

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting 13 April 2005

### VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT Recent developments

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#### ACHIEVEMENTS

##### **Student awarded Australian Postgraduate Award Scholarship**

Phillip Newton, who recently graduated from UWS with First Class Honours in Nursing, has been awarded a prestigious and highly-sought Australian Postgraduate Award Scholarship. Phillip will begin study for his PhD at UWS in 2005. His research will be on the management of symptoms in advanced heart failure.

##### **Student awarded Royal Blind Society bursary**

Commencing Bachelor of Social Science student, Dawson Ko, was awarded one of seven Royal Blind Society 2005 Education Bursaries by the Governor of NSW on 17 March. The bursaries are awarded to students who are blind or have severe visual impairments, and are commencing tertiary study (university or TAFE). The bursaries are valued at up to \$8,000 and include training and the purchase of adaptive technology. Dawson has been blind for two years. He travels each day independently to UWS Bankstown by train and bus. He will use the bursary to pay for a light laptop and a scanner. Special software will read out what is on the screen so he can get the same information as his sighted fellow students.

##### **UWS graduate accepted for Oxford degree**

UWS graduate and former National Leadership Scholarship student Danielle Logue was recently accepted for entry to the Oxford University Master of Science (Management Research) Program. Danielle is expected to begin studying at Oxford in October 2005. She later plans to study for her PhD at UWS.

##### **Vice-Chancellor appointed to IMHE Governing Board**

The Vice-Chancellor has been appointed to represent Australia on the Institutional Management in Higher Education (IMHE) Governing Board. IMHE is an Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) program and is an international and membership forum that aims to serve administrators, researchers and policy makers in higher education.

##### **ICT expert represents Australia at conference**

COALAR (the Federal Council for Australia-Latin America Relations) funded the airfare for UWS academic Dr Ignacio Garcia to represent Australia at the 3rd OECD Spanish Speaking Seminar "Uses of ICT Learning Knowledge-based Society" in Santiago, Chile, from 30 March to 1 April. Dr Garcia, a senior lecturer in the School of Language and Linguistics, is a native speaker of Spanish and an innovator in the uses of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in teaching and learning. The Vice-Chancellor is a member of COALAR but disqualified herself from involvement in the Council's consideration of Dr Garcia's attendance. The organisers of the seminar were very keen to have representation from non-Spanish speaking OECD member countries, and stated "we are sure his practical knowledge and research work will be a rich value added to our discussions". While in Santiago Dr Garcia also met the DEST counselor in Santiago, Mr Tony Crooks, who arranged other visits for him.

### **Deputy Vice-Chancellor selected for AVCC Joint Working Group**

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development and International), Professor Tong Wu, was selected as the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC) representative for the DEST Government-to-Government Joint Working Groups meetings in Thailand and Indonesia. Professor Wu will provide a short report on the meetings for the next meeting of the AVCC's DVC/PVC International Group.

### **Works from UWS collection in Museum of Brisbane exhibition**

UWS will be lending several art works by Savanhdary Vongpoothorn to the Museum of Brisbane for its forthcoming three-month exhibition "Echoes of Home: Memory and Mobility in Recent Austral-Asian Art", which will focus on artists who use a strong craft component in their practice, and continue to incorporate "clear presences" from their ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Savanhdary is a visual arts graduate of UWS and a keenly sought-after artist. She was a finalist in the Moet and Chandon art prize in 1998 and her work is included in major collections including the Queensland Art Gallery and National Gallery of Australia.

### **Agreement to commercialise dairy processing technology**

Under an exclusive million-dollar agreement, the French company APPLEXION will design, build and sell a new dairy processing technology developed by Food Science Australia and UWS. The technology converts the dairy by-product, whey, into a range of high-value products for use in medicines and health supplements. It will help Australia's dairy manufacturers to maximise the value of the 3.3 million tons of whey generated each year. APPLEXION believes the partnership will see Australia become a world leader in this type of technology, and export it around the world.

### **Cooperative Programs continues to win plaudits**

The new international component of UWS's highly successful Cooperative Programs scheme, which was piloted in 2004, has won high praise from both participating students and international industry partners. Six students undertook five-week work placements with organisations overseas. A sample of comments from students included "This experience has helped me develop personally more than ANYTHING I ever completed at University" and "The Coop International program and the travel I did was probably the best experience I have had in my life", and from partners "Glen was a very hard working and enthusiastic worker....and we managed to justify the increase in our laboratory analysis costs for 2005 due to the results of his work on our job costings" and "Kathryn was an excellent placement and was an asset to our organisation while she was here".

### **Academic selected for Science meets Parliament meeting**

Dr Miroslav Filipovic, a senior lecturer in the School of Computing and Information Technology, was selected with nine other NSW academics to represent the Astronomical Society of Australia at the Science meets Parliament meeting in March. He was selected on the basis of his strong publication record.

## **RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Grants and Research Funding**

UWS submitted 35 applications for research grants in the annual round for the ARC Discovery program. Half these applications came from the College of Arts, Education and Social Science, and a further third from the College of Science, Technology and Environment. There were three applications from the College of Law and Business and one from the College of Social and Health Sciences. This is a smaller number of applications than last year, which is not surprising because the very high success rate of applications last year means fewer grants need to be resubmitted to compete again.

### **Research Training**

The position of Dean of Research Studies is being taken up by Professor Phillip Broadbridge. Professor Broadbridge is currently Chair of the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Delaware. An Australian, he was previously Director of the Institute for Mathematical Modelling and Computational Systems at the University of Delaware. He will take up the position in June, and will be located with the Research Student Team in the new Kingswood premises of the Office of Research Services.

### **Research Quality Framework**

The Federal Government has appointed an Expert Advisory Group to advise it on the development of models for its Research Quality Framework, and is holding consultations about the issues involved in assessing quality and impact of research in different disciplines and in interdisciplinary modes. The Expert Advisory Group is chaired by Professor Sir Gareth Roberts, who led the review of the UK Research Assessment. An Issues Paper has just been released by the Department of Education, Science and Training. The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) is meeting with her counterparts from other New Generation Universities to discuss the issues raised by the Research Quality Framework for universities whose research capacities are still developing. UWS will, nevertheless, develop its own response.

### **Australian Human Ethics Committee**

UWS and its Human Ethics Research Committee have made submissions to the Australian Human Ethics Committee review of the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans. The review's First Consultation Draft foreshadows significant improvements in the flexibility and responsiveness of the framework for ethical review of research involving humans as it applies to research in the humanities and social sciences, and especially of research using ethnographical and other qualitative approaches.

## **RECENT EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS**

### **International Women's Day**

UWS's International Women's Day event on 8 March was a notable success. It was standing room only for late arrivals and UWS staff as Nancy De Vries' life story "Ten Hours in a Lifetime" was launched by the Honourable Gough Whitlam AC, QC and our inaugural "Women of the West" awards were presented. Ms De Vries is a member of the "stolen generation" who has achieved much in her life, including becoming one of UWS's first Indigenous graduates in nursing and being chosen as the person to whom the State Government apologised for past wrongs to Indigenous people. She delivered a moving address which received a standing ovation. In launching the book, which was written with the help of Dr Gaynor Macdonald of Sydney University, Associate Professor Jane Mears of UWS and Ms Anna Nettheim, Mr Whitlam also outlined the achievements of his government in leading efforts to implement the objectives of International Women's Year in 1975.



The Hon Gough Whitlam  
AC, QC with Ms Nancy De  
Vries at the UWS IWD on  
8 March 2005

Sister Mary-Louise Petro, Chief Executive Officer of the Mamre Project, a non-profit company of the Parramatta Sisters of Mercy, for the past two decades, was announced as the winner of the inaugural “Women of the West” Award. Sister Mary-Louise has overseen the restoration of the historic Mamre Homestead and transformation of the entire surrounding site which is now a tearoom/restaurant and function centre used and enjoyed by the local community and others from further afield. The Mamre Project has offered training and personal development courses to disadvantaged people and in a range of ways fulfilled the company’s aims to provide services and programs that contribute to the alleviation of poverty and the achievement of well-being of disadvantaged individuals and groups. Denise McGrath, Chief Executive of Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation, and Hawkesbury City Councillor Dianne Finch received “highly commended” awards. The awards aim to provide recognition of the contribution women have made to the Greater Western Sydney region.

The International Women’s Day event was complemented by the first exhibition in the upstairs gallery space in building AD, which was entitled “Contested Ground” and featured a range of works by Indigenous artists.



Women of the West award recipients Cllr Diane Finch, Deputy Mayor of Hawkesbury City Council, Denise McGrath, CEO Kids of Macarthur Foundation and Sister Mary–Louise Petro, CEO Mamre Plains Ltd

### **History of Nepean College launched**

“The History of Nepean College”, edited by former Nepean College of Advanced Education Principal Dr Ellice Swinbourne, was launched by the Chancellor prior to the UWS Foundation meeting at the Female Orphan School on 18 March. The publication follows the history of the College from inception until its incorporation into the newly established University of Western Sydney in 1989. It features an overview chapter by Dr Swinbourne, chapters by the Founding Principal, Dr John Flak, and the Founding Director of the School of Arts and Foundation Dean, School of Visual and Performing Arts, Professor Ron Dunsire, a chronology and historical data. Dr Swinbourne, Dr Flak and Professor Dunsire were guests of honor at the event which was also attended by many former Nepean staff members.

### **Launch of “Maximising Potential in Macarthur”**

UWS and its community partner Future Achievement Australia were awarded \$409,860 (GST inclusive) under the Federal Government’s Sustainable Regions Funding scheme for the project “Maximising Potential in Macarthur” which will provide leadership coaching and opportunities for young people in the Macarthur region. The project was launched on 23

March by Mr Pat Farmer, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Science and Training and Federal Member for Macarthur. The Vice-Chancellor responded to Mr Farmer's address on the University's behalf.

### **Visit by Canadian Quality Network**

UWS hosted a delegation from the Canadian Quality Network for Universities on 15 February. The delegation included senior staff from 13 Canadian universities, mostly at the Vice-Presidential level. The Quality Network began in 1993 as a platform for university leaders grappling with new strategic challenges and eager to learn from emerging research, experience and best practice, from across sectors. The delegation's visit to Australia was hosted by UTS with the assistance of UWS. Participants also visited other universities in Sydney and Melbourne, as well as the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) and the Australian Technology Park, during their stay. The UWS visit was very successful, with participants commenting favourably on the usefulness of the presentations, discussions and opportunities for networking.

### **Lunch for scholarship winners**

On 18 February the Vice-Chancellor hosted a lunch for the winners of UWS Vice-Chancellor's Leadership Scholarships and Academic Excellence Scholarships. School principals and careers advisors also attended. These are students who could have chosen to attend any University, and it was very pleasing to see their enthusiasm, intelligence and excitement about their future at UWS.

### **Visit by Professor Michael Gibbons**

Eminent academic and international expert in university and community engagement Professor Michael Gibbons visited UWS from 28 February to 2 March. Professor Gibbons was most recently Secretary-General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and was a key speaker at the first meeting of New Generation Universities initiated by UWS and sponsored by ACU in 2002. On 28 February he took part in a roundtable discussion with the UWS Executive and senior staff. This was followed by dinner. On 1 March he presented on "Research at the heart of the engaged university" at a community forum at the Parramatta campus. Professor Gibbons' visit provided some very useful insights and continued a strong relationship with the University which began with the first New Generation Universities conference held at UWS in 2002.

### **Justice Michael Kirby guest speaker at symposium**

A successful special symposium jointly sponsored by the UWS School of Law and regional law firms, "Detention Without Trial – what are the limits" was held on 15 March. Justice Michael Kirby, AC, was the guest speaker. The symposium examined issues surrounding recent High Court decisions on the detention of asylum seekers without trial, notably the cases of Al-Kateb and Al Khafaji.

### **Meetings with Ministers**

The Vice-Chancellor has recently met with the NSW Shadow Minister for Education and Training, Ms Jillian Skinner, the Federal Shadow Minister for Education, Science and Training, Ms Jenny Macklin, and Ms Julie Owen, Federal MP for Parramatta, to discuss the University and higher education issues generally. The Deputy Chancellor Ms Gabrielle Kibble, the Vice-Chancellor and Professor Kevin Sproats met with the NSW Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Resources, the Hon. Craig Knowles MP, to discuss the Medical School and UWS land issues.

### **Dinner for University President**

On 2 March the Vice-Chancellor hosted a dinner for the President of the University of Education in Karlsruhe, Germany, and the International Director at that University. They were visiting UWS to discuss links with our education program including Study Abroad agreements, and possible research links.

### **Nirimba MOU signed**

After an extended process of liaison and discussion, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by UWS and TAFE in relation to the Nirimba precinct (Blacktown campus). The Vice-Chancellor signed on behalf of the University at a ceremony at the precinct on 21 February. The MOU provides the framework for operation of the precinct and the sharing of facilities.

### **Further materials added to Whitlam collection**

The Hon. Gough Whitlam AC, QC has donated a further 85 archival boxes of primary source material to the Whitlam Institute collection. This material will add further depth to this valuable collection.

### **New Whitlam Chair named**

Professor Ivor Indyk has been appointed the University's inaugural Whitlam Chair in Writing and Society within the College of Arts, Education and Social Science. Professor Indyk is one of Australia's leading literary critics and has experience in both the scholarly and commercial aspects of Australian literature. As Chair he will guide the activities of the UWS "Writing and Society" research group, which will be made up of scholars, writers, postgraduate students and publishers.

### **NSWVCC Strategic Initiatives Group meeting with Premier**

As part of the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee Strategic Initiatives Group, the Vice-Chancellor met with the NSW Premier and senior NSW bureaucrats on 31 March. The Vice-Chancellor led the discussion on Voluntary Student Unionism and its deleterious impact on NSW universities and student associations if legislated by the Commonwealth in the form currently proposed.

Discussion focused on a range of issues, including the recently released Commonwealth Issues Paper 'Building University Diversity', Commonwealth / State Jurisdictional Responsibility for Universities, State funding for research, and indemnity insurance for medical and health-related studies.

### **Lecture by Turner Prize winning artist**

A public lecture by ceramic artist Grayson Perry, winner of the 2003 Turner Prize from London's Tate Gallery, was sponsored by UWS together with the Museum of Contemporary Art and the National Association for Visual Arts. The lecture was held at the Museum of Contemporary Art on 17 February.

### **Orientation**

Orientation for new undergraduates was held on 23-25 February. There was a range of activities including library tours, computer facility tours, self-paced campus tours and a "secrets of success" workshop about resources and services available at UWS. A postgraduate orientation session was held at the Parramatta campus on 5 February. The session was designed to welcome students and inform them about services, facilities and the support available to them.

### **Cumberland Plain Woodland symposium**

A symposium was held at the University on 16 February to discuss the endangered ecosystem of the Cumberland Plain Woodland. The symposium focused on the Recovery Plan which is being developed under Threatened Species legislation. UWS is conducting extensive research and field work into the Woodland.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

- On 14 April the Vice-Chancellor will open the new MARCS laboratory at the Bankstown campus. MARCS is one of UWS's most successful research centres and

the new laboratory will enhance its research capabilities in many areas, for example infant perception facilities and a wider range of movement analysis, as well as opening up research possibilities in new areas such as event-related brain research.

- The Deputy Chancellor, Ms Gabrielle Kibble, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Neville Yeomans and Professor Kevin Sproats will meet with the NSW Minister for Education and Training, the Hon. Carmel Tebbutt MP, on 19 April to discuss Medical School and land issues.
- In May, Mr Pat Farmer, MP, and the Vice-Chancellor will co-host a special briefing on UWS for Greater Western Sydney for Federal and State politicians from both the major political parties at the Campbelltown campus. The events will include a lunch with high achieving students and presentations from senior staff.
- The Vice-Chancellor will visit Chile in May as a representative of the Federal Government. She will attend a series of “Australia Festivals” which aim to build cooperative links and market opportunities between Australia and Chile. While there she will also visit universities and discuss higher education links with senior Chilean education representatives.
- The Vice-Chancellor will launch the new prospectus for the School of Nursing, Family and Community Health on 12 May which is International Nurses Day.
- The UWS Chapter of Golden Key International Honour Society will hold a reception for students who have newly joined the Society on 15 May. Society membership, which provides a range of opportunities for networking, career development, community service and skills development, is only open to high academic achievers.