

CommunityConnections@UWS

E-News

No 1 2007

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Hi!

I am excited to share with you our very first issue of **CommunityConnections@UWS**, our electronic newsletter that offers regular community partner stories, information and events. Your feedback is always appreciated, so please - I welcome your thoughts, and hope you'll email me at oue@uws.edu.au.

Dr Barbara
 Holland
 Pro Vice
 Chancellor
 Engagement



Barbara is a renowned international scholar from the USA serving a sabbatical experience in Australia as the Pro Vice-Chancellor Engagement at University of Western Sydney. She is well-known for her expertise in the areas of organisational change in higher education with a specific emphasis on the implementation and assessment of service-learning, engaged scholarship, and community-campus partnerships.

Dr Barbara Holland & her team!



L to R: Kim LeEVERS, Louise Eljiz, Noeleen Alden, Lynne Fairey, Yvonne Gatt, Julie Cook, Monica McMahon, Dr Barbara Holland, Sue Thomas, Jan Temple.

TV Episode that Talks Science



Sci High Team Members

The pilot TV episode 'Sci High', designed to increase student's interest in science studies, was launched at the Campbelltown campus last month by Professor Beryl Hesketh, Executive Dean, College of Health and Science.

This half-hour program, which was broadcast on community television (TVS), presents science through a series of conversations about everyday situations involving nanotechnology.

"The format for this initial episode, on the theme of nanotechnology, includes a panel discussion between UWS academics and Campbelltown Performing Arts High School students", said Professor Hesketh. "The panel provides a range of interesting and practical reflections and insights on the potentials of nanotechnology for both current and future scenarios."

Present at the launch were members of the UWS Regional Council; School Directors from the NSW Department of Education and Training; Principals from schools in Greater Western Sydney; Campbelltown Performing Arts High School students, teachers and parents; UWS students who participated in the production of the DVD; the TVS crew; filmmakers and UWS staff.

'Sci High' was initiated and funded through a UWS Regional & Community Grant in 2005, as an interdisciplinary collaboration between the UWS Office of University Engagement, students and staff from the Schools of Communication Arts and Biomedical and Health Sciences, the Department of Education and Training Campbelltown Office, and a team of students and staff at the Campbelltown Performing Arts High School.

DVD copies of 'Sci High' have been distributed to secondary schools and local politicians in Greater Western Sydney.

For further information please email Kim Leever at k.leever@uws.edu.au or visit our website.

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Student teams up with local business to reduce waste



Domenico Brunetta at the recent Careers & Cooperative Education Awards Function

A beneficial alliance in the form of a waste reduction plan between Atlas Metal Processors and Parramatta High School should waken other local businesses and organisations to the need to reduce environmental impact. Thanks to University of Western Sydney (UWS) student Domenico Brunetta, Atlas Metal Processors will donate almost new sand belts (which are normally thrown away) to the Industrial Technology Department of his former high school.

Final year Business (Operations Management) student, Domenico, conceived the waste reduction plan during his 4 week Winter Vacation Project with Atlas Metal, organised by UWS Careers & Cooperative Education. Charged with reviewing the operations of the company, Domenico observed how stainless steel and aluminium coils are processed to identify ways to improve productivity. "Atlas Metal Processors was very supportive. They gladly implemented and installed the waste reduction program I created", said Domenico.

By reducing excess waste, Atlas Metal Processors benefits from the freeing up of space and reduction of costs for sand belt disposal. In addition, Parramatta High School can redirect the money saved from the purchase of sand belts to other areas. "I am a great supporter of the Vacation Program and have always been looking for an avenue to form an ongoing relationship with UWS", said Mark Vincer, General Manager of Atlas Metal Processors.

The Careers & Cooperative Education program has helped Domenico establish his passion for operations management. "I had the opportunity to put into practice all the theories I had learnt", said Domenico, who hopes to enter the logistics operations industry after completing his degree this year.

UWS Careers & Cooperative Education is now accepting Placement Requests for Summer Vacation Projects. If you would like to host a Summer Vacation Project or Engineering Summer Placement, or to receive information about any of our programs or services, please contact (freecall) 1800 897 297 or careers@uws.edu.au or visit www.uws.edu.au/careers

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Community Engagement Week



J.C Burke reading text from 'Faking Sweet' simultaneously with high school & UWS students.

The College of Arts hosted a Community Engagement week in September to promote awareness of community issues and to also inform the UWS and local community, of the College's involvement in, and contribution to, engagement projects.

The event was held on Tuesday, 11th September at Bankstown campus and on Penrith (Kingswood) campus on Thursday, 13th September.

Community agencies were present on both days, and a range of exciting and fun activities were organised, including 'The Big Read' involving primary and high school students with UWS students reading the same passage of a book simultaneously.

For further information please email Yvonne Gatt at y.gatt@uws.edu.au or visit our website.

Staff Profile



Dr Diana Whitton Acting Associate Dean, Engagement, College of Arts

Diana has the key leadership role for engagement in the College of Arts. She is an Associate Professor in Education and has a Doctorate in Psychology specialising in Gifted Education. Diana has taught in Australia, England and USA in schools and universities. She has undertaken study in numerous fields including librarianship, creative arts, curriculum development and creativity. At present Diana focuses on service learning and community engagement being the College Advisor of the Students in Free Enterprise Team for UWS, developing units of study for students to engage in the university and wider community and encouraging colleagues to work with the community and undertake research in the area.

Diana can be contacted at d.whitton@uws.edu.au

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Kangaroos and Camels: The "Other" Red Meats



Staff Profile



Dr Geoffrey Lee Associate Dean, Engagement, College of Business

Dr Geoffrey Lee has the key leadership role for engagement in the College of Business and is also Senior Lecturer, School of Marketing. In his capacity as Associate Dean Engagement,

Agricultural Scholarship Program sponsored by Woolworths

Woolworths, UWS and the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) recently collaborated to deliver the "Woolworths Agricultural Scholarship Program" to 23 students from across Australia.

Woolworths sponsored this inaugural program to foster interest in careers in the agribusiness sector and engaged UWS to provide academic input. The curriculum was prepared by Dr Geoffrey Lee, Associate Dean (Engagement), College of Business and Mr Otto Hirsch, General Manager, SGSMS in collaboration with Woolworths and RAS.

By exchanging knowledge and building upon the expertise of the partner organisations, a comprehensive ten day program was delivered to students. Highlights included site tours and visits to a number of locations such as the Woolworths warehouse and retail stores together with a harbour tour. Senior staff from Woolworths, the RAS and key UWS College of Business staff presented a variety of sessions covering topics such as: "Consumer Driven Market Orientation"; "Business Survival in a Dynamic Market"; "Role of Government in Agribusiness" and "Kangaroos and Camels: the 'Other' Red Meat".

Students were required to develop a case study based on a scenario where a cashed up off-shore investment house (with a "taste" for the red meat market) was seeking recommendations about investing in an Australian agribusiness venture. Students were encouraged to explore alternate investment strategies and presented their findings to an expert panel. At the conclusion of the program, students were presented with certificates of attainment.

The program proved to be an outstanding success with stakeholders (Woolworths, RAS and UWS) exchanging information, experience and expertise with students gaining a valuable knowledge and insight into the agribusiness industry.

For further information please email Lynne Fairey at l.fairey@uws.edu.au or visit our website.

Geoffrey is responsible for embedding an engagement philosophy within the College as a key driver for teaching, learning and research. In his role as lecturer, Geoffrey has been Head of Program (Postgraduate) and unit coordinator and lecturer for a range of post and undergraduate units that include e-marketing, marketing planning project and business to business marketing.

Geoffrey's research focuses on the strategic applications of Information and Computer Technology for small and medium sized enterprises, industry sectors, and education. He has completed various funded industry studies on behalf of Tooling Australia with industry partners Wright International and IS Technic. Further, Geoffrey publishes and works in the areas of e-commerce, education and post-modern constructivism.

Awarded a Doctorate in Business Management in 2006 from Macquarie Graduate School of Management, Geoffrey also holds a Master of Business Administration (2001) from the same institution. Geoffrey's undergraduate degree is in Applied Science Horticulture from Hawkesbury Agricultural College in 1989. In addition, he holds a Certificate in Workplace Training and Assessment (2003) and Certificate in Marketing (1990).

Geoffrey has an extensive industry background in middle and senior level management where he has initiated, grown and sold various businesses in the service, construction and information technology sectors.

Geoffrey can be contacted at

adeaneng.cob@uws.edu.au

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Science in the Suburbs



Science in the Suburbs program brings science alive for school students in Greater Western Sydney.

Science in the Suburbs, a program designed to encourage students' interest and enthusiasm for science, is coming to UWS Hawkesbury campus for the first time on 20-21 September.

Primary and secondary school children will meet practicing scientists first-hand through a series of lectures workshops tours and hands-on activities.

Program highlights are likely to include a visit to the University's reptile facility, a guided tour of the unique Forest Experiment project to learn about the impact of carbon dioxide on native trees and a demonstration of the high-tech confocal microscope.

Modelled on the highly successful Science in the City, the event is run in conjunction with the Australian Museum.

"The program is designed to appeal to both primary and secondary students, and the idea is for students to see science in action", says Professor Beryl Hesketh, Executive Dean of the College of Health and Science. "The whole program picks up on the recognition that in Australia we must do more to interest kids in science. We want them to feel the excitement of science and discovery so we can produce our fair share of scientists in the Western Suburbs", she said.

Administered by the Federal Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST), Science in the Suburbs provides students from schools in outer Sydney and regional areas the opportunity to become more aware and interested in science.

"In the future, UWS hopes to rotate the event to different campuses each year and make it a part of the series of annual events run in the city and the bush", Professor Hesketh said.

Staff Profile



**Professor Godfrey Isouard
Provost, Campbelltown
Campus & Associate Dean
Engagement, College of
Health and Science**

Godfrey has the key leadership role for engagement in the College of Health and Science.

He is a Director on the Boards of the Western Sydney Academy of Sport (WSAS) and the Australian College of Health Services Executives (ACHSE). As Provost of Campbelltown Campus and Associate Dean Engagement, and in the previous role of Head of School, Godfrey has developed strong industry and community links.

Godfrey has a biomedical science and public health background, and prior to moving to academia held senior health service positions, including that of chief scientist and head of Pathology.

He is a Fellow of both the Australian College of Health Service Executives (ACHSE) and Australian College of Biomedical Scientists (ACBS). Godfrey currently holds the positions of National President, Society of Health Administration Programs (SHAPE); Federal and State Councillor ACHSE; NSW VCCs Representative Specialist (Health Programs) and National Assessor for ACHSE Accreditation of health science programs. He is a member of the Editorial Advisory Boards of Facta Universitatis and the Asia Pacific Journal of Health Management

Godfrey's research and consultancy focus is on leadership, policy and quality improvement in health services, in both clinical practice and community.

Godfrey can be contacted at g.isouard@uws.edu.au

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For more information please contact Sue Thomas at s.thomas@uws.edu.au or visit our website.



UWS PARTNERSHIP AWARDS - NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN!

The UWS Partnership Awards recognise outstanding partnerships between the University, external organisations and individuals - particularly in Greater Western Sydney.

The UWS Engagement Strategy and Policy Committee, on behalf of the UWS Regional Council, invites members of the University's academic, general and research staff to nominate partnerships that support the University's commitment to community engagement, enabling the University to formally acknowledge and thank the individuals who support these partnerships.

All successful nominations will be acknowledged and rewarded at an Awards Ceremony and will be presented with a certificate of appreciation.

The UWS Partnership Awards Guidelines and Nomination Forms are available from the Office of University Engagement web site:

<http://www.uws.edu.au/oue>

You are encouraged to make nominations for these awards before the closing date of 12th October 2007. For all enquiries please contact Lynne Fairey, Community Engagement Facilitator, Office of University Engagement on 4620 3105 or l.fairey@uws.edu.au

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What's On.....

Wunderkammer



***Cassandra Hard Lawrie, with her installation piece in Wunderkammer Exhibition, UWS ART Gallery
Photo reproduced courtesy of artist and photographer Sally Tsoutas***

The Western Front 2007 exhibition, *Wunderkammer*, was launched by Penrith Provost Professor Geoff Scott at the University of Western Sydney (UWS) Art Gallery on 6 July and will continue until 21 September.

Artists Philip Spark and Cassandra Hard Lawrie have used the *wunderkammer* (wonder chamber) as inspiration for their contemporary sculptural installations.

The term *wunderkinder* is from the German Renaissance and means a collection of curiosities.

In this exhibition, both artists transform recycled material into a sculptural object - suggesting a journey from discarded rubbish to the revival of the object as a visual sign.

Western Front is a biennial art event showing contemporary artists in key galleries, museums and public spaces across Western Sydney.

Wunderkammer is at the UWS Art Gallery, Building AD, Werrington North Campus.

Details: www.westernfront2007.com.au

Photos from exhibition reproduced courtesy of Ivan Skaines



For further information please email Monica McMahon at m.mcmahon@uws.edu.au or visit our website <http://www.uws.edu.au/about/adminorg/corpserv/uc>

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Regional Environmental Innovation Network.

The University of Western Sydney/Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living (www.mcsl.org.au) Regional Environmental Innovation Network (REIN) is holding a meeting at the Education Centre, Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living, 1 Mt Annan Dr, Mt Annan from 5.00pm to 7.30pm on Wednesday 26th September 2007.

This meeting will take a different approach to encourage more participation and will focus on Urban Agriculture. This is of particular interest in the Sydney basin with urban development encroaching upon productive agricultural lands, growing concern and interest in 'food miles', food in / security, 'growing your own' and other communal approaches to food production.

Presenters will be David Mason, Urban Agriculture leader, NSW DPI and 2006 Churchill Fellow, Mr Ian Knowd, Treasurer Hawkesbury Harvest & Lecturer, Tourism Studies, UWS School of Social Sciences and Alice Wood of the Sydney Fair Food Alliance. There will be time for questions and open discussion.

Tea and coffee will be available for a small donation but you are asked to bring along a plate for supper if possible.

We look forward to your participation in this evening and discussion.

Please RSVP to Kim Leevers k.leevers@uws.edu.au by email by Friday 21st September.

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