

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting 22 June 2005

### VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT Recent developments

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#### ACHIEVEMENTS

##### **Academic appointed to international music board**

Dr Diana Blom, a senior lecturer in music from the UWS School of Contemporary Arts, has accepted a two-year appointment to the prestigious International Society for Music Education (ISME). ISME is a non-profit organisation that advocates and promotes music education across all educational settings and in the community. It was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 1953 and operates in over 70 countries. Dr Blom will be the only Australian representative on the 13-member board.

##### **Student journalists successful**

UWS student Tereza Kancijanac, who is studying for a combined Bachelor of Communication (Journalism) and Bachelor of Laws, is the first finalist in the 2005 Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia (FECCA)/SBS Student Journalism Award. Tereza's feature story "Sailing Towards Hope" on the theme "Education and Research – are we using our multicultural potential?" will be published in issue 10 of FECCA's national magazine *Australian mosaic*. UWS student Lema Samander, who is studying for a Bachelor of Arts (Communication) won the overall FECCA award for 2004. It was presented to her by the Federal Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Peter McGauran MP, in April. The prize included \$800 and an internship with SBS.

##### **Indigenous education students shine**

Three Indigenous Education students graduated with Honours in the autumn graduation ceremonies, two with First Class Honours and one with Second Class Division 1 (the next highest grade). Bachelor of Education (Primary) graduate Nicole Wade won a University medal. University medals are awarded to students who achieve consistently high results throughout their degrees, and only six in total were awarded in this round of graduations. Nicole also was also awarded the Betty and Neil Hunt Prize for outstanding academic practice and teaching performance at the College of Arts, Education and Social Sciences presentation ceremony earlier in the year.

##### **UWS-industry collaboration success story**

Tourism and environmental management academics have developed a positive research-based engagement model with the NSW Caravan and Camping Industry Association (CCIA). The "Gumnut Awards" scheme educates and guides businesses through three phases to create an Environmental Management Plan tailored to the specific physical and cultural setting of the business. It was developed following criticism of environmental practices among CCIA members by the NSW Coastal Councils. A record 40 per cent of the CCIA membership has since enrolled in the scheme, and 150 bronze awards, five silver awards and two gold awards have been made to businesses. The success of the scheme led to its being included among the finalists for this year's Banksia Awards which recognise and honour companies and individuals whose environmental performance makes a significant difference to the Australian and world environment. The Gumnut Awards scheme has also been accepted as a nomination in the internationally prestigious Alcan Prize, the winner of which receives US\$1 million.

In addition, the research has resulted in a UWS Honours scholarship from CCIA, employment of a UWS tourism graduate as a fulltime extension officer, three refereed research publications, a NSW Environmental Trust grant and a joint Australian Research Council postdoctoral grant application. The model is being investigated for use in number of other tourism sectors as well as other industries.

#### **Agreement to commercialise new medical therapies**

UWS and the University of Sydney recently signed an agreement with Medical Therapies Limited for the company to develop and commercialise new drug treatments, including anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer drugs, emerging from research at the universities. Under the agreement, the universities give their intellectual property to the company and in return receive equity in the company, which will be floated on the stock exchange later in the year.

#### **Doctoral student wins Young Scholar Award**

Nicole Lees, a PhD student with the MARCS Auditory Laboratories, won the Young Scholar award at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Australasian Experimental Psychology Conference in April. Nicole received the award for the best student presentation for her paper "The effect of speaking style on the detection of speech in noise". Nicole will also present her research findings to the Auditory-Visual Speech Processing Meeting on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, in July.

#### **Public Trustee sponsors Law Fellowship**

The Public Trustee of NSW has sponsored a three year Fellowship in Elder Law. The agreement will provide \$500,000 over five years to fund a teaching and community engagement position. A lunch attended by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor was held on 2 June to thank the Public Trustee and celebrate the relationship. Current staff member Ms Sue Field has been appointed the Public Trustee of NSW Fellowship in Elder Law and will commence in the position on 1 July.

#### **Nursing textbook wins high praise**

A recent publication in the United States, *Professional Nursing: Concepts, Issues and Challenges* of which the Head of the School of Nursing, Family and Community Health, Professor John Daly, was the first editor and Professor Debra Jackson a co-editor, and which Professor Daly, Professor Jackson and Professor Esther Chang wrote or co-wrote chapters for, won high plaudits from leading nursing academics. Comments included "major contribution to the development of a global nursing consciousness" and "an unusually comprehensive yet focused treatment of the concepts, issues and challenges of contemporary nursing....a multinational perspective to the dialogue about professional nursing". British and Australian editions of the book have already been published. UWS nursing academics continue to make a significant contribution to nursing education and practice internationally.

#### **UWS graduate in final two for "My Restaurant Rules"**

Ms Bella Serventi, who graduated with a Bachelor of Communication (Advertising) in the 2005 autumn ceremonies, and her partner Mr Evan Hansimikali, were one of the final two couples in the Channel 7 reality television show "My Restaurant Rules" with their restaurant "Pink Salt" in Manly. Unfortunately the couple was outvoted by supporters of the Adelaide couple who won the competition.

#### **MARCS to host prestigious international conference**

MARCS Auditory Laboratories, in collaboration with the relevant peak body, the Australian Speech Science and Technology Association (ASSTA), has won the bid to organise a prestigious international conference. The 2008 International Conference on Spoken Language Processing (INTERSPEECH) will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, which assisted in the bidding process.

The conference, held every two years under the auspices of the International Speech Communication Association, attracts more than 1,000 academic and industry researchers and covers developments in all aspects of speech communication including acoustics, phonetics, phonology, linguistics, natural language processing, artificial intelligence, cognitive science, signal processing and pattern recognition.

MARCS Director and President of ASSTA, Professor Denis Burnham, spearheaded the successful bid, which is also supported by ASSTA, the Human Communication Science Network (HCSNet), and researchers from the University of Queensland, the Australian National University, the University of Melbourne, the Bionic Ear Institute, and Flinders University. MARCS has an international reputation in speech and language research.

## **RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Grants and research funding**

- Dr Paul Smith of the School of Science, Food and Horticulture is the leader of a collaborative project to improve the productivity and profitability of smallholder fish farmers in inland PNG. The project *Inland aquaculture in PNG: improving fingerling supply and fish nutrition for smallholder farms* will receive funding of \$773,797 from Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research over the next five years. In earlier work, Dr Smith identified small scale fish farming as a rapidly developing industry, with farmers needing training in areas such as appropriate feeding and fertilising and preparation of fish feed.
- Two Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) grant applications have been submitted with UWS as lead organisation. UWS is a collaborating institution on a further four LIEF grant applications. The LIEF scheme, *inter alia*, aims to support large-scale cooperative initiatives involving two or more institutions, thereby allowing expensive facilities to be shared.
- The University is currently awaiting announcement of the outcomes of the ARC Linkage grants 2004 round 2. UWS has 15 applications under consideration in this round.

### **Events**

- UWS will host the Australian Research Council (ARC) Executive on 10 June. The ARC will meet with UWS researchers and hold discussions with members of the UWS Executive.

### **Research Centres**

- Professor Ien Ang will take up her five-year ARC Professorial Fellowship and therefore stand down as Director, Centre for Cultural Research (CCR). A new Professor and Director will be recruited to lead CCR during this period.
- The Vice-Chancellor is visiting UWS research centres this year to hear about their achievements and challenges and meet with staff. To date she has visited the Centre for Cultural Research, MARCS Auditory Laboratories, Centre for Horticulture and Plant Sciences (CHAPS), Australian Expert Group in Industry Studies (AEGIS) and Centre for Complementary Medicine.

## **PLANNING AND QUALITY DEVELOPMENTS**

- Two university-wide action plans have been developed for implementation in 2005-2007, the Student Retention Plan and the Outreach Plan.
- A review of Community Engagement at UWS has been commissioned and will be completed by the end of 2005.
- An integrated Tracking and Improvement System for Learning and Teaching was put in place in March 2005, including annual course reports for undergraduate and postgraduate programs. A wide range of targeted improvements in both core and support areas have been identified using this system and other institutional surveys.
- An integrated student load prediction and management system has been developed and used in 2005.
- A preparation strategy for the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) audit has been developed based on discussions with the 24 Australian Universities audited so far and a range of international universities. This preparation strategy is now being communicated to every UWS staff member through a series of College, School, Divisional and Unit meetings.
- A complete website “Quality Management at UWS” has been developed. This has been reviewed by a range of external quality agencies and key players from around the world as accurately representing good practice
- A new UWS Staff Services Survey is currently being undertaken. This will be a key instrument for tracking staff views on the importance and performance of different support services
- An online complaints management system and associated complaints resolution framework has been collaboratively developed and externally reviewed.
- A range of surveys have been developed and implemented, including an Employer Survey, an Image Survey and a Student Satisfaction Survey. An analysis has been done of 27,000 UWS student comments on the Course Experience Questionnaire. Other surveys to be completed in the remainder of 2005 include the Offshore Student Satisfaction Survey, the Research Student Satisfaction Survey and the University Engagement Survey.
- UWS is the lead institution in a national research project involving 14 Australian universities which is analysing the comments of 165,000 students written on the Course Experience Questionnaire from 2001-2004.

## **OTHER RECENT EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS**

### **VC takes part in “Principal for a Day”**

*The Vice-Chancellor writes:*

On 18 May I was one of 34 “Principals for a Day”. I was ‘Principal’ at Fairfield High School (as was Linda Burney for Canterbury Girls High). This is a community partnership program which provides business and community leaders with the opportunity to experience first hand a normal working day in a government school. The program is a sister program of those in New York, Auckland, Los Angeles and Chicago.

## **Item 6.1** **Information Paper**

Fairfield High School has 1150 students and 140 staff, including an Intensive English Centre for newly arrived refugee students from across the globe, at the moment largely Sudanese and Iraqi. 96% of the students are of non-English speaking background and many speak several languages. The top UAI last year was 99.3; others have spent years in detention or refugee camps and have minimal literacy or English skills.

The Principal, Bob Dunne who was formerly Principal at Chifley College, hosted my visit, which included a tour of the school and several classes, an interview by a group of senior students for the School paper, meetings with staff and introductions to students, their backgrounds and capabilities.

My abiding impressions at Fairfield High are the extraordinary diversity of the student body, the spontaneous friendliness of students (including those wagging class behind a tree across the oval), the one-on-one work of the Learning Support Unit and Intensive English Centre for students with extensive needs in literacy and English language education and the reservoir of talent among the students, most especially in music and visual arts. (UWS will buy two fine etchings by a student who is now studying at UWS.) Around 40 graduating students will go on to University and many of them to UWS. We will be exploring ways to give those and others exposure to UWS and to encourage more students to consider and work towards a university education.

### **Visit to Santiago, Chile**

*The Vice-Chancellor writes:*

As a member since its establishment in 2001 and education representative of the Federal Council on Australia Latin America Relations I visited Santiago from 4-8 May 2005. The visit was organised by the Australian Education International Office (AEI/DEST) in Santiago and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, supported by Austrade and the Australian Embassy. The visit and associated bilateral meetings were organised to coincide with the Australian trade fair, attended by 17 Australian universities, TAFE Colleges or private providers. It followed both an AVCC delegation and an official visit by Minister Dr Brendan Nelson in April 2005.

An intensive program of talks included meetings with the national business and industry council (SOFOFA), the funding agency for science and technology innovation (FONDEF/CONICYT), the UN Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the University of Chile, the Universidad del Desarrollo, Universidad Andres Bello and Alberto Hurtado University, the last for a seminar on development of school principals in Chile by a visiting University of Melbourne academic.

It also included a meeting with the Director of the Foundation set up to assist communities in the vicinity of BHP Billiton's Escondida (copper) mine, with the national Director of Museums, Libraries and Galleries, with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Asia Pacific Branch) and the Chief of International Relations in the Ministry for Education.

I also had the pleasure of chairing a half day bilateral symposium "Developing Education cooperation between Chile and Australia" and welcoming a substantial gathering to the launch of the Australia Festival, opened by the Australian Ambassador. UWS was represented at the weekend trade exhibition by the International Office (Kathy Attree). Of note is that the First Secretary of the Australian Embassy, Todd Mercer, is a graduate of the Spanish language program of UWS. The AEI local staff member who coordinated the education visits was Sofia Pereira. Her mother is a graduate of UWS and her sister is currently a student.

As links between Chile and Australia develop there are significant opportunities for UWS in research collaboration in areas such as education, horticulture, mining, water management, viticulture, infrastructure planning, trade policy and other areas of common interest. Chile

also has a need for teacher education development and ESL expertise and services which we will pursue.

There is also growing interest in student and staff exchanges and knowledge transfer across a range of disciplines.

### **Yarramundi lecture**

The annual Yarramundi lecture which is held at UWS during Reconciliation Week was to have been given by prominent Indigenous elder and speaker, member of the Stolen Generation and UWS nursing graduate Ms Nancy de Vries on 27 May. Nancy's memoir *Ten Hours in a Lifetime* had been launched by the Hon. Gough Whitlam AC, QC, at UWS on International Women's Day. Unfortunately, Nancy was not well enough to deliver the lecture. Two of the academics who had helped to develop the memoir, Sydney University's Dr Gaynor Macdonald and UWS' Associate Professor Jane Mears, spoke about Nancy and her inspiring story. After that several Indigenous members of the audience spoke of their personal experiences. This included a poignant and spontaneous address by "Aunty" Marie Melito, who was also one of the Stolen Generation of Aboriginal children and was reunited with her mother, who is in a nursing home in the United States, a few years ago. The speakers were uplifting and memorable, and received very positive responses from the large audience which included students and teachers from many local high schools.

### **Higher Education Forum**

On 6 June Mr Pat Farmer, MP, and the Vice-Chancellor co-hosted a special briefing on UWS at the Campbelltown campus for Federal, State and Local government politicians from both the major political parties. The forum was followed by a lunch which was also attended by high-achieving UWS students. Politicians who attended commented favourably on the event, and follow up on specific requests will be promptly undertaken to build and maintain stronger relationships with them.

### **Other meetings with politicians**

The Vice-Chancellor:

- attended the Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon. Dr Brendan Nelson MP's "Challenge for Higher Education" forum on 14 April;
- met with State Minister for Education and Training, the Hon. Carmel Tebbutt MLC, about university land and the Medical School on 19 April;
- attended a leadership dinner with the NSW Premier on 28 April;
- met with the Hon. John Aquilina, MP for Riverstone and Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, on 2 May; and
- hosted a brief visit to UWS by the Hon. Phillip Ruddock MP, Federal Attorney-General, on 9 June.

### **Graduations**

Almost 5600 UWS students graduated during the autumn ceremonies at the Hills Centre, Castle Hill. As always, this was a proud and special time for students and their friends and families and represented the successful culmination of our teaching programs. Distinguished speakers included the Hon. Judge Graham Hill from the Federal Court of Australia, Ms Jody Broun, Director-General of the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Ms Narelle Kennedy, Chief Executive of the Australian Business Foundation, the Hon. Diane Beamer, State Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney and Minister Assisting the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Professor Bruce Barraclough AO, Chair of the Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care. Mr Jim Bosnjak OAM, Chairman of the Bosnjak Investment Group and UWS Foundation member, was both a speaker and the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate in recognition of his outstanding contribution to development of the Region and the University.

### **“Sharing our heritages” reception**

A reception was held at the Female Orphan School on 26 April for representatives of collaborating partner institutions in the exciting new three-year project “Sharing our heritages”, which provides for postgraduate students from Australia to live and study for one semester in the European Union and vice versa. Head of the UWS tourism program Associate Professor Robyn Bushell noted that the project, *inter alia*, “will enable Australian traditional owners to be recognised as custodians of the oldest living culture in the world, and who are willing to share their profound knowledge”. In 2005 the project will be jointly developed by the staff of consortium universities in Australia and the European Union, with student placements to begin from 2006.

### **Disaster management planning**

The Executive and key senior staff participated in a disaster management desk exercise on 26 May. This was the first stage of a training program, which will include a “real time” simulation. The desk exercise modelled a 1 in a 100 year flood in the Hawkesbury region. Unfortunately we lost some livestock, but the students, staff and the National Farmers’ Federation delegates were moved to higher ground. The missing students celebrating the end of year exams were found on the top floor of the Macquarie Arms in a very merry state.

### **“Shadows and Dreams” exhibition and activities**

UWS hosted “Shadows and Dreams” at the Female Orphan School as part of the Heritage Festival from 14-17 April. The event aimed to recreate in artistic form some of the life experiences of the orphans who used to live at the School in the nineteenth century. Three UWS graduates, Corrina Bonshek, Emma Stacker and Jane Davidson mounted a multi-media exhibition including artworks, installations, audio narrative and musical performances. There were also drawing, painting, collage and clay modelling workshops for children aged 8-12, which encouraged them to use the sights and sounds of the exhibition to create artworks evoking the lives of the orphans. These were popular and enthusiastically received.

### **Local member and adviser guest speakers at seminar**

State MP for Penrith, Mrs Karyn Paluzzano, and her media adviser Mr Tim Horan, who are both UWS graduates, returned to the University as guest speakers at a seminar for third year public relations students at the Penrith campus. Mrs Paluzzano spoke about her role in State Parliament, campaigning for election and working with the media, and fielded questions from students. Mr Horan spoke about the role of public relations in politics, and the differences between Australian and United States political campaign styles.

### **Inaugural lecture by Whitlam Chair**

The new Whitlam Chair in Writing and Society, Professor Ivor Indyk, delivered his inaugural lecture in the role on 29 May at Government House as part of the Sydney Writers’ Festival. The lecture “The Strange Allure of Eucalyptus” explored the importance of shyness as a feature of Australian writing and the relationship between literary and social values.

### **International visitors**

The Vice-Chancellor, senior staff and academics met with the following high level international delegations to discuss higher education issues and partnership agreements:

- the President and Director, International Office, of Dalian University of Foreign Languages, together with Sydney representatives of Dalian and the Vice-Consul from the Sydney Chinese consulate on 8 April;
- the Vice-President, Development and Senior Program Officer, International Office, of Hong Kong Baptist University on 21 April (the Chancellor also attended this meeting);
- a Chilean English language delegation on 17 May, including a Director from the Chilean Education Ministry, senior industry representatives and the Rector of INACAP which is a large technical and professional training institution (the Federal Department of Education, Science and Training was also represented at this meeting); and

- the Vice-President and senior staff of Huazhong University on 19 May and at dinner on 20 May.

### **Golden Key reception**

The UWS Chapter of Golden Key International Honour Society held a reception for students who 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. The Vice-Chancellor attended the reception and spoke to students about their aspirations, the benefits of getting involved in a range of University activities, and her own career path.

### **Financial markets conference**

The UWS Australasian Finance Research Group hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Pacific Financial Markets Conference on 26-27 May at the Darling Harbour. The conference featured over 50 presenters from Australia and Asia.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

- The annual Sir Ian Turbott lecture, honouring the UWS Emeritus Chancellor, will be delivered on 11 July by Professor Greg Clark. Professor Clark is an urban regeneration and regional economic development practitioner, who is currently Advisor on City and Regional Development to the Deputy Prime Minister of the UK, Global Practice Advisor for the London Development Agency, and Chairman of the OECD Forum of Cities and Regions. The Sir Ian Turbott lecture is a joint initiative of UWS and Penrith City Council and is presented to an audience of community and business leaders, politicians, local council staff and officials, and UWS students and staff. During his visit to Sydney Professor Clark will also come to UWS and will deliver a presentation to staff entitled "The role of London's universities in its regional development".
- The Vice-Chancellor will participate in an Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee delegation to Europe from 3-16 July. The delegation of five Vice-Chancellors and AVCC staff will meet with VIPs, Ambassadors, Ministers, University Presidents, European-based Federal Department of Education, Science and Training personnel, and peak sector bodies.
- Ten years of the highly successful UWS Cooperative Programs scheme will be celebrated at an event on 10 August. Both the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor will attend.
- UWS Open Day 2005 will be held at the Parramatta campus on 21 August. A theme and promotional campaign are currently being developed. The campaign will use the local press, radio, high schools, a letterbox drop to over 800,000 households and direct mail to promote attendance at Open Day and interest in UWS courses. A wide range of activities and displays will be organised to enhance visitors' experience.
- A Community Expo will be held at the Hawkesbury campus on 16-17 September. UWS is planning the event together with Hawkesbury EarthCare Centre and Hawkesbury Harvest. The Expo will showcase UWS research and course activities. The first day will be exclusively for high school students from Western Sydney and will have a strong education focus with seminars, workshops and course information in a fun atmosphere. September 17<sup>th</sup> will be a community fair with an educational theme and will celebrate community links with a farmers' market, community produce stalls and the annual EarthCare Sustainability Fair. The program will include a self-guided heritage tour of the campus.