

WELCOME to this edition of ANU Agent News!

The newsletter is available exclusively to ANU agents at:

http://info.anu.edu.au/studyat/International_Office/getting_in/agents/index.asp

If you require the password to access this and/or previous newsletters please contact us.

New issues will be available regularly and will contain information that is directly relevant to you and your work in representing the ANU. So please visit the site as often as possible for the most up to date news about Australia's National University.

FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S DESK



We're privileged at ANU to be home to some of the brightest and most dedicated students in the country. They are heirs to a legacy of achievement that has been built up by successive generations of talented people.

As well as carrying the tradition of this achievement, today's students are burdened with increasing pressure on their time and budgets. A recent report by the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee on student finances found that just under a quarter of full-time undergraduates missed classes or other study commitments due to work. Almost one-half of full-time postgraduate coursework students, meanwhile, had an annual budget deficit last year.

It's a great pity that talented people are suffering from the imposts of having to work in order to support themselves while studying for a qualification that will give this country much more than a labour force. The majority of students are supporting a life, not a lifestyle. They've got to live somewhere. They've got to eat. They've got to be able to afford the materials necessary to fulfil their studies, like textbooks. If students have to work to get the resources to do that, and that costs them study time, it has a detrimental impact on the individual and, by extension, the nation.

Our current pool of students is as important to our future as airports, roads and ports. We should think of them in terms of national infrastructure. The talent that is developed in this country will contribute to its national prosperity in ways that are difficult to quantify, yet many other countries have accepted that this investment has to take place.

Governments could do more to support students, but I think that's only part of the answer. I don't think it is reasonable to expect governments to do everything. What is important is considering the best way to get the outcome we want – which is high-achieving, highly educated, and highly talented people entering our workforce – and through that contributing to the nation's social justice system, economic system and culture, making it a better place for us all to live.

Professor Ian Chubb AC
Vice-Chancellor and President

GENERAL NEWS

ANU POSTS A STRONG RESULT ACROSS THE BOARD

The 2006 Annual Report for the Australian National University was tabled in Parliament yesterday, with the University posting a solid financial result and confirming its strong performance in teaching, research and community engagement.

The University continued to build its research excellence, winning more than \$40 million in Australian Research Council grants for more than 100 projects researching subjects as diverse as sustainable farming, HIV/AIDs prevention and the prevention of environmental degradation. ANU research into mental health, cancer and malaria benefited from more than \$13.5 million in National Health and Medical Research Council funding.

Benchmarked against its Group of Eight peers, ANU has the highest percentage of academic staff holding doctorates, the highest percentage of academic staff with ARC Fellowships and the highest percentage of staff affiliated with the Royal Society and the Australian Academies.

Building its teaching on research performance, ANU was the only University to achieve the top performance band in for every discipline group for which it was eligible in the Australian Government's Teaching and Performance Fund.

ANU posted an operating result, before significant items, of \$99.917 million, up from \$46.268 million in 2005. Strong returns on the University's investment portfolio realised approximately \$105 million.

The University received a \$125 million capital grant from the Commonwealth in the 2006 Federal Budget to assist in the further development of the John Curtin School of Medical Research, development of additional science related research facilities, and improvements for other infrastructure. This brought its operating result including significant items up \$224.917 million.

The University retains a strong balance sheet with net assets totalling \$1.8 billion, increasing by \$439 million in 2006 largely due to the strong investment market and a revaluation of the University's land and buildings.

The [annual report](http://info.anu.edu.au/Discover_ANU/University-wide_Publications/_ANU_Annual_Reports/_AnnRpt2006.pdf) is available online (1.2MB file): http://info.anu.edu.au/Discover_ANU/University-wide_Publications/_ANU_Annual_Reports/_AnnRpt2006.pdf

TELEPORTATION



The "simple" way of transporting atoms was developed by physicists Murray Olsen, Ashton Bradley, Simon Haine of the Australian Research Council Centre for Quantum-Atom Optics, and Joseph Hope of ANU.

Dr Olsen said the method was very much like the *Star Trek* characters' favourite way to get back on to the ship.

The atoms are cooled to almost absolute zero, or -273C. At a billionth of a degree above this temperature, a quirk of physics makes all the atoms start behaving in the same way. Then the scientists zap them with two lasers. "If you cool these atoms down enough ... in a condensate, they all enter the same quantum state," Dr Olsen said.

"When a few thousand atoms are overlapping (and you hit them with the laser beams)... they basically disappear.

"We can use an optic fibre (to transport the signal at the speed of light) into a second condensate, which could be in another room, or another building, or another state. We've got the coldest thing in the universe and the fastest speed in the universe."

He said the method could be being used in laboratories in the next four years, but didn't expect he would ever see humans teleported. Dr Haine said the team's method was a lot simpler than previous theories.

Dr Haine also said their method would reconstruct the atoms better once transported, compared to the "entanglement" theory.

"As our scheme doesn't rely on the quality of the entanglement, it may be possible to achieve more accurate teleportation via this method," Dr Haine said.

Another scientist at ANU, Dr John Close, intends to implement the experiments over the coming years.

US INTERNSHIPS TO BUILD GREEN SKILLS BASE

Two students will gain hands-on experience of sustainability initiatives at Yale University as the first participants in a new internship program.

Final-year Arts/Law student Jessica Allen and second-year PhB Science student, Jennifer Zhu, will each spend up to six weeks working on campus sustainability projects at Yale. The exchange will work both ways, with two Yale students bound for placements in the ANUgreen office next month.

More than 40 ANU students applied for the internships, which were set up by the two International Alliance of Research Universities partners earlier this year.

ANUgreen manager Dr David Carpenter said students from any discipline could apply provided they demonstrated a keen interest in environmental management and a desire to share their knowledge when they returned from the US.

"This will help us forge closer connections between ANU and Yale, and also allow us to learn from one another," Dr Carpenter said.

Ms Allen said she plans to do an honours year in environmental law next year, putting into practice her belief in the importance of education in changing attitudes. "If people become aware of these issues at university, it's more likely that they'll consider sustainability issues through life as well."

Ms Zhu, who has also completed an internship with ANUgreen, said she was looking forward to applying what she learns in the US when she returns to ANU.

"Yale seems to be a university that's taking environmental management seriously," she said.

"A combination of science, engineering and policy is needed for effective environmental management, and I'm hoping to make a difference on the technical side of things."



BURTON SCHOLARSHIPS RECALL A MAN OF INTEGRITY



Four bright students from Burton and Garran Hall have won Professor H. Burton Scholarships, which cover their accommodation costs for one year.

Alvin Ang, Bec Byrne, Rose McConnell and Bill Lording received the prize at a ceremony attended by the Vice-Chancellor.

Two doctoral candidates were also honoured on the night, receiving prizes that cover accommodation and a stipend. School of Music PhD student Thomas Lau received a Burton Scholarship in Music, which is only awarded once every three years. Joanne Lee from the ANU College of Law received a Burton Fellowship in Law.

The Head of Burton and Garran Hall, Richard Adams, said the scholarships are named after Professor Herbert 'Joe' Burton CBE, a Queenslander and Rhodes Scholar who was Professor of Economic History and Principal of the School of General Studies at ANU until his retirement in 1965. When he died in 1983, Professor Burton left books, furniture and a substantial bequest to the Hall, which has since funded bursaries and the scholarships.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE "SIGN" MENTORING PROGRAM

SIGN is the ANU Student Information & Guidance Network. It's a mentoring program designed to help new students deal with the transition to University life. SIGN matches up new students with Mentors to assist them with any questions or problems that they might encounter in their first six weeks at university.

In First Semester this year 640 new students participated in this program. In-house research has shown year after year that students who get involved in this voluntary program achieve more.

If you speak to any new students, please make them aware of this free program and as they say at SIGN:

... GET AHEAD, GET A MENTOR!

For more information go to www.anu.edu.au/sign



STROMLO'S STARS COME OUT AGAIN



"IT'S just exciting to see it here and done and to have a proper observatory," says PhD student Mary Williams of the re-opening of the restored Commonwealth Solar Observatory building, which was burnt to the ground in the bushfires of January, 2003.

Mary is one of the first students to have come through the post-fire, Mount Stromlo-based ANU Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics.

Having completed two degrees in physics in NZ, she decided to study at Stromlo in April, 2003 – despite the extensive damage to the facilities.

"Not having a library nor being able to access books has been hard. My research has had to be quite reliant on electronic resources," says Mary, who has four months of her PhD to go. "When I visited the ANU library I was like a kid in a candy store."

Now Mary and other students will have access to the new, mainly underground RSAA library, a significant part of the restored CSO building, located in the area originally set up for the solar spectrograph.

A modern staff and student common room, with views over the Brindabella Ranges, has also been added to the back of the building, replacing the middle pavilion.

"This building will once more become the administrative and learning hub of the RSAA, with a high-tech library, as well as an inspiring meeting space for staff and students. It heralds a great future," said Professor John Norris, of the RSASA.

Source: City News <http://www.citynews.com.au/news/Article.asp?id=5964>

NEW STUDENT ACCOMMODATION UNDER WAY

Construction is about to start on the new student accommodation in the ANU Exchange precinct, near the Unilodge. The project, currently known as Section 21, will accommodate about 500 students in a mix of apartment types. The project is expected to be completed by 2009.



Unilodge Stage 1
Completed in January 2007

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL INTERNSHIPS PROGRAM



The Australian National Internships Program (ANIP) at the Australian National University is an academic program. The major focus is the completion of the Research Report of 8,000 or 16,000 words. It also provides a hands-on opportunity for a student to go into a workplace and undertake their research project for which they will get significant academic credit. Part of the aims of the ANIP program is to provide students with unique experiences of the real world, opportunities to be involved in an office environment, learn to prioritize tasks and deadlines for completion of tasks, learn to express themselves concisely, and provide a succinct understanding/précis of a complex topic.

Through ANIP, Australian and International students from any discipline can be placed with the Federal Parliament, the Australian Public Service, the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly or Public Service, or with non-government organizations (including lobby groups).

ANIP is open to any enrolled tertiary student, studying at any Australian or overseas university at undergraduate or postgraduate level. International students can apply to ANIP through the Study Abroad Program or as an exchange student. Non-ANU students can apply for Cross-Institutional studies with approval from their home institution. For more details, please refer to our website: www.anu.edu.au/anip.

APPLICATIONS FOR SEM 1 (FEB-JUNE) 2008 CLOSE ON FRI 2nd NOV 2007

STUDENT PROFILE

A visionary PhD student is developing technology that will respond to our moods and mental processes.

Stressed workers would no doubt snap up an intelligent, emotionally attuned PDA or mobile, but unfortunately, they don't yet exist outside the realm of dreams. Fortunately, one dreamer wants to make them a reality.

"It's an idea I've had for a little virtual brain in a personal assistant that you carry around with you," says James Sheridan, a PhD student at the Department of Computer Science and Information Technology (CSIT). The device will know that you're quite stressed. It will know from your schedule that you've got an hour free. The device may have a GPS, so it will know where you are and what's around you. You still have control, but the computer's suggestions are going to be much more contextualised to your life."

The impetus to create technology that would be a better fit for people rose out of Sheridan's need to create a research project that would suit his own circumstances. Despite a record of scholarly success, the young student found it difficult to concentrate on certain activities for great lengths of time. After seeking medical advice, he was diagnosed as having Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD).

As well as wanting to create a form of art that could 'tune' itself to human thought, Sheridan was also interested in creating something that would have therapeutic advantages. He says that his own experience with ADD demonstrated that traditional treatments weren't always effective.

To this end, Sheridan is developing what he calls a "mental Zen garden". This will allow the interaction of human and machine via sensory equipment and clever software. The user will be placed in a virtual reality laboratory that can track human vision and movements while creating three-dimensional graphics. Meanwhile, special headgear containing electroencephalography (EEG) sensors will read electrical activity in the user's brain, feeding information about thought processes into the equation. All these readings will be fed into computers, which will represent the data as a visual and sound display. In short, mental processes will be converted into an evolving garden where developing thoughts trigger animated branches and environmental sounds.

"As you find elements of the growing structures that interest you, you'll be able to focus on those and have those come to the front of the display," Sheridan says. "The artwork will be feeding back into your brain, so that what you're thinking about will affect what is being created.

"Your attention will dictate the sound of things and the aesthetics. It will look and sound very different



Creating a better interface between humans and software is a long-term goal for James Sheridan.

depending on whether you're someone who looks around a lot or someone who can meditate and focus. Different structures will represent different kinds of brain activity. You'll be able to see how the structures relate to one another and to your attention patterns, and then be able to change the ways you think."

Thought processes will be associated with different characteristics of sound such as reverberation, which humans are conditioned to respond to in certain ways. The overall effect will be of something evolving and responsive, making the way that we currently interact with computers seem positively crude. To get there, Sheridan's project has grown to include several other graduate students who are helping to create the software that will track movements and thought processes. Sheridan says his role is to tie all the various bits of data together into a cohesive whole. It's a challenging task, but one he wants to continue even beyond the scope of his PhD.

"I've never really aspired to be an academic. But the longer I spend at it, the better it seems. I have so many ideas that I want to get built. I've seen the PhD as a way of testing out some of those and taking them somewhere."

If his drive continues, Sheridan's mental Zen garden may yet blossom into a new interface between people and machines.

COLLEGE NEWS

2008 ANU COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS INTERNATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

The ANU College of Business and Economics offers **up to 10 undergraduate, partial tuition fee-waivers** to excellent students applying for single or combined programs that include the **Bachelors of Actuarial Studies, Commerce, Economics, Finance or International Business**. Based on 2007 fees, these awards are valued at just over AUD \$10,000 and are awarded on the basis of senior secondary or pre-tertiary academic results.

Application Deadlines

DIAC Assessment Level 3 and 4 citizens: **14 November 2007** (this gives these students more time to accept their scholarship and academic place and still get their visas in order to arrive on time).

DIAC Assessment Level 1 and 2 citizens: **15 January 2008**.

*Students or agents can read the full Terms and Conditions and **apply directly** to the ANU College of Business and Economics at: www.cbe.anu.edu.au/scholarships.*

NATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT ADMISSION TERMS

Change of intakes for the MBA - The ANU National Graduate School of Management MBA program (full time) will now commence in both February and July effective 2008. Previously full time MBA students have only been able to commence in July.

The MBA offers students the choice to study a specialised stream in which the ANU has a demonstrated area of strength, or tailor the degree to suit individual goals and situations. The MBA specialised streams are:

- Finance
- Project Management
- Leadership
- Innovation, Technology and Commercialisation
- Business of Government
- Managing in the Asia-Pacific Region
- General stream

Core to the ANU MBA program is the Integrating Business Project, which is a real-life opportunity to develop and implement a new venture business plan for a company. This is not a simulation – students work with companies based in Canberra and around Australia to assist them in developing new business ventures.

Please keep in mind the MBA entry requirement of 3 year professional working experience gained after the completion of a bachelor degree, or a minimum of 5 years work experience overall.

MEET THE MARKETING STAFF AT THE ANU COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Pictured are Marketing Co-ordinators Ms Sammantha Bronar and Mr. Jerry Czub of the ANU College of Engineering and Computer Science.

Sammantha has been with the College since September 2006, whilst Jerry commenced this week replacing Ms Francesca Jones.

Contact details for the team are:

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ADMISSIONS UPDATE

Changes to ANU Admissions Application Fee Policy

Recently, feedback and suggestions from ANU Representative Agents and ANU recruitment staff has resulted in what we believe are improvements to the Application Fee Policy.

The full ANU Application Fee Policy takes effect immediately and is now on the ANU webpage. It can be located at: http://www.anu.edu.au/sas/admission/application_fee/index.php

The main improvements are:

- **Delegated ANU staff may waive the Application Fee at exhibitions or scheduled interview sessions for paper-based applications where the ANU staff member deems the candidate to have a genuine interest in attending the ANU and whose application is likely to be successful.**
- **An applicant (client of an appointed ANU Agent) will not be charged an application fee where the application for admission is made via the ANU web/online.**
- **From 2008 the Application Fee will not be refunded to applicants who enrol.**

The key changes outlined above will provide greater flexibility for ANU staff and ANU Agents, particularly at exhibitions and selected Interview Programs. The ANU is working hard to support ANU Agents with these improvements. We believe it will make our turn-around times faster and reduce workloads and increase efficiency for our representatives.

In addition, with access to the on-line system agents will be able to process applications faster and more easily from their own offices. This should remove any need for Agents to hold paper-based applications until exhibitions. ANU staff will **not** waive the Application Fee unless the student is interviewed at the event.

Remember, submitting the application on-line means the fee will be waived.

Note also, the reintroduction of fee waivers means the refunding of the Application Fee upon enrolment at ANU will cease from the beginning of 2008. If, however, you have clients who have already submitted applications for 2008 and been told they will be refunded, we will honour that should they enrol in 2008.

We are now able to help Agents use the ANU on-line applications. So far feedback has been very positive. Our aim is to visit as many Agents as possible over the latter part of this year to show you how to use the on-line facility. In the near future all Agents will be issued with an Agent Identification Number. You can contact our Admissions staff, specifically, Justine Pails or Louise Barclay on:

Admission Enquiry Line + 612 6125 5594

Or Admiss.App@anu.edu.au

UAC International Model

Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) will have contacted you recently to provide you with an update on UAC International.

The Australian National University, along with all other universities in the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales, is introducing an "International Model" for students who are completing an Australian Year 12 qualification. This system will allow you, as an agent, to register applications via their system.

The Australian National University looks forward to this new system, as it will make the processing of applications for students who are completing an Australian Year 12 qualification easier for the University and its agents.

The ANU and UAC will be more than happy to provide advice and support to you if required.

What are some of the benefits?

- UAC will provide a Conditional Offer on behalf of the University within 48 hours
- Offers will be released in the Preliminary Round in early January
- Students can list up to nine preferences in total for various universities

If the ANU receives an application via our Online System or via hardcopy there may be delays in our processing due to the Christmas break, so the benefit of the new UAC system processing is that all students will receive their offers on the same day.

I trust that you will find this information useful. Please contact me if you have any questions.

N.B. The UAC International Model is only applicable to students undertaking an Australian Year 12 in Australia or offshore, an IB in Australia or an NCEA.

DO YOU REALLY KNOW CANBERRA?



Floriade Festival
Commonwealth Park, Canberra

- Young and cosmopolitan community of 323,000 people (21.6% of people living in Canberra were born overseas and the average age is 32).
- Home to some 120 diplomatic missions and embassies and most of Australia's national institutions such as the Federal Parliament, National Art Gallery and National Museum.
- Over 300 cafes, restaurants and pubs as well as licensed clubs, cinemas, music venues and theatres.
- Highest qualified, skilled and paid workforce in Australia.
- Lowest unemployment rate in Australia.
- Easy access to ski fields, the south coast beaches of NSW, Sydney and surrounding national parks.
- For more information on the city of Canberra visit:

www.act.gov.au www.canberratourism.com.au

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