



# The Chronicle

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## Developments for ACU future

In the closing months of 1998 ACU has made great progress in two areas which will help to shape the University in future years. These are:

1. Contracts have been exchanged and settlement is expected in mid-January 1999 for the sale and purchase of Melbourne property which will allow the consolidation of two Melbourne campuses into a single campus at 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy.
2. And the Senate, on 12 November, approved the new 10-year Strategic Plan which provides the blueprint for ACU's activities in the future.

In Melbourne ACU representatives are in the process of obtaining rezoning and use permits so that the January settlement can be completed.

Renovations of the new building will then be carried out during 1999 to have the new campus available for occupation in early 2000.

Close consultation will be maintained with staff and students in Melbourne throughout the transition from the existing Christ and Mercy campuses.

The major benefit of consolidation into

one campus will be in increased efficiency because of reduced duplication.

Another major gain will be the positioning of ACU in the heart of Melbourne, raising the profile of the University and giving increased opportunities for interaction with neighbouring educational institutions.

### Strategic Plan

The new Strategic Plan is the outcome of consultation and discussion with staff on all campuses called for by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Sheehan, shortly after he took office in February 1998.

Among the main points of the Strategic Plan are:

- Australian Catholic University is a unique tertiary education institution in Australia and is committed to realising its distinctive Mission.
- The University identifies itself with the Catholic Tradition, as articulated by the Second Vatican Council, in a way that reflects the light of that Tradition upon the wholeness of human learning and knowledge. It has fidelity to the Catholic

Tradition and its beliefs, while claiming the right to act at times as commentator on them. Commitment is to a tradition of faith in a University that allows for a variety of theological, institutional and cultural expressions.

- ACU is a community of staff and students jointly committed in their relationship with each other, and all students and staff, regardless of racial, religious or cultural identity, are invited to pursue the University's goals.
- ACU embraces the academic principles necessary to define itself as an institution of quality learning. It is concerned primarily with the progress of knowledge that is extended and disseminated through teaching, scholarship and research.
- Through teaching and research the University aims to encourage critical thinking, innovation and scholarly learning and to supply its graduates with education and training that are widely valued in employment and in the life of the community at large.
- It trains students to be sensitive to justice and injustice. Its graduates, sensitised to the values and principles of justice, will be highly responsible citizens in a world that is challenged ethically.
- The major focus of training within ACU is the education of persons able to exercise moral and professional autonomy in a pluralistic society.



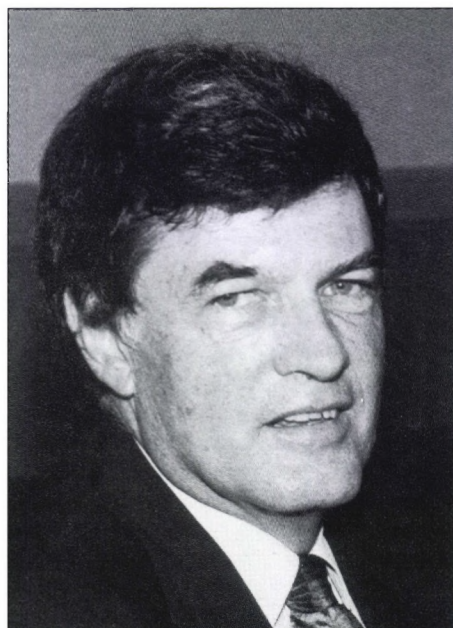
*New Melbourne Campus building.*

## Thesis Award

Sr Lauretta Baker RSJ, of the School of Education, NSW, received the Award for the best piece of doctoral research in Australia in 1998 from the Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE) at a ceremony in Adelaide on 1 December. Her doctoral thesis was on the Canadian educational administration theorist, Tom Greenfield. She received her PhD from the University of New England earlier this year.



# Vice-Chancellor's Column



Professor Peter Sheehan

This is the last issue of *The Chronicle* for 1998 and I would like to take the opportunity of wishing all staff a very happy and holy Christmas and my hopes for the New Year. The University has chosen its Christmas card for the year and I felt it appropriate to use an image that projects an awareness of the contribution of art. Its choice also pays tribute to the past association of members of staff at Australian Catholic University with the exhibition. I have used 'Christ Calming the Storm' by the artist, James Ensor, and it has been selected from the exhibition *Beyond Belief: Modern Art and the Religious Imagination* which was curated by Rosemary Crumlin RSM who addressed us in August and October at two of our campuses.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate staff on the performance of the University, reflected in *The Australian Good Universities Guide* by Dean Ashenden and Sandra Milligan. On major performance indicators ACU stands tall and it is excellent to see our University profiled so well for the external community to see.

We are amongst the top group in the undergraduate area for graduate overall satisfaction (ACU-Queensland), graduate employment (ACU-NSW), graduating starting salaries (ACU-Victoria), and the proportion of those continuing to further study (ACU-

Queensland). For postgraduate students, we are also amongst the top group for graduate employment (ACU-Queensland), and graduate starting salaries (ACU-Queensland).

Congratulations to all for that performance! It is refreshing to see such positive recognition given to our students that reflects so well on ACU's teaching and learning.

By now the community at ACU has received the final report of the Strategic Review Committee which sets out a vision for the future. This will require the commitment and good will of both staff and students. It is a vision that is premised on the assumption that we are a distinctive institution of learning dedicated to a unique Mission within Australia. As the indicators I have referred to above tell us, we have an established reputation for excellence in our teaching and that reputation must not be lost. In the future, the culture of research must be allowed to grow. There are financial pressures ahead, just as they exist now, and we must be prepared to accommodate to them. In the turbulent times of partial Government support, it is comforting to know that we are valued by the community outside and we offer a values-oriented education which is increasingly relevant to tertiary education. That orientation is the basis of our unique strength.

A draft Strategic Plan was presented to Senate at its November meeting. Offering its own valuable comment on what is being suggested, Senate has endorsed the Plan and it has gone out to all, so that it can inform our planning and discussions in the time ahead, as what we want comes to fruition within the University. More of that next year, as we all are challenged to put the Vision into operation!

My final thanks go to all those who are conscientiously working to make the Melbourne Consolidation a success. Many are involved in that exercise and I and the Senate appreciate their efforts. It is a great move for the University, and we will be moving to a fine building that will project our identity unequivocally into the city of Melbourne. With the help of those many, 1999 should see the completion of all the work.

## Education as answer to bias

A practical method to produce change in attitudes of bias and intolerance in Australian society is to educate our youth about the importance of ethics and the significance of thinking in a socially just way.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Sheehan, developed this proposition in an article in *The Catholic Weekly* on 20 September.

Professor Sheehan said that many people in Australia today found themselves complying, perhaps unwittingly, with a value system that tolerated those in Australian society who were espousing racist and divisive policies.

"Vigorous abuse is levelled at Australia's minority groups: Aborigines, Asians, sole parents and refugees, and anti-intellectual stances undermine our effectiveness to offer rational counter arguments", he wrote.

"One possible answer, and probably the most unlikely to eventuate, is that we can attack the roots of bias in our society, change our attitudes about the value of what is called 'mind', and refuse to comply with value systems motivated by self interest, utilitarian ways of thinking and intolerance.

"A second solution (and there are many possibilities), and it is one that has more likelihood of actually producing change, is to take on the task of educating our youth about the importance of ethics and the significance of thinking in a socially just way.

"Such an education forms the basis of good citizenship and particular values are needed for the training of youth in the rights and responsibilities required to restore common decency.

"For too long, universities in Australia have competitively fostered a spiritual featurelessness of university life", he said. "The mission of Australian Catholic University does something quite different and at a time when the significance of values, trust and responsibility is urgently needed on the educational agenda for the training of responsible professionals".

Professor Sheehan concluded that the responsibility of educators must be to provide intelligent ethical leadership that confronts issues by appealing (perhaps unpopularly) to the virtues of the mind. But we must train for that leadership, not the least because part of our culture seemed to want to pull us in a different direction.



# Scholarships for indigenous students

Five students in special Aboriginal Studies programs received scholarships at a ceremony at Mount Saint Mary Campus on 19 October. A sixth student received her scholarship at McAuley Campus.

The NSW students were resident in Sydney as part of their study program.

The scholarships were made available through the Mary MacKillop Foundation from the Bill Ritchie Family Trust set up by Mrs Patricia Ritchie in memory of her late husband, Mr Bill Ritchie, a well known Australian businessman.

The Strathfield ceremony was attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Sheehan, Sr Clare Koch RSJ, Mary MacKillop Foundation, Mrs Patricia Ritchie, Mr Ken Ralph, Director, Yalbalinga Aboriginal Support Unit, Associate Professor Tim O'Hearn, Director of Special Projects, and Associate Professor Pat Malone RSJ, Head of the Department of Religious Education, NSW.

The five students who received the \$2,000 scholarships at the Strathfield ceremony were: Julieanne Manson, Toni Henshell, Sharon Brennan, Paula French and Valerie Saunders.

Paula French and Valerie Saunders were joint winners of a scholarship and the \$2,000 award was to be divided between them. However, Mrs Ritchie decided that each would receive \$2,000.

Julie Rogers received her scholarship at the Weemala Aboriginal Support Unit at McAuley Campus on 21 October.

In his address, Professor Sheehan thanked the Ritchie Family and the Mary MacKillop Foundation for their generosity in providing the scholarships. He also congratulated each of the recipients.

ACU had formally endorsed its commitment to Reconciliation in a formal resolution on 19 March of the University's Senate.

"ACU pledges its support on each of its campuses to the important goals of recognising indigenous culture with activities that involve its total community – working actively to encourage greater participation of indigenous peoples in tertiary education, and incorporating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into its curriculum", he said.

Mrs Ritchie told the students that her husband believed that indigenous Australians would only advance when they were able to control their own affairs. To do this they needed education. The scholarships were designed to encourage the recipients to extend their education.

"The advent of the Mary MacKillop Foundation has made it possible for me to

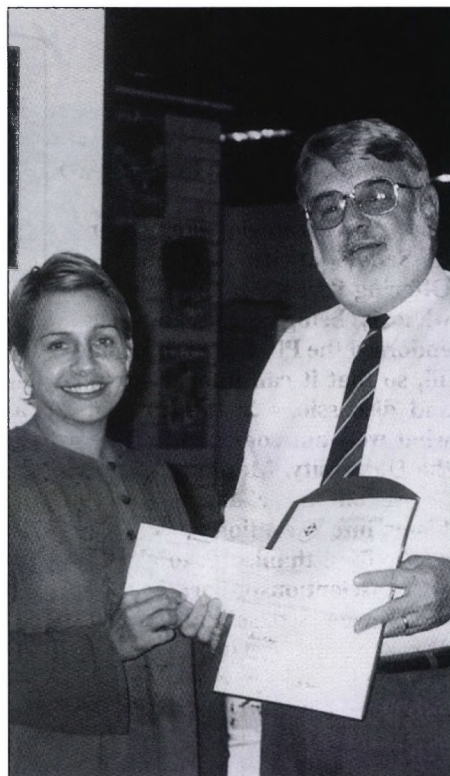


*Toni Henshell, Sharon Brennan, Mrs Patricia Ritchie, Sr Clare Koch, Julieanne Manson, Professor Peter Sheehan, Paula French, Assoc Prof Patricia Malone and Valerie Saunders.*

do something I have long wanted to do in my husband's name: endow tertiary scholarships for Aboriginal children".

The Mary MacKillop Foundation was established by the Sisters of St Joseph in 1993 to carry on the work of Blessed Mary MacKillop.

The Foundation aims, from a sense of justice and fair play, to support those without power, those suffering from loss or hardship, those without a voice in their call for justice.



*Julie Rogers receives her scholarship from Director of Public Affairs, Peter Castleton.*

## Foundation art collection

The ACU Foundation has acquired its first major painting with the acquisition of *Girraween Source*. The painting formed part of an exhibition at the Customs House Gallery in Brisbane by internationally acclaimed Australian landscape artist and ACU staff member Lindsay Farrell. The Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Sheehan opened the exhibition in September 1998 telling the packed Gallery that the exhibition explored the spiritual nature of art as a metaphor.

Lindsay Farrell described the painting that now hangs in the main meeting room of the Vice-Chancellery as:

"... a response to a place and its power. Giraween is one of the sources of Australia's largest river system, the Murray Darling, accounting for most of Australia's inland water. This year it ceased flowing to the ocean. At Giraween's underground river the impenetrable granite has been eroded over eons through two crossing faults that meet to form an underground waterfall. Caught briefly in bright sunlight a cross can be seen in the mist. The painting reflects on this place as a metaphor and seeks to engage the metaphysical".

The painting is also influenced by Lindsay Farrell's doctoral research in spirituality and the visual arts. The metaphor and myth central to the meaning of his work are symbols and signs of ecological significance and imperative, embodying a spiritual aesthetic that celebrates the Australian landscape as worthy of our exploration and contemplation rather than exploitation.



# Vision for education

The new Dean of Education, Professor Judith Chapman, took up her appointment at the beginning of November and has already given expression to *A Vision for the Faculty of Education at ACU*.

She aims to bring to her role the vision and hope that the Faculty will further extend and develop education at ACU in research and scholarship, teaching and learning, community service and internationalisation.

She has come to ACU from the University of Western Australia where she had been Professor of Education and Deputy Dean of Education, and also Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning), Faculties of Economics, Commerce, Education and Law.

Her research and publications have focused particularly in the areas of lifelong learning, quality education, school leadership and management. Her latest co-authored book is entitled *The School the Community and Lifelong Learning* and it is published by the international publisher, Cassells, London.

She has undertaken research and consultancy for international organisations such as OECD and UNESCO and has been director of a considerable number of non-award professional development courses funded by organisations such as UNESCO, IDP, Asia-Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank.

With this established profile with world-



Professor Judith Chapman

wide organisation and a commitment to local, national and international collaboration, Professor Chapman aims to consolidate links with ACU and various international organizations and institutions.

Forging links with Catholic universities worldwide will play a significant role in promoting education at ACU in the international arena, as well as providing global learning opportunities.

For staff, student and graduates, one of Professor Chapman's challenges will be to create an environment which encourages and embodies values of "lifelong learning – learning for life; for personal and spiritual development, for social inclusion, a civic responsibility and economic self-sufficiency".

Through professional development and sharing of ideas and knowledge about research, teaching and learning, staff will be guided and encouraged to help each other to change the culture in the Faculty.

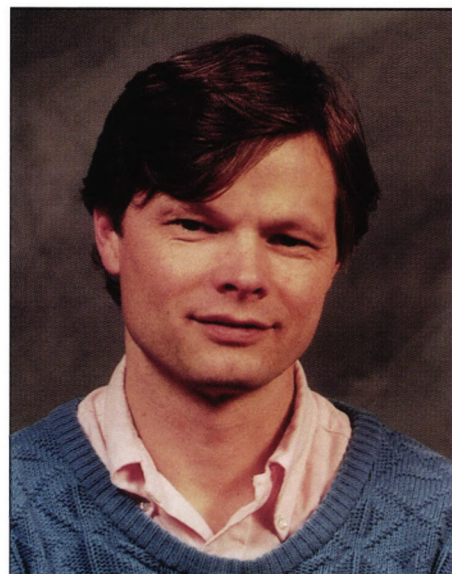
Students will benefit from their learning through the courses they undertake. As graduates they will be prepared for the "global knowledge economy of the 21st century".

In a personal reflection, Professor Chapman, who taught History and English in Australia and Europe, from 1970 to 1975, strongly believes her own overseas teaching experience early in her professional career instilled the long term vision of education and learning and the necessary element of internationalisation.

Another of her 'guiding principles' is to forge co-operative relationships with professional groups and employing authorities in Australia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Professor Chapman concluded the statement of her 'Vision' with the following lines from *Born to Manifest Glory* (Nelson Mandela 1994).

We are all meant to  
Shine as children do  
We are born to manifest  
The glory that is within  
us  
It is not just in some of us,  
It is in everyone  
And as we let our light  
shine  
We unconsciously give  
Others permission to do  
the same  
As we are liberated from  
our own fears  
Our presence  
automatically liberates others



## Water quality research projects

Dr Robert Thurman (above) and Ms Sandra Sterry of Aquinas Campus, Ballarat, have conducted a research project which concludes that the regulations and guidelines required for bottled water need to be re-evaluated.

ACU Office of Research funded the project.

Dr Thurman is Head of the Department of Science, Mathematics and Information Technology and Ms Sterry is a Technology Officer at Aquinas.

In their research project they found wide variations between batches of the same brand of bottled water, suggesting that quality control might be an issue for bottlers.

Price did not necessarily reflect the quality of bottled water.

Claims on bottled water labels might not reflect the quality of the product.

A report on their project was published in the March–December 1998 issue of WATER.

Dr Thurman also participated from 1993 to 1996 in a collaborative project between ACU, Macquarie University and Central Highlands Water, Ballarat to monitor streams and drinking water reservoirs (prior to treatment) in the region surrounding Ballarat for microbiological and physiochemical parameters.

ACU also contributed to the funding of this research.

Participating with Dr Thurman in the project were Belinda Duncan and Duncan Veal, of Macquarie University and Geoff Cramer and Marilyn Meiklejohn of Central Highlands Water.

The Report on this research is published in the *Journal of Applied Microbiology* 1998 (84, 627-632).



# Philosopher gives Couch lecture

Dr Bernadette Tobin, the Director, Plunkett Centre for Ethics in Health Care, delivered the 1998 Victor J. Couch Lecture at MacKillop Campus, North Sydney, on 14 October. The Plunkett Centre is a joint centre for Australian Catholic University and St Vincent's Health Care Campus, Sydney. In her address, *Challenging Our Inventiveness: Ethics Today*, Dr Tobin traversed a wide range of analogies and issues from the rule books and coaching manuals of the Australian Football League (with some reference to the Carlton Football Club) to those of the papal encyclical *Veritatis Splendor*, ethical relativism, post modernism and bio-ethicist Peter Singer. The Couch Lecture will be printed in full and be available early next year. The following brief report gives an indication of some of Dr Tobin's main themes.

In her Lecture Dr Tobin stressed that human life was not something that we had invented.

"Rather it is something that we discover", she said. We do not *decide* how it is to be. We cannot *change* it at will. However, though its meaning and significance is not something that we invent, a great deal of inventiveness has to go into living it well.

"I hope to show that living human life well is more challenging, takes more inventiveness, than some philosophers would have us believe and, at the same time, that because it is genuinely a discoverable natural phenomenon we have reason to be more optimistic about our capacity to rise to those challenges than others would have us believe".

Dr Tobin said that in reflecting on how to live one's life, how to live a life that befits a human being, how to live a life worthy of a human being, how to live as a good human being, the first thing to notice was that we were engaging in a truth-seeking enterprise.

"Ethical reflection has truth as its object. Admittedly it is a special kind of truth, practical rather than theoretical: what to do in these circumstances, what to do, or rather what kind of person to be, in general in life, but it's truth that we are after none the less.

"This most basic feature of ethical reflection, that it has truth as its object, is missed or misunderstood by all forms of ethical relativism, including the very latest form to be found in postmodernism.

"Ethical reflection, then, has truth as its object. This much is a matter of fairly general agreement amongst moral philosophers. Where moral philosophers tend to disagree is in the accounts they give of ethical reality".

Dr Tobin said the intellectual challenge was to understand 'what is radically distinctive of human beings, and that is a capacity to act freely in the light of concepts expressive of the common enterprise in which we find ourselves, willynilly, participants.

"But avoiding the ways of acting which are beyond the limits of a life characterized by companionship in trust only sets the context in which we are challenged to work out how to live that life: it does not constitute living that life. That's a much more complex matter, and for that reason it will come as no surprise that both Aristotle and Aquinas spend much more time elaborating the positive skills of someone who lives a life worthy of a human being than they do setting out the 'thou shalt nots'.

"But not only is a morality which exaggerates the place of the 'thou shalt nots' untrue to what it means to live human life well. It also runs the risk of blighting people's lives or of leading them to dismiss all ethical reflection as life-diminishing 'preaching'.

"A wise person knows the means to certain good ends and he knows how much certain ends are worth. This knowledge is within the reach of anyone who seriously wants it. Some people waste their lives in the ardent pursuit of what is trivial or unimportant".

Dr Tobin concluded that it took plenty of inventiveness to live human life worthily. Virtue terms provide the concepts in the light of which we can both recognize, and live up to, these challenges. This is true whether the circumstances in which we find ourselves are ones about which a sense of history ought to make us cautious or genuinely new and unfamiliar ones (such as those on offer from the new reproductive technologies and the new genetic interventions).

"For virtues-based ethics suggests a certain way of thinking about how to live human life, whether the thinking is addressed to some future possibility or to backwards over how we have acted in the past. Certainly, some ways of acting are incompatible with a life worthy of a human being. But the real challenges lie not so much in avoiding those ways of acting but rather in finding, or as I have put it, inventing successful ways of realizing a life worthy of a human being".



Professor John Coll, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Professor Raimond Gaita, the Professor of Philosophy and Dr. Bernadette Tobin.

## Memorial Mass

Australian Catholic University held a Memorial Mass for Mr Bill McGrath in the Mary MacKillop Chapel, North Sydney on 24 August, in honour of his contribution to Catholic Teachers' College Sydney – one of the predecessor colleges of the University.

Mr McGrath was the first lay Principal of Catholic Teachers' College Sydney (1973 -1980). He died on 3 July 1998.

## Teaching pilot

Mrs B.J. Hamilton, Senior Lecturer, Department of Mathematics, Science and Information Technology, Aquinas Campus, and Mrs Tunde Meikle, Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Aquinas Campus, introduced the pilot of an innovation in teaching in the second half of 1998 at Aquinas Campus.

Students in the units "Health and Community" and "Development Psychology" were introduced to a Geographic Information System (GIS) computer package as one aspect of their unit.

GIS is well used in environmental areas, but it is in early stages for its use in applications in health and human behaviour. It is useful as a data collection technique and a way of reconceptualising useful research questions.

The core content of each unit was separate, while the research methodology provided a common core for all students. Students completed a major research project in groups using the GIS.

As part of their major assessment, students were required to include a consideration of their relationship between geography and their chosen topic.



## Adjunct Professor

The University has appointed Professor Maeve O'Collins as Adjunct Professor in the Department of Social Work at Signadou Campus in Canberra.

Since beginning her career in Victoria in the 1950s Professor O'Collins has become one of Australia's leading experts on social issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

She completed her postgraduate studies at Columbia University in New York after being awarded the American Association of University Women Fellowship in 1967.

Her career has included work for various UN Agencies and AUSAID as well as research, teaching and consultancy projects throughout Australia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Japan, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

She spent almost 20 years with the University of Papua New Guinea where she holds the title of Emeritus Professor. She is a Visiting Fellow with the ANU's Research School of Pacific Studies.

The Head of the Department of Social Work, Associate Professor Peter Camilleri, said the appointment of Professor O'Collins would bring "a wealth of knowledge" to the Department.

"Professor O'Collins will be a valuable mentor to younger staff while her expertise in international social work will be a major development and strength for the University".

The Anne Lyons Memorial Fund is supporting the appointment of Professor O'Collins with a contribution of \$3,000 in 1999 as a small honorarium.

The Fund is intended to promote the concept of social justice in Australia from a Catholic viewpoint.

## Master's Degree

ACU will introduce the first Master's Degree in Social Work in the A.C.T. at Signadou Campus next year.

The Head of the Department of Social Work, Associate Professor Peter Camilleri, said the course would help to build "a new culture of leadership among social workers in the Canberra region?"

"The Master in Social Work course will run part-time to cater to the needs of practising social workers who want to update their qualifications or specialise in new areas", he said.

"We aim to maximise the flexibility of the course through intensive week-end workshops, Internet facilities and e-mail lists".

## Unique ILS Project

Senior Lecturer in Education, Robert Fitzgerald, is involved in a unique longitudinal study of the use of Integrated Learning Systems (ILS).

An ILS is a computer-based tutoring system that provides support for student learning in a variety of curriculum areas.

An ILS has curriculum content that is matched to the achievement level of the learner by a data base management system.

The system provides feedback to the learner and, where appropriate, diagnostic, enrichment and remedial activities.

The project is the ACT Integrated Learning System (ILS), a four-year research project studying the learning styles of children in relation to computer-based learning. Robert is in partnership in the project with Don Fitzgerald, Emeritus Professor, University of New England.

With the cooperation of the ACT Department of Education and the Catholic Education Office, the project involves both Government and Catholic primary schools.

The primary schools involved are: Chapman, Charnwood, Gold Creek, Holy Spirit, and St Clare of Assisi.

In 1995 Professor Fitzgerald, Professor Phil Hughes and Robert Fitzgerald completed an evaluation of ILS software in Victorian schools showing children made important gains in the areas of numeracy and reading comprehension.

This evaluation also found that teachers and principals were very positive about the use of these systems to support student learning.

However, there is little knowledge of the long-term effects on primary school - children who work with ILS, and no knowledge whatsoever of the performance of children who differ in their styles of learning. No long-term study has been conducted outside the United States, and no long-term studies that have been carefully controlled.

The project was made possible through the support of DEETYA, Fujitsu Australia, Computer Curriculum Corporation, Jostens Learning Corporation, the ACT Department of Education, the Catholic Education Office and the schools involved in the project. The local business community has also supported the project.

On this and the following page are several reports of recent activities on Signadou Campus, Canberra, including research projects involving, jointly and separately, two colleagues from the Signadou School of Education. They are Senior Lecturer Robert Fitzgerald and Lecturer Glenda Shopen. Robert is in the final stage of study for his PhD from the University of Sydney and Glenda is currently completing her PhD with Deakin University in Language and Curriculum Studies.

## SW Scholarships

The ACU Foundation has allocated funds from the Laurie Daniels Perpetual Scholarship Fund for scholarships for the Master of Social Work (MSW) program beginning in 1999 at Signadou Campus.

The scholarships will be of the value of \$1,000 and be available for 1999 only. However, the Department of Social Work is hopeful that the scholarships will continue to be available in the future.

The scholarships will be awarded on the basis of the two principles of social justice and excellence. A Departmental committee will allocate the scholarships on the following criteria:

Rural practice: The Signadou Campus has a long tradition in providing educational services to rural communities. Social workers in rural communities have little opportunity and access to quality educational programs. Social workers working in rural communities in NSW have been especially targeted with the MSW. The program is to be delivered in flexible delivery mode through the use of weekend intensives, video and teleconferencing, and Internet access. One of the scholarships will be available for rural candidates.

Indigenous practitioners: A scholarship will be available for indigenous practitioners to help to facilitate their professional development and prepare them for leadership roles within the profession.

Excellence: Scholarships will be available that recognise the excellence of students within the program. This will be based on demonstrated excellence at the end of the first year of the program with a Distinction average in more than two of the units.

The late Laurie Daniels was an outstanding Federal Public Servant and a committed advocate for Catholic education. He was a great supporter of Australian Catholic University and of Signadou Campus in particular.





Glenda Shopen and Robert Fitzgerald

## Assessing literacy

Currently Glenda Shopen is the recipient of a grant of \$90,000 from the ACT Department of Education and Community Services. The grant is to enable her and ANU colleague, Dr Anthony Liddicoat, to examine the similarities and differences between home and school literacy practices for children in the middle years of schooling (Years 3 to 8).

The aim is to identify with parents and teachers those practices that are likely to offer the best support to children from areas of socio-economic disadvantage and to develop a strategy that the Department can disseminate throughout the Territory.

The Project is called the Supportive Practices for the Enhancement of Literacy Learning (SPELL) project and is to last one year.

Glenda has been able to appoint a research assistant for the project, Sarah Virtue, who also runs the office for Signadou. Sarah completed her BA (Hons) at ANU last year and won a University Medal.

So far the team has interviewed 34 teachers and 31 parents/carers of students in seven primary schools and one secondary school in areas of socio-economic disadvantage in the ACT.

They have also looked at documents used by schools to communicate with parents, items such as newsletters, homework sheets and reports.

So far the best prospects for developing supportive practices seem to the team to lie in four areas –

- 1) the development of two-way models of communication between home and school
- 2) homework that offers options for individuals and supports family-centred learning on topics of interest to children
- 3) the integration of home-style literacy practices into school curricula
- 4) the development of formal and informal links amongst parents/carers whose children are at risk.

They have presented their findings to parents/carers in workshops during October and have produced a video, *Challenges for Partnerships: Literacy at Home and School in the Middle Years*.

## Internet impact study

Robert Fitzgerald and ACU colleague Glenda Shopen have carried out a study of the use of the Internet in teaching and professional development in some 10 schools in the Tuggeranong Valley (ACT).

Funded by the Commonwealth through the National Professional Development Program (NPDP), the Tuggeranong Valley Schools' Internet Project (TVSIP) examined the ways the Internet could be used for teaching and professional development. Government, Catholic and Independent schools took part in the project.

Teachers were encouraged to develop collaborative projects that addressed issues about the middle years of schooling by changing existing teaching and learning practice.

Fitzgerald and Shopen reported that within the TVSIP project teachers expressed great satisfaction with the collaborative nature of their work and specifically commented on the rewarding nature of working closely with teachers, students and parents from government and non-government primary and secondary schools.

## The CDROM – a fair go

Glenda Shopen was one of two Signadou staff members extensively involved in a National Museum of Australia project for the International year of Tolerance. The other was Librarian, Annette McGuinness. They were joined by Grette Toner from the ACT Department of Education.

They were research consultants for the production of a CDROM designed to help high school students to explore tolerance and intolerance in Australia's culturally diverse society.

The project was a joint activity of the National Museum of Australia, the ACT Department of Education and Training and ACU with support from facilities at the War Memorial.

The CDROM – A Fair Go is divided into four parts:

- an introduction to theories and acts of tolerance and intolerance
- nine case studies which focus attention on the way intolerance has been experienced by adolescents within Australian society

- a series of hypotheticals designed to assist students to walk in someone else's shoes
- a review section which attempts to promote further acts of tolerance.

Each of the sections is illustrated by graphics and video material supplemented by text.

The CDROM is totally interactive with the teacher or students selecting the material. It is designed to be used as a stand-alone educational program and teacher-learning resource.

Glenda, Annette and Grette, in consultation with National Museum staff, interviewed and recorded the experiences of nine individuals from different backgrounds, from which case studies could be developed. These included Michelle, who has cerebral palsy, David from a farming family, Zeinab, a young Moslem woman from Lebanon, and Peter, the young son of Chinese 'boat people'.

The interviews were videotaped in studio facilities at the War Memorial with background footage edited in by



# Finance function is "service"

With 25 years experience in financial services, the new Director of Finance Mr John Cameron sees ACU as "unique due to its trans-national nature and the small size of its campuses".

He sees his main task at the University "on one level as stewardship, ensuring the finances are in good order."

"The finance function is simply a service - it is not just looking after money, but helping people manage it. ACU needs to find new ways of supporting itself outside Government funding. It is my role to support the institution in doing that."

Mr Cameron sees academic staff playing an important role in generating the funding of the University and stresses the importance of supporting them and directing them. He sees business management as a support role for the whole University, looking at faculties as a whole as well as the individual staff members and their ideas on new courses and other

areas of possible funding.

"In supporting the activities of the University face-to-face contact is important, and also giving people access to information, support and advice, helping strengthen their confidence in you", said Mr Cameron.

Mr Cameron is optimistic about ACU's future. "The cooperation between academics and staff is a special feature at ACU and will play an important role in the future of the University".

He sees the practical issues of meeting people and becoming acquainted with staff on all seven campuses as most important in his role as Finance Director.

Previously he was Director, Financial Services, at the University of Technology Sydney and he also has experience in financial administration at the University of New South Wales.

He considers himself to be fortunate to have had the opportunity of a senior level role in finance in three



Mr John Cameron

higher educational institutions all within the same city. "I like the idea of working within a smaller institution. It is different and presents a challenge I look forward to working through", said Mr Cameron.



Flo Syer, Joffe Case, Iris Hoey and Margaret Hamilton

## WWII nurses visit McAuley

More than 100 nursing students and staff packed the lecture theatre in the Nursing building on 28 October when four World War Two Army Nurses visited McAuley Campus.

The nurses - Margaret Hamilton, Iris Hoey, Joffe Case and Flo Syer were invited to the Brisbane campus to meet some of today's nursing students and to allow the students to learn some of the history of their chosen profession.

The visitors related some of their experiences in the 1939-45 war.

The audience was amazed at the experiences of Flo Syer who, after escaping from Singapore on the ship 'Vyner Brooke' found herself facing a nine-mile swim to shore when the vessel was sunk. After reaching the 'safety' of dry land, the situation worsened and at one stage it looked likely that the survivors would be shot. But their captors changed their minds and Mrs Syer spent the balance of the war in a camp and was a member of the women's choir depicted in the recent film *Paradise Road*.

## New Zealand meeting

Mr Richard Clifford, Manager, Quality and Outreach, was a guest of Dr Phil Meade, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Otago University, Dunedin, New Zealand, when he attended the third Annual New Zealand Quality Enhancement Meeting recently.

Representatives from all New Zealand universities, the Academic Audit Unit and a number of Polytechnics attended the meeting.

## South Korea workshop

Associate Professor Terry McCarthy, coordinator of the Bachelor of Business course at Christ Campus, attended an Academic Teaching Workshop in South Korea from 24 June to 5 July.

Professor McCarthy was selected by Korea University to lead the Australian University delegation to the Workshop and spoke on behalf of the university group on formal occasions.

The Workshop was funded by the Korean Foundation to extend participants' knowledge of Korean society and culture.

During the Workshop delegates attended lectures by experts on aspects of Korean life ranging from its history and architecture to business, education, politics, international relations, music and family structures.



## Parents Council award

Dr Richard Parkinson, Chairman of the Council of Catholic Parents of New South Wales, presented the inaugural Council of Catholic School Parents scholarship to Kathleen Polo, a Graduate Diploma in Education student at ACU's Mount Saint Mary Campus, Strathfield on 5 November.

Dr Parkinson said the award was made to encourage students to study the vital role parents played in the education of their children.

Responding, Ms Polo spoke of her experiences as parent and student and said that in her studies she had noted that ACU placed great significance on the role of parents in the education process.



*Dr Richard Parkinson with Kathleen Polo.*

## Morris West lecture

Renowned Australian writer, Morris West, delivered a public lecture, "*Doctor Newman's Toast*" at Mount Saint Mary Campus on 15 November.

The lecture was one in a series organised by the University's Centre for Studies in Religion, Literature and the Arts.

Father Edmund Campion, well-known writer, academic and Chair of the Literature Fund of the Australia Council, chaired the lecture.

Morris West is an author of international repute and influence. He started training as a Christian brother 70 years ago at Mount Saint Mary Campus. Now 83, he returned to the Campus to review his life and work, reviewing the social and religious dilemmas of his time as portrayed in his fiction.

After the lecture there was also an exhibition and discussion by Anne Kearney of her paintings. She is the first Australian artist to be awarded the MTh (Hons) degree for an exhibition of paintings, "*An Exploration of Suffering and Hope*".

## Rosemary Crumlin visit



*Professor John Coll, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Sr Rosemary Crumlin, Professor Peter Sheehan, Vice-Chancellor, Associate Professor Michael Griffith, Director, Centre for Studies in Religion, Literature and Arts, and Dr James Tulip, Visiting Research Fellow at ACU.*

Professor Peter Sheehan, Vice-Chancellor, sponsored the visit to Sydney in August of Sr Rosemary Crumlin, curator of the recent internationally-acclaimed art exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria, "*Beyond Belief — Modern Art and the Religious Imagination*".

Sr Crumlin spoke to an audience of 120 members of the public and the University community in the Main Auditorium at Mount Saint Mary Campus on 28 August. She showed slides of the works

and discussed the interrelations of art forms and religious imagination.

The occasion marked an important development for the University's Centre for Studies in Religion, Literature and the Arts.

Following four international conferences since 1994, the Religion, Literature and Arts project is based at Mount Saint Mary Campus with Associate Professor Michael Griffith as its Director.

## Religious education symposium

A Symposium on "Critical Issues in Religious Education and Ministry" was held at Sancta Sophia, University of Sydney, on 27 November. The main area of interest at the Symposium which was opened by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Sheehan, was religious education and ministry in the Catholic sector. It provided an opportunity for dialogue and conversation amongst professionals engaged in religious education and ministry.

Twenty-nine papers were presented during the three-day symposium at which there were more than 50 participants, including representatives from Catholic Education Offices in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Goulburn, Lismore, Brisbane, Cairns and Adelaide, staff from all ACU campuses, and other experts and specialists.

The Symposium focused on the development of contemporary issues in religious education and ministry including religious education in various contexts; was religious education for children, adolescents and adults; family ministry and youth ministry; religious needs of young adults in the immediate post-school period; and various models of faith communities in which evangelisation and catechesis can take place besides the Catholic schools.

Dr Louise Welbourne, Lecturer in the School of Theology at Signadou Campus, on behalf of the Network of Religious Educators, an organiser of the Symposium said she hoped it would help generate research and publishing in religious education. Papers presented at the symposium, will be published in "*Word in Life*" in 1999.



# Reconciliation and Shame

ACU's Professor of Philosophy, Professor Raimond Gaita, delivered the Aquinas Memorial Lecture at McAuley Campus on 11 November on the subject, *Collective Responsibility And Reconciliation With Australia's Indigenous Peoples*. He traced in detail the tragic history of Australian Aborigines since European settlement. He analysed the character of 'racism' practised against Aborigines in Australia.

Professor Gaita said that the significance of the High Court's Mabo judgment laid in its acknowledgment that Aborigines had lived under property laws that were based on a doctrine whose application dispossessed them of their lands.

"Worse, it effectively denied their full human status because it denied the depth of moral and spiritual being which alone makes dispossession such a terrible affliction, and thereby, a terrible injustice", he said.

"For that reason, the concept of native title is essentially the acknowledgment of the meaning of the Aboriginal peoples dispossession. In the historical context of Australia, that is no less than a belated legal recognition of their full humanity, because it was the repudiation of the doctrine whose application denied that they are beings who have inner lives of the same depth and complexity as we do; and that therefore they could be wronged as deeply and as seriously as we can be".

Professor Gaita asked who was answerable to the call to acknowledge collective responsibility, and in what way?

"First, those who are guilty by deed or omission and those sufficiently close to

them in time to feel obliged to bring them to justice. Secondly, those who are related to the guilty in such a way that they rightly feel ashamed. Thirdly, those who are related to the guilty in such a way that they should seek an appropriate figure – usually the head of an institution or of government – to apologise on their behalf and to acknowledge other responsibilities, generally, the responsibility to make reparation.

"... we may be required lucidly to acknowledge our shame over what we have inherited. There is nothing confused, therefore, in the thought that we may be responsible for deeds for which we are not guilty and for which we are in no other way culpable.

"We must therefore not be sentimental about reconciliation. We must especially avoid the kind of sentimentality expressed in 'Sorry Day' which, good-hearted though it may be, really hides from us the terrible evil the Aborigines have suffered and our responsibilities to them.

"More often than not, talk of reconciliation assumes that the road will be relatively smooth and the end welcome to all people of good will, if only Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians will really listen to one another with an open heart. It might be so. But it might not. The assumption that it must be so, if minds and hearts are truly open, is inconsistent with anything that could seriously be called reconciliation. Anything really deserving of the name will be the result of an openness to the other which denies us the capacity to predict what will be consistent or inconsistent with an open heart and mind".

## Fiji exchange

ACU's Aquinas Campus in co-operation with Corpus Christi Teachers' College, Suva has completed its 1998 professional and cultural exchange program. This program is in its fourth year and is currently being coordinated by John Lever, lecturer at Aquinas Campus Ballarat.

The field experience component of the exchange was organised by Anne-Marie Dawson from Christ Campus.

Student teachers from Fiji have been resident in Ballarat and involved in teaching practice at Lumen Christi and St. Thomas More Primary schools. The four young adults, two men and two women, had an audience with Ballarat's Bishop Peter Connors, hosted by the head of the CEO Sr. Therese Power RSM. The Mayor, Councillor Judy Verlin, also gave them a civic reception.

ACU had six student teachers taking part in the exchange, two of whom were from Aquinas Campus, Katheryn Brazelis and Sarah Curran. From Christ Campus went Natalie Gleeson, and from Mercy Celia DiLorio, Michelle Gatt and Ellen Mellerick.

## John F Slowey Memorial Fund

The Australian Catholic University Foundation has established the John F Slowey Memorial Fund, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Professor John Coll, announced at the Victor J Couch Lecture at MacKillop Campus on 14 October.

Professor Coll said that a small committee had been working for the past 18 months to establish a memorial to Monsignor John Slowey, "a man well known, much loved, and an acknowledged leader in the development of Catholic education, particularly in New South Wales".

The Fund will provide for a Scholarship of \$2000 for an undergraduate student studying Education at ACU in New South Wales, and a bursary of \$2000 to a student at MacKillop Campus, beginning in 1999.

"In this way merit and need will be acknowledged through the successful students", Professor Coll said. "Also Monsignor Slowey's lifelong commitment to Catholic education and his association with MacKillop Campus will be remembered. To date just over \$85,000 has been raised from many sections of the Catholic Education system and individual donors. I am grateful to all of them and acknowledge their generous support here tonight. I further encourage anyone who has not made a contribution to do so by contacting me".

## Scottish Educators

The Department of Educational Foundations, Victoria, recently hosted a visit from three Scottish educators. Dr Robert Davis, Director of In-Service Education, and Mr James Conroy, Director of Religious Education and Pastoral Care, are from St Andrew's College, Glasgow, and Mr Michael McGrath is Head Teacher, Our Lady's High School, Cumbernauld, Scotland. Dr Davis and Mr McGrath are members of the Scottish Catholic Education Commission.

Their visit had been organised by Dr John Brick, Senior Lecturer and Head of Department of Educational Foundations, after he undertook OSP at St Andrew's in 1997, and several research and teaching projects were developed between ACU and St Andrew's. These projects involve distance education modes of delivery including videoconference and Lotus Learning Space.

In June ACU and St Andrew's College

met by videoconference. Professor Muredach Dynan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Quality and Outreach) welcomed participants. The conference was chaired by Dr John Brick, and included Mr Conroy and Mr Michael McGrath.

The three visited schools and attended staff/student colloquia, public presentations, conference presentations, and the Department of Educational Leadership Conference.

## Travel grant

Lecturer in the Department of Human Movement at Christ Campus, Mr Justin Kemp, has received an Ian Potter Foundation travel grant of \$800.

In January next year, Mr Kemp will attend the 6th International Tutorial conference on the Metabolic Aspects of Human Nutrition at Rest and during Physical Stress.



# Early Christianity Conference

*Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church*, the Second International Triennial Conference, will be held in Sydney from 8 to 11 January 1999 at St John's College, University of Sydney.

The Conference will be presented by ACU's Centre for Early Christian Studies, in conjunction with the Faculty of Education, University of Technology, Sydney.

It will focus on aspects of the temporal and spiritual concerns of the Early Church and their expression in private and public prayer, liturgy, art, music and the life of early Christians generally.

Homiletics, poetry and hymnography as expressions of the life of the Early Church also form an important part of this focus.

Among the distinguished international experts invited to speak at the Conference are:

Rabbi Elliot K. Ginsberg, a distinguished scholar of Jewish mysticism and an expert in medieval Kabbalistic work;

Rt. Rev. Rowan Williams FBA, Bishop of Monmouth since 1992 and eminent theologian;

Professor Kari Elizabeth Borresen, Professor of Medieval Studies/Gender Studies at Oslo University and a leading scholar in the field of women's studies in the Christian tradition;

Rev. Brian E. Daley SJ, Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana and a specialist in the Greek Patristic tradition;

Professor Pier Franco Beatrice, a distinguished scholar who teaches Early Christian Literature at the University of Padua.

The Convenor of the Conference is Archdeacon Lawrence Cross, Senior Lecturer, School of Theology, Christ Campus, in conjunction with Professor Kevin Lee, University of Sydney.

The Director, Centre for Early Christian Studies, now a Senate Research Centre, is Associate Professor Pauline Allen of the ACU Institute for the Advancement of Research.

In July the Centre held a one-day seminar, opened by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Sheehan, at McAuley Campus, entitled '*Words And Pictures*' *Early Christian Art & Thought*. The seminar was one of a series of seminars to follow the wide interest in early Christian life and thought at the inaugural conference on Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church, held in Melbourne in 1996.

# Politicians visit campuses



*The Leader of the Federal Opposition, Mr Kim Beazley, visited Mount Saint Mary Campus in Strathfield on Thursday, 23 July for talks with staff and students. Mr Beazley (centre) with staff and students including (left) Professor John Coll, who welcomed Mr Beazley to ACU as Acting Vice-Chancellor.*



*Mr Barney Cooney Senator for Victoria and Mr Kevin Andrews MP, Member for Menzies, addressed students and staff at Australian Catholic University's Mercy Campus on 8 September. Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Wolfgang Grichting welcomed the speakers.*

*ACU Students in the Cafe at Mercy Campus with Senator Barney Cooney (left) and Mr Kevin Andrews.*

# Educational Equity

Mrs Nerida White, Coordinator of Weemala, ACU's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Support Unit at McAuley Campus, and Mrs Hana O'Neill, Associate Lecturer, School of Education, presented a paper at the 3rd National Equity and Access Conference, held at Yeppoon, Queensland, from 29 September to 2 October.

The theme of the conference was "Educational Equity in practice: making it work in Higher Education".

The paper, entitled *Making higher education work for Indigenous community people: Australian Catholic University's response*, focused on how ACU is meeting

the challenge of promoting educational equity, access and successful outcomes for Indigenous students through flexible course delivery in the Diploma in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and the Diploma in Business Administration courses.

Both are presented through a mixed mode delivery and the results to date have been encouraging. They also emphasised the University's role in consultation with Indigenous communities in the development and designing of the courses ensuring they meet the life circumstances and aspirations of indigenous peoples.



## Book launches



Ms Dianne Cullen, Lecturer, School of Education, Sr Judith Tellefson RSM, Director, Regina Coeli community of Homeless Women, and Ms Rosemary Williams.

**Sr Judith Tellefson** RSM, Director, Regina Coeli Community of Homeless Women, launched the book, *Recasting the Stone: Human Suffering and the Business of Blame* written by Mercy Campus student counsellor, Rosemary Williams, at a function attended by 150 people at Mercy Campus on 23 October.

**The latest book** of Senior Lecturer, Department of Social Sciences, at Mount Saint Mary Campus, Dr Malcolm Prentis, *Science, Race and Faith: a Life of John Mathew 1849 – 1929*, was launched in Sydney and Melbourne in July.

In Sydney it was launched at Robert Menzies College, Macquarie University, by the Reverend Fred McKay, a former Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church, and in Melbourne at Ormond College, Melbourne University, by the Reverend Professor Ian Breeward, Professor of Church History in the United Faculty of Theology. It is published by the Centre for the Study of Australian Christianity.

**Dr James McLaren's** new monograph, *Turbulent Times? Josephus and Scholarship on Judea in the First Century CE*, was launched by Professor Francis Moloney SDB, Professor of Theology, at Mercy Campus on 30 July. Dr McLaren is a historian of Jewish and early Christian history. He lectures in the School of Theology at the University.

In the preface, Dr McLaren writes "The reader is encouraged to encounter the book as it is intended: an expression of a desire to contribute to the realm of historical inquiry into first-century Judea, one which is fraught with the complications of our subjectivity and that of the sources upon which we are dependent."

**Glory not Dishonour Reading John 13-21** by the Professor of Theology, Professor Francis J Moloney will be launched by the Rev Victor Pfitzner on 14 December at The Open Book, Box Hill, Vic.

**A major new study** on the Gospel of Matthew by ACU Theology Lecturer Dr David C Sim was launched in the Fabiola Auditorium of McAuley Campus on 23 November. The book is entitled *The Gospel of Matthew and Christian Judaism: The History and Social Setting of the Matthean Community*. Professor Brendan Byrne SJ, the Professor of New Testament Studies, Jesuit Theological College, Melbourne, launched the book.

**Dr Judith Bessant**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Social Welfare and Administration at Christ Campus has co-edited a study of youth and work with Sandy Cook from Law and Legal Studies at La Trobe University. The book, *Against the Odds: Young People and Work* is published by the Australian Clearing House for Youth Studies.



Left to right: Professor Francis Moloney, SDB (Professor of Theology) Alexandra McLaren, Dr James McLaren and Reverend Dr Terence Curtin (Head, School of Theology at ACU in Victoria).

## 25 years of service

Mr Anthony Redmond, Lecturer, Department of Visual and Performing Arts, received recognition for his 25 years of service to ACU from University Senator Mr Ted Exell at a ceremony on Mercy Campus.

Mr Redmond served the former Mercy Teachers' College and Institution of Catholic Education, before the formation of ACU.

Associate Professor Geoffrey Cox, Head, Department of Visual and Performing Arts said "Tony's dedication to his profession as a teacher of Drama is evidenced by the obvious enthusiasm and involvement of the students. His professional dedication emerges in the promotion of drama as an academic discipline in its own right."

More recently Mr Redmond has moved into teaching media studies and video production. His current research includes an investigation of current European Drama in Ireland, Germany and the former Czechoslovakia. He chose these regions because of the way in which drama reflects the social and political circumstances in those places.



Mr Anthony Redmond, Ms Rosemary Williams, ACU Counsellor, Mercy Campus and Mr Ted Exell, ACU Senator and Archdiocese of Melbourne Business Manager.



# of events

## East Timorese awareness week

Students at ACU's Mount Saint Mary Campus in Strathfield held an East Timorese Awareness Week beginning Monday, 21 September. Principal Events in the Week were:

- Photo Exhibition on East Timor in WW2
- A Barbecue and Band with guest speakers including Quentiliano Mok from Renitil (East Timorese student organisation) and Srs Susan and Joan from the Mary MacKillop Institute for East Timorese Studies.
- A Prayer Service led by Bishop David Cremin of Sydney, the Mailing of Petitions, and the drawing of raffle (funds raised went to East Timorese relief centres).

## US symposium

Associate Professor Pam Gibbons, Head of School of Arts and Sciences, Mount Saint Mary Campus, and Mr Robert Fitzgerald, Senior Lecturer, Department of Educational Foundations, Signadou Campus, presented papers at a symposium of the 24th International Congress of Applied Psychology in San Francisco in August.

Professor Gibbons and Mr Fitzgerald joined with fellow-researchers Dr Kathryn Crawford, University of Sydney, and Dr Susan Crichton, Ministry for Education, British Columbia, Canada, to present the symposium which was titled "The Dynamics of Cognition in the Design and Use of Virtual Learning Environments".

## Scholarships

Three postgraduate students in ACU's Certificate in Palliative Care course have won scholarships for Rural and Remote Nurses to support them in their studies.

Mary Nottle, from Dubbo district, Heather Seale from Gilgandra, and Barbara O'Brien from Gulargambone, are enrolled in the off-campus program for the course which is offered through MacKillop Campus. They attend lectures at Dubbo and Orange, in the State's west.

The scholarships have recently been announced by the Federal Government and are being administered by the Royal college of Nursing in Australia.



Professor Peter Sullivan, ACU, with members of the Taiwan Conference Committee.

## Taiwan conference

Associate Professor Sullivan, Head School of Education at Christ Campus, recently delivered two plenary addresses at the Taiwan Institute for Elementary Teacher Inservice Education Annual Conference.

The first dealt with teacher decision-making and the key role that teachers have in making active decisions.

Professor Sullivan's second talk was on alternative approaches to assessment, addressing the need to clarify the purpose of assessment while teaching.

Professor Sullivan also gave a seminar on open-ended questions at Kao Shiung Normal University, and addressed the National Mathematics Syllabus Committee.



Ms Bronwen Neil (above) was the recipient of a Commonwealth Scholarship in 1997-98 to undertake a Master of Arts in theological research degree at the University of Durham, England. The degree involved coursework in Patristics, a unit in research methodology, and a dissertation entitled *The Monothelite Controversy and its Christology*, under the supervision of Dr Andrew Louth. Ms Neil graduated from the course with the highest distinction, and will be returning to Durham for the Graduation Ceremony in December. She is currently completing a PhD at McAuley Campus on the Latin translation of Greek documents pertaining to the life of Maximus the Confessor, a seventh century Eastern church father.

## Concerns for environment

McAuley Campus student and Environmental Council student representative, Ms Amy Friend, attended a week-long environmental conference in Tasmania recently.

The conference, "Students and Sustainability", was attended by more than 600 people, including politicians, nuclear energy experts, naturopaths and students.

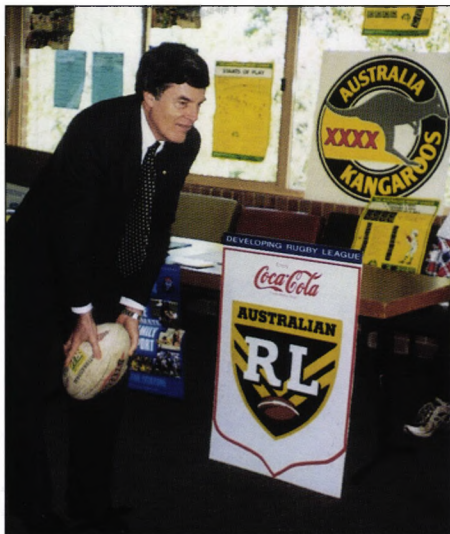
At the Conference Ms Friend bought books on behalf of the SRC, as well as pamphlets on all subjects concerning the environment.

Ms Friend also arranged a 'Greenday' at McAuley Campus on 24 September to allow concerned groups to share their knowledge and experience, and to create awareness of alternative choices and options in everyday situations.

## Art Exhibition

Selected works by Year Four Graduating Visual Arts students of Mount Saint Mary Campus, Strathfield, will be exhibited in the Christmas Show at the North Sydney Fine Art Gallery from 7-18 December. The display was preceded by a showing of the works in an exhibition at the Creative Arts Building at Strathfield from 18 November to 4 December.





*Professor Peter Sheehan, Vice-Chancellor, testing his skills at the Health Expo.*

## Health expo

Students and staff at MacKillop Campus joined together and participated in the University's first Health Expo on 16 September.

The Expo, "Stayin' Alive", was organised by third year Human Movement students under the direction of Ms Imke Fischer, Senior Lecturer, Head of the Department of Human Movement, and Dr Cindy Lee, Senior Lecturer, Department of Professional Nursing Development, as part of their assessment for the unit.

Students were required to establish an event management team and were responsible for all aspects of the expo.

Professor Peter Sheehan officially opened the Expo which included information booths, displays and activities on all aspects of health, physical activity and well-being.

Special guests at the Expo, who also participated in the day's activities, were Professor John Coll, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Professor Elizabeth Cameron-Traub, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, Sr Rosemary Lewins, Dean of Students, Mrs Elaine Boxer, Head, Schools of Nursing and Human Movement, Mr Joe Hockey MP for North Sydney, and Ms Justine Bennett, Coordinator CanTeen NSW.

The event attracted more than 1000 participants, including a group of secondary school students from Tempe and representatives from the Sydney Swans football team.

Major sponsors of the event were Beaurepaires at Brookvale, The Footy Shop at Chatswood, and McDonalds, Brookvale. The students raised more than \$1,500 from the Expo which was donated to the charity, CanTeen (Teenagers living with cancer).

## Careers day at ACU

Mount Saint Mary Campus hosted its inaugural Careers Advisers' Day on 31 July.

The event, which was initiated by the School of Arts and Sciences in conjunction with the Admissions Centre, attracted 40 career advisers from Catholic, government and independent secondary schools in the Sydney region.

The day provided advisers with the opportunity to become more familiar with the University, its courses, academic staff, facilities and enrichment programs.

Professor John Coll, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) delivered the Welcome Address outlining ACU's unique position within the tertiary sector and the advantages this offered students seeking a quality education within a tolerant and ethical environment.

Extensive displays, slide shows, Campus tours and ready access to course coordinators were included in the day's activities.

A luncheon was prepared by students of Food Technology under the guidance of their lecturer, Ms Louise Du Vernet. During the afternoon presentations by Associate Professor Pam Gibbons, Br Jude Butcher and Ms Elaine Boxer

focused on the theme "What's Good, What's New at ACU", highlighting the University's on-going development of new study programs in response to market-place demand.

The introduction in 1999 of the new combined course in Arts and Business and the launch of Communication studies within the Bachelor of Arts course were also outlined on the day.

## ACU Games

The 1998 ACU Games hosted by Christ Campus Student Union were held at Monash University in Melbourne from 31 July to 2 August. More than 80 students from all seven ACU campuses attended the Games.

An integral component of this year's Games was the commitment to Reconciliation towards Indigenous Australians. A local indigenous woman addressed the official guests, staff and students at the Opening Ceremony. Other activities during the event included a debating competition, comedy events and social activities in the evening.



*The ACU and Japan Samurais Australian Football teams at Oakleigh Football Ground.*

## Japan-ACU football game

A team of students from ACU defeated 22 members of the Japan Samurais Australian Football team in a special football game played at Oakleigh Football Ground, Melbourne, on 26 August.

The team which comprised students from a number of Japanese universities was in Melbourne to gain match experience, extend their training techniques and skills, and to watch some Australian Football League matches in Australia.

The game was organised by Mr Paul Callery, Lecturer in Human Movement, Christ Campus, with the assistance of ACU Human Movement students.

"The match was played in great spirits. After the game students hosted a barbecue and social evening for the Japanese team. We've made some excellent ties with Tokyo University and students adopted a good rapport with Japanese team members," said Mr Callery.

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## Scholarship winner



Professor Gabrielle McMullen, Rector Aquinas Campus, Ms Elizabeth Young, 1998 Dr Backhaus Scholarship recipient, and Most Reverend Noel Daly, Bishop of Sandhurst.

The Bishop of Sandhurst, the Most Reverend Noel Daly, presented the third Dr Backhaus Scholarship to Elizabeth Anne Young from Eaglehawk, near Bendigo, at Aquinas Campus on 4 August. The Dr Backhaus Scholarship is granted each year to an undergraduate student from the Diocese of Sandhurst enrolled at the University's Aquinas Campus. The criteria for determining the winner of the scholarship are a balanced combination of academic merit and community service.

The scholarship honours the memory of Dr Harry Backhaus, the first priest appointed to the Victorian goldfields. Soon after his appointment to the goldfields he settled in Bendigo, where he established churches and schools, and was active in the community.

Elizabeth Young is currently undertaking the final year of the Bachelor of Arts – Bachelor of Teaching combined course at the University, and is looking forward to a career as a primary school teacher, when she completes her studies.

## Theology units in Hong Kong

Lecturers in the Sub-Faculty of Theology from ACU campuses are involved in teaching units in the MA (Theology) in Hong Kong.

Twenty-one students from Hong Kong and Mainland China participate in intensive two-week units four evenings a week and on Saturdays at Francis Hsu College, Caritas, Hong Kong. The program allows students to complete their Master's course in two years.

In November students attended a unit presented by Dr Mary Coloe PBVM on *Johannine Literature*. In December a unit on *Sacramental Theology* will be presented by Dr Pat Fahey.

Reverend Dr Terry Curtin, Head of the School of Theology, will present a unit entitled *Theological Principles in the Interpretation of Scripture* in January, 1999.

In February Dr James McLaren will lecture in the unit entitled *Text and Context in Early Judaism*.

## Aquinas lecture

Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO, the Jesuit priest and lawyer who has worked extensively with and for Aboriginal peoples, delivered the eighth Annual Aquinas Lecture on 5 August in the Mulkearns Theatre.

In his lecture, *Whose Land? Amendments to the Native Title Act*, Fr Brennan addressed the issues of Mabo, Wik and the 10-point plan, including the three Senate debates of the 10-point plan. Extensive discussion followed his presentation.

While in Ballarat Fr Brennan also conducted a workshop for teachers on Native Title at Aquinas Campus and launched the new journal, *Interface: A Forum for Theology in the World*.

Fr Brennan has been a legal adviser to Aboriginal communities, an Aboriginal affairs consultant to the Australian Catholic Bishops and a writer on Aboriginal land rights.

The Aquinas Annual Lecture is an activity of the Aquinas Social Concerns Program, an initiative of Aquinas Campus.

## Orff Music at Mercy

In July more than 60 teachers and early childhood educators attended the Orff Music and Movement professional development courses at Mercy Campus.

ACU has established its reputation for expertise in the Orff approach to music education. Students at Mercy campus have worked with and studied this concept.

The Orff approach to music education matches current trends in curriculum development. It was developed by the German composer Carl Orff (1895 – 1982) for creative music education and includes the integration of music and dance, active listening to music, and a variety of artistic expressions such as vocal work, percussion instruments and movement. The Orff approach is child-centred and has become part of contemporary music education in many parts of the world.

Mr Christopher Maubach, Lecturer, Department of Humanities Education, Mercy Campus, has travelled to Taiwan and Hong Kong in the last two years to assist the implementation of this style of music education and plans further trips next year to these countries.

A Graduate Certificate and a Graduate Diploma course in Orff Music education have been developed at Mercy Campus.



Students at Mercy Campus participating in the Orff Music Education course in July.

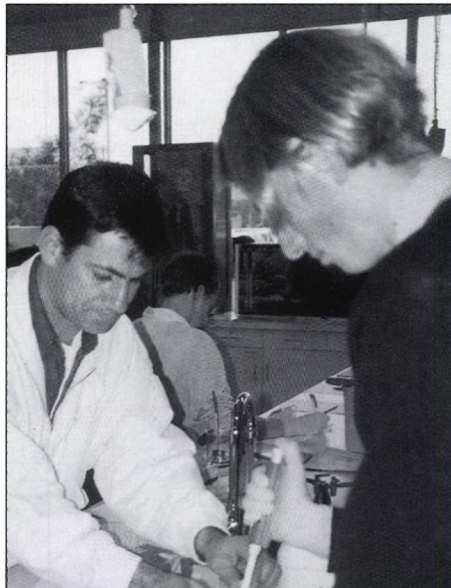


## AICHI women visit Sydney



Twenty-nine students from AICHI Women's College are spending 12 weeks at North Sydney (with ACUcom) brushing up their English and Business Skills. They are also studying computer skills and having a work experience with an Australian company. Above, some of the girls are demonstrating to the staff and students at Strathfield the Japanese art of flower arranging.

## Student workshop



Jose Viegas, ACU, with Ballarat High School student, Koe Davidson

Mr Blake Gordon, Senior Lecturer, Department of Mathematics, Science and Technology Education, Aquinas Campus conducted a three-day workshop for 200 local high school students, *Gel Electrophoresis - VCE Biology* for 200 local high school students at Aquinas Campus in June.

Each student received a promotion flyer for Open Day and the 1998 ACU Undergraduate Guide.

## Lecture cruises

Dr Norma Sullivan, Acting Head, School of Arts and Sciences in Victoria, and her husband, Dr John Sullivan, economist and political scientist, have been selected as public lecturers for The Smithsonian Associates lecture series abroad the Holland America Line cruise ship, Nieuw Amsterdam, for its Explorer cruises.

Lecture topics are chosen to reflect the cultural, political and economic history of the region visited on the cruise.

## Reunions

A reunion dinner for graduates of the 1988 Diploma of Teaching (Primary) course was held in the common room at Aquinas Campus in July.

The first graduates of the Diploma of Applied Science (Nursing) course at Mercy Campus held a 10 Year Reunion at Ardmillan House, Moonee Ponds, Melbourne, on 23 August.

## Correction

In the last issue of The Chronicle a story about SOCOG's launch for the Technology Specialist Volunteer program was wrongly reported to have been at Mount Saint Mary Campus on 20 May. The launch was held at MacKillop Campus.

# Roundup

## Christmas kits

Third and fourth year BEd students from McAuley Campus have assisted in preparing teacher's resource kits, *Christmas in the Classroom*, for use by Queensland schoolchildren

Reg Anderson of the Education Section of the Courier Mail, Brisbane's major daily newspaper, sought the help of the University to produce the Christmas kits. The newspaper produces a number of topical classroom kits during the year. These kits consist of feature pages in the paper as well as booklets of classroom activities and ideas for teaching at a particular time.

The ACU students designed and helped to prepare three booklets, a Christmas song booklet, a booklet of Christmas stories and an activity and craft booklet.

The writers were Theresa Sisalio, Majella Lynch-Harlow, Lee Ann King, Heidi Sayers and Lisa Gardener, and the colour cover designers were Anne Gole and Jodie Johnston.

## Delegation visit



ACU recently hosted a delegation from the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong in the Vice-Chancellery at North Sydney, which was organised by Mr Tony McKittrick, Director of International Education.

Professor John Coll, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Quality and Outreach) presented Professor Shao Jinrong, (right) Director, Department of Education, National People's Congress, People's Republic of China, with a memento of their visit. Looking on is Dr Tam Man Kwan, Chairman of the Examination Board, Hong Kong Examinations Authority (centre).