most "unforgettable" experiences took place on the conference's traditional Arabian Desert night.

"We learnt how to practice henna hand writing, we rode camels, there was a bit of 4WD driving through sand dunes and they brought the Vienna orchestra into the middle of the desert to play for us."

"The experience was unreal. It was like nothing I'd ever seen before."

"All I can do is encourage other students to apply for the conference in two years."

This was the AFTER story. Here's the BEFORE one

Conference speaker
BBC HARDtalk presenter, Tim Sebastian.

HARDtalk is a daily half-hour interview programme on BBC World and BBC News 24.

- Tim Sebastian speaks Russian and German.
- He has travelled around the world interviewing world leaders, presidents, kings, authors, musicians and actors.
- He was awarded with the Royal Television Society Interviewer of the Year award in 2001 (for the second year running)
- He is the author of six novels and two non-fiction books.
- He worked as a BBC correspondent in Moscow before working in Washington.
- He holds a BA Honours degree in modern languages from Oxford University.

Links:
E-ducation Without Borders 2005 conference
Hard Talk
Exchange students go to the beach, some for the first time

March 2, 2005: Take a bunch of enthusiastic exchange and study abroad students, add a long, beautiful stretch of the Australian coast, a great hostel, surf lessons, barbecues, a beach touch footy tournament, a 21st birthday party, and you have a recipe for one of the best Semester Abroad Orientation trips yet.

Fifty students from America, Canada, Mexico, Taiwan, Japan, Germany, Italy and Finland joined the Semester Abroad team on the orientation trip to the NSW coastal town of Gerroa on February 13, 14 and 15.

Despite a hair-raising drive down through Kangaroo Valley the group arrived safely at the Gerroa Vincentian Centre, a modest hostel with breathtaking views over Seven Mile Beach.

Highlights of the trip included a beginners’ surf lesson.

A handful of students had never seen the ocean before, while others came from landlocked cities.

Only one had ever set foot on a surfboard before.

The results? Some surfed, some fell, some broke their surfboards and others just spent time admiring the good-looking surf instructors.

Players from the Gerringong Football Club under 18s team joined the Semester Abroad group for an afternoon to run a beach touch football competition.

After a skills-and-drills session a four-team tournament began. There were many dropped balls, forward passes and one badly cramped Canadian, after a number of illegal tries. The refs gave up trying to keep score.

Bonfires at night on the beach showed many of the students the southern hemisphere stars for the first time, while a 21st birthday bash for Sarah McMahan was a great excuse for an Aussie barbecue and picnic.

Canadian student Alex McNabb said: “It was an awesome weekend, definitely one of the best things we’ve done in Australia so far.”
UCU back in charge of food in the Refectory

Rebecca Stones

March 1, 2005: KRA Catering's lease on three UC Refectory food outlets expired on February 28, 2005 and the University of Canberra Union said the contract would not be renewed.

UCU Conference and Catering Manager David Just claimed the UCU, which already runs the UCU Coffee Shop and Shish Ke Bob's, could use the KRA outlets to better serve their customers.

"We think it's in our interests and our members' interests that we operate it and it's to our standard," Mr Just said.

"I know we can do it better, we're going to do it better ... and we're going to work through any teething problems."

"For the first two weeks there may be minor disruptions while we strip the kitchens clean ... we hope to be fully done by the 1st of April."

One major problem for the UCU while KRA held the lease was the kitchen being next to KRA's shops and on the other side of the Refectory to the UCU's hot food shop, Shish Ke Bob's.

This meant all hot food, such as chips or pasta, was made in the kitchen and then freighted across the refectory - a situation Mr Just felt was not an ideal for ensuring food quality and consistency.

Now UCU has control of KRA's Sushi, Sandwich and Snack Bars, Shish Ke Bob's can be relocated to the kitchen-side of the refectory, and in its place is planned an 'healthy alternative'.

While still working on the fine details, Mr Just said the new shop would have fresh salads, low-fat soft serve yoghurt and possibly smoothies, but not expensive items such as fresh juices.

The KRA's former outlets would also undergo change, with the Sushi Bar being renamed 'Bazaar'.

"That (Bazaar) will still have Asian food and we're going to have some Turkish food, like Turkish pizza, dips and cakes."

Mr Just said provisions for special dietary requirements were also planned, including vegan and coeliac food, however not everything in the Refectory would be completely healthy.

"We'll still retain the Snack Bar ... there'll be burgers, fish and chips and pasta still."

While Mr Just was confident the changes wouldn't cause any major problems, he believed there was always a place for customer feedback.

"We are open to suggestions and constructive criticisms ... people can contact me or send email."
Connecting Women

News from the University of Canberra’s Group Mentoring Program for Women

February 28, 2005

The University of Canberra runs a very successful and innovative group mentoring program for women. Here is the latest information of what is happening in the program in 2005:

Twenty-four women from all areas of the university attended the introductory residential program for the Group Mentoring Program for Women at Corrigan’s Cove in Batheaton during the first week of February.

A new approach to group work was introduced this year with one group designed to meet the needs of women focused on developing research skills and the other focused on general communication and personal development skills.

The two-day program, which was led by Jackie Wakeling, Jo Gibson, Chris Witch and Celia Passco with assistance from members of the Women’s Professional Development Program Committee, was a great success.

Many of the new women to the program commented on how much they had enjoyed the sessions and how positive they felt about being part of the program in 2005.

The groups will meet on a regular basis to develop their ideas throughout the year, culminating in a celebration of professional and personal achievements at the end of the year.

The program will hold a welcome lunch for participants and their supervisors on March 15 to continue the promotion of the program across the university.

International Women’s Day is coming up on March 8 and is the 77th International Women’s Day celebrated in Australia.

There are a number of special events to mark the day in Canberra, including the Women of Influence Lecture at ANU and the ACT Department of Education and Training International Women’s Day event at The Boat House by the Lake.

Guest speakers for these events are: Professor Penny D. Sackett, Director of the Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics, and the Mount Stromlo and Siding Spring Observatories, ANU for the Women of Influence Lecture and Katy Gallagher, MLA, Minister for Education and Training and Minister for Women, and local ABC news presenter Virginia Haussegger for the Canberra luncheon. Details of both these events are available by clicking on the links in the panel on the right.

The Women’s Professional Development Program (WPDP) has a new committee for 2005 and a new chair succeeding Conrin Trevitt.

The new committee comprises Dianne Coward - chair, Jo-anne Wills - facilitator liaison, Kate Armstrong - publicity and Meredith Bacon - evaluation, and program coordinator Vicki Watson.

The committee looks forward to another good year providing opportunities for Women’s Professional Development across the university.

Anyone who would like more information on the program or would like to contribute to this column please feel free to contact program coordinator, Vicki Watson, mentoring_program@canberra.edu.au or any members of the WPDP committee.

For further information about Monitor Online, contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Last Updated on August 1, 2005

Wiradjuri contributes $1000 to tsunami kids

John Martin

February 25, 2005:

From one child to another, the Wiradjuri Preschool and Child Care Centre at the University of Canberra has shown how much it cares.

The centre has given $1000 to the UC Build A Classroom appeal which aims to raise $20,000 to build a classroom in Hambantota in Sri Lanka which, like so many other places in South-East Asia, was devastated by the Boxing Day tsunami.

The $1000 has come from the centre's resource fund, from which it normally buys books, playground equipment, toys and educational equipment.

"The staff felt very strongly about this," the centre's director, Careen Leslie, said.

"We have so many resources. We wanted to help."

Wiradjuri, housed in Building 5, is a unique early learning centre which has become a fixture at UC since the 1980s. It has 30 children aged between three and five at any one time and five of the staff members are third-year students in the Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) program.

About two-thirds of the children are the sons and daughters of staff and students.

Wiradjuri also has a special friendship with UC Chancellor Wendy McCarthy, who launched the UC appeal on February 11.

Ms McCarthy, who is the chair of Plan which is administering the Hambantota project, officially opened Wiradjuri's playground in 1999.

"Wiradjuri is an Early Learning Centre dedicated to the education of young children and those who teach them and as such, we commend Wendy McCarthy's commitment to an international organisation centred on Child development," Ms Leslie said in a letter accompanying the $1000 donation.

"For this reason we feel compelled to make a significant donation to Plan and their support of the children of Hambantota in Sri Lanka."

More than 4500 people perished in Hambantota on the south coast of Sri Lanka, and a further 30,000 people are displaced.
Induction evening for research students

February 24, 2005: All new Research Students have been invited to an induction evening on Tuesday, March 1 from 4.45pm to 7.30pm at the University of Canberra Council room, in Bldg 1 level D.

This is an opportunity for PhD, Professional Doctorate, Master and Honours research students to meet, network and participate in a series of short information sessions.

Staff from the Academic Skills Program, CELTS (Centre for the Enhancement of Learning, Teaching and Scholarship), the Library, ORRD (the Office of Research and Research Degrees), the Scholarship Office are participating to this evening.

Students of the three Divisions who have already been here for a while, will also address the new students to talk about their experience.

It is hoped that the sessions will allow students to gather information about processes, people, and resources available to assist them with their research.

Supervisors and other staff involved with research student have also been invited. It is also supposed to be a relatively informal meeting. There will be a bite to eat and a drink and hopefully an opportunity for new students to meet each other and meet with relevant staff and have questions answered.

Research students will be welcomed by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Roger Dean and by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Andrew Cheetham.
UCIC’s new talking point

February 24 2005: No, aliens have not landed outside the University of Canberra Innovation Centre - though some of the residents and visitors to the building might have wondered.

They arrived at work on Monday morning a while back to find a huge cubed glass box outside the front door.

As they passed it by, ethereal figures gazed hauntingly through the blue transparent glass at passers by. Or possibly, the passers-by did the gazing, through one of a myriad of viewing holes. They probably wondered: what is it? Dr Who’s new tardis?

Well, actually it is UC’s latest art acquisition, a sculpture by renowned glass artist Warren Langley, which will be unveiled soon.

Titled the Collective Memory, the sculpture was funded by the Aitkin Cultural Fund, and completes the vision of former Vice-Chancellor Don Aitkin for UCIC to become a hub of innovation.

Langley describes the 2.4 metre sculpture as “a cautionary statement which suggests that in the course of true innovation, humanity and the natural order are not mutually exclusive - true progress requires an integration between humanity and its environment.”

Some of the figures are clear, others blurred. Langley says the figures within the cube, which are etched inside a cocoon of safety glass, are interacting but remain obscured from the outside world, suggesting alienation from their landscape.

UC art curator, Joanna Owens says Collective Memory is a significant piece of art for the university and its location at UCIC is up to the light of Professor Aitkin’s vision for innovation.

Professor Aitkin and his wife will be present at the unveiling.

Renowned glass artist Warren Langley with UC’s latest art acquisition, his sculpture Collective Memory.

Click here for a picture of the sculpture on its own.
What's with the fences and the green goo?

Rebecca Stones

February 23, 2005: Students and staff need not worry about the various construction sites on campus affecting classroom availability, according to Project Manager Garry Swanston.

Work has started on some of the building refurbishments and additions proposed for 2005, but Mr Swanston said these had been carefully planned to avoid disruption.

The works included a three-year plan to renovate Building 2 to comply with the Building Code of Australia.

This upgrade began in 2004 on the ground floor (level A) and involved knocking out walls, installing new light fittings and safety measures such as new fire hydrants.

Mr Swanston said upgrades to the fire hydrant system would provide better water pressure for firefighters in an emergency situation.

The renovations finished just in time for the 2005 university year, with Building 2, level A re-opening on Monday, February 21.

And if you had wondered what the fenced-off ‘green stuff’ was on the ground next to Building 10 and behind Building 2, the answer is ‘Hydroturf’.

“We had to boost the fire hydrant mains, so all that area had to be dug up...the green stuff, it’s a seed called Hydroturf,” Mr Swanston said.

The strange-looking green Hydroturf is a mixture of seed, mulch, fertilizer and water and Mr Swanston assured it would soon become grass.

“In two to three weeks the grass should grow...then the (surrounding) fences will go,” he said.

Other works on the university over past months included re-asphalting Kirinari Street and preparing Building 7’s level D for a Forensic Lab.

“The whole southern side (of Building 7) has just been gutted, we’re just waiting for funding for the forensic lab,” Mr Swanston said.

UC can expect more building sites to appear after final exams in 2005 as contractors attempt to do as much work as possible before another university year.
Children's writer to make inspiring visit to UC

Gabby McWIllan

February 23, 2005: Professor Belle Alderman is thrilled with the upcoming arrival of children's author Jill Morris to the University of Canberra because she wants students to get a "real taste" of the writing industry.

Jill will reside in the ACT as the University of Canberra's May Gibbs Fellow between March 7 and 24, giving her the opportunity to lecture, interact with students, help them workshop ideas and visit schools and libraries.

Jill has written, edited and produced television and radio scripts, written theatrical productions and children's literature, including her first major children's book *Harry the Hairy-nosed Wombat*.

Professor Alderman said the Fellowship, a program funded by the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust, gives authors "creative time" away from their home while simultaneously inspiring many students.

"The Trusts allows them to come to Canberra, stay in an apartment for a month and gives them the opportunity to interact with students," she said.

"Even though the students know that the lecturers know about their topic, they appreciate someone who's really in the business. A practitioner; someone who can tell it like it really is."

Professor Alderman said she hoped the students learnt more about the publishing and literary world, specifically the "phenomenal" children's literature industry.

"I want them to learn of the agony, some of the woes, but many of the pleasures that take place in being in the children's literature field," she said.

"Twenty-five per cent of Australian publishing is in children's books. It's a big phenomenon. It's something that all the creative writing students should be aware of."

She said writing for young people can be a frustrating but rewarding experience.

"It might take 13 drafts to get 200 words right," she said. "That's the reality of the industry. 'Possum Magic' had nine drafts, it was rejected eleven times and now it's sold over four million copies."

University of Canberra's 2004 May Gibbs Fellow resident author Libby Gleeson was a great success with students and staff, so Professor Alderman hopes the success of the program will continue to inspire people into the future.

"I want to give them an idea of what the real profession is like and with the May Gibbs Fellow they'll get really good exposure to the industry."
The party might be over but the year's just beginning

Gabby McMillan

February 21, 2005:
Orientation Week is over. The punch parties have finished, sleeping in until the afternoon has become a thing of the past and the constant free food has disappeared.

Around 10,000 University of Canberra students have entered the “adjustment period”, the transition stage from Orientation Week to week one of university.

MUCUS editor and UCU Services Officer Natalie Floor said Orientation Week is an essential time for new and returning students to meet people, learn their way around campus, join clubs and societies and generally settle into university life.

Natalie said it was often a “slow transition” for students because they were “eased” into the new lifestyle.

She said the UCU will continue to provide students with a number of social events.

Student's Association President Jennifer Newman said the transition could be “a shock” but she added most students were prepared for university requirements and standards.

"It's always hard to get into a new routine,” she said.

"I think it will be a bit of shock after the partying in O-Week, but the reason students are here is ultimately to study.”

Co-op Bookshop manager Lynn Price said the beginning of the year is a “frantic” time for students and staff.

"I don't think it really hits students until a few weeks in,” she said. "It's such a busy time.”

Lynn said when she arrived at work on Saturday, February 18, there were students already lining up outside the store.

"It's always such a busy time of year for us,” she said. "We sell hundreds of books during this time.”

The deadline for enrolment for new students is February, Friday 25 and text lists are available at the Co-op Bookshop.
Holy smoke, here comes the Donormobile

Peggy Sandrum, the Donormobile's owner, is a Canberra local.

The University of Canberra's Donormobile is designed to collect blood donations from the comfort of staff, students, and the general public. It is a mobile, state-of-the-art blood donation facility located in the Canberra CBD.

Currently, there are 14 permanent blood donation centres in the ACT, with an additional 30 mobile donation clinics operating throughout the ACT. The University of Canberra's Donormobile is one of these centres.

The Donormobile is scheduled to visit the University of Canberra on Tuesday, 9 February, from 10 am to 1 pm in the main building's lecture theatre. The opening hours for the Donormobile are:

- Tuesday, 9 February: 10 am - 1 pm
- Wednesday, 10 February: 10 am - 1 pm
- Thursday, 11 February: 10 am - 1 pm
- Friday, 12 February: 10 am - 1 pm

With the approval of the university, there is no requirement to fill out a leave form; simply arrange with your supervisor a suitable time.

Two beds are available as a 'drop in' service. Two beds will be available for bookings at 15 minute intervals. To make an appointment, contact the Health & Safety Unit on: 6201 2220 (Admin) or 6201 5179 (Therese Engelbrecht).

For further information please contact the Health & Safety Unit on: 6201 2220 (Admin) or call 13 14 95 to donateblood.com.au.

Donated blood and blood products are used to treat a wide range of people inclusive of accident victims, children, staff, students, surrounding industries and schools to donate blood at a time and location that is convenient for you.

For the first time in the history of blood donation in Australia, the ARCBS needs 20,000 blood donors to give blood each year. It is estimated that 86 per cent of the ACT's population are suitable blood donors. With an estimated 900,000 donors, by giving blood every year, you can save up to six lives.

Did you know that blood donors are encouraged to donate throughout the year?

Donors can safely donate blood and plasma donors every 10-12 weeks, give whole blood every 3-4 months and plasma donors once every two months. You may donate whole blood, pheresis plasma or platelets.

Donated blood and other blood products have a limited shelf life ranging from 24 hours to 41 days. It is estimated that 5 per cent will be used for blood and blood products at hospital, and 30 per cent to help cancer patients. 12 per cent needed for burns treatment, and 12 per cent to save lives. 5 per cent will be used for organ transplantation, and 6 per cent will help people with liver and bowel diseases.

The average adult has a blood volume of 470ml or 5% of body weight. Donors can safely donate whole blood, plasma or platelets.

If you or a family member have ever received a blood transfusion, you may be eligible to donate.

To find the nearest blood donation centre, visit the ARCBS website, www.donateblood.com.au.

The generosity of blood donors ensures that the Australian community, for the benefit of the Australian community, is able to provide a safe, world leading, sufficient blood supply to the Australian Red Cross Blood Service (ARCBS).

The ARCBS has fully designed, developed, and implemented a quality management system that has been at the forefront of world health and safety standards.

All donated blood is screened for HIV 1 & 2, Hepatitis B & C, Syphilis and HTLV I & II.

All donated blood is used once and is 100% used.

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service operates under the national organisation, National Blood Service, which provides quality assurance, training and all technical support, and is the world leader in safe, effective, and quality blood donation.

All donated blood is used once and is 100% used.

For further information on blood donation, contact the National & Safety Unit on: 6201 3777 (Therese Engelbrecht) or 6201 2220 (Admin).

Fact sheet
Comedic trio brings a bundle of laughs to UC

Gabby McMillan

February 18, 2005:

Three weeks ago Rove Live and SkitHOUSE stand-up comedian Charlie Pickering thought his career was dead. He'd committed the ultimate stand-up comedy offence: his mind went blank during a routine, he'd paused in silence for an entire minute before apologising to the crowd and leaving the stage.

"I thought to myself: this is it, my brain has stopped working," he said. "I wasn't going back out there."

Luckily for Charlie his brain worked perfectly on February 16 at the University of Canberra's Orientation Week Comedy Night. He was joined by Michael Chamberlin, a regular cast member of SkitHOUSE and Terri Psiakis who co-hosted Summer Breakfast on Triple J last summer.

The routines were positively received by the crowd, with the comedians adding a bonus interactive section at the end of the show.

The three comedians agreed university crowds are usually good to perform to, although pre-performance jitters are a certainty.

Charlie said feeling afraid before a stand-up comedy routine was expected.

"I don't know many jobs you're scared before you go to work, but stand-up is one of them," he said. "Even the coolest customer in the comedy world is genuinely afraid before they go one stage. You physically feel it, you shake, you're nervous and you sweat."

Michael said he always went over his notes before a show and practiced the routines he wanted to do on stage.

"You have this massive level of self-doubt," he said. "The jokes never look funny on paper."

Charlie agreed. "That's so true," he said. "Once I looked over Michael's jokes and I was thinking, 'hmm, is this going to work?' but he got out there and killed it. His gig made me want to try harder."

Terri said the easiest source for joke material is herself, so she takes personal experiences or the experiences of others and elaborates them to heighten the humour.

"To be able to get up and talk about yourself on stage is cool," she said. "People relate to it."

Michael said the stories they told on stage were often experiences people were too embarrassed to discuss with their friends.

"When you say it in a stand-up comedy routine they don't analyse how weird it is, they just think it's funny," he said. "People don't care as long as it puts a smile on their face."

The trio is currently preparing their routines for the Melbourne Comedy Festival in April.
News from AFA AdSchool

February 2005

AFA AdSchool Launch in ACT

The University of Canberra Innovation Centre (UCIC) proved to be a fitting venue for the recent launch of the Advertising Federation of Australia's (AFA) AdSchool program with practitioners from the ACT advertising and marketing communications industry in attendance.

The event provided information on the AdSchool concept and introduced the facilitators who will be leading the first of the Subjects in the first term.

Keynote speaker Lesley Brydon, Executive Director of the AFA indicated how excited she was to witness the launch AFA AdSchool in the ACT, which fulfils a vision to provide a nation-wide continuous professional education program as a career enhancer for those working in the advertising, marketing and communications industry.

She also extended the Federation's gratitude to Richard Buddle and the School of Professional Communication for their valuable assistance and consultation prior to the ACT launch.

(AFA AdSchool is the only short-course industry education program in Australia, offering specialist training in all disciplines of advertising, facilitated by practicing industry experts across a range of twenty subjects. Entry pre-requisites vary for each subject, but typically require applicants to have work experience and/or tertiary qualifications. Delivery via evening classes commencing March 16, 2005)

AFA Graduate Trainee Successes

Again, competition was extremely high for a place in the Advertising Federation of Australia's Graduate Trainee Program - an $8 billion a year industry - which is recognised as one of the hardest to crack. The AFA Graduate Trainee Program helps talented and ambitious young people fast-track their career.

By the end of 2004, over 200 eager graduates had sent in applications. From these, only 13 placements were ultimately granted, two going to UC Advertising/Marketing Communication graduates Tara Herfort and Monika James. Tara is at Sudler & Hennessy in Melbourne and Monika James is at Hammond & Thackeray in Sydney. Both agencies specialise in healthcare advertising, a fast growing category.

As Tara modestly said in an email to her lecturer (12/01/05), "I never dreamt of being presented this opportunity, so it is possible for any graduate!"

Monika was equally surprised and wrote (3/12/04), "I found out yesterday and honestly was in shock, I really thought I blew the whole day but they said they thought I was great and that I would fit right in there!"

Another graduate who met success is Mitchell Brakenridge. His email to UC (7/02/05) confirms the value of his education at UC, "I just wanted to say thanks for all the inspiring words over the three years of my Degree. I have just started the Clemenger DMS graduate scheme working as an account coordinator. A lot of things you said and advice you gave helped me get there so thank you!"

Notes prepared by: Richard Buddle, Lecturer Advertising/Marketing Communication. February 16
Hitting it for six at Boomanulla

**February 17, 2005:** The third edition of the Canberra Sixes® is set to hit the field on Sunday, February 20, at Boomanulla Oval in Narrabundah.

Jointly staged by the Western District & University of Canberra Cricket Club (WDUCCC) and the Aboriginal Corporation for Sport and Recreation Activities (ACSRA), the event is scheduled to start at 8am.

The annual community event has a total prize pool of over $1500 including prizes sponsored by 5 Star Plus Cricket, UCU and Wests Rugby Club.

The participation of the indigenous teams presents an exciting prospect according to the organisers.

Organisers are looking forward to the participation of the indigenous teams which will assist in building on the success of other indigenous cricket events such as ATSIC XI matches.

With local cricket clubs expressing their interest the Canberra Sixes® is guaranteed to focus on its aim of promoting cricket in the nation’s capital.

The presentations will take place at about 5.15pm.

Following that the competition winners and event organisers will be available for comment.

Further information on team nominations is available by contacting Ben Keens on 0423486003.
Graduate profile: Tara Herfort

February 2005: Before commencing my studies at UC I was apprehensive of what to expect, especially as I was moving from Sydney.

“Before I knew it, three years had passed and I was accepted into the AFA graduate program with an Advertising/Marketing degree under my arm!

“The course is taught by passionate people who ensure the material is stimulating and practical for all students entering the industry. Organised industry trips (to Melbourne and Sydney) and guest speakers/events heighten the course and provide unique and exclusive insights.

“Living on campus enhanced my experiences at Uni and I recommend it for anyone considering studying at UC. Being part of the ‘ressies’ community is invaluable. Frequent organised activities provide a social and friendly environment where life long friends are made. I loved my time at UC!”
Alison Sims gains career position at Sydney's award winning ad agency Publicis Mojo

February 2005

"As an Advertising Account Executive at Publicis Mojo in Sydney, I oversee the whole campaign process from the planning and development phase to media planning and production, right through to campaign analysis and evaluation. I am responsible for managing and trafficking my client's advertising on a daily basis and ensuring that jobs are processed through the internal agency system.

"Working in a full-service advertising agency means that I am in direct contact with a range of people specialising in areas such as copywriting, art direction, strategy and media buying and planning.

"The Communications Degree at the University of Canberra gave me a sound understanding of advertising and marketing techniques and prepared me for the industry environment. The Degree provided me with a broad understanding of marketing communication techniques that I use every day including direct response advertising, sales promotion, branding, and sponsorship".

Alison Sims
**Been here, done that - and it was good**

**February 17, 2005:** Win Television journalist Gabrielle Boyle returned to her old stamping ground with a message yesterday.

Gabrielle, a former student of UC, was the guest speaker when the 2005 Academic Year was officially opened by UC Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean.

In an entertaining speech, Gabrielle spoke about her time at UC and in particular the great experiences she had meeting new people from all around the world.

About 300 students with their parents and partners took part in the ceremony which included a welcome to country ceremony from Ngunnawal elder Agnes Shea.

Morning tea followed with academic staff available to speak with parents and students.

The Commencement Ceremony was a part of O Week, and with the success of the ceremony this year, plans are in hand to make it bigger and better in 2006."
Good music comes from a strum

Gabby McMillan

February 17, 2005: Eight months ago three University of Canberra students started a band called Tripitide for some fun. Eight months later the boys from Tripitide's schedules are jam-packed with gigs at many Canberra pubs and clubs and their fan-base is rapidly growing.

Tripitide, an alternative “easy-listening” three-piece band, play regular gigs at O’Neils, King O’Malleys and the Labor Club in Canberra. They performed on the concourse during Orientation Week’s Market Daze on Wednesday, February 16.

Guitarist and vocalist Cameron Thornton said they didn’t know what to expect when they formed in 2004, they were just having fun.

“It’s been a blessing the whole way”, Cameron said. “We hadn’t expected anything like this.”

The band members, Cameron Thornton, Aaron “Hilly” Hill and Duncan “Slammer” Brown met through university classes and on-campus residencies.

“I was sitting in biomechanics next to Hilly and I told him I’d been saving up for a guitar,” Cameron said. “He said he played as well so we went for a strum one day, Slammer came along, and we had a ball.”

Tripitide’s first performed at a Potbelly’s Open Mike Night but Cameron described the night as “just a bit of fun”.

“We hadn’t been playing for very long but a lot of people came down to the gig and supported us which was fantastic.”

They’ve come a long way from the “Open Mike” scene, recently performing at Sydney’s Annandale Hotel.

“It’s a pretty cool place in Sydney- Jet have played there- so it was awesome to play there,” he said.

“We played after comedy night, had a ball and got lots of exposure which was great.”

The Annandale Hotel offered Tripitide another gig after the success of their first performance.

“A promotion guy heard one of our demo CDs and it went from there,” Cameron said.

“It could be a real foot in the door as far as exposure goes in Sydney.”

Tripitide have a collection of around 20 original songs in addition to a wide selection of covers.

“Duncan’s been writing a lot of great stuff, really good stuff,” Cameron said.

“We’ve been starting to play them, so we’re really getting confident with those and we’re really happy with the way they’ve come together.”
Rebecca Stones

**Wednesday, February 16**: The UCU Big Lunch on the UC Concourse exceeded expectations, with participants joining long queues to give generously to the Tsunami ‘Build-a-Classroom’ Appeal.

Those attending the BBQ didn't have to pay, but volunteers said the amount of donations, especially from students, had been "wonderful". The event raised $859.20 for the appeal.

Refectory Supervisor Trish Savary said she was surprised that students, renowned for lack of money, were willing to give so much. "We haven't had to ask (for money) ... It's obviously touched them. And it's all gold coins, not just loose 20-cent coins and small change," she said.

UCU boss Tony Loneragan said it took about 25 people to serve up the Big Lunch, including nine Orientation Week Leaders (OWLS) who donated their time for the cause.

UCU Executive Chef Ricardo Dungganon supervised the cooking of 2000 sausages, 1500 kebabs, 30 kilograms of onions and a mountain of salad to keep the hungry queue happy.

Judging by the number of donations, the Big Lunch crew did well, serving up enough food for 1500 people.

Volunteers also walked through the crowded Wednesday market to collect donations, with some people even donating $10 and $20 notes.

Mr Loneragan said the UCU would be planning future tsunami-fundraisers, the next with a 'Staff versus Students' theme, earmarked for week three.

Donation buckets have also been placed in various divisions around the university, including Building 1 at the reception and the Student Admissions office.

For further information about Monitor Online, contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Last Updated on August 1, 2005

Hands on heads for a good cause

Gabby McMillan

Friday, February 11, 2005: Staff and students standing with their hands on their “heads and tails” on the concourse wasn’t an average afternoon at the University of Canberra.

Neither was having ABC’s “The New Inventors” presenter and comedian James O'Loghlin standing on a brick wall, manning a portable microphone and sparking laughter from the Celebrate Excellence Awards crowd.

These unique activities helped Chancellor Wendy McCarthy launch the UC “Build-a-Classroom” appeal, a long-term project which aims to raise $20,000 to build and equip a classroom in Hambantota, Sri Lanka.

James hosted a mass trivia contest called “Get Quizzed” which attracted many participants and required a gold coin donation fee.

James said he was incredibly pleased to be involved with the Tsunami appeal launch.

“It’s for a terrific cause and I’m happy to do anything I can to support it,” he said.

The fun really kicked in when staff and students discovered the trivia contest was in a “heads and tails” format.

James entertained the crowd with spontaneous jokes, telling them “going for the false answer is always good because it involves touching your butt”.

The winner of “Get Quizzed” received a meal and a glass of wine at the Staff Club.

The largest appeal has gone out to University of Canberra staff to donate one day’s pay, although Chancellor McCarthy doesn’t think it should stop there.

“I think over the next six months at least we should still be working on this because it’s not going to go away,” she said.

“arly every time a student goes to the bar they should donate money.”

If only they’d collected a gold coin for every time someone laughed at one of James O’Loghlin’s jokes...
Discovering the History of Migrants

Gabby McMillan

February 16, 2005: While the National Multicultural Festival remains in full swing in Garema Place, the University of Canberra is supporting a unique multicultural exhibition of its own.

The History of Migrants, a photomedia exhibition presented by the multicultural artistic group Multifocus, explores the involvement of migrants from a range of backgrounds to our society.

Multifocus convener Marianne Pietersen said they needed to choose a relevant subject to the National Multicultural Festival and because many of the Multifocus members are from diverse backgrounds, they decided to concentrate on the contribution of migrants.

Marianne, who has migrated twice in her lifetime, said the feedback for the History of Migrants was extremely positive.

"People really love it," she said. "The descendents of the people who were the subjects of my photos especially loved it. I feel very good about this exhibition."

Marianne's piece "Remembering" explores the lives of a number of migrants, although she'd prefer people to initially form their own opinion on the pieces.

"What I like to do is walk around the exhibition and take a first impression of the photos, work out what my gut reaction is towards them," she said.

"Then it's a good idea to take the History of Migrants catalogue and walk through the exhibition again and find out more about the photographer and their aim with the work."

Marianne said she now understood how photographs can be manipulated so different messages can be emphasised or de-emphasised.

"There's really something about the visual aspect of photography. You start to look around you from the point-of-view of 'what would make a good photograph?'"

With only a few days to go, Marianne said people need to "get to the exhibition fast".

The exhibition was launched on February 10 at the Gallery Café in the UC Conference Centre and is showing until February 18.
O-week: ready, steady, go eat

Gabby McMillan

February 15, 2005:
Orientation Week officially started with a free pancake breakfast held on the concourse for University of Canberra students this morning.

Chef Ricardo Dungganon catered for around 300 sleepy but hungry students, using excessively large batches of ingredients to cook around 1000 pancakes.

The UCU provided 20 kilograms of pancake mix, five kilograms of castor sugar, six litres of lemon squeeze and eight litres of maple syrup for the mass cook-up.

UC students should be pleased to know the entertainment and free meals don't stop there.

The UCU have organised movie, comedy, trivia and karaoke nights throughout the week, and free barbecues on the concourse are planned for February 16-18.

The UCU bar is running a free spit roast dinner on February 16 and a free pasta night on February 18.

MUCUS editor and UCU Services Officer Natalie Floor said it’s important for new students to get involved with the Orientation Week activities

"New students should get out there and get involved," she said. “There's a lot of fun stuff planned for them.”

Natalie recommended new students should interact with the Orientation Week Leaders (OWLs) if they want to know more about what's happening during the week.

"New students should grab an OWL if they want to know more," she said.

"Most of the OWLs are second and third year students so they know their way around campus and will be able to show the new students where to go."

"It's going to be a very busy week for us, but it's always a lot of fun.”
Seeing red in the Refectory for the Rooster

Leigh Harris

February 9, 2005: The UC refectory was awash with red when staff and students celebrated the Chinese New Year of the Rooster today.

The crowd was entertained by Anne Whish-Wilson who demonstrated traditional Wudao dancing, and Dapeng who performed Tai Chi to music, while Gloria Guo sang a traditional Chinese song.

After the entertainment, Karen Wenqi, president of the China Club, demonstrated traditional calligraphy. There was also a selection of Chinese foods, including sweets and fortune cookies.

Students and staff from a Chinese background were invited to place red ribbons on a world map to show where they originate from.

The celebrations were organised by Harmony and Faith Project (part of the Spiritual Meeting Place) using the ideas of Chinese students and staff to create a celebration to welcome the new Chinese Year and share their culture with the university community.

Leonie-Ruth Acland, of the Spiritual Meeting Place, said it "coincided with arrival of new international students to make them feel very welcome. It has set the tone for the year as far as the Harmony project is concerned, because it was the first celebration of many to come. It was great to engage the new international students who will hopefully help us celebrate other religious, social, and cultural events of importance to us in the coming year."

Chinese student Yue-Che pins a red ribbon on her home country. Picture: LEIGH HARRIS
EMA at forefront of Operation Tsunami Assist

February 9, 2005: Emergency Management Australia (EMA) has been working on tsunami related support since Boxing Day from their operations centre in the UC Innovation building.

More than half of EMA’s staff were recalled from holidays or from time off, to manage the coordination of much of the Australian Government’s response to the Sumatran earthquake and resultant massive tsunami that swept across the Indian Ocean.

Several of EMA’s trained emergency managers have undertaken liaison roles in Phuket and Jakarta and conducted pre-departure briefings for specialist medical teams travelling to Banda Aceh.

“We are once again very proud of EMA’s staff who put everything else aside to ensure our coordination role on behalf of the Australian Government was proper and adequate,” Director General David Templeman said.

“These past weeks have been a testing time for staff who have operated under the Overseas Disaster Assistance Plan (AUSASSISTPLAN) that was activated on Boxing Day and that remains in force.”

David also praised Australian Government agencies, State and Territory Governments, and non-government organisations that provided essential support for Operation Tsunami Assist.

In addition to being responsible for coordinating and managing medical teams sent to Indonesia, EMA has also managed a team of engineers - sourced by the ACT’s Emergency Services Authority - assigned to the Maldives to assess the stability of school buildings.
To the bush and back in one night

Gabby McMillan

February 10, 2005: The University of Canberra transformed into a miniature sheep-shearing station on February 9 at the UC Dinner and Bush Dance, much to the delight of 2005's international students.

John Starr, a fifth-generation sheep farmer from Gold Creek, demonstrated rounding-up and shearing sheep with help from his black and tan kelpies, Lassie and Ned.

Shrieks of delight and horror rose up behind the refectory as they watched the merino's wool fall to the cement.

Californian graphic design student Lisa Wortman said she had always wanted to see sheep in Australia, even though it was a "stereotypical Australian thing".

The excitement of shearing was too exciting for one of the sheep and it slammed head-first over and over again into the glass walls of the refectory.

Australian traditions continued into the night with a presentation from the Duncan Smith and the Wiradjuri Echo Dancers, which has members as young as five.

They portrayed culturally symbolic themes including hunting, gathering food and swatting mosquitoes through dance sequences.

But the dancing did not stop there.

Musical quartet the Polka Pigs had almost everyone kicking their heels up in the refectory as they taught the students a number of energetic bush dances, including one to the extremely relevant "Click go the Shears".

The Polka Pigs have performed at the University of Canberra Dinner and Bush Dance for many years, entertaining people with their interactive and enthusiastic approach.

Polka Pigs member Tony Hunter said they kept returning to the University of Canberra because they "less than gently expose the students to the Australian culture".

"If you need people to show someone the Australian culture, it's us," Tony said.

The Polka Pigs were not the only act to highlight the Australian lifestyle. John taught the international students an important lesson in rural Australian living: where there are sheep to shear, there are even more sheep droppings to step in.
Letting the other half in on UC's secrets

John Martin

February 10, 2005: Getting academics from the Northern Hemisphere to cross the equator for conferences can be difficult.

But it was no problem for Dr Masoud Mohammadian, a senior lecturer in Information Systems, and his colleagues from the School of Information Sciences and Engineering.

They simply took their conference to the Northern Hemisphere in November. The University of Canberra was one of the driving forces behind the 2004 International Conference on Advances in Intelligent Systems: Theory and Applications in Luxembourg from November 15 to 18.

The conference, which was organised by the Centre de Recherche Henri Tudor in collaboration with SES ASTRA, UC, the University of Luxembourg and with the support of Fonds National de la Recherche Luxembourg, drew more than 140 theoreticians and practitioners from around the world.

It aimed to air Intelligent Systems issues, foster the exchange of ideas between theoreticians and practitioners, and to discuss possible collaborations.

The conference had 122 papers from scientists in Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, Dubai, Finland, France, Germany, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Poland, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Britain, United Arab Emirates and the United States.

The papers put the spotlight on current research in Intelligent Systems, including work on control systems, optimisation and prediction, decision-making, security, intelligent modelling or resources on the web, innovative application of intelligent agents, artificial neural networks, fuzzy logic, multi-agent systems and agents communications, document retrieval, classification and information filtering, ontology and web semantics, automation, databases and space applications.

Dr Mohammadian gave one of the keynote addresses to the conference. His topic was Designing Adaptive Control System using Intelligent Systems Technologies.

UC was also involved in backing this conference in Canberra in 2000.

For further information about Monitor Online, contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Last Updated on August 1, 2005
Getting the best out of meetings

February 10, 2005: The “Building An Inclusive Community” program for all staff was launched today in Building 5.

Speakers included Dr Leah Moore, the Chair of the Equal Opportunity Committee and Dr Don Fleming, Chair of the Committee for People with Disabilities. A highlight of the program was the address by students Adam Verwey, Pradnya Vilas Kolekar, Paul Collis and Tracey Barralet who described their experiences of UC community.

The “Building An Inclusive Community” program, created by private consultant United Learning, aims to make UC more inclusive for all. The United Learning Team put together a presentation that explained that the program means going beyond requirements under sex, racial and discrimination legislation. It is a new way of approaching decision making at UC which will be of benefit to staff and students alike.

Most staff and some students will have participated at some time in a meeting at UC. Meetings are often adversarial in nature, with some of the participants wanting to firmly push their own viewpoint whilst other attendees sit passively and quietly. Such meetings often do not produce a good outcome for individuals or for UC as not all viewpoints are heard, and many of the attendees leave the meeting feeling that their opinions were dismissed.

Many meetings become avenues for different opinions but consensus from all attendees is not a high priority. The program that has been devised uses a technique called ‘dialogue’ which in part involves extending listening skills in order that better outcomes for all participants and for UC are reached.

A workshop program has been designed to meet the needs of both academic and general staff. The first workshop for staff will take place from March 14. Five workshops are timetabled for Semester One and Heads of Schools, course conveners and program managers will be sent invitations to these workshops. In Semester Two the training workshops will be offered to all staff.
A hoot as OWLS welcome students

February 14, 2005: About 2600 new students will get their first real taste of life at Canberra University during O-week this week.

Orientation Week leaders, affectionately known as OWLs, will take new students under their wings as part of the O-Week program. OWLs, who are student volunteers trained to welcome and help the new students find their way around university life, will run campus tours from Tuesday February 15 to Thursday February 17.

A smorgasbord of food and fun will be dished up throughout the week beginning with programs on Tuesday to welcome students with disabilities, mature age students and those articulating from the Canberra Institute of Technology. BBQs are the flavour of the day and indigenous students will be welcomed with a lunch time BBQ followed by another sausage sizzle and movie fest for all students in the evening.

The official Welcome and Commencement Ceremony will be held at the Boiler House Lecture Theatre (Building 14) at noon on Wednesday February 16, beginning at 10.30am with a 'Welcome to the Country' indigenous dance performance.

Guest speaker, WIN news reporter Gabrielle Boyle, a graduate of UC, will talk to the new students on tips on how to make time at university as enjoyable as possible.

The ceremony will finish with a multi-faith prayer with leaders from various faith denominations and a blessing for the new academic year.

O-week is an annual event held by the University of Canberra to help familiarise new students with university life before they commence their first semester of studies in the following week.

The program follows the preceding week's International and Residential Students' Orientation programs.

The week's activities will conclude on Friday February 18 with a karaoke and bar night at the University of Canberra Union bar.
Technology helps students with chronic illnesses

Gabby McMillan

February 10, 2005: Diabetic Amelia Morgan, 20, will travel to an international student conference in Abu Dhabi on February 15 to discuss the growing importance of ICT technology and university students with physical, mental and financial problems.

UC student Amelia, who is insulin-dependent, entered the E-ducation Without Borders competition because she wanted people to be aware having a chronic illness can make studying at university difficult.

"I'm very much pro-technology with education," she said. "If I'm not feeling well and miss a lecture because of it, I can go online and watch the streamed lectures there or for on My WebCT and read the notes."

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor John Dearn agreed with Amelia's concerns and arranged UC financial support for travel expenses.

"The fact that she was asked to present a paper at an international conference is just wonderful and a great credit to her and it also puts our university in the spotlight."

"This university is committed to being student-centred and this is a technology that obviously helps them," he said.

"I think there are many students, like Amelia, who have a chronic health problem. But there are other categories of students as well, some who it find it hard coming into university during the day. It meets a whole range of students' needs."

Amelia said universities should continue to accommodate to student's needs.

"There are people out there with critical illnesses, single mothers, people who work full-time and it does disadvantage them when they don't have these technologies."

Amelia said the conference provides a good opportunity for people to swap ideas, learn about other cultures and hear different perspectives on the possible uses of technology with education.

"We get together and try and nut out ways to try and improve things."

"There are people there from really privileged countries like Australia and the United States, and then there are people from really under-privileged countries, so it's a good way for them to learn how to improve their resources."

Amelia's brother Philip Morgan won the competition in 2003 and will travel to Abu Dhabi with her to work at the conference as an overseas student advisor.
Canadians delighted with 'Down Under'

Gabby McMillan

**February 8, 2005:** Canadian students Barbra Bailey and Ginelle Gomes were attracted to studying in Australia for three reasons: the people, the weather and the familiar culture.

Their expectations were confirmed during the International Student’s Orientation Program as they met new people, participated in social events and learnt about the University of Canberra’s multicultural community.

Both students attended Vice-Chancellor Professor Roger Dean’s Welcome Address on Tuesday February 8, describing the speech as “welcoming”.

Professor Dean emphasised the “crucial role” international students play at the University of Canberra, adding universities have an important function in the internationalisation of the world.

He wished the students a “comfortable, enjoyable and exciting stay” and mentioned the benefits of balancing “personal enjoyment and personal success” while they study in Australia.

Barbra and Ginelle, who both live on campus, said had have always wanted to travel to Australia.

Barbra travelled along Australia’s coastline for six weeks before coming to UC to study psychology for six months.

“I think it’s awesome over here,” she said. “I’ve always wanted to come to Australia.”

Ginelle, who has been in Australia since February 5, said she is looking forward to meeting new people.

“It’s not a massive culture shock here,” she said. “It seems like everyone is very similar to back home. Everyone has been really nice so far.”

They have participated in both residential and campus activities including the Residential Nuts and Bolts punch party, the Welcome Dinner and Bush Dance and the Residential Annual Obstacle Course.
Memories of death: how we can help

John Martin

February 11, 2005:

"Please do something for the children."

These were the parting words to University of Canberra Chancellor Wendy McCarthy from a distraught school teacher at tsunami-ravaged town Hambantota in Sri Lanka two weeks ago.

Ms McCarthy yesterday launched the appeal for the UC community to raise $20,000 to help build a classroom at Hambantota.

"I was going to write something down," Ms McCarthy told the audience of more than 400 at the university's Celebrating Excellence awards at the Boilerhouse lecture theatre. But she said the scene there was so overwhelming she had not been able to collect her thoughts to do that.

"It's like a lunar landscape," she said.

Houses are gone, people are gone. There was no smell of death there when she went, she said, but there was the "memories of death." The people now live in small, makeshift tents, six to a tent. The temperature is 45 degrees inside.

Ms McCarthy spoke to a group of children and asked them about their families.

Only when she got answers such as "I have no dad now" did she realise the gravity of her questions.

Then she put her hand on the shoulder of a teacher with the children and asked her how she was.

The young woman burst into tears. She had lost her mother and her sister.

"I can't cry because of the children," she said. "Please do something for the children."

Ms McCarthy is the chair of Plan, which is administering the Hambantota project.

More than 4500 people perished in Hambantota on the south coast of Sri Lanka, and a further 30,000 people are displaced.

The bodies of many were found in the schoolyard.
To bee or not to bee at University of Canberra

John Martin

February 11, 2005: If the staff and professors at the University of Canberra did not know before, they now know the average weight of a bee.

ABC presenter and comedian James O'Loghlin told them today during his tickling guest speech at the Vice Chancellor's Celebrating Excellance Awards.

More than 400 people crammed the Boilerhouse lecture theatre to see staff presented with awards for enhancing and contributing to the university as a community, awards for teaching and learning and awards recognizing longevity of service at the university.

Applause swept the lecture hall for the award winners. And no applause was louder than that for cleaner Chris Skytanos who received a special surprise award for his dedicated service with a smile to the university.

The mood became sombre when Chancellor Wendy McCarthy launched the UC appeal to raise $20,000 for a building a classroom for children in a slum-rafted town called Hamburg in Sri Lanka. She was there two weeks ago and related some harrowing tales.

Then O'Loghlin, dressed in a suit and open neck shirt, stood up and worked the crowd up again.

"I didn't know anything about the CCAE then. I just thought must have been an uptight place."

He made the audience roar by describing the head of the Canberra College of Advanced Education which later became UC.

"He used to mow his lawn dressed in a suit and tie" O'Loghlin said, deadpan.

"I didn't know anything about the CCAE then. I just thought it must have been an uptight place."

Laughter from the gathering.

"The first thing I saw when I arrived here today was a bloke mowing the lawn. I'm pleased to say though that he's still there two weeks ago and related some harrowing tales.

"I didn't know anything about the CCAE then. I just thought it must have been an uptight place."

Laughter from the gathering.

"The first thing I saw when I arrived here today was a bloke mowing the lawn. I'm pleased to say though that he's still there."

Much more laughter.

O'Loghlin's hilarious speech had a serious side.

He said university teachers had an important role to make students think and foster creativity.

O'Loghlin recounted his days studying economics and law at the Sydney University in the mid 80s, when he used to mow his lawn dressed in a suit and tie.

"I wanted to know the average weight of a bee the other day and it took my 36 seconds to find it out. I timed it."

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February 8, 2005: The University of Canberra community aims to raise $20,000 to help educate children in a tsunami-ravaged town called Hambantota in Sri Lanka.

The tsunami that struck the coast of South-East Asia on December has touched us all. The immense scale of the disaster is only now beginning to being realised, with the death toll having risen to almost 300,000 people from 51 countries.

More than 4500 people in Hambantota, on the south coast of Sri Lanka, perished in the tsunami and a further 30,000 people are displaced. Those who survived face the mammoth task of rebuilding their lives from scratch.

The University of Canberra has joined forces with Plan, an international organisation that centres on child development, to launch an appeal aimed at rebuilding schools in one of the worst hit areas of Sri Lanka, Hambantota.

The UC 'Build-a-Classroom' Tsunami Appeal will be launched at the Celebrating Excellence Awards, on Friday February 11, by Chancellor Wendy McCarthy. Ms McCarthy is chair of the Plan's honorary board of directors.

Plan's long-term project to assist in educating children in the region was all but wiped out by the tsunami. The town is now relocating to higher ground, 1.5 km away as a safety measure.

UC is working with Plan in Australia to raise funds for the nominated project. UC, with a community of about 10,000 people including 1000 staff, aims to raise money to build and equip one classroom, which Plan estimates will cost around $20,000.

Donations can be made as a one-off payroll deduction by clicking on the link http://www.canberra.edu.au/tsunami/donations.html to the donation form.
Mellow yellow gals and fellows are here to help

John Martin

Monday February 7, 2005: If you see some people dressed in yellow t-shirts and yellow caps around the UC campus this week, don't worry.

They'll just be part of the small army of Orientation Week leaders (OWLs for short) who are student volunteers trained to welcome and help the new international students along their way.

There are 35 OWLs, divided into teams that will look after specific blocks of students.

Most of the OWLs are international students themselves who have been here a while and done that. You know, helping with things local students take for granted as simple. These OWLs know how hard it was to arrive in a new country, with a language that's not their mother tongue and with a different culture. There are exceptions though.

Jennifer Newman, who is one of the OWL team leaders, comes from Griffith, NSW and this is her second year in the program.

"I decided to do OWLs because when I came here I was just 18, hours away from my family in Griffith NSW and I knew no-one in Canberra," said Jennifer, who is now also the president of the Student Association.

"I wanted to help rural students but came across Internationals instead.

"The students we deal with don't know the culture, and are often not confident with their English skills.

"When I came to Canberra as a rural student, I found the bus timetables very confusing.

An international friend told me that when he came to Canberra he didn't catch buses for the first month because a driver told him the fare was "a dollar thirty" which he understood as 30 dollars.

"International students are in such a unique situation, and sometimes just knowing one person they can call makes the difference."

Have no fear these OWLs will go into hibernation at the end of the week.

They will become Buddies and extend helping hands to the international students for the rest of the year.
PhD student’s close encounter in Maldives

Kamile Pass

February 3, 2005: Hussain Faiz, a University of Canberra PhD student, was in Male, the capital of the Maldives, conducting an interview for Faiz’s research, when the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami struck.

“We were not far from the coastal area when I heard a very powerful sound, like an explosion, and suddenly saw water coming behind the building,” Faiz said.

And Faiz thought that it had come from the nearby desalination plant but within minutes the streets were flooded and he realized it was something more serious.

Faiz tried to call his wife and family but he was concerned for them but he found communication had been cut off.

PhD student Hussain Faiz on seeing his parent’s island after the tsunami: “I saw people were sleeping on the roads among all the rubble and rubbish. Others found refuge in the houses that were not destroyed.”

Out in the street Faiz and Maha saw their motorcycles floating down the road so they headed for home as fast, wading through knee-deep water till they reached higher ground, all the while hoping that their family was safe.

“At our way home we saw coconuts, fish and vegetables on the roads, which were washed from the local market. We reached the Presidential Palace, which is not far from Maha’s home. People had gathered to see all this food which had been dumped by the gates of the palace.”

Faiz said that he found Maha’s family was safe and their home was undamaged.

But while Male, which is surrounded by a high sea wall, was only lightly damaged, Faiz said many of the islands that comprise the Maldives were devastated.

Faiz had not heard from his parents who live on Meedhoo, an island smaller than “the size of UC”, on the outskirts of the capital city Male. After unsuccessfully trying to find information about the island from the Government Taskforce, he and Maha, armed with provisions, set sail for Meedhoo to try to find his parents.

Around nine hours later and approaching dawn they arrived and laid eyes on the devastated island.

“I could not believe when I saw the condition of the island, which is usually kept very tidy by the women’s weekly cleaning. I saw people were sleeping on the roads among all the rubble and rubbish. Others found refuge in the houses that were not destroyed.”

“The water had risen more than two metres, washing out the ground floor of Faiz’s family home and filling it with mud and debris. The second floor was a sea of sleeping bodies – people who had no where else to go.”

“Most of the island was badly destroyed. There was no electricity and water, no food and no drinking water,” Faiz said.

Faiz and Maha spent the next three days on the island, helping to clean up and listening to the villagers’ stories of events. His background in educational psychology was put to practical use – counselling the grief-ridden residents who had lost everything.

Faiz and Maha have now returned to Canberra and UC to begin a new year of study. Faiz said he was moved by the concern and support shown to Maha and himself by his “second family” of friends here in Australia.

“I was washed away by the rising water.” Faiz said.

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PhD student Hussain Faiz on seeing his parent’s island after the tsunami: “I saw people were sleeping on the roads among all the rubble and rubbish. Others found refuge in the houses that were not destroyed.”

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International students: Here they come!

February 7 2005 About 400 new international students will arrive on campus this week and be ready for them. Actually, they have been arriving for several days - on plane, train and bus. They don't come from all the four corners of the world, it's close. Their countries include Austria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Canada, China (including Hong Kong), Congo, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad, Thailand, United States, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

UC, in conjunction with ANU, has fed a loco with three people operating at Canberra Airport, and over recent days there has been a flood of these busses ferrying new arrivals to permanent or temporary accommodation. They have also been given back up with information about UC and Canberra in general, and a week will find them here until they can get to some shops for the first time here.

If there is such a thing as a highlight of the week, it could be a Bush Dance planned for Wednesday night.

"If there is such a thing as a highlight of the week, it could be a Bush Dance planned for Wednesday night. The popular band Bush Pigs, who have now done several of these bashes, will be back. And there will be performances by Wiradjuri Echo. The students love the Bush Dance," said International Student's Advisor Noor Fleming.

But from today they will join this huge logistical exercise at UC.

A full week of activities has been planned for International Students' Orientation Program, which aims to give the students all the information they will need for their stay. Some will be here for only a year, some for two years and some for three years.

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And no wonder. After a few days of information overload, it will be their chance to unwind.

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**We're a weird mob, too**

John Martin

**February 7, 2005:** "If you are drinking with Australians and someone offers to 'shout' it does not mean he is going to speak in a loud voice."

It sounds like advice from John O'Grady's 1959 novel They're a Weird Mob which was made into a classic Australian movie comedy in 1966.

The book purports to be written by Nino Culotta, an Italian journalist, who emigrates to Australia and to find the sport writer's job has vanished. He eventually finds employment as a builder's labourer where he is soon introduced to the social rituals of his new country. He experiences the art of drinking in an Australian pub, surf and sand at Bondi Beach and a lamington afternoon tea.

But the words of Aussie wisdom at the top of this report come instead from UC's Ready, Steady, Go International Students' Orientation Handbook.

"It means he is offering to buy you a drink," the book says in a chapter of Australian customs. "It is not obligatory to take part in a 'shout', however if you do you are expected to return the gesture, if you do not you will be extremely unpopular."

The book provides a wealth of information covering things such as students visas, working rights, health care, legal advice, accommodation, shopping and food, telephone/e-mail/fax, transportation, university facilities academic skills program, security, customs here, driving in Canberra, living with others, relations with the opposite sex, religion, electricity and embassies and high commissions in Canberra.

The chapter on Australian expressions might be a hoot for local speakers.

But just think about it.

If you didn't know otherwise, just what is a dunny, a mug, Woop Woop, a barbie, a watering hole, a tinny and tucker.
For items published 2007 + please visit Monitor Online here

Training For a Productive Year

Gabby McMillan

February 7, 2005: Sharing bathrooms and washing machines all year might not be a desirable way of life for many people, but for some UC residential students the opportunity to share more than just their fabric softener with their peers was too good to resist.

Twenty nine students returned to university early to complete training for a range of educational, social and athletic positions in the Support Staff unit of Residences, or “Ressies” as it’s commonly referred to.

They will be responsible for providing assistance, devising activities, running programs and maintaining a balanced environment for all residents throughout the year.

International House resident Arsalan Khan said he applied for the position of Activities Convener because he wanted to be proactive in his community.

"I feel I’ll be in a position through which I can express my ideas and include everyone else’s ideas too," Arsalan said.

Residential Counsellor Mary Carse said Support Staff training is a great way for the students to get to know each other and fully understand their responsibilities.

"There are a lot of things they need to learn for the year,” she said. “Training reminds them to expect responsibility for their area during the year. They also practice brainstorming ideas and learning the difference between assertiveness and aggressiveness."

The students completed a one- or two-day course with St John’s ambulance.

The remainder of their training program focused on cross-cultural and diversity issues, culture building, emergency procedures and preparing activities and presentations for their upcoming positions.

Residential Officer Linda Bolton said the Support Staff service provided a sense of community on campus.

"The Support Staff helps the students,” she said. “The activities we run for them provide a real sense of community. It includes them all."

The support staff members also assisted with orientation for new residents to the University of Canberra on February 6 and 7.

Ressies from the inside: a Monitor special

Ressies Quick Facts:
- Residential Officer Linda Bolton bought 57 packets of lollies for the students to eat during the training period.
- The first area of Ressies was built in 1971. It is now called Old Ressies.
- Over 1000 students live on campus at the University of Canberra.
- The resident ratio is approximately 35 per cent international students to 65 per cent Australian students.
- Approximately 60 per cent of Ressies are female.
- In an attempt to keep communal kitchens clean, a cleaner (affectionately called the ‘Grotboxer’ by students) puts dishes left on kitchen sinks in garbage bags and leaves them in a basement for a week.

Other links:
Ressies
St John’s Ambulance Australia
International students: Here they come!
We’re a weird mob, too
Mellow yellow gals and fellows are here to help
UC mail legend retires

John Martin

February 2005: The last thing long-time UC mailroom supervisor Colin Osmotherly plans to do in his retirement is cattle branding.

"No way," he said ahead of leaving UC on February 11 after 28 years working here.

"It's dirty, smelly and noisy. I don't want to do that again."

Colin, 54, who started at UC as a courier and mail delivery person, has a passion for travelling to far-off and exotic places so the question about what he will do in his retirement is a valid one.

But he has done cattle branding, and ticked it off his "to do" list.

He spent a week in May 2000 working on a ranch in South Dakota, two hours' south of Mt Rushmore.

Colin Osmotherly: The sad news is that he is leaving the UC family. The good news though is that he leaves in good health

He was warned not to wear brown trousers to work and he soon found out why. All the cows were also brown and a hand in brown trouser turned out to be in grave danger of mistakenly being branded, vaccinated or castrated!

No such danger in the UC mailroom - though there have been challenging moments. The mailroom now handles two tonnes of incoming mail and two tonnes of outgoing mail a week, and that's four times the workload that was there when Colin started in 1976.

There was a time, too, when Australia was in the grip of an anthrax-in-the-mail scare and rubber gloves and surgical masks were regularly used equipment in the mail room.

Colin's actual last day in the mailroom was on January 31. He will serve out his time in Facilities and Services.

He remains unsure of what he will do in his retirement, but it is no secret he is a globetrotter.

Over the past 30 years he's been to Europe, Burma (now Myanmar), Malaysia, Singapore, the United States (three times), Canada. And he's trekked in the Himalayas.

He has another trip to Canada on his radar, either late this year or next. This time he wants to go to Newfoundland, Labrador and Hudson Bay.

Hopefully, there won't be a brown cow in sight.
Hayley's still our Idol at UC

Feb. 3, 2005 Australian Idol contestent and University of Canberra student Hayley Jensen has put her studies on hold to concentrate on the Australian Idol 2005 national tour and her music career.

Hayley is planning to return to university one day to complete her Economics and Management double degree.

"I'll definitely be back at some point," she said. "I just need to strike while the iron's hot with my music. We're all tied up in contracts with different people at the moment, so I need to wait until the tour finishes and those contracts end, to totally decide what to do."

Hayley said the Australian Idol tour had been "incredibly enjoyable." She said the group had been more relaxed since Casey Donovan won the competition in November 2004.

"The tour has been going really well so far. Everything is sorted. We all know the results, so everyone is really full of energy."

When the Australian Idol tour came to the AIS on January 24, Hayley found performing to her home town was an "extra-special" performance because of the support she received from the crowd.

"It felt really special because it was almost like inviting all the Idols to my home. Obviously because I'm from Canberra there were a lot of family and friends there to support me."

Australian Idol also motivated Hayley to work on her song-writing skills.

"I'm really enjoying song-writing at the moment, so my plan is to work with other songwriters during the tour."

"I'm pushing myself and writing about all sorts of things. Life things like relationships, general experiences, Australian Idol experiences have given me a lot to write about."

Hayley made it to the final four contestants and often surprised viewers with diverse musical performances that she described as "breaking her mould."
Hong Kong honours its bright lights too

February 7, 2005: Twenty-six graduates donned caps and gowns in an historic University of Canberra presentation ceremony ceremony in Hong Kong in November.

Although UC has run a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) program in Hong Kong since June 2002, graduates in the past have received their testamurs in the mail or, in some cases, come to Canberra to savour the traditional ceremony.

In November, however, the ceremony came to them at the Marco Polo Hotel in Hong Kong, along with UC staff Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Dowling, lecturer Mr Gary Crone, senior lecturer Dr Greg Fisher and program manager Ms Jennifer Connor.

The Canberra officials also attended a BBA graduation ceremony at the Hilton Hotel in Singapore.

Fifty-nine students graduated there.

The Singapore program began in July 1999, and this was their fourth graduation ceremony.

Basically though, the two programs are the same.

The course is taught over four 12-week terms a year.

Subjects are conducted using staff from UC with assistant tutors from the local region.

The BBA program is designed for individuals who work in a commercial environment, either in the private or public sectors.

As well as acquiring a broad knowledge of all the major business disciplines, students complete majors in management and in one other specialised field.

The occasional address in Hong Kong was given by Ms Sue McMillan, Head of the Australian International School in Hong Kong.

The speaker in Singapore was Mr Phil Forrest, the former president of the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Singapore.

With the organisation of Dr Lim Boon Yeow, CEO of the Asiainsitut of Management in Singapore, and Dr Richard Wong, Director of the Institute of Advanced Learning in Hong Kong, both ceremonies were hailed great successes.
Scavenger hunt for CU filmmakers

Feb 7 2005

University of Canberra students will be keen to repeat their success in the Lights! Canberra! Action! scavenger hunt for filmmakers again this year.

Filmmakers will be given from March 4 to March 14th to make their film and vie for cash prizes.

Organisers hope that first-year students and students in Ressies might throw their lot in too. It will give them a chance to get out and about ion Canberra and see what's there.

"Last year there was a great involvement from students at UC", said Event Coordinator, Matthew Fallon. "The UCU Film Production Society did really well making sure that people knew that the event was on, and helping people make their films".

Filmmakers have only 10 days to make their film, with a maximum duration of seven minutes, including up to 10 items given to them on the first evening of the festival.

"Including the items into your film is worth points. Points are also awarded for good camera work, good acting, a good script and other filmmaking elements", Fallon said.

The finalists will be screened and prizes awarded at the National Museum of Australia on March 19.

Resources

Information and entry forms are available from here or by contacting the festival office on 6260 8100.

For additional information, contact Matthew Fallon on 6260 8100, 0417 318 995 or by email at matthew@eormedia.com.au
Sibling UC students are really cooking

John Martin

February 2005 In their home away from their home in Emu Ridge last year, Hong Kong student "Cynthia" Ying Chi Yu did most of the cooking and her brother, "Herbert" Hang Chi Yu, did a lot of the eating.

It is not hard to understand why.

Both graduated from the University of Canberra in December with Bachelor of Applied Science degrees.

But Cynthia, 22, studied nutrition and Herbert, 23, studied sports coaching.

Friday, December 17 was a big day for the Yu family and friends.

Mum Pansy and dad Kenny flew to Australia for the ceremony at Parliament House, and a number of friends from UC and CIT, which Herbert and Cynthia both attended for a year of bridging courses, were among the spectators.

For the record, Herbert said he CAN cook. He volunteered that he could "cook" "sandwiches", which provoked laughter from his sister.

She prefers to cook healthy food like lean pork or chicken or beef with rice or pasta and frowns at her brother's liking for Coca-Cola and fast food.

She said, however, that she did very little cooking when they were growing up in their 14th floor apartment in Hong Kong. That was left to mum.

And Herbert got a bit of a culture shock too when he came to Canberra and realised that he had lawn and garden to look after here.

He spent 10 "scary" minutes behind a lawn mower and has not tried to cut a blade of grass since. Even though they lived in the house at Emu Ridge for four years, they preferred to get a gardener in whenever the grass got too high.

Besides, Herbert kept himself quite busy.

Aside from studies, when the brother and sister locked themselves in their own rooms, he also worked 20 hours a week as a swimming coach for the Ginninderra Swim Club at the Canberra International Sport Aquatic Centre at Belconnen. It was only a few minutes' drive from home but he still had to be there at 6am to coach his squad of 20. It was a good way to work up an appetite.

Cynthia returned to Kong Kong with her parents on December 26 but hopes to return in a matter of years to begin a post-graduate course to qualify her to work as a dietician in hospitals.

Herbert planned to go home only for a month and return to coach swimming full-time before embarking on a Masters course at UC.

He did not say it, but he is probably looking forward to cooking sandwiches again.
Celebrating 25th anniversary of demise of Smallpox

John Martin

February 2005: When Canberra scientist Professor Frank Fenner and other World Health Organization officials declared to the world in 1979 that smallpox had been eradicated, UC colleagues Brett Lidbury and Suresh Mahalingam had no idea they would one day be asked to mark the milestone.

Smallpox, which emerged more than 3000 years ago, was one of the most devastating diseases known to humanity. Repeated epidemics swept across continents for hundreds and hundreds of years, killing millions of people. It caused a horrible, painful death. Every fourth victim died, and most survivors were scarred or blinded. Smallpox had no cure and it knew no class boundaries. The disease killed Queen Mary II of England, Emperor Joseph I of Austria, King Louis I of Spain, Tsar Peter II of Russia, Queen Viktoria Elenoia of Sweden and King Louis XIV of France.

In 1979, however, none of that mattered to the now Dr Lidbury, a senior lecturer at the University of Canberra. He was just 15 and was already interested in virology and biology, but had not stood-off on that track yet.

Dr Mahalingam, a senior lecturer at the University of Wollongong last year but at UC this year, was only 11.

The historical significance of the event - the endgame of many, many years of hard work by the WHO - was recognized in December by the London-based Trends in Immunology, which is read by immunologists, biomedical researchers and students and clinicians all over the world.

It did a special edition to mark the 25th anniversary of the end of the scourge, and Dr Lidbury and Dr Mahalingam, as prominent present-day virologists, contributed a 1500-word paper.

The importance of the announcement in 1979 is not lost on Dr Lidbury. "In thousands of years, humankind will look back on that achievement as very special," he said. "We're delighted to be invited to help celebrate the 25th Anniversary through writing this paper for Trends but it is Frank who should be highlighted. He's quite happy to stand back and let us write this, but you really should talk to him."

Dr Lidbury and Dr Mahalingam's paper for Trends in Immunology, also co-authored by Dr Inger Damon of the Centers for Disease Control in the United States, is a retrospective on poxvirus immunology since smallpox eradication. Dr Damon is chief of the poxvirology program at the Centers for Disease Control.

The paper asks the question: what have we learnt since? "The Trends Editors asked for an analysis on why research on an eradicated virus was necessary, and how such further work contributed to knowledge," Dr Lidbury said.

The short answer is that an enormous amount has been learnt about fundamental host-virus interactions, particularly how viruses counter immune responses after infection. Australian scientists have also led the way internationally on the delivery of immune genes using other types of poxvirus, including Myxoma virus for feral rabbit control.

Professor Fenner, now 90, is still a visiting fellow of the John Curtin School of Medical Research at ANU. He has rated the day he stood at the World Health Assembly and declared that smallpox had been eradicated globally as one of the proudest of his life.

From 1969 he was associated with the Intensified Smallpox Eradication Programme of the WHO, which is read by immunologists, biomedical researchers and students and clinicians all over the world.

The concept of the global eradication of smallpox was first proposed by the first Director-General of WHO, Canadian Dr Brock Chisholm, in 1953, so it was the realisation of a long-standing vision. WHO intensifies efforts in 1967, attacking country by country with a strategy of containment and research and better vaccine delivery.

1977 The last person known to have died from smallpox was in Somalia

1979 WHO officials declare smallpox has been eradicated.

2004 Immunology Trends issue 15th anniversary report reviewing lessons

 Resources

Trends in Immunology

Centers for Disease Control

TIMELINE

1000 BC - to 1950s

Smallpox epidemics affect humanity.

1953 Global eradication of smallpox first proposed by the first Director-General of WHO, Canadian Dr Brock Chisholm.

1967 WHO intensifies efforts in 1967, attacking country by country with a strategy of containment and research and better vaccine delivery.

1977 The last person known to have died from smallpox was in Somalia.

1979 WHO officials declare smallpox has been eradicated.

2004 Immunology Trends issue 15th anniversary report reviewing lessons
UC students keeps Soccer on level playing field

February 2005: At just 166cms, Chinese student Ka Man Chan looks like an unlikely person to control 22 testosterone-charged sportsmen.

But it’s a role she takes with aplomb at 2004 – serving both as a centre referee and linesperson in State League men’s games, women’s games, Kanga Cup children’s games and pre-season games.

Ka Man, who is a third-year Bachelor of Coaching Science student at the University of Canberra, officiated in about 160 soccer games for Soccer Canberra in 2004 – serving both as a centre referee and linesperson in State League men’s games, women’s games, Kanga Cup children’s games and pre-season games.

The men, no matter how big and how remonstrative, do not daunt her. They are, she says, very competitive and “they always argue”, especially when she gives an off-side decision.

But she is never swayed by their pleas to change her mind.

She is, quite clearly, the boss out there, albeit a diminutive one.

There are a handful of other women officiating in Canberra soccer. They train once a week at the Australian Institute of Sport and report for duty in two games each weekend.

It’s demanding stuff. Ka Min says she can expect to run between 8km and 10km as a centre referee (which she does about 70% of the time) and 4km to 5km as a linesperson each game. Over the season, that equates to about 1200km of running.

There’s no time for Ka Min to stop and catch her breath though.

She also plays volleyball, swims, coaches a basketball team and is one of the three coaches of the ACT girls under-23 basketball team that will contest a national carnival in Wollongong in February.

Phew.

In recognition of all that she was awarded the UC International House Trust Fund scholarship, which will pay for her boarding this year.

Ka Min went home to Hong Kong for the holidays but she planned to be back for the first kick-off. So, watch out guys.

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Monitor Online - Employee wins award for UCU services

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Employee wins award for UCU services

Andrew McLean: “It’s a good community feel here. It’s been interesting to watch the changes.”

On December 1, 2004, long-standing UCU employee Andrew McLean was recognised by the Australasian Campus Union Managers’ Association for his dedication and commitment to the job. The UCU nominated him for the award but was short of information about this very modest man. So John Martin interviewed him on the guise that he wanted to write a story for Monitor. When Andrew won the award, his reaction was: “That wasn't really for Monitor, was it?”

Um, well, actually Andrew it was.

February 2005: Andrew McLean remembers well his first Stone Day at the University of Canberra campus. It was in 1979, his first year as a student. But he is not about to share those memories of the end-of-year student celebration. “There are things I’m not going to tell you,” he says with a laugh.

What we do know, however, is that Andrew is still here at Bruce 25 years later. He came and went for the first few years (including time overseas) while he was doing a BA in Social Sciences. But he has worked continuously for the UCU for the past 17 years - first as Bar Manager, then Operations Manager and now Member Services Manager.

“I’ve experienced a lot of Stone Days since then.

“It’s an event that presents some challenges to university staff and helps students shrug their shoulders of the weight of studies.”

Hmmm.

Andrew, with his long service here, is in an ideal position to assess how things have changed. Students now spend less time on campus, possibly because many more of them have outside jobs, and that means, he says with a shrug of acceptance for changing times, they have less time to socialise and participate in clubs and societies that the UCU operates.

Andrew cut his teeth with UCU as a part-time barman in bygone days when it was not uncommon for UCU to have 300 students on its part-time books.

He thought his degree would lead him to a career as a research assistant or in the public service and scoffed when someone here told him that a person who spent three years in the hospitality industry would be unable to escape it. “No way,” Andrew had said.

Hmmm again.

But he has no regrets about still being in the industry.

The UCU, he says, is a great place to work and he has some great workmates.

“It’s a good community feel here. It’s been interesting to watch the changes.”

In 1986, the refectory was renovated, which brought with it the advent of the UCU conference centre and extended kitchens. In 1992, the Hub was built and that changed things even more.

The challenges have been many and keep on coming. “The challenges are as frequent as the students who come through.”

And that's obviously one of the attractions. The award was presented at the Australasian Campus Union Managers’ Association Conference Gala dinner at the Australian War Memorial on December 1, 2004.

The dinner was the culmination of the ACUMA conference that brought together universities and TAFEs from across Australia, New Zealand and Britain. It was held at the University of Canberra and hosted by UCU from November 28-December 1 2004.

The criteria for the award is that it be given each year to an member of staff who is dedicated and committed to the provision of outstanding campus service for members of their respective campus service organisation. The award is traditionally awarded to staff members who have made an ongoing commitment to a union, guild or student association over a number of years.
Chaplaincy co-ordinator Leonie-Ruth Acland indulges a passion.

Resources:
Harmony and Faith Project

For further information about Monitor Online, contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

Scientists focus on Cotter River

Kadie Pau

January 2005: Water management is high on the agenda for the University of Canberra and the Cooperative Research Centre for Freshwater Ecology (CRCFE) in the wake of drought and bushfires that have had a major impact on the ACT’s water catchment area. UC scientists within CRCFE are conducting ongoing research as an adaptive water management strategy, working closely with the ACT Government and ACTEW. “The information we gather is used by the ACT Government and ACTEW for the management of Canberra’s water supply and to meet commitments to protect the environment. It is an ongoing process where management goals are set and adapted, based on the information we supply,” researcher Professor Richard Norris said.

A project called Ecological Sustainability of Modified Environmental Flows in the Cotter River During Drought Conditions January 2003-April 2004, builds on work in the Cotter River region after the 2003 bushfires, studying their impact on Canberra’s water supply. Professor Norris, who heads the project, said the recent research examined the effects of current water management on water quantity and quality and the biological community. In particular, researchers have assessed the current ‘drought-flow’ program, which uses both variation in low flows and ‘flushing flows’ as means of mimicking natural river flows to protect the river ecology.

The study has shown that environmental flows are necessary to maintain healthy habitats downstream of dams. Large dams inhibiting drought effects for the river downstream, and the practice of regulating varying the base flow and periodically releasing water, known as flushing flows, helps the aquatic communities survive the drought. “The drought flows regime has been largely effective in maintaining the condition of the Cotter River similar to that of nearby rivers that are also affected by the drought conditions. However, in the long term the ecological condition of the river may not be maintained under the current regime.”

According to Professor Norris, varying the base flow has no overall cost on water released, and the addition of flushing flows is a comparatively small but very sound investment for sustaining healthy rivers. “The current environmental flow licence requires about 30 gigalitres per year to be released to the Cotter River but this can be changed when storages reach critical levels. With the drought-flow program in use, only 9 gigalitres of water are released in a year, so the environment has taken a major cut in water just as the people of Canberra have.”

Team members working on the UC Cotter project:
Richard Norris, Martin Thoms, Mike Peat, Fiona Tingle, Fiona Dyer (now at Horsham, Victoria), Anne Baume (who was visiting from Germany), Heath Chester (now with Environment ACT), Tom Falloon (now working on Kangaroo Island, SA), Taylor Booth, Fraser Morris, Michelle Webb, Euan Hanmore, Emil Larse.
UC poet comes to Nannup

John Martin

22 Jan 2005: The 40 folk at the Nannup Bowling Club were very polite and hospitable, Jen Webb recalls, but the poets who came to the tiny West Australian town to read their work last year obviously moved to a different beat.

"It doesn't rhyme" was a puzzled whisper around the hall as the poets recited their work.

Nannup, population 600 and three hours from Perth, was the smallest port of call for Dr Webb on the Five Islands Press New Poets 10 Roadshow in August.

For two weeks the group drove from Sydney to Bowral to Canberra to Wagga Wagga to Melbourne to Swan Hill to Gawler to Adelaide to Nannup to Albany and to Perth, reading their work at writing clubs, libraries and pubs and clubs along the way.

Dr Webb an associate professor at the School of Creative Communication, has been writing poetry seriously for the past 15 years and has been published widely but never in a poetry collection of her own.

Ditto the other five "new" poets - Lucy Alexander, of the ACT, Janine Fraser, of Swan Hill, Katarina Konkoly, of Brisbane, Miriam Wei Wei Lo, of Perth, David Musgrave, of Sydney.

Five Islands Press, an independent publisher specialising in contemporary Australian poetry, published a book for each of them as well as an anthology and then they hired two cars in Sydney, with editor Ron Pretty, loaded the boots with luggage and books to sell and set out to cross the country.

"We came to know each other and each other's work quite well," Dr Webb said.

The days were long and tiring. They all took two-hour turns at the wheel and they were typically on the road for seven hours before checking into a hotel and then performing for 10 minutes each.

All the stops were memorable - from the opening night when 300 people crammed into Glee Books in Sydney.

By contrast, the night in Gawler was held in a pub, where the poets performed in a smoky haze and competed with a jukebox nearby.

Nannup was settled in the 1850s and according to the local tourism web site a visit to the town is "like stepping back in time."

But it will surely linger long into the future in the memories of the poets who came to town.

January 22, 2005

From Dr Jen Webb's book in a New Poets series, entitled Proverbs From Sierra Leone

What the Pumpkin Knows

By Jen Webb

What is it they say in Sierra Leone?
- There is nothing about the inside of the pumpkin that the knife doesn't know.
Nothing about the knife that the pumpkin can't forget.

Every evening, so routine another small colloquial crime. Another curfewed massacre. And then the cleaning up. The question in the news and her eyes on screen.

The journo asks:
Which is worse: guns or planes?

Her eyes on screen. Not mine.
Not my son.
My house, my yard not mine;
my son, not mine

And what is it they say in Sierra Leone?
"For a funeral, any kind of crying will do."

Resources

More about Nannup
School of Creative Communication
Five Islands Press

For further information about Monitor Online, contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Last Updated on August 1, 2005
Fox eradication in Tasmania

Kaddie Pass

January 2005: The Fox, the Cat, the Devil reads like the title of a child’s action book. It is in fact the title of a UC research project on eradicating Tasmania’s feral foxes and the pest.

The project is jointly funded by the University of Canberra and its industry partners, Environment ACT, the Australasian Invasive Animal CRC and the Tasmanian Government.

The 12-month research project follows on from work carried out by UC scientists, Oliver Berry and Dr Stephen Sarre on locating foxes using DNA markers so they can be targeted for eradication.

Researchers in the joint project include Dr Stephen Lapidge from the Australasian Invasive Animal CRC and Mr Nick Mooney of the Fox-Free Tasmania Taskforce.

According to Oliver Berry, foxes were only recently introduced illegally to Tasmania with the first sighting in 2001, when a fox was shot in the north of the island.

“This deliberate introduction could become a major disaster, not only environmentally but agriculturally and financially.”

With the number and distribution of foxes unknown, eradication of the pest has proven difficult. The identification and location of foxes through DNA testing of animal droppings is an effective method of tracking fox distribution.

“Obtaining the information has been a challenge as the fox is an elusive creature with low population densities and the ability to disperse widely and quickly. Because of this it is often more effective to track scats, the faeces left by the foxes,” Oliver said. “This gives us a longer window of time in which to ‘sight’ foxes in any given location so we can map their distribution and so better target control operations.”

In 2003 Oliver and Stephen worked together on developing a DNA-based test that distinguishes fox scats from those of other Tasmanian carnivores such as quolls, devils and feral cats. They now have expanded this test so that it can identify all large carnivores in Tasmania.

Oliver said that an additional benefit of the research has been the ability to track native carnivore populations.

“Tasmania is unique in that it is the only place in Australia that still has an intact assemblage of large native carnivores. From previous research carried out at the University of Tasmania it’s been found that devils are in decline, for instance, but that quolls are doing well. Our tools may help monitor these trends in the future.”

Oliver said the use of DNA markers offered great potential in the study of pest animals and wildlife.

“Through extensive testing we have found the DNA markers to be highly accurate and would be a cost-effective way of identifying a species.”

Results of the research are due to be completed and submitted for publication in February and, according to Oliver, will have significant benefits to pastoralists, wildlife and the tourism industry.
UC wins $1M healthcare project bid

Kaddie Pass

**January 2005:** Director of University of Canberra’s National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM), Professor Ann Harding, has won a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grant for the University of Canberra to participate in a major Australian Health Care System project.

The $3.5 million project, *Modelling the Economics of the Australian Healthcare System for Policy Analysis* will be administered by Monash University over five years. UC will receive $1 million in funding over five years for its part in the project.

The program will develop a suite of economic models that will be capable of providing timely and relevant analysis any major health policy options or issues.

The models will benefit both government and academia by providing expertise in the field of health economics through the use of sophisticated quantitative tools of analysis.

The project, through a PhD and postdoctoral program to be developed in partnership with government, clinicians and industry, will also increase the capacity of quantitative health economics in Australia.

Such capacity building will help provide answers to key questions relating to health services, health promotion and illness prevention.
News and feature stories 2004

DECEMBER 2004

Medical science student wins our top award
A student, described by her lecturers, as without a doubt the most academically gifted student they had seen in 30 years of teaching has been honoured with the University of Canberra's most prestigious award, the Herbert Burton Medal.

NOVEMBER 2004

Come November
About 30 guys from University of Canberra let their moustaches grow long in November. But it wasn't to raise hell, it was to raise money for a good cause.

UC Tourism Management graduate gets feet wet
One of the new faces of the Canberra convention industry, Cathryn Hendrickson, leads a double life that begins most days when her alarm clock goes off at 3.50am.

Amy attracts tourism award
A bit more than two years ago, “Amy” Xu Xiaodong spent her working days fixing electronics on passenger aeroplanes in Shenyang in north-east China.

UC clothes designer finds way to beat jobless queues
Finding decent work as a migrant can be almost impossible, so University of Canberra student Sifundo Kahonde avoided job knock-backs and started his own business, Rebecca Stones reports.

Long, hot days don't worry Indonesian town planners during Ramadan
Eighteen Indonesian town planners on a three-month AusAID-funded course at UC did not have to suffer through hot afternoons in class during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, John Martin reports.

Family's fire tragedy retold in award-winning Documentary
Clare Young was at her boyfriend's 21st birthday when bushfires swept through her family's horse agistment property 10 minutes out of Canberra, on January 18, 2003. Unable to get home due to roadblocks, Clare waited while her family fought the devastating firestorm.

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