

ISSUE 20

DECEMBER 2004

uniken

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the world
to read**

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On top of the world

The UK's *Times Higher Education Supplement* has named six Australian universities among the world's best 50 universities. UNSW ranked 36th. ANU was the leading Australian institution at number 16. Others on the list were University of Melbourne (22), Monash (33), Sydney (40) and Queensland (49). Harvard took top honours overall.

Wizardry at FCE

Mark Bouris, chairman of Australian Financial Investments Group and Wizard Home Loans, will join the Faculty of Commerce and Economics as Adjunct Professor in 2005. Mr Bouris, who holds a Master of Commerce from UNSW, delivered a recent graduation address and participated in the Executive Dialogue, a program that provides students with the opportunity to network and build relationships with key business executives.

New investigator

Prince of Wales Hospital psychosocial researcher and UNSW senior lecturer, Dr Bettina Meiser, has won the Hiroomi Kawano New Investigator Award for outstanding contributions in psychosocial oncology for her work on the psychosocial impact of genetic testing for colorectal, ovarian and breast cancer. She found that anxiety about developing cancer, rather than the actual risk of developing the cancer, can influence a woman to undergo radical surgery.

Indigenous insights

Dr Lisa Jackson Pulver of the Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit has had two papers published in the Indigenous edition of the *Health Promotion Journal of Australia*. One argues that for Indigenous people, human rights – including the right to the highest attainable standard of health – are indissolubly linked to the right to self-determination. The other examines the difficulties in ensuring that Aboriginal Health Workers have a sufficiently high level of professional skills and knowledge to meet the health promotion needs of Indigenous communities.

Through the looking glass

An internationally eminent instrument scientist and telescope engineer, Peter Gillingham was recently awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science. Mr Gillingham retires this year from the Anglo-Australian Observatory. He played a leading role in the development of the Anglo-Australian Telescope and in the success of Japan's largest telescope, Subaru. He was instrumental in establishing the UNSW Antarctic astronomy group.



Reviving Plato

An epistemology workshop, *Aspects of Knowing*, will be held this week in the School of Philosophy. Renowned Australian philosophers will speak on topics such as analysing knowledge, scepticism and self-knowledge, and knowledge and truth-making. Further information from Stephen Hetherington, 9385 2318 or s.hetherington@unsw.edu.au.

It's gold, gold, Golder

Ben Golder, BA (Hons) LLB (2004), has won a Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Scholarship in Law. Ben was top of his class of 284 students and won the University Medal in Law. He will commence a Masters of Philosophy at Birkbeck College, University of London next year before taking up his two-year scholarship for doctoral studies in 2006.

All in the genes

Associate Professor Levon Khachigian, head of the Centre for Vascular Research's Transcription and Gene Targeting Laboratory, is the 2004 recipient of the *Australasian Science* prize. He received it for his work in increasing understanding of inappropriate expression of harmful genes in cells of artery walls and developing DNA drugs that act as molecular scissors with therapeutic potential.

All hands to the drawing board By Judy Brookman

UNSW, Sydney City Council and local residents are working together to develop a master plan for the redevelopment of the College of Fine Arts campus in Paddington.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore last month chaired the first of three community workshops designed to develop an agreed strategic brief for the master plan. The meeting, held at COFA, was attended by Council staff, UNSW planners, COFA representatives and more than sixty local residents.

The collaborative process follows the decision in June to withdraw the Development Application originally submitted to South Sydney Council.

“There were a number of issues of concern to local residents that were not able to be resolved in the initial DA process,” COFA Dean Professor Ian Howard said.

“With the incorporation of South Sydney into the City of Sydney, it was decided that a new DA should be developed. We’re working closely with the Council and residents to deliver the best possible outcome, both for the College and the local community.”

Professor Howard pointed to the need to

upgrade ageing facilities on the COFA campus.

“But this is also an opportunity to think carefully about our vision for the future, to ensure that COFA not only retains but enhances its standing as one of Australia’s leading art and design schools,” he said.

Proposals include building a new art museum and student gallery, creating a new entrance to the campus from Oxford Street, providing additional lecture theatres and other teaching and learning spaces, and refurbishing the COFA Library heritage building.

The University is required to present three options to Council for the masterplan. Both UNSW and the local resident organisation, the Paddington-Darlinghurst Community Working Group, submitted draft strategic briefs to last month’s community meeting.

Developing a master plan for the COFA site is part of a broader strategic review of UNSW’s planning for the future, entitled *Campus 2020*.



UNSW Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor John Ingleson visited India last month with NSW Premier Bob Carr. Professor Ingleson signed Memoranda of Understanding with India’s University of Pune and the Jawaharal Nehru University. Professor Ingleson and Mr Carr visited Laxman Public School (above, with school principal Ms Usha Ram) to meet students participating in the inaugural International Assessments for Indian Schools (IAIS). More than 100,000 students across India are participating in the first assessments in English, science and mathematics.

For the record

We intend to redesign on the basis of quality the way in which we distribute our research resources.

Education Minister Brendan Nelson
– Australian Financial Review

It would leave you wondering just what the definition of a university actually was.

Adelaide University VC, Professor James McWha, on the Nelson proposal that some universities become teaching-only – Australian Financial Review

The financial imperatives of universities, their reliance on overseas students for income and the spruiking for business means the sector as a whole is clearly vulnerable to fraud.

ICAC Commissioner Irene Moss on the fraudulent enrolment of overseas students – Campus Review

It’s one thing to write, another to publish, but it’s an entirely different matter to be read, cited and indexed.

Paul Stock, UNSW Library – Campus Review

This is an indication Australian universities have the capacity to compete effectively on the international stage.

Professor Robert King, DVC (Academic), on the inclusion of UNSW and five other Australian universities among the world’s best 50 universities – Sydney Morning Herald

The fact that the government has consistently denied the possibility of trying David Hicks before an Australian court is a remarkable error.

Devika Hovell, Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law
– Sydney Morning Herald

Three years of [telecommunications] industry inaction doesn’t constitute good self-regulatory practice.

Derek Wilding, Communications Law Centre
– Australian Financial Review

We’ll never give people their sight back but we will give them some visual perception.

Associate Professor Nigel Lovell, Graduate School of Biomedical Engineering, on his team’s work on epiretinal implants – Australian Financial Review

By Susi Hamilton

Falling on their feet

Targeted exercise among the elderly can cut the risk of falling by more than 20 percent. This dramatic outcome was the result of a study presented last month to the first Australian conference on fall prevention by Associate Professor Stephen Lord, who was also the conference organiser.

The study was the first to focus on residents of retirement villages – a group with a high risk of falling and injuring themselves.

“Virtually everyone knows that exercise is good for you. It is just that different exercises are good for different things,” said Professor Lord, the director of the Falls and Balance Research Group at the Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute. “It is not so much any exercise as the type of exercise program we put in place that is important.”

The study randomised half the group to participate in the weight-bearing exercises, which were tailored to improve factors such as balance, co-ordination and stepping ability. The researchers found that those who had taken part in the *Upright and Active* program



were 22 percent less likely to fall than people of similar ages who also lived in retirement villages but did either no exercise or a seated program for flexibility and relaxation.

The results were even better for participants who had had a fall in the previous year; they were up to a third less likely to fall once they had started the targeted exercise program.

“We wanted to look at more than just falls,” Professor Lord said. “We also found improvements in balance, fitness and ability to take quick and accurate steps.”

Psychological tests showed the participants had better moods, logic and reasoning as a result of the program. Although the yearlong trial has been completed, the program was so popular that each of the sites has maintained the classes.

“It is one thing to do research, but it is rewarding to know that you start a program and it lives on,” Professor Lord said.

Physiotherapist Sally Castell, who led the exercise program, wants doctors to take notice of the results. “It was a yearlong project and there was a big sample size, so this research is pretty significant.”

Castell leads a group of older people called *Sally and the Motivators*, which demonstrates many of the exercises in the program. She and other physiotherapists and exercise trainers are developing instruction manuals about the *Upright and Active* program.

“It is so exciting to see what is possible,” she said. “Those with limited confidence at the beginning had this built up significantly, both physically and mentally, after just a short time.” ■

From the couch

School of Psychiatry head Professor Phil Mitchell and colleague Professor Perminder Sachdev will receive major awards at the annual scientific meeting of the Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research (ASPR) in Perth this week.

Professor Mitchell will receive the ASPR Founders Medal and Professor Sachdev will

give the Novartis Oration. Both are highly regarded and prestigious awards. ASPR is the peak psychiatric research organisation in Australia and New Zealand, and represents researchers from psychiatry, psychology, epidemiology and neuroscience.

Earlier UNSW recipients of the Founders Medal were Gavin Andrews (1998) and Gordon Parker (1999). It is named in honour of the four founders of ASPR and is

awarded to persons who, over their careers, have made a contribution of significance to psychiatric research.

The Novartis Oration is given at each conference by a member of ASPR who is prominent or rising to prominence in the Australian and New Zealand psychiatric research community. Previous UNSW academics to give the oration were Ian Hickie (1998) and Henry Brodaty (2002).

Funding – it's a fine art By Alex Clark

Submitting grant applications can be a lonely and defeating task for practising artists. Solitary researchers in the creative arts and humanities often find themselves writing funding proposals that receive minimal feedback at the preparation stage.

Following its inception in 1989, the College of Fine Arts took almost ten years to win its first ARC grant. This was in 1999, the year after the position of Associate Dean was introduced. With Associate Professor Neil Brown in that role, the College has pioneered a number of co-operative approaches for expanding research into art and for assisting in the preparation of grant proposals.

The process has been so successful that the College has subsequently won 19 ARC grants from about 25 applications, small by comparison with some other faculties but well above the national average.

"It's a co-operative/corporate approach between academics in art, design and art history/theory at the College, and University staff skilled in corporate compliance for the ARC," Brown said. "Trust is crucial because early career researchers in the humanities and the creative arts can be self-conscious in sharing their proposals with colleagues. This may seem foreign to researchers in the sciences more familiar with collaborative approaches to publication.

"This mutually supportive role in preparing grant applications has created a setting in which people can get together and frankly discuss the basis for the funding request."

Brown believes COFA researchers have found their work has benefited generally from the collaborative process and the feedback designed to enhance their granting success.

"People began this process with trepidation, but the results have meant most walk away believing their work is advantaged as well as in a stronger position to achieve funding," Brown said.

Brown's co-operative approach has changed the research culture at the College. "We engage groups of academics in initial discussion irrespective of levels of promotion and track record. We see the funding process as integral rather than an accessory to their research. In fact, the majority of successful grants at COFA have been from people at lecturer level B or C and many have art-relevant degrees other than PhDs."

Following COFA's success, Brown has spoken to a number of faculties about co-operative approaches to mentoring grant applications and about framing research within practical fields. Peer consultation on grant applications is now adopted by many schools and supporting institutions of the University. ■

Rich horizons

Artist and College of Fine Arts senior lecturer Ian Grant has won the 2004 Fleurieu Peninsula Art Prize for his painting *Hillside (Horizon)*. The \$50,000 award is the richest for Australian landscape painting and one of the most substantial in the world.

"My painting isn't representative of any specific location," said Grant, head of painting studies in the School of Art. "I'm more interested in using visual structure and pattern to make everyday experiences memorable and evoke a meditative or deep emotional response." Grant also won the Blake Prize for religious art in 1997.



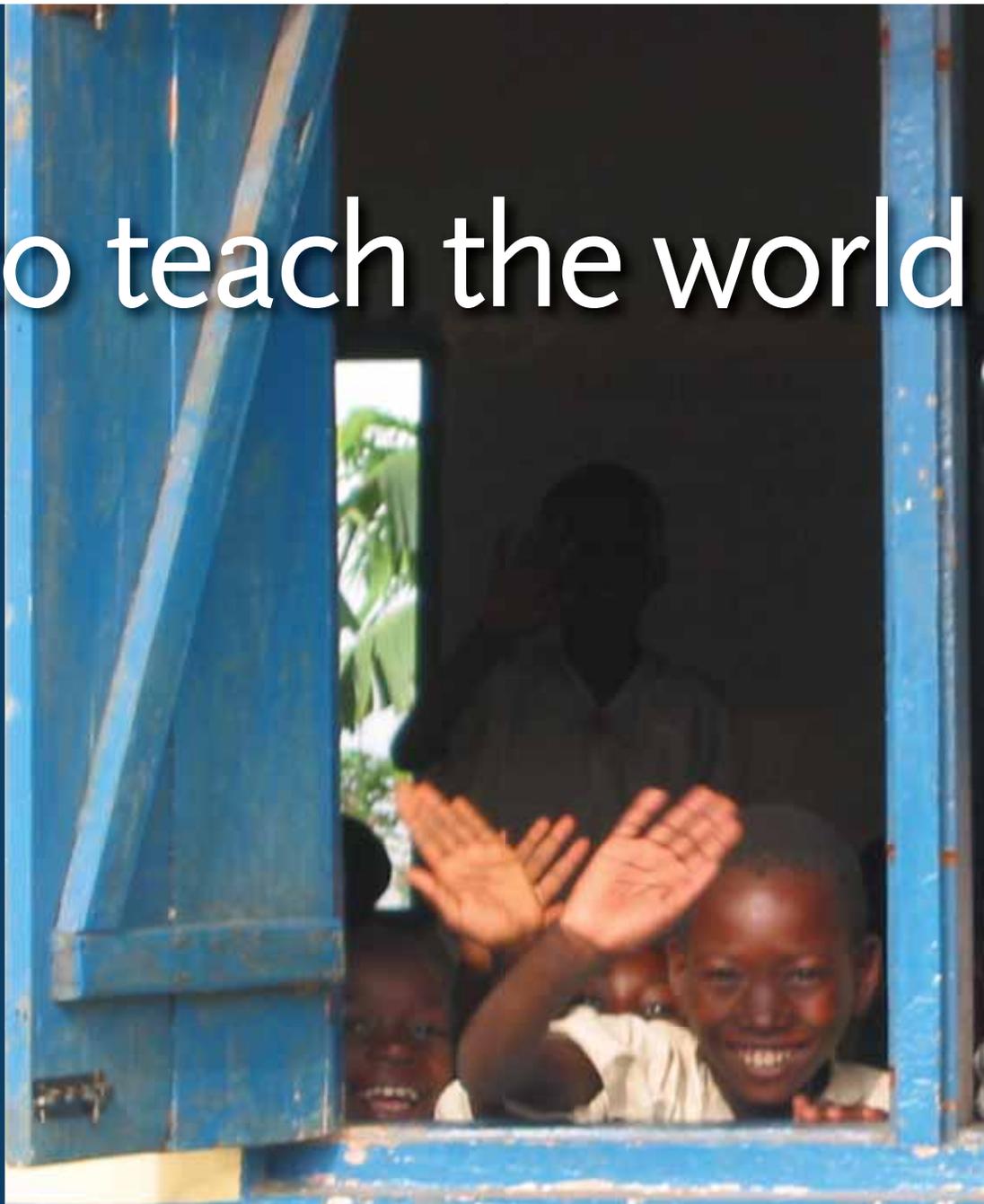
I'd like to teach the world

Tanzania is the world's second poorest country. AIDS and malaria are widespread and more than half the population live on less than US\$1 a day. Life expectancy is 43 years and only 50 percent of children attend school.

Associate Professor Alan Watson from the School of Education has been visiting Tanzania since 1998 to work with the Katoke Teachers College and next month he will make his tenth trip. His passion for helping people and for education is slowly turning the tide on literacy and transforming the lives of thousands in the Katoke area.

Katoke Teachers College is the only teacher education institution in the Kagera region of more than two million people. Established in 1928 by Australian missionaries, the college has operated under government control since 1967. In 1998 Alan visited the college, where he and his wife had taught during the 1970s, and saw the depressed state of the country's education system.

"For 20 years Tanzanian education had been in decline; the United Nations development report in 2000 described it as being in an egregious state," Alan said. "After visiting schools and meeting with community leaders, I began to understand why. There were shortages of the most basic educational necessities. Teacher morale was low and over two-thirds of scheduled lessons were not being taught." During that visit Alan was asked to conduct seminars and workshops for Katoke Teachers College staff and the attached primary school.



This led to a link between the college and UNSW's School of Teacher Education, later the School of Education. Since 1998, this relationship has enabled academic staff to run four- or six-week professional training programs twice a year at the College.

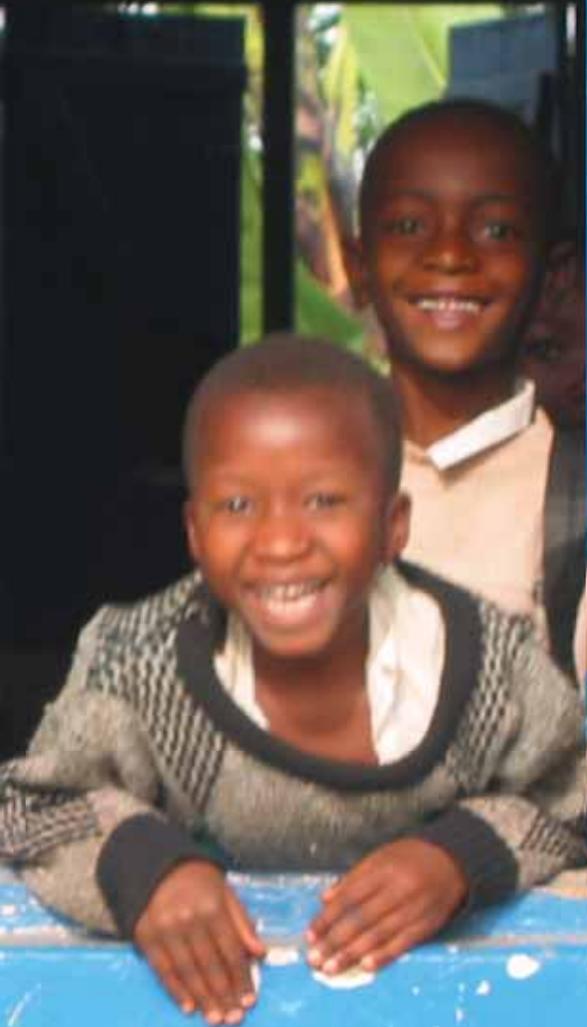
Following the success of early visits, Alan and his Tanzanian colleagues developed the Katoke School Improvement Project, to provide professional development for all teachers from 20 schools within a 15 km radius of Katoke. In 2003 the project commenced with three years' funding and a

plan to address a different subject area each year. In 2005 the focus is on mathematics. Bill Buckley from the Nura Gili Student Centre will join Alan next month as they conduct mathematics training for teachers and pupils across the schools. The training workshops are built around demonstration lessons and include teacher peer support sessions, school visits, class observation and teacher evaluation.

"Maths is so important, even simple number and problem-solving skills are needed for the marketplace," Alan said.

By Alex Clark

to read



“But students need to learn complex problem-solving. Improved education is the foundation for national development.”

The Katoke School Improvement Project has already begun to bear fruit. Time spent in the classroom with a teacher, known as ‘time-on-task’, has doubled in the last year. Staff are working more cohesively and leadership has greatly improved. There has also been a sustained lift in school marks at the attached primary school as well as an increase both in primary enrolments and in the numbers continuing to secondary school.

The importance of improving education in Tanzania has not been lost on international organisations. The Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debt relief initiative has made funds available to target poverty reduction.

Central to the government’s response has been the five-year Primary Education Development Plan 2002–2006, designed to increase enrolments, raise the quality of teaching and learning, and strengthen central and local governmental administration. ■



Community survival

Although education is slowly improving, the people of Tanzania continue to struggle for the basic necessities of life. Alan’s work has broadened to meet some of these needs through the establishment of the Katoke Trust for Overseas Aid to fund smaller projects throughout the community.

“In our visits we have become conscious of needs much wider than education, which impinge on the capacity of children to benefit from education,” Alan said. “The failure of coffee prices, the availability of medical treatment or the poverty of orphans who cannot pay school fees or buy a school uniform.”

The widows and orphans project has enabled 300 orphans to attend school and helped widows to grow pineapples and to establish a sewing co-operative under local leadership. A proposed malaria prevention project trialled in one village of 2000 residents was very successful, and funding has now been allocated to include a further 10,000 villagers in the project.

“I sense that we can really make a difference and this is such a great opportunity to contribute to people that we have come to know and greatly respect.”

The projects have received funding from AusAID, the Anglican Archbishop of Sydney’s Overseas Relief and Aid Fund, Sydney CBD Rotary and International Rotary and the Katoke Trust.

All pictures courtesy of Karen Springstub

The Great Fusion Debate

By Denise Knight

The Faculty of Law is hosting an international conference later this month on the interaction of common law and equity in commercial law.

The Fusion conference will bring together the world's finest equity minds to debate the major contemporary issues in commercial equity. Topics include tracing, unjust enrichment, the duties of company directors, choice of law in private international law and equity, principles of the law of trusts, punitive damages in equity, and equity and contract.

"The conference starts from the assumption that the rule of law, in part, depends on law being coherent. If the law can understand itself, it can treat like cases alike, thereby ensuring justice is dispensed equally," said Dr Simone Degeling of the Faculty of Law, who is conference co-convenor with Dr James Edelman of the University of Western Australia.

"But the relationship between common law and equity is not coherent. We have inherited a dualist system with common law and equity coming from different historical sources. The relationship between them is controversial. In particular, should common law and equity develop by reference to each other, and to what extent should judicial law reform eradicate the distinctions?"

Degeling says this legal tension often arises in commercial transactions. "Simply from the point of view of legal certainty and stability it is in the interests of commercial parties that these issues be resolved."

The conference organisers hope that participants will step away from the extreme positions in the debate – that the two systems are either highly fused or wholly separate. "The dialogue between the academy, the judiciary and the profession is ongoing and one of the main objectives of this conference is to bring together the main players," Degeling said. "We hope that some middle ground will be found, which will inform future development."

Speakers include Justices Gummow and Heydon of the High Court of Australia; Sir Anthony Mason; Justice Mason, President of the NSW Court of Appeal; Justice Young, Chief Judge in Equity in the NSW Supreme Court; Lord Millett of the (UK) House of Lords; Professor Andrew Burrows of Oxford; Professor David Hayton of the University of London; Professor Smith of McGill University and Professor Worthington from the London School of Economics. The conference is sponsored by *The Australian Financial Review*, Blake Dawson Waldron, Freehills and Malesons Stephen Jaques. More information from www.fusion.unsw.edu.au. ■

Britta Campion



Simone Degeling

Research counts

The School of Accounting has achieved top ranking in a study of accounting schools in the Asia-Pacific region.

Based on research performance, the independent study ranked UNSW equivalent to Columbia University in New York.

The study, to be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Review of Quantitative Finance and Accounting*, ranks the accounting schools of more than 100 Asia-Pacific universities. It covers a period of 12 years, from 1991 to 2002, and measures the research productivity in 18 accounting journals as well as a sub-set of five top journals.

For the whole sampling period, the top five universities are UNSW, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Nanyang Technological University, the University of Sydney and City University of Hong Kong.

"This is an outstanding result," Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Economics, Professor Greg Whittred, said. "This result confirms the faculty's position as a leading business school in the region. The faculty has a number of schools that rank in the top three in Asia."

The head of the School of Accounting, Professor Wai Fong Chua, and Scientia Professor Ken Trotman were ranked in the top five most productive authors over the period.

The study benchmarked the research performance of the leading Asia-Pacific accounting programs against leading universities in North America. It also indicated that the productivity of the top 20 Asia-Pacific institutions was comparable with the leading universities in North America.

Veena Sahajwalla



Angie Byrnes/Imaging Unit

Driving plastic bags further

By Bob Beale and Dan Gaffney

Materials scientist Dr Veena Sahajwalla believes today's plastic bag could morph into the car of tomorrow.

"Instead of being dumped in landfills, polyethylene plastic – the type used in shopping bags, soft packaging and some drink containers – potentially can be recycled as both a raw material and a source of energy for making iron and steel," said Sahajwalla, who leads the Sustainable Materials Processing Program in the School of Materials Science and Engineering.

The research has won Dr Sahajwalla the 2004 Fresh Innovation prize, which includes a \$4000 study tour to the UK.

Her work holds the promise of an environmental win-win, significantly cutting the steel industry's coal use and greenhouse gas production while preventing thousands of tonnes of plastic waste from being discarded.

"Plastic is just another form of carbon," Sahajwalla said. "When it comes to making iron and steel, there's essentially no difference between polyethylene and natural resources such as coal."

"By adding plastic into a molten 'melt' at more than 1500 degrees Celsius, we have shown that carbon from plastic can dissolve into iron.

"This is exciting because what would otherwise become waste is recycled to become a raw material for steel making. If we want to move along the path to sustainability, this is one way to go. If we substituted recycled polyethylene for only five percent of the coal we use in blast furnaces, that would save about 40,000 tonnes of coal a year."

Australians recycle just 13 percent of the 1.2 million tonnes of plastic they use annually. But would burning polyethylene release unwanted air pollutants?

"We need to do more research on that question, (but) incinerators typically operate at about 1000 degrees Celsius, whereas a blast furnace operates at around 1500 to 1600 degrees and is likely to burn the plastic more completely, with fewer troublesome pollutants," she said.

Sahajwalla has worked with BHP Billiton and BlueScope Steel. Unisearch, the technology commercialisation arm of UNSW, is exploring market opportunities for her research with steel manufacturers and members of the waste plastic industry.

The Fresh Innovation prize is funded by the British Council and the Commonwealth Department of Industry Tourism and Resources. ■

Venter sails in

One of the world's leading scientists, Dr Craig Venter, visited Sydney last month as part of the Sorcerer II global gene sequencing expedition that will spend six months in Australian waters. His ambitious Sorcerer II project is sampling tiny life forms across the world's oceans and discovering millions of new genes. While in Sydney he gave an address at UNSW.



Scientific Illustration

COFA showcase

The COFA end-of-year exhibitions showcase works from all disciplines within the college, from students of all ages, and at different stages of their degrees. *ANNUAL 1*, the show for students of design (BDes, BDesBArtEd), media arts (BDM) and fine arts (BFA Hons), ran from 25 November to 1 December. A related exhibition, *Masters of COFA@IDG* (MDes Hons and MFA) is running at the Ivan Dougherty Gallery until 18 December.

ANNUAL 2 is the show for students of fine arts (BArtEd, BFA, MArt and MFA) and media arts and runs from 7 to 13 December. The related Time Based Art Screenings are on 7 December. More information is available at www.cofa.unsw.edu.au/college/news.



Lets get Clement Greenberg over to see our paintings plus ever see a myth explode in your face? Christopher Dean, 2004. Oil on felt & canvas.

The image above is by Christopher Dean, who wrote this about his work:

“The three paintings in the Masters of COFA@IDG represent a few key points in the artistic journey that I have undertaken since the completion of my MFA. The title of my thesis was *Strange Brew: The Relationship Between Abstraction and Text* and, as this title suggests, the central concern of my studio research was to analyse

and develop critical and aesthetic concerns that connect these two areas. These three works will be exhibited in a chronological order in an attempt to highlight the evolution of my painting practice.

“The title of [this] painting, *Lets get Clement Greenberg over to see our paintings plus ever see a myth explode in your face*, comes from two quotes by the Australian artist Tony McGillick and date from 1968. These quotes make reference to the sense of disappointment that McGillick felt after attending Greenberg’s lectures.” ■



Technical sensuality

The latest creation of Rina Bernabei, of the Industrial Design Program in the Faculty of the Built Environment, and her collaborator Kelly Freeman, called *The Peony Chandelier*, has won the IDEA 2004 Product Design Award. Peony presents innovative combinations of existing resources to create an award-winning, marketable, contemporary lighting product. The chandelier, designed for industrial manufacture, has a rich decorative quality otherwise found only in hand-made pieces. The award’s judges described Peony as “brutal technical precision and delicate sensuality rolled into one”.



Illustration from Guglielmo Ebreo's dance treatise

Morality on the dance floor By Alex Clark

According to Aristotle, graceful dancing was akin to good morality: virtue was achieved through moderate movements, neither too little nor too extreme. This theory was used by elites of the fifteenth-century Italian courts to maintain their intellectual standing and demonstrate to others they belonged to the right class in society. Six centuries on, it's difficult to see Aristotle's teachings still at work. Movement on the dance floor will more likely reveal which decade you grew up in than your social or moral standing, whether you enjoy swing dancing 50s-style or prefer to thrash around in a 90s mosh pit.

Dr Jennifer Nevile of the School of Music and Music Education has examined the former

period of dance in her new book *The Eloquent Body: Dance and Humanist Culture in Fifteenth-Century Italy*, which explores a time when dance was understood at both an intellectual and physical level to be a demonstration of eternal truths.

"The belief that movements of the soul, or inner virtues, are manifest through movements of the body partly accounts for the strong attacks made on the dances of the peasants," Nevile said. "As a result, the dance masters of the time made efforts to differentiate their noble art from the corrupt and ignoble dances of the poor."

Nevile's book concentrates on fifteenth-century Italy because it is from this country and this

period that the earliest choreographic records have survived.

"These records also provide the philosophical justification for dancing," Nevile said. "At that time much of the choreography reacted to, used and applied the knowledge generated by the humanists, the intellectual trendsetters of their day."

Despite the importance of moderate movement and intellectual understanding, Nevile's book does reassure us that some things never change. "Even in fifteenth-century Italy dancing was also a method of courtship, providing a rare opportunity for social interaction between aristocratic women and their male peers."

***The Eloquent Body: Dance and Humanist Culture in Fifteenth-Century Italy* was launched last month by Dr John Golder and is available through the UNSW Bookshop. ■**

Lookin' forward, lookin' back

Uniken invited a range of UNSW staff to look back on the highlights of 2004 and forward to their hopes for 2005, as well as their wish list for Christmas.



Carl Reidsema
Mechanical and
Manufacturing Engineering
*Your perfect Christmas
present?*

More inspiration. Unlike most good things in life, more inspiration is always better.

The highlight of 2004?

Visiting the US and seeing family for the first time in 24 years. The prodigal son returns...

What do you hope for in 2005?

As good a year as this year – and I wish everyone else the same.



Caroline Finch
NSW Injury Risk
Management
Research Centre
The highlight of 2004?

Clocking up my first 12 months at UNSW in what felt like only half that! The other staff and students also couldn't believe I'd been here for a year.

What do you hope for in 2005?

2004 has been a highly successful year for the IRMRC. It'd be great if we could reproduce this in 2005. But I'd also settle for more rain.



Lisa Jackson Pulver
Muru Marri Indigenous
Health Unit
*Your perfect Christmas
present?*

A 24-hour period without telephones, pagers, televisions or computers, to experience the joys of being with the people I love.

The highlight of 2004?

2 September – the day the Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit came into being.

What do you hope for in 2005?

Data on Aboriginal health that shows some sort of improvement instead of the current backslides.



Danica Robinson
Research Office,
UNSW@ADFA
*Your perfect Christmas
present?*

A cook for the day, who cleans up afterwards.

The highlight of 2004?

The soufflé rising twice (it can happen!).

What do you hope for in 2005?

Grant applications will be lodged with time to spare, students won't suspend, take leave or have immigration problems, academic staff will respond to messages...



Tony Dooley
Academic Board
*Your perfect Christmas
present?*

I am hoping to give gifts that the recipient would like to receive, instead of gifts I would like to receive... my wife is getting tired of being given maths books!

The highlight of 2004?

The discovery of the sheer number of committees on which the President of Academic Board sits!

What do you hope for in 2005?

Peace, goodwill to all. And fewer committees.



David Croft
Fowlers Gap Research
Station
*Your perfect Christmas
present?*

In the arid zone the perfect gift is always a generous rainfall.

The highlight of 2004?

Planting local trees and native bush foods in a trial of arid zone farm forestry and helping local graziers to be enthusiastic about doing the same. Sharing the appreciation of the arid landscape with artists, geomorphologists, ecologists and environment scientists and their students.

What do you hope for in 2005?

A break in the drought, the trees to grow, a harvest of bush foods and the experience of Fowlers Gap to burgeon with new exciting research and creative projects.



Arthur Mezups
Unigym
*Your perfect Christmas
present?*

A set of legs/lungs that could finish a marathon in under four hours, or the Kokoda track. Either would be proof that I am still fit and healthy.

The highlight of 2004?

One of our Senior Fitness Class participants who said, "You have changed my life. Thank you."

What do you hope for in 2005?

A Unigym carpark!!!!



Sylvia Ross
School of Art, COFA
The highlight of 2004?

Standing on the library lawn with other likeminded, screaming "Rory in, council out". The spirit of the 70s lives and breathes, oops or was that the 60s!

What do you hope for in 2005?

That our conservative government might realise that the young of the country are its most valuable resource and worth educating. <Sigh> I won't hold my breath.



Dani Johnson
Faculty of Law
*Your perfect Christmas
present?*

Wings, then I wouldn't need frequent flyers.

The highlight of 2004?

The one week when I could actually see my desk through the mess.

What do you hope for in 2005?

A faculty-paid trip to the Maldives, in the name of increasing our reputation of course.

OBITUARY

John Colebatch

1928–2004

Respiratory physician

John Colebatch's brush with death early in adulthood left him physically challenged for the rest of his life. Even though he became renowned in respiratory medicine, he had no doubts on which was his finest accomplishment. "Survival," he said, "is my greatest achievement by far."

In 1953, as an intern in the Infectious Diseases Branch of Royal Perth Hospital, he contracted poliomyelitis. Unable to breathe by himself, he spent 74 days in an iron lung. He later described that period as a delicate balance between life and death. Eventually he learned to walk again on elbow crutches.

Following more than a year of recovery, Dr Colebatch rejoined RPH with responsibility for infectious diseases and rehabilitation. In 1957 he began research into lung disorders in Sydney and continued that research in the US and the UK. In 1964 he joined UNSW where he pioneered research into the mechanical behaviour of lungs. He became associate professor of respiratory medicine in 1970 and chair of the department in 1985. In 1992 he received the Order of Australia for his research on the lungs.

Post-polio syndrome led to increasing muscular weakness and he was eventually required to use a motorised scooter for mobility. He retired from UNSW in 1992 but continued as a part-time visiting professor of medicine.

His daughter Eve said that Dr Colebatch was passionate about the role of science in medicine and how the scientific method had transformed it. "John believed the role of medicine was to outwit nature for as long as possible."



Sarah Wilson

Secret men's business By Sarah Wilson

If the idea of urinals conjures up images of smelly, stained porcelain, then you may now suspend your misconceptions. Two water-saving programs are presently being road tested on the Kensington campus by the Energy Management Unit.

One test involves odour-absorbing cubes placed in existing urinals and the other is installing water-free urinals in new or refurbished buildings.

The first trial involves placing a small lozenge, the *Desert Cube*, in the base of existing urinal troughs or bowls. The cube is 100 percent biodegradable and contains naturally occurring microbes that degrade organic matter including matter on which odour-producing bacteria grows. Importantly, the microbes also attach to uric scale deposits converting them into more soluble compounds. This helps prevent any unsightly staining.

This method requires a small amount of water usage: five litres per day is used to wash each urinal, compared to the standard manual flushing urinal which can use up to 600 litres daily. "In a test period of 40 days,

just two trough urinals in Mathews Arcade accounted for an average of 17,000 litres of water per day, which costs about \$1000 per month," Energy Manager Rob Grimmett said. "Using the *Desert Cube* system, water consumption equates to approximately only two percent of the water used in manual flushing urinals."

The second system on trial is a Danish invention called *Uridan* – more than ten of them are currently around campus. *Uridan* is 100 percent water-free and contains an odour trap filled with liquid. On top of the fluid column is a blocking liquid, mainly canola oil, which is lighter than urine and therefore traps the urine and odours below it.

"We are very happy with both trials, there have been no reports of foul smells," Grimmett said.

"More than 150,000 litres of drinking water are being flushed down the pipes every day on Kensington campus. These water-saving urinals will help reduce that waste, and the secret men's business will become more secret by eliminating the offensive and telltale odours." ■

Watch your step

Excavation work for the North Mall Development Zone (NMDZ), the University's largest-ever redevelopment project, is due to commence over the summer break.

The development includes the new Law building and a scientific centre for scientific instrumentation, and teaching and research laboratories. The Heffron building will be refurbished and the inside of the Dalton building and lower ground floors of the Applied Science building reconfigured.

During the summer break, safety hoardings for the building sites will be constructed and the excavation will begin. The Heffron lecture theatres will also be demolished, due to extensive concrete cancer. Refurbishments of the Central Lecture Block and the Goldstein Undercroft are underway in order to meet the resulting demand in teaching space.

The construction of the NMDZ is expected to last until mid-2007 with the Law building to be occupied mid-2006. The NMDZ website has more details and answers to FAQs. See <http://www.unsw.edu.au/visitors/adv/nmdz.html>.



Two's company

By Susi Hamilton

On the top floor of the Blockhouse lies a little-known corner of the University: a pottery studio, available to staff and students, and run by friends and volunteer potters-in-residence, Tony Orford and Eliza McInnes.

Tony took his first steps toward a career in pottery 11 years ago with a beginners' course at the University facilities. He has been a potter-in-residence for six years.

Eliza's fascination with pottery began after seeing a woman proudly balancing her pot on her lap in a train. She started working from the University this year. Their friendship is based on a love of clay and a shared sense of humour.

Eliza McInnes

"I met Tony at a ceramic conference ten years ago and we just started laughing then and we haven't really stopped. We always want to talk about glaze recipes, or form. Now that we work together, we get to pay out on each other, steal each other's tools and talk about our families.

"While these are voluntary positions at the University, we use the facilities and if you are a potter, that's great. These studios have three kilns, wheels and plenty of space. In exchange for using that, we guide students who come in.

"He's more sculptural in his style and I'm more domestic-ware. I like my stuff to be used, whereas he likes making forms that look like

they are about to fall over! If I make a vase, I want it to hold flowers, and I make my design with those things in mind.

"Our styles are complementary. When you work with someone at close quarters, you start picking up little bits of each other's aesthetic. I am definitely influenced by watching him.

"We are so lucky to have each other to bounce ideas around. We workshop stuff, especially in a teaching sense. I feel very honoured to work with him."

Tony Orford

"We have clay in common and we have fun together. Potters tend to be a bit single-minded, so it is good to hang around other potters, because they know what you are talking about.

"We work in different sorts of clay and designs, but the systems of working are sometimes similar. At the moment, we are both doing a lot of casting, which uses a mould.

"When you are teaching something that you are very enthusiastic about, then teaching is an absolute joy. The people who come are here to enjoy themselves and develop artistically. That makes it a great pleasure. I also get the chance to do my own work with no real discipline. I hate discipline.

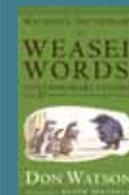
"Eliza and I criticise each other all the time. Like any other profound relationship, you spend a lot of time talking and working things out. That's really useful, because you go down different avenues, which you wouldn't have thought of if you were just inside your own head."

Staff and students may use the studios between 10am and 4pm weekdays. Further information from the Blockhouse.

Susi Hamilton

THE HOLIDAY STACK

The Turning, by Tim Winton; \$41.40. Seventeen tough but beautiful tales from the Australian master.



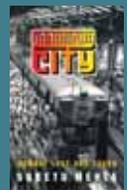
Watson's Dictionary of Weasel Words, by Don Watson; \$29.65. Wickedly funny dictionary of official language from the author of *Death Sentence*.

The Sunday Philosophy Club, by Alexander McCall-Smith; \$26.95. Witty new series by the author of *The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency*.



Going Native, by Mike Archer and Bob Beale; \$31.50. Insights into living in and managing the Australian environment.

Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found, by Suketu Mehta; \$35.96. An exploration of the darker side of one of the most populous cities on earth.



Tarkine, by Ralph Ashton and the World Wildlife Fund; \$76.50. Stunning photographs of this threatened area.

Ethereal and beautiful.

Wild Fignets, by Michael Leunig; \$26.95. More bittersweet cartoons from the popular illustrator.



Jungle Drums, by Graeme Base; \$26.95. Little Ngiri, the smallest warhog, learns it's not about the colour of your fur.

For more gift ideas see the UNSW Bookshop's summer reading catalogue – available now. Call for a copy or view online at www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au

COUNCIL REPORT

By Dr John Yu, AC, Chancellor

Council Meeting 22 November 2004

UNSW Strategic Plan 2005–2009

Council approved the UNSW Strategic Plan and acknowledged that the Plan reflects the deliberation of the UNSW

community in defining UNSW's vision, what it wants to be in the future and how it plans to get there. The UNSW Strategic Plan includes key Faculty and Division strategic goals to assist the University in achieving its priorities and underpins the current operational planning activities of the Faculties and the Divisions. The UNSW Strategic Plan will be the basis for the University's future strategic reviews which are a central element in the new planning process to be phased in over 2005.

2005 Budget

Council approved the 2005 Budget. The new budget model approach was endorsed as a key driver in UNSW working as a consolidated unit, and Council commended the model as a progressive move for the future of UNSW.

UNSW childcare facilities

Council noted a Project Officer had been appointed to progress the development of initiatives for the improvement of childcare at UNSW. There will be ongoing consultation and discussion with the Childcare Centre Directors on a range of childcare matters with an immediate focus on a number of possible short-term goals. They include a change to Kanga's House enrolment policy to access all available places for UNSW students/staff, an initiative to utilise the full capacity of Honeypot Centre throughout the year to increase extra places, and reconfiguration/renovation of existing Centres.

Conferring of title Emeritus

In acknowledgement of his significant contributions to the academic and intellectual life of the University and distinguished contribution to research and his discipline of history and philosophy of science, Council approved the conferring of the title of Professor Emeritus on Professor William Randall Albury.

Meeting dates

The final Council meeting for 2004 will be held from 2pm to 5pm on Monday, 13 December. A schedule of 2005 Council meeting dates is available on the Secretariat website. Council meetings are open to all members of the University – that is, staff, students, graduates and emeriti. If you wish to attend a Council meeting, go to the Inquiry Counter of the Chancellery before the meeting where you will be issued with a pass and some notes for observers. Observers have no speaking rights and must leave the Chamber when confidential items are being discussed.

Council minutes

Council minutes and other information about Council are available to all members of the University by accessing the Secretariat Services website (www.secretariat.unsw.edu.au).

For further information on matters relating to Council or its Committees, please contact Rhona Fraser, rhona.fraser@unsw.edu.au, 9385 3068 or Jenny Noble j.noble@unsw.edu.au, 9385 3072.

The Chancellor is the chair of Council.



Academic Board 2 November 2004

The Academic Board received a PowerPoint presentation from UNSW Student Services on higher education reforms. There are a number of initiatives flowing from the review of Higher Education: Backing Australia's Future, with significant changes for students, staff and University administration.

The Academic Board received an update on the recent Academic Board-sponsored Forum on Information Technology. The event was well attended by Academic Board members, the Vice-Chancellor and Senior Management, Faculty staff and staff from UNSW IT Services. The forum outlined recent changes in IT, current IT initiatives, IT and the changing roles of the library, and planning and the future.

The Board received an update on preparations for the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) audit of UNSW, scheduled for 2005.

The President represented the Board at the annual meeting of Committees of Academic Boards and Senates in Melbourne; he represented UNSW on the ANZSOG Board meeting, also in Melbourne, and undertook a number of other appointments on behalf of the Academic Board at UNSW.

The Academic Board supported the implementation of a University-wide timetabling solution for 2006. There was wide support towards implementing centralised academic timetabling for the 2006 academic year. The project will be delivered in three phases, organised around the challenges of managing the organisational and procedural role and cultural changes required for a successful implementation.

The Board finalised membership of the UNSW Asia Liaison Committee and will hold its first meeting during November. The Board re-appointed members to the AGSM Academic Board.

The Board received an update on UAC preferences for entry to UNSW for Session 1, 2005.

The Academic Board continues to set aside time for the discussion of major issues and the issue of norm-based versus standards-based assessment provided lively debate. The Committee on Education of the Academic Board will take the issue forward during 2005.

If there are issues you want me or Academic Board or its Committees to consider, or if you would like to attend a meeting, please let me know via a.dooley@unsw.edu.au or 9385 2393.

Tony Dooley

President, Academic Board

The shifting sands of political morality

By Helen Pringle and Elaine Thompson

The US budget deficit is estimated at over US\$7 trillion, the highest since World War II, and total US national debt is approaching its US\$7.4 trillion statutory limit. Coupled with the net loss of jobs under the Bush administration, these circumstances should have meant a free ride to the presidency for John Kerry. As James Carville famously instructed President Clinton, “It’s the economy, stupid.”

However, exit polls from the presidential contest suggest that Americans voted with their passions, even if it meant voting against their (economic) interests. Not even terrorism featured strongly in the reasons voters gave for their choices.

The exit polls reveal a deeply divided American electorate: divided by race, and by sex, religion, income and education. The deepest divide in political allegiances in the US continues to be that of race. African-American, Latino and Asian voters all registered clear majorities for Kerry, with 88 percent of blacks voting for him. In contrast, Bush carried the white electorate by 58 percent to 41 percent – and the white male electorate by a yet larger margin.

These deep divisions often coincide with differing stances on what are called moral issues. What gave Bush the edge over Kerry, it seems, was his stance on these issues. Exit polls recorded that for 22 percent of those questioned, moral issues were most important, not the economy, and not terrorism. Those for whom moral issues were most important in determining their choice voted overwhelmingly for Bush.

Protestants were the religious group most likely to vote for Bush. Of Catholics, 47 percent ignored the instructions of their bishops and voted for Kerry. Jews were the religious group most likely to vote for Kerry. Factor out black Protestants, who continued to vote Democrat, and Bush’s core constituency becomes even clearer: white, ardently religious Protestant men.

President Bush aimed his appeal on moral issues to this constituency. What is most striking in this appeal is the narrowness of its understanding of morality. The term ‘moral issues’ in the American context primarily means abortion and homosexuality (and, sometimes, guns). At the same time as the presidential ballot, 11 states ran

ballot measures to ban same-sex marriage, all carried by decisive majorities.

When Americans talk of moral issues, they do so in a distinctively modern way. The modernity of the American definition is exemplified in the absence of honesty as a moral value. Honesty is not highly valued by moral majority politicians or by their constituents. As Hannah Arendt noted around the time of the Pentagon Papers scandal, truthfulness is rarely seen as a political virtue. And while abortion might be understood as raising moral questions about destruction of innocent life, it is not clear why the war in Iraq did not raise similar questions for those who voted on moral issues. Although the Catholic Church voiced those questions very clearly in 2003, with Cardinal Ratzinger noting that the concept of a ‘preventive war’ is not to be found in the Catechism, the US bishops placed abortion as *the* moral issue.

Some observers of the Australian elections have expressed fears about a possible Americanisation of Australian politics. By this is meant the appearance here of the moral agenda of the white Protestant US right.

However, what is of more concern is the rise of a constricted understanding of morality, where questions of government corruption, lies and deception fail to register as moral issues. Wilful political deception has a far greater potential to destroy the moral community in a society than does same-sex marriage. No amount of trumpeting of moral issues, by Bush or by Howard, can repair the more fundamental damage to the very idea of integrity done by telling lies – and getting away with it.

Helen Pringle is a senior lecturer and Elaine Thompson an associate professor in the School of Politics and International Relations. ■

