

campus news

University of Wollongong



From innings to innovation



UOW Ambassador Adam Gilchrist (left) and Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton (centre) welcome Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith to the UOW function in New Delhi during their recent promotional trip to India.

Gilchrist joins UOW as India Ambassador

Champion Australian cricketer Adam Gilchrist has turned his attention from Indian bowlers to Indian business leaders in his new role as Ambassador for the University of Wollongong.

Gilchrist, who retired from international cricket early in 2008 having earned a reputation as the greatest wicketkeeper-batsman in the game's history, returned to India in September in his new role representing the University.

And this time, instead of trying to hit India's bowlers out of the ground, he played a very straight bat to convince Indian corporate chiefs of the value of forming partnerships with UOW, particularly promoting research and development opportunities at the University's new Innovation Campus.

Gilchrist hosted four special corporate lunches – in New Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Mumbai – explaining to business leaders the opportunities that exist at the Innovation Campus for Indian corporations interested in establishing a foothold in Australia. In

each city he also met groups of Indian students who will be coming to Wollongong to study in 2009.

Gilchrist was accompanied in India by UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton and senior staff, while Australian trade officials in India played a key role in facilitating the corporate functions. Foreign Minister Stephen Smith also attended the presentation in New Delhi.

Professor Sutton said the response to Gilchrist in India had been overwhelming, and the strategy of using such a high-profile cricketer to raise the University's profile had been an unqualified success.

"I knew Indians were interested in cricket, but I couldn't have imagined its importance in the daily life of the country," Professor Sutton said. "This was demonstrated by the overwhelmingly positive reaction to Adam wherever we went – whether he was meeting the CEOs of major Indian companies, student groups or people in the street.

continued on page 3.

Alumni Edition

Special Alumni feature starts on Page 7

Book celebrates great sculptor

Page 7



Franko enjoying life of crime

Page 9



Melissa leads Australia

Page 9



UOW's desalination plant connection

Page 10



Vanessa right in the picture

Page 12



Campus News is produced for community, industry, government and other educational institutions as well as staff, students and graduates of the University of Wollongong. It provides an overview of University news and achievements on a quarterly basis.

Submissions for publication can be made to the Media Unit. Phone (02) 4221 5942 or email media@uow.edu.au

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Credit crunches and economic crises: what have we learnt from history?

By **PROFESSOR SIMON VILLE**, who is Head of the School of Economics in UOW's Faculty of Commerce and President of the Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand.



Financial crises have occurred many times through our history. Is there anything we can learn from their recurrence, or is each crisis unique? If there are lessons to be drawn from history, how good are we at learning them?

History repeats itself but no two crises are identical. The institutions that shape our behaviour – forms of government, corporate structures, economic theories, cultural values, social relationships – all change over time and help to shape the context and nature of each economic or financial downturn. That said, there are instructive parallels between our current predicament and previous severe downturns in the 1890s and the 1920s/30s. Much is currently being written in the media comparing the current credit crunch with the inter-war slump. However, for Australia the historical comparisons with the 1890s seem to be particularly apposite.

The 1890s crisis was a notably Australian phenomenon although the severing of financial support by British investors was the trigger for the collapse of many financial institutions in 1893. The dimensions are staggering as one noted author has recorded: "Of 64 institutions which accepted deposits in 1891, banks in one sense, only 10 weathered the crisis; the rest suspended or failed, 34 permanently. Of 28 banks proper, only nine stayed open continuously." (AGL Shaw, *the Economic Development of Australia*). That any bank survived the crisis was due largely to belated government intervention in the form of large loans to the remaining institutions.

While widespread banking failures are not anticipated in the current crisis, this is due at least in part to the widespread government guarantee of deposits. In the United States and Europe significant financial institutions have failed and cornerstone ones, such as Barclays and Royal Bank of Scotland in the UK, have been saved by government intervention. One lesson of history we seem to have understood is that financial crises can deepen rapidly due to the interconnectedness of lending among institutions and the volatility of depositor confidence. Credit creation policies cause banks to relend a large share of the deposits they receive and therefore they are always vulnerable to a mass withdrawal of funds, a "run", if declining confidence passes a tipping point.

A second interesting parallel between today and Australia of the 1890s is that the financial crisis

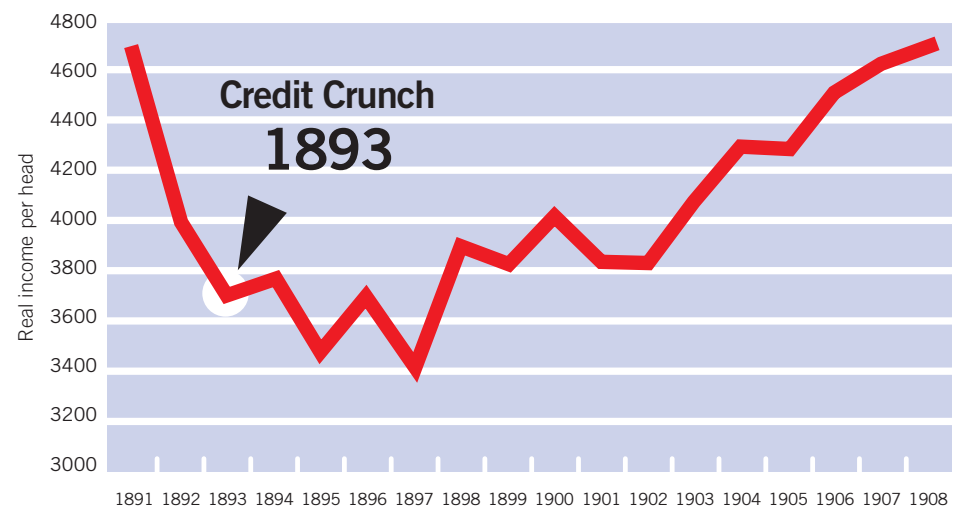
occurred at the end of a long secular boom. Historians coined the term the "long boom" to describe the 1860s to 1880s when manufacturing, resources and urbanisation all advanced rapidly. Today, we are at the end of nearly two decades of economic expansion and rising living standards. In each case, rising prices and improving terms of trade drove big increases in indebtedness, both personal and commercial, which in turn relied on continuous increases in asset values to sustain the expansion of credit. Once expansion falters, or is perceived as faltering, new lending will dry up and existing borrowers will struggle to service existing loans based on high commodity prices and rising asset values. The length of these long booms meant that whole generations grew up without experiencing an economic downturn. Loans managers had no model for an economic reversal and continued to lend on optimistic ratios of incomes to loans and of loans to asset values. Avoiding unwise lending strategies that are unresponsive to adverse changes in the macroeconomic environment is a history lesson we appear not to have learnt. The prevalence of "low doc" and "sub-prime" mortgage markets confirm this to be the case.

Specific differences between then and now are also noteworthy – Australia's key trading partner in the 19th century was the UK, not China, wool was our leading export, and exchange rates were fixed. On closer inspection, however, there is an important parallel – Australia's destiny is closely tied to that of the international economy, a point much emphasised by recent generations of economic historians. As Ian McLean has noted: "The rate of growth since the mid 19th century has been determined by international economic influences to a greater degree than is usually imagined". D. Meredith and B. Dyster, (Australia in the Global

Economy) devoted their textbook to this particular thesis. Falling British investment and wool demand shaped Australia's experience in the 1890s as much as Chinese investment and need of our resources will shape our performance in the second decade of the 20th century.

This leads us to ask what the historical record can tell us about the prospects for the Australian economy over the next decade. One of the chilling facts about the 1893 financial crisis is that it constituted the early stages of a decade of economic contraction (see graph). It was not until 1908 that the 1891 peak of real income per capita was surpassed, a period that almost exactly matches, a century earlier, the long boom of today. A severe drought in the second half of the 1890s contributed materially to this situation as the sheep population, on which Australia relied so heavily, fell by a half. Heightened industrial unrest also contributed to the climate of gloom. We have been going through a severe and sustained drought in recent years. However, today our key exports are not so drought sensitive and we have learnt much about how to reduce the economic impact of water shortages.

In the longer term, the 1890s crisis may also be judged as something of a cathartic experience. It brought in its wake a more independent role for Australia in the world economy, a diversification of economic activity, a growing application of egalitarian principles and the expansion of shareholder equity in place of bank lending for many corporations. Unravelling the short and long term causes and effects of major events such as an economic crisis is the challenge of historians. Signalling the more obvious conclusions reached by historical analysis to a national audience is the way to learn from our collective and shared pasts. **CN**



A. Maddison, *The World Economy: Historical Statistics*

Gilchrist joins UOW as India Ambassador

continued from page 1.

"Everyone recognises Gilly, as they call Adam in India, and appreciates his integrity and high moral values – qualities that sit very well with the University's ethos."

Professor Sutton said Gilchrist had generated considerable media coverage in the four cities he visited, with up to 100 media representatives – reporters, television cameramen and photographers – attending media conferences in each city.

"We couldn't possibly have achieved the coverage we did without Adam. The University of Wollongong was featured on the front pages of many of the major financial papers in India, and we were given extensive coverage in all the major daily newspapers in the four cities we visited, as well as in *The Times of India*, on CNN and other major television channels in India.

"Adam couldn't have done more, and we now have a substantial number of serious leads of companies interested in locating at the Innovation Campus. Of course there clearly are a lot of factors involved in companies making such a decision, so we'll have to wait and see what happens ... but we simply could not have generated such interest by any other means.

"Adam's brother Glenn is a graduate of our University, while Adam at a young age decided to pursue a cricket career – luckily for cricket and the Australian team. Now that he has retired it is wonderful that he is prepared to help build stronger business relationships between India and Australia, and the University of Wollongong in particular."

Professor Sutton praised Austrade for its contribution to UOW's Indian "road show", saying its organisational skills and contacts had "paved the way for a successful visit".

Australia's Senior Trade Commissioner for South Asia Peter Linford said opportunities for Australia-India trade relationships were enormous, with education and the services sector taking a leading role.

Mr Linford, who attended the corporate function in New Delhi, praised UOW for its initiative. "The Innovation Campus project with Adam Gilchrist as brand ambassador has been positively received and we look forward to providing Austrade support and watching that develop into business success in India," he said. **NH**



Adam Gilchrist attracted massive media interest wherever he went in India. These pictures were taken at a UOW media conference in Mumbai.

Taking UOW's message to India a special experience

Champion cricketer ADAM GILCHRIST talks about his experiences as an Ambassador for the University of Wollongong in India:

India has a special place in my heart.

Captaining my country to a 2-1 Test series win there in 2004 is obviously a career highlight, and I have always loved visiting this incredibly diverse nation with its rich cultural heritage and amazing people who have an unrivalled passion for cricket.

So, having retired from international cricket early in 2008, I was delighted when the opportunity arose to again represent Australia in India – not on the cricket field this time, but in the corporate world.

My role as Ambassador for the University of Wollongong gave me a great opportunity to return to India in a professional capacity, helping to spread the word about opportunities for Indian companies to form partnerships with leading research institutes based at UOW's new Innovation Campus.

I was very proud to represent such a well-established University that already has a strong reputation across Asia and the Middle East, and proud that my success on the cricket field could translate into being able to assist this excellent Australian education institution boost its international profile.

Success in cricket is all about teamwork, and it was great to be part of another strong team in India – working

with Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton and his UOW staff, as well as representatives from Austrade in India who did a fine job putting our program together.

Austrade made sure that the top echelons of Indian corporations attended our presentations in New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad, and we also attracted a lot of media attention.

Obviously my Ambassador's role was based around my profile as a cricketer, with the University using me as a conduit to the business community and the Indian media. But I am pleased to say that the business people we met were genuinely interested in talking about opportunities at the Innovation Campus. There were also plenty of business and financial writers at the media conferences who wanted to talk about opportunities for Indian corporations in Australia rather than whether India would beat the Aussies in the cricket tour that was due to start soon after our visit.

Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith came to the presentation in New Delhi, and everyone was impressed to have such a senior Government representative present.

The Innovation Campus reminds me so much of new technology-based developments I have seen in cities like Bangalore and Hyderabad, so I was able to assure Indian companies

looking for an Australian base that they would feel right at home there.

And I was able to tell them about the advantages of linking with a really good organisation that can provide them with all kinds of benefits, from research partnerships and well-qualified staff to a great part of Australia for their staff to live in.

The other aspect of my Ambassador's role was meeting students who were preparing to come to Wollongong to study.

Although I matriculated from high school I never got the opportunity to go to university, because cricket always got in the way. However, my brother Glenn trained to be a Physical Education teacher at the University of Wollongong and my parents would have liked me to follow in his footsteps if my cricket career didn't turn out as planned.

As it happened, cricket took over my life after I finished high school, and I certainly have no regrets about the extraordinary path it has taken me down. However, with a father who is a Schools Inspector, I well understand the value of a good education. So I was really pleased to talk to groups of Indian students in the four cities who are heading to UOW to study in 2009 and share their excitement about the experiences that await them in Australia. **CN**

Tributes flow for James Langridge

More than 170 people gathered at the Innovation Campus on 20 November for a dinner to pay tribute to the remarkable career of Dr James Langridge.

Dr Langridge spearheaded UOW's international expansion over the past 20 years, and is credited with the success of the University of Wollongong In Dubai (UOWD).

Dr Langridge is retiring from his roles as Vice-Principal (Overseas Operations) of the University of Wollongong and Chief Executive Officer of UOW's commercial arm, the Illawarra Technology Corporation (ITC).

He is leaving on a high. UOWD has just recorded its 3000th graduate in its 15th year and is firmly entrenched as the leading western university in the United Arab Emirates. Meanwhile, ITC in November announced a record \$9.2 million profit for the last financial year.

However, Dr Langridge will continue to assist the University and ITC develop business opportunities in the Middle East in a part-time capacity as chairman of a company overseeing their Middle Eastern operations.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton and his predecessor, Emeritus Professor Ken McKinnon, both spoke glowingly of Dr Langridge's contribution to the University since he joined the staff in 1974.

"My overwhelming emotion is gratitude for Jim Langridge's absolutely extraordinary contribution to UOW and to its commercial arm, ITC, and to Australia more generally," Professor Sutton said.

The Vice-Chancellor said in the late 1980s Dr Langridge had led a small group from Australia's higher education sector in pioneering international student recruitment "planting the seeds for the huge growth of international students into this country".

"Education is now Australia's third largest export earner after coal and iron ore – ahead of tourism and way ahead of traditional exports like wheat and wool," Professor Sutton said.

"And thanks to Jim, UOW has links with most of the major US universities, and one of Australia's largest Study Abroad programs.

"Jim has turned ITC from a \$1 million company into a \$75 million company employing a lot of people in this region and around the world," he said.

"But the success of the University of Wollongong in Dubai stands out, and will be Jim's permanent legacy. We wouldn't be in Dubai, and wouldn't be where we are in Dubai, without Jim Langridge."

Professor McKinnon, who appointed Dr Langridge to ITC in 1990 and sent him to the Middle East in 1992 to investigate the possibility of providing education services in the region, said he had "become one of the most important members of the University of Wollongong ever".

Professor McKinnon paid tribute to Dr Langridge's "we can do it" approach, which he said had



Above: Pictured at the retirement dinner (from left): MC Chris Grange, Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton, ITC Chairman Dr Brian Hickman, Dr James Langridge, Chancellor Michael Codd AC and former Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Ken McKinnon. Below: Dr James Langridge and his wife Helen, with the brass ship's bell, barometer and clock presented to them to mark Dr Langridge's retirement.

benefited UOW enormously over the years.

"Jim is one of the most contributory people of my acquaintance," Professor McKinnon said. "UOW has set many benchmarks of what to do and how to do it – especially for what it does overseas, and that's down to Jim."

In his response, Dr Langridge thanked his wife Helen and his family and paid tribute to Chancellors Justice Robert Hope and Michael Codd AC, Vice-Chancellors McKinnon and Sutton and ITC Board Chairmen George Maltby and Dr Brian Hickman for their support over the years.

Mr Codd and Dr Hickman presented the Langridges with a magnificent brass ship's bell, barometer and clock as a retirement gift. **NH**



Vice-Chancellor reaches milestone

Professor Gerard Sutton is now the University of Wollongong's longest-serving Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Sutton passed his predecessor Professor Ken McKinnon's mark of 13 years, seven months in late September.

Professor Michael Birt was UOW's first Vice-Chancellor after the University was granted independence from UNSW in 1975. Professor McKinnon took over in August 1981, and served until February 1995.

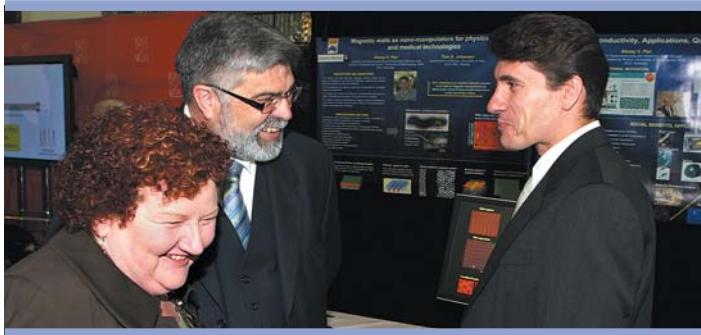
In Professor Sutton's time as Vice-Chancellor, UOW has grown considerably in both size and reputation to become one of Australia's leading universities.

At an informal presentation by senior staff Professor Sutton's Personal Assistant Halina Majer, who has worked with UOW's three Vice-Chancellors, praised Professor Sutton for his vision and hard work.

"The University has thrived under your visionary leadership, and we have all basked in the reflected glory of the national and international awards we have received," Ms Majer said.

"But what has really stood out over the years has been the passion and enthusiasm you have brought to the role of Vice-Chancellor. I have never seen that diminish." **NH**

Researchers awarded \$10.3m in ARC grants



Linkage International Fellowship winner Associate Professor Alexey Pan from the Faculty of Engineering (right) shares a joke with ARC Chief Executive Officer Professor Margaret Sheil and Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Minister Kim Carr at the ARC grants announcement. Photo: Norman Plant/ARC.

The University of Wollongong was awarded \$10.3 million funding for 31 research projects through the Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Grant and Linkage Grant schemes announced in October.

Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Minister Senator Kim Carr announced the funding in Canberra in October.

UOW's 31 successful projects rank it ninth among Australian universities in dollar terms.

Outstanding results were achieved by a number of the University's research strengths, including the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute (IPRI) and the Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials (ISEM) both located in the Australian Institute for Innovative Materials (AIIM) facility on the new Innovation Campus. Funding of almost \$4 million to these two groups will further establish UOW's capability in the advancing area of materials research.

IPRI secured four Discovery Grants, a Linkage Project and a Linkage International Grant totalling \$1.9 million, including a prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Fellowship (QEII) for Dr Simon Moulton with \$1.22 million for research into novel drug delivery systems for patients suffering epilepsy or requiring stent implants.

ISEM was awarded three Discovery Grants, two Linkage Projects and two Linkage International Grants also totalling \$1.9 million. This included a Linkage International Fellowship awarded to Associate Professor Alexey Pan for research to design and build operating magnetic systems to manipulate and transport molecules and particles. This project is in collaboration with Professor Tom Johansen, a world leader in magneto-optical imaging and particle manipulation at the University of Oslo.

The research will enable the control of biochemical processes in nature on the

micro and nanoscale. Professor Pan was one of the few invited researchers at Parliament House to showcase the project during the ARC Major Grant Announcement and Expo that coincided with the announcement.

UOW was particularly successful in securing a number of ARC Fellowships. These include:

- Professor Mats Olsson (Science) awarded an Australian Professorial Fellowship (APF) for research in evolution biology to assist researchers to better understand genetic diseases and predict risk factors of extinction
- Dr Barry Cox (Informatics) awarded an Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship (APD) for his research in mathematical and mechanical models in nano-engineering and nano-medicine (nano-devices) which will lead to new technologies and commercial spin-offs that will be of major benefit to Australia

Some examples of grants awarded across other disciplines include:

- Dr Caroline Jones (Education) who is investigating the sound system of the Indigenous language Kriol and how it prepares children for learning English
- Dr Harold Hill (Health and Behavioural Sciences) awarded funding for a project in "3D shape and human perception across changing viewing conditions". The project will facilitate the use of 3D databases in diverse applications including establishing identity and making facial reconstructions of victims of crime or disaster
- Five UOW human geographers scooped the pool to win all three of the grants they applied for. This included funding for a project which will investigate the need for a national response to climate change in terms of cultural changes. **BG**

Minister backs health institute

Minister for the Illawarra and Transport Minister David Campbell has predicted the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute to be based at the University of Wollongong will set a new benchmark for community-based medical research in Australia.

The Institute, a partnership between the University of Wollongong and the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service, will focus on five key health issues – cancer causes and treatment, age-related diseases, metabolic disorders (heart, diabetes and obesity), mental health and anti-infective diseases.

The NSW Government has contributed \$15 million to build the Institute's headquarters and research facilities on the UOW Campus, with the University matching the contribution.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the start of construction of the new building in late November, Mr Campbell said the Institute would take a unique approach to research with ground-breaking clinical trials involving the Illawarra community.

"The University of Wollongong has developed an innovative model for the Institute, which will in effect engage the people of the Illawarra in a 'living laboratory' where they can choose to become involved in the research," Mr Campbell said.

"I have no doubt this approach will help improve the health and general well-being of the people of the Illawarra, and produce research results that will be of greater benefit to the wider Australian community.

"The University of Wollongong already has a fine record in many health-related research fields, and this Institute will allow it to expand and develop its expertise even further. I have no doubt that the work that will be done at the Institute in coming years will set new standards for community-based medical research in Australia, and have a hugely positive impact on community health." **NH**

Boost for medical research

The University of Wollongong has been awarded more than \$2.5 million in funding through the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) project grant scheme.

Federal Health and Ageing Minister Nicola Roxon announced the funding, including five projects at UOW.

Professor Mark Walker (School of Biological Sciences) has been awarded \$792,500 in a collaborative project with the University of California San Diego (UCSD) to investigate group A Streptococcus (GAS) disease which causes millions of throat and skin infections worldwide.

Dr Jason McArthur (Biological Sciences) was awarded \$461,500 for a related project investigating an invasive bacterial pathogen which hijacks host proteins in the body and uses them to facilitate disease.

Professor Gordon Wallace and Professor David Officer (Intelligent Polymer Research Institute) have been awarded \$506,000 for funding the development of bionic polymer structures for muscle regeneration. The research is in collaboration with Associate Professor Robert Kapsa and Dr Anthony Pennington from St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne.

Professor Xu-Feng Huang and Dr Kelly Newell (Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences) will be involved in a \$417,750 project to better understand schizophrenia pathology.

Professor Anatoly Rozenfeld and his research team at the Centre for Medical Radiation Physics were awarded \$344,250 funding for a cancer radiation therapy project with researchers from the University of Sydney and Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre (USA). **BG**

Postcard from Dubai



The University of Wollongong in Dubai (UOWD) has been operating since 1993 and is now one of the most prestigious educational institutions in the United Arab Emirates. UOWD currently has an enrolment of approximately 3300 students undertaking Bachelors and Masters degrees in Business and Computer Science at its location in Dubai's Knowledge Village.

Career Development Centre opens at UOWD

UOWD alumnus and Chief Executive of Dubai's Rail Agency at the Road and Transport Authority (RTA) Abdulmajid Al Khaja had some timely advice for the next generation of graduates when he opened a new careers centre at the University recently.

"University graduates should work to perfect their presentation and interview skills if they are to succeed in today's job market," Mr Abdulmajid Al Khaja said.

Inaugurating the state of the art Career Development Centre (CDC) at UOWD, Mr Al Khaja cautioned the students that mere academic qualifications were not enough to succeed in the workplace, and urged universities to assist and groom students in acquiring all the skills needed to do well in today's marketplace.

Mr Al Khaja, who was the Guest of Honour, was joined by UOWD President Professor Rob Whelan and Vice President Administration Raymi van der Spek at the formal inauguration of the CDC.

Located on the third floor of UOWD's Administration building, the CDC is staffed by two full-time career advisors. The centre offers career books, DVDs, CD Roms, audio visual corners and computer stations to



UOWD alumnus and Chief Executive of Dubai's Rail Agency at the Road and Transport Authority (RTA) Abdulmajid Al Khaja (centre) and UOWD President Professor Rob Whelan at the opening of the Career Development Centre.

allow students to work on their CVs and use computers to apply online for jobs.

CDC will host a series of workshops, career fairs and Career Ahead - an intensive recruitment scenario exercise. There are also plans to establish an alliance with one of Dubai's largest recruitment companies and launch a dedicated portal exclusively for UOWD students.

"The CDC has been functioning even before today's formal opening," said Student Services Manager Bridget Clifford. "In the past six months, the career advisors have met 750 students, worked with 75 different companies, explored 140 employment opportunities and set up over 1400 CVs. With the formal launch today, the range of services will be expanded further."

Library for the e-world

UOWD has unveiled a new library with an extensive collection of books, CDs and journals and value-added hi-tech facilities, designed to enrich the learning experience for its 3300 students.

Director of the Commission for Academic Accreditation in the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research Professor M. Badr

opened the revamped library recently.

Professor Badr said the use of Information Technology had dramatically changed the profile of modern libraries, and commended UOWD for raising the bar on library services by building a new integrated library, offering e-tools that have become a critical component of knowledge acquisition and research.

The new UOWD library has over 24,000 books, CDs and journals; a computer lab with 24 personal computers and five laptops and an overhead projector and a display

screen. Students have access to over 200 online databases, 22,000 online journals, 3000 online textbooks and more than a million articles, conference papers and reports. There are 80 individual study spaces and six group study rooms.

UOWD President Professor Rob Whelan said: "The opening of a complete modern library with integrated IT facilities is a key move in UOWD's strategy to take the education standards and student facilities to the next level."

Double creates awards history

Assistant Professor Catherine Todd has created UOWD history as the first academic to win both Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Research Awards in the same year.



Assistant Professor Catherine Todd

Announcing the result, UOWD President Professor Rob Whelan said the awards had been judged by two different committees, making Dr Todd's achievement even more impressive.

"The selection processes were quite independent of each other, with no overlapping membership on the subcommittees," Professor Whelan said. "It is an unprecedented outcome for one member of the academic staff to take out both awards."

Professor Whelan said the Teaching award included student evaluations, while the Research award was based on staff having work published in 2007 in the peer-refereed literature registered by DEEWR (formerly DEST) in Australia.

Dr Todd gained a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree from UOW before completing her PhD at Wollongong in 2006, working on bio-medical applications of Electrical Engineering. At UOWD she is an Assistant Professor in the College of Informatics and Computer Science.

3000th graduate

UOWD reached a major milestone in its 15-year history when its total graduates passed 3000 during the November graduation.

Two hundred and thirty-eight students received their degrees in the presence of Dubai's Deputy Ruler Shaikh Maktoum Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

The graduation ceremony was the second to be held this year.

Book celebrates Bert's brilliance



Above: Bert Flugelman and his wife Rosemary pictured in October at the Wollongong City Gallery.
Below: Professor Peter Pinson, who has just published a book on Bert Flugelman's sculptures.

Professor Peter Pinson

PhD in Creative Arts 1988



When Emeritus Professor Peter Pinson was undertaking his PhD in the Faculty of Creative Arts at the University of Wollongong in the late 1980s, celebrated sculptor Dr Bert Flugelman was in charge of the sculpture program.

However Professor Pinson, Australia's first peacetime war artist, focused on painting during his time at UOW and rarely crossed paths with Dr Flugelman.

He has made up for that since. Professor Pinson has just completed a book on Dr Flugelman's major public sculptures, and hosted an exhibition of the sculptor's smaller works at his new art gallery in Woollahra (the exhibition ends on 20 December).

"Bert is Australia's greatest senior generation contemporary sculptor," Dr Pinson said. "He has been a dynamic figure in the Australian sculpture scene since the 1960s, and his work has never been better. He is now 85 and his work is still absolutely cutting edge.

"I have admired his work for many years, but have only really got to know him over the last decade or so."

Professor Pinson recently opened the Peter Pinson Gallery at 143 Edgecliff Rd, Woollahra after retiring from an academic career in the arts that included time as chief education officer at the National Gallery

of Victoria, as a senior lecturer at Alexander Mackie College in Sydney and most recently at the College of Fine Arts at the University of NSW.

"The gallery will focus particularly on artists who established a national reputation between 1950 and 1970," Professor Pinson said. "Bert's exhibition is our second, and features his work of 'domestic dimensions', with 10 of Bert's smaller pieces. However, all of these works were conceived as being able to be 'scaled up' by Bert, with such larger versions being suitable for location in public squares, or in parks, or in architectural contexts."

The book concentrates on Dr Flugelman's major public sculptures, and is richly illustrated with photographs by David Perry.

"Bert has built up a major body of work that certainly justifies the book," Professor Pinson said. "David Perry travelled around Australia photographing Bert's public works, and has really captured their elusive, reflective qualities."

Dr Flugelman, who received an Honorary Doctorate from UOW in 1995 for his contribution to the University and has a number of sculptures in Wollongong and on the UOW Campus, said he was honoured to have a book published about his work.

"It is a first," Dr Flugelman said. "My work has featured in plenty of catalogues over the years, but this is the first hard-cover book. It deals with a particular area of my geometric sculptures from 1969 to today."

The book, *Flugelman: On Further Reflection*, published by The Watermark Press, is available for \$75 through art galleries and specialist art bookshops, or through the Peter Pinson Gallery. **NH**

Alumni Benefits Program expanded

UOW's Alumni Office has recently expanded its Alumni Benefits Program to include a range of new discounts on services and retail goods.

Discounts and special offers for legal services, newspaper and magazine subscriptions, wine, books, restaurants and health insurance are now part of the Benefits Program, joining long-standing favourites like Hertz Car Rentals, Medina Apartments and Rebel Sport.

The new benefits include:

- 5% discounts on magazine and newspaper subscriptions through iSUBSCRIBE
- 10% discounts for wills and 5% for conveyancing services from leading regional legal firm RMB Lawyers
- Monthly wine offers from Premium Wines Direct
- 5% discounts on books from online booksellers Seekbooks.com.au
- 6% discount on the corporate product range from Peoplecare Health Insurance
- \$40 off the standard room rate at Keiraview Accommodation
- Discounts and special offers at restaurants including Bon Aroma Pizza, Bulli; Diggies Café & North Kiosk at North Beach; Fontana Restaurant, Wollongong; Jasmine Rice 2, North Wollongong; Lorenzo's Diner, Wollongong; Relish on Addison and Relish @ The Links, Shellharbour; and Samuel's Restaurant, Thirroul.

By using the UOW Alumni Benefits Card, alumni not only receive great discounts but also help fund prizes and scholarships at UOW. Several discount partners provide rebates and donations back to the UOW Alumni Network with every purchase made using a UOW Alumni Benefits Card.

Contact the Alumni Office at alumni@uow.edu.au to request your card. **NH**

Course inspires Cedars leaders

JULIE REYNOLDS

Master of Education 2003

SUE WALKER

Masters in TESOL 1997,
Master of Education 2005

STEVE WALTON

Bachelor of Science 1998,
Graduate Diploma of Education 2001

MICHAEL RAMSAY

Master of Accounting 2006

The new leadership group at Wollongong's Cedars Christian College is preparing for the 2009 school year, inspired by their time at the Australian Centre for Educational Leadership (ACEL) at UOW's Faculty of Education.

Principal Julie Reynolds and her two new Deputy Principals, Sue Walker (Curriculum) and Steve Walton (Student Welfare), all have strong links with ACEL and the University while around 85% of the school's 60 teaching staff are UOW-trained.

Julie graduated with a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from the centre in 2003 and is a member of the ACEL committee. She was also one of the presenters at ACEL's national educational leadership conference in February 2008.

Sue completed the same postgraduate degree in 2005 to add to her Masters degree in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL) completed at UOW in 1997.

Steve, who has a Bachelor of Science and a Diploma of Education from UOW, is currently completing his Educational Leadership Masters degree at ACEL.

"We have a new leadership structure, and you could say our leadership team grew out of the Masters course, which focuses strongly on good theory and good practice," said Julie, who was appointed Cedars Principal in 2007.

The leadership team is completed by Business Manager Michael Ramsay, who has a Master of Accounting degree from UOW, where he worked in the Financial Services Department for 13 years before joining Cedars in late 2007.

"The four of us have a strong interest in learning development and change management," Julie said. "Our links with UOW in training and experience has inspired each of us, and we are determined to maintain our connection with the University."

"We're very proud of the association. We have quite a few students here for practical training, and of course



Cedars Christian College Principal Julie Reynolds (left), her Deputy Principals Steve Walton (second from left) and Sue Walker, and Business Manager Michael Ramsay.

most of our teachers came through UOW."

Cedars is an inter-denominational school with close ties to Wollongong's Christian churches. Situated at Farmborough Heights, it currently has around 600 students from preparatory school to Year 12.

Julie, Sue and Steve took very different paths to the school.

Julie completed a BA/Diploma of Education at Macquarie University and started teaching at St Joseph's Catholic High School in 1986. She then joined the Illawarra Grammar School where she was English head teacher before moving to the exclusive Roseville College in Sydney to become Deputy Principal.

After commuting up to four hours a day from her Wollongong home to Sydney's North Shore, she was delighted to return to the Illawarra to take up the Cedars appointment.

Sue completed her BA/Dip Ed through the University of NSW at Wollongong in 1976 and taught at Warrawong High School before joining the staff at the then Wollongong University College for nine years. She said studying for the Educational Leadership Masters with school principals and other school leaders convinced her to return to her first love, school teaching. She joined Cedars in 2006.

Steve attended Lake Illawarra High School before studying Science at UOW. He graduated in 1998, and worked in the environmental field for several years before returning to UOW to complete a Dip Ed where he said he was "inspired by some great teachers, particularly Keith Bradshaw and Brian Ferry".

Steve accepted a targeted graduate position at Canowindra High School in the state's Central West, where he taught for four years before joining Cedars in 2006 as Science head teacher. **NH**



Franko Milostnik in his role as Russian mafia boss Ivan Lazar on the television series *The Strip*.

Melissa chosen to captain Australia

MELISSA SIMPSON

Bachelor of Physical and Health Education (with Distinction) 2004

By the time this edition of *Campus News* is distributed in mid-December, UOW graduate Melissa Simpson will be hard at work captaining the Australian indoor hockey team in an international tournament in Britain.

The pocket dynamo has represented Australia since 2004 and was Australia's vice-captain at the 2007 Indoor Hockey World Cup in Vienna, but this month's tournament is the first time that Melissa has captained her country.

"It's very exciting to be captaining the team, and it was just too good an opportunity to pass up," Melissa told *Campus News* before she left for Britain. "We've got a young squad but hopefully we'll go really well. Representing Australia at the World Cup in 2011 is definitely a goal of mine, and so this tournament is an important step towards that."

Melissa started playing hockey when she was 12, and represented NSW in hockey and basketball as a junior. She eventually had to make a decision on which sport to concentrate on, and at just 152cm tall her lack of height convinced her that hockey was a better option.

At 18 Melissa was selected in the Australian junior squad for field hockey, and played four seasons with the NSW team in the National Hockey League from 2003-2007. She still plays field hockey at club level, and has played for the champion UOW team in the

Illawarra competition for the past seven years.

"I found at representative level my strengths were better suited to indoor hockey, so I've concentrated on that over the last couple of years," Melissa said. "It's a smaller field and there are only five field players and a goalie in each team, so every player gets a lot more involved."

When Melissa finished high school she was determined to make a career from her love of sport. She enrolled in the Bachelor of Physical Education and Health degree at UOW, graduating in 2004.

"I loved my time at UOW. The staff were so knowledgeable, helpful and friendly, while the students doing PE were a very cohesive group that shared the same values. We were involved in a lot of group assignments, and I've kept up some strong personal networks beyond uni."

Since 2005 Melissa has been a PE teacher at Keira High School in Wollongong, and next year will take over as Year 7 Year Advisor.

"I really enjoy teaching and I love the school and the staff, and I have been lucky to be at a school that has been so supportive of my hockey commitments," Melissa said. "I really like working with the kids, and helping them develop healthy lifestyles and healthy behaviour by trying to create a positive, fun environment in my classes."

Melissa will rush back from the tournament to marry fellow UOW graduate, environmental engineer Nathan Eastwood early in January.



Melissa Simpson is Australia's indoor hockey team captain.

Not surprisingly, Nathan is also a keen sportsman and plays for UOW's first grade hockey and cricket teams. "Nathan and I train a lot together, and it really helps as we like to be competitive against each other," Melissa said.

This year the couple celebrated dual hockey premierships, with the men's team breaking through for UOW's inaugural first grade premiership with a 1-0 win over Albion Park in the grand final. Melissa scored a goal in the women's team's 2-1 grand final win over Avondale to continue the team's dominance in recent years.

University teams also won both the men's and women's premierships in second grade. **NH**

Uni set Franko up for a life of crime

FRANKO MILOSTNIK

Master of Creative Arts (Theatre Performance) 2004

Four years at the University of Wollongong helped turn Franko Milostnik into a very good mafia boss - and he couldn't be more grateful.

Who could blame him? After all, he had been dreaming of a job like this for years and was delighted to have finally landed it.

In fact, it's one of the biggest jobs he's had in his 18-year career - as an actor.

Frank plays Ivan Lazar, the leader of a Russian mafia gang in *The Strip* - the new 13-episode Channel 9 police drama set on the Gold Coast that aired in the second half of 2008.

The Strip stars high-profile actors Aaron Jeffrey (*McLeod's Daughters*) and Frankie J Holden (*Underbelly*), and talented newcomer Vanessa Gray as police officers based on the Gold Coast - tackling the holiday strip's crime scene dominated by characters like Franko's Ivan Lazar.

Franko said working on *The Strip* was the biggest role in his 18-year career, as he appeared in seven of the 13 episodes. The series was filmed on location on the Gold Coast and at the Warner Bros studios from May to August this year.

"It was a great experience working on a really good series, in such a beautiful location with such a slick cast and crew," he said. "The lead actors were fantastic to work with ... Aaron Jeffrey was so giving and able to get excited about every scene. It was great to work with them and Vanessa Gray, who was absolutely outstanding."

Franko landed the role after being approached by producers Kris Wyld and Steve Knatman, for whom he had previously worked on TV series including *Wildside*, *White Collar Blue* and *East West 101*.

Franko started working as an actor in 1990, when he landed a role in two episodes of the ABC Television drama *GP*. Over the next decade he studied acting and directing in the Sydney Drama Studio and the West Australian Film and Television Institute in Fremantle, while continuing to get steady work on TV in series like *Don't Blame Me*.

However, he credits a decision in 2000 to enrol as a full-time student in UOW's Master of Creative Arts program as a turning point in his career.

"I felt that I needed to apply an academic approach to all the knowledge and experience I had accumulated over the years, so I enrolled in the Masters course at Wollongong," Franko said. "It was a big decision to return to study for four years, but it was the right thing to do."

"Doing the course consolidated my approach to acting, gave me a much more solid approach to my characters and made me much more comfortable as an actor," he said. "The course encouraged me to find my personal approach to acting through study of the great masters."

His advice to new graduates setting out on their acting careers is simple: "Find a good agent, and make sure you keep people around you. Don't allow yourself to get isolated ... (because) there will be highs and lows, and you will have a strange career path that you can't plan at all. The important thing is to keep trying, keep going. When you persist, something will happen and someone will give you an opportunity." **NH**

'Desal' plant's UOW connection



BART PONTEY
Bachelor of Civil Engineering 1994

EMMA FOSTER
Bachelor of Science 2004

CAMERON LAM
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering 2006

STUART LEE
Bachelor of Civil Engineering

CRYSTAL CLARK
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering
(Honours), Bachelor of Arts 2005

PAUL GALLON
Bachelor of Telecommunications
Engineering 2003

EDWARD PEARCE
Bachelor of Commerce 1989

University of Wollongong graduates are playing key roles in the construction of a \$1.1 billion desalination plant designed to "drought-proof" Sydney's water supply.

The plant is being built on a 45-hectare site at Kurnell in Sydney's Sutherland Shire in a joint venture between leading Australian contracting and engineering company John Holland and French company Veolia Water. Together, the companies have formed the Blue Water JV to deliver the project. When complete in the summer of 2009-2010, it will be the second biggest desalination plant in the world and capable of supplying 15% of Sydney's fresh water needs.

The project, which includes the plant, seawater intake and outlet structures 600m off-shore and 2.5 km-long tunnels to the sea, is employing around 250 office staff and close to 400 construction workers.

And UOW alumni feature in significant positions in the construction, mechanical, design and environmental science fields, as well as administration.

Campus News caught up with some of the team to talk about their roles at Blue Water JV, and their careers since leaving UOW:

Above: UOW alumni working on Sydney's \$1.1 billion desalination plant (from left): Paul Gallon, Stuart Lee, Bart Pontey, Cameron Lam, Crystal Clark and Edward Pearce. Right: UOW graduate Emma Foster, who works as an Environmental scientist on the desalination plant project.

Bart Pontey is Civil Engineering Manager at the main plant site at Kurnell, responsible for all earthworks, concrete, steel erection, building works, in-ground services, drainage and pavements in the plant area.

Bart, who graduated from UOW's Faculty of Engineering in 1994, started work with John Holland in his final year at university, on a wharf extension project at Port Kembla harbour. He worked for the company on a range of major projects including bridge building and plant construction, before joining consulting project managers the Carson Group.

Bart worked in the United States from 2001-2003 as section manager on the Carquinez Suspension Bridge Project in San Francisco, before returning to Australia (and John Holland) in 2004 to work on the Lane Cove Tunnel project and then as Pre-Contracts Design Manager at head office. He also worked on the Cronulla rail duplication project before joining the desalination project in 2007.

Paul Gallon experienced a major career change when he joined the desalination project in June this year.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Telecommunications Engineering in 2003, Paul headed for the United Kingdom where he worked as a project manager at major outdoor music events like *The Big Chill Festival* and *The Green Man Festival*.

He returned to Australia in 2007 and joined John Holland as a project engineer, moving to the desalination plant project in July this year. He is responsible for co-ordinating civil works in the wastewater area, and ensuring they comply with the design.

Paul said his career path is a little different from most engineers, because he trained in a different field. "However, the skills I acquired at UOW have allowed me to adapt to various roles," he said.

Stuart Lee works as a Project Engineer on the site,

coordinating and planning works, as well as subcontractor management, contracts administration and design management.

After graduating in 2002, Stuart worked for Jones Nicholson Consulting Engineers in Wollongong for three years before joining Leighton Contractors as a site engineer and then project engineer on the Defence headquarters at Bundendore, near Canberra. He joined the Blue Water JV project in March 2008.

Mechanical Engineer **Cameron Lam** graduated in 2006, and continued his involvement with UOW in teaching and research while working with Transfield Services and WGE in Wollongong. He joined the desalination project in mid-2008 and works in the reverse osmosis area.

Crystal Clark (nee Jones) has a double degree in Mechanical Engineering and Arts (majoring in

French). She has worked for Bassett Consulting Engineers since graduating in 2005.

Bassett provides building engineering services such as electrical, mechanical (air conditioning, ventilation and refrigeration), lifts and specialist lighting. Crystal worked on the Rouse



Hill Town Centre and Macarthur Square Shopping Centre extension before being assigned to the desalination plant project in September 2007.

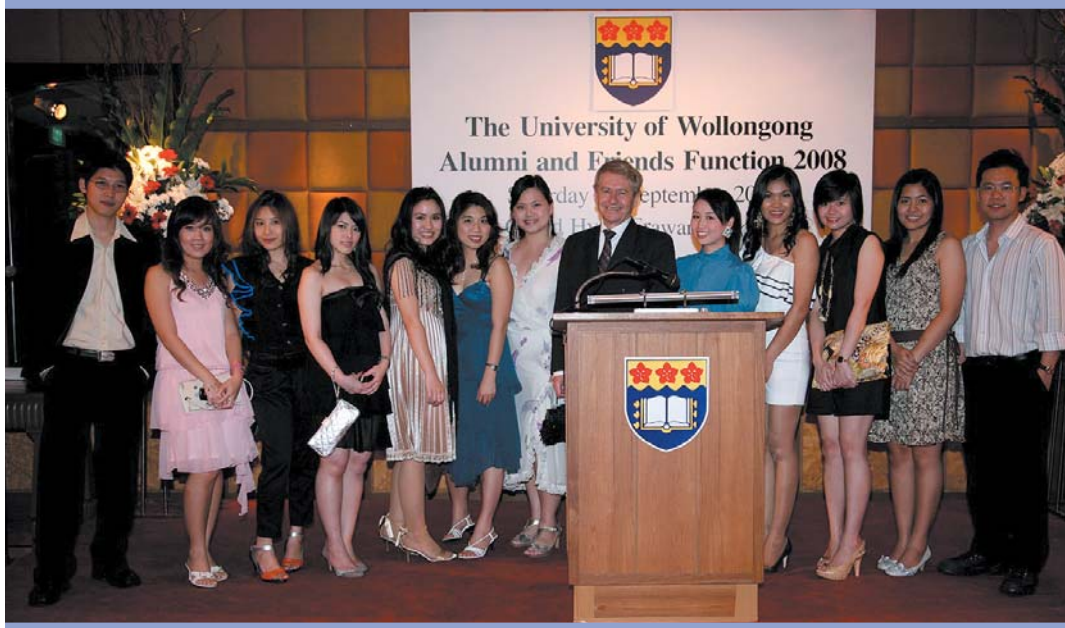
Her work on the project has included process engineering, and more recently responsibility for building services design such as air conditioning and natural and forced ventilation, as well as design packages for site-wide chemical piping and site-wide services such as compressed air, drinking water, service water and drainage).

Emma Foster, who majored in Biological Sciences and Physical Geography at UOW, joined the desalination plant project as an Environmental Scientist in January 2008.

Her responsibilities include implementing the site's environmental management plan, ensuring subcontractors meet their environmental obligations, providing support for project staff on environmental matters, conducting regular environmental inspections and monitoring and analysing groundwater.

After graduating in 2004, Emma spent 2005 doing an engineering traineeship before joining the M5 Motorway project as an environmental officer. She joined Blue Water JV in January 2008.

Edward Pearce graduated from UOW in 1989 with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. Since then he has worked mainly in the construction industry. At the Blue Water JV his role is in contact management, ensuring that subcontractors and suppliers honour their contractual obligations. **NH**



"These Alumni functions are always a great success. The organisers do a brilliant job and they generate good media coverage," Professor Sutton said. "And I am always impressed with how excited and proud the Thai Alumni members are to be associated with the University of Wollongong. They are wonderful ambassadors."

"The attendance of Dr Yodmani and so many high-ranking Thai educationalists underlined UOW's status. Having presidents and leaders of a number of Thailand's top universities attending, along with the Australian Ambassador, demonstrates the respect in which the University is held in Thailand," Professor Sutton said. **NH**

Left: Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton with some of the Thai alumni who attended the UOW Alumni and Friends function in Bangkok.

Below: Professor Sutton with UOW's Thai student recruitment representative Dusada Nunta (left) and Thai Alumni Chapter president Assistant Professor Linchong Chorrojprasert, who is Dean of Arts at Assumption University in Thailand.

Thai Alumni Chapter maintains strong links

The Australian Ambassador to Thailand joined University of Wollongong Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton and the leaders of some of Thailand's leading educational institutions at a recent UOW alumni function in Bangkok.

More than 200 Thai-based UOW graduates attended Thailand's UOW Alumni and Friends Association evening at Bangkok's Hyatt Erawan Hotel in September.

They were joined by Ambassador Paul Grigson and a number of Australian Embassy staff, UOW Fellow and former Thai Government Minister Dr Suvit Yodmani and his wife Khunying Songsuda Yodmani, also a UOW Fellow, and a number of distinguished Thai tertiary education sector leaders.

The event underlined UOW's special status among Australian universities in Thailand. UOW attracts more Thai students than any other Australian university, with an average of around 350 enrolled at any one time.

In 2002 the University was greatly honoured when the King of Thailand, His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej accepted the inaugural (and still the only) Honorary Doctorate of the University to be conferred.

His Majesty's youngest daughter, Professor Dr HRH Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol, travelled to Wollongong in 1999 to receive an Honorary Doctorate of Science and to sign an Education and Scientific Agreement between her Chulabhorn Research Institute and UOW.

Professor Sutton has strong ties with Thailand, and visits the country at least once every year and often more regularly.

Professor Sutton presented an update of recent developments at UOW, including the opening of the Innovation Campus, the Library expansion and the success of the Graduate School of Medicine. He also outlined his vision for the University's future.

Ambassador Grigson spoke about Australia's higher education sector, and UOW's role in it, while Dr Yodmani also addressed the gathering.

The UOW Alumni Network-Thailand Chapter president, Assistant Professor Linchong Chorrojprasert, who has a PhD in Education from UOW (2005) and is Dean of Arts at Assumption University of Thailand, spoke about the Thai network's activities and initiatives over the past year and plans for the future.



Vanessa's right in the picture

VANESSA MARSHALL

Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications) 1997

Teaching poor Guatemalan children the art of digital storytelling is all in a day's work for UOW Media and Communications graduate Vanessa Marshall.

Well, maybe not part of her usual work, but certainly made possible thanks to the generosity of her employer, international photographic agency Getty Images.

Vanessa works at Getty's Sydney office, and spent two weeks in Guatemala in November after winning a company-wide competition. The prize was an all-expenses paid trip to a third world country to take part in a workshop to teach disadvantaged children the art of digital storytelling.

"The idea of these workshops is to empower young people with new skills in photography, sound recording and video editing. In doing so we give them a new way to have their voices heard, a new means of expression which ultimately will drive greater levels of self-confidence," Vanessa said.

Vanessa's workshop was run through a Seattle-based organisation called *Bridges to Understanding* which was founded by Phil Borges, an internationally awarded humanitarian photographer whose images are included in the Getty catalogue.

Vanessa spent a fortnight in the small town of Santiago Atitlan in Guatemala, working in a team with others from around the world (including Borges) and local Guatemalans from professional backgrounds.

"It was a really valuable experience," Vanessa said. "We worked with 10 children from poor backgrounds, and it was wonderful to see the possibilities opening up for them, and seeing them building relationships with professional people in their communities who could act as mentors for them in the future."



Above: BA (Media and Communications) graduate Vanessa Marshall works for Getty Images (photo: Roger Read). Below: Vanessa Marshall with one of the Guatemalan children who participated in the workshop in Santiago Atitlan in November.



"We met one girl who was in her late teens, who did the workshop several years ago. She is now at university and has her own radio program, and is being talked about as a future mayor ... so we could see that the workshops had the potential to really help these kids."

When Vanessa graduated from UOW in 1997 she joined the consumer magazine *CHOICE*, where she was responsible for coordinating photography and printing.

Vanessa also worked briefly in radio advertising, but has found her "home" at Getty Images.

"My role at Getty Images is a mix of transactional sales, business

development and account management," she said. "I primarily respond to enquiries from advertising agencies, publishing houses and corporations regarding the purchase of licenses for stock photography."

It involves multiple service aspects including quotes, order taking, image research, deep file library requests, rights and clearance negotiation."

(For example, Vanessa helped UOW source a spectacular action shot of Adam Gilchrist for our promotional material for his trip to India, reported on Page 1).

She said working for a global leader was exciting, because she was dealing with successful photographers who cover major world events.

"And Getty is a very generous company. Each year the company invests \$US1000 per employee for training and development of the employee's choice. I am currently using my allowance for career coaching, to take me to the next level." **NH**

Graduates help next generation

The next round of UOW graduates will be better prepared to tackle the competitive job market after participating in the Career Ahead program held at UOW this year.

Successful Science and Commerce graduates provided first hand advice on job applications and interview techniques to over 50 current students in a series of mock interviews.

Now in its second year, Career Ahead is a mentored interview program run by the Alumni Office, where students apply for a mock graduate position and are then interviewed by a panel of professionals.

Commerce graduate John Corr, who is a director of Fortitude Capital, praised the program and encouraged students to be ambitious and seek professional development opportunities.

"Career Ahead is a really positive experience for both alumni and students," he said. "It's an opportunity for me to help students overcome the challenges associated with applying for jobs."

Marketing student Tanya Saldanha from Dubai was also impressed with the program.

"I found it very useful to see what Australian employers are looking for," Tanya said. Interviews in Australia are far more behavioural-based whereas back home [in Dubai] they focus more on your qualifications."

Ms Saldanha encouraged students to consider applying for the program next year. "It's only 15 minutes of your time but you never know where it will take you and the opportunities that might come from it," she said.

As part of Career Ahead, women studying Commerce were also invited to attend a workshop on the advancement of women in the workplace, facilitated by UOW graduate Lindall West, who is Westpac Banking Corporation's Director of People and Performance.

- Emily Davis **CN**

Chicharo appointment to lift international profile

The University of Wollongong has moved to lift its already significant international profile with the appointment of its first Pro Vice-Chancellor (International).

Professor Joe Chicharo, who has extensive international experience from his previous role as Dean of the Faculty of Informatics, took up the new position in October.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Sutton said the Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) position has been created because of the increasing importance of the international sector to the University.

Professor Chicharo's responsibilities include recruitment of international students and fostering new and existing partnerships with overseas education and research institutions.

"We wanted a member for the executive team with



UOW's Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Joe Chicharo

the single responsibility of focusing on our international partnerships and student recruitment," Professor Sutton said. "Professor Chicharo's experience as Dean and his success in the international arena for the Faculty of Informatics - in student recruitment, networking and establishing partnerships with overseas institutions - meant he was the ideal candidate. He had runs on the board."

Professor Chicharo is excited about his new

role, and passionate about the value of attracting overseas students to Wollongong.

"International students add so much to our education system," Professor Chicharo said.

"Having international students in classes broadens the perspective of domestic students, because they

are exposed to different points of view of people who have been brought up in very different cultures.

"And international students also gain a lot from being exposed to our culture. Their time in Australia, in Wollongong, is at a pivotal time in their lives when they are learning so much and developing strong connections that will last the rest of their lives," he said.

"So often, when I've met UOW graduates when I've been overseas, their eyes light up when they talk of their student days here. International students find the city welcoming because of its multicultural nature, and they become great ambassadors for the University and for Wollongong itself.

"Their on-going enthusiasm for UOW is one of the main reasons that we continue to get such a flow of international students, and I am committed to working on ways to make their time with us even more rewarding."

Professor Chicharo pointed to the success of initiatives such as the first Welcome to Wollongong Festival for overseas students held in Wollongong's Crown St Mall last February as an example of enhancing the experience of visiting students. After the success of the first event, attended by almost 500 people, the festival will be held again in 2009 (on 27 February).

Professor Chicharo added that the strong demand for UOW's educational programs was also a reflection of its international reputation as a comprehensive world-class research intensive University and its high calibre staff. **NH**

New degree focuses on pre-school years

The University of Wollongong has launched The Early Years – a new approach to professional preparation for early childhood teachers.

The four-year Bachelor of Education – The Early Years will start in 2009. It has a high level of practical community engagement work embedded into the program in addition to the usual professional experience requirements for education students.

Faculty of Education Dean Professor Paul Chandler said the new program has a strong emphasis on community, social equity and justice with the focus on all young people being given the opportunity to reach their true potential.

"The program has involved extensive community collaboration," Professor Chandler said.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton, who launched the new degree, said the University had made a conscious decision to move into the early childhood area more strongly and in a more focused way.

"The aim of the degree is to ensure graduates are well equipped for the expanding and increasingly demanding role of the early childhood educator," Professor Sutton said.



Pictured at the launch of the new Bachelor of Education – The Early Years degree are (from left): Early Childhood Education Director Dr Jillian Trezise, Faculty of Education Dean Professor Paul Chandler and Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton.

UOW's Early Childhood Education Director Dr Jillian Trezise said the course focuses on the developing child (under school age) in the context of their family and community.

"The program covers child development, learning through play, cultural and social diversity, early intervention, innovative curriculum design and delivery. The theory is supported by ongoing practical and field placements in a variety of locations in both

mainstream prior to school settings and child and family services to ensure a whole industry perspective," Dr Trezise said.

The course is expected to appeal to people who wish to pursue a career working with under school aged children in settings such as all licensed child care areas, child and family support services, early intervention services, local government community services and recreational children's services. **BG**

Awards, achievements and accolades

UOW student named Miss Africa Australia



Medical Science graduate Helen Keteku has been named the inaugural Miss Africa Australia.

Helen Keteku has just completed her Bachelor of Medical Science at UOW, but instead of relaxing she is preparing for another busy year ahead.

The 20-year-old was crowned Miss Africa Australia, and will spend a year as an ambassador for the Oasis Australia charity, which helps raise awareness and funds for children living in slums in West Africa.

Helen said being the ambassador and travelling to Kenya, Ghana and the United States will give her a chance to work with doctors and hopefully enhance her plans to study medicine.

Helen competed against 56 other girls in the inaugural Miss Africa Australia competition. It involved dancing and catwalk presentations in formal wear, African contemporary clothing and a traditional-based individual piece. She also competed in a question and answer section.

"I decided to join because I thought it would be a fantastic opportunity to be part of something new and different," Helen said.

Helen's family come from Ghana in West Africa, and she is the only person in her family to be born in Australia.

"A lot of people (in the competition) came from war-stricken countries but when we got together we were all equal as African Australians," she said.

"The competition is a good chance for Australians to become aware of African culture. A lot of African immigrants have come to Australia in the last 10 years," she said. "This competition to me symbolised a new understanding and acceptance of African culture in Australia." **KM**

Medical students take leadership roles

Two UOW students have been elected to the executive boards of national medical student bodies, showing that the two-year-old Graduate School of Medicine (GSM) is gaining recognition in Australia's medical community.

Second year students Helen Freeborn and Mary-Therese Wyatt have been elected to the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) and the General Practice Student Network (GPSN) respectively.

Helen has been elected as National Coordinator of the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) – the peak representational body for medical students. AMSA helps link medical students to professional and government bodies, and provides opportunities for them to engage with their local, state and national community.

"My election demonstrates to the wider medical community that UOW medical students are ready and prepared to undertake leadership roles within the medical student community," said Helen.

As part of her role as National Coordinator, Helen will facilitate communication between medical schools around the country and will organise meetings where students discuss the issues Australian medical students face.

"I think it's important for UOW students to be represented on these national bodies because we are an up and coming school and we are really seen as the trailblazers of the program," Helen said.

Mary-Therese Wyatt is a mother of four and is also in her second year at the GSM. Adding to her already



Students from the Graduate School of Medicine Mary-Therese Wyatt (left) and Helen Freeborn have both been elected to executive positions on national student bodies.

busy schedule, she has been elected National Secretary for the General Practice Student Network (GPSN).

The GPSN is an interest group for students who want to learn more about General Practice and aids networking between students and practising GPs. Mary says this is vital for Australia's health system.

"General Practice is a fundamental component of the health force in Australia," she said. "GPSN helps to dispel common myths and highlights the many opportunities that exist for medical students who choose General Practice as a speciality." **KM**

Oades appointed to mental health board

Dr Lindsay Oades from UOW's School of Psychology and Illawarra Institute for Mental Health has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Neami, Australia's fastest growing non-government mental health provider.

Neami, a national organisation with its head office in Melbourne, is a not-for-profit community-based organisation which provides a range of rehabilitation and support services to people with a severe and enduring mental illness. These include supported housing, individual and group rehabilitation programs,

art-based practice and intensive support services for people with complex needs.

Neami provides these services via teams of community rehabilitation and support workers from 10 service locations in NSW, from four service locations in South Australia, from five service locations in Victoria and from a new service location in Western Australia. Neami assists 1300 consumers, employs 230 staff and has a recurrent budget of \$19 million.

Dr Oades said Neami takes a holistic view of individual's mental health and ensures that the services it provides are done so in partnership with local community services, area mental health services and local government.

"Neami assists consumers to build their resilience and strength to make their own choices about their own recovery," he said.

Dr Oades was appointed to assist the organisation with staff development, research and evaluation, particularly in the area of mental health recovery and resilience. **BG**

Library wins architecture award

The architectural firm that transformed UOW's Michael Birt Library into a bright, light-filled building with extensive use of glass and steel has won a major architectural award for the project.

Wollongong-based Graham Bell & Bowman Architects has won an Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) award for the \$9 million library extension which opened in February.

The project has taken out the AIA's NSW Country Award for Non-residential Architecture – alterations and additions, announced in October.

Graham Bell & Bowman spokesman Terry Graham said prior to its refurbishment the library was dominated by heavy concrete panels which prevented natural light entering much of the interior.

The building had been transformed into a transparent, inviting environment that recognised and celebrated the building's landmark location in the heart of the campus, he said.

"The idea was to create a light, bright, transparent identity for the library, fashioning both a conceptual heart and communal hub for the campus," Mr Graham said.



Architects Terry Graham (left) and Bruce Bowman (right) with UOW Librarian Felicity McGregor and Vice-Chancellor Professor Sutton pictured in the award-winning Library.

Inclusion of a café with outdoor tables was designed to stimulate activity at the library's entrance, and provide opportunities for formal and informal social interaction.

Mr Graham said the project had been a great team effort involving library staff and the builders, as the library had to continue functioning throughout to service the campus community of more than 20,000 students.

"University Librarian Felicity McGregor and her staff played a key role in all aspects of the design and construction phases of the project, while the builders (OneBuild Pty Ltd) were very cooperative and able to complete the work ahead of schedule," he said. **NH**

Grinyer elected to senior psychology post

UOW Associate Professor Brin Grinyer has been elected chair of the Council of Psychologists Registration Boards.

The board represents the eight Australian State and Territory Psychologist Registration Boards and the New Zealand Psychology Registration Board, which taken together regulates all of the 30,000 psychologists across Australia and New Zealand.

The Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology in the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences has also been re-elected as a director on the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council, responsible for the accreditation of academic programs in psychology across 38 universities.

Professor Grinyer remains president of the NSW Psychologists Registration Board, a nine-person body comprising senior psychologists, legal and consumer representatives which oversees all 9000 registered psychologists in NSW.

The Board seeks to protect the public from unqualified persons practising psychology and to provide an avenue of complaint against registered practitioners. **BG**

Sarah-ann engineers public-speaking success

Fourth year UOW Civil Engineering student Sarah-ann Brennan has won the 2008 Young Engineers Australia Public Speaking Competition.

Ms Brennan defeated students from the University of Sydney, University of Technology Sydney and the University of New South Wales in the final at the Swissotel in Sydney.

Entrants were required to give an eight minute speech on an engineering-related topic in a way that could be understood by the average layperson. The entrants then faced a 10-15-minute question time.

"I am very excited to win this award especially on behalf of UOW for Young Engineers Australia," said Ms Brennan, who is also the current UOW Civil Engineering Society president. **BG**



Sarah-ann Brennan



Chancellor's community service award winners

University of Wollongong Chancellor Michael Codd AC hosted the *Celebrating Community* function at the Innovation Campus in October, where he presented his annual community service awards.

The evening included the announcement of the winners of the 2008 Chancellor's Awards for Achievement in Community Service.

Mr Codd told staff and Wollongong community members in attendance that he believed UOW's links with its extended community were stronger than any other Australian university.

"We help the community and the community helps us," the Chancellor said.

The awards recognise the many ways people support the University and/or their communities. They highlight the personal contributions that alumni and community members and groups make to the enrichment of their community and advancement of society.

There were two award categories – one for alumni (graduates) of UOW and one for general community members or groups. Each award carried a prize of \$5000 from the University on behalf of the winners to a registered charity or non-profit organisation of their choice.

Amanda Calwell-Smith won the alumni category for her genuine passion and significant long-term commitment over 20 years to the Illawarra community. She has made an extensive contribution to the disability sector in the Illawarra through her leadership and development of Essentra Personnel.



Top: Chancellor Michael Codd AC with Chancellor's Award winners Amanda Calwell-Smith (alumni winner) and Rae Lalor, and Associate Professor Siva Sivakumar (who represented Futureworld at the presentations).

Above: Chancellor's Award winners Dr Pat Mowbray (left) and Dr Judy Messer from Futureworld.

The community winners were Mrs Rae Lalor (Community Individual Category) for community activities and services including her significant contribution, as a volunteer and committee member, of The Ulladulla and Districts Community Resources Centre; and Dr Judy Messer and Dr Patricia Mowbray (Community Group Category) for their genuine passion and significant long-term commitment to the Illawarra community for a substantial period, including the establishment and running of the Futureworld Eco-Technology Centre.

Ms Calwell-Smith's \$500 award will be donated to Transplant Australia, Mrs Lalor's prize will go to The Ulladulla and Districts Community Resources Centre and Dr Messer and Dr Mowbray will give their prize to Futureworld. **BG**

Commerce intern 'pilots' fly high

UOW's Faculty of Commerce launched its Internship Program to Illawarra business leaders in October, with presentations from two of the students who have just completed the highly successful pilot.

More than 100 people including senior representatives of many of the region's largest organisations attended the presentation breakfast at the Innovation Campus.

Faculty of Commerce Dean Professor Shirley Leitch said the pilot had been a major success, providing students with "exceptionally valuable experience" in the workplace.

Internship Program director Dr Mike Clements explained the program and thanked the host organisations that had provided places for 30 students involved in the pilot.

"This has been a great example of the Faculty of Commerce and business working together, and I have been motivated and driven by the support we've received from the business community," Dr Clements said. He encouraged other organisations to consider joining the program.

The internships, which are open to

second and third year students, are paid positions within organisations and are worth six credit points towards the students' degrees. Typically, students spend 12 days working on projects for their host organisations.

Importantly, the organisations participate in the selection process and interview the students to find the most suitable candidates.

"University is just part of the learning experience for students – learning in the workplace is also important," Dr Clements told guests. "This is theory grounded in context – and you provide the context."

Students James Lamont and Tess Hadley, who have just completed the pilot program, told guests about the value of the program for them.

James, a final year Commerce student majoring in Logistics, undertook an internship at BlueScope Steel where he and three other UOW interns completed a supply chain simulation model for steel plate produced at the Port Kembla Steelworks.

At the conclusion of his internship, James was encouraged to apply for a



From left: Internship students Tess Hadley and James Lamont, Dr Mike Clements and Faculty of Commerce Dean Professor Shirley Leitch after the Internship program launch to the Illawarra business community at the Innovation Campus.

vacancy for a technical officer in the company's Logistics Department. He subsequently won the job and will start work full-time with the company after he graduates in December.

"The internship complemented my studies and gave me the chance to apply theoretical knowledge in a practical business setting, and in a largely autonomous role," James said. "It was a great educational tool at this stage of my education and also opened up networking and job opportunities."

During her internship with counselling service Lifeline, Tess Hadley prepared a bequests program for the non-profit organisation.

The Arts (Media and Communications) student, who is majoring in Marketing

and Public Relations through the Faculty of Commerce, researched other bequests programs before establishing a model for Lifeline and presenting it to the Board. It is now going to be implemented.

"It was very rewarding working for a non-profit organisation," Tess said. "This project had been on Lifeline's to-do list for two years, but hadn't been started because of lack of resources."

Tess has since accepted a position in the Communications Department of engineering company Maunsell Aecom (builders of the Sea Cliff Bridge in Wollongong's northern suburbs) and will start work for the company in Sydney after she graduates in December. **NH**

Handbook aids effective learning

Designing effective learning experiences is a significant challenge for educators.

While there is a wide range of expert advice available for technology-supported teaching and learning, translating theories and principles into good practice can be a daunting task.

That's where the *Handbook of Research on Learning Design and Learning Objects: Issues, Applications and Technologies* comes in.

Launched at UOW in November, the book provides an overview of current research and development activity in the area of learning designs in terms of teaching perspectives and technological advances.

Its 43 chapters cover the latest research of 94 experts in learning design from 15 countries to provide an up-to-date and complete picture of the subject.

UOW academics Associate Professor



Editors of *Handbook of Research on Learning Design and Learning Objects*: (clockwise from front) Associate Professor Lori Lockyer (seated), Dr Sue Bennett, Emeritus Professor Barry Harper and Dr Shirley Agostinho.

Lori Lockyer, Emeritus Professor Barry Harper, Dr Shirley Agostinho and Dr Sue Bennett edited the handbook, with editorial assistance from Jenni Broadhead, Jamie Fumo and Linda Corrin.

There are more than 1800 references to existing literature and research on learning objects; a compendium of

more than 250 key terms with detailed definitions; and cross-referencing of key terms, figures and information pertinent to learning design and learning objects.

There is free institution-wide access to the online version with the purchase of the print publication by an institution's library.

The handbook has been divided into three sections. Section 1 addresses the evolving concept of learning design, Section 2 presents current research on learning objects and Section 3 examines the integration of learning designs and learning objects. **BG**

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Editorial	Nick Hartgerink Bernie Goldie Kate McIlwain
Layout Artist	Paul Martens
Photographers	Sean Maguire Mark Newsham
Telephone	+61 2 4221 5942
Facsimile	+61 2 4221 3128
Email	media@uow.edu.au
Web	media.uow.edu.au
Address	University of Wollongong NSW 2522 Australia

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