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

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

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

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

What if I want a printed version of a page?

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

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

What's with the logo?

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

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

Management student and first grade swing bowler Adam Ritchard is another example of University of Canberra student athletes making a mark in their chosen sport, writes Jason Tozer

1 December 2006: From Steve Harmison's wayward opening ball of the first Ashes test there might have been a few cricket fans around the campus who fancied their chances against England, but student Adam Ritchard has already played the Ashes holders and won.

In between classes for his Bachelor of Management Mr Ritchard, 19, plays first grade cricket for Tuggeranong, represents Canberra with the Comets and last month he was picked to play England with the Prime Minister's XI (PM's XI).

Mr Ritchard has been playing grade cricket for four years and says planning ahead and good time management not only balances it with his studies but allows him to excel in both.

"At the start of each semester I'll get the unit outline and work out what's due when and if I have an assignment due around a game I'll work hard to get it in before hand," he said.

"Second semester it's a lot harder because you have more training and preparation for cricket around university but I've found it's not too bad if I work steadily throughout the semester."

Mr Ritchard's success with the Canberra Comets saw him selected to take on England at Manuka Oval earlier this month with the PM's XI.

"Each year when the side is picked they choose a Comets player to give some exposure to the team and experience to the player," he said.

"Playing England was a great experience, especially at this time with all the hype surrounding the Ashes and this being their first tour match."

Mr Ritchard helped to bowl out the Englishmen, bowling well to top order batsmen Andrew Strauss and Paul Collingwood and helping to clean up the tail end removing James Anderson leg before and Monty Panesar caught by Cameron White.

"It was a bit nerve racking to come on and bowl when I did as the field was spread and Strauss was smashing it about but it was nice to get a couple of wickets," he said.

Mr Ritchard finished with figures of 2 for 24 from 4.4 overs.
Monitor meets... Alan Nicol

Where are you from and how long have you lived in Canberra?
Originally Toowoomba QLD. I moved here in 1973 to take up a position at the then Canberra College of Advanced Education.

What do you do at the University?
I'm a graphic designer for the Division of Communication and Education and, as such, design some of their marketing material, as well as book covers, posters, OHP transparencies, invites, Powerpoint Presentations - in fact anything requiring design skills beyond those of the requesting staff member. I'm also the Division's photographer.

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear University of Canberra?
That now that I'm retiring I won't have to think about UC for a long time.

What is your favourite thing about Canberra?
The fact that you can get out of it quickly! I like the ease of getting around, the bush so close to the city.

If you could change anything about Canberra what would it be?
Move it to the coast.

What are you: reading / watching / listening to?
- Reading *Underground* by Andrew McGahan
- Watching ABC TV Wednesday nights - "very angry" that *The Glasshouse* has been axed
- Listening to Sarah Blasko

Name three famous people (alive/dead/fictional) you would like to have dinner with and where in Canberra you'd take them?
Clive James
Sarah Breedlove Walker
David Tench
For a barbecue at Uriarra Crossing

What couldn't you live without and why?
My car - because we live in the country, we are so dependent on it for all our transport needs. And my camera for creativity and my computer for communication and information. (Google is my friend). And music for relaxation.

Where did you go on your last holiday?
Chiang Mai, Thailand

How would you spend your ideal weekend?
An early morning walk with the dogs along a deserted beach followed by breakfast in a café overlooking the water. Do a cryptic crossword - catch a few waves, then enjoy a long lunch. Do a cryptic crossword - catch a few waves, then enjoy a long lunch. Do a cryptic crossword - catch a few waves, then enjoy a long lunch. Do a cryptic crossword - catch a few waves, then enjoy a long lunch.
Watch the full moon rise out of the ocean before a light dinner/BBQ with friends.

Repeat as required.
'Old Yella' finds a new home

Kaddie Pass

1 December 2006: Take a stroll though the campus and you'll notice a new wooden sculpture near building seven - you might be surprised to learn it's actually been on the University grounds for more than 300 years.

Fashioned from the trunk of an old yellow box tree that was blown down in the storm that ripped through the campus last December, the five metre sculpture is by local artist, Paul Jamieson.

Senior gardener, Richard Carne organised a crane and a crew of workers to set the sculpture in place. He said the tree was over 300 years old so it was good to see it being recycled in a way that can be appreciated by everyone.

Called Can you see? the title is a play on the University's name and is 'vaguely symbolic' of the eye of the world, according to Mr Jamieson.

He said that while the sculpture was open to interpretation the semi-sphere at the top of the sculpture could be seen as "a divided world that is being bridged by institutions such as UC, which is international and multicultural".

University art curator, Johanna Owens, described the sculpture as abstract and a "visually strong piece".

The artist used a chainsaw to make the design and give it texture, while keeping the rawness of the material present.

Mrs Owens said it was a win-win situation for everyone.

"It is nice to be feeding the material back into campus and this project also gives a talented local artist a break," she said.
National cultural conference visits UNAUSTRALIA

Kaddie Pass

1 December 2006: If things are ‘un-Australian’ it must be because they come from UNAUSTRALIA, according to Paul Magee, organiser of the upcoming national Cultural Studies Conference at the University.

The conference covers a wide range of topics from fashion to politics featuring seminars, discussion panels, workshops and more as delegates visit the ‘imaginary country’ of UNAUSTRALIA.

How Parliament House might look in UNAUSTRALIA

Image: Geoff Hinchcliffe

Around 170 local and international presenters will deliver papers with renowned French philosopher Jacques Rancière, delivering a keynote address in the Great Hall of Parliament House on Thursday evening.

Dr Magee said securing Professor Rancière was a major coup for the University and the conference.

“Jacques Rancière is regarded as one of the major thinkers of the last 20 years,” Dr Magee said.

'Reclaiming the space'

Dr Magee, who is president of the Cultural Studies Association of Australasia and creative communication lecturer at the University, said the annual conference provides a space to question the status quo and “gets people to think about what UNAUSTRALIA might be.”

The artwork that sees a disco ball twirling above Parliament House is by University of Canberra graphic designer, Geoff Hinchcliffe.

And while people will have their own interpretation Dr Magee sees it as “about reclaiming the space”.

The conference will also feature keynote addresses at the Boiler House by prominent Australian social commentators, Larissa Behrendt, Catherine Lumby, and John Frow, while Klaus Neumann will deliver a public lecture in Garema Place.

Professor Behrendt, director of research at the UTS Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, will explore the implications of the ‘Australian values’ debate on the experience of Indigenous Australians.

Political zeal

Associate Professor Lumby, former foundation chair of the University of Sydney Media and Communications Department, will discuss the term Un-Australian and the political zeal “to define Australians in terms of what we are not”.

Professor Frow will close the conference with the 2006 Don Aitkin Public Lecture, with an introductory live sound art performance by the University’s Vice-Chancellor.

The conference will also host a two-day workshop under the theme of “Fashion and Dress in UNAUSTRALIA” where academics, writers and fashion creators will converge to look at trends in fashion and dress in Australia; body-clothing relations; Australian fashion and dress in the global context; the politics of fashion and dress; and issues of design, production and consumption.

The CSAA annual conference will run from 6 to 8 December at the University and venues around Canberra.

For further information, visit the UNAUSTRALIA website.
Research uncovers paramedics' lifesaving decisions

Gaye Morrison

1 December 2006: The expert life and death decisions made by paramedics in the chaos of a major incident are the subject of a new report into triaging at multiple casualty car accidents.

The joint University of Canberra Research Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Practice and The Canberra Hospital report into the way ambulance paramedics triage multiple casualties at car accidents is an Australian first. It was funded by the NRMA - ACT Road Safety Trust at a cost of $43,000.

The report was launched at a function on campus last month
Photo: Gaye Morrison

The project team was led by Paul Arbon, former head of the Centre, and now the chair of nursing at Flinders University and an adjunct professor at the University of Canberra.

At a function held on 21 November to launch the report, Professor Arbon said the report found paramedics in multi-trauma situations use a combination of expert judgment and standard triage practices to prioritise patient care.

Professor Arbon also made it clear paramedics need to make sophisticated decisions and that those decisions are made early. In fact triaging usually begins when the call advising of the accident is taken, he said.

"The scene of a multiple casualty vehicle accident is chaotic and dangerous. This research demonstrates how ambulance paramedics use cues drawn from the context and situation, en-route and at the scene of an accident, to assist them in interpreting the scene and making triage decisions", Professor Arbon said.

Don Aitkin, chair of the NRMA Road Safety Trust was pleased to hand over the report to Howard Wren of ACT Ambulance Clinical Services, and praised the contents of the report.

"The study indicates that a gap exists between what is practiced and what is taught as theory and it recommends further research be undertaken. This study will be a valuable aid for educators in the ambulance services in their quest to provide paramedics with the best possible triage training," Professor Aitkin said.
Tourism industry joins students to celebrate achievements

Jace Tozer

1 December 2006: The fourth annual Tourism Program Awards were held last Friday evening at the Canberra Southern Cross Club with tourism students gaining recognition for their academic success and contributions to industry.

Eighteen awards, all donated, across eleven different categories, 12 commendations and 12 postgraduate scholarships were presented.

Head of the tourism program Brent Ritchie said the night was as much about students’ involvement with the industry as it was about academic success.

“Students provide the bulk of talent with thousands of hours of internship study, so it’s really pleasing to see that the best and most hardy students receive the awards they deserve and are entitled to,” he said.

“The night is a great opportunity for the industry and students to get together and meet each other,” she said.

Ms Hatton said the night was about more than just giving students recognition for their hard work.

“It’s also a chance to catch up with graduates that we started our degree with and see how far they’ve come.”

“It’s a great opportunity by the industry to validate that students have come through their degree and can do the job,” she said.

“This is a chance to see just how much potential that students have and how far they can come.

“The night was emotional for staff and students as two awards were presented in memory of tourism students that died, Clea Rose and Felicity Brown respectively.

The inaugural Clea Rose Award and Clea Rose Travel Award were presented to Paula Jaensch and Holly Bradley, students who had recently completed their tourism studies.

The night was sponsored by Canberra Southern Cross Club, Ginninderry Homestead, Kamberra Wines and Questacon, all who provided lucky door prizes on the night.

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A watery toast launches river health conference

Kaddie Pass

1 December 2006: Canberra drinking water was given the thumbs up at the launch of the 2007 Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) International River Health Conference last week.

The water was used as a symbolic toast to mark the launch that was attended by government and community representatives.

The University was a major sponsor of the conference, which aimed at fostering awareness of environmental issues in school children, using the Kids Teaching Kids model.

Riverhealth conference convenor, Arron Wood addressed the gathering, driving home the importance of involving kids in environmental issues.

"Young people are less than 20 percent of the population but 100 percent of our future," Mr Wood said.

He stressed that it was not just about students doing 'warm fuzzy' activities but about looking at environmental issues and affecting change.

With the theme for next year's conference focusing on oceans and rivers it was an apt time for the newly established eWater CRC, located at the University, which to come on board as an additional sponsor for the event.

Students from Radford College, Narrabundah College, Fraser Primary and Emmaus Christian School gave environmentally themed performances that included rap songs, role plays, dance, and an interactive game that energised the audience while informing them on the merits of recycling.

MBDC chief executive, Wendy Craik, officially launched the conference, and spoke on the importance of supporting the conference.

"Water shortage is affecting people, communities and the environment. What's important is that the kids of today see the Murray Darling Basin of tomorrow. Ensuring you involve kids at a young age ensures you make it a success," Ms Craik said.

She added that activities such as the conference would encourage children when they grew up to think about pursuing careers in environmental studies.
Creative showcase displays future talent

Jacquelyn Curtis

1 December 2006: Final year students from New Media, Television Production and Creative Writing put their talents on show for the Creative Showcase end of year exhibition.

A combined exhibition between the three disciplines, this year's Creative Showcase was staged at the Innovation Centre and was attended by students, their families, course conveners and tutors.

The exhibition was officially opened by Vice Chancellor Roger Dean, who said the evening was an “opportunity to see a whole range of displays”.

“The output from the School of Creative Communication here tonight will allow you to see an immense array of interesting pieces examining the interaction between sound, image, text and the environment,” Professor Dean said.

“There are a lot of different ideas and a lot of talent and imagination on show.”

Guests at the exhibition could see work from final year students and selected works from promising first and second year students. A gallery of laptop computers exhibited many of the New Media and Creative Writing projects while a separate viewing area allowed Television Production works to be screened.

The event itself was organised by three creative communication students - Stephen Ambrus, Dane Liepins and Elle Allsop as part of an end of year project designed to unite the new media, television production and creative writing disciplines.

“We thought, 'what better way to bring these things together than a showcase,'” Mr Ambrus said.

Now in its second year, the Creative Showcase is designed to demonstrate the students' work in a social environment.

“It is a great opportunity to show off your work in a sophisticated and professional environment,” Mr Ambrus said. “It's good for your peers to be able to see your work and for you to see theirs.”

Acting head of school, Jenn Webb, said the exhibition showed a “tremendous effort” by the students.

“The works speak for themselves,” Associate Professor Webb said. “They are polished, engaging and often funny. They show extreme capability by the students.”
Movie mavericks brought to screen

Two mavericks of Australian cinema are the focus of a new film by University of Canberra graduate Sue Maslin, writes Edward O’Daly

21 November 2006: In the 1930s and 1940s Rupert Kathner and Alma Brooks took on the might of the Hollywood studios to tell Australian stories, doing whatever it took to bring their movies to the screen and presenting an often shocking vision of Sydney’s seamy underbelly.

Hunt Angels, written and directed by Alec Morgan and produced by Ms Maslin, follows their passion for film-making and creates its own genre of non-fiction feature film: a documentary based on exhaustive research, but told through drama digitally composited archival images.

“It’s a film about the passion for cinema and everybody who loves going to the movies will love this film about the irrepressible desire to make cinema,” Ms Maslin said.

The film thrusts the viewer into an authentic 1940s Sydney as the action takes place against a backdrop of archival photographs and film footage.

Australian first

The cast - including Ben Mendelsohn, Victoria Hill and Eloise Oxer - played out their scenes in front of a green screen with the backgrounds added in later.

“This hasn’t been done before in Australian cinema and it put the actors into the space and time of the archival images,” Ms Maslin said.

“We wanted to show a side of Sydney that’s rarely seen on film.

“People’s memory of that era tends to be sunny, but it was the middle of the depression and there was a dark side and we wanted to bring that world to life.”

This dark side was part of what fascinated ‘Rupe and Alma’, as they were known. Their newsreels covered controversial topics including prostitution and drug trafficking.

These real stories were popular with moviegoers, but angered the Hollywood studio bosses, who used their power to pressurise cinemas not to show the films.

The lack of studio backing also forced the duo to beg, borrow and sometimes steal the funding they needed to live their screen dreams - a position with which Ms Maslin sympathises.

“It’s the story of all of us,” she said.

“It’s a really tough business we’re in and for the thousands of good ideas out there, only 15 or 20 features get made each year.

“Their story stands for all Australian filmmakers.”

Radical change

Ms Maslin’s career in the movies began when she enrolled in the media studies graduate diploma at the University of Canberra in 1982. The course was a radical change in direction for the science graduate.

“I was preparing to do an honours year, but I knew I didn’t want to continue with science, so I looked around for something I would love doing.”

A visit to the University campus, a wander around the corridors of media studies - with all their examples of work and invitations to intriguing film seminars - and a long chat with media lecturer John Scott, set Ms Maslin on a course to a career that would see her study the craft and make a succession of movies, including the 2003 hit Japanese Story, starring Toni Collette.

“It all started for me back there at Canberra University and I have been working with fellow graduate, co-writer/director Daryl Dellora, ever since,” Ms Maslin said.

“The course covered film, television photography and a had a unique mix of theory and practice, and this had stood me in good stead throughout my career.

“I understand the language and common aesthetic of film and it comes from the fantastic teaching of people like Bill van der Heide.”

Hunt Angels will be released on 30 November.
UC student wins regional Tertiary Young Person of the Year Award

**Kaddie Pass**

A University of Canberra business student has won the regional Young Achievement Australia (YAA) Tertiary Young Person of the Year Award that will see him compete for the national title later this month.

22 November 2006: Andrew Flick took out the prize at the Southern NSW and Riverina Young Achievement Australia (YAA) awards earlier this month.

Andrew, who is undertaking a double degree in Business Administration and Commerce Accounting, said he had always been interested in business.

"My dad is in business and the entrepreneurship course tickled my interest," Andrew said.

The University of Canberra student team LAYA, of which Andrew is a member, were also awarded Best Tertiary Product and Best Tertiary Business Plan for Webtutor, a CD Rom directory that accesses over 200 quality educational resources on the Internet. The directory provides a quick and easy timesaving reference to a diverse range of activities based on the Primary School Education curriculum. The students were sponsored by Business ACT to carry out the project.

The University of Canberra team were among 25 student companies that competed from tertiary institutions within the local region.

University of Canberra Lecturer Greg Boland said winning the awards was a great achievement for the students and reflected the quality of the entrepreneur course offered at the University.

"Their success is not only justly deserved it is also public recognition of the strength of the entrepreneur course on offer at the University, which was introduced in 2005.

He said students have since been approached by businesses with a view to recruitment.

Andrew, who will travel to Sydney later this month to compete for the National YAA Tertiary Entrepreneur of the Year title, said he was surprised at the level of interest from the business industry that the tertiary awards had generated.

Other University of Canberra students in the LAYA team were Rodney Laugher, Scott Pearce, Angela Fumess, Trisha Wong, Alicia Hewitt, Julie-anne Batten, Matt Phillips, Goncalo Oliviera, Nicholas Taylor and Justin Lian.

The entrepreneurship minor was introduced in 2005 as part of a Bachelors degree and has been designed to help students recognise commercial opportunities, and to develop insight, self-esteem, knowledge and skills needed for a career in business.

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**Win tickets!**

Monitor has five buy-one-get-one-free tickets for you and a friend to see *Hunt Angels* at Electric Shadows in Canberra.

Simply answer this question:

**Hunt Angels won Best General Documentary at the ATOM Awards on 10 November. What does ATOM stand for?**

Send us your answer by 5pm on 29 November to be in with a chance*. Winners will be notified by email.

*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.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
Psychologist puts body image on national agenda

Kaddie Pass

A University psychologist was invited to Parliament House last month to share her expertise on body image and eating disorders with the nation’s leaders.

22 November 2006: Dr Vivienne Lewis addressed a special forum of MPs and advisers on the topic, her research and clinical specialty, at the invitation of Chisholm MP Anna Burke. "I was there to remind politicians to be mindful of issues related to body image (people’s perceptions of themselves physically) and the impact this can have on people’s well-being,” Dr Lewis said.

“TThere are important messages about obesity and health that they have to get out, but they need to be mindful of not creating more body image problems in our Australian men, women and children.”

Dr Lewis told the forum body image was a significant issue for Australians and a negative body image had the potential to cause depression, anxiety and life-threatening eating disorders.

Negative body image (being dissatisfied with the way you look) is on the rise in men and schoolchildren and affects 60 per cent of women to the extent they display behaviour associated with eating disorders, such as fasting, purging, use of laxatives and obsessive exercising.

Dr Lewis said while obesity had to be tackled, there was a danger that campaigns used to counter it could stigmatise weight issues and exacerbate problems of body image.

"We are starting to see this occur in our children where they’re frightened of becoming obese.”

"The audience was attentive and receptive to what I had to say and I think many of them were surprised to hear just how widespread these problems are.”

Dr Lewis added she’d be happy to speak at Parliament House again if the opportunity arose.

Ms Burke said there was little understanding of eating disorders in Australia and the national focus on obesity shouldn’t overshadow the problem.

"This forum is the first step in putting the issues of body image and eating disorders on the national agenda,” she added.
Graphic design student rises to the challenge

Jacquelyn Curtis

The work of a second year graphic design student outshone many other entries to win the 2007 Tertiary to Work (TTW) poster competition.

22 November 2006. The work of a second year graphic design student outshone many other entries to win the 2007 Tertiary to Work (TTW) poster competition.

Simone Clark completed her poster as part of her coursework, testing out a number of catchphrases before settling on the winning slogan “Rise and Shine”.

In combination with the slogan, Ms Clark’s winning poster depicts a student peeking out from under a doona.

“Rise and Shine” applied best to the Tertiary to Work event, “Ms Clark said. “In this context it means get out of bed and get a job!”

“The image chosen conveys a feeling of excitement, like she can’t wait to get out of bed and start the day.”

Recent landscape architecture graduate Katie Earle is the student whose face is set to inspire students making the transition from study to career. Although reluctant to be the ‘face’ of TTW in 2007, Ms Clark said her subject had now “come to terms with her newfound fame”.

Ms Clark said the competition gave her the opportunity to increase her resume and portfolio which will aid her ambition to secure part time work in a creative field.

Careers manager Heather Jack said this year’s competition was very difficult to judge due to a high standard of work from all entrants.

“We were able to shortlist many posters which met the judging criteria of concept, readability and hierarchy of type.”

“It was a close call this year so many other staff and students from the Student Administration area were co-opted for their opinion.”

“Simone’s poster met all the criteria and it won based on visual impact,” she said.

Win tickets!

Monitor has five buy-one-get-one-free tickets for you and a friend to see Hunt Angels at Electric Shadows in Canberra.

Simply answer this question:

Hunt Angels won Best General Documentary at the ATOM Awards on 10 November. What does ATOM stand for?

Send us your answer

by 5pm on 29 November to be in with a chance*.

Winners will be notified by email.

*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.

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

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PhD scholar’s research a ‘stroke’ of genius for athletes

Jacquelyn Curtis

Research by a University PhD candidate has the potential to help international sports coaches select athletes and better prepare them for competition.

22 November 2006: Adam Hunter, whose research is jointly funded by the University and the Australian Institute of Sport, is studying the biomechanics of sport and performance analysis in elite canoeing and kayaking. His research will explore methods in both slalom canoeing and sprint/flatwater canoeing.

“Although the boat design differs in the two types of racing, the end goal is still the same,” Mr Hunter said. “The fastest boat through the course wins.

“The main differences are the variables that can be changed to increase performance.”

Canoe slalom is an Olympic sport requiring paddlers to manoeuvre canoes through gates in fast flowing water. Performance analysis places emphasis on the type of stroke that the paddler utilises to achieve a certain boat speed and position.

Mr Hunter carried out field research at the Penrith Whitewater Facility using a combination of video technology and sensors mounted on the boat and paddle. Data was then captured during a simulated competition to identify different types of strokes used in slalom canoeing.

“Using four national level paddlers I looked at how they negotiated a complex set of gates,” Mr Hunter said. “The simulated competition helped to identify biomechanical data related to good performance.”

Flatwater sprints are raced in a straight line over 500 or 1000 metres, and Mr Hunter has identified the link between stroke and speed as his main research focus. An assessment on “how force input affects the force of the boat” is expected to be competed in early 2007.

Mr Hunter’s research supervisor, Dr Margi Bohm said the research will “totally rewrite how coaches interpret paddle force data”.

“It is expected that Adam’s research will have a great impact on how good technique is identified and then taught, on how athletes are selected for team boats and on how performance is gauged,” she said.

Dr Bohm, a kayaking coach with a PhD in fluid mechanics, said Mr Hunter’s research had potential in other sports – such as tennis, rowing and baseball.

“The impacts of this kind of research will not only affect canoeing, but any sport where there are potential inefficiencies between force application to a tool and resulting motion.”

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Water wizards to present research on national stage

Jason Tozer

Two students from the University's Institute for Applied Ecology, Mike Peat and Chris Levings, will present their environmental research as part of the National Water Prize held at the OzWater Conference next year.

22 November 2006: Mr Peat and Mr Levings were placed first and second respectively in the ACT Branch division of the Australian Water Association's (AWA) undergraduate water prize.

Both students' work is involved in managing and improving water environments in the Cotter River catchment.

Mr Peat has been conducting research on biological conditions of river sections below the Cotter Dams since completing his undergraduate degree in 2003.

“I've been looking at the effects the dams have on animals and plants downstream of them,” Mr Peat said.

“What we've found is that despite environmental flows, the biological condition of those streams is still impaired with changes to the habitat and food resources.”

Mr Levings has been monitoring and studying the effect the 2003 bushfires had on the Cotter River catchment.

“We're monitoring the amount of sediment entering the streams from where the large pine plantation was destroyed and taking biological samples of the stream every six months,” Mr Levings said.

“We're looking at how the area is recovering and how the government's land management activities are working.”

Both students' work is being used to inform managers of the river and recommend options for improving the conditions of the catchment and areas downstream.

Mr Peat completed his Applied Science honours this year and Mr Levings, who also works as a research assistant with the University, completes his Environmental Science degree in July next year.
Are You Being Served?

Monitor's Jacquelyn Curtis and Jason Tozer return in the roles of iconic movie reviewers Margaret Pomerantz and David Stratton to join the UCU Players for their latest production – Are You Being Served?

22 November 2006

The UCU Players Company once again bring a beloved BBC comedy to the stage on Friday and Saturday evenings, this time portraying the lovable staff of Grace Brothers from Are You Being Served?

Written by Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft, the series followed the antics of the staff in the ladies and menswear departments at the old-fashioned London store.

The original pilot episode aired in 1972 when the BBC encountered scheduling problems following the tragic murder of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics.

With prime time slots vacant and no sport to fill them, the BBC turned to pilot comedies including Are You Being Served? to solve the dilemma.

The parody of a rigid British class system introduced the catchphrase 'Are you free?' and plenty of not so subtle innuendo, which proved popular with viewers.

However, it was undoubtedly the memorable characters like Mr Humphries and Mrs Slocombe that gave the series run for 13 years and spawn a feature film in 1977.

'David': Margaret...

'Margaret': It is now obvious that one of the talents of the UCU Players Company is capturing iconic BBC characters. A purple-rinsed, bouffant-haired Mrs Slocombe, played by Nina Stevenson, and a perfectly effeminate swaggering Mr Humphries played by Craig Marvell were fantastic.

D: The Company is now seasoned at bringing BBC productions to the stage, however, I would love to see what they could do with some classic US television such as Get Smart or Bewitched.

M: I think they'd adapt easily to American humour that lacks the wit and innuendo many BBC series like Are You Being Served? are famous for.

D: I can't deny it isn't a different form of humour, but that doesn't mean it's any less challenging to bring to a theatre environment. Don Adams' Maxwell Smart would be delightful to see on stage.

M: Based on him filling John Inman's shoes in this production. Maxvell would be particularly well as Agent 86.

D: He did have quite a legacy to do justice to. Inman was voted BBC personality of the year during that time as well as funniest man on TV. I also think Hugh Stevenson played the haughty and officious Captain Peacock rather well.

M: What piqued my interest in this production was the fact it departed from the traditional series scripts. An adaptation of the 1977 feature film, which received mediocre reviews after its release, was a very ambitious task.

D: The film centered upon a staff holiday in Spain while the store had renovations, definitely an ambitious task for a stage production – particularly since the characters rarely left their department floor, let alone the store. Nonetheless the 'tropical' setting provided plenty of cultural misunderstanding.

M: Yes, there was certainly no shortage of humour, with the climax of the production involving a case of mistaken identity and one of Mrs Slocombe's many attempts to seduce Captain Peacock.

D: Ah, but you're forgetting Captain Peacock's advances on the delectable but unwitting Miss Brahms.

M: Well it all added to the hilarity of the production. Despite a few opening night jitters, it was very well staged. I give it four stars.

D: It was an appropriate ending to the UCU Players 2006 program. I'm giving it three and a half.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
Frontline safety for high-tech soldier researched at UC

Edward O’Daly

7 November 2006: Technology that will keep Australia’s soldiers safer in the field is being tested by University of Canberra researchers.

With modern infantry carrying an arsenal of electronic devices for communication, surveillance, targeting and intelligence gathering there is a danger that operating them could distract a soldier leaving them vulnerable to attack.

Canberra IT firm WetPC approached the University of Canberra to test an integrated controller it had developed in conjunction with Thales Australia, which allows the soldier to access and control a range of devices without taking his eyes off task or hands off the weapon. Called the Rifle Input Control, it is operated by pressing single or multiple buttons located on the front grip of the rifle.

"When you’re walking down a street in Baghdad, the last thing you want to do is look down," managing director Peter Moran said.

The University’s Sports Studies department was contracted to test the performance of the Rifle Input Control along with that of two other common input methods: a chest-mounted touch-screen computer, and a hand-held up-down-select controller (similar to that found on mobile phones).

Subjects were given an observational task to perform: requiring them to record how often they saw a particular truck pass on a screen in front of them. Sensors attached to their head measured how often they looked down.

The researchers found a soldier would be likely to look down almost 55 per cent of the time when operating the touch-screen, compared with just one per cent of the time if they used the Rifle Input Control. In addition for most tasks the Rifle Input Control was found to be significantly faster to operate.

Dr Moran said the University of Canberra offered a research capability he couldn't find elsewhere in the local region.

"I needed a place that had extensive research facilities to undertake the experiment as well as top quality research skills and access to subjects. The University of Canberra met all of those criteria and more," he said.

"The University of Canberra has been instrumental in assisting us to develop this technology and I look forward to continuing to work with them to refine the system."

Head of sports studies Sandy Daley said the University was pleased to use its specialist research expertise to help commercial clients develop new technologies.

"The Rifle Input Control has the potential to save lives and we're proud to be a part of a project that will keep our servicemen and women safer on the frontline," Ms Daley said.
University research to help keep drugs off our roads

Kaddie Pass

7 November 2006: The University is driving research into roadside drug testing in the ACT.

Similar to the implementation of random breath testing that has effectively reduced the number of deaths and injury from drink driving, a program for drug driving is being tested with volunteer drivers in the ACT.

In collaboration with the Australian Federal Police, the University of Canberra researchers will collect saliva samples from drivers randomly selected at ACT roadsides following random breath testing.

Recent data suggests that amphetamines and other illicit drugs are responsible for more than a quarter of road deaths in Victoria, NSW and Western Australia. This comes at a time when there has been a reduction in the number of drivers dying with high levels of alcohol detected.

Head of pharmacy Gabrielle Cooper said the partnerships involved in the research showed the ACT was taking the issue seriously.

"Many drugs affect our ability to drive safely. Current statistics indicate that drug driving is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in Australia," Dr Cooper said.

"This study is vital to inform policy and implementation of drug driver testing in the ACT. The collaboration between the University of Canberra, the Australian Federal Police, industry partners and our financial grant supporters from NRMA ACT Road Safety Trust and the Healthpact Research Centre for Health Promotion and Wellbeing show the commitment the ACT has to road safety."

Participants in the anonymous study will be asked to provide information about their past drug driving habits via a questionnaire. This will provide the first data on self-reported drug driving habits of ACT drivers.

They will then be asked to provide a saliva sample using commercially available collection devices. The samples will be 'de-identified' and will be used to test the reliability and usability of commercially available test kits. The samples will be tested at a forensically accredited laboratory that is a research partner in the project.

The project is not aimed at catching drugged drivers. The information collected, which will consist of a questionnaire and saliva test, will be de-identified and therefore completely anonymous. No incriminating evidence will be related back to the Police or to the individual. The researchers will be positioned some distance from the police so conversations will remain confidential. Participants will receive a $10 coffee voucher for their involvement.

The ultimate aim of the project is to provide data on drug driving for policy development and implementation. It is also hoped that the research will lead to the preparation and readiness of the ACT introducing roadside drug testing programs similar to random breath testing which has significantly reduced the numbers of fatal road deaths in Australia.

Currently the police are able to test any driver they suspect to be driving under the influence of drugs and a blood sample is taken.
"It draws the hidden talent out of rural areas..."

Previous recipient Munique Webb spoke at last week's launch of the University of Canberra CEFA scholarship program

"Thank you for the opportunity to speak today and be a part of this important launch. As mentioned I grew up in Boorowa, a small country town between Yass and Cowra. At the end of year 12 I was fortunate enough, along with a hand full of my class mates, to receive a scholarship from the Boorowa Education Foundation. The Country Education Foundation of Australia first established this initiative in Boorowa. It created a fantastic medium through which the community could give valuable support to us as school leavers.

At the end of year 12 I was talking about this with one of my old school mates not long ago and we agreed that the scholarship provided more than financial benefits. It made us feel supported by our community and gave us a sense of pride knowing that Boorowa wanted us to do well at the next stage of our education. It's fantastic to know that the money we received has come out of the pockets of people like dear 'ol Max Donohue the butcher, who when ever I went in to buy meat he would ask, "How's it all going? How long till you go uni?" People who are interested in what you are doing and wish you all the best when they see you down the street. It adds to cohesiveness of the community.

It might sound a bit of a have, that country kids are disadvantaged, but in many ways its true. The resources and facilities that are on-hand in larger centres are limited or simply not accessible in the bush. Also, there is often a mentality that your options are restricted to the familiarity of the town you grew up in and many lack the confidence to leave that security. So support through a scholarship and the interest shown to you by a university is invaluable and encouraging. I really feel it draws the often seemingly limited opportunities and gave me confidence to step outside the comfort zone of my hometown. And at the same time, instilling in me the desire to give back to my community through the knowledge and skills gained during my tertiary education.

Since the end of 2nd year I have worked as a research assistant with the Riviere Landscapes Research Lab. I was given the opportunity through a summer scholarship of conducting my own research, in July of this year I presented at a conference in Scotland and my findings are now published in a refereed international journal. What may at the beginning seem like a small contribution to a university research, in July of this year I presented at a conference in Scotland and my findings are now published in a refereed international journal. What may at the beginning seem like a small contribution to a student's educational future, actually compounds and has far-reaching results.

The principle of my high school has invited me to go back and talk to students about my experience at University of Canberra and the successful completion of my degree. It helped me to look beyond the necessities is high and ongoing....I'm sure you all can recall that stage in your life when you just moved out of home for the first time and dealing with all the new and often scary realities of life is quite a challenging experience. Not having the added pressure of finding funds or borrow yet again from Mum and Dad to buy your textbooks next semester, is very relieving.

I'm so glad to see the University of Canberra taking such an active role and supporting this great initiative. It is so important that we give attention and encouragement to country students and in my experience, UC is great for doing that.

It is a real credit to CEFA just how successful the program has become. To establish a foundation and give a community the needed kick-start, has proven to have flow on effects in giving their kids a kick-start into higher education. For me the scholarship contributed significantly to my coming to study at the University of Canberra and the successful completion of my degree. It helped me to look beyond the limitations and give me confidence to step outside the comfort zone of my hometown. And at the same time, instilling in me the desire to give back to my community through the knowledge and skills gained during my tertiary education.

Thanks to the scholarship all my textbooks and lab manuals throughout the entirety of my degree, were paid for. This made a huge difference and benefited me in such a practical way, since the cost of such necessities is high and ongoing....I'm sure you all can recall that stage in your life when you just moved out of home for the first time and dealing with all the new and often scary realities of life is quite a challenging experience. Not having the added pressure of finding funds or borrow yet again from Mum and Dad to buy your textbooks next semester, is very relieving.

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UC and CEFA working together to provide the bush with needed provisions and incentives is an all round win-win situation."

31 October 2006
Scholarships smooth rural students' path to UC

Kaddie Pass

7 November 2006. Rural students can get a kick start into higher education thanks to a new scholarships program launched last week.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Roger Dean and Country Education Foundation Australia (CEFA) chair Nick Burton Taylor, of Boorowa, signed a new agreement last Tuesday to formalise scholarship arrangements.

The scholarships program will see the University allocate up to $20,000 per year for an initial period of three years and provide bursaries for commencing students enrolled at the University who are identified and assisted by CEFA.

University of Canberra environmental science graduate and recipient of a CEFA scholarship, Munique Webb, spoke at the launch about receiving the scholarship from the Boorowa Education Foundation. She said the scholarship contributed significantly to her coming to study at the University of Canberra and to successfully completing her degree.

"It is a real credit to CEFA just how successful the program has become. To establish a foundation and give a community the needed kick-start, has proven to have flow on effects in giving their kids a kick-start into higher education," she said.

Ms Webb, who graduated from University of Canberra in 2005 with a Bachelor of Resource and Environmental Science and now works as a laboratory assistant on campus, said that while the scholarship benefited students in a practical way it also provided community support.

Mr Burton Taylor said the University of Canberra CEFA scholarship program would greatly assist rural school leavers who choose to further their personal development at the University of Canberra.

"It is wonderful to see the University of Canberra recognising what the Country Education Foundation of Australia is achieving for rural youth and coming on board in such a tangible way. In time, we hope to establish similar recognition and support from all Australian Universities and tertiary institutions," Mr Burton Taylor said.

- Priority will be given to students from the National Capital Region and commencing students can apply for bursaries of between $1,000 to $2,000 to be allocated by the Scholarships Committee according to need.
- CEFA assists young school leavers who would otherwise not be able to pursue their tertiary education or apprenticeship goals due to financial or geographical restrictions. The Foundation was first established in 1993 in Boorowa and since that time has supported more than 400 young rural school leavers. The Foundation is now operating in 17 towns in four states including 14 in NSW. In the National Capital Region, the following towns have established Community Education groups. These are Boorowa, Braidwood, Cowra, Goulburn, Harden, Cooma/Monaro, Yass and Young.
Uni a nerd-free-zone as colleges experience magic of IT

Edward O'Daly

7 November 2006: The University's School of Information Sciences (ISE) and Engineering is doing its bit to explode the myth of the IT geek.

Last week's informatics day, where students from ACT high schools and colleges visited ISE for a day of fun IT activities, was part of its program to engage the community and show what a career in the industry is really like.

"The perception that IT is a nerdy business is wrong and it has to change," ISE head Dharmendra Sharma said.

"IT careers have changed. In this day and age it's not about just 'cutting code' - the industry needs dynamic people with good people and business skills.

"The way we get that message out is by engagement."

Professor Sharma explained "innovative" events like the informatics day were an important part of the process and he hoped it would become an annual event.

The day was the brainchild of senior lecturer David Clark who said the intention was for students to "have fun".

The activities mirrored the real world tasks of IT professionals and saw students test the useability of websites, fix bugs in software and learn the programming required to draw simple logos. Activities also took them to the fictional Canberra School of Magic.

James Spears from Canberra Boys Grammar and Lake Ginninderra College attended the event

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James Spears from Canberra Boys Grammar said the day had been "pretty challenging" and he'd learned more about how the IT industry had changed. He hoped to pursue a career in IT, he added.
Top teaching a hot topic at showcase

Edward O'Daly

7 November 2006: The University's Carrick Citation recipients were formally recognised at last week's Teaching for Learning Showcase.

The award winners, together with Carrick Grant recipient Rob Fitzgerald and Australian Council of University Art & Design Schools Distinguished Teaching Award winner Eugenie Keefer Bell, were acknowledged by Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean at the event, organised by the University's Centre for the Enhancement of Learning, Teaching and Scholarship.

“We are very proud of the quality of our teaching and learning,” Professor Dean said.

The event covered areas of teaching including e-learning, cross-disciplinary teaching and stage fright and attracted visitors from Canberra's other tertiary institutions.

“We like to be part of a wider community of teaching and learning as well as our own internal one,” Professor Dean added.
Monitor meets...
Anna Wallace

Where are you from and how long have you lived in Canberra?
I grew up in a tiny town called Stockinbingal (pop. 244) and lived in Cootamundra for the majority of my years, before coming to UC.

What do you do at the University?
I study a Bachelor of Communications in Advertising and Marketing and a Bachelor of Laws. I'm also:

- events coordinator on Ressies
- president of the Advertising & Marketing Society (AMS)
- on the UCU member services committee
- radio DJ for Cue FM

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear University of Canberra?
Practical and professional but, most of all, fun!

What is your favourite thing about Canberra?
Canberra is a great compromise between the country and the city. It is a nice, relaxed, chilled-out place to work and study, and the people are friendly.

If you could change anything about Canberra what would it be?
I'd like there to be more music festivals.

What are you: reading / watching / listening to?
- Reading Creative magazine
- Watching Spicks and Specks
- Listening to Is this it? by The Strokes

Name three famous people (alive/dead/fictional) you would like to have dinner with and where in Canberra you'd take them?

- Fictional That's a tough one- Gandalf the Grey
- Living Sir Richard Branson
- Deceased Leo Burnett

We'd go to The Boat House by the lake for dinner.

What couldn't you live without and why?
It's sad, but probably my mobile phone. It's my ultimate accessory. I find satisfaction in knowing that if I need to contact somebody or find something out, it's just a phone call, a text message, or a mobile-net click away. I can even watch Sky News on my phone or download the latest music and use it as an MP3 player. I've come a long way from my reliable brick (AKA the Nokia 3310).

Where did you go on your last holiday?
I spent a week in Sydney over Easter with my family doing touristy things, including a Bridge Climb for my Mum's birthday.

How would you spend your ideal weekend?
At a music festival. There's no place I'd rather be!
Canberra to host international sport and design festival

Edward O'Daly

7 November 2006. An unusual boat race on Lake Burley Griffin and a cross country skier training in blazing sunshine helped launch next year's sport themed Canberra Biennial last week.

The very different designs of a rowing scull and a racing kayak went head-to-head as two University of Canberra students - recent world championship rowing bronze medallist Sarah Cook and top kayaker Mark Halpin - did battle on the lake.

Temperatures in the high 20s gave Australia's number one cross country ski sprinter, University graphic design student Esther Bottomley, a rare taste of summer as she showed how design - special 'roller skis' and in-line skates - allowed her to do 'ski-specific' training in all weathers.

The Canberra Biennial: City of Architecture and Design was initiated by the University in 2005 and is a partnership with the National Capital Authority and the ACT Planning and Land Authority. The Biennial aims to reflect and promote Canberra's status as an international, designed city and as a centre for ideas, innovation and design.

Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean said next year's theme of 'Winning by design' reflected the University's excellence in design and sport.

"Whether it's in design or sport, our staff and students are able to compete with the best in the world," Professor Dean said.

"As the university of Australia's national capital, the University of Canberra is proud to bring this international festival of design and architecture to our great city."

"There are many opportunities for business and the wider community to get involved in the biennial and I invite the community to join us in this exciting endeavour."

National Capital Authority chief executive Annabelle Pegrum said the launch - exactly a year ahead of the 2007 Canberra Biennial - gave the community plenty of time to get behind the event.

"The 2007 Canberra Biennial is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the national capital to the world and the nation as a thriving city which demonstrates innovative planning, design and architecture," Ms Pegrum said.

"Next year's theme taps into our city's strength as a centre for sporting excellence and innovation. The 2007 Canberra Biennial will spark the interest of the wider community by showing how design can influence every aspect of our lives."

Neil Savery, chief planning executive of the ACT Planning and Land Authority, said the 2007 Biennial would build on the success of last year's inaugural biennial to establish the festival as one of Canberra's signature events.

"The second Canberra Biennial will help consolidate on this unique concept in Canberra's calendar of events," Mr Savery said.

"It is appropriate that a city which enjoys the design inheritance that Canberra has seeks to promote the role that all forms of design play in our daily lives. As the theme of this event illustrates, design has many broad applications and evolves as advances in technology lead to innovation."
Student news website archived for generations to see

Jacquelyn Curtis

31 October 2006. An on-line news source produced by journalism students has been recognised as a website of national significance by the National Library of Australia.

The National Library is committed to preserving electronic publications of lasting cultural value and will archive NowUC onto the PANDORA web archive. The archive is designed to preserve and provide long-term access to online publications of significance within an Australian context.

NowUC is a news and current affairs publication that is produced by journalism students. Incorporating text stories plus audio and video streaming technology, the website provides print and broadcast coverage of campus, local and national news events.

Convenor of NowUC and print journalism lecturer Crispin Hull said the website provided ‘immense practical help to journalism students’.

“NowUC ensures that the discipline of publication to the world at large is applied to journalism students’ work,” he said.

“Now their work goes public and it is subjected to the scrutiny of the public at large.”

Journalism course convenor Jennifer Kitchener said NowUC provides students with the “opportunity to gain the sort of professional experience employers are looking for”.

“Rather than just filing stories that only their tutors and classmates see, their work now has a much wider audience,” she said.

A former editor of The Canberra Times, Mr Hull said the opportunity to be published beyond the classroom helps students to “learn the importance of fairness and accuracy in reporting” as people in the community can comment and challenge their work.

Several hundred stories have been published since NowUC was launched in 2004. Previous editors have included Katina Curtis and Paige Darby. Current NowUC editor and final year student Andrew Carr said the inclusion of NowUC on PANDORA was a credit to the hard work and persistence of journalism students and staff.

“It's been a great incentive for journalism students to be included in the PANDORA project,” Mr Carr said.

“Knowing that our work will be preserved and read for years to come has really inspired us to make our contributions as good as can be.”
Monitor meets... 
Francesca Rendle-Short

Where are you from and how long have you lived in Canberra?
I grew up in Brisbane. I’ve lived in Canberra long enough to bump into someone I know every time I go somewhere.

What do you do at the University?
Lecture in the creative writing program.

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear University of Canberra?
The tree-top view outside my window.

What is your favourite thing about Canberra?
The big western skies in the gloaming.

If you could change anything about Canberra what would it be?
Domestic architecture—particularly the height of ceilings in ex-guvies.

What are you: reading / watching / listening to?
- I’m reading Benang by Kim Scott because I’ve been told there is a line about burying memory in shame. I haven’t found it yet.
- I’m watching The Chaser because they’re so gutsy.
- I’m listening to any adagio movement by any composer because my new cat is called Adagio for short.

Name three famous people (alive/dead/fictional) you would like to have dinner with and where in Canberra you’d take them?
- Vita Sackville West—pizza at the Fyshwick Markets
- Richard E Grant as Ralphie Compton in Wah-Wah—Vietnamese at ‘eat-street’ in Dickson
- Hélène Cixous—The Ginger Room at Old Parliament House

What couldn’t you live without and why?
Paper and pen to write on—because I would stop breathing.

Where did you go on your last holiday?
East Balmain, Sydney to visit the Biennale (especially the figurines of Antony Gormley on Wharf 1—they took my breath away)

How would you spend your ideal weekend?
A sleep-in—a good coffee (always)—a bit of art (any where, any sort)—a newspaper or two to read, to feel as though I’m in a bigger world—a walk in the garden in the sun in my pyjamas (to make me feel as though I don’t have to do anything)—all the while chatting with friends.
Jacquelyn Curtis enjoyed a night of gallic wit as French romantic comedy The Valet opened the University-supported Canberra Film Festival 31 October 2006: I was pleasantly surprised to find this light-hearted romantic comedy thoroughly amusing - somewhat ironic given the entrenched French stereotype.

But as any film enthusiast knows, plenty of good films are often made by playing outside the stereotypes, and the Parisian setting provides the perfect backdrop for a fresh take on the well-worn love triangle plot.

The film opens with a liaison between Pierre Levasseur, a high flying CEO, and his lover, the world famous model Elena Simonsen. But this is not an idyllic romantic rendezvous - Elena has had enough of Pierre's promises to leave his wife and his placating token gifts. She storms out onto the street with Pierre in pursuit. Whilst they quarrel, a paparazzi photographer captures them together, and shortly thereafter Mrs Levasseur is demanding answers. In attempting to save his marriage (or as becomes apparent later Mrs Levasseur's half share in his company) Pierre tries to convince his wife that the model is not his lover, but the girlfriend of a passer-by who wound up in the photo.

That passer-by is Francois Pignon, a sweet but pitiable car parking attendant who's recent rejected marriage proposal and consequential broken heart left him wandering miserably down the Parisian street.

In order to make his cover story believable, Pierre convinces Francois and Elena to pose as a couple and move in together, promising money for both of them and a divorce from his wife for Elena. In the hope that his improved financial state will win over his childhood sweetheart Emilie, Francois accepts and begins to lead a double life.

As would be expected, things go awry when Elena and Francois develop a friendship making Pierre insanely jealous. The cunning and surprisingly witty supermodel, Elena flaunts her 'relationship' with Francois to make Pierre realise what he is missing. Things reach fever pitch when Mrs Levasseur is not convinced by the staged relationship and begins to wage her own revenge on her scoundrel husband.

In fact, the film was far better written and made great use of the actors' commendable comedic timing than recent similarly-themed Hollywood offerings.
'Demarketing' recommended to protect Blue Mountains

Jason Tozer

31 October 2006: The delicate balance between encouraging visitors to the Blue Mountains National Park and protecting this valuable piece of our environment was the subject of a University of Canberra research project.

Tourism student Christine Kern examined 'demarketing': the process of striking this balance, by simultaneously encouraging and managing visitor numbers for her master's thesis.

Ms Kern conducted a case study on the Blue Mountains National Park and applied classic marketing theories to the data collected to study the use of demarketing as a tool to balance environment conservation and tourism demand.

The recommendations of Ms Kern's research include better publicising of regulations relating to visits to the park and of its zoning system, which restricts certain activities to particular areas of the park. She also encouraged "more conscious application of demarketing" to manage visitor demand.

She said demarketing is poorly understood and the limited research on it was one of the reasons for her investigating the concept for her thesis.

Heritage

"With nature-based tourism growing in popularity, the impact of high volumes of visitors to world heritage areas, marine parks and national parks is taking its toll on the environment in some areas," she said.

"A lot of people are not quite sure what demarketing is, it's not the opposite of marketing but actually a part of it. It involves both discouraging people - totally or temporarily - and redistributing them between seasons, different national parks or different areas of the same national park.

"The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service do a very good job in balancing visitation and conserving the environment and the park values, for example through highlighting to visitors appropriate environmental behaviour in their promotional material.

"However, demarketing measures are still used rather unconsciously as there is no planned demarketing strategy. Therefore I suggested a more conscious application of demarketing."

Ms Kern, who is originally from Germany, first came across the concept of demarketing while completing her bachelor degree in tourism management at the University of Brighton, England.

Location

However, she says she choose to undertake her masters at the University of Canberra because of its tourism lecturers and close proximity to some of Australia's more famous national parks.

"Part of my decision to study here was because of the recent work of its lecturers," she said.

"But also there are a lot of interesting national parks in Australia and the location of the University was good for my topic because it allowed me to do a case study on the Blue Mountains, which is a really beautiful area."
New HR director has strategic vision

Edward O’Daly

31 October 2006: The University’s research expertise was part of the lure to Canberra for new human resources (HR) director Leone Gregory.

Ms Gregory joined the University six weeks ago, moving from Townsville, where she worked in HR in the electricity industry and before that for the Australian Institute for Marine Science.

“One of the exciting things about working at the University of Canberra is this is an organisation that’s actually researching HR,” she said.

“Communication is a key part of what we do and there’s a whole school of communication here.”

Also appealing about her new job is the opportunity to practise strategic HR – often restricted to corporate head offices in Sydney and Melbourne – without giving up the joys of rural living.

Having lived in Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland the ACT allows her to tick another of Australia’s states and territories off her list – and to indulge her passion for bird watching with a new region’s worth of species.

At the University, Ms Gregory intends to align the work of the HR team closely to the University’s strategic goals and will revisit the area’s policies and processes to make it more service-oriented.

“We’ll look at the strategic plan and the HR processes needed to underpin that,” she said.

So far she’s found staff enthusiastic about repositioning HR as a “business partner” to the rest of the University.

“We’re just starting out on the journey, but the feedback I’ve had from staff has been very positive.”
Nurse adds musical strings to her bow

Jacquelyn Curtis

31 October 2006: A musically-inclined university staff member has made some interesting new friends lately.

Linda Dalla Torre, a registered nurse at the University Health and Counselling Centre, and 1993 Herbert Burton Medal recipient, has visited Mr Beethoven, Mr Mozart, and the wonderful Mr Schubert - all through her participation in the Maruki Community Orchestra.

Ms Dalla Torre learned to play the piano as a child but had "always yearned" to play the violin and one day be part of an orchestra. It was after her eight-year-old daughter began learning violin that she took the plunge and also enrolled in lessons.

"When I did eventually decide to learn a year ago, some members of my family and some close friends thought that I was far too old to learn the violin, and all I would ever do is scratch around, make a terrible noise and waste my time."

More than a year on, Ms Dalla Torre devotes half her weekend to making music, exercising her creative side and passion for classical music as a member of the Maruki Community Orchestra (MCO).

Founded a little over a year ago, the MCO boasts over 70 members of varying skill level and ranging in age from 10 to 80 years-old. Conducted by John Gould, former Principle Violist with the London Symphony Orchestra and a founding member of the Carl Pini String Quartet, the MCO regularly enhances the Canberra music scene with concerts at the National Museum of Australia and other events such as the Canberra Festival.

Despite being a relative newcomer to the world of orchestral music, Ms Dalla Torre has found the orchestra to be the perfect setting to hone her musical skills.

"The orchestra is great," Ms Dalla Torre said. "I absolutely love it. It is a wonderfully supportive and friendly environment in which to share my love for music."

Ms Dalla Torre said the unique aspect of belonging to MCO was that there was "no need to have high level musical skills to play real music plus, it provides the opportunity to challenge yourself as a musician and learn from more advanced members".

"Not every single note played has to be technically brilliant," she said. "It is much easier to learn when you are in a group setting as you're more likely to take risks.

"You might go for that really difficult note that you wouldn't attempt if you were performing solo. And, if you do make a mistake - it's not obvious."

"We have a lot of fun and a lot of laughs, and we get to play some really stunning pieces."

"What I do every Saturday is not just about me," Ms Dalla Torre said.

"It's about belonging to a wonderful project, bigger than the sum of the parts - it's a journey for many musicians of all ages, skills and experience taking us collectively to a place none of us individually could reach."

Interested musicians can email Ms Dalla Torre at Or for more information about the Maruki Community Orchestra visit www.dcnicholls.com/maruki/
Stonefest
Which act did you come to see today?

Jacquelyn Curtis and Jason Tozer

31 October 2006: At day two of Stonefest we found who were the biggest drawcards.

“All of them. The line-up today is great.”
Luke Schofield

“Sarah Blasko, she’s amazing.”
Chris Ward

“I dunno... Sarah Blasko mostly.”
Laura Pearce

“Hoodoo Gurus. I like their name and they’re funky.”
Nina Conkey

“I’m pretty keen for Sarah Blasko.”
Angus Watson
Stonefest
Who was the highlight last night?
Jacquelyn Curtis and Jason Tozer
31 October 2006: At day two of Stonefest we found who were the best acts of Friday's opening night.

"Regurgitator. They were exciting."
Mark Boretti

"Regurgitator. They've always been good and didn't disappoint."
Ian Inness

"The Avalanches. They had a great dance set."
Erin Brown

"Infusion. There was really good dance tunes."
Zoe Berzin

"The Avalanches. They were good to dance to and a perfect end to the night."
Courtney McConnell

"The Herd. They were 77% great."
Matt McConnell

"Infusion, because I was there having a good time!"
Joel Ferguson
Discovery day for high school English elite

Jacquelyn Curtis

31 October 2006: Promising students from Lanyon High School explored the professional and creative communication disciplines this week, trying their hand at multimedia technology and creative writing.

The 'English Day Out' was attended by students who either excel in or enjoy English-based subjects in their high school curriculum and was designed to enable them to find out about University degrees that would utilise their skills and talents in English.

Course conveners from advertising and marketing, public relations and journalism shared their experiences and expertise about the professional communication subjects, whilst staff from creative communications spoke about subjects in creative writing, arts and multimedia.

Those students interested in applying their English skills to learning a foreign language were able to gain information about University degrees in international studies and languages.

The students' careers adviser, Livia Tigwell, said the English Day Out allowed the students to "research where their English skills can take them".

"We've recruited students that are good at or enjoy English, but who haven't yet decided what to do with their interest or talent," she said.

"The chance to see what the facilities are like and speak to people about the course opens them up to a broad range of options they may not have otherwise seen."

The students undertook tours through Building 9, visiting the TV control room and audio studios.

Student George Belibassakis said he was interested in pursuing a journalism career while testing out the audio studios.

Nicole Folkard said she was keen to pursue a degree in public relations and the English Day Out had been "very informative".

"I've found out what you would learn when you study that course," she said.
Health claims make for skeptical consumers

Jacquelyn Curtis

31 October 2006: If you’ve ever made a purchase in the supermarket because an item was “99 per cent fat free” or perhaps because it was “An excellent source of calcium for strong bones” - research by a visiting scholar may have you rethinking common health claims on supermarket products.

Peter Williams, director of Smart Foods Centre from the University of Wollongong, presented his research into consumers and health claims for foods at the University last week as part of the Gadi lecture series for Preventative Health and Wellbeing.

Associate Professor Williams provided an overview of his research into “foods with overt claims about health impacts” and how consumers respond to products with health claims.

Health claims are messages that make a direct link between eating a food or nutrient and reduced risk of disease. An example of a health claim is “A woman’s diet rich in folate may help prevent spina bifida in her baby.”

Professor Williams’ research revealed health claims are widely used but not well monitored.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) establishes categories of health claims ranging from the general, which makes a nutritional or functional claim, to a high range claim which would state risk reduction for serious diseases – “High in Calcium to prevent osteoperosis.”

Professor Williams said it was high range claims that had the potential to mislead consumers and affect purchase behaviour.

“Health claims are an area where public health officials have very different attitudes,” Professor Williams said. “Some see health claims as confusing to consumers, others see them as informative.”

Professor Williams said despite a large range of products with health claims, surveys conducted on the buying habits of consumers revealed many were skeptical.

“Many see them as an advertising tool, something which can be bought,” he said. “They want some sort of regulation and reassurance that they are making healthy choices.”

Professor Williams said while health claims can drive healthier choices, he argued stricter requirements should need to be fulfilled before a product could carry a high level health claim.
Next Vice-Chancellor appointed

Edward O’Daly

24 October 2006: A new Vice-Chancellor has been appointed to take over from Professor Roger Dean next March.

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Monash University Professor Stephen Parker will take on the role, when Professor Dean returns to full-time research.

A musician, cyclist and father-of-three, Professor Parker’s academic background is in law. He has practised as a solicitor in the UK, lectured in the subject at University College Cardiff, the Australian National University, Griffith University and Monash, and is a respected and influential legal researcher.

As a university leader, Professor Parker has a reputation as a strategic thinker and is credited with "reconnecting" the Monash law school with the legal profession.

His current role at Monash encompasses the university’s educational coursework programs, academic staffing, industrial relations, the student experience and the library. He is also responsible for strategic planning and quality assurance.

Professor Parker is an active participant in university life and ensures he doesn’t lose touch with the student experience at Monash through a ‘student for the day’ program, which regularly sees him immersed in student life for a typical day.

“I throw myself into the collegial life of universities,” he said.

“I am the patron of the University’s cycling team, which involves the completion of a 210km ride in October each year. I play in a campus R&B band, and sometimes perform with my daughters, who are all singers, at university functions.”

Professor Parker said he was excited about the opportunities for the University of Canberra in Australia’s national capital, and would be working with the University to realise them.

“The ACT is a growing and increasingly diverse region, and it will be a privilege to continue building the University of Canberra as a high quality teaching and research institution serving its many communities and adapting to their needs,” he said.

“If we can ensure that high quality educational programs are delivered by research-active scholars who are well connected with the world around them, the future is very bright for the University.

“I look forward to returning to live in the ACT, where I spent six happy years, and playing a part in civic life there.”

Chancellor Professor Ingrid Moses said she was delighted that Professor Parker had accepted the role.

“Professor Parker is a highly distinguished academic, an outstanding university leader and has a challenging and persuasive vision for the University of Canberra,” Professor Moses said.
Sustainability website helps gardens grow greener

Edward O'Daly

24 October 2006. Australia's gardeners will be able to have gardens as green as their thumbs thanks to a new sustainable gardening website produced by the University's landscape architecture students.

The fourth-year project, supported by the Open Gardens Scheme and the Australian Institute of Landscape Architecture, puts the sustainability expertise of practicing landscape architects within a few clicks of amateur gardeners.

“"There is a real need to communicate how to practice sustainable garden design to the wider Australian gardening community," said lecturer Andrew MacKenzie.

"Every time you do something in your garden, there is an element of design and the design decisions you make have an impact on sustainability.

"Sustainability is not about doing without, it's about making more intelligent use of what you have."

The website offers advice on a range of issues including energy efficiency, water use and the selection of plants and materials. The students gathered the information through interviews with professional landscape architects - bringing the latest industry practice to the public.

Mr MacKenzie said he hoped backing could be found to develop and maintain the website in the future.

For Katie Earle, one of the students behind the site, it was an opportunity to learn more about her future profession, as well as develop expertise in composing and analysing surveys.

"Individual gardeners can make a difference by adopting sustainability principles in their gardens," she said.

"Both at a local, regional and global scale, creating environmentally sustainable gardens can ultimately help replenish natural resources such as water and reduce the impact on the ozone layer via energy reduction, affecting the way we will live in the future."
Stonefest soon to appear in our own backyard

Jacquelyn Curtis

24 October 2006: With only days to go before this year’s Stonefest kicks off – a week of events will preoccupy students from impending exams and assessments while they celebrate the foundation of the University.

The celebrations include free feeds on the Concourse, the fiercely contended Trivia night and Ressies T-Shirt competition, a Dodge-Ball match and the hotly anticipated Cowboys and Indians Bar night – with the festivities culminating in Stonefest 2006 on 27 and 28 October.

The very first Stonefest took place in 1971, when the University was still known as the Canberra Centre Advanced Education. Now, in its 35th year, the annual festival has grown into one of the longest running festivals in Australia and the premiere music event in Canberra.

To honour the unveiling of the foundation stone back in 1968, this year’s Stonefest offers the great rock gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh – in the form of headline acts Hoodoo Gurus, The Avalanches and Regurgitator.

"This year we’ve tried to make Stonefest as strong as possible," publicist Jem Natividad.

"With four international acts in the lineup - which has never happened before - we’ve really got the ball rolling to make it bigger and better than ever."

Also featured on this year’s bill is a number of International acts attributing to the growing status of Stonefest. From the USA - Drop The Lime, Kid 606 and Urge Overkill will bring their talents to the Stonefest Stage while UK offers up Scottich DJ Chris Lake.

Other crowd favourites are sure to be Aussie hip-hop act The Herd, the dynamic Sarah Blasko and progressive rockers Cog. Canberra bands Los Capitanes and Hancock Basement round out the line-up with a little local style.

Those inclined to dance the night away will find inspiration in the impressive DJ and electronic music line-up featuring Infusion, Kid Kenobi, Chris Fraser and Bass Kleph.
Book helps Queanbeyan understand the bush

Jason Tozer

24 October 2006: The University of Canberra has continued to help Queanbeyan residents become more involved in their bush environment with a 90-page booklet titled *Bushwise in Queanbeyan*.

The booklet is a joint effort between the University, the Queanbeyan City Council and Carwoola Landcare Group and is part of the NSW government's 'Our Environment – it's a living thing' project.

The University's involvement was led by environmental science lecturer and course convenor Margi Böhm and head of landscape architecture Dianne Firth.

Resource, Environmental and Heritage Science students worked with Dr Böhm to research topics like native animal, bird, reptile and plant species, water conservation and other issues related to living with bush while Dr Dianne Firth provided the information on cultural context, horticultural issues, garden design and construction and took the lead in the final stages of editing the booklet.

"Queanbeyan City Council approached me to be part of the working committee and then invited us to make a submission," Dr Böhm said.

"I employed a bunch of undergraduate students to survey Queanbeyan residents last September by door-knocking on randomly selected streets and then spend a few weeks analysing the data and writing a report."

The outcomes of the survey were then used by the working committee to guide the development of the booklet.

The booklet offers a wide range of information including innovative garden design, respecting native wildlife and preparing homes for the bushfire season.

Dr Böhm says the booklet's aim is to inform residents about the bush around them and make efforts in conservation and has been warmly received.

"It was a fascinating experience to talk with people about how they perceive their relationship with the bush," she said.

"Most people were interested in things quite different to what the booklet ended up delivering but even so, the booklet has had excellent reviews by the community."

The booklet adds to the environmental awareness Dr Böhm and her students have achieved with Queanbeyan school students as part of a mentoring program which began several years ago.

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

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Charitable staff in the pink at morning tea

Edward O'Daly

24 October 2006: Generous student administration staff raised $275 for Cancer Council of Australia at their fourth monthly morning tea.

Pink-themed get together saw the team tuck into pink cakes, pink drinks and even a pink fondue in recognition of the charity's pink ribbon day.

Cath Raby, Tracey Armstrong, Jenny Robens and Amanda Cunningham cut some slices of - you've guessed it - pink cake

Photo: Edward O'Daly

Organised by student systems support manager Amanda Cunningham the regular morning teas are an opportunity for staff in the area to meet up, celebrate the colleagues' achievements with a employee and team of the month awards, and do their bit for charity.

Each tea is themed and in aid of a good cause, with the area divided into three teams to cater for the functions in a spirit of healthy competition.

A student administration giving tree records funds raised with $465 already given to worthy causes.

Student services director Bruce Lines said the idea for the morning teas came from a staff planning retreat earlier in the year and was helping to build on an already strong sense of team spirit.

"To date, student admin has donated over $400 to charity," he said.

"It's also really emphasised the work community and pulling together that is such a positive in our unit."
Spring Walk raises nearly $1,000

Gaye Morrison

24 October 2006: Staff, friends and also some children joined together on Friday 20 October for a spring walk to Lake Ginninderra to raise money for UNIFEM peace scholars. Led by the Chancellor, Professor Ingrid Moses, walkers crossed to John Knight Memorial Park before returning to the University's staff club.

Leonie-Ruth Acland, Director of the University of Canberra’s Harmony Program was delighted with the walk which raised $906 for UNIFEM. The money will go to support two Afghanistan scholarship winners who have commenced law studies at UTS and Macquarie Universities in Sydney, and a young woman from Timor Leste who will study maternal health in Australia in 2007.

Addressing the group prior to the start of the walk, Professor Moses said that as a multicultural campus it was important to support the UNIFEM campaign that will assist women to undertake studies in Australia.

Student exchange manager Kate Smart (front) steps out accompanied by Development and International colleagues Helen Deutsch (left), Tiffany King and Jo Gilfillan (right)

Photo: Edward O'Daly
TESOL students flex research muscles

Edward O'Daly

24 October 2006: Future english language teachers have developed their research skills as part of a special project.

The master of arts in teaching english to speakers of other languages (TESOL) students undertook research projects as part of the 'professional projects in language teaching and learning' unit. The fruits of their research were revealed with a poster display in building 9 last week.

Ms Watts reviews her research
Photo: Edward O'Daly

Unit convener Eleni Petraki said the research was an important part of their professional development and would help them to evaluate their work in the future. "Every year we get very good quality projects," Dr Petraki added.

Student Leonie Watts conducted her research among Korean students at the Institute for the Nations theological college in Watson. She investigated the barriers to the students, who are taught in Korean, improving their English during their stay.

The project looked at the possibility of the students using online learning to develop sufficient confidence in their English to strike up conversations with native speakers and further improve.

She said the project helped develop her research skills.

"You've got to ask the right questions. You have to do a lot of thinking before you ask a question and consider how it's going to be understood."
University of Canberra celebrates $1.2M grant success

Edward O'Daly

17 October 2006. The University of Canberra has been awarded more than a $1 million in Australian Research Council (ARC) funding, with a success rate exceeding the national average in some areas.

The University's four grants, announced today, will help combat dengue fever and Ross River virus, examine the role our oceans could play in the fight against climate change and predict the effects of population ageing.

The University's 50 per cent success rate in Linkage Grant applications was above the national average of 42.9 per cent and its success rate for Discovery Grants was slightly below the national average of 20.4 per cent.

Of the four grants, two were awarded to virologist Associate Professor Suresh Mahalingam, following on from success with two National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants last year, one from the ARC in 2004 and two from the NHMRC in 2003.

"It's certainly been a productive period for getting grants over the last few years," Associate Professor Mahalingam said.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Roger Dean was delighted with the University's success: "This process is becoming ever more competitive so it is a great credit to these researchers that they have won a total of $1.2 million of national competitive research funding for the University of Canberra," he said.

"There are many sources of funding where University of Canberra researchers find success, but the ARC grants are among the most prestigious and the most competitive, so particular congratulations must go to our ARC grant recipients."

University of Canberra ARC grants:

- Professor Ann Harding, Dr Justine McNamara - $336,409 Linkage Grant to investigate the spatial implications of population ageing.
- Associate Professor Suresh Mahalingam - $315,000 Discovery Grant for research into Ross River virus and a $150,708 Linkage Grant to research novel strategies in the design and development of antivirals against dengue virus.
- Professor Bill Maher - $390,000 Discovery Grant for a project to help boost our understanding of the ocean's role in taking greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere.

In addition to its two Discovery Grants and two Linkage Grants University of Canberra researchers are involved in projects administered by other universities:

- Associate Professor Ruth Foxwell is a chief investigator on a University of New South Wales-administered project researching the ACT health system.
- Associate Professors Simon Kelly and Richard Percival will work with the University of Sydney to investigate the economic impacts of disease on older workers.
Student brings home medal from world rowing champs

Edward O'Daly

17 October 2006: A University of Canberra human biology student has returned from the rowing world championships in the UK with a bronze medal.

Sarah Cook has her sights set firmly on the Beijing Olympics after rowing in the Australian women's eight crew in the competition at Eton.

Ms Cook has not had an easy run between being picked out as a potential rowing star in the ACT Academy of Sport's talent identification program six years ago and taking her place on the podium at last month's competition.

After battling illness (glandular fever) and injury (tendonitis and a broken rib), she won a seat with the eight in a highly-competitive process that's seen four new rowers join the team in the last 12 months - and she's determined to keep it.

"I was pretty pleased to be on the podium at Eton and hopefully I'll keep my place and go for a medal at the Olympics," she said.

It's hard to imagine that six years ago, Ms Cook had only rowed once and never taken it seriously until her potential for the sport was identified.

"I'd never really settled on a sport, but I was thrown into an elite program from day one. I love rowing now," she said.

Since the return from training and competition in Europe, Ms Cook has a two week break before the serious business of training begins again - with 180km bike rides a gruelling new addition to the regime.

"I haven't done them before, so I'm not sure what to expect, but they're going to be hard work," she said.

With only one day off training a week and training lasting between four and ten hours a day, Ms Cook admits it's been a struggle to keep up with her studies - particularly when overseas competition and training saw her miss the first 10 weeks of this semester.

"The University's been great," she said.

"There are a lot of athletes here, so it's not uncommon to have students in my situation, and the University is flexible about when I do my assessments and exams.

"I'm not going to make a whole lot of money out of rowing so it's good to have qualifications to fall back on - plus if all I did was row, I'd go stir crazy."
Researcher asks if we're ready for a bird flu pandemic

Edward O'Daly

17 October 2006: Another influenza virus pandemic is overdue, according to a visiting expert on the disease.

Ralph Tripp, director of the Center for Disease Intervention at the University of Georgia, is in Canberra as part of his ongoing collaboration with University virologist Suresh Mahalingam and gave a public talk on bird flu last week.

According to Dr Tripp, whose current work on the world’s preparedness for a major bird flu outbreak is funded by the US Defense Department, pandemics are historically likely to occur three times a century.

A pandemic occurs when a disease "completely changes its face", nobody has immunity to it and it is transferred rapidly from human to human, Dr Tripp explained. The 20th century saw the devastating 1919 Spanish flu outbreak and further pandemics in 1957 and 1968.

"We are way overdue for a pandemic," he said.

The Hong Kong bird flu outbreak in 1996, when the disease made the leap to humans, and the international response to SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) in 2003 had boosted our preparedness for a new pandemic.

While vaccines and antiviral drugs were the ‘ideal’ way to combat a pandemic, risk management, containment and the establishment of new treatment centres would also play an important part in a future disease response.

"We didn't have a vaccine for SARS, but we were able to confine it and we can likely do the same for pandemic flu."

We have "learned our lessons" and are closer to understanding what a vaccine will need to be effective, he added.

Dr Tripp and his colleagues are also working on better detection of the disease.

"If you can't detect a disease, you can't combat it. Current tests take up to 10 days, by that time you're either dead or you've recovered."

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

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Positive steps to keep Australian hearts beating

Jacquelyn Curtis

17 October 2006: A presentation by the National Heart Foundation outlining positive steps to avoid heart disease was part of a health week at the University.

Combined with the Red Cross Donormobile’s visit to campus, National Ride to Work day and a ‘pedal power’ seminar to promote cycling during spring, the University has promoted a range of health issues to staff and wider community over the last week.

Sally Williams, a dietician and representative from the National Heart Foundation, presented a seminar outlining risk factors attributed to heart disease, which she described as “a huge problem in Australia”.

Ms Williams said cardiovascular disease was “not just a middle-aged overweight men’s condition”.

“It is our biggest killer,” she said. “Heart attack and stroke are the main causes for death from cardiovascular diseases and they are responsible for more deaths than any one cancer.”

Cardiovascular disease refers to a group of conditions that affect the heart and blood vessels. They include hypertension, coronary heart disease, arrhythmias and atherosclerosis – a condition that can lead to blood clots.

Smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, poor nutrition and physical inactivity have been identified by the Heart Foundation as risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

“I think people need to know what can happen,” Ms Williams explained. “Many people have cardiovascular disease or have a family member who has had a heart attack, but they often don’t know exactly how it was caused.”

The Heart Foundation’s new ‘Just Walk It’ initiative is designed to promote the benefits of physical activity for reducing the risk of heart disease, and the Heart Foundation ‘tick’ seen on many food products encourages consumers to make ‘healthy heart’ food choices.

“Reducing cholesterol can lower the risk of illness or heart disease by 30 to 50 per cent,” Ms Williams said.

“A tiny decrease in cholesterol and you’re getting a huge difference in the risk factor.”
New authors show some backbone by publishing book

Jason Tozer

17 October 2006: This year’s edition of FIRST, the annual collection of creative writing from the University’s students, was launched by author Nigel Featherstone at the Co-Op Bookshop last week.

Titled Vertebrae, the collection of 32 pieces from 26 contributors is an eclectic mix of post-modern writings that explore the ideas of strength and weakness, how they coexist and how they contradict.

Mr Featherstone, who has just published his first novel titled Remnants and has had 40 short stories published, says the collection is a sign of vitality in the University’s writing community.

“As I read and re-read the collection and let the pieces seep into me I wondered about its purpose - vertebrae is a strong word, but it is also fragile,” he said.

“This book tells us that some of us are still very strong, still very fragile, still asking questions, but most importantly that we are still alive.”

The books editor, creative writing lecturer Francesca Rendle-Short, along with 10 volunteer students spent more than 30 weeks organising, selecting and editing material before publishing the final product.

“Everyone who was involved in the selection had to read all 256 submissions,” Ms Rendle-Short said.

“The selection was made ‘blind’, without knowing the authors’ names, until the last phase of selection, the final shortlist, ensuring the process is unbiased.”

The launch of the collection was not just an opportunity for writers to show their talents but also designers, with graphic design students Jessica Johnson and Kornelia Kaczmarek designing the cover.

Vertebrae is currently available from the Co-Op Bookshop for $12.
Internship program links education and industry

Jacquelyn Curtis

17 October 2006: A breakfast held to celebrate an innovative internship program demonstrated the close relationship with business a relatively new computing degree is already renowned for.

The Bachelor of Business Informatics (BBI) course is designed to align IT and business by producing graduates who have an understanding of how organisations function and how to design and implement IT systems.

The internship program, which has contributed to a 100 per cent success rate of employment for BBI graduates, sees final year students undertake 240 hours of ‘real world’ experience.

Current interns and BBI students who will participate in the program next year networked at the breakfast with industry partners including the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) and the Australian Tax Office.

Course Convener and Deputy Head of Information Sciences and Engineering Penny Collings said the internships had been well received by both students and employers.

“The students love it,” she said. “They act as the interface between business and the programmers.”

“It is very gratifying for the students to get to undertake work that matches their training.”

Stephen Moore, from DEWR, said their organisation decided to get involved after noticing the high quality of BBI students graduating from the University.

“We noticed that the UC graduates were excellent and decided we needed to get more involved in order to attract them to us,” he said.

“We thought ‘this is what we really need.’”

Jayne O’Leary, who is undertaking her internship with DEWR, said the experience of “getting to work with different people” and having a role in production support had been a great opportunity to put her knowledge into practice.

Fellow student, Katarina Franjic said her internship with software consultancy firm Deloitte had been a “really good experience and opportunity to interact with people in the industry”.

Through the internship, Ms Franjic has secured full time work with Deloitte after she graduates.

“It’s been great, because now my career path is pretty much set,” she said.

Lex Stewart described the internship experience at the ACT Government’s InTACT as providing him with the industry experience “you can’t learn from textbooks.”
Volunteer's route to Philippines begins on catwalk

This article has been removed...
Young scientists test drive University for the day

Edward O'Daly

17 October 2006: Forensics, aliens and the air that we breathe made up a special day for budding young scientists on campus last week.

The Siemens Science Experience brought university to life for school-age scientists keen to learn more - but keep having fun - in their school holidays.

University student Katarina Mikac introduces Telopea Park student Adam Roggero to some microscopic monsters of the deep

Photo: Edward O'Daly

The students came face-to-face with tiny waterborn creatures that provided the inspiration for might movie monsters, decoded the living secrets from long-dead human bones and learned how light, colour and plants all come together to keep us alive.

Telopea Park's Adam Roggero said the visit had given him a taste of university life, while Hayden Matschke of Ulladulla High School said "everyone was equal" on the day, because they'd all chosen to come along.
First-time blood donor overcomes fears

Despite fearing blood and needles Monitor's Jacqui Curtis did her bit when the Donormobile came to campus this week

6 October 2006: I've always dreaded needles and the sight of blood. I made the mistake of peeking during a childhood blood-test, and the frightening pace at which my blood gushed into the test-tube spawned the fear that has seen me recoil in horror for injections and shield my eyes in bloody-trauma scenes during ER.

After years of procrastinating about overcoming this fear, I finally decided that this week's visit of the Red Cross Donor Mobile to the University campus was just the impetus I needed to do it.

With a stomach-full of juice, water and lunch I headed up past the Boiler House lecture theatre to where the Donor Mobile was parked. Here I waited among fellow donors: a mother and daughter, University staff, members from the Golden Key Society who had rallied their members to donate, and students - many of whom had taken the opportunity to "donate with a mate" as part of the new Red Cross Blood Service incentive scheme.

My first hurdle was the haemoglobin test - a small finger prick which tests the iron level of the donor. The nurse explained that they "always put the safety of the donor first" when interviewing potential candidates and if the iron level was not satisfactory they would be deferred from donating. The thick, juicy steak I had for dinner the previous night meant I passed easily.

With my pulse racing at 108 (a "dead giveaway of my nervousness" according to Nurse Linda) I hopped into the chair. The tourniquet was applied and I was given a stress ball and instructed to squeeze it whilst Nurse Terry decided which one of my veins would be the lucky victim.

"I want this to be a nice experience for you, as it is your first time," she said.

"Okay, I'm going to put the needle in now." I looked up at the florescent lighting, gripped onto the stress ball and winced. Then it was over. It stung a little, but it was over pretty quickly. Every twenty seconds or so I had to give it a gentle squeeze to keep the blood flowing - concentrating on doing that helped me to forget about the needle in my arm.

"All done. Let's take this needle out now," Nurse Mistie said to me. "You've done very well for a first time donor."

"Oh thanks, but actually I'm feeling a little funny just now..."

Mistie sprang into action, getting me a wash cloth for my face and tipping my chair backward so the blood could run back to my head.

I felt a little overwhelmed and nauseated, but I found comfort in her reassurance that this kind of response "was extremely normal for a first time donor" and that after a few minutes upside down I'll be back to normal. By the time I was back to normal and upright, I realised that in between the commotion I had even failed her removing the needle.

With a leap a life of joy I contributed to the greater good of the community and on a more personal level, having faced my fear - it was back to work with a big milkshake reward for my efforts. This won't be the last time I give blood.

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

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A floral romance: how plants could help treat diabetes

Jacqui Curtis

6 October 2006: From traditional Chinese remedies to the latest new-age natural treatments - plant derived medicines have long offered natural, alternative ways to treat a variety of common ailments - and provided lead compounds for drug design and development.

David Lin, senior lecturer in medicinal chemistry and pharmacology, revealed in a recent seminar Romancing with medicinal plants: Search for Anti-inflammatory & Anti-diabetic Agents that medicinal plants including the Australian Ficus (Ficus racemosa) and popular green tea (Camellia sinensis) may help to fight against inflammatory diseases including diabetes.

Dr Lin’s work has found plant compounds with the potential to treat diabetes

"Plants have been used as medicines from the earliest times," Dr Lin said. "More than seven thousand medicinal compounds in western pharmaceuticals are derived from plants, and the template for many conventional drugs comes from plants."

With emerging evidence showing that diabetes is an inflammatory disease, Dr Lin’s study examined a number of plants with traditionally used to treat inflammation and diabetes from Australia, Hawaii and China. The aim was to select plants with more likely to isolate active constituents that had anti-inflammatory and anti-diabetic qualities, which could be useful in formulating new treatments for diabetes and other inflammatory conditions.

"The aim of our study is to find anti-inflammatory compounds that may be used for discovery and design of anti-diabetic drugs from the plants systematically-selected from traditional medicines cross several cultures," he said.

"Treating diabetes from an anti-inflammatory perspective offers a new approach for this chronic disease.

"Racemosic acid in the Ficus plant has been identified as a new compound that inhibits a number of chemical and protein mediators in inflammation, but it is a long way to develop it into a therapeutic drug," Dr Lin said.

Dr Lin continues to work on racemosic acid with Dr David Leach and Dr Stephen Myers from Southern Cross University and Dr Rachel Li from the Canberra Hospital.
Modern architects give exhibition a strong foundation

Edward O'Daly

6 October 2006: An international exhibition of designs by leading architects of the 1920s has stopped at the University of Canberra on its world tour.

The design gallery in building 7 is the only place in the country the works can be seen before the exhibition moves to New Zealand later this month.

HE Mr Lutz, pictured with the Goethe Institute's Nicky Novy, took a close interest in the designs as he's in the process of building his own home.

Photo: Kimberly Douglas

The exhibition is a recreation of an original 1927 exhibition, the International Planning and Model Exhibition of New Architecture that toured 17 European cities and showcased works by the most famous architects of the day.

"All you can see in these two wonderful rooms was planned or built before 1927. It was the beginning of modern architecture all over Europe," curator Karin Kirsch said.

The exhibition was officially opened by German Ambassador, HE Martin Lutz, who - speaking after Professor Kirsch, University of Newcastle professor of architecture built environment Peter Droege and head of the School of Design and Architecture Craig Bremner - joked he was the "least qualified person" to talk on the subject.

"But I take a strong interest in architecture because I'm in the process of building my own family home in Germany," he said.

Professor of architecture Stephen Frith said back in the 1920s the buildings featured in the exhibition made waves across Europe with their striking modernist designs.

"In the early 1920s, the German Government sponsored the creation of a model 'village' of contemporary modern housing near Stuttgart," he said.

"The buildings proved to be highly controversial."

The architects responded by taking their designs on the road with the 1927 travelling exhibition, which has now been recreated.

"The exhibition displays reproductions of drawings and models of buildings of some of the most famous architects of the twentieth century, including Le Corbusier, Walter Gropius, Mies van der Rohe, including his glass highrise project in Berlin of 1921," Professor Frith added.

"This is a unique opportunity to view an excellent exhibition."
PR students provide winning strategies

Jason Tozer

6 October 2006. Five final-year public relations (PR) students have given their time to provide non-profit organisations award winning communication strategies and planning as part of the Public Relations Institute of Australia (PRIA) Student Challenge.

Stephanie Lyons and Isabelle Herlt, working for Heart Support Australia, and Jessica Thomas, Jessica Mackey and Gill Elphinston, working for Dragons Abreast, spent 10 weeks providing their assigned organisations with a better understanding of handling PR.

The work of the five students put quality PR advice within reach for two not-for-profit organisations

The two teams tied for the PRIA Student Challenge Award presented at the PRIA ACT State Awards for Excellence in September.

All the students agreed that despite the hard work involved in the competition, it provided a lot of valuable practical experience.

"You learn so much theory at university and one of the good aspects of the challenge was finally being able to apply it all," Ms Herlt said.

Ms Lyons said: "It is basically a summation of everything you have learned, because planning strategies involves everything you have to do as a PR practitioner."

As well as experience the competition provided them a chance to make a bigger impact on employers in the future.

"It's great practical experience and also looks good on a resume," Ms Mackey said.

Ms Thomas agreed. "A lot of firms in the industry know what the PRIA Challenge is and look at participating in it as something very positive about you," she said.

The benefits of the program extend beyond those for the students, according to Kerri Buzza, executive officer of Heart Support Australia.

"As a non profit organisation we could never afford for a professional PR company to put together a communication strategy," Ms Buzza said.

"However the work done by the girls was wonderful and every bit as professional as any PR firm would provide."

Ms Lyons and Ms Herlt will present their communication strategy to all 53 branches of Heart Support Australia at its annual general meeting in November.

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

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Voice experts speak out at biometric security conference

Edward O'Daly

6 October 2006: The University has hosted the world's first conference focusing on using voice authentication technology for security.

Interstate delegates joined representatives of Canberra agencies and businesses to learn how the technology had the potential to revolutionise security at the conference, organised by the University's National Centre for Biometric Studies (NCBS).

"This is the first conference of its kind," NCBS deputy director Clive Summerfield said.

"We're concentrating on voice because it has unique benefits that are not being explored."

According to Dr Summerfield, voice authentication has advantages over other biometric technologies - security systems that take into account a person's characteristics when verifying they are who they say they are - but had long been the "poorer cousin" to systems like fingerprint, iris and face recognition.

Voice authentication didn't require expensive hardware and worked remotely over the phone, he explained.

He said the NCBS was in a position to give organisations interested in using biometrics a balanced view of the best product for them.

"We can cut through the rhetoric to give a high-level independent view of these technologies and how they operate," he added.

Speaker Rob Allen, biometrics analyst with US business consulting firm Frost & Sullivan, told Monitor universities could have an important role to play in the biometrics sector in developing new technologies. The NCBS could act as a bridge between academia and the marketplace, helping commercialise good ideas, he said.

"If a university can get in early it will be a thought leader in this space," Mr Allen added.
High-tech court tries international moot for first time

Jason Tozer

6 October 2006: The University of Canberra School of Law has shown the world it has some of the best e-court facilities in the world by taking a leading role in planning and running the inaugural International Virtual E-Mooting competition.

Five teams from universities in Australia and the United States competed in the competition arguing cases on intellectual property for US District Court and Australian State and Territory Supreme Court judges.

Senior law lecturer Arthur Hoyle said technology is becoming an integral part of courtroom proceedings allowing shifting of time and place to make justice more affordable.

"Implementing technology in parts of cases is quite common these days," he said.

"Examples of this may be found in the fact that in many cases documents may be filed electronically, we may have digital photographs as evidence, we may have witnesses coming in by video conference from another country."

The University is one of the leaders in this area, with technology in its e-court valued at more than $300,000 comprising of document scanners, wireless internet connection, plasma screens, projectors and multiple cameras, microphones and speakers.

"We're up there with the technology as we have one of the best courts - if not the best," Mr Hoyle said.

"But we've also got students that can rise to the occasion and these are not final year students either."

The University's team, Tanya Chapman and Alexis Ford, placed third and missed out on a place in the final by only one point and Ms Chapman said the experience was something only an e-court could offer.

"It was an amazing feeling to argue before three American judges who questioned the flaws in our case and continually challenged each side to prove their arguments," she said.

"With the time difference, the American judges were adjudicating our case until almost 11pm which couldn't have been easy."

The competition has plans next year to expand and include more teams from Australia, the United States, England and even some Asian countries if translations problems can be overcome.
Calling all women cricketers

Edward O'Daly

6 October 2006: The Western District and University of Canberra Cricket Club is seeking new female players to join its ranks for the coming season.

Club president Derek Gould said players of all levels could be catered for in the club although "some experience would be preferred".

"Women's cricket in Canberra is catering to a wide range. From those that want to go to the top and play for Australia - we have had about five during the last 15 years - to those that just want to have a bit of fun," he said.

This season the club will concentrate on the 40 over and the 20/20 competitions, he said.

"The reason for this is that it is the first season for some time that we have had a women's team and we need to get this team started and ensure that we have enough players and resources for the two competitions before starting to think about the other forms of competition."

The season begins this weekend.
Student honour bound to save snakes

Jason Tozer

26 September 2006. The University's very own snake handler is putting snakes on the conservation radar with his honours project.

Environmental science graduate Ben Corey is trying to change the 'only good snake, is a dead snake' attitude and get the attention for their conservation that there is for more popular animals.

"Many people see the conservation of reptiles as a less significant environmental issue than the conservation of mammals or even birds," Mr Corey said.

"Snakes are not likely to raise the same warm sympathy that animals like koalas and bandicoots do."

His honours project involves studying the rapidly declining numbers of carpet pythons west of the Great Dividing Range.

Mr Corey is comparing the snakes' habitats and behaviour in heavily modified landscapes on farms near the rural community of Leeton, to those in relatively untouched areas in Wilandra National Park.

Surgically implanted radio transmitters are used to study their behaviour, because of the difficulty in tracking snakes, Mr Corey explained.

"Snakes are very cryptic and hard to find at the best of times so the radio transmitters allow us to follow them all the time," he said.

"The method of attaching the transmitters is not that common, because snakes have no limbs we have to anesthetise the snake and surgically implant it inside them."

According to Mr Corey the conservation of snakes has more benefits than one might immediately think.

"It's important to conserve and retain pythons in these areas out west because they are important predators in the woodland ecosystems out there," he said.

"They may provide a potential economic benefit to farmers in the control of mice and rats."

The most amazing part of his honours project is discovering the wonders of our sunburnt country.

"Out west it's very different, it's flat, red and very beautiful," Mr Corey said.

"I like spending time out there, so the fact that these snakes live there is great."
Customs team extends 100% export awards record

Edward O'Daly

26 September 2006: There is an air of quiet confidence around the University's Centre for Customs and Excise Studies as the team looks forward to the national finals of Australia's Export Awards.

With a third consecutive win in the ACT Chief Minister's Export Awards earlier this month and an ever-growing portfolio of clients, the Centre hopes to win the national export award for education, having been narrowly beaten last year.

"We've got a 100 percent record in the ACT competition over the last three years and we are reasonably optimistic this will be our year at the nationals," director Steve Holloway said.

Mr Holloway highlighted the fact that the Centre had increased its numbers across the business over the last year, making it a strong contender.

A new three-year deal with Deutsche Post WorldNet, the owners of global logistics company, DHL to develop and implement training in customs and international trade practices for its staff involved in clearance work around the world, was a major boost to the Centre's already impressive export credentials, he said.

The Centre's reputation as a world leader in customs and international trade education was helping to bring in business, Mr Holloway added.

"We were the first into the market and have generally been regarded as setting the pace in this field and this is creating increased demand for education and consultancies.

"We do not have to bid for tenders as much as we have in the past - our steadily increasing profile is leading people to approach us for assistance or to enter into teaming arrangements over a range of projects," he said.
New journal on higher education launched

Gaye Morrison

26 September 2006: The Centre for the Enhancement of Learning, Teaching and Scholarship (CELTs) at the University of Canberra launched the first issue of its new journal *Higher Education Scholar* last week.

Designed for academics and those interested in higher education, the national journal aims to increase the flow of communication between academics within and across different universities and between academics and government policy makers.

The journal's editor Dr McConnell-Imbriotis and designer Michelle Van der Linden

Photo: Kimberly Douglas

Higher education lecturer and editor of the journal, Alison McConnell-Imbriotis said *Higher Education Scholar* would discuss the issues that affect the context in which academics work and the experience and practice of academics as teachers and learners.

“The journal discusses the changing nature of the workplace, particularly in light of the political and policy changes that higher education encounters. The email boxes of academics are swamped with messages on new higher education policies, which are full of acronyms and 'important' developments. The journal has a dual purpose. Whilst it is a practical resource for academics it also allows them to have a voice about their experiences as learners and teachers,” Dr McConnell-Imbriotis said.

The journal will be multipurpose, to be used as a resource, as a forum for debate, and as a developmental tool. *Higher Education Scholar* has invited commentary and articles from the key players in the policy sector, academics from within the field of higher education, and practicing academics dealing with the day-to-day practicalities of learning and teaching. It ultimately aims to build a community of practice in scholarship.

The journal will be published in autumn and spring and copies are available from the University of Canberra.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
The Women's Group Mentoring Program celebrated another successful year of assisting professional and academic women last week at their annual dinner. Now in its seventh year, the Program strives to provide women at various levels within the University with career development and training opportunities.

Ms Doogue (left) and the mentoring program's coordinator Vicki Watson

Photo: Jacquelyn Curtis

The evening's special guest of honour, Geraldine Doogue, spoke candidly about her experiences in the media world - a job she said has given her "pleasure from day one".

A renowned broadcaster and Officer of the Order of Australia, Ms Doogue began her media career as a young cadet with The West Australian and has also worked with ABC TV and radio, Channel 10 and radio 2UE. She currently hosts the international politics and business program Saturday Extra on Radio National and Compass on ABC television.

Ms Doogue has had a distinguished career and has been awarded two Penguin awards and a United Nations Media Peace Prize for her reportage of the 1991 Gulf War.

She shared her beginnings as a "lazy, resistant student" who feared stepping outside the comfort zone, and advised women in a similar situation to "take your insecurities with you".

"When learning new things, sometimes you need to accept that you may be mediocre for the first little while," she said.

"One of the great things I have learnt is to build on success, not dwell on failures."

Ms Doogue acknowledged the positive role mentoring can provide women, and credited the University's former Chancellor Wendy McCarthy as one of her own early role models.

"She was a real mentor. Wendy showed me that a fully engaged life is the ideal," she said.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Sharon Bell praised the Women's Professional Development Program and the mentoring program as contributing to the "wonderful gender profile" at the University.

"Women are a critical part of the enabling culture of this university," Professor Bell said.

Participant Cathie Blackmore said the mentoring program had allowed her to make a "lot of good contacts" and gain a "much broader knowledge of the University".

"I have taken a lot out of the program - especially from the participants sharing stories as well as guest speakers," she said.

Applications are now open for the 2007 Women's Mentoring Program. For more information please contact Vicki Watson or email the program.
UCU bar to host new generation web-hit wonders

Surfing a wave of internet popularity Lost in Line hits the UCU bar this week, writes Jacquelyn Curtis

26 September 2006: The internet has revolutionised the music industry. Case in point is the Artic Monkeys' rapid rise through the charts - sans a record contract or major label support - which shocked the music industry, fans and musicians alike.

For Wollongong band Lost in Line, internet file sharing and developing fan base through sites such as 'myspace' will help them to reach their ultimate goal of taking "their music throughout Australia and beyond".

With tours with Bodyjar and Kisschasy under their belts and their myspace site boasting almost two thousand 'friends', the four-piece melodic punk act is already on their way.

Their current tour schedule will see them make a pit stop at the UCU bar on 28 September.

Vocalist and guitar player Jae Haydon shared fond memories the band's earlier Canberra gigs and promised an "off the hook" homecoming to the nation's capital.

"From our early gigs we have made heaps of mates and fans down there which always makes it fun to return," he said. "Fans should expect to hear a good night of melodic punk rock with a truly captivating show."

"Hopefully a few people can make it along, Stolen Exit and Kempsey are also playing and they are rippin', so it should be a sick show!"

Lost in Line lists musical influences including No Use for a Name, Rise Against and Lagwagon. The gig promises to showcase material from their latest EP Voodoo Pins and Violins which Haydon describes as "touching on situations where you feel down and out, but you can make everything better."

As well as their new EP, the band is also making waves in the Triple J Unearthed competition, with their tracks 'Moving Car', 'The Lost Letters' and namesake first single 'Lost in Line'.

With their music downloads increasing through myspace and Triple J and promising reviews from listeners, Haydon said the Internet had played a major role in aiding the band's success.

"We have so many new people everyday hearing our music for the first time," he said.

"It's pretty cool to know that people are liking what they hear."

Lost in Line's Jae Haydon

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
Designers' ideas for zero gravity world take off

Jason Tozer

26 September 2006 University of Canberra design students have worked with Canberra high school students helping them create products for a world with no gravity.

As part of the inaugural project titled Designing the Teaching of Design and Technology, six industrial design students and three graphic design students acted as teacher associates at Dickson College, Hawker College, Lake Ginninderra College and Narrabundah College.

The high school students designed practical devices to help with sleeping and showering, and novel ideas such as a break dancing jacket, all for use in a life of zero gravity.

Industrial design student Kate Baker said that the high school students weren’t the only ones learning new things from the project.

“The best way to learn something is to be able to teach it,” Ms Baker said.

“For the students who have the option to do a diploma in education after graduation, it was a great opportunity for me to get an insight into the education side of design,” Geoffrey Roberts, also studying industrial design, agreed seeing how their design skills transferred into a high school environment was very interesting.

“The interaction with the students and the teaching element was something that appealed to me,” Mr Roberts said.

“Seeing the jump in diversity of the students’ creativity from when they first started and when they finished was really rewarding.”
Three finals wins as footballers' winning streak continues

Jason Tozer

26 September 2006: The University of Canberra Pumas continued their success from last weekend winning the men's Division 2, Division 6 and Division 7 grand finals on Sunday.

The Pumas Division 2 team defeated Belconnen United 3 - 1 at Hawker Oval while at O'Connor Enclosed Fields their Division 6 and Division 7 teams defeated Belwest, 3 - 1, and ADFA, 2 - 1, respectively.

Pumas Division 2 player and coach Mark Dowling along with captain Adrian Di Crescenzo are the only remaining players from the 2001 premiership side.

Dowling said though there was a sense of immense satisfaction and pride, there was also a lot of relief in the win.

"Having won the league championship following a 13 game winning streak, anything less than a win in the grand final would left a bitter taste despite a very successful season," Dowling said.

The reality of having their successful season collapse at the final hurdle was all too real when Belconnen United's Mitch Parker found the back of the net after 25 minutes of play.

However, the Pumas struck back five minutes later from the boot of Craig Unwin and went into the break level with their opposition.

The Pumas struck again only three minutes into the second half with Bevan Straube putting the University into the lead.

Moments after Belconnen's Murray Clissold was shown a red card in the 78 th minute for a second bookable offence, Jo Oyanagi scored the Pumas final goal and made the victory conclusive.

Dowling said that the result was undoubtedly a team effort but notes that a few players found something special on the day.

"For me as coach, the standout performances were from centre defender Phil Ladomirski, our lone striker Ian Stewart and Danny Agnello through whom most of our dangerous attack went through," Dowling said.

Goal-scorers for the Pumas' Division 6 team were Joe Laria and Paul Mullins with a double and for the Division 7 team Chris Hamill and Rob Petrovski.

The three premierships are the first for any men's team at the club since their Division 1 premiership in 2002, as such all the players partied hard after their games and continued celebrations with a Mad Monday golf session.
Research offers practical tips to help tired mums

Kaddie Pass

19 September 2006: A University of Canberra researcher is providing strategies to help mothers cope with fatigue after childbirth.

Jan Taylor, a midwife with 23 years’ experience, identified fatigue as a significant problem for women after birth. Her PhD research looked at how women manage their fatigue, and how useful their chosen strategies were.

Getting friends to help out with a bit of housework is one way mums can cope with postnatal fatigue, according to Dr Taylor.

Photo: Edward O’Daly

“Getting friends to help out with a bit of housework is one way mums can cope with postnatal fatigue, according to Dr Taylor.”

“The study gives both midwives and parents a better understanding of strategies used to manage fatigue and may assist women and midwives to work in partnership to reduce the impact of fatigue in the postnatal period,” Dr Taylor said.

“The ‘superwoman identity’ has created an increased pressure on women and men these days and parents should be realistic about how much they can achieve.”

An important theme of the study was women needed to look after themselves in order to look after their family, Dr Taylor said.

Taking time out away from the task of being a mother was important and could be something as simple as a short walk. Dr Taylor said that while resting was commonly used to battle fatigue, a surprise finding was some women used exercise to increase their energy levels.

Dr Taylor said women and their partners should think about support systems and think laterally – beyond the partner or immediate family.

“Antenatal classes should encourage people to ask for support. Also rather than asking friends for embroidered singlets for the new baby, parents could get an IOU to clean the bath.”

The study focused on 59 women with partners from the ACT, ranging in age from 20 to 44 years of age, almost half with tertiary qualifications.

“Many of the women had jobs where they were used to successfully managing and organising their schedules so it comes as a bit of a shock when they are too exhausted to organise their time with a new baby,” Dr Taylor said.

The research was part of a larger study Dr Taylor undertook involving 504 women that examined the links between postnatal fatigue, depression and anxiety.
Communication students road test safety campaigns

Jason Tozer

19 September 2006 Communication students are developing campaigns to keep their peers safer on the roads.

Advertising and marketing lecturer Amanda Burrell developed the case study project entitled 'Young, Fast and Dead' in 2004 and piloted it on a random sample of integrated communication campaigns (ICC) students. It aims to make a positive impact on how 18 to 25-year-olds drive.

The students recently presented their campaigns to classmates and Ms Burrell.

The pilot's success saw the case study set for the entire 2006 ICC cohort as well as being adopted by the University of Wollongong’s 'health promotion' subject.

The case study has also been accepted for refereed publication at major conferences held by the Australian and New Zealand Marketing Academy and the Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management this year.

Ms Burrell said the successful idea came from a simple discussion over coffee.

"I was at a conference discussing over coffee how long it took us to drive to Bateman's Bay and the wild variations in time made me realise how habitual and socially acceptable speeding is," she said.

"We all agreed that we used to speed more when we were young and I suspected that nothing had changed and some initial newspaper research found that the situation for young drivers is very grim indeed."

Seventy-five ICC students were divided into 12 groups and given a month to each design a campaign to help reduce the road toll in the 18-25 age bracket.

With figures such as one P-plater dying on NSW roads every eight days, Tim Perry and Suzie Lankuts, part of the group who designed the 'Time For A Change' or T-FAC campaign for the case study, admitted their involvement was quite sobering.

"When you see the figures it really hammers it home how real the problem is," Mr Perry said.

"It's something that people aren't very concerned with and Australia's road toll attitude is quite blasé considering its effect on communities," Ms Lankuts said.

Ms Burrell plans to approach ACT NRMA Road Safety Trust for funding to expand the case study and hopes to meet with the Department of Transport and Regional Services to affect current and future policy.
University bachelor a promising outsider for Cleo award

Jacquelyn Curtis spoke to eligible student Adam Miller ahead of this year’s Bachelor of the Year awards.


They’re all finalists for the Cleo Bachelor of the Year crown.

Now in its 20th year, the swoon-fest features the regular crop of pro-surfers, footballers, musicians and a few average Joe Bloes. Also in contention is a familiar local face – Olympic athlete and University of Canberra communication student Adam Miller.

Mr Miller joins the ranks of soccer hero Lucas Neill, McLeod’s Daughters heart-throb Luke Jacobz, Nova FM host Jabba and Hamish’s side-kick Andy Lee, all of whom are vying for the title.

Mr Miller said he “took his nomination as a compliment” and was “pretty excited about the whole thing”.

“We got to do a photo shoot in Sydney, and we were all laying beside the pool drinking beer and eating pizza - so I guess we were bachelors in the true sense of the word,” he said.

Monitor spoke to Mr Miller just after his arrival in Melbourne for the ceremony to crown this year’s winner, where the bachelor activities continued with a “poker tournament, black tie dinner, after party and then an after after party”.

Mr Miller predicted Socceroo Lucas Neill would win the title.

“He’s got that whole celebrity status behind him now,” he said.

Mr Miller himself boasts impressive credentials - he is currently studying Bachelor of Communication (Advertising and Marketing) as well as training under a scholarship at the AIS. The 22-year-old sprinter competed in the Melbourne Commonwealth Games earlier this year and at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

These factors, in addition to a shirtless photo featured in the magazine, have placed him in the middle of the pack with odds of 67-1 to win according to Centrebet. Mr Miller has also edged out fellow Canberra ‘celebrity’ Joe Gleeson, roving reporter and producer for Mix 106.3.

But a modest Mr Miller down played his odds.

“I think I have no chance of winning, but I’ve certainly enjoyed the ride.”

More accustomed to competing on the track, bachelor Adam Miller was modest about his chances of winning the contest

Photo: Kimberly Douglas
Centre Stage:
Schools and Community Centre

What do you do?

We're best known for the development of the Scaffolding Literacy method of teaching and learning. This unique pedagogical approach is a highly integrated and sequential approach to teaching reading, spelling and writing. It has been characterised as providing 'high challenge - high support' to learners.

Because it explicitly teaches children how written text is structured (or 'constructed' by the author) this approach has been shown to be highly effective with learners at all levels, but especially with weak or confused readers and struggling writers.

Why is it important?

Students in ACT schools benefit from our work. Many Canberrans are familiar with the Centre because of its unique approach to out-of-school literacy remediation for primary and secondary students who are failing at literacy tasks. In conjunction with the ACT Department of Education & Training, the Centre runs the Parents as Tutors Program - designed to teach a parent or carer how to work with their child using the Scaffolding Literacy method. This approach has been shown to have positive outcomes that are sustainable long after involvement in the program.

What's new?

Recently the Centre has been working with literacy academics at UC to develop training courses for both pre-service and in-service teachers. The Scaffolding Literacy Education unit for undergraduates is proving very popular and a semester-long in-service program, for ACT teachers specialising in ESL (English as a second language) and in teaching Indigenous students, successfully demonstrated the value of more sustained in-service programs for practicing teachers.

Who's in charge?

Dr Beverley Axford
University women victorious in football final

Jason Tozer

19 September 2006: University of Canberra Pumas grabbed victory in the women's State League 4 grand final, but their women's State League 2 Division 2 side was narrowly defeated in the grand final at O'Connor on Sunday.

The Pumas defeated Belsouth, 3 - 1, however, their undefeated season in State League 2 Division 2 was brought to an end by Belnorth, 2 - 1, with Dushanka Foon scoring the University's only goal.

The University's victorious State League 4 side

Both teams finished their seasons as League Champions (minor premiers), and the State League 4 premiership is the first for a women's team at the club since they merged with the men in 2004 and formed the Pumas.

Pumas State League 4 team manager and grand final goal scorer Jen De Gabriele said though they weren't overly optimistic going into the game, their control of possession saw them make the most of their chances.

"We hadn't beaten Belsouth through the season, having lost 2-0 twice and drawn 0-0 once so we weren't overly confident," De Gabriele said.

"But we played our game and kept a fair amount of the possession, putting together some good passing and using the wide field to our advantage."

The Pumas led 1-0 at halftime after striker Jen Holland's pressure on the Belsouth keeper paid off 10 minutes before the break.

They then asserted their dominance with De Gabriele scoring half way through the second half and Holland scoring her second shortly after.

Belsouth came back to score a consolation goal just before fulltime as the Pumas sensed victory and slackened in defence.

The team will remain relatively similar for their premiership defence, though coach James Molloy has raised the idea of moving up to State League 3 to give the side a greater challenge.

The Pumas have three men's teams playing for the title this Saturday with Division 2 up against Belconnen United at Hawker Oval, and Division 6 and Division 7 playing at O'Connor against Belwest and ADFA respectively.

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

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The Sleepy Jackson awakens bar crowd

Perth pop-rock success stories The Sleepy Jackson played the UCU bar last week. Jacquelyn Curtis was there.

19 September 2006: On the same evening Eskimo Joe revelled in the news of receiving five ARIA nominations for their latest album, their Perth contemporaries and former ARIA darlings The Sleepy Jackson mesmerised the UCU bar crowd.

The Sleepy Jackson wowed the music industry when their debut album Lovers garnered four ARIA nominations - including album of the year, best new artist and best group - in 2003.

Despite missing out on a gong for this year's accolades, the band demonstrated their unique pop-rock blend that has won over music fans world-wide, including material from their critically acclaimed album, Personality (One was a spider one was a bird).

While an ARIA has eluded them this year, the band has not been entirely overlooked - recently receiving a nomination for the 2006 J Award. The nomination places them in contention with The Living End and hip-hop act Hilltop Hoods for the Triple J honour that rewards one Australian album for its creativity, innovation, musicianship and contribution to Australian music.

If the UCU performance is any indication, The Sleepy Jackson are rightful nominees. Their multi-layered harmonious sound embodied a mythical element as they performed a variety of guitar-laden tracks and harmonious ballads.

Front-man and mastermind behind the Sleepy Jackson sound, Luke Steele, has been lauded as Australia's answer to Brian Wilson, the basis for this claim evident within the crowd's gleeful response to 'Vampire Racecourse', the single which earned an ARIA nomination for best single.

Other highlights during the set included latest single 'God Lead Your Soul', the blissful 'Good Dancers', in which Steele demonstrated the harmonies that spawned comparisons to the Beach Boys. The UCU bar crowd also had the privilege of hearing a live version of 'Devil Was in My Yard', which will be released as their second single later this week.
Sessional staff skills get professional boost

Edward O'Daly

19 September 2006: More than 100 of the University's sessional staff are taking part in a pioneering training program.

The program is an initiative of the Division of Learning and Teaching, using funding received in recognition of the University's top 10 ranking for teaching and learning, last year.

The pilot program consists of three sessions:

- a four-hour introductory session run by the University's Centre for the Enhancement of Learning, Teaching and Scholarship (CELETS)
- a two-hour program either run in-house by individual schools or a CELTS alternative
- a final two-hour session with CELTS (to be held in October)

The aim of the program was to ensure the professional development sessional teachers, who may come from industry or be students, was not neglected, project manager Patricia Kelly said.

"We have had very good feedback from sessional staff and they have been very keen, they have appreciated being noticed and valued by the program," Dr Kelly said.

The first sessions covered areas such as working effectively with groups, giving feedback, assessment, understanding policy and working with diversity. These are areas where new teachers tend to lack confidence, but which can be beneficial to all teachers, according to Dr Kelly.

The October sessions will see the 102 participants given instruction in advanced moderation of marks, plus organising their teaching portfolio, before being issued with a certificate of completion and a $160 payment for their time.

Dr Kelly added the program would be reviewed using the program evaluations and schools' input and a new, improved version offered next semester, with plans to reach 80 percent of the University's sessional staff by the end of next semester.

"I am seeing the value of the program at work in the way I am approaching my tutes this semester already!"

program participant

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

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Swimming PhD helps top athletes make a splash

Jason Tozer

5 September 2006: A University of Canberra PhD candidate is helping Australia's current and future swimming champions as a sports scientist with the Queensland Academy of Sport.

Megan Anderson recently submitted her PhD thesis which investigated performance and physiological monitoring of highly trained swimmers.

Ms Anderson (left) with top swimmers Andrew Richards and Jade Edmistone

Photo: Scott Mackinnon

Ms Anderson said the PhD, taken while working with the AIS physiology department as part of its joint initiative in swimming with the University, was an opportunity of a lifetime.

"My area of research interest has always been applied sport science and sports performance, so doing my PhD through the AIS and UC was a great opportunity to do this," she said.

"The opportunity to work with swimming, which is a sport Australia has been traditionally one of the world leaders in, was very exciting and too good to pass up."

Her thesis involved monitoring the performance and physiology of elite swimmers while training over a five-year period and short intensive period as well as developing sensor technology, known as the Traqua, to improve that monitoring.

"The area of research that I chose provides practical information for scientists and coaches," Ms Anderson said.

"This kind of fitness testing and monitoring is routine in swimming and so part of my objective was to improve data interpretation and current monitoring methods enabling more in-depth information."

Ms Anderson's success with the AIS and University now sees her working to get the best out of international and national champions such as Lisbeth Lenton, Leisel Jones, Jessica Schipper and Jade Edmistone.
Laws to keep terrorists out of the lab explained

Jacquelyn Curtis

5 September 2006: An outbreak of a deadly virus, spreading quickly and endangering human lives sounds like a plot from a bad Hollywood movie - but these days the threat of biological terrorism and 'germ warfare' seems very real.

The 2001 Anthrax scares projected biological terrorism to the forefront of the media - and its implications in Australia ranged from the tightening of border security to increased screening of packages sent through postal services.

But what are the impacts of this heightened awareness for biological research and scientists?

University scientific officer Sandra Thomas discussed the issue as part of the GADI lecture series last month.

Ms Thomas' lecture canvassed the raft of legislation governing various aspects of laboratory use including environmental, ethical and health regulations designed to ensure safety within the lab and in the wider community.

She explained the legislative requirements varied depending on what was being used in the lab - for example, the Gene Technology Act (Cth) 2000 regulates the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and seeks to manage the risks imposed by gene technology.

According to Ms Thomas, who this week enrolled as a University PhD student, legislation to regulate other hazardous biological materials is currently under review is designed to "control substances that, if they fall into the wrong hands, could be used for biological warfare".

Ms Thomas described the balancing act the legislation seeks to achieve by encouraging scientific research and managing the risks involved with biological research.

"Intentional releases of biological material, such as for commercial releases and field trials, usually get the most media," she said.

"One particular success story is genetically modified cotton - which is now mostly insect resistant with some herbicide tolerance," she said.

"In 2005, 70 per cent of the Australian cotton crop was insect resistant, meaning the plants can control pest insects without the use of insecticides. Cotton is now cheaper to produce and less insecticide is sprayed over rural communities."

Ms Thomas said the repercussions of intentionally releasing a GMO without authorisation attracted heavy fines and prison sentences.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
New law school head brings international expertise

Edward O'Daly

5 September 2006: He may only have moved from Melbourne, but new head of the School of Law Murray Raff has brought a valuable international perspective.

Professor Raff's research specialisation in German law is particularly useful in Australia's region as it is legal system that has provided a model for much of Asia, he said. German law was the subject of his PhD work, later published as a research monograph *Private Property and Environmental Responsibility - A Comparative Study of German Real Property Law.*

"Our regional neighbours have been strongly influenced by the German legal system because it's so portable," Professor Raff said.

"Instead of having to rely on a centuries old tradition of common law, Germany has codes for different areas of law."

He said his expertise in other areas including property, planning and administrative law would complement the law school's existing strengths in commercial law.

"This is really good law school, it's doing well and it will not be too difficult for us to achieve a lot more," he said.

He said he hopes to "support and reinforce" current areas of strength and also to build on the University's position in the national capital and relative to the major centres of Melbourne and Sydney to capture a greater slice of the professional and postgraduate training market.

Professor Raff also sees potential to add another dimension to existing strengths of the law school from another of his areas of expertise: environmental law.

A former chair of Victoria's Environment Defenders Office, who is already making use of Canberra bicycle path network for his daily commute, the smartly-suited lawyer looks an unlikely greenie.

"I wouldn't say I'm a 'passionate environmentalist', but from an objective and scientific point of view it seems pretty clear that if we aren't concerned about the environment there will be conflict, climate change and we will be leaving a seriously impoverished world to our children and grandchildren."

Murray Raff

Head of law school, Victoria University, 2003 to 2006

Foundation staff member, law school, Victoria University, 2001 to 2003

Lecturer, law school, University of Melbourne, 1993 to 2001

He has also worked at the Law Reform Commission of Victoria and in private practice

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

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What do you think of the new-look website?

Jacquelyn Curtis

5 September 2006: The University has redesigned its website. Monitor finds out how it's been received.

"I think it looks good, the colours are nice. I also like the pictures, it's a lot more interesting than the old one."

Rae Fairbairn, journalism student.

"I really like that the new one is more artistic. The photos are well shot."

Paul Krix, software engineering student.

"I think it's pretty awesome. The email is a lot easier to get to now and the student section is easier to use as well."

Tim Forato, economics student.

"I'm still getting used to it, but I think the photos are very cosmopolitan looking and I like that it shows a range of international faces."

Oni Kirwin, law student.

"I like the photos and overall it is easier to find what I want than with the old site."

Kathy Garton, legal studies student.

"I quite like it. I like the front page and the way it changes. I think it is neat and professional looking."

Penny Collings, staff at School of Information Sciences and Engineering.

Visit the new homepage

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
A night of stars as reviewers hit theatre restaurant

Monitor's Jacquelyn Curtis and Jason Tozer take on the roles of iconic movie reviewers Margaret Pomeranz and David Stratton to join the UCU Players for an evening at Fawlty Towers

5 September 2006: Friday and Saturday evenings see the Clive Price suite transformed into "the best loved worst hotel in the world" as the UCU Players Company present The Very Best of Fawlty Towers.

For the company's third production of the short-lived but widely-loved BBC series, director Jasan Savage selected two of the most famous episodes based on their popularity with audiences. The Germans and Communication Problems feature some of Torquay hoteliers' most memorable moments.

Jacqui and Jason discuss the play in the guise of Margaret and David from ABC's At the Movies.

"DAVID": Though it's my first encounter with the UCU Players Company Dinner Theatre, I'm quite accustomed with Fawlty Towers and to be honest this production exceeded all my expectations.

"MARGARET": I must confess I'm not as knowledgeable about the series, but I felt I wasn't disadvantaged. I was able to appreciate the production and was particularly impressed with the standard of acting.

D: Me too, because with such limited set and costumes, acting is what carries a production of this kind.

M: I was especially impressed by Stephen Brooke's performance of Basil. Despite the legacy of John Cleese's legendary character to live up to, I felt he did justice to the part.

D: I think you're right, they are enormous shoes to fill, however I had to do a double take with Sybil. Liz St Clair Long looked like she walked off the BBC set and had all the right mannerisms as well. Credit also has to go Craig Marvell's Manuel.

M: I think credit must also go to the chef, the meal was a perfect accompaniment and made me feel like I was actually in the lobby and dining room of the famous Torquay hotel.

D: I think the food was a lot better than anything that ever came out of the Fawlty Towers kitchen - except for the fire in the second act.

M: Speaking of the fire, I must say that I really loved The Germans. The portrayal of Helga and Hans was great and Basil was hilarious.

D: Well it's understandable you'd love the second act more because you aren't as well acquainted with the series. After all, it was the pinnacle episode. I thought Communication Problems brought out more of the humour and with the show was known for. For me there just seemed to be more for these actors to work with.

M: Overall I enjoyed the evening. It was a perfect combination of good food and theatre. I'm giving it four stars.

D: For me, four and a half.
Writer breaks her silence for Artists Talk series

Jason Tozer

5 September 2006: Creative writing lecturer Francesca Rendle-Short has finally spoken in the Artists Talk series she originally developed to showcase the works of other practising artists.

Most of her peers and students saw it as her 'breaking her silence,' but Ms Rendle-Short simply felt it was the right time to reveal the mysteries behind her creative process and current work.

"The question of whether to speak about your writing process is about being ready," she said.

"You can never push this, the timing has to be right, but these talks provide a wonderful focus, an opportunity to shape and fashion your practice and have the floor."

Her latest work is an autobiographical novel that combines the taste of pineapple and smell of humidity to paint a picture of growing up in 1970s Brisbane.

While Ms Rendle-Short doesn't want to give too much away just yet, she did use the chance to talk about the process of self-discovery involved.

"This kind of story takes a lifetime to write, to garner courage and self-knowledge," she said.

"When you write imaginatively, from the heart, shaving the bone, you sometimes just about sweat blood, but the rush afterwards is intoxicating."

Now she has had her 'head on the chopping block', Ms Rendle-Short will continue the Artists Talk series in the same mould she initially envisioned for it.

"My idea for the series has always been to hear other artists in conversation," she said.

"The imagination is our currency in creative practice and the space of the Artists Talks gives weight and value to this idea."
Website links CIT students with University

Edward O’Daly

5 September 2006: A new website will help smooth students' path between the Canberra Institute of Technology and the University.

Part of the broader Beyond Articulation project, the ‘Student Opportunities Choices and Pathways’ site will answer students' questions about enrolling in the University of Canberra.

The website will enable a student easy access into an articulation database where they can find the 130 current transfer arrangements that exist between the CIT and the University. This means that students who are studying at CIT can search against their diploma or advanced diploma qualification and find out what degree program they will be able to get credit into.

In many instances the amount of credit can be 36 credit points for an advanced diploma and 24 credit points for a diploma, which is 50 percent and 33 percent respectively of a three year degree.

The website also allows students to access Frequently Asked Questions, such as what students need to do to get the credit, find testimonials from students who have articulated previously and access key links to student services at the University of Canberra.

At a launch at CIT last week Pro Vice-Chancellor (academic) John Dearn showed an audience from the two institutions around the site.

"CIT students have been successfully articulating to the University of Canberra for some time, and this website will give them the information they need to make the transition even easier," Professor Dearn said.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
Renowned party-starters return to UC stage

Jacquelyn Curtis

5 September 2006: Canberra band Casual Projects are bringing their unique hip-hop style back to the University for the first time since they wowed the crowds at last year’s Stonefest.

The eight-piece outfit, which has been “likened to many, but are unlike no other” will play at the UCU bar on 8 September.

The eight-piece band is likely to fill the stage on Friday night

Formed in 2004, Casual Projects have spent the past two years gigging earning a loyal fan base in Canberra and a reputation of being able kick-start any party.

Casual Projects are no stranger to the University- having sweated it out on the UCU bar stage for Battle of the Bands in their early days. For saxophonist Dan Bray, his return to the University will give him the opportunity to ‘teach’ the audience a thing or two since completing a diploma of education here last year.

"UC had a great vibe when I studied there last year and the live shows were awesome," he said. "It’ll be a buzz to be back there doing a show. Should be an awesome night!"

The upcoming gig marks the first time the band has performed a full set at the UCU bar and will provide fans the opportunity to hear some new sounds as the band test drives new material.

“We've cut some old songs from our set, and at the moment we're really geared towards producing material for a new album,” said drummer Yen Nguyen.

Not ones to pigeon-hole their sound, MC Munro Melano said it was “hard to say” how their hip-hop/funk sound could be described, but promised a great set complimented by support acts Los Capitans, DeJah Groove and Hancock Basement.

“The eight of us are all interested in different things,” Nguyen said, "We're learning how to fit together all those interests - but hip-hop is the uniting thing that pulls it all together.”
University guides Indonesians on quality assurance

Edward O'Daly

5 September 2006: A high-level delegation from Indonesia visited the University last month to learn more about quality assurance.

The three-man delegation was on a study tour of Australian higher education seeking models for a quality assurance framework for Indonesia.

The delegates were: director of the Directorate General of Higher Education, Supeno Djanali; secretary of the Ministry of National Education's quality assurance national team on Indonesian higher education, Johanes Gunawan; and Harsono Tareopratjeka from the National Accreditation Board for Higher Education.

They heard from Pro Vice-Chancellor (academic) John Dearn about how the University works with the Department of Education, Science and Training and Australian Universities Quality Assurance (AUQA), and from Pro Vice-Chancellor (research) Andrew Cheetham about the University's research quality framework. Secretary of Council Jenny Coggins outlined University governance and the role of Council in quality assurance.

Professor Djanali said the group had visited several universities on the tour and been interested in the different ways they worked to follow what was set by AUQA. He said they had been impressed by quality assurance systems in place in Australia.

“We have learned a lot,” he added.
Journalism graduate lives her own Disney Adventure

Jacquelyn Curtis

22 August 2006: An obsession with movies, music and all things entertainment has resulted in employment with Australia's biggest media empire for one talented graduate.

For Gabby McMillan, communications/journalism graduate and Gordon Burgoyne Memorial Prize recipient for most outstanding journalism student, indulging in her passion for entertainment is a daily occurrence since landing her "dream job" as sub-editor for youth magazines Disney Adventures and Disney GiRL.

Both magazines are pitched at youth aged between six and 15 and belong to Australian Consolidated Press (ACP), the largest magazine publisher in Australia.

For Ms McMillan, securing her job just months after graduating seemed "too good to be true".

As the only sub-editor for both magazines, Ms McMillan is responsible for ensuring the magazines are "practically perfect".

"Basically, it is my responsibility to make sure everything is the best it can be," she said.

Perks

A typical workday for Ms McMillan involves proofreading, rewriting articles, creating eye-catching headlines and writing features, quizzes and puzzles.

"I also have to liaise with editors, writers, designers, art directors and advertising employees on a daily basis to make sure we're covering everything we're meant to - I have my fingers in lots of pies!" she said.

Her job is the envy of anyone who aspires to working in the magazine world - the job perks include interviewing celebrities, plus free movies and CDs.

Ms McMillan credits the journalism school and rigorously pursuing work experience to helping her secure the job.

"I had a wonderful time at the University," she said. "The staff were also really supportive, especially Jennifer Kitchener, Keith Hooper and Felicity Packard; they kept motivating me to try my best."

Experience

A former Monitor intern, Ms McMillan says 'getting your name in print' is extremely important for pursuing a career in the media.

"While I spent three years studying at the University of Canberra, I also spent three years writing for any publication that would publish me."

"Complete as much work experience as you can," she said. "A journalist told me if I wanted to get a job in the media, I needed to do work experience - she was correct!"
Destructive storm inspires creative recycling

Jacquelyn Curtis

22 August 2006: You'd think it would be difficult to find a 'silver lining' in the destruction caused by the wild storm that ripped through university campus in early December, causing around $300,000 of structural damage to university buildings and knocking down 50 trees.

But despite the devastation caused, a silver lining remains - the reuse of some of the felled trees for outdoor furniture and an installation artwork.

Facilities manager, Neville Checksfield, said some of the trees uprooted by the storm were more than 100 years old and it had been decided "fairly early on" they were to be reused.

"We've decided to use some of the timber for seats around the place and some of it will be used to create a sculpture," he said.

"It is great the wood can stay on campus and be put to another use."

The sculpture will be created by local artist Paul Jamieson and will be made from four to five metre logs of Yellow Box, which are thought to have lived on the campus for three centuries before the storm.

University art collection curator, Johanna Owens, described the sculpture as abstract and a "visually strong piece".

"It is a good design," she said.

"The artist will use a chainsaw to make a cutting design on the material and give it texture, while keeping the rawness of the material present.

"It is nice to be feeding the material back into campus and this project also gives a talented local artist a break.

"It is a win-win situation for everyone and we look forward with anticipation of its completion," Mrs Owens said.

The sculpture will find its new home towards the end of September among the trees near building seven.
Psychologists promote positive parenting

Edward O'Daly

22 August 2006: The University is helping parents to do the most important job of all: raise their children.

Through its Enhancing Family Strengths through Positive Parenting program, the University's psychology clinic is using its expertise both to help parents deal with the challenges of parenting and to evaluate the training program itself.

The course is a modified version of existing positive parenting programs and aims to help parents tackle tantrums, eating problems and misbehaviour.

"Being a parent is one of the most difficult and challenging roles that a person can perform," psychology master's student Penny Sellas said.

"Yet few parents are able to access useful advice on how to deal with the difficult situations that will arise throughout their child's development.

"What we do is identify parents' strengths and help them build on them - we don't say 'this is what you are doing wrong'.

"We want to give parents the tools and strategies they need early on to prevent problems later."

Ms Sellas will run the five-week program and evaluate its effectiveness through psychological testing before and after the program and by seeking feedback from parents after the program. Points parents had found particularly useful in previous programs will be emphasised in the forthcoming sessions.

Future programs were likely to have an extra session five weeks after the program in place of the current phone call, in response to parents' feedback, she added.

"We continually modify the program to give parents the most useful help possible," Ms Sellas said.

Ms Sellas hopes to continue research into parenting as a PhD.
A gig to remember for Evermore

Jacquelyn Curtis

22 August 2006: Guitar pop band Evermore took the stage at the UCU bar last Thursday in front of an audience they described as "the best Canberra crowd yet".

The band's only performance in Canberra opened with the aptly titled 'For one day' made famous through its inclusion on the soundtrack of hit teen drama The O.C.

The three brothers from New Zealand, Jon, Peter and Dann Hume, secured a league of fans with their break-through single 'It's too late' (another O.C ditty) in late 2004 and this year in the UK thanks to a dance remix by Dirty South.

Fast forward two years: O.C heroine Marissa Cooper is dead but Evermore is alive and well - debut album Dreams reached platinum status, the band scored an MTV gong along with five ARIA nominations and has released a second album, Real Life.

The crowd at the UCU bar was a testament to the band's mass appeal blend of guitar-pop as they took in the set of the 'Welcome to Real Life' tour.

The band entertained the annual UCU Gender Bender crowd, undeterred by the sea of drag kings' and queens' energetic response to the opening riff of 'Running' - the latest single gracing airwaves and iPods.

Hot on the heels of a tour in USA and Canada, front man and eldest brother Jon held a sophisticated presence on stage - complete with political message "free child slavery" emblazoned across his acoustic guitar - proof of the band's transition from five-minute-wonder to credible musicians.

Local Indie punk rock band Zero Degrees and Falling warmed the stage and the crowd for Evermore with a melodic live set including 'Black Market Travesty'.
Exchange student won’t miss the Aussie birds

Kaddie Pass

22 August 2006  University of Saskatchewan Indigenous exchange student Jonathan Potskin says he won’t miss the Aussie birds - the feathered variety that is.

While he eventually learned to sleep through the early morning wakeup calls, Mr Potskin initially found it a bit of an adjustment.

Mr Potskin visited Perisher during his stay in Australia

"You have a lot more variety of birds and they're a lot noisier than back home - our magpies are not so noisy," Mr Potskin said.

He was also amazed at the abundance of wildlife in our everyday environment.

Kangaroos and koalas

"It was a shock to see kangaroos and koalas on the side of the road," he said.

Mr Potskin, who studied a Bachelor of Sociology at the University of Saskatchewan, will return to Canada next month to work as a National Aboriginal Youth Model.

"I will be travelling to remote Indigenous communities to show young people they have options," he said.

Mr Potskin plans to talk about the research he undertook while on his five-month exchange in Australia on the effects of globalisation on Aboriginal Australia.

Similar issues

He said that young Indigenous Canadians in remote communities are affected by very similar issues to Indigenous youth in Australian desert communities.

Mr Potskin also appreciated the similarities between the Australian and Canadian Indigenous cultures.

"There are the same policies and issues - it's like coming across the ocean and visiting cousins," he said.

Ngunnawal Centre director Terry Williams said the Centre has been running a successful Indigenous exchange program with University of Saskatchewan in Canada for five years.

"The exchange program focuses on the Native Law Centre at the University of Saskatchewan and the young professional program, with the aim of promoting cultural exchange," Mr Williams said.

The next Indigenous exchange student from Canada will arrive for a five-month stay in September.
Visiting scholar shapes Australian tourism education

Jacquelyn Curtis

22 August 2006: The University has welcomed a visiting researcher from China who will analyse the gap between tourism education and the tourism industry.

Wang Jie, a scholar from the Jiangsu province in China, will call Canberra home for the next 18 months thanks to a scholarship worth around $58,000 provided by the University in conjunction with the International Centre of Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality Education (THE-ICE).

THE-ICE is a part of one of the world’s largest travel and tourism research centres, the Sustainable Tourism Cooperative Research Centre. The STCRC establishes partnerships with universities, private industry and government, and together with THE-ICE encourages international excellence in tourism and hospitality education and research.

Ms Wang’s research focuses on ways to bridge the gap between tourism curriculum, industry needs and expectations. Through her research, Ms Wang aims to provide a recommended model of tourism curriculum for Australian undergraduate students.

“I hope the research will allow me to find a good way to teach tourism to future students,” she said.

“I'd like to be a good teacher in tourism and provide excellent students to the industry.”

Ms Wang is already well on her way - as a lecturer in tourism, journalist and former tour guide, she has experienced both educational and industry elements of tourism.

Ultimate dream

In addition, her hometown of Wuxi in southeast China is one of the top ten tourist destinations, boasting beautiful landscape of Lake Taihu and the ancient Grand Canal.

Ms Wang said her ultimate dream would be to combine her tourism expertise with her previous study in journalism to promote tourism and tourism education.

“The curriculum of tourism is not just limited to university study,” she said.

“Tourism is something that impacts on a social level also, by using media we can reach a broader audience.”

Although arriving in the Canberra winter, Ms Wang said she found Australia “full of sunshine” and the University campus very “international and friendly”.

“During the four months since I arrived, I’m getting used to my life in a new country and enjoying every challenge.”

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
Engineers showcase inventions of the future

Edward O'Daly

22 August 2006: A robot vehicle that will go where men fear to tread, a machine to bring all your remotes under control and a device to revolutionise communication on the high seas all won prizes at last week’s Fourth Year Engineering Project Poster Session.

Held in building 11, the event gave final year students the chance to show off their projects to judges who included representatives of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

The first-prizewinning autonomous vehicle was developed by Geoff Swan, David Cottrill and Stuart Shepard. It can be sent on a mission, map its surroundings then find its way home.

Catherine O'Connel, Brett Christensen, David Klemke, Jess Benning came up with device to manage all your electronic entertainment eliminating the need for numerous remote controls.

Juan Pablo Cassetta and David Woodgate came up with a cheap, disposable device that monitors atmospheric conditions which could affect ships’ communications.

Other projects included an alarm system, a PlayStation game and new wireless antennas.

Lecturer Bala Balachandran said the event was valuable experience for the students and described the projects on show as the "inventions of the future".

"I'm happy and proud to be the course convenor," Dr Balachandran added.

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Other projects included an alarm system, a PlayStation game and new wireless antennas.
Staff exchange trailblazer 'made very welcome'

Edward O'Daly

22 August 2006: The first CIT staffer to join the University on exchange is settling in to his role ICT Services.

Mick Sharp has taken on the position of associate director of ICT Services for six months and will be involved in a number of IT projects including an identity management system, desktop replacement and software licensing.

"I don't really see myself as the 'first person' because our two institutions been working closely together for years," he said.

"In my role of administration manager in the Faculty of Design, I was involved in the creation of the National Institute of Design. I was also involved in the National Institute of Languages and Learning (NILL) in my role of IT support manager.

"I've been made very welcome and I'm looking forward to getting out and meeting other people around the campus."

Mr Sharp said he had been keen to "recharge" and to pick up some new skills and saw a move to the University as the perfect opportunity - plus he's been able to shave a few minutes off his commute from McKellar.

"To do your job better, you need to understand the bigger picture. You have to get a better understanding of how things happen elsewhere and how different people and organisations work," he said.

"I'm learning from my new colleagues here and I hope they're learning a few things from me."

Mr Sharp said CIT's computer leasing arrangements were of interest to the University, while he hoped the University's adoption of wireless technology could provide a model when he returns to his former job. In addition to special projects he'll be "helping out where I can" until his exchange period ends at Christmas.
Local international students discover campus

Edward O'Daly

22 August 2006: Thirty international students from four ACT colleges discovered what the campus has to offer last week.

The special Discovery Day gave students from Erindale, Dickson, Hawker and Canberra Colleges the chance to check out University facilities including its state of the art moot court, computer centre, radio station and cafes.

Hawker College student Antony Zhao from China said he was interested in studying education or public relations at the University and had found the campus "beautiful".

Classmate Tanya Liu, also from China, said she felt Canberra had "better opportunities for students" and was interested in nursing or education.

The students also had their first taste of a university test, with a quiz on what they had learned around campus.

Ten lucky students who had been paying attention won movie tickets.

Ms Liu and Mr Zhao discover the campus
Photo: Edward O'Daly
Filmmaking graduate inspired by humanity's 'weirdness'

Jason Tozer

15 August 2006: Multimedia graduate Clare Young returned to campus to share her creative process and inspirations in her filmmaking at the 25th Artists Talk held by the School of Creative Communication.

Ms Young has been involved in producing, writing and directing short documentaries since making Firing on all Pins which documented her family's experience during the 2003 Canberra bushfires.

Along with making documentaries, Ms Young was awarded an internship with ABC Stateline, employed as a production assistant at Bearcage Productions and worked on Jane Campion's latest film The Water Diary.

Despite an impressive resume of more than 15 short films, Ms Young is still reluctant to call herself a filmmaker.

"When people ask me what I do, I vary my answer and rarely say I'm a filmmaker," Ms Young said.

"For me the concept and process of driving an idea out into the world is a lot more - it's development, research, late nights and lots of stress."

Ms Young says her creative process comes from an inherent curiosity that makes her continue to ask humanity the question 'why?'.

"We often tell the stories we want to tell and not what we should tell," she said. "I find there is something unpredictable and weird about people that makes them so interesting."

This curiosity about people combined with her work on The Water Diary led her to write and direct her own fictional short film, Grace, currently in post-production.

Ms Young dived in the deep end of fictional film production by working with cinematic standard 35mm film and children, both for the first time, but says the experience has given her a yearning to work in extended formats.

"Working on Grace definitely sparked a desire to work on feature films," she said. "I would love to one day write and direct my own feature."
East Timorese journalism student made welcome

Edward O'Daly

15 August 2006. The inaugural Warren Osmond Scholarship recipient will be taught by a former student of the man in whose memory the scholarship was founded.

Journalism convenor Jennifer Kitchener studied under journalist and academic Dr Osmond and will teach the first student to receive the scholarship, budding East Timorese journalist Hitu de Jesus.

Ms Richter (left) said her husband would have been proud to have helped Mr de Jesus (right) promote high quality journalism in East Timor.

Photo: Edward O'Daly

The scholarship program, funded jointly by the Friends of Warren Osmond, the University and AusAID, includes English language training, a journalism degree and mentoring for a student from East Timor with an interest in journalism.

A respected Australian academic and journalist with a special interest in international affairs, Dr Osmond highlighted issues relating to East Timorese students in Australia and the involvement of Australian universities in re-establishing the university at Dili not long before his death.

"He's someone I have never met, but whose influence will change my life," Mr de Jesus said at an official welcome to the University last week.

Mr de Jesus highlighted the importance of quality journalism to his home country, praising the journalists who "kept telling the truth" about the plight East Timor.

Dr Osmond's widow Juliet Richter said Mr de Jesus was an "appropriate" recipient of the scholarship before sharing some insights into her husband - his character, dress sense, and determination.

"He was not a big name or a star, but, as we all know, the world is not made a better place to live just by stars and heroes," she said.
International film award for former students

Jason Tozer

15 August 2006: Former media students Matthew Fallon and Marisa Martin have put their young production company on the world stage winning two awards at the third International Youth Film Festival held in Kundl, Austria.

Ms Martin, who met Mr Fallon while studying at the University of Canberra and with him established EoR Media, said that entering competitions provides their company with much needed exposure.

“Having an international award demonstrates to potential clients the quality of work we do,” Ms Martin said.

“Entering competitions and festivals is a really good way for filmmakers to get their work seen by the public and hopefully recognised for its excellence,” Ms Martin said.

“At this early stage of our careers getting awards and getting our name out there is the main motive for doing short films and music clips for free.”

Mr Fallon attended the ceremony and said though the language barrier delayed the surprise it couldn’t stop the excitement of winning the Jury Prize.

“The entire awards ceremony was conducted in German, so it was a little hard to follow,” Mr Fallon said.

“We had two films screening at the festival and the other one had already won fourth place so I was already thrilled, but winning the special jury prize was amazing, because it was completely unexpected.”

Their international success means they have the recognition to do more exciting work in music videos and short films.

“We’ve already managed to secure another music video project for completion in October,” Mr Fallon said.

“We’re looking to direct a lot more music videos, so it’s going to be very positive for us.”
Centre Stage: National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM)

What do you do?

We are a world leader in the development of microsimulation models and techniques and in the analysis of microdata. These models are computer-based tools, capable of simulating the effects of policy and other changes on specific sectors of the community, down to the level of individual families.

Why is it important?

Our models provide policy makers with good estimates of the impact of possible policy changes that they are considering -- who will win, who will lose, and by how much. The models allow policy makers to test the distributional impacts upon families and individuals of possible changes in such programs as income tax or social security before reaching final decisions.

What's new?

Our new spatialMSM system is being used to provide estimates of poverty, housing affordability, and other household characteristics at the local level. It can also be used to predict the impact upon suburbs across Australia of policy changes, such as income tax cuts or changes in housing assistance. This is an amazingly powerful tool which is at the international leading edge.

We are also developing new microsimulation models of health, aged care and housing, moving beyond the tax and social security programs which have been the traditional focus of microsimulation models across the world.

Another exciting project is the development of the APPSIM microsimulation model, with 13 government agencies as industry partners and funding from the Australian Research Council. This model will ultimately be used to predict our likely future over the next 50 years as Australia's population ages. It will look at such questions as the likely future tax burdens to be placed on generations X and Y -- and what will happen if the baby boom generation work for longer than they currently hope to or save harder for their imminent retirement than they currently are.

Who's in charge?

Professor Ann Harding has been NATSEM's director since it started in 1993.
Students to get noses into more books under CIT deal

Jacquelyn Curtis

15 August 2006: Despite more than 7,000 new resources added to the Library collection this year, the Library continues to expand its collection - this time beyond the four walls of building 8.

A new arrangement between the University and CIT will give students from both institutions the ability to borrow material from the general collections of each other’s libraries.

The reciprocal borrowing privileges came into effect in mid July, and through a simple registration process, students are able to access a wealth of resources.

For CIT interior design student Virginia Curtis, the ability to access library resources at the University is a welcome initiative for her and fellow classmates.

“We all filled out registration forms in class and can’t wait to get into the UC library and see what they have,” she said.

“Being able to access and borrow the University material is fantastic for us because now we have a whole new collection to utilise.”

The reciprocal borrowing arrangement builds on the collaborative objectives behind the ‘Beyond Articulation’ project, which aims to increase collaboration and resource sharing and improve student opportunities, choices and pathways between the University and CIT.

In addition to more than 100 credit transfer arrangements, the University and CIT have jointly developed programs in areas such as interior design, communication and new media and early childhood studies.

CIT students studying in these discipline areas who go on to complete degrees at the University will particularly benefit from the reciprocal borrowing privileges. University students will also benefit from the complimentary library resources at CIT.

Rosi Kroone, a CIT student, who will complete the final year of Bachelor of Interior Design at the University next year, said access to the library would help her to make a smooth transition after graduating from CIT.

"Being able to use the University library will give me the chance to put its services and resources to practical use before my studies even begin," she said. “Plus I’ll be able to get to know the campus environment as well.”

Students can register by presenting a current student card at the UC and CIT libraries.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
University beams into national research machine

Jason Tozer

15 August 2006: The University of Canberra has joined a consortium with the NSW Government and 12 other universities, which has committed $5 million to the national Australian Synchrotron partnership.

The Australian synchrotron is a research machine the size of a cricket ground built on an old drive-in theatre site at Monash University in Melbourne. It can be used for research in a number of scientific fields including forensics, pharmaceuticals and molecular biology.

When fully operational in July next year, the synchrotron will have between six and nine ‘core beamlines’ that emit intense light with wavelengths ranging from x-rays to infra-red.

The University of Canberra's Dudley Creagh has been involved in working with synchrotron radiation since 1993 and designed the infrared beam line for the Australian Synchrotron.

Professor Creagh says access to the synchrotron by the University's forensic, ecological, and virology researchers will bring another dimension to their research capabilities.

The University has a number of existing research projects that will benefit from the aid of the synchrotron including those in conjunction with the National Archives of Australia (NAA), the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) and the National Museum of Australia (NMA).

“In our collaboration with the NAA we investigate the ageing of written records and seek ways of stabilising old parchments and papers against the acidity of 19th century inks,” Professor Creagh said.

With the NMA the University has been looking at techniques which can be used for determining the provenance of indigenous artwork, which commonly contain ochres.

“We're trying to link the ochre used as paint on artefacts with ochres from traditional mine sites to determine the tribe who painted it and at what time,” he said.

Professor Creagh said the synchrotron allows researchers to perform multiple experiments at once giving them faster and more accurate results.

"With a synchrotron you can use many research techniques concurrently and get immediate complementary results," he said.

“Samples from artefacts can be as small as pinheads, and intense synchrotron x-ray beams are ideal for examining them plus measurements can be made in minutes rather than days."
Every day to be Red Nose Day at Innovation Centre

Jacquelyn Curtis

15 August 2006: Raging allergies and nasty colds can make red noses a common sight during Canberra winter - but a good cause has seen a university building sporting its very own 'red nose'.

The second floor balcony of the Innovation Centre has been adorned with an oversized red nose, thanks to a donation by charitable Professional Management Program (PMP) staff.

"Red Nose Day is a worthy cause, deserved of donations," client services officer Lisa Finlayson, said.

In its 18th year, Red Nose Day is celebrated on the last Friday in June. Red Nose Day sees people, buildings and cars decked out with red noses.

In its new home at the Innovation Centre, the University's very own red nose has attracted many comments as well as raising awareness for the well-known charity organisation SIDS and Kids.

SIDS and Kids uses funds generated by Red Nose Day to conduct research into sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and to provide counselling and support for families who have suffered a sudden or unexpected infant death.

Director of the Professional Development Unit, Jules Wills, said the decision to get involved in Red Nose day came after a local radio station held a drive to raise money for the cause.
University takes science to the people for festival

Edward O’Daly

15 August 2006: The real CSI, what video games are doing to your kids and how viruses make us sick will all be revealed by University experts at this year's Australian Science Festival.

University researchers will share the latest discoveries as part of this weekend's speakers program at the National Convention Centre, while design and science students will offer a hands-on science experience as part of the Amazing World of Science at the National Convention Centre from 16 to 20 August.

Other topics explored by University speakers will be back pain, chronic fatigue syndrome and mouse plagues.

The Amazing World of Science activities will include water sampling and microscopic exploration, bone identification, fitness testing and optical illusions - plus the chance to design a hybrid car.

For a full listing of the University's speakers, visit:


Student Lara Morris introduces a young visitor to the Amazing World of Science at last year’s event
Line-dancing in the USA's Bible belt

At a 'reorientation' for returning exchange students boasting stamps in their passports from nations including Finland, Mexico and Canada, Jo Giffillan talked Tennessee with Kate Harkins

8 August 2006: Deep in the Bible belt and the warmth of southern hospitality, Kate Harkins would recommend Knoxville to anybody.

As Mizzuna Café rang with travellers' tales told by excited students newly-returned from semesters on exchange, I had the opportunity to chat with Kate about her semester at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

She talked about the area's long history. Tennessee is the home of Jack Daniel's whiskey and Dollywood; it was the birthplace of the Ku Klux Klan; it was the state in which Martin Luther King was shot and it contains Memphis - the home of Elvis.

The University's population is about 15 per cent African American and yet underlying tensions still have whites sitting on one side of the classroom and blacks on the other.

"My friends would go out and get absolutely drunk on Friday and Saturday night and then go to church on Sunday and repent," said Kate.

"If I asked anybody what their favourite book was, they'd tell me it was the Bible," she explained.

Getting drunk on Friday night often involved the biggest nightclub in town - a line-dancing club.

Kate was amazed by the sporting spirit:

"The basketball team have their own blimp!"

The football team were local heroes. The stadium in town seated more than 100,000 people and was full for every football game. Every one at the university wore the school colours (orange and white) every day.

In the short four month semester, she developed many deep friendships with both International Students as well as with locals. She said that a semester in Tennessee was an amazing experience.
Walk with a Rose takes final steps

Edward O'Daly

8 August 2006: Amy Banson made a triumphant return as her 1400km Walk with a Rose came to an end last week.

The walk from Brisbane to Canberra was in memory of University of Canberra student Clea Rose, who died after being hit by a car in Civic last year, and aimed to raise awareness and funds for acquired brain injury.

In addition to $843.40 donated by staff, the University donated $2500 plus in-kind support as one of the walk’s sponsors.

Ms Banson, who was greeted by crowds of well-wishers in Garema Place, said she was pleased to be back, but sad the walk was over.

"It's good to be home," she said.

"The biggest challenge we have faced is knowing that it's coming to an end.

"I would do it again in a second."

Ms Banson hinted Walk with a Rose would not be her last charity expedition.

"This is the end of project number one but there will be more to come," she said.
University of Canberra and Riverina TAFE sign MOU

Gaye Morrison

8 August 2006: Senior University of Canberra staff travelled to Wagga Wagga on Monday 31 July to see the University sign a new deal with Riverina TAFE.

The University's Vice-Chancellor, Roger Dean and Rosemary Campbell, Riverina Institute director officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on behalf of their institutions.

Ms Campbell and Professor Dean seal the deal
Photo: Sally Webster

The MOU will give greater options for students in regional NSW to further their careers by allowing Riverina Institute students to gain credit points towards a degree at the University of Canberra in related fields of study.

With campuses at Wagga Wagga, Young, Tumut, Albury, Griffith, Leeton, Cootamundra, Temora, West Wyalong, Coomealla, Finley, Deniliquin, Narrandera, Corowa and Lake Cargelligo, the Institute offers over 500 courses, many of which are compatible with the University of Canberra.

Professor Dean was particularly pleased to be able to sign such an agreement with Riverina Institute, as he believes it will allow students from across the region to realise their educational aspirations.

"Skills shortages are affecting all areas in Australia, but in regional areas it is important to support the workforce with opportunities to gain additional qualifications. The University of Canberra is a practical and career focussed university which is well placed to serve the needs of students across the region."

Ms Campbell agreed:

"We want to open as many doors of opportunity to our students as possible, and by partnering with other well respected educational organisations, we can enhance options for people in our region," she said.

The signing took place at the Riverina TAFE's On Course restaurant. After the signing the staff from the University of Canberra took a tour of the Riverina Institute Wagga Wagga Campus visiting various departments, including the Tourism & Hospitality Department; Teaching & Learning Support.
Australia's sports event pedigree inspires students

Edward O'Daly

8 August 2006: Australia's successful staging of the 2000 Olympics was an inspiration to Beijing, which hosts the event in 2008, according to the latest cohort of Beijing police officers to arrive in Canberra to boost their communication skills ahead of the event.

Sixteen members of the Beijing Public Security Bureau make up the third group to study the Master of Professional English program and were officially welcomed to the campus last week.

The group's leader Stephen Zhu described Sydney 2000 as "a good example of how to run a successful Olympic games".

In addition to the course, he said the group hoped to learn from Australia's multicultural population and from local police.

"Our English proficiency will be improved, but so will our multicultural thinking," he said.

"This is quite important for police officers at the Olympic games."
New website opens door to Golden Key

Edward O'Daly

8 August 2006: The University's chapter of the Golden Key society for high-flying students has a new website after a new member learned web skills from scratch to build it.

The international society, which invites top students at its member institutions to join its ranks, was without a site for its University of Canberra chapter until psychology/arts student Karen Subasic stepped in.

"When I received my invitation to join Golden Key my first move was to search the net to find out more. I found the international site and located UC under the chapter directories but was disappointed to find UC did not have a chapter website," she said.

"I figured, if I want to benefit from being a Golden Key member, then I need to make some things happen myself."

Ms Subasic gave herself a crash course in web and graphic design and last week the fruits of her labours were launched by Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean at a function in the staff club.

Chapter president Anthony Watkins said the new website was just the "first step".

"Now that we have a foundation to build on, the next challenge is to grow and evolve. We want our members to be part of this process and invite them to offer feedback and to contribute to the way the website develops," he said.

Golden Key unlocked:

The Golden Key International Honour Society offers membership to the top 15 per cent of students

It was founded in 1977

It has a presence on 350 campuses in seven countries (Australia, Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates and the United States)

www.goldenkey.org

The University of Canberra chapter began in 2002.
Writers and illustrators collaborate for book project

Edward O’Daly

8 August 2006: Children’s stories by University of Canberra students were put to the test when young bookworms from Gordon Primary School visited the campus on Friday.

The children were asked to choose their favourite stories and illustrations from the Get Real project, which saw the University's creative writing and graphic design students collaborate to produce children’s books.

Sam the Detective, Clayton Smith’s story of a boy on the trail of his missing bike, was the eventual winner of the Little People’s Choice Award.

“It was a little bit more adventurous than the others and it had the best descriptions,” 11-year-old Chloe Smith said.

Claudia Dinallo’s artwork for Knit Knit Knit won the Little People’s Choice Award for illustration.

Gordon Primary School teacher John Muir said the trip to the University had been “exciting” for his class.

“It's great for them to have different stories read to them by different people and to match different stories to original illustrations,” he added.

Graphic design lecturer Julie Bradley said the Get Real project gave her students a taste of a real life professional design project.

“It's a real project, going through a real process, with a real author, and it's judged by a real publisher,” she said.

“But we also remember who our target audience are and it's great to get the children's perspective.”
Wall of fame caps NAIDOC celebrations

Edward O'Daly

8 August 2006: The Ngunnawal Centre has unveiled a new honour roll of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graduates to mark NAIDOC Week.

Stage one of the list was launched as part of the University's NAIDOC celebrations - held a few weeks after the official NAIDOC festivities, which fell in the University break.

Guest speaker Phil Nean, director of the ACT's Indigenous Education Unit, discussed the state of Indigenous education and highlighted the strong education system that exists within Indigenous communities.

The value of traditional Indigenous knowledge was a theme echoed by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Sharon Bell, who talked of the need to “recognise and embed” Indigenous knowledge in the curriculum.

After the ceremony an auction was held to raise funds for students to attend the National Indigenous Tertiary Education Student Games.
Grease from scratch a hit with singers and fans

Jason Tozer

8 August 2006: The University of Canberra Music Society (UCMS) sang the songs of ‘Grease’ in an informal concert on Saturday to cap of their second ‘scratch day’ rehearsal for 2006.

Those who participated practiced the songs over two Saturdays (22 and 29 July) before performing them to family and friends in an informal concert in building five.

UCMS assistant director Freya Bailes said while numbers were down on previous occasions everyone had a great time and was enthusiastic to do it again.

"While we had hoped that more would participate, the numbers were just right to properly get to know each other," Dr Bailes said.

"Agreement was unanimous that we should do it again and UCMS will probably make it at least an annual occasion."

Dr Bailes said the best things about the rehearsals were people working as a team and gaining the courage to find their voice.

"It truly was a group effort, but also gratifying to see new people taking on solo roles, and pushing themselves to try something new," she said.

"A couple of singers have decided to join other UCMS groups such as Student Singers or Chorale."
Scholarships cash gives students a helping hand

Edward O'Daly

8 August 2006: Undergraduate students have been given a helping hand worth a total of almost $300,000 thanks to the 2006 round of scholarships.

At a ceremony last week some of the 152 students who have benefited from the year's $287,990 investment in their future were formally presented with their scholarships at ceremony attended by several of the scholarship program's sponsors.

Representatives of the Country Women's Association were particularly pleased to see their nursing scholarship, which is open to all nursing students, go to Diana Negri - a woman with a rural background.

"Health and education are issues the CWA pursues," Robina McCaffrey from the association, said.

"It's nice to see it go to a country woman."

Ms Negri said the money helped her buy textbooks and funded her membership of the Royal College of Nursing, which opened up important networking opportunities within the profession.

Alinta Williams, one of three recipients of the St Vincent de Paul Scholarship for Indigenous Students, said her scholarship made a real difference to her studies.

"I've been on exchange and spent a semester on a teaching internship, so I couldn't work, the scholarship makes life much easier," she said.

The first recipient of the University of Canberra Refugee Support Scholarship, Christiana Abakah, originally from Sierra Leone, said the scholarship was helping her achieve her lifelong dream of becoming a nurse. She stopped off en route to work at the Canberra Hospital to collect her scholarship certificate.
Overhaul for international student resources

Edward O'Daly

8 August 2006: The ‘new’ International Learning and Teaching Centre opened last month.

Housed in building 20 and managed by the Division of Communication and Education, the centre is backed jointly by the School of Languages International Studies and Tourism, the University of Canberra English Language Institute and University of Canberra College.

The centre contains dedicated resources for each area’s students, which has been reorganised for ease of access. Two new, part-time information officers share the task of keeping resources in check.

To contact Monitor Online:

monitor@canberra.edu.au

Location: 1C73

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Updated February 9, 2007
International issues on menu at women’s lunch

Kaddie Pass

8 August 2006: Internationalisation was the focus of the annual University of Canberra women’s lunch, held last month.

Organised by the Harmony Committee and the Women’s Professional Development Committee, the event is now in its third year and is going from strength to strength. Many of the guests were drawn to the lunch to hear guest speaker Libby Lloyd, UNIFEM Australia’s national president, speak about the work she is undertaking with the United Nations’ women’s arm.

Ms Lloyd explained UNIFEM’s roots, which began in 1976 following the first International Women’s Year the previous year.

“UNIFEM is not actually an acronym of anything but derives from the words ‘une femme’ with the idea of ‘one woman - working together’,” she said.

UNIFEM is best known for its work around White Ribbon Day, that marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

“The campaign has grown remarkably over the last few years. In 2003 10,000 ribbons were distributed and by 2005 this had jumped to 250,000. This year one million ribbons will be produced for distribution,” Ms Lloyd said.

She explained wearing a white ribbon is a personal pledge to not commit, condone nor remain silent about violence against women and children.

“Violence against women is not a women’s issue but a man’s,” she said, but added it is an issue that women nevertheless have a stake in.

Leonie-Ruth Acland, Harmony Program coordinator, said the University is planning a number of activities to support UNIFEM including White Ribbon Day and would welcome anyone interested in helping with the event.

Chancellor Ingrid Moses who was guest of honour at the lunch, expressed her support for a University of Canberra UNIFEM Annual Spring Walk to raise money to support women and children around the world.
Law school stars on world stage in China

Jason Tozer

8 August 2006: The University law school put itself on the map when it co-hosted the inaugural Sino Australian Law Deans Conference with China's Renmin University in July.

Held over two days in Beijing, the conference was the third in the series held around the world and attracted more than 100 deans from prestigious law schools in China and Australia.

Senior lecturer Arthur Hoyle, who presented two papers, said the University was mentioned constantly throughout the conference and given great exposure.

"The University of Canberra was mentioned nearly every 10 minutes," Mr Hoyle said.

"Every speaker thanked UC and there were 11 Chinese media outlets in attendance and the opening was given national coverage in China."

The conference was designed to formally discuss methods of legal education in Australia and China and open opportunities for collaboration despite the two countries' differing legal systems.

The University's involvement in the conference has not only enhanced its relationship with Renmin University but also with other law schools such as China University of Politics and Law (CUPL), an institution with more than 60,000 students.

"We have a collaborative research agreement with CUPL," Mr Hoyle said.

"They'll be visiting in December this year in connection with that project as we are the only foreign partner ... and it's worth some $15 million."

My Hoyle explained the law school's recent success had been the culmination of hard work and keen strategy.

"We don't want to telegraph all our moves because it's a highly competitive market," he said.

"But we've been meeting with people for two to three years slowly working on mutually beneficial relationships."
Fun and games for University sports teams

Jason Tozer

8 August 2006: Four teams represented the University of Canberra at the Eastern University Games (EUGs) held in Coffs Harbour last month.

More than 3500 participants, volunteers and officials from 28 universities and tertiary campuses in NSW and ACT officiated prepared or played in 21 different sports over four days.

All the University's teams, men's and women's touch, women's hockey and men's basketball, finished in the top 10 teams of their respective sports.

University team manager and women's touch player Emma Gleeson said that while there were less than a third of the teams sent away in previous years, everyone still gave it their best and had a lot of fun.

"Even though it was just a small group from UC, everyone got together to socialise which made it a real great experience," Ms Gleeson said.

"The highlight for the women's touch team was winning the local derby against Australian National University."

Men's touch team manager Ryan Clayton said Coffs Harbour was more than hospitable for the 3,500 students who participated.

"It's a really good place to go out and party and the weather was always in the twenties," Mr Clayton said.

"We hit the beach pretty regularly to relax after games in the afternoon."

Women's hockey team manager Sarah Portors, who made the EUGs women's hockey merit squad, said the experience was one to remember.

"Everyone had an amazing time and I don't think the laughter or drinks stopped rolling for the entire week and friendships have been made that will last a lifetime," Ms Portors said.

While funding for the 2007 Eastern University Games is in doubt under voluntary student unionism rumour is they will definitely be run again in 2008.
Law school welcomes new staff

Jacquelyn Curtis & Jason Tozer

8 August 2006: The University of Canberra School of Law welcomed its new head, Murray Raff, and four other new faculty members during semester two commencement drinks last Thursday.

Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean, Chief Justice Terry Higgins and new president of Isaacs Law Society Lisa Tomlins attended the evening, which provided a chance for staff and students to meet the newcomers.

Justice Higgins, Professor Raff and Ms Tomlins mingled with guests at the function.

Photo: Kimberly Douglas

Professor Raff introduced himself and new staff members Andrew Clarke, Jenny Duxbury, Clare Hyden and Anne Wallace to the school.

Dr Clarke, who moved from the University of New England to take up an associate professor position said he has found the new city and job are a perfect match.

"Canberra is a really family friendly city which is important to me," he said.

"Also the University's goals are an excellent fit with my area of research in corporate governance."

For law school graduate, Clare Hyden, her new position sees her not only working alongside former teachers but also a past neighbour.

Kam Kamarul, a current law school faculty member, lived across the street from Ms Hyden when she was an infant.

Ms Hyden said she was looking forward to "an exciting new challenge" in her new role.

"I've always had a high regard for the law school here, so it is nice to be back as a staff member," she said.

Ms Wallace, a former prosecutor and lecturer from Monash University, said despite the change of climate she is enjoying her new position.

"The law school has been very warm and welcoming," she said.
University of Canberra Vice-Chancellor Professor Roger Dean admitted he struggled with statistics in his Player's Company's "Chekhov's Funniest" at The Staff Club.

Two University of Canberra staff members discovered according to a NSW Ministry of Transport spokesperson.

City Rail concessions under review

M. Margetts; Reader, Public Health Nutrition, Institute of Human Nutrition, University of Southampton, services.

UC Art Curator, Johanna Owens, will conduct an art tour on 19 May, visiting various artworks around the 3 May for a Research Seminar Competition which saw them present their research in an innovative and Students took centre stage during Celebrating Research on Tuesday Convention Centre.

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Monitor Online - Latest news and feature stories

Forensic research on the hunt for rogue labs

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.

Reality TV clients for graphic design class

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.

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

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Last Updated on February 9, 2007
University of Canberra Union said the contract would not be renewed.

Students went to the coast for a Semester Abroad Orientation trip. Only one had been on a surfboard.

Overseas students go to the beach, some for the first time

Conference, Amelia, Arabian Nights learning about technology issues in education

Interest in golf in Canberra and Ekaterina (Katerina) Panova is from Russia and lists psychology as a

and can't wait for her husband to join her from ANU, Yi (Alex) Gao is from China and wants to pursue his

questionnaires.

Intimate relationships. The research is being conducted by intern psychologist Annette Gloeckler as a

Five University of Canberra design students will work with design world stars, such as confronting New

May Gibbs Fellow Jill Morris was inspired to write her first poem by a rainforest when she was nine.

Rainforest was where it all started for Jill

Professor Ann Harding, has won a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grant for

Director of University of Canberra's National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM),

The Tiger, The Fox the Cat or the Devil reads like the title of a child's picture book. It is in fact the title of

Communications.

UC poet comes to Nannup

JANUARY 2005

Scientists focus on Cotter River

No strings attached for Leonie-Ruth Acland

Australasian Campus Union Managers' Association for his dedication and commitment to the job.

Employee wins award for UCU services

Mahalingam were kids with no idea they would one day be asked to mark the milestone.

When Canberra scientist Professor Frank Fenner and other World Health Organization officials declared

Celebrating 25th anniversary of demise of Smallpox

In their home away from their home in Emu Ridge last year, Hong Kong student "Cynthia" Ying Chi Yu

Sibling UC students are really cooking

Australian Idol contestant and University of Canberra student Hayley Jensen has put her studies on hold

reasons: the people, the weather and the familiar culture.

Sharing bathrooms and washing machines all year might not be a desirable way of life for many people,

Their peers was too good to resist.

If you see some people dressed in yellow t-shirts and yellow caps around the UC campus this week,

Journalist Gabrielle Boyle returned to her old stamping ground with a message yesterday. Gabrielle, a

Oval in Narrabundah.

The third edition of the Canberra Sixes® is set to hit the field on Sunday, February 20, at Boomanulla

Cricket: Hitting it for six at Boomanulla

Forget the Batmobile, the Donormobile is coming to the University of Canberra in March. The University

of university.

The party might be over but the year's just beginning

Children's writer to make inspiring visit to UC

planned to avoid disruption.

24, giving her the opportunity to lecture, interact with students, help them workshop ideas and visit

Getting on together: preschool research at Wiradjuri.

Wiradjuri contributes $1000 to tsunami kids

Week of February.

program for the Group Mentoring Program for Women at Corrigan's Cove in Batehaven during the first

Connecting Women

UC upgrades access to Children's Book Council records

blood bank at the University of Canberra on March 22nd was that there were too many.

The only complaint that could be made about the number of blood donors for the Red Cross mobile

There was a sign of the front door of the Students Association yesterday morning to say the centre

buildings 3, 6 and 7.

between 9.30am and 10.30am throughout the campus including in the area between the Hub and

EMA at forefront of Operation Tsunami Assist

Rooster on February 9.

average afternoon at the University of Canberra.

Eight months later the boys from Tripitide's schedules are jam-packed with gigs at many Canberra pubs

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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.