



# The Chronicle

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## And Now We Are 10!



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**ACU** has reached a very important milestone – our 10th 'birthday'.

Australian Catholic University (ACU) commenced formally on January 1, 1991. Ten years on we can reflect on our foundations, our achievements and our plans for the future.

The first academic year began on February 18, 1991. Most of the 7500 students came from eight colleges that were amalgamated to form the nucleus of the new university.

In 2001 ACU has expanded to become a truly national university. We have six campuses located throughout NSW,

Victoria, ACT and Queensland. A total of 24,635 students have graduated since 1991.

Student numbers have grown to 10,400 and those students can choose from 110 courses – almost double the 67 that were on offer in 1991.

ACU was formally proclaimed at a colourful inauguration ceremony at Sydney Town Hall on April 23, 1992. The occasion was the biggest gathering of academics and Catholic clergy in the history of education in Australia, with one Cardinal, five other Archbishops and 18 Bishops taking part in the inauguration.

Cardinal Edward Clancy, in accepting appointment as Foundation Chancellor, said establishment of Australian Catholic

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University would bring Catholic principles and attitudes into the University arena and subject them to public and searching analysis.

'A Catholic University enables the Catholic point of view to enter fully, publicly and equally into the great debate of our time, where that point of view will stand or fall on its own intrinsic merits', he said.

## A vision realised

Ten years ago, it was expressed by the University's Foundation Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Drake, that the University, in goodwill and with determination and practice, would become a great university. It aimed to be:

**Australian** – in community service and in an open, tolerant and relaxed style.

**Catholic** – in visible commitment and example, and in respect of guiding the total development of students.

**University** – in being a self-governing academic community in pursuit of excellence and characterised by freedom of enquiry and expression, and with broad and international vision.

In our first decade ACU has well-fulfilled this vision.

## A University

Our status as an independent, quality university is well established.

One of the highlights of our first ten years came in 1996 when ACU became a

fully accredited and entirely independent member of the Unified National System of Higher Education in Australia. In the same year, degrees and diplomas were established on a uniform and university-wide basis, supported by common Academic Regulations, a common Student Code of Conduct and a common academic calendar.

## An Australian University

An important aspect of ACU's 'Australian-ness' is our philosophical and practical commitment to Australia's indigenous people.

In 1998, the University Senate formally adopted a policy for the University of total commitment to the process of reconciliation with our indigenous population. On a practical level, the University has a strong commitment to providing educational opportunities to indigenous students. In 1999 enrolments of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students rose to the highest level ever, with more than 200 attending on a full or part-time basis.

The University's new Mission, which was endorsed and approved by the Senate in August 1998, states that a 'fundamental concern for justice and equity, and for the dignity of all human beings' guides all of the University's endeavours. While not a uniquely Australian philosophy, it is one that the University strives to instill in all of its students.

In April 1999 the University awarded

the Governor-General Sir William Deane an honorary degree as Doctor of the University in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to the Australian community. His commitment to the process of Aboriginal reconciliation and other social justice issues is particularly relevant to the Mission of ACU.

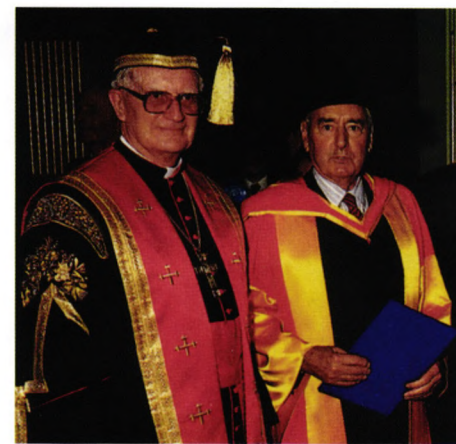
## An Australian Catholic University

The University's first five year Strategic Development Plan was released by Professor Drake in 1995. Its aim was to ensure that the University's Mission and objectives were met. It made special commitment to those aspects that identified the University as distinctly Catholic.

A new 10 year Strategic Plan was developed by Professor Peter Sheehan in 1998, shortly after he was appointed as the University's second Vice-Chancellor. Many key elements of the new Strategic Plan emphasise the Catholic nature of the University.

In particular, the Strategic Plan affirms that the University identifies with the Catholic Tradition and its beliefs, while reserving the right to comment on them, and to allow for a variety of theological, institutional and cultural expressions within the University.

The Plan also highlights the University's responsibility for instilling the values and principles of justice in its students and in equipping them with the skills to exercise moral and professional autonomy in a pluralistic society.



Above: Cardinal Edward Clancy congratulates Sir Bernard Callinan, right, recipient of ACU's first honorary degree, which was conferred at ACU's inauguration ceremony in 1992. Left: The face of ACU in 2001: students from St Patrick's Campus.

# The Future For ACU

**The future of ACU lies in achieving our Mission.**

The next ten years, and those which follow, will undoubtedly be ones of great change within our community and within the much wider human community of which we are part.

ACU's current Ten Year Strategic Plan, which guides the University's future until 2008, clearly defines the principles that will take us through the coming decade.

Our students, graduates and staff will all share in the challenge of achieving the ACU Mission and in meeting their own dreams and goals of personal and professional achievement.

The University will continue to grow, both structurally and academically.

In 2003 we will celebrate the opening of the new Banyo Campus in Brisbane, which will cater for 2000 students and 200 staff.

We will also see continued growth in our six Flagships: Early Christian Studies; Educational Leadership; Lifelong Learning; Palliative Care; Spiritual, Moral and Religious Education; and Youth Studies.

Each Flagship is making a significant contribution to the University's profile within the national and international academic community and within the broader community in which we all share.

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*Celebrations commemorating ACU's tenth anniversary will be held on campuses throughout the year.*

*MacKillop, Mount Saint Mary and St Patrick's Campuses held celebrations early in 2001.*

*Celebrations by other campuses will be reported in later issues of The Chronicle.*

## The Mission

Australian Catholic University shares with the universities world-wide a commitment to quality in teaching, research, and service. It aspires to be a community characterised by free inquiry and academic integrity. The University's inspiration, located within 2000 years of Catholic intellectual tradition, summons it to attend to all that is of concern to human beings. It brings a distinctive spiritual perspective to the common tasks of higher education.

Through fostering and advancing knowledge in education, health, commerce, the humanities, the sciences and technologies, and the creative arts, Australian Catholic University seeks to make a specific contribution to its local, national and international communities. The University explicitly engages the social, ethical and religious dimensions of the questions it faces in teaching and research, and service. In its endeavours, it is guided by a fundamental concern for justice and equity, and for the dignity of all human beings.

Australian Catholic University has a primary responsibility to provide excellent higher education for its entire diversified and dispersed student body. Its ideal graduates will be highly competent in their chosen fields, ethical in their behaviour, with a developed critical habit of mind, an appreciation of the sacred in life, and a commitment to serving the common good.

## Ten Year Celebrations

More than 120 current and former ACU staff attended the Mount Saint Mary Campus celebrations.

Pictured at right are Ms Belinda Marsden-Smedley, Student Administration, and Professor Tony d'Arbon, School of Educational Leadership, enjoying the memories evoked by a display of photos and memorabilia celebrating our 10 year history.

A 10th birthday cake was cut by former staff member Agnes Burke, School of Education (NSW), who was celebrating her 70th birthday.



# Vice-Chancellor's Message



*Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Sheehan.*

This is a special year for all our campuses as we celebrate ACU's tenth anniversary. Across all campuses we are celebrating in some highly imaginative ways.

The first mention of a Catholic university in Australia was as far back as 1885. Cardinal Moran, Archbishop of Sydney, spoke then of his dream in terms of 'United Australia would want a university' (though, he thought, just a theological one).

Fifty years ago, on March 1, 1951, Premier Mr McGirr announced that State Cabinet approved the foundations of a Catholic University and that enabling legislation was to be introduced into parliament that would be received warmly by the community, particularly by those interested in the promotion of higher studies.

A little over forty years later, the anticipated event finally took place and ACU became a reality. The realisation of the extension of Cardinal Moran's dream, however, came well over a century after his words. For many reasons, the separation of ACU from mainstream universities has taken a long time to happen and, for the last ten years, it has been achieved uniquely through our status as a public, but Catholic, University.

ACU has given, and is giving, detailed consideration to its Catholic character and defines that identity

precisely in its Mission statement. The Mission statement of ACU adds an important feature to learning and the tasks of higher education, namely, the significance of a spiritual perspective. That perspective extends beyond the study of particular disciplines – be they theology, philosophy, social science, nursing studies, or religious education. It embraces concerns for the individual, ethics and the sacred in our existence. Ten years from our foundation, it defines our critical place in Catholic higher education in this country.

As I travelled from campus to campus earlier in the year to attend commencement ceremonies, I listened carefully to what students and staff were saying. I was struck by how many express pride in the University and its achievements and by the genuine sense of enthusiasm in the air.

These words tell me something special about our tenth anniversary. Since we became a University in 1991, we have moved from being an institution trying to find its way to an institution others are taking notice of and a place of learning that is a force to be reckoned with.

I believe we have passed from a time when we were being inquisitive to a time when the mantle of maturity is upon us. Searching for wisdom and maturity are particularly demanding goals, but essential ones for us to pursue. In a sense, also, we have passed from dependency to independence, from youth to adulthood, from searching for an identity to finding one, and from a certain naivete to locating more wisdom.

What are some of the signs of these things occurring? People rail against us in some political exchanges, which means we have a place and are seen to have it. We have important public debates that have sparked a response from the community. Some examples of these are our East Timor debate, jointly sponsored conversations about the Eucharist, our discussion of 'Faith and Reason', the tension of the gap between work and play and the role of spirituality in defining that gap. There is censorship, its restrictions and its lessons for freedom and why we

have to have the debate.

The University has entered into the dialogue about euthanasia from inside our own Plunkett Centre and outside it. We are also associated with an excellent issue on business, ethics and education that should have large currency in both the educational and business sector. We have been recognised by Government for our expertise in Lifelong Learning. From the last two have come invitations to have further discussion on the issues.

Several major organisations are talking to us about establishing strategic alliances with them. Shortly, we plan to enter into one such alliance, which will involve our own staff, an external consultancy firm, and an overseas university, to mount special adult-education courses in business that should attract strong interest from the business community. If that is successful, we will extend this initiative elsewhere into other cities, for other areas of learning, and to other corners of ACU's unique environment.

When we talk about potential, we must, of course, formulate achievable targets. This has been done, and our priorities are being reformulated for the future.

Marketing is important for us, as is locating our distinctiveness: the last two are obviously related. We need to grow our research culture further; pursue our special expertise in quality professional training; and, of course, reduce our high dependency on Government income, so that we have flexibility for fresh initiatives. All this means that our people are very busy, but I sense that knowledge of our achievements is in the air.

I express my deep gratitude to all those who are working with me to help realise the goals we have set ourselves.

Finally, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to the Most Reverend George Pell, President of our Company, on his appointment as the new Archbishop of Sydney.

**Peter Sheehan**  
Vice-Chancellor

# New Archbishop For Sydney

The President of ACU, His Grace Most Reverend George Pell, has been appointed by His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, as the eighth Archbishop of Sydney.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Sheehan, has welcomed the Archbishop in his new role and has extended to him the best wishes of all at ACU.

Dr Pell, born in 1941, was ordained a priest in 1966 and has been a bishop since 1987. He has been Archbishop of Melbourne since 1996.

Dr Pell replaces His Eminence Cardinal Edward Clancy, who resigned as Archbishop for reasons of age. Cardinal Clancy was the inaugural Chancellor of ACU.

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## Archbishop Pell Has Strong Ties With ACU

Archbishop Pell's contribution to ACU has been enormous and stretches back many years before the University's formal establishment. His achievements on behalf of the University have been wide-ranging and exceptional.

Three contributions immediately spring to mind when reviewing the Archbishop's association with ACU.

One cannot go past his extraordinary generosity to the University. He has been active in his encouragement of St Patrick's campus and, as Archdiocesan leader, his financial assistance has contributed to the University's welfare in so many tangible ways.

His help to St Patrick's has extended beyond the physical aspects of the campus and its surrounds to embrace our senior academic establishment. Significantly, for example, he has been heavily involved financially and otherwise in supporting the appointment of

ACU's foundation Professor of Moral Philosophy.

Archbishop Pell's second major contribution to ACU is enshrined within our history. From 1974 to 1984 he was Founding Director of Aquinas Campus and in this position he led several significant developments, including renovation and building programs.

In recognition of his work, Burke House was named to honour his mother. The Pell Centre, which was built when nursing studies were added to the Aquinas curriculum in 1987, was also named to honour his contributions to the campus.

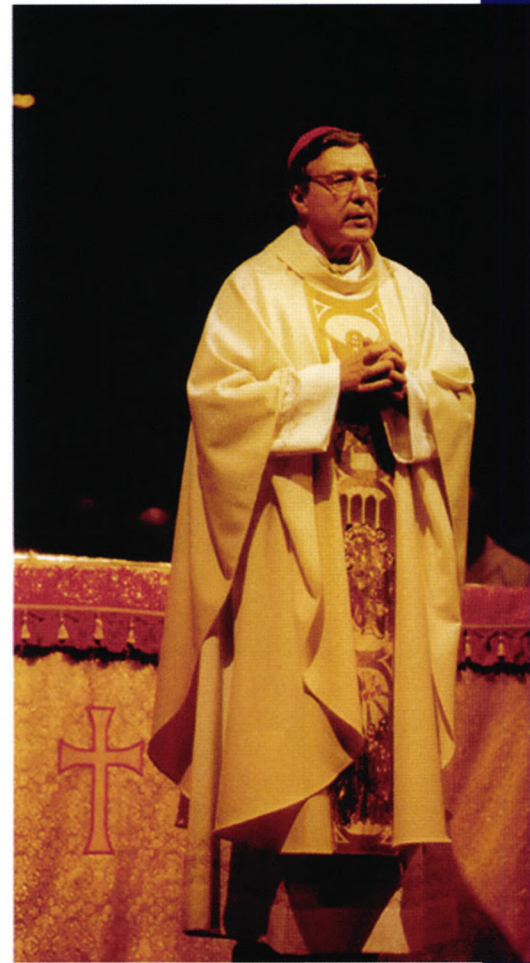
During the early 1980s Archbishop Pell also held the joint position of Principal of the Institute of Catholic Education. For these, and many other reasons, he has a very special affection for the University's Aquinas Campus.

Archbishop Pell was also the first Pro-Chancellor of the University and is currently President of Australian Catholic University Limited.

Archbishop Pell's third outstanding contribution to the University is germane to the vision and outreach of this institution. He has a fierce commitment to

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*Archbishop Pell (left) with Cardinal Clancy, who he replaces as Archbishop of Sydney.*



*A new Archbishop for Sydney – His Grace The Most Reverend George Pell, former Archbishop of Melbourne.*

the University's ethos and to the principles of social justice. He has always been an active and courageous spokesperson on matters of major moral and social justice relevance. These have included euthenasia, homosexuality, abortion and drug abuse. It is also widely known that he has championed the cause of adequate public housing in Melbourne.

With ACU's St Patrick's Campus now placed in an environment with substantial social need, Archbishop Pell has been acutely aware of our significance and the important role ACU can play in the future of Melbourne.

The congratulations of all within the ACU community are extended to Archbishop Pell on his appointment as Archbishop of Sydney.



# Hotel Management ... with ACU & William Blue

ACU has signed a partnership program with the William Blue International Hotel Management School to offer international students the opportunity to obtain a Bachelor of Hotel Management degree by taking a course through both institutions.

The degree program is structured over three to four years. Students will undertake William Blue's Diploma in Hospitality Management and Advanced Diploma in International Hotel and Resort Management courses, while concurrently completing Business Studies subjects at ACU.

The three or four year course program offers plenty of flexibility for students. It can be structured to allow students to complete the course in three years, with their third year being full-time at ACU. Alternatively, students can spread their

studies over four years, in which case they commence their ACU studies only after completing their William Blue Diploma course.

The course is offered on a full-time, on-campus, face-to-face basis, and is only available to international students.

The William Blue course component requires students to undertake one semester of industry experience.



Associate Professor Pam Gibbons, Head of the School of Business (NSW) says, 'The ACU/William Blue School partnership program allows students to develop competencies relevant to future employment in the management of international hotels and resorts. The program aims to develop tertiary-level business skills focussed on managerial decision-making, business and personal leadership, and the ethics of value-based management.'

The degree program's first student intake was in February 2001. A second course entry opportunity will be offered in July 2001. For course information and entry requirements contact the School of Business and Informatics on (02) 9739 2313.

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*Signing the ACU/William Blue partnership agreement are (back, l. to. r.) Professor John Coll, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and International) and Mr Richard Doyle, University Secretary, with Ms Jenny Hannan, Head of School, Billy Blue Schools and Mr Bruce McKenzie, Chief Executive, Billy Blue Group.*

## On-line Study For Teachers

We all face the constant challenge of keeping apace with the rapidly changing world of information and communication technology. No sooner do we learn which button to press, than the button is moved!

For school teachers, the demand is doubled. They must come to grips with the technology and its constant changes and then use their own knowledge to give their students the essential understanding and skills to master the technology for themselves.

A group of 20 school teachers from the Archdiocese of Sydney are a step ahead of many others as they commence their second year of studies at ACU. These teachers are enrolled in the ACU's Postgraduate Certificate of Information and Communication Technology.

The course is a special program supported by the Sydney Catholic Education Office (CEO) to meet the professional development needs of teachers in the area of information and

communication technology.

The course is delivered on-line, giving students greater control over when and where they study. This is an important feature for students who must balance their teaching commitments with their own study loads.

Mr Anthony Camillos, ICT Manager Curriculum, CEO Sydney, says, 'Professional development is a key priority of the CEO. Our collaboration with ACU ensures teachers have the opportunity to keep up with the ICT best customs and practice.'

Dr Martin Maguire, Senior Lecturer in the School of Education (NSW) at Mount Saint Mary Campus said, 'The challenge in the unit is to create a virtual learning community of learners.

'Engaging in learning on-line, using state-of-the-art learning paradigms, allows students to reflect upon their experience and evaluate its effectiveness in their own teaching situations.'



*Pictured are teachers undertaking the Postgraduate Certificate of Information and Communications Technology with ACU and Sydney CEO personnel who met in February to discuss the ICT program for 2001.*

# Hey! This Could Be Me!

For many school students, continuing their education at university is never seen as an option they could or would want to pursue. They have no experience of universities and the opportunities they provide and no role models who can share their own university experiences.

ACULink, an innovative project being conducted by ACU during 2001, could change this for some school students. The project encourages them to broaden their life choices by considering university as a post-school option.

ACULink provides opportunities for school students to increase their awareness of what university life involves, to develop a clearer understanding of the range of options for further study available to them after Year 12, and to undertake University units of study in their last years of school.

The project was established as a pilot project in 2000. It is funded by the Equity and Equal Opportunity Unit of the University in collaboration with Parramatta Catholic Education Office and is based on one that has been operating at the University of Newcastle for the last six years.

The schools involved with the project are Christ Catholic College (Clare, Loyala and St Agnes Campuses), Emmaus Catholic College and St Paul's College.

A variety of strategies is used to increase students' awareness of the choices available to them beyond school.

**Goal Setting Workshops** are run for Year 7 and 8 students to encourage them to consider what their career future might be. Year 9 students are shown a video produced by ACU titled *You Can Too* which reinforces the importance of setting goals for their future.

Year 10 students get a 'hands-on' feel for what it is like to be at university when they spend a full day on Mount Saint Mary Campus.

**Role modelling** is provided for Year 11 students. This involves small groups of school students being given the chance to talk with someone who attended their school and is now enrolled at ACU.

Year 11 and 12 students are able to 'Shadow' an ACU student. Here, a school student pairs with an ACU student studying in a faculty of interest to the school student. They attend lectures and

tutorials together, so that the school student gains an idea of the course. Year 11 and 12 students may also take ACU units that count towards their Higher School Certificate. 'Unilink' courses have already been successfully operating before this project commenced.

Ms Wendy Moran, Pilot Co-ordinator of the project for 2000, said there has been very positive feedback and the schools appear to be delighted with the initiative. 'It gives the schools a link with a university profile within their community and will hopefully enable students to focus on important goals.'



## *ACU was the place for us!*

*Recent ACU graduates who are now teaching in primary schools in the Archdiocese of Sydney, pictured with Br Kelvin Canavan, Executive Director of Schools, Catholic Education Office, Sydney.*

## Making Homework Meaningful

During the first semester of this year, five fourth year students in the Bachelor of Education program at Mount Saint Mary Campus worked with a group of Year 10 students from four junior campuses of Christ Catholic College in an innovative after school homework support program.

The program aimed to extend the school students' literacy skills and improve the quality of their homework.

The ACU students served as mentors to the school students, guiding them in their homework for all subjects. The ACU students were provided with strategies to assist the school students in developing their skills. The challenge was to select strategies to suit the needs of individual students.

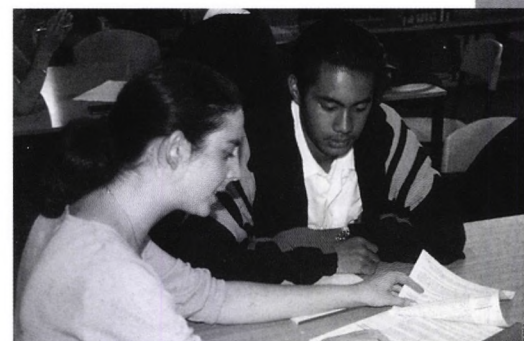
The program is a collaboration

between Christ Catholic College and ACU, with funding from the Catholic Education Office and support from local businesses.

Dr Ted Nettle, Lecturer, School of Education (NSW) at ACU, told *The Chronicle*, 'We are currently evaluating the program, looking at changes in students' attitudes to homework, school and self esteem. We are also evaluating the students' ability to plan homework, to analyse the meaning of homework questions, to write essays and the quality of homework completed'.

Both school students and BED students have benefited from their experience with the program.

'It's wonderful for ACU students to work with school students on a one-to-one basis', said Ms Maya Cranitch,



*Rebecca Crowe, 4th year ACU student and Jonathon Malaihollo, Clare College Year 10 student, working on Jonathon's homework.*

Lecturer in the School of Education (NSW) at ACU.

'It gives them an opportunity to get to know the students as individuals not just as a class, or a block of faces.'

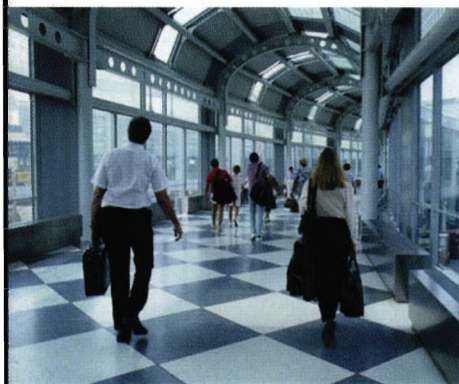
It is hoped that the pilot program will gain further support from the local business community so that it can become a continuing feature of ACU's relationship with schools in the Mt Druiitt area.

# Get A Life!

## How often do we hear that short, sharp phrase?

It's part of the patois of our time – a witty, if somewhat derisory, 'throw away' line. But journalist/broadcaster Geraldine Doogue believes it offers profoundly important advice.

It means restore balance; ensure some fun, joy; take time to 'chill out'; take time to keep things in perspective, which was not necessarily an absolute thing.



modern, theological position on and offer useful guidance about.

'Generally I find stunning silence on the issue of how contemporary individual believers might approach the question of living a good life balanced between work, family (or commitments to others) and one's own search.



*Finding the balance between work, family and one's own spiritual search poses great questions and challenges for each individual.*

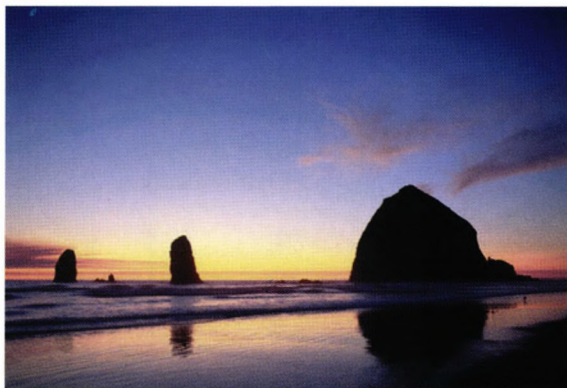
These thoughts were offered by Ms Doogue when she delivered the Lenten Lecture 2001, titled *Spirituality and Work – The Debate We Have to Have*, on Ash Wednesday.

Ms Doogue is presenter of ABC Radio National's Life Matters and ABC Television's Compass programs, both of which have pioneered coverage of patterns of major social change in Australian society.

Professor Peter Sheehan, Vice-Chancellor, in introducing Ms Doogue, said she believed the Church needed to define, and re-discover, its true context; and that the Church and the University needed to unite to communicate the right images to the world.

In her address, Ms Doogue said spirituality and work were riddled with tension between competing principles.

'The Church – churches generally – have simply left this one alone. It's (an issue which is) too hard to form a



*Geraldine Doogue with (from left) Chancellor Br. Julian McDonald, cfc, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and International) Professor John Coll, and Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Sheehan.*

'This is a very personal thing, something surely of the soul ... the lack of discussion is especially concerning and ought to demand attention', she said.

Ms Doogue noted although working hours had gradually reduced throughout much of the 20th century, from the early 1980s they began to increase. The ACTU estimates that 60% of Australians now work unpaid overtime – the equivalent of 300,000 fulltime jobs.

## Where's The Balance?

'The work/life balance is now the major unsolved problem and there is a sense the family is losing the battle', Ms Doogue said.

A National Work/Life Forum in the UK in 1998 found the issues were complex, and there was too much at stake to allow erosion of what was valued most dearly – our relationships, families and belief in what is important in our lives.

'These issues challenge our willingness to change and pose fundamental questions for all of us', Ms Doogue said.

'The inevitableness (sic) about working commitments is particularly insidious. There are always solutions, we may just not like them', she said.

When challenged to 'Get A Life' different cultures and generations would respond differently.

'With an internationalised business culture on the march, I really think it behoves us to try to articulate what, up until recently, have been implicit understandings about what's acceptable commitment and acceptable ambition; and how one sells the challenge of building on one's stock of talents without trampling on others', Ms Doogue said.



# The Touring Blake

Twenty artworks from the 2000 Blake Prize For Religious Art began a 13 month tour of Australia on January 18 at the ACU Gallery, Mount Saint Mary Campus.

The Blake Society, which is named after the artist and poet William Blake, aims to encourage contemporary artists to explore the spiritual in art. The Society has awarded an annual prize since 1951 for an artwork with a religious or spiritual theme. In 1999 ACU agreed to sponsor the Blake Prize for three years, commencing in 2000.

The 2000 Blake Prize opened at the SH Ervin Gallery in Sydney in November last year with 60 works of art

on show. The exhibition which will travel around Australia until January 2002 – **The Touring Blake** – comprises 20 works from the main exhibition. Among these are Frances Bell Parker's 'The Journey', winner of the 2000 Blake Prize.

The Touring Blake was open to the public at the ACU Gallery until February 18. It was supplemented by a series of Saturday Afternoon Gallery Talks which explored themes relating to William Blake, art and spirituality.

The Touring Blake will be on display at ACU's St Patrick's Campus, Melbourne, in October, 2001.

## The Touring Blake 2001/2002

New Norcia,  
Western Australia  
May 20 - September 16, 2001

Australian Catholic  
University  
St Patrick's Campus,  
Melbourne  
October 15 - October 26, 2001

Carnegie Gallery,  
Hobart  
November 9 - January 13, 2002



Professor Chris Peterson, Chair, The Blake Society; Ms Judith Carroll, Lecturer, School of Arts and Sciences (NSW); Cr Virginia Judge, Mayor, Strathfield Council; and Ms Ellen Waugh, Executive Director, The Blake Society at the opening of the Travelling Blake Exhibition at the ACU Gallery, Mount Saint Mary Campus.

At left: Frances Bell Parker's 'The Journey'.

The accreditation documentation and meeting was coordinated by Associate Professor Pam Gibbons, Head of the School of Business and Informatics (NSW) and Mrs Alanah Kazlauskas, Bachelor of Information Systems Course Coordinator, School of Business and Informatics (NSW).

As a result of this classification, graduates of the programs are eligible for Associate Membership of the ACS. Those graduates who already have industry experience may be eligible for Professional Membership of the ACS.

ACS works to promote the importance of professional competence and ethics in all work associated with information technology. The Department of Immigration regards ACS accredited courses as the benchmark against which IT qualifications are measured when residency applications are considered.

## Information Systems Courses Come Of Age

ACU's Information Systems courses have reached a milestone in their development by attaining Professional level accreditation from the Australian Computer Society (ACS).

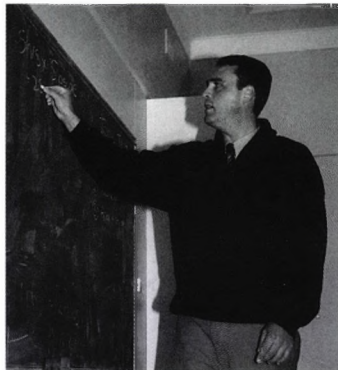
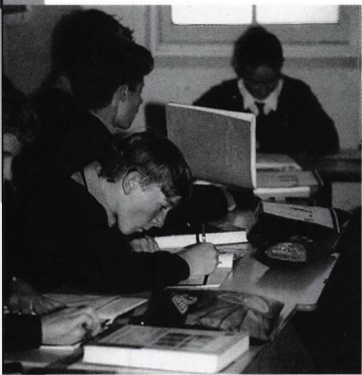
ACS has conferred its highest level of accreditation on four ACU Information Systems study programs:

- Master of Information Systems
- Graduate Diploma in Information Systems

- Bachelor of Information Systems
- Bachelor of Business Studies (Information Systems major)

The accreditation was granted to the University after a meeting between the accreditation panel and ACU Information Systems staff, current students and graduates at ACU's MacKillop Campus, North Sydney in December 2000.

# Looking For Values In Mathematics



*For students of Year 8 at St Joseph's Central School, Oberon and teacher Nick Groves, maths lessons are as much about learning skills for day-to-day living as they are about formulae and figures.*

*'When asked to think deeply about their teaching, teachers can identify the values associated with mathematics and the art of teaching.'*

According to Associate Professor Philip Clarkson, Acting Head of School in the School of Education (VIC), and his colleague Professor Alan Bishop of Monash University, these factors are becoming evident in the preliminary results of a three year ARC Large Grant funded project titled *Making Implicit Values Explicit in Teaching Mathematics*.

Throughout the project, Professors Clarkson and Bishop have worked with a

number of teachers teaching mathematics to see whether they can analyse their practice and isolate the values that they might be teaching implicitly to their students.

'If teachers are able to do this, we have then asked the teachers whether they could deliberately plan to teach particular values in some forthcoming lessons', said Associate Professor Clarkson.

'The values that we are most interested in are those that arise from the cultural processes that we call mathematics, and the accepted norms of the way mathematics is taught in classrooms.

'We have then discussed what behaviour might be expected to be associated with such values teaching.

'The teachers have given us permission to observe some of their classes to see whether their behaviour and that of the children suggest that the values planned to be taught are indeed taught.

'It seems that teachers can choose to plan to put more emphasis on some values in a particular lesson. As well, the behaviour that would be expected with such values teaching can be observed.

'The teachers in the project are quite surprised that they have been teaching values in mathematics sessions, in some cases for many years. These teachers have formed good habits of planning carefully the content of the mathematics they will teach, and they choose carefully the strategies they deem appropriate for particular groups. None of the teachers had ever thought to think and plan for the values they might have been teaching in these sessions', said Associate Professor Clarkson.

The project has another year to run, during which the researchers plan to continue their close associations with teachers. If a second grant application is successful, Associate Professor Clarkson said he hoped to work with the students to identify the values they see being taught, and whether such teaching leads to fruitful learning for them.

## Talking Exercise



The Schools of Human Movement from NSW and Victoria met at MacKillop Campus in December 2000 to consolidate and amplify content in the new Bachelor of Exercise Science degree, which was offered for the first time this year.

The Schools offer the same course in both States and were able to share ideas and concerns. After discussing areas of mutual co-operation, attention was directed to the determination of areas of future collaboration and complementary research potential.

The group also toured the recently upgraded Bioenergetics and Psychomotor Laboratory facilities.

*Members of the Schools of Human Movement from NSW and Victoria at their December 2000 meeting on MacKillop Campus.*

## ACU At Disability Conference

*'This is a time of tumultuous educational change. Good, explicit technology accommodating many learning styles benefits everyone, not only disabled students.'*

These words were part of Dr Loretta Giorcelli's keynote address at the Pathways 5 National Conference on Disability in Post Secondary Education.

The conference was held in Canberra in December 2000 and attended by ACU disability advisers and students from Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

ACU joined with Australian National University, the University of Canberra, Australian Defence Force Academy and Canberra Institute of Technology to sponsor the Conference, which had the

# Creating Futures

*Creating Futures: Developmental Integration* was the theme for the 5th Annual Conference of ACU's Academic Skills in November 2000.

The three day conference was attended by members of the Academic Skills Unit from all campuses. The conference included group discussions, workshops, presentations and reflection on points raised at the conference. Workshop topics were diverse, ranging from writing research reports to dealing with asthma and learning.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Sheehan was welcomed by Ms Barbara Hilliard, Academic Skills Coordinator, before presenting the Opening Address, which was followed by a speech from Dean of Students, Sr Rosemary Lewins op.

*Vice-Chancellor Peter Sheehan with Sr Rosemary Lewis, Dean of Students (seated left) and Mrs Barbara Hilliard, Academic Skills Coordinator (seated right) with representatives from the Academic Skills Units in Queensland, NSW and Victoria.*



# Vatican Visit

Ms Sandra Carroll, Lecturer, School of Religious Education, represented the Sydney Archdiocese at the Vatican for the International Theological Pastoral Congress last October.

Five thousand delegates attended the conference, titled *Children: Springtime of the Family and Society*. Speakers represented a broad range of projects and movements.

Sandra said vitality, pluralism and the internationality of Catholicism were her main impressions of the conference.

'For us as a family it was a chance to renew our appreciation of a world-wide Church and the importance of the Catholic contribution in wider social and political forums on issues such as family life.'

*Sandra Carroll with her husband John Collins and sons Paul and Bede at the Vatican.*



theme *Reviewing the Past, Adapting to the Future*.

Representing ACU at the conference were disability advisers Ms Kim Rowles, Mount Saint Mary Campus, Ms Jacqueline Robilliard, St Patrick's Campus and disability contact, Ms Margaret Carmody, Signadou Campus. They were joined by ACU students Emily Regan and Claire Lewington, Signadou Campus, and Nina Crawford, McAuley Campus, at sessions on topics ranging from *Quantum Technologies* to *The Microchip Revolution*.

Ms Carmody summed up the conference as providing '... an opportunity to learn about what is happening in the area of post-secondary education for people with disabilities, to gain inspiration from others and to strengthen the network of people, both students and staff, in the area of disability.'

## Educational Leadership Studies In New Zealand

Since 1998 the Catholic Education Centre in Wellington, New Zealand, has sponsored two cohorts of postgraduate students in the Master of Educational Leadership course offered by ACU.

In the recent Summer School, 50 students from both cohorts from the North and South Islands gathered in Wellington to study two units of the course presented by ACU's Associate Professor Deidre Duncan, Head of the School of Educational Leadership, and Professor Tony d'Arbon, School of Educational Leadership.

Course participants were drawn from both the Catholic and non-Catholic education sectors in New Zealand.

During the Summer School they addressed issues and contributed to workshops identifying the special character of Catholic education and the context of Catholic educational leadership in New Zealand.

The course was enthusiastically supported by the New Zealand Bishops. During the Summer School, Cardinal Thomas Williams and Bishop John Dew, both from Wellington, met with the students and encouraged them in their studies. They also expressed their appreciation for the initiative of the School of Educational Leadership in making the course available to their educational leaders.

# ACU Research Highlights

## From Bad To Worse – Rubbish On Sydney's Beaches



*Australia's beaches are a national icon but beachgoers are often guilty of using them as 'great sandy rubbish tins'.*

*Photo courtesy  
Megan Jones  
Cleanup Australia.*

*The amount of marine debris within the Greater Sydney Region is comparable to some of the most polluted areas in the world.*

That's the finding of ACU Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science) Honours student Daniel Cunningham.

In researching his Honours thesis, entitled *Survey of Marine Debris on Beaches of the Greater Sydney Region*, Daniel conducted a survey of marine debris on selected beaches in the Greater Sydney Region over a period of five months.

On average, the beaches he sampled

had 2664 items of debris per kilometre, an increase of 4.65% since 1996.

The majority of debris was plastic originating from stormwater outflows or littering by beachgoers. A small percentage of the samples collected were found to be fouled by potentially toxic micro-organisms. 'Surprisingly', said Daniel, 'beaches with the highest debris density were those within the least urbanised area.'

According to Daniel's thesis, 'The distribution and varying extent of fouling development suggested there was a long-shore debris drift occurring from the south to the north of the sample area.'

Daniel believes his research indicates that pollution of Sydney's beaches is a problem that requires immediate attention and further research to avoid significant implications in the future. He stresses the importance of addressing the sources of the debris, whilst at the same time maintaining regular beach clean-ups.

## Early Christian Studies

Two members of ACU's Centre For Early Christian Studies have recently been awarded major research grants which will enable them to further their studies in their fields.

**Dr Wendy Mayer** has been awarded a prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Fellowship by the Australian Research Council to expand the focus of her work on Chrysostom to include an exploration of John as a man. The five year project involves an examination of John in eight contexts that have either been neglected or poorly examined in the past, with the intention of producing a substantially new picture of him.

Dr Mayer said the grant demonstrates the high value which is placed upon the work of ACU's Centre for Early Christian Studies, both nationally and internationally.

Dr Mayer has also been awarded a three year Australian Research Council Large Grant. In this project, the database of social information contained in John's homilies will be expanded, to produce as complete a set of data as possible.

**Dr Bronwen Neil** has been awarded a postdoctoral fellowship by the Australian Research Council for the next four years. She will edit and translate the Latin version of Pope Martin's Commemoration.

The Commemoration offers a look at Papal and Byzantine attitudes to power in the realms of Church and State and provides insights into the politics of hagiography in late ninth-century Rome. An English translation of the document will allow its wider use by both historians and theologians.

## Publishing Success For Pauline Allen

Associate Professor Pauline Allen, Director of the Centre for Early Christian Studies, has contributed 37 articles to the recently published fifth volume of *Patrologia Dal Concilio di Calcedonia a Giovanni Damasceno - I Padri Orientali*.

The 720 page millennial edition is published in Italian by Casa Editrice Marietti - Genova. It is hoped an English translation of this volume will be published within the next five years.

Associate Professor Allen is also the author of the most recently published volume in the Cambridge Ancient History series. The 1166 page Volume XIV, titled *Late Antiquity: Empire and Successors, 425 - 600 AD*, took ten years to prepare for publication.

# Olympic Park Soil Contamination

Much of the land that has become Sydney Olympic Park has a long history of industrial use and is known to be heavily polluted.

Pollution control and reclamation projects have been in place over the area for a number of years, but the question always begging to be asked is 'Are they working?'

During 2000 Bachelor of Science (Honours) student Carrie Jeffers and Dr Brian Bicknell, School of Arts and Sciences (NSW), conducted a study to determine the bacterial biodegradation and contamination in the soil at Wilson Park, which is part of the Northern Precincts of Sydney Olympic Park.

Their results show that at least one Olympic Park pollution control and management project is working.

Between 1953 and 1974 Wilson Park was the site of a town gas production plant which produced an average of four tonnes of tar sludge waste from crude oil each day. Most of this waste was dumped into two on-site pits.

When gas production on the site ceased in 1974 the remaining sludge was spread over the site, covered with fill and capped with clay. The area was then used as parkland until, in 1994, Auburn Council employees noticed a tarry substance oozing from the soil.

An environmental assessment of the site concluded that the buried tar sludge

ponds had severely contaminated the soil and leached into the Parramatta River.

In 1996 the Olympic Coordination Authority agreed to include Wilson Park into the remediation plan for the Northern Precincts of the Olympic site.

According to Dr Bicknell, contaminated groundwater was a major concern because Wilson Park adjoins Parramatta River. A series of sub-surface drains and pumps were constructed to collect this groundwater, which was transferred to a holding dam.

Since 1997, the holding dam has been utilised as a trial biological treatment pond in which bioremediation is encouraged.

Dr Bicknell explains that bioremediation is a process that employs living micro-organisms to degrade or detoxify environmental pollutants from soil, water, sludge and air to acceptable levels.

'One of the significant pollutants found at Wilson Park is a group of compounds known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

'PAHs are a major concern as pollutants in the environment and they pose significant health risks. Many are toxic, potentially carcinogenic or cause birth defects.

'The US Environmental Protection Agency has classified 16 PAHs as priority pollutants. All 16 are found at Wilson Park in the soil and groundwater', said Dr Bicknell.



BSc student Carrie Jeffers testing samples.

Nothing was known about the bioremediation of PAHs at Wilson Park prior to the study carried out by Ms Jeffers and Dr Bicknell, which aimed to establish if bioremediation of PAHs was occurring in the treatment pond.

Results from the study established that the treatment pond is operating as a successful PAH-degrading ecosystem. Bacteria in the treatment pond water and the groundwater are well adapted to degrading PAHs.

The study showed that large numbers of bacteria capable of degrading all 16 PAHs exist in groundwater and water from the treatment pond and that these bacteria effectively break down pollutants in the treatment pond water.

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## Saving Women's History

ACU has recently established a ground-breaking women's studies research program that is seen as the first step towards the establishment of a Centre for Research in Women's History, Theology and Spirituality at ACU.

Project Co-Ordinator, Dr Sophie McGrath rsm, hopes the work undertaken will help break the cycle of loss of women's history to society.

Dr McGrath believes that the project, by studying and preserving women's history, '... will hopefully help save women from being reduced again to reinventing the wheel!'

Dr McGrath and research fellows Dr Rosa MacGinley pbvm and Dr Kim Power have been appointed by the University's Institute for the Advancement of Research to work with relevant ACU staff on the project.

The Central Project Team's first major research project is entitled *The Catholic Community and Women's Suffrage in Australia*. The project is nationally oriented and focuses on lay women.

Dr McGrath believes the lay focus of this project is an important one. She says, 'With some notable exceptions, most of Catholic women's history in Australia to

date has been concerned with women religious. This project will give the opportunity to focus on relationships, most significantly between the sexes, clergy and laity, and State and Church.'

Dr McGrath hopes that the research project will bring together other scholars from around the country.

Dr McGrath also notes that during this year the Central Project Team will be working to establish a database of researchers and their work relevant to a possible Centre for Women's History, Theology and Spirituality.

# The Fabric Of Our History

## Commemorative quilt depicts ten years of growth

The School of Arts and Sciences (NSW) presented a Tenth Anniversary Commemorative Quilt to Professor Peter Sheehan, Vice-Chancellor, at the Sydney Campuses Opening Ceremony on March 7.

The quilt depicts the development of ACU in NSW. It was researched, designed and constructed by students of the Bachelor of Teaching/Bachelor of Arts (Technology) under the direction of Louise Du Vernet.

'The base of the quilt incorporates the colours of the colleges that amalgamated to form the University. The traditional log cabin design signifies the strength of the foundations that the University was built on', said Dr Gail Crossley, Head of the School of Arts and Sciences (NSW).

A row of gold and red patchwork reflects the tumultuous period of restructuring when Castle Hill Campus closed for efficiency gains. This stage is recognised as a strengthening force in response to change.

From the restructuring grows a decid-



*Detail of the Ten Year Commemorative Quilt, on display at Mount Saint Mary Campus.*

uous tree, the metaphor for the University – constantly renewing, nourished by the artefacts at its roots.

The design shows a lion in the arms of Bishop Polding, the first Archbishop of Sydney and founder of Catholic Teacher Education in Australia. The open book seen in the crests of foundation colleges symbolises learning and scholarship, while the symbol of the dove at the top of the Catholic Teachers' College crest represents God's self-giving spirit.

The orders associated with the foundation colleges – Marist Brothers, De La Salle Brothers, Christian Brothers, the Sisters of St Joseph and the Good Samaritan Sisters – are represented in the design.

Associate Professor Malcolm Prentis, School of Arts and Sciences (NSW), Br Barry Lamb and Mr Tom Thorpe, School of Education (NSW) assisted in the research of the quilt. Sr Kim-Maree Goodwin, School of Education (NSW), and Mr Mark Berlage, Office of Research, donated fabrics and students Veronica Bonnanno, Gillian Bryant, Naomi Vickers and Fiona Donaghey donated much of their time in the making of the quilt.

## National Focus For Student Administration

Miss Gay Westmore, ACU's new Academic Registrar, believes it is important for Student Administration to contribute to the Mission and Strategic Plan of the University and to further



*ACU's Academic Registrar, Gay Westmore.*

develop its national focus.

'Student Administration is a service function – and our aim is to provide excellent services for students and staff. It's important to develop the national focus of Student Administration, and in doing so we must ensure that quality services are available to students and staff on all campuses. To do this we need to be flexible and creative in identifying and assessing possible options', she said.

'Student Administration has moved a long way, too, with the adoption of common policies and procedures across all campuses, and I am optimistic that there is a great deal of goodwill among staff to advance this even further.'

One of Student Administration's principal challenges, to be addressed in collaboration and cooperation with staff of Information Technology and Communication Services, is ensuring that the Banner student system better meets the needs of the academic community, as

well as those of Student Administration, and faculty and school administrators.

Miss Westmore believes that the development of a user-friendly, intuitive web front-end to the Banner system has great potential in this regard.

Communication, collaboration and cooperation are words that crop up frequently in Miss Westmore's conversation.

She believes it is essential to work closely with the academic community, and has invited its representation on a Student Administration Reference Group. This group will contribute to planning and review of major functions emanating from Student Administration but which touch the broader University community. Membership of this Group also includes student representatives.

'I believe it is important to understand the needs and views of our customers, and we want to hear this at first hand from them, not to assume that we know what they want.'

# New Director Of Finance

Newly appointed Director of Finance, Mr John Ryan, sees his role at ACU as providing pro-active financial services support to the University community.

'This may vary from advising on developing business plans to ensuring a supplier or staff member is paid on time', he said.

Mr Ryan commenced at ACU on February 5 and is based at North Sydney. He has had extensive experience in the tertiary education sector and was previously Deputy Director, Financial Services at the University of Technology (Sydney).

He said ACU and UTS both operate in similar environments of reduced government funding, increased competition from other service providers, both within Australia and internationally, and increasing economic pressures.

'One outcome of this environment is the operative to develop alternative sources of income', he said.

Mr Ryan commented that the significant differences between ACU and UTS, including the national focus of ACU, a strong sense of community, the relatively small size of campuses and a Catholic ethos, will help differentiate ACU from other institutions.

'These are all key opportunities for ACU to market itself to potential students and partners', said Mr Ryan.

Mr Ryan has a Bachelor of Business from the University of Technology (Sydney).



Director of Finance for ACU, John Ryan.

# Farewell To Cardinal Clancy

*'... the perfect person to lead us from our days of rich Catholic heritage to our current time as a maturing public, but Catholic, university.'*

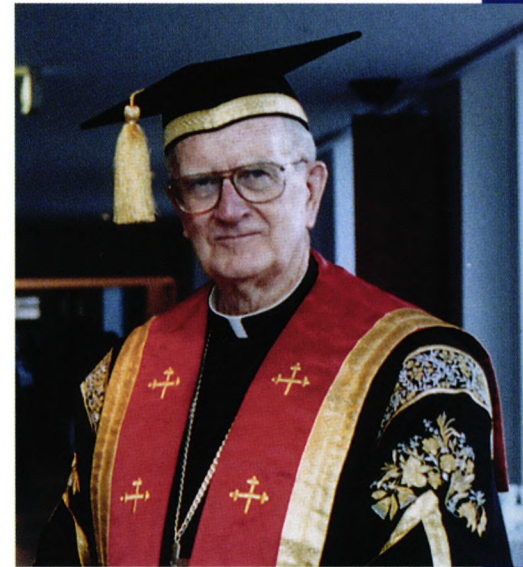
These were some of the words offered by Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Sheehan in his farewell address to Cardinal Edward Clancy on his retirement as Chancellor of the University.

Members of the University Senate and the University Company, the Chair of the NSW Chapter, senior staff, and the Foundation Vice-Chancellor and Foundation University Secretary attended the farewell function, which was held in Sydney on January 24.

In his farewell address Professor Sheehan went on to praise Cardinal Clancy with the following words.

'His experience as President of the Australian Bishops, his membership of the Council of Cardinals for the Study of the Organisation and Economic Problems of the Holy See, and many other positions and responsibilities give him inestimable significance as a leader among others in Church politics in Australia.

'His multiple academic qualifications, his professorship in sacred scriptures, his



Cardinal Edward Clancy.

academic and administrative leadership in the discipline of theology in Australia have distinctively made him an exceptional Chancellor to head ACU.

'His ability and demonstrated capacity bridge the politics of Church and academia uniquely.'

Cardinal Clancy retired as Chancellor of ACU on November 5, 2000. Br Julian McDonald cfc succeeds him as Chancellor.

# Graduate Students Stay In Touch

Doctorate of Education students from McAuley Campus who completed their coursework last year have decided to meet regularly during the time they are writing their theses.

The students, from diverse educational and demographic backgrounds, believe they had benefited from the cohesive learning environment and opportunities for critical review of their

work by peers as well as experts during the coursework phase of the studies. They want to retain this cohesion as they continue with their thesis research.

Their first opportunity to get together as a group came when they celebrated the end of their coursework component with lecturer Associate Professor Denis McLaughlin at a casual dinner held at his home in December.



Associate Professor Denis McLaughlin (back, 2nd from left) with Doctorate of Education students John Graham, Graham Harne and Yoonne Osborne and (seated) Chris Fry, Simon Watkins and Bob Bingham. (Not in photo: Nereda White and Wayne Wildin).

# Awards

## Margaret Balint Award

The Margaret Balint Award for 2000 has been awarded to Associate Professor Patricia Malone, School of Religious Education. The award, commemorating Margaret Balint's contribution to the University and its predecessor colleges, was presented to Professor Malone in recognition of her service to ACU.



Associate Professor Patricia Malone displays the Margaret Balint Award plaque.

## Sports Medal Award

Mr John McCarty, Manager Campus Operations at Aquinas Campus, was recently awarded the Australian Sports Medal in recognition of his involvement in Australian Rules Football as a player, coach and administrator.

The Australian Sports Medal is a commemorative award within the Australian honours system which recognises the contributions of current and former sports participants and those who have provided support services to sport.



John McCarty displays his Sports Medal and certificate signed by Prime Minister John Howard and Governor General Sir William Deane.

## Australia Day Medal

Ms Cheryl Rasmussen, School of Arts and Sciences (QLD), received an Australia Day Achievement Medal for Outstanding Service to the State Emergency Service and the Community of Pine Rivers. She received her award at Parliament House in Brisbane on January 25.



Cheryl Rasmussen with her Australia Day Achievement Medal.

## Community Service Award

Ms Rosemary Williams, Counsellor in Student Services at St Patrick's Campus, is the recipient of the inaugural University Award for Outstanding Community Service for 2000.

The Award recognises Ms Williams' work as a volunteer psychologist-in-residence at the Regina Coeli Community for homeless women in North Melbourne. She has been involved with Regina Coeli since 1989, providing invaluable assistance to the women in the Community.

Ms Williams received her award at a Melbourne graduation ceremony in May. The award also consists of a prize of \$2000 for use in an approved Community Service related project.



Rosemary Williams.

# Seminars – Issues In Nursing

The School of Nursing (QLD) is running a series of professional development seminars open to all health care professionals. The series commenced in May 2001 and will continue to February 2002. Academic staff from the School of Nursing at McAuley Campus will present current research projects and findings for discussion.

You can contact Ms Leah McDonald at the School of Nursing (QLD) – phone (07) 3855 7164 – for further information and to register to attend the seminars.

## Seminar Program

### Aged Care Issues

Date: July 10, 2001  
Time: 6.00pm  
Venue: Canossa Care  
Presenters: Ms Monica Nabauer

**Landscapes Of Care:**  
*Caring practices in two dementia units*

Kim Wylie

**Dementia Care Mapping:**  
*Understanding the everyday world of dementia care*

### Health Teaching Issues

Date: October 16, 2001  
Time: 6.30pm  
Venue: Education Centre  
Prince Charles Hospital  
Presenters: Ms Deb Nizette

**Perspectives On Patient Teaching**  
Ms Maureen Austin  
**Nurse Credibility And Client Education**

### Clinical Education Issues

Date: February 12, 2002  
Time: 5.30 – 7.30pm  
Venue: Royal Brisbane Hospital  
Presenters: Ms Heather Beattie

**Registered Nurses' Perceptions Of Clinical Teaching**

Ms Jennifer Kelly

**Socialisation And The New Graduate**

Ms Estelle Bartley

**The Midwife's Experience & Understanding Of Learning In The Transition To A Clinical Informatics Environment**

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