



ANU

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

ON CAMPUS

News from the ANU community

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Tackling mental health



Helen Richmond (left), Betty Kitchener and Belinda Day

The Human Resources Division has joined forces with the Centre for Mental Health Research (CMHR) to develop a mental health education course for staff.

The ANU has been at the forefront of mental health research and education in Australia and internationally for many years and has many renowned experts in this large health area.

Now, the University is drawing on this resource to provide staff with the skills to support a colleague, family member or friend who may be suffering from a mental health problem.

The CMHR developed the training course, which will be implemented by Human Resources, and which covers the symptoms, causes and help available for depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, and bipolar and substance disorders.

Ms Helen Richmond, from the Organisation Development Unit, said the

program's format was similar to a first aid course, but focused on providing help to a person who may have a mental health crisis – someone who may be feeling suicidal, having a panic attack, in a psychotic episode or who may have an ongoing mental health problem.

"While people often know a lot about common physical health problems, there is widespread ignorance of mental health," Ms Richmond said.

"This ignorance adds to the stigma of mental health problems and prevents people from seeking help early, and seeking the best sort of help."

Ms Richmond and Mrs Betty Kitchener from CMHR have already conducted a one-day pilot of the Mental Health First Aid course with more than 110 staff from the Division of Information.

Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Robin Stanton welcomed the initiative at a launch last month, saying it was

Making good news great news

On Campus is cultivating a growing readership among ANU staff, but in order to continue to produce a publication that you want to read, we need strong stories from across the University.

This month, a bottle of port valued at \$20 will be presented to the staff member who submits the best news item.

Entries will be judged on the basis of news value for the ANU community and written expression, should be no longer than 250 words and should be sent to media@anu.edu.au by Friday 26 July.

important for staff to look after both their physical and mental well-being.

The next Mental Health First Aid workshop for interested staff will be held on 14 August in the Menzies Library. For more details contact Helen on 55966. ■

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Briefs

Professor Ken Inglis of the History Program in the Research School of Social Sciences has been awarded an Order of Australia in recognition of his service as a leading contributor to Australian social and cultural development, and to scholarship, particularly in the field of history as a researcher, writer and educator.

Professor Raghendra Jha of the Australia South Asia Research Centre in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies has been appointed as a Member of the prestigious Advisory Board of the United Nations Development Program on Public Finance in a Globalizing World (2003–2004).

A new \$8.8 million research and education centre specialising in study of the Asia-Pacific region and diplomacy will build on The Australian National University's reputation for leadership in this area.

The Federal Government has announced the International Centre of Excellence in Asia Pacific Studies and Diplomacy will be located at the ANU, in recognition of the University's "pre-eminent expertise in Asia-Pacific Studies and international relations".

The new Centre will establish the first major education program for diplomats in the Southern Hemisphere and will build on the University's dedication to research of the Asia-Pacific region.



Shell Questacon Science Circus on tour

Photo: courtesy Questacon

Students run away to the circus

Sixteen ANU graduate science students are helping nurture the next generation of scientists by joining the circus.

The students are writing and performing interactive science shows for primary and secondary school children as part of the Shell Questacon Science Circus initiative.

So far, more than 20,000 school students have seen the performances, which are aimed at challenging stereotypes of science and scientists.

As well as schools, the Circus tour – which has so far travelled between Nelson Bay and Lismore – has visited a number of adult education and special

needs centres.

In total, the Circus will this year perform in front of 80,000 potential future scientists in regional, rural and remote Australia.

There is at least one team member from every Australian state and territory involved in the Circus and the group have a range of scientific backgrounds and experiences.

The ANU graduate students are participating in the Circus as part of the fieldwork component of their Graduate Diploma in Scientific Communication. The Centre for the Public Awareness of Science coordinates these fieldwork components. ■

Pot of gold for Wordsmiths

The 2003 Co-op Bookshop Awards for excellence in written communication is accepting entries until Monday 25 August 2003.

The Awards, organised by *Campus Review*, are open to postgraduates and all university staff and feature prizes of up to \$10,000.

Younger entrants may also be eligible for a \$3000 prize for excellence in writing by an under-30-year-old and

a \$3,000 prize for excellence in writing on a scientific topic by an under-35-year-old.

The Awards are supported by The ANU, the University of Sydney, *Campus Review*, the Business/Education Round Table, The Australian Academy of Humanities, The Australian Academy of Science and The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.

Entrants are asked to write 2,000

words on their chosen topic with the emphasis on clear, concise and persuasive communication.

Winning and highly commended articles will be published in a special edition of *Campus Review* in November.

For an entry package contact *Campus Review's* deputy editor, David Myton, on davidm@camrev.com.au or 02 9936 8668. ■

Cosmic sculptor bound for Big Apple

ANU artist, David Jenz, is heading for New York with his latest exhibition.

The OK Harris Gallery in Manhattan is the next stop for his latest work, some of which has just finished being shown at the Canberra Museum and Gallery.

Mr Jenz, a Core Studies lecturer at the National Institute of the Arts, told *On Campus* his work is inspired by an interest in things a little further afield than the US: outer space.

"I have been reading work by people like Stephen Hawking on black holes and wormholes. Some of the ideas they are talking about are so fantastic that they are really hard to get a handle on," he says.

"I come from a layman's position and the reason I make the work is to try and



Mr Jenz' work is bound for New York.

get my head around these issues that are so far outside our experience.

"Obviously these ideas are quite abstract yet the work is concrete, so there is a gap between what the work is and what it is talking about. I don't just think to myself, I'm going to make a wormhole

today – the work evolves and I draw on different threads of my own life and the materials themselves to make it."

This approach makes these complex ideas accessible to people outside the scientific community, yet retains aspects that are recognisable to experts – such as a physicist who visited the exhibition said he had been thinking along similar lines.

In addition to his roles as sculptor, lecturer and dad, Mr Jenz is

currently busy trying to raise funds for his New York visit, scheduled for February, which will be his third exhibition at the OK Harris Gallery.

Prestigious US post for Curthoys

Professor Ann Curthoys, one of the nation's leading historians, will head to Washington DC at the end of this month to take up a 12-month appointment as Group of Eight Visiting Professor of Australian Studies at Georgetown University.

US Ambassador Thomas Schieffer announced Professor Curthoys's appointment at the US Embassy this week.

Professor Curthoys said she was particularly interested in researching the US civil rights movement of the 1960s and meeting with influential US historians – while also promoting Australian studies.

"Georgetown's Centre for Australian and New Zealand Studies is one of the main centres of activity in Australian studies in America," Professor Curthoys



US Ambassador Thomas Schieffer announced Professor Curthoys would be spending the next year in Washington DC.

said.

"There is very little knowledge about Australia in the US ... (but) we have common points of interest."

Remembering maths founder

The memory of esteemed ANU mathematician, Professor Bernhard Neumann, will be preserved through the dedication of a seminar room by the Institute he helped establish.

The Bernhard Neumann Seminar Room will be a daily reminder for staff of the Mathematical Sciences Institute of the late Professor's contribution to mathematics in Australia and around the world.

Professor Neumann died last October, aged 93.

The Dean of the Mathematical Sciences Institute, Professor Alan Carey, launched the renamed room on Monday 30 June, saying it was particularly appropriate given "[Professor Neumann] was an active promoter of quality verbal

Burgmann development fulfils early aspirations

A new, 120-room, \$8.5 million development will be built as part of Burgmann College – the first development on the site since the initial construction in 1971.

It is expected the new section, which will cater for postgraduate students and target international students, will be completed in time for the 2004 academic year.

Already, bulldozers have begun earthmoving on the western rise behind the college in preparation for the start of construction.

The project is being funded by the College, bank finance and by the ANU. A capital development campaign, which has a target of \$3 million, began in June.

Designed by local architects, the project will, according to Burgmann's Principal, Dr Lewis Rushbrook, "develop in a way that enhances the unique beauty of the current site and values the varied treescape out the back – from the poplars to significant eucalypt species".

The development will have a village-like street setting and will involve the extension of Daley Road in a curve towards Clunies Ross Drive.

Set on the street will be six contemporary accommodation blocks



Chair of Burgmann College Council, Mr Len Goodman

of two to three storeys and a mix of studio apartments and two-, three- and five-bedroom apartments. The accommodation will be self-catered.

Burgmann College was named after the former Anglican Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn, Ernest Burgmann, and was conceived in the late 1960s to have 500 students and four residential wings, built in stages. The original building, with housing for over 230 students,

was completed in 1971, but the rest of the College was never finished as it was imagined by its forefathers.

The Chair of the College Council, Mr Len Goodman, says the new project builds on the initial challenge set out for Burgmann in 1971 – a unique, ecumenically based, mixed-sex college.

Former head of John XXIII remembered

Fr Laurence Peter Fitzgerald, a former master of John XXIII College, died of cancer on Thursday, 29 May 2003.

Born in 1928, Fr Fitzgerald had a long association with the ANU. He was the master of John XXIII College between 1988 and 1990. He was also known as a popular lecturer in medieval studies and on the thoughts of St Thomas Aquinas. He is still remembered for his erudition,

his urbanity, his sociability and his pleasant wit.

A story taken from his Eulogy illustrates his intellect and drive. In 1972 Fr Fitzgerald was asked by his Dominican Order to go and learn more about Islam because of the proximity of Indonesia and lack of awareness about the religion.

Within ten years he had mastered

Arabic; attained a doctorate in Islamic studies; studied in Cairo under the great Dominican master, Anuatti; written a book on a great Moslem theologian of the Middle Ages; and instituted the Centre of Islamic Studies in Canberra. He was a quiet, meticulous scholar – characteristic of his Dominican vocation.

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