Visions of Venus
Craig O’Neill looks skyward to uncover Earth’s mysteries

Bush Medicine
Searching for natural remedies

Alumni News
Awards, events and achievements

David Liddy
Reflects on higher education
“Enter the Dragon”

Explore the influence of traditional Chinese calligraphy with a pop culture twist as Macquarie University Art Gallery presents an exhibition of works by artist Dongwang Fan. The survey show features the artist’s blending of the traditional Chinese Dragon and Chinese iconography with a modern style.

The exhibition runs from 27 March to 29 April

Visit www.artgallerymq.edu.au for more information on the exhibition, the Macquarie University Art Gallery and details of the exhibition launch on 1 April.

Dongwang Fan, Dragon, 2006, acrylic on canvas, 180 x 180 cm
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FROM THE VC’s desk

The launch of Macquarie Matters marks an exciting time in the life of our University.

Macquarie has a goal to become one of the country’s leading research universities. We are busy employing top-class researchers to help boost our efforts in key areas of established excellence. We are rejuvenating our learning and teaching efforts, updating our curriculum and providing new opportunities in community service for our students.

New buildings are going up. Our excellent sports and aquatic centre is already open for business, work has begun on the new Macquarie University Hospital with its associated research facilities and our new state-of-the-art library is currently under construction. We are set to renew some tired parts of the University while, at the same time, providing the most modern new facilities possible.

As the University’s new Advancement magazine, Macquarie Matters is an integral part of our plan to develop stronger relationships with our staff, students, alumni, donors and other supporters who want to see Macquarie continue to flourish. It will keep you up to date on developments and suggest ways you can be more closely involved in the life of the University.

This magazine is an initiative of our Office of Institutional Advancement, established in late 2007 to oversee the external relationship and fundraising activities of the University. Under the directorship of Peter Leunig, the Office has already installed the best relationship management software, recruited senior and support staff, stewarded some significant donations to the University and run our first annual appeal to MGSM graduates.

Our aim is to work at building stronger, mutually-rewarding relationships with our alumni and friends. We will keep you informed about how we are progressing towards our goal of becoming a great university and the many ways you can engage with Macquarie – and how you and others can benefit from this connection.

I hope this will inspire you to take an active part in the life of Macquarie.

Professor Steven Schwartz
Vice-Chancellor
Macquarie University
Renewing a passion for research, creating an excellent learning environment for students and providing a foundation program for first year undergraduates are just a few of the exciting plans that new Executive Dean Professor Mark Gabbott has in store for the Faculty of Business and Economics at Macquarie University.

Gabbott joined Macquarie University from Monash University where he was Deputy Dean (Marketing and External Affairs). He has written and contributed to numerous books and journal publications and currently sits on the editorial boards of three international marketing journals. Gabbott is a member of the European Marketing Academy and The UK Academy of Marketing. He is a past Chair of the American Marketing Association’s Services Special Interest Group and is currently the President of the Australia and New Zealand Marketing Academy.

Gabbott made the move to Macquarie in response to the new strategic direction put into place by Vice-Chancellor Professor Steven Schwartz. “What attracted me to Macquarie was that it is a university with a huge amount of potential,” he said. “The vision of the University was quite revelatory to me; I thought this is a university on the rise. I want to be a part of that.”

As Executive Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics, Gabbott’s first role is to put in place the new faculty structure that came into effect on 1 January. The new internal structure will enable Macquarie to achieve its strategic goals of becoming a top international research university as well as to strengthen its learning and teaching focus. Four faculties – Business and Economics, Arts, Human Sciences and Science – have replaced the previous structure of nine Divisions.

Along with undertaking major strategic planning Gabbott is working with his new team to provide a business and economics program that helps first year students make a smooth transition into tertiary study. “I believe the kinds of things that are important to undergraduate students are clarity and simplicity; they want to be able to understand the product,” he said. “All business students will study broadly the same program in their first year. This will include an introduction to business and programs in writing, technology and business skills. It will provide a proper transition to university so that at the end of their first year the student will be able to make a choice about which path to take.”

Gabbott also plans to focus on people, processes and product. “I am looking at ways to increase the productivity of our people and increase their enjoyment of their roles. In regards to processes I am starting to ask questions about why things are being done a particular way and if that indeed is the best way. “Looking at what we offer, I have very clear ambitions to improve the research output of this Faculty which will ensure that Business and Economics is a positive and productive work place, and that our products at undergraduate and postgraduate level are the very best they can be.”

“I believe the kinds of things that are important to undergraduate students are clarity and simplicity”

New horizons

People, processes and product are the focus of Macquarie’s new Executive Dean of Business and Economics, Janine van den Tillaart reports.
Macquarie alumnus Derek To recently bequeathed one-third of his estate for the future establishment of three University scholarships. Created to encourage outstanding students to undertake bachelor degrees in accounting, economics and mathematics, To hopes these awards will also help Australia retain its intellectual talents.

“Australian citizens are smart, we are very well educated,” he said. “But because of globalisation we have lost a lot of talented people overseas. We need to keep them here to make a better, more prosperous Australia.”

The To Family Scholarships will be available to students who have completed the HSC or equivalent. Each applicant will be assessed on a range of criteria including academic merit, evidence of leadership skills, participation in extracurricular activities and socio-economic circumstances. When bequeathed, the funds will be invested in Macquarie University’s Endowment Fund, with the value of each scholarship keeping pace with the Consumer Price Index.

To has worked for the Reserve Bank, the Auditor General and served as director of the State Superannuation Board.

To graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Accounting. “That degree opened a lot of doors for me. I couldn’t have done all that I have without the knowledge and the foundations that I got from Macquarie,” he said.

“It’s because of this that I wanted to put something back into the system that served me so well. I hope that by doing this I can encourage other Macquarie alumni to do whatever they can to assist with the education of our country’s future students.”

Macquarie University has set a goal to become one of Australia’s leading research universities by the time of its 50th anniversary in 2014.

One of the key strategies the University is employing to help it achieve its targets – to be one of the top eight research intensive universities in Australia and among the top 200 in the world – is a major international recruitment campaign, focused on attracting world-class researchers to its areas of strength.

In May 2008 Macquarie University launched the second phase of this campaign, with the advertisement of 43 new research positions. In addition to domestic promotion, advertisements were placed in the US and UK media.

This follows the appointment of 40 outstanding researchers during the first stage of the campaign, which started in 2006, to nine Concentrations of Research Excellence (COREs) in the areas of: Animal Behaviour; Cognitive Science; Earth and Planetary Evolution; Social Inclusion; Ancient Cultures; Quantum Information Science and Security; Lasers and Photonics; Climate Risk/Ecology and Evolution; and Biomolecular Frontiers. The next phase includes the establishment of seven new COREs: Emotional Health; Wireless Telecommunications; Financial Risk; Legal Governance; Neurosciences, Vascular Sciences and Surgery; Social, Cultural and Political Change; and Language Sciences.

The University hopes to have all positions filled by the middle of 2009.
Inspiring others

Indranhil Halder, who is currently undertaking an MBA at the Macquarie Graduate School of Management (MGSM) while working full-time for a medical company, has donated an annual prize to the MGSM which he hopes will inspire leadership, determination and further philanthropy among his fellow students and “celebrate Australian education as a powerhouse of knowledge for international students.”

Halder also views the prize as a way to commemorate his family’s educational heritage and, more specifically, his grandfather, who published a book about mathematics in 1949 in India. Halder recently published the 20th edition of his grandfather’s book, Some Novel Methods of Arithmetic, to highlight the importance of mathematics and studying.

“As I travel around the globe and work for different multinational companies, I am fortunate to realise how mathematics is an integral part of our daily life,” he said.

Halder hopes that his prize which is valued at $650 a year and will be awarded to the top Masters in Management international student, will encourage further individual and corporate sponsorship of talented students, especially from around the Macquarie University area.

Creating Opportunities

Senior managers from six of Australia’s not-for-profit organisations have been given the opportunity to attend residential courses at the Macquarie Graduate School of Management (MGSM) as recipients of scholarships from the School’s alumni.

The managers, from World Vision, Variety, Mercy Foundation, Divine World University, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the Australian Youth Orchestra, were granted a place on the five-day Foundations of General Management program, following a recent MGSM fund raising appeal.

“This five-day residential program is presented by leading MGSM faculty and industry practitioners and aims to prepare high potential functional managers whose future career direction is in the sphere of general management,” said Bernadette McNamara, Director of Development, MGSM.

Rebecca Lees, who is Head of Project Finance at World Vision, was one of the managers selected to attend the program in November. “At World Vision I lead a team of people who manage our field budget,” explained Lees. “We raise millions of dollars from a very generous Australian public and then distribute those funds overseas. My team helps allocate those funds, track the allocation of those funds and receives information from the field to report back to donors.”

Lees particularly enjoyed the residential program because of the time it gave her to reflect. “It’s been a while since I’ve done any study,” she said. “This program has been incredibly engaging and very interactive. The debate and exchange of ideas we’ve had has been vibrant.”

“As the not-for-profit scholarship program grows, MGSM will have a significant impact on the management and effectiveness of many not-for-profit organisations in Australia. We can play a small part in helping make the world a better place for so many,” said McNamara.
Macquarie University is launching a new philanthropic foundation under the leadership of two of Australia’s most respected businessmen. Maurice Newman and David Murray were recently appointed as inaugural board members of the Macquarie University Foundation.

The Foundation has been created to support the Advancement efforts of the University in its quest to build enduring relationships and partnerships with philanthropic trusts and foundations, individuals, businesses and local, state and federal governments. It will focus on identifying opportunities for partnership and cooperation while raising funds from the private, corporate and government sectors. Funds raised by the Foundation will be used to support the University’s mission to become a world-class, research-intensive educational institution.

Maurice Newman (above), who is Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, will serve as Honorary Chair. Newman has chaired a number of organisations including the Australian Securities Exchange Limited and Tourism NSW and also served as Chancellor of Macquarie University from 2002 until 2008.

David Murray (left) retired from the Commonwealth Bank in 2005 after 13 years as chief executive. He currently serves as the Chair of the Future Fund Board of Guardians and previously chaired the Business, Industry and Higher Education Collaboration Council.

Reaching Out

After an 8.0 magnitude earthquake devastated China’s Sichuan province in May 2008, Macquarie students wasted no time in responding to the catastrophe. The Macquarie Sub-Association of the NSW Chinese Students and Scholars Association (NSW-CSSA) began raising funds and organised a charity sale to help the quake’s victims.

With full support from the Chinese Consulate General in Sydney, the students held two events on campus where they raised $47,900. The money, which was given to the China Education Development Fund through the Education Office of the Chinese Consulate in Sydney, will be used to rebuild local schools damaged and destroyed in the quake-affected areas of Sichuan.

“The fundraising effort is something that all of us at Macquarie can be proud of,” said Kuo (Viola) Huang, Chair of the NSW-CSSA. “So many students have felt compelled to do something meaningful for so many less fortunate in China during these difficult times.”
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Macquarie historian Marnie Hughes-Warrington has been awarded the Prime Minister’s University Teacher of the Year award. An Associate Professor in the University’s Department of Modern History, Hughes-Warrington was awarded the Australian Learning and Teaching Council’s top prize in recognition of her exceptional record of advancing student learning, educational leadership and scholarly contribution to teaching and learning.

Hughes-Warrington said that she plans to use some of her $50,000 prize money on a research project examining the way people vandalise, annotate or destroy history books, an example of her unique approach to teaching and research that has earned her the accolades of her students.

“You become a better researcher when you engage with students and they ask you questions and show you things you hadn’t thought about before,” Hughes-Warrington said.

First graduate

In April, Dr Wattana Mahattanakul will become the first student to graduate from Macquarie University’s Australian School of Advanced Medicine (ASAM). Mahattanakul, a UK-trained neurosurgeon based in Thailand, spent 2008 undertaking his Master of Advanced Surgery under the guidance of School Dean Professor Michael Morgan.

The year-long program combines research with clinical work and surgical skills. During his study at ASAM, Mahattanakul not only acquired surgical skills for complex vascular cases but also learnt more about statistics, ethics and curriculum design for medical education.

Mahattanakul worked with Morgan on his cases at Dalcross Private Hospital as well as conducting research into unruptured middle cerebral artery aneurysms. “This has been a good year because it has given me the opportunity to reflect and focus on the cerebrovascular subspecialty to further my neurosurgical knowledge and skills,” Mahattanakul said. “I would highly recommend this program to those who have finished their training as a specialist. It gives higher surgical skills, the opportunity to undertake research and also provides time to reflect and think ahead as to how to approach your practice.”

Mahattanakul plans to return to Bangkok, Thailand, and set up practice following his graduation in April.

CUTTING EDGE

For Australian brain cancer patients, the recent purchase of a revolutionary Gamma Knife by Macquarie University is nothing short of life changing. Gamma Knife radiosurgery is a non-invasive technique used to treat brain tumours and brain disorders. It delivers a dose of gamma radiation to the target area with surgical precision, without affecting surrounding healthy tissue. As treatment can be performed in just a few hours without side effects, patients are able to return to their daily routines the following day.

The Knife was purchased by the Macquarie University Hospital, which is scheduled to open to patients in early 2010. At present, Macquarie is the only facility in Australasia to own one.

“Almost half a million people worldwide have undergone Gamma Knife surgery since the method was introduced in the 1980s,” Carl Adams, CEO of the Hospital said. “And now Australians will also have the best treatments at their disposal, which will lead to better patient outcomes.” Developed by Elekta in Sweden, the Gamma Knife is used to treat brain tumours and arteriovenous malformations and is also used for functional disorders such as trigeminal neuralgia and Parkinson’s disease.

After completing an undergraduate degree that combined studies of history, philosophy and education, Hughes-Warrington was awarded a Rhodes scholarship to undertake postdoctoral research at Oxford University, before going on to lecture at the University of Washington in Seattle, US. Since joining the Macquarie faculty in 1998 Hughes-Warrington has pursued a wider research agenda, writing on world history, historical films and historical revisionism.

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Lives in the balance

Macquarie’s Australian School of Advanced Medicine has a global impact, Samantha Norris reports.

When Nick Walsh, who lives in Singapore, had a stroke while holidaying in Thailand it was immediately clear that something was terribly wrong. After all, until the stroke occurred, Nick was a seemingly healthy five-year-old boy, enjoying a holiday with his parents.

His parents were soon to discover that their son had a rare condition in his brain known as an arterio-venous malformation, or AVM – an abnormal tangling of arteries and veins.

Nick’s stroke was caused by the haemorrhaging of his AVM, and failure to remove it could have resulted in further strokes, paralysis or death.

“After the stroke, a tube was inserted into the fluid-filled spaces of Nick’s brain to drain the brain water,” said neurosurgeon and Dean of the Australian School of Advanced Medicine at Macquarie University, Professor Michael Morgan.

“Once stable, he was transferred to Singapore and given an MRI scan, which assisted with the diagnosis and showed the size and precise location of the AVM.”

Nick’s father Mike, an expat from the United Kingdom, began looking for a neurosurgeon with considerable experience in the removal of AVMs – not an easy task, given that only one in a million people is likely to be diagnosed with the condition.

“I was one of the surgeons recommended and was already scheduled to operate in Kuala Lumpur at the time on another charity case – an aneurysm requiring bypass surgery,” Morgan said.

Sharing Knowledge

Morgan has a long-standing relationship with the Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) as he has been teaching in Malaysia for 15 years and has trained many Malaysian neurosurgeons. In 2007 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the hospital which means that Macquarie will provide postgraduate surgical training for doctors at UKM. It is intended that over time the Memorandum will expand to other faculties at Macquarie.

After hearing of Nick’s case, Morgan decided to operate on both patients in Kuala Lumpur in early October 2008. Rather than charge Nick’s parents a fee, Morgan asked them to fly his scrub nurse, Deborah Reece from Dalcross Private Hospital in Sydney to Kuala Lumpur for the surgery.

When they offered more, Morgan suggested they make a donation to Macquarie University in lieu of a surgeon’s fee.

“They were obviously extremely anxious about their son and were...
very relieved when the surgery was carried out with no complications,” Morgan said. “Nick is now considered cured, his prognosis is excellent, and he is expected to live a long, normal and healthy life.”

Mike Walsh said it was a “huge relief” to see his son recovering. “This has been the most traumatic experience our family has ever gone through, and has carried months of uncertainty and fear for us, so we were hugely relieved when we finally established contact with Michael,” he said.

“His extensive experience with AVMs and confidence with treating Nick’s condition was incredibly reassuring and gave us the confidence to go ahead with the surgical option.

“Nick came through the surgery in good shape and he is currently rehabilitating well. Everything Michael has told us so far has been totally correct and we now share his confidence that Nick will make a full recovery.”

Reaching Out
According to Morgan, the outreach aspect of the Australian School of Advanced Medicine will continue to be an important part of the School’s mission. Not only does it fulfil part of the University’s overall charitable goals, but by operating in a major teaching hospital in Malaysia, many students and trainee doctors were able to watch the procedure, providing valuable educational lessons.

“I see this outreach as a contribution from Macquarie to medical education in Malaysia,” said Morgan.

MICHAEL MORGAN, MD, MMedEd, BS (Hons) (Syd), FRACS is Dean of the Australian School of Advanced Medicine. Professor Morgan is an eminent neurosurgeon with an impressive background in both neurovascular surgery for stroke prevention and research. He has published more than 100 papers in peer-reviewed journals along with contributing chapters in the leading books in neurosurgery. He trained in Australia and at the Mayo Clinic in the US. Morgan helped to develop the neuroscience course and taught while he was Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Sydney. He is an international member of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery.

Macquarie University Hospital
When it opens its doors to patients in early 2010, the Macquarie University Hospital will establish a new era in health care. As the first private teaching hospital to be located on a university campus in Australia, it will combine excellence in clinical care, medical education and research.

The hospital, a $150 million joint venture between Macquarie University and Dalcross Private Hospital, will complement teaching and research services already offered at the University. The hospital will accommodate the University’s medical school, the Australian School of Advanced Medicine (ASAM).

ASAM aims to improve medicine by offering a new dimension in medical education. As the only Australian medical school providing post-fellowship training in sub-specialities of surgery, doctors are able to receive formal university recognition for post-fellowship training, in partnership with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. The current teaching hospital of the ASAM is Dalcross Private Hospital, which has a highly regarded reputation for the treatment of complex neurosurgical and spinal conditions.
The science of sipping

Macquarie alumni Peter Logan has put his science degree to practice with award-winning results, as Margaret Paton discovered.
Making wine is probably not the first vocation that pops into mind for a biology/chemistry graduate of Macquarie University. But it starts to make sense when you talk to Peter Logan, the co-founder and winemaker of Logan Wines. Each year his boutique winery, based in New South Wales Central West, produces 40,000 cases of delicious red and white wines.

"Winemaking is half biology – growing grapes – and half chemistry – making the wine – and a bit of gut feel. I use my broad science knowledge to grow grapes and make wine; how to treat the soil and read the climate. I use this knowledge every day as well as statistics which I thought I would never use," Logan said.

However, Logan said that having a career as a winemaker didn’t occur to him during his four years studying at Macquarie as he originally wanted to be a national park ranger. Macquarie’s strength in ecological sciences (biology, earth science and chemistry) is what originally attracted Logan to the University.

“As a student I was very interested, very into my studies, but no brainiac. I didn’t get any academic awards or prizes," Logan confessed. He mentioned one of his lecturers, Peter Mitchell, as especially inspirational.

“He had a big impact on me. He pushed me to think deeper about the land and how it interacts with business and farming,” Logan said. “And to ask: Why disturb land for farming in areas where you’re not going to make money?”

Logan completed his Bachelor of Science in 1991. After graduating he backpacked throughout Europe where he developed a taste for “a lot of bad plonk,” but eventually evolved into what he calls a “cork dork”. “On returning to Australia, I spent four years working in a lab,
extracting raw ingredients from clover, yeast and soya for drug trials for a pharmaceutical company,” he said. “I loved the process and we used winemaking equipment, which we borrowed from wineries.

“Over time I found I wanted to stay at the wineries and not return to the lab. I didn’t want to spend my life staring down a microscope.” He found work in a Hunter Valley winery, completing a vintage, and then did a one-year postgraduate winemaking degree in applied science in South Australia.

“I saved myself three years of study because I had the Macquarie science behind me,” Logan said. In 1997, he started a winery with his now-late father, who was a wine lover, as well as an entrepreneurial accountant.

“We made small batches and I did work for other companies while we were starting up. It took more than six years to turn a profit. Each year we made considerably more and reinvested and our wines evolved.”

Logan’s wife, Hannah, who he met at the wedding of a fellow Macquarie University alumni, does the marketing and sales for Logan Wines. And the Macquarie links continue; at one point Logan hired another Macquarie alumni, Julian Allport, who worked as his cellar hand and assistant. Allport eventually undertook a postgraduate diploma in winemaking and now makes wine in Tasmania.

Logan’s wines are sold under three labels: Apple Tree Flat, Weemala and Logan. Logan employs six people full-time and four part-time. The winery’s biggest overseas market is Japan but it also sells wines in New Zealand, Mexico, the US, Canada and Germany.

Over the years, Logan wines have collected accolades and awards, including scooping two Blue-Gold Awards at the 2004 Sydney International Wine Competition.

“My winemaking style is a bit different to the dominant Australian mainstream style,” Logan said. “While I like the rich and soft, primary fruit characteristics that Australian wines are famous for, I like the structure, savouriness and elegance of European wines. I’m trying to hybridise the two.

“I saved myself three years of study because I had the Macquarie science behind me”

“Most Australian wines are made from warm-climate grapes. I grow my grapes on Mt Canobolas, from 800 to 1050 metres above sea level near Orange [NSW] to get acid structure and savouriness. Because Orange gets equal sunshine as the sunniest winemaking region in Australia, I also get a rich fruit characteristic.”

Growing the vines in Orange also helps buffer the grapes from the vagaries of the climate and the possibilities of rising temperatures in the event of global warming. “The grapes would not suffer,” he said, “but the characteristics may change from a truly cold growing area to a cool one.” Logan didn’t seem convinced about the inevitability of the whole global warming scenario: “Is climate change just unpredictability? Does each year’s unseasonal rainfall average out over time?” he pondered aloud.

On the other hand, Logan had no doubts about the pluses of studying at Macquarie University.

“I’d definitely recommend Macquarie as a place to study; the practical aspects of its education have been a big benefit to me,” he said. “The malleability within the science faculty has given me a broad scientific knowledge to suit what I want to do with wine.”
GET INVOLVED AS A MACQUARIE AMBASSADOR MENTOR

NURTURE TOMORROW’S LEADERS TODAY

Macquarie Ambassadors is an exciting new program which taps into the volunteer spirit of alumni and encourages them to share their personal and professional experiences with students, fellow alumni and the broader University community.

Macquarie Ambassadors has three components: student referral, mentoring and alumni supporting alumni.

THE LARGEST COMPONENT OF THE MACQUARIE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM IS THE AMBASSADOR MENTORING PROGRAM. THROUGH THE PROGRAM YOU CAN:

• Share your Macquarie experience
• Pass on your professional skills and experiences
• Build and strengthen your networks
• Be an active partner in Macquarie’s global future

Become a Macquarie Ambassador today by registering online at www.alumni.mq.edu.au/mentoring
A team of Macquarie University researchers is breaking new ground in the worldwide quest to find the next generation of life-saving antibacterial and antifungal drugs.

The pioneering Indigenous Medicine Project, which recently netted a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grant, suggests that Australian bush medicines may prove to be vital weapons against ever-increasing numbers of drug-resistant bacteria.

The innovative project is a collaboration with Aboriginal communities in northern NSW. The Macquarie team and Aboriginal elders are documenting how the communities prepare and use medicinal plant remedies. Then, back in the lab, the Macquarie researchers test these bush medicines to determine their effectiveness and isolate their active agents.

Team Effort
The Macquarie side of the project is headed by four academic researchers: medical microbiologist Dr Subra Vemulpad, natural products/medicinal chemist Associate Professor Joanne Jamie, ethnobotanist Associate Professor Jim Kohen and bioinformatician Professor Shoba Ranganathan. The team also includes a senior research assistant and three PhD students working directly on the project as well as two PhD students investigating traditional Indian medicines.

Kohen, who has worked with Indigenous communities in NSW for decades, was approached a number of years ago by Aboriginal community representatives who wanted to ensure their people’s knowledge of bush medicine was preserved.

“Australian Aboriginal people have a vast medicinal plant knowledge based on thousands of years of using plants as medicines,” he explained.

“Unfortunately, much of this knowledge is poorly documented and it is being lost in Australia, as elderly people with this knowledge are dying.”

Studies that focus on traditional Indigenous medicinal plant use show a high hit-rate of non-toxic bioactive mixtures or molecules: in other words, they induce fewer side effects. According to Vemulpad, this explains why Indigenous medicinal plants are such a significant resource for safe alternative medicines and the discovery of new drugs, and why recording their information before it is lost is so vital.

“Our work aims to preserve the valuable traditional medicinal plant knowledge, especially by creating a database for the Indigenous people and scientific community,” he said.

Added Jamie: “By examining how traditional medicines are used by Aboriginal people, we can target isolation of bioactive compounds. For example, Eremophila sturtii is used traditionally for treatment of sores, wounds and scabies. We have studied this plant and have isolated antibacterial and anti-inflammatory compounds, which are consistent with their medicinal uses.”

Ranganathan co-ordinates the project’s online database, which stores botanical and Aboriginal plant names, as well as their traditional use and preparation along with other relevant information. The researchers also included key biological and chemical research data. The team has already interviewed 12 elders and collected information on about 50 plants in NSW.
Starting Out

Vemulpad and Jamie met at an enrolment day on campus in mid-2000. They started chatting, realised their research interests converged, and within six months had set up the Indigenous Bioresources Research Group (IBRG) with Kohen, working in partnership with Aboriginal communities on bush medicine research. Ranganathan joined the team in 2005.

Keen to ensure that the partnership continued to be mutually beneficial, in 2004 the IBRG hosted a workshop for members of the Yaegl (Maclean) Local Aboriginal Land Council. The workshop cemented a commitment to the two-way exchange of knowledge, skills and benefits between the Aboriginal communities and the university researchers.

Vemulpad recalled: “We described our expertise and explained how we could validate the communities’ uses of the plants by targeted biological screening and identify the active compounds. We also asked the communities what they most wanted from us.”

The communities’ wish list for the project included creating a database of elders’ knowledge about bush medicines, recording oral histories and improving the student retention rate at their local schools. This led to notable spinoff benefits for the Aboriginal communities involved, including an award-winning program of science activities for high school students and oral history recordings.

Speaking about these oral history recordings, Kohen said: “In the past few years three Yaegl elders with significant knowledge have passed away. Fortunately, following the elders’ requests, we documented their oral history beforehand. This knowledge is captured in hours of audio and video recordings and includes not only medicinal plant knowledge, but a history of their lives.”

The workshop led to the development of a collaborative agreement that ensures joint benefits with the communities. The NHMRC grant recently awarded to the team also benefits the communities, with 20 per cent of the funding going directly to them. A joint agreement is already in place for the Yaegl community. Many of the other communities represented at the 2004 workshop are now keen to work with the team on their medicinal plants, and collaborative agreements with these communities are currently being developed.

“Not only is it exciting to find out what chemicals are giving the plants their medicinal properties, it is gratifying that we are able to provide tangible benefits back to the communities,” Vemulpad said.

And speaking about the worth of examining non-traditional remedies for fighting disease, Vemulpad said, “My drive is to reduce the divide between alternative and Western medicine. I’ve worked for medical research institutions on three continents and I know what kind of bias exists against other systems of medicine. I want to contribute scientific evidence to change this.”

From left: Jim Kohen, Subra Vemulpad, Shoba Ranganathan and Joanne Jamie.
Cognitive scientists at Macquarie University are opening new windows into the mind with the recent installation of new brain imaging technology, designed especially for children. The groundbreaking child magnetoencephalography system, or MEG as it is known, was installed in July 2008 and joins an adult MEG system that was launched two years earlier. Both the adult MEG and child MEG machines can be found in the KIT-Macquarie Brain Research Laboratory which is part of the Macquarie Centre for Cognitive Science (MACCS).

“It’s the first lab in the world to house two MEG systems in the same location, and this is the world’s first whole-head child MEG system”, said Professor Stephen Crain, deputy director of MACCS and director of the Centre for Language Sciences (CLaS). The new MEG is a million dollar device with the potential to unlock a plethora of information about children’s cognitive processing.

MEG is completely noninvasive, so accurate measurements of brain activity can now be attained from children without the need for electrodes to be attached to their scalp, or for any other uncomfortable and lengthy procedures, which allows researchers to bypass the kinds of behavioural tasks that have been previously used with children and other special populations. MEG shows exactly when and where in the brain information is being processed without asking the child to make any conscious decisions.

Macquarie’s first research project with the system involves studying language processing in normally developing children. Professor Crain and his colleagues plan to use the results of these initial projects for future studies with other children including those with autism, dyslexia or specific language impairment. “We hope that in just a few short years, MEG will help us find the answers to many research questions, including the brain mechanisms responsible for stuttering,” Crain said.

Macquarie researchers are also working with several local hearing organisations to develop a third MEG system designed to assist in the rehabilitation of individuals who receive cochlear implants.

The Leading Edge

In 2008 Macquarie University awarded five new research fellowship positions through the highly competitive Macquarie University Research Fellowships Scheme. The three-year positions are awarded to early-career researchers who have an outstanding track record or who show evidence of qualified excellent research potential.

The fellowships provide an incubation research period, allowing those who receive them to increase their competitive edge in securing funding from non-University sources. The scheme also aims to enhance the research capabilities of existing and emerging areas of research concentration and excellence within the University.

The 2008 recipients include Dr Britta Biedermann from the Macquarie Centre for Cognitive Science. Biedermann’s area of research relates to brain impairment in the area of language; her outcomes may lead to a better diagnosis of language impairment and subsequently to more effective treatment.

Another Fellow, Dr Linda Evans, from the Department of Ancient History, will look at the ancient Egyptians’ relationships with invertebrates, which will add to knowledge of ancient Egyptian society and beliefs and present a positive model by which to improve modern perceptions of these animals.

Dr Heikki Ikaheimo, Department of Philosophy, will develop a systematic account of what distinguishes persons from animals and what distinguishes the social world of persons from a merely natural environment.

Dr Samantha Murray, from the Department of Critical and Cultural Studies/Institute of Women’s Studies, will explore what happens when a child is diagnosed with an atypical body, in terms of moral responsibility and how it defines decisions about and responses to these children.

The final recipient, Dr Michelle Power from the Department of Biology, will study emerging diseases that threaten biodiversity and ecosystems.
Unlocking earth’s secrets

Craig O’Neill looks to the sky to learn more about the Earth, as Fiona Crawford explains.

It may be a 400°C inferno but Venus is becoming an unlikely ally for one of Macquarie’s young researchers as he searches to explain some of Earth’s secrets.

A valuable addition to the Earth and Planetary Evolution Concentration of Research Excellence (CORE), Dr Craig O’Neill exemplifies Macquarie’s commitment to fostering up-and-coming researchers. Only 29, the geodynamic modeler – he simulates planetary evolution – is already making a name for himself alongside other well-established academics in his field.

While O’Neill is committed to making his mark in what he calls the “cut-throat” business of scientific research, he readily extols Macquarie’s support in helping him reach many early-career milestones.

“Macquarie has been exceptional in giving a lot of young up-and-coming researchers across a lot of fields the opportunity to make it in academia and make it in Australia,” he said. “The philosophy from the top down is really focused on supporting research and emerging researchers who show promise and potential, and nurturing them throughout their careers.”

O’Neill’s current research is focused on tackling one of science’s biggest mysteries: Is there life anywhere else in the universe? One of the best environments for life, he explained, is planets, so understanding how planets evolve and how conditions for life are affected by planetary evolution, is a critical aspect of the research.

While Mars has been a traditional focal point, O’Neill’s attention is directed toward Earth’s other neighbour, Venus.

“The big thing we are interested in at the moment is what it takes to make a planet like Earth,” he said. “We are looking at Venus because in terms of their astronomy, Earth and Venus are pretty similar; they are nearly the same size and have similar composition, and going back several billion years there is a very high probability that Venus had oceans of water. Yet Earth has gone down one evolutionary path to be habitable and sustain life and Venus has gone down another and ended up a searing hell-hole.”

O’Neill believes one explanation for this might be that the planets have quite dissimilar tectonic regimes, so he is investigating the big scale factors that contribute to controlling the tectonics of a planet.

As a member of one of Macquarie’s world-class research teams, O’Neill is at the cutting edge of one of science’s biggest mysteries.
New milestones

A new logo is just the start of significant changes at the University

The year 2009 marks a new era for Macquarie University. Five years away from celebrating its 50th anniversary Macquarie has been undergoing enormous change – with new management, a clear vision and strategy and an ambitious agenda for change.

The University is clearer than ever before about what it stands for today and what it wants to be in the future. As a reflection of these changes, the University has unveiled a new look and voice – to accurately represent where we are now and where we are going.

The University’s new logo – the Sirius star embedded in a stylised lotus flower – is the physical representation of Macquarie’s core values which are to be ethical, creative, agile, enquiring, inclusive and excellent. In developing the new visual identity Macquarie chose to stand out from our competitors, which have more traditional university logos, rather than follow the conventional path.

“We need clear messages and a new identity that is aligned with our strategy and reflects not just who we are today, but who we want to become,” Vice-Chancellor Professor Steven Schwartz explained. “The new logo and brand give us a distinctive message about Macquarie University to communicate with confidence what our University stands for.”

A change of this magnitude was not taken lightly and involved a comprehensive, detailed process. “We consulted extensively in developing our new voice and image,” Caroline Trotman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Development and External Relations, said. “We talked to representatives of every stakeholder group.”

This meant consulting current and prospective students, academic and professional staff, high school career advisors, teachers, parents, alumni and employers, as well as international students and partners.

Many of those consulted saw Macquarie’s strengths over its nearest competitors as the quality of the University’s research and teaching, the rigour of its curriculum, its unique environment and its informal character, all which help to create life-ready and work-ready citizens with a truly global perspective.

Professor Schwartz summed up Macquarie’s new identity when he said: “Macquarie University is a dynamic, flexible and engaged university committed to excellence in research, teaching and global citizenship.”

A new logo is just the start of significant changes at the University

Caroline Trotman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Development and External Relations.

Our New Voice

A single voice for Macquarie University is a powerful means of differentiating us from other universities and conveying to prospective staff and students the benefits of working and studying at Macquarie.

Our Values: We are ethical, enquiring, creative, inclusive, agile and committed to excellence.

Our Defining Characteristics: We are ambitious, contemporary, friendly, flexible, respectful and dynamic.

What makes us Different: The quality of our research and teaching, the rigour of our curriculum, our unique environment and our informal character – together they help us create life-ready and work-ready citizens with a truly global perspective.
The Book is Dead, Long Live the Book
by Sherman Young

Despite a publishing industry that is clearly thriving, Young argues that all is not rosy in the world of books, and that sometime in the late twentieth century the book in fact died.

Through a series of nuanced arguments and extensive research into publishing in a digital culture, he points out that problem number one is that the ‘book’ is encumbered by its form – when it doesn’t need to be.

Without romanticising the book as it used to be or our digital future, Young calls for liberating the book from the business of printing. With a booklover’s attachment to the allure of the book and a geek’s understanding of the limitations of current attempts at digitisation, this book weaves a provocative argument to revive the book as the essential conversation of humankind.

Dr Sherman Young is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Media, Music and Cultural Studies
University of New South Wales Press
www.unswpress.com.au

Judging a Book by Its Cover:
Fans, Publishers, Designers, and the Marketing of Fiction
Edited by Nicole Matthews and Nickianne Moody
An in-depth look at book covers, exploring their role in promoting sales and shaping readers’ responses.
Dr Nicole Matthews is a Lecturer in the Department of Media, Music and Cultural Studies
Ashgate www.ashgate.com

Sustainable Development and Free Trade
by Shawkat Alam
A comprehensive survey of the inter-relationship between trade-induced economic growth and the environment, and its impact on the global quest for sustainable development, with a focus on the interests and concerns of developing countries and the skewing of international environmental policies into justifications for trade protectionism.
Dr Shawkat Alam is a Lecturer in the Department of Law
Routledge Economics www.routledgeeconomics.com

Provenance
by Jane Messer
Provenance explores love, longing and the collision of cultures in the midst of profound social change. Set in the early 1960s, the book paints a portrait of two young people trying to overcome family traditions and prejudices.
Dr Jane Messer is a Lecturer in the Department of English
Random House Australia www.randomhouse.com.au

The Blackwell Companion to Eastern Christianity
Edited by Ken Parry
An unparalleled survey of the history, theology, doctrine, worship, art, culture and politics that make up the churches of eastern Christianity, contributing to a better understanding of recent political events in the Middle East and Eastern Europe.
Dr Ken Parry is a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Ancient History
Blackwell Publishing www.blackwellpublishing.com

Have you been published recently? Macquarie Matters invites alumni to let us know about any recently authored books for upcoming InPrint.
Contact us at: macquarie.matters@mq.edu.au
She may be a decade or two older than the average student, but Val Rundle is remarkably in touch with the challenges today’s graduates face, especially the difficulties of getting work published.

“The problem is that when a student finishes their master’s degree or PhD, they can’t get work, because they haven’t had anything published,” Rundle said. “And because they don’t have any money, they have to get a job, and then they have no time to write.”

Rundle decided to tackle the publishing quagmire head-on. She has created a new scholarship that will provide an ancient history graduate with funding to help write and publish the results of their research. The $25,000 scholarship will be open to Macquarie graduates who have completed a doctorate thesis in ancient history and procured a book contract.

Linking history with the world today is important to Rundle. The new scholarship reflects her pragmatism with its emphasis on connecting the student’s research with the modern world.

“It helps a scholar at a really critical time in their career,” Alanna Nobbs, head of the Department of Ancient History said. “We are very grateful for this.”

Ancient Foundations
When it comes to education, Rundle is no stranger to making things happen. Although she initially studied pharmacy at the University of Sydney, after marrying and having children she developed an interest in history and returned to the university to study archaeology and ancient history.

As she became more engrossed in the field, Rundle learned that no Australian-based programs for the study of Egyptology existed. At the same time, fate or coincidence led to Rundle’s attendance at an ancient history lecture at Macquarie University.

The lecture featured a young Egyptian historian, Naguib Kanawati, who caught Rundle’s attention. “I thought he just had something,” she remembered. “He was a young man who was going somewhere.” Recognising an opportunity to address the gap in Australian Egyptology studies, Rundle approached Kanawati after the lecture.

Kanawati, who is now Professor of Ancient History at Macquarie, picks up the tale. “She said, ‘Archaeology needs money, so why don’t we establish a foundation to raise funds?’”

Rundle sprang into action, uncovering and organising anyone with an interest in ancient history: the result of her efforts became the Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology at Macquarie University, which in turn prompted the formation of the Australian Centre for Egyptology. Both entities aim to promote Australian involvement in Egyptological research. The foundation’s funds are used for an array of purposes, including supporting excavations in Egypt, publishing reports of field work,
developing the Egyptian sections of the Museum of Ancient Cultures at Macquarie and bringing international experts in Egyptology to Australia.

Modern Times
According to Kanawati, widespread community involvement has been the key to the foundation’s success, which today has more than 500 members. Kanawati credits Rundle’s legacy of creating a broadly based foundation, with energetic members, to a significant increase in the number of students now studying Egyptology. According to Kanawati, Macquarie’s Ancient History department currently has about 30 Egyptology PhD students, “which makes us bigger than Oxford, Cambridge and London universities”.

Education and a continuing quest for knowledge have played a key role in Rundle’s life. Her face lights up as she talks about archaeological digs in Egypt and furrows in deep thought when discussing the future of academic publishing.

At 82, Rundle’s talents for making things happen have no signs of diminishing – changing history appears to be just part of her daily routine.

Dr Jaye McKenzie-Clark has been named as the recipient of the first Macquarie University Ancient History Rundle Fellowship. The $25,000 fellowship will enable McKenzie-Clark to publish a book that will examine parallels between consumerism in the ancient and modern worlds, with a focus on Campanian red slip pottery. Her book will be published by the British School of Rome.

“The problem is that when a student finishes their master’s degree or PhD, they can’t get work, because they haven’t had anything published”
SHARE YOUR MACQUARIE EXPERIENCE AND STAY CONNECTED

The Macquarie University alumni community includes over 105,000 graduates living in more than 150 countries around the world.

WHY NOT BENEFIT FROM THIS GLOBAL NETWORK?

Alumni Relations at Macquarie University organises a range of social and professional activities and programs to help alumni stay in touch and connected in Australia and overseas. These include:

- Alumni chapters and networks across the globe
- Invitations to exclusive alumni events and programs
- Opportunities to share success stories with fellow alumni

Our alumni have access to a wide range of exclusive alumni benefits including:

- Discounted memberships and subscriptions to popular magazines
- Access to the Macquarie University library
- Ongoing career assistance
- Regular updates, newsletters and more

To register or update your details or to learn more about our benefits, services and activities, please visit us at www.alumni.mq.edu.au
Leading the way

Graduates led the way in giving as MGSM launched its inaugural annual appeal.

Macquarie University’s first major alumni appeal was a great success in raising funds for new projects at MGSM. It also provided a valuable opportunity for the School to receive feedback from graduates and to update them on the changes that have occurred within the School. At the launch of the appeal, Professor Roy Green, the previous dean at MGSM, said that ensuring a continuing connection with the alumni remains a high priority.

MGSM promotes lifelong learning opportunities and provides its global network of alumni with high quality recruitment assistance, connections and further education. It is committed to preparing graduates who can make a difference, both locally and internationally. It also relies on the generous participation and support of its alumni to contribute a ‘margin of excellence’ that is critical to MGSM’s ability to compete with leading institutions in providing world-class research and business education. In response, the alumni have shown enthusiastic support. Their generosity allowed the appeal to reach the initial target and is still growing.

Professor Green; Peter Leunig, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement for Macquarie University; and Bernadette McNamara, Director of Development at MGSM, launched the Annual Tele Appeal on 30 June in a room full of enthusiastic Macquarie student callers. All student callers underwent comprehensive training that resulted in an impressive outcome, not only for MGSM but for all involved. The appeal was conducted from 20 to 24 July, in 2008.

Tracey Fellowes, Managing Director of Microsoft Australia and patron of the appeal, visited the callers during the first week and was heartened to see not only the commitment of the students but the positive response that the alumni had shown.

Future Focus

The appeal focused around three priority areas: evolving, engaging and enhancing.

The work of research centres at MGSM is helping change the way the corporate world operates so the first priority is to evolve through the establishment of new leading centres of excellence and to expand the Visiting Fellows Program.

Secondly, the launch of MGSM Connect in October 2008 ensures that the School will engage through new collaborations with industry, thus widening the network and enabling faculty, alumni and leading business minds to collaborate, debate and analyse key issues facing the business community today.

Finally the School will enhance its reputation by attracting the best and brightest students through the new Enrichment Scholarship Program.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Steven Schwartz visited the call room and was thrilled to see how well the alumni were responding to the appeal. He remarked that, “a transformation is taking place in Macquarie University – thanks in large to the excellent work of our staff, our students, and our alumni building mutually beneficial relationships”. Professor Schwartz reinforced how important alumni are to Macquarie’s goals and acknowledged the great contribution graduates have already made to the University.

“Our alumni are our society’s future leaders and will be working in a fast-changing, complex world where adaptability, innovation, forward thinking and critical analysis will be vital,” he said. “The projects in the MGSM appeal are designed to support the MGSM in addressing these needs of the future.” He thanked the student callers for their enthusiasm and assistance in connecting with the alumni and for supporting the University so proactively through this appeal.

“Our alumni are our society’s future leaders”
A firm believer in the value of education today, David Liddy confesses to spending his earlier years with a serious lack of interest in anything educational.

After finishing school at Brighton Secondary in South Australia, his first job as a probationer with the Bank of New South Wales (now Westpac) primarily revolved around the task of balancing the postage tin. Today, after an impressive career, Liddy laughingly describes his first job as his most difficult: “I couldn’t get the tin to balance.”

His balancing skills improved and he started moving up the ranks in the bank, which began to have an impact on his serious disinterest in education. However, education became unavoidable. As his career progressed Liddy was “forced” to study, including taking a correspondence course from the Institute of Bankers and a finance course.

London Calling

In 1980 Liddy moved into management and relocated to Sydney. Two years later he found himself working for the bank in London.

“I loved it,” he said. “I learned heaps. I had responsibility for all European countries that had an Australian presence.” Liddy quickly learned that doing business in Europe was “quite a bit different than the more relaxed Australian way, sitting around having a cup of tea”.

Next up was Hong Kong, where he headed up corporate banking. But although he enjoyed the expat life, Liddy was glad to head back to Sydney. “Westpac had changed, and it was time to come back,” he said. Family...
concerns also came into play, as his oldest child was about to start high school.

Around this time, the issue of education again came into play, but this time it was initiated by Liddy. As he moved up through the bank’s hierarchy, Liddy began questioning his lack of a formal business education. Participation in a short executive management program at Michigan University in the US was enough to convince Liddy that “I needed to educate myself better.”

Princely Lessons
As luck would have it, the bank offered Liddy a full scholarship to Macquarie University, which had just started an executive MBA program. “I specifically wanted to go to Macquarie,” he said. “It had a good reputation as a business school, it was growing, it was new and it was close to home.”

Philosophy was Liddy’s first subject. “One of my first assignments was to do a book review,” he said. “So I picked the smallest, shortest book I could find in the library: Machiavelli’s *The Prince.*” Liddy chose well, as today he considers the book an excellent management textbook. “It told you what business was like,” Liddy said. “Philosophy is management.”

Liddy’s inspirational encounter with Machiavelli typified his experience at Macquarie as he continued on a year-long road toward greater knowledge. At the same time, Liddy was pleased to find that the program also provided an opportunity to apply what he’d learned in the bank.

It wasn’t easy. Liddy did the course for 12 months, full-time. “I can recall working all night, twice a week,” he said. “I don’t think I saw my kids the whole time.”

Sleepless nights notwithstanding, Liddy has nothing but praise for his experience at Macquarie and considers it one of the best things he’s ever done. “It was the changing point of my banking career. It gave me a thirst for knowledge and learning.”

New Challenges
After finishing his MBA, Liddy returned to Westpac as head of consumer marketing where he found he could apply a lot of the information he picked up at Macquarie, especially during the late 1990s banking crisis. His roles with Westpac eventually took him north to Queensland.

In 2001, he was offered and accepted the job as MD and CEO at the Bank of Queensland. “It was the opportunity to run your own business; I absolutely loved that,” he said. He proudly pointed out that it is “still the fastest growing bank in Australia”, although, admittedly, “right now is probably the toughest time in my seven years here”.

After 40 years in the industry, Liddy still revels in the business of banking. He said that he’s keen to “put back what I’ve learned”. Mindful of education’s impact on his career, Liddy recently joined the Queensland University of Technology’s council.

At the same time, Liddy casts a critical eye at higher education in general, finding that universities don’t provide enough practical application for students. “The real world is different than the theoretical world,” he said.

Liddy was recently asked to name his dream job. His initial response was coaching the Brisbane Lions Australian Football Club. When I asked him to confirm his remarks, he concurred. But then added, “or running a restaurant. I love dealing with people. I love good food, good wine and making sure I have a good crew.”

The last element obviously resonated with Liddy. He immediately linked ‘having a good crew’ with his successes, and enjoyment, at Bank of Queensland. And as far as ‘dream jobs’ go, Liddy seems to quite enjoy his present one.

“I’ve loved business and I’ve loved banking,” Liddy said. “I’ve been in it over 40 years but I’m still highly motivated.”

“**It was the changing point of my banking career**”
Macquarie University Chancellor, the Honourable Michael Egan, and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Steven Schwartz, presided over the 2007 Alumni Awards Ceremony, which were held in June 2008. Over 100 people attended the presentation including the recipients of scholarships, awards and prizes, members of the Standing Committee of Convocation, members of the Executive and other University staff and friends.

Nominations are now being requested for the 2008 Alumni Awards for Distinguished Service. This award recognises and honours the outstanding achievements of Macquarie alumni. This year the University will be awarding alumni who have made significant contributions in the following areas: to their profession and/or their community, and who graduated from Macquarie less than five years ago and to the enrichment of international society through their community or professional service.

Nominations close on Friday 27 March 2009. Please consider nominating a colleague, a professional mentor or a fellow student whose career you have followed with interest. Details about the nomination process, the criteria and the nomination forms can be found at www.alumni.mq.edu.au/aads.

The following awards were announced:

**2007 Alumni Award for Distinguished Service (Professional)**

**Dr Catherine Patricia Foley**

Foley completed her Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours, Diploma of Education and PhD at Macquarie University in the 1980s. An outstanding innovator and leader in her field, Foley is a Research Program Leader for Devices, Systems and Engineering for CSIRO.

In addition to her outstanding professional achievements, Foley has been active in the promotion and communication of science. In 2003 she was awarded the Eureka Prize and in the same year was awarded the Public Service Medal in Australia.
The 2007 Macquarie Alumni Awards Ceremony

2007 Alumni Award for Distinguished Service (Professional)
Andrew Scipione
The current New South Wales Commissioner of Police, Scipione has made significant contributions in identifying and promoting change across operational policing areas. Under his leadership demonstrable change has occurred in leadership, management processes, information and technology systems, recruitment and training regimes, cultural diversity within the force, and equal opportunity employment.

2007 Alumni Award for Distinguished Service (Professional)
Dr Julia Patricia Vonwiller
Following a first class honours degree in Linguistics and a PhD in the 1980s, Vonwiller embarked on a distinguished career in language research at Sydney University before setting up her own language technology company, Appen Pty Ltd. With its leading-edge technology and ability to handle spoken and written communication in more than 80 languages, Appen now has clients all over the world. The company employs more than 50 full-time staff, including linguistics graduates from Australia’s major universities. Through her involvement with international conferences on speech and language technology, Vonwiller has ensured Australia’s visibility and recognition in this field.

2007 Alumni Award for Distinguished Service (Professional)
June Wangmann
A graduate of the Sydney Kindergarten Teachers College, which amalgamated with Macquarie University as the Institute of Early Childhood in 1990, Wangmann has played a key role in improving the quality of child and family services in Australia through her academic research and publications, her service on many state and national advisory committees and boards and her leadership positions. These have included serving as Head of the Institute of Early Childhood, and Director of the Office of Childcare.

2007 Alumni Award for Distinguished Service (Professional)
Dr David Montgomery Knox
After more than a decade of providing distinguished service at Macquarie University, Knox was appointed Foundation Professor of Actuarial Studies and inaugural Director of the Centre for Actuarial Studies at the University of Melbourne in 1992 where he developed Australia’s second professional university actuarial program. Knox has played a leading role in actuarial education domestically and globally through his work for the International Actuarial Association. He is a Director of PricewaterhouseCoopers Actuarial, a Worldwide Partner at global consultants Mercer and the Designated Actuary to the Australian Government’s Future Fund.

2007 Alumni Award for Distinguished Service (Community)
Dr Phillip Jack Foreman
Foreman is one of Australia’s leading educators and has made an exemplary contribution to the field of special education. He received his Doctor of Philosophy at Macquarie University in 1987 and has served as Director of Special Education Centre, Dean of Students and, until recently, Dean of Education at the University of Newcastle. Foreman was also instrumental in establishing the Renwick College, Royal Institute of Deaf and Blind Children, and has been Acting Head since 1993.

2007 Alumni Award for Distinguished Service (Community)
Gregory Colin Ward
Ward received a Bachelor of Economics majoring in Accounting, Master of Economics in Professional Accounting and undertook research studies at Macquarie University in the late 1980s to 1990s. Currently the Chief Financial Officer and Head of Corporate Affairs for Macquarie Group Limited, Ward is also a member of the Bank’s Executive Committee, a Board member of the Macquarie Bank Foundation and a Board member of UNICEF Australia. A long-standing friend of the Department of Accounting and Finance at Macquarie University, Ward has contributed significantly to the department’s strategies for research, teaching and community outreach. Ward has also served as a part time lecturer in both undergraduate and postgraduate programs in the Department of Accounting and Finance.
Victoria considers climate change

In the spirit of its charter to host events on key issues and provide valuable networking opportunities for its members, Macquarie University Alumni Association, Victoria Chapter brought together a lively group of members and friends in August 2008 to showcase innovative business solutions to climate change problems.

Macquarie Visiting Fellow and emissions trading expert Julian Turecek began the proceedings by introducing speakers from some of the country’s leading organisations at the event’s venue in the Melbourne City Lexus showroom. The speakers included Gavin Murray, Head of Sustainability at ANZ banking Group; Roger Petrucci, Corporate Manager for Strategy and Environment at Toyota; Justin Portelli, Director, Climate Change Services at PriceWaterhouseCoopers and Scott Delzoppo, Corporate Sustainability Manager at Fosters.

Victorian Alumni president Adrian Yap expressed his delight with the success of the well-attended event and said it provided a valuable insight into how key players across Australia’s business landscape are tackling climate change.

Parliament House Luncheon

The Annual Alumni Parliament House Luncheon has become a centrepiece of the alumni events program since its introduction in 1997. The 2008 Luncheon, held on 16 October, was filled to capacity as alumni and guests congregated to hear renowned author Bryce Courtenay.

Bryce Courtenay wrote his first book, *The Power of One*, at the age of 55. It has now sold over three million copies worldwide, been translated into 11 languages and made into a movie of the same name.

Please check the Alumni events website for details about the 2009 Annual Parliament House Luncheon.

HALL OF FAME

The Macquarie University Sporting Hall of Fame, Australia’s first university sporting museum, will be launched on 26 March.

The museum is located in the Macquarie University Sport and Aquatic Centre as a permanent showcase dedicated to alumni, staff and students in appreciation of their outstanding sporting achievements. The goal of the museum is to ensure that Macquarie’s cultural sporting heritage is preserved and recognised by current and future generations.

The museum features displays of prized sporting memorabilia from Macquarie’s past, including items such as trophies, uniforms, sports equipment, videos, books, programs and photos. The success of this museum will rely on contributions from our alumni and extended community, and alumni are encouraged to contribute elements from their sporting past for current and future generations of the Macquarie community.

From the Chair ....

Following a discussion with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee of Convocation, the University Council established a working party to investigate the future of Convocation at its August 2008 meeting. The working party members are Pamela Kenny, Deputy Chair SCC and Council Member; Caroline Trotman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Development and External Relations; Peter Leunig, Director of the Office of Institutional Advancement; Professor Mike Johnston, Vice-President of Academic Senate and myself. The group has been asked to examine how universities around the world communicate with, and receive feedback from alumni, to investigate and evaluate legislative models for university governance that reflect current best practice in corporate governance and to recommend any relevant changes to the Macquarie University Act.

The working party has been asked to report its findings by the April 2009 meeting of Council. As a consequence, no new nominations for Standing Committee were called for this year and the Vice-Chancellor requested that the current Standing Committee carry on until Council accepts the outcomes of the working party.

Dr Judith Dickson
Chair, Standing Committee of Convocation
Dear Alumni,

Whether a graduate, student, friend or staff member such as myself, we are all part of the Macquarie family. And we all have an important role to play in helping to achieve our vision of becoming a world-class research intensive university.

That’s why we have chosen to call our new advancement magazine *Macquarie Matters*. It reflects precisely on the fact that Macquarie’s future does matter to us all. *Macquarie Matters* will be an important source of information on everything that we need to know about, and all the opportunities and benefits that being part of the Macquarie family can bring.

The sense of community on our campus is extraordinary and we aim to keep this vibrant across our global alumni network. We are working to expand and invigorate our Alumni Relations and Community Engagement programs and events. We want everyone to be engaged as much as possible, and to this end, we have invested in state-of-the art alumni relations software, SungardHE’s *Advance* system.

This investment will enable alumni to communicate online and to access a whole new range of alumni benefits. You will be able to update your own profiles and career details, manage your University memberships or use the alumni directory to keep in contact with friends and colleagues. You will also be able to register and pay online for alumni events, make donations and support your chosen fundraising initiatives, such as our Annual Fund appeals. You can choose to read *Macquarie Matters* online or order your free printed copy to be delivered to your home or business.

*Advance* will also help us tailor our communications with you to address your specific areas of interest. For example, if we have an expert speaker at one of our events, we will be able to invite those who have a particular affinity with the topic of discussion. And based on the information you choose to share with us, you can expect updates on the latest developments in your specific profession, research fields and other areas of interest.

Macquarie is fortunate to have a huge amount of support from our local community and a multitude of donors and volunteers who are working on our Foundation, Convocation and other committees, international and domestic chapters, advisory councils and elsewhere. All I speak to have a high regard for the University and find it very rewarding to play an integral part in shaping the University’s future.

Many alumni have asked how they can help. Simply acting as an ambassador for the University, spreading the news of our ambitions and achievements is one way. Active involvement in the *Macquarie Ambassadors* mentoring program is another. Your participation in our fundraising appeals, at whatever level, is extremely important and greatly appreciated. There are many ways to get involved and support your University.

Macquarie is at an exciting place in its history. In five years time our University will celebrate its 50th anniversary and we plan to actively involve our alumni community in this celebration.

I encourage you to keep in touch and stay connected. I hope you enjoy reading our first edition of *Macquarie Matters* and welcome your feedback and suggestions, please email me at peter.leunig@vc.mq.edu.au.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Leunig
Executive Director
Institutional Advancement

*For more information on *Macquarie Ambassadors* or to update your contact details please visit [www.mq.edu.au/advancement](http://www.mq.edu.au/advancement)