



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

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Historic awards in Catholic Education



A group of twenty principals, deputy principals, and senior teachers from metropolitan and country schools in South Australia graduated at an historic ceremony in Adelaide on February 11.

The awards were the result of courses arising from a program pioneered between the University and the SA Institute for Catholic Teacher Education.

Eighteen teachers were awarded the degree of Master of Education and four received the Graduate Diploma in Educational Studies.

The ceremony commenced with Mass

at Queen of Angels Church, Thebarton. Archbishop Leonard Faulkner was principal celebrant, assisted by Fr Rob Egar (Vicar-General) and Fr Tony Densley.

Vice-Chancellor of Australian Catholic University, Professor Peter Drake, presided at the Ceremony of Conferring of Awards, held at the Catholic Education Centre, Thebarton.

The ceremony was attended by seven senior academics of the University, the Chancellor of The Flinders University of South Australia, the Chairperson of the SA Commission for Catholic Schools, the Chairperson and members of the Council of the SA Institute for Catholic Teacher Education, and Directors and senior staff of Catholic Education offices in Adelaide and Port Pirie. — *Continued on page 2*

Back row: Associate Professor Jude Butcher CFC, Dr Ross Keane, Dr Charles Burford (School of Education, Mount St Mary Campus), Sr Catherine Clark (Chairperson, SA Commission for Catholic Schools), Dr Paul Chesterton (Mount St Mary Campus), Mr Allan Dooley (Director, Catholic Education Office, Adelaide), Professor Dan Stewart CFC OAM (Deputy Principal, NSW), Dr Jim Dwyer (Executive Officer, SAICTE).

Front row: Mrs Mary Emery (Chairperson, SA ICTE) Dr John McDonald, Professor Peter Drake, Archbishop Leonard Faulkner, Sr Deirdre Jordan (Chancellor, The Flinders University of South Australia), Professor Michael Doyle (Dean, Faculty of Education).

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Vice-Chancellor's Column

I was interested by an article last year in a new publication, *University Public Relations*, written by Margaret Burke, Director of Media and Public Relations at the University of Adelaide, who is undertaking a study of the factors that influence university choice in Australia.

In this country there is, even with our 36 members of the Unified National System, nothing like the complexity of choice confronting a prospective student in the U.S.A.

The article largely deals with such a student, Keirnan Graves, at George Mason High School in Fall Church, Virginia. Within 45 minutes drive of her home there are 12 universities. They are public and private, large and small. Annual tuition costs alone range from \$5,000 to \$22,000.

Keirnan faced a difficult choice, especially as U.S. students are much more inclined than Australian students to move away from home for university education.

She was receiving at one stage four to five college recruitment packages daily. It would not be unusual if she received such packages from 400 to 500 colleges because of the high scores she received on her Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test.

In all this confusion perhaps she will be influenced by the arguments of one of our "sister" institutions, Marymount University, which is in walking distance.

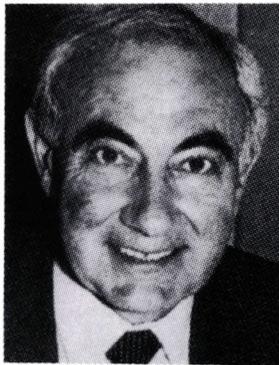
It stresses its "reasonable size" and the fact that "you don't have to wait two weeks to talk to your professor when you need to". Those advantages seem to me to be the ones we should stress when we talk to potential students.

In Australia, prospective students do not have as many alternatives as Keirnan but they must still find their way around a mass of competitive material emanating from almost forty institutions of higher education.

Quality must be an important element in choosing a university, but how is it shown, and how is it ensured?

The Commonwealth government has lately taken a keen interest in these questions, doubtless because of the large sums of taxpayers money (\$4.4 billion in 1993) which it spends on universities in endeavouring to meet an enormous demand for higher education.

In coming to terms with quality improvement and assurance, the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee has adopted principles of quality improvement, and the Australian universities have individually co-operated with the government in the establishment of the committee for Quality Assurance in High Education, in order to assess quality on a national basis.



Professor Peter Drake.

The results of the Committee's first efforts are now at hand and the government has responded by making a range of quality assurance grants to all Australia's public universities. Australian Catholic University has been awarded a sum of \$300,000 for 1994.

However, some of us may worry that the results of the Quality Assurance ranking, in which we were in the sixth band together with seven other newer universities, will affect our appeal to prospective students. I certainly hope not, and in fact I think not.

If I were asked about the ranking by a prospective student my reply would be on these lines: "it would be surprising if a comparatively small, new university, with a limited range of disciplines, only the beginnings of research programs, and the problems (for administration and co-ordination of teaching) of eight campuses, were to achieve more in just three years".

Surely no one expected that we would be ranked with universities two and three times our size, with international research programs, and the benefits of many years of experience and reputation.

Why then did we take part in the Quality Assurance exercise, and spend so much staff time on it? The quick answer is, as our young children say, because everybody's doing it. There is, however, another reason: it was, whatever the public outcome, a most valuable exercise for us.

We examined our academic conscience; we identified areas with need for improvement and will address them; we found pride in what we have achieved; we will profit, if only a little in financial terms, a great deal in planning for a bright future. And do not overlook the fact that we obtained the highest proportional grant in the sixth band.

Whatever else, we too are "a reasonable size", and "you don't have to wait two weeks to talk to your professor when you need to", and our campuses are friendly places. If Keirnan is still undecided, we could take her.

From page 1:

Historic Awards

The Occasional Address following the Conferring of Awards was delivered by Dr John McDonald, former Director of Catholic Education and former Chancellor of the University of South Australia.

Dr McDonald emphasised that the Catholic System has to ensure that its schools are not only demonstrably different from Government schools but also make a significant contribution to the life of the whole community.

He stressed that spiritual formation and the inculcation of religious values must be at the forefront of the education process, without any reduction of effort in areas such as academic and physical development.

Dr McDonald thanked Australian Catholic University for its "preparedness to co-operate with the SA Institute for Catholic Teacher Education in the provision of courses in the extended campus mode."

"In all we today see the fruits of co-operation which has extended across state boundaries," concluded Dr McDonald.

Under its Charter, the role of the Institute is "to enable the Church to ensure that teachers in Catholic schools are provided with opportunities for appropriate education and formation in Catholic doctrine and life".

With no Catholic teachers college or university in the local area, teachers in Catholic schools had limited options for that level of appropriate education and formation.

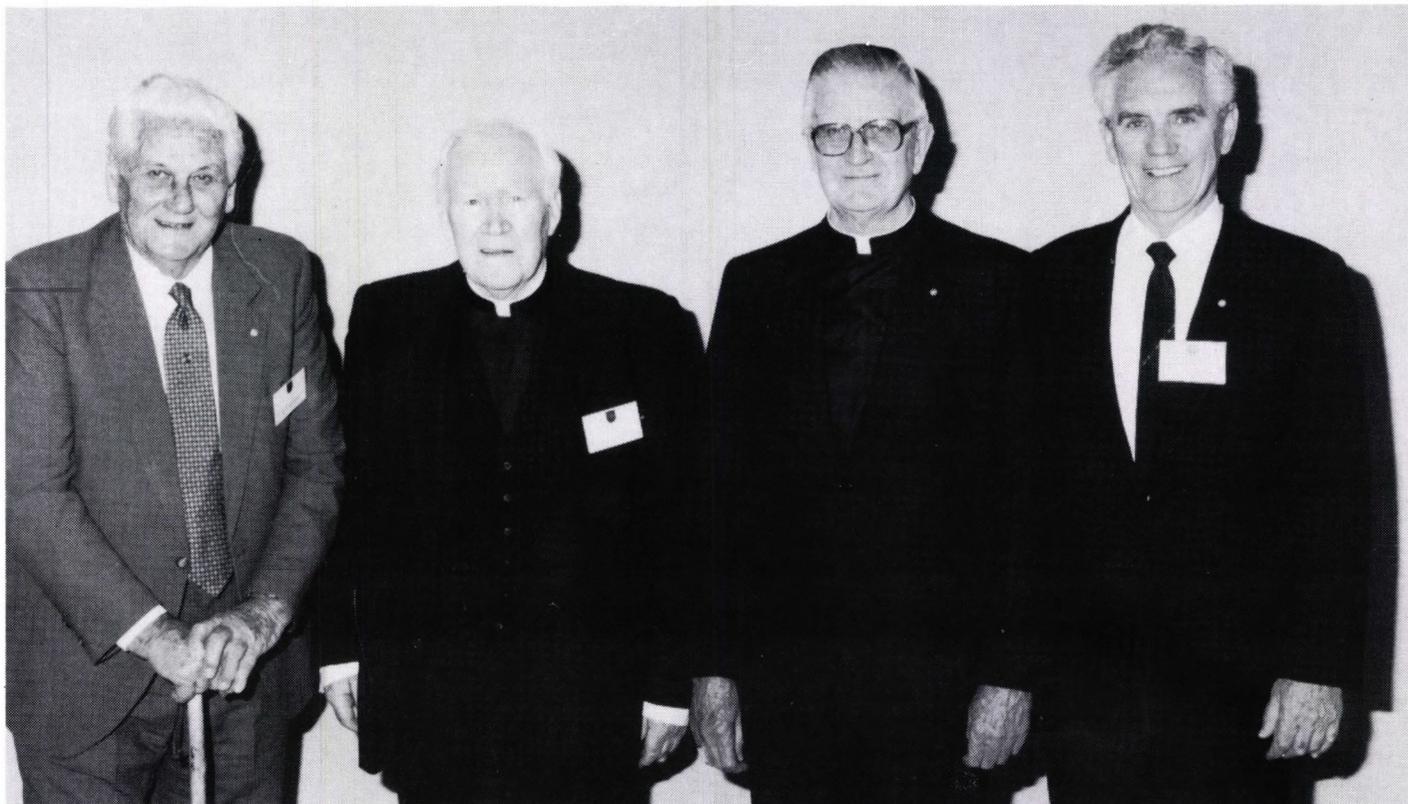
Some local offerings had served the Catholic teaching community well over the past decade, particularly in the areas of Biblical Studies and Religious Education.

However, the Institute ascertained that administrators in Catholic schools were inadequately catered for.

Discussion and negotiations with a range of tertiary institutions throughout Australia culminated in an agreement with Australian Catholic University to offer education administration courses by extended campus mode.

The program commenced in 1991 with 28 students. Twenty-two students are continuing in the course and 25 have enrolled for 1994.

CHAIR IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP FUNDED



Australian Catholic University Chancellor, Cardinal Edward Clancy AC, Archbishop of Sydney, announced the establishment of a 'Chair in Educational Leadership' at the Founding Benefactors' Reception which was held at MacKillop Campus on November 5, 1993.

Present at the reception were Professor Peter Drake, Vice-Chancellor, Mr Gerald Gleeson, Chairman of the NSW Chapter, Monsignor John Slowey, former Director of the first Catholic Teachers College, Sydney, the Honourable Mr Justice Mahoney, Chairman of Polding College Council until 1981, and Dr Victor Couch Chairman of the Catholic College of Education Council, 1974-1980 and Chairman of Catholic College of Education Sydney, 1981-1989.

Also present at the reception were donors to the University Foundation who had contributed to the fund for establishment of the Chair.

At the reception Cardinal Clancy announced to more than 50 guests that over \$1.1 million had been pledged to establish the Chair.

During his address, the Chancellor paid special tribute to the benefactors and acknowledged, with gratitude, their generous support.

"Although the University receives the bulk of its funding from the Federal Government, additional support is necessary and most welcome," said Cardinal Clancy.

"As educational leadership is a pressing issue today, and an area of traditional excellence within Catholic education, the new Chair will provide a focus for the University's expertise."

Cardinal Clancy spoke of the importance of the Chair in Educational Leadership for the status of Australian Catholic University.

"With the emphasis on quality of education today the new Chair will add value to the University by attracting a scholar of international reputation," said Cardinal Clancy.

"The practical application of education theory and the direction provided by the new position will have a significant effect on the future of leadership in Australian education."

At the Founding Benefactors' Reception, from left: Dr Victor Couch, Monsignor John Slowey, Cardinal Edward Clancy AC, and Mr Gerald Gleeson.

Melina wins scholarship

Australian Catholic University student Melina Marchetta has been awarded a Varuna Writers' Centre scholarship.

Melina is one of a group of 14 writers to receive a scholarship for the first half of 1994.

Located in Katoomba, in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney, Varuna Writers' Centre offers winners of the scholarships three weeks of fully funded residence, during which time they can write uninterrupted.

Melina's first novel *Looking for Alibrandi* won the award Book of the Year for Older Readers in the final selection of the 1993 Australian Children's Books of the Year.

Dr Canning in big task on St Augustine

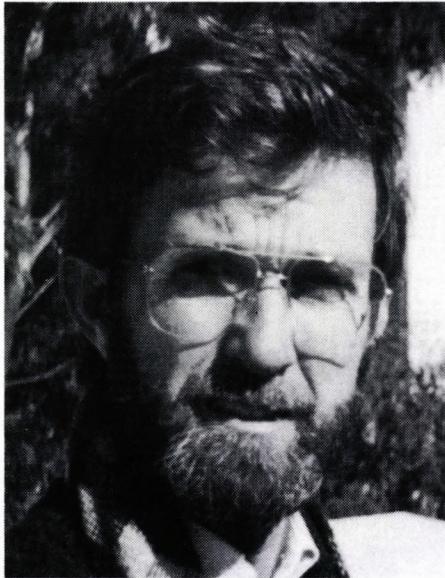
Dr Raymond Canning, Head of Religious Studies and Co-ordinator of the Graduate Diploma of Education (Religious) Course at Signadou Campus was recently engaged by the Augustinian Heritage Institute (Villanova, Pa.) to join a team working on a new translation of the works of St Augustine.

Dr Canning has been a lecturer in theology and religious education at Signadou since 1986 and his research interest concentrates on patristic studies.

Dr Canning's translation of **The Rule of St Augustine** attracted wide readership, and his book on the unity of love for God and love for neighbour in St Augustine is due to be published in Belgium later this year.

Dr Canning is an active member of the Australian Catholic Theological Association, and is current president of the Catholic Association of Tertiary Religious Educators (CATRE). He also works as a consultant on accreditation of

courses for the South Australian Institute of Catholic Teacher Education.



Dr. Raymond Canning

Year of Family contribution

Australian Catholic University will host a conference on the family, titled "The Contemporary Family and Self-Identity", at Melbourne's Christ Campus on Wednesday April 6.

An important contribution to the United Nations 1994 International Year of the Family, the conference covers many areas, including an examination of the ability of many 'experts' to understand family life and its effect on family members and the community.

Speakers will examine how sociologists, psychologists, and other professional analysts reach their conclusions on crucial aspects of family life.

Conference organiser, Dr Philip Cassell, a lecturer in the Department of Psychology, School of Social Science, said speakers would represent different and sometimes conflicting schools of thought.

Other topics covered at the conference include the differences between families from ethnic groups, Eastern European families, single male parents, the family in Japan, and the effect of migration on families.

Contact Dr Cassell on (03) 563 3645 for further information.

Eureka leadership conference attracts 37 universities

Australian Catholic University undergraduate students, Adam Jessep and Barbara Barake, represented the University at the inaugural Eureka Leadership Conference held at Mt Helen Campus, University of Ballarat on February 11 to 14.

Adam and Barbara were among 81 outstanding students who represented 37 universities selected to participate at the conference.

Adam (BA student at Mount Saint Mary Campus) and Barbara (Bachelor of Teaching student at Aquinas Campus) have both demonstrated key leadership skills during their studies and extra-curricular activities within Australian Catholic University.

At the conference students were introduced to 18 prominent Australian community leaders.

Leadership issues discussed covered four areas of national importance — the environment, employment, culture, and international Australia.

David Mitchell has been appointed the University's first Director of Information and Communication Services.

David's career in Information Technology spans 25 years, beginning at the University of NSW as a computer operator.

He moved to Canberra and worked in programming in the Library of Australian National University. Later as an analyst/programmer David was responsible for development and support of ANU's personnel payroll and financial systems.

In 1976 David joined a small team in the newly created Computing Services Branch of the ACT Electricity Authority, responsible for the development and management of the technical environment. In 1980 he was appointed director of the Authority's Computing Services.

In 1987 the Electricity Authority amalgamated with ACT Water to form a

single utility in the lead-up to Australian Capital Territory self-government. David's appointment as Deputy General Manager — Information Services gave him responsibility for information technology for the new Authority. It also allowed David to use technology to merge two very different cultures and provide an effective means of establishing decentralised management of a very diverse organisation.

David is looking forward to the challenges provided in Australian Catholic University and foresees the not-too-distant day when the University also will have an extensive technology infrastructure.

David has a degree in computing from the Canberra College of Advanced Education. He is a member of the Australian Computer Society and an Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.

Based in the Vice-Chancellery, David may be contacted on (02) 739 2913.

NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Excellence in Teaching

Award for Religious Education expert

Dr Laurie Woods, a senior lecturer in the Department of Theology and Philosophy, who teaches at Castle Hill and Mount Saint Mary campuses, is one of the first group of University staff to receive an Excellence in Teaching Award.

Laurie worked as a teacher in primary and secondary schools from 1966 to 1978 and has been involved in all aspects of teaching and schools administration, including serving as deputy principal and principal of secondary schools for many years.

He taught mainly in the areas of Religious Education, History, French and Latin.

Pursuing an interest in biblical studies Laurie studied Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic at the University of Sydney where he won the Percy Marks Prize for Hebrew.

This led to an opportunity to study overseas and he began preparations for a doctorate in biblical studies at the École Biblique in Jerusalem.

Laurie's two year experience in the Holy Land provided a valuable foundation for teaching and academic

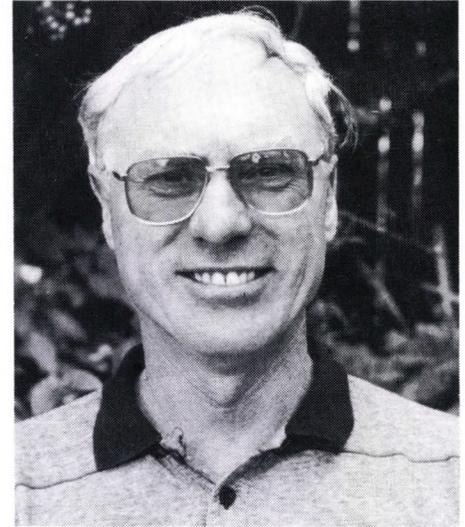
research. He was awarded a PhD at the Victoria University of Manchester.

Teaching in the University's graduate and undergraduate courses, Laurie is also very involved in in-service programs, particularly in the diocese of Parramatta.

Laurie assists teachers in translating the content and message of the Bible to the RE classroom. In this area he has produced two resource texts for teachers and students in upper primary/junior secondary classes: *The Collins Dove Dictionary for Young Catholics* and *The Bible — God's Word*.

Current editor of a journal of Religious Education, *Word in Life*. Laurie is a former president of the Catholic Biblical Association of Australia and has served on many moderation and assessment committees for the Sydney College of Divinity. He is also a member of the Board of Studies of the Centre for Christian Spirituality at Randwick.

In addition to teaching, Laurie is very involved with Campus Ministry activities. A keen musician himself, he has, over the last seven years, prepared singers and musicians on the Castle Hill campus for formal liturgies and



Dr Laurie Woods

University functions.

With his wife, Maureen, Laurie lives in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney.

Other recipients of the Excellence in Teaching Award were Margot Hillel, Christ Campus Department of Humanities (see article in *The Chronicle* Vol 2, No. 3, November, 1993) and Denis McLaughlin (see below).

INNOVATION WINS THREE GRANTS



Denis McLaughlin

Denis McLaughlin, Head of the Department of Professional Development in the University's Faculty of Education at McAuley Campus received an Excellence in Teaching award late last year.

One of the first group of Australian Catholic University staff to receive the award Denis has had a career in primary, secondary, and tertiary teaching and administration for 25 years.

As a primary teacher Denis received three grants for innovative teaching from the Australian Schools' Commission in the 1970's.

Denis was involved in teacher education in Papua-New Guinea where he pioneered rural school-based pedagogical development through audio-visual equipment awarded to him by the New Zealand government for innovative practice.

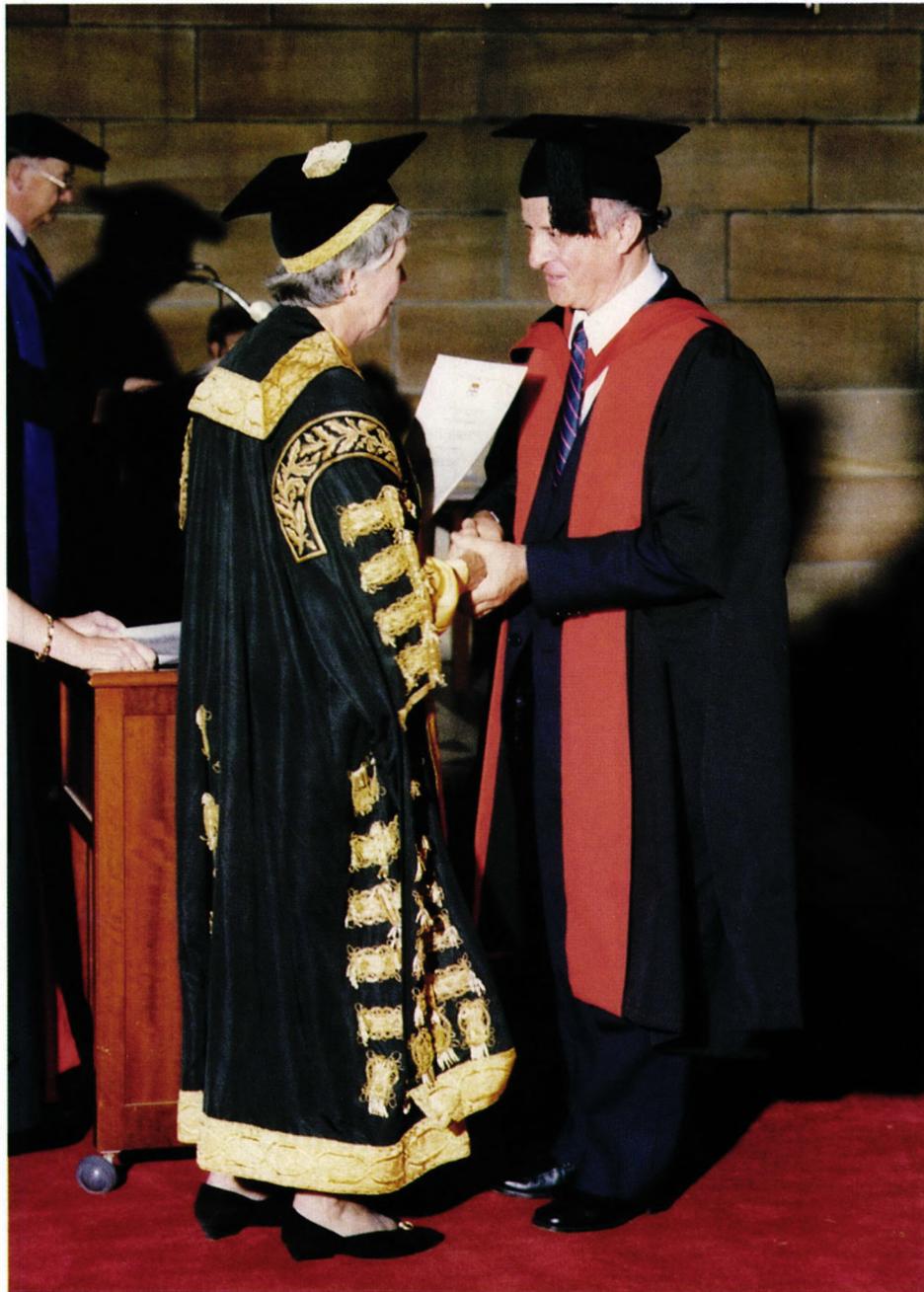
As a member of the staff of the University of Papua-New Guinea Denis became the first co-ordinator of the Bachelor of Education (Tertiary) program which educated classroom teachers to become effective lecturers. Denis used the program and other issues in teachers education in Papua-New Guinea to study part-time for a Doctorate degree from the University of London.

During his time at Australian Catholic University Denis has led a team in the Professional Studies Unit and has co-ordinated Field Studies, as well as the in-service Bachelor of Education program.

Currently Denis teaches all units in McAuley's Master of Education and Doctor of Education courses, which he co-ordinates.

Denis' style of teaching is focused upon the student, and characterised by collaboration, openness, and flexibility.

School of Business Lecturer awarded Doctorate



Paul Augimeri, lecturer, School of Business, Mount Saint Mary Campus, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Faculty of Economics at the University of Sydney graduation ceremony on December 21, 1993.

Paul received his testamur from the Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Dame Leonie Kramer, AC DBE.

He had submitted a thesis entitled "The Economic Ideas of Antonio Genovesi (1713-1769)".

According to Paul the research presented a great challenge as Genovesi's

Paul Augimeri receives his degree from Emeritus Professor Dame Leonie Kramer.

writings have never been translated into English.

Looking back at the years he devoted to research and the writing of the thesis, Paul remarked that it was a fulfilling and rewarding experience, the more so because he had the privilege of having as his supervisor Professor P.D. Groenewegen, a scholar with a distinguished international reputation.

SIGNADOU PRINCIPAL IN U.S.A.

Sr Rosemary Lewins, Principal of the Australian Capital Territory Division of the University is presently on a six-month sabbatical in the United States.

Sr Rosemary, head of Signadou Campus, will visit some of the leading Catholic universities in the United States, including Notre Dame, the University of San Francisco, and Boston College.

During her visit Sr Rosemary will be investigating the characteristics of student culture and the way in which students' pastoral needs are met at those universities.

Sr Rosemary also will evaluate social outreach programs that are a feature of the U.S. Catholic university system.

"Very often those universities encourage their students to spend a year or so in some form of social action," said Sr Rosemary.

"Australian universities don't do this but I think it is something which could be very useful for us."

Sr Rosemary's wish is to have a school of social work established at Signadou Campus.

A bachelor degree in social science within its family studies program already is offered at a Melbourne campus of the University. Sr Rosemary wants to further this concept of the university being significantly involved in 'social action'.

"This is very much within our mission. We already have professional degrees in education, and so another professional degree in the helping profession would fit in with what we're doing," said Sr Rosemary.

Later this year Sr Rosemary will be busy promoting 'social action' at Australian Catholic University.

HSC STUDIES APPOINTMENT

Ms Haruko Tazawa, lecturer in Japanese Language Studies at Mount Saint Mary Campus, has been appointed to the NSW Board of Studies Japanese Examination Committee.

The Committee is responsible for the preparation of the NSW Higher School Certificate.

Ms Tazawa is the first representative from the University to be on a Japanese Studies Committee.

Father Barker meets the Pope

Father Colin Barker, Department of Theology and Philosophy, had the privilege in January of joining another five priests and the Archbishop and Bishops of the Caribbean Islands to celebrate Mass with the Holy Father in his private chapel in the Vatican.

Mass was said in English although some of the music was sung in French as it is the second most important language of the Caribbean.

After the Mass Father Barker and the other clergy went to a smaller audience room where the Holy Father greeted each person in turn and said a few words about their work in the church.

The Pope gave Father Barker a blessing for his work and asked him to convey both his blessing and greetings to all the staff of the University.

Among the Caribbean Bishops was a priest who used to live in Father Barker's house when he worked in the United Kingdom. He is now the Archbishop of Castries on the island of St Lucia. They had last seen each other in 1969, and had a reunion breakfast in the Casa del Clero.

An unexpected bonus to a very happy celebration of Mass with the Holy Father.



The Holy Father greets Fr Colin Barker.

MacKillop nursing student receives Scholarship



Treena Nichol

Australian Catholic University student Treena Nichol recently received a scholarship of \$3,500 from the inaugural Cavell Trust's Scholarships for education and research purposes in nursing.

Almost \$200,000 was awarded to 44 successful applicants from the NSW Nurses' Association.

A memorial to Edith Cavell, an army nurse who was executed in Belgium in 1915, the Trust administers funds of about \$2 million.

Treena Nichol, a second year Bachelor of Nursing student at MacKillop Campus is an Enrolled Nurse at Ryde Hospital in the orthopaedic unit.

Treena started her nursing career as an Assistant Nurse at Chesalon Nursing Home, Eastwood.

"I enjoyed my duties so much that I

enrolled in the Advanced Enrolled Nursing Course at TAFE North Sydney and completed most of my practical work at Ryde Hospital graduating with a Distinction," said Treena.

Treena has worked at a number of hospitals in Sydney and has enjoyed working with and caring for many people, some of whom have become friends.

"This experience made me realise that I wished to further my knowledge and skills in order to follow my chosen career," said Treena.

In her first year at Australian Catholic University Treena gained Distinctions and High Distinctions in most subjects.

"I am very proud to have been awarded this Scholarship and intend to use the Grant for HECS fees, University fees, and textbooks," said Treena.

Religion, Literature, Arts Conference

Success suggests '95 repeat

Professor Muredach Dynan, NSW Division Principal, officially opened a conference on religion, literature, and the arts which was held at MacKillop Campus on January 14 to 16.

The conference was organised by NSW Division's Michael Griffith and Ross Keating with the aid of Associate Professor Jim Tulip, University of Sydney's Centre for Studies in Religion, and Rod Pattenden, Institute for Theology and the Arts.

Australian Catholic University provided the venue for the conference while the University of Sydney provided financial support required for overseas guests to be invited.

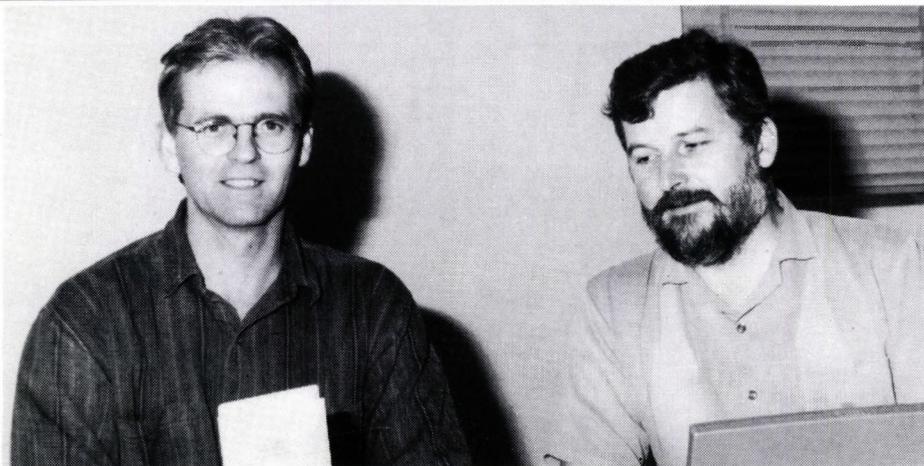
Plenary speakers included Kevin Hart (Monash University), who spoke on Australian religious poetry; Rosemary Crumlin, who linked the conference with the Arthur Boyd retrospective exhibition in Sydney; David Jasper (Glasgow University), who examined Art and the Biblical Canon; Doug Adams (Berkeley University), who discussed Transcendence and the Visual Arts; and Veronica Brady, who surveyed Aboriginal spirituality.

On the evening of January 15 the arts and religion came together in a practical way with a forum in which David Malouf, Peter Skrzynecki, Noel Rowe, Archbishop Stylianos, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in Australia, Alistaire Spence, Annette Eyland, and Tony Gorman brought together religion, poetry, prose fiction, dance and music.

Response to the conference was overwhelming. Participants welcomed the possibility of establishing an association for religion and the arts, and a journal.

Michael and Ross already are planning a repeat conference in 1995 with Australian Catholic University again as the locale, with the aim of making it better known world-wide as a centre for scholarship in religion, literature, and the arts.

Top right: Conference organisers, Ross Keating and Dr Michael Griffith.



STAFF FAREWELL FOR SR VAL GRIMSON, OP

In December 1993 staff of Signadou Campus farewellled Sr Val Grimson OP, a member of the Religious Education Department.

Sr Val joined the Department at Signadou in 1986 as a lecturer in scripture and faith development.

With a rich and varied background in education and administration Sr Val's wisdom, knowledge of modern biblical scholarship, infectious faith, and enthusiasm influenced undergraduate and graduate students alike.

Sr Val first trained as a primary teacher, then taught secondary students and cared for boarders at Dominican schools in Tamworth, Sydney, Moss Vale, Glenorchy, and Brisbane.

Studying mainly part-time, Sr Val gained degrees in Arts and Education Studies, and qualified as a teacher of the blind. A theology degree from Yarra Theological Union nurtured her lifelong interest in Scripture.

In her years at Signadou Sr Val saw many changes on campus, especially during the amalgamation process. She believes the campus has grown in professionalism and efficiency and that it is ready to meet the challenges posed by the shift in student intake, which now includes and welcomes members of other faiths as well as those still seeking one.

After a period of restoration through spiritual seminars, and a study of scripture in Jerusalem, Sr Val plans to join the adult education team of the Canberra and Goulburn Archdiocese to become in her words, "an itinerant preacher in the spirit



Sr Valerie Grimson, OP.

of Dominic".

The personal tribute by the Head of School of Religion and Philosophy, Dr Raymond Canning, is echoed by Sr Val's colleagues:

"You have brought tremendous energy and commitment to your teaching and to your work in the community, and your own love of learning has clearly grasped the imagination of your students, young and old.

"In the years of our professional association I have particularly appreciated your generous, collaborative spirit, your strong support for the goals and projects of the School, and your very wise 'human' approach to the challenges and questions which have confronted us.

"Although we shall miss your gentle daily presence we realise that the demands of a new phase of life lead down new avenues of exploration, and we wish you a very rich experience along the road to Jerusalem, and beyond."

MORE THAN A TUNE TO BELL RINGING

In 1993 Dr Bernice Sharp, Head of the Department of Mathematics and Science in New South Wales, in collaboration with Dr Roger Eyland and Dr Humphrey Gastineau-Hills of the University of Sydney, was awarded an Australian Research Council grant.

With the grant Dr Sharp is examining the mathematics which underlies the theory of change ringing, to encourage communication between mathematicians and bell ringers, and to answer unresolved questions in campanology.

The most difficult problem, related to Stedman Triples, has been unsolved for almost 300 years.

The work involves combinatorics, graph theory, and computing.

A set of 12 handbells, one-and-a-half octaves in F#, manufactured by Whitechapel Foundry, London, was purchased with grant money and brought into Australia by Dr Sharp, Father Colin Barker, and several friendly ringers.

Several talks were given during 1993, including a presentation at the Australian Mathematical Society's Annual Meeting at the University of Wollongong, where demonstrations on the new handbells provided novel entertainment.

Change ringing with hand bells mimics tower bell ringing, where the possible order of striking is limited by physical considerations: a one-and-a-half ton bell mounted on a wheel and swung full circle cannot strike twice quickly.

Ringers must learn the patterns: unlike musicians they cannot read scores during a "performance". They control huge bells by pulling on a rope, strike in the right place, ring complicated paths from memory and respond instantly to calls by the conductor. Mathematicians are understandably astonished by the numerical mental gymnastics of (usually) non-mathematicians.

The master founders can be traced back to 1420, and some bells made then are in daily use; production from the current premises dates back to 1758. The original Liberty bell, Big Ben, are among a long list of their famous bells.

A plain course of Grandsire Triples was run on the handbells for the end of year Mass celebrations of each campus in the New South Wales Division in 1993.

For many listeners this was a magical introduction to the ancient mathematical art of change ringing. Grandsire has been rung on tower bells and in hand, for well over 300 years.



On the mathematical side, it is hoped that Professor Arthur White of Michigan University will visit the University this year. He is eminent in the field of mathematical campanology, with a publication in the Journal of the Cambridge Philosophical Society.

Bell towers invariably welcome visitors. The Tower Captain of St Mary's Basilica, Sydney, is Chris O'Mahony, a recent Honours graduate and now a lecturer at Castle Hill Campus. Dr James Woolford is also an expert ringer, having

Handbell ringers, from left, Richard Thomas, Vice-Chancellery; Christopher O'Mahony, Computing Technology; Dr Jim Woolford, Education; and Dr Bernice Sharp (Mathematics).

rung a peal on York Minster's 59 cwt tenor.

For further information regarding the mathematics, the research, or tower visit (any city) contact Dr Sharp, MacKillop Campus on (02) 739 2326.

Infant school children and racism

Research carried out at three metropolitan Sydney schools by the University's Dr Dasia Black Gutman and Ms Fay Hickson, School of Education, NSW Division, found that five- and six- year old children are more racially prejudiced than any other group of Australian primary school students.

The study, funded by an Internal Research Grant from the University, also showed that the strongest negative attitude is toward Aboriginal and Asian students.

Dr Black Gutman's research also found that prejudices declined sharply in the seven to nine-year-old age group, while older students — 10- and 12-year-olds — began to embrace some of their earlier racial prejudices.

The research, which Dr Black Gutman presented to a conference entitled "Confronting Racism" at the University of Technology, Sydney on December 19, 1993, follows similar American and

Canadian studies that found very young children had negative racial attitudes because they exaggerated differences between racial groups.

Dr Black Gutman said her research proved racial prejudice changed with age and could have implications for the development of classroom strategies to counter prejudice.

Dr Black Gutman believes social, not parental, influences might condone or even encourage racism in 10- and 12-year olds.

Her study grant has been extended for further research on this aspect.

"Young people have a lot of problems thinking about people in different groups as being the same as they are," said Dr Black Gutman.

"By the age of nine, children displayed a strong lack of bias where they no longer believed their racial "group" was better than others.

"They no longer think in black and white," Dr Black Gutman said.

Student Administration System Project

Following discussion with the Finance and Works Committee of Senate and on advice from the University Secretary, the Vice-Chancellor recently approved the appointment of LBMS Pty Ltd as consultants to assist the University in the selection of a Student Administration System for the University.

A modern efficient Student Administration System is critical to enable the University to provide students, staff and management with quality services and information and to meet the requirements of funding and other external authorities.

The project is expected to take three months. Depending on the availability of suitable systems, it is planned to introduce the new system by 1996 at the latest.

A Project Steering Committee reporting to the University Secretary has been established consisting of: Director of Student Administration (Chair) — Mr Vince Bourke; Director of Information & Communication Services — Mr David Mitchell; Nominee of the Principals —

Learning Language: Learning Gesture

On October 1, 1993 Dr Antonio Mansueto, direttore didattico of the Italian Consulate General in Sydney spoke on the importance of gesture in language, especially in relation to Italian.

He illustrated his talk with film clips which showed a range of gestures common among speakers of Italian and important in conveying meaning among people for whom physical contact is more important than it is among "Anglo-Saxons."

In teaching languages, especially to younger children, Dr Mansueto advocates teaching gestures as well as words: first, because one does not know a language thoroughly without knowing its typical gestures; second, because body language, of which gesture is a part, is a major means by which the dominance of the left hemisphere of the brain in language learning may be balanced by activities that depend on the right hemisphere.

Italians use gesture and physical contact more than "Anglo-Saxons" do, and so learning Italian requires learning to be comfortable with both — especially because the Italian notion of privacy is quite different from that of "Anglo-Saxon" people.

In addition, learning Italian fully requires an understanding of the variety of gestures in use in different regions of

Assoc. Professor Kevin Burke; Nominee of the Deans, Mr Ken Smith; Campus Co-ordinator — Assoc. Professor Deirdre Duncan; LBMS Representative — Mr Mark Fanklin.

The Academic Registrar (NSW), Mr Grant Glanfield has been seconded to work with the consultants and act as Executive Officer of the Steering Committee.

LMBS Pty Ltd project personnel will include: Mr Mark Franklin as Project Manager, Ms Carolyn Cook as a Business Analyst, and Mr Geoff Faircloth as a Systems Analyst. In addition Miss Kim Kershler of LBMS will provide Quality Assurance Consulting to the Project.

Other staff will be involved in the project as the needs of the University are discerned in the process of documenting the system requirements.

The Director of Student Administration will be reviewing student administration procedures necessary to support a new system and changes in academic offerings etc brought about by the work of Faculty Boards and the Academic Board.

Italy and among different social classes.

Finally, learning what gestures mean in different places can prevent embarrassment or angry response from people who may interpret an innocently-meant gesture as an insult.

Dr Mansueto hopes to develop a visual encyclopaedia of Italian gestures. Judging by the reaction of his audience, it will be received with interest and enjoyment as a contribution to learning Italian in the most complete sense.

Working Together

The University General Staff Classification Committee, formed as part of the Section 134 Industrial Agreement between the General Staff Unions and the University, recently met.

This Committee is an example of management and unions working together for the benefits of the University as a whole.

Present at the meeting were: Basil Turner, Director, Personnel Policy and Industrial Relations, Peter Blakey, (Mount St Mary Campus) Union representative, Chris Gray, (Signadou Campus) Union representative, Richard Doyle, University Secretary — Chairperson, Geoff Easton, Director of Administration, Victoria, and Elizabeth Anderson, EEO Officer.

Book examines primary school Catholic teaching

In his review of the recently published book *Sound the Trumpet; Planning and Teaching Religion in the Catholic Primary School* by Patricia Malone and Maurice Ryan (Social Science Press, Australia), Damien Brennan, Brisbane Catholic Education Office's Executive Officer, described Australian Catholic University as a part of the "real world".

"If this book is an example of the practical scholarship that we can expect from Australian Catholic University then we have a university of the real world. We should welcome such development."

Reviewing the book in the Catholic Leader, February 24, 1994, Damien says it is the first of its kind and that it is "overdue".

"It is remarkable to think that, with the resources devoted to Catholic primary schooling in Australia, it has taken until now for someone to provide an analysis such as this. Several studies exist at the secondary level, but to my knowledge this is the first at primary level."

The following extracts, from a long review, will be of interest to the authors' colleagues.

"Not everyone will like this book for it challenges many assumptions about teaching Religion that have been operative for some time. The book deals with the real world of the contemporary Catholic Primary school and the daily realities which teachers and parents face," said Damien.

"Their thesis is that the guidelines, largely developed in the late 1970s and 1980s depend upon a catechetical framework and not an educational one. They argue that guidelines were not written in a language that is useful to the classroom realities and the educational methodologies of the 1990s."

"The book is a 'must read' for those charged with the responsible task of teaching in Catholic primary schools and for those in Catholic Education Offices. It would be a useful text in pre-service or postgraduate courses for teachers."

"I would like to think that clergy may read it to realise that much of what they are expecting from Religion teaching in the Catholic primary school classroom is unreasonable and impossible to attain."

Successful organisers



Shown above are members of the organising committee of the "Families and Violence" conference held at Macquarie University in February to mark the International Year of the Family. They are: Back: Dr Jim Woolford, Castle Hill Campus, Mr Jim Grainger and Mr Ray Reid, Centacare, Mr Ron Glover, Castle Hill Campus. From: Ms Toni Noble, Dr Dasia Black-Gutman and Ms Christine Dennis, Mount Saint Mary Campus, Ms Beryl Gibson, Centacare, and Ms Christine Trimmingham, Mount Saint Mary Campus, Chair of Committee.

27 NATIONS AT MEETING

Mercy Campus lecturer in Physical Education, Janet Grier, successfully bid to bring the XIIth Congress of the International Association for Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women to Melbourne in 1993.

Janet, who has been nominated for the Prime Minister's Award for Women in Sport for 1993, worked during 1989 to secure the location for the 1993 Congress. It was the first time this prestigious event, which is held every four years, has been hosted in Australia.

The theme, "Women Moving Ahead in Changing Times" attracted over 300 abstracts to be placed in six strands.

The program of 160 presentations included a variety of formats: plenary sessions, workshops, lectures, seminars, and demonstrations.

Presenters came from 23 countries and the delegates came from 27 countries.

Congress proceedings are available from Janet Grier at Mercy Campus.



Janet Grier

BEST JOBS PROSPECTS

A study published in the Department of Employment Education and Training (DEET) Higher Education Series shows graduates from Australian Catholic University have the highest percentage for employment rates for educational institutions after completing their courses.

The study, published in Occasional Paper Number 6, September 1993, examined the effects of field and level of study on employability, and differences between institutions in the success of their graduates.

The study showed that Australian Catholic University graduates have better than expected employment outcomes.

When compared with similar studies for 1987 graduates (Graduate Destination Survey 1988) only three institutions in New South Wales — the University of Newcastle, University of Western Sydney and Australian Catholic University — showed significant variations from the expected employment level.

The paper also showed that full-time employment rates fell from a national average of 88 per cent for 1987 graduates to 70 per cent for 1990.

Food and health

Renowned nutritionist, Rosemary Stanton, was the keynote speaker at a seminar titled "Women, Eating Disorders and Australian Society" held in the Leone Ryan Auditorium, MacKillop Campus on November 9, 1993.

During the seminar Ms Stanton discussed topics including anorexia, bulimia, the vicious cycle of restricted eating and exercise, fallacies about weight loss, body shape beliefs, and issues for prevention.

Hosted by the University, more than 30 health professionals, many working in the fields of teaching, nursing, fitness, and health promotion, attended the seminar.

The evening was organised by MacKillop Campus Human Movement Studies lecturer and Vice-President of AAHP (Australian Association of Health Promotion Professionals), Janet Pearce.

AAHP is a professional association involved in the practice of health promotion with members from a diversity of health, welfare, and education backgrounds.

Change is an adventure

The Co-ordinator of Christ Campus Associate Professor Maureen Dietz, delivered the occasional address at Swinburne University of Technology graduation ceremony on November 11, 1993.

In her address Associate Professor Dietz spoke of change: both within the graduands and Swinburne itself.

As soon as graduands receive their awards, Associate Professor Dietz pointed out, they have changed: "At a specific moment you are granted a particular award that will open many doors for you."

"Your place in history changes this evening and so does the perceptions of things with which you work. Now you have many options in life that you did not have before."

Speaking about how we deal with change Associate Professor Dietz discussed how "futurists" use language to describe change.

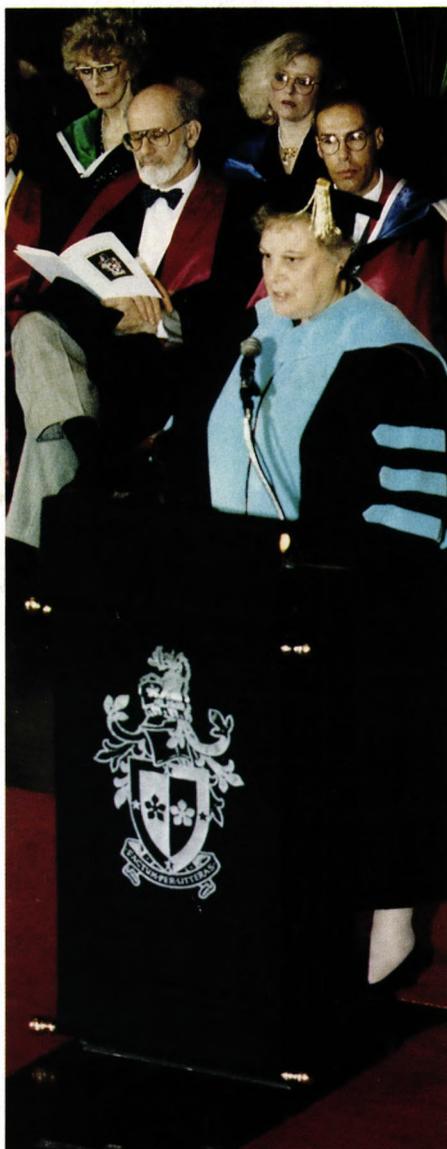
"Toffler calls change a 'wave' because that well describes the action of change. Can we stand in the water facing an approaching wave, brace our feet in the sand, take a deep breath in case our air supply is momentarily cut off, and then put out a hand and say, no, wave, back off? Of course not. The wave hits and we deal with its aftermath, the undertow, the current."

Associate Professor Dietz drew on everyday problems in society including AIDS, drink/driving, and the plight of the psychologically disadvantaged, to demonstrate how we deal with change.

"According to Marilyn Ferguson as we keep looking for more and more new information, because we wish to put off the moment we must change, we keep pushing the new information under the proverbial rug, rejecting it, but it does not go away. It causes our original pattern to shift. Change will occur; we must deal with it."

Associate Professor Dietz spoke of three different levels of dealing with change, culminating in our internalisation of it, our accepting it in a spirit of adventure.

In her final message Associate Professor Dietz hoped that graduands and the University would find change productive, resourceful, and successful.



The Co-ordinator of Christ Campus, Australian Catholic University, Associate Professor Maureen Dietz, delivers the occasional address at the Swinburne University of Technology Graduation Ceremony on 11 November, 1993.

BOSTON STUDY SUCCESS

Sr Maree Marsh, MacKillop Campus Minister, on study leave at Boston College, has scored straight A's in her first semester.

Sr Maree left Sydney in May last year to study towards her Masters Degree in Theology.

Despite a tight study and lecture schedule Sr Maree has found time to enjoy the sights of Boston. She was most impressed by the autumn colours in and around Boston describing the colourful display as "nothing short of stunning".

During her Christmas break Sr Maree escaped the sub-zero temperatures, travelling with Noelene Veness (Catholic Education Office), through Mexico and Ecuador. She spent Christmas in Mexico with Brigidine communities.

Now busy with second semester studies Sr Maree is looking forward to the warmer weather while enjoying campus life in the gothic style granite and sandstone buildings of Boston College.

Sr Maree will be returning to Sydney later this year.

Contribute your News

The Chronicle will be published in July/August and October/November, 1994.

Contribution of news, feature material and photos are welcome for consideration.

Please supply typed with double spacing on one side only of a page.

Articles should not exceed 400 words.

As suggested by the title, The Chronicle records event and people involved in all levels of the development and operation of the University.

Please send material to Mr Peter O'Brien, Australian Catholic University, Vice-Chancellery, PO Box 968, North Sydney, 2059; Phone (02) 739-2906; Fax: (02) 739 2905.

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