

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Meeting 30 November 2005

### **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT** **Recent developments**

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#### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

##### **Academic wins prestigious teaching award**

Dr Kerry Robinson, Senior Lecturer in the School of Education, has been awarded a prestigious NSW Minister for Education and Training and Australian College of Educators Quality Teaching Award, in the category of "Teaching Excellence for Educators in Universities". Dr Robinson has also been nominated for an internal Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Award in Teaching.

##### **TVS launched**

On 21 November 2005, community television station TVS began broadcasting to the Sydney Metropolitan basin from the Werrington South Campus of UWS. UWS is a partner in the consortium for TVS and has played a central role in ensuring the appropriate governance, risk management and operational frameworks were in place. A wide range of community groups will have the opportunity to broadcast programs to a large audience. UWS itself has developed a number of program plans that will showcase different areas of expertise from across the University. The Master of Television Programming, to be taught at UWS from 2006, will provide students with a valuable "hands-on" experience in television programming through work with the team at TVS.

##### **Sculptor donates valuable work to UWS**

Sculptor Mr Gary Deirmendjian has donated his work in sandstone "Chasm" to the University. It has been installed at the Campbelltown campus (photograph attached) where it will face the new Medical School building. The sculpture was originally shortlisted for exhibition in the inaugural UWS Sculpture Award and Exhibition last year, but was damaged prior to the event and could not be shown. Now reconstructed using a somewhat different concept and new pieces of sandstone, the sculpture was one of the University's first donations under the Federal Government's Cultural Gifts Program. UWS was admitted to this program in 2005. It allows donors of artworks to claim tax concessions (for example, splitting the tax deduction for which they are eligible over a number of years). The sculpture has not yet been formally valued but is estimated to be worth around \$15,000. Mr Deirmendjian lectured in industrial design at Campbelltown (then UWS Macarthur) in the 1990s. Another of his works is currently being shown in the high profile Sculpture by the Sea exhibition.

##### **Further donation of valuable art works**

Three pastels on paper by prominent artist Robert Dickerson (photographs attached) have been donated to the UWS art collection under the Cultural Gifts Program by the artist and his wife, Jennifer Dickerson. UWS only had one work by this artist in its collection, a silk screen print, so this very generous donation will assist in our

objective of building the number of works we have by individual major contemporary Australian artists. The works will be formally valued, but their estimated worth is between \$5,000 and \$10,000 each.

### **Gough Whitlam donates key historical documents**

During the Whitlam Institute's week-long series of events to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dismissal of the Whitlam Government, the Hon. E.G. Whitlam AC QC donated to the Whitlam Archive the originals of his "It's Time" speech delivered during the 1972 election campaign before his government won power, and the Dismissal letter. The donations were marked by a special presentation ceremony at the Parramatta campus on 7 November. An updated edition of *The Truth of the Matter*, Mr Whitlam's account of the events leading up to the dismissal, was launched at the same ceremony by the Hon. Bob Carr. An exhibition, lunchtime talks and public access to the Whitlam Reading Room were also part of the week's events, as was a Hypothetical moderated by Mr Carr (see Recent Developments below).

### **Suicide study gains wide coverage**

A study by UWS Social Justice Social Change Research Centre PhD graduate Dr Marianne Wyder received wide press coverage in October. Dr Wyder's research showed that many suicide attempts are unplanned, with 93 per cent of participants reporting they considered their actions for less than 10 minutes. The study was carried out in collaboration with Westmead Hospital under an Australian Research Council Strategic Partnerships with Industry Research and Training Grant. The results will contribute to the NSW Health framework for suicide risk assessment and management, as well as informing the work of counsellors and health professionals.

### **Honorary doctorate recipient further honoured**

In 1998 the University awarded an honorary doctorate to the retired Universities Central Librarian from Rangoon, Burma, Mr U Thaw Kaung. He was recently further honoured by the bestowal of a 2005 Laureate of the Fukuoka Asian Cultural Award in the Academic category. This highly prestigious Japanese award honours an individual who has "made outstanding contributions to the preservation and creation of Asian culture and exhibited the significance of Asian culture to the world through internationality, universality, popularity and/or creativity of the achievement".

### **Head of Nursing School appointed to key positions**

The Head of the School of Nursing, Family and Community Health, Professor John Daly, has been appointed to two key nursing leadership positions. Professor Daly will chair the Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia and New Zealand) for a two-year term, and will become the Editor of the refereed journal of the Royal College of Nursing Australia, *Collegian*.

### **Astronomy community programs**

Dr Ragbir Bhathal of the School of Engineering and Industrial Design runs regular "sky viewing" evenings at the UWS observatory at Werrington North, usually with specific themes. Members of the public have the opportunity to view the heavens guided by expert information. Short presentations are included. The program has been built up over four years and is very popular, with many positive comments to the University about how much participants learned and enjoyed themselves. Astronomy nights are also held quarterly at the Campbelltown campus.

## RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS

### Grants, Scholarships, and Research Funding

Following its 2005 success, the University has again performed well in the Australian Research Council (ARC) round of grants commencing 2006, which were announced in November. Grants have been awarded in the Discovery, Linkage, and Linkage Infrastructure programs.

A total of 15 grants were awarded to UWS researchers, including funding to support two Australian Postdoctoral Fellows and four research scholarships as Australian Postgraduate Research Awards (Industry).

*ARC Discovery Grants:* Discovery grants support curiosity-led research by individuals and teams. UWS was awarded eight Discovery grants. This represents a 22.9% success rate which is commensurate with the national average success rate of 24.5%. Funding will be \$2M over three years. Grants were awarded to individuals in University Research Centres and some Schools.

*ARC Linkage Grants:* Linkage grants fund partnership-based research and require partners to contribute matching funding. UWS has been awarded five Linkage grants through its University Research Centres. Overall this represents a 56% success rate, which is well above the national success rate of 36.7%. Funding will be \$1.2M over three years. Partners include the NSW Departments of Community Services and Regional and Youth Services, the Museum of Contemporary Arts, Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals, Thumtronics and the Catholic Education Office.

*ARC Linkage Infrastructure Grants:* Linkage Infrastructure grants support major facilities and equipment involving two or more institutions, so expensive facilities can be shared. UWS was awarded two Linkage Infrastructure grants, with funding of \$350K.

The improving performance of the University in ARC grant competition for the years 2003–2006 is evident with a steady increase in the value of grants awarded and the success rate of our bids, which is commensurate with the national performance standard for ARC Discovery and well above the national average for ARC Linkage and Linkage Infrastructure. The concentration of grant success among researchers in University Research Centres is a clear sign that the emphasis on selectivity and concentration is bearing fruit. Many of the recent successes follow the University's decision to support research with smaller but significant internal research grants.

### Other Research Grants

- *Increased Apprenticeship Intake*  
Dr Phil Toner, College of Law and Business, has received \$56,000 funding from Dusseldorp Skills Forum and Group Training Australia Limited to explore the increase in apprenticeship intake over the last two years.

### **Other**

Professor Sheila Shaver has announced her retirement effective from the end of January 2006. The position of Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) will be taken by Professor Jann Conroy for a period of 4 months while the University undertakes recruitment action.

## **PLANNING AND QUALITY DEVELOPMENTS**

- The University's Action Plan for Learning and Teaching has been drafted.
- On October 21 Professor Scott completed his benchmarking work with 18 South African Universities after leading a delegation of Australian Pro Vice-Chancellors, and with four western Canadian Universities who, like UWS, are members of the Canadian Quality Network of Universities. A report on these initiatives was given to VCAC and to the HOS/Directors Forum and a wide range of follow up activities have been completed.
- Recommendations for the UWS Course Performance Fund were completed and were tabled at the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee.
- A draft outline of the UWS Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) portfolio has been produced and will be tabled at the late November meeting of the UWS Planning and Quality Committee.
- A set of posters around the theme of "Your views count" is nearing completion for display on campuses next year.
- The full set of Undergraduate Annual Course Reports has been distributed, with the Postgraduate reports to be delivered by the end of November. This year the reports will be available on the UWS Intranet.
- A Heads of Program (HoP) Forum has been organised and a range of key HoP projects are well underway in follow up to the September Quality Forum held as part of the 2005 Senior Management Conference. This work has been coordinated by the Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor (Planning and Quality) Stuart Campbell who now has the following UWS-wide action projects underway: (a) Assessment-focused unit outlines (b) Location of all unit outlines in the Library (c) HOPNet (d) A systematic approach to course advice, including electronic support (e) Preparation of the Internationalisation and Engagement Chapters of the AUQA Portfolio (f) Learning for community development.
- An analysis of the reports from units on what actions they are taking arising from the UWS Staff Services Survey is complete.
- The Quality Management at UWS Website is being revised to align with the AUQA portfolio.
- A Memorandum of Understanding on survey data sharing and benchmarking has been signed with Monash University and investigations into the establishment of a benchmarking and assistance network amongst genuinely multi-campus universities with relatively low gross income per EFTSL have received a strong response.
- The UWS Online Course Accreditation Project is underway and, in early December, Mark Hay from the South African Higher Education Council is coming to UWS to give a demonstration of the national online Higher Education system being used in that country - this will be solely for UWS.

- During 2005, the Complaints Resolution Unit (CRU) commenced managing the resolution of serious complaints and those involving cross-Divisional issues. Since January 2005, the CRU has registered 170 complaints, actively working with line managers to achieve appropriate solutions. The CRU has also completed the development of a prototype complaints handling system, consistent with the requirements of the international standard on complaint handling. The system will be launched during 2006 and will enable principled case management and the capture and analysis of data with a view to making systemic improvements.

## **OTHER RECENT EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Whitlam Institute Hypothetical**

The highlight of the week's events hosted by the Whitlam Institute to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dismissal of the Whitlam Government in 1975 was a hypothetical moderated by the Hon. Bob Carr. The hypothetical was held on 11 November and panelists included Wendy Harmer, Andrew West, Stephen Sewell, Michael Baume, Linda Burney, Senator Natasha Stott-Despoja, Graham Freudenberg, Peter Garrett, Paola Totaro, the Reverend Tim Costello and Peter Thompson. It proved to be an entertaining and thought-provoking event, as the Whitlam Institute Board had planned, and was attended by about 350 people. Many compliments were received from members of the audience. The event was attended by Mr Whitlam who gave a brief and humorous response to the hypothetical and signed books and other merchandise for long queues of people afterwards. Many local school students attended, and the event was filmed for teaching purposes.

### **Health Inequalities Forum**

The Whitlam Institute hosted a Health Inequalities Forum at the Parramatta campus on 11 October. The forum *Coordinating government services for better health: like herding cats?* took as its starting point the UK Blair Government's approach to coordinating public health action, and examined the efforts in NSW to align human services for greater impact, and the forces which shape these endeavours. Keynote speakers were Professor Don Nutbeam, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Health Sciences) at the University of Sydney, and Mr Andrew Cappie-Wood, Director-General of the NSW Department of Education and Training, and Managing Director of TAFE NSW. Respondents were Professor Diana Horvath, CEO of the Sydney South West Area Health Service, and Professor Beverley Raphael, Professor of Mental Health at the UWS Medical School.

### **Merger of SWIC and Linkwest**

The Boards of Sydney West International College (SWIC) and Linkwest have written to the Vice-Chancellor expressing their support for a merger of the two entities, which are both wholly owned by UWS. The resulting entity will be known as the University College of Western Sydney and it will run a range of English language courses, and other courses that articulate into UWS programs. Legal matters associated with the merger are expected to be completed by the end of November, and arrangements are underway to ensure a smooth transition in terms of staffing, student records, finance, IT and business systems. Recruitment of a CEO is underway and the new entity is expected to commence operations early in 2006.

### **Opening of STARTTS extensions**

The Vice-Chancellor launched a booklet and a CD at the opening of extensions at the NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS) on 26 October. The NSW Premier, the Hon. Morris Iemma MP, opened the extensions. STARTTS was established in 1988 by the NSW Department of Health to meet the needs of refugees and others who had been tortured or traumatised in their countries of origin, or in the process of fleeing those countries to Australia. The report of a study undertaken by the Vice-Chancellor, who was then Head of the School of Community Health, Cumberland College of Health Sciences, and graduate medical student Timothy Strong, in 1987 was instrumental in the establishment of STARTTS. Professor Reid was Chair of the inaugural Management Committee. The Centre has grown from nine staff (six of them part-time) at its inception to 89 staff today, and is recognised nationally and internationally for its work.

### **Medical School meetings**

The Vice-Chancellor and the Dean of Medicine, Professor Yeomans, sometimes accompanied by various others, have participated in a range of meetings about the UWS Medical School in recent months with politicians, Sydney South West Area Health Service representatives and community supporters. These included meetings with the new NSW Minister for Health, the Hon. John Hatzistergos MP, the Federal Member for Werriwa Mr Chris Hayes MP and the State Member for Campbelltown Mr Graham West MP.

### **Vice-Chancellor's address to staff**

The Vice-Chancellor addressed staff about the University's directions and recent key developments at a special forum held at the Penrith campus on 7 October, and videoconferenced to audiences at the other campuses. Staff were encouraged to submit questions prior to the event and could also ask "questions without notice" on the day. The forum was well-attended and there have been a number of requests since for the DVD that was recorded of the event and which is being distributed.

### **Postgraduate information evening**

A postgraduate information evening was held at Rosehill Gardens on 12 October. UWS offers over 150 career-oriented and research postgraduate courses which are well-respected in industry, with many of them professionally accredited. The evening was attended by 635 prospective students supported by over 120 academic and general staff.

### **Graduand art exhibition**

"Quarterish", an exhibition of artworks by UWS final year and honours students in the Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Electronic Arts programs opened on 18 November at the Penrith campus and will run until 1 December. The 60 works on show include paintings, drawings, sculptures, installations, sound art, video art and digital art. An exhibition of graduand artworks is held every year, and the opening is always very well attended. The show has attained a high profile in the community over the years, with viewings by representatives of leading public and private galleries. The exhibition was opened by Raquel Ormella, a UWS fine arts graduate and significant Australian artist. A raft of prizes and awards were also announced at the opening.

### **Scholarships presentations**

The Vice-Chancellor and other senior staff attended the UWS-wide Scholarships Presentation Ceremony on 17 November at the Parramatta campus. It was pleasing to have the opportunity to publicly recognise so many of our talented and deserving students, and generous donors.

### **Heads of Program forum**

The Vice-Chancellor gave the opening address at the inaugural Heads of Program forum, organised by the Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor, Planning and Quality, Professor Stuart Campbell, on 25 November. This initiative to bring together all the Heads of Program University-wide in a regular forum arose from the 2005 Senior Management Conference when Heads of Program attended on the first day, for the first time. Heads of Program very much appreciated the opportunity to find out more about University developments, meet their peers from other Schools and Colleges, and take part in discussion and debate.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

- This year the Vice-Chancellor's Awards and the UWS Regional Partnership Awards will be presented at the same ceremony, to be held on 1 December. The event will be a dual celebration. The Vice-Chancellor's Awards recognise the outstanding achievements of UWS staff as well as acknowledging the dedication of our longest serving employees. The Regional Partnership Awards recognise the diverse and highly valued contributions of the University's community partners.
- The Vice-Chancellor will give the "graduation address" to NSW and ACT International Baccalaureate graduates on 16 February 2006, and present them with their graduation certificates. St Pauls Grammar School at Cranebrook has been chosen to host the 2006 graduation, with up to 600 people expected to attend. The past two graduation addresses have been given by Dr John Yu, then Chancellor of the University of New South Wales, and Professor Gavin Brown, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney. The occasion will provide an opportunity to highlight some achievements of the Greater Western Sydney Region, and the University, to a wide audience of bright young students and their families.

**Gary Deirmendjian's sculpture "Chasm" installed at the Campbelltown campus**



*Works on paper by Robert Dickerson donated to UWS*



**Robert Dickerson**  
*Preparing Hau Gau* 2002  
Pastel on paper  
56 x 38cm



**Robert Dickerson**  
*Young Peasant Girl* 2002  
Pastel on paper  
56 x 38cm



**Robert Dickerson**  
*Mother, child and Stone Dog* 2002  
Pastel on paper  
56 x 38cm