



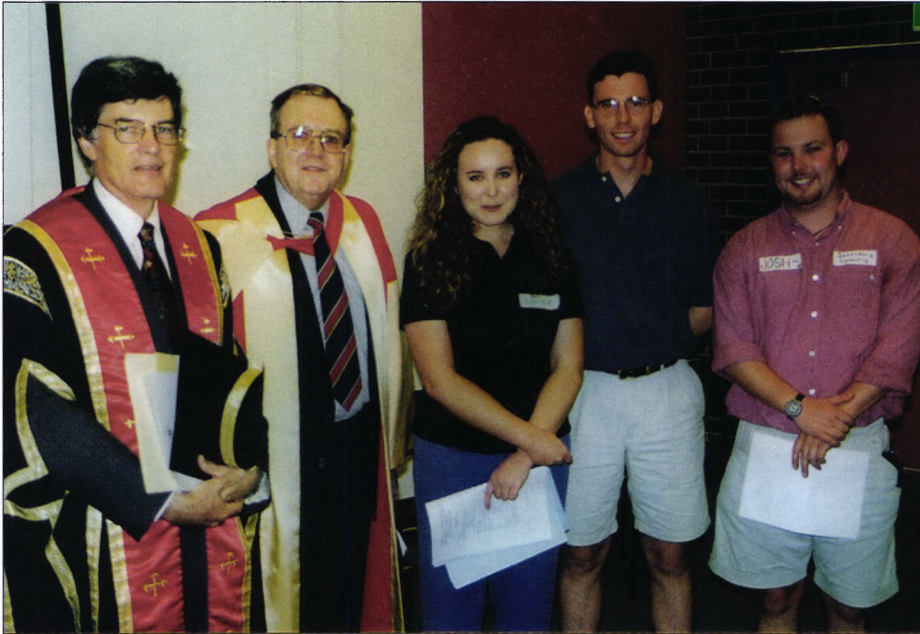
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

# The Chronicle

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## V-C Defines ACU Graduate



*New Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Sheehan (left) visited Mount Saint Mary Campus on 13 February to officially meet staff and academics. He is pictured with Professor John Coll, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), SRC Campus President, Louise Clare, SRC Campus Vice-President, Ben Walsh, and SRC Vice-President for students relocated from Castle Hill Campus, Justin True.*

Graduates from Australian Catholic University must be responsible, caring people who emerge from this stage of their life-long learning with an acute sense of the meaning of their values, the spirituality of their own existence, a respect for the spiritual and personal values of others, and an overwhelming appreciation of the importance of thinking and acting with professional integrity.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Sheehan, stated this in his Occasional Address at the graduation ceremony for Signadou Campus in Canberra on 27 March.

In his Address *What Defines a Catholic University?* Professor Sheehan focused on the attributes of ACU graduates and the principles of their education.

The Canberra graduation ceremony was the first attended by Professor Sheehan since he took up the post of Vice-Chancellor in succession to Professor Peter Drake on 1 February 1998.

Since then he has visited each campus and held discussions with staff.

The Pro-Chancellor, Br Julian

McDonald CFC, presented the awards at the Signadou graduation ceremony in Canberra's Llewellyn Hall.

Twenty graduates (eight with honours) received the degree of Bachelor of Social Work, 58 the degree of Bachelor of Education (Conversion - Primary) and one the degree of Bachelor of Teaching (Primary).

Two received MA degrees and five MEd degrees.

More than 50 received Graduate Certificates and Diplomas in Theological Studies, Religion Studies, and Religious Education.

In his Canberra Address Professor Sheehan listed the "general attributes" of an ACU graduate as

1. Appreciation of, and Thirst for, Curiosity-driven Knowledge
2. Critical and Analytical Capacity
3. Unfettered Freedom to Think and be Open-Minded
4. Ability to Listen and Hear Others
5. Verbal Fluency

Professor Sheehan said that these should be the attributes of graduates from

all universities. He then listed those principles or attributes which reflect a more particular Catholic emphasis. They are:

1. Catholic Vision
2. Sensitivity to Justice and Injustice
3. Willingness to Serve.

Finally he named two additional attributes of ACU education which should also pertain to all universities:

- (a) the need to inculcate the attributes of "Good Citizenship";
- (b) to offer the advantages of a "Liberal Education".

*Text of Professor Sheehan's Occasional Address is published on pages 7-10.*

## Support from Canberra CEO

The Catholic Education Office of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn has promised additional support to the Signadou Campus in Canberra.

The CEO Director, Mr Geoff Joy, has advised the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Sheehan, that the Office wishes to:

- 1 Pledge \$10,000 a year from 1998 to 2002 for the development of Signadou Campus facilities, particularly in support of Information Technology
- 2 Endow 10 scholarships to the total value of \$30,000 a year for 1998 to 2000, when the program would be reviewed. Winners would be 4th year students selected by a panel on academic performance, practice teaching results and financial need.
- 3 Develop jointly with ACU a Jubilee Year lecture series - \$5,000.
- 4 Develop jointly with ACU a Friends of Signadou Library payroll deduction scheme.
- 5 Investigate the possibility of Signadou offering a Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary).

Mr Joy said that in the past the CEO had supported Signadou through sponsorship of students in the Religious Education, Master of Educational Leadership and joint venture programs.

"The schools of this Archdiocese have been admirably served by Signadou," he said.

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# Ethical issues provide recurring

**Both a professional attraction towards and a personal concern with ethical issues have been recurring themes in the life and career of Professor Peter Sheehan, the new Vice-Chancellor of Australian Catholic University.**

Indeed they may well have been the ultimate influence in his decision to accept the ACU appointment.

Coming to ACU was "a very personal decision" for Professor Sheehan.

"I find myself challenged by the concept of a Catholic University. I am committed personally to the Catholic ethos," he said.

"It is not hard to be a good university and it is not hard to think Catholic but it is tremendously difficult to be a good Catholic university.

"I find myself wanting to join those two together and facing the challenge: can I use all my experience and knowledge to reinforce the impartiality and critical analysis of a university which at the same time is Catholic?"

"In the Address that is contained in this issue, there are many unanswered questions. Consider, for example, the question of what is the most appropriate way for Australian Catholic University to view its association with the Church. Should ACU be simply a 'reflection' of that association or at times be a 'commentator' on it? Given what I think I lean to the latter point of view. A truly great Catholic University is one where, at times, the Church should feel comfortable about its discomfort.

"In facing this challenge I find myself gravitating towards the importance of ethics.

## Community liaison

**"I see a Catholic university as having to play a very important role in looking at major problems in society, not only in a teaching sense, in a research sense, but in a community liaison sense.**

"This world is never going to be short of serious contemporary problems about which an ethical stance or a knowledge which incorporates ethics is a very important thing to profess."

Professor Sheehan said that much of his research had ethical connotations.

He was interested in hypnosis in the control of anti-social behaviour.

The issue on which he had just published a book with co-author Kevin McConkey revolved heavily around recovered memories involving, for example, memories of sexual abuse.

"The issue of recovered memory, the issue of censorship, the issue of anti-social behaviour represent a pattern in what I have gravitated to and been concerned with

in a teaching sense, in a research sense, and in a professional sense," he said.

"I have also researched in the area of the negative effects of watching violence.

"This is really an issue at the cutting edge of a major contemporary problem related to ethics. I find censorship is an ethical issue. It is a contemporary problem."

## Change and the ACU

**Professor Sheehan said that major change had faced the university system, especially since the era of the former Federal Minister for Education, Mr John Dawkins.**

"To some extent how you interpret change depends a lot on the context of the day," he said. "That, perhaps, sounds a dismissive way of talking but I think we haven't suddenly found change, it's been there for a long while.

"It's gone through different cycles. And part of what drives that change is the necessity for higher education institutions to adapt to the environment they find themselves in, to government policy, to government rhetoric, and to the pressures in the system to maintain factors like the student load in enrolments.

"There has been a polarisation between the sandstone eight and the rest and now the rest is split up into another group of medium research-intensive universities.

"I think the various institutions are still positioning themselves, particularly the sandstone eight.

"They have tended to polarise the rest of the universities faced with a threat that they will take all the resources.

"That scenario is still unfolding."

Professor Sheehan said that the issue raised the question of the position of Australian Catholic University.

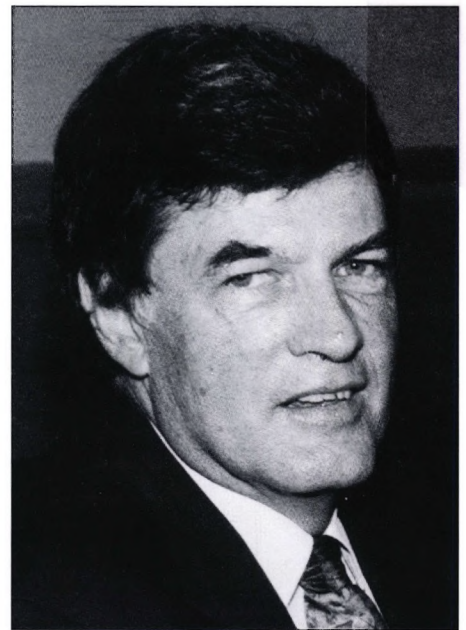
"ACU has to change but I think the nature of its change is likely to be a little different from the change that would typify most other universities.

"The change needed is not change to make ACU more competitive with the others but it is change that realises a distinctive niche that ACU has to offer.

"ACU has not only to find the niche which it can then sell, project, market, enthuse and stimulate but it has to develop its identity as a different kind of university."

Professor Sheehan said that ACU had a unique advantage in the change process because it had the mechanism to achieve change through its ideology of being a Catholic University.

"It has to use its mission to propel change not to be just competitive but to realise how best it can achieve being dif-



*Professor Peter Sheehan*

ferent using its mission" he said.

"ACU will never be one of Australia's top research universities. But there is excellent research in certain areas and this has to be recognised.

"However, ACU can be better performing in research than it is now and I hope that it will be so over time. I will do what I can to make it better performing in research as well as excellent in teaching.

"The critical thing is that there are strengths in what we teach and what we research. We must develop both sets of strengths.

"I would like to see in time that we are a university that in certain areas really does top class research and teaching.

## Caring institution

**"We have a reputation as a caring institution in teaching. I wouldn't want to lose that reputation in pursuing research in an exclusive way. But nevertheless I think we can improve in research as we find our distinctive strengths."**

Professor Sheehan said that he was attracted by the ideology of ACU as a Catholic university.

"Where I was before or at any other university the main concern would have to be how do we rank with other universities.

"At ACU that doesn't really worry me that much.

"With ACU the important thing is that we have a mission, a commitment. Do we realise it? Are we effectively practising it?"

"In saying that I nevertheless want ACU to rank well at what it is good at. The critical thing is how well it realises its mission.

# themes during career

This is what we came into existence for”.

Professor Sheehan said that he wanted to use all his experience to foster change.

“I do not want to underestimate the difficulty of changing this university.

“But I suspect that in five years time undoubtedly I will have changed this institution in some way. I can say that with confidence but I may not be able to say it in other settings and with other universities.

“I find that being in the position of a change agent in some sense is satisfying”.

## Farewell to active research

**Professor Sheehan said that he had accepted that he could no longer be as active in the kinds of research that he had conducted for many years.**

“Part and parcel of my being in this job is that I think I have accepted that this is inevitable.

“I will still maintain an interest and do things from time to time but my days of laboratory testing are over. It took time for me to come to that realisation.

“I was satisfied with what I did for research. I enjoyed it. And I hope I was a catalyst in improving other people’s performance.

“I find myself also very satisfied by my period on the Films Board of Review.

(Professor Sheehan was a member of the Commonwealth Cinematograph Films Board of Review from 1982 to 1987, Deputy Chair from 1983 to 1985 and Chair in 1986-87).

“I have a passion for movies back from my student days when I worked on a panel as part-time film critic for the Catholic Weekly. At that time, as a PhD student, I worked with the team reviewing movies. I liked that enormously.”

Professor Sheehan said that while he was no longer on the Films Review Board he was still a consultant on projects, such as assessing community reaction to censorship classification guidelines.

“This is the project in which the Government is concerned to get community reaction on movies to see whether or not the guidelines are appropriate,” he said. “It is an important task for Government to undertake.”

Professor Sheehan still maintains his professional interest in hypnosis.

“I did my PhD on a topic in which a facet was hypnosis.

“Hypnosis is really a study of consciousness and consciousness is a very key and critical concept in personality and cognitive function.

“The challenge of hypnotic research was to confront major issues in the disci-

pline of psychology around the concept of consciousness which attracted me.

“I also found that it had very heavy practical significance, particularly now in the sense that my field is looking at memory.

“The distortion of memory has immense practical implications forensically, particularly through the area of recovered memory.

“Very recently I published a book on forensic hypnosis with a colleague, and gave the Contemporary State of Art lecture on hypnosis research at the International Congress in Montreal.”

Professor Sheehan attributes a major influence in his study and research in hypnosis and all his work to a strong interest in methodology.

“I published a book on Methodologies of Hypnosis with Professor Cam Perry. It is a text which analyses different methodological approaches and which has broad relevance for the methodology of the Social Sciences in general. A second book with Professor McConkey picked up developing a methodology which looked at hypnotic consciousness, in particular.

“So in all my efforts at psychology, in my research and in a lot of my teaching there has been a consistent stream of analysing the tools of trade.

“Many of my publications are less about content areas than about ways of doing things – tools of trade, methods of analysis, and social science methodology.

“Inquiry into the reason why and the how is threaded through all my work.”

## Family of scholars

**Professor Sheehan’s wife, Mary, is the Professor of Social Science and Head of the School of Social Sciences at the Carseldine Campus of QUT in Brisbane. The decision to take up the Sydney appointment at ACU resulted from long discussions. “Both of us had to accept the decision”, Professor Sheehan said.**

They have two children – their son, Madoc, is studying for his PhD in Chemical Engineering at the University of Manchester and their daughter, Grania, is completing her PhD in Psychology at the University of Queensland while working at the Australian Institute of Family Studies in Melbourne.

Movies continue to provide his main source of enjoyment and relaxation.

“I couldn’t survive without going to the Cinema and thinking about what I see there. Maybe at the end of this job a book on movie criticism would appeal to me,” he added.

## Staff gain doctorates

The most recent members of the university’s academic staff to gain a PhD are Dr Ross Keating and Dr Maureen Walsh.

Dr Keating, Department of Religious Education, Mount Saint Mary Campus, was awarded a Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Sydney on 31 October, 1997. The title of his thesis is *The Life and Poetry of Francis Brabazon*.

Dr Keating met Brabazon in the seventies when he was living near Nambour, north of Brisbane. Brabazon had just returned from living in India for 10 years where he studied art and philosophy and wrote much of his poetry dealing with eastern themes.

From their meeting Dr Keating became interested in Brabazon as a religious and literary figure in Australia and started to investigate his writings and life as a matter of personal interest.

Later, in the early nineties, he decided to turn his personal interest into an academic one and he undertook the first critical investigation into the life and poetry of Francis Brabazon.

The award of Doctor of Philosophy was conferred on Doctor Walsh at a ceremony at the University of Sydney in February, 1998.

Doctor Walsh received her PhD from the Linguistics Department of the University of Sydney for her thesis which is entitled *An Investigation of the Beginning Reading Behaviour of Young Second Language Children Learning to Read in English*.

## Successful memoir

Professor Raimond Gaita of the University’s Institute of Advanced Research has had a great success in both critical and popular terms with his memoir of his childhood: *Romulus, My Father*.

The book has been one of the leaders in the non-fiction, best-seller list as well as attracting favourable comment by literary critics.

Media attention ranged wider than the literary pages with many social commentators writing on the book’s description of the relationship between his parents and their relationship with him.

*Romulus, My Father* by Raimond Gaita: Text Publishing, Melbourne.

# Singapore graduates in Theological Studies

Eighteen students graduated in Theological Studies from Australian Catholic University under the sponsorship of the Singapore Pastoral Institute at the Australian High Commission in Singapore on 20 February 1998.

The University awarded both Graduate Certificates and Diplomas in Arts (Theological Studies).

The joint venture between the two institutions came as a result of a request by the Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore for ACU to deliver its theological program in Singapore.

The Pro-Chancellor, Br Julian McDonald CFC, presided over the graduation ceremony and presented the awards.

Official guests included Fr Eugene Vaz, Director of the Singapore Pastoral Institute, Mr Murray McLean, Australian High Commissioner to Singapore, Mr Peter Amey, AUSTRADE Trade Commissioner, and Mr Bernard Chen, Chairman, Catholic Education Task Force.

The Occasional Address was prepared by the ACU Professor of Theology, Professor Francis Moloney SDB, who was delayed in Rome and unable to reach Singapore in time for the ceremony.

His address was read by Sr Margaret Hannan, Head, Department of Theology.

Professor Moloney told the graduates



*Australian High Commissioner to Singapore, Mr Murray McLean, and the Pro-Chancellor, Br Julian McDonald.*

that there had always been the need for a theological process within the Christian tradition, and the great theologians had always been risk-takers.

"The process of reflecting upon the Christian mystery is as old as Jesus of Nazareth and the first Christians," he said.

The process was becoming increasingly difficult.

"The contemporary world is becoming more and more complex and, unfortunately, the Christian community is becoming more polarised."

It was no longer enough to explain actions and beliefs by saying that was the way we had always thought and acted.

"In a world which no longer takes anything for granted, we need to think about 'why' we do things, say things, and believe things," he said.

"Theology is – at its heart – a reflective process which moves between two difficult worlds: the wonderful world of the great tradition which comes to us from the past, and the challenging world of the present."

## Bust of McAuley founder



*Richard Christ, nephew of Sr Mary Julius, and Dimity Dornan, niece of Sr Mary Julius, and her husband, Peter who sculpted the bust.*

The family of Sr Mary Julius RSM, first Principal of McAuley College, the predecessor of McAuley Campus, has presented a bust of Sr Mary Julius to the University's Brisbane campus.

During her 22 years of leadership, Sr Mary Julius witnessed and guided many changes to the institution's name, its courses, its constituency and finally its location.

One of her most notable changes was

the transition from solely teacher education to nurse education as well.

In 1994 the ACU Alumni Association - McAuley Chapter honoured her memory with the introduction of the annual Sr Mary Julius Oration.

This was associated in 1995 with the Sr Mary Julius Award for Christian Leadership and an Outstanding Contribution to the University.

The presentation of the bronze bust was made during the 1997 Oration and Award Ceremony in November.

The bust is the work of Brisbane sculptor, Peter Dornan whose wife, Dimity, is a niece of Sr Mary Julius.

The Oration was delivered by the ATSIC Course Coordinator for Health Education and Training, Ms Cheryl Moggs who was introduced by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Quality & Outreach), Professor Muredach Dynan.

A prominent member of the local Murri community, she spoke on Indigenous Health and Education - A Personal Perspective.

The Sr Mary Julius Award was presented to Debra Blakey.

Debra Blakey is a former member of the McAuley Campus SRC Executive and in 1997 was the representative on ACUNSA (ACU National Students' Association). She was noted for taking academic, social and welfare-related issues to the students rather than playing a passive or reactive role.

Academic Excellence Awards were also presented to Fiona Lloyd (Arts and Sciences); Simon Rawstron (Business, sponsored by the Australian Institute of Management); Tracey Pease (Education); and Weisa King (Health Sciences).

# International exchanges

Australian Catholic University has received funding of more than \$50,000 for two international student exchange projects from the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA), the ACU International Education Office has announced.

The projects are with Hijiya University in Japan and St Norbert College in the United States.

The grants, which provide for 12 months funding, are made under the University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific Program (UMAP), the first received by ACU under the Program.

The project with Hijiya University, which is near Hiroshima, involves developing a long-term, two-way student exchange program leading to the mutual recognition of studies between ACU and Hijiya.

Staff exchanges and collaboration in research are also expected to follow.

Under the UMAP funding of \$25,230, seven ACU students and one academic staff member will receive subsidies to visit Hijiya in 1998-99.

The project with St Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin, is also designed to create a long-term student exchange program.

It links ACU's Habilitation courses with St Norbert's Adaptive Education courses.

Within its Faculty of Education ACU offers the Diploma in Education (Habilitation) and the Bachelor of Education (Habilitation).

Habilitation refers to the process of enabling people with disabilities to develop skills and participate fully in the community.

Five ACU students and one member of staff will be subsidised for \$25,500 under the UMAP project to travel to De Pere, Wisconsin, in 1998-99.

In the longer term the project with St Norbert College will provide the opportunity for the dissemination of information regarding people with disabilities as well as on new trends, developments and US legislation.

Matching groups of students from Hijiya and St Norbert will be studying at ACU campuses in 1998-99.

Hijiya University currently has two Departments – the Department of Languages and Culture focusing on Japanese and English and the Department of Communication – within a Faculty of Contemporary Culture.



*Cardinal Edward Clancy blesses La Salle House assisted by Mr Mark Leary.*

## New building at MacKillop

A special ceremony to commemorate the opening of Australian Catholic University's La Salle House was held at North Sydney on 22 January.

La Salle House is conveniently located in Berry Street, directly opposite the Vice-Chancellery and the University's MacKillop Campus.

The Chancellor, Cardinal Edward Clancy, led the prayers of dedication and blessed the building. The University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Professor John Coll, welcomed guests to the ceremony and introduced the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Drake, and Br Colin Griffin FSC, Auxiliary Provincial, De La Salle Brothers.

Professor Drake said the dedication of the building as La Salle House was a fitting recognition of the significant contribution made to Australian Catholic University and its predecessor institutions by the De La Salle Brothers.

From the De La Salle Training College, Castle Hill, the De La Salle Brothers, through amalgamation, have had an involvement in Catholic College of Education, Polding College, Catholic College of Education Sydney, and presently, Australian Catholic University.

The University community has valued the ongoing support of the Brothers who, through their commitment to education, have helped to establish and strengthen the University.

The ceremony was one of Professor Drake's last official duties as Vice-Chancellor of the University before he retired at the end of January.

The building was acquired by the University in August 1997 and has undergone refurbishment on all three levels to house the University's International Office, ELICOS, and Business Information Systems staff.

In April 1998, Hijiya Women's Junior College with its three Departments – Early Childhood, Human Life Studies and Fine Arts – will be integrated into the University.

ACU already has links with Hijiya University. In 1996, the Professor of Linguistics in the Hijiya Department of Communication, Professor Susumu Sam Nagara, visited Mount Saint Mary Campus in Strathfield, where he gave lectures on Japanese grammar to students and public lectures on Japanese language and culture.

St Norbert College which is ranked third among liberal arts colleges in the Midwest, offers Bachelor Degrees in Arts, Business Administration, Music and Science. It also has programs in Adaptive Education and Theological Studies.

Applications will be competitive by inviting students to present a written submission on why the exchange would benefit them.

Appointments to the Japan program will not be restricted to students studying Japanese at ACU.

# Teaching unit uses the Internet and CD-ROM



Master of Education students enrolled in the Flexible Delivery units participate in the first videoconference at the Sydney site. Pictured with the students, at back from left are Associate Professor Jude Butcher, Associate Head of Department of Leadership, Adult and Community Education, Mr Des Matejka and Dr Martin Maguire, Department of Mathematics, Science and Technology.

The University's Faculty of Education has embarked on a new method of teaching in its Master of Education courses.

Known as Flexible Delivery, students use information technology to study and complete work for the courses. There is no face-to-face teaching. All learning material is available using the Internet with the support of background material on CD-ROM.

Mr Des Matejka and Dr Martin Maguire from the Department of Mathematics, Science and Technology, at Mount Saint Mary Campus, coordinated, designed and set up the program after they were successful in obtaining a small teaching grant. A survey had shown the great need for such a project where 60 percent of prospective students wished to study Information Technology units at master's level in off-campus mode. Mr Matejka and Dr Martin developed the project which allows for interactive, flexible teaching and learning resources to be delivered to the students using a World Wide Web site and CD-ROM.

"This flexible delivery initiative is a

first for the University. With the program students can be anywhere in Australia and complete the course, even overseas", said Mr Matejka.

Equipment and resources for the new venture have been provided by the Faculty of Education, together with support from Professor Muredach Dynan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Quality and Outreach).

Currently 12 students from areas including Whyalla and Adelaide in South Australia, Sydney, Canberra, and Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour on the New South Wales north coast, are studying the units.

The courses available using the Flexible Delivery method are MEd (Curriculum), MEd (Leadership), MEd (Religion) and Adult and Community Education. Flexible Delivery allows students to complete these units off-campus. All that is required is a computer with CD-ROM, access to the Internet and an Internet Service provider. All computer and internet facilities are provided for students wanting to study the units on campus.

Students are able to converse and discuss issues through e-mail, teleconferencing and videoconferencing.

The first videoconference, arranged by Mr Bruce Sugars, Senior Technology Officer, Information and Communication Services at McAuley Campus, was held on 23 February with seven sites participating. The Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Michael Doyle, participated in the videoconference from Mercy Campus.

The units in the program are being delivered by Mr Matejka and Dr Maguire, who constantly update information on the Web site for the unit.

"The program allows students to take more control of their learning. Study times are flexible, but a series of deadlines are set along the way. Students will benefit from the knowledge and skills gained from the units while engaging in an exciting and challenging learning process in a 'cyber university'," said Dr Martin.

## Japanese students

ACUcom in Melbourne hosted two visits by Japanese students in March, reports Ms Dora Agalianos, ACUcom Administrative Assistant.

The students came from Wakayama Shin'Ai Junior Women's College and Aichi Junior College.

The Wakayama party of 15 girls stayed for 18 days and had English tuition at Mercy Campus as well as city and country excursions.

Japanese students made up the majority of the 19 ELICOS students at Mercy Campus in February/March. Other students were from Taiwan, Thailand, Korea and China.

## Visual ecology book launched

Visual Ecology, the twelfth volume in Br Peter McCracken's diagram series for teachers, was launched by Dr Noel de Souza at Mount Saint Mary Campus on 25 November 1997.

Br McCracken CFC has presented more than one hundred copyright free verbal and symbolic summaries in the book covering Earth, Justice, People and Poverty.

The book is designed for upper primary and lower secondary classes. It is distributed in Australia by Carrick Family Bookshop, Redfern, and will be published internationally by Claretian Communications this year.



Br Peter McCracken CFC.

## Surgical photos

An exhibition featuring photographs of cleft-lip and palate surgery performed by the Queensland Helping Children Smile team in the Philippines in 1997 was held at McAuley Campus in November.

The exhibition was organised by Mrs Toni Fomiatti, a Cooloolool Institute of TAFE student and anaesthetic technician.

"The aim of the exhibition is to promote a life-changing procedure, that allows a Filipino child a chance to seek a normal and active life", said Mrs Fomiatti.

The 'Helping Children Smile' team is a voluntary organisation based on the Sunshine Coast which aims to provide reconstructive surgery to Filipino children without any cost to the recipient or family.

# What defines a Catholic university?

Peter W. Sheehan AO, Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor of Australian Catholic University, Professor Peter W Sheehan, delivered the Occasional Address at the Graduation Ceremony of Signadou Campus in Canberra on 27 March 1998. The title of the Address was "What defines a Catholic university". Following is the text of the address.

## *Australian Catholic University*

The idea of a Catholic university can be well-argued and rationally defended. Following its stated Mission (1994), Australian Catholic University (ACU) "is committed to foster and promote teaching, research and scholarship in its widest and richest sense in accordance with Christian principles and traditions. As a Catholic institution it establishes its corporate identity through the profession and study of Catholic faith, tradition and doctrine" (p.1).

ACU's Mission in turn echoes the apostolic constitution *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* of John Paul II on Catholic Universities which asserts that "Every Catholic university, as a university, is an academic community which, in a rigorous and critical fashion, assists in the protection and advancement of human dignity and of a cultural heritage through research, teaching and various services offered to the local, national and international communities" (p.13). The constitution additionally states (p.13) that the objective of a Catholic university is to assure in an institutional manner a Christian presence in the university world confronting the great problems of society and culture"... In a Catholic university... Catholic ideals, attitudes and principles penetrate and inform university activities in accordance with the proper nature and autonomy of these activities" (p.14). To satisfy these ideals, Catholicism must be visibly present and operative.

On this occasion, I would like to examine the essential characteristics of a university which defines itself as Catholic. It helps me to focus on the criteria debated in the special Notre Dame text, edited by Theodore M. Hesburgh (1994), titled *The Challenge and Promise of a Catholic University*. I will aim to divide criteria discussed there (see McCormick, 1994) into those which reflect general university principles and those which seem more specific to a Catholic university such as ACU. In doing so, I want to rephrase a number of the principles themselves, add two more of my own, and attempt to use them to forge a vision for this University's future.

Let me look at the general principles first. Regardless of this University being a Catholic institution, the principles represent important ideals for any university and are perfectly compatible with a Catholic institution.

In discussion of them, I am particularly conscious of the importance and relevance of the position that a truly great Catholic university should be evaluated by its product. If that product is regularly or consistently deficient or inadequate, then the university itself cannot lay claim to be termed a great Catholic institution.

“ ... a truly great Catholic university should be evaluated by its product ”

As a test of the quality of ACU's product, debate might usefully focus on the attributes of our graduates. What would their attributes be, and what are the principles that our students' education express? I plan to order these attributes hierarchically in a way that reflects what I think are the most important principles for this University to endorse educationally. All, though, are important.

## **General Attributes**

### *1. Appreciation of, and Thirst for, Curiosity-driven Knowledge*

A truly great university must always nourish, facilitate and deepen an inquisi-

tive and searching mind. Our graduates should leave this institution with a feeling of genuine pleasure in the learning process, but also be aware that learning-in-life is never complete and that their curiosity should continue for the rest of their lives.

### *2. Critical and Analytical Capacity*

This is an essential attribute of a university education. Our graduates must be trained and able to think reflectively and analytically on multiple concepts and problems; and they must be able to formulate a coherent rationale for their chosen position. The inculcation of a critical capacity is an essential ingredient of the learning process, of supervision, of teaching, and of the research endeavour. In an institution like ACU that critical capacity is honed in a context that is associated integrally with human and spiritual values.

### *3. Unfettered Freedom to Think and be Open-Minded*

It is important in the education we offer to foster open-mindedness among our students. In McCormick's terms, open-mindedness is not simply mere posture. Nor does it reflect lack of conviction. It "combines a respect for others with a respect for complexity" (p.170). That same complexity has its foundations in a firm knowledge of history and tradition and of one's own personal limitations. The enemy of this attribute is uncritical persistence and narrow-minded insistence on single orientations. It is impossible for universities to pursue truth while being closed-minded. Scholarly differences in the university setting are only reconciled appropriately by energetic exchanges of ideas by open-minded people. If this doesn't occur, our university, as any university like it, would be defective.



Three new Signadou Bachelors of Education (Conversion-Primary),  
Fiona Kildea, Jillian Smith and Jenni Stewart.

# What defines a C

## 4. Ability to Listen and Hear Others

Expressing again concern for an education that reflects the processes of life-long learning, the ability to listen is a primary attribute our graduates must have. Good listening is threatened most by coercion, authoritarianism and forced assent. Defensiveness has no place in a university. Being competent in what we hear, know and understand must be communicated in a professionally courteous but assertive way. Staff and students in this University, all scholars within it, should be icons of good listening. The University will have failed if it sends out its graduates with a desire to stop learning, to listen selectively, and think uncritically.

## 5. Verbal Fluency

No education is adequate unless the products of it, our graduates, can communicate well. It has been said wisely that "language is at the very heart of civility... (and)... is a sign of our attitudes and thoughts" (McCormick, 1994, p.170). Employers won't know the value of the skills that we have inculcated in our students unless our graduates communicate what we have taught them and demonstrate their ability in the spoken and written word.

“ ... principles or attributes which reflect a more particular Catholic emphasis ”

I turn now to single out those principles or attributes which reflect a more particular Catholic emphasis. Not surprisingly, they are fewer (not more) in number than those I have mentioned and except for the first of them, would all be candidates for inclusion on a list of reasonable attributes of any university graduate.

## 1. Catholic Vision

I put at the top of my list the necessity for ACU to project a Catholic Vision. Both staff and students should be exposed to a Catholic culture personally and deeply enough that their attitudes, habits and values in some way are affected by it. If our educational process adequately reflects this vision, our graduates should relate easily to the Catholic ethos. Staff (except with rare exceptions) should not be people who formally label themselves as Catholic, but they must be sufficiently comfortable with Catholic culture to function as potential mediators of that vision. A sense of the sacredness and spirituality of the vision should be widely understood and infiltrate the educational process and the environment in which our students study.

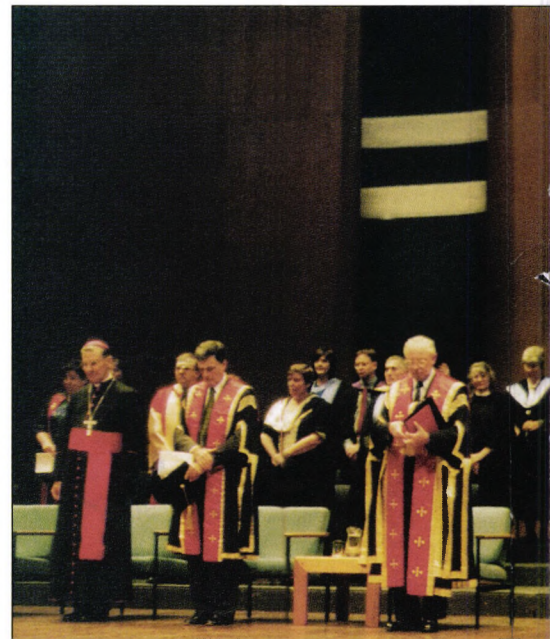
## 2. Sensitivity to Justice and Injustice

I think Catholic universities (and one might even repeat, universities in general) need to train students to be sensitive to both justice and injustice. We cannot practice the statements of the Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities without doing so. This Constitution asserts that universities should study "serious contemporary problems in areas such as the dignity of human life, the promotion of justice for all, the quality of personal and family life, the protection of nature, the search for peace and political stability, a more just sharing in the world's resources, and a new economic and political order that will better serve the human community at a national and international level" (John Paul, 1990, p.22). The document, *Gaudium et Spes* (1966), urges us further to be "certain of the more urgent contemporary problems which worry the human race" (p. 47), and Joseph Cardinal Bernardin admonishes us to be seriously concerned about what he calls "the consistent ethic of life" - a principle which rests significantly on all those who attempt to govern our universities.

Acting out the Mission of this University means to me that we must act in accord with our commitment. It is inevitable that we teach the values and principles of justice. Graduates who are sensitised to these values must be highly responsible citizens in a world which is increasingly challenged ethically.

## 3. Willingness to Serve.

The last of these attributes, before I add two more, is that of willingness to serve. It must be regarded as a special attribute of ACU's graduates. The University has responsibilities to the Catholic community and those beyond it, and it must be willing



Opening of Graduation Cer



Graduates await pre



Roger O'Donnell receives from the Pro-Chancellor, Br Julian McDonald, his award as Master of Arts (Theological Studies).



The President of the Senate, Senator Margaret Reid (centre), at Rector, Associate Professor Timothy O'Hearn and Mrs O'Hear

# Catholic university?



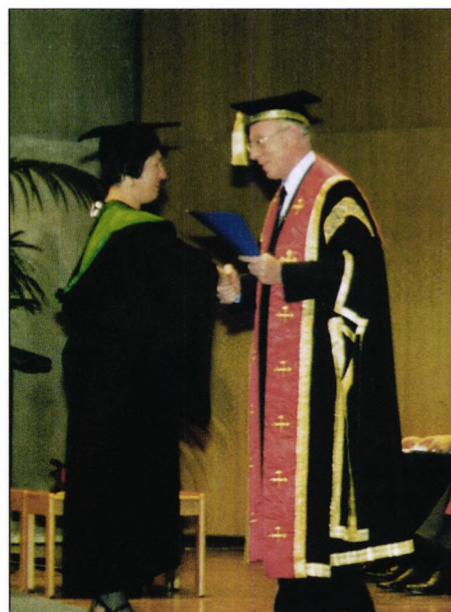
mony at Signadou Campus.



entation of awards.



the reception after the graduation ceremony with the Signadou t.



The Pro-Chancellor, Br Julian McDonald, presents the award of Master of Education (Teaching and Learning) to Therese Vassarotti.

to speak out in an informed way to help communities solve or reflect upon issues of contemporary ethical concern and serious contemporary social problems. This University has massive competence and expertise resting within its organisational structure, and it should use them. It is not just communication that is at issue here, however. We should be generous of spirit and seek the opportunities to help others in many ways: "by education, by defending rights, by relieving suffering, (and) by affecting public policy" (McCormick, 1994, p.173).

## Additional Attributes

The two additional attributes I would add to my list, again not surprisingly, are ones which pertain to ACU and all universities, Catholic or not. These are: (a) the need to inculcate the attributes of "Good Citizenship"; and (b) to offer the advantages of a "Liberal Education". Graduates from Australian Catholic University must be responsible, caring people who emerge from this stage of their life-long learning with an acute sense of the meaning of their values, the spirituality of their own existence, a respect for the spiritual and personal values of others, and an overwhelming appreciation of the importance of thinking and acting with professional integrity.

It is particularly hard to achieve these goals in any narrow or single-minded way. The educational process itself must be necessarily broad-ranging to achieve such goals, and it is perforce liberal in its orientation.

## The way ahead

As Meara (1994) has argued, creating, maintaining and developing a great Catholic university is a process that is never complete. In the midst of all the ambiguities "we try to create threads of coherence and meaning in the context of current realities" (p.200).

There are specific goals universities should pursue. They must energetically pursue excellence. If excellence can't be achieved, ACU will never be a true university.

Australian Catholic University must improve its research performance, because research as well as teaching is an important, essential feature of any quality university.

Australian Catholic University must isolate distinctive strengths in its teaching, research and community service. New initiatives (such as targeted Centres) need to be pursued, to help understand, distinguish and assess its strengths. If ACU is realizing its Mission effectively, these strengths will earmark a different kind of profile for the University, relative to other tertiary institutions in Australia.

Australian Catholic University must teach and research in a technologically sophisticated environment in which technology complements meaningful, scholarly pursuit.

“ ... strive energetically to form a cohesive intellectual environment ... ”

For Australian Catholic University there are necessary tensions between its regional and national responsibilities. It should nevertheless strive energetically to form a cohesive intellectual environment that infuses the spirit of its Mission across all its campuses.

Australian Catholic University needs to expand its international vision and take pains to reflect excellence in international scholarship. It must position itself to be a part of a respected international Catholic network.

Finally, ACU, in particular, needs to be vibrant in its projection of its Catholicity and reject any ambiguity about its Catholic identity. In doing so, however, the ideology or underlying rhetoric that it communicates must be inspirational, not coercive, authoritarian, restrictive or polemical.

There are many issues which are relevant to this talk and which I have not addressed and attention to them must

# What defines a Catholic university?

await another occasion. Let me mention only some of the more vexatious questions that require answering. What is the best way to realise the principle of academic freedom within a context of commitment to a particular set of values and attitudes? What is the most appropriate way for Australian Catholic University to view its association with the Church? What are the necessary disciplines that ACU should incorporate into its domains of study, and how best can (or should) it define its responsibility to pursue certain disciplines consistent with the study of Catholic intellectual and artistic traditions? And what of its special responsibility in a pluralistic society such as ours to study religious values in a genuinely ecumenical sense?

Is all this achievable? I hope so, but there will be problems and many challenges along the way to proper solutions. The problems and challenges will not be easily solved and met, and will require time.

Let me conclude by drawing on two quotes. The first is by Mary Tillman, writing recently. The second is by Cardinal Newman who preached to his audience in a university church in Dublin on the feast of St Monica in 1856. For me, both quotes express a truth that needs communicating. Attitudes expressed by them pointedly and poetically reflect the principles I have tried to articulate in this address.

"I should like for a Catholic university to be as unapologetically Catholic as it is warmly ecumenical; as proudly intellectual as it is caring and compassionate; as concerned with the individual and communal life of the mind as it is with publications; as valuing of inference, imagination, and assent as ways to God, as of social justice; as committed to liberal education as it is to professional education; as eager in the pursuit of truth and of Catholic culture in the arts as it is of moral goodness; as steady in its own convictions and traditions as it is appreciative of diversity; as humbled and gratified by the spiritual work of mercy that is rendered in instructing the ignorant as by the corporal mercy performed in sheltering the homeless. The noble activity of cultivating the life of the mind is the first, though not the only, profession and praxis of a Catholic university; that very cultivation is its first and best service to the church, the academy, and the world" (Tillman, 1994, p.351).

"I wish the intellect to range with the utmost freedom, and religion to enjoy an equal freedom; but what I am stipulating

for is, that they should be found in one and the same place, and exemplified in the same persons... I wish the same spots and the same individuals to be at once oracles of philosophy and shrines of devotion. It will not satisfy me, what satisfies so many, to have two independent systems, intellectual and religious, going at once side by side, by a sort of division of labour, and only accidentally brought together. It will not satisfy me, if religion is here, and science there, and (students) converse with

science all day, and lodge with religion in the evening.

I want the same roof to contain both the intellectual and moral discipline. Devotion is not a sort of finish given to the sciences; nor is science a sort of feather in the cap, if I may so express myself, an ornament and set-off to devotion. I want the intellectual layman to be religious, and the devout ecclesiastic to be intellectual." (Newman, cited by Tillman, 1994, from a 1976 edition).

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## Honours for student

Fourth year Bachelor of Education student at Signadou, Theresa Ardler, with the Bishop of Wollongong, Bishop Philip Wilson, at the March launch of the Aboriginal Education Policy for the Wollongong Diocese. An artist, Theresa designed the cover for the publication. She also is the recipient of one of the 1998 Young Australian of the Year Awards for her contribution through her painting and presentations to greater community understanding of aboriginal culture.



# Students' poems Health and aged care program

A book of poems by nursing students at Mercy Campus is being edited by Mrs Jan Bokor, a former staff member of the Department of Nursing Practice. The poems were submitted by students as assessment items for the Bachelor of Nursing unit, Images in Nursing, which was taught by Mrs Bokor before her recent retirement.

The Australian Nursing Federation has given a grant to publish the collection.

The Head of Department, Professional Nursing Practice, Mrs Maria Miller, said:

"We are indeed fortunate to have the assistance of talented and committed people to assist in this publication. Mrs Bokor is donating her time and expertise together with Professor Philip Darbyshire, Ms Bernadette Curtin and Dr Andrew Enstice".

Professor Darbyshire has published extensively on the subject of nursing humanities and is recognised internationally for his work in this field. Art, poetry and prose are used to explore human conditions in nursing humanities.

Ms Curtin is the artist responsible for the three large murals that hang in the corridors of Mercy Campus. One of those paintings is to be used as a front cover for the book and she is also doing 10 illustrations of selected poems.

Dr Enstice, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Humanities at Christ and Mercy campuses, has agreed to assist in the editing of the poems. He has lectured the nurses about poetry writing since the unit commenced in 1993.

The book is planned to be launched on International Nurses Day on 8 May 1998.

## '98 Conference

The theme for the 1998 Religion, Literature and the Arts conference, to be held at Mount Saint Mary Campus and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, May 29 to 31 is *The Spirit of Place: Source of the Sacred?*

The conference is jointly organised by Australian Catholic University and the University of Sydney.

A key component of the 1998 Conference is the contribution of Aboriginal culture in all its forms: writing, music and dance. A Forum on Aboriginal Perspective on Land in Sacred Space is a key event at the conference.

The Conference program has been designed to capitalise on the Museum of Contemporary Arts facilities and patrons and includes strong visual arts and performance components.

Associate Professor Michael Griffith may be contacted at Mount Saint Mary Campus on (02)9739 2192 for conference details.



*Professor Patrick Duignan and Mr Frances Sullivan, Executive Director, Australian Health Care Association. Photo courtesy of The Catholic Weekly.*

Australian Catholic University has launched a new national leadership program to address the needs of health and aged-care professionals holding positions of responsibility.

The program, called Educare 2000, has a distinctive Catholic philosophy and emphasises the centrality of values, ethics and spirituality for leaders of Catholic health and aged care organisations.

Educare 2000 is sponsored by the Australian Catholic Health Care Association. The program was launched to address the many changes caused by political, sociological and professional pressures in the health care industry.

"The program will focus on developing and enhancing a Catholic identity and creating a greater sense of spirituality in the workplace", said Professor Patrick Duignan, Foundation Professor of Educational Leadership. "It will focus on the need to establish networks within and across institutions to ensure coherent policy development and strategic alliance for joint initiatives".

Educare 2000 will challenge participants to confront social, ethical and spiritual issues of leadership and develop responses relevant to the needs of health and aged care in the next century.

Based on Christian values of service and stewardship the program will stress the principles of consultation, collaboration, creativity and inclusiveness. Educare 2000 has a heavy emphasis on workplace practice and experimental learning ensuring an improvement in patient outcome and providing leaders with support, partic-

ularly ethical and moral support.

Educare 2000 is not an academic program and does not deal with the theories of leadership and management.

It is a program for senior executives in Catholic health and aged care and will address the need for people who manage and lead Catholic health care organisations to have a good sense of the Catholic ethos.

"Educare 2000 will create high-performance teams, working together through the complexities of modern-day health care", said Dr Lyn Coulon, program manager.

"To ensure we gained a thorough background in needs for the Catholic ethos of health and aged care, we consulted Catholic congregational leaders, leaders of religious institutes and Catholic health care and aged-care organisations."

The Program consists of two phases: a core set of three modules and an advanced set of two modules. Graduates from the Core Module receive the Educare 2000 Certificate of Leadership in Health and Aged Care and those from the optional Advanced phase, the Advanced Certificate of Leadership in Health and Aged Care.

All three core modules will have problem-based practical sessions conducted by Dr Coulon in Sydney, Mrs Linda Hocking in Melbourne and Associate Professor Elizabeth Davies in Brisbane.

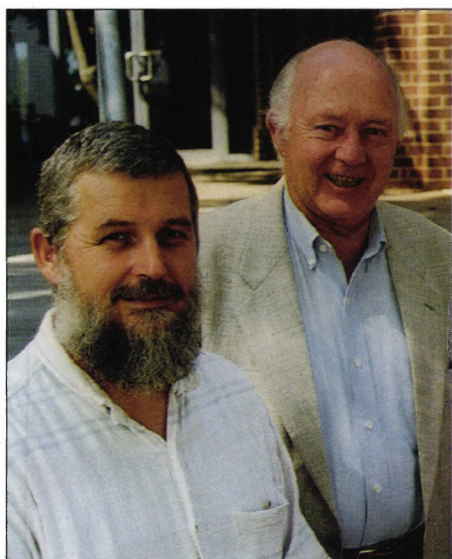
For further information and brochures on the Program contact Ms Carol Prasad at Mount Saint Mary Campus on phone (02) 9739 2167, fax (02) 9739 2292 or Email: C.Prasad@mary.acu.edu.au.

## Centre for Religion, Literature and the Arts

A Centre for Studies in Religion, Literature and the Arts to explore the relationship between religion and culture, especially to literature, the arts and cinema, has been established at Australian Catholic University.

"The Centre will function within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and will provide interdisciplinary studies for both undergraduate and postgraduate work", said Associate Professor Michael Griffith, Department of Literature and Language, Mount Saint Mary Campus.

Professor Griffith and Dr James Tulip, Visiting Research Fellow (below), have worked together to establish the Centre, which will develop the interrelationship between the three disciplines, examining the way religious expression is presented in both art and literature.



"The success of our four international conferences on Religion, Literature and the Arts, the first held in 1994, indicated the need for the establishment of such a Centre," said Professor Griffith.

"The networking and liaising with conference speakers and with cosponsoring organisations, such as the Museum of Contemporary Art, has ensured the Religion, Literature and the Arts work is now known nationally and internationally for its work.

"Australian Catholic University seemed to be the ideal institution to establish the Centre. Its Mission Statement is committed to exploring the relations, academic and experiential, between the liberal arts and religious practice.

## New Master of Psychology Degree



*Some of the students undertaking the new Master of Psychology (Child and Family Stream) degree, with Lecturer in the Research Technology unit, Bob Paddle.*

The University is offering in 1998 at Christ Campus in Melbourne its first program for the degree of Master of Psychology.

The course is designed for those graduates in psychology who are interested in working in the field of educational and developmental psychology, and will have an emphasis on "the Child and the Family".

It aims to prepare graduates with ethical values, advanced knowledge and professional skills, integrated by means of the scientist-practitioner model.

Graduates will be prepared for work as practitioner psychologists but also will be skilled as researchers.

Associate Professor Michael McKay, Head, Department of Psychology, said that the new program was an important development for the Department to maintain the capacity to offer programs accredited by the Australian Psychological Society.

"This is critically important", Dr McKay said. "Students who graduate from courses which are not accredited by the Society have no professional status and cannot obtain employment as psychologists.

"The course is a two-year, full-time coursework program, which makes it resource intensive.

"It is double the time commitment of other coursework master's programs in the University, as required by the Australian Psychological Society."

The Course Coordinator, Dr Marie Lawson, said that the course had commenced with 15 enrolments.

"There has been high interest," she said. "About half of the enrolments have come from our own undergraduate program.

Some have come from other universities and some have been working in the field for a few years and want to upgrade."

Dr McKay said that one of the main reasons for the strong demand for courses such as the new ACU program was the requirement that after the year 2000 members of specialist Colleges in the Australian Psychological Society would need to have a professional qualification in a master's coursework program.

"In keeping with this change we have initiated the master's program. Next year we will be subject to accreditation inspection which is made every five years by the Society to ensure that courses meet its standards," he said.

Dr McKay said that the Department had built into the course a very strong clinical training program so that students have to undertake more than 1000 hours of client-based and practical work in the field during the two years.

There is also a research dimension to the course. All students will undertake research projects. Dr Lawson said that some of the students already had good ideas for research. One of the areas deals with body image and eating disorders among adolescents. Another student wanted to continue research into Moslem family relationships.

Dr McKay said: "This is an exciting development. With this program we have become a fully-fledged department providing both undergraduate and postgraduate programs which provide for the training of professional psychologists, and the postgraduate program also offers staff more opportunity to pursue specialist research interests."

## Police Service Partnership

1997 marked the beginning of a new and evolving partnership between Australian Catholic University academics and members of the NSW Police Service.

Responding to the Police Service's need for continuing professional development, the University conducted two distinct yet complementary Graduate Certificate courses – a Graduate Certificate in Professional Development and Education and a Graduate Certificate in Professional Leadership.

The former targeted Education and Development Officers (EDOs) as well as Academy and Field Training and Assessment staff. Four units, based on values and ethics, their nature and meaning, were offered and encouraged discussion and decisions about implementable strategies for the ongoing development of an increasingly ethical and accountable workplace.

The Graduate Certificate in Professional Leadership catered for officers in leadership roles, including supervision and management, that require people with well grounded skills, who both appreciate and demonstrate integrity and authenticity in their daily duties.

Both courses were judged highly successful. Participants expressed satisfaction with the quality of teaching and the standard of material presented.

Lecturers said they enjoyed the personal interaction with such enthusiasts and delighted in the freshness and sound learning that resulted from the meeting of two quite different professional cultures.

In 1998, continuing students will complete the Graduate Diploma in Professional Leadership and Education.

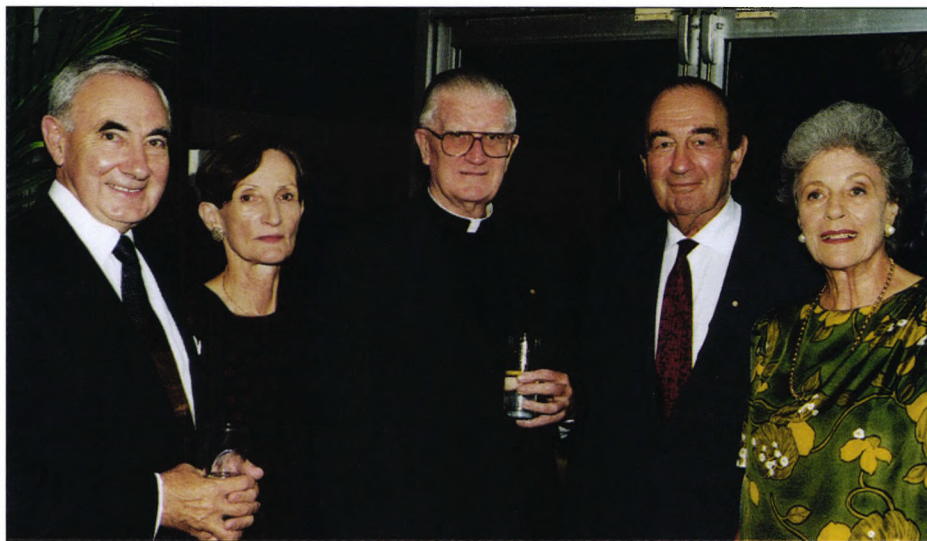
This course provides an in-depth study of leaderships and personal development with opportunities for field projects in one's own workplace. One unit has been completed, continuing the work of 1997, and as well, revealing new possibilities of knowledge and insight.

Australian Catholic University and the NSW Police Service are now engaged in a truly educational partnership.

## Bioethics course

The Department of Nursing Development in association with the Plunkett Centre for Ethics in Health Care will hold a Bioethics course at Mercy Campus from 7 to 9 May.

# Cardinal hosts farewell



(L to R) Retiring ACU Vice-Chancellor Peter Drake and Mrs Drake with the Chancellor, Cardinal Edward Clancy, and the Governor of New South Wales and Mrs Samuels.

The Chancellor of Australian Catholic University, Cardinal Edward Clancy AC, hosted a farewell dinner for the retiring Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Drake, at The Taronga Centre, Mosman, on Tuesday, 27 January 1998.

Professor Drake completed seven years as Foundation Vice-Chancellor on 31 January 1998.

The Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency the Honourable Gordon Samuels AC, and Mrs Samuels, attended the dinner.

## Student community award

Cr Jeff Egan, a graduate of Australian Catholic University, has offered a community service award to the University to encourage students to become involved in serving their local community.

The award, "The Dan Stewart Community Service Award" is for \$150 and will be awarded to a student of the Sydney campuses of Australian Catholic University who has demonstrated outstanding community service. The student will be selected by Student Services staff at MacKillop and Mount Saint Mary campuses. Cr Egan named the award after

Professor Dan Stewart who formerly taught at the University.

Cr Egan graduated with a Bachelor of Education (Multidisciplinary) in 1994 and became actively involved in his local community. In September 1995 he was elected to Blue Mountains City Council as a Councillor.

"To the best of my knowledge I am the first graduate from Australian Catholic University to hold such office. By offering the Award I hope other students will become involved in serving their local community", said Cr Egan.

## Management program in Ballarat

A Master of Management course has been established in 1998 at Aquinas Campus in response to a perceived need for a management course which addressed issues relative to understanding management processes in the private and public sectors.

The course, provided under the offshore program offered in Hong Kong during the past six years, offers an alternative to the MBAs currently offered by other universities.

Dr Valda Ward, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Social Work and Administration, Mercy Campus, coordi-

nates the Hong Kong Program and has overseen the introduction of the course at Ballarat.

As a full fee-paying course it has drawn students from as far away as Mildura.

The enrolment includes a mix of individuals currently employed in managerial institutions within Education, Health and Industry.

The weekend mode of lectures provides them with the ideal opportunity to step out from their busy schedules to reflect on management processes and to fine-tune management and research skills for use in employing organisations.



Members of the Frankenworm production team: (from left) Mr Phil Byrnes, director-producer, Mr Karl Hatton, playwright, Ms Karen Ingram, director-producer-choreographer, Mr Robert Hillman, backing tapes, Dr Robert Thurman, author of original book, and Ms Terri Slabon, sets/props.

## Aquinas musical

A musical play devised by three academic staff members of Aquinas Campus had its first performances in Melbourne in December.

The musical play is called Frankenworm and grew out of a children's science fiction book by Dr Robert Thurman, Head of the Department of

Mathematics, Science and Information Technology.

Dr Thurman and Mr Karl Hatton, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Humanities Education, collaborated on the play and Mr Roger Hilman, Lecturer in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, collaborated with Dr Thurman on the music.

## Twilight garden party



Almost 200 members attended the Twilight Garden Party at Aquinas Campus in March. The party was part of the 1998 Begonia Festival and raised funds to enable Fijian students to come to Aquinas for teaching rounds in local primary schools. From left to right: Robert Crompton (Manager, Campus Operations, Mercy Campus); Catherine Spencer (Foundation Coordinator, Victoria); Sr Assumption Neary (St John of God Hospital, Ballarat); Professor Wolfgang Grichting (Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research).

## Maths error

In the last issue of The Chronicle we reported on the release of the maths textbook, *Mathsnet 7*, written by Dr Cyril Quinlan FMS. In describing the book's contents we wrongly said that "students are introduced to topics informally through tuition and practical activities". The word 'tuition' was incorrect and should read 'intuition'.

## Italian scholarship

Daniela Macri, a third year student in the Italian program at Mount Saint Mary Campus, has recently been awarded a scholarship from the Italian Government. Daniela will use the scholarship to study Italian language and literature at the University of Perugia in June.

# Roundup

## TV video

The University's School of Education, in cooperation with the Edmund Rice Centre, has developed an innovative program using the medium of television to promote awareness of justice issues and explore ways to actively respond to these issues.

As part of the course work and assessment for postgraduate students in Education and Habilitation, students undertook to research a particular issue and produce a thirty minute video for OPTUS Educational Channel.

Programs were developed to address issues such as Reconciliation, Refugees, Youth Needs, People with Disabilities, and educators were challenged with such topics as Cultural Diversity and Leadership into the new millennium.

The program allowed students to make links between theory and action in the community and to become familiar with the technology of video production.

## Mercy camp

This year's first year students were introduced to Mercy Campus and university life with an orientation camp held at Lady Northcote Centre in Bacchus Marsh in February.

The idea for a camp was developed by students, Janelle Davis and Evelyn Ralph.

The Camp was divided into two groups, with students attending each Camp for three days.

At the Camps students were keen to meet people and learn about life at ACU. Talks were given by past Mercy students on what to expect at Mercy Campus. Sessions were also held on time management, problems at university, and living away from home.

## Links with India

Ms Zita Marks, Lecturer in Psychology at Mercy Campus, was a keynote speaker in a conference on Emerging Relationships between India and Australia held in Mumbai, India on 19 – 20 November 1997.

The aim of the conference was to promote Indo-Australian relations, especially in the field of education, and was the first event in the development of a long standing relationship with the colleges of the University of Bombay, from which a series of follow-up projects is planned.

# of events

## Artists thanked



A contributor to the "Art from the Inside Exhibition", William Thomas, receives his Appreciation Certificate from Professor Muredach Dynan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Quality and Outreach).

Professor Muredach Dynan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Quality and Outreach) presented Appreciation Certificates to the indigenous inmates who participated in "Art from the Inside" exhibition held at McAuley Campus in October, 1997.

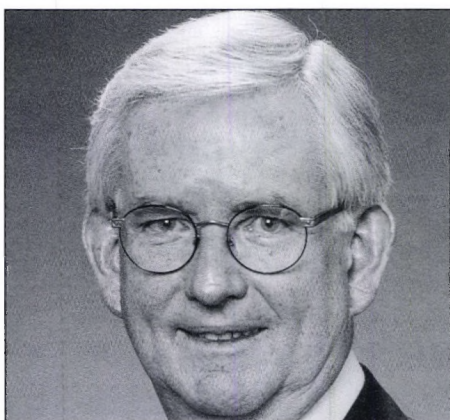
The presentation ceremony was held at the Moreton Correctional Centre on 10 December.

## Rome honour

The University's Foundation Professor of Theology, Dr Francis Moloney SDB, has recently been reappointed by Pope John Paul II to the International Theological Commission to the Holy See.

The Theological commission meets in a Plenary Session, in Rome, every year, and works in various sub-commissions throughout the year.

Professor Moloney's reappointment makes him one of the longest-serving members on the commission. At the end of this present appointment, he will have served the Church in this way for 15 years.



Professor Frank Moloney



(from left) Mr David Moore, Lecturer, Department of Humanities Education, Mr Jim Forsyth, Senior Lecturer, Department of Visual and Performing Arts, Associate Professor Paul Chesterton, Department of Humanities Education, Dr Bob Wiegand, West Virginia University, and Mr Peter Wiebe, Lecturer, Department of Human Movement Studies.

## Visit by overseas academic

Dr Bob Wiegand, West Virginia University, conducted two staff seminars during a visit to Mount Saint Mary Campus in December 1997.

Key issues in teacher education programs in Australia and the United States were discussed at the seminars.

Dr Wiegand has worked in schools and teacher education programs in the United

States and has recently co-authored national guidelines for the preparation of physical educators. His research interests focus on curriculum evaluation and teaching effectiveness.

West Virginia University and Australian Catholic University have conducted a student exchange program since 1996.



Debbie Packwood (left) and Yvette Davies (right) with their former lecturer Bob Finlay from the International Committee of the Rotary Club of Glenhaven.

## ACU graduates in Rotary program

Australian Catholic University graduates, Debbie Packwood and Yvette Davies, have been selected to participate in the Rotary International Group Study Exchange (GSE) program.

The program promotes professional development and international understanding. Successful applicants represent their profession and country during a five week study abroad exchange program.

In 1997 Debbie Packwood, a primary teaching graduate from Mount Saint Mary Campus, travelled to Argentina. Yvette Davies, a Visual Arts graduate from Castle Hill Campus will travel to France this year.

In October, 1997 the University was host to members of the Rotary Club of Glenhaven who visited Mount Saint Mary Campus.

The joint venture between the University and Rotary provided a combined historical, vocational and international focus to the meeting.

## Student awards

Two graduating nursing students – Jason Hahne of Aquinas Campus and Amanda Bedford of Mercy Campus – have received "High Achiever" awards from the Royal College of Nursing.

The awards are given by the College to recognise the achievements of nurses as part of its mission of striving for professional excellence in nursing practice for the benefit of the health of the community.

The award provides for one years membership of the College.

# Graduates return to Christ Campus



Patricia Page (Schwarzman), Jane Stenhouse (Crowe), Cathie Bowen (Cerreto), Carmel Hale (D'Angelo), and Debbie Reid (Chipp) at the 1974 and 1975 graduate reunion.

More than 90 graduates and staff from one of ACU's predecessor institutions, Christ College, attended an Alumni Reunion at the Christ Campus in November last year.

John Egan a graduate and one of the organisers said, "We shared a unique part in the history of what is now known as Christ Campus of ACU. The 1974 graduates were the last female only intake, while the 1975 graduates were the first female and male intake" at Christ College.

A tour of the campus highlighted many of the changes in the 22 or 23 years since these groups graduated. John Egan believes "the naming of buildings after past staff (Drew Hall and the Daffey Building) captured and gave life to the history of the campus" particularly for the graduates of Christ College. Emeritus Professor Bernard Daffey and Mr Cyril

Drew attended the Reunion and shared in the nostalgia of the evening. Jannine Callaghan, a 1975 Diploma of Teaching graduate can share her experiences of the 70s and compare the growth of the Campus with her daughter Caddy, a current ACU student at Christ Campus.

An ACU Alumni Recognition Certificate was launched at the Reunion. The certificate is recognition of an award conferred by a predecessor institution and identifies them as ACU Alumni.

This Reunion provided the initial motivation and inspiration to renew friendships and remember a significant time in the lives of the 1974 and 1975 graduates. A Christ Campus Alumni Chapter will be formed this year, which is expected to stimulate an ongoing interest in future Alumni events and networks.

## Awards for nursing students

Three ACU Bachelor of Nursing students won Awards for Excellence in Nursing Practice in the 1997 'Nurses Care' Awards for the State of Victoria.

The students are Mary O'Brien (First Year), Nyree Leon (Third Year), both of Mercy Campus, and Carmel McKay Delkeith (Second Year) of Aquinas Campus.

Organised by the Australian Nursing Federation, the Victorian Department of Human Services, and Victoria University of Technology, the "Nurses Care" awards are for those who demonstrate commitment to the goals of the nursing profession, contribute to the health of the community and promote the development of the profession.

Each year a different university is selected for Student Encouragement Awards, and 1997 was Australian Catholic University's turn. The University's Department of Nursing and Human



Mary O'Brien, Carmel McKay Delkeith and Nyree Leon after receiving their Student Encouragement Awards at a function in Melbourne on 21 November.

Movement selected the students.

Lecturer in the Department of Professional Nursing Development, Ms Michelle Campbell, said all three students had demonstrated excellence in their studies. Each received \$500 and a certificate.

## Archbishop opens student building

The Archbishop of Brisbane, the Most Reverend John Bathersby, has opened the new Student Building at the University's McAuley Campus in Mitchelton.

The opening ceremony was in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd on campus.

The proposal for the Building was first discussed by the Students' Representative Council (SRC) in 1992.

This led to a student survey and forum aimed specifically at gauging the needs and services required by McAuley students.

In 1994, SRC Presidents Jodie Kairl and Terry Green initiated discussion with the University management and the "Student Building" proposal was revised into a working project.



Archbishop Bathersby with his sister, Anne Johnson, who is enrolled in the Social Science (Pastoral Care) program at McAuley.

During the next two years cooperation between the SRC and the University resulted in the design, finance and feasibility stages and a concrete working project.

In late 1996 the first ground was broken around the existing Gymnasium structure and occupation by the SRC and students began in January 1997.

The 1998 SRC President John Crowe described the Student Building as an excellent example of cooperation between many areas of ACU.

"We, the students and SRC, would like to thank and applaud all those involved in any aspect of this project and look forward to continued cooperation with all at McAuley", Mr Crowe said.

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