Celebrating the 40th Anniversary
Alumni Profiles
Macquarie’s Core Business
New Benefits Program for Alumni

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE
Summer 2004
FROM the Chair...

...of the Standing Committee of Convocation

40th Anniversary

The year 2004 marks the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the University. News of a third university in Sydney in the 1960s must have been received with hope and optimism at a time when a growing economy and an expanding population required more graduates in many fields. Macquarie was destined to be different.

Its approach to teaching was less rigid and part time and external programs provided flexible study modes. But the most radical innovation for an Australian university was the decision to offer a single first degree for all disciplines of study.

Because of Macquarie’s innovative approach to learning and the opportunities it provided for access to university, many of the early students were the first in their families to study at the tertiary level. This became more so when the Whitlam Government abolished university fees in the 1970s and more people, including many who had previously been excluded, took up tertiary study. Although several major external changes to funding have occurred since, such as HECS, the idea of fair and equitable access to ‘the getting of knowledge’ has continued to pervade the University’s academic ethos.

To this end, on behalf of alumni, Standing Committee of Convocation will offer two new scholarships in 2004, one to mark the 40th Anniversary and the other to honour the first Vice-Chancellor, the late Emeritus Professor Alex Mitchell. As well, and in recognition of merit performance, prizes in the form of book vouchers will be offered in each Division at the undergraduate level, and awards made at the graduations in Hong Kong and Singapore. (See p. 21.)

There will be opportunities for you, our alumni, to join in the anniversary celebrations planned for 2004 and we look forward to welcoming you back on campus.

Pamela Kenny
BA(ANU) DipTertiary Ed(NE)
Master of Arts 1997

Alumni are major stakeholders in Macquarie University and deemed part of it, as defined under Section 14 of the Macquarie University Act 1989. Supportive alumni can dramatically enhance the University’s success and reputation. Both positive statements and practical support are very helpful.

Cover: Top picture – July 1966, looking northwest: In the middle distance is Binstead’s cottage (still standing today north of the Library), with site works for the amphitheatre in the Mars Creek Valley to the right.

Bottom picture – By the lake 2003: water and wildlife are cherished parts of the campus.

Sirius Summer 2004

Sirius is the alumni magazine of Macquarie University, Australia’s Innovative University.

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Acknowledgements and thanks to the Public Relations and Marketing Unit, Macquarie University, for source material.
ALUMNI profiles

Five alumni tell us about their Macquarie experiences and career progress ...

Physicist Dr Cathy Foley: Prizewinning Science Communicator

It’s not surprising that one of Dr Cathy Foley’s favourite words is ‘shoehorn’. It perfectly describes the way she fits so much into her life.

After completing a PhD in Physics at Macquarie in 1984 under the supervision of Professor Trevor Tansley, Cathy landed her dream science job as a postdoctoral research fellow at CSIRO’s Division of Telecommunication & Industrial Physics. She’s now a Senior Principal Research Scientist there, leading a team in Applied Quantum Systems devoted to research projects in high temperature superconductivity.

In 2003 Cathy won the Education, Science & Training Eureka Prize for the Promotion of Science, awarded by the Australian Museum Trust, for her work over the past 20 years in bringing science to the attention of the Australian public.

At the award ceremony she was described as a role model to all scientists on how to maintain a science career while engaging the community in science. She’s given hundreds of talks to schools and community groups and is a regular on TV and radio. Her sustained effort to promote science has been driven by deep personal commitment, done in her own time and without official support or funds.

I became interested in science communication at the very start of my career. There were very few women physicists, and when CSIRO began a ‘Women in Science’ program in 1985 to encourage girls to study science, I began talking to school groups. I was soon giving 15-25 talks a year, and became a regular guest on 2BL (now ABC 702), which led to more invitations to speak to community groups.

In 1985 I was the only female research scientist in this Division. Women still make up only about 7 percent, compared with 30-40 percent across other Divisions. There are very few female Chief Research Scientists.

After a drive some years ago to get girls into science, there are now few programs to encourage them. As soon as girls began to do really well, the focus switched to boys because they were falling behind.

A lot of women who begin science degrees don’t continue, for several reasons – few part-time work opportunities, time off needed to have children, high child care costs. You can’t work 9 to 5 when you’re forging a career path in science and if you take time off it can be years before you catch up. In my own case I have three children aged 9, 12 and 14, who need a lot of attention now, so I’m in no hurry for a more senior job yet.

In 1996-7 I was promoted from bench work to project leader, which allows me to stay ‘hands on’. You can easily forget what being a scientist means if you don’t spend time at the bench.

I have around 15 people in my team and I get the biggest buzz from being a mentor to my staff, seeing them become good scientists who can take over projects I’ve started. The team has a good international reputation, we win substantial research grants, we’re producing good quality products for licensing.

I’m very happy in what I’m doing – in fact, I’m pretty much where I wanted to be when I started work. But I’ve also done serious preparation for more senior jobs. In 1997 I was one of 20 people selected...
for a development program for future Chief Scientists. I learned an enormous amount, personally and professionally. I’m very attached to my Division and would like to do the job of Chief eventually.

“Few Australians are aware of CSIRO’s immense benefits to the country.”

I spent four years in magnetics in my first job, hoping to move into semiconductor research, the area of my PhD. It turned out to be worth it, because in 1987 the magnetics experience got me into a team set up to fabricate devices for the newly-invented high temperature superconductors.

Fifteen years later, we’re still working in the same area, developing superconductor technology and products for patent. The applications we’ve achieved are mainly for the minerals exploration industry, to which we licence our products.

I love the whole cycle of scientific method, from proposal to research, product development and patent. Building good relationships with industry people takes time. You have to introduce the innovation and teach people how to apply new devices, convincing them along the way that it will benefit their industry.

I was offered PhD scholarships to several universities after my Macquarie honours degree, but chose to stay at Macquarie as it was the only one working in a practical way on superconductors. Professor Trevor Tansley was a great supervisor. All his graduates have gone on to good research careers.

In November Trevor and I made a joint conference presentation with Dr Scott Butcher on the topic I first explored in my PhD over 20 years ago - InN or Indium Nitride (semiconductor thin films). I was very thorough in my doctoral work and a lot of it is still the benchmark. InN has emerged as very important in the hot topic of electro-optics applications - although I’m not quite sure about the moniker ‘grandmother of Indium Nitride’ bestowed on me by a very senior colleague!

I love CSIRO and what it stands for. It really is one organisation and we interact right across it. Unfortunately, few Australians are aware of its immense national role and value. Our research goal of benefiting Australia is a good one and fits in with my personal ethos.

If Macquarie is planning to expand services for alumni, it would be useful to offer tailored re-entry or skill upgrade programs in science. Science is changing all the time, and many scientists need new skills in other disciplines.

NSW Auditor-General Bob Sendt: Looking after your tax dollars

Want to find out what’s really going on in NSW government departments and agencies and how they use the tax dollar?

Look no further than the reports of the NSW Audit Office. Every year it investigates the financial reports of some 470 State departments and agencies, and publishes some 12 performance audits.

Anyone who associates the word ‘audit’ with dull bureaucracy will find their assumptions well and truly challenged by a glance at Audit Office publications (available on the Net and in print).

In the past year alone, these carefully researched documents have included headline-grabbing findings on such issues as under-reported waiting times for elective surgery; problems with performance appraisal and contracts of CEOs; managing teacher performance; problems with the Millennium Train; critical issues in protecting our rivers; and, most recently, the decreasing ability of many hospital emergency departments to cope with demand.

But attracting headlines that inflict pain on Ministers and CEOs is a consequence, not the purpose, of the work of the Audit Office – as the NSW Auditor-General, Macquarie graduate Bob Sendt, explains.

Bob gained a BA (Economics) in 1970 and a Graduate Diploma of Environmental Studies in 1975, and is a Fellow of CPA Australia.

On his appointment in 1999 Bob declared his strong support for open government, accountability and an independent Audit Office. Four years into his seven-year term, his sentiments haven’t changed.

As a Denistone boy, the new Macquarie campus was my local university. I became a student during the late 1960s ‘bare bones’ era. There were only about 500 students then, a couple of buildings, a lot of dirt, few facilities and no senior students to show us the ropes.

But there was a flexible academic structure and credit point system that encouraged us to try different pathways. I planned to take actuarial studies, starting...
with economics, maths and stats in first year, but when I found economics was what I enjoyed most, it became my major.

Right from the start my studies helped prepare me for what came later. After my first job at the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in 1976 I moved to the NSW Treasury’s statistical unit and later to a task force that prepared a report on the whole NSW economy. I contributed to the first NSW submission to the Commonwealth Grants Commission, and was a member of the Tax Task Force that produced the Collins Report (convened by Macquarie academic David Collins, now an Adjunct Professor). I also helped design program budgeting in its trial phase.

The senior jobs I held in NSW Treasury over a 22-year period were a true proving ground. Before becoming Auditor-General I had been Director of the Budget Division and then Executive Director Resource Allocation, a member of Treasury’s Executive. I managed budget allocations and financial and portfolio issues concerning health, community services, housing, justice, roads, public transport and the Olympics.

The budget area of Treasury is very high pressure, but it’s also exciting being right inside the ‘theatre’ of the political process. I also got to know the CEOs and politicians from all sides, making the transition to the Audit Office role easier.

I report directly to the NSW Parliament. Our overarching mission is to help Parliament judge how effectively government and its agencies spend taxpayers’ money, but in the process we also try to benefit the agencies.

“I’m deeply conscious that independence is crucial to the role.”

After four years, I’m deeply conscious that independence is crucial to the role. The Auditor-General’s term of office is seven years and not renewable, and the person who holds office isn’t permitted to work again in the NSW public sector – the intention being to avoid any possibility of currying favour.

I get great satisfaction from the immense scope of the role and the opportunity to have a significant impact on public life. My staff take pride in performing a crucial public service. For this year’s Annual Report we reviewed our work over the past two-three years, taking as our theme the impact of that work on the way services are delivered to the people of NSW.

Given the scale of our public sector, we can never do as many performance audits as needed. Even if we were given the resources to conduct 30 or 40 every year, we’d still only scratch the surface.

I have a couple more major ambitions during my term. The first is to persuade the Government to establish a sector-wide framework for reporting performance. This could lead to triple bottom line reporting across the whole of government, including sustainability as a key measure.

My second ambition is to convince the Government to require agencies’ key published performance measures to be audited. Treasury recommended this to Cabinet in 1998 but there’s still no decision. NSW public sector agencies can release performance indicators with no external review of their accuracy. We found a serious example of this recently in the State Rail Authority. There was evidence that the way its indicators are compiled compromises their accuracy and value. We don’t know whether indicators published by other agencies are equally deficient.

When I was younger I was a caver and cross-country skier and a founding member of the Macquarie Mountaineering Society. Although I don’t have time to do this now, I do manage some bushwalking with my wife and am keen on nature photography. It was my personal interest in the environment that prompted me to return to Macquarie in the 1970s for the environmental studies diploma. What I learned from it has also benefited my work today, especially in assessing ‘big picture’ priorities.
Robyn Moloney loves teaching languages, values inclusiveness and celebrates cultural diversity. As Director of Languages at the International Grammar School in Sydney, she’s found the perfect niche.

Robyn’s language studies fostered her interest in other cultures while still a student at North Sydney Girls High. After graduating from Sydney University with a BA Dip Ed in 1974, she taught French and German in state schools, then worked overseas, returning to Australia in 1979.

In the early 1980s, as a mother at home raising young children, she nourished an interest in Japanese culture. While her babies slept, she studied the language and later enrolled in HSC classes at SCEGGS Redlands Saturday Morning School. A year of Japanese at Sydney University followed.

When she returned to part-time teaching in the 1980s there was a boom in teaching Japanese and it became one of her main subjects at Ku-ring-gai High School. Her desire to enhance her skills led to five visits to Japan.

In 1989 Robyn began a rewarding 13-year career at Queenwood School, Mosman, as Head of the Language Department. As Coordinator of the International Baccalaureate program for two years, she admired the way it developed students’ critical thinking and intellectual depth, and offered a global perspective.

Around the same time, she was searching to broaden her own learning, and in 1999 found the perfect vehicle in the Macquarie Masters degree in Media and Cultural Studies. Five years later, she’s an award-winning researcher on intercultural language teaching.

The Media and Cultural Studies Masters degree was a highlight of my life – in fact it made me understand the term ‘blow your mind’! Professors Tom Burvill and Nick Mansfield were marvellous teachers and mentors, and I give them and Macquarie full credit for setting me on an exciting path.

The course content was all new to me and emphasised the huge cultural influences on our thinking. Humanities had moved on so much since the mid-70s, I was out of touch with whole cultural movements, and thinkers like Derrida and Foucault and their influences on, for example, the senior school English curriculum. It was a great degree for teachers seeking to enjoy rich intellectual stimulation and nourish their own learning needs.

As my research assignment, I wrote a piece under Tom Burvill’s supervision called The Culture of LOTE Teaching in a Multicultural Australia – a cultural analysis of the world of language teaching in multicultural Australia.

I uncovered a lot of negative community attitudes to language and difference. Regrettably, most Australians think there’s no need to learn other languages.
because ‘everyone here speaks English’. I took a counter view, that Australia is a lot more multi-lingual than people realise and that language gives access to other cultures and has intellectual spin-offs.

For example, research shows that learning a second language fosters divergent thinking in children.

In 2001, with a scholarship from Queenwood School and Nick Mansfield’s help, I wrote a booklet for secondary students called Culture in the New Curriculum, explaining some of the important cultural studies concepts in simpler jargon-free language. The journal of the English Teachers Association of NSW Metaphor, published two chapters on Concepts of English Stage 6 Syllabus, which have been used by many teachers since.

The International Grammar School is a wonderful, unique place of learning. It celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2003. The founder, Professor Reg St Leon, began the primary second language teaching movement in the 1970s using the ‘immersion’ method. Although IGS was the model for that movement, there’s been no attention from researchers. I plan to remedy that in my EdD work.

We’re recognised as a best practice school for language learning by both the Association of Independent Schools and the Board of Studies. Most children enrol at preschool or primary level and stay right through. They develop a completely natural use of their chosen second language, using it every day.

I head a languages department of 23 teachers but fortunately I still have time to do some teaching. I love contributing to the development of a young person’s whole being. Intercultural learning comes through a lot in different subjects, culminating in workshops for Kindergarten to Year 12 on International Day.

As IGS becomes better known, waiting lists are growing. People like our breadth of outlook, inclusiveness and emphasis on languages and creative arts. We achieve wonderful HSC results and have a strong connection with our local city universities.

We have partnerships with schools in France, Italy, Germany and Japan, with which we swap kids annually, so they can have six weeks immersion experience in the country of their second language.

The Masters program also led me on to a strong interest in intercultural learning, and to write materials about broadening cultural perspectives for children, through including different voices in history and cultural diversity— even in subjects like mathematics. For example, most children don’t know about the contributions of Mayans and Indians to mathematics.

Last year I was thrilled to receive the annual NSW Teachers Guild prize for research, for my initial assignment and subsequent work. I also spoke at the Australian Council for Education Leadership conference in Sydney last year about intercultural learning.

This year I’m beginning a professional doctorate in education (EdD) at Sydney University, on the topic of intercultural competence through language learning.

“The Media and Cultural Studies Masters degree at Macquarie was a highlight of my life.”

As IGS becomes better known, waiting lists are growing. People like our breadth of outlook, inclusiveness and emphasis on languages and creative arts. We achieve wonderful HSC results and have a strong connection with our local city universities.

We have very diverse family backgrounds among our students, and respect for language and difference is the school ethos. Being here fits my interests and values perfectly.
Derek Spielman

Chief Veterinarian at Ocean Park Hong Kong, Dr Derek Spielman, can hardly recall a time when he didn’t want to work with wildlife.

To pursue his dream, as an experienced vet in private practice he enrolled part time in a Macquarie BSc in zoology and genetics in the mid-1980s, and joined the staff of Taronga Zoo in 1986.

His interest fired by his undergraduate studies, in 1995 Derek enrolled in a Macquarie PhD in conservation genetics, supervised by world-renowned researchers Professor Dick Frankham* and Associate Professor David Briscoe. While a PhD student, he worked for the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service as project manager of the vertebrate audit – the first of its kind – set up to help determine the most valuable natural areas to be conserved in NSW. He was also asked to be the senior veterinarian on the clean-up after the environmental disaster of the Iron Barron oil spill near Launceston.

In 1997 he moved to the Northern Territory to be senior curator/veterinarian with the Parks and Wildlife Commission and, six months later, park manager of the Territory Wildlife Park, Berry Springs, one of the best wildlife parks in Australia.

He took up his current post in 2002, heading a small team including three other internationally-qualified vets. He is one of a few vets in the region specialising in wildlife.

Recently he has contributed his expertise to the Hong Kong government’s response to the SARS outbreak. (His PhD reading showed him it is just a matter of time before diseases jump the species barrier to humans in China.)

I greatly appreciated the interaction among schools, disciplines, academics and students at Macquarie, and the academic excellence and support of my supervisors, Dick Frankham and David Briscoe.

Through my studies there I learned that understanding genetics is basic to understanding life generally, including diseases, epidemiology, and animal and human behaviour.

“I gained a much greater understanding at Macquarie of scientific and global perspectives…”

My PhD thesis examined the implications of inbreeding and consequent loss of genetic diversity for decreased resistance to disease.

I also gained a much greater understanding at Macquarie of scientific and global perspectives, not only in biology, but also in population dynamics, disease epidemiology and other veterinary fields not available in veterinary curricula anywhere in the world. Ecology studies taught me how host populations, pathogens and evolution profoundly affect human, domestic and wild animal, and plant populations.

My job at Ocean Park is very intensive. We focus on animal welfare, conservation, research, exhibitions and education. The Park aims to be the regional leader in wildlife veterinary science, and is forging close links to other ocean parks internationally.

The veterinary team is responsible for the health and welfare of all the animals. I oversee the veterinary hospital, a well-equipped veterinary clinical laboratory – the only one in Hong Kong – and an environmental laboratory that tests the quality of the water in the pools and aquarium.

Ocean Park attracts over three million visitors a year. We have a three storey aquarium, a huge aviary, and seal, dolphin and bird shows, as well as theme park rides.
Among the highlights are two giant pandas, an official gift to Hong Kong from China at the handover of Hong Kong in 1997.

The high levels of staff competence, respect, morale and cooperation are very satisfying. For example, despite great problems caused by SARS, Ocean Park staff uncomplainingly accepted severe restrictions on their pay, conditions and working hours that would have caused problems for many.

The biggest moments of my career have been transferring from private practice into wildlife work, and completing my PhD. My next ambition is to be more involved in wildlife veterinary work and conservation in Asia. I’d like to help make Ocean Park a centre for conservation consultancy and teaching for the region.

A colleague wondered why I moved from the Northern Territory, where the wildlife and landscapes are spectacular, to Hong Kong. But if you want to make a difference to global conservation, you can have a much greater impact in Asia, especially in Hong Kong, than in Australia.

*Macquarie conservation genetics pioneer Professor Dick Frankham has been appointed Hardy Visiting Professor of Conservation Biology at Harvard University during 2004. He co-wrote the first textbook on his specialisation, Introduction to Conservation Genetics, a bestseller in the biology field.

**Liz Spielman**

Liz Spielman has been a highly effective ground breaker in maths education throughout her career. At Macquarie she is remembered for her major contribution to mathematics learning skills programs in the 1990s, as Coordinator of the Learning Centre for Numeracy Skills (now Numeracy Centre).

After graduating from Macquarie in 1979 with majors in mathematics and psychology and a Dip Ed, Liz taught primary maths at Barker College and later pioneered its primary computer education. To ensure she was fully on top of the (then) new discipline, she completed the brand new Graduate Diploma in Computing in Education at CSU.

With two young children, in the 1980s Liz switched to part-time teaching before joining Macquarie’s Department of Mathematics in 1991. At the Numeracy Centre she developed workshops, bridging and refresher courses, individual tuition and resources.

The Centre’s aim was, and remains, to improve students’ access to and completion rates in maths and other numeracy-based courses.

She also taught the Mathematics Assertiveness Course, building students’ skills and confidence in numeracy-based units, and established similar courses with Wararawa.

Liz names Macquarie teachers Christopher Cooper, David Cairns and, especially, Ted O’Keefe as influences in her student days. Ted not only encouraged her to do maths but also started her playing squash. As it turns out, maths and squash are both lasting legacies of her years at Macquarie: she now teaches both in Hong Kong.

My most vivid memories of student life are of high adrenalin experiences such as Conception Days and intervarsity skiing. I had subdued considerably by the time I became a university teacher. As both student and teacher I had tremendous support and encouragement from the Department of Mathematics.

“*As both student and teacher I had tremendous support and encouragement from the Department of Mathematics.*”

My knowledge of maths education deepened after I enrolled in a Master of Education by research at Macquarie in 1996. My topic in Adult Mathematics Education examined how Aboriginal people view the study of mathematics and how they learn. It was a completely different perspective on my academic area and very rewarding. A lot of groundwork was required to get the project underway and accepted. The students needed to feel confident about being part of the research.

I acquired a lot more cross-cultural experience in teaching maths when I moved to Darwin in 1997 and became head of mathematics at Kormilda College, a high school for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.
Living overseas for the past couple of years with my family has been a wonderful experience. Being in Cambodia was a particularly rich experience as the country is so raw, vibrant and occasionally volatile. I taught maths for a year at the International School in Phnom Penh.

Hong Kong, where we are now, is a very easy city to live in – the public transport is second to none, and the crime rate virtually non-existent. I’ve been fortunate to be hired by the prestigious Hong Kong International School to teach maths (and squash). It’s a challenge to help students think laterally, to solve problems for their own sake rather than for extra credit, and to learn the American curriculum.

Next year I hope to present a workshop on Geometer’s Sketchpad at the EARCOS Conference, and be more active in gifted and talented education. I also want to learn more about Format, an approach to teaching that acknowledges different learning styles.

I’ve enjoyed several career highlights so far, but what stands out is that each experience took me out of my ‘comfort zone’ and helped me grow professionally.

Thanks to Sandra Harrison for interviewing Derek and Liz Spielman in Hong Kong.
To mark the 40th anniversary of the Macquarie University Act, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Di Yerbury, highlights some of Macquarie’s extraordinary achievements so far...

Macquarie University was established in 1964 as a radical alternative: innovative, flexible, interdisciplinary, with multi-mode access, including through new technologies. Serving the needs of industry and commerce is explicit in its statutory role.

Driven intellectually by the spirit of fundamental research, it has always been committed to postgraduate studies.

From the Macquarie Dictionary to laser biomedicine; from proteomics to ancient history; from applied finance to museums and collections: Macquarie has become the benchmark.

On the one hand, Australia’s Innovative University is part of this country’s biggest high-tech precinct. On the other, its beautiful spacious parklands, set around lakes and creeks alive with birds, are home to Australia’s leading Sculpture Park.

Innovative, research-driven, flexible, interdisciplinary, relevant, richly international and boldly entrepreneurial – that’s Macquarie at the age of 40.

Forty years after foundation, Macquarie is a leading research university with an international reputation in the humanities, social sciences, commerce, science and technology. By ISI’s citation impact (the major international measure for science and technology research) Macquarie ranks first in Australia in engineering and technology, first in chemistry/biochemistry, and fourth overall. It is one of only nine Australian universities in the world’s top 100 for science citations across 21 categories in the last decade.

The Good Universities Guide gives Macquarie nine 5-star scores, including for research, student demand, entry standards, cultural diversity, student services and graduate starting salaries.

The recent national quality review commended Macquarie not only for research but also for ‘promoting good teaching practice’, flexibility and interdisciplinarity, and for using ‘innovative technologies to enhance student learning’. Macquarie was the first in the world to introduce (in 1967) a full science degree by distance education. Today it is Australia’s fourth most ‘multi-mode’ university.

It is the third most postgraduate university – 36 percent of last year’s 29 000 students were postgraduate. Taught in Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo, and shortly in Beijing, as well as Australia, the Master of Applied Finance is the world’s biggest such program - by a factor of nearly five.

MGSM has been ranked by the Economist Intelligence Unit (UK) as the top management school in Asia, and first in the world for student quality.

With over 28 percent of its students from overseas, Macquarie is the sixth largest destination for on-shore full-degree international students in Australia (and the biggest destination for students from China). In 2001 it won the NSW/Hong Kong export award for the services sector.

This year, with University travel grants, 13 percent of the graduating cohort will study overseas as part of their Macquarie experience.

Part of the rationale for locating Macquarie in North Ryde was to attract research-based industries. Strong linkages with industry and CSIRO now make this location Australia’s natural ICT and biotech hub. Macquarie’s Research Park, the most successful on-campus R & D Park in the country, has been developed in partnership with Baulderstone Hornibrook. Its 13 tenants include Siemens, Dow Corning, Becton Deckinson and Goodman Fielder – with major facilities for Nortel now under construction.

Radiata, the spin-off company which commercialised CSIRO/Macquarie IP in wireless microchips, made world headlines when it was sold to CISCO Systems in Australia’s biggest-ever private IT transaction.

In addition to the existing M2 motorway, extensions to the bus hub, the new Lane Cove road tunnel, the Western Sydney Orbital link and development of an on-campus railway station (completion 2007-08), will ensure outstanding public transport access. University land around the station will be further developed through Macquarie’s own property trust. (Less than 30 percent of our revenue comes from government these days!)

Macquarie shares facilities and services – library, gallery, museums and performing arts, recreational and sporting facilities – with the community.

Macquarie – Australia’s Innovative University – is the first university to be selected a ‘Superbrand’, as one of Australia’s most recognised and trusted brands. Ever pioneering and adventurous, it continues to be commended in national quality reviews for its innovative culture.
The beginning... and before...

‘The first years of Macquarie were ones of startling contrasts. The old ways long ran in tandem with the new.’

Since the 1940s and 50s the Macquarie site had been home to many European (mainly Italian) families of market gardeners.

Wally Abraham’s comprehensive photographic survey of the site in 1964 depicted ‘poultry farms; bare sun-crippled hardwood fences and small forests of tomato stakes; the rise and fall of Waterloo Road into a hazy distance; the slow plod of bowed back and short sleeves behind an iron plough and a white thick limbed horse; and everywhere distance, distance, distance.’ *

Walter (Wally) Abraham, Macquarie’s first Architect Planner (1964-83), was instrumental in the choice of the 135-hectare site at Balclava Road North Ryde and oversaw its development for two decades. The first written record of his advice on the site (‘Proposed University Site at North Ryde’) is dated 5 June 1962. Today he writes:

‘For its first 19 years, an in-house Architect-Planner’s Office conceived and coordinated Macquarie’s site development. Despite challenging deadlines, our superb site and a supportive Vice-Chancellor’s Office and Council ensured the establishment of an open-ended foundation for growth and change. No university could have been endowed with a more favourable beginning.’

February 1979: Walter Abraham surveys the campus from the roof of the Mitchell Building. The Macquarie Theatre and Buildings W5 and W6 are in the background.

The late Emeritus Professor Alex Mitchell, first Vice-Chancellor of Macquarie 1964-1975. He strove to make the innovative academic structure reflect the unity of knowledge, and affinities between disciplines.
REFLECTIONS on the beginning

Macquarie Registrar and Vice-Principal, Brian Spencer, is the longest-serving member of the University and was involved in its earliest planning phase. He recalls those days:

In February 1963, the NSW Minister for Education (the Hon Ern Wetherell) appointed Phillip Price (then Deputy Director-General) as Director of a new Higher Education Advisory Office to advise on the future development of tertiary education in the State.

Shortly after, I accepted an invitation for secondment from the Education Department to help set up the Office.

Phillip Price soon gave the Minister clear evidence of the need for a third metropolitan university to help meet growing unsatisfied demand for university places. In August 1963 the NSW Cabinet agreed to the proposal.

The Interim Council appointed by the Minister to guide plans for the ‘New Metropolitan University’ held its first formal meeting on 15 January 1964, with Phil Price as Chair. A trusted, compassionate and experienced educator, he was quietly determined to bring his vision to reality.

It was exciting to be part of the team which was to create the first completely new university in NSW since 1850. I recall being greatly impressed by the eminence and experience of the members of the Interim Council and by their commitment to educational innovation.

My job included secretarial support to their meetings and committees and contributions to Cabinet minutes for the Minister to secure government support. Later I became Secretary of the First Council created by the Macquarie University Act in May 1964.

The academic specialists on the Council were committed to plans which included immutable educational principles accompanied by a list of ideas as a basis for consultations with the first professors. It was very rewarding to witness the creative thinking and sense of bold experimentation which pervaded discussions. While respectful of academic tradition, Council members felt unconfined by practice and rules in other places.

In February 1965, the NSW Government provided an endowment for the fledgling university and in the same month I accepted an appointment to work with the first Registrar, John Ford, who began soon after.

Although I was unsure of the way my career might develop, rapid growth of the University brought opportunities for learning, daily challenges and quick advancement. It was exciting to watch Macquarie’s academic and physical shape unfold, underpinned by its emerging educational philosophy.

Throughout the life of the University I have noted the enduring qualities of the founding principles and early innovative ideas. Semesters, credit points, a small academic board, special support for part-time and external students, schools instead of faculties, a single schedule of units, encouragement of interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary studies, all emerged on the Australian scene at Macquarie. All were part of ‘making it new’. All were copied in other places. All have been keystones in building the University’s reputation over 40 years.

(Comprehensive information about Macquarie’s first years may be found in Mansfield, Bruce and Hutchinson, Mark, Liberality of Opportunity: A History of Macquarie University 1964-1989, Hale and Iremonger, 1992, Sydney).

Emeritus Deputy Chancellor
Dr John Lincoln

Dr John Lincoln has been a link between Macquarie and the community from the beginning.

As Chair of the Association for the Civic and Educational Advancement of the Northern Suburbs of Sydney (ACEANS) from 1958-64, he played a crucial role in the decision to locate Sydney’s third university at North Ryde. He was a member of the first Macquarie University Council in 1963 and has served continuously since. In 2000, the Council created the position of Emeritus Deputy Chancellor, appointing Dr Lincoln to this position in recognition of his longstanding contribution to the University.

He continues to be a strong supporter of alumni activities.
IT’S ACADEMIC: Macquarie’s core business

Sirius presents the second in a series of articles featuring Deans of the nine academic Divisions of Macquarie University.

Macquarie Law Renaissance

Dean of Law, Professor Rosalind Atherton, believes passion is what drives good academics. Over the past four years her own passion and sense of history have underpinned a recharged identity for ‘Macquarie Law’.

A specialist in legal history, trusts law, property and succession, Rosalind Atherton is a woman of multiple talents and a deep love of scholarship.

In 1999, as Dean of Law she returned to the institution where her academic career began in 1982. She then spent seven years at UNSW and more than nine at Sydney University Law School, including a 14-month stint as Acting Dean.

She speaks of ‘Macquarie Law’ (her brand name for the Division) in terms of building a history ‘individual by individual’. School publications, and photos and honour boards on the walls of the school, show history in the making – recognising past achievement and encouraging work in progress.

“I’m striving for a strong sense of identity and history for Macquarie Law.”

During the 1980s and early 90s, while her two children were still very young and she worked full time, Ros sustained a ten year effort to attain her PhD part time. Like many high achieving women, she’s become an expert at juggling competing demands.

Music is a second passion for Ros – she’s a member of the Sydney Philharmonic Motet Choir and was a member for several years of the Renaissance Players and the Sydney Opera and Ballet Orchestra.

In 1975 she spent a year on an orchestral scholarship with the ABC Training Orchestra while undertaking her history honours studies at night, taking time out from law studies to do so.

To many fellow lawyers and academics, she’s also well-known for ‘Ros’s recipes’ – a package of commonsense advice to lawyers on achieving their professional goals. She’s given invited presentations on this topic at law schools in Australia and the UK, and at the 2000 Millennial (and first) World Women Lawyers Congress in London.

The quality of academic work is the heart of a university. To be a good academic leader you need to understand the nature of academic work from the inside out. And if you relish the spark of the ‘alive classroom’, as I do, so much the better.

Completing my PhD was a huge moment in my life. Although it was a long, hard slog, it satisfied my need to think things through deeply and come up with original ideas that might be useful in today’s legal context. I also knew the doctorate would confer real acceptance in the academic community. A PhD is a genderless qualification – a bonus for a woman.

The job of Dean attracted me as a great opportunity at a crucial time in Macquarie’s development. I understood the Law School’s past while wanting to be part of its future. For me, being effective means identifying medium and long-term goals and, as much as I can, bringing my academic colleagues with me through a process of incremental and enduring change.

We involve students as much as possible, for example holding staff-student symposia where we explain goals and planning timeframes and take student views on board.

We work closely with the Macquarie University Law Society, which is very important for connecting with students. One of my first initiatives was to introduce an annual prize-giving ceremony for top students. It’s a special occasion with distinguished guests, where we make awards both for academic attainment and for outstanding contributions to the Macquarie Law community.

I’ve also introduced Honour Boards to recognise different kinds of achievement – University medallists in Law; the Presidents of MULS; and academics who have received Outstanding Teacher Awards. Generally, I’m striving for a strong sense of identity and history.
I put a high value on encouraging individual academics and support them both through formal processes and in personal career planning and mentoring. Every year I also ‘demystify’ the budget for staff, so they’ll be able to step into senior roles familiar with the resources side of the work.

“When I talk to Year 10 students I urge them to choose law for the right reasons.”

Choosing staff well is crucial to our future. We aim for a rolling succession plan: instead of just replacing people when they leave or retire, we recruit people every couple of years who match our core values, with an eye to replenishing our team. Student-staff ratios are still too high and our approach is to reduce them slowly but steadily.

We’re starting to imprint the name ‘Macquarie Law’ on students and the community through a consistent ‘badging’ approach. Building stronger relationships with the external community is a many-layered business and starts with Year 10 students - I talk to them personally about law careers, urging them to choose law for the right (and not the wrong) reasons. I’m always on campus throughout Open Day and Advising Day.

We’re getting positive responses from alumni to our Macquarie Law Notes publication. We also have a distinguished visitors program and a Macquarie Lectures series, held in attractive venues downtown. As part of the University’s 40th anniversary celebrations, on 15 April we’re holding the Inaugural Alumni Dinner at the Mitchell Library, with Macquarie Law graduate and journalist Richard Ackland as speaker (details p.22). We’re also enthusiastically preparing for our own 30th anniversary in 2005.

I really like my job and have a terrific support team in the general staff, especially my PA, Wendy Calvert. The best part of all is that I’m contributing to making Macquarie Law a place where prospective students and scholars aspire to be.

Footnote: In March, Ros Atherton will marry a Macquarie alumnus and academic - John Croucher, Professor of Statistics.

Economic and Financial Studies: biggest Division, big future

Renewed vigour in teaching, research and alliances, coupled with strong team building, are the hallmarks of a new era for the Division of Economic and Financial Studies, led by its Dean, Professor Ed Davis.

Appointed in September 2002, Ed Davis brings to the job a strong record as an academic leader and a consultative style. A highly respected teacher and recipient of an Outstanding Teacher Award in 1997, he brings a deep commitment to Division-wide high quality, effective teaching.

Ed was Deputy Director at MGSM from 1996-2002 and is a specialist in industrial relations. He holds a PhD from La Trobe and Masters degrees from Monash and Cambridge.

This Division has been somewhat overwhelmed in recent years by large and rapid growth in student numbers, which it wasn’t able to match with equivalent staff increases. Many of our staff felt like they were treading water; opportunities to pursue research were diminished.

That era is behind us now. With strong support from the University, over the past year we’ve recruited some 30 staff at all levels. An immediate aim is to lighten the teaching and administrative load to free up time for research and improvements in teaching.

We began a strategic planning process early last year that brought everyone in the Division into the debate about where we should be heading. Four goals emerged from that: to improve teaching effectiveness, re-focus and strengthen research, develop alliances and value relations at work.

One of the first developments was to appoint two Associate Deans to lead teaching and research respectively – Alex Malley (Teaching and Alliances) and Associate Professor Melanie Beresford (Research); Professor Rod O’Donnell succeeded Melanie in mid-2003. Within these portfolios they’re harnessing the energies of their colleagues, with great early results.

Alex has organised a series of seminars to explore e-learning, classroom diversity and large class methodology. We ran five in the second half of 2003, with large numbers of staff attending.
We’re using a range of techniques to enrich learning, from group work within lectures to debates involving students to help them understand the complexities of Australia’s economic future. It’s vital not only to keep quality high, but also to make content relevant and stimulating to students.

It will be a while before we can fully evaluate our progress but we’re heading in the right direction. One indicator is that, this year, four of the seven staff who will receive the University’s Outstanding Teacher Awards are from our Division – Professor John Croucher (Statistics), Associate Professor Chris Patel (Accounting and Finance), Julian De Meyrick (Business) and Samantha Sin (Accounting and Finance). The Division has recognised their achievements by supporting their attendance at an overseas conference on excellence in teaching.

The amount and quality of research has already increased, with 2003 a good year for research and publications output. Department heads are working on ways to give people block periods of research time, and introducing a number of PhD scholarships.

We’re also strengthening our alliances, both on campus and off. For example, Alex Malley is NSW President of the CPA.

Finally, but just as importantly, we’re involving staff and students as much as possible in decision-making and listening to their views. We want everyone to be engaged and enthusiastic about being here.

Each department has significant achievements to celebrate. Actuarial Studies leads Australia in its field and the new Chair, Professor Piet de Jong, is giving strong leadership to research and joint projects. The Department’s collaboration with the Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia to offer the Superannuation Management Education Program was recognised this year by a Business-Higher Education Round Table award – a Macquarie first.

Accounting, which is a huge department with 50 full-time staff, has been joined by several excellent new staff, including people with industry experience. There have been exceptional achievements in teaching and research. We’ll make further senior appointments to the department in 2004.

The Business department is rapidly growing – it’s likely to double its staff (currently 12 full time) in the next two years, and plans a new degree in human resource management for 2005.

Economics is at an exciting stage, engaging in a regenerated level of debate about the discipline, and with innovative international links.

In Statistics, there are some very good research projects, and the department has recently attracted two outstanding scholars to Chairs – Professors Graham Wood and Barry Quinn.

With 9000 students, the Division has about a third of the University’s enrolments. It’s a huge enterprise, but brings with it huge rewards. We’ve had long and sustained growth in demand at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, from both local and international students, and this looks set to continue. It’s partly reflected in our current UAI scores (around 89-90), which have steadily increased.

The high level of achievement of many of our international students is very pleasing. A highlight of 2003 was the University’s first graduation ceremony in China, with students completing the Master of Economics taught in partnership with Nanjing Normal University.

I see EFS alumni as a critical resource in achieving our goals and we’re exploring ways to attract them into a lively relationship. In 2004 we’re launching the inaugural annual lecture* in a series on contemporary economic and financial challenges, within Australia and globally.

My message to alumni is, please let us know what you’re doing and where you are, and give us your suggestions for our alumni program. We’d welcome them.

*Details to be announced soon and posted on the Alumni Office website.
University Achievements

Industry award for Macquarie

Macquarie was recognised in November by a Business/Higher Education Round Table (B-HERT) award for Outstanding Achievement in Collaboration in Education and Training. The award was for collaboration with the Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia (ASFA) on the Superannuation Management Education Program on which ASFA and Macquarie have been partners since 1990.

Employer of choice award – EOWA

Macquarie has again been awarded the EOWA ‘Employer of Choice for Women’ citation, made annually to employers who help their female workforces achieve their potential through work conditions and practices.

Macquarie ranks fifth in 2004 ARC Research Grants

An outstanding result in the 2004 Australian Research Council (ARC) Grants places Macquarie among the ‘Group of Eight’ in absolute value terms for the first time. The 25.7 percent success rate (national average 20.4 percent) is a substantial improvement on 2003 and places Macquarie fifth in the sector.

ARC Seed Funding for Research Networks

Macquarie researchers achieved outstanding results in the ARC Seed Funding Research Networks round, with six winning applications by Dr Abhaya Nayak, Professor Robert Dale, Professor Mark Westoby, Professor Amy Pitman, Associate Professor Ewa Goldys, and Professor Max Coltheart – a success rate of 75 percent.

Major grant for Macquarie E-Learning Centre for Excellence (MELCOE)

The Macquarie E-Learning Centre for Excellence has won a Systemic Women’s Infrastructure Grant totalling $5.378m for research and development work over 2004-06. The project, led by Professor James Dalziel, Director of MELCOE, involves a consortium of universities and corporations.

Large grant for environmental education research

Macquarie is to receive $500 000 from the Commonwealth Government for environmental education research led by sustainability expert Associate Professor Daniella Tilbury, of the Graduate School of the Environment. The research program will take a national perspective involving several community sectors.

Bronze Medal for Commerce building


Australian Universities Quality Agency – good practice citations

AUQA has cited details on its ‘Good Practice’ website of three areas at Macquarie (among 17 areas which received AUQA commendations); the IT Helpdesk; the role and functioning of the Academic Programs Committee; and the nature and handling of its internal research grants scheme.

Appointments

Vice-Chancellor elected President of AVCC

Vice-Chancellor Professor Di Yerbury AO began a two-year term on 1 January 2004 as President of the Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee. Elected by her peers in August last year, Professor Yerbury is the second woman to hold the post since the AVCC was formed in 1920. She was also the elected Deputy President for 2002-03. The first woman to be appointed an Australian vice-chancellor in 1987, she has also become the longest-serving.

Dean of Humanities

Professor Christina Slade joined Macquarie in 2003 as the new Dean of Humanities. She was previously Head of the School of Creative Communication at the University of Canberra. A logician by training, Professor Slade’s current research interests embrace media literacies and the new media. (Professor Slade and the Division of Humanities will be featured in a future edition of Sirius.)

New Professorial appointments

The Division of Economic and Financial Studies recently welcomed three outstanding scholars to its professorial ranks: Professor Piet de Jong, Department of Actuarial Studies; and Professor Graham Wood and Professor Barry Quinn, Department of Statistics.

Outstanding Macquarie Achievers

Indigenous Teacher of the Year

Warawara Lecturer Bevan Cassady has won the Neville Bonner Award for Indigenous Teacher of the Year in the 2003 Australian Awards for University Teaching, for his significant contribution to developing and implementing Macquarie’s Bachelor of Teaching (Early Childhood Services). The program’s first 12 graduates received their degrees in 2003.

Bevan Cassady has lectured at Macquarie for the past eight years. The Australian Universities Teaching Committee applauded him as ‘an unwavering supporter and mentor to his students, and a superb role model for male students.’ (Bevan Cassady will be featured in the next issue of Sirius.)

NSW Premier’s History Award

Marie Doloski, filmmaker and lecturer in the Department of Media (Division of SCMP) won the 2003 NSW Premier’s Audio/Visual History Prize for her documentary The Trouble With Merle. The film unravels conflicting claims about screen legend Merle Oberon’s life and identity in Tasmania.

Trotter Prize

Professor Paul Davies, of the Australian Centre for Astrobiology, has won another international medal – the Trotter Prize for ‘seminal contributions to the area of Complexity, Information and Inference’. The prestigious prize is endowed by Texan A&M University.
Pushkin Medal

In 2003 Dr Nonna Ryan, Head of Russian Studies, received the prestigious Pushkin Medal for outstanding achievements in Russian (Teaching and Research) awarded by the International Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature. The modest introductory program Dr Ryan founded in 1986 has now blossomed into the biggest department in Australia.

Teaching Award – Plant Science

Plant biologist Associate Professor Brian Atwell, Department of Biological Sciences, received the 2003 Teaching Award from the Australian Society of Plant Biologists for excellence and innovation in teaching plant sciences. A researcher and teacher for 20 years, he has also co-edited an award-winning textbook, Plants in Action.

Success at Australian University Games

At the last Australian University Games, Macquarie students finished 4th for athletics and 9th overall. They won 9 Gold Medals, 4 Silver Medals and 13 Bronze Medals. Macquarie is the only university in the top 10 without a degree program in human movement, physical education or sports science related fields.

October Graduations

More than 2100 degrees, diplomas and certificates were awarded at the October graduation ceremonies, with occasional addresses given by distinguished academic, community and business leaders. Dr Deborah Richards, Department of Computing, received an Outstanding Teacher Award.

What’s On at Macquarie

A selection of events in coming months

See p.22 for events specifically for Alumni

Campus map: www.bgo.mq.edu.au

Cinema in the Park at Macquarie – FREE outdoor screenings

As a major sponsor of the 2004 Ryde Summer Festival, Macquarie will host FREE movie screenings on the Lakeside Lawn. Movies begin at sundown (6.30pm). Bring a picnic and blanket or low chairs. Food also available. Friday 5 March My Big Fat Greek Wedding Friday 12 March Chicago

FREE movies @ Macquarie – Macquarie Theatre

Watch the movie, then ask the experts. Sunday 18 April 7.00pm Emma – Fact or Fiction? Discussion forum hosted by Emeritus Professor Yasmine Gooneratne, Department of English.

Sunday 16 May 7.00pm Mulholland Drive (MA 15+) – Fact or Fiction? Discussion forum hosted by Dr Doris Moilwain, Department of Psychology, and Dr Robert Sinnerbrink, Department of Philosophy.

Sunday 20 June 7.00pm Red Dwarf – Series 2 Discussion forum hosted by Dr Dominic Verity, Department of Information and Communication Sciences.

Information: Dina Mura: 9850 6079. Email: dina.mura@mq.edu.au

Friday 19 March 6.00pm

Venue: SAM (Union) Building, Level 3
Family Orientation Evening (for new students and their families)

Details: 9850 7464

Music on Winter Sundays – free concert series

Where and when: Macquarie Theatre Sundays 2pm: 13, 20, 27 June; 11,18 July; 1, 15, 22, 29 August; 12 September.

Information: kerry.klujin@mq.edu.au or 9850 7460

Macquarie Singers – concerts

Sydney Opera House – 27 March, 8 May

Macquarie Theatre – 3 July

Information: helens@ics.mq.edu.au

Macquarie Trio concerts 2004 – discounts for alumni

Macquarie Trio Australia (Kathy Selby, Nicholas Milton, Michael Goldschlager) is delighted to offer Macquarie alumni a special rate for its 12th subscription season. Alumni will receive a 15 percent discount off tickets for Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane or Adelaide. (Canberra concerts sold out.)

Concerts March-November 2004

Where and when: Macquarie Theatre, Sundays, 2.30pm: 14 March, 23 May, 25 July, 19 September, 14 November. Also performing at Verbrughgen Hall (Sydney Conservatorium) and in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Canberra (latter sold out).

Information: toll free 1800 441 359.

Program details at www.macquarietrio.com.au

Exhibitions – University Art Gallery

Where and when: Building E11A Ground Floor. Opening hours: Mon-Thurs 10am-5pm.

Free tours and programs for schools available. Bookings/information: 9850 7437

Email: rdavis@vc.mq.edu.au

Web: www.pr.mq.edu.au/culture/

29 January – 27 February: Peter Ferguson & Judi Singleton – vibrant paintings of the everyday environment.


Astronomy Open Night

Where and when: Building E7B, University Campus, Saturday 27 March 6pm-10pm

Entrance fee: $8 Adult $4 Child $20 Family

7.45pm: (under cover) illustrated lecture, Mapping the Cosmos, by Dr Matthew Colless, Director, Anglo-Australian Observatory.

Information: www.mpce.mq.edu.au

For updates on Macquarie events visit: www.pr.mq.edu.au/events/(select ‘Community Projects’ link.)
ALUMNI news

NEW BENEFITS PROGRAM for Macquarie Alumni

Mark Herndon, Director, Alumni Office, outlines the program below.

The Macquarie Alumni Office, in celebration of the University’s 40th anniversary, is pleased to introduce a range of benefits and services to alumni. For more information, see our website www.mq.edu.au/alumni.

University Library
Alumni will receive free borrowing privileges ($55 savings) and free access to the EBSCO online suite of databases for a trial period 1 February – 31 August 2004. EBSCO is a multi-disciplinary, full-text database suite comprising more than 5000 journal titles.

To acquire your library access card, first complete a registration form on the Library website www.lib.mq.edu.au.

For EBSCO access, contact the Alumni Office directly for your user name and password. You will be able to log on through either the Library website (select alumni link) or Alumni Office website.

Career Development Office (CDO) – Macquarie University
Alumni will receive free individual career consultations, advice on job seeking, career change and review strategies, and use of the Career Resource Centre. Opportunities will also be available to attend training workshops and career seminars.

Contact the CDO on 9850 7372. Email: careers@mq.edu.au. Web: www.careers.mq.edu.au.

Centre for Open Education
From mid-year 2004 the Centre for Open Education will waive the application fee ($60 savings) for alumni who apply for non-award study at Macquarie. The Non-Award Program offers courses for personal development and to upgrade or learn new skills.

For an application call Lindsey Freeman, Manager Academic Services on (02) 9850 7470 or email lindsey.freeman@mq.edu.au and identify yourself as a Macquarie graduate.

Macquarie University Sports Association – MUSA
MUSA is pleased to make a special offer to graduates. Alumni are entitled to a free 10-visit pass to the University Sport and Leisure Centre. Contact the Alumni Office for a verification document, then visit the Sport and Leisure Centre to receive your pass. This will give you access to the weight and fitness room, cardio theatre and group fitness classes. Alumni will also be eligible for free fitness program assessments by qualified trainers. The squash and badminton courts will be available to alumni for a reduced fee.

Dunmore Lang College
Dunmore Lang College is pleased to offer special accommodation and conference facilities rates to alumni. Both the accommodation rate (which includes breakfast and GST) and the conference facilities room hire rate will be offered at a discount of approximately 25 percent. The College offers full catering options, state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment and professional services. For more information see www.dunmorelangcollege.nsw.edu.au. For alumni reservations call (02) 9856 1000.

Accor Hotels
Alumni can now access special rates (up to 30 percent discount) at over 800 Accor hotels and resorts worldwide through a recently formed partnership with the Alumni Office. Accor brands include Sofitel, Novotel, Mercure, All Seasons, Coralia and Ibis.


AVIS
Alumni are now eligible for special rates in Australia and discounts worldwide withAVIS. Simply quote your AVIS Worldwide Discount number P913600 when making a reservation. For full details and to make your reservation, call AVIS on 13 63 33 or visit www.avis.com.au.

The Australian
Alumni have been offered a special subscription rate of $2.00 per week for six-day delivery of The Australian. You may request either a 26-week or 52-week subscription period to receive this offer. Orders via the web are preferred. Please visit: www.theaustralian.news.com.au/macquarie unialumni/ or call toll free 1800 022 552.

Flight Centre Limited
Shopper Travel, a division of Flight Centre Limited, is offering special benefits to alumni. Your VIP service will give you access to the lowest domestic and international airfares in Australia, as well as savings on travel packages and insurance. As an added benefit, join the Qantas Club through Shopper Travel and save $172 on your first year’s membership. Discounted rates are also available to current Qantas Club members who renew through Shopper Travel. Contact Lucy Paynter or David Broadbent on 1300 135 035 or email travelclub@shoppertravel.com.au.

Accor Hotels Special Prizes for Alumni
In recognition of Macquarie’s 40th Anniversary, Accor Hotels have extended ten special prizes to alumni. To be eligible, please complete or update your contact details on the Alumni Office website www.mq.edu.au/alumni by 30 April 2004.

The prizes consist of overnight accommodation with breakfast for two at a Novotel or Mercure Hotel of your choice in Australia. Prizes are subject to availability and valid until 30 December 2004. The Alumni Office will notify the ten recipients.

Your Feedback
The Alumni Office welcomes your feedback on these special offers and benefits.
Ph: +61 (02) 9850 7310
Fax: +61 (02) 9850 9478
Email: alumni@reg.mq.edu.au
Web: www.mq.edu.au/alumni
ALUMNI news

Alumni Parliamentary Luncheon
On 27 October 2003, The Hon Dr Meredith Burgmann MLC, President of the Legislative Council and a Macquarie graduate, hosted a luncheon for Macquarie alumni at Parliament House Sydney.

About 80 alumni and University supporters enjoyed an excellent presentation by world acclaimed physicist, author and science communicator, Professor Paul Davies, of Macquarie’s Australian Centre for Astrobiology. Professor Davies’ topic, Astrobiology: Life’s Cosmic Dimension, explored some of the big questions of our existence: is life a bizarre chemical fluke restricted to Earth? How, where and when did life on Earth begin?

Among the guests were Professor Di Yerbury, Vice-Chancellor, Mrs Pamela Kenny, Chair of the Standing Committee of Convocation, Dr John Lincoln, Emeritus Deputy Chancellor, and Dr Malcolm Walter, Director of the ACA.

Overseas Alumni Groups – Hong Kong, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur
In November 2003 the Chancellor, Mr Maurice Newman, Vice-Chancellor Professor Di Yerbury and other members of the University’s staff joined local alumni groups in Hong Kong and Singapore for a series of social events in conjunction with the University’s graduation ceremonies.

These events are always an excellent opportunity to catch up with news from Macquarie and meet fellow graduates. Plans are already well underway for 2004 events in both cities.

Also in November, the Alumni Director, Mark Herndon, met graduates in Kuala Lumpur, with the aim of developing our Malaysian alumni group.

For further information on local alumni groups and future events, contact:
Hong Kong: Ms Katherine Cheng (katcheng@mblcpa.com.hk)
Singapore: Mr Richard Soh (richardblish@hotmail.com)
Malaysia: Mr Anthony Lim (acelim@maybank.com.my)

ALUMNI awards

Alumni Prize Awards Ceremony 2003

Prize and scholarship winners at the Alumni Prize Awards Ceremony held in August 2003. From left, Ben Baker, Karen Taylor, Wayne Warburton, Glenn Blundell, Nu Nu Win.

New Awards for 2004
It is a great pleasure to announce additional awards for the coming year.

Two new scholarships, eight prizes and two awards have been added to the suite of awards offered by Macquarie University Alumni. These awards are made possible from funds raised by the Standing Committee of Convocation through the Alumni Office.

In addition to the three existing prizes – the Kathryn Murphy Memorial Prize, the Raymond Powys Memorial Prize and the Science Prize – in 2004 the Alumni Office will offer:
- The Alex Mitchell Scholarship (supported by the University’s Alumni) – $7500 over three years awarded to an incoming undergraduate student studying in the Division of Humanities
- The Macquarie University 40th Anniversary Scholarship 2004 (supported by the University’s Alumni) – a scholarship of $2500 for one year open to all continuing undergraduate students
- The Alumni Prizes – eight prizes awarded to the most meritorious incoming undergraduate student in each Division
- The Alumni Awards for Meritorious Performance – awards in both Hong Kong and Singapore to students with the most meritorious performance over all units

Full details of prizes, awards and scholarships are available on the Alumni Office website.
Thursday 15 April 7.00pm  
Venue: Dixson Room, State Library of NSW  
Macquarie St Sydney  
**Division of Law Inaugural Alumni Dinner**  
Guest Speaker: Richard Ackland, Macquarie Law graduate, Gold Walkley Award winner and Sydney Morning Herald columnist.  
A great opportunity to catch up with friends – why not organise a table?  
Cost: $80 per person  
Further information and bookings: Fran Chandler  
Tel: 02 9850 7097  
Email: fran.chandler@mq.edu.au  
Web: www.law.mq.edu.au/news.html

Wednesday 5 May 2004  
10.00am – 12 noon  
Venue: Administration Building, E11A  
**Reunion for ‘Early Years’ Mature Age Graduates**  
Were you on campus in the 1960s or early 1970s as a mature age student? Join University staff for refreshments and catch up on four decades of Macquarie developments. Curators Rhonda Davis and Errol Davis will then lead a guided tour of June Gemes’ photographic exhibition “Proof” and the University’s famous Sculpture Walk.  
No charge, but bookings essential

Thursday 6 May 2004 6.30pm  
**Annual Alumni Awards Ceremony**  
(For scholarship, prize and award winners and guests.)

Thursday 24 June 6.30pm  
Venue: Mason Theatre, Building E7B  
**Lecture: The Galactic graveyard - the ultimate fate of our sun**  
Speaker: Dr Quentin Parker, Department of Physics.  
Planetary nebula represent the final effervescent death throes of low mass stars like our own sun. Such dying stars, at the end of their long multi-billion year lifetimes, throw off their outer envelopes of tenuous gas to give some of the most beautiful forms in nature’s cosmic diaspora, before fading to oblivion. Dr Parker will outline the University’s research of these majestic objects.  
No charge, but bookings essential.

4-6 July 2004  
**Hong Kong and Singapore Alumni Events. Please visit the Alumni Office website closer to the date for details.**

Wednesday 7 July 2004 6.00pm  
Venue: Australian History Museum  
Building W6A (ground floor)  
**Guided tour: Exploring Australian History**  
Join curator Valda Rigg for a tour of the University’s Australian History Museum. This museum contains an extensive collection of 20th century items documenting our diverse cultural heritage. The tour will be followed by:  
**Lecture: Australian History – some unusual stories**  
Speaker: Dr George Parsons, Department of Modern History.  
Research into Australian history from colonial times to the 20th century requires investigation far beyond our own borders - stretching even to North America. Dr Parsons weaves a fascinating tale, revealing how serendipity is sometimes a researcher’s best friend.  
No charge, but bookings essential.

**GROUP deals**  
Don’t miss out! Book early with the Alumni Office for these events, as tickets are limited.

**A night at the Sydney Opera House. Come to one … or both**

**Saturday 10 July 2004 7.30pm**  
Venue: Sydney Opera House  
**The Mikado**  
Gilbert & Sullivan at their finest.  
Special rate: $70 Circle B Res (normally $88)  
Bookings by 21 May

**Thursday 23 September 2004 7.30pm**  
Venue: Sydney Opera House  
**The Barber of Seville**, Rossini  
Special rate: $91 Circle B Res (normally $114)  
Bookings by 5 August

**PLUS …**

Group tickets for other sporting and cultural events are planned and will be available during the year. Please contact the Alumni Office to be included on an information list, or watch our website.

**Macquarie’s 40th Anniversary**  
There will be a number of other events to mark the University’s 40th anniversary. Visit the alumni website for announcements throughout the year, or the University events website: www.pr.mq.edu.au/events/

**Alumni Chapter Development**  
The Alumni Office has exciting plans to establish regional alumni chapters in Canberra, Brisbane and Melbourne in 2004. The Office will also help alumni in Malaysia reactivate the chapter in Kuala Lumpur.

With the expansion of chapters, more alumni will have the chance to network and stay in touch with fellow graduates.

If you would like to help with this initiative, now is the time to get involved. To express your interest please contact Mark Herndon, Director, Alumni Office (details p.23).

**Macquarie Law’s 30th Anniversary 2005**  
The Division of Law plans to publish a coffee table book of photographs celebrating its last 30 years … and needs your help. We are looking for photographs of life in the Law School – students and staff, formal or informal shots, preferably with a date and names. If you can help, please contact Fran Chandler on 02 9850 7097 or email: fran.chandler@mq.edu.au

**Bookings and Information:**  
Contact the Alumni Office (p.23) for further information, campus maps and event bookings (unless otherwise specified).
Where are they now?

Working Overseas

After working in financial markets for over ten years, Peter Dalton (BEc 1990 MEc 1996) moved to South Africa where he is now an investment banker – but looking forward to returning to Australia this year.

Michael Dine (BSc 1996) is currently on a 12-month contract in Vietnam working with the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development Program at the Research Centre for Forest Ecology and Environment, Hanoi.

After completing her degree, which included an exchange visit to the USA, Sarah Fischer (BMedia 2001) moved to Hong Kong and is currently negotiating pay TV advertising contracts for Turner Entertainment (AOL Time Warner).

After working with Ernst & Young in Sydney, Peter Franks (BEc 1991 MEc 1994) transferred to Geneva, London and Luxembourg before taking his current position as a partner in Guernsey.

Liong Ann Lim (MAAppLing TESOL 2003) is lecturing at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

Management graduate Hoang Thi Thuy Ngoc (MA 2002) is lecturing at the National Economics University, Hanoi.

Now a leader in corporate communications and training with a Japanese manufacturing company in Singapore, Teck Choon (John) Teo (MA 1997) states the excellent leadership provided by Macquarie staff was the basis for his successful career.

Last September Tracy Xie (MAAppFin 2003), who featured in the Winter 2003 edition of Sirius, began work for a Brazilian diversified mining company as Business Development Manager in China, applying her finance qualifications to several acquisition projects.

and in Australia …

Paul Burgess (BLegalStudies 1983) has worked as a sole legal practitioner for almost six years. The variety of work means it is always challenging, but serving the needs of the local community is very rewarding.

Having worked and studied in education and technology since the 1980s, Dr Robert Corderoy (BA 1973) is now working on e-learning and online teaching programs at University of Wollongong.

Catherine Dunkerley (BA 1998) – the youngest Trade Commissioner ever to be appointed – is the New Zealand Trade Commissioner for Technology, Defence, Engineering and Indigenous Development in Australia.

Biagio Famularo (BComm 2001) is fulfilling a lifetime goal through working in the international boutique wine industry.

Janice Lee (BA 1971) is currently Executive Sales Consultant at the University of Sydney Union.

For her work as Teacher-in-Charge, Weston Preschool, Janet McCotter (BEd 1992) was awarded the Regional National Excellence in Early Childhood Teaching Award 2002.

Rev Dr Robert McFarlane (BA 1981) is currently Director of Continuing Education for the Uniting Church in Australia, NSW Synod.

Margaret McLaughlin (Byrne) (BADipEd 1984) lives on the mid-north coast of NSW and works as a Tutor in the Indigenous Education Unit, DEST.

Geoff McPherson (BADipEd (Hons) 1973) moved to Queensland after graduating and has enjoyed a successful career in the Queensland Fisheries Service, where he is now Senior Fisheries Biologist heading research on underwater acoustics.

Martha Mollison (MA int Comm 1997) runs a video production and video training business based in Sydney.

Geologist Dr Stuart Munroe (BSc (Hons)) is a Senior Consultant with SRK Consulting, an engineering consultancy. Stuart won the first Macquarie Science Prize in 1992.

Environmental chemist Nicole Pickup (BTech Environmental Geochemistry 1996) currently works at Sydney Water. Nicole won several Macquarie prizes, including the Macquarie Science Prize.

Gilda Stuart (Barker) (BADipEd 1973) has returned to full-time teaching – French, German and Japanese – at a selective high school in Sydney.

Having just completed Bureau of Meteorology training in Melbourne Shannon Symons (BSc 2001) is now a Meteorological Observer with the Sydney Regional Forecasting Centre.

Corinne Unger (BScDipEd 1983 PGG dip Geoscience 1987) has just completed preparation of a rehabilitation plan for the historic Mount Morgan mine site in central Queensland. Since graduating, Corinne has worked in soil conservation and mine rehabilitation at many sites around Australia.

Christine Wagner (BSc 2002) majored in geology and now works for the Coal Compensation Board as a Geologist/Assessor.

Contact the Alumni Office

For chapter involvement, event information, bookings and general enquiries:

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Fax: +61 (0)2 9850 9478
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Web: www.mq.edu.au/alumni

Mark Herndon, Director, and Sandra Harrison, Manager, Alumni Office
Thirty-five years on, a row of bare-limbed oriental plane trees partially eclipses the view of Buildings W6B and W6A (at rear). On the right, the recent Early Childhood Studies Building X5E and Mia Mia Child and Family Studies Centre are framed by landscaped grounds. The two eucalypts to the left and right in the foreground continue to flourish.

Beginning in the 1960s, staff of the Architect Planner’s Office planted some 14000 trees on the campus over an eight year period, creating one of the first ‘urban forests’ in Sydney.