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ANU Reporter

First, to learn the nature of things

Volume 31 No.5 Friday 5 May 2000

ANU researchers urged to use ACT fund

By SEAN DALY

ACT Chief Minister Kate Carnell has encouraged ANU researchers with projects in biotechnology and innovative commercial ventures requiring funding to consider her government's Canberra Business Development Fund (CBDF).

Mrs Carnell was at the ANU to hand over a cheque for \$250,000 from the CBDF to Biotron as seed funding for the biotechnology company established by researchers at the John Curtin School of Medical Research.

Biotron, which was formed last year and is due to be listed on the stock exchange in July, is developing a number of commercial products from research at JCSMR. One of its projects, Virion, involves a product called C9 that was developed at the school and has been shown to stop the AIDS virus from replicating in laboratory tests.

C9 is now undergoing clinical toxicity trials on animals and Biotron is patenting the drug.

During the handover, Mrs Carnell stressed that the ACT Gov-

ernment was keen to actively support biotechnology research and development in the ACT.

"I hope that the investment, the \$250,000 seed capital that we will make available today, will be seen as a sign, an indication to ACT biotechnology companies and other investors that the ACT does support this sort of investment, that we are a good place to do research, set up businesses and to commercialise products."

Mrs Carnell said the Biotron investment was the first in

biotechnology for the ACT government but she stressed that other ventures would be considered.

JCSMR researcher and Biotron Research Director, Professor Peter Gage, said the ACT was well positioned to become the biotechnology capital of the country.

"Look at what we've got here — we've got the ANU with the John Curtin School of Medical Research and the Research School of Biological Sciences, now there is an outstanding research base," Prof Gage said.

"We've got the University of Canberra with good quality research into biotechnology, Canberra Hospital where some fine research is now being done. So, with a small population, we have a large centre of learning and research."

Prof Gage said that, for years, Australian biotechnology research had been commercialised overseas and foreign companies had reaped the rewards. He said Biotron was an attempt to keep the benefits of Australian research in Australia.

Immigrants more likely to find job in Queensland

By SHELLY SIMONDS

Immigrants to Australia are more likely to find jobs if they go to Queensland than any other state, an ANU study has revealed.

Employment rates for immigrants in Queensland during 1997 were 64 per cent compared with an overall rate of 49 per cent for immigrants in Australia, according to research by Dr Deborah Cobb-Clark of the Economics Program in the Research School of Social Sciences.

Dr Cobb-Clark said the better performance of immigrants in Queensland could be partially attributed to the State's above-average economic growth. She also surmised that Queensland's mix of industries better matched the skills of immigrants than other states'. For instance, many tourism-related service sector jobs, such as cleaning, hospitality and gardening, do not require English proficiency.

In addition the study found that immigrants in general worked longer hours than non-immigrants did. Six months after arrival, employed immigrants reported working an average of 38 hours per week and, over time, this increased to 41 hours per week. This was higher than the average of 36 hours per week for the Australian population.

The research also showed that:

- English proficiency was the single most important factor in immigrants' ability to secure work;
- visiting Australia before migration greatly improved the chance of employment on arrival; and
- immigrants on skill-based visas had better employment outcomes than those in other visa categories.

Dr Cobb-Clark, who has a joint appointment with the National Centre for Development Studies, has written several Centre for Economic Policy Research discussion papers over the past two years examining data from the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia (LSIA).

The LSIA, which was sponsored by the Australian government, contains key data on people who arrived in Australia between 1993 and 1995. Immigrants in the survey were interviewed three times over five years to give three "waves" of data on their settlement experiences.

Information provided by the first wave of interviews, conducted after immigrants had been in Australia only six months, showed that those who entered in Business Skills/Employer Nomination Scheme visa programs were more likely to be employed than those who entered in all other visa categories.

"Although skilled visas give a head start, it is less clear if they confer a permanent advantage," Dr Cobb-Clark said. "By the end of the third wave the differences in employment start to disappear."

Dr Cobb-Clark was sceptical of the commonly held view that skilled migrants were good for Australia and family migrants were bad, referring to it as "too simplistic".

"It ignores the family situation. Skilled people bring families with them and family migrants bring skills," she said.

"We simply don't have a lot of evidence that there's a big difference in the success of these groups. Over five to 10 years the immigrants on family visas and skilled visas start to look the same."

Flying fish star in Science Festival



Photo: John Tucker

Fish-eye view: ANU graduate Dr Louise Goggin, coordinator of the Science in the City exhibition for the Australian Science Festival, holds one of the "flying fish" hanging in the Canberra Centre during this year's festival.

Full Story, Page 8

Chancellor to launch Emeritus Faculty

The ANU Chancellor, Professor Peter Baume, will officially launch an initiative by former University staff members who wish to continue their association with the ANU to serve its interests and those of the wider community.

The Emeritus Faculty of the ANU will be launched on 8 June with an address by Prof Baume on the "Future of Universities", with particular reference to the ANU.

The provisional secretary of the Emeritus Faculty, Giles Pickford, said the group aimed to foster a sense of collegiality among its members and to enable them to join in the academic and cultural life of the University.

"They can make a positive contribution to the University through a variety of means, collectively and individually. Their contribution to the social and intellectual life of the wider community, as members identified with the ANU, has the potential to enhance the visibility and reputation of the University," Mr Pickford said.

"Members of the Emeritus Faculty do not see their activities as

replacing the activities and expertise of current staff in any way.

"The Faculty has a strategic partnership with University House, which manages Faculty funds and provides it with a venue for its meetings and functions."

The Faculty will be managed by an executive and committee. Until the first annual meeting, the provisional executive and committee consists of: chair, John Molony; deputy chair, Beryl Rawson; treasurer, the Master of University House Rafe de Crespigny (*ex officio*); secretary, Mr Pickford and committee members: Allan Barton, Bob Gollan, David Hambly, Anthony Low, Maev O'Collins, Peter Stewart and Gerard Ward.

The committee has drawn up a provisional program that includes academic programs, advisory and outreach roles.

Mr Pickford said the committee had identified possible academic programs including assistance with lectures and tutorials, collaboration in the laboratory work of areas of the University; contribution of publications to the University's



Photo: Bob Cooper, Coombs Photography

ANU Chancellor, Professor Peter Baume, will launch the Emeritus Faculty.

research record; occasional lectures, seminars and conferences; participation in consultancies and supervision and examination of postgraduate students.

"The Emeritus Faculty's advisory roles could include advice on

curricula; cooperative research ventures; assistance with industry liaison, seeking private funding and supporting the ANU Endowment for Excellence and providing the opportunity for individual voices to be heard on policy formulation in the public sector and the development of the higher-education sector," Mr Pickford said.

He said the group could also assist in outreach activities including acting as well-informed ambassadors for the University; collaborating with other bodies such as the University of the Third Age; participating in Convocation activities and the University's outreach, extension and professional refreshment programs, including summer schools for teachers.

Mr Pickford said eligible people who shared a wish to continue their association with the ANU could be invited to join the group.

He encouraged all those interested to attend the 8 June launch at 5.30 pm at University House.

Those interested should contact him by phoning 0411 186 199, by fax on (02) 6249 5252 or by email to <pickford@dynamite.com.au>.

Inquiries could also be mailed to PO Box 50, O'Connor ACT 2602, Australia.

VC's VIEW

Interdisciplinary interest

As I have been moving around the campus in the course of my Plan for Growth workshops, I have been encouraged by the degree to which people are looking beyond their own disciplines to the connections they might establish across disciplinary boundaries.

The model on which ANU was built was very discipline-focused and that focus provided the foundation for our excellence. We should be proud of that tradition and it has served us well.

The technological revolution has now added new dimensions to that tradition. As the technological revolution progresses people are finding that many of the exciting avenues for discovery involve putting the traditional discipline boundaries into a softer focus.

Interdisciplinary activities in areas such as the Faculty of Science, the Research School of Biological Sciences (RSBS) and the John Curtin School of Medical Research (JCSMR) are leading to many new developments. Emerging developments in other areas such as environmental science are drawing upon and drawing together expertise in disparate areas.

As our academics progress down these new paths, it will be important to have strong institutional structures in place to protect and develop our intellectual property. The workshops have provided opportunities to discuss these issues. The resulting initiatives that will be taken up in the Plan when I take it to Council in July will come together in a framework that I am confident will facilitate the capture and development of our potential.

The capture and development of intellectual property in the sciences tends to make headlines and we have seen a good deal of that lately. The launch of Acton Lasers, about which I wrote in my last column,

was a case in point, as is the recent progress towards commercialisation of research into treatment of HIV conducted at JCSMR.

It is not only in the sciences that we shine, however. In the humanities, our academics are also reaching across discipline boundaries. There, too, we have major avenues for development and realisation of our intellectual property.

The technological revolution has been liberating in the humanities and this is apparent in a new project involving the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research. The University is assisting this project with seed funding to enable the development of the project to commercial realisation.

The project will be a joint facility of ANU and the National Museum of Australia (NMA), using computer based technologies to produce publications and resources in multimedia and other digital forms.

The resulting Consortium for Research and Information Outreach will be situated on the Acton Peninsula close to the NMA, the Humanities Research Centre, the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research, and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS).

Leading multi-media researchers will be brought together from ANU in the humanities, social sciences, and environmental sciences sectors such as the Centre for Resource and Environmental Sciences, to join the NMA and AIATSIS.

The project will lead the way in enhancing the use of digital communication technologies by cultural institutions.

It will encompass a shared facility, infrastructure and program and the Consortium could later be extended

to include other national cultural institutions including the National Gallery of Australia and the National Library of Australia.

Research and the results of research will be its lifeblood. Products will be generated from the research base and reproduced in multiple forms to reach different audiences utilising excellent information technology resources.

The potential markets or audiences include tertiary students, public outreach for the museum and the school system.

The Consortium will provide a test-bed for the delivery and integration of networked digital media into lectures, seminars, conferences and colloquia.

I have seen in my Plan for Growth workshops that many people across the campus are now looking outside the traditional disciplinary boundaries to new partnerships and new activities.

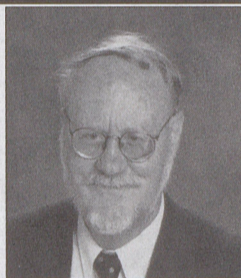
When these activities lead to new discoveries and new opportunities for development, the University itself must be ready to play its part in capturing them and ensuring that the University is a beneficiary.

As well as ensuring that Australia and Australians capture the benefits of Australian discovery and expertise, we must ensure that our own ability to further our core business of discovery is enhanced.

The Plan for Growth will play a major part in that.

What my workshops have demonstrated to me is that there are many in the University community who are ready to embrace the many new opportunities for discovery and invention we now have — and to play a part in capturing the rewards in order to secure our own future.

Deane Terrell



ANU Reporter

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Correction

In the Focus on Human Resources (ANU Reporter 14 April, Vol.31 No.4) the budget for the Human Resources Division was twice incorrectly printed as \$4,640 million. It should have been \$4.640 million.

ANU DIARY

www.anu.edu.au

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The Australian National University,
supported by SMS Consulting Group Limited,
presents the following lectures.



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Thoughts on the evolution of corporatism and globalisation

John Ralston Saul

Tuesday 16 May at 5.30pm

H.C. Coombs Lecture Theatre, Fellows Road, The Australian National University

Enquiries to Jeannie Haxell, Research School of Social Sciences, 02 6279 9608

The Centre for International and Public Law

Building the New State of East Timor

Jean-Christian Cady, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations
Deputy Transitional Administrator of East Timor

Thursday 18 May at 6pm

Law Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Law,
corner of Fellows and East Roads, ANU

Enquiries to Cathy Hutton, Administrator
Centre for International and Public Law, Faculty of Law, ANU
Tel 02 6249 0454; Fax 02 6249 0150
email: cipl.law@anu.edu.au

These lectures are free and interested members of the public
are welcome to attend.



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Program of Professional Education and Development for Academic Staff

The PED Program for 2000 is designed to provide professional development support for academics from all areas of the University in their primary roles as teachers, researchers and leaders.

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CEDAM also takes advantage of visiting speakers and panels of ANU academics to arrange seminars, workshops and panel discussions on issues of interest to the academic community. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST A TOPIC OR KNOW OF ANY VISITORS TO THE ANU WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TO OUR OCCASIONAL SEMINAR SERIES, PLEASE CONTACT US!

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- **Email discussion lists in teaching and learning**
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Contact CEDAM: ☎ 6249 4594; ☎ 6249 4023; ✉ CEDAM@anu.edu.au 🌐 www.anu.edu.au/CEDAM
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P.T.O.

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31	Managing self, managing others dates to be negotiated →					

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KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS	
Wom	Academic women's writing retreat
Conf	Seminar & conference presentations
Feed	Feedback for better teaching
Fun	Fundamental issues in university teaching & learning: a seminar series
Life	Taking charge of your professional life
Man	Managing self, managing others
New	New staff resource morning tea
Port	Teaching portfolio workshop
Sup	Supervising research students
Wel	University welcome

Project examines country's first election

IN BRIEF

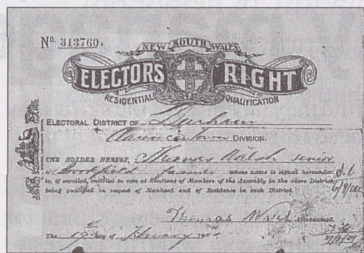
When the Olympic circus packs up in October, Australians will have just a few months to catch their breath before another national celebration — the Centenary of Federation — gets underway.

The ANU is holding one of the first events — following a \$105,000 grant from the National Council for the Centenary of Federation to political scientist Dr Marian Simms for a project to commemorate Australia's first election.

The project has three main aspects, beginning with the recent appointment of junior scholar Malcolm Palmer. He is investigating how candidates and parties communicated with the electorate in 1901 and in particular the role newspapers and other journals played.

His work will then be one of several papers presented at a two-day gathering in early December of Australia's leading political historians. Among them will be Australia's first woman Professor of Politics (at La Trobe University), the now-retired Professor Joan Rydon, a world expert on electoral systems.

Joining Prof Rydon will be academics such as Profs Patrick Weller, Dean Jaensch and ANU's



A photocopy of an original "voter's right" used in New South Wales and Victoria during Australia's first election in 1901. Voters in those states had to show their "right" in order to legally cast a vote. This one belonged to 66 year old farmer, Thomas Walsh senior, an Irish immigrant who arrived in Sydney in the 1850s and was provided by his great-great-grandson, Peter Roach.

Profs Glenn Withers, John Warhurst and James Jupp — all presenting papers on different issues related to Australia's first election.

While she has organised a stellar guest list for the conference, Dr Simms did strike one major hitch — the political practitioners of the time were, quite understandably, unavailable.

"The problem I've had to deal with is that clearly all of the key

political leaders of that era have long since passed so I've invited the leading political biographers to come along and present papers from the perspective of their subjects instead," Dr Simms said. "Those people are Geoffrey Bolton (Edmond Barton); Stuart MacIntyre (Alfred Deakin); Clem Lloyd (George Reid); John Bannon, the former state premier of South Australia (Charles Kingston) and Bruce Scates who will do Andrew Fisher."

Dr Simms has also managed to secure access to some of the late ANU Prof Paul Bourke's unpublished work on women and voting. With assistance from Prof Bourke's widow, Dr Simms is compiling a presentation for the conference.

The final phase of the project is the production of a book of the workshop papers, which Dr Simms hopes to be widely available by May next year.

"We're looking at quite a large run of a publication that is both attractive and accessible," Dr Simms said. "It's going to be a challenge too because we want to present the scholarship in such a way that is enjoyable and accessible without compromising its scholarly

excellence in any way."

Dr Simms, who is contributing work on citizenship and electoral practices, believes the project will afford Australians a much greater insight into our political growth and development and shed some new light on our current electoral legislation and processes.

"I think that, in looking at the first election, we're actually going to be able to understand a lot about our evolution as a political nation," Dr Simms said.

"For example, looking through the lens of the franchise and the question of how people voted I actually think we're becoming a less trusting society in some respects than we were then. The Commonwealth Government has just amended the electoral act so that it is going to be harder to enrol because it will now require proof of identity whereas 100 years ago you simply needed a witness who was another elector.

"I think overall we're going to uncover several interesting insights into the Australia of 1901, which will explain a lot about where we are today and the legislation we have today."

TANIA CUTTING

Facility to help detect universe's weakest signals

The ANU last week opened an \$850,000 optics laboratory that will help in an international project to detect the weakest signals in the universe.

The Gravitational Wave Research Facility is expected to secure the University's place in the multi-million-dollar LIGO II project.

LIGO II is a US-led international project to detect gravity waves — predicted by Albert Einstein more than 80 years ago.

Gravitational waves cause space to stretch and contract, the director of the new research facility, Dr David McClelland, said. Although emitted by the most violent events in the universe, they are the weakest signals to detect.

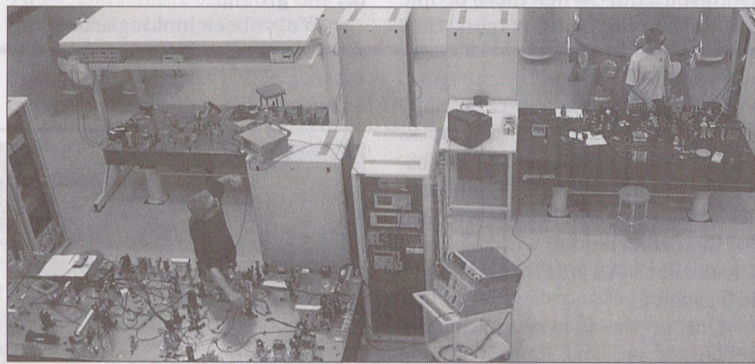


Photo: Cameron Fletcher

Fresh start: The interior of the Gravitational Wave Research Facility.

"Searching for gravitational waves is harder than trying to find a needle in a haystack the size of our galaxy," Dr McClelland said.

Scientists are currently working on detecting them using ultra-high-precision, laser-based technology. Once detected, gravity waves will

help astronomers study the universe using a completely new "sense". It will be like hearing the universe for the first time.

The Australian gravitational wave consortium — the ANU, University of Adelaide, University of Western Australia and Monash University — will use the new ANU facility to develop output optics technology for the project.

The facility has been designed to help mask a multitude of environmental influences — such as seismic vibrations, dust and temperature changes — that can interfere with the delicate optical experiments required for gravitational-wave detection. Special features of the building include a floating concrete floor to reduce ground and building vibrations and a system of air locks and air filtration.

The pressure inside the laboratory is higher than the outside pressure so that any dust created inside the laboratory will be forced out and the laboratory has no windows and a stable air-conditioning system to maintain a constant temperature. The laboratory is two stories high to house the tall isolation/ vacuum chambers in which the experiments will be performed.

"Normally such research facilities are converted from existing buildings and are less than perfect, but this building meets the special tastes of physicists: no windows, stable ground, clean air, fixed temperature," the Head of the Physics Department, Professor Hans Bacher, told guests at the building's official opening.

Members of the quantum optics research team in the Physics department will also use the new facility. The high-precision optical laboratory provides an ideal environment for other advanced optical experiments such as teleportation of light and the control of quantum noise.

SHELLY SIMONDS

RSBS starts \$6m upgrade to plant and animal culture facilities

The ANU's Research School of Biological Sciences (RSBS) has commenced a \$6 million first-stage redevelopment of its Plant and Animal Culture facilities to upgrade the current resources and provide users with state-of-the-art infrastructure.

The redevelopment will ensure the facilities are ahead of compliance with the quarantine and genetic manipulation guidelines of AQIS (Australian Quarantine Inspection Service) and GMAC (Genetic Manipulation Advisory Committee).

"The major push is to provide modern facilities in support of best science," Mr Eugene Wallensky, Operations Manager at RSBS said. "As soon as you are dealing with genetically modified or transgenic plants, then containment becomes an issue."

The current facilities, consisting of glasshouses, growth chambers, animal compounds and an insectary, were built more than 25 years ago.

The total proposed redevelopment is anticipated to cost \$14 million and will be completed in two phases. Only the \$6 million first phase is funded at present. It will include controlled-environment facilities, a central services building, transgenic glasshouses, and later a new bee house and animal house.

"The vision is to come up with a more flexible and effectively-organised space," Mr Wallensky said. "And to approach plant and animal facilities on this campus in an integrated way to serve the scientists."

A considerable amount of consultation has been undertaken to ensure that the facilities will provide for the diverse areas of research at RSBS. A Strategic Advisory Group (STAG) was set up in mid-1998 to identify priorities for redevelopment and to provide a preliminary project brief.

In April 1999, the University granted funding from the Capital

Management Plan, and the John Hindmarsh Group was appointed to manage the project with Tennant Hydraulics as water engineers.

"There is a lot of thought being applied to the issue of energy conservation," Mr Wallensky said.

"This is an excellent opportunity to actually visit some of these new technologies such as reusing warm air from growth cabinets to reheat buildings."

A closed-treatment wetland with sand filter is proposed, with treated water being used in subsurface irrigation of the verges of Sullivan's Creek.

"We are at the front of international competition," Director of RSBS, Professor John Hearn said. "So we must have the best facilities for our science and our scientists."

"We are grateful for the support of our University in this important initiative," he said.

TERESA BELCHER

PEOPLE

The Australian-American Fulbright Commission has announced that three people from the ANU have been named as Fulbright Award Recipients. A Senior Scholar Award has been announced for Professor Stephen Buckman from the Research School of Physical Sciences and Engineering, and Postgraduate Student Awards for Kirsty Guster from the Canberra School of Music and Dean Vuletic from the Department of Classical and Modern Languages.

ANU PhD student James Moody was awarded the Young Professional Engineer of the Year at a national forum hosted by the Institution of Engineers, Australia. Mr Moody is working to build and launch FedSat for the Cooperative Research Centre for Research Systems.

ANU second-year physics students Douglas Grimm and Darren Croton were awarded Australian Institute of Physics Prizes last month.

EVENTS

A new exhibition has opened at the ANU's Drill Hall Gallery giving art lovers the rare opportunity to see works from a private collection. "Crossing Cultures: Art from the Boxer Collection" will be on display to 18 June.

The ANU Choral Society (SCUNA) is joining with Canberra Grammar School's Year 7/8 Choir and Orchestra to present a program of modern choral works on Saturday 13 May at Llewellyn Hall. Seats are available through ANU Ticketing 02 6249 5491.

Anonymous couples' donation used to fund Classics bursaries

An anonymous couple with an obvious love for classical languages has given money to establish a new program of bursaries in the ANU's Classics Program.

The series of awards worth \$500 each is designed to encourage undergraduate students to continue their studies of Latin and Ancient Greek.

The first award, offered at the end of semester one, was shared by two students last year and one student has received a bursary for the first semester this year.

Award winners were chosen on their performance in first-year course work and the end-of-unit examination backed by a supporting statement of their interest in the study of classics.

The program of awards has been named the Brynrefail Bursary, after the birthplace in Wales of the benefactors, a couple who live outside Canberra.

Convener of the Classics Program in the Department of Classical and Modern European Languages, Dr Elizabeth Minchin, said she had not met the donors personally, although

she corresponded with them by mail.

"I think they take the pride of an aunt and uncle in our student's achievements," she said.

Dr Minchin said one of the benefactors had stopped to browse in the Classics Museum some years ago and had met the then Head of Department, Professor Beryl Rawson.

"He was impressed by Prof Rawson's commitment and the department's commitment to teaching ancient languages," Dr Minchin said.

She said strong enrolments in the introductory Classics unit, Traditional Grammar, this year would sharpen competition for the next award at the first-year level.

This year funds are available for a second award to be made at the end of semester one, to a student progressing from intermediate level to the advanced level of language study.

Students currently enrolled in either Intermediate Latin or intermediate Greek may apply for this award.

SHELLY SIMONDS

FEIT and AAMC to teach technology management

A unique cross-campus partnership between the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology (FEIT) and the Australia-Asia Management Centre (AAMC) has spawned ANU's newest degree course, the Master of Management (Technology).

The year-long course, which starts next month, is aimed at providing an integrated view of technology, innovation and management. It covers issues associated with telecommunications, manufacturing and sustainable energy systems, logistics and risk management, software development, Internet technologies and e-commerce.

Executive Director of the AAMC, Professor Mark Dodgson, said the course would target people already working in engineering, information technology and other related industries who needed to broaden their expertise beyond specialised skills.

"What we find is that there are many people who have a very good technical background — are fantastic engineers or very good IT specialists — who know next to nothing about business," Prof Dodgson said. "When these people try to develop their careers they

find they haven't got the skills they need to get into management positions. Essentially, this course is for technical specialists who want to learn about management and for managers who want to get up to date with technology."

Although the initial enrolment target for the course is small, Prof Dodgson expects that within a few years it will become one of the University's largest postgraduate degrees. He also expects the new degree to change considerably to keep pace with technological progress.

To ensure the course maintains a high degree of industrial relevance an advisory group, headed by AAMC Adjunct Professor and Chairman of Fujitsu Australia, Neville Roach, has been established. "The input of people like Neville will be a very important aspect of the development of the degree," Prof Dodgson said. "I'll be very surprised if, in three years, the content of the degree hadn't changed by as much as 50 per cent."

Overseeing FEIT's contribution to the new course is Dr Mick Cardew-Hall, one of the driving forces that helped get the project off the ground.

"We've been looking around for

a couple of years now to put something together at the postgraduate coursework level and we've looked at very technical coursework but we decided that the market for that really wasn't there," Dr Cardew-Hall said. "We see this is a major new stream of activity for us and it fits in nicely because it'll come online about the same time as we get our new building."

According to Dr Cardew-Hall, the course has already attracted widespread interest despite a lack of fanfare and promotion but he believes a significant demand will come from within the ACT.

"I believe there'll be quite a large demand in Canberra particularly given that the course will be in intensive format and structured in such a way that people will be able to come and do the course in various modules.

"My guess is that the new course will bring a much more discerning student to the University, which, for FEIT particularly, will be quite interesting. I think it'll be very beneficial and have some real positive spin-offs to our undergraduate program — having people who are working and are up to speed with current industry practices."

TANIA CUTTING

CONFERRING OF DEGREES AUTUMN 2000

More than 1,000 students took part in the ANU's Autumn Conferring of Degrees just before Easter.

The Faculties of Economics and Commerce and Engineering and Information Technology and the Research School of Social Sciences comprised the first of four graduation sessions on Wednesday morning, with ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Deane Terrell addressing the gathering.

Professor Terrell wished students the best for the future. "The University is proud of you and I have every confidence that each of you will bring great credit to your alma mater as you progress in your respective careers."

Author, broadcaster and film maker, Philip Adams, addressed the Faculty of Arts' conferring ceremony on Wednesday afternoon.

Graduands from The Faculties of Asian Studies and Law, the Asia Pacific School of Economics and Management and the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies were conferred on Thursday morning and addressed by the Director of the ANU's Centre for International and Public Law, Professor Hilary Charlesworth.

The final conferring session, on Thursday afternoon was for graduands from the Faculty of Science; John Curtin School of Medical Research; the Research Schools of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Information Sciences and Engineering, Physical Sciences and Engineering; School of Mathematical Sciences; Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies and the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health.

Among the graduates, James

Kakare Morauta, the son of Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Sir Mekere Morauta, was awarded his second university medal in a Bachelor of Laws degree with honours. Bachelor of Arts (Honours) graduate Matthew Tinning received the Tillyard Prize, awarded annually to the honours student whose personal qualities and contributions to university life are judged to be the most outstanding.

Annual awards were also presented to teaching staff at the ANU. Professor Russell Craig from the Department of Commerce, Dr Michael Green from the Department of Engineering, Dr Ian Holloway

from the Faculty of Law and Professor Bill Jenner from the China and Korea Centre were all acknowledged for their contribution with the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

One of the convocation representatives on, and longest-serving members of, the ANU Council, David Solomon, was awarded a Doctor of Letters based on an assessment of his published works.

Ms Julie Gorrell, executive and liaison officer for the Humanities Research Centre and the Centre for Cross-Cultural research received an Equity and Diversity Certificate for her "consistent and outstanding commitment to raising the profile of equity and diversity issues and ideas".

The first Clare Burton Award, made to an area of the university that has made the most outstanding contribution towards progress in equal opportunity or achieved significant success in the promotion of an environment where human diversity is valued, was awarded to the staff of the business office, store and mechanical workshop in the Research School of Chemistry.

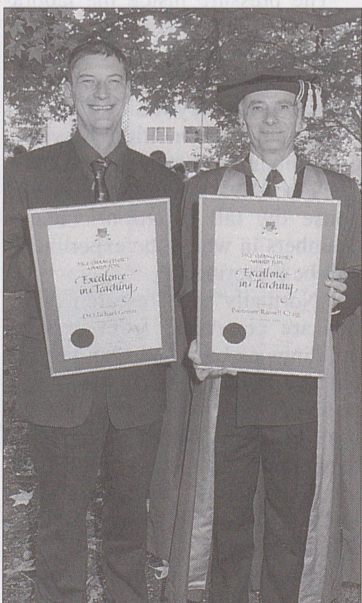


Photo: Stuart Hay, ANU Photography

Top teachers: Winners of the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Dr Michael Green and Professor Russell Craig (above) and Dr Ian Holloway (right) with their certificates.



Photo: Bob Cooper, Coombs Photography



Photo: Darren Boyd, Coombs Photography



Photo: Darren Boyd, Coombs Photography

Top: Staff of the business office, store and workshop at the Research School of Chemistry with their Clare Burton Award for equity and diversity in the workplace. It was the first time the award, named in memory of Dr Clare Burton, has been given.

Above: ANU Chancellor Professor Peter Baume reads the citation for a Doctor of Letters for Convocation representative on the ANU Council, David Solomon. Dr Solomon received his degree based on his published works.

Balanced accounts of Indonesian turmoil

Over the past three years Indonesians have experienced the most traumatic changes since the massacre of suspected communists in 1965-6. Beginning with the economic crisis of 1997-8, from which the country is only beginning to emerge, the Indonesian nation has dealt with the resignation of President Soeharto, the short but eventful presidency of Habibie and the subsequent election of Abdurrahman Wahid as the fourth president of Indonesia, the 1999 ballot in East Timor and its subsequent separation from Indonesia, and the ongoing conflicts in Aceh and Maluku — to mention only the two most critical provinces.

These years have seen the re-emergence of student and people power and their demands for more democratic government, and the efforts of the Habibie and Wahid administrations to accommodate these demands. In addition these changes have placed severe strains on Australian-Indonesian relations, and highlighted concerns within the Asian region with Indonesian handling of its economy, environment and society.

The Indonesia Update Conference for 1999 focused on the social impacts of these far-reaching changes. Over two days more than 300 participants listened to and debated the contributions of the invited speakers. This book is the compilation of their revised contributions, as well as several invited papers that were not included in the original conference. It is to the credit of its editors that this collection is published so soon after the event and so free of publishing blemishes, particularly as several of the papers required translation from Bahasa Indonesian.

The papers in this volume are arranged in three parts: recent developments; Indonesia-Australia relations and East Timor; and social dimensions of *reformasi* and crisis. Of

Indonesia in Transition: Social Aspects of Reformasi and Crisis
 Edited by Chris Manning and Peter van Diermen
 Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2000, pp.xxviii, 380

particular interest in Part One are the analyses by David Bourchier and Marcus Mietzner respectively of Habibie's interregnum and the 1999 general session of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) at which Wahid outmanoeuvred Megawati to secure the Presidency. These chapters set the political background to the other issues explored in the book and clarify the hopes and expectations of those involved in the political dramas played out in Jakarta. Of key interest here were the negotiations over what role the Indonesian National Army (TNI) should play, and the efforts to appease the interests of Muslim voters, on the one hand, and those of the PDI-P (Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle) on the other.

Part Two, on Australia-Indonesia relations, was a late addition to the Conference, adjudged to be highly critical to this Indonesia Update because of the tensions in the relationship raised by Australia's involvement in East Timor. Bob Lowry provides in his paper an immensely useful, blow-by-blow account of the struggle in East Timor, and James Fox gives a moving eye-witness account of the tragic events surrounding the ballot. Both condemn the role played by the TNI in generating the violence that has decimated East Timor's people and society. The following two papers provide contrasting viewpoints, by an Australian, Nancy Viviani, and an Indonesian, Hadi Soesastro, of Australia-Indonesian relations. This is a good illustration of one of the main strengths of this volume, the presentation of Indonesians'

views alongside those of Australian academics.

The main theme of the conference is the focus of Part Three, in which Social Dimensions of *Reformasi* and Crisis are discussed under the headings of Poverty and Income; Environment; Civil Society and Legal Institutions; and Islam and Politics. I found the contributions of the Indonesians particularly helpful and disarmingly frank, particularly as several of these have been constrained over many years from writing by both their political and administrative activities and the repression of freedom of speech in Indonesia.

Sarwono Kusumaatmadja, Minister of Marine Resources, writes of the "corrupt, nepotistic and rent seeking regime" that wreaked havoc on the environment under the New Order, and Aristides Katoppo, chief editor of *Pustaka Sinar Harapan*, an Indonesian daily, writes of two decades of repression, suppression and iron rule in which the lives of traditional communities have been disrupted and cultural degradation has occurred.

Nursyahbani Katyasungkana, Director of the Indonesian Women's Association for Justice, writes of the denigration of the "people" among New Order elite and the struggle of her association to increase the role of women in political decision making. Adi Andojo Soetjipto, for 16 years a justice of the Supreme Court and currently Dean of the Faculty of Law at Trisakti University, speaks of the corruption of the Indonesian legal system under the policy of "economics in com-

mand", and Asyumardi Azra, President of the State Academy of Islamic Studies in Jakarta, writes of the fragility of the Muslim alliance that secured the Presidency for Wahid.

All these Indonesian contributions illustrate the honesty and freshness that characterises this period of attempted reform. The collection of their views, alongside those of the outside observers, provides a valuable and current insight into Indonesia's complex struggle towards democratic reform.

I am left with a sense of bewilder-

ment that such critical analyses can only emerge once the repressive regime has fallen. While the muted tones of Indonesians' voices over the past two decades is understandable the reticence of Australian and other outsider observers is less defensible.

The intellectual vigor and honesty of this collection will hopefully continue to inspire future scholarship.

Dr Patrick Guinness
 Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, The Faculties

Fresh look at the lives of a '60s literary star

Michael Dransfield's Lives: A Sixties Biography



Patricia Dobrez

Melbourne University Press; \$45

Michael Dransfield is sometimes called "Australia's Keats", a title which endeavours to reflect the brilliance of his poetry but (perhaps even more importantly) to remind readers of his tragically short life. Dransfield, one of the most widely read poets of the generation of '68, died at the age of 24 of a drug overdose. Following his death in 1973, several posthumous collections and selections of his poetry have been published and his poetry is frequently studied in Australian literature courses.

If Dransfield's poetry has met with some acclaim, it has also met with considerable controversy. His drug poetry was seen by some commentators as involving "self pity" or a state he should "grow out of", while others have stressed its bleakness, its "tough-minded awareness of . . . certain consequences" and its "fully realised" portrayal of the experience not only of drugs, but of being a drug addict. This controversy is part of the aftermath of Dransfield's death: such "censoriousness", says the author of this book, Patricia Dobrez, was not prominent in reviews of Dransfield's poetry during his lifetime. As Dobrez makes clear, Dransfield's death was one of the factors in bringing about social disillusionment with the drug culture.

Dransfield has become part of 1960s' fables, "fables of the drop-out, the hippie, the counter-culture guru, the alternative poet and the Kesey-style prankster and the drug poet", fables he helped to create. Dobrez comments whimsically that this mythic status can create unexpected side-effects: "Not every biographer whose work-in-progress is given half a line in a national newspaper receives an immediate offer of a live-in research assistant — and from the unlikely address of Tennant Creek."

While the story of Dransfield's life is a promising subject for a biography (likely to find a ready audience), Dobrez immediately cautions, however, that it is bleaker and more complex than the fables would suggest: so complex that she prefers to speak of Dransfield's "lives" rather than his "life".

As the subtitle (*A Sixties Biography*) suggests, Dobrez is aiming not merely to give an account of Dransfield's experiences, but also an account of the 1960s. The book thus

"offers a trip through a distinct, largely literary, tract of the Australian sixties-to-early-seventies with someone who lived the moment's possibilities more energetically and analytically than most". Reacting against "hostile reassessments" of the sixties, Dobrez says her book "draws no moral lessons". Instead, she "seeks to understand both the utopian hopes and the bitter actuality" of both a period and an individual life.

Michael Dransfield's Lives has a good deal to offer at a theoretical level. Biography as a genre has always been plagued with problems of representation. Dobrez neatly avoids these problems, stressing the way in which her biography is dependent on Dransfield's self-representations. These self-representations were crafted with an eye on posterity, so that Dobrez effectively becomes a biographer invented by Dransfield himself. This is a deft reversal of one of the classic problems of biography, where the biographer is accused of inventing his or her subject, creating a representation which bears no resemblance to the life lived.

More broadly, Dobrez analyses the condition of postmodernity through her analysis of Michael Dransfield's "lives". She contrasts the easy playfulness of writing about postmodern theories against the difficulties of trying to live out postmodernity. She sees Dransfield as a victim of postmodernity, living out the options of a society of virtual realities and in the process suffering his own personal fragmentation. As Dobrez puts it: "Theorizing postmodern concepts such as 'fragmented subjectivity' is one thing, suffering this condition is another."

Another accusation frequently leveled against biographies is that they are irrelevant: why not simply read Dransfield's poetry, without reading about his life? It would be hard to make this accusation after reading Dobrez's biography. She makes a powerful argument for Dransfield's experiences and poetic output being interwoven. Is this really how things were? Or is this an illusion, a creation of the biographer's art? To quote Dransfield, this is "what he did, APPARENTLY".

Susan Tridgell
 PhD student, Department of English and Theatre Studies

WHO WROTE IT?

Brought to you by UNIVERSITY HOUSE

It was the kind of voice that the ear follows up and down, as if each speech is an arrangement of notes that will never be played again. Her face was sad and lovely with bright things in it, bright eyes and a bright passionate mouth, but there was an excitement in her voice that men who had cared for her found it difficult to forget; a singing compulsion, a whispered "Listen", a promise that she had done gay, exciting things just a while since and that there were gay, exciting things hovering in the next hour. . . .

"She's got an indiscreet voice," I remarked. "It's full of —" I hesitated.

"Her voice is full of money," he said suddenly. That was it. I'd never understood before. It was full of money — that was the inexhaustible charm that rose and fell in it, the jingle of it, the cymbals' song of it. . . .

The first entry to identify the above piece and its author, drawn after the close of entries on Wednesday 24 May, will receive a \$30 voucher from University House. Entries should be emailed or sent to the Editor (see page 2 for contact details).

The Who Wrote It? of 31 March 2000, was won by Vicki Marsh of AIATIS. The text was an excerpt from the English translation of Foucault's *Pendulum* (Picador, 1989) Umberto Eco's backhanded deconstruction of alchemy, the secrets of the Templars, the lost continent of Mu and other preposterous esoterica. Question Setter

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Making the student experience a positive one

Student Administration and Support Services aims to make the student experience of ANU administration increasingly positive and to give students the personal support they need to participate in their chosen course of study at the University.

SASS also aims to work in partnership with other areas of the University to ensure that processes are transparent and services are delivered in an effective and timely manner.

The Student Administration and Support Services Division coordinates and manages applications, admissions, enrolments and fees, scholarships, timetables, examinations, prizes and graduations.

It maintains academic and student records for undergraduate and postgraduate coursework and research students.

The Disability Support Unit, the Jabal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre and the Counselling and Study Skills Centres provide specialised and personal support to students.

Sounds good. Being in SASS is like being a downhill skier.

You expect the terrain to change without warning and just as you hit top speed a pole breaks and you are navigating short of resources. It helps if you enjoy the bumps and get high on crisis management. It is useful if you can do without sleep.... It is also really important to keep a sense of humour and perspective.

SASS is made up of individuals and teams whose work underpins every function of the University that relates to students.

To be effective this has to be done in partnership with other administrative divisions and the academic areas. Effective partnerships start at the planning stage.

Many colleagues see the Division as a block to their creativity. They have a good idea for a course, a novel way of delivering a program, a contact that can deliver a cohort of fee-paying students.

They get approval of the Faculty or the Dean to go ahead and present SASS with the challenge of administering the idea. The course has to have students, the students in the program have to pay fees and have transcripts; the contract requires adjustments of agreed fees

and specialised delivery. It all has to happen immediately because the students are ready to enrol. And the Director of SASS says — we cannot do it the way you want it done. Not that it was a bad idea but no one considered implementation and delivery. It cannot be done in time, the students may go elsewhere and the University loses an opportunity because SASS was not included in the early stages of planning. What was that story about the “want of a nail...”?

Mostly this is not the outcome. SASS staff will try to find solutions that will enable implementation of the idea. Unfortunately the solution may not be optimal and the administrative work-arounds may be resource intensive and clumsy. Creativity may also be constrained by legislation. DETYA and Tax Office Rules, Privacy, Anti-discrimination and Higher Education Funding legislation, Council and Board Rules and the University Act are just some of the regulations that SASS has to be aware of.

It is difficult to find the balance between providing service to individuals and ensuring that the

majority is not disadvantaged by the inordinate demands made on resources when staff or students are apparently unable to plan ahead. It is fair to accept and provide for unforeseen events, to adjust for students with disabilities and to provide for students whose economic circumstances, language and cultural background may make their university life and study more difficult than it is for their fellows. It is not fair when, for no good reason, examination results are late, timetabling information required on a particular date is not forthcoming, and enrolments are not completed on time. Not fair because catching up takes more resources, delays impact more than one group and the time and effort spent on correction reduces the time and effort that can be put into providing services for the majority and those with genuine special needs, or planning the implementation of initiatives.

In spite of the problems, providing the administrative infrastructure for the ANU can be fun and is very satisfying. As a Division we enjoy the downhill skiing experience including the bumps, sometimes the



bigger the better. We do get occasional notes of thanks and we gain immense satisfaction from the glowing smiles as the students graduate. We know that we are part of a partnership that makes it happen and we are justly proud of our role, our professional skills and our performance.

Dr Pat Miller
Director SASS

Keeping an eye on ISIS to make it to class on time

Students at the ANU now have fewer excuses for missing classes that are rescheduled thanks to a piece of home-grown computer software, developed by SASS.

Head of Student Business Solutions, Tim Bambrick, said the change notification service meant students who supplied their email address were advised automatically when unit times or locations were changed.

The software program, written by Mr Bambrick to supplement the existing Syllabus Plus package, is proving so successful that it was recently sold to another university with several others expressing an interest.

It links the huge student and course timetabling databases to the Timetabling Information Centre website and the Interactive Student Information Services (ISIS) website.

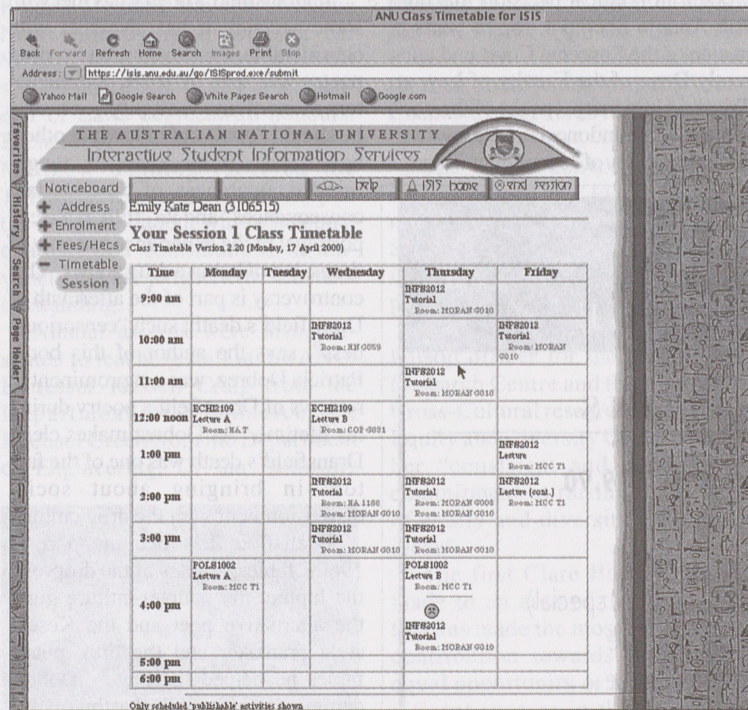
Mr Bambrick said the ISIS site was at the cutting edge of Web-based student services offering, in addition to timetabling, exam results, change of address, academic progress reports and re-enrolment facilities.

“Basically our mainframe system is not very open and getting it to talk to anything was a challenge.

“Getting it to ... have a live link via the Web was something no-one else had actually been able to achieve and SPL sent out some people to see how we did it,” he said.

The exam results facility, introduced in 1997, was the first ISIS service and remains the most widely used with almost 100 per cent of students accessing their results in this way.

Mr Bambrick said students could



Divine guidance: The ANU's Interactive Student Information Services (ISIS) website now allows students to see their class timetable, and identify possible clashes, with the push of a button.

access their results from anywhere in the world as soon as they were released.

This year saw the introduction of a re-enrolment facility via the ISIS website which was used by about 4,500 of the approximately 5,500 re-enrolling students.

“The biggest advantage for students using ISIS is that they can submit their re-enrolment through ISIS and then, right up until the closing date, they can change it,” Mr Bambrick said.

“One of the problems in the past with the paper-based system was that they put in their re-enrolment

before they got their exams results.

“Then they would get their exam results and have either done better or worse than they thought they would and want to change, but they would have to wait until the following semester to make that change.”

Mr Bambrick said the introduction of PeopleSoft for student administration, scheduled for the end of next year, would expand the range of services available via the Web, hopefully including the enrolment by new students and unit variations.

SEAN DALY

Disability unit wins \$45,000 grant to assess technology

The ANU's Disability Support Unit will be the host institution for a \$45,000 grant to evaluate new assistive technology in universities.

Students with disabilities can use the technologies — such as voice recognition systems, screen readers and screen enlargers — to help them access information and communication as independently as possible.

The other universities on the grant, which is funded by the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA), include the Universities of Newcastle and Wollongong. The New South Wales Regional Disability Liaison Officer will also play a key role in on-site demonstration and training at universities trialling new technology.

“Assistive technology is designed to provide access to mainstream technology in ways that can be indistinguishable from the way other people use the technology,” Disability Liaison Officer, Trevor Allan, said.

The ANU is at the forefront of universities providing students with assistive technology, he said.

The University has a specialised computer room, including closed-circuit television, voice recognition terminals, an ergonomic photocopier for people in wheelchairs and an array of other special equipment for people with disabilities. Students can access the facility 24 hours a day and the room is widely used.

In the first week of April the voice-recognition systems alone logged in 75 hours of use.

The Disability Support Unit is also one of the few such units in Australia with a dedicated assistive technology officer, Neil Rice, who

can help students get set up using new technology.

Many other universities are only beginning to see the benefits of assistive technology and the task of finding what works best can be daunting.

There is a wide variety of expensive and complicated technology on the market, Mr Allan said. For example, he had evaluated 27 voice-recognition products over the course of an 18-month study.

The grant will help Australian universities evaluate the assistive technology on the market and provide independent advice on what systems might work best for students.

It will also help in the development of valuable information on incorporating and using the technology.

“Often what happens is that universities will buy the expensive technology and then it will sit around gathering dust because there aren't people who know how to use it. Very small problems with using hardware or software can become big stumbling blocks to access,” he said.

Mr Allan stressed that this is a cooperative grant, designed to help universities share knowledge about the experience of adopting assistive technologies.

“We're looking at the best products and implementation methods for universities and asking: ‘What do you do and how do you cope without specialist assistive technology staff?’ We need to especially look at implementation methods so that we don't end up with very expensive dust collectors.”

SHELLY SIMONDS

FACT FILE

Director

Dr Pat Miller

Areas:

Student Administration:
Admissions
Enrolments and
Course Information
Examinations
Student Records
Graduation
Student Fees.

Student Business Solutions
Research and Scholarships
Office

Student Services:

Study Skills Centre
Disability Support
Unit
Jabal Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
Centre
Prizes and Under-
graduate Scholarships
Office
Counselling Centre
(incl. Adviser to
Staff).

Staff:

55 staff members not includ-
ing casual staff.

Individual Consultations in
1999:

Study Skills Centre: 985
students.
Counselling Centre: 1,212
students.
Adviser to Staff: 348 staff.
Disability Support Unit: 373
students.

Number of people served:

(personally and electron-
ically) in 1999: 9,500.

Websites:

Disability Support Unit:
<www.anu.edu.au/disabilities>
Study Skills Centre:
<www.anu.edu.au/ssc/ssc/>
The Jabal Centre:
<www.anu.edu.au/jabal/>
The Counselling Centre:
<www.anu.edu.au/counsel/>
Interactive Student Informa-
tion Services:
<<http://isis.anu.edu.au/>>.

Personal tragedies bring role of Counselling Centre into focus

Although technology like the ISIS system makes enrolling and getting marks more efficient, it doesn't mean students have been relegated to numbers on a giant computer.

The ANU offers an array of support services designed to treat students as individuals and support them through their studies, acting head of ANU's Counselling Centre, Sue Todd, said.

However, she said it sometimes took a period of personal difficulty before students discovered how much support they could access.

For instance, a range of student services would help a student who gets injured in a car accident. Health Services might be the point of contact for diagnosis and referral for broken bones.

The Disability Support Unit could provide support that may include voice-recognition software for help with assignments if the student was

unable to write. The Counselling Centre would be there to help the student work through the trauma of the accident.

The Study Skills Centre could help the student develop time-management strategies for catching up on missed coursework.

This scenario is quite realistic. Ms Todd often refers students, with their permission, to other areas for help and then links with lecturers and other professionals in disability and health to see the student through their crisis.

The Counselling Centre had one-on-one consultations with 1,212 students last year and 348 staff through the Adviser to Staff. That's almost 10 per cent of the ANU community.

The Adviser to Staff, Heather McLeod, offers counselling services to staff with specific problems in personal and professional areas such

as staff conflict, management difficulties, relationship breakdowns, and recuperating from the loss of a loved one.

Students often consult the Counselling Centre about managing the transition from home to student life, depression, relationships and body image.

Mature students also often consult about issues surrounding balancing their home life with new study obligations.

In addition to individual counselling, the Centre runs training courses for senior tutors in halls and colleges and for sexual harassment councillors with the Council Committee Against Sexual Harassment.

It also presents workshops on stress management, coping with procrastination, eating issues, and adapting to campus life for students with English as a second language.

SHELLY SIMONDS

Graduate program introduced

An academic and professional skills program for graduate students will be introduced next semester as a cooperative effort between the Study Skills Centre and the Graduate School.

Annie Bartlett, Acting Head of the Study Skills Centre, said the new program recognised the changing employment outlook for research graduates. About 60 per cent of PhD students were now going into non-academic jobs.

She said the program aimed to add value to research degrees by offering practical training through a series of workshops in professional skills such as oral presentations, ethics, intellectual property, professional writing, databases and occupational health and safety.

The Careers Centre, the Research Services Office and the Postgraduate and Research Students Association also contributed to development of the workshop.

Ms Bartlett said the program also reflected concerns in the recent Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs white paper on research and research training that urged universities to better equip PhD students for employment outside the tertiary sector.

The graduate workshops were an example of the broad spectrum of programs offered by the Study Skills Centre, Ms Bartlett said. People often associated the Study Skills Centre with note taking and time management for first-year students, but staff at the Centre worked on a much wider range of issues for both undergraduate and graduate students including seminar presentations, genre analysis, and composing book reviews and journal articles. The Centre offered a variety of seminars for students from non-English speaking backgrounds, mature students and students with a disability. They have also assisted with admissions for Indigenous applicants and orientation seminars in conjunction with the Jabal Centre.

To better represent the Centre's diverse activities, next year it will change its name to the Academic Skills and Learning Centre.

"The name change is part of a recognition that study skills are part of the picture but not the entire picture as far as student learning goes," Ms Bartlett said.

The number of honours students visiting the Centre has been increasing in recent years and the Centre is now looking at how it can contribute to the honours program, with a possible trial of a new honours workshop later this year.

Ms Bartlett said the honours year represented an important transition period in the learning process and a time when students could experience isolation.

"Honours is the hothouse of university studies in terms of the pressure to produce good results within a relatively brief period of time and often with little or no prior training or understanding of what honours entails."

SHELLY SIMONDS

Caring for the prized students

With about 200 undergraduate scholarship students on the books at the ANU, keeping tabs on them all is a difficult task. Handing over cheques twice a year to these students is just a small part of the role SASS plays in looking after the University's prized students.

For many of the scholars the staff of SASS become surrogate parents nurturing and encouraging them through the difficult transition from dependent teenager to self-sufficient adult.

According to Andrea Firth, Prizes and Undergraduate Scholarships Officer, that pastoral care is crucial to the ongoing academic success of the undergraduate scholars.

"We use the handing out of the cheques as a way to ensure that the scholars come into contact with an officer from this section at least twice a year," Ms Firth said.

"That enables information to be given to the student about higher degrees, other scholarships, exchange opportunities and constructive feedback as to how they are progressing but, in return, we can find out how they are going and how they are feeling. For example if a student has the flu we ensure they visit the Health Service — those sorts of things.

"Many of them come back too because this section is their first point of call and they feel comfortable here. In many cases I can't answer their questions but I know who can, so there are



Photo: Stuart Hay, ANU Photography

Class ACT: National Undergraduate Scholarship winners from the ACT at the Scholarships Breakfast last month.

links to a wide range of areas in SASS — the Counselling Centre, the Health Service, Jabal, the Disability Support Unit, and the Study Skills Centre — and those links are absolutely essential."

The ANU invests about \$2 million in its suite of undergraduate scholarships each year with incoming students able to choose from a plethora of scholarships ranging from the pre-eminent National Undergraduate Scholarship (NUS) scheme for high academic achievers to the scholarships available to students with financial need.

The suite of new scholarships each year includes 27 NUS, seven ANU Region Scholarships, National Achievement Scholarships, the ANUTECH Access Scholarship, the Mastech Asia-Pacific Scholarship, the equity scholarships and 30 Honours scholarships as well as several other awards available within The

Faculties. Each scheme is constantly reviewed by the University Awards Committee, a committee comprising both the Board of The Faculties and the Board of the Institute of Advanced Studies, which has the executive authority to administer all of the undergraduate scholarships, approve the awarding of prizes, recommend the introduction of new prizes and approve the awarding of University Medals.

"The suite of scholarships is always under review because we're a small university and we don't have access to a large donor base or industry base," Ms Firth said, "but we have a number of very talented students who we want to encourage to achieve to their maximum potential and I guess that's what the awards committee is about — it encourages the very bright to keep achieving."

TANIA CUTTING



Photo: Stuart Hay, ANU Photography

Regional scholarship winner Eliza Bateman (left) with the Vice-Chancellor and Emma Herde, from the same school, who won the same scholarship last year.

Week of fun science with a serious message

The Australian Science Festival (ASF) is maintaining its international reputation for innovative, interactive and topical events.

ASF Project Manager, Ms Megan Rive explained that the festival is a celebration of science. "We focus on bringing the whole community in. We have always staged fun and dynamic events for children. For instance, this year we have 'Science in the City', a new event for this festival, running from Wednesday 26 April to Sunday 7 May in the Canberra Centre."

"Science in the City" is coordinated by ANU graduate Dr Louise Goggin and includes a bush-tucker cook-up, a poster competition, shows that highlight the science behind chocolate and cosmetics, exhibits from Tidbinbilla and Environment Australia and a Questacon spectacular — a human cannon-ball team.

There are about 50 science-related window displays, and an opportunity for sleuths to search up to 110 shop windows to find answers to science trivia questions and win prizes.

"It's great that shoppers are so keen to hunt down the answers to the science trivia questions," Dr Goggin said. "For me, it was really important to find out whether chocolate eaters will live longer than non-chocolate eaters!"

"Maybe my favourite display is the 'Scientific Mums'. We asked six of Canberra's scientists to become fashion models for a day, to be included in a photo exhibition as part of the lead-up to Mothers' Day in

The ANU has maintained strong links with the Australian Science Festival, which started from an initiative of two University researchers more than 10 years ago. This year's Festival offers more for everyone, writes **Julia Veitch**.

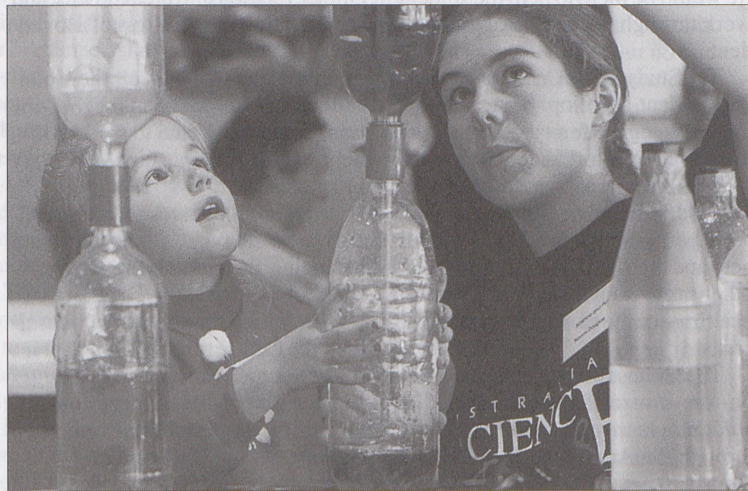


Photo: ASF

Never too young: Science Festival displays are aimed at all ages.

David Jones. Scientists don't all have beards and wear lab coats.

"There are hundreds of women scientists who live, work and study in Canberra, and some of them also happen to be mums."

Ms Rive said that, over the last couple of years Science Festival organisers had developed more adult-focused events, including forums and debates held in the evenings and on weekends.

"This year's line up of 181 events includes *Good News Week* live on stage, celebrity teas with naturalist Harry Butler and nutritionist Rosemary Stanton, forums on

animal-to-human organ transplants, cancer, Olympic science, and a new gourmands' program."

The ASF developed from an initiative of two ANU researchers, Dr Arno Mullbacher and Dr Paul Waring, more than 10 years ago.

Ms Rive said that ANU participation in the 2000 program included "Cures for Cancer?", a discussion about the confusing claims for cancer breakthroughs and treatments; "Frankenfoods: a creation of science or the media?", a debate by students of Youth ANZAAS; and "Science in the City".

The "Cures for Cancer?" panel included Professors Chris Goodnow

and Chris Parish from the John Curtin School of Medical Research.

Prof Parish's group has been working for a number of years on the molecular basis of cell adhesion, migration and invasion, with a particular emphasis on the immune system, tumour metastasis and the growth of new blood vessels.

The group has recently developed a new anti-cancer drug, PI-88, that inhibits cancer growth and spread (metastasis) in animals. The drug is currently being tested in cancer patients in Melbourne.

Prof Goodnow's group research aims to understand how immune cells "decide" whether to fight or to disarm. They have developed powerful ways to define key genes that regulate the immune system during cancer.

"The ability to resist infection and parasitism depends on that decision — which immune cells should fight and which should disarm," Prof Goodnow said. "Mistakes result in autoimmune diseases, allergy, and lymphoma or leukemia. Drugs and other ways to alter the fight or disarm decision are sorely needed."

Both groups aim to apply basic research findings to the development of new drugs that inhibit cancer spread.

The panel also included consultant medical oncologist Dr Grant McArthur, from the Peter

MacCallum Cancer Institute and Lyn Swinburne, from the Breast Cancer Network Australia. The forum, held at the National Convention Centre, was moderated by assistant producer of Radio National's "Health Report", Rae Fry.

The Youth ANZAAS debate on genetically modified foods was convened by Dr Sue Stockmayer, the Director of the ANU's Centre for the Public Awareness of Science (CPAS) and held at the Convention Centre on Wednesday. Dr Stockmayer was instrumental in setting up ANZAAS (Australia and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science) Youth Forum.

"I believe it is essential to encourage young people to speak out about scientific issues, because scientific developments have such a great impact on our lives," she said.

"If we are to influence the political and scientific decision-makers, we have to be informed and prepared to discuss our ideas publicly. A democracy only works if people are involved in decision-making."

"The issue of genetic modification is not simple. I think participants in the debate had a marvellous opportunity to think through some complex ideas."

The Australian Science Festival continues until 8 May. More information about ASF events can be obtained by calling (02) 62075901 or visiting the website <www.sciencefestival.com.au>.

ANU Reporter Classifieds

The FREE classified ads that appear here are downloaded from the ANU's staff Web site, The Nugget: <www.anu.edu.au/pad/nugget>. Only ads submitted to The Nugget will be published here — no other submissions will be accepted by *The Reporter*. If space is limited, preference will be given on a "first in" basis.

FOR SALE

FORD FAIRMONT: 1988 Ghia EA, silver, reconditioned engine, \$5,000 ono. Contact Fiona Sutherland on 6279 9814 work or 6296 4044 home.

SAAB: 1982 model, mechanically sound, good exterior and interior, rego until August 2000, \$2,000 ono. Contact Neda Plovanic on 6249 2545 work or 6281 0813 home.

TOYOTA CAMRY: 1992 Executive wagon, auto, cargo barrier, towbar, new tyres, high mileage but very good condition, \$6,500. Contact Christine Procter on 6297 5409 home.

TOYOTA COROLLA: 1990 hatchback, one owner, low kms, a/c, \$7,500 ono. Contact Peter Ward on 6279 8790 work or 6299 7380 home.

MOTORBIKE: XT 550, long rego, good condition, \$1,200. Contact Simon Moore on 0401 100 489 mobile or 6293 9611 home.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIS: Size 180 cm, boots size 37, \$80 and 190cm three pin binding plus boots size 41, \$70. Contact Ernst Willheim on 6249 4121 work or 62731007 home.

FUTON: Queens size hardwood base and mattress, \$300 ono. Contact Andrew or Libby on 6262 6909 home.

BIKE: Light racer, alloy parts, needs some attention, \$110 ono. Contact Andrew or Libby on 6262 6909 home.

BICYCLE: Girls 21 inch, \$35. Contact Warren on 6216 7067 work or 6231 0825 home.

ACADEMIC ROBES: London University DSc, price negotiable. Contact Peter Cooper on 6291 8670 home.

WORD PROCESSOR/COMPUTER: Colour monitor, hard drive & floppy + printer, \$100. Contact Eric Earl on (02) 239 1660 work or (02) 292 0006 home.

WANTED TO BUY

CDROM: Mac external, CD300 or CD600. Contact Jim on 6249 2764 work or 6251 5425 home.

TO LET

CAMPBELL: Female wanted to share large furnished house with a mature female, 2 bathrooms, available from 14 May to 10 Aug, \$75/wk. Contact Heather on email: <heather.gill@ato.gov.au> or 6247 5323 home.

WANTED TO LET

CLOSE TO ANU: Visiting academic, plus partner and young child, requires furnished place, preferably with TV and near the ANU, from 20/6/2001-30/8/2001. Rent approx. \$150/wk. Willing to discuss house swap arrangements. Have an old three bedroom house full of character very near the centre of Oxford. Contact email: <P.L.J.Dugay@open.ac.uk> or Vasa on email: <socioadm@combs.anu.edu.au>.

CENTRAL BUS ZONE: Academic couple seeks one/two bedroom apartment or house from mid-May, rent up to \$170/wk. Contact Radmila Panajotovic on 6249 0040 work or 6248 5924 home.

BELCONNEN: Two international postgraduate students looking for furnished 2 bedroom house, town house, flat or apartment around Belconnen Mall. Wish to move at end of Jun for one year. Contact Galen on 6267 5120 or email: <galen_Hsieh@bigfoot.com>.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED/HOUSESITTER AVAILABLE: Hons. student needs place from beginning May until the middle or end of June, rent/wk negotiable. References available for housesit. Contact Claire on 0412 731 276 mobile.

CLOSE TO ANU: Clean and friendly new Masters student with wife seeking 1 bedroom unit/flat/house to move into in July. Willing to stay long-term, rent up to \$100-\$120/wk. Contact Awangko Hamdan Awang Arshad on (+6082) 761000 extension 8085 work or (+6082) 245426 home.

HOLIDAY RENTALS

AVOCA BEACH: Modern 2 bedroom unit, 30 seconds from surf, sleeps 4-6. Contact Tony Adams on 6249 5616 work or 6288 5065 home.

BAWLEY POINT: Holiday cottage, secluded bush setting, short walk to beach. Contact Pat Walker on 6251 3136 home.

BEACH COTTAGE: Rosedale NSW, with sea views, native bush, verandah, 2 BR, SC, sleeps 4, non-smokers only. Contact Roma Fisher on 6295 9067.

BROULEE: 2 or 3 bedroom, 200m from beach, prices vary. Contact John Frezza on 6279 9809 work or 6286 4580 home.

BROULEE HEADLANDS: Studio + two bedrooms, 2 baths, sleeps 8. Bush and garden setting, secluded. Contact Kate Jacobs on (02) 6943 2551.

LONG BEACH: Holiday house, easy access to beach, sleeps 6, \$250-\$400/wk - seasonal. Contact Gillian Malbon on 6288 4998 work or 6249 4617 home.

MALUA BAY: 2 bedrooms, 5 minutes from beach and shops, \$450/wk. Contact John on 6241 9971 home.

MYSTERY BAY: Narooma/Tilba region, 2-storey house, close to beach, beside National Park, 3br/2 bath, Dec-Jan, \$550/wk, other times \$375/wk. Contact 6251 1467.

SOUTH DURRAS: Two-storey beachfront house, sleeps 7, walks to Murramarang National Park, Durras Lake, State Forest. Contact Leonie on 6249 3533 work or 6241 6801 home.

SURF BEACH: Unit 11 Breakaway Lodge, right on beach, great view. Contact Wendy and Dave on 6249 4460 work or (02) 4471 3522 home.

SERVICES

HOUSE SITTING: Couple, both PhD students, looking for house sitting from May onwards. Happy to look after pets, garden etc. Both have previous experience. Contact Sarah Wilson on 6246 5271 work or 6282 4932 home.

HOUSE SITTING: Responsible non-smoking couple seek housesit from late June/early July onwards. We are experienced housesitters and are happy to care for garden and pets. References available. Contact Tina Jamieson on 6249 4824 work or 6247 6514 home.

HOUSE SITTING: Married couple, quiet, no children, non-smoking, returning to ANU from Japan on 1 June. Happy to care for garden, pets etc. Contact Donna & Paul Kennelly on email: <donmakennelly@hotmail.com>.

HOUSE SITTING: Honest, reliable, experienced professional person available to care for your house, pets and property until the end of June, with refs. if required. Contact Tanya on 6288 3948 home or 0417 218 304 mobile.

HOUSE SITTING: NZ graduate couple studying counselling seek long-term position from late February, ideally near Canberra Hospital. Contact Humphrey & Lois Babbage on 6299 8761 work.

HOUSE SITTING: Married couple, no children, non-smoking, currently house-sitting until mid May 2000, happy to care for pets and garden, references available. Contact Cathy or Aaron Kennedy on 6249 4439 work or 6278 4955 home.

HOUSE SITTING: House sitter available from 20 March indefinitely, will look after gardens & pets, references available. Contact Marcine on 6254 4923 home.

ACTOR TRAINING: Enhance creativity, career, charisma through intuition. Spolin techniques; adult workshops; individual coaching; corporate training. Contact Margaret Forster on 6249 2278.

RESUMES: which get results, fast, accurate, with impact, reasonable rates. Contact Sue Kennedy on 6287 1390 work.

ENGLISH TUTOR: Personal or group reading/assignment/essay tutoring for primary and early secondary children who have difficulties with reading, spelling and writing. Contact Anna on 6278 6818 work.

FRENCH TUTOR: Conversation and writing, individual or group, rates negotiable. Contact email: <s3194444@student.anu.edu.au> or 6267 4371 work.

HINDI AND BENGALI TUTOR: Conversation and writing, individual or group, rate negotiable. Contact Farah T. Khan on email: <ft_khan@hotmail.com> or 6257 4553.

SPANISH CONVERSATION GROUP: Meets Tuesdays, 5:30-7pm, Univ. House cellar bar, all levels welcome. Contact Maribelle on email: <Maribelle.young@anu.edu.au> or 6249 5943 work. **EDITING/TYPING/WORD PROCESSING:** Fast, accurate typing services available at reasonable

rates, editing and proofreading services also available. Contact Jillian Green on email: <jilliang@orac.net.au> or 0404 887 297 (message bank) mobile.

EDITING/PROOFREADING: Contact Lisa Curtin on 0408 650 765 mobile or email: <lisac@teknet.net.au>.

IS YOUR CHILD DYSLEXIC? Experienced, specialised tutoring for primary and secondary children who have persistent difficulties with reading, spelling and writing, personal references for satisfied parents available. Contact Penny Mullbacher on 6282 1770 work.

LATIN AMERICAN SPANISH CLASSES: Conversation and writing, individual or group lessons by Argentinian native. Contact Mariana di Tada on email: <mliditada@hotmail.com> or 6284 7471 home.

SPANISHTUTOR: Individual tutoring and conversation classes, rates negotiable. Contact Ana L. Galvez on email: <agalvez@hotmail.com> or 6279 9070 work.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: Training in public speaking through regular meetings on campus. Contact University II Toastmasters on 6429 3787 work.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: Lunchtimes too busy? Try Early-Risers Toastmasters. Contact 6251 9666 anytime.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: Early-risers Toastmasters, the before-work alternative. Contact Jim on 6249 2764 work or 6251 5425 home.

PROOFREADING: Experienced editor, any material, competitive rates, student discount available. Contact Catriona Bruce on 6251 7711 work.

DRUM MAKING WORKSHOP: In 2 days complete your own Sembe drum, lacing, fitting goat skin head, tensioning, tuning and learning basic rhythms, materials supplied. Contact Sembe Drums, Geoff Filmer on 6235 0158 work.

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