

2013
ANNUAL
REVIEW

IDEAS / IDEALS / IMPACT
CONNECT: UOW

UNIVERSITY OF
WOLLONGONG



ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S BEST MODERN UNIVERSITIES

The University of Wollongong figured prominently in authoritative rankings during 2013.



TOP 50 UNDER 50

24th in the QS Top 50 Under 50 Ranking for modern universities under 50 years old in 2013



TOP 2% OF UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD

276th in the world – QS World University Rankings 2013/2014

298th in the world – The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2013/2014

352nd in the world – Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2013



GLOBALLY RATED FIVE STAR UNIVERSITY

5 Star Rating - QS World University Rankings 2013

For the 14th year in a row, the Australian Good Universities Guide (published in 2013 for 2014) awarded UOW five stars in:

- Getting a Job
- Graduate Starting Salaries
- Positive Graduate Outcomes

UOW was also ranked first in Australia in the 2013 Good Universities Guide for Educational Experience and Graduate Outcomes.



TOP 1% OF WORLD UNIVERSITIES FOR RESEARCH QUALITY

The 2013 Leiden Rankings from The Netherlands placed UOW in the top 1% of world universities for research quality (186th in the world)



TOP 100 FOR GLOBAL GRADUATES

For the sixth successive year employers have ranked UOW in the top 100 universities in the world for the quality of its graduates – QS World University Rankings Graduate Employers Survey 2013



OLT RECOGNITION

A number of UOW academic staff were recognised by the Federal Government's National Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT) during 2013.

- Associate Professor Garry Hoban (Faculty of Social Sciences) was awarded an OLT National Senior Teaching Fellowship to lead a team on a nine-month "national road show" to universities across Australia to promote the use of student-centred digital media to explain science, which has been developed at UOW. These prestigious Fellowships recognise an individual's demonstrated leadership capacity and aims to advance learning and teaching in higher education.
- Seven UOW academics received OLT Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning. Shawn Burns (Journalism), Dr Tracey Kuit (Biological Sciences), Dr Theresa Larkin (Medicine), Associate Professor Lindsay Oades (Business Psychology), Dr Caz Sandison (Mathematics), Dr Michelle Eady (Education) and Dr Kylie Mansfield (Medicine) were the recipients.

Four UOW academic teams also received 2013 OLT grants for collaborative projects with other universities.

Benchmarking of UOW's performance in the OLT Citation awards from 2006-2013 confirmed that UOW is ranked second in Australia over this period, just one citation behind the University of Melbourne.

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MAKING AN IMPACT



In many ways 2013 was a watershed year for the University of Wollongong, as we embarked on the transformative agenda contained in our comprehensive Strategic Plan 2013-2018.

The five-year Strategic Plan aims to see the University placed in the top 1% of world universities from our current position in the top 2%, and we were determined to get off to a flying start in 2013. A Stocktake Report which assessed our performance in the first year of the Strategic Plan confirmed that we made strong progress.

So it was a busy year, as we restructured our Faculty system from nine Faculties and two Graduate Schools into five larger Faculties. I am pleased to report that process is now complete and we are seeing the benefits that will flow from this stream-lined approach.

At the same time we saw significant growth in our overall student numbers – a 5.2% increase to a record 31,464 studying at our campuses in Australia – and even bigger increases in off-shore numbers, particularly in Dubai and Malaysia.

In 2013 the University of Wollongong in Dubai (UOWD) celebrated its 20th anniversary. UOWD continues to be a major success and a benchmark for off-shore operations by Australian universities. In Kuala Lumpur our partnership with the Laureate Group has continued to flourish, with the opening of new state of the art facilities for UOW's Sydney Business School.

UOW was ranked first in Australia in the 2013 Good Universities Guide for Educational Experience and Graduate Outcomes. The National Office for Teaching and Learning recognised UOW's teaching excellence with a number of awards and citations throughout the year. UOW is ranked second in Australia for OLT citations over the last eight years, underlining the University's consistently strong performance in teaching quality.

Our talented researchers also achieved record Australian Research Council funding of \$49.1 million, making UOW the second-highest recipient of ARC funds, relative to size.

A highlight of the year was Team UOW Australia's victory in Solar Decathlon China 2013 – an international competition held in Datong, China that challenged university teams from around the world to design and build attractive, energy-efficient solar-powered houses.

This outstanding team effort involving staff and students from UOW and TAFE Illawarra generated considerable international industry and media interest and focussed attention on our new Sustainable Buildings Research Centre which was completed late in the year.

Early in 2013 we released a report, **UOW: Leading Locally, Competing Globally** which showed that UOW activities generate over \$2 billion in economic activity each year, with most occurring in Wollongong and the Illawarra region. So while UOW is transforming itself, so is Wollongong – from a city traditionally heavily reliant on the steel industry and coal mining to a diversified economy where 21st century "knowledge" industries are increasingly important.

Our determination to continue to lead this transformation will be aided by the NSW Government's announcement in December that it will provide \$16.5 million to fund the construction of the University's iAccelerate business incubator. This allows the University to nurture high-tech startup companies that will help generate the region's future economic growth.

In the same month the Commonwealth Government announced the renewal of funding for the ARC Australian Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science and funding for the ARC Research Hub for Australian Steel Manufacturing. Both these centres are critical for future development of Australia's manufacturing capacity.

During the past 12 months we sought to engage ever more closely with our alumni, with our community and with our partners in Australia and around the world. This has included events for alumni in New South Wales, and overseas in Bangkok, London, Dubai, Singapore and Jakarta. In 2013 we reorganised our management of these processes and established a Division dedicated to engagement and advancement.

This inaugural Annual Review records many of UOW's achievements and highlights of 2013. I hope you will enjoy reading about them.

Professor Paul Wellings CBE
Vice-Chancellor

OUR VISION

To be a leader in ideas and solutions, a community of campuses and partners where discovery, learning and technology connect to transform people and the world we live in.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

At UOW people come to be part of something bigger than themselves.

We are people connected by a passion for excellence.

Here's a small insight into what we believe and the values that drive us.

- We believe being passionate about learning and excellence delivers better outcomes for all.
- We believe being refreshing and innovative in everything we do, creates new approaches, connections and possibilities.
- We believe by having an inclusive heart and mind, we expose ourselves and others to new thinking and experiences.
- We believe quality teaching and research has high impact on society and individuals.

UOW NUMBERS

9 CAMPUSES

31,464 TOTAL STUDENT ENROLMENT

12,811 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AUSTRALIA AND ABROAD

24,427 STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA

138 NATIONALITIES AT UOW

2,353 EMPLOYEES

94.6% OF STUDENTS INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD RECOMMEND UOW

476 DEGREES ON OFFER

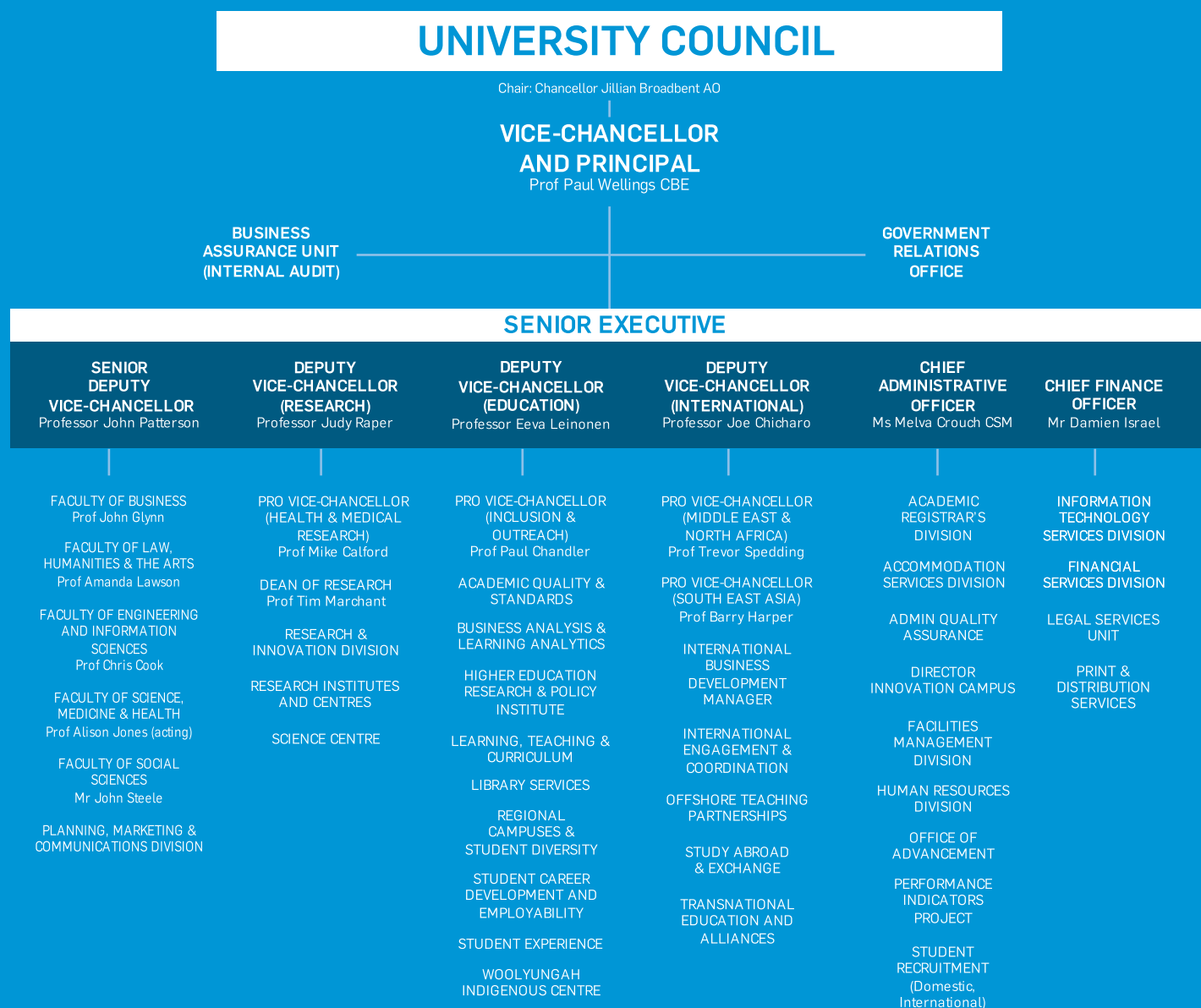
11 RESEARCH STRENGTHS

213 ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS GLOBALLY

112,302 UOW ALUMNI

UOW numbers current at 31 Dec 2013

UOW STRUCTURE



UOW structure current at 31 Dec 2013

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Two milestone events in 2013 propelled the University of Wollongong to the forefront of the sustainable building sector in Australia.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS RESEARCH CENTRE

The \$26 million Sustainable Buildings Research Centre (SBRC), funded by the Federal Government, was completed at UOW's Innovation Campus during the year. It is an Australian-first research centre designed to foster collaboration and partnerships between researchers and industry to meet the challenge of reducing the carbon footprint of existing buildings and developing technologies that will make Australia's future buildings more environmentally sustainable.

SBRC researchers' projects include developing sustainable building technologies for residential and commercial applications, analysing and improving thermal design for buildings to reduce the need for using energy for heating and cooling, and developing control and sensor technology to improve building performance.

The SBRC building is an exemplar of sustainable design in the Illawarra region. It has been designed to a 6 Star Green Star Design rating and is on track to be the first Australian building certified by the Living Building Challenge, the world's most advanced measure of sustainability in the built environment.

The Living Building Challenge comprises seven performance areas - site, water, energy, health, materials, equity and beauty. As part of meeting the Living Building Challenge, the SBRC is an ultra-low energy building with natural ventilation and carefully-selected materials, many of which have been recycled and/or sourced locally.

The Sustainable Buildings Research Centre opened on UOW's Innovation Campus.



Sustainable Buildings Research Centre Director Professor Paul Cooper (left) and staffer Robyn Fumini (right) with one of the centre's international researchers, Associate Professor Liliansa Fay. Professor Fay, an architecture and construction engineering academic from the Brazil's Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, is doing a post-doctoral research project at SBRC entitled: *Innovation envelopes: products and processes for residential buildings*. She is researching Australian innovations in products and processes for building sustainable housing.

ILLAWARRA FLAME

In August, Team UOW Australia, made up of students from UOW and TAFE Illawarra, won Solar Decathlon China 2013 – a high profile international competition that challenged university teams from around the world to design, build and operate solar-powered houses that are cost-effective, energy-efficient and attractive.

Team UOW's victory in this prestigious international event received widespread acclaim in Australia and overseas, while the team's decision to retro-fit an existing home to make it more energy-efficient rather than design a building from scratch, has generated intense interest in Australia's sustainable engineering sector.

The building, called the Illawarra Flame House, has been transported back to Australia to be re-assembled next to the SBRC, where it will serve as an important community engagement facility showcasing its cutting edge sustainable building technologies.

The Illawarra Flame House produces more energy than it uses, with features such as solar electricity generation, phase change material integrated air heating system, thermal store and grey-water recycling that uses an artificial wetland built into the garden to filter water.

Team UOW Australia's winning entry at the Solar Decathlon China competition at Datong.



KEY INITIATIVES

ENERGY

Energy-saving initiatives on the Wollongong campus resulted in an 8.5% fall in natural gas usage and a 3.5% fall in electricity usage in 2013. Energy saving improvements in 2013 included lighting retrofits, de-lamping over-lit areas, plant and equipment upgrades, improved air-conditioning management and "Green office" programs to encourage behavioural change.

WASTE

Electronic waste collections at Wollongong campus and student residences resulting in 11,339kg diverted from landfill; composting of 16,000 kg of waste from food outlets; and mobile phone and toner recycling collection stations established at the Wollongong and Shoalhaven campuses, Innovation Campus and student residences.

WATER

Initiatives to save water included extensive tap and shower refits across campus, installing additional rainwater storage, and the expansion of the automatic water meter reading system to closely monitor water consumption and help in the early detection of leaks. Kooloobong Village was included in these initiatives.



Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings chatting with team members at the solar-powered house design competition in China.

RESEARCHERS HIT HIGH NOTE

UOW Research started 2013 on a high note when the University was ranked in the top 1% of universities world-wide for the quality of its research, and ended the year with record Australian Research Council (ARC) funding.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

The 2013 Leiden Ranking placed UOW 186th in the world overall for "Research Quality", moving up from 233rd in 2012. That ranking placed UOW fifth in Australasia (and number one in NSW) for research quality.

The authoritative Leiden Ranking from The Centre for Science and Technology Studies at Leiden University in the Netherlands is a measure of performance of major universities, and is one of four authoritative international ranking systems for the sector.

EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT

During 2013 UOW hosted two major events to promote its research and researchers.

The first Big Ideas Festival in May featured presentations by 12 of the University's most recently-appointed professors, talking about the "big ideas" in their research. Presentation topics ranged from developing better batteries to power the electric cars of the future, the implications on sea level rise to national borders, unlocking the mysteries of quantum computing and helping police better manage psychiatric crisis incidents, to early intervention with pre-schoolers to prevent them developing sedentary habits that could lead to obesity and other physical issues, as well as affecting brain development.

UOW's second TEDxUWollongong event in September looked at liveability, and featured a presentation by UOW's SMART Infrastructure Director Professor Pascal Perez.

During 2013 UOW researchers received many external awards and prizes. These included geochronologist Dr Xenobia Jacobs, who received a Scopus Young Researcher Award, Professor Roger Truscott who received the top research prize for the US National Foundation for Eye Research for his team's work on age-related cataracts, Indigenous Studies lecturer Dr Bronwyn Carlson who received the 2013 Stanner Award and Dr Michael Kelso who received a Royal Australian Chemical Institute Biota Award for drug design.

INVESTMENT SUCCESS

In 2013 UOW received a record \$49.1 million in ARC funding, making UOW the second-highest ARC funded institution in Australia, relative to size.

The ARC funding included Centres of Excellence Funding, the Australian Laureate Fellowship program, Discovery projects, Early Career Researcher Awards (DECRA), Future Fellowships and Linkage schemes.

UOW broke into the top eight performing universities for DECRA funding, which aims to promote and support opportunities for promising early-career researchers, with eight early career researchers receiving funding.

Highlights of the ARC funding included:

- \$25 million for the **ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science** (ACES) at UOW, to develop innovative functional 3D devices, including soft robotic limbs and solar fuel devices. The new Centre for 3D Electromaterials based at UOW with partner institutions around Australia and overseas, will collaborate with leading researchers around the world to further develop their work on smart nano-materials, to now create 3D devices with advanced capabilities over their 2D counterparts.
- \$5 million to establish an Australian steel manufacturing hub (matched by \$5 million from BlueScope, which operates Australia's largest steelworks at nearby Port Kembla). The hub will explore ways to inject innovation into steel manufacturing and develop new steel products to secure the industry's future.
- UOW's Centre for Archaeological Science (CAS) Director Professor Richard (Bert) Roberts receiving a \$3.1 million Australian Laureate Fellowship to develop CAS as the central hub for Australia's first national centre for archaeological science.
- In October UOW researchers received \$3.4 million in National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants – the University's highest total since 2009. The research projects that received funding ranged from investigating ways to prevent sedentary behaviour in children to developing intelligent conducting polymers to treat schizophrenia.

TACKLING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

The UOW Global Challenges Program is a major research initiative designed to harness the expertise of the University's world-class researchers to solve complex, real-world problems.

Its three themes are united by an overall research goal of Transforming Lives and regions. These themes, which were finalised in 2013, are:

- Living Well, Longer
- Manufacturing Solutions
- Sustaining Coastal and Marine Zones

In 2013 UOW appointed Professor of Human Geography Chris Gibson (pictured below) to head the Global Challenges program, designed to encourage and develop creative and community-engaged research that will help drive social, economic and cultural change in our region, and will be translatable across the globe.

Each Global Challenge involves collaboration between UOW researchers and business, government, community and other research organisations. Global Challenges will articulate and pursue innovative solutions to major challenges, with a clear focus on the delivery and adoption of research outputs that have maximum impact in key areas of social, economic and community need.





MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS

BIO PEN (PICTURED)

A hand-held "bio pen" developed at UOW will allow surgeons to design customised implants on-site and at the time of surgery.

The BioPen, developed by researchers from the UOW-headquartered Australian Centre of Excellence in Electromaterials Science (ACES), will give surgeons greater control over where the materials are deposited while also reducing the time the patient is in surgery by delivering live cells and growth factors directly to the site of injury, accelerating the regeneration of functional bone and cartilage.



The BioPen works similarly to 3D printing methods by delivering cell material inside a biopolymer, protected by a second, outer layer of gel material. The two layers of gel are combined in the pen head as it is extruded onto the bone surface and the surgeon 'draws' with the ink to fill in the damaged bone section.

SAFER CANCER TREATMENT

UOW'S Centre for Medical Radiation Physics has developed a novel device, MOSkin, that improves the safety of radiation treatment of cancer. The device detects how much radiation patients are exposed to in real time, allowing closer control of radiation to reduce the risk of radiation overdoses (which may cause secondary cancers) and chronic or acute side-effects such as skin erythema.

MOSkin prototypes have been trialled by more than 20 international cancer centres, hospitals and research institutions, and in 2013 the project received a highly competitive Commercialisation Australia Skills and Knowledge Grant to help commercialise the technology.

Director of Orthopaedics at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne Professor Peter Choong who will use the BioPen in clinical projects (pictured left) with UOW's Professor Gordon Wallace.

GLOBAL REACH

WIDE WORLD OF LEARNING

UOWD celebrated its 20th anniversary with a series of events in the United Arab Emirates.



UOW Chancellor Jillian Broadbent, AO in Dubai to celebrate the 20th anniversary of UOWD.

UOWD TURNS 20

In October UOWD President Professor Trevor Spedding hosted a gala anniversary with Guest of Honour His Highness Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Dubai's Minister for Culture, Youth and Community Development. Other distinguished guests included Australian Ambassador to the UAE and Qatar Pablo Kang, UOW Chancellor Jillian Broadbent, Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings and Dr James Langridge, University Fellow and chief architect of UOWD.

OFFSHORE SUCCESS

UOWD is arguably Australia's most successful off-shore higher education facility, growing from humble beginnings in 1993 with a handful of students to a highly regarded international institution in 2013 with more than 4,000 students and around 280 staff at its campus in Dubai's Knowledge Village.

UOWD was the first western university to establish in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and over two decades has built a reputation as one of the leading universities in the Gulf region, attracting students from across the Middle East, North Africa, the Indian Sub-continent and beyond. In 2013 UOWD offered 12 accredited undergraduate degree programs, 11 Masters degree programs and a highly regarded PhD program. UOWD's professional development courses are also highly regarded by UAE government agencies.

EXPORTING EDUCATION

In October UOW won the NSW Premier's Export Award for Education and Training, to cap off a year of strong growth in our international programs.

The award recognised UOW for "outstanding innovation and export achievement in the field of education and training services, expertise and curriculum, including vocational training".

UOW's export business is built around the delivery of higher education services both on-shore (Wollongong and Sydney campuses) and off-shore at the University of Wollongong in Dubai and through partnership operations in Asia.

In 2013 UOW's international off-shore enrolments passed 6,000 for the first time (6,971 by the end the year) and surpassed the target set for 2013, while international student numbers at our Australian campuses increased by 3.4% to 5,840. This was the result of a determined effort to increase the diversity of our source markets to reduce dependence on specific countries for both on-shore and off-shore students.

UOW is determined to build on this strong performance, and in 2013 created two new Pro Vice-Chancellor (PVC) roles to support our internationalisation agenda. Professor Barry Harper was appointed PVC, South East Asia region (SEA), and Professor Trevor was appointed PVC, Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

PARTNERS

In **Singapore**, UOW has long-standing partnerships with two leading private education colleges, the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) and the PSB Academy to deliver internationally-recognised academic programs in business, information technology, computer science and psychology.

In **Malaysia**, UOW partners with INTI to offer undergraduate and postgraduate UOW degrees at INTI's campuses in Subang Jaya in Kuala Lumpur and on the island of Penang.

At the start of 2013 around 1,000 students were enrolled at INTI in UOW's Masters degree in International Business and undergraduate degrees in Commerce, Computing Science, Information Technology and Media and Communications. In August UOW's Sydney Business School launched a Master of Business Administration course in Malaysia, based at INTI in Kuala Lumpur.

In **Thailand**, UOW partners with Assumption University in Bangkok to offer a Master of Education degree specialising in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL).

In **Hong Kong**, UOW partners with IRI/Sino Education to offer a Bachelor of Nursing degree.

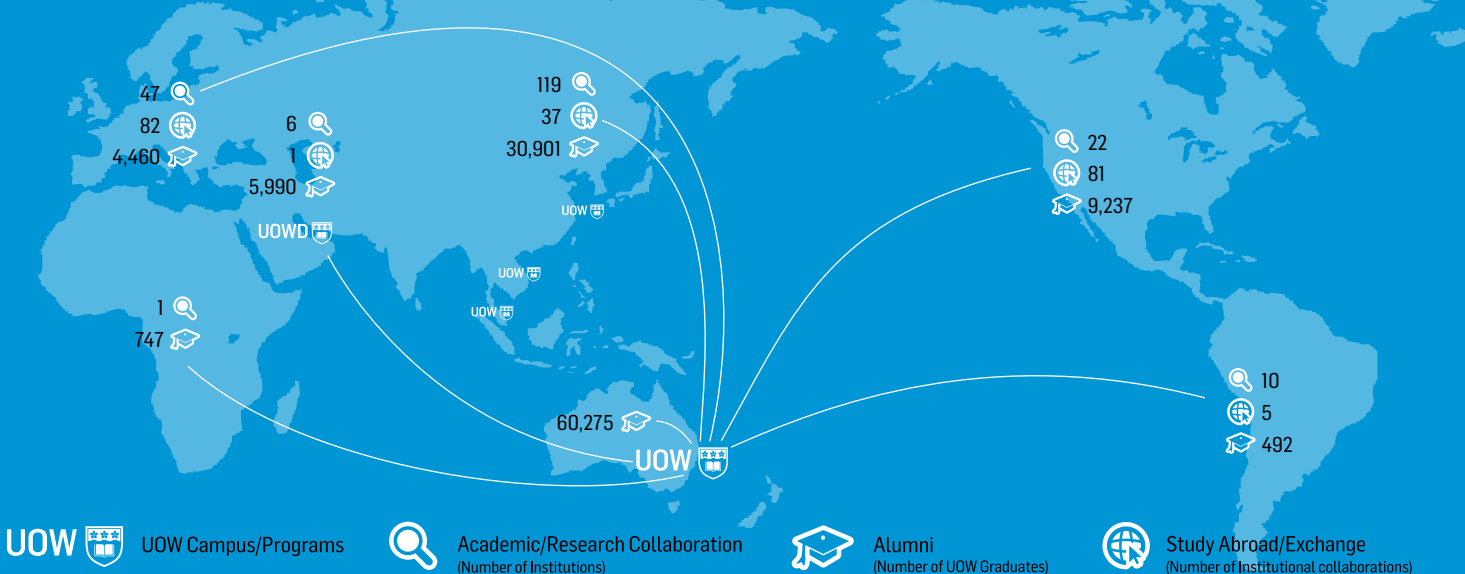
UOW's long-standing research and education partnerships with **China** strengthened throughout 2013. Under the Directorship of Professor Shi Xue Dou, the Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials fostered a number of new Chinese collaborations and attracted a strong number of postgraduate research students. Initiatives such as the energy recovery program with BAO Steel, capturing heat from the company's steel production processes and transferring it into usable energy, mark continued success working with Chinese corporations. Other significant projects include a collaboration with one of China's largest battery manufacturers, DLP; a partnership with Ningbo Jan Sen to develop next generation MRIs; and, a multi-institute Australia-China partnership with Chinese universities developing electric vehicle power systems.

UOW's agreement with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, now in place for over a decade, introduced UOW to a new partnership with the Beijing Municipal Government. In 2013, UOW's Sydney Business School held its fourth annual intake of around twenty Beijing Municipal Government officials for Certificate of Management courses in Public Administration and Business Administration.

The successful twinning collaboration between UOW's School of Electrical, Computer and Telecommunications Engineering and Zhengzhou University, was active in 2013. The Chinese Ministry of Education referred to this initiative as a model for international collaboration.

GLOBALY CONNECTED

At UOW, we are proud of our international connections. Our students go on **exchange** to 140 institutions overseas. UOW conducts off-shore courses with **partner** institutions in Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Thailand. Our **researchers collaborate** with 230 institutions, while UOW graduates take up careers in every corner of the globe.



FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY

The University of Wollongong was originally established with the help of a community fund-raising campaign, and community partnerships have been integral to its operations ever since.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2013 our community engagement included:

- Providing UOW courses in communities across the region, from Southern Sydney and the Southern Highlands to the Shoalhaven and South Coast
- Providing low-cost, high-quality psychological services to the Illawarra community through Northfields Clinic
- Engaging in medical research partnerships in the local community through the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute.

REGIONAL FOCUS

UOW's network of regional campuses is designed to bring a UOW education to students who may be not be able to come to Wollongong to study. In 2013 there were 1,400 students at our education centres at Nowra, Batemans Bay, Bega, Moss Vale and Southern Sydney. Many of the students at these centres are from low socio-economic and Indigenous backgrounds.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

In 2013 UOW's Office of Advancement provided \$50,000 in Community Engagement Grants Scheme (CEGS) funds for collaborative projects between UOW and the community. The 2013 CEGS funds were allocated to a project designed to help prevent self-harm and suicide in Indigenous communities, a project with local historical societies to produce a Dictionary of Wollongong, an "active transport" project that aims to promote healthy living by encouraging active transport such as walking, cycling and other non-motorised vehicles, an anti-bullying program with local high schools, a book about a women's refuge and a motor skills program for one to three-year-olds.



UOW's Commitment to every student: Year 6 Gifted & Talented Student experiencing a day in the life of a journalism student. UOW Alumni Melissa Jaros shares her experience about how her university studies have helped her with a career in journalism

RESEARCH IN THE COMMUNITY

Community-based research programs in 2013 included a project funded by the Cancer Institute NSW designed to help Wollongong's Macedonian and Serbian communities better understand cancer, and realise that a cancer diagnosis is not necessarily a death sentence because treatments and survival rates have improved dramatically. In another community-based research project, UOW's Centre for Health Initiatives worked with local authorities on a pilot project in the coastal town of Kiama to help teenagers resist the pressure to engage in under-age consumption of alcohol.

MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE

In October UOW announced a new partnership with massive open online course (MOOC) provider Open2Study to deliver free online courses to the public. UOW's first MOOC course began in November. Called Understanding Common Diseases, it was conducted by academics from the Medical School.

SCHOOL OUTREACH

The In2Uni schools outreach program continues to grow, helping high school students across the region develop aspirations for tertiary education through academic mentoring by UOW students, on-site experiences and other activities.

In 2013 In2Uni expanded to Batemans Bay, Bega and Moss Vale, reaching a record 3,642 high school students.

STAFF GIVING

In 2013, UOW Staff gave close to \$60,000 through UOW Cares to nine supported charities including Indigo Foundation, Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families (SCARF), Landcare – Illawarra, UOW Learning and Development Fund, Headspace Wollongong, The Fred Hollows Foundation, the Smith Family, Autism Spectrum Australia South Coast School and the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience.

LOCAL PARTNERS

In 2013, the University's community partners included:

- The Science Centre and Planetarium
- The Wollongong Conservatorium of Music
- Cricket NSW
- The Illawarra Academy of Sport
- St George Illawarra Dragons
- Rotary – Pride of the Illawarra
- Illawarra Regional Information Service (IRIS)
- Illawarra Business Chamber
- Southern Stars – Department of Education and Communities

In March 2013 the Science Centre and Planetarium celebrated its one millionth visitor since it opened its doors in 1989. Located at UOW's Innovation Campus at North Wollongong, it is Wollongong's most popular indoor tourist attraction, with hands-on exhibitions, science shows, a planetarium and an observatory that gives visitors the chance to use a research-quality telescope.

KEEPING CONNECTED

Our alumni are helping to change the world,
and we are changing the way we connect
with them—wherever they are in the world.

Master of Journalism graduate Luke Fredberg,
Vice-President, International Communications, CBS.

ALUMNI ADVANCEMENT

In 2013 UOW's Alumni team in the Office of Advancement made a strong start towards achieving further alumni engagement with a series of initiatives that included:

- a reinvigorated communications strategy that resulted in a 198% increase in activities and communications with our alumni compared to 2012
- increased social media engagement with alumni (Facebook contacts up by 62% and LinkedIn up by 44% compared to 2012)
- successful launch of a major new alumni publication, *UOW OUTLOOK* magazine
- a 300% increase in alumni membership of UOW Library
- visits by senior executives and alumni staff to strengthen engagement with alumni living overseas, with events held in London, Singapore, Dubai, Bangkok and Jakarta
- inviting high profile alumni to speak at alumni events in London, Sydney and Wollongong
- conducting an Alumni Preferences Survey to determine what our alumni want from an ongoing relationship with their University
- collaborating with Faculties and Careers Central to stage Career Ready Conferences, which provided a relevant focal point for alumni engagement with the University and our students

- conferring Honorary Degrees on notable UOW alumni and other high achievers with close links to the Wollongong community, to celebrate their career achievements and contributions in their chosen fields
- finishing the year with an inaugural Fellowship and Alumni Awards Dinner to celebrate the contribution our alumni make to the broader community.

ENGAGEMENT

The 2013 edition of UOW's new stand-alone alumni magazine, *UOW OUTLOOK*, featured an interview with Mr Cutifani (awarded an Honorary Doctorate; see below) as part of its objective of canvassing the opinions of our successful alumni to stimulate discourse and debate about contemporary and sometimes contentious issues. Mr Cutifani talked about his passion for safety in the global mining industry, while other topics included the changing face of media in the digital age, lawlessness and human tragedy in Africa, and inspirational women revealing the secrets of their success.

In 2013 the Alumni team expanded its off-shore engagement program, including meeting with notable alumni and hosting events in major centres around the world.

Two highlights were functions in London and at Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA). Senior MCA Curator and UOW Creative Arts graduate Glenn Barkley took alumni and

other guests on a private tour of the museum's collection.

At the inaugural London Alumni event Master of Journalism graduate Luke Fredberg (pictured) told guests about his role as Vice-President, International Communications for US communications giant CBS.

In December UOW Chancellor Jillian Broadbent AO hosted the inaugural University Fellowships and Alumni Awards Dinner - a black-tie event at UOW's Innovation campus.

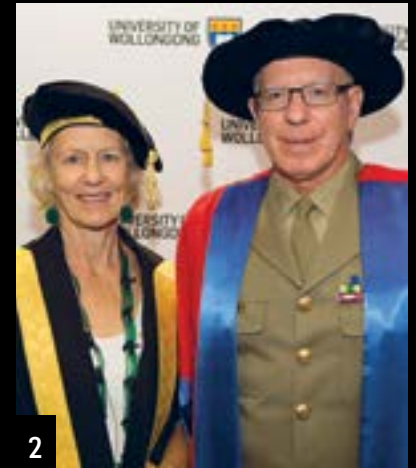
Ms Broadbent announced that Professor Patricia Davidson, Dean of Nursing at Johns Hopkins University in the US, was the 2013 Outstanding Alumni Award winner, while inspirational disabled athlete and entrepreneur Tristan Knowles OAM received the Junior Alumni Award. UOW Science Centre and Planetarium Director Glen Moore received the Community Service Award.

The Alumni Team and Office of Advancement continued to call on the support of alumni to advance the priorities of the University through financial contributions and volunteering opportunities, including student mentoring.

A record \$129,571 was raised for student equity scholarships as part of the 2013 Annual Appeal (see Philanthropy – page 28). The appeal also provided the opportunity for current students to speak to UOW alumni about their time since graduation.

At the December Graduation ceremonies, the University conferred Honorary Doctorates on seven individuals with strong links to Wollongong:

- UOW Mining Engineering graduate **Mark Cutifani**, who is CEO of one of the world's largest mining companies, AngloAmerican. (Picture 1; with Deputy Chancellor Dr Stephen Andersen OAM).
- Chief of the Australian Defence Force General **David Hurley**, who grew up in Wollongong. (Picture 2; with Chancellor Jillian Broadbent AO).
- The late Emeritus **Professor John Hogg**, who was awarded a posthumous Honorary Doctor of Science degree for his significant contribution to UOW as Foundation Dean of Medicine from 2004-2008
- NSW Chief Scientist **Professor Mary O'Kane**, who has served UOW in a number of capacities including on the board of the University's corporate arm ITC (now called UOW Enterprises), which oversees the University of Wollongong in Dubai and UOW College
- Norwegian Professor **Tom Johansen**, who has strong research partnerships with UOW's Institute for Superconducting and Electronic Materials
- High Court Judge **Virginia Bell AC**, whose father Captain John Bell was Estate Manager at UOW when it became an autonomous institution in 1975. Justice Bell chaired UOW's Faculty of Law Advisory Committee from 2006-2009 (picture 3)
- Philanthropist **Christopher Abbott**, (with Professor Chandler in picture 4) who has contributed substantial funding to projects across Australia that support the development and education of young people. His Abbott Foundation is supporting the construction of a major children's discovery centre within the Early Start Facility under construction at the Wollongong campus.





BRIDGING THE GAP

Professor Paul Chandler was appointed to the new senior executive role of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Inclusion and Outreach).

Professor Chandler has been given the responsibility of embedding the University's social inclusion framework and advancing social and cultural change across the region.

He also provides organisation-wide oversight of the University's strategies and programs to widen access and participation.

The role also monitors the performance of students from lower socio-economic and disadvantaged backgrounds and ensures that appropriate services and resources are in place to support their academic success.

Professor Chandler's appointment aligns with the social inclusion and community outreach values in UOW's Strategic Plan 2013-2018, which states UOW will: *"Promote and celebrate inclusion, based on equity, diversity and reconciliation, and embed our people values and the principles of ethical action in our Code of Conduct in all that we do"*.

Those values are also supported in a range of UOW programs that encourage respect and appreciation of an inclusive campus community for staff and students, including a disability action plan, Indigenous employment targets, cultural celebrations, equal opportunity initiatives and support for religious diversity.

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

In 2013 UOW held a number of events that celebrate the contribution international students make to campus life. For example Global Highway in August, which was organised by Accommodation Services and students living in the residences, celebrates the cultural diversity of our international student cohort and helps increase intercultural awareness and engender respect for the diversity of our student and staff community.

In 2013 UOW hosted the inaugural Iftar Dinner in partnership with Affinity Intercultural Foundation. Around 50 guests from business, community and UOW shared Iftar, which is the meal eaten after sunset during Sawm, the fasting that occurs during the month of Ramadan in Muslim tradition.

The aim of Affinity Intercultural Foundation is to create and sustain enduring affinity and relationships with people through inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogue and understanding and acceptance. UOW also has a designated area for Muslim prayer and chaplaincy services.

In 2013 UOW became a member of Pride in Diversity, an organisation that will work with UOW staff to improve the overall inclusivity of our workplace.

REAL TARGETS, TANGIBLE IMPACT

In September the University agreed to establish Indigenous Employment targets as Key Performance Indicators for all UOW faculties and business units. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders currently represent 1.7% of professional services staff and 0.9% of academic staff. Indigenous Employment targets will increase to 3% by 2018.

Professor Chandler with the AIME team at UOW (from left) Layne Brown, Nadia Neal, Brenden Newton and Stephen Mitchell.

Throughout 2013 work was undertaken to develop an Indigenous employment pool, accompanied by an indigenous employment web site. The University continues to offer an Indigenous Cultural Awareness training program to all staff.

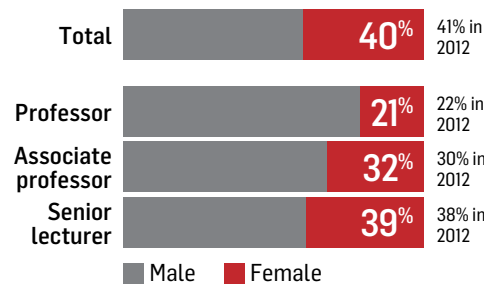
The 2011–2015 Disability Action Plan outlines UOW's commitment to ensuring people with disabilities can access and enjoy all aspects of campus life. This plan is now at its mid-point and good progress was made, in 2013, particularly with improvement in access to facilities.

GENDER BALANCE

Females hold two of the five Executive Dean positions in the new Faculty structure (one in an acting capacity) while the new faculty structure introduced in 2013 created 15 Associate Dean roles, 53% of which have been filled by women.

The proportion of female academic staff remained steady at 40% (decreasing only slightly from 41%).

**FIGURE 1:
PROPORTION OF FEMALE ACADEMIC
STAFF AT UOW IN 2013**



AIME AT UOW

The Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) program at the University of Wollongong had a record year in 2013, mentoring 380 Indigenous high school students in the region.

AIME was established at UOW in 2008 to redress imbalance in high school completion rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, by recruiting university students to give Indigenous students support, guidance and encouragement to complete Year 10 and Year 12 at high school and go on to some form of tertiary education.

Having started at six high schools in the Illawarra in 2008, UOW's AIME program is now at 15 schools in the Illawarra and 18 in the Shoalhaven and South Coast, where UOW has campuses at Nowra, Batemans Bay and Bega.

The program has become so successful that in 2013 96.1% of Indigenous students who participated in UOW's AIME program progressed from Year 10 to Year 11 (traditionally a high drop-out point for Indigenous students) compared to the national non-Indigenous average of 93%. It is almost 20% higher than the national average for Indigenous students.

Professor Chandler, who is a long-standing director on AIME's national board, was instrumental in establishing AIME at UOW with Jake Trindorfer. Professor Chandler said UOW is recognised as the best practice benchmark for AIME programs.

AIME pairs university student mentors with indigenous students from Years 9-12. The mentors connect with the mentees in a variety of ways, including a 13-week one-on-one program for an hour a week at UOW, squads of student tutors visiting high schools to connect with Indigenous students and at after-school homework centres.



EMBRACING OUR DIGITAL FUTURE

2013 was the year ITS made a statement about the future of technology at UOW. We developed our capacity as a digital institution; creating innovative services, developing a strategic plan and most importantly working with our community.

We believe in the power of IT to transform our institution, providing us with significant opportunity and differentiation. However, we are mindful that IT does not exist in isolation; we understand the importance of people when it comes to working with and shaping technology in order to get the best outcomes.

Engaging with students, collaborating with peers, running our business and communicating our values and achievements; we work, study and research in a time where IT is central to everything we do.

In 2013, ITS asked the question – *What does it mean to be a digital University?* The response from our community was overwhelming and led to the

development of University IT Strategy titled Six. Two, underpinned by the broader UOW Strategic Plan (2013 – 2018)

Our Strategy focuses on relationships with the ultimate goal of building human and technical capacity transforming the way we teach, research, communicate and operate.

ITS is responsible for supporting, advising and enabling the University community. 2013 saw ITS deliver initiatives and services strengthening the University as a connected, digital, innovative and sustainable institution; in line with its strategic plan. Read more to learn about our achievements.

CAPACITY, PERFORMANCE AND SERVICE

In 2013, in line with the Strategic Plan, ITS took a proactive role in extending the University's digital capacity, performance and services.

This ranged from live streaming major UOW events such as the Summer Graduations ceremonies and speeches by prominent Australians through the UOW website for the first time, to developing a UOW App Store and working closely with teaching academics to upgrade student learning platforms and with researchers to provide them with more advanced technologies to support their work.

FLAGSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Working closely with design teams to ensure cutting edge technology is built into UOW's flagship new facilities, the Sustainable Buildings Research Centre (SBRC), the Early Start Facility and the new Science Teaching Facility. For example, ITS deployed a new energy-efficient desktop computing solution in the SBRC to support the building's 6 Star Green Design rating. This experience will inform the design of other campus buildings and support UOW's sustainability values while delivering significant long-term energy cost savings.

APPS STORE

ITS introduced an App Store and released applications that covered a variety of areas ranging from research and teaching to utility services such as a campus map and bus timetable. The research apps included the Sports Bra app to assist researchers at UOW's Breast Research Australia (BRA) laboratory gather evidence-based information as well as helping users choose a well-fitting, supportive bra for their exercise needs.

GREEN IT

During 2013 ITS introduced a number of initiatives to reduce energy consumption in our operations. This included new power-saving techniques for desktop computers across the campus, re-negotiating technology agreements with suppliers and the introduction of more energy-efficient equipment.

LIVE STREAMING

ITS instituted live streaming of key UOW events including the December Graduation ceremonies and speeches delivered by former High Court Justice Michael Kirby and Australia's Chief Defence Scientist (and UOW alumnus) Dr Alex Zelinsky. ITS Director Cathy Nicastrì says the live streaming pilot Graduation Ceremony was a significant success with more than 3000 views over the four days of streaming. She said while more than half the viewers were in Australia, significant numbers viewed the ceremonies in other countries including the United States, Canada, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia, indicating that this had the potential to become a valuable service to family and friends of international students who could not travel to Wollongong for the graduation ceremonies.

RESEARCH

ITS worked with researchers throughout 2013 to build the appropriate technology platforms to support their research, as well as development technological requirements for large grant applications.

LEARNING PLATFORM

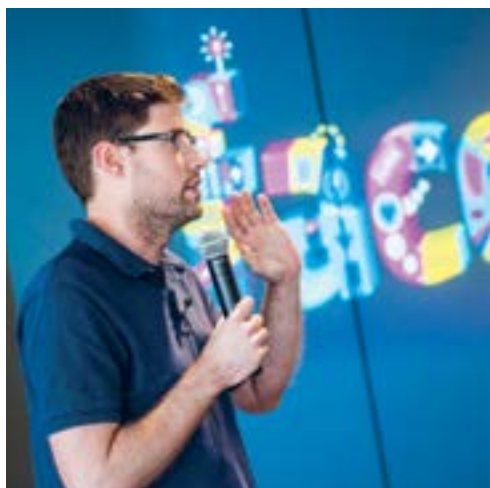
The Learning Platform project has transformed the user experience with the transition from Blackboard to Moodle and the Echo 360 Lecture Capture/recording project that was also completed in 2013 allows lectures to be recorded and delivered to students on their own terms outside of class. This was developed in response to requests from students for greater flexibility.

INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

ITS introduced the latest revision of the Internet Protocol (IPv6) to ensure access for future generations of students, staff and faculty. Improvements to the campus wireless services has provided access anywhere, anytime and on any device to services and data that support teaching and research. The UOW Data Centre was also upgraded in 2013 with 17 significant improvements. During the year ITS completed a Windows 7 upgrade from XP computing platforms on 4000 UOW-managed computers.

ENGAGEMENT

In 2013, ITS undertook an unprecedented level of engagement with students and staff to showcase our innovations, demonstrate the most effective use of new technology, seek enterprise-wide solutions to IT issues and trial upcoming initiatives to gauge their usefulness. This included regular training programs and forums for staff and students, and an initiative called TOYBOX, where the UOW community could trial new technologies. ITS also trialled free and open wireless Internet access for students and staff to gauge demand and usage patterns.



Facebook engineering manager Mr Joel Pobar gave guests an insight into Facebook's software engineering culture





CURRICULUM TRANSFORMATION

The University has begun important work to renew what it teaches, how it teaches, how it assesses learning, and how student learning is articulated at UOW.

This ambitious project is being driven by Professor Eeva Leinonen, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education).

A PLAN FOR RENEWAL

As is stated in the strategic plan we aim to “deliver student-centred, challenging programs to the highest standards in a technology-rich learning environment that attracts high quality students and develops all students for their graduate roles in society and the global workplace”.

Wollongong has a solid foundation to build upon. Student feedback shows that teaching is of good quality, our graduates are highly employable and our staff are recognised for their professionalism and commitment to teaching and student support. However, the university sector, locally and globally, is becoming increasingly competitive. The learning offer is becoming an important differentiator and pedagogic innovation particularly involving the use of technology to enhance teaching and learning is something that needs to be embraced.

The Curriculum Transformation project provides a phased approach to reviewing, renewing and transforming our teaching and the students' learning experience.

The overarching project goals are to:

- Introduce an effective governance framework to ensure UOW's programs are aligned to the UOW strategy and are sustainable.
- Assure the quality and standards of the curriculum, teaching and performance of our programs across all locations delivering UOW degrees.
- Embed a set of Curriculum Themes and Course Design Principles into all degree programs that include Principles for Assessment.
- Recognise and reward the co-curricular success of students via a framework that promotes inclusion, service, leadership and international perspectives.
- Develop and implement IT system enhancements to support both strategic and operational course management processes, and to improve how teaching and teaching information is accessed and distributed.
- Enhance the accessibility, inclusiveness and quality of the learning experience by creating a technology rich learning environment which is student-centred, intellectually challenging and connected to student aspirations.
- Promote UOW's Curriculum as a point of difference in an increasingly competitive market.



EARLY START UNLOCKS POTENTIAL

Construction began in 2013 on UOW's \$44 million Early Start Facility, a teaching, research and community engagement centre which will deliver a new generation of graduates to work with children aged 0-12.



Abbott Foundation chairman Christopher Abbott AM (right) with Pro Vice-Chancellor (Inclusion and Outreach) Professor Paul Chandler

EARLY START

At Early Start's heart is the opportunity to address social, educational and economic disadvantage is at the heart of this exciting venture.

It acknowledges that the early years of life are pivotal in determining the wellbeing and success of individuals and societies, and sets out to play a leading role in providing opportunities for local, national and international collaboration aimed at enhancing social capital and addressing disadvantage in our most vulnerable communities.

When it opens in 2015 the Early Start Facility will be connected to 38 initial Early Start Engagement Centres (ESECs) across NSW, delivering innovative teaching programs, conducting multidisciplinary research and building capacity in communities (including Indigenous) through targeted parental and family engagement.

It will host Australia's first Children's Discovery Centre (CDC), an accessible facility for families with young children to engage in innovative learning-through-play activities and events. The CDC has been made possible through the generous donation of \$7 million by the Abbott Foundation, whose founder Christopher Abbott AM has a strong philosophical belief in the importance of encouraging children to develop a love of learning from a young age.

Early Start will encourage innovative ways of shaping pedagogies based on real-world experiences, while the opportunities for academic staff to be creative in their approaches to teaching and learning extend well beyond any experiences that are currently available in Australia.

State-of-the-art technologies will combine with formal and informal learning spaces based on best practice design principles, extending the reach of higher education into early childhood services, schools and a range of community agencies.

These facilities will enhance the training of students across disciplines, empowering them to work collaboratively with children and young people, their families and communities. They will also encourage the development of new and rejuvenated subjects and courses to meet the demands of regional, rural and remote communities.

By incorporating Australia's first Children's Discovery Centre (CDC) into its main facility, Early Start will encourage the active participation of children and adults, whether on site or at a distance, in a range of learning experiences. Stimulating exhibits and interesting educational programs led by experts in the field will pique the interest of young and not-so-young visitors.

STUDENTS



FIRST FOR EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

In 2013 the Good Universities Guide rated UOW first in Australia for Educational Experience and Graduate Outcomes.

For 14 years the same publication - seen as the essential guide to Australian universities for prospective students - has awarded UOW the maximum five stars in the three critical graduate areas of:

- Getting A Job
- Graduate Starting Salaries
- Positive Graduate Outcomes

The 2013 QS World University Rankings placed UOW 100th overall in the world for how employers rated our graduates, the sixth year in a row that UOW has been ranked in the top one percent in the "employer reputation" category.

UOW's student-centred approach to learning and teaching has created a culture of collaboration, innovation and excellence that is designed to produce work-ready graduates who are immediately productive when they join the workforce. Many of our courses include work placements and internships with prominent national and local organisations so that students gain meaningful on-the-job experience before they graduate.

MENTORING

For example, 23 UOW female law students took part in the 2013 LUCY Mentoring Program, which pairs students with some of Australia's highest-profile female lawyers including Crown Prosecutors, General Counsels, Magistrates and corporate lawyers in a 12-week program.

STRONG FORMULA

In 2013 UOW continued its successful participation in the Formula SAE-A competition, where students from mechanical and mechatronic engineering and other disciplines design, build and compete in a racing car. UOW has a strong record in both the Australasian and international Formula SAE competitions. In August V8 Supercar driver Steven Richards visited UOW to give the students expert pointers.



UOW Law student Larissa Santos was partnered with ANSTO Legal Counsel, Stephanie Cole, as part of the UOW LUCY Mentoring Program. Photo: Mostafa Azizpour.



V8 Supercar driver Steven Richards (right) talks to UOW Formula SAE students about the finer points of race car engineering



Medical student Alexander Tilley describes his educational experience at UOW in 2013 as "overwhelmingly fantastic".

THE RIGHT MEDICINE

UOW's number one ranking for Educational Experience came as no surprise to medical student Alexander Tilley, who started the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) course at UOW's Medical School in 2013.

Alexander, a trained physiotherapist whose interest in becoming a doctor was sparked by his work in hospital emergency departments, said his first year of study at UOW had been "overwhelmingly fantastic".

"It all started with the selection process, and the criteria that the UOW Medical School set for the students it wanted in the graduate medical program," he said. "They made it clear that they wanted well-rounded students who met a broad cross-section of attributes - leadership, academic excellence, high achievement in human endeavour, community involvement, diversity of academic and life experiences and ability to work as part of a team."

"The result was that we found ourselves starting the course with a fabulous mix of genuinely interesting people from different backgrounds."

Alexander said the diverse backgrounds of the students, whose previous degrees and career experiences ranged from health-related fields and medical sciences to engineering and teaching, had created a stimulating and positive study environment.

He said he had also been impressed with the focus on group work in his course, a common characteristic of UOW student-centred approach to learning.

"I am grateful to UOW for pushing the group work, which is a very strong focus of our course. I hadn't had much previous experience in studying in groups, and I have found it extremely effective in teaching me more about each topic, and deepening my understanding. Having to explain things to others in my group is helping me develop my conceptual understanding of topics in a way that wouldn't be possible otherwise. In my experience, the Medical School's curriculum is brilliant", Alexander continues.

"We started with a six-week Introduction to Medicine, which was very tough on those of us who didn't have a medical science background," he said. "But it introduced us to essential concepts that we needed to understand before we really got started."

"And when we started our first theme in Phase 1 (Cardiovascular/Respiratory System), the penny really dropped. The curriculum approach of teaching medicine as a whole body system makes me feel we are learning in a way that is understandable, enjoyable and interesting. It is so clear and well done, it's a pity everyone can't study it to truly understand how their body works - whether they want to be a doctor or not!"



CONNECTING WITH EMPLOYERS

UOW hosts events such as the annual Careers Fair, where many of Australia's leading corporations visit the campus to recruit students into their graduate programs when they complete their degrees. UOW also participates in major international competitions that pit our students against their peers from universities around the world.

ENERGY FOR SUCCESS

Team UOW Australia achieved 1st place in Solar Decathlon China 2013 for designing an energy-efficient building (see page 5 for full story).

APTITUDE

In May Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) Economics student Daniel Thomason topped the global 2013 Bloomberg Aptitude Test – a standardised online exam designed to help gifted undergraduates and recent graduates connect with potential employers. After graduating in December, Daniel joined the Reserve Bank of Australia as an analyst.

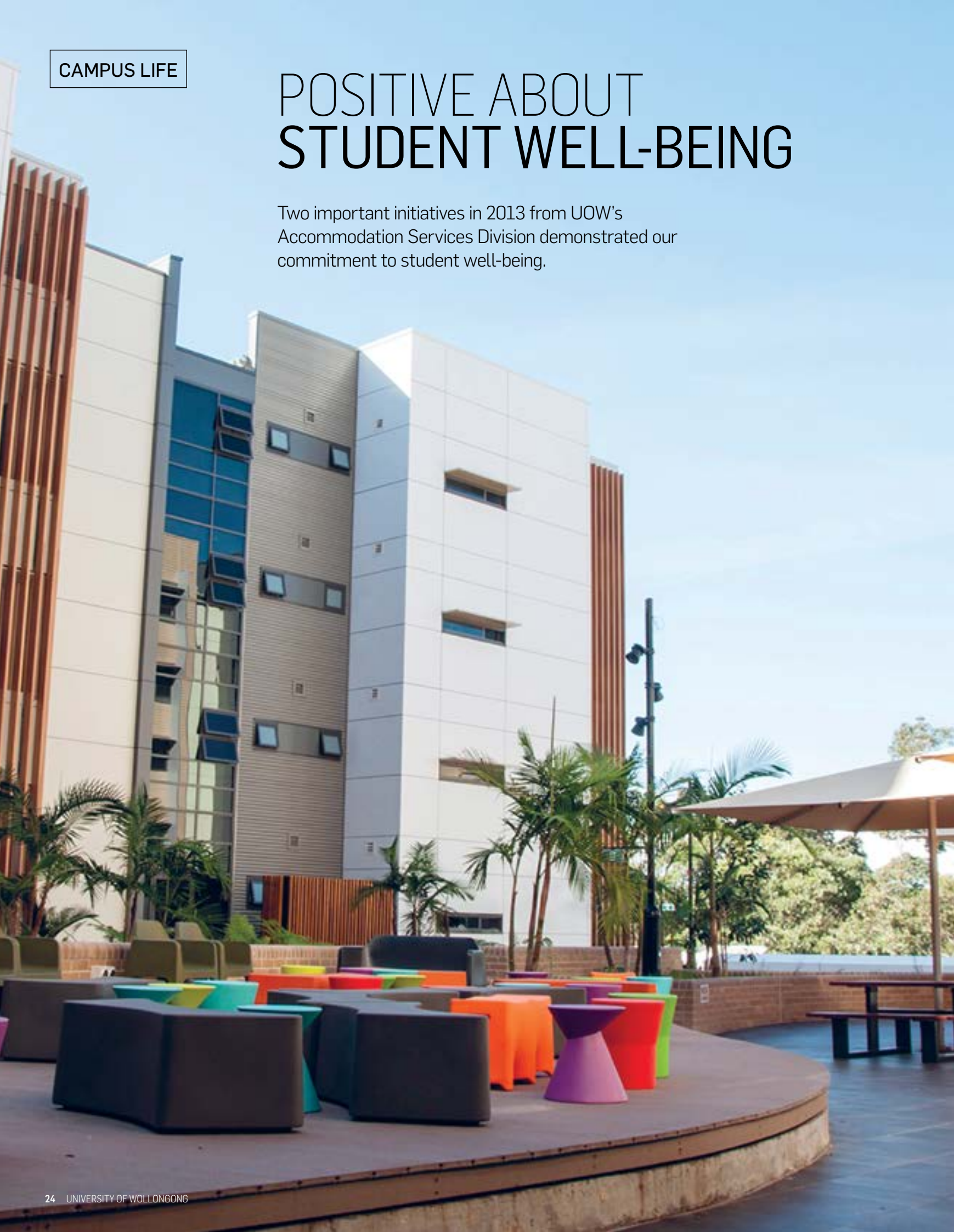


Above: UOW Honours Student, Daniel Thomason, who topped the world in the 2013 Bloomberg Aptitude Test. **Below:** UOW's 2013 Careers Fair



POSITIVE ABOUT STUDENT WELL-BEING

Two important initiatives in 2013 from UOW's Accommodation Services Division demonstrated our commitment to student well-being.



UOW opened its innovative Kooloobong Village (pictured left) student residence, the first in the world planned and run entirely on the science of positive thinking psychology and positive organisations.

WORLD FIRST POSITIVE RESIDENCE

It has been designed to enhance students' academic and social experiences during their time at the University, while adding 360 new beds to UOW's accommodation offering.

And in October UOW announced that it would become one of the few Australian universities to guarantee a place in student residences for first-year students coming to Wollongong to study from outside the region or from overseas.

Accommodation Services Director Nigel Pennington said UOW was proud to be one of few Australian universities to offer an accommodation guarantee, and hopes it will encourage more rural and international students to study at UOW in coming years.

"Wollongong is a great place to live and to study, and university accommodation is a great way to get started," Mr Pennington said.

"Students in residences generally perform better in their studies, and are more satisfied and engaged with their student experience, than their non-residence peers.

UOW offers a range of accommodation options with various features, but they all have a high level of student support and security, and provide an 'instant community' for students new to Wollongong," he said.

ACCOMMODATION GUARANTEE

The accommodation guarantee is available only for single students, and has been made possible through a strategic commitment by the University to increase its student accommodation in recent years through an acquisition and construction program.

The seven-level Kooloobong Village (K2) tower complex, completed in early 2013, is the latest addition to the Accommodation Services offerings which include nine complexes on campus and in other locations around Wollongong.

K2 has self-catered accommodation for 360 students in single studios, double studios for couples and four-bedroom apartments.

The complex has communal indoor and outdoor recreational areas, as well as study rooms, laundries and other communal facilities such as a sound-proof music room and volleyball and basketball courts.

But it is Kooloobong's approach to student welfare that sets it apart. The positive residence concept has been developed as a collaborative effort between Student Residence Manager Alison Hemsley and Associate Professor Lindsay Oades, who is Director of the Australian Institute for Business Wellbeing (AIBWB) at UOW's Sydney Business School. Both are experienced psychologists, and applied the principles of positive psychology to the concept for UOW's newest residence.

A team of student leaders, inducted by AIBWB and with demonstrated qualities such as community contribution, cultural sensitivity, concern for others and diverse interests, assist Ms Hemsley and the Accommodation Services staff to deliver the program.

Services for all students range from the UOW Wellbeing Centre, which helps students manage their health and wellbeing, to the Careers Central, which helps graduating students explore career options and improve their employability.

WELCOME TO NEW LOCALS



International students enjoying the Welcome to Wollongong event.

In 2013 UOW and Wollongong City Council again combined to host a civic welcome ceremony for the thousands of new students, staff and their families who come from around NSW, Australia and overseas to study at the University, UOW College and TAFE. Welcome to Wollongong featured a traditional Indigenous Welcome to Country and Indigenous dancing, a welcome from Wollongong Lord Mayor Cr Gordon Bradbery OAM, food, entertainment and information stalls about services available in Wollongong.

Well over two-thirds of students at UOW campuses come from outside of the Wollongong area, with some 30% coming from overseas. In first semester 2013, UOW welcomed about 1570 international students.

Throughout the year UOW held events to celebrate the international side of campus life. A highlight was Global Highway, an annual event organised by international students living in UOW residences to showcase their home countries and cultural traditions. The campus came alive with colourful stalls from different countries, each featuring traditional cultural activities such as Indian henna painting, bocce demonstrations from Italy and Kenyan traditional dance. Local primary schools visited the campus during Global Highway Week to experience the international flavour.

DRIVING ECONOMIC RENEWAL

In the same year that the University of Wollongong released a report showing that it generates more than \$2 billion in economic activity, the NSW Government underlined the University's pivotal role in the transformation of the Illawarra region's economic base when it allocated \$16.5 million for the iAccelerate business incubator project.

Andrew Jackson from Waterloo Accelerator Canada guest speaker at the iAccelerate Entrepreneur Club Meeting.

ACCELERATING CHANGE

Minister for the Illawarra John Ajaka in December announced the funding to build the iAccelerate Centre as part of the Restart Illawarra Infrastructure Fund, which distributed \$100 million in Government funding to 12 projects in the region.

iAccelerate will be a three-storey, 4,000 square metre building on UOW's Innovation Campus which the Minister says will create 500 direct jobs. It is scheduled for completion in 2015.

"The centre will establish technology business acceleration programs, provide space for more startup companies, and potentially create another 1000 jobs in the wider economy," Mr Ajaka said.

iAccelerate is designed to provide a 'plug and go' expandable space for more than 280 entrepreneurs of fast growth startup companies. iAccelerate will provide support, mentorship, professional services and access to seed funding for companies as they develop. UOW has demonstrated iAccelerate's potential through a pilot program, iAccelerate Startpad, which it has been operating in partnership with Wollongong City Council and NSW Trade & Investment in the Wollongong CDB.

By the end of 2013 Startpad had hosted 25 startup companies representing 52 entrepreneurs and new jobs in a tenth of the space that will be available at iAccelerate.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings said iAccelerate is a critical step in transforming the Illawarra's manufacturing based economy into a high-tech industry cluster.

"The Illawarra is a region undergoing radical economic transition with the traditional manufacturing and heavy industrial base facing sharp employment declines. iAccelerate consists of a unique set of programs built around entrepreneurship, innovation and the ICT technology skills of UOW graduates. It is based on the same successful model from Waterloo, Canada, a region which has transformed itself from a manufacturing-based economy to the 'Silicon Valley' of Canada," Professor Wellings said.

Director of Innovation and Commercial Research at UOW, Ms Elizabeth Eastland said: "Waterloo is a region very similar to the Illawarra that has transformed itself from a manufacturing-based region to the 'most innovative city in Canada' 19 years in a row. It has grown 28,000 new high tech jobs in that time, while Waterloo Accelerator has generated over 680 new jobs in just over five years.

"We have been and will continue to work closely with Waterloo Accelerator Centre to adapt their methodologies to the Illawarra. When governments, business and research collaborate to form innovation ecosystems an exponential benefit arises often called a 'virtuous circle'. We anticipate the same success with iAccelerate."



NSW Minister for the Illawarra John Ajaka (Left) with iAccelerate CEO Elizabeth Eastland and UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings at the Restart Illawarra Infrastructure Fund announcement at the Innovation Campus.



\$2 BILLION BOOST

Wollongong has two billion reasons to say it is now a major university with an economic future increasingly focused on the knowledge economy.

A UOW study released early in 2013, the methodology of which was independently verified by Deloitte Access Economics, shows that UOW activities generate \$2 billion in economic activity each year, with most occurring in the Illawarra region.

The study, *UOW: Leading Locally, Competing Globally*, by UOW's Centre for Small Business and Regional Research, examined the University's role as an economic driving force leading Australia's ninth largest city to a diversified economic future from its previous reliance on steel manufacturing and coal mining.

The report shows that the University's activities generate almost 8,000 jobs and \$607 million in household income, and generate \$1.12 billion in Gross Domestic Product annually.

In the Illawarra, UOW-related expenditure generates 4,908 jobs annually from operations, capital investment, including construction and maintenance, student expenditure including day-to-day living expenses for domestic and international students, and visitor expenditure from graduation ceremonies, conferences, tourism at UOW's Science Centre and special events.

UOW Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings said that, apart from measuring UOW's substantial current economic contribution, the report also highlighted the increasingly important role UOW will play in driving a longer term structural transformation of the Illawarra region.



DONORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

UOW received \$5.29 million in philanthropic donations during 2013, including \$2.5 million from the Abbott Foundation as part of its contribution to Early Start Facility, and \$500,000 from a long-term supporter to fund scholarships for research into Alzheimer's Disease.

Many UOW staff members supported the Learning and Development Fund which finances a variety of equity and other scholarships designed to ensure that social and economic disadvantage does not hinder university aspirations. Staff contributed almost \$60,000 to the Fund through regular donations to UOW Cares, a staff pre-tax donations program that supports the Fund and eight other charities.

The 2013 Alumni Appeal also raised a record \$129,571 for the Learning and Development Fund. Over the past five years, the annual Alumni Appeal has raised close to \$350,000 for the Fund.

The Abbott Foundation's contribution is part of a \$7 million pledge, the largest philanthropic donation in UOW history, that Foundation Director Mr Christopher Abbott AM made in 2012 to fund the creation of an Australian-first Children's Discovery Centre in the Early Start Facility currently under construction on the Wollongong campus.

During 2013 UOW students raised almost \$6,000 for the In2Uni program, which is designed to encourage high school students, particularly those from lower socio-economic areas, to finish Year 12 and go on to tertiary study. Student contributions to this worthwhile program demonstrates an outstanding sense of participation and support for the next generation of potential students.

In April, the Illawarra's leading law firm, RMB Lawyers, donated \$25,000 to the Jack Goldring Memorial Scholarship Fund, which was established to honour Professor Goldring, who had been

Foundation Dean of Law from 1990-1995. The Goldring Fund had already already attracted support from more than 100 individuals and organisations and the RMB donation allowed the University to start the \$10,000 annual scholarship.

There was also generous support for the John Hogg Memorial Scholarship which was launched during the year to honour Professor Hogg, who died in March 2013 after a short illness. Professor Hogg was Foundation Dean of UOW's Medical School from 2004-2008.

In August UOW announced a major new donation by long-term supporter Richard Miller. Mr Miller, a retired dairy farmer, had donated \$182,000 to UOW since 2008, with his philanthropy focused on scholarships for financially disadvantaged undergraduate students and medical research. Vice-Chancellor Professor Wellings announced that Mr Miller had pledged a further \$500,000 to establish in perpetuity a scholarship fund to support dementia research through the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute based at UOW.

Late in the year UOW appointed two US-based alumni as Trustees for the UOW USA Foundation. US Bank Market President Randall Cupp, who graduated from UOW in 1994 with a Master of Commerce (Economics) degree, and HiPERISM President and CEO George Delic (Bachelor of Science (Hons) 1966) are Trustees for the foundation, which has been established to service and seek support from our growing cohort of alumni in North America.

On a sad note, the University community mourned the passing of major benefactor Marsden (Mick) Williams, who died in September aged 97. In 2006 Mr Williams donated \$3 million to UOW's Medical School to establish the Roberta Williams Chair of Medicine (General Practice). At the time it was the largest single donation to UOW.

HIGHLIGHTS

- UOW established a USA Foundation in the United States
- One of the region's leading law firms pledged \$25,000 to enable a scholarship honouring UOW's Foundation Dean of Law to be offered for the first time
- UOW launched a new scholarship to honour the Foundation Dean of Medicine who died early in the year

SOCIAL JUSTICE SCHOLARSHIP

One of Australia's most respected jurists, retired High Court Justice Michael Kirby in October presented the inaugural \$10,000 Jack Goldring Scholarship to 22-year-old Rachael Kalmanidis, for her commitment to social justice.

The third-year Law student said she wanted to get involved in advocacy for minority groups, especially people with disabilities.

Rachael, a type 1 diabetic, knows first-hand the stigma that can be attached to disabilities, and is passionate about campaigning for equal opportunities for all. She said the scholarship would enable her to kick-start her legal career with a number of internships in 2014.

"I'm applying for the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Australian Law Reform Commission," she said.

"I'm not expecting to change the world. I think it's about small changes, that you change somebody's perspective or view and then slowly that will accumulate."

The scholarship honours UOW's Foundation Dean of Law Professor Jack Goldring, who had a passion for social justice and opening up access to legal education for people from all backgrounds.



Philanthropist Richard Miller (second from right) pictured with (from left) Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings, medical student Miriam Chaalan and dementia researcher Professor Brett Garner.



Retired High Court Justice Michael Kirby presents Rachael Kalmanidis with the inaugural Jack Goldring Scholarship.

THE RIGHT PLACES FOR IDEAS

In February the University Council unveiled plans for the University's physical growth when it approved the release of \$220 million for capital expenditure projects over the next five years.

This included \$77 million for the construction of two new buildings which were commenced in 2013 – the \$44 million **Early Start** project (picture 1) and the \$33 million **Science Teaching Facility** (picture 2).

The Science Teaching Facility is being built in airspace over the former Ovals P7 Carpark, adjacent to the SMART Infrastructure Facility and linked to the Sciences Building. Construction started in late 2013 and is scheduled for completion by December 2014.

The project, which is being fully funded by the University, features a three-level 6,100 square metre building comprising chemistry, biological sciences and earth and environmental teaching laboratories which will be used for science, health and behavioural and engineering students. The top floor will also contain research laboratories which will allow the University to increase its higher degree research student focus.

As outlined on page 19 of this publication, the \$44 million Early Start inter-disciplinary project is a strategic teaching, research and community engagement initiative which will deliver a new generation of graduates to work with young children aged from 0-12.

UOW's Innovation Campus also continued to expand during 2013, with the completion of its seventh building, the Sustainable Buildings Research Centre (SBRC). The Federal Government provided a \$25.1 million grant to build the SBRC headquarters, while the centre also has a key industry partnership agreement with BlueScope Steel. Its other partners include Housing NSW, TAFE Illawarra Institute, Regional Development Australia – Illawarra and Green Jobs Illawarra. See page 4, for more details on the SBRC.

In line with expansion at the Innovation Campus, UOW commenced construction of a \$5.2 million access bridge across Para Creek, linking the campus to Montague St. This important piece of infrastructure will provide a second major vehicular and pedestrian access to the campus, opening it up for further development.

In December NSW Minister for the Illawarra John Ajaka officially opened a new floor of UOW's Sydney Business School at its campus at Circular Quay in the heart of Sydney's financial district (glass building in picture 3). The School's Sydney CBD campus has occupied Levels 8 and 9 of the Gateway Building at Circular Quay since 2011. It expanded into Level 18, so that it could offer four new courses to Sydney-based students from 2014 – Bachelor of Accounting and Financial Services, Bachelor of Banking and Financial Services, Master of Professional Accounting and Graduate Certificate in Public Relations.

Other building projects completed in 2013:

- a \$4 million refurbishment of the Law, Humanities and the Arts Building, including the incorporation of a Research Hub
- a \$2.27 million project to re-roof the University Recreational and Aquatic Centre and replace the air-conditioning
- a \$1.65 million landscape upgrade to the Engineering precinct, including a new kiosk and covered seating area, an active and passive recreation space and student facilities including a water refill and drinking station and external power charging points for mobile computing devices.



1



2



3

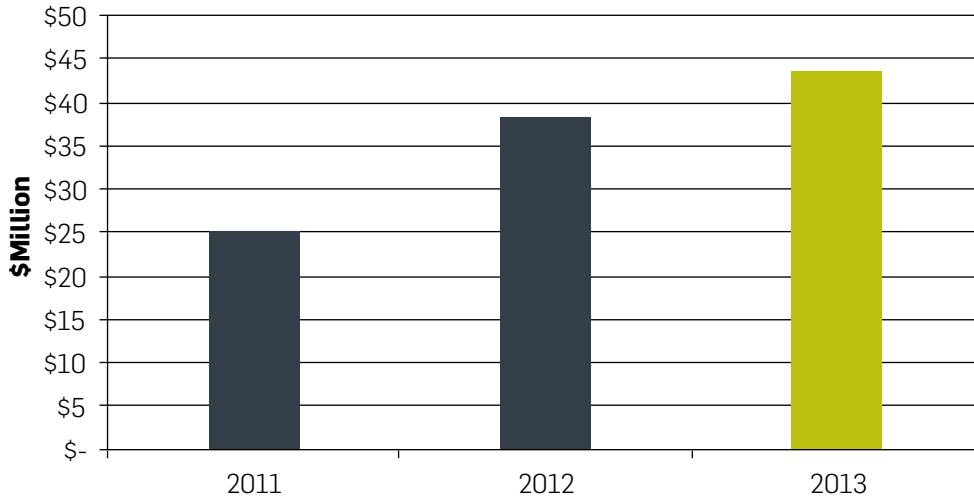
STRATEGIC AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The University continues to maintain a focus on financial sustainability, reflected in a strong financial result for the year consistent with its strategy.

The result, along with a strong balance sheet and liquidity position, contributed to the reaffirmation during the year of the University's AA/A-1+ stable Standard and Poor's credit rating.



Mr Damien Israel, Chief Finance Officer

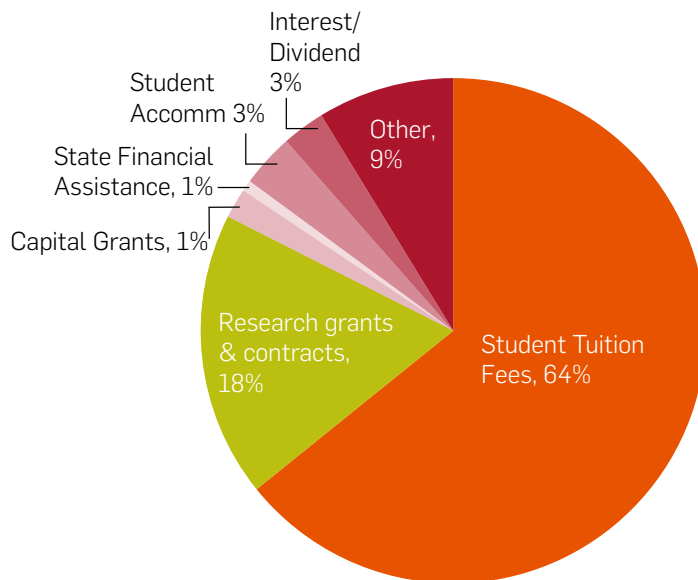


UNDERLYING SURPLUS EXCLUDING CAPITAL GRANTS

For 2013, the University (parent entity) achieved a consolidated underlying surplus of \$43M (operating surplus excluding capital grants and abnormal items).

The result is consistent with the University's financial strategy and reflects modest growth in operating expenses offset by steady domestic student revenue growth supported by stabilising international on-shore student revenue.

The result as a percentage of revenue (8.5%) exceeded the University Council strategic target (6-8%).



SOURCES OF REVENUE

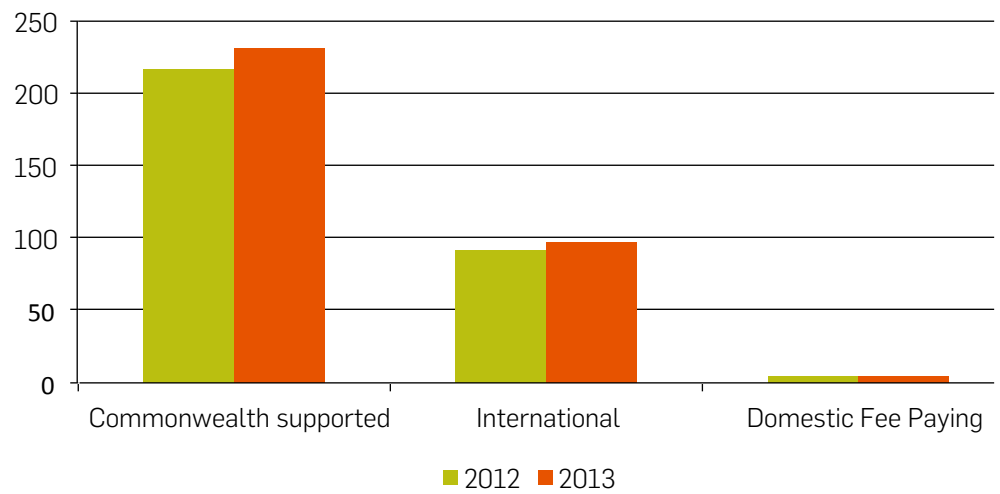
The primary source of revenue for the University remains student fees, with research related revenue also contributing significantly. The revenue trends for 2013 are consistent with the University's expectations and trends over recent years.

Capital grants in 2013 relate primarily to grants under the Commonwealth Government Education Investment Fund grant program.

Other revenue includes donations and scholarships, facility user fees, student services and amenities fees, and other minor fees, charges and contributions.

STUDENT TUITION FEE REVENUE SOURCES

Student tuition fees generated a total of \$335M in 2013 compared to \$312M in 2012. Revenue from Commonwealth supported students contributed \$232M, an increase of 7% from \$217M in 2012. Revenue from International student fees (on-shore and off-shore) returned to stronger growth with an increase of \$6.6M (7%) over the prior year.



FINANCIAL POSITION

The net asset position of the University, (\$756M) continued to grow during 2013. The University has been able to continue investment in new and renewing existing infrastructure to support teaching and research activities with Property, Plant and Equipment (including investment properties) increasing 6% from to \$686M in 2012 to \$726M in 2013.

Consistent with the University financial strategy, this has been achieved whilst maintaining sound cash and investment balances and stable debt levels.



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