Monitor Online - Latest news and feature stories

Updated February 9, 2005

Events calendar

Vice Chancellor

Columns


Volunteers overcame their initial nerves to abseil off Building 5 to help fourth year Physical Education.

Industrial design win for University of Canberra

ACT Liberal Senator Gary Humphries concedes some student services might be lost under Voluntary.

Liberal Senator: VSU for better services

The seaside and rural hosts of Bega Rotary club won the hearts of twelve University of Canberra.

Anne Whish-Wilson. (May 2005)

Dance used to relax staff and students at UC

UC Art Curator, Johanna Owens, will conduct an art tour on 19 May, visiting various artworks around the to perform a remembrance ceremony for women taken by breast cancer.

Dragon boats silent for a moment

Helen's evaluation considered outstanding

Coordinator, Taree Brearley, explains that the project offers students the opportunity to equip themselves with the skills and knowledge to recognise and respond when someone is in crisis.

Student's better equipped thanks to SIP (Suicide Intervention Project)

The film 'Rabbit Proof Fence' was shown at a free screening on Monday 23 May, as part of UC's 2005 Journey of Healing 2005

Funding has been secured for the establishment of the Health Artists Talk

Meet the artist Patsy Payne, a recent speaker for the School of Creative Communications'

'Allo 'Allo: The Players Company's latest gourmet treat

A group of second-year architecture students got a taste of the career that awaits them on a three-day A Vision of success

Fidget your way to healthy working

Not all fonts created equal

Education expert appointed Chancellor

UC farewells foundation staffer...sort of

New head backs communication (and keeps lollies)

A multimillion dollar clinical trial involving a University of Canberra academic is likely to make a Geography book maps out privacy, technology and law

Library 'takes responsibility' through protocols

The University of Canberra's newly-formed National Centre for Biometric Studies has just completed the as the National Campus Band Comp hits the University of Canberra.

Scholarship offers experience and cash

The need to bead

A Vision of success

Year 12 students from schools around Canberra were given a taste of the University has to offer last Cooperation is the best strategy when it comes to establishing a tourism program that will stand out in a UC audiences impress visiting scholar

The Schools and Community Centre has come "full circle" with its literacy team made up entirely of

Four University of Canberra students hope to clean up with their waterless car-washing service.

Cyclists stop at UC en route from Perth to Sydney

Fijian appointment for professor

Guests at Healthpact opening quizzed on health

International students to sell ACT science at home

TEDS opens its doors

Graduate helps drug and alcohol users find a sense of belonging

Why Jason Corney wants your Pringles containers

Fish expert lands award

Carole Kayrooz reflects on time at University

Professor sails north to new role

Ex students are stars of Canberra film scene

'Framework' for software system stands out

Lecturer examines headscarf debate

Talk explores painter's evolution

Education students get creative for book project

Customs team wins export award

Staff and students graduate from suicide intervention project

X-ray software among research at student showcase

Curtain up on short film extravaganza

University-owned design biennial launched

Flying start for new mosquito-borne virus team

Players promise a heavenly treat

Project examines division of labour in PNG highlands

Volunteers sought for vital movement movies

ARC grant to analyse sources of courtroom prejudice

There's still time to leave your gift under the uni tree

Giving tree to spread cheer to needy

Day on campus gives potential students taste of uni life

National award for creative writing WebCT

High-ranking Chinese MBA 'in good company'

University recovers from December storms

DECEMBER 2005
Campus shows scars of wild weather's fury

Edward O'Daly

13 December 2005: The University is recovering following the storm that tore through Canberra on 2 December, but reminders of the power of nature still litter the campus.

In what facilities and services director, Neville White, described as "very targeted and specific line of damage", the Friday afternoon storm left a narrow trail of devastation that is unlikely to leave "much change from $300,000" to put right.

Immediately after the storm, the entrance to the gym is obscured by a huge fallen tree

Thankfully there were no injuries, although staff in the gym (building 4) took refuge in a side office as debris rained down on the building, smashing windows and ripping open parts of the roof.

Sections of the roof of building 3 were recovered at building 23.

Facilities staff worked late into Friday night to make buildings safe and secure, while grounds staff and contractors sacrificed their weekends to get the University in working order for staff returning to work on Monday. Late last week the first team members were able to take a well-earned day off.

"By the time people came into work on Monday there was nothing like the damage that was there on Friday night," Mr White said.

"It was an excellent response."

The storm front battered buildings 3, 4, 12, 15 and 23 and felled an estimated 50 trees, according to facilities manager, Neville Checksfield, who was half way to Batemans Bay when the storm hit and he was called back to help spearhead the response.

The wild weather spared neighbouring Radford College, but Calvary Hospital took the full force of its specific fury.

Mr Checksfield praised the work of his colleagues and said it was fortunate the storm hit while the campus was quiet.

The clean up is largely complete, with buildings made safe and secure, and the University is awaiting the green light from insurers to begin repairs.

To report storm damage, email: maint@adminserver.canberra.edu.au with "Storm Damage" as the subject title.
Chancellor prepares for 88th and final graduation

Edward O'Daly

13 December 2005: Wendy McCarthy has shaken many hands in her time as Chancellor of the University of Canberra and when this year's round of conferring of degrees wraps up next week, she'll have attended a wrist-numbing 88 graduation ceremonies.

Ms McCarthy, who became Chancellor 10 years ago following three years as a member of the University Council, chaired her final Council meeting last week. She will conclude her duties as Chancellor at the last graduation of the year on Wednesday evening.

"It's a wonderful part of the job - everyone's happy and feeling a sense of accomplishment," she said.

She noted an encouraging increase in the diversity of the University's graduates over her period as Chancellor, with a far greater mix of ages and ethnicities accepting testamurs from her than when she started.

"This is a particularly pleasing part of the evolution of the University."

She said that just as the University and the higher education sector as a whole had changed radically over the last 10 years, the role of the Chancellor has also developed from a "ceremonial and decorative" position to one concerned with governance and leadership. She has embraced this aspect of the job and the chance to contribute to and shape higher education and help the University to be an important part of the sector, she said.

"You can't sit on top of an organisation of the size and complexity that a university is and just assume you are a token ceremonial person," she added.

While being Chancellor of the University has been a "wonderful experience", Ms McCarthy said she had promised herself she would spend a maximum of 10 years in the job.

In addition to continuing her consultancy work, Ms McCarthy hopes stepping down as Chancellor will free up more time for her to write.

The Vice-Chancellor, Roger Dean, said Ms McCarthy had been "great personal mentor and discussant" to both the Vice-Chancellors she had worked with.

"She has made a massive contribution to the University since 1992 and as Chancellor since 1996," Professor Dean added.
High-ranking Chinese MBA 'in good company'

Edward O'Daly

13 December 2005: The University of Canberra's joint MBA program with a Shanghai university has been ranked the fourth most influential in China by a leading Chinese management journal.

World Executive Weekly ranked the MBA, which is run jointly with the Shanghai East China University of Science and Technology, alongside Chinese programs run with American and European partners including Stanford University.

"We are in very good company," director of the University's Chinese Management Studies Unit, Jules Wills, said.

Dr Wills added the recognition was a reflection of the quality of the course's reputation and the students it attracts.

Student Hu Yuejun, chief representative of German firm VAUTID-VERSCHLEISS-TECHINK, said he had decided to do an MBA to add management expertise to his existing technical skills and selected the MBA out of "a lot of choices for MBA courses" based on its reputation, quality and tuition. He felt the course was worthy of the award for its "elaborate planning, organising and implementation".

"The new ranking will surely make the MBA course more influential resulting in attracting more talented new students. Therefore the quality of the course will be improved more and the MBA graduates will become more welcome and valuable," he added.

Rankings were based on surveys employing commodity market satisfaction as well as human resources management of the joint MBA program, the quality of the teaching system and program management, the qualifications of students, the social prestige of the program, the teaching and learning environment of the institutes, graduates' satisfaction with the programs, and employers' satisfaction with MBA graduates.

More than 250 students have graduated from the program since it began on 1999, with 30 students planning to make the trip to next week's graduations at Parliament House.

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

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Mythical map wins online teaching prize

Jessica Rodgers

**13 December 2005**: The University of Canberra has won a distance learning award for an online course that guides writing students on a journey through a mythical world and teaches them en route.

The course, which was designed for the unit Writing for Young People, part of the Master of Creative Writing course, won the Open and Distance Learning Association of Australia (ODLAA) Excellence in Practice award for 2005.

Professor of children's literature, Belle Alderman, and the team from TEDS (Technology and Educational Design Services) created the WebCT package that allowed the subject to be delivered completely online.

Professor Alderman said, "The web designers wanted something visual to inspire them."

"Someone once said, 'the road to publication is a dangerous and perilous journey.' So we used this visual metaphor of a journey."

Each subject area of the package is a different part of the 'journey', there is an aerial view of the subject placed on a Tolkien-esque map featuring mountains, caves, potholes, winding roads and rivers.

The subject featured online discussion with questions derived by children's book publishers and a debate about the ethics of writing for young adults.

Professor Alderman said it was very special for the University to win the "major national" award.

Deborah Veness, head of TEDS, was the project manager.

"One of the people who judged the award said, Belle created the magic and we set it free,” Ms Veness said.

Ms Veness said the package won because it is good from every perspective.

"It is very sophisticated for WebCT. It is also very sophisticated from the pedagogical perspective. It demonstrates that the product from a team of people can be much better than what any one person can create."

The web and graphic design team for the project was Matt Bacon, Sue Bebbington and Peter Delgado. The instructional designers were Wendy Meyers and Stuart Fletcher.

Professor Alderman was also recently awarded the Distinguished Services Citation by The Children's Book Council of Australia for long and distinguished services to the national council.

As a child Professor Alderman used to lend out her books. "I ran my own little library,” she said. "I used to glue a little pocket in the back of the books and charge fines if people returned their books late.”

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

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Chinese statisticians make flying visit for seminar

Edward O'Daly

13 December 2005: A group of top Chinese statisticians made a fleeting two-and-a-half-hour visit to the University last week to attend a specially-arranged seminar.

Organised by the University's Professional Management Program, the seminar gave the 19 regional and central directors from the China National Bureau of Statistics the chance to study with staff from the discipline of mathematics and statistics. Topics covered were: economic input-output models, stock correlations and stock clusters, using Australian data sets and Excel and Matlab software.

In a matter of hours the delegation was back on the road for its tour of Australian sites and seminars.
Trio of trios compete at triathlon

Jessica Rodgers

13 December 2005: Less than three minutes separated the finishing times of the first University of Canberra information and communication technology (ICT) department team and the third at the inaugural Phillips Fox Government & Business Triathlon. Overall the three teams placed 50th, 52nd and 65th out of 102 teams at the event on 4 December.

From left to right standing: Leanne Groom, Matej Osvald, Terence Kearns, Sam Bingell, Chris Lawrence, Trevor Ryan, Tim Fletcher. And kneeling down from left to right: Jason Corney and Marlies Farrugia.

The triathlon involved a 200m swim, a 10km cycling race and a 2km run, with those competing fortunate to experience fine weather with very little wind.

"The water was quite cold though but us swimmers found little sympathy from the others," the ICT service desk’s Trevor Ryan, who organised for the department to participate, said.

There was a mix of genders in the teams with ages ranging from 20 to 43. Mr Ryan thought it would be a team building exercise for employees of the department to get involved, although team members trained individually due to short notice.

"The cyclists, they ride to work," Mr Ryan said.

"The swimmers can go to the pool on their own and the runners, they can run at home."

This was the first race in two summers for Mr Ryan, who was involved in triathlons for a number of years until he recently had to stop due to an injury.

"I would really like to thank all those that participated," Mr Ryan said.

"It was a bit daunting to some but in the end they found out there really was nothing to worry about and all appeared to have a great time competing as a team with their fellow work colleagues."

Mr Ryan said the department is looking into taking part in future triathlons.

The entries were funded by director of the ICT department, Chris Radnell, and the Pro Vice-Chancellor of Research and Information Management, Andrew Cheetham.

How the teams performed:

ICT Admin: 40:18
Sam Bingell (swim): 3:48
Terence Kearns (bike): 26:12
Leanne Groom (run): 10:18

ICT Service Desk: 40:33
Trevor Ryan (swim): 3:05
Tim Fletcher (bike): 27:24
Marlies Farrugia (run): 10:04

ICT Desktop Services: 43:08
Chris Lawrence (swim): 5:49
Jason Corney (bike): 26:33
Matej Osvald (run): 8:46

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

Student journalist wins industry prize

Edward O'Daly

13 December 2005: A graduating journalism student has some extra spending money for her trip to China thanks to the Australian Press Council.

Amelia Conti's post-university tour of the Asian powerhouse will mean she misses graduation, but the "quality of her scholarship and involvement in a range of journalism activities" has earned her the Council's $350 prize.

In previous years the prize has been awarded for an essay on a topic of interest to the Council, but this year journalism departments in selected Australian universities were allowed to nominate outstanding students, journalism course convenor Jennifer Kitchener said.

Ms Kitchener explained the prize was designed to encourage the serious investigation of the freedom and the responsibility of the press by tertiary students.

She said Ms Conti's involvement in online student publication NowUC and the Division of Communication & Education's staff newsletter had helped her win the prize.
Show goes on despite storms

13 December 2005 University of Canberra Chorale presented its annual performance of Handel's 'Messiah' on Friday 2 December at the All Saints Anglican Church in Ainslie.

After a violent storm struck Canberra, the power was restored in time for the Chorale's standing-room-only performance.

A small orchestra, led by violinist Tim Wickham, provided the music for the performance, which featured about 40 members of UC Chorale. The soloists and orchestra were directed and conducted by University of Canberra Music Society director David W Tattersall.

This was the third time UC Chorale, a 60-voice community choir made up of teachers, students and community members, had performed the 'Messiah'.

The Chorale, part of the University's Music Society, had been rehearsing for the 'Messiah' for four months.

"Traditionally the 'Messiah' is performed by a much larger group, " chorister Heather Douglas said.

"It is a big sing, particularly from the Soprano section. The audience response to the 'Hallelujah Chorus' was wonderful. "

Ms Douglas joined UC Chorale a few years ago when she heard it was going to sing the 'Messiah.'

"Singing keeps you young," she added.

"It's good for your health. You have to listen and remember the words so it's good for your brain."

In June 2006 the UC Chorale will perform Haydn's 'Nelson Mass' and Vivaldi's 'Gloria'.

Another branch of the UC Music Society, UC Camerata, will be preparing Madrigals from 16th & 17th centuries.

'Les Miserables' in-a-day will be performed by the UC Student Singers in March 2006.

The UC Music Society welcomes new members for all choirs.
Day on campus gives potential students taste of uni life

Edward O'Daly

13 December 2005: The chance to 'try before you buy' was offered to applicants to the Division of Health, Design and Science, with a series of 'Student for a Day' activities giving them a taste of university life.

Potential psychologists, environmental scientists and human biologists, who have identified University of Canberra among their study preferences, were invited to spend a day on campus to experience what the future might hold.

In addition to a campus tour and the chance to meet staff, potential psychology students attended 'mini-lectures' on 30 November and learned more about themselves by taking personality tests.

Last Tuesday the environmental scientists experienced science in the field with a trip to the banks of Lake Ginninderra and an introduction nature on campus.

Bones fleshed out what human biology had to offer as students got their hands on human skeletons in the lab on Wednesday.

The students enjoyed their brief introduction to the University, with potential environmental science student Jack Carr saying the University of Canberra was "trying the hardest" of the universities he was considering and this was likely to influence his decision.
Maintenance man says goodbye after 32 years

Jessica Rodgers

13 December 2005. Maintenance officer, Rod Dunstan has retired after 32 years at the University of Canberra.

Mr Dunstan, who has been with residential services for the last decade, applied for the position of maintenance/carpenter for the University after it was advertised in the paper in June 1973.

Today's campus is very different from the campus he did general building and carpentry on in the 1970s.

When he started there was only half of building one and three. There was building eight, the squash courts and the change rooms, building five was being built.

"I've seen it change a lot," he said.

About 10 years ago he was offered a position at residential services, where there wasn't a general maintenance officer and it was proving expensive to call in contractors to investigate minor problems.

Mr Dunstan undertakes a variety of jobs each day - on the day he spoke to Monitor he was dealing with a broken water tank.

"I unclog drains, ease locks and doors, and organise professionals to take care of bigger jobs. Everyday is different.

"I couldn't stay in an office for six months. I was acting property manager for four weeks and that drove me mad."

Mr Dunstan said the students are very friendly, although their lifestyle is very different from his own.

On one occasion he was called out to fix a door at one in the morning and the students invited him to join them for a drink.

"The were just going out at one am, I'd been in bed for hours.

"Most people are from different cultures - diversity of life, that's what I like about it."

Thirty five percent of students who live on Ressies are international students and Mr Dunstan said young men from Pakistan have the sense of humour closest to Australians.

"You can joke with them, pull their leg, talk about the cricket. Americans are the most gullible. I told this one boy that if he wanted to play golf he could put the clubs in a kangaroo's pouch and he would carry them along the fairway for him."

Mr Dunstan, who is planning a retirement trip to Canada, said he will also miss his colleagues.

"The people I work with are the best people I could ever wish to work with."

"I've really enjoyed working here," he said.
Smoking ceremony eases mourning

Kaddie Pass

6 December 2005: Family, friends and colleagues of student Clea Rose gathered on a hill on the outskirts of the University on 25 November for a traditional smoking ceremony, organised by Ngunnawal Centre staff member Paul Collis.

Mr Collis, second from right, said the ceremony would help “clean up” mourners’ spirits

Mr Collis, a member of the Barkindji Tribe from northwest NSW, offered her father, employment relations manager, Ross Dunn, and his family the ceremony, traditionally used by the Indigenous community to help in the process of healing, following the tragic accident that took Ms Rose’s life in August of this year.

Addressing a crowd of around 100 people, Mr Collis said smoking ceremonies are used to acknowledge a tragedy and to “clean our spirits up.”

“This helps us stay close,” he said. “For the family they’ll grieve for the rest of their lives - for the University it will acknowledge an end of mourning.”

Mr Dunn said the ceremony was a way of marking progress to healing and while his daughter would have expected mourning the loss of a loved one she would also have wanted people to get on with enjoying life.

At the reception after the ceremony, Australian Catholic University student Amy Banson, who administered first aid to Ms Rose after she was hit by a car in Civic, announced her plans for a project to raise money and awareness for those survivors who suffered brain injuries.

Ms Banson plans to walk from Canberra to Brisbane next year as a personal challenge and to help to raise funds for the National Brain Injury Association to upgrade its facilities.
Giving tree to spread cheer to needy

Kaddie Pass

6 December 2005: Staff and students gathered round to listen to some enthusiastic Christmas carol singing by the children of Wiradjuri and Kirinari Childcare centres on 22 November. The occasion was the launch of the 'Aussie Christmas giving tree' with donations of gifts going to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

Professor Dean, student Tracy Barralet and youngsters from the campus childcare centres get to work on the tree decorations

Photo: Kaddie Pass

Staff and students were invited to hang their personalised decoration on the Aussie tree, an acacia that was due to be removed and was donated by the University’s grounds people.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Roger Dean embraced the role of chief tree decorator with plenty of help from his little assistants. Representatives from the Salvation Army and the Canberra Community Services, who are responsible for distributing the gifts, also joined in the celebrations.

Organised by Lucy Blemings from the Spiritual Meeting Place in conjunction with the University’s Harmony Project, the Christmas giving tree is part of a string of multi faith festivals celebrated throughout the year to acknowledge the University’s culturally diverse community.

Unwrapped donations of children's gifts and non perishable food can be left under the tree, at the reception desk in Building 1 or at the Spiritual Meeting Place above the Refectory until Friday 9 December.

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

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Research examines how visual aids tip scales of justice

Gabby McMillan

29 November 2005 Visual technologies can be potentially prejudicial when used as evidence in the courtroom, according to criminology researcher David Tait.

Dr Tait and a diverse group of researchers will study the effect of visual evidence on juries and suggest guidelines which could make the process more clear-cut in a $350,000 Australian Research Council (ARC) project.

Dr Tait said using visual evidence has been an "ongoing debate for centuries because people react very differently to visual aids which can potentially lead to prejudice for the defence or prosecutor".

The research group will test the impact of visual technologies on samples of eligible jurors by conducting individual and group experiments over the next three years.

Dr Tait said the samples will be divided into groups of 12 to simulate a real jury; although half of the entire sample of jurors will be shown visual evidence and the other half won't.

This will allow them to see how people respond to visual stimuli, or lack thereof.

Dr Tait added they want to understand more about how aspects of the court environment - the smells, the air, the different feelings - impact on the jurors, although for the ARC project they will focus solely on the effects and use of digital visual technologies.

He predicts the use of holograms to simulate crime scenes will be used frequently in the not-too-distant future.

As part of the project, head of the School of Creative Communication, Greg Battye, will supervise two doctoral students as they flesh out the visual evidence guidelines or work on an example of a visual media which can be used in the upcoming mock-up jury group experiments.
Geography's impact on wellbeing to be investigated

Gabby McMillan

29 November 2005: The impact of where people live on their wellbeing will be investigated in a $750,000 Australian Research Council (ARC) project.

A network of researchers, including Ann Harding and Rachel Lloyd from the University's National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM), will work on the project, ‘Opportunity and Disadvantage: Differences in Wellbeing Among Australia's Adults and Children at a Small Area Level’, during the next five years.

The project aims to understand how wellbeing is influenced by where people live and nearby services the government provides.

By blending Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) survey data and census data, the group hopes to create new data about the characteristics of Australian households.

They will also link their data with various NATSEM models to make predictions about the impact of policy changes on people's wellbeing.

Professor Harding said this data will assist government policy makers to choose the appropriate services for regions and understand which regions need special assistance.

“If they have a fuller understanding of households then they can make better policy,” she said.

The new databases they create will be uploaded onto a website so the hundreds of researchers belonging to three of the newly formed ARC Research Networks can freely access their data.

Professor Harding said the database is a "very innovative step" and "fantastic for researchers because good spatial data is normally very expensive to access".

“Our data will be very unique and useful so it's great for the University of Canberra and for other researchers.”
Master wins medals after lifetime of rowing

Gabby McMillan


His father was the captain of a rowing team and he transferred his passion for competitive rowing to his son from the age of nine.

Five decades have passed but Mr Poke's rowing skills remain strong.

He has competed in four Australian Masters Games (AMG), receiving six rowing medals from the most recent in Adelaide in October: four gold, one silver and one bronze.

Mr Poke, 61, said he was pleased to win the medals although he admitted he wasn't expecting it.

He competed in races including the men's double scull, men's pair, mixed eight and the men's quad scull.

"I've never attempted so many events before so it was great to win in a variety of races," he said.

Mr Poke said the AMG has a "great atmosphere because it's an opportunity to catch up with old rowing friends".

"There's a unity there because rowing brings people together," he said.

"There's a human bonding aspect. I describe it as the quintessential team sport."

Mr Poke's interest in rowing extends to the classroom; he is currently writing a biography for former Olympic sculling champion Peter Antonie which he will also use for part of his Sports Studies Masters thesis.

Mr Poke said he chose to write about Antonie because he thinks he is "arguably the most successful rower and sculler Australia has ever produced".

"I've always admired his record and I feel he deserves more recognition than he's received," he added.

Mr Poke, a former journalist and media manager, said he enjoyed the journalistic aspects to the research, "digging around" for information from Antonie's friends, family, previous competitors and coaches.

Mr Poke hopes to publish his book in early 2006.
Award just the ticket for travel consultant

Gabby McMillan

29 November 2005: Final-year student Naomi Dale's goal of working in tourism may soon become reality after she received the student award at the Rhodium Canberra and Capital Region Tourism Awards on 4 November.

Ms Dale said she decided to study as a mature-age student because she wanted a degree to support her professional experience.

Ms Dale, 33, won the award for her submission that detailed her extensive contribution to the tourism industry and her future tourism career goals.

While completing her tourism degree at the University of Canberra, Ms Dale has juggled part-time work as a travel consultant with Britain and Europe Travel, competed in a debate about Canberra's tourism appeal and helped UCU's Club Tourism organise their trip to Bali.

Ms Dale said she felt “very shocked and excited” to win the award because it recognised her efforts in front of Canberra's tourism community.

Ms Dale said she is interested in working in government tourism so she can “get involved with the decision-making, planning and potential aspects of it”.

“Canberra tourism still has a way to go but it is getting busier and busier and I am really keen to get involved,” she said.

“There is such potential for growth here.”

Ms Dale said she decided to study as a mature-age student because she wanted a degree to support her experience.

“Canberra is such a professional town so it was great to learn more about theory and practices I had never considered,” she said.

“The course was very interesting; very relevant; very current...uni culture was great too.”

Ms Dale has travelled to various places including Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Thailand and Europe but hopes to travel to Africa in the near future.

She is currently looking forward to her graduation on 21 December where she can celebrate her academic achievements with friends and family.
Chaplaincies' multifaith future

29 November 2005: The Spiritual Meeting Place's Liz Brumer was one of a handful of non-Christian representatives at a recent Tertiary Campus Ministry conference. In conversation with the Monitor, she reflects upon the experiences and the challenges ahead.

Q. Have you attended a conference for university chaplains before?

A. Last year I attended the International Tertiary Campus Ministry Association Conference and I left with a heavy heart. I did not believe that the issues relating to multi-faith and multi-cultural challenges had been suitably addressed.

Q. Were they addressed at this conference?

A. This year's National Conference organisers should be proud of their inclusive approach. The conference addressed the multi faith issue from the outset creatively relating a circus theme through the events. The theme lightened up the issue and gave recognition of diversity and the way pastoral care workers and chaplains juggle university life and spirituality. Workshops covered Baha'i, Buddhist, and Islamic issues and challenges on campus for those of non mainstream faith groups. There were around 50 other delegates from all over Australia and New Zealand and of this number, three were B'hai, two Jewish and the remainder were from various Christian denominations. I felt accepted by the community and it was good to see education and interaction about multi faith issues at this level.

Q. Did you find any of the sessions particularly useful?

A. There were four key speakers at the conference, and the one that impressed me most was Peta Jones Petch, a Jewish educator of adult education at the University of NSW. As my passion in my personal and private life is to be aware of our common humanity, Peta demonstrated this to us through interaction and dialogue on how a universal vision surmounts the fundamental beliefs of the major religions and spiritual paths.

Q. Were you able to contribute some of the experiences of the University of Canberra to the conference?

A. My colleague Lucy Blemings and I conducted a workshop together and demonstrated how the synergy of a multi-faith team working together can organise events that are inclusive regardless of differences, such as International Peace Day.

Q. Where do you see university chaplaincies heading in the future?

A. In the future, university chaplains face new challenges. There are those who now choose to acknowledge their spirituality without claiming a formal religion. There are also those who continue to practice their faith within the established religions needing to accept that they are living in a multi-faith society where all religions must respect and tolerate each other. Chaplains need to be able to provide support to all these people.
Pressure Point - review

Edward O'Daly finds this polished political thriller to be both strikingly original and dependably familiar.

29 November 2005: There's an ad campaign on British TV for a varnish that "does exactly what it says on the tin". The slogan could equally be applied to Greg Baker's debut novel Pressure Point - it tells you what to expect and that's exactly what you get.

Just pick the book up and the cover design, the slightly generic title and the back cover blurb spell out what this political thriller has to offer. Start reading, and all the familiar ingredients are there: the extraordinarily capable hero, haunted by the memory of the failed mission that left a loved one dead; his aloof boss, an ex-military spymaster with a trophy classic car; the hero's friend, who stumbles across a conspiracy and is murdered; the ex-girlfriend, a plucky investigative journalist, who (reluctantly at first) becomes the hero's partner; and of course, the inevitable, and genuinely unpredictable, twists and turns one expects from the genre.

Set in the late 1980s, as apartheid is crumbling in South Africa and Australia’s intelligence services are under review, it follows Tony Martin, an agent of the fledgling Office of National Assessment, on the trail of white South African extremists, suspected of using outback Australia to train a guerrilla army.

Pressure Point's originality and its strengths lie in its inventive use of capital and rural locations and the authority with which Baker weaves his tale.

Canberra's bike paths, an everyday venue for healthy commuting, become the stage for a brutal assassination and a thrilling chase. The halls and lawns of Parliament House, Baker's own workplace, are the backdrop for more of the action.

The reader continually gets the sense that Baker knows his stuff, whether his hero is dodging murderous secret agents or escaping by Land Rover down a treacherous woodland track.

Pressure Point is a uniquely Australian - uniquely Canberran - thriller and a good read. Like the varnish, it delivers everything it promises and the results look pretty polished.

Win your own copy:

Pressure Point is a great summer read and we have a copy to give away. To be in with a chance, all you have to do is answer this simple question:

What is the currency of South Africa?

Email your answer to monitor@canberra.edu.au by 4pm on 6 December

*where more than one correct answer is received the winner will be chosen at random.

The editor's decision is final

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

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Citizens not leaders build democracy, says lecturer

Gaye Morrison

29 November 2005: It was standing room only at the inaugural Don Aitkin Lecture on Wednesday, 23 November, given by former Vice-Chancellor Don Aitkin himself.

The title of the lecture was "What Was It All For?" which is also the title of the latest book by Professor Aitkin.

Professor Aitkin said more than one reader had asked him to explain the title of the book, and he agreed that he provided no explanation but rather it is a question intended for the reader to answer.

In many ways, that was the focus of the lecture. Professor Aitkin wanted the audience to sit up, take notice and act in a way that might not have occurred had they not gone to the lecture.

Professor Aitkin touched on Australia as a nation state, contemporary Australia, the devaluing or politics and what can be done. A common theme of the lecture was that building a good society was a continuing process that never stops, and we can always build a better society than the one we have.

In the end, Professor Aitkin gave a challenge to all who attended that we should remember the past and not lose faith in our own capabilities. He pointed out that democracies are not built by leaders, but by citizens and we can make our democracy a better one.
Unity not ballot box for student elections

Rebecca Stones

15 November 2005: Former Students’ Association (SA) education vice-president Marc Emerson will soon takeover as president, but without the usual student body elections.

Mr Emerson said there was an election process with nominations for SA positions tendered, however there were a number of withdrawals after nominations closed, leaving enough candidates to fill positions and making an election unnecessary.

"The candidates, in light of VSU (voluntary student unionism), decided it was best not to go to a hard-fought election and divide the SA," Mr Emerson said.

"The result was probably the same as if we had an election."

Secretary of Council, Jenny Coggins, said there was one complaint the elections were not advertised in the student magazine Curio, as per the SA constitution.

However, she said this was dismissed as Curio was not in publication and the election was published on noticeboards. The complaint was also made outside the allowed timeframe.

Elections were still held for five positions in the National Union of Students, with Mr Emerson and former president Jennifer Newman winning positions.

Subsequent to the elections, the threat of VSU subsided slightly, with Nationals Senator Barnaby Joyce expressing concerns over the legislation, and demonstrating his power to cross the floor on 12 October.

While this eased immediate pressure on the SA, Mr Emerson said it had not changed his plan to consolidate the SA as much as possible.

"I will say this very clearly - VSU will happen, whether it be 2006 or 2007...and once it's here, it's here to stay."

Marc Emerson has been the SA education vice-president since 2002.

Former president Jennifer Newman has retained a position on the SA’s general committee. She has also secured a paralegal job at a civic law firm pursuant to her law degree.

The five representatives elected for the National Union of Students are:

- Kate Harkins
- Jennifer Newman
- Alys Graham
- Marc Emerson
- Michael Tomkins
Students' idea with heart helps amputees

Gabby McMillan

15 November 2005: Two University of Canberra physiotherapy students have won first place in the inaugural student division of the ACT Health Quality First awards with a project they completed for their degree earlier in 2005.

Second-year students Hayley Crawford and Leesa Allinson came up with a system to prevent complications at the site of an amputation following heart surgery.

Coronary bypass graft surgery can cause swelling in amputees, but the pair's new protocol involves the application of a shrinker (an elastic sock to compress the stump and minimise swelling) and regular monitoring of the stump after surgery.

Ms Crawford and Ms Allinson met with an amputee and hospital staff to help create the protocol.

Ms Crawford said working with a "real-life patient was a good experience and very helpful with the research for the project".

She said receiving the award was a "nice surprise" because the ACT acknowledged them as upcoming professionals.

"It was good because people recognised our hard work even though we haven't been around for a long time and we're still students," she said.

Ms Allinson said she was shocked because she had convinced herself they wouldn't have a chance.

"It was a real honour," she said. "Plus, we achieved what we wanted to achieve - a protocol to help people who are struggling in a small population that is often overlooked."

ACT Minister for Health Simon Corbell said nominees in the student category demonstrated commitment and enthusiasm for quality and safety within health services.

University of Canberra students Bruce Gilmore and Clint Frazer were also nominated in the student category.
Canberra wants your party ideas

Edward O'Daly

15 November 2005: The University community has been invited to submit its ideas to the taskforce in charge of Canberra's 100th birthday celebrations.

In 2013 the capital turns 100 and planning is underway for a suitable birthday party. Between now and 5 December the Centenary of Canberra Taskforce, made up of the present and former ACT Chief Ministers, is inviting the public to put forward ideas for the celebration.

"Reaching a century, in any situation, is a significant achievement. It marks a time to celebrate - and celebrate in style. And for our beautiful city, the national capital of Australia, turning 100 will be the biggest event in its history," project leader and secretary to Centenary Task Force, Lincoln Hawkins, said.

"We want people of all ages to contribute their ideas for the centenary in this early planning phase. As we know, there is no shortage of innovative thoughts on a university campus - particularly one like the University of Canberra where there is such a focus on creativity."

The University is already involved in the process, with graphic design students invited to come up with a logo for 'Canberra 100', the fifth University-owned Canberra Biennial: City of Architecture and Design scheduled for 2013 and preliminary discussions between the taskforce and the National Institute for Governance.

For more information visit www.canberra100.com.au
Coach gears cyclists for success

Gabby McMillan

15 November 2005: A University of Canberra lecturer's love of coaching has seen him train some of Australia's best cyclists, including former student and Barcelona Olympian Robert McLachlan.

Exercise physiologist Rob Aughey has coached various athletes for around 15 years and began coaching newly-formed professional cycling team, MG XPower- Bigpond earlier this year.

Mr Aughey designs training programs for 10 cyclists and travels to races throughout Australia with the team, including the recent Herald Sun Tour - a seven-day cycle race around Victoria.

Mr Aughey said working with the team is "fantastic" because they want to be challenged by his training programs.

"They expect the advice I'm giving them is as good as it can be," he said.

"They really put the pressure on me to make sure my knowledge is up to date."

The Korean Cycling Federation also invited Mr Aughey to educate and train with their coaches and cyclists for two weeks during the semester break.

Mr Aughey said Korea's cycling culture differs greatly from Australia, so he worked through an interpreter to give lectures to coaches and design and supervise training sessions for elite cyclists.

"It was a very rewarding experience because I was able to give the Australian perspective on cycling," he said.

While MG XPower-Bigpond didn't meet Mr Aughey's expectations of winning the Herald Sun Tour because of "sickness, injury and mechanical issues", he says the team is going to this month's Tour of Southland race in New Zealand "to win it".

"Everyone is training really hard," he said. "We will be quite disappointed if we don't win overall."
Patients offered role in training future physios

Edward O'Daly

15 November 2005. Sufferers of neurological disorders are being offered the chance to help train the physiotherapists of the future.

Physiotherapy lecturer Deborah Carrera is compiling Australia's newest video database of people whose movement has been affected by conditions including stroke, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease and brain and spinal injuries.

The footage will help teach the University of Canberra's physiotherapy students to identify different neurological problems by watching a patient's movement.

"By coming forward to help us with this, people with neurological disorders are ensuring there continue to be health professionals with the skills to identify and treat their movement disorders," she said.

Ms Carrera explained older physiotherapy courses would collect this material over the years, but as a young course the University of Canberra program had the chance to collect Australia's most up-to-date collection of footage.

Participants will be filmed doing everyday movements such as walking, climbing stairs, standing, sitting and moving around on a bed.

The film will be used in classes and examinations at the University. All film would be digitally stored in a confidential manner and used only for the purposes of teaching at the University of Canberra, Ms Carrera said.

Among the volunteers is Weetangera woman, Sheree Robens, whose movement has been seriously affected after sustaining head injuries in a car accident. The fourth anniversary of the accident, which left her in a coma for four months, was on Friday.

"I thought if it's going to help other people then I might as well volunteer," she said.

Those volunteers who wish to make a further contribution to physiotherapy training and research, can put their names forward for future studies.

Volunteers should call: 02 6201 5955

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

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Taking women's autonomy to market

Gabby McMillan

15 November 2005: Since researching women's role in marketing fresh produce in Papua New Guinea (PNG), University of Canberra employee Taree Brearley believes training communities about gender equality is essential.

Ms Brearley's masters paper, "Increasing the Autonomy of Women as a Means to Improving Community Well-being and Facilitating Development: An Exploratory Study in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea" examines strategies to improve working conditions for women in PNG.

Her research is part of a project conducted by the Australian Institute for Sustainable Communities (AISC) aiming to advance the marketing system for fresh produce in the highlands of PNG.

Ms Brearley said women are the primary producers, transporters and sellers of fresh produce in PNG, yet they are seen as subordinate and "relatively powerless" which results in an "unfair division of labour for them".

"Women grow the produce and they know they can make some money for their family so they grow extra and take it to the local or roadside markets and sell it," she said.

"It's very hard work, there are issues with safety and the communication system is limited. They don't have a good understanding of how marketing works and we're trying to change that."

Some of the strategies Ms Brearley recommends include increasing communication, running gender awareness workshops and introducing 'consolidation depots', which allow women to take their produce to a collection point near their home to be transported to market.

Ms Brearley was told by PNG men and women in 2004 that gender awareness training workshops had "resulted in more respect for women in the villages".

"What we want to do is get financial backing so more positive changes can take place. The recommendation from the people I've spoken to is to have more 'gender awareness training'."

"It's really great because people are going to use my results," she said. "Now there can be a focus on fixing the situation for women in PNG."
Life of myth and mystery for cult author

University of Canberra graduate and writer Garth Nix has sold almost two million copies worldwide of his cult-fantasy novels, yet he's still focused on writing the best books possible, writes Gabby McMillan.

8 November 2005: Garth Nix remembers his time at the University of Canberra well. He'd survived "11 months and one day" with the public service and had returned from travelling for a year before deciding to complete a writing degree.

"I was always writing," he said. "I thought I might as well get an undergraduate degree at the same time."

Mr Nix's novels have an international cult following

For his 1986 final year writing project, Mr Nix submitted a story which eventually, after much addition and editing, was published as 'The Ragwitch' in 1991.

Mr Nix admits 'The Ragwitch' wasn't the most successful book at the time, but he continued to write; eventually writing a book which has never been published.

Literary limelight

But his second published book 'Sabriel' bumped Mr Nix into the literary limelight in 1995.

While Mr Nix describes it as a "slow starter", 'Sabriel' and the 'Old Kingdom' trilogy have now been read by millions of people around the globe.

While Mr Nix describes it as a "slow starter", 'Sabriel' and the 'Old Kingdom' trilogy have now been read by millions of people around the globe.

Readers are waiting impatiently for the final few editions of 'The Keys to the Kingdom series', with the fourth instalment due out in Australia, America and the United Kingdom in March 2006.

Mr Nix is currently writing the fifth book in the series from his Sydney office.

With the added luxury of working as a full-time writer for almost four years, Mr Nix said he is now able to juggle more than one project.

"While the extra time is a luxury, it's important to remember my other books were written while I was also working," he said.

'Like a job'

"I do appreciate having the time though. I treat it like a job. I spend the mornings doing admin, business; interviews things like that, then in the afternoon I write."

Treating writing "like a job" is disciplined. Mr Nix said his inspiration comes from "sitting down and making stuff happen because it doesn't just appear".

"If I waited for inspiration to strike I'd never get anything done," he said.

While his novels are mostly of the fantasy/adventure genre, Mr Nix said he hopes people read them on "different levels".

"While they are imaginative and fast-paced, I like to think there is more to them than that," he said. "If all the action was taken away, I like to think strong, emotional storylines would still stand strong."

Mr Nix joked his mother was pregnant with him when she read Lord of the Rings so "perhaps his love of fantasy came from then".

"No, honestly, I always have loved tales of the fantastic," he said. "My parents read me the Hobbit when I was young and I loved it."

With such a worldwide cult following, it isn't surprising Mr Nix has been contacted by producers eager to take his novels to the big screen, but he is yet to find the right combination.

"There have been offers, and I do have a film agent, but they just haven't been the right offers for me," he said. "I've always said I'd rather have no film than a bad film."
Players promise a heavenly treat

Gabby McMillan

8 November 2005: The Players Company director Jasan Savage chose BBC favourite 'The Vicar of Dibley' for the 2005 Christmas show after he read the scripts and "nearly fell out of bed laughing".

Mr Savage will direct a cast of seven including local performer Emma White, University of Canberra graduate Victoria Allen and newcomer Peter Holland.

While the television version of 'The Vicar of Dibley' was a hit with audiences worldwide, Mr Savage said he isn't feeling nervous about audience expectations - quite the opposite.

"I actually feel relaxed because I know this show will work," he said.

"The writing is just so outright funny and when you put good acting on top of that it's the icing on the cake.

"It's a very funny play, well-written, hysterically funny lines, it's been a huge smash hit on television, everybody knows it, everybody loves it and I'm sure they're going to come and enjoy it."

Mr Holland, who stars as Hugo Horton, said he is enjoying the thrill of acting and is excited about performing in such a "wonderfully-scripted production".

"There are two things I really love about acting," Mr Holland said.

"When you have rehearsals you meet people from totally different walks of life who you'd normally never meet...there's also an incredible buzz when you're performing."

Ms Allen, who has performed in more than 10 productions, stars as Alice the Verger.

She said juggling full-time work with rehearsals is tiring but worthwhile.

"I'm choosing to do this for fun, so coming to rehearsals is exciting and what I really want to be doing," she said. "It's a good way to end your day."
Frog design leaps to top of class

Edward O'Daly

8 November 2005: There was some frantic last minute decision-making before Cassandra Balding settled on a design to enter in the Tertiary to Work poster competition, but she chose well: her design won.

Each year the Tertiary to Work careers fair invites students from the University of Canberra and the Canberra Institute of Technology to submit a design, with the winner being used on posters, t-shirts, fridge magnets and flyers. The winners were recognised at a ceremony on Friday.

Ms Balding said while it was great to win the $400 prize money, the best prize was to see her work given a real life application.

"The thing I'm most excited about is being able to walk past a poster and say that I designed it," she said.

"I am very excited that I have won this, as it will be great for my portfolio and my future career."

The University's careers manager joined her opposite numbers from Canberra's other tertiary institutions for the "fun task" of judging the entries.

"While all the posters met the criteria in varying degrees, Cassandra's poster had terrific visual impact, plus a sense of fun and movement," she said.

"This will attract the attention we want in order to advertise the 2006 Graduate Careers Fair on 16 March at the Australian Institute of Sport."
University welcomes new Australian

Edward O'Daly

8 November 2005: A Sudanese public relations student became one of Australia's newest citizens last month.

Alex Donato, who fled his war torn homeland in 1991 and found refuge in Australia two years ago, was formally granted citizenship at a ceremony held at the ACT Legislative Assembly on 28 October.

Mr Donato said at first he did not feel any different with his new nationality.

"The difference is when I reflect back and see how I came here - and now I have the privilege of being an Australian citizen," he said.

"It's nice to have a place to call home."

Mr Donato will complete his degree next year and hopes to work in public relations for a government department or a non-profit organisation - or, having enjoyed his time campus, where he also works in the computer centre, get a job at a university.

"I will stay in Canberra, if I can get a good job. When I first came to Canberra, I thought it was a bit quiet, but I'm used to it now," he added.
Days of wine and research for retiring professor

Gabby McMillan

8 November 2005: Electronic engineer Paul Edwards, 67, has retired after more than 20 years at the University of Canberra although he will remain busy with winemaking in Tasmania and further research.

Professor Edwards owns one acre by the Tamar River, Tasmania, so he is excited about spending summers fulfilling his "lifelong ambition of growing grapes and making wine".

While winemaking is top of the agenda, Professor Edwards admits his other passion, research, will remain a major part of his life and he aims to keep in touch with the University.

"It's just been great having the opportunity to research," he said.

"I think one of the biggest negatives for me is giving it up at the University, but I will maintain links."

Professor Edwards plans to focus on two major areas; viticulture, or winemaking, and econophysics, the application of science models to economics.

Professor Edwards said his University of Canberra highlights include "getting the engineering course started in the 80s", "building contacts with significant people in the science and engineering community in Canberra" and a number of "breakthroughs, patents and world records".

He said the patents, while fantastic, were secondary to his primary aim of demonstrating the University of Canberra was capable of "world quality research".

With a working life spanning almost five decades, Professor Edwards said he was motivated by his research and his students.

"I think it's the opportunity to make a mark, train up young people with the thought they'll be carrying something with them that you taught," he said.

He said he wants to thank his colleagues for the opportunity to work and research with them for the past 23 years.
Family history not a deciding factor in breast cancer

Rebecca Stones

8 November 2005: Despite popular belief, a family history of breast cancer does not necessarily increase a person's risk of getting the disease, BreastScreen spokesperson Cathryn Meredith said at a seminar on breast cancer awareness.

"A lot of people get concerned about a family history of breast cancer, but less than 10 per cent of people diagnosed with breast cancer have a family history," Ms Meredith said.

Ms Meredith said an extensive family history of the disease would suggest a genetic susceptibility, however there were more influential factors such as gender, age and lifestyle.

Held in the University library on 27 October, the seminar promoted understanding about breast cancer, its detection and its treatment as part of national breast cancer awareness month.

"Over 70 per cent of breast cancers occur in women over 50 years...by age 74, one in 11 women are diagnosed with breast cancer," she said.

BreastScreen, a national state and federal government funded mammographic screening program offers free mammograms to women over 40, although the target group is women aged 50 to 69.

Ms Meredith said the reason women under 50 were not actively recruited was that mammograms were more effective after menopause, when breast tissue was less dense.

She said even younger people should check themselves monthly for unusual lumps, thickening of breast tissue or changes in breast shape or colour, especially if the change is only in one breast.

Other signs of breast cancer include dimpling of the breast, discharge and less commonly, breast pain, she said.

Ms Meredith said many women's breasts naturally contained lumps or tissue unevenness depending on hormonal cycles, so it was important that individuals know their bodies and increase the likelihood of early detection.

"Some of the older generation don't want to go near their breasts, so it's interesting to see how things have changed over the years...young people seem more aware."
UC golfers close gap on ANU

Edward O’Daly

8 November 2005: The University of Canberra's golfers have won the 15th annual Geoff Caldwell Memorial Trophy, beating their Australian National University rivals.

This year's win - by six wins to four - brings the overall series score to seven to the University of Canberra and eight to ANU.

The coveted trophy is in the University's hands for 12 months

Photo: Brian Gosling

“This means that next year the overall series can be tied and the following year, UC can go on to claim its rightful place in the competition,” said team captain Alan Wheeley.

Mr Wheeley, who has held the post since 1994, has announced he is stepping down as captain to be replaced by Brian Gosling from information and communication technology services for next year's clash.

The competition is named after its founder, ANU golfer Geoff Caldwell.

Once it has been engraved, the trophy will be displayed in the concourse offices of competition sponsors the Canberra Credit Union.
Flying start for new mosquito-borne virus team

A brand new research group is already in the spotlight with its topical work on mosquito-borne viruses, writes Rebecca Stones

1 November 2005: The University's Viral Arthritis and Asthma Research Group (VAARG) is still being established but has already found its research into mechanisms of mosquito-borne viruses in the media spotlight.

VAARG researcher and biomedical sciences associate professor, Suresh Mahalingam, said the predicted increase in arboviruses - diseases spread by invertebrates: mainly mosquitoes - had made the group's research more topical, especially as there were no effective drugs for Dengue fever, which research predicts could be pushed as far south as New South Wales by global warming.

While there are currently only 30 to 40 cases of Dengue fever in Australia each year, Dengue is a huge problem in our neighbouring Asian countries, Professor Mahalingam said. The symptoms of the disease are also very disturbing.

"If (Dengue fever) is not treated quickly it can result in haemorrhagic fever - (that is) bleeding internally and externally...if people recover and are then re-exposed it seems to be worse and can be fatal," he said.

"It is difficult to come up with a vaccine for Dengue - the virus always comes up with ways to survive the vaccines."

However, Professor Mahalingam and fellow VAARG researcher Brett Lidbury hope their work on another arbovirus, Ross River Fever, may reveal how these diseases evade treatment and trick the body's immune system.

"We are collaborating with (biotechnology company) Biotron to make a drug for Dengue...we want to apply our group's knowledge of other viruses to Dengue," Professor Mahalingam said.

Professor Mahalingam and Dr Lidbury are currently working with designers at Wollongong University to create a 3D-graphic animation of how Ross River Fever virus infects the body.

The animation will be used when ABC television program Catalyst showcases the group's work next year.

Together with University colleagues, Professor Mahalingam won two grants in the recent round of National Health and Medical Research Council funding:

- $470,000 for three years studying 'How respiratory viral infections cause disease'.
- $410,000 to study 'A novel immune evasion strategy employed by arboviruses' over three years

Professor Jennelle Kyd has also received two grants in the latest round of NHMRC research funding.

Read more

Full listing of NHMRC funded teams
**Third time extra lucky for research grant proposal**

**A pair of new grants will tackle ear infections and immunity-bashing molecules. Rebecca Stones finds out more.**

1 November 2005: After several years of unsuccessful applications Jennelle Kyd said it was a pleasant surprise to get not one but two grants in the latest round National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding.

Professor Kyd said she was given $245,250 to research molecules produced by some bacteria believed to negatively affect the body’s immune-response.

But she said she was ‘particularly pleased’ to receive another $230,250 NHMRC grant for otitis media (middle ear infection) research, especially as it was the third time she had submitted the proposal.

Ear infections may not sound dangerous, but more than 80 per cent of children experience otitis media by age three and this early exposure led to repeated infections in almost 40 per cent of children by age seven, Professor Kyd said.

Vaccinations

“If young children get (otitis media), they can get a persistence of fluid...this can lead to deafness, ruptured eardrums...(and this) has been associated with earlier loss of hearing causing speech problems,” she said.

While there is a vaccine for pneumococcal infections, Professor Kyd said this has not lowered the overall number of ear infections because immunised children seemed to swap pneumococcal for another bacteria (either haemophilus influenzae or moraxella catarrhalis).

Professor Kyd said her research would explore how such microbes communicate and work together and would inform vaccine design in the hope of finding a broader protection against otitis media.

However, she said her efforts to improve current vaccines should not stop parents immunising their children, as the current pneumococcal vaccine does not worsen otitis media and protects against potentially life threatening meningitis.

Virulent bacteria

Professor Kyd’s other project will explore how a bacteria - pseudomonas aeruginosa - increases its virulence by producing ‘quorum sensing signal molecules’. These molecules are believed to suppress immunity, especially in patients whose immune system has already been compromised, such as burns victims.

In the past five years the University had submitted competitive research proposals, but a new submission system and increased numbers of eligible institutions meant the University’s last NHMRC funding finished in 2000, Professor Kyd said.

She also said it was a very difficult process for the grant panel, as competing research proposals were not on similar topics and the field was almost endless.

“How do you compare and prioritise Ross River fever to someone doing otitis? The granting panels must find it very difficult, but at the end of the day someone has to come out on top.”

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

Researcher Suresh Mahalingam was also successful in winning two NHMRC grants. Read more about his team’s work

Full listing of NHMRC funded teams
Mountain runner reaches new heights

Gabby McMillan

1 November 2005: For human biology student John Winsbury, placing 17th out of 141 in a 21km race to the summit of Mount Kinabalu in Borneo was a feat of “mind over matter”.

Mr Winsbury completed the 19th Mt. Kinabalu International Climbathon race in three hours and 15 minutes; a result he is “ecstatic” about.

Running uphill may be slow, but running downhill left Mr Winsbury with muscle soreness that affected his movement for a week

Photo: Ben Brillante

“It was such an awesome experience...very surreal,” he said.

“You’re just plugging away for hours running up a mountain and when you get to the summit there are blue skies for miles.”

While the descent is quicker than the ascent, Mr Winsbury said it is much harder because muscles are used in a “damaging way because you’re constantly having to brake”.

Mr Winsbury suffered from ‘delayed onset muscle soreness’, commonly referred to as DOMS, after completing the race which he described as “the toughest mountain race in the world”.

While DOMS affected his ability to walk properly for almost a week, Mr Winsbury now feels nothing but excitement about mountain running.

“My goal is to be champion of the European Grand Prix circuit, which is ultimately mountain running champion of the world,” he said.

Mr Winsbury is moving to England in 2006 to “submerge” himself in mountain running training and competitions, as Australia doesn’t have the opportunities he craves.

Mr Winsbury said sponsorship is lacking for mountain runners in Australia, making training and competitions expensive - running shoes alone cost him “$200-$300 a pop” and need replacing every two months.

Mr Winsbury, who has been mountain running for around three years, has also competed at state and national levels with athletics but he said it doesn’t hold the same interest because he is a “mountain boy at heart”.

“I’ve always been into the mountains,” he said.

“I’ve always skied, climbed and mountaineered...it’s just me.”
Healthy living exposed

Edward O'Daly

1 November 2005: Tips on healthy eating, checkups, massages and guidance on the safest way to set up your desk were all available at last week's health and safety expo.

Organised by the health and safety team, Wednesday's expo covered personal, workplace and emotional wellbeing. The main aim was to "raise awareness of both safety and health in the workplace and home" the team's rehabilitation officer, Therese Engelbrecht said.

Research fellow Maurice Nevile was one of more than 200 staff members "tempted by the offer of some quick free checkups" and had his blood pressure, blood glucose, and eyesight tested.

"I was delighted to find that all's well - my blood pressure was slightly high but I put that down to waiting to hear news of current ARC grant applications," Dr Nevile said.

Gayney Howe from Student Services said she was "pleasantly surprised" that the expo covered all aspects of a healthy lifestyle and added she had resolved to take regular breaks from her computer to improve her performance at work.

"According to the gentleman doing the demonstration, efficiency improves and fatigue reduces with regular mini/micro breaks - so that's what I'm going to try to do - even when I'm feeling pressured," she said.

The expo also showcased two computer programs that are about to be introduced. WorkPace reminds computer users to take breaks and exercise, while Chemwatch helps manage chemicals.

The expo will be held again next year. If you have any suggestions email: Health&Safety@canberra.edu.au
Tis the season to exhibit for graduating designers

Edward O'Daly

1 November 2005. The car seats, blenders and whipper snippers of the future were on show at last week's industrial design graduating exhibition.

The ‘Lifeform’ exhibition, in the building 7 gallery, kicked off this year's exhibition season, which features work from final year students across the University's design disciplines.

The barbecue was an Australian icon to be given a makeover by the designers

Photo: Ben Brillante

The industrial design exhibition included models of many of the proposed designs to complement the images of work by the 26 graduating students.

The group has now packed up their masterpieces ready to hit the road, with shows planned in Melbourne from 9 to 11 November and Sydney from 14 to 15 November.

"The exhibition is an excellent way for us as young designers to be recognised within the broader design community, and spread our wings within such a competitive industry," said graduating student, Libby Christmas.

SPLASH, the landscape architecture exhibition, opens on Friday and will run until 9 November, before the University's architects have their turn from 10 to 16 November.

Graphic design students will close the season with their exhibition, which has its opening night on 18 November and will run until 24 November.

Second year graphic design students have also managed to squeeze some of their work into the packed schedule with the ‘Cool Wines’ exhibition, which opened last night.

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

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Dodgy movie inspires competition

Rebecca Stones

1 November 2005: The University's traditional line-up of Stoneweek activities had a successful addition this year with the inaugural UCU Dodgeball Tournament held at the Recreation Centre on 26 October.

Traditionally an American game, the sport gained notoriety after the 2004 comedy *Dodgeball* satirised the apparently cruel intent of the game, which is to throw rubber balls at the opposition.

The initial games of the tournament had a few hiccups, as the many first-time players tried to learn the rules whilst having balls thrown at them.

According to some players, the only necessary training for the event was watching the movie *Dodgeball* and recruiting American students who had played the game before.

It was not long before the students' competitive spirits took over, with some impressive displays of athleticism as players followed the 'five Ds of dodgeball': dodge, duck, dip, dive and dodge.

The tournament winners were the Backdoor Bandits, a team from Old Residences, with team Liger, comprised of day students, coming in a close second.

Third position went to a team of second year physical education students, and fourth place was University Village's Buccaneers.
First glimpse at original art for young booklovers

Edward O'Daly

1 November 2005: Part of the most valuable collection in the Lu Rees Archives went on show to a young audience to mark 25 years of the children's book treasure trove.

Author Bob Graham gave the original artwork from four of his books to the archive in 2004 and to mark its 25th anniversary, the Archives' collections development manager, Belle Alderman read his book 'Max' to the pint-sized bookworms at the Wiradjuri Preschool and Child Care Centre, last Wednesday.

The event also included the first ever public showing of four original cover designs for the classic picture book. The youngsters were given the chance to vote for their favourite cover, but their choice did not match the publishers'.

The University's first librarian, Victor Crittenden, enjoys a drink with current librarian, Anita Crotty
Photo: Ben Brillante

Mr Graham was among the guests at an evening function to celebrate the 25-year milestone. He told Monitor he was pleased the book reading had been part of the celebrations.

"That's what I like doing when I can," he said.

He added he had been pleased to donate his personal archives as they could be kept together and looked after by people "who take better care of them than I do".

Other guests at the event were retired independent publishers, Walter and Lois McVitty, whose papers are also in the collection, and the University's first librarian, Victor Crittenden, who was given a special award to reflect his contribution to the archives.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my connection with the Lu Rees archives right from the first time I met Lu. I can't tell you proud I am to have been given this award," Mr Crittenden said.
Short story competition

The University of Canberra and Monitor are proud supporters of the national short story competition.

Read comments from judging panel chair Jennifer Webb, then enjoy the winning tales.

The winning stories

- **Skin**
  by Helena Fox - first place
- **Bright tells the Truth about Paradise**
  by Chris Mansell - second place
- **The Beetle House**
  by Matilda Michell - third place
Close encounters of the suburban kind

A University of Canberra academic is on the trail of an apparent UFO sighting and subsequent 'cover up' writes Gabby McMillan.

25 October 2005 English teacher Shane Ryan is researching one of the most puzzling events in Australia over the past 40 years - the alleged sighting of an unidentified flying object (UFO) in a Melbourne suburb.

Mr Ryan hopes to publish a book next year to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the 1966 sighting where around 200 people watched an object descend above a paddock at the Grange Reserve in Westall for around 20 minutes, lift off and disappear.

‘A hint of a cover-up’

Rather than putting Mr Ryan off, the difficulty in tracking down information is actually motivating him, he said.

‘I'm interested in this as a mystery story about this strange event that happened and how society reacted to it,' he said.

Mr Ryan hopes to track down two air force officers involved in 'unusual aerial phenomena investigations'. Photo: Ben Brillante

He has interviewed around 45 witnesses, mainly students and staff from nearby Westall secondary and primary schools, since he began researching early this year.

He said the Westall incident stands out because "unlike other UFO stories where people see odd lights which turn out to be planes or balloons with candles inside, it happened in broad daylight".

Mysterious reactions

While Mr Ryan is interested in the UFO sighting, he is also intrigued by the mysterious reactions from many Australians, especially officials.

"There is an unusual element to this story," he said. "Many people have told me about military officials, RAAF officers, coming to investigate the landing site on the afternoon of the sighting and keeping people away from it and making them keep quiet about what they saw."

Mr Ryan interviewed a chief witness, who was working as a science teacher at a Westall school in 1966, a few weeks ago and was astonished by what he heard.

The witness, who was around 20 at the time, told Mr Ryan the recalls a visit from two RAAF officers threatening to damage his career if he continued talking publicly about the sighting.

Mr Ryan hopes the service records, held at the National Archives of Australia, of two air force officers involved with "unusual aerial phenomena investigations" in the 1960s will help him find some answers.

"Hopefully they give me a lead to a person because the most important thing for me about this story is talking to people," he said.

Mr Ryan said he is interested in the incident from a "social and historical perspective" not necessarily as a UFO story.

"I'm interested in this as a mystery story about this strange event that happened and how society reacted to it," he said.

Westall Details-

Westall students and staff were at recess when they saw the UFO fly over and lower itself behind pine trees at the Grange Reserve.

Most witnesses agreed the UFO was low-flying, silvery, shiny, either of classical flying saucer shape or similar.

A number of students ran to where the object had lowered itself near, or onto, the ground. They found a circle imprinted in the grass.

Mr Ryan said there are three types of witnesses - those who saw:

- the object fly over
- the circle imprinted in the grass
- both.

Other witnesses reported around five aircraft trailed the UFO.

Mr Ryan said witnesses were adamant about what the object wasn't (an aircraft, weather balloon or hot air balloon).

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

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Short nights something to lose sleep over

Rebecca Stones

18 October 2005: If all you’re getting is the “average” night’s sleep it could impair your performance as much as being too drunk to drive, according to a lecture by psychologist Ken Greenwood last month.

In his lecture on insomnia and its treatment, delivered as part of the Research Area in Preventive Health and Improved Wellbeing Gadi Lecture Series, Professor Greenwood said research suggests the impact on a person’s performance of 17 hours of continual wakefulness was equivalent to a 0.05 blood alcohol reading.

He said insomnia was a common problem but was often not well understood, or even taken seriously.

“We wouldn’t accept people at work drunk, but we accept them tired...the average Australian gets less than seven hours sleep a night,” Professor Greenwood said.

“We tend to view not sleeping well as a minor annoyance. People rarely seek help for sleep problems or they describe them secondary to other problems.”

He also said insomnia was a subjective phenomena with no “most common cause”, making most cases unique.

Professor Greenwood said insomnia could result from physical illness, emotional stresses, such as relationship breakdown, or drugs, such as caffeine or alcohol.

While everyone experiences periods of poor sleep, insomnia is usually only treated when it persists over several months, he said.

Professor Greenwood said there has been little development in insomnia treatment since the 1980s and is currently testing whether insomnia patients can administer their own treatment.

He received an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant of $102,000 in 2004 to conduct the research, which should be finished in 2006 and involve 350 subjects.

“Instead of clients dealing one-on-one with a therapist, they’ll just get sent the material...So far the results are promising and indicate it may be equivalent to a therapist (for some people).”

Professor Greenwood said the research may involve participants receiving weekly packages of information or phone calls from a coach.

Subjects are trained in relaxation techniques and stimulus control and asked to keep a diary, which may reveal the cause of their insomnia.

“People don’t think about, but caffeine is a serious drug...you need to ween yourself off caffeine like you do any addictive drug,” he said.

“I used to work with a colleague who thought the coffee industry was worse than the tobacco industry.”

He said alcohol was another drug that commonly interfered with sleep patterns.

“Alcohol is a depressant and will send you to sleep, but it’s a disturbed sleep.”
Energy seminar gives taste of healthy living

Rebecca Stones

25 October 2005: Healthy foods won't disappear from supermarket shelves, but the increasing prevalence of snack foods will make it harder for shoppers to make healthy choices, according to Nutrition Australia's Lynette Brown.

Ms Brown was speaking at the Boost Your Energy seminar in the University's library, organised by the Health and Safety Office on 20 October.

The talk aimed to educate the audience on the effect different foods have on energy levels and to demystify certain foods and diets.

Ms Brown said one interesting and little known fact was apples and potatoes of equal size have the same number of kilojoules.

"We avoid potatoes and yet we say an apple a day is a good thing...the difference is we usually put fat on the potato," she said.

Unfortunately for those waiting for a magic bullet, the ultimate answer is a balance of good diet and exercise and especially making sure to get a wide variety of foods everyday, she said.

"If we don't get 20 to 30 different foods everyday, we're going to be missing out on essential micronutrients."

Ms Brown admitted it sounded like a lot, but said it did not have to be 30 large food items. Instead, variety should come from mixed foods, such as varied sandwich fillings.

Despite the ACT having a lower incidence of diet-related diseases than the wider population, the number of overweight Canberrans doubled to 16 percent between 1989 and 2001, Ms Brown said.

"The cost of that is huge...about five to seven percent of the health budget is spent on diet-related diseases."

She admitted this was partly due to an ageing population, but said in her clinical experience the number of teenagers with insulin levels bordering diabetes had rocketed from one every few years, to four or five a month.

Health hints

Heart Foundation guidelines suggest 30 minutes of exercise 5-7 times/week (up from previous recommendations of 3-5 times).

Resist the temptation of quick 'energy' fixes like guarana drinks when feeling fatigued. (Their high caffeine content can be dehydrating, they are often full of sugar and little is known about their long-term effects).
Grads take credits at film festival

Gabby McMillan

25 October 2005: University of Canberra graduates Serge Ou and Michael Tear were named the Canberra Region winners for their film 'Gimmie Shelter' at the Canberra Short Film Festival on Sunday night.

Director Mr Ou said it was a "nice surprise to win", adding the festival was a fantastic way for local filmmakers to screen their work.

"It's great to have Canberra audiences watching Canberra films," he said.

"The film culture in Canberra is really vibrant and supportive at the moment which is just great."

The Bearcage Productions pair impressed a judging panel that included University scriptwriting lecturer Felicity Packard.

Festival co-director and University graduate Matthew Fallon said the decision was tough for the judges because the quality of work is "getting better and better".

Current student Liam Downing said he was the underdog in the Canberra division because he worked within a limited budget but he was just pleased to have an audience for his short-listed film, 'Unlike a Dog's Dinner'.

"Festivals are great because you get an audience, basically," he said. "I'm also just super happy it got short-listed."

Former University student Shannon Wilson produced the short-listed film 'Don't Sweat The Small Stuff' away from her workmates at Bearcage Productions to "challenge herself".

"I wanted to work with different people and challenge myself out of the safety net of Bearcage," she said.

The Canberra Short Film Festival ran from 21-23 October and included various workshops for budding filmmakers including scriptwriting, computer editing and directing.
Students drive sustainable transport day

Edward O'Daly

25 October 2005: All the ingredients for a sustainable future were on show as part of last week's Reduce Car Use Day.

The sustainable communities students behind the day used their stall at Wednesday's market to supply information about everything from fair trade to commuting.

Staff and students were encouraged to leave the car at home for the day - or at least give someone a lift - in a bid to slash fuel consumption and pollution, and they were rewarded with freebies and cut-price breakfasts.

Green groups including Oxfam and Pedal Power supplied much of the information, giveaways and fair trade products that were available from the stall, while the students were on hand to share their enthusiasm for sustainable living.

Erin Barry said the sustainable communities course had been "a real eye opener" and had encouraged her to think about the implications of the choices she made - from buying fair trade coffee to remembering to turn off lights.

"It's changed a lot of our personal attitudes," she added.
Club gives guests a picture of China

Edward O'Daly

25 October 2005: Last week's China Picture Show was “just the beginning” of events to help the University community get to know the People's Republic of China.

President of the China Club Chunwen Yang said the event, which used pictures of Chinese life and landmarks to introduce the Asian powerhouse, would be the first of many.

“We need to hold more of these,” Ms Yang said.

“To understand China in depth requires more time.”

The Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean and representatives of the Chinese Embassy were guests at the event, which also offered the chance to chat informally with some of University's Chinese students.
Role of young ambassadors celebrated

Edward O'Daly

25 October 2005: International students were “privileged” to have been part of the International Student Ambassador program according to a University of Canberra participant.

Speaking at a graduation ceremony for students in the 2005 program, held at the National Museum on Friday, Lavininia Dhanagunan reflected on her experiences, which included visits to key Canberra institutions.

"Over the last 10 months I have had a chance to meet with some extraordinary people, people who I never fathomed I would be able to meet as an international student here in Canberra," Ms Dhanagunan, who is from Malaysia, said.

"It was an honour every single time...with memories I will always treasure."

The aim of the program is to teach international students about the capital in the hope they will take their newfound knowledge back home and "sell" the ACT through word of mouth.

Jordanian student Salam Saffarini said the program had given him the chance to experience "all aspects" of Canberra.

"This year I became a Canberran," he said.

Graduates were presented with their certificates by guest of honour Mick Gentleman MLA, before the 2006 ambassadors were introduced.

Originally a University of Canberra initiative, the program has been expanded to include students from the Canberra Institute of Technology and Australian National University.
Architecture festival is Australian first

Edward O’Daly

25 October 2005: Sheltering under canvas from a rainy Canberra Thursday for the launch of the inaugural Canberra Biennial might have been inconvenient, but it was appropriate for the design and architecture festival with the theme: temporary dwellings.

The launch offered the media sneak preview of some of the innovative designs that will grace Canberra’s Reconciliation Place from 31 October to 20 November as part of the festival.

The Canberra Biennial: City of Architecture and Design is the brainchild of School of Architecture and Design head, Craig Bremner, who says Canberra is an ideal city to host the international event.

"Australia’s national capital is a unique entity in many ways: it is one of the few cities in the world whose design is based on the early 20th century’s ideas of utopia; it represents the main aspects of Australian cultural infrastructure; and it has access to international resources through foreign embassies and high commissions," he said.

Professor Bremner was joined at the launch by the Vice-Chancellor, Roger Dean, ACT Planning Minister, Simon Corbell, and National Capital Authority (NCA) chief, Annabelle Pegrum.

“The Biennial will brand the city of Canberra as a city of design excellence," Mr Corbell said.

“The opportunity to present Canberra as the locale of advanced contemporary ideas of design and architecture is to be applauded, and I would like to congratulate the University of Canberra, the National Capital Authority and the ACT Planning and Land Authority on pulling together this ambitious project.”

The Biennial, operated in partnership with the NCA and the ACT Planning & Land Authority, is an Australian first and one of the few festivals in the world that incorporates both architecture and design.
Ambitious students take careers into account

Edward O'Daly

25 October 2005. Commerce students hope inviting representatives of the big accounting firms to the University will give them the edge in a competitive jobs market.

In its inaugural Careers Fair, the Commerce and Economics Student Society (CES) hosted KPMG and Bentleys MRI, and it plans to expand the fair to more companies, with greater student promotion next year.

According to CES president Abraham Berhanu, the talks gave students the opportunity to learn about the accounting giants' corporate cultures and application processes, as well as a valuable chance to make new contacts.

"If you want a career in accounting you have to get your foot in the door because there is a lot of competition," he said.
UC and CIT embark on exchange initiative

Kaddie Pass

18 October 2005: The University of Canberra and the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) have taken further steps in building their strong relationship with the endorsement of new staff exchange policies.

UC Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean and CIT dean of learning services, Vaughan Croucher, signed the reciprocal policies between the two institutions last Tuesday at the CIT Reid campus.

Mr Croucher said that there has been a history of collaboration between the institutions and the new staff exchange policy was another good step.

"We have a rich exchange happening and this latest agreement furthers this in a formal way."

Professor Dean added higher tertiary education was running the risk of fracture and every possibility needed to be made to provide opportunities for the flow of staff between University of Canberra and CIT.

"It will be much better if we have the capacity for exchange at all levels," Professor Dean said.

UC and CIT's strong collaboration over the years includes a range of articulation arrangements allowing CIT graduates to enter programs with advanced standing. The two institutions jointly deliver degrees in areas such as communication and new media, hotel management and early childhood studies, and are key members of Canberra's Tertiary Open Day consortium.
Curtain up on short film extravaganza

Edward O’Daly

18 October 2005: The University of Canberra has a number of starring roles in this year’s Canberra Short Film Festival, to be held this Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the National Museum of Australia.

The University is one of the sponsors of this weekend’s festival, which is now in its 10th year.

Several current and former University of Canberra students are in the running for prizes at this year’s festival, with five of the 12 films shortlisted for the local competition having University of Canberra connections.

The festival's television commercial crew was largely made up of University of Canberra graduates - including the ad's director, and last year's winner in the competition's local section, Clare Young.

The festival's directors are former students Matthew Fallen and Marisa Martin.

“We both hold very high hopes for the future of Australian filmmaking given the excellence of its current crop of short film practitioners. Canberra is certainly making great strides in this regard,” they said.

The University is one of the festival's sponsors and hosts this year’s festival website.

The only roles left to be cast are those of audience members - visit the festival website for details of how to buy tickets or enter the Monitor competition.

Win tickets to the Tenth Canberra Short Film Festival

Monitor has several pairs of tickets to the Director's and Finals sessions of the festival on Sunday night to give a way.

To get your hands on them all you have to do is name the film that won the Oscar for best motion picture at the 77th Academy Awards held in February 2005.

Email your answer to monitor@canberra.edu.au by 4pm on Thursday 20 October to be in with a chance*

*Should the number of correct answers exceed the number of prizes, winners will be chosen at random from the correct answers. The editor's decision is final.
UC proves foxes continue to hound Tasmania

Rebecca Stones

18 October 2005: The University's Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) has had the dubious honour of providing the first reliable evidence foxes are alive in Tasmania.

The CRC conducted DNA testing on 180 faecal samples collected in February by the Fox Free Tasmania Taskforce, one of which was identified as belonging to a fox.

The test, developed by Stephen Sarre, from the University's Applied Ecology Research Group, is the only one in the world able to distinguish between foxes, quolls, Tasmanian devils and domestic animals.

CRC chief executive Tony Peacock said the DNA testing process would normally only take a week, but as the test was still being established the results were not released until mid-September.

Prior to the CRC's DNA evidence, fox sightings had been reported and three dead foxes found on roadsides, but some groups had suggested these were hoaxes.

"It would be impossible to hoax the scat, as it was not public knowledge that they were being collected - and the likelihood of 'planting' one would be impossibly low," Dr Peacock said.

The confirmation of foxes in Tasmania leaves approximately 76 native species at risk of extinction, with 26 of those at serious risk, Dr Peacock said.

The plight of Tasmanian devils was a concern as the impact of foxes might be too much for their population, which has already been greatly depleted by a mysterious facial tumour disease, he said.

However, Dr Peacock said it was unlikely the number of foxes in Tasmania was very high, as previous attempts to establish foxes had been unsuccessful, and he estimated there might only be between 20 and 30 foxes in the entire state.

The new test would give the Tasmanian authorities an additional tool for monitoring, Dr Peacock added. A demonstration site to understand how that tool could best be employed is currently being developed.
The human face of computing

Edward O'Daly

18 October 2005: Research towards a computer system to identify chest diseases from x-rays earlier and more efficiently than the naked eye was one of the projects showcased at last week's School of Information Sciences and Engineering Research Colloquium.

Zul Waker Al-Kabir's study of using electronic image processing to examine chest x-rays aimed to speed up the diagnosis of chest diseases.

"Every year a huge amount of lung diseases go undetected," he said.

"But the problem is not with medical practitioners or radiologists.

He explained early diagnosis was hampered by difficulty in spotting diseases in their initial stages and it could take a repeat visit to the doctor and subsequent second x-ray to detect a problem, delaying potentially life-saving treatment.

Mr Al-Kabir is testing a range of image processing systems' ability to detect chest problems with a view to developing a system that will pick-up diseases that could be missed by the naked eye.
Talking around voice security

Edward O'Daly

18 October 2005: Voice recognition software has the potential to revolutionise electronic security, but what if someone sounds like you? A project presented at last week's School of Information Sciences and Engineering Research Colloquium examined what happens when somebody tries to mimic your voice.

The research, by Yee Wah Lau, matched volunteers' voices to those in a database commonly used by developers and researchers in the voice recognition field. Volunteers (including professional linguists, native Australians and Australian residents born in China) were asked to mimic the voices they heard from the database.

They were tested against the voice that most closely matched their own and another that was unlike their voice.

Ms Lau found it was possible to beat the system when mimicking a voice that was very similar to the volunteer's own speech pattern.

She also found some numbers in a PIN were easier to fool the software with than others.

"The highest chance of beating the system is on the number four, the safest is nine - so that's a good number to have in your PIN," she said.

Ms Lau tested people's ability to beat security systems by mimicking another's voice

Photo: Ben Brillante

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

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Fellowship beats loneliness for writer

Gabby McMillan

18 October 2005: After working as a full-time writer for the past few years, Canberra Writing Fellow Adrian Caesar is excited by the prospect of interacting with University of Canberra staff and students throughout his October visit.

Mr Caesar, a former associate professor at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA), said writing full-time is a "very solitary pursuit" because he has to spend "a lot of time by himself in a room".

The 12-week Fellowship is spread between the University of Canberra, University of NSW at ADFA and the Australian National University, so Mr Caesar felt it would be a position where he could continue writing but have social and intellectual interactions.

Mr Caesar was last week’s Artists Talk speaker; he has given several talks on creative writing and poetry and is available for student consultations, but he’s making time to write around 500-1000 words a day.

Interacting with students and their writing takes you out of the solitary pursuit of writing but you’re still dealing with something you feel passionate about and want to encourage and share with others."

'Experiment in biography'

Mr Caesar is currently focusing on poetry and literary non-fiction, which he describes as “an experiment in biography” but his love for writing began as a 14-year-old as he penned song lyrics inspired by Simon and Garfunkel and John Lennon.

“I was a musician but not a very good one,” he said. “My friend wrote the music while I wrote the lyrics.”

During his university studies, Mr Caesar moved from song-writing to poetry which he has written every since.

Mr Caesar proceeded to immerse himself in a new writing form for his biography The White: Last Days in the Antarctic Journeys of Scott and Mawson. But he was determined to break free of biography conventions, especially the linear, episodic narrative.

Mr Caesar used Scott’s daily diary entries to help recreate his thoughts and feelings amongst the factual details.

“There are aspects I think are oversimplified but as a whole I think it is an interesting experiment in biography,” he said. “I think it does get people in and they want to read it even though the stories are quite well known.”
How green is our campus?

Edward O'Daly

18 October 2005: A student is doing his bit for the environment by using his filmmaking skills to get the green message across.

Lee Moskwa has begun a Healthpact-funded project to make ‘How green is my campus?’, a film examining what's being done to reduce the University's impact on the environment.

He explained his vision for the project is simply to get information about sustainability to community.

"I'm asking 'what are we doing as a uni and what are students doing to put it into practice?" he said.

"The film won't point the finger, but it will challenge people to get involved."

Mr Moskwa said University students had the education and opportunity to shape our future, so it was vital to break the stereotype of the "apathetic student" and get them to embrace the green message.

He admitted the apathetic student tag could have applied to his own lifestyle, but he had decided to do what he could to change things.

"As an individual you do have a responsibility. It's all about trying to do something - and it's not that hard."

Mr Moskwa and his classmates on the production team will interview people from across the University community including those staff and students behind environmental initiatives on campus.

The half hour film will premiere as part of Harmony Week next year.

To contact Monitor Online: monitor@canberra.edu.au

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
"Taking care of mates' recognised

Gabby McMillan

18 October 2005: Students and staff were recognised for involvement with the University of Canberra's Suicide Intervention Project (SIP) at a Graduation and Appreciation Ceremony at Café Mizzuna on 10 October.

Ms Brearley said it was a privilege to work with the SIP volunteers

Ms Brearley said it was a privilege to work with the SIP volunteers

Support:

Call UC Health & Counselling on:
6201 2351 (business hours)

Or Lifeline on:
13 11 14

Online:

- beyondblue
- Suicide Prevention Communications Project

Around 50 people attended the ceremony, which SIP project manager Taree Brearley said was a "celebration of SIP's achievements throughout 2005".

Thirty students and four staff members have volunteered with SIP throughout the year; completing training days, raising awareness of mental health issues and developing campaigns including 'Take Notice'.

SIP offers students training in how to recognise and respond when someone is in crisis and may be having suicidal thoughts.

Several SIP participants attended an extra one day trainer workshop which allows them to run Suicide-Talk, a two hour suicide awareness presentation.

Ms Brearley said it had been a "privilege and a pleasure" to work with the 2005 SIP volunteers because of their dedication.

"It's just incredible the skills and commitment that students have, even though they have other things that happen in their lives," she said.

"Working, family, study commitments...so to put their energies into something like SIP as well just reflects on the kind of people they are; they're wonderful."

Ms Brearley said their campaign Take Notice is protective against suicide, with the main message focused on "taking notice of your mates".

"If you're isolated you're more likely to be at risk, while if you're connected and have good networks that's protective," she said.

"Take Notice is really about increasing resilience, connectedness and raising awareness of mental illness on campus."
Words take flight at Feathers launch

Edward O'Daly

11 October 2005. Student writers are enjoying their first taste of life in print with the publication of Feathers: FIRST 2005, an anthology of creative writing.

Matt Padovan introduced guests at the launch to the world of a Big W night-filler, where all the fillers are called Aaron and all the supervisors are men named Ryan with “the same smug-looking goatee”.
Photo: Ben Brillante

Launched by poet Lizz Murphy at the Co-op Bookshop on campus last week the book contains 27 stories, poems and musings selected from more than 200 submissions by an editorial committee led by creative communication lecturer Francesca Rendle-Short.

Ms Rendle-Short said everyone on the committee read every submission in order to make an “informed choice”.

“Then we ranked the pieces and surprisingly there were stories that resonated with most people,” she said.

“These were the easy ones. Then there were those stories that we argued and fought over. This is the fun bit, the difficult bit, the bit that requires tenacity and thoughtfulness - a kind yet critical reading.”

The committee also dreamt up the title of the book, inspired by the recurrence of the word and themes of “flight, travel and the lightness of being”.

Anthologies of University writing have been published since 1993.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
Sustainability course inspires green living

Edward O'Daly

11 October 2005: Studying sustainability has brought about a lifestyle change in a group of Bachelor of Community Education students.

Inspired by a sustainable communities course, the group is encouraging the University community to "ride, walk, skate, run or car pool to uni" on Wednesday 19 October in line with what they have learned about sustainable transport. The students 'Ride to Uni' day will come just two weeks after staff participated in Ride to Work Day.

Giveaways and information will be on offer to those who give sustainable commuting a try.

"We have been inspired to lead more sustainable lifestyles to preserve natural resources and protect the environment for future generations as well as our own," said student Jessica Pollard.

"We hope that students and staff will also be inspired to change their way of life."

Last week cyclists enjoyed a cut price breakfast as a well-earned reward as part of Ride to Work day.

Café Mizzuna offered deals on coffees and bacon butties to help anyone brandishing a cycle helmet replace their commuting calories after being approached by the occupational health and safety team to support the day.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
Lecturer pedals 1000km for charity

Gabby McMillan

11 October 2005: Former University of Canberra lecturer Trevor Lawrence, 59, didn’t only finish a 1000km sponsored bike ride through NSW for Bike for Books; he completed the nine-day journey with around 55 people, cycling with a dozen of the fastest riders in the pack.

Trevor Lawrence has only been “semi-serious” about cycling for the last few years, but that didn’t stop him keeping up with the fastest pack in the charity ride

Photo: Ben Brillante

"I cycled with group D, the quickest group and I did have some apprehension," he said. "That group has the six-foot-something, big, strapping 25-year-old athletes and so-forth so they definitely push you.”

The overall fundraising target for the ride was $110,000 with Mr Lawrence and two fellow riders raising around $4000 when they pooled their earnings together.

Funds raised by the ride will be used in literacy and HIV/AIDS education projects in Nairobi, Kenya, and Kampala, Uganda. Total fundraising targets are $1.1 million over three years.

The riders left Blackheath on Saturday 24 September, travelled through Blayney, Molong, Dubbo, back through Molong, through Bathurst before returning to Blackheath on Sunday 2 October.

Mr Lawrence, who worked at the University full-time for 31 years before teaching part-time from 2003 onwards, said his friends have been involved with the Bike for Books ride for years and convinced him to participate.

"I thought it would be a good thing to do," he said.

"I reckon the issues are things that everybody should worry about...people shouldn't just worry about themselves. We should worry about people who can't look after themselves in other parts of the world.”

Mr Lawrence said the ride wasn't a race; people were doing it simply to raise money, however Group D didn't mind hitting the open road.

"Group A, the slowest group, had fun singing songs as they did it while the fastest group just went like crazy," he said.

The group travelled with a support crew and slept in school halls, church halls and community halls - even sleeping one night on a sport complex's basketball court.

Mr Lawrence said while he rode his bike to university for 20 years he has only become “semi-serious” about cycling during the past few years.
Centre accustomed to success

Edward O'Daly

11 October 2005: The University's unique Centre for Customs and Excise Studies has been ranked among the ACT's top exporters, taking the Education award at the 2005 Chief Minister's Export Awards.

The Centre for Customs and Excise Studies (CCES) team was given the award at a celebration lunch at the National Museum. The centre's "outstanding export achievement in the field of education services, facilities, expertise and curriculum" impressed the award judges.

CEO David Widdowson said the award was a credit to the hard work of the team and reflected the "innovation and excellence" of the services it exports.

"It's pleasing to see our training being recognised at the same level as our consulting," he added.

This is the second consecutive year that the centre has won such an award, having taken out the 2004 Chief Minister's Export Award for outstanding export achievement in services. Dr Widdowson said that it was particularly pleasing to have received the award this year in the Education category.
Overseas trip valuable training for student

Gabby McMillan

11 October 2005 While travelling to Fiji to complete a compulsory class placement sounds glamorous and relaxed, community education student Linda O'Connell said it was more valuable than anything else.

Ms O'Connell joined Barbara Pamphilon from the School of Education and Community Studies and Jenny Booth from not for profit consultancy International Development Support Services (IDSS) on the week-long trip in June to assist with a quality review of the AusAID funded Pacific Children's Project.

The project has been funded by AusAID for around four years and focuses on a model for preventing child abuse and neglect in the Pacific regions of Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu.

A/Professor Pamphilon was contacted by IDSS to review the project's monitoring process and information collected and to look at what needs to be focused on in the future.

"The thing I was interested in was how this model worked," A/Professor Pamphilon said.

"What this project aimed to do, which separated it from others, was focus on primary prevention...being there before it's too extreme, for example when children are taken from their homes.

"The thing we discovered was yes, their model is working."

A/Professor Pamphilon said they focused on 'mobilising communities'; giving community facilitators skills to inform their communities about preventing child abuse.

"It's important they keep using opportunities to bring child protection messages through schools, churches and youth activities," she said.

Ms O'Connell had previously expressed interest to A/Professor Pamphilon to complete an overseas placement so when the opportunity arose she jumped at the chance - especially because it was in her field of interest, child abuse and neglect.

"It was very interesting to get a feel for what it's like working in another country," Ms O'Connell said.

"I'd definitely like to move into international aid and development at some point in my career."

"I learnt good teamwork skills and it gave me a feel for the types of international aid and development organisations over in the pacific region," she said.

"It also gave me a few more skills with interacting with people from different cultures and religions."

The report 'Seeds of Change: A Quality Review of The Pacific Children's Project' by A/Professor Pamphilon, Ms Booth and Ms O'Connell is currently being reviewed in draft form by AusAID.
Fair play earns surprise award

Gabby McMillan

11 October 2005. For University of Canberra forward and former Hockeyroo Peta Gallagher, winning the McKay Medal at Hockey ACT’s presentation on 21 September was a “big surprise”.

Ms Gallagher, an applied science graduate, received the ‘best and fairest’ award after polling 99 votes for the season, 20 points ahead of the second best player, Hockeyroo Sarah Taylor.

Winning the award shocked Ms Gallagher because she missed the beginning of the hockey season and didn’t appear on the voting leader board until round eight.

“I went to the award ceremony thinking I didn’t have a chance but as the night kicked on and they started going through the polling votes I started to think about it a little more,” she said.

“I just didn’t think I would even be considered because I didn’t play the full season.”

Ms Gallagher said while it’s nice to be recognised, in team sports everyone should be receiving the awards.

Ms Gallagher took “time-off” after playing in the national league but then decided she wasn’t ready to retire.

“I just knew I wanted to pick up my stick again for another season,” she said.

“I still like the feeling of walking off the field after a game. I’ll probably only play for another few years and that keeps me motivated.”

Ms Gallagher has a month before training begins for next year’s national season with the Canberra Labor Club Strikers.

She is currently competing in some matches of the New Zealand six-week national league with North Harbour Hockey because they have injured players.

Her career highs include World Cup 2002 while her career lows include missing out on selection in the Australian squad for 2005, she said.
University active in China

Edward O'Daly

11 October 2005: Some "compulsory physical education" livened up the audience at the University's China Showcase last week.

The showcase outlined the University's activities in China and included presentations from each division on their experience in the country.

Professor Dean (second from left) visited Beijing Normal University to cement the articulation deal

Head of the School of Education and Community Studies, Denis Goodrum, gave a personal reflection on the country, recreating the mandatory physical activities he had seen and recalling his "disappointment" with the plumbing.

Director of UC International, Kevin Brett, explained the need for the University to create a sustainable plan for its activities in China, choosing the areas it works and its partners carefully.

"We are judged by the company we keep," he said.

At a planning session following the showcase it was agreed the University would focus on building quality and diversity into international recruitment and student and academic exchange - including research collaboration.

Key areas to develop partnerships and postgraduate programs were identified as the "geographical triangles" around the cities of Beijing, Shanghai and Chengdu.

The showcase came days after the Vice-Chancellor, Roger Dean visited Beijing Normal University (BNU) and Renmin University. Professor Dean and BNU vice-president, Professor Zheng Shiqu signed an articulation and credit transfer agreement marking the official start of continuing co-operation between the institutions.

At Renmin University Professor Dean attended the grand opening for the second cohort of students on the University of Canberra's articulation program with the highly respected university. The first cohort is expected to begin studying in Canberra next year.

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

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Kids' knowledge grows through garden project

Edward O'Daly

4 October 2005: The winners of a project to design an interactive outdoor learning experience were announced at the Australian National Botanic Gardens last month.

Second year graphic design students from the School of Design and Architecture, were asked to come up with a proposal for an outdoor display or walk aimed at children aged from three to seven years-old, which promoted active learning and interaction and related to the environment of the botanic gardens.

Graphic design lecturer Julie Bradley said the project required students to research and design a four station walk for children, taking into account self learning, safety, care for the garden's plant collection, durability and, of course, fun.

The results had to provide something special for the young visitors to the Gardens' Eucalypt Lawn to experience and take into account the gardens' natural landscape and ecosystems.

The resulting models and graphics were judged by gardens staff, with prizes sponsored by the Friends of the Botanic Gardens. Yoon Ooi's hands-on interactive guide to the diets of mammals was the eventual winner.

"The 'Walk on the wild side' environmental graphics project provided a wonderful opportunity for the students to work within the wider Canberra community and to experience designing site-specific graphics for children in the beautiful surroundings of the gardens," Mrs Bradley said.
Hats off to uniforms at launch

Rebecca Stones

4 October 2005. Policewomen carrying guns in fashionable handbags and children destroying school hats are some of the issues covered by Jennifer Craik's new book, Uniforms Exposed.

Long-time friend of Dr Craik and RMIT Vice-Chancellor, Margaret Gardner, flew to Canberra to launch the book at Manuka’s Paperchain bookstore on 16 September.

Dr Craik, who is associate professor of creative communication, said the book was mainly for an academic audience and would be useful for RMIT students, as the university has a strong textile focus.

The book discusses basic issues, such as where uniforms came from and how they affect people. It also includes many quirky uniform facts, such as early policewomen's uniforms including knee-high lace-up boots, restrictive skirts and cumbersome handbags for gun storage.

"Some policewomen's uniforms included a handbag throughout the 1960s...it was a huge thing for them to get rid of it...it was ridiculous," Dr Craik said.

She said a key theme of the book is the proliferation of uniforms in contemporary culture, with many uniform suppliers telling her they were expanding every year.

"Look at any ad for a private school. The uniform is very prominent - it's become a very popular pull-mechanism."

Dr Craik said the increasing popularity of uniforms was not surprising, as they helped to impose standards. She also said many uniforms were becoming more conservative.

For example, when Queensland ambulance workers' formal and militaristic uniforms were changed to casual polo shirts there was a massive backlash from the workers, she said.

"The uniform was then redesigned to be more formal and include more insignia than ever before."

However, the book describes uniforms as an ambivalent subject.

"While ostensibly uniforms signify order, conformity and discipline, uniforms also are a fetishised cultural artefact embodying ambiguous erotic impulses and moral rectitude."

Dr Craik said there were also quasi-uniforms, like the fashions inspiring lecture halls full similarly-dressed students.
Images of winter win student a printer

Edward O'Daly

27 September 2005: A brand new printer was "everything a first year could ask for" according to a prize-winning graphic design student Margaret Ross.

Ms Ross was given a top of the range Canon printer as a prize for her work on a project to create an interpretation of spring based on Vivaldi's music inspired by the season.

Ms Ross, who admits she is not a classical music buff, got the to know the piece well as she set about collecting digital images for the project.

She was given the printer last week by Canon sales representative Paul Stewart and also received prizes from fellow competition sponsors Ted's Camera Store.

"The printer's unreal," she said.

"You get really high resolution images, which is great because we have to do a lot of photo-quality printing," she added.
Education students get creative for book project

Edward O'Daly

4 October 2005: An enormous concertina, a trip round the world and a code-breaking challenge are some of the features of interactive books created by second year education students.

The students were given the opportunity to let their imaginations lead them, with a simple brief to produce an interactive educational book for primary school age children.

Lecturer Lynn Sheridan explained the project gave the students the opportunity to experience the same creative process they would ask their own students to go through, as well as to make and appraise an educational tool.

"The standard was really high, I think some of them could be published," Mrs Sheridan said.

Scott Pearce said he had tried to make The Mystery Box, a magnetic code-breaking puzzle book in which the solutions to mathematical problems led children to the code for a locked box, look like something "produced not made", using photo quality paper and design software for a professional look.

Lauren Dalley described to process of creating her book, New Gold Mountain, as long, challenging, but worthwhile.

"The best part about the process was seeing your ideas come together," she said.
Monitor Online - Artist revels in 'magic' of work

Artist revels in 'magic' of work

Gabby McMillan

4 October 2005: For Cambridge artist Hephzibah Rendle-Short, there is something magical about art.

Reflecting on her career and creative works at Artists Talk on 28 September, Ms Rendle-Short described art as "magic...because there's a feeling of paint becoming reality".

Ms Rendle-Short said her artistic style has evolved since she moved from Australia to London in the early '80s to study at the Slade School of Fine Arts.

While studying life-drawing at Slade, Ms Rendle-Short said she was initially only interested in painting what was in front of her.

"There was an urgency for me to only paint the model in front of me and forget about the space around them," she said.

Her attitude changed as she began to focus on elements including the subject, the space surrounding the subject and the geometry between herself and her subject.

"Instead of just focusing on what was directly in front of me I set up a working board, a tiny supplement to the painting, and painted on it to shed the constraints I had when I had the life model in front of me," she said.

The working board was a small replica of the painting she was working on and it allowed her to "pave new ways of thinking" and "bring new ideas to the bigger painting".

"Ideas are too straight-jacketed for me when the model is there," she said.

"I work on one painting for many months and over this time it emerges in an investigatory way. The working board is wonderful because it allows new ideas to float to the surface."

Ms Rendle-Short said while she works on pieces persistently, she knows to stop when she "can't push it any further".

"You could keep painting the one piece forever because there are endless possibilities," she said.

Ms Rendle-Short also discussed her passion for combining 'what she sees and what she imagines' in her artwork.

"I like making things visible which are invisible to everyone," she said.
Researchers help computers fight off invaders

Gabby McMillan

4 October 2005: Stealing credit card details and flooding your computer with 'pop-up banners' are just some of the capabilities of malicious software (malware), according to Dr Wanli Ma.

Malware are programs designed to damage or disrupt a system, including Adware, Spyware and Researchware. Spyware is used to gather information about computer usage; passwords, credit card numbers, keystrokes and computer settings.

Dr Ma, a software engineering lecturer, said precautions when banking online include using computers "you have confidence in", avoiding public computers and checking for the encryption (padlock) on the bottom right of your computer.

"Actually click on the padlock because you need to see if it's the right one for the bank," he said.

While Spyware is an invasive program, Dr Ma said it isn't practiced as popularly as Adware; a "tool to deliver junk-mail".

"It's easier to trick people into clicking advertisements than spying on activities to find out where your credit card number is, especially with the range of internet users today."

Dr Ma said when installing programs, as in any other part of life, security must be consideration.

"You need to take precautions because malware makes computers slower and slower and sometimes unable to be used," he said.

"Also, if you're connected to the internet but aren't clicking any buttons and pop-ups are still appearing then Adware may be on your computer."

Dr Ma and a group of researchers are currently working on a prototype "early warning system" to track "intrusion" on computers.

"It's hard though because the makers of malware are always changing the way the program is running."

Dr Ma said he is interested in computer security because there are many "vulnerable home-computers out there who need help" and he wants to "do something good for the community".

Spyware and Adware

The easiest way to deal with Spyware/Adware is to run a computer tool to scan and remove them.

For example:

http://www.lavasoft.com


(Both are free for home users and should be run regularly; the same as you run anti-virus tools.)

Indications:

Your computer is slower than it used to be

There are pop-up advertisements coming at random times

Pop-ups or strange windows display on your screen after you switch on your computer - even before you begin to browse.

Your internet traffic volume is higher than it used to be while your web surfing behaviour is the same.

Avoidance:

Don't download and install unnecessary software

Do not download 'nice' offers or scary warnings

(extracted from Tips from the School of Information Sciences and Engineering)
Islam, gender and the hijab discussed

Internationally renowned Muslim speaker Dr Jamal Badawi gave a public lecture on the topic *Gender equity in Islam and the Hijab debate* at University of Canberra on 29 September. Monitor's Rebecca Stones was there.

4 October 2005. Long-time promoter of Islamic understanding, Jamal Badawi, began his talk by outlining what were the two primary sources of Islam: the Qoran and the Sunnah.

He said the Qoran was “100 per cent verbatim revelation as given by God to Muhammad” and the Sunnah was the Muslim way of life as taught and practiced by Muhammad.

“Unfortunately, people continue to take others’ interpretation as a primary (source) without referring to the primary,” he said. Dr Badawi said the Qoran was not like a textbook; it did not have one section about women and there was a lot of “misinformation and myth-information” surrounding the topic.

Preconceived notions

His talk encompassed many of the criticisms of Islam thrown about by the media, such as honour killings, women's rights in marriage and women's position in law.

Fundamentally, the primary sources of Islam did not support any of the barbaric practices western society seemed to accuse Islam of upholding.

“There is no part in the Qoran that says men are greater than women. Righteousness is the only thing that gives superiority in the eyes of God.”

While such atrocities as honour killings may occur in Muslim societies, Dr Badawi said these were cultural practices and in no way part of Islam.

The Hijab, recently accused of being an “iconic item of defiance” by right-wing Liberal MP Bronwyn Bishop, was a sign of a woman’s religious commitment, Dr Badawi said.

“If a Muslim woman decides of her own free will that this is what her religion requires of her, why does everyone disagree?” he asked.

Dr Badawi made the point that Muslim people's actions always seemed to be judged with preconceived notions.

Mary, mother of Jesus, wore a headscarf; nuns wear wimples; and other Christian sects wear head-covers too, and are revered for their dedication, he said. But when it is a Muslim in a Hijab people pity or resent the woman, assuming she has no education and has been forced, he said.
**Student among best at computer conference**

Gabby McMillan

**4 October 2005.** A University of Canberra student was placed among the best papers at the Knowledge-Based Intelligent Information and Engineering Systems (KES) international conference in Melbourne this September.

Information sciences and engineering master's student Naveen Sharma's paper on a "Multi-agent system framework for .Net" ranked within the seven best papers from the 688 delivered at the three-day conference.

Mr Sharma's paper reported on a framework on a 'multi-agent based cooperative network' - a system on which several autonomous 'software agents' are able to collaborate to solve problems - which was developed as a proof of concept and tested for a real world application: a dynamic truck scheduling problem.

Mr Sharma said it was "a pleasant surprise to win because many of the papers were very good".

"I didn't expect it to happen so when it did, I was very surprised," he said.

Mr Sharma said he is proud of his work because it has great potential since .NET - an extended operating system - is only "just developing". He added his idea has been around for a long time but has always been "hypothetical".

"I picked up literature, worked it out and established the practices required by the agent," he said. "I hadn't noticed a single framework for .NET so now people could actually take my framework and go from there."

Mr Sharma said the framework "shows the program is delivering these things while other people were just saying the program may deliver these things".

Mr Sharma plans to begin his PhD in 2006 and focus on intelligent agent-technology.

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The multiagents research group in School of Information Sciences and Engineering is researching the smart, distributed processing of information through agents. Applications include:

- truck scheduling,
- telecare applications (eg diabetes management)
- speech applications
- computer and network security
- forensics

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

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Wings and prayers for peace

Edward O'Daly

27 September 2005: Hopes for peace took flight last Wednesday as the University community celebrated UN International Peace Day.

Origami cranes and paper doves inscribed with messages of peace made up a mural reflecting staff's hopes for peace, while the day's activities concluded with the release of white 'peace birds'.

The day saw the breadth of the University and local community represented with a variety of faiths and cultures sharing messages for peace as part of a ceremony at the outdoor stage in front of building 2. There were musical interludes from the Islamic School of Canberra and guitarist and singer Colin Bailey.

Women of all faiths donned headscarves as a gesture of solidarity with their Islamic sisters. While Sandra Heaney-Mustafa gave a challenging talk, explaining asking her as a Moslem woman to remove her headscarf would be equivalent to her telling the audience to strip naked.

Birds of peace take flight
Photo: Ben Brillante
Reeling in film opportunities

Gabby McMillan

27 September 2005: Former students Matthew Fallon and Marisa Martin have transferred their media skills to Canberra's film scene with their involvement in film festivals, competitions and the establishment of their production company, EoR Media.

Their recent success includes setting a record for being the first team to make the top 10 over four consecutive years at Newcastle's The Shoot Out film festival in July.

Mr Fallon, Ms Martin and a team of around 13 others, including Film Production Society (FPS) president Kris Kerehona, had only 24 hours to make their short film, 'Thursday'.

The team also made Shoot Out history by making a movie on 35mm film - feature film quality - within the limited time period.

'Thursday' follows the aftermath of a tragic event and the minute that follows when you know life will never be the same.

Mr Fallon said it was a "big project requiring many resources" so most of the team worked on the project in Canberra before driving to Newcastle to submit it by the deadline.

Canberra stories

'Thursday' was screened at local short film festival Short: Season Spring'005 at the National Museum of Australia on 9 September.

Mr Fallon and Ms Martin, who are also the festival directors, said the festival is important to Canberra's film scene.

Mr Fallon said people enjoyed watching Canberra stories on the screen.

"The festival is a celebration of Canberra filmmakers’ work," he said.

Ms Martin said it was good to see first-time filmmakers getting the opportunity to screen their work.

"There were a few rattled nerves but overall it was a really good night," she said.

Mr Kerehona's first film 'Trinkets', which was also made at The Shoot Out Film Festival with fellow FPS member Josh Birse, was screened on the night.

Mr Fallon and Ms Martin have produced television commercials as well as a music video clip for local band Switch 3 which has been shown on ABC's Rage.

Mr Fallon and Ms Martin met while studying media at the University and have since gone on to form EoR Media (Enemies of Reality Media), direct the Canberra Short Film Festival and co-ordinate the Lights! Canberra! Action! Filmmaking Festival.
Thriller by the numbers for PhD student

Edward O'Daly

27 September 2005: The worlds of statistics and political intrigue rarely intersect, but a University of Canberra novelist could be about to change that.

By day, Greg Baker works as a statistician at Parliament House, producing confidential research for members and senators. The rest of his time is spent studying at the University part-time for a PhD examining scientific and technical communication in parliament and writing a trilogy of political thrillers. His first book Pressure Point has just been published.

Pressure Point is set as apartheid crumbles in the 1980s and concerns white South African extremists setting up camps in Australia to train a guerrilla army, an idea Mr Baker said is not as far fetched as it seems.

"I remember there would be a paragraph on the bottom of page seven of a newspaper report about a training base being found in the hills somewhere," he said.

"It's funny how these things stick in your mind."

He finished his first draft of Pressure Point in the early 1990s, before successfully wooing a publisher last year, and is currently working on a prequel set in Spain.

Mr Baker, who has worked at Parliament House on and off since the 1970s, said his fiction is inspired by both his work and study.

"There is a common theme running through the things I'm doing. I write thrillers informed by my experience. And it's difficult not to write characters based on bits and pieces of people you have met."

Mr Baker was quick to point out that, while aspects of his lead character are based on himself, there's no number crunching action and he laughed at the suggestion a statistician uncovering an international conspiracy could form the basis of a future work.

"If I write a book, I want people to read it," he said.
Colleagues walk on the wild side

Rebecca Stones

27 September 2005. Wildlife rescue volunteers, finance officer Jenny Truong and graduate studies officer Cath Raby, have urged drivers to slow down after they were both involved in the rescue of a joey.

Caring for orphaned joey ‘Latte’ (above) has been much like looking after a baby for volunteer Cath Raby

On 23 August Ms Truong was manning the RSPCA rescue phone for the ACT at the same time Ms Raby had the Wildcare Queanbeyan phone.

They both received calls about a joey alive in the pouch of a kangaroo killed by a car near Bungendore.

As no carers were free at the time the joey would have been put down.

However, Ms Raby said she hated the idea of the joey being rescued from the pouch only to have his life cut short and took him into her care.

It was not until they spoke about the rescue at work that they realised they were both working on the same case and regularly covered similar areas.

The joey, named ’Latte’, was so young he needed feeding every three hours. It was just like caring for a newborn baby, Ms Raby said.

They both said the case highlighted the importance of reporting injured animals and being educated on what to do when an animal is found.

"A lot of people hit an animal and freak - they get upset and drive on...(but) it's illegal to drive off," Ms Truong said.

"We have heard some real horror stories of animals with terrible injuries just left to die."

Spring is also a particularly busy time for wildlife carers, with many baby animals emerging.

Ms Truong said many people made the mistake of thinking baby birds on the ground were orphans or had been rejected.

She said before removing baby birds, or any animal, people should ring a wildlife agency and check they were doing the right thing.

The springtime baby influx also meant volunteers were stretched to limit and Ms Truong, who has been volunteering for the RSPCA for two years, and Ms Raby, who joined Wildcare in March, said their agencies desperately needed volunteers, even if people did not have much time to give.

"We'd be happy if people volunteered even just one day a month. All the training is included," Ms Truong said.
Water knowledge shown to industry

Edward O'Daly

27 September 2005: There was a three way tie for second place as four students showed off their water research to the industry at a presentation evening last week.

The Australian Water Association Student Night saw the students present the results of their honours projects to a panel of judges that considered everything from the quality of their science to their presentation skills.

The eventual winner was Pettina Love whose project had examined the impact of the decomposition of fire-affected eucalyptus on a river ecosystem - in particular the food chain. The win has earned her a place in the AWA's national student competition.

The judges couldn't separate the remaining three competitors: Katie Ryan, who looked at the behaviour of Murray Crayfish in the Murrumbidgee River catchment, Steve Hall, whose research concentrated on the ACT's Cotter River and Evan Harrison, who examined how the build-up of sand impacted on river-dwelling invertebrates.

Richard Norris, director of the Institute for Applied Ecology, said the evening was a valuable opportunity for the students.

"This gives them good exposure to potential employers and it indicates the sorts of things the University can do and supervise," Professor Norris said.

The event was sponsored by Actew and consultants the Atech Group.

From left: Evan Harrison, Katie Ryan, Steve Hall and Pettina Love

The event was a valuable opportunity for the students.
Performing biggest buzz for singer

Gabby McMillan

27 September 2005: For Centre of Developing Cities’ Aine Dowling nothing provides the same thrill as singing with semi-professional music group Rhythm Syndicate - not even abseiling off a tall building.

“I feel great when I perform,” she said. “I get such a huge buzz out of it. I got a bigger buzz singing in front of 1000 people to abseiling over the University building earlier in the year.”

Ms Dowling has performed in the soprano section of Rhythm Syndicate for three years.

Renowned for its mix of jazz, gospel swing, scat, upbeat classical and a cappella (without accompaniment) harmonies, Rhythm Syndicate has been a solid part of the Canberra music scene for around 15 years.

“The music we do is different because we sing with accompaniment as well as a cappella,” she said. “The whole performance is a show for us. It’s not just 20 people, standing there upright; the show has choreography and movements too.”

Ms Dowling said being asked to perform at the invitation-only Thredbo Jazz Festival in 2004 was a “big high” for Rhythm Syndicate.

Ms Dowling, who has loved singing since the age of three, said Rhythm Syndicate is her main priority outside on her work on campus.

“I just love performing,” she said. “I think everybody who likes doing it, everybody who sings, acts or dances, has a little bit of a performer in them that kicks into gear once they get in front of an audience.”

Rhythm Syndicate is currently seeking male singers to “even out the balance”.

“Some really nice, deep, professional voices would be great,” Ms Dowling said.
New director takes world view

Gabby McMillan

27 September 2005: The University's new director of international, Kevin Brett, has a number of focuses for the next few years: international recruitment, off-shore education and bridging the gap between students from around the globe.

After beginning his appointment around two months ago, Mr Brett said he is focused on the "internationalisation of the University of Canberra".

Mr Brett said he will focus on "changes that can be implemented to encourage better interaction between staff and students, both domestic and international".

"You can't just get students from different countries and put them together - you actually have to work very hard with organisation strategies, program strategies and events to encourage people to act in a more meaningful way," he said.

Mr Brett said the University's residential program as well as events organised by the University of Canberra Union were examples of internationalisation practiced already on campus.

"It's a matter of finding out what's good about these things and doing more of it," he said.

Mr Brett described off-shore education, or transnational education, as "one of the most exciting areas for international education".

"Transnational education is interesting because it involves the development of a shared curriculum between ourselves and another country, involves staff interchange and interaction working with different languages," he said.

Mr Brett said he'd also like to see "more inventions to encourage internationalism at home so both domestic and international students find new ways of communicating together, working together, living together and playing together".

Mr Brett has been involved with international education for around two decades. He said he finds it "fascinating" because he is interested in cultures, multicultural issues and knowledge.
Swap ideas with Germans online

Edward O'Daly

27 September 2005: The University has been invited to participate in an online forum designed to link professionals in Australia and Germany.

The University of Canberra is the only university to be asked to join the forum, which is likely to include e-learning as one of its topics for discussion.

Organised to coincide with Berlin's Asia-Pacific Weeks from 19 September to 2 October it will be an opportunity to join discussions and ask questions about industries in Germany and Australia, including information and communications technology and medical technology. It is also billed as a chance to learn more about German and Australian business links.

The free forum has been organised by Berlin-Sydney Marketing GmbH, a German-Australian company supporting German/European businesses entering Australian markets and vice versa, and is supported by the Australian Embassy.
Couple develop see-through advertising

Gabby McMillan

20 September 2005: A “wild advertising gimmick” earned a University of Canberra couple a place in the top 20 of more than 300 entries in annual graphic design and visual communication competition, Saxton Scholars.

Ms Lim and Mr Wong impressed the judges with their “gutsy” entry
Photo: Gabby McMillan

Graphic design student May Lim and media production student Adrian Wong's entry, “Think Tank Advertising”, gained attention from judge Rita Siow from the Australian Graphic Design Association for its “gutsy” appeal.

“Think Tank Advertising” proposed the idea of a see-through glass tank, attached to a travelling truck, where live advertisements can take place.

For example, a travelling advertisement for Coca Cola could host a real-life party inside the glass tank or a campaign for milk could include a real cow.

Ms Lim said she wanted to do something really “crazy and wild” within the $5000 budget.

“We did some research and thought about vehicles that have advertisements stuck on the outside,” she said.

“I thought, why not do something crazy like have a vehicle with a glass tank attached to the back that can be hired out to people who want to advertise their product in a different way.”

The Singaporean couple said they weren’t expecting to win and simply entered the competition to further their experience and CV.

“There are so many opportunities in Australia we don’t want to miss out on anything,” Ms Lim said.

Mr Wong said while Ms Lim focused on the conceptual side of the project, he concentrated on the “technical side”.

“May wanted to know if this idea actually could be executed so I worked on the possible construction, the budget and the materials needed,” he said.

The couple came to Australia in 2004 to study at the University and have since participated in many creative competitions.

Ms Lim co-designed the logo and web home page for reality television program ‘My Restaurant Rules’ contestants Nathan Nichol and Georgia Wilson, while she and Mr Wong have both sent separate entries to MTV’s Represent design competition.
New diseases bigger threat than bioterror

Rebecca Stones

20 September 2005: The danger of bioterrorism was far outweighed by the likelihood of new pandemic diseases, virologist and microbiologist Professor Frank Fenner said at a University of Canberra public lecture.

Professor Fenner's 'Bioterrorism and emerging infections' seminar on 1 September discussed the probability of bioterrorism and its effects compared with new diseases such as SARS and bird flu.

"Emerging infections - they're certain to come. Bioterrorism may or may not," Professor Fenner said.

He said the difficulty with new infections was their unpredictability. Vaccines could not be made to pre-empt a virus and creating a new vaccine in sufficient quantities took at least six months.

In this context, new infections posed a much greater risk than bioterrorists, who relied on known diseases such as smallpox and anthrax.

There was fear disgruntled scientists from defunct Soviet biological warfare programs could have on sold specimens to terrorists, but Professor Fenner said the threat was decreasing.

"It is a risk, but the fact that nothing's happened...since the Soviet programs closed in 1992 to 93...it seems to me the longer it goes, the less likely anything will happen."

Professor Fenner said even if terrorists did possess a biological agent, finding the right method and climate to spread it was extremely difficult and nowhere near as effective as a natural communicable disease.

"(Bioterrorism) did happen just after 9/11 with anthrax...(five people died) but it wasn't very effective...now we have good control and recogniton techniques."

By comparison the first case of SARS, in China in 2002, was spread by a hotel patron to 15 others, then around the world. Two hundred new cases were being reported each day by mid-2003.

Professor Fenner said SARS was only controlled with quarantine and lucky environmental factors, and demonstrates how quickly infections can spread with international travel.

Despite this, Professor Fenner said he did not want to be alarmist and people should not panic about epidemics as containment and treatment resources were improving.

He said the pressure humans put on the environment, however, is increasing the likelihood of pandemics and people need to realise the greater threat is not bioterrorism.

Smallpox:
- In 1979, Professor Fenner announced on behalf of the World Health Organisation the international eradication of smallpox.
- The last natural case was in Somalia, 1977. Smallpox is the only human disease ever to be eradicated.

SARS:
SARS - Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome - is believed to have originated from an animal in a south China market. Professor Fenner said it is likely to re-emerge.

Bird flu:
- Avian Influenza ('bird flu' or H5N1) can be transmitted from birds to humans. Professor Fenner said there is a possibility the virus could change and be spread human to human.
- Australia is part of a bird migratory path with potentially infected countries, so it is likely Australian birds will eventually become infected.

Frank Fenner:
- Professor Fenner was awarded the Prime Minister's Prize for Science in 2002 for his lifetime achievements in virology.
- He is an Emeritus Professor at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU
Former chancellor remembered

Edward O'Daly

20 September 2005: A conversation between two friends waiting for the arrival of dining companions led indirectly to the appointment of former University Chancellor Donald Horne. Professor Horne died earlier this month.

Remembering his friend, former Vice-Chancellor Don Aitkin recalled the pre-dinner conversation as he and Professor Horne waited for the rest of their party. It led him to suggest his companion for the role of Chancellor, which he held from 1992 to 1995.

"It was one of those fortuitous things," Professor Aitkin told the Monitor last week.

It was 1992 and existing Chancellor Jean Blackburn had just told Professor Aitkin she would have to step down, when he went to the dinner and sat chatting to Professor Horne.

"I looked at him and I thought he would be a great Chancellor. I asked him his views on taking on such a role and he said he had never been asked."

Professor Aitkin agreed to suggest Professor Horne to the University Council and he was chosen for the role.

Professor Horne, who was 83 when he died, famously wrote 1964's The Lucky Country, a reflection on Australian society. He was one of Australia's most prominent academics and writers.

Professors Horne and Aitkin shared a respect for each other's academic work and were close friends as well as colleagues.

"We had a very professional relationship, but we could do our business then go on and be Donald and Don.

"He was a very strong and supportive Chancellor. I will miss him a great deal."

Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean paid tribute to Professor Horne on behalf of the University community and said his legacy was one of great scholarship, providing an academic basis for the way Australians viewed themselves.

"His sympathetic and profound nationalism was a key part of the development of the University of Canberra in its first decade," Professor Dean said.
Professor sails north to new role

Gabby McMillan


She enjoys investigating the mystery and the "endless fascination" behind learning new things. Her mother even reminded her that as a child she would sit on her bed and read, surrounding herself with numerous books.

It should come as no surprise Professor Kayrooz is excited to learn more about the Northern Territory when she begins her post as the dean of education, health and science at Charles Darwin University on 3 October.

"It will be a very exciting change," she said. "It will be an interesting challenge to find out more about Indigenous learning and it should really give me a chance to see and contribute to the other side of Australia."

Describing the University of Canberra as a "lovely community", Professor Kayrooz said she will take away a "collection of fond memories" from her decade on campus.

"I will definitely miss the people and the support because it's a fantastic community," she said. "I think the sense of community has helped create the many positive things that are happening for UC and I'm sure will happen in the future."

She said she is also proud of her contribution in a management role to the University, including her research on higher education as well as helping to institute supervisory panels for postgraduate research students.

With Darwin's impending hot sun, Professor Kayrooz is also looking forward to sailing once she and her partner have made the move - if they can find a way to transport the boat.

"I have been sailing for about seven or eight years so it will be a good lifestyle change."
Best defence is good training

Tackling assault and rape head on, literally, was the focus of the women’s self-defence course at the UCU Recreation Centre, writes Rebecca Stones.

20 September 2005: A quick glance around the room at the first session of the six-part self-defence course on 11 August revealed a few nervous faces, especially when the instructors announced the weekly schedule:

The first four weeks would focus on learning and practicing defence techniques. This would prepare attendees for week five, when males from other Bob Jones Corporation martial arts courses would ‘attack’ the class to help everyone see how a real offender might act.

Instructor Clair Angel fends off an attacker

Photo: Ben Brillante

The lessons moved at an easy pace, so participants could practice techniques on each other. Most of the one-and-a-half hour classes included a male instructor, so those who wanted to could see how the techniques worked on someone larger and stronger than themselves.

Although working the male instructors was optional, everyone opted to do so for the learning opportunity.

Some of the attacking positions were very confronting. In week three the focus was ground attacks, where one person sat or lay on top of the defending person.

The sense of discomfort at some of the positions was quickly overridden though by the realisation that the natural response to such an attack was not necessarily helpful in escape.

Some positions were also shown to be more dangerous than others. A strangle-hold, with two hands around the neck, would lead to unconsciousness in seconds, so effective evasive technique was vital, instructor Rebecca Tanner said.

Despite the seriousness of the subject, everyone enjoyed the lessons and actually looked forward to confronting their ‘attackers’ in week five.

When week five finally arrived, the enthusiasm was so great it was sometimes hard to tell who was doing the attacking. One woman not only fended off her ‘attacker’, but also chased him from the room to the amusement of the rest of the class.

While a few bumps and bruises did result from the week five confrontation, the experience made it all worthwhile. Everyone in the class seemed a lot more confident in their abilities after giving them a road test.

The course still has one week to go, the next lesson focusing on weapon attacks. With the promise of rubber knives and fake blood, it is unlikely to disappoint in what has been a thorough course in self-defence basics.

The Bob Jones Corporation runs a number of self-defence courses throughout the year.

It also runs Zen Do Kai (a freestyle martial art) as well as Muay Thai classes.

For more details contact the UCU Recreation Centre. Ph 6201 2542

Related story:
Self-defence course kicks off

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Two languages better than one, forum told

Edward O’Daly

20 September 2005: The benefits of a bilingual upbringing go beyond giving children a second language, visitors to the University heard.

An evening forum attended by more than 90 people and subsequent lunchtime seminar on 9 September given by visiting bilingualism consultant Susanne Döpke cited research showing children raised in bilingual households had a cognitive advantage over ‘monolingual’ peers. Even learning a small amount of another language could be valuable, she said.

“A second language tells you a lot about your first language,” she told the lunchtime seminar.

Dr Döpke also set about “dispelling the myths” surrounding bilingual upbringing, arguing where difficulties were experienced at school, these were cultural and mirrored those of native speakers from lower socio-economic groups, who had been thrust into a “white, middle class” school.

Dr Döpke’s visit was organised by Mandy Scott from the School of Education and Community Studies and Kate Wilson from School of Languages, International Studies and Tourism.

Having grown-up children from bilingual households at the public forum showed parents how well their children could turn out, Dr Scott said.

Commenting on the large turnout at the two events, Ms Wilson said:

“Obviously this topic of raising children bilingually is something that is really interesting to many of us.

“Language learning in Australia is very important and needs people like us to boost it.”
On your bike, commuters told

Edward O'Daly

20 September 2005: We're told making eye contact is important in meetings, job interviews and daily conversation, but in cycling it might just save your life, the audience at last week's talk on bike safety heard.

Executive director of cycling action group Pedal Power, Dennis Puniard, shared a range of tips for two-wheeled travel at the seminar, last Wednesday, including the advice about looking motorists in the eye.

"If you can't make eye contact with a driver, it's quite possible that the driver has not seen you, so you need to be prepared to stop," he said.

Mr Puniard pointed out that cycling had never been so affordable with the price of a "serviceable bike" being equivalent to about 10 tanks of fuel.

He also highlighted the health benefits of commuting by bike and gave a graphic demonstration of the importance of wearing helmet using a mock head - a melon. First he dropped it from head height in a helmet and it escaped unscathed, next he dropped it without protection so the audience could see it crack open.

Mr Puniard also helped shed light on a grey area of bike path etiquette, explaining it was "courteous" for cyclists to ring their bell as they approached pedestrians.
Fish expert lands award

Rebecca Stones

20 September 2005: Research by PhD student Craig Boys has filled vital gaps in Australia's dryland river system knowledge, according to the director of NSW Fisheries Management.

Nick Rayns was speaking at a Department of Primary Industries awards ceremony on 17 August, where Mr Boys was presented the annual John Holliday Student Conservation Award.

Mr Boys' PhD research assessed fish habitats in Australia's largest dryland river, the Barwon-Darling, which supplies water to many rural NSW communities including Bourke, Tamworth and Walgett.

While the Barwon-Darling was shown to have better native-to-alien fish ratios than other major Australian rivers, irrigation of local cotton farms and large numbers of carp still threatened the river's health, Mr Boys said.

Pesticide contamination was not a major issue, however Mr Boys said research suggested up to 80 per cent of fish larvae could be pumped into irrigation dams next to the river, which was likely to have a significant impact on the river's biodiversity.

"It's a touchy subject to talk about water extraction out in that region...we don't want to seem like were going to take away people's water."

Instead of 'silver bullet' approaches, Mr Boys said scientists wanted to restore the river with the help of local communities so they could see the positive outcomes and also fine-tune restorative techniques.

The research is already being used by NSW Fisheries to formulate restoration plans for the river, and sites near Bourke and Berowra are being considered as trial zones.

'Boat-electro fishing' was used to collect data for the research. An electric impulse stunned fish for three metres around the researchers' boat, allowing the fish to be collected, counted and released.

Mr Boys said the method was more effective and less obtrusive than previous techniques that could accidentally kill or maim the native fish scientists were trying to protect.
Lifting the lid on digital photography

**University of Canberra staff may have been confused by a mysterious email asking for lids from old Pringles cans recently. Rebecca Stones investigated the strange request**

**13 September 2005: Jason Corney wants your Pringles lids.**

He's not interested in the snack inside, or even in reusing the containers, all he wants are the lids.

The low-tech old cans are indispensably useful to the leader of Building 10's desktop support team and he has requested any old Pringles lids be sent his way.

A freelance digital photographer in his spare time, Mr Corney said he recently learned from online forum fredmiranda.com that Pringles lids could be used in photography.

"They are amazingly close to being 18 per cent grey, which is good for white balancing digital cameras, and far cheaper than the $200 or so for an expo-disc, which is the professional way of doing it," he said.

Digital cameras have difficulty recognising white under different light sources, creating photos with incorrect colour reproduction: whites can appear tinged with colours, and real colours in photos can look unrealistic. Having a known grey source (such as an 18 per cent grey Pringles lid) gives the camera a base colour from which to recreate other colours in the photograph.

Unfortunately, 6-12 months ago Pringles changed to a clear lid so Mr Corney posted an internal University email asking if anyone had the old opaque lids hiding in their cupboards.

So far, he has received one of the old-style lids.

Mr Corney said he took up photography after being "on the wrong side of the lens" too many times for his father, also an avid photographer.

Being completely self-taught, Mr Corney said he had been serious about his hobby for almost three years - serious meaning "spending serious money."

"I have $10,000 worth of equipment...it's a dangerous question to ask how much more I'll spend - probably another $6,000."

Having moved to Canberra from Tasmania only five months ago, Mr Corney said it was harder to support his hobby, as Canberra does not have the right venues for his favourite subject - motorbikes.

"There's Wakefield Park, but even that is an hour away."

He said he was not interested in wedding photography due to the stress and large sports venues like the AIS could have clearance or sponsorship issues.

However, being in Canberra means Mr Corney can pursue his other passion, snowboarding, although he said he enjoys it too much to make it a subject of his photos.

If you have any old opaque Pringles lids, you can contact Jason Corney by email

View a gallery of Mr Corney's photography

The largest photograph Mr Corney has done was an A2 poster requested for a birthday, costing $130.

While most of Mr Corney's photography was for individuals, his motorbike work featured in Street Machine, December 2004.

Read more about white balancing digital cameras

Stories about other interesting interests:

Dancing all the way to Scotland

The need to bead

Putting her 'heart and soul' into calligraphy

For further information about Monitor Online contact Monitor Editor, on: monitor@Canberra.edu.au
Speeding up the recovery process - naturally

Gabby McMillan

13 September 2005: After receiving a $25,000 Healthpact grant in May 2005, University of Canberra graduate Mackenzie Clare is helping alcohol and drug users reconnect with nature to find a sense of belonging.

Mr Clare completed a year-long project titled ‘Belongings’ for alcohol and drug users in recovery at the Karralika Therapeutic Community in Tuggeranong, ACT, for his final year community education unit in 2004.

“I get peace of mind from it because I know I’m doing my job and helping another human being,” he said.

“It’s gratifying because you know the idea is working. It validates my work, my head and my university.”

Mr Clare, who has worked at Karralika as a counsellor for more than three years, conducted six pilot sessions with eight senior residents at Karralika and surrounding bushland areas for the academic project. Sessions included theory, nature walks and meditation to pursue a “connection to nature”.

Mr Clare said ‘Belongings’ originated after more than 15 of the centre’s clients told him they “wanted to know who they were”.

“I started to ask the Karralika residents where they had belonged in life and 95 per cent of them said they felt they had never belonged anywhere,” he said. “This hit them very hard so I thought there has to be a way to work on this.”

Mr Clare applied for the Healthpact grant after the eight pilot clients gave him positive feedback; he wanted the ‘Belongings’ project to continue to be included at Karralika without additional costs to clients.

“They really enjoyed getting outside and learning something new,” he said. “Through the session they learnt about getting close to nature to feel comfortable with themselves so it gave them something new to hold onto.”

One of the female clients told Mr Clare staring at trees blowing in the wind now aided her as a calming device for when she felt stressed. “That is very, very positive,” he said. “That is something she learnt from the ‘Belongings’ project.”

Mr Clare aims to complete three ‘Belongings’ sessions per year and he said the project is valid for other people including youth and the elderly.

Mr Clare’s future plans lie with completing his Master’s degree and writing a book about how “people have disconnected with themselves”.

For further information about Monitor Online contact Monitor Editor, on: monitor@Canberra.edu.au
Play takes writers out of comfort zone

Edward O'Daly

6 September 2005: Since they began sharing an office five years ago, creative communication lecturers Francesca Rendle-Short and Felicity Packard have talked about collaborating on a project, now it has finally happened.

A short play is the creation that has persuaded them to combine their talents, as it took each of them - Ms Rendle-Short is a fiction writer and Ms Packard a screenwriter - into unfamiliar territory.

"What was good was that neither of us had a strong sense of how to write for the stage, so neither of us had an unfair advantage and we were learning from each other," said Ms Rendle-Short.

Written for the Six Pack series, which takes to the stage at the Canberra's Street Theatre later this month, Us follows a conversation between a mother and her teenaged daughter as the teen prepares for a night out.

"We were looking for ideas we both had something to say about and we both have teenage daughters," Ms Rendle-Short said.

Ms Rendle-Short was approached by the theatre which was keen to put on a play by someone who doesn't normally write for the stage and she saw the opportunity to make the most of Ms Packard's skills in dramatisation, pace and timing.

Ms Rendle-Short said lessons from the experience had led her to "completely reconceive" the novel she is writing, while the collaboration was also a learning experience for Ms Packard.

"We really worked to our strengths and we were able to compensate for each other's weaknesses," Ms Packard said.

"I learned a lot about not pushing past moments, which is something you tend to do in television.

"I've collaborated on writing before, but this was a really intense experience. We discussed every word."

Ms Rendle-Short and Ms Packard "had a great time" working together

Photo: Ben Brillante

Six Pack runs from 22 September to 8 October

Tickets $24 to $29

www.thestreet.org.au

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

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Project to develop Renaissance teens

6 September 2005: Queanbeyan schoolchildren will get science lessons with a difference thanks to a new grant awarded to a University of Canberra lecturer.

Together with Ann Davey of Karabar High School, Margi Böhm has been given federal government and Queanbeyan City Council funding worth $47,000 to pioneer the project, which will take year seven to 12 students from the high school into the field to give them a rounded understanding of the world around them.

"When Newton and Darwin were doing science, they practised it as a natural philosophy and they integrated information from all sorts of places. Their research wasn't about following what we call the scientific method. What we're finding now is students can't integrate what they know between different subjects - even between different science subjects," said Dr Böhm.

"We figured one way we could fix this was to take them out of the classroom and up a mountain. The outdoors is a natural integrator, not only of our senses, but also our knowledge."

According to Dr Böhm, a concept such as photosynthesis can be taught in the field, through inquiry and experience, in a way that brings different science and arts disciplines together.

Painting leaves, for instance, can lead to a discussion of colour, eventually incorporating concepts such as the wavelength of light. Comparing colours where leaves are in light or shade can illustrate the role of the sun in photosynthesis.

From this initial pilot scheme on Mount Jerrabomberra east of Canberra, Dr Böhm and Ms Davey hope to develop a model that can be used by schools across Australia.

"This project is on a mountain, but we'd love to work with other schools to develop similar projects in coastal, woodland or snowy environments - the ultimate benefit is we get better, more rounded citizens and hopefully more scientists," she added.
Students have designs on teaching

Gabby McMillan

6 September 2005: School of Design and Architecture students will take their skills to Canberra colleges to help “freshen up” design and technology (D&T) secondary education units in 2006.

The University received a $54,900 federal government grant in July to fund the inaugural project titled Designing the Teaching of Design and Technology.

Around eight final-year students, drawn from architecture, landscape architecture, graphic and industrial design disciplines, will work with teachers and students from Dickson College, Hawker College, Lake Ginninderra College and Narrabundah College.

Deputy project coordinator and head of industrial design Stephen Trathen said the project aims to strengthen the D&T teachers’ skills as well as market design as a potential career.

"It's not re-teaching the teachers," he said. "It's re-enthusing them about design and innovative possibilities."

Mr Trathen said the project will also educate students about careers in design.

"We want to strengthen the ‘design basis’ in schools so the design process can be applied to anything from home economics to metal work," he said.

Mr Trathen said it will be interesting to see what the University students will gain from the experience, adding they are sure to “bring something different to the schools”.

"The students won't just gain credit for their course but they'll also gain experience working with other people in design," he said.

Mr Trathen said the project will be a sustainable one which could hopefully affect the way D&T is taught throughout Australia.

"It’s a fantastic opportunity for UC to show how we can work with design and technology education and have an impact in the local community."

The project is funded by an Australian School Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics grant.

www.asistm.edu.au
High-tech learning pioneers cut ribbon on offices

Edward O'Daly

6 September 2005: The University's commitment to high-tech learning was reinforced last week at a ribbon-cutting ceremony to publicise a newly-established team.

From left: Matt Bacon, Deborah Veness, Sue Bebbington, Sue Demoor, Anna Reid, Peter Delgado
Photo: Ben Brillante

Technology and Educational Design Services (TEDS) was established in late June to develop innovative flexible and online learning resources. It incorporates work and staff that were formerly part of Centre for the Enhancement of Learning, Teaching and Scholarship.

"Establishing TEDS highlights the University's recognition of the importance of educational technologies," said manager Deborah Veness.

With a team that boasts expertise in curriculum development, editing, graphic and web design, TEDS will be responsible for developing the paper and web-based resources for the University's flexible online postgraduate courses.

It is also at the cutting edge of WebCT, going beyond simply putting lecture notes online to produce striking interactive materials that would not look out of place on the latest games console.
Reflection on my trip to the Mosque

Lucy Blemings shares her first experience of attending prayers at a Mosque.

6 September 2005: On Friday 19 August I joined some of my friends going to worship at the Yarralumla Mosque.

I had never been inside a Mosque and had only once experienced Muslim prayer in person. I went wondering if experiencing a service and prayer would give me new insights and understanding.

With the increasing religious tensions and terrorist violence escalating, especially after the London bombings, I felt I needed to ‘be active and do something’.

For some time I had been wondering what I could do as a Christian westerner who is aware that the acts of terrorism and resulting backlash against the Muslim community were the actions of those with extreme views – on both sides.

Rather than pushing the issue aside as too hard and instead setting in place a prayer to solve it, I decided to take a step of faith and be practical in making sure I had a better understanding of the Muslim faith myself.

I wanted to personally experience, observe and learn and secondly to show solidarity and respect.

The head covering

On the day of my visit to the Mosque, my female Muslim friend Maha supplied me with a headscarf and helped me learn how to place it appropriately on my head. She gave me a few tips about keeping it from slipping.

I chose to wear this throughout my experience. This was partly out of politeness and partly to enable me to experience a sense of what life was like for those who wear the headscarf every day.

Initially I felt constrained by the head covering. I felt the people looking at me differently. As time passed I relaxed and did not feel self-conscious. In fact I actually felt warm (good on a cold Canberra day) and secure.

As we walked down the corridor and across towards the bus, the reactions from others towards me as an externally Muslim woman were interesting. I was my normal smiling extroverted self but hardly anyone made eye contact with me – something which was a strong contrast to my normal interactions. It was as if I had been made a little invisible.

When we got on the bus, we were the only women travelling that day, however despite this gender imbalance I felt quite comfortable. I learned that it is optional for women to attend Friday Prayers at the Mosque and makes are required to attend the service.

The level of conversation on the bus was fairly quiet on the way there. People were more reflective. This changed on the way back: people were more relaxed and chatting.

Smiles of welcome

When we arrived at the Mosque, we went in the women’s door upstairs to the mezzanine floor where we removed our shoes. I had been told this Mosque was fairly multicultural, and sure enough there were people from many different countries and backgrounds (Indon, Pakistan, Indonesia) wearing a wide variety of Islamic dress, from jeans and hijab to full head to toe covering.

There were females of all ages: babies, girls from the local Islamic school with their teacher, young and old women. I was greeted with smiles of welcome and I enjoyed seeing the diversity held by one room.

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Like a child

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Glories

On our return to the University my friends gave me some gifts - a short book of excerpts from their holy texts on peace and non-violence and a box of dates. I was gifted by more than their scripture and texts on peace and non-violence and a box of dates. I was gifted by more than their scripture and

The gift given by my Muslim friends was providing guidance and insight into their faith and lives. I only hope that I can respond in the same gracious and generous way.
Review: Beyond the Fringe

The only disappointment of Beyond the Fringe was that more people weren't there to see UCU present Players Company production of the year, writes Gabby McMillan

6 September 2005: Beyond The Fringe was easily the best Players Company production of 2005. It brimmed with solid, snappy - sometimes naughty - performances, which deserved a larger audience.

The Beyond the Fringe cast brought the genius of comedy legends Peter Cook, Dudley Moore, Alan Bennett and Jonathan Miller to the Staff Club.

The small cast of Roger Beckmann, Duncan Driver, Martin Searles and John Winter slipped between a number of characters for the 17 sketches and they hardly skipped a beat.

Director Liz Bradley had emphasised the importance of comedic timing before Beyond The Fringe opened on August 26 at the UCU Staff Club and she wasn't wrong. The four actors captured the timing made famous by Peter Cook, Dudley Moore, Alan Bennett and Jonathan Miller in the 1960s brilliantly.

The acting quartet were impressive individually but even more so together. Searles' monologue sketches weren't delivered as strongly as the other actors, but his addition to the group pieces was priceless.

Standout sketches were 'Sitting on the Bench', 'The Great Train Robbery', 'Bollard', 'Bread Alone' and 'Civil War' which all took place in Act One. 'Bread Alone' starred all four actors and really emphasised their ability to work confidently as a troupe. 'Bollard' captured the actors at their most camp, with cheeky, hilarious performances from all.

Act Two was thinner with laughs, although Beckmann should be noted for his elaborately dynamic piano-playing in 'Colonel Bogey Plays Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No 1'.

The sets were minimal, as were props, so the actors were the source of visual fun. With spot-on performances from all four actors under professional direction from Bradley, it should come as no surprise Beyond The Fringe was an enjoyable evening; it was just a shame there weren't more there to bask in the silliness too.
New sculpture promotes peaceful reflection

6 September 2005: The University’s newest artwork was installed last week. Artist GW Bot oversaw the installation of her seven piece bronze sculpture Hieroglyphs (Requiem) at the University of Canberra Innovation Centre on Friday afternoon.

Hieroglyphs (Requiem) was donated to the University by local printmaker and sculptor, GW Bot.

To view the work, go through the main doors of the Innovation Centre and walk straight ahead into Retro Cafe. Hieroglyphs (Requiem) is on the right hand side.

It is opposite another GW Bot work, Glyphs, a linocut acquired by the University in 2004.

A reflection on the 2003 Canberra bushfires, the artist said she hoped the work would help users of the building find a bit of peace during the day.

"Hieroglyphs is a fairly peaceful work, fairly still - a little bit of space between busy schedules here in this busy place," she said.

"There are few spaces in life for such things."
International students to sell ACT science at home

Edward O'Daly

6 September 2005: Advances in green energy, treatments for flu and the latest dramatic improvements in skin cancer detection were among the cutting edge examples of Canberra science shown off to some of the University's foreign students late last month.

Under the International Student Ambassadors program, spearheaded by the University and the ACT Chief Minister's Department, the group was taken to the CSIRO Discovery Centre in Acton to interact with the Australian science of tomorrow.

Malaysian marketing communication student, Emily Yapp, enjoyed the chance to see some Australian wildlife and was also impressed with the centre's 3D animation.

"It was a great visit," she said.

"I would encourage other international students to join the program. I've learned a lot from it."

The aim of the program is to showcase what Canberra has to offer, so the students will be able to spread the word about the ACT in their home country.

"By the end of the program the students have a knowledge and appreciation of the city and its people they could not have had simply by being here as student, as well as a network of ongoing contacts both in Canberra and around the world," said the scheme's coordinator, Penny Cameron.

In July the students met with the territory's business community and next month they will be exposed to 'Cultural Canberra'.

Ambassadors Chu Su Lan (left), Emily Yapp and Vathsala Ramasundara (background) come face-to-face with a live stick insect
New centre to research health and well-being

Gaye Morrison

30 August 2005: In addition to the customary round of speeches, guests at Monday's opening of the University's newest research centre were quizzed on their eating and exercise habits.

The Healthpact Centre for Health Promotion and Wellbeing was officially opened by ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope, who was joined by the centre's director and quizmaster for the day, Paul Morrison, deputy director Katja Mikhailovich and board members including chief health officer for the ACT Charles Guest.

Professor Morrison's quiz may have been lighthearted, but it illustrated a serious message: the way that we look after ourselves can have a serious impact upon our own life and also on the lives of the people we live and work with.

The Centre will draw on expertise within and external to the University. Priority areas for research include efficacy and evaluation studies of health promotion interventions, research into health inequalities and the social determinants of health.

Speakers at the event, including Kerry Arabena, chair of the ACT Health Promotion Board and Mr Stanhope, emphasised the need for investment in health promotion, and also to understand what works and what doesn't in promotional campaigns in order to better target the promotional health dollar.

Mr Stanhope was also supportive of the research into health inequalities. He said while ACT residents have generally good health, there are some vulnerable groups, and it is necessary to look at the root causes of their poor health.

Mr Stanhope recognised the importance of partnerships between government and the education sector and welcomed this partnership with the University of Canberra.
Fijian appointment for professor

Edward O'Daly

30 August, 2005: The head of the University's School of Information Sciences and Engineering has been appointed adjunct professor of information sciences at the University of Fiji.

Originally from Fiji, Dharmendra Sharma, visited the university earlier this month to accept the appointment and deliver a public lecture. The visit built on the foundations of cooperation laid by a memorandum of understanding signed between the two universities in May.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Fiji, Rajesh Chandra, said he was honoured Professor Sharma had accepted the honorary position, describing him as an "excellent scholar".

"Coming from the humble beginnings of Sigatoka and Ba, Professor Sharma is a strong inspiration for all people of Fiji, and particularly to students to work hard, be focused and to achieve an international reputation," Professor Chandra added.

Professor Sharma praised the University of Fiji's leadership and commitment to quality assurance.

"My role as adjunct professor would be to ensure that the courses meet international quality standards. In my time here, I have reviewed the curriculum, and vetted the exam papers and results and am satisfied with the quality being achieved. I am pleased with the commitment of the University of Fiji to external quality assurance," Professor Sharma said.
Cyclists stop at UC en route from Perth to Sydney

Rebecca Stones

30 August 2005: A cyclist travelling from Perth to Sydney said he hoped his ride would encourage his sick father as well as raise awareness of the University Games when he stopped in for a pit stop at the University last week.

Lin Ming Wei and Daniel Carruthers both undertook the 4,500km cycling challenge so the 2011 Universiade might be held in Lin Ming Wei's hometown of Shenzhen, China. The University welcomed the duo for a well-earned afternoon tea on 26 August.

The pair began cycling on 5 August, waking each day at 5:30am to ride approximately 220km in 12 hours.

The epic ride is not the first for the Lin Ming Wei, who has undertaken numerous rides across Asia and Europe in the hope of his city hosting the 2011 games.

While riding from Beijing to Paris, Lin Ming Wei met New Zealander Daniel Carruthers and invited him to join the Australian tour.

The pair agreed the hardest part of the ride was facing the Australian winter every morning, especially as China is now in summer.

Mr Carruthers said high-speed vehicles also made it dangerous at times as big trucks would pass too closely.

Despite the challenges and numerous tire punctures, the pair said they enjoyed their travel and were looking forward to a big reception in Sydney on 28 August.

About Shenzhen:
- It is one of China's most affluent cities
- It has a population of 12 million people
- View popular tourist sites in Shenzhen

Lin Ming Wei (right) and Daniel Carruthers are collecting signatures in support of Shenzhen's bid to host the 2011 University Games.

Photo: Ben Brillante
Edible music not to everybody's taste

Rebecca Stones

30 August 2005: An unusual sound-art performance involving University of Canberra staff left some of its audience rather confused at the Liquid Architecture sound-art festival on 23 July.

Stephen Barrass and Anita Fitton formed The Consumers after discovering they both had pieces in the National Gallery's Future Play exhibition. (Professor Barrass displayed a purring couch and Ms Fitton had talking chairs)

Photo: Rebecca Stones

Associate Professor in creative communication Stephen Barrass, graphic design lecturer Anita Fitton and new media PhD student Onaclov were part of The Consumers, a group exploring audience reactions to music created without traditional instruments.

Their piece Edible Audience, performed with Liquid Architecture curator Alistair Riddell, was set out like a meal with performers 'eating' off a table.

However, instead of food the performers picked up cards printed with specific geometric patterns. A camera tracked the cards with their movements triggering an associated sound.

This 'augmented reality system' called AVIARY also allowed performers to control volume by raising or lowering cards or add filtering effects by tilting them.

Ms Fitton said the audience’s reaction was quite polarised with some loving the inventiveness while others did not appreciate it all.

"I think it's a sign of success because you actually get people talking about it," Ms Fitton said.

The audience was also part of the act, with photos of audience members correlated with cards and projected on a screen behind performers. When the 'food' was eaten, the associated image disappeared, hence the name Edible Audience.

"Some people didn't get it - they thought we were just acting to recorded music... (but) we're happy because we were so different from the other performances," Professor Barrass said.

Despite mixed opinions, the 10-minute performance was a sell-out at Canberra's first Liquid Architecture festival, although Professor Barrass does not expect sound-art to be the next big thing.

"Part of our research is doing performances and raising the University's profile by doing performances that push the boundaries... (it's also) a way to introduce new music to the public and develop the future of sound media."

More:

- Read the National Gallery's summaries of Liquid Architecture performers
- The Consumers group comprises Stephen Barrass, Anita Fitton and Onaclov from the University of Canberra, Tim Barrass from the University of Melbourne and Alistair Riddell from ANU.
- The Augmented Reality System (AVIARY) used to track the food was developed in collaboration with Peter Morse from the University of Melbourne.
- Liquid Architecture has been running for six years in Melbourne and Sydney, however 2005 was the first time the festival was also held in Canberra.
- A DVD of Liquid Architecture performance will soon be released by the National Gallery of Australia.
Washington internship for paper conservator

Gabby McMillan

30 August, 2005: University of Canberra graduate Sophie Lewincamp has been awarded a prestigious paper conservation internship at the Library of Congress in Washington DC.

Ms Lewincamp, who graduated in 2004, will put her Bachelor of Applied Science/Conservation of Cultural Materials degree to good use when she commences the year-long unpaid internship in September.

Ms Lewincamp said she is excited about the full-time internship because the Library of Congress "is among the big guns of conservation".

"This will be a really exciting experience because I will be on the forefront of conservation," she said.

"I've been talking about it for a while so I'm really looking forward to just doing it now."

Working at the National Library of Australia throughout her degree, Ms Lewincamp gained experience working in labs on exhibitions, artworks and 'remedial problems' such as torn book pages.

The National Library, her current employer, has helped out with sponsorship and she has received a $5000 Ian Potter Cultural Trust grant to assist with expenses.

"I will be staying with my mum's friend for the first four weeks but then I'll find another a place," she said.

"It is an unpaid internship but it will be fantastic experience for me."
Fight to stop VSU continues

Edward O'Daly

30 August, 2005: The Students' Association (SA) continued its battle to stop Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) last week.

Crowds of staff and students gathered in the sunshine at the rally last Thursday lunchtime in contrast to the previous day of action earlier in the month when snow kept many would-be protestors away.

"VSU is not a student issue; it's a community issue," said SA president Jennifer Newman.

"The University of Canberra brings new faces to Canberra each year because of the experience provided at this University.

"Students consistently say that UC is a great social and cultural learning environment and this will disappear under VSU."

Protesters listened to a number of speakers before making their own voices heard by calling politicians direct to argue against VSU.

Students hit the phones to give their opinions direct to the politicians at Thursday's rally

Photo: Ben Brillante
University mourns Clea Rose

Edward O'Daly

23 August, 2005: Classmates of student Clea Rose, who died at the weekend, held a minute's silence for her yesterday.

Clea slipped away peacefully on Saturday morning, three weeks after being hit by a car in Civic. She never regained consciousness following the accident.

Lecturer Kate Armstrong announced the news of Clea's death at yesterday afternoon's sustainable tourism management lecture.

Students then paid their respects with a minute's silence before a "subdued" class.

A "talented, conscientious and high achieving student", Clea was due to graduate with a Bachelor of Tourism Management in December. Last year she worked as casual employee in student services.

The 21-year-old had recently returned from an exchange trip to Colorado State University and was described by friends as a "genuinely lovely person" who will be missed greatly.

Her father Ross Dunn is the University's manager of employment relations. Together with her mother, Frances Rose and sister Zoe Rose, Mr Dunn issued a statement mourning the loss of his "beautiful, strong, vivacious and talented" daughter.

She will be laid to rest tomorrow at 2.15pm at the chapel of the Norwood Park Crematorium in Mitchell. A reception in the Clive Price Suite at the University will follow the service at 3.30pm.

The Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean extended the University's sympathies to Clea's family.

"We are all deeply saddened at the news of Clea's untimely death following the accident. Staff and students at the university who knew Clea Rose will remember her as a vibrant and popular student who had a great enthusiasm for life. She will be sadly missed," Professor Dean said.
More rewarding than flipping burgers

Rebecca Stones

23 August, 2005: Like most students, 22-year-old Adam Smith has worked in various jobs to get by, including the obligatory stint at McDonald's, but his current job as a direct care worker gives him something to be proud of.

Mr Smith works for Marymead Child and Family Centre at Narrabundah, working mostly with intellectually disabled children.

He also cares for foster children and children whose parents are ill.

"I love it...just because you're helping people who can't help themselves...it's hard work but very rewarding," he said.

Working 25-30 hours a week, Mr Smith admits his job does affect his law/commerce degree, especially as he is often called in at short notice so children are never left unsupervised.

Mr Smith said he enjoys the mentoring aspects of the work and the ability to take his clients outside the centre.

"They employ lots of uni students...it's great because there are company cars so you can take (clients) out and show them the real world."

Mr Smith said he was never worried about working with disabled children but was shocked by the public reaction when he took clients out.

"People stare...I think it's good that (the staring) doesn't phase me anymore, but the job really opens your eyes to how rude some people in the community can be."

Despite his love for the job, Mr Smith said it would not suit everyone.

"There's personal (hygiene) care and some clients can be violent - you'll definitely get scratched, kicked or bitten.

"It can be disturbing, especially for some people who can't handle seeing a kid out of control or violent, but ultimately I find it extremely rewarding."
Conceptual artist reinterprets the everyday

Gabby McMillan

23 August, 2005: University of Canberra associate lecturer Elvis Richardson's comfort zone lies within her art. While she enjoys teaching, Ms Richardson said she feels more nervous giving a lecture than discussing her artwork.

"I guess I am more comfortable with my identity as an artist than a teacher most likely because I have been an artist longer," she explained.

Ms Richardson shared three of her recent creative works at the semester's second Artists Talk presentation on 17 August. The works, 'Slide Show Land', 'Before and After' and 'Hoddle Street Massacre' explore Ms Richardson's love of conceptual art, where she "takes the everyday and turns it into something else".

Ms Richardson bought around 40,000 35mm slides from online auctioneers eBay for 'Slide Show Land', including around 350 separate collections. She said 'Slide Show Land' explores the concept of "collecting practices, methods of categorisation, conventions of photography and the image culture we exist in".

She was intrigued by how people could part with their family collections. "I'm preserving these families' histories so on an emotive level I'm keeping them together," she said.

By using a number of personal elements in her work, Ms Richardson said she is communicating to the public, not necessarily to an audience that is educated about art.

"As an artist there is a desire to communicate to people," she said.

Her second piece, 'Before and After', is an hour-long interactive DVD which shows two perspectives of Ms Richardson's train journey from Manhattan to Long Island in America. The viewer can choose from three music tracks which will progress the train journey.

'Hoddle Street Massacre' is Ms Richardson's most recent work. After hearing of the 1987 massacre on Hoddle Street, Melbourne where 19-year-old Julian Knight killed seven people and injured 17, Ms Richardson said she became fascinated.

"I was interested in how a place, a street, takes on a tragic event like the massacre," she said.

Ms Richardson conducted interviews with people on Hoddle Street in June 2005 to create an audio "remapping of memory and place".

"I actually did the first recordings in 1998 so I went back there to see how responses had changed," she said. "I wanted to see how long it might take for something like this to be erased from the public's memory."

Ms Richardson said observation is her greatest inspiration.

"I see art as something I do all the time because I don't have to be in the studio," she said. "I can be sitting here, observing everything around me."
The health dollar should only be for healthy people

At last Thursday's Australian Science Festival debate, Gabrielle Cooper was on the team proposing the health dollar would be better spent on those who take care of their health than on those who can't be bothered to look after themselves. She summarises her argument below.

23 August, 2005: This year's ASF debate explored the topic of access to health care in an environment of limited funds. With increasingly limited funds available within health, it is reasonable to discuss the issue of who should get a share of the health dollar.

More and more frequently we are faced with facts that indicate those who do not look after themselves, through exercise, diet and risky behaviours, are consuming more than their fair share of an ever decreasing cake!

It is fundamentally unfair that the community has to support those who are unhealthy and thus waste precious funds that could be better spent on preventative and public health measures.

In a democracy, surely we should to debate this issue and come up with some recommendations on who should be treated, for how long and with how much - or some will miss out all together.

Currently the debate sits with the interested parties - the medical profession and other interest groups such as the pharmaceutical companies. We need to bring this debate to the dinner tables of Australia and make it the new barbecue stopper.

There needs to be long term social change to make unhealthy lifestyles socially unacceptable - as has happened with smoking and speeding in cars.

According to available health data, over the 10 years to 2002-03, healthcare spending grew by $30 billion a year on top of inflation. This amounted to growth of almost 70 per cent in real terms.

We're now spending more on health than the average for developed countries of 8.4 per cent of GDP.

But contrary to popular perception, ageing isn't the biggest reason spending on healthcare can be expected to continue outpacing the rest of the economy over the next 20 or 30 years.

The most important reason is that advances in medical technology prove to be so terribly expensive. Neither individual patients nor their doctors have much incentive to limit spending on healthcare. It will not be until the resource is limited that the population will have to focus on who should receive care and whether that expenditure is worth the investment.

Should the person that is treated be the one that has invested energy in maintaining their precious health or should those who place little value on their health be treated to the potential detriment of the rest of the population who will miss out?
Dancing all the way to Scotland

A University of Canberra student tells Gabby McMillan how her love of Irish dancing has taken her around the world and back again.

23 August, 2005: When law and forensic science student Rosheehan O’Meagher was in primary school her mother took her to see the Irish dancing spectacular, Riverdance. She hated it.

Much has changed in the last decade. Not only did Ms O’Meagher, 20, live in Scotland for almost two years to dance, she has entered numerous competitions in Australia and is planning on teaching Irish dancing in her spare time.

Ms O’Meagher’s interest began when a friend started teaching her Irish dancing steps during recess and lunch at school.

Ms O’Meagher embraced her Irish heritage soon after starting at dancing school.

“I walked into the classroom and told the teacher my name was Rosheehan but she wrote it down using the Gaelic spelling-Roisin, which is pronounced the same way (Rosh-een),” she said.

“So my name has been spelt the Gaelic way for all my classes and competitions ever since.”

A ‘different’ childhood hobby

Ms O’Meagher said she loved “how different Irish dancing” was compared to other childhood hobbies.

“Not many people did it,” she said. “It was something I could have just for me.”

Ms O’Meagher laughed when she remembered her severe dislike for Riverdance as a child. “It can be very hard to look at an Irish dancer’s feet and make sense of what they’re doing because it is very hard and fast,” she said. “Once I could comprehend the movements, I loved it.”

By the age of 15, she was assisting teachers with their dance lessons. Ms O’Meagher gave up competitive dance two months ago, but she will still travel to Sydney at the end of August to watch previous students compete in the NSW state championships.

Ms O’Meagher’s high-school life was centred on Irish dancing; she had up to five, three-hour classes a week. But Ms O’Meagher said she knew the dancing school had taken her as far as it could by 2002. “I wanted to give dancing my all, one last time, before I closed the competitive chapter of my life,” she said.

‘Fitter and sharper’

Following a recommendation from her dancing teacher, Ms O’Meagher made contact with Sharon Taylor, a renowned instructor from Taylor Academy in Glasgow, and moved to Scotland in 2003. Ms O’Meagher described her process in Scotland as “progressive”.

“Looking back I could see I was an improved dancer,” she said. “She made me fitter and sharper without overtraining me,” she said. “The discipline I learnt really centred me and gave me a sense of direction and determination.”

Ms O’Meagher had to work full-time to pay for accommodation and classes, but she made time to explore many areas including England, Greece and Switzerland.

After returning to Australia in late 2004, Ms O’Meagher considered her future involvement with Irish dancing. She decided to pursue, in addition to a law and science double degree at the University, another profession as a dance instructor.

“For me teaching will never be a money-making thing but I just feel like I can bring something out in kids that I could never bring out in my own dancing,” she said. “Once I leave university and follow my law/science career path, I will still be pursuing teaching dance on the side.”

While Ms O’Meagher said she thoroughly enjoyed the competitive side of Irish dancing, there is one section she will be glad to be free of: the expensive costumes. “A costume I wanted to buy in Scotland, but didn’t, cost the equivalent of $2000 Australian dollars,” she said.

Ms O’Meagher said she can’t imagine not being involved with Irish dancing and hopes to return to Scotland one day. “I would definitely like to see the dancing school again,” she said. “I would like to get back to Glasgow for the 2007 world championships.”
**Review: In Praise of Younger Women**

Gabby McMillan may have found Jack Irvine's writing style simple, but the stories he weaved were surprisingly intricate.

**23 August, 2005:** Jack Irvine's *In Praise of Younger Women* is a surprising, gritty read. Filled with twisting, exotic journeys of love, lust and difficult choices, *In Praise of Younger Women* captures the simplicity of storytelling.

Irvine's short stories take the reader across international waters, with his plots centring on young women's intriguing, often unpredictable experiences.

While it may initially appear odd to have a man telling young women's stories, Irvine discusses how he compiled the ideas and situations in the book's preface.

He admits many of the stories are based on his personal experiences or the experiences of people from around the world he has encountered during remarkable periods of his life.

The opening story, *On a Magic Carpet*, describes a chance encounter between Peter Stuart from Edinburgh and a 15-year-old Indian girl called Ranjita. Its literary minimalism is almost off-putting at first, but Irvine manages to ensnare the reader with captivating, sometimes jaw-dropping, plot twists.

Irvine explores the cross-road sections of life in most stories; people are forced to make decisions which will affect them for the rest of their lives. *To Rob a Lady* is no different. The melodramatic climax is required because of the horrific and life-changing experiences of the main character, Marguerite.

Irvine's writing style is basic, almost conversational, but his stories intricately weave unsuspecting characters into interesting and outlandish situations. *In Praise of Younger Women* is an enjoyable, graphic and culturally insightful collection of young women's journeys.

*There is one copy to give away. The editor's decision is final.*
Stars plus history equals mathematician's retirement

Edward O'Daly

23 August, 2005: Astronomy, family history and his discipline of mathematics are likely fill retired lecturer Peter Brown's days, once he has 'recovered' from 31-and-a-half years in academia.

Dr Brown bid farewell to the University earlier this month and is making a restful start to his retirement.

“I'm relaxing and regaining my energy,” he said.

However he has plenty planned for after this well-earned break, first he will indulge his passions for genealogy and the stars, while later he hopes to be able to offer online maths support to school teachers.

Dr Brown said his favourite period in more than 30 years at the University was the five years after the original college of advanced education achieved university status.

Among the proudest moments in his career were his “critical” role in establishing the Australian Mathematics Trust, rescuing the University from potentially disastrous timetabling mishap and having “taught a lot of students well”.

"The thing I will miss most are the probably the cohorts of good and interested students," he added.
**Customs Thai up deal**

Edward O'Daly

**23 August, 2005:** The University's unique Centre for Customs and Excise Studies (CCES) has signed a deal with Royal Thai Customs to cement cooperation between the two organisations.

The Letter of Cooperation, signed in Bangkok last week by the centre's CEO David Widdowson and director general of Royal Thai Customs Sathit Limpongpan covers training, education and capacity building as the Thai body begins a major reform and modernisation program.

"The cooperative arrangement cements a long-term strategic alliance that will mutually benefit the two organisations, and build on the close ties between the two countries, reflected in the recently concluded Australia-Thailand Free Trade Agreement," said Dr Widdowson.

Training delivered under the agreement will allow Thai officials to move on to postgraduate studies at the centre.

Dr Sathit said the deal would provide his senior managers with skills implement the planned program of reform and modernisation.
Snow surprise for foreign students
Edward O’Daly
16 August 2005: Last week’s cold snap brought the first taste of snow for some of the University’s foreign students.

Indian Master of Professional Accounting student Denver Farrar had never seen snow before last Wednesday.

“It was really good. It was the first time I had experienced snow,” he said.

“People told me Canberra could be a cold place, but it hadn’t snowed for years, so this was a nice, pleasant surprise.”

He explained he and friend Blaize Surrao are from Chennai in India, which he described as “very hot”, but he was used to winter temperatures in Canberra having arrived in Australia a year ago.

While although the Canberra blizzard may have come as a surprise, Mr Surrao said he had seen snow once before on a trip to Thredbo.

For the newly-arrived Master of Professional English students from Beijing the weather was in chilly contrast to the 40 degree heat of summer in the Chinese capital.

“Canberra has strange weather, first there was rain, then hail, then in the evening it snowed,” Ivan Hou Zhi Jie said.

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed the second cohort of Master of Professional English students last Thursday

The students, the second cohort of Beijing police officers to come to the University to study English in preparation for the 2008 Olympics, were officially welcomed to Canberra last Thursday.

Mr Hou said the returning cohort of students had told them what to expect from Canberra and the landscape reminded him of the Inner Mongolian grasslands where he grew up.

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

Rebecca Stones

16 August, 2005: A National Day of Action (NDA) to protest Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) was held across Australian universities on 10 August, however turnout at the University of Canberra was minimal.

This contrasted the NDA rally of 28 April 2005 when a record 300 University of Canberra students protested VSU legislation on the University’s concourse.

Students’ Association (UCSA) president Jennifer Newman said poor attendance at the rally was partly due to tight resources, with the UCSA’s time split between the NDA rally, revived VSU discussions and ongoing student services.

“It usually helps for it not to snow if you want to stage a rally...This is my fourth year in Canberra (and) it’s the first time I’ve seen snow - and on one of the most important days of the campaign,” she said.

“I think students are feeling defeated and it’s disappointing to see that reflected in the turnout we got.”

Ms Newman said she still believes VSU is not inevitable and students should not give up even in the face of a Senate majority.

“We’re not defeated - we vote for these people and their loyalties are to their constituencies.”

Despite the low student turnout, Ms Newman said the number of university staff that braved the cold to show their support impressed her and she was grateful staff were willing to discuss the issues of VSU openly with students.
Sporting students compete on world stage

Gabby McMillan

16 August, 2005: Four University of Canberra representatives will compete at the 2005 World University Summer Games (WUSG) in Izmir, Turkey.

Joshua Jefferis, Joel Moss, Eliza Kwan and Matthew Turnbull will take part in the 14-sport 'Summer Universiade', which began on 11 August and will run until this weekend. Mr Jefferis and Mr Moss will represent the Australian team in gymnastics, Ms Kwan in taekwondo and Mr Turnbull in water polo.

While Mr Moss graduated from the University with a Bachelor of Engineering degree in 2004, he is allowed to compete because participants are still accepted one year after graduation.

Mr Moss, who has been a gymnast since he was six, maintained a structured regime of four hours of training per day in preparation for the WUSG. He is also training for the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games.

"It's great to be going to the university games," Mr Moss said. "It's a major competition of a high standard...I just want to do my best."

Fellow gymnast Mr Jefferis has represented Australia for around nine years, scoring first places at the 2005 Australian National titles in the all-round, rings and parallel bars disciplines.

He juggles training with study for his Bachelor of Applied Science degree, but he said the Australian Institute of Sport's Athlete Career and Education (ACE) program helps him manage his time.

"I'm usually away for about three or four weeks a semester so it can be hard to catch up with work," he said. "When you're training 30 hours a week and going to training camps it can get pretty hectic."

Mr Jefferis said he is excited to be in Turkey and is also excited about the 'set-up' of the games. "I've never had the experience of living with other athletes in a village atmosphere before so it should be good."

Mr Turnbull, who is completing a Bachelor of Secondary Education/PE Teaching degree, said making the 2005 World University Summer Games' water polo team became a goal after he made the world junior team a few years ago.

He describes water polo as "quite a hard sport", where fitness needs to be matched with strength and skills. "We usually have four swims, three weights and four ball sessions a week," he said.

The games:
The World University Games takes place every two years.

The 2005 event features almost 9500 participants from 180 countries competing in 14 sports.

The Summer Universiade is second only to the Olympics in numbers of athletes.

The Summer Universiade comprises ten compulsory sports (athletics, basketball, fencing, football, gymnastics, swimming, diving, water polo, tennis and volleyball) and up to four optional sports chosen by the host country.

The word "universiade" comes from "university" and "Olympiad". It means Olympic Games for students.
High ranking for UC teaching

Edward O'Daly

16 August, 2005: The University of Canberra has been ranked among the country's best for its learning and teaching performance.

Data collected by DEST places the University of Canberra eighth among 38 Australian tertiary institutions based on seven performance indicators covering student satisfaction and success.

"The University has been ranked eighth with respect to excellence in learning and teaching. This confirms the University of Canberra's position as one of Australia's leading universities," Vice-Chancellor Professor Roger Dean said.

"The University's overall ranking reflects its commitment to providing its students with the highest quality learning environment."

Every university in the country was given a score for learning and teaching performance by DEST. The score was calculated using information collected from student questionnaires about the quality of teaching they received, combined with the proportion of students that went on to full-time employment or study, and student drop-out and pass rates.

The ranking comes only a few weeks after the University was given a five star rating for students' success in getting a job after graduation by the Good Universities Guide.
Curing the 'Hey you' syndrome

Rebecca Stones

16 August, 2005: At some point we all experience the embarrassment of forgetting someone's name, whether it's right on the tip of your tongue or drawing a complete blank.

But information management senior lecturer Ros Byrne said we should not be ashamed to ask for names.

Ms Byrne, who gave a seminar on icebreakers and 'getting-to-know-you' exercises on 19 July at the University, said they were a great way to resolve what she called the 'Hey you' problem in classrooms.

Due to a decrease in face-to-face learning, students increasingly depend on each other and need to form networks, so icebreakers help prevent isolation of individuals, Ms Byrne said.

While Ms Byrne admitted to using the same icebreaker - a repetition name game - for the past 10 semesters, she said it was not necessarily a case of "when you're on a good thing, stick to it".

"Bigger classes mean some exercises might not be appropriate...and you also have to consider other factors like time or cultural differences".

Ms Byrne said there were also times when icebreakers were unnecessary, or when the challenges of the exercise outweighed the benefits, such as in an overcrowded classroom.

Seminar attendees were invited to tell any icebreaker 'horror stories', but the flexibility of icebreaker exercise meant the worst scenario was students not turning-up.
Project showcases reuse by design

Edward O'Daly

16 August 2005. Ironing boards, bull bars, toasters and golf clubs are among the items once discarded as rubbish that have been given a new lease of life in a project by the University's industrial design students.

Tea cup and wire lamp

The project, the results of which make up the Found! exhibition in the building 7 gallery, aimed to foster relationships across all four years of the course, as well as to test students' design and production talents.

"We find we get a lot of informal teaching between years in our workshops and computer labs. So each year we do an exercise like this, where we have one student from each year on a team to help encourage that," said head of industrial design, Don Carson.

The teams were sent out to dumps across the region to recover materials and reinvent them as items that were useful once again. Among the students' creations were a bench seat made from old bull bar, a wire and teacup lamp and a washing machine stool.

Mr Carson explained the task had its roots in early Australian culture, when pioneers adapted items in their environment to meet their needs, but was also a critique of our current throwaway society.

"It's about the culture of consuming, where everything has to be shiny and flashy - in fact it doesn't have to be this way."

The exhibition was opened last Tuesday by Jason Hugonnet from the Crafts Council of the ACT, who recalled the chess set he once made out of parts of an old television and said that to combine reuse and design required "a degree of alchemy" from the designer.

"Found! is an exhibition that is fresh and looks at material from a different angle," he added.

Best project winner:

Tea cup and wire lamp by

Brian Henshaw (Year 4)

Annie van der Wal (Year 3)

Timothy Hopkins (Year 1)

David Lammers (Year 2)

See more works in: Found! exhibition gallery
Close race for curious professor

Rebecca Stones

16 August, 2005: Associate Professor Suresh Mahalingam said it was an honour simply to be nominated for a prestigious Eureka Prize, despite narrowly missing out on the grand prize.

Professor Veena Sahajwalla was announced as the winner of the $10,000 University of NSW Eureka Prize for scientific research at the Australian Museum award ceremony on 9 August for her research on the use of recycled plastics in steel making.

Professor Mahalingam was one of three finalists for the prize after receiving a number of international nominations for his research on mosquito-borne viruses.

"Those I've met who won the award previously are very successful scientists, so to be selected is fantastic," he said.

Speaking before the night, Professor Mahalingam said Professor Sahajwalla would be "stiff competition" and well known from her appearances on the ABC's The New Inventors.

The nomination for Professor Mahalingam described his work as "outstanding curiosity-driven research" that successfully discovered the mechanisms used by mosquito-borne viruses in causing disease in humans.

Professor Mahalingam's discoveries about immune-evasion strategies employed by viruses and their implications for virus-induced arthritis make a valuable contribution to the fight against inflammatory diseases.

"It's not about seeking self-promotion...(These awards) are always good because you can say 'yes, this is what we are doing' - but the awards are secondary to the science."

In the future Professor Mahalingam hopes to compete for other awards to continue his science and increase his role in promoting science education in remote schools.

"I want to build-up a big research group that is internationally competitive and a world leader. I don't want to divert my attention from achieving that goal."
Debaters argue the unthinkable

Edward O'Daly

16 August 2005: Tourism students' debating skills were put to the test last week as they found themselves arguing the unthinkable: Canberra is boring.

The Tourism Industry Council's Great Tourism Debate pitted the University of Canberra against the Australian International Hotel School, with the University successfully arguing Canberra was too cold, too boring, had too many politicians and lacked the 'charisma' to be a tourist destination.

"It was difficult because I love in Canberra, I grew up here, I like Canberra and I would like to work in tourism here," said third year tourism student Matt Crawshaw - one third of the University's victorious team.

Mr Crawshaw explained Canberra's strength as a tourist destination is not its charisma, but being the home of national attractions and special events like Floriade.

He added the breakfast event gave useful feedback to those involved in tourism in the region, as well as being an excellent networking opportunity for students, who shared tables with senior figures in the industry.

The Great Tourism Debate is a contest for the University of Canberra, the hotel school and CIT. Each year one institution plays host while the remaining two do battle. The University has won every time it has competed.

The winning team:

Matthew Crawshaw (third year tourism)

Naomi Dale (second year tourism)

Fiona Hammond (third year hotel management)
UC to train Indonesian officials

Edward O'Daly

16 August 2005: The process of decentralisation in Indonesia is expected to receive a significant boost, with the signing of a deal that will see the University of Canberra train officials from Jakarta and the adjoining Bekasi region.

The capacity building training, which will be carried out by the University's Centre for Developing Cities, will get underway towards the end of the year under an agreement between AusAID and the University.

Signing the deal on behalf of AusAID, Margaret Callan, director, Indonesia Programs Section, said the training was “critical” to the process of decentralisation and democratisation in Indonesia. The Vice-Chancellor, Roger Dean, who put pen to paper for the University, highlighted the “practical, professional and applied” nature of the training.

The centre's deputy director, Kath Wellman, said that in addition to training in Indonesia, participants will travel to Australia for a 10 day study tour, meeting working public officials in Brisbane, Canberra and Sydney. The tour will focus on planning and implementation of a range of development plans for transportation, solid waste, tourism, and infrastructure development, based on principles of good governance in areas of public administration, she said.

"The students are senior managers and they will be trained by top professionals and top academics, bringing theory and practice together," Associate Professor Wellman added.

The agreement with AusAID is worth almost $230,000, and the cities of Jakarta and Bekasi will contribute a further $120,000.
No H2O for these business moguls

Gabby McMillan

9 August 2005: Four University of Canberra students hope to clean up in the business world with the recent establishment of a waterless car-washing service.

Dani Charles Jongwe, together with three friends, founded Joe’s Mobile Waterless Carwash around a month ago and they already have a portfolio of pleased customers in tow.

Zimbabwean-born Mr Jongwe said he wanted to create employment for himself and others because “everyone else is already out there competing for the same jobs”.

“I’m always thinking of new ideas,” he said. “Some of them are a bit crazy, some of them aren’t feasible, but this one is definitely a great idea.”

Joe’s Mobile Waterless Carwash’s unique brand of washing doesn’t require water; instead they opt for a combination carwash, polish and protective glaze against dust, salt and UV rays.

Mr Jongwe said he had seen waterless car products used regularly New York, but he hadn’t heard of people using them frequently in Canberra and thought it would be a good idea, especially with Canberra’s water restrictions.

“It’s a really good way to, not only clean your car, but save water,” he said. “For every car washed with our waterless solution you save 250 litres of water.”

Besides saving water and assisting in the prevention of pollution in storm water drains, Mr Jongwe said the product is also far gentler than water on car paint.

Mr Jongwe wants to make the business as convenient as possible for customers. “We drive to wherever you are - university, work...as long as it’s in Canberra,” he said.

The environmentally-savvy tycoons have been busy promoting the business to university staff and students, Westfield Belconnen and many Canberra motels/hotels, including The Brassey of Canberra Hotel in Barton.

Mr Jongwe said he understands university students and staff could have trouble finding money for a carwash every two-three weeks, but Joe’s Mobile Waterless Carwash is willing to negotiate on prices.

“Now we just need the support from the Canberra community.”

Types of wash

Basic wash:
Cleans and polishes exterior surfaces of car including windows, mirrors and tyres.

Premium wash:
Cleans and polishes the exterior and interior surfaces of car; uses plastic and vinyl protector to remove dust and dirt from dashboard. Premium wash also includes carpet vacuum.

Royal Wash:
Cleans and polishes the exterior and interior surfaces of car; uses plastic and vinyl protector to remove dust and dirt from dashboard. Premium wash also includes carpet vacuum. All bugs and tar removed, bumpers renovated, interior spotless and deodorised.

Motorcycle wash:
Clean and polish to protect from the harmful effects of the great outdoors.

Extra options:
Leather-seat treatment; carpet/ fabric shampoo; excessive bug / tar removal; excessively dirty wheels.

Each wash lasts for approximately two weeks, depending on where the car has been driven.

For prices, further information or to make an appointment, contact Dani Charles Jongwe on (02) 62543468 (telephone/fax), 0424 736471, 0404 764810

Writers and artists Get Real for book project

Edward O’Daly

9 August 2005: Children’s stories by the University’s students were tested on their target audience when youngsters from the Blue Gum School visited the campus last week.

Mrs Bradley (standing) showed off the artwork and read stories to the children from Blue Gum School

Graphic design lecturer Julie Bradley read three stories, selected by Penguin Books’ publisher Laura Harris, before asking the children to vote for their favourites.

“These books are for children, so I’m glad we could get them in - although they can sometimes be quite harsh critics,” Mrs Bradley said.

The stories and accompanying illustrations were part of the Get Real project, which brings together the University’s creative writing and graphic design students to produce a children’s book in a task that mirrors real life.

“It’s a really valuable exercise that requires the writers and the designers to perform at a professional level,” she added.

The artworks and stories are on display in the design gallery in building 7, with the best stories illustrations judged by Ms Harris at the exhibition’s opening last Thursday.

The following morning the school kids selected the ‘Little People’s Choice’ winner from Ms Harris’s finalists.

Eight-year-old Joanne said her favourite story was The Big Dry: “There was no rain and then they had rain and they were so happy,” she said.

Meanwhile, six-year-old Daniel liked the story of The Little Brown Horse best.

“I liked how the Little Brown Horse tried to turn himself into a unicorn and then into a Pegasus,” he said.

Blue Gum School’s education director Susan Crowle said the visit had been extremely valuable for the children, particularly as they were studying picture books in class.

“It can be difficult to write for an audience that’s not your peer group so they’ve done a great job, and the variety of illustrations was really impressive,” she added.
Students returning to teach builds strong team

Edward O‘Daly

9 August 2005. A university can tell it’s doing something right when the people best qualified to teach a course are its graduates. This is the case in the University of Canberra’s Schools and Community Centre, where the literacy team is made up entirely of alumnae from the centre.

Coordinator of the centre’s Parents as Tutors literacy program, Jane Stirling and tutors Fay Wise, Pam Harders and Robyn Almond have all studied at the centre at undergraduate or postgraduate level.

“It’s like we’ve come full circle,” Ms Stirling said.

“It’s very exciting and rewarding for us to be back teaching in the centre, as well as teaching our undergraduate and postgraduate courses. We have a really strong team and we all share a passion for our work and the centre’s brand of pedagogy.”

This special style of teaching, developed at the Schools and Community Centre, is known as ‘Scaffolding Literacy’. It works by introducing students to texts that are above their current level and providing specific and explicit support - or scaffolding - to fill in the gap.

“We’re not just passionate about literacy, we’re passionate about Scaffolding Literacy. Each of us believes it is the best pedagogy we’ve ever seen.”

Ms Stirling added that since graduating from the centre all of the staff have had extensive classroom experience, but each in a different area, so the mix of skills at the centre stretches from pre-school to upper secondary school, and includes special needs children, gifted students and those whose first language is not English.

The team, in conjunction with UC Language Education lecturers Mary Macken-Horanki and Misty Adoniou and ACT Department of Education and Training’s ESL executive officer Margot Clements, last week launched a new training and research project which will introduce Scaffolding Literacy to ACT teachers of English as a second language students and Indigenous students.

There was standing room only at the packed meeting where teachers were invited to volunteer to have initial training in Scaffolding Literacy before participating in a research project to examine its effectiveness in the field.

Scaffolding Literacy has already been shown to be exceptionally effective in mainstream and Indigenous classrooms and with children who are struggling with literacy, and is giving youngsters at the Wiradjuri Preschool and Child Care Centre a head start in their literacy through their involvement in a research project at the centre.
Donormobile returns

Gabby McMillan

9 August, 2005: When the Australian Red Cross Blood Service (ARCBS) visited the University of Canberra in March 2005, approximately 300 lives were saved by the University's blood donors.

When the ARCBS's Donormobile returns to the University during August and September 2005, they're hoping the response is even bigger than the 120 staff and students who gave blood last time.

The Donormobile has extended its visit from three to five days to "show their commitment" to the University.

ARCBS spokesperson Neil Pharaoh said they need slightly more than 200 donations to make the University a continued, viable site for the Donormobile.

Staff and students were faced with delays during the Donormobile's last visit, but Mr Pharaoh said a new appointment system has been set up to cut waiting times and assist with "donor flow" across the day. The Donormobile's drop-in service is still available.

For those afraid of needles, the ARCBS describes the procedure as simple as a "pinch inside your elbow".

Each donor provides around 470 mL of blood which can save up to three lives.

Staff and students wishing to donate should check if they meet the requirements for blood donation by contacting the ARCBS on 13 14 95 or visiting their website.

When: Monday 29 August - Friday 2 September

Where: Pinaroo St, Bruce (off College St)

Opening Hours:
Monday 10.30am- 2.30pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10am- 2.30pm
Friday 10am- 1.30pm

New and existing donors are most welcome to donate.

Please remember photo ID with three points of identification.

Have plenty to eat and drink before donating.

Please check you meet the ARCBS donation requirements before you visit the Donormobile

No appointment is required; however please call (02) 62066006 if you would prefer to make a booking.
Comedy a serious business for players

Gabby McMillan

9 August 2005: The Player's Company director Liz Bradley will make her theatre restaurant directorial debut with Beyond the Fringe on 26 August at The Staff Club.

Armed with a cast of four men and around 14 comedy sketches made famous in the 1960s by Peter Cook, Dudley Moore, Alan Bennett and Jonathan Miller, Ms Bradley said her experience so far has been fantastic.

Ms Bradley chose the material because she said it suits the theatre restaurant environment. "I just really like the material," she said. "I like the humour; the nature of it; the blackness of it and the fact that it attacks the Establishment."

Beyond the Fringe stars Duncan Driver, Roger Beckmann, John Winter and Martin Searles, but Ms Bradley said the actors won't individually portray one of the legendary British actors. Instead, their roles will differ from sketch to sketch.

"It would be very difficult to reproduce those four men in the totality," she said. "People would have certain expectations, so to avoid that, the four actors are playing different roles throughout the skits."

Ms Bradley added comedy is "much harder than people think", with the cast rehearsing around three times a week.

Mr Beckmann said they're currently learning lines and working on the comedic timing of the pieces.

"Comedy is actually a serious business because you have to work so hard on it," he said. "But the material is still fresh enough that we still get laughs each time we do it and I'm confident the audience will as well."

Mr Beckmann said he needs the adrenaline rush from a live audience to improve his performance.

"I feel flat in rehearsals but during performances with an audience I come to life," he said.

Similar to most theatre restaurant shows, Beyond the Fringe's sets, costumes and props are minimal. Instead, cast "create the atmosphere" with characters, dynamic voices, body movements and music.

Mr Beckmann said theatre restaurant actors need to "have the power to create atmosphere without props and take the audience to a fancier world."

"In a way, it demands something from the audience but it's not like it's going to exhaust them," he said. "We're just asking the audience to come with us on the journey and get their own imaginative juices flowing."

Beyond the Fringe

-plus three-course gourmet dinner

Where: The Staff Club, University of Canberra.

When: Friday and Saturday from August 26- September 17 2005; bar and dining from 7pm, show starts at 8.30pm

How much: $55 per person

Bookings and enquiries: 62012645

Directed by:
Liz Bradley

Featuring:
Duncan Driver
Roger Beckmann
John Winter
Martin Searles

Beyond the Fringe BBC site

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

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UC finance academic ranked in top 10

Gabby McMillan

9 August, 2005: The University of Canberra's associate professor of finance and banking, Milind Sathye, has been ranked among the top ten financial academics in Australia and New Zealand.

Published in December 2004 by the Securities Industry Research Centre of Asia-Pacific and based on 2001 performance, the rankings placed him at number nine.

He said last week ranking ninth in Australia and New Zealand is a "great achievement" for him because "citations are regarded as one of the criteria for determining if papers have value or not". He added who cites the paper is as important as the number of times the paper is cited.

Rankings were based on the number of research papers published in 20 high-ranking international journals or the number of times papers were cited by organisations or academics.

Associate Professor Sathye's 2001 paper "X-Efficiency in Australian Banking: An Empirical Investigation" has been cited 31 times by prestigious organisations including The Federal Reserve Bank in Washington DC and the Bank of Italy.

"When I wrote the paper I knew I was doing something different," he said. "I thought it probably would attract people's attention but I was not expecting the response to be so much."

He said his interest in research allows him to pursue his curiosity for finding out new things and breaking into new issues or areas.

He added there were flaws in the ranking system, which overlooked some highly-regarded journals, but he still appreciated getting an idea of where he stood compared to other finance academics.

"The rankings will change from year to year but they still give you a good feeling."
Students to experience 'culture within culture' in US

Edward O’ Daly

9 August 2005: Two students are about jet off to the United States as part of the University’s Indigenous Exchange Program.

Ms Conlon (left) and Ms Williams will spend a semester in the US
Photo: Ben Brillante

Education student Alinta Williams and Makeeta Conlan, who is studying a double degree in education and arts, will spend the next semester at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP).

“I’m really excited about learning about a different culture and experiencing education in a different culture,” Ms Conlan said.

“And at Pembroke they have a culture within a culture because of the large Native American community.”

A significant proportion of UNCP students come from Native American or African American backgrounds, so the exchange students expect to experience a breadth of American culture they would be unlikely to find elsewhere.

Both students said they would miss friends and family on the trip, but for Ms Conlan a fleeting pit stop in New Zealand en route to America will actually give her an early reunion with her husband who is spending several months playing rugby across the Tasman.

Ms Conlan said she will take a supply of Vegemite with her to ward off homesickness and intends to “get involved” with university life at Pembroke to make sure she gets the most out of the experience.

Courses will reflect the students' studies in Canberra but there will also be flexibility to take courses unique to their host institution.

“I'll be taking an American Indian studies course, it's a great opportunity to do something I wouldn't be able to do anywhere else,” Ms Williams said.

Ms Williams added that while she was “a bit nervous”, she was looking to experiencing a foreign culture, meeting new people and developing her confidence.
UC audiences impress visiting scholar

Edward O'Daly

9 August, 2005: The University's inaugural learning and teaching scholar found his audiences in Canberra to be extremely receptive on his weeklong visit to the campus.

Thomas Reeves said while Australia was generally a leader in integrating technology into teaching and embracing alternative pedagogies, the example set by senior staff at the University of Canberra made it stand out.

"I've spoken to at least a third of the universities on Australia but I don't think I've actually had a vice-chancellor stay for my talk before," he said.

"It's a great model for academic staff to see higher level staff lead by example."

The styles of teaching and assessment promoted by Dr Reeves, a professor of instructional technology at the University of Georgia in the United States, are firmly grounded in the real world.

Teaching must be "authentic and relevant" according to Dr Reeves, with student experiences the key factor considered by staff when designing courses.

The "higher order assessments" he advocates are to test the broader life skills - such as intellectual curiosity and the ability to frame and resolve complex problems - that students should take from their university experience.

"These are metaskills everybody ought to have in addition to the skills that align to their profession.

"We talk about these outcomes, but don't always assess them. If it's not assessed, it's probably not being learned."

Dr Reeves said that while technology is often key to his philosophy it should never come first.

"I would rather describe my area as enhancing learning through alternative pedagogy and higher order assessment and if technology provides a more effective and authentic way then I advocate it," he explained.

"But I advocate the pedagogy and the assessment first."
Self-defence course kicks off

Rebecca Stones

9 August, 2005: There were still a few places left on the women's self-defence course that begins this week, as Monitor went to press.

The courses have been run at the University of Canberra for eight years by chief instructor Steve Newton, with a team of trained female instructors.

Sports facilities coordinator John Steltzer said the course catered to all fitness levels, with the small class size of no more than 20 allowing for individual instruction.

Mr Steltzer said previous participants had always enjoyed the course while also learning important self-defence techniques.

While the course does not allow male participation, Mr Steltzer said men were welcome to come along to the UCU's weekly cardio-box classes, which included some defence elements.

Mr Steltzer said the recreation centre would one day like to run a defence course specifically for university residents, and was waiting to see if there was a demand.

The course runs for six one-hour sessions on Thursday nights from 11 August to 15 September at the UCU recreation centre.

- Rebecca Stones will review the course in a future issue of Monitor
Constructing a promising future

Gabby McMillan

9 August, 2005: New facilities and services director Neville White is looking forward to getting out and meeting the University community.

Mr White, whose career spans three decades in the Army and the construction industry, said he is pleased with the combination of field and office work in his new role.

"At one of my previous jobs I was tied to spreadsheets all day, so it will be good to be able to walk outside and meet people," he said.

Describing his job as "almost self-defining", Mr White will manage capital work, maintenance, supervisors, tradesmen and electrical, mechanical and building checks on campus.

His role also encompasses service support which extends to day to day processes including mail, printing, registry and security, which Mr White said are "critical to the University".

Mr White said he enjoyed working in the industry because he could "see things happening".

"You have a satisfaction of seeing a project unfold from start to finish," he said. "There isn't always a satisfaction in recognition, but there's a satisfaction with the production process."

Mr White said he has enjoyed his time so far, describing staff as "positive".

"It's really a pretty friendly crew," he said. "They have a good outlook which is always a helpful thing when you're settling into a new job."

While a few possible challenges have presented themselves, Mr White said it is typical of any position.

"One always looks for challenges in a job," he said. "Sometimes the challenges simply exist because you might see a better way of approaching particular ways of working. You might see a way in which you can offer some degree of improvement."

Mr White said he hoped to "leave an imprint" at the University, adding he is looking forward to getting "more and more" involved during his stay.
Graduation special edition

Meet some of the graduates from last week’s ceremonies at Parliament House:

- Senator’s research earns doctorate
  Shadow secretary among graduates
- Third generation of UC law family
  Staff members’ relatives graduate
- Long journey for offshore graduates
  Graduation tourists from Singapore and China
- Customs grads are world’s first
  Unique program’s trailblazers graduate
- PR officer sees graduation from both sides
  Staffer in morning and star in afternoon
- Tourism puts arts in the picture
  Working at UC inspires mature student
- Exceptional workload pays off for mum
  Three cafes, three kids, plus full-time study
- Parliament second home for high-flyer
  Medal winner ponders government career
- Graduate dines at Parliament House
  Water’s family lunch at exclusive eatery
- Frenchman treasures multicultural campus
  Why Australia’s nicer than Nice
- Wedding bells for IT graduates
  Indian students find love at UC
Tourism to join international ranks in excellence

Kaddie Pass

2 August, 2005: Cooperation is the best strategy when it comes to establishing a tourism program that will stand out in a highly competitive international environment, according to tourism program director, Josette Wells. With this in mind, the University has joined the recently formed International Centre of Excellence in Tourism Hospitality Education (THE-ICE).

THE-ICE is one of five federally funded international Centres of Excellence, established in 2004 to raise the international profile of Australian tourism education. It currently has eight national partners that provide tourism and hospitality education training within the higher education and vocational sectors.

"THE-ICE profiles Australian tourism teaching and represents quality assurance," Ms Wells said.

"We were invited to join earlier this year."

Ms Wells now has the task of working with the organisation to meet the accreditation standards set by an independent international panel of experts from UK, USA and Asia. Accreditation will be decided November.

Receiving accreditation for the University's tourism and hospitality programs will benefit students by providing them with an English based qualification that is highly regarded at an international level.

"The aim is to raise awareness and preference for Australia's excellence in tourism hospitality education," director of business development for THE-ICE, Pauline Tang, said in a presentation to staff last Wednesday.

This will be achieved, she said, through various measures such as education and professional development tours and training programs, visiting scholar programs, scholarship schemes and student travel grants, and tourism and hospitality education development.

The Tourism Program itself already has a number of projects planned for the next 12 months, including work to encourage capacity building of tourism ventures in Cambodia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and the Solomon Islands and setting up sustainable tourism programs with Ubon University in North East Thailand and the University of Laos, focusing on the region of the Thai/Laos border.
Computer whizzes to give Solomons a helping hand

Gabby McMillan

2 August, 2005: A promise made by a University of Canberra employee in 2004 will be fulfilled in the next few weeks when 22 refurbished computers are shipped to the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC).

Head of Information and Communication Technology Services Dr Chris Radnell promised SIBC staff he would try to source second-hand computers for their newsroom when he returned to Australia.

After commencing with the University of Canberra in 2004, Dr Radnell realised there were a number of computers on campus that could be refurbished. Dr Radnell and seven volunteers have given up countless weekends and evenings working on the project.

“They have been gutting and pulling the best bits out of each machine,” he said. “We knew there was guaranteed to be a few working bits in the dead computers.”

But the hard work hasn't stopped there.

The initial pledge has now snowballed into a mission involving AusAID, Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands, Australian Federal Police and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Dr Radnell and the volunteers are travelling to the Solomon Islands in the next few weeks to assist with technical training and to establish a computer network. Describing the SIBC's current facilities as "ancient", Dr Radnell said the network and the computers will improve working conditions for the organisation.

With the support of AusAID, Dr Radnell will also look for organisations in the Solomon Islands' broader community which may require assistance. Other projects under consideration are bringing technical assistance to Australian outback Indigenous communities.

“We now have a cast of thousands and that's what's making it all possible," he said.

"When I'm over there I will scope out what requirements hospitals, schools, universities etc may have. We need to think about the places that could really use our equipment."

The only issue remaining is packaging. AusAID will ship the computers to the Solomon Islands, but Dr Radnell said he needs an organisation to not only provide boxes, but to pack them too.

"Boats leave every two weeks so we'll hopefully have the computers on there as soon as possible; we just need an agency to volunteer for the 'boxing'."
Colourful collection

Artist, hoarder and lover of colour David Sequeira talks to Gabby McMillan ahead of this week's Artists Talk

2 August, 2005: For David Sequeira, collecting things isn't just a hobby - it's a lifelong passion.

The Canberra-based visual artist will share artistic experiences, including his fervour for hoarding, with University of Canberra staff and students on 3 August for the semester's opening Artists Talk presentation.

While his love for hoarding is not a secret, Mr Sequeira said the items he collects have changed over the years. As a child his love for collecting didn't end with stamps and shells; he collected plastic bags, plastic plates, coloured books, vases and "orange things".

Mr Sequeira admitted he doesn’t know why he collects, adding many of the items end up in his work.

"I guess I am interested in their significance or their symbolism that extends beyond their use," he said. "I am interested in the possibility that an object might have impact; just because it exists."

Limiting himself to collecting tapestries, vases, round plastic trays, CDs and coloured books these days, Mr Sequeira said his collection of around 1000 kit-based tapestries is of "particular interest right now".

He said his art practice is based on an exploration of why his collections are important to him.

Mr Sequeira said objects have a way of finding their way into his work. "My work process allows these objects to soak into my consciousness as I discover ways of displaying them in a gallery/museum context."

Mr Sequeira is strongly attracted to museums, libraries, flea markets and junk shops because he is interested in the way people classify and make connections between objects.

But space from colour and objects is important as well.

"It is great to have lots of things around me, but it is also great to have a quiet sort of sanctuary to which to retreat," he said. "My bedroom is a bit like that. It is white with mostly white paintings and white bed linen. I have a white dog. I need the quietness of white."

The techniques Mr Sequeira uses vary from project to project, whether they’re paintings, sculptures or installations.

Describing his work as focusing "broadly on the languages of colour and geometry and the ways in which we generate meanings from them", Mr Sequeira said he is interested in the idea of beauty and how it is recognised.

Mr Sequeira has received many awards including the Australia Council’s five-month studio residency in Paris and the Collex Museum of Contemporary Art acquisitive prize. He explained awards and recognition are important to him because, like any other professional, work needs to be taken seriously.

"Along with a track record of making good work, a significant CV is important," he said. "My self worth as an artist is not governed by awards and recognition, but these things are encouraging and it helps to know that your work is speaking to people."

Mr Sequeira described his time in Paris as a "very powerful, stressful and exciting experience". He said he learnt his work wasn’t him; it was an "expression of him".

"I had had this crazy romantic idea that my work was a window to my soul and that if you understood my work you understood me," he said. Mr Sequeira said his knowledge that this isn’t the case gave him a "great freedom".

While a multitude of elements inspire Mr Sequeira, he said other artists, museums and himself are important motivators for his creative process. "The day that I stop learning is the day that I will stop making art," he said. "With every work that I make, I learn something."

He said he is treating his Artists Talk presentation as art; he has the materials at hand but he isn’t completely unsure how it will unfold. "Whilst I am an artist, I am also a son, a dog owner, a museum professional etc," he said. "Although I will prepare a talk, I always like to leave room for changes."
Husband and wife to graduate together

Gabby McMillan

26 July, 2005: For University of Canberra couple, Michael and Donna Serena, choosing to come to university was a life-changing event. They quit their full-time jobs, started working casually, sold investments and gave up some of the luxuries in their lives so they could embrace the student lifestyle.

Three years later, with degrees tucked firmly in their belts, Mr Serena, 34, and Mrs Serena, 33, have never been more proud. Graduation doesn't merely represent the completion of an academic degree for them; it symbolises an achievement they've accomplished as a couple.

Mr Serena said graduation, in terms of significance, rates equally with his wedding day.

"It's just another thing in life we've achieved together," he said.

"It was like we were 15 years-old and I was going to 'high-school with my girlfriend', who was actually my wife," he said. "We were enjoying the challenge together."

Mr Serena has completed a Bachelor of Information Technology while his wife has completed a Bachelor of Applied Economics. The couple arranged with the University to have their graduation ceremonies on the same day. Mr Serena said it was most important for them to share the experience with each other and their loved ones.

"University is one of the priorities we wanted to achieve in life, so to get to the end and not graduate together would have certainly been an anti-climax," he said. "Graduating together is the icing on the cake."

Mrs Serena is excited about having her photo taken in the graduation gown while her husband said he's focusing on "trying not to 'well up' on the day".

Mr and Mrs Serena both began jobs in their chosen fields last week, not surprisingly, on the same day. They are excited about the next stage of their lives, but are determined to keep "life fun".

"We're big on quality of life," Mr Serena explained. "We have the end destination in mind but we like to enjoy the journey along the way. Studying has been a fantastic journey for us and we're just so thrilled by all the support this organisation has given us."

Mrs Serena said she was delighted the University had arranged for them to graduate together.

"Everybody who would have gone to mine would have going to his as well, so it was all a bit of a drama," she said. "Now we can do it together, it's brilliant."

While most of Mrs Serena's family lives in England, the couple will celebrate with other family and friends at their graduation 'after-party'. Mr Serena said close friends and family, new friends and "friends they've neglected while they've been studying" will attend.

The couple, who have been married for eight years, said university was wonderful for their relationship because it gave them more time with each other. "We could have coffee together in the mornings and even sleep in until 11 on Saturdays and Sundays," Mrs Serena said.

Mr and Mrs Serena will graduate at 10am on Thursday at the Great Hall, Parliament House.
Lecturers speak language of science

Edward O'Daly

26 July, 2005: Science teaching is being given an overhaul in a pioneering project that is bringing the techniques of language teaching to the discipline.

Chinese teacher and applied linguist, Felicia Zhang, and molecular biologist Brett Lidbury have joined forces to help better communicate science to Dr Lidbury's students using everything from games to group work.

"It's not about science or art, it's about retaining knowledge," Ms Zhang, who won the 2003 Australian Award for University Teaching for Humanities and the Arts for integrating music and movement into teaching Chinese, said.

"I learned English by reading Jane Austen and I could skip a word I didn't understand and the story still made sense, but with science it's not that simple, you need to understand every word.

"Science students tend just to underline the new word and carry on, when they should be taking a more active approach."

Ms Zhang explained a more active learning approach could involve 'metacognition' - the process that goes on in your brain to activate previous knowledge when you encounter new information.

Rather than underlining a new word for example, students could discuss it with colleagues, rather than simply taking notes, they could perhaps supplement words with pictures.

She added that by continually relating what was being taught to its real world implications and to the knowledge that has come before it, students could understand the information more readily.

"Even though I come from languages, what I do could be used in many fields and we hope to create a model that can be applied to courses across the University," she added.

Rather than simply talking while his students listen, Dr Lidbury has revamped his lectures so that they are broken up with group discussion, 'pop quizzes' to reinforce what is being learned and regular recaps, while embracing a language emphasis.

Classes are complemented by online activities familiar to language students, including crosswords and games to match terms with their definitions, while in tutorials Dr Lidbury "takes a backseat" as students lead discussions with Ms Zhang.

He said that when he first approached Ms Zhang (and her colleague Dr Nicki Bramley) in early 2004 he had hoped simply to make some of his tutorials more engaging. The duo has recently been given a grant to apply their brand of pedagogy to an entire course.

"While there will always be a small group of students who just get it, the rest need more help. It all comes back to language: if people talk at you and there are a few words you don't understand, you shut down," said Dr Lidbury.

"What we're doing is putting more 'hooks' into the learning and making them into independent learners.

"A lot of these students are training to be science teachers and we will make them better science teachers. It's incredibly exciting to have an impact not just at the University but on the next generation of teachers."
Scholarships ease burden on students

Edward O'Daly

26 July, 2005: Education student and single mum Alison Moore said she will have more financial "leeway" thanks to the scholarship she received last week.

Speaking after a ceremony in the Clive Prive Suite, where some of the University's brightest and most deserving students were given a helping hand, Ms Moore said she had chosen to be "poor for a few years" when she decided to study her Bachelor of Education, specialising in early childhood, but her Lorna May Scholarship would help pay the bills.

"It just makes living easier - I can afford to buy some of my textbooks rather than continuously renewing them from the library or I can have the heating on a bit longer on cold days," she said.

While money was tight as a student, she said she and five-year-old son Reginald would have a better future if she became a teacher rather than continuing her career as a childcare worker.

Lorna May scholarship recipient Alison Moore (right) with Ms May's friend Shirley Kral (left)

"Lorna May herself was a single mother who studied education at the University of Canberra and the scholarships were set up by her family and friends following her death in 1988.

Ms May's friend Shirley Kral, who attended the presentation remarked her friend would have been proud of the feminist sentiments expressed by Ms Moore about the low salaries paid to childcare workers for "women's work".

Ms May's son Peter Kraus said the scholarship was intended to help women in a similar situation to his mother.

"Those of us who have benefited from an education in the past have an obligation to help those who are going through now," he added.

Speaking at the ceremony, where recipients were joined by some of the benefactors who fund their scholarships, Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean remarked that he had been "lucky enough" to enjoy free education, but that a scholarship had nonetheless been helpful to him.

"Students now tend to work an average of 21 hours a week, earning enough money to survive," he said.

"This is intended to relieve some of that pressure."

Professor Dean added that he hoped the recipients would be able to devote more energy to their studies as a result of the scholarships.

For more information about scholarships, email: scholarships@canberra.edu.au
Year 12 students discover UC

Melissa Hinch

26 July, 2005: Year 12 students from schools around Canberra were given a taste of what the University has to offer last Wednesday.

The Division of Communication and Education's first Discovery Day, which saw the University host 97 students for a range of activities including tours, the opportunity to try out multimedia equipment, a barbecue lunch and the chance to meet staff and students.

Samantha Ludwig, a year 12 student from St Clare's, said she enjoyed the Journalism tour of building 9.

"Seeing the facilities and enthusiasm of the students definitely convinced me to apply to UC to study journalism next year."

"It was a really well run day and everyone was really friendly," she added.

Activities kicked off at 10am when students were given free Discovery Day bags containing information including the UC Undergraduate Guide, before an introduction to the University and Discovery Day by Pro Vice-Chancellor, Peter Putnis and business development manager, Karyn Ward.

In the first part of the day the students could choose between attending Communication or Education course sessions including Advertising, Journalism, Public Relations, Teaching and Community Education.

The second part of the day had sessions from the Creative Communication, Languages, International Studies and Tourism courses including Media Multi-Media Production, Bachelor of Arts and Creative Writing.

Students were then given a barbecue lunch on the grass outside building 9 where they filled out feedback forms, which went into the draw to win a $100 Myer voucher, with vouchers going to students from Hawker College, St Francis and St Clare's

Ms Ludwig added that the day was informative and gave a good insight into all the courses, although she suggested that next year's event could be even better if there was the chance to hear from more current students.
Staff talent on show in new exhibition

Edward O'Daly

26 July, 2005: An exhibition of artwork produced by University of Canberra staff is to become an annual event, it was announced at last week's opening of the Body of Work exhibition.

Featuring a mixture of work, including photographs, calligraphy and textiles, by campus artists, Body of Work is the second exhibition of its kind and head of the School of Design and Architecture, Craig Bremner, told guests will be repeated each year.

Professor Bremner added that work will shortly begin to improve the UC Design Gallery, to get it "on the circuit" of Canberra galleries.

The exhibition, which will run until 27 July, was opened by the Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean. Professor Dean praised the "tremendous variety" of works on display and added that he hoped some pieces might become a part of the University Art Collection.
New system puts HR services in one place

Edward O'Daly

26 July, 2005: A new computerised system that will give staff access to a wealth of human resources information and services is due to go online in September.

Seminars will begin next month to familiarise staff with the new Human Resource Information System, which will be fully operational next year.

"Foundation information" - personal data such as an employee's address and emergency contact details - will be accessible in September and staff will be able to sign in and update it at any time.

From next year everything from performance management to health and safety incident reporting will be handled by the system.

"This is an all-encompassing, 21st century HR system," said the project's operational and technical specialist Massimo Scipione.

"For example, you should never have to see another leave form again. At the moment you have to download it, fill it in, get your manager to sign it, then it has to go to someone in HR to check leave balances and make amendments to a leave card.

"With this system, you can apply for leave at the touch of a button and from there everything's automated."

Staff will be able to view detailed payslips and check their leave balances online, while the system is also expected to make it much easier for managers to keep track of information about their teams.

The full range of services that will be available:

- Personal Data (name, address etc)
- Leave balances
- The facility to request and approve leave on-line
- Leave Matrices for Managers to view their Team's leave
- Managerial Reporting
- Team Payment Summaries (for Managers)
- Online Payment Summaries
- Budgets & Commitments information
- Availability for a range of Ad-hoc reporting and statistical analysis
- Health & Safety administration including incident reporting
- Online timesheets
- Provisioning of Training and Training History
- Performance management
A Vision of success

Gabby McMillan

26 July, 2005: Since winning the ACT division of the Jim Beam National Campus Band Competition (NCBC) at University of Canberra in 2004, local hard-rock band Vision have been performing as often as possible in Canberra, Wollongong and Goulburn.

Drummer Steve Kirtin said the NCBC, which has its first heat of 2005 this week, was a great experience for Vision.

“We got a lot out of it and were extremely excited when we progressed through the finals and became the ACT winners,” he said. “We were up against some good bands and to come first meant a lot to us and reinforced our belief in our music.”

Vision, a four-piece band, came equal-first in a previous NCBC, however they didn't progress to the state competition. But 2004 proved to be their year. After winning the ACT division, Vision progressed to the NSW State Final which was held at Macquarie University.

“We had recently written new songs and had changed our line-up and thought we were in with a chance,” Mr Kirtin said. “We also like the opportunity to play at good venues.”

He said the competition was “challenging” at times, especially because they hail from Goulburn. “It's hard enough to finish work or uni and get to the venue, be setup, and ready to play well,” he said.

Despite being musically competitive, Mr Kirtin said the NCBC had a “friendly atmosphere without any animosity”.

Vision prepared for the competition by ‘jamming’, rehearsing or working on new material regularly in an effort to “sound as good as possible”.

Vision launched their self-titled EP in February 2004. Their second EP will be released before the end of 2005, but the band doesn't feel too pressured to eventually get signed to a record label.

“It would be awesome to be signed and do it for a living but we play for ourselves and our fans.”

Related story:

Bands warm up vocal chords for comp

Jim Beam National Campus Band Competition:

Heat 1:
Thursday 28 July 6.30pm, UCU Bar

Heat 2:
Thursday 4 August 6.30pm, UCU Bar

Heat 3:
Thursday 11 August 6.30pm, UCU Bar

Heat 4:
Thursday 18 August 6.30pm, UCU Bar

Final:
Thursday 25 August 6.30pm, UCU Bar $5 entry for non students

Entries have closed.

Vision:

Mathew Elms: Guitar
Steve Kirtin: Drums
Anthony Kranitis: Vocals
David Robertson: Bass
Review: Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

Like many of her fellow Harry Potter aficionados, Gabby McMillan read Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince in one sitting on the day it was released. She found it to be a novel brimming with juicy secrets, mind-blowing possibilities and plenty of questions to be addressed in the final book.

26 July, 2005: J.K Rowling took a great risk with this novel. While renowned for her ability to weave a detailed rug of intoxicating plots and wickedly absurd characters, Rowling chose to do something different the sixth time around. Instead of building action-driven climaxes throughout the book, she takes Harry and the reader back in time to learn, extensively, about one of the series' most inscrutable characters, Voldemort.

While there is a noticeable lack of action until later in the book, Rowling ensnares readers with descriptive and intriguing details. The Half-Blood Prince manages to lay the foundations for the series finale and still be effective as a stand-alone book - despite its differences to the series' earlier tales, The Philosopher's Stone and The Prisoner of Azkaban.

Lack of action

Some readers may be disappointed by the lack of action, but with such an elaborate finale ahead, Rowling needed to tie up many loose threads.

Rowling has dragged Harry from his raging teen angst, which was undoubtedly overused in the fifth, The Order of the Phoenix, and replaced this with teenage romance, which seems appropriate for the age group - barely anyone is spared from the comical dramatics. Hermione and Ron's constant bickering takes a fresh turn and Harry battles feelings for Ginny, Ron's sister, while struggling to avoid the romantic advances of every other girl at Hogwarts.

The standard humorous character exchanges aside, The Half-Blood Prince is dark and down-right gruesome at times. There isn't much hope left in the Wizarding World; the Muggle (human) Prime Minister has even been informed of the disastrous return of Harry's ultimate rival, Voldemort (He Who Must Not Be Named).

With Death Eaters (Voldemort's supporters) rampant in their quest to prove their service to their Dark Lord, Hogwarts Headmaster, Dumbledore, hurriedly teaches Harry as much about his adversary as possible. Many characters' motives are questionable in this book, with the final answers, hopefully, to come in the seventh instalment.

Speculation

Character deaths have been abundant throughout the Harry Potter series, even hungered for with the dislikeable characters, but times have changed; Rowling knew she must also kill off characters readers like; even love. Since the emotional deaths of two well-liked characters in the fourth and fifth books, Rowling has brought her readers to an emotional climax in The Half-Blood Prince; the result will shock and upset some readers but evoke many speculations.

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince requires discussion immediately after completion. It ties up many loose ends, but leaves a wealth of fresh questions behind; despite these new riddles one certainty has emerged: the new and shocking issues raised in this novel will only fuel speculation about Rowling's highly anticipated conclusion.
A feast fit for UC women

Gabby McMillan

19 July, 2005: Since converting to Islam 15 years ago, Sandra Heaney-Mustafa has been asked it all.

"People come up to me and ask 'are you a nun?' when I'm walking around the supermarket in my headgear," Ms Heaney-Mustafa, a lecturer in the School of Education and Community Studies, told the audience at the University of Canberra's second annual Women's Lunch in the Ngunnawal Centre on 14 July.

"I say 'no, I'm Islamic' and they always say 'sorry'. I always wonder are they sorry because I'm Islamic or because they've embarrassed themselves," she laughed, adding she often finds herself taking people to coffee to discuss Islam after these encounters.

Ms Heaney-Mustafa said she loves how "culturally-diverse" Australia has become.

"You can walk down a street in Australia and hear so many languages being spoken," she said. "There's a real richness of that in Canberra and on this campus."

Ms Heaney-Mustafa described her speech as "low-key", adding the most important part of the event was "networking."

"This lunch allowed women just to be women and it was also a wonderful opportunity for women to network and meet people from different parts of the University."

Ms Heaney-Mustafa wasn't the only University of Canberra staff member at the Women's Lunch swapping life stories. Women from around the campus gathered for lunch, 'networking' and speeches from Ms Heaney-Mustafa and Research Education Program convenor Joelle Vandermensbrugghe. Families of Ngunnawal Centre staff also attended the lunch.

Spiritual Meeting Place Coordinator Leonie-Ruth Acland said the purpose of the lunch was to bring women from the University community together to celebrate community life in a comfortable space.

Ms Acland said it was important because women of some cultural backgrounds are uncomfortable in the presence of men in some social contexts.
Bookshop goes Harry potty

Edward O'Daly

19 July, 2005: Like bookshops across the country, the University's branch of the Co-op Bookshop had a queue of excited Harry Potter fans waiting outside its door on Saturday morning.

Bound by publishers' strict security measures, manager Lynn Price was not allowed even to cut the tape on her boxes of the sought-after Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince until after nine o'clock.

"On the dot of 9.01, we opened the first box up and people began buying their books," she said.

"Some families were buying one for each of their children and others picked up their pre-ordered copy, then bought a second - one in a children's cover and the other in the adult cover."

Ms Price said at least one of her customers had then headed straight home and left the phone off the hook until they'd read their treasured purchase from cover to cover.

Yesterday parents told her their magician-mad offspring had disappeared for the whole weekend catching up on the latest instalment of JK Rowling's profitable series.

As for Ms Price, she has just bought her copy of the first book in the series to see what she's been missing.
The need to bead

In an occasional series on the hobbies of the University's staff, Rebecca Stones uncovers the world of beading

19 July, 2005: Friends and relatives of disability liaison officer Dee Jackson will be disappointed to learn they will not be receiving handmade gifts from the avid jewellery beader.

Ms Jackson said even though her jewellery would make a great gift, she cannot bear to part with her beaded artworks, so unfortunately has never been able to sell or give them away.

That will have to change though, as she has agreed to make jewellery for her daughter's wedding in December.

"I'm terrified of doing it for someone else...about getting it right," she said.

Ms Jackson predicted the art of beading would be 'the next big thing' in hobbies following the worldwide 'scrap-booking' craze, with a number of University staff joining the craft.

She said beading was very relaxing after a day at work, as well as rewarding because she could wear her works.

Having started beading a year ago, Ms Jackson said while some techniques were difficult, general beading was very easy and most necklaces only took a few hours to complete.

"You've got to remember that people have been beading and hanging things off their necks and ears since the beginning of time...it's natural."

Beading is not without dangers though and requires some planning, as large stone pendants could cause neck aches and big earrings could clang, catch on things or cause earlobes to droop, Ms Jackson said.

When making her jewellery, Ms Jackson said she usually started with an interesting centrepiece then built around it and anything she did not like could easily be undone.

She estimated her collection now comprised 30 to 40 pieces.

While some of Ms Jackson's pieces could contain stone beads worth as much as $60, she said anyone could afford to bead as you could use cheaper plastic or glass beads.

Ms Jackson was born to bead

Photo: Benjamin Brillante

LINKS

http://beadwork.about.com/

Beadaholics is where Ms Jackson gets many of her supplies. Based in Kaleen, they offer local beading classes, supplies and information.

http://www.treasured.biz/
Scholarship offers experience and cash

Edward O'Daly

19 July, 2005: A new scholarship will give practical experience as well as financial support to some the University of Canberra's best multimedia students.

Funded by Canberra-based multimedia education firm Learning Curve, the scholarship could provide bursaries of $1000 to as many as five students a year, while a new 'student in residence' position will give recipients hands-on industry experience.

"This is a terrific partnership," Acting Vice-Chancellor Peter Putnis said at the signing of the scholarship agreement on campus last week.

"It fits in with our notion of providing opportunities for students to gain practical experience at a high level during their degree."

Learning Curve's managing director, Avdi Hamit, said that while the firm had "altruistic" reasons for initiating the scholarship, it also wanted to have an input into the training of the next generation of multimedia professionals.

"It helps us get a better graduate," he said.

"Through this program they will have had experience in a studio when they hit the street. They will have a better understanding of what they are getting into."

For more information about this and other scholarships email: scholarships@canberra.edu.au
Integrated assessments to mirror real life

Edward O'Daly

**19 July, 2005:** Broader and more realistic assessments for students could be a result of new cross-divisional research.

The study's leader, Jackie Walkington was inspired to apply for a University Teaching Grant to fund the research, which has the potential slash the number of assessments on some courses, by the hefty workload faced by graduate education students.

"These students are on an intense course with a huge assessment load at the end of the semester," said Dr Walkington.

"There is repetition as well as an incredible workload, so I thought perhaps we could redesign the assessment."

She proposes that students could do fewer assessment projects, but address the assessment criteria for several course units in each piece of assessed work. Several lecturers would then mark the work to see if it met their respective requirements.

This would allow students to work in more depth and tie together the related strands of their studies as would happen in the workplace, she said, as well as reduce their overall workload.

For teaching students, for example, assessment for courses science teaching, integrating technology in teaching and special needs teaching could be rolled into the practical element of their studies.

"Why not plan a science class using technology and considering children with special needs?" she said.

Dr Walkington believes there are many applications for this kind of assessment, including management courses where practical work could combine marketing, planning and people management skills.

The first stage of the project is to find teachers in different areas willing to pioneer the integrated assessments, which she hopes could be trialled in the first semester of 2006.

For more information email: Jackie.walkington@canberra.edu.au
Mystery nomination surprises professor

Gabby McMillan

19 July, 2005: Whoever nominated Denis Goodrum for a Australian College of Educators (ACE) Fellowship remains a mystery he doesn't need uncovered.

Professor Goodrum, the head of the University of Canberra's School of Education and Community Studies, learnt he was offered one of the honorary fellowships after receiving a letter from the ACE President in April. The letter explained he had been nominated and then offered him the fellowship.

"It's a really nice honour and a surprise...but I don't know who nominated me," he said. "I just accepted it - in the course of professional life, peers do these things."

Professor Goodrum received the award for "outstanding leadership in Science Education"; a field to which he has committed more than 30 years.

Professor Goodrum said one of his career highlights is the Australian government study he and a team conducted into the quality of teaching and learning of science in schools in 2000.

He was also the Project Director for the curriculum resource, 'Primary Investigations', in the 1990s which helped improve science in Australian primary schools.

Nationally and internationally renowned for his work in science education, Professor Goodrum also worked at the National Research Council in Washington DC in 1998 to try and improve the way science is taught in America.

Professor Goodrum remains passionate about science education and added he has never regretted studying education instead of the other options he considered: law and medicine.

"Teaching isn't easy but it sure is rewarding because you're working with young people with curious minds and their desire to learn is the greatest joy," he said.

"I think the beauty about science is it's a vehicle that can make people interested in learning."
Bands warm up vocal chords for comp

Gabby McMillan

19 July, 2005: Vocal warm-ups, guitar tuning and musical diversity will be abundant on campus during the next month as The Jim Beam National Campus Band Comp (NCBC) hits the University of Canberra from July 28.

UCU Activities and Events Coordinator Maria Loneragan said the NCBC is a hit with university students because it gives them performance experience and contact with the music industry.

"I don't think we have ever had to urge any bands to enter," she said.

"This is a very popular band comp which gives uni bands a good opportunity and exposure."

The NCBC, which has run for more than 20 years, is Australia's oldest and largest band competition. Successful artists including George, Eskimo Joe and Jebediah were offered record deals after their participation in the competition.

The national winner receives $8000 worth of equipment, a performance during Australian Music Week as well as 1000 copies of the CD they produce during a three-day recording period.

A NCBC spokesperson said all participants gain "regular access to performances" in the competition as well as the opportunity to meet a variety of musicians.

"It allows the musicians to interact with others and see the standard of music in Australia," she said.

Ms Loneragan added NCBC entrants can also learn about the music industry. "They learn that it's a very fast paced industry and they have to be very organised," she said. "They can have the experience of performing in front of a crowd and they get a lot of feedback from the judges which, in most cases, will help them grow as a band."

Each state winner also receives cash, jeans, footwear and a t-shirt.

Four NCBC heats and the ACT State Final will be held in the UCU Bar.
Project to measure and enhance offshore courses

Edward O'Daly

19 July, 2005: New systems to measure and improve the quality of every aspect of the University's offshore programs are being developed in a new research project.

Funded by a University Teaching Grant, the team, led by Carole Kayrooz, deputy head of the Division of Communication and Education and Jules Wills, director of the Professional Development Unit in the Division of Business, Law and Information Sciences, will look at how offshore courses are evaluated and how their quality can be improved.

"The point is to develop quality assurance evaluative systems so that we can continually improve teaching design and delivery," said Professor Kayrooz.

"Evaluation is not just a matter of ticking a box at the end. We are trying to broaden the idea of evaluation.

"What we have got is pretty good, but we can make the systems even better."

Existing programs go through a robust set of tests and evaluations to ensure they are of a comparable standard to courses taught in Canberra, Professor Kayrooz explained and traditional student evaluations are also carried out.

She said the project aimed to develop a system that continually measured every aspect of a student's experience, including financial and administrative processes as well as teaching, which could be standardised and adopted across the University's divisions.
The shows must go on, vow film buffs

Gabby McMillan

19 July, 2005: It will take more than a cash flow problem to stop the University’s decade-old Film Production Society (FPS) screening movies, according to the society’s president.

Money is tight, with a shortage of funding forcing the cancellation of several semester one screenings and the spectre of Voluntary Student Unionism leaving future services in doubt, but Kris Kerehona said the society intends to keep its Orientation Week promise to screen a film a week.

“We just want people to know we’re here for them and we’re going to be coming through with the screenings,” he said.

The projector will roll for the first time this semester on Thursday 28 July in the UCU Theatre, when Nick Cave stars in Ghosts...of the Civil Dead.

The rest of the semester’s program is a mix of students’ work and Australian and overseas films from Screen Sound Australia, which Mr Kerehona, who is also the contact for the Young Filmmaker Competition at the 2005 Canberra Short Film Festival, described as “different to the blockbuster movies out there”.

“We’ve been bombarded with Hollywood all our lives when it should really be around the other way,” he said. “We should be bombarded by our own work; our own culture.”

Other activities tentatively planned include a national short film festival during Stone Week and cheaper Electric Shadows tickets, but Mr Kerehona admits he is hesitant to confirm because he is waiting to find out if more funding is possible.

The FPS members also have access to ACT Filmmaker Network’s equipment if they want to produce a film of their own. FPS members are currently working on a short film called “The Opening” about a man with the ability to open doors by raising his hand.

Film Screenings:

Screened on Thursdays at 7pm in the UCU Theatre (opposite the bar)

Ghosts...of the Civil Dead
28 July

Raging Bull
4 August

AFTRS Graduate Show-Reels
11 August

Beneath Clouds
18 August

The Sacrifice
25 August

Flickerfest
1 September

The Vanishing
8 September

The White Balloon
15 September

Picnic at Hanging Rock
22 September

Contact:
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NAIDOC celebrations put solidarity on the map

Edward O'Daly

12 July, 2005: Maps of Aboriginal Australia are springing up all over campus in the wake of this year’s NAIDOC week celebrations.

The maps, which show the locations of the nation’s Aboriginal countries, were presented to areas across the University, while the University and the Students’ Association were also recipients of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags.

The gifts were the climax of last Thursday’s NAIDOC Week activities, which culminated in a Celebration of Excellence in Indigenous Education hosted by the Ngunnawal Centre.

The event got off to an energetic start thanks to dancers from the Torres Strait, before Ngunnawal elder Agnes Shea drew together the themes of Indigenous Australian culture and education in her Welcome to Country.

"Education is the handing down of knowledge from generation to generation - it doesn't matter if it is spoken or written," she said.

Mrs Shea added that the respect shown to Indigenous elders by their communities was based on respect for their knowledge.

The "crucial role" played by the Ngunnawal Centre was highlighted by director of Indigenous education at the Yuraura Centre at the Canberra Institute of Technology, Caroline Hughes.

"One of the most fundamental challenges facing Indigenous people is the equity issue," she added.

"This is where education plays a vital role."

The event was also addressed by Pro Vice-Chancellor of Health, Design and Science, Sue Thomas, who paid tribute to the University's Indigenous exchange program, describing student exchange as a "powerful, empowering experience."

Lluwannee George, who went on exchange to the University of Saskatchewan in 2004, then summarised her experiences and talked about what she had learned and how she had grown in confidence through the experience.

"I would recommend exchange to any student," she added.

Guests at the celebrations tucked into a menu of emu, crocodile and kangaroo at a barbecue following the event.
Indigenous minor tackles major issues

Edward O'Daly

**12 July, 2005:** The University's new minor in Indigenous Studies was praised by the Labor Senator for the ACT at last week's NAIDOC week celebrations.

Kate Lundy said staff should be commended for the "speedy implementation" of the course, which she said would enable a range of the University's professional graduates to extend their knowledge of the "heart and soul and meaning" of Indigenous Australia.

"It's not something that can be isolated and become a speciality because it's part of everything we are in Australia and everything we do," she said.

She added that education was one of the most important means to address the social inequity faced by Indigenous Australians.
Library 'takes responsibility' through protocols

Edward O'Daly

12 July, 2005: The University of Canberra Library has formally adopted protocols to ensure sensitivity and efficiency in its dealings with Indigenous students and materials.

The procedures have been in place for several years, but, to coincide with NAIDOC week, library staff visited the Ngunnawal Centre and presented them to acting director, Terry Williams.

"This is the first initiative of its kind on campus and it's an example for other areas of the University to follow," he said.

"We as a community share responsibility for 'black' issues and it's great to see the library taking that responsibility and interacting with Indigenous students in an appropriate way."

The protocols cover everything from face-to-face interactions with students to guaranteeing a balance in the materials it has in stock, through measures such as ensuring the works of Indigenous writers are on its shelves. The protocols also manage access to culturally sensitive material.

"We have materials that are sacred or secret, they could be offensive to some Indigenous people and not others, so we let the Centre manage access," said university librarian Anita Crotty.

University librarian, Anita Crotty, presents the Ngunnawal Centre's Terry Williams with the the Protocols. Photo: Benjamin Brillante

Other NAIDOC Week stories:

NAIDOC celebrations put solidarity on the map

Minor tackles major issues

'Our future begins with solidarity' - it's not just a slogan

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UC completes world's largest voice software trial

Edward O'Daly

12 July, 2005: The University of Canberra's newly-formed National Centre for Biometric Studies has just completed the world's largest ever trial of voice authentication software.

The study aimed to find the most effective, safe system to allow clients of the government department that commissioned the research to be securely identified and then do business over an automated telephone system.

Voice recognition software expert, adjunct professor Clive Summerfield, who conducted the study with colleague Professor Michael Wagner, said that by hiring a university to do the work, the results were independent and reliable.

"Nobody has ever sat down and put all these technologies through a set of tests specified by a company to meet a specific requirement," Dr Summerfield said.

"We tested more technologies against more criteria under more conditions, with a larger sample of voices than the largest study I know of."

The survey compared three technologies that simultaneously recognise (understand what's being said and follow verbal instructions) and authenticate (confirm the speaker's voice matches a previously submitted sample) voices under a range of conditions, including background noise and a bad mobile phone line. The technologies were tested on how many true speakers they rejected and how many impostors they accepted, as well as on their vulnerability - one system, for example, was found to allow any speaker through if it was blasted with sufficient noise.

The study also looked at a pair of technologies that are designed simply to authenticate voices.

Dr Summerfield and colleagues then tried using the best performing technologies from each group together and found the combination allowed even fewer impostors through and rejected fewer genuine callers.

"You are never going to hear a salesman say, 'my product is good, but it will be more effective if you buy one of my competitor's products, too'," he added.

Benefits of voice recognition/authentication:

- Cheaper than employing call centre staff
- More user-friendly than push button technology
- Extra level of security (don't just need a PIN/password, but has to be spoken by correct person)
- More acceptable than other biometric security (iris scans, finger printing, face recognition)
- Privacy enhancing (allows callers to authenticate without revealing personal information to staff)
Graduate takes skills to African orphanage

Edward O'Daly

12 July, 2005: A University of Canberra Community Education graduate will need all her breadth of skills for a new job at a South African orphanage.

Samantha Keane headed out late last month to begin the assignment at the orphanage in Kimberley, which is roughly halfway between Johannesburg and Cape Town, but despite having few details of what awaited her, she was confident she could make a difference.

"I'll find out what they need and work out what I can do to help," she said.

Although she had been registered with Australian Volunteers for almost a year, news of the job came almost out of the blue.

"In April they said there was a 'possibility' of a job and the next thing you know I'm at a departure briefing in Melbourne in first week of June."

She expects to be involved in the repatriation of street kids and be dealing with children orphaned by AIDS, which make up 60 percent of orphans in a country where the disease is a "death sentence", as well as train staff to continue her work after she leaves.

In addition to her University of Canberra degree, Ms Keane has experience of childhood development, working with people with AIDS and as a disability worker. She has also worked as a community health volunteer in Vanuatu and been a youth worker.

"It's just a matter of pulling it all together," she said.

"The purpose is to find the people with the skills to do the job or train the people so that they have the skills that they can do these things themselves."
UC 'better than school' say young architects

Rebecca Stones

12 July, 2005: Aliens, dogs and even the devil were some of the potential clients dreamt-up by children attending a two-day architecture program at the University of Canberra on 4 and 5 July.

The school holiday program for budding architects aged eight to 12 has run at the University since 1999, with approximately 40 children attending each year.

Organiser Janet Thomson said the program was run in conjunction with the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and aimed to give the children the most accurate experience of architecture possible.

The first day of the program involved encouraging the children to think about the needs of different clients and do building-site analyses. The second day focused on practical skills, like designing and making models.

Nine-year-old Alice Grant said she did the program last year and came back because she wanted to be an architect and it was "better than school".

The program also benefited University of Canberra architecture students, with second-years encouraged to volunteer as tutors.

Architecture student Patrick Stein said he volunteered for the program because he liked working with children.

"It's also good for us as design students because it helps cement our knowledge. Also, the kids are not inhibited by real-world concepts, so it's really interesting to see what they can do," he said.
The Players Company brings 'Allo 'Allo to life

Bratwursts, accents and innuendo - Gabby McMillan reviews the stage version of a TV favourite

12 July, 2005: The Players Company's stage version of 'Allo 'Allo channelled the same wackiness and eccentricities the television series brought to life in the 1980s during its additional performance on 7 July at the Staff Club.

Adapted for the stage by Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft, who wrote the original TV series, and directed by Jasan Savage, 'Allo 'Allo was an extravagant, sometimes mind-boggling, performance.

University of Canberra pharmacist Dan Cole starred as René, the café owner and reluctant agent for the French Resistance, who also assists the Germans on the side.

Cole was humorous as René; he showed an increasing grasp of comic timing and pace, especially in scenes with his wife Edith, played by Micki Bennett.

While Cole did struggle with the French accent and sometimes mumbled lines, he portrayed René's womanising and sarcastic qualities exceptionally well.

Bennett was hilarious as Edith, a tone-deaf woman with a love for cabaret, giving undoubtedly the most professional, consistent and convincing performance.

The Players Company regular, Stephen Brooke, was an audience favourite as Crabtree, a police officer with a tendency to mispronounce his sentences. The 'Allo 'Allo catchphrase "Good Moaning" was a hit with the crowd, scoring Brooke laughs every time he strode onstage.

Other memorable performances included Adrienne Rutherford as the busty, vivacious Helga, Peter Holland as Herr Flick of the Gestapo, Rob Gray as Leclerc and Peter Morris as Colonel Kurt Van Strohm.

Sexual innuendo almost brimmed over with two equally professional performances by Katrina Nolan and Victoria Allen who star as Yvette and Mimi, two of René's smouldering mistresses. While other supporting cast member's accents often drifted from scene-to-scene, theirs were spot on.

Savage managed the limited space well. He used three sections (the stage, and the areas on each side) to portray different locations which worked well, although people sitting right up the back had to adjust their positions for a better view. Considering the television series was edited so extremely different scenes could follow swiftly after each other, Savage did a wonderful job in maintaining smooth scene breaks for the stage version.

For fans of the series, 'Allo 'Allo was a nostalgic night filled with familiar characters, catchphrases and quirks. For those yet to experience the original, the Players Company offered its audience great food, a zany plot involving bratwursts and a painting of 'Madonna with the Big Boobies', and a cast of actors eager to capture the essence of their much-loved characters.
Professor to make most of parliamentary privileges

Gabby McMillan

12 July, 2005: Since being granted access to parliamentary facilities last month, Professor John Halligan says he plans to make the most of this opportunity.

Professor Halligan will use the one-year Senate Fellowship to revise a book he is publishing on parliament with Melbourne University Publishing. He said the fellowship is an "excellent resource" for updating the book because it gives him access to the Senate building and Parliamentary Library as well as contact with politicians and other staff.

Professor Halligan will also monitor the Government's actions after gaining control of both houses of parliament on 1 July. He added he is interested in analysing the impact of Government control of the Senate in a future project and hopes to interview the Leader of the Government in Senate, the Hon. Robert Hill.

"We don't know how far the government will go in seeking to impose its will on the functioning of the senate, but it's something I will be reviewing during my time there," he said.

Describing parliament as an "invigorating place to be", Professor Halligan said he is grateful for the opportunity because he has a "great interest in the topic".

"It's a very exciting building to be in," he said. "You can interact with politicians in the corridors any time because there are always public figures moving around the corridor."

Professor Halligan said he hopes the updated book will be published later in 2005. He aims to produce papers on the changing dynamics of Australian parliament by the completion of the Senate Fellowship in 2006.

What is the Senate?

The Senate is one of the two houses of the Australian Federal Parliament. It consists of 76 Senators, twelve from each of the six states and two from each of the mainland territories. It has virtually equal power to make laws with the other House of Parliament, the House of Representatives. It is elected by proportional representation, so that its composition closely reflects the voting pattern of the electors. (courtesy of www.aph.gov.au)
New cards to take credit for shorter queues

Rebecca Stones

12 July, 2005: Photocopier credit cards and long queues at student administration are some of the things students and staff at the University of Canberra can hope to lose under the new card system.

Director of student services Bruce Lines said the old system, which had been used for eight years, served the University well, but had become outdated and the new cards were a welcome change.

For students, the new system means cards will be issued for the duration of their degree, instead of annually.

Mr Lines said issuing cards annually had led to unacceptably long lines at student administration and mailing ID cards was “less than desirable”.

There had been fears that the degree-long cards could impact on travel concessions, however Mr Lines said he arranged with ANU for both universities to approach ACTION Buses to approve the new ID cards for concessions. Bus drivers have been informed of the new arrangement.

The new cards will also have the ability to store data, such as printer and photocopy credit, although a date when these systems will be introduced has not been set.

After hours building access will also change as the new cards use a proximity reader, so instead of swiping a card to access Building 10, staff and students need to hold their card in front of the reader.

Similar rules apply to the new cards as the old ones, with replacements for lost, stolen or damaged cards being paid for by the individual. However, if an individual’s appearance changes dramatically over the life of the card, or there is a change in study load, a new photo ID will be issued free of charge.

Card business:

New ID cards are currently being mailed to students, along with information about the new system.

Any cards errors should be taken to the Student Centre on the University concourse.

The Student Centre can be contacted by email or by phone on 1300 301 727.
Geography book maps out privacy, technology and law

Rebecca Stones

5 July, 2005: Controversial privacy issues arising from the development of new technologies, such as the ability to track individuals through mobile phone usage, are all a matter of geography according to George Cho.

Dr Cho, associate professor of geographic information science and law with the Applied Ecology Research Group at the University of Canberra, discussed these modern privacy issues - and fascinating instances where the worlds of celebrity, geography and the law meet - at the launch of his latest book, Geographic Information Science: mastering the legal issues on 30 June at the University’s Co-op bookstore.

The book investigates matters easily recognisable as geography, like copyright of maps, as well as issues most people would not associate with geographic science, such as ‘anklets’ used to keep track of offenders, which Dr Cho pointed out have gained a high profile thanks to the case of US ‘lifestyle guru’ Martha Stewart and exposure of the technology in the TV hit Desperate Housewives.

One of Dr Cho’s case studies was ‘backpacker murderer’ Ivan Milat, who was tracked down when investigators triangulated the positions of victim’s bodies to give a likely pattern of the murderer’s modus operandi.

Another case involved the shooting of BBC journalist Jill Dando in the London suburb of Chelsea, where the murderer was tracked through his mobile phone usage.

"Whenever we talk on our phones, the telephone company has to know where you are so they can charge you - it’s all part of the geographic information system," Dr Cho said.

Dr Cho, who is also a Barrister in New South Wales, the ACT Supreme Court and the High Court of Australia, said such investigative techniques were highly controversial and he could understand people finding the implications of such technologies frightening.

He said security agencies such as the FBI in the United States used such technologies to track individuals and identify potential terrorists.

The problem according to Dr Cho was that conclusions about a person from geographical placement were speculative and may sometimes lead to incorrect conclusions. For the individual this could lead to refusal to grant a passport, unemployment or have dire consequences for their credit rating.

However, Dr Cho said the positive applications of new geographic technology should not be forgotten, as many of them are now part of everyday life.

"The good news is, emergency workers can find you very quickly. You can read about people being rescued in Antarctica, or the Snowies...with triangulation of mobile emergency calls."

Other instances where celebrities, geography and the law crossover include:

- the case where a paparazzi photograph of the model Naomi Campbell leaving a drug rehabilitation clinic was used to imply she was receiving treatment
- actress and singer Barbara Streisand’s failure to use privacy legislation to prevent her property being photographed for environmental research.

Beyond the map and compass:

If you have ever found a mistake on a road map, such as a street that does not exist, it may not be a mistake at all, but a ‘copyright trap’. Dr Cho said maps are often ‘finger printed’ with deliberate mistakes, so their makers can identify them.

Do people have the right to keep their home off the map? Dr Cho said there is a general right to make a map, as it serves the greater good. For instance, it allows emergency workers to quickly find an accident or fire.

Many everyday conveniences, such as credit cards, phones, or the Internet, would not work without geographic science, as location identification is integral to their operating systems.
Researcher sets sights on cancer prevention

Edward O'Daly

5 July, 2005: A multimillion dollar clinical trial involving a University of Canberra academic is likely to make a significant step towards consigning breast cancer to history.

Associate professor of nursing, Dr Linda Reaby - who survived breast cancer in her 40s - is a member of the International Breast Cancer Intervention Study II (IBIS-II) research team, which is testing a drug with the potential to reduce breast cancer in high-risk women by up to 80 percent.

"This is going to make a quantum leap towards eradicating breast cancer," Dr Reaby said.

"Our aim is that one day you will be able to go into a chemist and say I've been diagnosed with breast cancer, can I have this script filled please."

While it is effective, existing breast cancer drug tamoxifen has unpleasant side effects that make it unsuitable for healthy women. Anastrozole, the drug that's being put to the test has more minor side effects and the team is hopeful that it will perform well in the study. Breast cancers feed on oestrogen and the drug works by inhibiting the enzyme that produces oestrogen, thereby stopping the cancer in its tracks.

"Breast cancer has been around since the fifth century. Only in the past 25 years have we made any progress - and that's because of clinical trials," Dr Reaby added.

Over several years the study of 6,000 high-risk, post-menopausal women will investigate whether those given anastrazole are less likely to contract breast cancer than those given a placebo. The study will also look at a further 4,000 women who have been treated for a particular type of breast cancer (ductal carcinoma in situ) and see whether tamoxifen or anastrozole is more effective at preventing a cancer developing in the opposite breast.

Attached to the trial is a second study looking at whether women make 'informed decisions' when choosing to participate in a clinical trial. Dr Reaby, whose PhD involved developing a 'decisional aid' (DA) to help breast cancer patients make informed choices, has developed a new DA for the trial.

Key pieces of information about the trial are highlighted in the new DA and participants will be given small tests to reinforce these important areas. Later in the trial more detailed testing will gauge whether women in the DA group had better understanding of the trial than those given standard information.

Women eligible for the study must:

- Be aged between 40 and 70
- Not have a diagnosis of breast cancer
- Not be on hormone replacement therapy
- Have risk factors such as a family history of breast cancer

To register your interest, call: 1 800 640 709

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New head backs communication (and keeps lollies)

Rebecca Stones

5 July, 2005: The new head of the Health, Design and Science Division believes the image of stuffy scientists who can't communicate with the public belongs in the past.

Professor Sue Thomas who joined the University last month said she was pleased with the communication emphasis of University of Canberra science degrees.

"There's a stereotype of the scientist we need to get away from...people sometimes expect us not to be able to communicate," she said.

"In the last decade there has been a positive move to communication in science (because) no matter how good you are, there are limitations when you can't tell someone else."

Professor Thomas said the design elements of the division, such as architecture, were new to her and she looked forward to the challenge of learning about them.

She said it is not the first time she has overseen areas outside her expertise, like the marine biology studies that came under her division at Flinders University, and she enjoyed these new opportunities.

While Professor Thomas said she had not yet had much of a chance to settle into UC, she planned to meet as many staff as possible over the mid-semester break so she could understand UC better. She was not planning to propose any major changes to the division, especially while she was settling in, she added.

Professor Thomas, who replaced acting head Ron Miller on 1 June, was the Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at Flinders University, South Australia, where she worked for 15 years.

Despite the move, Professor Thomas said she would keep in touch with some of her Adelaide students, especially those involved in an ongoing PhD study of gene switching.

Although Professor Thomas said she would not personally be conducting research at UC due to time constraints, she hoped to initiate research collaborations and help source funding for more science projects.

In case you were wondering, Professor Thomas has kept Ron Miller's policy of a bowl of lollies on the office desk for 'drop-ins'.

More:

Read the Flinders University profile of Sue Thomas

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Medals crown renowned book collection

Rebecca Stones

5 July, 2005: The family of renowned children's book collector, Lu Rees, has presented her medals for services to literature to the University of Canberra.

The University houses the Lu Rees Archives, a collection of children's books resources intended to encourage the study and research of Australian children's literature.

Last month, Lu Rees' sons, John and Lauron Rees, presented three medals to the University's Lu Rees Archives: a 1964 Order of the British Empire; a 1983 Order of Australia; and the 1983 inaugural Dromkeen Award.

Manager of the collection Professor Belle Alderman said Lu Rees, who died in 1983, put her heart into the collection, so her family decided storing her medals in the archives was what she would have wanted.

"The medals are pretty stunning and seeing as the archives will turn 25 this year we are planning to display them in the library as part of our anniversary celebrations," she said.

The medals have now joined more than 15,000 Australian works in the Lu Rees Archive. Professor Alderman said authors or publishers donated most of the works, with the collection increasing by approximately 700 books each year.

The archive also houses a rare collection of translated Australian children's books, including an American version of Possum Magic, complete with Australian map and a glossary for Australian words like 'vegemite' and 'lamington'.

The collection can be viewed by appointment only. For more information contact the Lu Rees Archives at the University of Canberra Library.

Email: lu.rees@canberra.edu.au

About the Lu Rees Archives:

Lu Rees began the collection of books, manuscripts and author profiles in 1974. When the collection outgrew her home in 1980, the University of Canberra agreed to house, organise and continue the collection.

When the collection moved the University in 1980, it contained 500 works and 50 author files with newspaper clipping, taped interviews and original artworks. The collection now contains 15,000 works and 310 author files.

The archives' management committee plans to hold a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Lu Rees Archives coming to the University later in 2005.
UC farewells foundation staffer...sort of

Rebecca Stones

5 July, 2005: John Rayner has been at the University of Canberra since it opened and even in retirement he won’t be straying far from the classroom.

Professor Rayner, associate professor of electronic engineering and applied physics, joined the Canberra College of Advanced Education, which later became the University of Canberra, when it opened in 1972 and will retire at the end of this month, but he is not saying goodbye completely.

"We’re in the process of phasing out the engineering degree...with the phase out I may come back and teach small classes," he said.

"And I’ll be in here propping-up table 21 at the Staff Club."

While he joked that his retirement would be half spent at UC and half at ANU, where he will work for the National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science (CPAS), he said he did want to take some time to relax.

"I want to improve my watercolour painting...I get frustrated because I don’t have sufficient technique."

Professor Rayner said he also wanted to research his father’s geophysics papers from the Northern Territory in the 1930s. His father crossed the top of Australia by camel and aeroplane measuring gravity and magnetic fields.

Professor Rayner said the story of the North-Australian survey had never been fully told and he hoped to change this.

At CPAS, Professor Rayner will train science communication scholars and attend the students’ science shows in rural towns like Walgett and Townsville to review their content.

In another project for his busy 'retirement', Professor Rayner said he would one day like to help set up similar shows in South Africa with a South African colleague. He said the shows would hopefully bring science activities to communities that did not have access to electricity or telephones.
Journalist takes new assignment

Rebecca Stones

5 July, 2005: Outgoing head of Professional Communication Kerry Green has no hesitation naming the establishment of online student news source NowUC the highlight of his time here.

Professor Green, who left the University on 30 June to head up the Communication, Information and New Media School at the University of South Australia, started the site in 2002 with his first class of third year journalism students.

"Getting NowUC going - that's been the absolute high point (of working at UC) for me," he said.

He added it was one of the most talented and motivated classes he had taught, with NowUC's inaugural editor Nicola Bates now working for Laurie Oakes in the Press Gallery.

The fact that those teaching UC communication subjects had professional backgrounds gave students an advantage, with many journalism graduates now climbing the professional ranks, Professor Green, who came into the profession when cadetships rather than degrees were the norm for journalists, said.

"(In the cadetship) I didn't understand why we did things, I think that's why I went off to university (to teach) - industry couldn't tell me why," he added.

Asking why has also led him into research and his current project looks at the effects on journalists of reporting traumatic incidents, with some experiencing symptoms of post-traumatic stress such as disturbing flashbacks. The results could help make students aware of what they may have to face as journalists and the effects of covering traumatic events.

Professor Green said he looked forward to the challenge of working at UniSA but his departure from UC was with some regret, as he enjoyed his three and a half years in Canberra.

About Kerry Green:

He started in journalism as a cadet at the Cairns Post, where he worked from 1974 to 1981. He then moved to the Queensland Times where he was editor for five years until moving to the Telegraph in Brisbane.

He also ran a bookshop for two years before being asked to work at the University of Queensland in 1989. On weekends, he also worked at the Sunday Mail.

Professor Green was President of the Journalism Education Association in 2001 and 2002.

His research project, Trauma in the Newsroom, was funded by the Australian Research Council.

Since moving to Canberra, Professor Green said he had finally been able to indulge more of his hobbies, especially his passion for soccer, which he hoped to continue in Adelaide.
Career event takes UC to small businesses

Edward O'Daly

5 July, 2005: New opportunities for the University's students are in the pipeline following a careers event with Canberra's small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

Following the event, organised by University of Canberra in conjunction with BusinessACT and ANU, a local accounting firm approached the careers office with a view to setting up an award and scholarship and advertising jobs directly to University of Canberra students.

According to career service manager Heather Jack, the aim of the event, held last month at Regatta Point, was to alert SMEs to the untapped potential of Canberra's students.

"We know large organisations like the public service are aware of us, but smaller businesses may not know what a great resource our students can be," she said.

The event gave Canberra SMEs an introduction to future graduate employment trends and the breadth of skills represented by the city's student population.

Deputy head of the School of Information Sciences and Engineering Penny Collings outlined the way internships link University of Canberra students with industry, while the event also covered the practicalities of hiring students and graduates.
Hard day’s work for 70% of students

By juggling study and paid employment, today’s students are working harder than ever, but new research shows if they can get the balance right, having a job can actually improve their grades. Gabby McMillan investigates.

28 June 2005: Australian university students are busier than ever, with the majority of them juggling work and study, but this may not be impacting on their grades according to University of Canberra research.

Around 3000 students from 10 Australian campuses were interviewed for a survey by student website V Student Insider in February 2005, with 70 percent of them saying they worked and studied and many admitting they spent more time on their job than their degree. Meanwhile research by Associate Professor Anne Daly and Dr Craig Applegate from University of Canberra has found paid employment does not have a large effect on grades.

In fact, their paper ‘The Impact of Paid Work on the Academic Performance of Students’, which tested the effects of paid employment on the average grade obtained in semester two at the University of Canberra in 2002, stated paid employment could sometimes improve students’ grades.

In what they described a “surprise finding” they discovered working up to 11 hours a week improves marks marginally. However, Associate Professor Daly and Dr Applegate found working more than 22 hours per week can have a negative effect.

Time management

Associate Professor Daly and Dr Applegate also showed when students’ class contact hours, private study hours and paid employment hours were totalled, they equated 45.1 hours per week, greatly exceeding a full-time employee’s workload.

University of Canberra second-year graphic design student Cassandra Balding has worked around 20 hours a week at Jam Restaurant Bar in Civic for the past year and a half. While other residential students sleep in and party around her, Cassandra waitresses; often doing split shifts.

But Cassandra is happy with her situation, adding she doesn’t want her parents to have to “pay for everything”.

“I’ve got to learn to look after myself at some point,” she said. “Plus, if I wasn’t working, I’d get lazy.”

Cassandra said working motivates her because it forces her to manage her time. However, she said working has its negatives. She can’t participate in most social university activities because she doesn’t have time while managing study and work commitments.

This is a national trend. More than 60 percent of Australian students spend less than five hours a week on campus if they aren’t studying, according to the V Student Insider. Some students choose not to participate in the university culture; others keep busy with hobbies, while others make work a priority.

Technology

Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) Professor John Deam said that paid work could improve time management skills “presumably because in order to integrate study and work you need to be highly organised and use the limited study time effectively”.

He added outside work could possibly aid students with “elusive graduate skills such as the ability to plan, communicate and work with other people”.

Professor Deam said universities’ use of teaching models, in particular information technologies like WebCT, are assisting working students. He said while these models appeared to lead students to spend less time on campus, their impact on student learning is yet to be evaluated.

Professor Deam added campuses cannot be isolated from technological changes taking place in society. “We need to rethink the role of the campus and how we can best students engaging in learning,” he said. “I don’t think you can assume that the quality of interactions and experience will be any less [with technological changes].”

What do you think? Is a part-time job a good thing for a student?

Email your views to monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Education expert appointed Chancellor

Edward O'Daly

28 June, 2005: The University's next Chancellor could hardly be better qualified for the role.

The University of Canberra's former Deputy Vice-Chancellor and current Vice-Chancellor of the University of New England, Professor Ingrid Moses has also specialised in education and academia in her research career.

"I have spent all my professional life in policy development and research in an academic environment and working with academic staff," she said.

"There are a number of chancellors who are former vice-chancellors but for most of us the actual research is a while back - in my case it's easy to stay on top through reading."

As Chancellor, Professor Moses said she is excited about tackling challenges facing the higher education sector and being able to "stimulate policies and practices that are supportive of what the University wants to achieve."

She is also looking forward to moving back to Canberra - which her husband had already selected as the couple's retirement home - with its cultural strengths, educated population and "good environment with wonderful recreational opportunities".
Not all fonts created equal

Rebecca Stones

28 June, 2005: The first person in Australia to complete a PhD thesis on contemporary typefaces is a University of Canberra academic.

It took Associate Professor in Design and Architecture Dr Anthony Cahalan seven-and-a-half years of part-time research to complete the project, which was prompted by what he called the "astronomical increase" in the number of fonts that occurred in the late 20th century.

From 3,500 different fonts in the early 1980s, the number has blown-out to over 100,000, making the teaching of typography very difficult, he explained.

To some people the subject of fonts may not seem worthy of examination, but Dr Cahalan's research showed a typeface is more than just letters, with the industry booming in the last two decades.

However, he said his choice of topic created a problem - there was no prior research, making the literature review component of the PhD almost impossible.

"I really had to create it as I went along because it was so contemporary... (I reviewed) email discussion lists and articles," he said.

He also conducted surveys and interviews and said there was "an incredibly emotional response to fonts", with extreme love or hate for particular typefaces.

There was even "snobbery" towards common fonts like Times New Roman, with increased access to fonts by 'non-professionals' through home computers making professional designers more particular about their font choices.

"I would often ask (the research participants) `don't we have enough typefaces?' They said we need new letter-forms to reflect changes...(otherwise) you could say we have enough books or enough music."

Although Dr Cahalan said there was room for new typeface designs, and was interested in designing his own typeface one day, he said not all font designs were good or effective.

"There's a lot of ugly or ineffective pieces of iconical literature - if we want to raise standards we need groups of professionals in the discipline."

Dr Cahalan said he hoped to have his work published and help start a growing body of literature on the topic to create a better understanding of the typeface-art.

Font facts:

Dr Cahalan was surprised to find that the most hated - and most liked - font was one and the same: Helvetica.

Designing a new font can take one to two years, as each new font needs 256 characters (upper/ lower case, numbers, and punctuation symbols) plus additional international symbols for a full professional typeface.

Rotis continually showed up as a favourite typeface for competitor organisations, with eight universities and five recruitment agencies using Rotis for their advertising.

Dr Cahalan is currently on a six month study break from UC. He will return 4 July 2005.

Dr Cahalan is a member of the Association Typographique Internationale

For further information about Monitor Online contact Monitor Editor, on: monitor@Canberra.edu.au
Tsunami donations to fund classroom

Edward O'Daly

28 June, 2005: Money raised by the University's staff and students will pay for a classroom at a new school in tsunami-devastated Sri Lanka.

A cheque for $20,000 was presented to charity Plan Australia last Friday to fund construction, which is due to start later this year.

Before presenting the cheque, Acting Vice-Chancellor Andrew Cheetham explained that the University had chosen to fund a school as it understood the value of education.

"We are an education institution and consequently we hold education very dear." Professor Cheetham said.

The classroom will be part of modern state-of-the-art school, which will combine primary and secondary education for young people in the town of Hambantota - the young people themselves have been consulted on what facilities the school will need.

"It will exceed what was there before," Plan CEO Ian Wishart, who accepted the cheque, said.

Mr Wishart thanked the University of Canberra community for its generosity, adding that he appreciated the huge amount of energy that had gone into raising money.

The cheque handover was followed by a presentation by Sri Lankan academic Ananda Jayawardana on the tsunami recovery. Dr Jayawardana, a University of Canberra graduate, outlined the work of postgraduate management students from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, who were involved in a special disaster management program that provided practical help to improve conditions in camps for families displaced by the tsunami.
English course builds cultural links

Edward O'Daly

**28 June, 2005:** The first cohort of students has graduated from an English course designed specifically to prepare Chinese police officers for the Beijing Olympics.

The Masters in Professional English course covered the cultural factors behind communication in English and saw the 16 students working with Australian police to broaden their skills. Addressing their graduation at Old Parliament House earlier this month, head of the School of Languages and International Education, Kate Wilson, praised the students for their hard work and their outstanding contribution to the Canberra and University communities.

"Their enthusiasm, commitment and outgoing, warm personalities have made this course a wonderful success," she said.

"They took up the challenge of participating in this course to the full.

"I believe that the course has helped to build cultural understanding China and Australia."

Student Emma Na Zhang said the course had done more than teach the students, all of whom are officers in the Beijing Public Security Bureau, better English, they had learned the importance of independent learning and developed an understanding of Australian culture and policing.

"All of this helped us perceive English in its intercultural context," she said.

The students will have responsibilities ranging from criminal investigation to emergency response during the 2008 Olympics, but student Gloria Rui Jun Guo showed they had talents beyond law enforcement and languages by performing patriotic song 'My Homeland and I' at the ceremony.

"Our graduation was an unforgettable moment and I was honoured to sing," she said.
Fidget your way to healthy working

Edward O'Daly

28 June, 2005: Keep moving if you want to avoid workplace aches and pains - that's the message from occupational overuse syndrome (OOS) expert, Stephen Gardner.

The most expensive ergonomic chair, desk and mousemat won't stop you getting injured if you don't move frequently and take regular breaks, Mr Gardner, chief operating officer of consultants Balanced Ergonomics, told a seminar on campus last week.

"At school they tell you not to fidget, but that's exactly what you should do," he said.

Mr Gardner said simple measures like looking away from your screen and blinking or shifting your posture would reduce your likelihood of suffering from OOS, while regular breaks from the computer will also increase your productivity and accuracy.

Breaks from the computer needn't take long he explained. A 'micropause', where you look away from your screen for five to 10 seconds every five to 10 minutes helps prevent eye strain, while taking five to 10 minute break for every 45 minutes' continuous computer usage or simply varying your tasks to give you a break from the screen can help combat overuse injuries.

How to take a micropause

1. Release your mouse
2. Look away from the screen
3. Drop your arms at your sides
4. Lean back
5. Take a deep breath
6. Drop your shoulders.

For information on other exercises, email:

Health.Safety@canberra.edu.au
Honours draws out design talent

Edward O'Daly

28 June, 2005: Two thousand years of the history of drawing was crammed into a new design honours program - the results of which went on show last week.

The work of writers from Pliny the Elder to present-day experts was covered in the program, aimed at the cream students in the University's design courses, to give them a complete picture of hermeneutics (the science of interpretation) and the philosophy behind drawing, but the course wasn't all theoretical.

Students had to put what they had learnt to the test in their final project, which called on them to pick a pencil or paintbrush and produce a work of art and accompanying essay, based on a style of drawing they had studied.

"The course was intended as an affirmation of drawing and what it has to offer someone who is a creative maker of anything," explained course convenor Stephen Frith.

"What they got was a marriage of their design interests with philosophical curiosity which affirms their value as artists."

For architecture student Peter Young the honours course was the first time he had picked up a paintbrush since 1973. He said the most valuable part of the course was being able work with and learn from designers in other disciplines.

"It is one of the things that will stay with me for the rest of my life," he added.
Indonesian students to take home new skills

Gabby McMillan

28 June, 2005: When the Indonesian students participating in the Small and Medium Business Training Program at the University of Canberra go home in August, they will be ready to put their new skills into action.

As part of the AusAID-funded program the 18 students have produced an ‘action plan’ to implement in their local and regional government agencies or businesses. The training program enables people from a range of professional backgrounds to understand how government and small and medium business enterprises (SMEs) function in Australia.

Centre for Developing Cities executive officer Aine Dowling said the aim of the course is to give participants a “learning experience” to gain knowledge, competencies and skills they can implement in their workplace in Indonesia.

Team leader Endro Praponco added the students were learning “lots of things about SMEs” and were “looking forward to applying it back home”.

The 12-month program has three stages: English and cross-cultural studies in the first three months in Jakarta, three months at the University of Canberra where they formulate their ‘action plan’ and then six months to implement the plan when they return to Indonesia.

The students have attended lectures, tutorials, workshops, field trips, study tours and social activities while in Australia, including Question Time at Parliament House, sheep farming in Yass and a visit to the NSW Department of Small Business in Sydney.

They will complete a two-week work placement in local, state or federal government or local councils throughout NSW in July.

Indonesian student Ee Herwanti said the program is "very, very important" because the relationship between SMEs and globalisation has become a significant issue.

She said studying English and the Australian culture was helpful and prevented “culture shock”.

"We were told how open and informal Australians were and it's true," she said. “Everybody in Australia has been very accepting, very helpful.”
Student wins Hollywood movie awards

Rebecca Stones

28 June, 2005: A last minute entry to short film competition earned communications student Ricardo Skaff a seat at the 2005 MTV Movie Awards.

Mr Skaff, 19, admitted he was amazed to have won, as he had only seen the competition a couple of days before entries closed and quickly filmed the piece at his home. He said after submitting the film he forgot about it until MTV called and told him he would be flying first-class to Los Angeles in two weeks for the awards ceremony.

The competition involved making a parody of the award category 'Best Fight Scene' with Mr Skaff's winning entry being played as a lead-in to the award at the Los Angeles ceremony on 4 June.

The film was "set up like an epic fight scene" with Mr Skaff facing off against his brother, giving the impression a complicated and lengthy battle would follow. He then kicked his brother in the groin, ending the scene suddenly and apparently much to the amusement of the MTV judges.

Before leaving for the United States, Ricardo was interviewed by local media, including ABC 666 and the Canberra Times. On arrival, MTV also interviewed him and the three other international winners.

"I was really surprised by the media interest," he said.

Although he never got a chance to see the MTV interview played back he said he did not want to, as the whirlwind four-day trip left him with terrible jetlag and he had not slept.

Mr Skaff said the trip was the first time he had been overseas since he was six years old and it was the first time he had been away by himself.

His winnings also included a digital video camera and he was taken on a Hollywood tour. Being a film buff though, Mr Skaff said the most interesting part was catching-up on movies he had not seen on the plane trip.
Relaxation delivered straight to your door

Gabby McMillan

14 June, 2005: Taking care of your body should be considered essential, not a luxury, according to massage therapist Kate Wright.

Former University of Canberra employee Ms Wright has given seated workplace massages on campus for more than a year, and she said it is fantastic to see the number of people "taking an interest in their bodies" has increased.

Ms Wright gives deep tissue and remedial massages to University of Canberra staff every Thursday and they don't even have to leave their office.

"It's my theory that people weren't made to sit at an office all day," she said. "Massages give people a little bit of intervention, a little bit of relaxation and it's also very convenient."

Massages run for 15, 20 or 30 minutes. Ms Wright said 15 minutes is the minimum time period for "giving your body a break".

"When you're at a computer you have a tendency to slouch, or stretch and this pulls everything out of alignment," she said. "The benefit of the massage is it gets people to stop what they're doing and also encourages them to relax."

Ms Wright has worked with people with a range of computer-related injuries including repetitive strain injury (RSI), back, arm and wrist and chronic neck injuries. She said massage is considered a remedy to these injuries, however it shouldn't be considered as 'just a treatment'.

"Massage is about maintaining your body, not just working as a remedy," she said. "However, it is good to get people feeling better and functioning in the workplace. It feels good when you start seeing the changes you can ignite in people."

Ms Wright is available by appointment weekly on Thursdays. Massage therapist Quill Richardson is available weekly on Fridays for both seated and full body massages.

They are both certified members of the Australian Traditional Medicine Society and hold Certificate IV in Massage Therapy.
Putting her 'heart and soul' into calligraphy

Gabby McMillan

June 8, 2005: University of Canberra employee Gemma Black's love of calligraphy started when she was at school in the 1960s. She remembers dipping her pen in the inkwell and practicing lettering during formal classroom lessons.

More than four decades later, Gemma's passion for calligraphy and lettering hasn't disappeared. In fact, Gemma is now internationally recognised for her work and summer school classes, having travelled to the United States and the United Kingdom to teach at lettering arts conferences.

Gemma said calligraphy started as an "interest" but then grew into a profession. "The more proficient I became at my craft the more I was asked to do things," she said. "I built myself a business and I've had studios at both the homes I've lived in here in Canberra."

Besides working on graduate certificates in the 1980s and 1990s, Gemma has worked on documents for the Chief Minister's department and the visitors' books for the two houses of parliament.

Since working full-time at the University of Canberra for almost five years, Gemma said she now only takes on calligraphy and lettering jobs she can put her "heart and soul into".

"I love taking on jobs where there is creative freedom," she said. "I'm not interested in working on 100, or even 1000, envelopes and certificates anymore."

Gemma remembers the popularity of calligraphy in the 1980s. She said even though it isn't as prevalent as it once was, it is still a "special interest" to many people around the world.

“There's always a hard core of people who continue with their love of letter-form and those people are going to be in it for the long haul,” she said. “Plus, I'd much rather see an exhibition of eight calligraphers doing magnificent work than an exhibition of 50 poor quality works.”

Gemma said practising calligraphy and lettering is a life-long passion for her. "As long as my hands remain steady I'll be fine," she added.
Professor sums up at international forum

Gabby McMillan

June 8, 2005: University of Canberra Professor John Halligan's work on comparative government and public management was acknowledged when he was invited by the Korean Government to be a rapporteur at an international forum in Seoul, Korea in late May.

More than 5,000 people from over 140 countries attended the Sixth Global Forum on Reinventing Government, including former Australian prime minister Bob Hawke. This year's forum was called "Towards Participatory and Transparent Governance".

Professor Halligan said the forum focused on discussing changes in government processes to allow for greater participation by citizens so the governance process could become more 'transparent'.

"The conference really brought people together to discuss ways of improving the condition of governance in countries of the world," he said.

He said the word 'governance' differed from 'government' because it extended beyond the formal structures of government, to include the private sector and civil society.

Professor Halligan, as one of the rapporteurs, had to summarise the main arguments and ideas of one of the forum's plenary sessions into a presentation and written report for the final plenary session.

He said the forum focused his attention on the "scope of different developments in the area of governance in countries around the world". He added the forum confirmed the need for transparency so governments would be more accountable for their actions.

"It should be noted the focus of this type of conference is on all countries of the world with a particular emphasis on third world or developing countries," he said.

"It does include developed countries as well as transitional countries, for example, in Eastern Europe.

Professor Halligan said senior politicians and governmental officials from around the world agreed to a 'Seoul declaration' at the forum's closing ceremony.

"The Seoul declaration comments on the main themes of the conference and what countries should be thinking about implementing," he said. "There is a commitment there."

Professor Halligan said there was "no doubt" countries had been striving to give more attention to the issues of governance and participation; it was a matter of juggling power structures, poverty and developmental needs before responding to the issue.

Professor Halligan also dined at the Blue House, the Korean prime minister's executive mansion, with fellow academics, politicians and senior officials.
Architecture students get practical

Gabby McMillan

3 June, 2005: As University of Canberra second-year architecture students handed in their final semester one major projects on 2 June, architecture lecturer Ann Cleary was pleased the students had risen to the challenge.

The students were required to design a chapel, overnight accommodation and/or a newlyweds' cabin to be hypothetically built on the Lake George escarpment at the foothills of a range of wineries.

Ms Cleary said the project was their first real introduction to designing a project individually and on a “challenging site”.

"The site conditions [at the escarpment] were quite variable so the students' responses were very different," she said.

The students went on a three-day field trip to the escarpment, including the Madew Wineries and the Lerida Winery, to "get a feel for the range of design approaches".

Students and staff attended a presentation on 2 June where students discussed the feasibility and concepts of their work with the owners of the Madew Wineries.

Ms Cleary said the project was “only a hypothetical situation but it gave the students the benefit of dealing with a real site and a real environmental condition”.

"It also gave Romilly and David from Madew Wineries around 55 ideas for their property," she added.

Botswana student Alfred John said the field trip helped him with 'site analysis' because he needed to take elements including sun, wind and soil into consideration. He plans to return to Botswana after completing his University of Canberra architecture degree to “design infrastructures back home”.

"Architecture is hard but I enjoy it because you learn different things with each project," he said.

Student Jo Butler, who has wanted to be an architect since primary school, described the escarpment as an "extreme site" because of its accompanying weather issues and steep 30-40 degree slopes. She said she had learnt about practical and eco-friendly ways of building and designing from the project.

"I really like the design and creative elements of architecture but learning about the practicalities of design and how it can actually work is really interesting," she said.
Kenya deal boosts customs centre's reach

Edward O'Daly

17 June, 2005: The Centre for Customs and Excise Studies (CCES) at the University of Canberra has added more than 20 African countries to the family of nations it works with thanks to a deal with one of the world's leading revenue authorities.

The Kenyan Revenue Authority (KRA), which is responsible for collecting 95 percent of the Kenyan government's revenue, was last year appointed by the World Customs Organisation to lead training and capacity building in 21 countries in eastern and southern Africa. The KRA first approached the Centre about joining forces in the region in August 2004 and yesterday a Memorandum of Understanding was signed formalising the arrangement.

"We receive many requests for MOUs and to develop relationships, but we are very selective," said the Centre's chief executive, Dr David Widdowson.

"These guys mean business. They have a real vision and we are more than happy to provide what assistance we can."

The CCES is the only centre of customs and excise training in the world and before the signing had links with 55 countries. By extension, the new deal has brought the total to 75 overnight.

Commissioner general of the KRA M.G. Warewu said the region faced unique challenges in particular a shortage of skilled staff.

"We have to help the countries in our region develop capacity in customs and also meet the demands on us in terms of revenue generation. We have to make sure we keep our eye on the ball and to do this we need skilled people."

"We hope that this partnership will help the KRA play its rightful role in bringing wealth and prosperity to our countries."

Mr Warewu explained the relationship would help with training and with building capacity. In particular he hoped to build up "modern skills" in management and risk management using the expertise of the CCES team.
**'Allo 'Allo: The Players Company's latest gourmet treat**

Gabby McMillan

**June 2, 2005:** In preparation for his leading role in The Players Company production 'Allo 'Allo which opens on June 17, University of Canberra Pharmacist Dan Cole did something he'd never attempted to do before: grow a moustache.

Dan will portray René in the play, which is based on the characters of the hit television series. He said rehearsals had been "good but hard".

"I'm really enjoying it but it's been a lot of hard work," he said. "I also grew a moustache for the role. I'd never had one before and after this play ends I will never have one again."

Director Jasan Savage said fans of 'Allo 'Allo would enjoy the play and even people who had never seen the television series would still find it an "absolute riot".

"The reason I chose it is pure and simple - it's funny," he said. "I loved the show, but that wasn't why I chose it. I read the play's script and it was very, very well-written. 'Allo 'Allo is genuinely funny."

Ilona Fraser, who hasn't acted for around 15 years, is looking forward to making her stage return as Michelle of the Resistance. Ilona auditioned after watching The Players Company production of Fawlty Towers.

"It looked like so much fun and, for me, that's what acting has always been about," she said. "You feel invigorated after rehearsals so you go home with all the different accents and your family is just like 'oh my goodness!' You'll certainly be able to see the element of fun on the night."

Jasan said he is excited about directing a dinner theatre production after the success of Chekhov's Funniest and is looking forward to giving people a "damn good night out."

Dan, who has performed in various other campus productions including Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy and Fawlty Towers, said he enjoyed acting because it allowed to him "get out of himself and be someone else". "Plus," he added, "I like the applause."
Inexplicable art
Rebecca Stones

June 6, 2005: Having just arrived back in Canberra from a three-month overseas trip, print artist Patsy Payne attributed her artistic inspiration to her many international voyages.

Speaking at a University of Canberra Artists Talk seminar on 1 June, Ms Payne said she had a pattern of travelling every 18 months to "visually and culturally stimulating" places.

Ms Payne's previous destinations included Italy, Mexico, Sri Lanka and the Swiss Alps, all of which permeated her artwork in scenery or inclusion of cultural icons.

Ms Payne teaches studio theory and conducts print workshops at the Australian National University. Despite being a lecturer, she emphasised theory in art was not about teaching definite rules, but instead appreciating previous works and adapting a personal style.

"It's really hard to teach visual art, there's a certain 'I don't know what' that makes a work speak to the viewer...there's no formula for it," she said.

"Art works very much on a level of empathy...like viewing work born of a religion not of the viewer, you have to have your own ability to appreciate it."

As Ms Payne showed slides of her work, her emphasis on personal interpretation was evident as she took 'ordinary' images and changed them to have a new meaning.

One piece remodelled a 16th Century anatomical heart diagram in an intricate woodcarving. Another manipulated the image of a skull with a bullet wound to "dissolve the certainty of the image".

There was also a series of images involving a body scan Ms Payne had undergone, with the unpleasantness of the experience reflected in the sterility of the art.

Ms Payne said the series of body imaging pieces explored issues of privacy and also medicine's failure to look beyond the physical body into the spiritual being.

"We no longer need to be cut (open) to have everything invaded...there are many issues that aren't considered in new medicines...(body scanning) is a very interesting new area of medical ethics," she said.

Some of Ms Payne's most recent work from Sri Lanka was also shown, but without the explanation she gave for older works, as they were "too new".

"You can't always know what you're doing in your work until you look at them later," she said, adding she often saw new things even in her older work on re-examination.

Although Ms Payne was not sure where she would head next for inspiration she added, "I'm very interested in Iceland."
Our very own "Dish"

Penny Vandenbroek

June 3, 2005: Standing high on a hill at the University of Canberra, the 10-metre satellite communications dish is an ageing figure, gracefully fading into the history of the University.

Professor Paul Edwards, from the School of Information Sciences and Engineering (ISE), said the dish was originally owned by the Department of Communication and the Arts and was situated in the Orroral Valley on the outskirts of Canberra.

In the early 1990s, the Department sought a more convenient location to better utilise their investment of approximately $1 million.

The School of Engineering successfully proposed the relocation of the dish to its current site on the Bruce campus.

The agreement also included joint use by the School and the Department. UC did not have to pay for the dish, but were responsible for providing facilities such as fencing, fibre optics connection and a hut.

Professor Edwards remembers when the dish first arrived on campus. Assignments involving the dish were incorporated into the fourth year Engineering program. Postgraduate students and staff also used it for research projects.

The dish has been utilised as a ‘test bed’ for projects, including picking up radio waves from student-made antennas, monitoring satellite transmissions and even bouncing signals off the moon.

Professor Edwards said that over the past 4 to 5 years there has been ‘limited’ use of the dish and with the phasing out of Engineering courses by 2007, it is unlikely to be fully utilised in the future.

Given his ‘imminent retirement’ in October 2005, Professor Edwards said it was crucial that the knowledge be ‘passed on’. He is busily transferring ‘dish facts’ to staff and documenting maintenance procedures.

‘It is important to get the technical things right’, he said.

Having the opportunity to get ‘up close and personal’ with the dish doesn’t happen very often. However, on Friday 3 June, this was possible, due to maintenance.

An internal motor was recently replaced, throwing off the alignment. In order to track ‘any’ satellite, the dish had to be recalibrated to the correct position. Mr Tony Jurd, a technician from Ritech Satellite TV Specialists, was called in to make the adjustments.

Mr Hanh Huynh, a Technical Officer from ISE, was also present at the maintenance. He has gradually been learning more about the dish, including: how to replace the antenna, install satellite radio receiving equipment and how to ‘point’.

Controlling the dish or ‘pointing’ is done from inside a control hub. Although computer controlled, adjustments may still need to be made by a staff member.

Professor Edwards said the dish is fast tracking and can travel from horizon to horizon in approximately 60 seconds. ‘It really is quite special’.

Safety when working with the dish is a ‘big issue’, literally, as it is a ‘major piece of engineering equipment’, Professor Edwards said.

For the future, Professor Edwards is hoping the University may be able to entice an outside organisation to better utilise the dish. He is hopeful that past interest may be rekindled and that a communications company in the ACT or surrounding region may interested in a partnership or rental agreement.

‘It would be wonderful for a new company to become involved in the dish, particularly for the students,’ he said.

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

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Safer travel for UC community

Rebecca Stones

**June 6, 2005:** The University of Canberra Union has introduced a shuttle bus service to make evening and late night travel around the campus safer.

The minibus is owned by UC with petrol and drivers paid for by the UCU. In previous years the bus transported UC residents between the UCU Bar and home on Friday nights to stop people walking alone.

UCU General Manager Tony Loneragan said he wanted to take the service an extra step and provide the shuttle bus throughout the week to increase safety of not just residents, but the whole campus community.

Mr Loneragan said the service was an idea he had wanted to pursue for years and was pleased the bus was becoming popular as he did not feel comfortable with people walking alone at night.

"I have three young adult daughters. I'd like someone looking after them just like I'd look after someone else's," he said.

Mr Loneragan said the bus began its route at 5:30pm and continued until 8:30pm because evenings were darker and colder during winter.

On Friday nights, the service would re-start at 10:30pm and finish at 3:30am and run between Arscott House, Cooinda Hut and the UCU Bar, as it had in previous years.

During the week the bus makes pick-ups from Building 1, Building 10, Building 7, Arscott House and Cooinda Hut and makes drop-offs at campus car parks along its route, with each circuit of the campus taking approximately 20 minutes.
UC Health Sciences to benefit from 'The Canberra Plan'

Penny Vandenbroek

June 2, 2005: Work is about to begin on the final design brief for the University of Canberra's Health Sciences Project, with the appointment of ACT Firm, Manteena Pty Ltd as the Project Manager.

Staff from the School of Health Sciences and UC's Property and Facilities have been working together to develop a 'draft' brief of the project requirements and possible fulfilment of these, within the given budget.

The Project is being funded by a $10 million grant from the ACT Government as part of 'The Canberra Plan'. Planned expenditure includes new accommodation, equipment and facilities for Allied Health and Nursing students and staff at the University.

While the Project is owned and controlled by the University, the expenditure of funds is overseen by a Steering Committee which includes representatives from ACT Health.

Recent Acting Head of Health, Design and Science Ron Miller said the funding has also been used to develop new postgraduate Masters by coursework degrees in Physiotherapy, Pharmacy and Nutrition/Dietetics and to support further development in the Forensics area. These courses took their first cohorts at the beginning of this year.

Mr Miller said that although the 'Deed of Grant' specifically mentions these four disciplines, the funding will benefit all health related areas of the University, especially Nursing.

Chief Executive of ACT Health, Tony Sherbon, said that with the coming "tidal wave of health problems", we [Canberra] will need as many professionals in allied health and nursing as can be provided and this project will help with that.

The University is a primary provider of allied health and nursing graduates to the ACT workforce, complementing the role of the ANU Canberra Medical School which covers the medical disciplines.

Mr Miller said the Project will see the creation of about 2,000 square metres of new space, incorporating new laboratories for physiotherapy and pharmacy, demonstration areas for nutrition and dietetics, a third simulation ward for nursing, new audio visual facilities, more teaching space and office space for Health Sciences staff.

A new physiotherapy clinic will enable students to do on-site clinical placements.

Mr Miller said that plans include the sharing of facilities with health related areas, such as psychology and sports studies, so that UC will get even more 'bang for its health buck'.

Existing space will be refurbished for an expanded Learning Resources Centre and existing labs and practice facilities will be updated.

Project staff believe that the first brief probably encompasses more than the funding will cover. However, they are confident the University's needs will be met and that the ACT community will also experience the benefits.

Manteena Pty Ltd now has the responsibility of creating the final design and turning a 'wish list' into a 'reality'.
University community needs recycling education

Rebecca Stones

June 6, 2005: Attempts to institute recycling at the University of Canberra have been successful in office environments. However, it seems education is needed to increase recycling in other university areas.

Recycling bins introduced to the University's Concourse by the UC Union are clearly labelled 'glass and plastics only', but the labels are not working, UCU General Manager Tony Loneragan said.

"The students aren't very cooperative as far as putting what should be in what," he said.

A spokesperson for Agent Green Recycling, the recycling company used by UC and the Union, said the problem with mixing normal rubbish into recyclables was the tendency to attract flies.

Recyclable plastic containers are often rendered useless if contaminated with food, which houses maggots and makes the job of recycling unpleasant, the spokesperson said.

The UCU, Students' Association (SA) and other UC offices have clearly made the distinction between 'recycling bin' and 'rubbish bin', with blue bins for office paper and other facilities for plastics and glass proving successful.

Tony Loneragan said waste from the Refectory and Iguana Café was recycled as much as possible, with oil from the deep fryers reused by ACT company Pete's Oils as fuel.

According to Mr Loneragan, Styrofoam was one of the few non-recyclable items in the Refectory, with cardboard alternatives three times as expensive.

However, Agent Green Recycling said they had found a source for recycling Styrofoam so it, too, may soon be recycled.

Director of University Residences Peter Dahl said although there was currently no recycling on residences, he was considering proposals from SA Environment Officer Carl Sutcliffe and other students.

Recycling has previously been attempted on residences, however the facilities were not used properly and the project was abandoned.

"Education is going to be the cornerstone in getting this started," Mr Dahl said.

Mr Dahl speculated the apparent apathy from residents towards recycling might be due to moving out of home, increasing workloads or even the set-up of previous recycling schemes.

Kathryn Berry of the Students' Association started a glass and plastics recycling box at International House and said a lack of money or resources was not a good enough excuse to neglect the environment.

Ms Berry said she could not understand why people did not recycle when the facilities were right in front of them and it was so easy.

"It's so frustrating...why not (recycle), you know it's helping the environment," she said.

Ms Berry, from Dalhousie University in Canada, said her campus even composted organic matter, so she was surprised by the lack of recycling when she visited New Zealand and Australia.

"There are fewer recycling bins - people aren't given the option to recycle."

"It really does make me so angry, especially on a university campus where everyone's educated. I think people (who don't recycle) should be fined - it's pure laziness."
June 6, 2005: The University of Canberra was officially awarded a $610,000 tender by ACT Health Minister Simon Corbell in May 2005.

The funding will be used to establish a **Healthpact** Research Centre for Health Promotion and Wellbeing.

During the next three years, funding will cover research, including studies of effectiveness of current health promotions, investigating why programs do or do not work and how best to administer promotions.

Director of the project, **UC Nursing** Professor Paul Morrison said the Centre’s funding was the first of its kind in the ACT and would provide an important evidence-base for future government policy decisions.

"People often think of programs and initiatives that target lifestyle...while some of the Centre's initiatives will look at that, it will also look at other factors - access to income, levels of education...having decent transport," he said.

The project’s Deputy-director and UC lecturer Dr Katja Mikhailovich said while the strategic plan and other details of the Centre were still being finalised, the interest from various UC departments was a promising start.

The project team are currently implementing a Proposal Review Panel to make decisions on research submissions. Several outside agencies have already approached the group with research and evaluation projects, Paul Morrison said.

Professor Morrison and Dr Mikhailovich said the strategic plan should be finished by the end of June, with an official launch for the centre planned for late July.
From the Classroom to the Brewery

Gabby McMillan

May 31, 2005: University of Canberra's Ron Miller is looking forward to a career as a cider brewer when he retires after working on-and-off campus for more than 18 years.

Ron, who was recently the Acting Head of the Division of Health, Design and Science, said he had always wanted to "brew something" so he bought a little brewery in Gundaroo. He said the Gundaroo Brewery Company would hopefully be operational in "around a year or so", and selling "Jolly Miller cider".

"We [My partner and I] want to make good, dry English cider," he said. "We've been doing a lot of reading and practicing. The first brew was awful, so hopefully the second one will be better."

Ron and his partner plan to travel to England later in the year to meet with cider brewers, explore "cider country" and catch up with friends.

Ron has worked as the Deputy Head of the Communication and Education Division, the Head of Languages and International Education and the Head of School for Creative Communication during different periods of his University of Canberra career. He said his love of writing hasn't gone away; he still does "bits of pieces".

"I'm one of the great procrastinators," he said. "I always think you need a bit of space in your life to write. We all like to the think the great Australian novel is in there somewhere."

Ron said he was excited about retiring from the University of Canberra but it was "spooky and sad in some ways".

"UC really creates a good culture where people are here to do the best they can do for themselves and the institution," he said. "I'm really going to miss working with a really good collection of people."

Ron also has fond memories of studying at the University of Canberra. "I was the first ever casual barman at the bar," he said. "I also used to be Chair of the UCU back in the day."

Ron said he doesn't "like farewells very much" but will say goodbye to staff at a "drinks and nibbles function" at the UCU Staff Club on 9 June.
Book Review: Essay Writing for HSC English

Curriculum-Specific with Sample Essays
Dr Barry Spurr, 2005, New Frontier Publishing

Gabby McMillan

May 8, 2005: Academic guides often have an underlying problem: generality. When a guide is too generalised, especially for college or high-school students, the information can appear too vast; too complex.

In Dr Barry Spurr's "Essay-Writing for HSC English; Curriculum-Specific with Sample Essays" it doesn't fall into this trap. Instead, Dr Spurr focuses on the most important issue for students studying for HSC: how to master writing an academic English essay while satisfying the Board of Studies' marking criteria.

Superficially, the book isn't daunting. It's not too thick, it's well structured and the cover clearly reveals its' mission to assist with the 2005 HSC English exam. In Chapter 2, Dr Spurr addresses the basic, but necessary question of, 'What is an essay?' He develops this further in Chapter 4, while covering the ten essential elements of HSC essay writing.

Chapter 6 addresses the much forgotten and crucial theory of 'linking paragraphs to develop an argument'. This inclusion is important, as students who are keen to fill their essay with so much information its' sides are splitting, often forget how to tie it all together to make a point.

Dr Spurr doesn't patronise the reader and he includes numerous examples of good and bad writing as well as samples of essays. His step-by-step systematic guide to writing HSC essays should prove to be a very useful tool to students.
**Journey of Healing 2005: Step into another's shoes**

**Healing Day tribute at UC**
Various activities were held on-campus at UC on Thursday 26 May to acknowledge the National Day of Healing (Sorry Day).

**Stepping stones to reconciliation**
The poem *Conciliate* by Shelly Mulherin and a copy of the UC Council Charter of Reconciliation was unveiled on Tuesday 24 June.

**The real truth: Lousy Little Sixpence**
Screening of the documentary film as part of UC's Journey of Healing.

**Film screening encourages awareness of our past**
The film 'Rabbit Proof Fence' was shown at a free screening on Monday 23 May.

**Poet uses words to heal**
*Journey of Healing* committee member, Linette Bone hopes that reading her poem 'The Ear of Dark's Grace' on the National Day of Healing (Sorry Day) on Thursday 26 May will allow her to 'heal' and encourage others to follow.

**Leonie-Ruth's May column: In High Spirits**
"Step into another's shoes" as you participate in a uniquely Australian experience through film, discussion, food, dance, books and people.

Wiradjuri Echo dancers perform on the Lawns at UC.
*Photo: Benjamin Brillante*
Cancer Council "Bake-off" Success at UC

Gabby McMillan

May 27, 2005: More than $400 was raised for The Cancer Council Australia at the University of Canberra's Australia's Biggest Morning Tea (ABMT) on May 26.

An annual fundraising "bake-off" was held in the Building 5 Tearoom, with UC staff urged to donate cakes, cookies and money for the competition.

Business Manager and ABMT compere, Karyn Ward, said the "bake-off" gave staff the opportunity to get involved in an important "social issue".

"I'm fairly confident everyone in this room has been touched by cancer in one form or another," she said to staff.

"As people working in a university, we understand the importance and relevance of research so please donate generously and help researchers on their merry way."

Ms Ward said she had hoped more people would attend the morning tea, but said there "were people there in spirit who donated later because of other commitments".

One of the ABMT organisers, Geraldine Monaghan, said if University of Canberra had raised $100 she would have been thrilled, so raising $400 was "just wonderful".

Money raised from the "bake-off" was combined with funds from a separate morning tea held by Student Services to reach the total figure. Professor Peter Putnis donned a white chef's hat to judge 10 entries in the "bake-off", describing this year's entries as "highly varied". Entry selection criteria included presentation, texture, taste and healthiness.

Professor Putnis comically led staff members through the selection process before declaring Kristy Tully, from Communication and Education, the winner with her mother's banana cake recipe. He praised her presentation skills, saying her flower decorations "enhanced the look of the cake".

Ms Tully received the "bake-off trophy"; a rolling pin engraved with the title "The Best Goodies Cook", which she will proudly have possession of until 2006. She also won a voucher from Iguana Café.

A raffle and jelly-bean guessing competition was also held to raise money, with prizes donated by Iguana Café, the Co-op Bookshop and The Gallery Restaurant.

People who missed the morning tea and bake-off but would like to donate money can contact Accounts Officer, Sue Ricardo on 6201 2204.
Stepping stones to reconciliation

Gaye Morrison

May 27, 2005: The Shelly Mulherin poem Conciliate was unveiled on Tuesday 24 June by the Acting Director of the Ngunnawal Centre, Terry Williams. UC Council member Sam Wong AO also took part in the ceremony with the unveiling of the Council Charter of Reconciliation.

Staff, students and invited guests gathered together in 'The Corner' on Level C of Building 1.

Standing in front of the beautifully framed artworks, Leonie-Ruth Acland, Coordinator of the Spiritual Meeting Place gave a welcome and Acknowledgement of Country. Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean then briefly spoke before the official unveiling took place.

Sam Wong explained to those assembled that the Charter was the 'Council's vision for the continuing process of reconciliation' and a way to 'move forward' in the journey of healing.

Shelley Mulherin's poem was then read by second year student, Grant Heinos, who was coached for the reading by one of his tutors. The elegant script, that enhances the works, was accomplished by Gemma Black, a UC staff member with an international reputation for calligraphy. Gemma also prepared the title plates for the works.

Terry Williams congratulated those associated with the project, and spoke about the continuing process of reconciliation and the role of the Ngunnawal Centre.

"The Ngunnawal Centre is the focus for the reconciliation process for the University and this can be seen through the way that the Centre interacts with students like Shelley, who has come back as a personal tutor for some of the law students", Terry said.

"The other significance of the poem and the Centre is being inclusive".

"The Centre has... the responsibility of developing and implementing the University's first Indigenous Studies Minor. The first unit, Indigenous History and Self Expression is being successfully conducted this semester, with a number of international students taking the subject", Terry enthused.

"The Centre also prepares most, if not all, Indigenous students for the University mainstream programs and the success rate is very high across a number of disciplines", Terry concluded.
The real truth: Lousy Little Sixpence

Rebecca Stones

May 30, 2005: It may not have had a big budget, but the 1982 film Lousy Little Sixpence made a big impact on the audience at the University of Canberra's UCU theatre.

The film, about Indigenous Australians being taken from their homes for assimilation into 'white' society during the 20th century, was played as part of UC's Journey of Healing.

The 2005 theme for the week-long Journey of Healing was: 'Step into another's shoes', to show the need to move from past injustices.

Activities were held on-campus in the lead up to the National Day of Healing, formerly known as Sorry Day.

Lousy Little Sixpence showed in bleak, simple interviews that healing would not be easy, given the torment suffered by Indigenous Australians at the hands of the Australian government.

The film told the story of Indigenous Australians chronologically from 1901, when the NSW Aborigines Protection Board decided to force Indigenous children from their homes to be trained as servants for 'white' families.

The children were to be given a sixpence each week and the Protection Board was to contribute money to a trust fund. However, the money was rarely paid and the trust funds never materialised, creating the current debate over compensation.

While 1901 seems a long time ago, the system of removing children persisted up to the 1960s, meaning the painful memories are still carried by survivors and their families.

The film also exposed some lesser-known facts about Indigenous treatment. Most amazing was the way that the strengthening Indigenous movement was quelled in the late 1930s, using accusations of Nazism.

The government's wartime propaganda struck a chord in the Australian population and the growing support for Indigenous people turned to mistrust.

UC Ngunnawal Centre's Terry Williams said the film had two reactions when it first came out: shock at what had happened to Indigenous Australians; and horror that Indigenous Australians produced something that spoke outside written history.

"It really sets out a political timeline and (shows) how the same things are still being fought for, like health and equality," he said.

"If there's going to be a moral change it has to come from the people - it's not going to come from the politicians."
Who is managing our information?

Penny Vandenbroek

May 26, 2005: Learning more about library staff and resources was the focus of the week-long activities held at the UC Library from 23-27 May 2005.

Information Officer, Erin Williams, coordinated several displays, as part of the nationally celebrated 'Library and Information Management Week'.

A wall of 24 paper dolls, posing the question “Can you pick the real librarians?” formed an intriguing display.

The answer “They all are (librarians)!” might have surprised some people. Each doll was dressed in a variety of outfits, with a name and a list of hobbies.

Jane ‘enjoyed reading, red wine, bushwalking and flower arranging’ and Juan ‘enjoyed weight-lifting, clubbing, jewellery and flirting with everyone’.

The dolls are representative of the changing nature of information management and the diversity of the staff who work in libraries. The concept was attributed to Janice Dann, who wanted to try and reinvent the ‘stereotypical’ image of a librarian.

Erin, who is also in her final year of studies at UC, said that the Library employs around 40 permanent staff, with a large number of students employed on a casual basis. “The casuals come from all areas of the University, not just Information Management”.

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), the industry’s professional body, supports the annual event, which aims to raise the profile of libraries and emphasise their value to the community.

*An important part of the week was ‘customer focus’ and assisting people to better use the resources available*, Erin said.

Erin also mentioned the fantastic effort by Emma Keltie, a graduate of UC's Bachelor of Media/Multimedia Production who now works in the Library as an Information Officer. Emma wrote, filmed, directed, edited and produced the video ‘Ultimate search engines’, that had been screening in the Library six times a day.


Another new display showcased ‘Study Guides’, a helpful range of reference books, as well as DVDs and videos.

The drawcard of the week was a ‘Website Treasure Hunt’ competition, which gave UC students the opportunity to win prizes, sponsored by Iguana Café and Bar and the Co-op Bookshop. Entrants used the Library website to answer a series of questions, with correct entries being eligible for the prizes.

'Treasure Hunt' prize winners:

1st: Dawn Sheridan (2nd year B. Nursing) $75 from Iguana

2nd: Amy Parks (1st year B. Science) $50 from Co-op

3rd: Maree Walsh (3rd year B. Science) $25 from Co-op
Vice-Chancellor's passion for music formally recognised

May 30, 2005: University of Canberra

Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean had his passion for improvisational music recognised on 2 May 2005 with the announcement of his election to the board of the Australian Music Centre (AMC).

A number of Professor Dean's musical works have been published though the AMC. He said being on the AMC board would allow him to help promote other Australian musicians.

The AMC does not publish 'pop-culture' music, instead working with orchestras and 'innovative' music, with composers assessed on composition, originality and quality.

Professor Dean said such Australian music was 'very inadequately promoted' through mainstream channels. This was despite the difficulty in creating music to meet the AMC standard, such as Professor Dean's preferred style of 'composition improvisation'.

To overcome barriers in accessing innovative Australian compositions, the AMC is creating an online 'Virtual Repository', which will showcase digital sound scores and other resources of the AMC.

Professor Dean described the Virtual Repository as a 'library' of freely accessible compositions. He said the project was currently in the 'demo stages' but would be operational in around nine months.

"No country has a (Virtual Repository) project as developed as this one," he said.

Chair of the AMC board Paul Marx described the Virtual Repository as the "corner-stone" of the AMC's business plan for 2005.

The AMC is currently working to complete the project's funding.
UC Welcomes New Marketing Director

Gabby McMillan

May 26, 2005: After moving to UC from the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) one month ago, Director of Marketing Jacqui Martin said she planned on strengthening UC ties with employers, schools, colleges and businesses in the Canberra community.

Ms Martin said it was essential for UC to function as a "real partner" in the community, and she said "networking was absolutely essential" for this outcome to be achieved.

"I think the University of Canberra has probably been hiding itself away a little bit out here in Bruce," she said. "We need to make sure we're getting out there, meeting with employers, asking them what they want, meeting with students in schools, asking them what they want."

Ms Martin said she always wanted to focus on the "brand of the university": "I will look at how we can communicate a better brand message locally, nationally and internationally."

Ms Martin said the university had a number of benefits including the intimate community and practical course components, but she wanted to improve the way these were communicated. She also hoped to expand on UC's postgraduate programs.

She said education had become a "competitive business, so universities need to adapt and evolve to the changing market place."

Ms Martin described her career as "eclectic" because she had worked as an Early Childhood teacher, music and related arts teacher, government project manager and business development manager in Tasmania. She said CIT brought her educational and marketing backgrounds together.

Ms Martin, a self-confessed "passionate worker", said it was also important to maintain balance with other aspects of life outside the workplace.

Having recently taken up an external quilting course, Ms Martin said she planned to focus on personal interests as well as marketing for the University. She has only lived in the ACT for two and half years but said she felt like a part of the community.

"At the moment I'm just trying to meet as many people at the University as I can and learn about the University and possible strategies for the future."
John Uhrig on the 'Uhrig report'

Penny Vandenbroek and Stephen Bartos

May 31, 2005: More than 200 senior public servants, academics and business people crowded in to the Telstra Theatre on 18 May to attend a National Institute for Governance seminar, focusing on the implications of the Uhrig Report, the Review of the Corporate Governance of Statutory Authorities and Office Holders.

The author of the report, John Uhrig AC, gave an outline of the thoughts behind the findings, which provoked great interest and discussion.

"There is nothing in that report that wasn't deliberate", he said.

Although Mr Uhrig referred to governance as "the world's most boring subject", he quickly emphasised that he was excited to be involved in the project, as governance was an important issue.

Speculating that many in the audience had probably only got as far as reading the Executive Summary, Mr Uhrig talked in broad terms about some of the "key notions" of the report.

Based on his own experience, as Chairman of Westpac in the early 1990s, Mr Uhrig stressed the need for organisations to have "the right mechanisms and framework in place" so that when a crisis occurs, the organisation will be able to withstand it.

Mr Uhrig also mentioned the need for governments to take "responsibility for governance" and that this should include "accountability".

The Uhrig Report was released by the Federal Government on 12 August 2004, and has led to an intensive review process of the governance of approximately 170 statutory authorities and agencies.

The review includes assessment against two templates: "Executive management" (where the Minister takes more of a governance role) and the "Board" (where the Board has full powers to act).

The process has stimulated debate, particularly among those agencies which may find themselves without a Board.

The seminar also highlighted other implications for governance, including the concepts of ministerial responsibility and broader responsibilities of government.

Other speakers at the seminar included: Patricia Scott, Secretary of the newly created Department of Human Services, Dr Tom Iannou of the Department of Finance and Administration and Professor Stephen Bartos of the National Institute for Governance.

A full transcript of the seminar will soon be available on the NIG members' website.
UCU tops up the Tsunami Appeal

Gaye Morrison

May 30, 2005: The University of Canberra Union (UCU) topped up the Tsunami "Build a Classroom" Appeal that has been running at the University of Canberra since early this year.

UCU General Manager, Tony Loneragan, presented a cheque for $3,000 to Jandy Godfrey of the UC Tsunami Response Team on Friday 27 May.

The money was raised by UCU through various activities over the past few months. The events included sausage sizzles on the Concourse, promotions in the Bar and a raffle.

In presenting the cheque, Tony Loneragan praised the generosity of the University community and their support at UCU events.

"I am very pleased that UCU was able to raise the amount that they did, and this money will go a long way to helping the UC Tsunami Response Team meet their target of $20,000", Tony said.

The UC Tsunami Response Team will be presenting a cheque for $20,000 to PLAN in early June. The money will assist the rebuilding and resourcing of a classroom in Hambantota, Sri Lanka.
UC strengthens ties with Fiji

Penny Vandenbroek

May 24, 2005: The University of Canberra has extended its support to the recently established University of Fiji (UoF) by the signing of a Letter Of Intent on 19 May 2005.

The document, signed by the Vice-Chancellors of both Universities, sets out guidelines for ‘a collaborative relationship under the principles of equality and mutual benefit’.

The agreement focuses on academic cooperation, research collaboration, teacher training, publishing and internationalisation.

UC Associate Professor Dharmendra Sharma said the priority area he will be involved in is training in Information Technology (IT) and the developing of skills to go with infrastructure. He added that the role of IT in teacher education, communication, government and business would be emphasised.

The UoF was founded under the sponsorship of the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji and will be operated and managed by an independent University of Fiji Council.

The University is located in Saweni, Lautoka, about midway between Nadi International Airport and Lautoka City.

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Fiji, Professor Rajesh Chandra speaking at the signing said that he was grateful for the link with UC, and he emphasised the benefits to both universities, particularly in relation to internationalisation.

Professor Chandra said the agreement would act as a ‘coming together of great minds’ and assist in developing the important relationship between Fiji and Australia.

In choosing a university to assist with their development, Professor Chandra said that they looked to the values of the institution that they would like mirrored in UoF. He believed that UC’s emphasis on teaching was vital to the early development of the University.

Professor Chandra said that in the future he hopes the University of Fiji will provide ‘cost-effective, internationally recognised degrees’ to the people of Fiji.

He added that the University should assist “Fiji itself to define its’ place in the world”.

“We move forward with great pride and huge excitement’, Professor Chandra concluded.
Film screening encourages awareness of our past

Penny Vandenbroek

May 25, 2005: The film 'Rabbit Proof Fence' was shown at a free screening on Monday 23 May, as part of UC's 2005 Journey of Healing: "Step into another's shoes".

The film directed by Philip Noyce, follows the emotional story of three young Aboriginal girls - sisters Molly and Daisy and their cousin Gracie.

The film is set in the 1930's West Australian outback and portrays the period when 'half-caste' Aboriginal children were removed from their families and sent to settlements, as part of a broader plan of assimilation.

The three girls in the film are taken from their home in Jigalong to the Moore River Native Settlement. They escape and embark upon an inspiring 1,500 mile journey, using the rabbit proof fence as a guide to return to their homes and families.

Following the screening there was an informal discussion regarding themes from the film. Panel members included Linette Bone, Paul Collis and Terry Williams.

When asked if he thought the film would've been different if it had been directed by an Aboriginal, Paul answered that he 'didn't know', but what he did know was that it was 'raising debate' about the existence of the 'Stolen Generations'.

The film has "opened up a space for dialogue", Paul said.

"Perhaps a black perspective would have shown more of the violence that occurred at Moore River", Terry added.

He also suggested that the hostility towards Aboriginals would become apparent with the emergence of more black film makers and that other issues such as education, health and poverty would also feature. The film 'Beneath Clouds' was cited as a good example of Aboriginal issues being explored by an Aboriginal film maker.

With regards to spirituality and the role this plays in Aboriginal culture, Paul said that the film "almost" captured the essence.

For him, a defining moment in the film is the "eye of god shot" - occurring when the girls are in the desert, in a hopeless situation and from nowhere appears an eagle, watching over them.

The singing throughout the film, both in scenes and as background music shows the connection between the women and children, Terry said. Although some of the culture was explored, it is difficult to put it all in - "it can't be done in a film like this", he added.

Discussion arose regarding criticism of the film's accuracy, particularly the plausibility of the young girls walking so far, "Why couldn't those girls do it? They had determination, guides and spirit", Terry argued.

In response to the central issue of the 'Stolen Generation' and detractors who claim it 'never happened', Terry theorised that "people don't like to be told the truth".

The story was based on the book Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence, by Doris Pilkington Garimara, Molly's daughter. The author also played a key role in adapting the story to the screen.

Thursday 26 May is National Day of Healing. For more information on events at UC visit the Journey of Healing website.

FREE film screening:

'Beneath Clouds' (2003)
The National Library
Thursday 7 July, 2005
6.00 pm at the Theatre
Language connects UC to Taiwan

Gabby McMillan

May 18, 2005: After teaching in Taiwan for one semester, School of Languages and International Education (SLIE) ELICOS teacher Cassandra Hampton said she would miss the students' sense of fun and the way they dealt with competitiveness and pressure.

Ms Hampton said she would take "many memories" back to Australia, including a sense of achievement after working as the inaugural exchange teacher at the National Yunlin University of Science and Technology (NYUST) in the Department of Applied Foreign Languages.

The semester-long exchange program was proposed after a group of Taiwanese university teachers visited the University of Canberra in 2004.

Ms Hampton said the exchange allowed her students and colleagues at NYUST to experience an "Australian" style of teaching; as the structure of classes and teaching methods of Taiwan were naturally sharp in contrast to Australia's system.

English classes in Taiwan could include up to 80 students, but she said there weren't any other alternatives. Students only attended lectures because there weren't practical tutorial lessons.

Night-classes running from 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm were common as well, and Ms Hampton said the evening program students were motivated, even though most juggled full-time work with study.

Ms Hampton introduced new techniques to her classes to "compensate for the large classes and infrequency of contact". She used continuous assessments rather than one-off exams, regular homework, supplemented by face-to-face feedback and collaborative activities.

"I must admit that it is not the same as the communicative approach that we adopt in SLIE," she said. "However, many teachers and students [in NYUST] have been curious and positive about what they have encountered in my classroom."

Even though sightseeing wasn't a priority, Ms Hampton had the opportunity to explore Taiwan's capital city Taipei. She said Taipei was "internationalised", unlike NYUST, which was situated in central Taiwan in a highly agricultural area.

Her students took a great interest in Australia, with many popping into her office to ask questions. "As you can imagine, an 'open door policy' when you have six classes with more than 30 students in each one can be very time consuming," she said. "But I preferred giving as much time to my students as possible."

Ms Hampton said the senior class farewell and graduation dinner was approaching and she felt honoured to be invited. "I will really miss some of my students," she said.

Ms Hampton hoped Dr Hsu Li Ying, who was the exchange teacher at SLIE, also enjoyed her experience and would take home positive memories from her time at the University of Canberra.

"I am glad that my horizon, and through my experience, the outreach of UC, have been widened," she said.
A great debate: Plagiarism

Rebecca Stones

May 23, 2005: A seminar on plagiarism held at the University of Canberra on May 11 suffered one critical problem - no one in attendance could find an exact definition for 'plagiarism'.

Organiser Dr Ian Hart said The Great Plagiarism Mystery seminar was not a failure though, as the point of the exercise was to show just how complicated plagiarism is and why it is difficult to catch.

To demonstrate this point, the seminar was constructed around an elaborate plagiarism investigation where attendees were invited to consider the following:

"Two students on different campuses hand in the same assignment. It seems like a simple case of plagiarism. But things are not always as simple as they appear... Can you solve the mystery?"

At the front of the lecture theatre sat a panel of six participants with experience in handling plagiarism and each offered suggestions for solving the case.

The 'obvious' answer to finding a plagiarism cheat - through a special computer program such as Turn It In - proved to be unsuccessful in the provided case as the plagiarised material was not copied from the Internet.

The positives of such programs, like the ability to quickly identify projects with a high percentage of duplicate material, were compared to the negatives, like the increased workload for teachers.

One of the hypothetical 'plagiarisers' pleaded her reason for cheating, citing an unreasonably high workload, that did not allow time for original work to be written.

The panel discussed whether there were circumstances when plagiarism was allowed (the resounding answer was 'no') and how plagiarism could occur.

"What is plagiarism exactly? Most of us recognise that it would constitute copying someone else's work and passing it off as your own. But perhaps there are degrees of plagiarism, from unintentional or accidental through to deliberate copyright infringement," Dr Hart said.

The final answer to the mystery was that the plagiarised material came from an out of print book only available in university libraries, the moral being 'sometimes the old technologies rule.'

However, issues raised in the seminar were not so easily concluded. A survey was given to attendees asking them to identify which of the given instances would constitute plagiarism.

While some of the hypothetical situations were blatant plagiarism, others were contentious, and no definition of plagiarism could be found.

Dr Hart said there were also cultural issues to consider. For instance, in Asian cultures studying and reproducing a scholar's work was respectful; to argue against it or change the ideas is a characteristic of Western cultures, he said.
UC Nursing staff honoured for their work

Rebecca Stones

May 23, 2005: University of Canberra Nursing staff, Dr Jan Taylor and Ms Laurie Grealish, received recognition for excellence at the inaugural ACT International Midwife and Nurse Day Awards on 12 May.

Senior Lecturer Dr Jan Taylor was awarded for her PhD research into postnatal fatigue in women during the six months after childbirth.

Dr Taylor said the three main factors found to influence fatigue levels were anxiety, lack of sleep and whether the mother perceived her child to be 'difficult'.

"Having a baby is an anxious kind of time. With the first baby you don't always know what to expect. There are great expectations on young women, everything has to be kind of perfect (and) none of us are," she said.

However, anxiety was not limited to first time mothers, as those with other children worried about how they would manage another baby, she said.

While the significant problem of postnatal fatigue could be related to postnatal depression, just because a mother is fatigued does not mean she is depressed, Dr Taylor warned.

"Levels of anxiety contributed most (to fatigue), more so than depression."

Dr Taylor said she hoped to use her research results to trial fatigue-reducing interventions, such as workshops, education strategies and meditation.

"I cannot comment on whether we're a more anxious society, but we're at a time when we can do something...intervene," she said.

ACT Health Minister Simon Corbell attended the awards and commended Dr Taylor's research.

"Dr Taylor's research has the potential to improve the lives of new mothers and allow midwives to better assist their clients," he said.

Bachelor of Nursing Course Convenor, Laurie Grealish, was awarded for her contributions to undergraduate education, but was too modest about the award to be photographed for Monitor.

"It was a shock to be nominated and a double shock to be awarded - I was speechless," she said.

Ms Grealish has been involved in launching UC's specialty nursing units. The first of these, Introduction to Chemotherapy for Nurses, was run in Semester One, 2005.

The subject is only available through online distance education and has 18 students from rural NSW and two from the ACT.

Ms Grealish has contributed to nursing beyond the education field, and has been involved in many publications, including founding the Australian Journal of Cancer Nursing in 1998.

She is currently working on her PhD in nursing competency and hopes to be finished in 2008.
Gabby McMillan

May 19, 2005: Creative Writing Associate Professor Jen Webb discussed her writing process, self-doubt and the ephemeral nature of language at the fifth Artists Talk session held at the University of Canberra on 18 May.

Associate Professor Webb, who attended the previous sessions, said it was interesting for artists to discuss their craft outside the academic framework.

"I will discuss what it means to 'practice', how to find your voice and what drives you," she said, before delivering her talk. "I'll talk about what I'm doing at the moment, why I'm doing it, and what I hope to be doing in the future."

Associate Professor Webb has nearly completed a Doctor of Creative Arts through the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) but she said the experience wasn't as "straight-forward" as she expected. "It's taken me on a number of creative directions and also made me think about my personal creative practice," she said. "I've also found links between my creative and intellectual work."

Her doctorate isn't due until 2006, but Associate Professor Webb said she hoped to complete it sooner rather than later. It involved two parts; a 70,000 word novel and a 30,000 word essay.

Despite describing the writing process as "very selfish, very inward, isolated and lonely", Associate Professor Webb said she loved writing before she even attended primary school. She grew up in South Africa where "stories, both written and oral" were a significant part of the culture.

"My family did a lot of travelling so my sister and I would make up stories to pass the time," she said. "My sister taught me to write, so I was also making up little stories before I went to school."

Associate Professor Webb left South Africa in the mid '70s but said she hadn't yet completed work detailing her time there. "I probably won't write about it until I'm 60 or 70 years old."

Criticism was another big issue for writers to face. Associate Professor Webb said she personally found criticism hard, but found "coasting through it like sailing on a bad bit of water" helped.

"My initial reaction is to get really annoyed or upset," she said. "But then I put it away, get over my tantrum and look at it again and I'm very, very grateful. It's common to be outraged if people don't think you're fantastic, but also I'm very grateful to get decent criticism because it makes the work better."
Batting their way to victory

Gabby McMillan

May 19, 2005: Western District & University of Canberra Cricket Club’s West Lions were all out for 210 runs in 49.2 overs, beating the Eastlake Emus by 71 runs in the Grade 5 One-Day Premiership Final in late February, but West Lions Captain, Syed Jaffry had other reasons to feel proud.

The Western Districts and the UCU Cricket Club 2004 merger had been “successful”, according to Mr Jaffry and Club President, Derek Gould ASM.

Mr Jaffry said the merger introduced new players to the club and gave more players the opportunity to play grade cricket.

He said grade cricket was considered more “professional” than City Suburban which was “more social”. Another difference was that grade cricket was played on turf, while City Suburban was played on a synthetic field.

He said when the UCU Cricket Club was independent it was difficult to continue over the summer break.

“The team was mainly composed of international students so they left over summer, which was also cricket season, so there wasn’t a team left,” he said.

“Now we’ve merged we can keep the ball rolling because the team is mixed with people from overseas and Canberra.”

“We’re really extending an invitation to people who want to play cricket,” he said.

Mr Jaffry and Mr Gould have organised activities throughout 2005 and 2006 for their club members including a cricket tour through the UK in July and the introduction of a tape ball competition.

Tape ball cricket, or tape tennis cricket, stems from the streets of Pakistan. Although a tennis ball is too light for cricket, when it is wrapped in tape it increases weight and enables it to act more like a traditional cricket ball with extra bounce and speed.

Mr Jaffry said it was “more competitive and hard-hitting” but had really taken off in the UK.

They have also planned to run a cricket tour through Pakistan and Sri-Lanka next year.

Mr Jaffry, a South African High Commission employee, said they aimed to organise a dinner with the South African national cricket team on their next trip to Australia.

“Some of the club players had dinner with the Pakistan cricket team when they played in Manuka in January which was enjoyable,” he said.

The Western District & University of Canberra Cricket Club’s annual presentation dinner was held on 1 April. Mr Jaffry was awarded the ‘Best Batsman’ award for West Lions while Darren Richards received the ‘Best Batsmen award for the club.

Mr Jaffry said he was pleased with the “excellent team effort” and thanked UCU Cricket Club President Yohan Ramasundara for his consistent support.

Cricketing terms:

Duck

The origin lies in the old description of a batsman who failed to score as having made a ‘duck’s egg’, the shape of which resembles the figure 0.

Ferret

A terrible batsman: so poor that he is called after an animal that rabbiters send into the burrows after the rabbits!

Hat-Trick

The term originates from an old custom, probably from the mid-19th Century, of awarding a new hat to the bowler who achieves this feat.

Yorker

Derived from an 18th-19th century regional slang connection between the words ‘Yorkshire’ and ‘york’ and the notion of cheating and deception. This derivation seems most likely, as the purpose of a good yorker is to deceive the batsman.

UC students promote Red Noses

Penny Vandenbroek

May 23, 2005: As part of the third year of a Bachelor of Communication in Public Relations, several UC students are completing internships with SIDS and Kids ACT.

The interns, which involve a commitment of 160 hours, can be completed during semester or school holiday periods.

The interns working with SIDS and Kids ACT have been given the responsibility of launching Red Nose Day for the ACT and surrounding region.

The students involved are: Danielle Beattie, Hannah Tourle, Chloe Zhang, Natalie Cummins, Sally Barraclough and Catherine Nicholson.

To raise awareness for Red Nose Day and celebrate the event’s 18th birthday, Catherine Nicholson and Danielle Beattie have conceptualised a bar campaign and organised a ‘pub crawl’.

The idea arose when Catherine saw research compiled by SIDS and Kids that 18-24 year olds are the second greatest supporters of their campaigns. This was an age-group, largely consisting of students, not often targeted for fundraising campaigns, she said.

Catherine believes that bar-related activities will raise the profile of SIDS and Kids ACT with their youthful audience and hopefully encourage donations.

With Danielle’s assistance, the pair approached a number of bars and pubs in the Canberra region. Catherine said the support has been ‘unbelievable’.

Bars and pubs are supporting SIDS and Kids ACT by selling Red Noses for $2 each, with the incentive that each purchase gives the buyer a chance to win a $50 bar tab. Many of the bars involved have also purchased ‘Business’ Red Noses.

The ‘pub crawl’ to launch the bar tab competition will commence at the ANU Union Bar at 6.00 pm on Thursday 2 June. Crawlers will visit participating venues, with many offering discounted rates. To take part all you need is a Red Nose.

Catherine said that although her internship is almost completed, she has enjoyed working with the organisation and hopes to volunteer further time. She plans to assist with an evaluation of the bar campaign, as well as other follow-up activities.

Money raised will be dedicated to research into Sudden Infant Death, 24 hour bereavement support for families whose baby or young child has died suddenly or unexpectedly and funding for SIDS and Kids Safe Sleeping Education program.

Supporters of Red Nose Day enjoy a few beverages. Photo supplied by Cath Nicholson

PUB CRAWL: 2 JUNE

Meet: ANU Union Bar Time: 6.00pm

WHO IS INVOLVED?

UCU Bar, Bruce
Filthy McFaddens’ Pub, Kingston
ANU Union Bar
PJ O‘Reilys Pub, Civic
Insomnia Nightclub
Holy Grail, Civic
King O’ Malley’s, Civic
Mooseheads Nightclub
The Church Bar, Civic
Civic Pub, Braddon
Café Macchiato
IN BLUE Nightclub & Bar

Contact:

Catherine Nicholson
Ph: 0401 93 6262

Red Nose Day:

24 June 2005
China Central Party School seeks Australia's expertise

Penny Vandenbroek

May 20, 2005: A group of 15 delegates from the China Central Party School (CPS) visited UC on 11 May to discuss teaching and research programs with the National Institute for Governance (NIG).

The group's visit to Australia included meetings with four universities, several government departments, regional authorities and offices of parliamentarians.

The delegation was led by Professor Tai Feng Shi and accompanied by Professor Stephen FitzGerald AO, Team Leader and leading authority on Australia's relationship with China, and Ms Sing-En Tam, a Governance Analyst with the China-Australia Governance Program.

At UC, the Director of the NIG, Professor Stephen Bartos, gave a presentation to the delegation, outlining the benefits of partnership with the Institute.

Professor Bartos said that the visit related to the possibility of teaching top CPS officials, which would ultimately translate to governance in the People's Republic of China.

With the involvement of AusAID, it is hoped that collaboration between UC and a number of other Australian universities may be possible.

Professor Bartos outlined a number of potential teaching/research partners, including the Australian National University, University of New South Wales and the University of Sydney.

"Given the scale of the potential project, with millions of people employed in government departments, it would be impossible for one university to take on sole responsibility", Professor Bartos said.

"It would definitely have to be a 'cooperative approach', one which enhances the China-Australia Governance Program (CAGP)", Professor Barton continued.

The CAGP involves an Australian government commitment of over $20 million to promote strategic engagement with China on governance issues.

Initially the program will focus on China's recent accession to the World Trade Organisation. Other areas of focus may include intergovernmental financial agreements, procurement, fiscal transparency, integrity systems and public service management.

It is hoped the delegation's visit to Australia may lead to the CPS becoming a strategic partner over the life of the program.
Student's better equipped thanks to SIP
(Suicide Intervention Project)

Rebecca Stones

May 16, 2005: “I was at a party and a friend received a phone call that one of his friends was going to commit suicide and we were stumped - I didn't want to be in that situation again.”

That was Kara Rusan's explanation of why she joined the University of Canberra’s Suicide Intervention Project (SIP).

As part of the project, Kara underwent a four-day course in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) from 19 to 22 April, along with 14 other UC students and two staff.

The 2005 SIP was funded by the Department of Health and Ageing and is an extension of the Peer Education Pilot Project conducted at UC in 2002 and 2003.

The program aims to raise mental health and suicide intervention awareness at UC, promote appropriate information and referral, and evaluate the effectiveness of the peer education approach.

Coordinator of SIP, Taree Brearley was quick to point out that those who received the training were not considered counsellors.

"SIP offers students the opportunity to equip themselves with the skills and knowledge to recognise and respond when someone is in crisis," she said.

Taree said SIP training allowed participants to act like “First Aid for suicide”, to recognize people’s problems and refer them to help where necessary.

Kara said she was surprised at the difficulty of the first step in SIP training - asking someone if they were contemplating suicide or "killing themselves".

"We're sort of taught to not be so direct, so a lot of people had difficulty asking," she said.

Kara was one of seven people chosen by ASIST trainers to be a peer-educator during the April SIP training.

The peer-educators will be running various suicide awareness campaigns from the beginning of Semester Two.

They will also be involved in the second round of SIP training for 24 volunteers, which is scheduled for 5 to 8 July at UC.
Poet uses words to heal

Gabby McMillan

May 17, 2005: Journey of Healing committee member, Linette Bone hopes that reading her poem 'The Ear of Dark's Grace' on the National Day of Healing (Sorry Day) on Thursday 26 May will allow her to 'heal' and encourage others to follow.

Linette's poem explores her experience with miscarriage and the "sacred ethos of marriage to Lorenz Pilkington from the Aboriginal Yamatji region" that followed.

Linette, who is of Romany descent, said their races coming together tied in with the importance of healing. She hoped the poetry reading would bring good consequences for her and Lorenz.

"I've already done a lot of grieving and weeping," she said. "I would just like to share my poetry with humanity."

University of Canberra's Journey of Healing begins on Monday 23 May. Linette will present a copy of her poem to Vice Chancellor, Professor Roger Dean on 26 May.

Harmony and Faith Project Coordinator, Leonie-Ruth Acland said Journey of Healing involved supporting national and individual healing. She said national healing promoted the opportunity to understand the ramifications of the historic Australian policy that sanctioned the removal of indigenous children from their families.

Leonie-Ruth said individual healing wasn't restricted to the Indigenous community.

"Wounds can exist because of social, political, spiritual, emotional, mental and physical injuries," she said.

She added, Journey of Healing demonstrated the solidarity between the University of Canberra's indigenous community and the entire campus.

Journey of Healing includes film screenings of Rabbit Proof Fence and Lousy Little Sixpence. It also includes a smoking ceremony, performances by the Wiradjuri Echo dancers and Wiradjuri pre-schoolers, as well as free indigenous food-tastings.

Linette said people would gain from the week by "attending the different occasions, by listening, by looking at what we need to heal from and by thinking what are my responsibilities to Australia?"

Journey of Healing is open to the Canberra community. All UC staff, students and family are encouraged to attend.

The Ear of Dark's Grace

By Linette Bone

You knelt
On one knee
On my now tall poppy rug
Hands in gesture of supplication

We knew
One baby conceived
As you presaged
On the now Buddha R & R dharma doona

One life
Two ears ticking
Toys and tears;
Simply did not know
How to banish their fears

Now the ears heal
The pearls transfer
Ages wisdom
To moments' recollections

A meaning anew
A leaning far few
A strength rejoined
In sacred ethos.

Kurri Goodah Kyab
19/09/1999

Parents: Lorenz Pilkington and Linette Bone.

Links:

National Day of Healing
The Yamatji Region
Ginninderra Press

Related stories on Journey of Healing
Online feedback about Monitor Online

Penny Vandenbroek

May 13, 2005: The Monitor team would like to thank all respondents to the Monitor survey.

Over 20 percent of University staff responded. Of these, 68 percent were aged 36 years or older. Female staff comprised 58 percent of responses.

Staff from the Division of Communication and Education contributed the greatest number of responses, 22 percent, with UC College and UC Executive giving the smallest.

One quarter of respondents said that they had never read Monitor Online, with 8 percent reading it daily, 29 percent weekly and the remainder on an ad hoc basis.

Many respondents commented on the inundation of emails regarding the regular updates to the website, as well as the need to check and re-check for new stories. This issue has recently been addressed, with the trialling of a once-a-week update. New stories will now be uploaded once per week, with one email sent to staff as a prompt to visit the website.

Feedback from the survey relating to content showed that most readers would like to see more news on the following: campus events, social activities, personality profiles (especially relating to staff changes), staff/student achievements (including ex-students), research, changes to the workplace, mentions of ‘what we (UC) do well’.

In terms of format, 22 percent of respondents said they preferred the paper version. Of this group, 42 percent said they would like to have both an online and a paper version. The main reason the paper version was preferred was that it could be used as a ‘time-out’ tool or a break from computing. Respondents also liked to read the paper version over coffee or lunch breaks or take it home to read later. There were a small number who mentioned they did not have access to a computer and therefore could not read an online version of anything.

There were a number of responses relating to the design of the website. Some of these are able to be amended, such as the listing of stories on the front page, which has now been divided into ‘New’ & ‘Recent’ story categories. Unfortunately, the website is a temporary structure until the new Content Management System is up and running. Many of the problems relating to ‘search’ and ‘archive’ records should be addressed with the new system. Until then, past stories can be located by using the ‘search’ function on the University home page.

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

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Rebecca Stones

May 16, 2005: Almost $1 million in scholarships was awarded to 27 University of Canberra students for 2005, with a substantial portion going to postgraduate research projects.

Thirteen postgraduate scholarship awardees were honoured at the University's annual Postgraduate Scholarship Presentation Function on 10 May.

The ceremony included the presentation of scholarships sponsored by government, industry, community organisations, the University and members of UC staff.

UC's Prizes and Scholarships Committee and Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean believe the new research scholarships will substantially increase the University's research potential.

The prestigious WJ Weeden Postgraduate Research Scholarship, which supports the awardee for the duration of their course with a total value up to $33,000, was awarded to Serena Abbondante.

Serena completed a Bachelor of Science at the Australian National University, moving to UC for the forensic science course while studying Honours.

The scholarship will be used to fund a PhD in Forensic Biology, for which Serena will be researching the effects of radiation on the integrity of DNA evidence.

She said her research could have implications for disaster victim identification and situations where radioactive contamination is involved, such as the explosion of a 'dirty bomb'.

To conduct her practical radiation research safely, Serena will have to travel to the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) in Sydney.

"(The scholarship) allows me to travel up to ANSTO and I don't have to work, so I can concentrate on my studies," she said.

Serena said she started the project halfway through 2004 and hopes to complete her research in three years.

Other award recipients included Annett Richter, who received the UC Postgraduate Research Scholarship and Han Pen, awarded the International Postgraduate Research Scholarship. Both are due to begin their work in Semester Two.
An Intern returns

Rebecca Stones

**May 13, 2005:** UC Honours student, Luke Toy, took on a role of assisting Press Secretary for US Democrat Senator, Chris Dodd, as part of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship program.

The program accepts 12 participants each year to travel to Capitol Hill, Washington DC and undertake work experience for eight weeks through January and February.

Luke, who completed a Bachelor degree in Multimedia at UC, said he was one of only a few interns with a communications studies background, allowing him to take on roles like Press Secretary when there was a vacancy.

Connecticut Senator, Chris Dodd has a constituency of about four million people and due to his seniority, spends most of his time in Washington DC, as did Luke during his internship. Although he would like to see other parts of America someday, he had enough of an awe-inspiring experience just being in the Capitol Hill Dome.

“It’s like a little city – I got lost there,” he said.

While Luke would not be drawn on conventional questions about ‘stand-out moments’ he did admit to being impressed by President George Bush’s second-term inauguration ceremony.

Despite working for a Democrat, the swearing-in of Republican President Bush was a time to “put aside your loyalties” and appreciate a rare first-hand experience, he said.

Apart from the internship program having a profound personal effect, Luke said it also provided a valuable asset to Australia – people with an inside understanding of the “how and why of US political decisions”.

Luke said the Australian political system seemed rather relaxed compared to the very hierarchical US model, where everyone involved had a tightly defined role.

But this was understandable when you considered that in Australia, Senators’ constituencies have thousands of people whereas in the US they can have millions, he said.

There were more than 25 staff in Senator Dodd’s Capitol Hill office however, adapting to the busy office environment was not as hard as adapting to the food for the Australian interns.

Luke said the interns were taken to a ‘natural food store’ (similar to an Australian supermarket) as they found much of the American food oily and the cheese to be a strange “glowing orange”.

As his first trip overseas, Luke said such experiences were very educational and despite the hefty $10,000 individual cost, he would recommend the program to other students.
Mail Courier retires after 24 years

Gabby McMillan

May 12, 2005: After 24 years as mail courier at the University of Canberra, Alan Drew said he wasn’t sure how he would spend his retirement.

As his retirement loomed, Alan decided “taking it easy”, travel, house duties, gardening, volunteer work and even sharpening his cooking skills were viable options.

Alan said there were “good and bad sides” to his retirement, but overall he looked forward to “starting again”.

“I’m really going to miss the company of the people I work with,” he said. “But I’ll probably come in from time to time to see what’s going on.”

Alan came to the University of Canberra after completing an apprenticeship at the former Federal Government printing office in Kingston. After a few years, Alan noticed his work was affecting his health, so he left.

“There was a lot of pressure and fumes as a printer,” he said. “It was a completely different environment at UC; healthy and much more relaxed.”

“I remember being taken around by a supervisor who showed me all the runs around the University. In those days you didn’t have to go through a big, long interview, you just go and see the boss. The boss just decides if ‘you’ll do’.”

Alan said he had a few vivid memories from his time at the University of Canberra including the Anthrax scare following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The scare resulted in mailroom attendants wearing gloves and masks while checking “suspicious items”.

“It only lasted about a week or something but I definitely remember it,” he said. “People from buildings around campus were too scared to open their mail so they asked us to do it for them.”

Alan said his time at the University of Canberra “flew by”.

“Time flies and you just don’t notice it,” he said. “Five years pass, then another, then another. If you enjoy it, then why move?”

Alan amassed 226 sick leave days during his time on campus. He said he could have taken days off to go down to the coast, but chose not to.

“I only took sick days when I was sick.”

Alan also learnt how to use a computer during his time in the mailroom. He said it was difficult to learn at first, but “good to learn” because “it’s always good to keep up with things”.

In “typical” Canberra fashion, Alan said “I won’t miss the travelling to work in the rat-race because I travel almost half an hour to get to work.”

Alan and his wife plan to travel to Queensland, Darwin, Central Australia, North-West Australia and New Zealand. He also has plans to paint, garden, redesign the backyard and put in the sprinkler system in his “new found free-time”.

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

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Brochures, banners and big smiles - UC ambassadors get ready to hit the road

Penny Vandenbroek

May 13, 2005: Fourteen enthusiastic students attended a student ambassador training session run by Leigh Harris, UC Marketing, on Friday 13 May.

Leigh demonstrated to the group that some coordination was needed, when erecting the fold-away UC banner, as well as nimble fingers. The ability to read road maps and good personal hygiene were also highlighted.

The group consisted of undergraduate and postgraduate students from interstate, overseas and the Canberra region, the majority being female.

A total of eighteen students have been recruited to represent UC at marketing events around Canberra and interstate. Ambassadors will go with University staff to secondary schools, careers festivals and open days, answering questions relating to studying at UC and distributing brochures.

Ambassadors are given the opportunity to select events they are available for and roles are allocated on a 'first-come, first-serve' basis. They are paid for their training, travel time and attendance at events.

One of a small number of male student ambassadors, Hashim Chowhan said he looks forward to meeting other students and mixing with people from other cultures. He is currently studying a Master of Professional Accounting and has previously completed Bachelor studies at UC. By becoming an ambassador this year, he also hopes to 'learn more about UC'.
Ressies makes a splash!

May Leow

May 13, 2005: University of Canberra Halls of Residences, affectionately known as 'Ressies', held their Annual Ressies Swimming Carnival on Friday 13 May.

Students were creating hullabaloo while supporting their housemates at the event, which was staged at the Canberra International Sports and Aquatic Centre (CISAC).

Organised by the Residential Students Organisation (RSO), student residences took part and competed in different swimming stroke categories, including: freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke, butterfly, a novelty race and a relay.

The spectators were not left out of the competition as they had a chance to win the "Best War Cry". All residences also competed to win the "Best Banner" representing their hall of residence, which they designed before the carnival.

Points were awarded to winners of each category. The points were then accumulated and the overall winner announced at the end of the event.

The "Best War Cry" award went to Arscott House with their roaring chant "Are We Good?". International House (IH) won points for having the "Best Banner" with the theme "The Green Machine".

IH resident, Arsalan Kahn, who helped design the banner with other IH residents, said the reason they named their banner "The Green Machine" was because machines operate at a very fast speed and so do the IH swimmers. The banner was decorated with green paint and glitter.

The winners this year have shown great sportsmanship, with some swimmers even setting new Ressies Swimming Carnival records for several categories.

The prize of overall winner for the Carnival was awarded to Arscott House.

Prizes:

Freestyle Men (50m)  
Tim Simpson (New Ressies)

Freestyle Women (50m)  
Lauren MacNamara (UV)

Breast Stroke Men (50m)  
Tim Simpson (New Ressies)

Breast Stroke Women (50m)  
Lauren MacNamara (UV)

Back Stroke Men (50m)  
Tim Cato (IH)

Back Stroke Women (50m)  
Tegan Malcowski (Arscott)

Butterfly Men (50m)  
Tim Simpson (New Ressies)

Butterfly Women (50m)  
Lauren MacNamara (UV)

Novelty Race  
Arscott House

Relay  
1) Arscott House  
2) UV  
3) Old Ressies

Banner  
International House (IH)

War Cry  
Arscott House

Overall Winner  
Arscott House
Helen's evaluation considered outstanding

Gaye Morrison

May 16, 2005: Former UC student, Helen Lilley, won the Outstanding Achievement by a Health Promotion Student Prize at the ACT Health Promotion Awards 2005 held on Friday 6 May at the National Convention Centre.

Helen completed a Master of Education (Community Health Promotion) in 2004 receiving High Distinctions in all of her subjects and distinguishing herself as an exceptional scholar in the area.

Helen completed an evaluation of the Healthlink Journal as part of the fieldwork for her degree. This was the first comprehensive assessment of any Australian health promotion journal or newsletter.

The overall purpose of the evaluation was to determine the readership of the Journal, why readers are reading it and how it is used, and to provide input into future directions, themes and format of the journal.

The survey method included rigorous pre-testing and piloting and the survey yielded a high return rate. The results indicated that the journal continued to be relevant and highly valued in the ACT and contributed to capacity building for health promotion in the Territory.

The outcomes of the evaluation have been used to guide the future directions of the Journal, with ten recommendations for the editorial committee to consider. These recommendations were reported in the Spring 2004 edition of the Healthlink Journal.

Professor Denis Goodrum, from UC's School of Education and Community Studies, made the presentation to Helen at the awards ceremony. Helen particularly thanked Dr Katja Mikhailovich for her mentorship during her studies at UC.

The Awards were jointly sponsored and organised by the ACT Health Promotion Board (Healthpact) and the Health Promotion Unit.

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

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Dragons Abreast, a group of breast cancer survivors who formed a dragon boat team, held the 'Flowers on the Water' ceremony amidst the 2005 National Dragon Boat Titles.

Professor Reaby, a former breast cancer sufferer, became ACT Dragons Abreast's inaugural patron in 1999 due to her high profile in raising breast cancer awareness.

She said she was impressed by the outside participation at the remembrance ceremony as it was her goal to encourage awareness and though it, early cancer detection.

The ceremony involved 12 dragon boats linked together by members holding hands and spreading rose petals over the lake's surface.

Participants also observed a minute's silence in honour of Dragons Abreast members who had lost the cancer battle and the 2,300 women killed by breast cancer each year.

Other participants in the dragon boat met then raised their oars in a guard of honour. The ABC's Virginia Haussegger compered the ceremony and Erica Simons of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music sang 'Wind Beneath My Wings'.

While the 'Flowers on the Water' ceremony was a tribute to the dead, Dragons Abreast was not a morbid group, Professor Reaby said.

"It's an important message we're trying to get out...90 to 95 percent of women diagnosed and treated early will survive," she said.

"We have to constantly keep it in women's minds to have check-ups."

She said the group also showed that cancer survivors could be strong, with more than 40 members following heavy training regimes to meet competition standard.

"The group is about health...it's physically good but also mentally and socially good. There are women who have lost their hair, but no one cares."

"(The women) are very competitive - they're competitive against one another and against other organisations."

Professor Reaby said she intended to become involved in Dragons Abreast rowing when she retired.

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Dragon Boats are long canoe-like boats, which usually seat twenty rowers side-by-side. A 'sweep' steers from the back of the boat and a drummer beats out a cadence at the front. During races, a stylised dragonhead is attached to the front and a tail to the back of the boat.

For more information about breast cancer and screenings:

- Cancer Council ACT
- National Breast Cancer Centre
Emergent from the ashes - Birrigai's new outlook

Kathy Mann

May 16, 2005: UC staff members Kathy Mann, Lecturer in Outdoor Education and John Nicholas, Associate Professor of Science and Environmental Education (Emeritus) proposed a new curriculum framework to the Principal and staff of the Birrigai Outdoor School in December 2004.

The project was requested by Birrigai Principal, Mr Shane Gorman, through the Office of the ACT Minister of Education, Ms Katy Gallagher.

The Birrigai Outdoor School is a 174 hectare resource located near and with strong links to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. It operates experiential learning programmes both on this site and at its Jerrabomberra Wetlands site, near Fyshwick ACT.

The Tidbinbilla site was extensively damaged, with most of the buildings and resources burnt in the bushfires of January 2003.

Since 2003, Birrigai has been operating mobile and limited on-site environmental, cultural and outdoor education programs.

The starting point of this new grass roots curriculum is unique: a series of poetic/inspirational statements derived from the literature and practice of aesthetics, science and pedagogy. Such statements include:

"In wilderness is the preservation of the world." (Henry David Thoreau)

"Imagination is more important than knowledge." (Albert Einstein)

"Beauty and function are one." (Frank Lloyd Wright)

"Tread lightly upon the earth." (Glenn Murcutt)

The spreadsheet format of the curriculum statement consists of a series of columns. To the left is a list of the poetic/aesthetic/policy/political statements derived from the literature and practice of aesthetics, science and pedagogy. These are then refracted across successive columns to finally suggest intensely practical applications for the outdoor classroom.

Nicholas and Mann suggest that if you then place the poetic adjacent to the praxical columns you would have a cylinder and, given a slight twist you would have a Moebius strip.

For more information on curriculum designs that respect the aesthetic, as well as empirical principles, contact:

Kathy Mann
Ph: 6201 2235
Kathy.Mann@canberra.edu.au
Opportunity to Discover Campus Treasures

Gabby McMillan

May 7, 2005: After several staff members expressed interest in the campus's art collection, Art Curator Johanna Owens scheduled a tour for May 19, so people could learn more about the pieces held by the University of Canberra.

The tour will begin in Building 1, Reception and include the Council Room, corridors, meeting rooms and possibly the Vice-Chancellor's Office. Ms Owens said there were fairly major works in these areas, with some priced up to $70,000. The art tours will give general staff access to pieces they normally wouldn't see.

"A number of people have said to me fairly recently that it would be great to have a look at the University's art collection," she said. "Major works need to go in secure areas, so staff can't usually see them," she said.

Ms Owens said the University of Canberra usually collected Australian contemporary art and aimed to collect "significant pieces of art". There are currently around 500 pieces, mainly oil paintings and original prints, in the collection.

She said art was an important part of the University of Canberra's culture and was pleased to see people taking a stronger interest.

"I've had many people asking me about new pieces for their offices," she said.

Ms Owens added staff were observing pieces around campus and "engaging with what the artist was trying to say".

Ms Owens said the tour would incorporate information and time for people to "linger".

"Some works have history, which I will briefly explain, while for other pieces I will let them look and enjoy themselves," she said. "Some people like to linger over works and discuss them."

University of Canberra has a budget to purchase pieces but Ms Owens said the University also received donations of "very fine work" from many artists through the Cultural Gifts Program.

"These gifts enhance our collection considerably," she said.

Ms Owens said if the tour goes well she would consider running another one.

Johanna displaying a landscape painting from UC's collection, Untitled (Two Trees) by Australian artist Elisabeth Kruger. Photo by Gabby McMillan

University of Canberra's Recent Acquisitions:

- Michael Johnson
  Ellamatta Mauve

- Brian Seidel
  Studio Movement

- Brian Seidel
  Study for 'Midday Brunch'

- Brian Seidel
  Winter

- Robert Rooney
  Beens and banzai

- Brenda L. Croft
  Lifelines

- Christopher Robertson
  'William' teapot

- Susan Norrie
  Untitled 1988

- Warren Langley
  The Collective Memory

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

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Research Impact publication launch

Gaye Morrison

May 9, 2005: The variety and depth of research at UC has been chronicled in a new publication entitled 'Research Impact'.

The publication was launched by Professor Andrew Cheetham, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research and Information Management on Thursday 5 May, as part of Celebrating Research.

Examples of research articles contained in the publication are:

- Harvesting and incubation of Northern Long Necked Turtle eggs by Aboriginal People in Arnhem Land
- The Cotter River environmental flows
- NATSEM's work on rent help schemes and the cost of hospital care
- Vertebrate pest control
- Vaccine for middle ear infections
- Tourism and the Chinese market
- Sonics research for audio visualisation
- Market research to feed developing countries and
- The media and Kosovo, after the bombing.

At the launch, Professor Cheetham commented that a feature of the publication is that nearly all of the research is highly applied and directed at community benefit. He said this was a notable and laudable feature of research at UC.

There are plans for a similar publication, highlighting the research at UC and promoting the researchers who carry it out, to be produced every two years.
Dance used to relax staff and students at UC

Gabby McMillan

May 9, 2005: After suffering from a back injury in 1987, ballerina Michelle Locke blended therapies including oriental medicine, dance and music to create a healing therapy called Wu Tao in 2000.

Five years later, Wu Tao (pronounced woo-dow) classes have spread across Australia. Recently-trained Wu Tao teacher Anne Whish-Wilson commenced beginner classes at the University of Canberra on Monday, 2 May 2005.

The meaning of Wu Tao is ‘the dancing way’ and Anne said the philosophy focuses on balance between our inner self, outer self, the natural environment and the universe. The benefits include its calming nature, toning of the body, the activation of ‘Qi’ (life force energy, pronounced ‘chi’) and the introduction of clarity and stillness to the mind.

“The concept is to help people get back into their bodies because most of us live in our heads,” Anne said.

Anne said Wu Tao helped her become more courageous and comfortable with herself.

“I don’t need to hide myself anymore because many of us tend to have a barrier, wall or mask we tend to wear or hide behind.”

Wu Tao also helped with flexibility and posture. Beginner Wu Tao classes include stretches, movement, dances and a small discussion of the philosophies, but Anne said Wu Tao was “mostly a doing-class, rather than a talking-class.”

Anne leads the class through the different organs, meridians (pathways which energy or life-force flow through) and movement sequences before putting the dances to music.

“It’s thoroughly enjoying being able to move your body,” she said. “I have an understanding of rhythm so I’ve always searched for something that would enable me to share the health, dance and spiritual aspect of life with other people.”

Contact:
Anne Whish-Wilson
Ph: 02 625 88218

Michelle Locke
Ph: 08 93351145 (WA)

Wu Tao theories:

One of the main principles of Oriental Medicine is the ‘Theory of the Five Elements’. This is an understanding that elements making up our physical universe, air (metal), water, wood, fire and earth, are inter-connected and part of the ‘whole’.

Therefore, it is understood humans are made up of the five elements.

The aim of Wu Tao is to harmonise spirit, body, mind and emotions

Information courtesy of Wu Tao Dance
Student category announced for Quality First Awards

Kaddie Pass

May 10, 2005: First year Allied Health students are taking up the challenge to compete with students from other Canberra tertiary institutions for the ACT Health Quality First Awards, student category.

The awards have been incorporated into Health Professional Practice 2, undertaken by first year UC students studying physiotherapy, pharmacy or nutrition. The students have been working on health care projects ranging from improving patient care in the current system to outpatient services access and use of physiotherapy equipment.

Competing for 'best project' will be 21 Physiotherapy, 16 Pharmacy and 3 Nutrition students, from which one will be selected to enter the finals.

Physiotherapy lecturer, Ms Deborah Carerra, said the winning UC entry will go on to compete with projects from the ANU, the Canberra Institute of Technology and the Australian Catholic University.

The awards were initiated in 2002 by ACT Health as a measure to improve quality and safety in health care.

Allied Health Advisor for ACT Health, Ms Karen Murphy, launched the student category of the Quality First Awards last week. Ms Murphy spoke of the importance of improving quality and safety, saying 50 percent of adverse events suffered by hospitalised patients are preventable. Some events are so severe they lead to permanent disability or even death.

She added the awards would assist students in understanding the significance of quality and safety, and would give them a head start in this area when they entered the workforce.

The Quality First Awards are based on five criteria - safety and harm minimisation, effectiveness of best practice, appropriateness of care, accessibility of care and resource efficiency.

Ms Murphy said ACT Health valued the work of ACT tertiary students in health-related practices and the new student category was a way of showing this. The winning team selected by each tertiary institution will be awarded $500.
Stolen Worlds Book Launch

Rebecca Stones

**May 5, 2005:** The University of Canberra Co-op Bookshop was packed as it hosted the launch of ‘Stolen Worlds - Fijiindian Fragments’ on 19 April.

The book recounts the trials faced by 18 ‘Fijiindians’ (Fijians of Indian decent) as a result of their heritage and also gives insight into the tumultuous Fijian political climate during the coups of 1987 and 2000.

*Stolen Worlds*’ editor Kavita Nandan was unable to attend the Australian launch due to her lecturing duties at Suva’s University of the South Pacific. However, her father, Professor Satendra Nandan, was present.

Professor Nandan wrote the foreword to *Stolen Worlds* and said the motivation for the book was to keep the stories of Fijiindians alive.

Former *Monitor* editor, Anthony Mason wrote the book’s afterword. He said stories of the Fijiindians were traditionally passed on by word and consequently details were lost, therefore giving need for a book.

Mr Mason said his interest in Fiji was increased during his UC PhD thesis on Australian media representations of Fijian coups.

He said most Australians did not know the real Fiji, only the picture-perfect resorts. He believed the spike in media coverage following the coups did not necessarily give detailed or accurate information.

*While Stolen Worlds is not an explanation of the intricacies of Fijian history and politics, it does give individual perspectives of the misunderstood nation of Fiji.*

Photo: Ben Brillante
Multi-faith Passover

Rebecca Stones

May 4, 2005: The head of the University of Canberra Muslim Students’ Association Nasser Al-Mawali experienced his first Jewish Passover on April 28 as part of a multi-faith ceremony at UC.

Mr Al-Mawali said in his home country of Oman he had known only Muslims. So the ceremony was a great experience and an opportunity to show religious unity.

The multi-faith Passover was an unusual event, with most attendees not of the Jewish faith.

Liz Brumer of the UC Spiritual Meeting Place’s multi-faith team said opening up religious understanding to all was the motivation behind the event.

As a Jew, Ms Brumer was involved in other UC multi-faith ceremonies of Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Bahai beliefs. She said she was impressed by the willingness of participants and the representation of different faiths at such events.

Daniel Cohen, the Australian National University’s Jewish Chaplain and student at UC conducted the Passover ceremony of *Seder* at UC’s Spiritual Meeting Place.

Passover commemorated the freeing of Jewish slaves from Egypt and the sparing of Jewish first-born males during the 10 plagues of Egypt.

The *Seder* ceremony was a family meal, that could last for six hours due to its many prayers and psalms, symbolising these plagues and the last days of the Jews in Egypt, he said.

However, at UC the Passover ceremony was more of a one-hour crash course in the 15 steps of the *Seder*, as some of the 12 participants had never attended Passover before.

While practicality did not allow for the traditional feast, participants drank four glasses of sacramental wine (non-alcoholic for Muslim attendees) and ate the traditional unleavened Matzah bread.

There were other symbolic parts to the ceremony, education on the story of the ten plagues and the Jews’ leaving of Egypt, and spirited attempts to sing Hebrew prayers.

While participants may not have mastered Hebrew and were learning the Seder from a children’s manual, organisers from the Spiritual meeting place were pleased with the responses.

This was the second multi-faith Passover held at UC and the Spiritual Meeting Place plans to continue the event annually.

About Passover

Passover is an English term referring to the God ‘passing over’ the Jewish homes as the first-born males of Egypt were killed.

The Jewish have many names for the event of Passover, but the most common is *Pesach*.

The 15 steps of the Passover *Seder* are: Kaddesh, Urechatz, Karpas, Yachatz, Maggid, Rachtzah, Motzi, Matzah, Maror, Korech, Shulchan Orech, Tzafun, Barech, Hallel, Nirtzah.

For more information see Passover
VSU Day of Action attracts 200 at UC rally

Gabby McMillan

May 1, 2005:

Student's Association staff members were thrilled by the attendance of around 200 students and staff members to the National Day of Action VSU rally on April 28.

Student's Association President Jennifer Newman said the high attendance showed people were informed about the threats posed by VSU and weren't willing to give up without a fight.

The rally featured a phone bank for people to lobby their politicians, an ongoing petition, speeches and the distribution of arm bands that declared 'No VSU'.

People were urged to "send a fax, write an e-mail, make a call or write a letter" to their local members and "have their voice heard".

Pro-VSU students didn't appear at the rally but the Student's Association said they weren't expecting trouble, unlike at other universities.

Ms Newman said the only incident involved Pro-VSU students placing stickers over their posters, last month, but the situation was resolved.

She said the introduction of VSU would be "devastating" and would result in the "loss of the Students Association (SA) forever".

SA Education Vice-President Marc Emerson told staff and students they wore black arm bands because they were "mourning the death of the Student's Association under VSU".

UCU Clubs and Societies Officer Ben Cuttriss added VSU wouldn't only affect the Health and Counselling Centre and advocacy and support services, it would affect the services the UCU provided. This included subsidy for clubs and societies, the recreation centre, the bar, the refectory and outlets and the post office.

Staff members showed their support through speeches from Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) Professor John Deam and Di Adams, the UC branch president of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU).

Professor Deam said if VSU was introduced it would be harder to attract international students to the University of Canberra without a social fabric to support their learning.

"Brendan Nelson said we should be modelling our universities on international universities like Oxford and Harvard," he said.

"But I've been to those universities and their classes and textbooks aren't the distinguishing factor, it's their extraordinary range of activities which will be lost at the University of Canberra under VSU."

The ongoing petition raised over 1000 signatures by April 28 but Ms Newman said they planned to "keep the passion alive over the next few months" and facilities for students to get involved were available from the Student's Association.

VSU around Australia

The rally didn't publicly spark outrage from both sides at the University of Canberra but it did in central Melbourne. More than 3500 protestors were faced with a small but fiery counter-attack from around 20 students from the Australian Liberal Students Federation. It resulted in a "heated exchange" between the opposing groups.

Around 5000 NSW students flocked to central Sydney then walked to Sydney University for an afternoon of speeches, performances and comedy. Ex-UC student comedian Wil Anderson and rock group, The Whitlams, performed on the day.

Background to VSU

VSU for Dummies

Liberal Senator: VSU for better services

Voluntary Student Unionism - more than meets the eye

Sanskriti club opens under VSU cloud

The two faces of Jennifer Newman

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

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Bega long weekend wows overseas students

Gabby McMillan

May 2, 2005: The seaside and rural hosts of Bega Rotary club won the hearts of twelve University of Canberra international residents after an excursion on the Anzac Day long weekend.

Students stayed with family hosts who included them in their daily routines. They were also shown the tourist attractions of Bega including the beach, the wine factory and the cheese factory.

The Bega Rotary Club has funded annual weekend trips for University of Canberra residents for more than 15 years.

International Director of Bega Rotary Ian Goater said the program showed students a “different sample of Australian life” and enhanced international goodwill.

Malaysian student, Young May Leow said the experience of living in an Australian home in a regional or rural area would be interesting.

“International students have come so far so they should explore many different places while studying in Canberra,” she said.

The students cooked a meal for their host family on the Sunday which allowed the students to share traditions from home.

“We learn about their culture and their experiences,” Mr Goater said.

“I had two Thai students who both worked nights in restaurants. So our meals were lovely and authentic.”

International Student Ambassador Hashim Chowhan said the students enjoyed the “peacefulness of the countryside”.

Mr Chowhan added some students grew so close to their host families they cried when they left.

“[The host families] were very welcoming of all the students,” he said. “They were amazing.”

International Student Ambassador
Hashim Chowhan said the students enjoyed the “peacefulness of the countryside”.

Photo: Hashim Chowhan. For many more pictures from the Bega trip see Gallery 25

Background

Links:

Rotary International
Rotary in Australia
Rebecca Stones

April 26, 2005: With a national day of action against Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) planned for April 28, the VSU debate from both sides has become emotive and often without reference to VSU legislation.

This is a non-lawyer's report of the VSU Bill tabled in Parliament on March 16, 2005.

The actual name of the proposed legislative amendment is the Higher Education Support Amendment (Abolition of Compulsory Up-front Student Union Fees) Act 2005.

The core amendments are sections 19-37, which refer to tertiary institutions "Requiring membership of certain organisations or payment of certain amounts".

This section says higher education providers must not require membership of, or money for, student organisations.

For the University of Canberra, this means the Services and Amenities Fee charged each semester can no longer automatically contribute funds to the Students' Association or the UC Union.

Under section 19-37(3) however, the amendment does allow fees to be charged for goods and services that "are essential for the course of study".

Examples of essential services include building maintenance, field trip costs and library resources. There is dispute over whether health and counseling are 'essential services'.

Education Minister Brendan Nelson has issued a number of press releases emphasising the expense of up-front services and amenities fees.

He claims this legislative amendment will give financial relief to students not wanting union membership.

It will give students a choice of whether or not they join a student organisation, but the financial benefit will depend on the membership fee each student organisation charges.

Student organisations, such as UCSA argue the legislation will result in many students choosing not to pay membership and that this will be financially ruinous.

They also question what is meant by 'services that are essential' as the act does not give an exact definition.

The other focus of the legislation is penalties for breaches of section 19-37.

Higher education providers that continue to force students to fund student organisations have 28 days after being notified of the breach to repay any money collected.

Institutions failing to repay monies within 28 days will be fined by the Federal Government.

The legislation is yet to be passed by the Senate, but with the Howard Government holding Senate majority from July, there appears little doubt of its approval.

If passed, the legislation will come into affect from January 1, 2006.
Celebrating Research at the University of Canberra

April 18, 2005: On May 3, the University of Canberra will celebrate and showcase the research it undertakes.

The event gives UC staff and students of the University, as well as the Canberra community, a briefing on our research from the researchers themselves and to see how they do it.

New Report: Research Impact

For those who’d like a formal report, on Thursday 5 May, UC will launch Research Impact, a 42-page publication covering outcomes of its wide range of research programs.

*Research at UC is more applied in focus and we tend to concentrate on the local region,* Pro Vice-Chancellor Research & Information Management, Professor Andrew Cheetham, said.

He adds that UC contributes to research of national importance through, for example, contracts with the Federal Government with the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) http://www.natsem.canberra.edu.au.

Public Seminar: Y you should care?

A public seminar in the evening of 3 May called, *Y you should care!* was a good example of the broad focus. Tackling the issues of generational changes in work, retirement and money, ageing populations; changing employment patterns; unprecedented mobility; and net population outflows, the seminar deals with uncertainties about the Canberra region’s attracting and retaining qualified residents over the next few years.

The seminar will feature Professor Ann Harding, Director of the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling at the University of Canberra; Sheryle Moon, Manager Manpower Services Australia; and Mark McCrindle, highly regarded futurist and generational expert. ABC Canberra Mornings presenter Alex Stien to moderate.

In particular, it focuses on the “Y-generation” – current university students – and the implications of their employment and lifestyle preferences.

“Y generation has the advantage of not having been born in the Great Depression or the Vietnam War, or the baby boomers’ parents, so that in many ways they have inherited a much better world. They have not been so hard kicked around; they have grown up in a consumer culture, they were expected to care for themselves and to see how they do it. But they are facing a tough time,” Professor McCrindle said.

“The received wisdom is that the Y-generation is not looking for a job that ties them down or locks them in and for life. Instead they want a job that pays well, that they can do for a few years,” Professor Cheetham said.

“Then they can have, travel and do something else and move on to another job. They don’t want to just work for forty years and have a good time on retirement. They want a good time throughout their lives, and what is wrong with that?”

**VC Awards**

At 1:00pm on 3 May At the Clive Price Suite 1 Building 1, Level C, the Vice-Chancellor’s Distinction Awards for Creativity and Innovation in Research and Enterprise. Two recipients will receive the awards this year and will give a briefing on their work.

**Seminar Competition**

After the awards, at 2-46pm, UC will launch its first PhD and PD Research Seminar Competition. Six of the University’s research students from all academic divisions will compete for financial prizes.

Judged by a panel comprising Professor Cheetham, the VC Professor Roger Diament and the Exac Director of Humanities and Creative Arts section of Australian Research Council, Dr Mandy Thomas.

First prize is the VC’s Award of $500. Second prize is Professor Cheetham’s award of $250.

Each contender will have about 12 minutes – about the same slack as in any international conference - to make their impression, and perhaps another three minutes for questions from the audience, Professor Cheetham said.

Seminars will occur over the other with judging taking place over afternoon tea at 3.45pm.

There is a list of interest in this competition, Professor Cheetham said he would not be surprised to see the 200-capacity hall fill for the event.

“it is not just good fun,” he said “it gives research students an opportunity to show their research, and is essential training in being concise and meaningful.”

**Visits to UC Research Facilities**

From 4-6pm to 6-20 pm, students, staff and members of the public will also the opportunity to take tours UC’s various research facilities and laboratories, including the court of the future where everything can be relayed electronically to another court room to assist legal research and bolster training of legal students.

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

http://www.canberra.edu.au/monitor-archive/reports/celebrate_research_Apr20_05.htm [30/08/2013 11:09:01 AM]
International accreditation an Australian First for Nursing Research Centre

Kaddie Pass

April 18, 2005: In an Australian first, the ACT's Research Centre for Nursing Practice (RCNP) gained international accreditation for its high profile nursing research and overall contribution to the nursing profession.

Based at The Canberra Hospital, RCNP is a collaborative initiative between The Canberra Hospital and the University of Canberra.

Professor Paul Arbon, Director of RCNP, said the Research Centre is only the second such centre in the world to receive accreditation as a Research and Development Centre of the International Council of Nurses (ICN), the other accredited centre being a collaboration between Germany and Switzerland.

"Accreditation for nursing research centres is a fairly new process and we will be seeing more of this in the future," Professor Arbon explained.

He said there were two benefits of accreditation for RCNP:

"As the Centre grows we can work and share our research with others, participating in research projects worldwide. In addition it will raise the profile of research in the ACT and attract the best nursing clinicians for the region."

ACT Health Minister Simon Corbell, who announced the accreditation at The Canberra Hospital on Tuesday, welcomed the joint undertaking and applauded the efforts of those involved.

"The RCNP's achievement contributes in a really positive sense to the profile of ACT Health and the University of Canberra as international leaders in nursing and nursing research. It marks the beginning of a very exciting time in the profession's development in the ACT."

"That there are only two ICN accredited centres internationally speaks absolute volumes for the quality of nursing and the profession's willingness to embrace best nursing practice here in the Territory," Mr Corbell said.

Other Speakers at the presentation were RCNP Director, Professor Paul Arbon, RCNA Executive Director, Rosemary Bryant and ACT Chief Nurse Jenny Beutel.

Established in April 1999 the RCNP provides support for clinical and academic nurses and midwives who wish to conduct and utilise research in clinical practice in the ACT.

Some of the significant research projects being undertaken are a study into prevention of pressure injury, commonly known as bed sores, that affect many bedridden patients; extending the role of nurse practitioners to include aged care; and the development of a screening process for endometriosis in teenage women.

Background

International Council of Nurses (ICN) is a federation of more than 120 national nursing associations. It works to advance nursing, healthcare and nurses' welfare worldwide.

ICN site

Research Centre for Nursing Practice Site
Liberal Senator: VSU for better services

Rebecca Stones

April 18, 2005: ACT Liberal Senator Gary Humphreys concedes some student services might be lost under Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) legislation, but hoped the legislation would lead to better provision of remaining services.

In an exclusive interview with Monitor Online, Senator Humphreys said under VSU, unions would need to attract members to maintain their funding.

This accountability would raise service standards, he said.

However he hoped the impending VSU would still allow universities to collect funding for Health and Counselling.

The proposed legislation bans universities from collecting mandatory funds for non-academic or non-essential purposes. This includes funding for Student Unions, Student Associations and possibly health services. Universities found collecting such fees would be subject to fines.

"Doctors and counselling may come under the banner of essential services. I hope the legislation is flexible enough to make that possible," Senator Humphries said.

However, the University of Canberra Students’ Association (UCSA) believes health services will be deemed non-essential.

UCSA contend University of Canberra could lose its bulk-billing doctors and students would have to pay for every visit to a campus doctor, including for doctor’s certificates that may be required to support extended absences from classes.

VSU opponents claim this ‘supply and demand’ system could constrict the variety of campus activities, with minority services becoming unviable.

Senator Humphries justified limited services as better serving the majority of students and said VSU would mean the survival of services ‘important’ to university life.

In his VSU press release in January, he likened student services to businesses - if they do not serve the customer, the business does not survive.

The UC Students’ Association President Jennifer Newman disagreed with this view instead considering student services as a safety net, like Medicare.

Senator Humphries said he had no way of knowing whether or not most students supported the government’s VSU legislation. He knew Student Associations had a lot at stake and would fight the change.

However, with Government commanding a Senate majority after July, Senator Humphreys said the VSU model would pass unchanged and hoped student services would quickly focus on working with the legislation for their own sake.

The real test, he believed, would not be whether the legislation passed, but whether student services can gather enough financial members to stay open.

About Gary Humphreys

Gary Humphreys was the President of the Australian National University Students’ Association in 1982.

He said he would have liked VSU when he was President, but there was not enough support for the model.

According to Senator Humphries, the Government does not necessarily consider ‘Queer Collectives’ and other sexuality support services to be political.

For more information on Senator Gary Humphries’ website.

For another view read the Vice-Chancellor’s VSU comment:
Public health campaigner praises Australian model

April 18, 2005: Some of the most effective public health programs have been conducted in Australia, Professor Barrie M. Margetts has said.

The Slip Slip Slop campaign for skin cancer prevention was probably the best example of an effective program, Margetts told Monitor Online.

There had been more setbacks over the past two decades.

"There was a time when every child received a school meal that was well balanced and nutritionally sound. The State paid for it, so everybody got it. Over the years that has been eroded. Now we are trying to do that again," he said.

"Ten years ago children used to walk to school and now they don't," he adds.

"But trying to undo what has been happening over the last twenty years was difficult. Governments had to be concerned about safety methods."

There had been more setbacks over the past two decades.

"There was a time when every child received a school meal that was well balanced and nutritionally sound. The State paid for it, so everybody got it. Over the years that has been eroded. Now we are trying to do that again," he said.

"Ten years ago children used to walk to school and now they don't," he adds.

As well as funding, the challenge for public nutritionists was to understand that culture and society can affect eating habits. The traditional prescriptive approach had to take account of consumer agenda of environmental constraints to change, he said.

Ownership and control of those programs and engaging people rather than lecturing on healthy habits were vital.

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

City Rail concessions under review

Rebecca Stones

April 18, 2005: A condition that only unemployed students can qualify for a City Rail concession is unenforceable according to a NSW Ministry of Transport spokesperson.

The ministry's communication manager, Matthew Martyn-Jones described adherence to the rule as "an honour system".

He said the entire concession system was under review.

Currently, University of Canberra students can apply for the NSW concession by signing a form at Student Administration, declaring they do not receive money from employment.

Student Administration sends these forms back to City Rail. But Mr Martyn-Jones and a City Rail spokesperson said no one was employed to check student concession applications.

Also, compiling evidence a student was employed may breach privacy laws, so City Rail had no method for enforcement. Even if they could access such information, Mr Martyn-Jones said it would be a costly and time-consuming process with little gain.

He said it was over 10 years since the concession system had been reviewed and student's lives had changed greatly.

"There probably were not as many [students] working and studying when the system was implemented," he said. The Ministry of Transport expects the review to be completed before the end of 2005.

City Rail: student concessions!

The Ministry of Transport expects the review to be completed before the end of 2005.

City Rail Concessions:

New South Wales School Pupil Identification Card (Form 204)

For full time NSW/ACT students attending University, TAFE or Private College who are 16 years and over and school students 19 years and over. Must be enrolled for a minimum of 9 weeks; attending day classes; but not engaged in business or employment; not a full-fee paying overseas student; not an external study student; and not in receipt of remuneration excluding Austudy, allowances, etc.
Internet access for half and half-nots

Gabby McMillan

April 6, 2005: Government beneficiaries are half as likely to have access to a home computer or the internet as non-recipients, two University of Canberra staff members discovered.

Economics Associate Professor Anne Daly and Rachel Lloyd from the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) said Centrelink, the Australian government welfare agency, was interested in increasing efficient communication with clients.

They used the 2001 census for internet usage and access to a home computer data and another survey for sources of income information to estimate the likelihood of beneficiaries having internet access at home.

"If Centrelink were going to use the internet as a sole method of interacting with its clients it would miss a lot of them," Associate Professor Daly said.

"For example, people over 65 have very low levels of home computer and internet access. So if you tried to communicate with pensioners via the internet, most wouldn't receive the message."

On the other hand, students who received government payments, for example, in youth allowance or rent assistance, had high access to internet and computers.

"The internet would probably be fairly efficient for communicating with this younger demographic, but they have other demographics to think about as well."

Associate Professor Daly said their work, which is based on a NATSEM study of the 2001 census, needed further testing before it was finalised.

Ms Lloyd was also supposed to present their paper "Estimating Internet Access for Welfare Recipients in Australia" on April 4 but she was absent for a special reason: she had given birth to her daughter Caitlin the previous Thursday.
**Statisticians locate hot point in fire management**

Rebecca Stones

**April 12, 2005:** Statisticians believe computer simulations could reduce massive property and land damage from bush fires.

As part of UC's international statistics seminar, PhD scholar Kareen King discussed her thesis on fire's effect on land and relationships between unplanned fire and prescribed burning patterns.

Using a computer simulation model called FIRESCAPE, Ms King experimented with various burn scenarios, considering variables like terrain, weather and previous prescribed burning. Dr Joanne Chapman, lecturer at the Australian Defence Force Academy, worked with Ms King to turn the generated data into a statistical output.

The seminar represented over 12 months of data manipulation on the complex FIRESCAPE simulator.

The FIRESCAPE program did not demonstrate burning sequences through pictures. Instead it generates masses of data that to most people would have been meaningless. However, Ms King and Dr Chapman said much could be learned from the numbers.

"I find it is (fun), I much prefer doing statistics for a purpose," Dr Chapman said.

The simulations research have already established a relationship between prescribed burning and uncontrolled burning; basically, prescribed burning limits the damage of wild fires.

This may sound like common sense. But the research identified the point where controlling factor of larger prescribed burns becomes negligible.

The next step in the research is to see at what point further prescribed burns become unnecessary and how to best use patterns of prescribed burning.

While both researchers admit the model will not is far from solving all our fire woes, they believed it had generated a solid base of knowledge to take into future research.

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Mrs King and Dr Chapman's research identified the point where controlling factor of larger prescribed burns becomes negligible. Photo: from Canberra bushfires Jan 2003- See Gallery 24 for Statistics Workshop.
Academic finds unfairness in tennis scoring

Gabby McMillan

April 6, 2005: When Emeritus Professor Graham Pollard retired from a three decade period at the University of Canberra in 2002 he found time to blend two of his loves: tennis and probability applications in mathematics.

Dr Pollard discovered the tennis scoring system could be unfair in doubles situations, especially in mixed doubles.

An “unfair” situation occurs when two equal teams do not have a 50 per cent chance of winning.

Dr Pollard said two aspects could contribute to unfairness in scoring: the order of serving in the set, and the “first to seven stopping rule” in the tiebreak game.

"The first to win six games and lead by at least two games operates initially and from a practical viewpoint as a best of 10 games rule," he said.

"The players who serve in the first two games of a set may serve three times while their partners only serve two times," he said. "The order of serving affects the probability of winning prior to a possible score of five games each and this can lead to unfairness."

"There were typically 12 important points in the tiebreak", he said. The player who served second would have additional services to other players.

"The player who serves second in the tiebreak serves four points out of the first 12, while the others only serve three or even two," he said. "This can be unfair."

In his paper, "Unfairness in the tennis doubles scoring system- an application of probability", Dr Pollard showed the tiebreak problem could be resolved by amending the scoring rules.

The tiebreak rule, "first to at least seven points, leading by at least two points" should be changed to read "first to nine points, leading by two points" would eliminate the unfairness in the tiebreak game when used for doubles.

"If eight points was reached, first to 13 points leading by at least two points, would also eliminate unfairness," he added.

Since completing the research, Dr Pollard has notified the Rules Committee of the International Tennis Federation in London and would contact him in due course.

Tennis rules were introduced in about 1870, the tiebreak was included in about 1970 and further rules or options were introduced in 2002.

Dr Pollard presented his paper on March 5 at the International Statistics Workshop in the Council Room at the University of Canberra.
Review: Chekhov arguments tickle staff club diners

Gabby McMillan

April 7, 2005: Punters enjoyed a night of gourmet food and interesting theatre on April 1 at the opening night of The Player's Company's "Chekhov's Funniest" at The Staff Club.

The night included a three-course meal followed by four of Russian dramatist Anton Chekhov's vaudevillian plays.

Director Jasan Savage handled the small location well and effectively used characters, costumes, signs and music to introduce each of the vaudevilles in a quirky and eye-catching way.

The first performance, "A Jubilee" was a delightful start to the night, with each of the characters interacting energetically, often breaking the "fourth-wall" and including the audience in their jokes.

Stephen Brooke's portrayal of Kistunov was hilarious; his annoyance with Marie Carroll's character, The Woman, and her persistently exaggerated, infuriating behaviour was electric, inviting many laughs from the audience.

Technical difficulties affected the lighting in the "The Proposal", but didn't plague the performance; all three performers continued in the dark until proper lighting was restored.

Oliver Baudert was enjoyable as Chubukov, a father desperate to find a husband for his daughter Natalia. Baudert's relaxed but charming demeanour on stage validated his extensive experience in the theatre.

First timer Amber Gallagher was sultry and dramatic as Natalia, playing up to the melodramatic and argumentative nature of Chekhov's script.

The third vaudeville, "The Tragic Role", was intriguingly absurd and allowed Roger Beckmann to explore his eccentric side as the Sailor, who convinces a gentleman [Baudert] to pay to watch him "fake a drowning".

Once again, the quarrelsome nature of Chekhov is highlighted by Beckmann and Baudert's character portrayals and eccentricities.

Chemistry between Stephen Brooke and Perpetua Kish in the fourth and final vaudeville, "The Bear" was dynamically delightful, spilling over with exaggerated emotions.

Steve Kennedy made the character of Luka his own with the inclusion of funny one-liners between Brooke and Kish's constant bantering.

Kish's use of dramatic expression demanded attention, and like Gallagher, she milked her melodramatic pout as often as possible.

The "Chekhov's Funniest" pamphlet introduced the show as "It's Russian, it's crazy humour, it's fun!" and it wasn't lying. The vaudevilles were definitely crazy and intriguing, driven by the quirky natures of Chekhov's characters.

The Player's Company took Chekhov's work seriously but had fun with it by throwing themselves head-first into their roles. A night at Chekhov's Funniest will whisk you away into a world of dramatic proposals, explosively silly arguments and gorgeously designed costumes.
Industrial design win for University of Canberra

Gabby McMillan

April 14, 2005: University of Canberra's recent double win in the Inaugural NSW Design Institute of Australia's Graduate of the Year Awards pushed the university's Industrial Design course into the limelight.

Industrial Design students Nick Robinson and Phil Rose took out first and second place after they were nominated by the university's School of Design and Architecture.

They were two of three short-listed, and their nominations were based on examples of their designs ranging from snow boot bindings and watches to vacuum cleaners and furniture.

Acting Deputy Head of the UC School of Design and Architecture, Mr Stephen Trathen, said winning the award was a significant achievement for both the students and the University.

Mr Trathen said Mr Robinson and Mr Rose’s win proved the strength of the course to the community because University of Canberra wasn't traditionally seen as a place to study Industrial Design due to its lack of a major manufacturing base.

"The University of Canberra course has been running since 1974 and has consistently produced graduates that have gone on to be influential designers locally, nationally and internationally," Mr Trathen said.

Mr Robinson and Mr Rose received their award on March 17 at Incubator in Redfern.

The Award recognises the talent and excellence in each of the Design Institute of Australia's many disciplines.

The Design Institute of Australia, founded in 1947, is the only multidisciplinary organisation of designers in Australia.

The hardest part of the abseiling was getting people to take the first step over the edge.

April 5, 2005: Volunteers overcame their initial nerves to abseil off Building 5 to help fourth year Physical Education (PE) students with their practical work.

As part of their Certificate II in outdoor recreation, the PE students, guided some 50 volunteers down the walls of Building 5’s internal courtyard.

Most volunteers were UC staff, including intrepid photographers, Ben Brillante, Gaye Morrison and May Leow.

Teacher and organiser of the abseiling, Kathy Mann said it was a big test. It was the first time the students had dealt with a real client group.

They had guided each other in earlier rock climbing and caving expeditions. But the abseiling volunteer group offered experience with a broader range of people, she said.

“I’m very proud of how my students are going on their first attempt at instructing people outside their class,” said Ms Mann.

Despite its being their first experience guiding people outside class, the students were relaxed and in control.

PE student Tim Lawley said they had plenty of experience working with each other and the courtyard’s controlled environment minimised any risks.

The hardest part of the abseiling was getting people to take the first step over the edge.

Some volunteers hesitated. But the students were always very encouraging and even nervous participants took the plunge, Mr Lawley said.

Staffer Helen Deutsch said she had been nervous but trusted the students and enjoyed the experience.

Although Mrs Deutsch insists she would not be abseiling down mountains, she said at least she could tell her son ‘I can do it, too’.

What is abseiling?
(from the German abseilen, "to rope down") is the process of descending on a fixed rope.

See Gallery 23 - Abseiling
I struggled with statistics: VC

Gabby McMillan

April 5, 2005: University of Canberra Vice-Chancellor Professor Roger Dean admitted he struggled with statistics in his youth at the opening of the international statistics workshop in the Building One Council Room on April 4.

Speaking to 20 international statisticians the VC assured the gathering that he eventually gained an appreciation of the importance of statistics to everyday life.

The workshop offered a mix of practical and theoretical discussions of statistics in the modern world.

Statistics travelled from Canada, the USA, Japan, Singapore, China, Finland, New Zealand and Australia to speak on topics ranging from education to information technology.

Head of the Mathematics and Statistics Discipline Dr Peter Brown said the conference was a chance for statisticians to meet and discuss current projects.

Dr Brown said the conference would be relevant to people with varying understandings of statistics because statistics was now an inclusive and indispensable part of society.

He said the workshop would provide insight into “the wide scope of areas where statistics are used”.

Professor Dean said statistics underpinned every quantitative domain of research.

"It's important to increase awareness of the essential nature of statistics to the development of many areas and this conference fosters exactly that," he said.

Speakers at the workshop included University of Canberra staff, Anne Daly and Rachel Lloyd, Peter Hall from the Australian National University, Goetz Trenkler from the University of Dortmund in Germany and Zehua Chen from the National University of Singapore.

In his introduction, Dr Brown said academics could talk for hours about their topic but they only had 25-30 minutes to speak at the workshop due to time restraints.
Howard Government focus of new book

John Hilvert


Edited by Dr. Chris Aulich, Director of the Centre for Research in Public Sector Management at the University of Canberra, and Professor Roger Wettenhall, Emeritus Professor in Public Administration at the University of Canberra, the book covers the administrative leadership style of Prime Minister John Howard's second and third governments since 1998 to 2004.

"It continues as a labour of love," Aulich said. "We try to focus on the key public policy issues that have occurred in each administration."

The essays concentrate on education, immigration, foreign policy the republican debate and the GST.

"What stands out is Howard's capacity as an astute politician," Aulich said. "In some instances such as GST and the republican movement, Howard actually worked against what was a majority view the other way."

"In the case of the republican debate was that he managed to have his way very cleverly and very craftily in lots of ways against a very strong view in the community that we ought to be a republic."

"Half of the authors of the book are University of Canberra researchers and members of the Centre for Research in Public Sector Management. The co-editor of the book, Professor Roger Wettenhall, has been involved in all eight books since 1984," Dr. Aulich said.

"We have also used this as an opportunity to introduce new academics, people that are less well known from UC but have something to contribute. For example Daniel Boldino (foreign policy) and Mary Walsh in the republican debate."
UCU back in charge of food in the Refectory

Some of UC's overseas visitors saw the ocean for the first time when 50 exchange and study abroad students arrived in January. As a result of technological issues, overseas students were educated on correct health and safety procedures.

E-ducation Without Borders

Overseas students mind their language

Five University of Canberra design students will work with design world stars, such as the architect and designer Frank Gehry. The students will be involved in projects that will result in a five-star restaurant.

May Gibbs Fellow Jill Morris was inspired to write her first poem by a rainforest when she was nine. Since then, she has become a published author and poet.

More than 1000 students live in the University of Canberra's on-campus residential accommodation, which includes the University of Canberra Village and the University of Canberra residence. The accommodation provides a quiet and safe environment for students to live and study.

STORIES FROM 2004

the University of Canberra to participate in a major Australian Health Care System project.

Fox eradication in Tasmania

Chaplaincy co-ordinator Leonie-Ruth Acland cannot remember a time when she could not play the violin. Last November, she performed in a benefit concert for the disadvantaged.

Employee wins award for UCU services

To the world in 1979 that smallpox had been eradicated, UC colleagues Brett Lidbury and Suresh Prasad were part of the World Health Organization team that declared the global disease had been eliminated.

A hoot as OWLS welcome students

Getting academics from the Northern Hemisphere to cross the equator for conferences can be difficult. This year, the University of Canberra has made it easier for these academics by providing a comfortable and secure environment at their on-campus residence.

Dinner and Bush Dance, much to the delight of 2005's international students.

Oriented By Where They Live

Training For a Productive Year

UC mail legend retires

A hoot as OWLS welcome students

A hoot as OWLS welcome students

UCU - bringing your campus to life.

SCU - bringing your campus to life.

UCU - bringing your campus to life.

SCU - bringing your campus to life.
**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 Movember
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.

**STORIES FROM 2005**

**SEARCH FOR A STORY**

Use the 'search' function on the University homepage to search for a story.
Milestones: UC's honour roll

Mailroom legend, Colin Osmotherly retires on February 11 after 28 years at UC. 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.

Graduation December 2004

More than 2000 local, regional and international UC students graduated at ceremonies in the Great Hall of Parliament in December 2004. A total of 717 students graduated from the Division of Business, Law and Information Sciences, 437 from the Division of Health Design and Science and 846 from Communication and Education. That's a lot of achievers! Click here for photos

Australia Day awards

Associate Professor George Cho received an AM (Member in the General Division) for service to education, particularly in the study and application of Geographic Information Systems and the law, and to the Institute of Australian Geographers.

Emeritus Professor Bob Kearney received an AM (Member in the General Division) for service to the sustainable management of fisheries resources and to the development of national and international research programs and policies.

Former student Petria Thomas, who won three gold medals at the 2004 Olympic Games and carried the Australian flag at the closing ceremony in Athens, received an OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia).
Forensic research on the hunt for rogue labs

Rebecca Stones

April 5, 2005: Pay-offs from turning raw chemicals into sellable drugs could be 15 times their cost, so people go to amazing lengths to protect their labs, according to Dr Dennis Pianca.

A veteran of 19 years in drug analysis and Acting Deputy Director and Manager of the Toxicology and Forensic Unit at the ACT Government Analytical Laboratory, Dr Pinca was giving his seminar, The Cook, the Crook, his Speed and the Chemist at the University of Canberra on April 1 as part of UC's Gadi Research Centre seminar series.

The seminar discussed the role of forensic chemists in uncovering drug labs and lessening the dangers for people involved in evidence gathering and drug removal.

Fire arms and booby-traps have been found in these laboratories, he said.

He also showed pictures of concealed labs, one cleverly hidden beneath an outside barbeque, which lifted up to reveal a staircase to the underground lab.

Due Canberra's remoteness, only a few laboratories are discovered each year. But these labs contained many volatile chemicals.

"Common chemicals include sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid they're either highly explosive or highly corrosive"

"When you keep in mind these labs have poor ventilation and open flames you can imagine how dangerous they are."

Dr Pianca said operators of clandestine labs often had little chemical knowledge, learning techniques from contacts, while in prison, or over the internet.

This ignorance led to explosions, chemical burns and death from chemical exposure, so forensic chemists were vital in protecting those involved in drug raids.
Reality TV clients for graphic design class

April 4, 2005: Students from the fourth year Graphic Design consultancy class are producing the logo and web home page for the intruders of the evicted restaurant for the Reality TV Show, My Restaurant Rules.

Intruders, Nathan Nichol and Georgia Wilson, residents of Canberra have commissioned the final year students to offer concepts.

Two logos were selected and students, Gemma Deavin and May Lim presented finished concepts to the client on 31 March. If Nathan and Georgia continue to stay in the restaurant and not be evicted, the fourth year consultancy continues with work on the other products for design, such as letterhead, business cards, menus labels for jams and infused oils etc.

The assignment was one of several real projects with real clients that lecturer, graphic design, Anne Fitton's consultancy class revels in.

So far the consultancy class has raised $5000 from various consultancies.

"We estimate fees based on the standard rate for students of $25/hour.

"We run it like a professional student with clear cut contracts," Fitton said,