



ILLUSTRIOUS ALUMINI

ALUMNI DECEMBER 2007

www.newcastle.edu.au



Ms Alexia Sinclair receiving her award from the Chancellor, Professor Trevor Waring

Professor Nicholas Talley and Ms Alexia Sinclair were the winners of the prestigious Alumni awards for 2007 for their outstanding professional achievements and community contributions.

Professor Talley was awarded the Convocation Medal for Professional Excellence for his substantial contributions in medicine and gastroenterology at both a national and international level. After completing his Masters in Medical Science (Clinical Epidemiology) specialising in Genetic and Molecular Epidemiology from the University of Newcastle in 2004, Professor Talley was appointed Co-Director of the Clinical Enteric Neuroscience Translational and Epidemiology Research (C.E.N.T.E.R) Program which is the premier research centre for clinical enteric neurosciences in the world.

Professor Talley's leadership and the advances he has made in medicine and gastroenterology are clearly demonstrated by his superb publication record with 348 original peer-review publications, 192 peer-review editorials, reviews and invited articles, 81 non peer reviewed articles, 24 textbooks, 54 book chapters, 77 letters to the editor and 514 published abstracts. He has made an amazing contribution to research and to the education of medical students, trainee doctors and researchers both in Australia and abroad.

Critically-acclaimed digital artist and Master of Fine Art (Photography) student, Ms Alexia Sinclair was the recipient of the Newton-John Award. Named after the late Professor Brin Newton-John, this award is presented to a graduate who has displayed innovation or creativity in any field that has improved life, particularly in the Newcastle or Hunter Region.

Alexia is making an incredible impact in the art world. She has taken digital photography to a new level not just in Australia but across the globe, and is rapidly achieving international recognition. Her innovative and creative designs in digital photography have made her in high demand by companies around the world, and she is being flown across the globe by major corporations seeking exciting, new advertising campaigns.

This year, Alexia has won two major awards: firstly the prestigious Harpers BAZAAR Canon Fashion Photography Award and also the National Tertiary Art Prize for her stunning portfolio including *The Regal Twelve*.

Alexia's artwork is unique, and will have lasting value. Her work is aesthetically pleasing and is putting her and her community, Newcastle, on the world stage.

Congratulations to the two winners who had to compete against a very strong field of candidates. You are both amazing ambassadors for the University of Newcastle.



Professor Nicholas Talley

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- Reflection on 2007
- Outstanding graduates recognised
- Inaugural Law Alumni dinner
- International News
- Alumni Profiles
- Alumni Connections
- Greece and Turkey Tour

MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

The University of Newcastle and our graduates have much to celebrate as the year draws to a close. In 2007 the University excelled once again on many levels.

Among the year's highlights is \$14 million in National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding for the University, and \$10.3 million from the Australian Research Council (ARC) under the highly competitive Discovery Projects Scheme. This funding is the largest received by the University from these two organisations, and reflects the quality and impact of our research activities.

University delegations to Asia this year have strengthened the University's ties to the region, particularly China. We signed 12 agreements with top Chinese universities and government agencies to build research collaborations, and teaching and learning opportunities for our staff and students. The delegations have also given University staff the opportunity to reconnect with our international Alumni chapters.

The University's Alumni network comprises leaders in all fields across the globe and continues to grow. There are now more than 100,000 University of Newcastle graduates living in 95 countries, giving graduates an ongoing connection with Newcastle and the University, and offering unique access to a growing professional network.

One of the clearest indicators of a university's success is the calibre of its students and graduates. Our achievements this past year are too numerous to mention them all – however following are a few highlights:

- Bachelor of Visual Communication Design graduate Samantha Morris won a NSW competition to design a road safety campaign for young drivers
- In Atlanta our four-legged robotic dogs, the NUBots, took second place in the robotic soccer world cup
- Four of our law students won the 2007 National Family Law Mooting Competition
- Two architecture students, James Buskin and Shaun Purcell, won awards from the Royal Australian Institute of Architects NSW Chapter
- Chemical engineering graduate Alex Tayler was awarded the prestigious Poynton Cambridge Australia scholarship to study at the University of Cambridge in the UK

Released in the last 12 months was the Academy Award winning film, Happy Feet. Four of our recent graduates worked on the film – Kacy Durbridge, communications graduate, was the production supervisor for

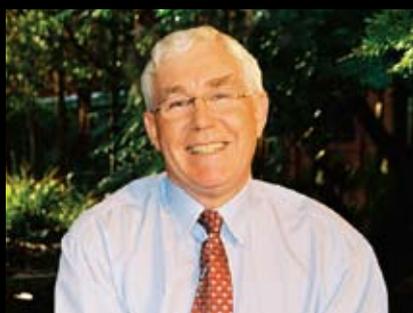
lighting compositing and FX; Graeme McGirr, also graduating in communications, was a lighting technical director; Andrew McDonald, industrial design graduate, was the modeling supervisor; and shader writer Yasser Hamed, a mechanical engineering graduate, worked on the film's research and development of artists' tools.

Master of Fine Art (Photography) student, Alexia Sinclair, this year received the Newton-John award, presented by Alumni (Convocation) to a graduate who has displayed innovation or creativity in any field that has improved life, particularly in the Newcastle or Hunter region.

The Convocation Medal for Professional Excellence was this year awarded to Professor Nicholas Talley, an international leader in the field of gastroenterology and medicine working at the prestigious Mayo Clinic in the United States. Professor Talley completed his Masters in Medical Science (Clinical Epidemiology) at the University of Newcastle.

These achievements by our students and graduates are just a snapshot of the success stories from every Faculty across our four campuses. We always like to hear about and celebrate our graduates' achievements, so please stay in touch and thank you for your continued support of the University of Newcastle.

Best wishes for 2008.



Professor Nicholas Saunders
Vice-Chancellor and President



Professor Trevor Waring
Chancellor

REFLECTION ON 2007

What a year 2007 has been for Alumni Relations! Our Alumni are wonderful people and I have been incredibly privileged to meet so many of them and their families this year.

In Australia, we have been able to reconnect with our Brisbane Alumni and there is an exciting new team who will lead activity in 2008 with the support of the past leaders. The Sydney Alumni have been anchored by Mrs Wendy Lindgren and Justice Kevin Lindgren, both valued Alumni. My special thanks to Wendy for faithfully convening the group for many years – in 2008 we look forward to working with them to form a Sydney Law and Business Alumni Network to provide a forum for our graduates located there.

In Newcastle, the inaugural Law Alumni dinner was held in September. Over 100 graduates and their partners came together on this occasion. This year I have worked in partnership with the Executive Committee of Alumni (Convocation) to commence a revitalisation and re-engagement of our local Alumni. I am delighted that for the first time in many years, all the elected positions on this committee have been filled and under the leadership of James Tocci (President) and Brian Kennaugh (Vice-President), I look forward to exciting new initiatives in 2008. If you wish to be involved, please contact alumni-president@newcastle.edu.au

In 2008 there will be Alumni development for our Medical School and for the Graduate School of Business along with many discipline based networks. If you wish to commence or be part of an Alumni network in your field of interest, please be sure to contact us. We are also keen to see Alumni networks develop across Australia, so please feel free to contact us if you are located in an area where it is likely there will be other Alumni and we can endeavour to support you.

Internationally, there is a real buzz around the globe, particularly in Asia as we celebrate a growing population of graduates across the colourful countries of South East Asia. Please see our 'International' section for a review of this activity. It will be my pleasure to continue to support the ongoing networking of our Alumni with each other, with the University, and with their communities.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chancellor, Deputy Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellors (Academic, Research and Services) and the Pro Vice-Chancellors for their ongoing support and assistance with Alumni Relations development. I know they are committed to the graduate community as shown by their willingness to travel, host various dinners and to invite my participation in some of their activities to allow opportunities for our graduates to engage with broader University activity.

You can be assured that your University values its Alumni community, and has made improved engagement with its graduates a strategic priority. We value the role our Alumni have played in the University's past, its present and will play in its future. I look forward to working with you all in 2008, and wish you all a healthy, happy and successful year ahead.

Rosemary Thomson
Manager, University Alumni

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



James Tocci Speaking at Alumni AGM

Alumni (Convocation) has been well supported in the past year by a variety of stakeholders. These have included Alumni Relations at the University of Newcastle as well as support from various members of the University's Senior Executive Group, the Friends of the University, members of the business community and by the Alumni themselves. All have shown a growing interest in the potential of the Alumni network.

For the first time in many years we have a full committee elected at the well attended AGM. I would like to particularly mention the attendance of University of Newcastle senior staff. Their continued presence and support is much appreciated by the entire Convocation Committee.

In 2007, we have successfully revived the Convocation Awards which recognise the achievements of our Alumni. The quantity and quality of nominations was exceptional and the

award ceremony, which followed the AGM, was an inspiring tribute to the winners.

Under the leadership of Brian Kennaugh and Phil Smith we have also started a breakfast series to re-engage with our Alumni. This is being fine-tuned for a roll-out in 2008.

For 2008 we have two key objectives: building the numbers of connected Alumni both in Australia and abroad, and raising scholarships for those in need. With a full committee I am confident we can achieve these modest goals. I look forward to the challenges but do so with the confidence that we are making significant progress and will continue to do so with the new committee.

Regards,

James Tocci

President of the Executive Committee of Alumni (Convocation)

ALUMNI (CONVOCATION) AGM

On the 25th October the Alumni AGM for 2007 was held. There were 15 positions up for election to the Executive Committee of Alumni (Convocation). The event was very successful with a large number of Newcastle Alumni turning out to recap on events and happenings in 2007 and to discuss the vision for 2008. Mr James Tocci was re-elected as President of Alumni and the makeup of the new Executive Committee for 2008 is:

Michael Burke

Michael Burke graduated in Law from the University of Newcastle in 2002. Michael established the first law firm solely from Newcastle graduates and is partner of the firm Burke and Elphick Lawyers.

Bernie Curran

Bernie Curran completed a Doctor of Philosophy in Classics in 1972 from the University of Newcastle and has worked for the University for over 30 years. His roles have included Lecturer for the Classics Department, Warden of Evatt House and he is currently the Executive Officer of the Foundation, which is the philanthropic arm of the University.

Adam Elhindi

Adam Elhindi graduated in Business from the University of Newcastle in 2006. Adam now works for the Office of Corporate Development and Community Partnerships in an administrative role.

Pat Healion

Pat Healion completed a Law degree in 2003 from the University of Newcastle. She is currently undertaking casual teaching with the School of Law, working as a solicitor through the University Legal Centre and working part-time as a mediator with the Newcastle Family Relationship Centre.

Dave Karlson

Dave Karlson completed a Bachelor of Mathematics in 1980 and a Master of Business Administration in 1992 at the University of Newcastle. Dave is currently General Manager of Operations for Wine Selectors.

David Kay

David Kay graduated with a PhD in 1977 from the University of Newcastle. David worked for the University for 35 years, firstly as a Professional Officer/Researcher in Biological Sciences; as a research program Director and finally as a Technical Services Manager in the Faculty of Science and IT. During that time he served two terms as a staff representative on the University Council. He has recently retired.

Brian Kennaugh (Vice-President)

Brian Kennaugh graduated in Business from the University of Newcastle in 1992. Brian is a business consultant and Director of Specified Results Pty Ltd.

Katherine Lindsay

Katherine Lindsay obtained her Master of Laws in 1996 from the University of Newcastle. Katherine is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Law at the University.

Jenny Lojszczyk

Jenny Lojszczyk completed a Bachelor of Applied Science in 1997 and a Master of Human Resource Management in 2007 from the University of Newcastle. Jenny currently works for Hudson Recruitment.

Robert Lutton

Robert Lutton completed an Arts Degree from the University of Newcastle in 1981. Robert has been a member of many University and regional organisations and committees.

Kaye March

Kaye March completed a Bachelor of Communications from the University of Newcastle in 1995. Kaye currently works for Hunter TAFE.

Julie McLeod

Julie McLeod completed a Diploma in Teaching in 1977, a Bachelor of Arts in 1980 and a PhD in Philosophy in 2000 from the University of Newcastle. Julie is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Education and Arts and Assistant Dean Community Engagement for the Faculty.

Michael O'Donohue

Michael O'Donohue completed a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Newcastle in 2002.

Roxana Olivares

Roxana Olivares completed a Bachelor of Social Science (Recreation and Tourism) in 2000 and is currently studying for a Law degree at the University of Newcastle. Roxana also works as Programs Manager for NUSport.

Phil Smith (Treasurer)

Phil Smith completed a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Newcastle in 2002. Phil is currently a financial planner for Hunter Financial Planning.

Amanda Tocci

Amanda Tocci completed a Bachelor of Arts in 1997 from the University of Newcastle, a GradDipEd (CSU), GradCert TESOL (UNE), a MAEdst (UQ) and is currently undertaking a PhD in Education from the University of Newcastle. Amanda is also Principal of Education Studies Australia and author of ESA Phonics.

James Tocci (President)

James Tocci completed a Bachelor of Business in 1997 from the University of Newcastle and an MBT (UNSW). James is the current President of Convocation and Alumni at the University of Newcastle. He is also a Practice Leader with Hudson Global Resources.

Todd Williams

Todd Williams completed a Business degree in 2000 and a Master of Business Administration in 2004 from the University of Newcastle. Todd is currently Operations Manager of NUSport.

Brad Woollett

Brad Woollett graduated in Economics from the University of Newcastle in 1989. Brad is currently Business Manager of Computer Systems Australia.

Congratulations to the 15 members joining the committee for the first time! The committee members will bring fresh new ideas and insights for Alumni and are very eager to see Alumni develop and expand in 2008.

To contact the Committee, email alumni-president@newcastle.edu.au

INAUGURAL LAW ALUMNI DINNER

On a balmy evening in September, over 100 graduates of the Newcastle Law School met with their supporters, law school staff and their special guest, The Honourable Justice Michael Kirby AC, in the opulent surroundings of Bacchus Restaurant, King Street Newcastle, to celebrate the Inaugural Law Alumni Dinner. Pre-dinner drinks were enjoyed in the foyer of the restaurant as graduates from as far afield as Sydney and Melbourne caught up with their former Law School friends. The Law School staff were also happy to learn of the wide-ranging achievements of their former students.

The Bacchus staff produced a superb meal and the company was quite simply excellent. However, the 'piece de resistance' of the evening was the occasional address by Justice Michael Kirby, who had dubbed himself earlier that day, an aspiring "Jerry Springer of law" in his speech to law undergraduates. With wit and vast wisdom, humour and humanity, Justice Kirby inspired Newcastle's law graduates to aim for the highest attainments in the law without losing their conscience or their commitment. With great humility, the Judge presented his current Associate, Ross Abbs (LLB Hons Class 1, Evatt Medal and University Medal Class of 2006), as the star guest of the evening.

With so much laughter and good feeling, it was decided by universal consensus that the Law Alumni Dinner must be an annual event. Further suggestions for future Law Alumni functions included quarterly cocktail functions where Newcastle-based Alumni could meet and mentor senior law students, and an Annual Sydney Law Dinner for the many law Alumni who are based in that metropolis or in Canberra. Look out for further details of these upcoming events in the new year, through the Alumni website alumni@newcastle.edu.au



Justice Michael Kirby delivers speech to an admiring audience



(left to right) Ross Abbs, Hon. Justice Michael Kirby, Loukia Nicholas, James Tocci

SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS RECOGNISED IN SYDNEY

On the 25th September, the Sydney Alumni Chapter hosted a dinner at the Emperors Garden Restaurant to award the 2006 and 2007 Sydney Alumni Chapter scholarship. The Sydney Alumni Chapter Convenor Wendy Lingren presented the winners with the \$500 scholarship which is given each year to the runner up of the Godfrey Tanner Scholarship, to assist students with their undergraduate studies.

The winner for 2006 was Katie Northam, an undergraduate student currently studying a Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics.

The winner for 2007 was Lauren Crowley, who is in her first year of a Bachelor of Physiotherapy.

Both winners were excited to have won the scholarship and thanked the Chapter for their generosity and support.

The evening presented an excellent opportunity for Sydney based Alumni to meet and socialise with each other and with University staff.

The dinner was attended by senior members of the University including Vice-Chancellor Professor Nicholas Saunders and Pro Vice-Chancellor Corporate Development and Community Partnerships Associate Professor Martin Fitzgerald.

The evening was a great success for the Sydney Alumni and they were thrilled to be able to award the scholarship to two outstanding students. The University and the Sydney Alumni Chapter congratulate both Katie and Lauren on their success so far and wish them well in their future studies.



(left to right) Associate Professor Martin Fitzgerald, Pro Vice-Chancellor Corporate Development and Community Partnerships, Lauren Crowley, Wendy Lindgren (Convener of Sydney Chapter), Katie Northam, Professor Nicholas Saunders, Vice-Chancellor.

BRISBANE – CONTINUING A TRADITION OF COMMUNITY

On the 12th August, a small group of Brisbane Alumni convened with Rosemary Thomson and Gabrielle Wilson from Alumni Relations to discuss the potential goals for the Brisbane Chapter in 2008.

The working party comprised Mike Nelson, Bill Caelli, Ross Grainger, Alain Guillemain and Carol Brubake. Some of the initiatives that were put forward included business breakfasts, an evening function and digital connectivity tools for Alumni.

Alain Guillemain was selected as pro tem President for the Brisbane Chapter, and will lead the initiatives in 2008. The meeting was seen as a symbolic hand-over from the old to the new, with a continuing focus on strong community ties.

Alain's comments on the future of the Brisbane Chapter were, "I am very pleased to have been selected as pro tem President, and I am excited about the prospects for the Brisbane Chapter for 2008 and beyond. There are great innovations that have taken place in the fields of networking and connectivity in the last few years. We are in an excellent position to leverage the knowledge and tools in this area to create a whole new capability for Brisbane-based Alumni."

To get involved with the initiatives or to request more information, contact Alumni Relations on alumni@newcastle.edu.au or email Alain directly on adg@guillemain.com.au



(left to right) Alain Guillemain, Ross Grainger, Bill Caelli, Carol Brubake, Mike Nelson



Dr Nicholas Talley accepting the award on his son's behalf from the Chancellor Professor Trevor Waring



Jennie Thomas and Alexia Sinclair at the Newcastle Alumni Awards night

OUTSTANDING GRADUATES RECOGNISED

On 25th October Newcastle Alumni descended on the elegant Newcastle Club for a cocktail party and to honour the achievements of two exceptional graduates, Professor Nicholas Talley and Ms Alexia Sinclair. It was a magnificent evening with the guest speaker, Professor Trevor Waring, Chancellor of the University starting proceedings with a very entertaining speech. Due to work commitments in the USA, Professor Talley, the recipient of the Convocation Medal for Professional Excellence, was unable to accept the award in person but proud parents Dr Nicholas and Mrs Irene Talley were delighted to travel up from Sydney to accept the award on his behalf. Due to the miracle of technology, Professor Talley was able to send a video response, conveying his incredible passion for medicine.

"I sincerely believe that having an opportunity to serve the community, professionally and personally, remains the greatest gift that one can be granted."

Professor Talley accepting his award through a video response

It is an amazing story as the recipient, Professor Nicholas Talley, is the third generation named Nicholas Talley in the family and all have been medical doctors. (see front page for his amazing career highlights)

The Newton-John Award recipient, Alexia Sinclair, as elegant as her art work, was next to be honoured. Alexia's number one fan is Jennie Thomas, who donated the scholarships that helped Alexia reach such incredible heights while studying at the University. Jennie gave a heart-warming speech about the wonderful benefits she has received from being a Foundation donor and seeing one of her scholarship winners, Alexia Sinclair, achieve astounding success. Jennie has been deeply involved in supporting and encouraging Alexia and was so proud of all she had achieved. To see Jennie Thomas' speech visit the Foundation website www.newcastle.edu.au/foundation

"My sincere hope is that, after tonight, many others will join me in donating to scholarships and research, for tonight is an example of the true rewards and joy of being a scholarship donor... of becoming an important part of a student's life."

Jennie Thomas speaking at the Newcastle Alumni Awards Night

HONG KONG CELEBRATES



Members of the Hong Kong Alumni Association Committee with Vice-President, Mr Richard Woo (3rd from left), and President Mr Ralph Yam (4th from left)

Over 200 students graduated at the offshore graduation ceremony in Hong Kong in November. Many joined the University of Newcastle Hong Kong Alumni Association which hosted an Alumni Dinner that same evening. In the Grand Ballroom of the Intercontinental in Kowloon, the Patron of the Chapter, Dr Sammy Poone, welcomed the dinner guests and thus commenced an evening of celebration and hilarity. On a more formal note, the Hong Kong Alumni Chapter awarded



The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nicholas Saunders (left) awards Mr Kwan Kam Fan the Hong Kong Alumni Medal

the Hong Kong Alumni Medal to its immediate past president, Mr Kwan Kam Fan (featured in edition two, 2007 of the Alumni Newsletter). Reading the citation, the Vice-President Mr Richard Woo, highlighted Fan's outstanding contribution to the Alumni, to the community and to the broader Australia Hong Kong Alumni Association. Congratulations Fan!

SINGAPORE SWINGS

A very successful graduation took place on the 17th November at the Concert Hall in Singapore. Over 200 students graduated and the Concert Hall was packed to capacity with family and friends.

An Honorary Degree in Medicine was awarded to the world renowned surgeon, Dr Susan Lim, who holds a special place in the hearts of many Novocastrians as the surgeon who did so much work with Newcastle victims of the Bali bombing. In particular, she is attributed with saving the life of one of Newcastle's sons, Mr Paul Anicich of Sparke Helmore. Although Mr Anicich was unable to attend, the Vice-Chancellor delivered a speech on his behalf at a special dinner. Mr Anicich wrote of Dr Lim's amazing commitment to her patients that went far beyond the treatment, to a genuine and personal interest in their recovery.

Once again the Singapore Alumni hosted a great Alumni dinner following the graduation. New graduates joined Alumni from over the years, to celebrate with University staff, distinguished guests and, of course, with each other.

The President of the Singapore Chapter invited new graduates to join the Chapter and the Committee in planning for 2008. If you are interested, please email Singapore Alumni at Singapore-alumni@newcastle.edu.au.



New graduates join the Alumni Chapter to celebrate

MALAYSIA MAKES ALUMNI HISTORY

The inaugural AGM of the Malaysian Alumni Chapter was held on the 18th November. After months of hard work, the pro tem president Ms Lai Tze May, and her wonderful committee, were able to watch as the new members signed up and then endorsed the Constitution for submission to the Registrar of Societies. There have been a number of supportive Alumni in Malaysia over the years, but it has now developed such that it will register formally over the next few months.

The Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and other senior staff attended the AGM, and later joined the Chapter members for an afternoon tea. Five graduates of note have agreed to act as Patrons, and look forward to supporting the Chapter in its endeavours. They are Tan Sri Datuk Mohd Razali Abd Rahman, Dato' Dr. A. Bakar Jaafar, Dato' Mohammed Hussein, Dato' Ar Haji Esa bin Haji Mohamed and his wife Datin Seniya Esa.

If you would like to be involved and sign up for membership of the Chapter, please contact alumni@newcastle.edu.au for details.



Malaysian Alumni Committee - (left to right) Dr See Tow Ngau - Robert, Mr See Tai Yang (Secretary), Mr Chee Kuat Fang (Treasurer), Ms Lai Tze May (President), Dr Lee Shoo Man - Sam (Vice-President), Mr Loh Thian Tat, Mr Muhammad Firdaus B Abdul Ghani

A RECOGNITION CEREMONY IN THE PHILIPPINES



(left to right) Australian Ambassador to the Philippines, His Excellency Tony Hely, Dr Diasdado San Antonio and Pro Vice-Chancellor International, Professor William Purcell

On the 10th November a very excited group of graduates who had been unable to attend their respective graduations in Newcastle over the past five years, assembled in Manila resplendent in their academic regalia. The event, hosted by the Faculty of Education and Arts, in partnership with Alumni Relations and the International Division, was a great

success with the Pro Vice-Chancellor International, Professor William Purcell, officiating, and the Australian Ambassador to the Philippines, His Excellency Mr Tony Hely, addressing the graduates.

Diasdado San Antonio, who was awarded his PhD at the Singapore Graduation, completed the official program with his graduate student address. He mentioned the many achievements and promotions of so many of the graduates on their return to the Philippines and attributed much of that to the well-rounded preparation received through their courses with the University of Newcastle. Friends and family joined the graduates and guests at a lunch following the ceremony.

A small group of graduates, ably led by Ms Ruby Andrion, met with the Manager of University Alumni and are keen to form a working committee to establish a formal Alumni network in the Philippines. If you would like to join Ruby and the group to work toward registering an Alumni network, please email alumni@newcastle.edu.au

Maligayang pagbati sa lahat ng Filipino graduates! Mabuhay sa pagsapi ninyo sa University of Newcastle Alumni community!

THAILAND TALES

On the 19th November, the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Corporate Development and Community Partnerships Associate Professor Martin Fitzgerald travelled to meet with a key group of Alumni who are keen to create a registered Alumni network in Thailand.

This amazing group of graduates are very excited about their University, and offered many suggestions for furthering Alumni development in Thailand. Watch this space as we begin to work towards registration with this group. If you would like to be involved with this network, please contact alumni@newcastle.edu.au for details.



Craig Rosevear rocking it out at a gig

**Craig Rosevear (2005)
Graduate Certificate Marketing**

Best known as the driving beat behind one of Australia's most legendary bands, The Screaming Jets, Craig "Rosie" Rosevear, or "Rosie" as he is popularly known, has notched up an impressive tally of over 6 000 gigs, performed on over 20 albums including four Gold and two Platinum and produced a best selling instructional video entitled 'How to Tic Toc In Rock'.

In 1990, Rosie joined his first rock band, B.B Steel. The band had a worldwide release with the album 'On the Edge' and was the support band for Def Leppard. After the demise of B.B Steel, Rosie was reunited with some of his former "Newie Mates" in the profile rock band, The Screaming Jets. After eight amazing years with the Jets, Rosie moved to the United States for a different challenge. Here, he joined up with Cinderglass and found himself rehearsing at the same studio as bands like The Chili Peppers, Audioslave and the Murderdolls.

In 2003, Rosie decided to pack up the touring suitcase and move back to Newcastle to set up a music school, 'Rosie's School of Rock!' Rosie's passion, enthusiasm and music industry experience has allowed him to create a highly successful rock school with all his students placed into bands and given the opportunity to play at various gigs as well as with stars such as the original bass player from AC/DC.

In 2005, Rosie completed a Graduate Certificate in Marketing from the University of Newcastle. "It was a fantastic course. I really enjoyed the Business campus on King Street and the absence of holidays meant I could complete the course quickly. The course work has proved very relevant and important to me in running my own business. The lecturers were knowledgeable and very good."

Rosie is still rocking hard with his latest band, the Retro Rockets, and they have just released their third CD entitled 'Cars, Guitars and Girls from Mars'. If you want to check out more information on Rosie's School of Rock, visit the website www.rosiesschoolofrock.com



Pacharapimon Sooksomchitra Fox

**Pacharapimon Sooksomchitra Fox
Master in Leadership and Management in
Education (1998) PhD (Education) (2004)**

After completing her studies in 2004, Pat returned to her home country of Thailand and was appointed Lecturer in Educational Administration and International Coordinator of the Graduate School for Suan Dusit Rajabhat University, Bangkok.

Pat found the University of Newcastle a peaceful and quiet environment, which was extremely helpful for study. She also enjoyed the clean air in Newcastle, a big difference to the atmosphere in Bangkok.

Pat said the University treated its PhD students extremely well, and she was amazed by how helpful everyone was and the facilities that were made available to her.

Since returning to Thailand, Pat continues to encourage anyone she comes across to send their children to the University of Newcastle, or to go there to further their own study. "I have such great memories of the University and I love to share them with everyone", she said.

At the beginning of this year, Pat married an Australian who she met while studying in Australia. They now live happily together in Bangkok.

Congratulations Pat and we wish you all the best!

SHARE YOUR STORY

If you would like your story to be published, please email alumni@newcastle.edu.au



Tim Bohlsen (left) reminiscing with one of his lecturers, Professor Robert Betz



Victor Ruele

**Tim Bohlsen (1993)
Bachelor of Engineering (Computing)**

Tim Bohlsen graduated from a Bachelor of Engineering (Computing) degree with Honours in 1993. Tim obtained a traineeship with BHP steelworks. He says that working full-time and studying part-time was not easy, but credits much of his success to the work ethic he had to develop to survive the 60 hour+ weeks.

Since completing his studies and leaving BHP in the late 1990s, Tim has lived abroad and worked extensively in many locations. In his particular field of computing (technical and performance aspects of SAP software), Tim has now reached a point where he is teaching on the topic worldwide, and working with some of the largest corporations throughout Europe and the United States.

Tim would like to thank the amazing expertise in the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment at the University of Newcastle. "I still regard the teaching ability of some of the key lecturers whilst I studied as beyond comparison. Additionally the flexibility of the University organisation and linkage with industry, in my case BHP, was extremely beneficial to my career."

**Victor Ruele (2005)
Master of Educational Studies**

Victor Ruele is a man who knows what he wants. His passion is education. After completing his Master of Educational Studies in 2005, he travelled back to Botswana and after a gruelling process, received a job at the University of Botswana as a lecturer in Industrial Design and Technology.

Victor really enjoyed his time at the University of Newcastle; some of the reasons he mentions include the friendly and very supportive staff, the warm hearted people of Australia, the resources such as the Blackboard online tutoring system, and the broad-based and flexible programs which allowed him to accommodate other personal interests.

Victor would definitely like to return to Newcastle to pursue his PhD studies.

His envisaged PhD study will seek to generate discussion among relevant stakeholders about the national efforts required to devise a technology education curriculum that is relevant and responsive to the socio-economic needs of Botswana, as well as to give advice on curriculum development and the implementation process.

We look forward to seeing you again soon for your PhD Victor!

**Vivian Liu (2004)
Master of Business Administration**

Vivian received her MBA in 2004 and has not looked back, "Newcastle's MBA program upgraded my work and life in Singapore."

"Through the learning process, I got to know a group of professionals from different backgrounds and industries, who are knowledgeable, friendly, and resourceful. The lectures broadened my knowledge, the people enlightened my life", she said.

"After graduation, I got an offer from a local multi national corporation. This great experience, along with my MBA qualification, gave me the opportunity to work as an accountant for a large US multi national corporation, SCI Systems Singapore Pty Ltd."

Vivian hopes that her personal experience can help people understand the underlying value of the MBA, not only to enrich their management knowledge, but to establish networks and even upgrade their lifestyle!

**Paul Iliia (2007)
Master of Social Change and Development**

After completing his Masters Degree, Paul returned home to Papua New Guinea to take up a position as a Government Officer for the Department of Treasury and Planning. Since returning with his new qualification he has been given more tasks and he loves the extra responsibilities.

Paul declares that the course has helped him a great deal. The broad issues facing developing countries that he studied apply to his home country and he has been able to apply much of the theory in his job.

Paul loved his Newcastle experience. He enjoyed the lifestyle, the quiet tranquil environment, the happy friendly people and always feeling safe.

Looking ahead, he would like to work in Papua New Guinea for a while before joining an international development agency such as UNDP, World Bank or AusAID to live abroad.

CALLING AUSTRALIAN ALUMNI

We are currently asking our Australian Alumni to complete a survey about Alumni benefits.

For more information visit www.alumni.newcastle.edu.au

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

CALLING RESIDENTIAL ALUMNI – ALL PAST CAMPUS DWELLERS!

We are trying to get the old gang back together! If you lived at Edwards Hall, Evatt House, International House, Barahineban or Bluegum, we want to hear from you.

Imagine the stories that could be told, getting together with old mates reminiscing about the amazing sporting battles and fierce rivalry between the colleges, the pub nights, the block dinners, the formal events, and just lazing about the college with friends.

Interested in finding out what your neighbour or Residential Assistant is up to? We can connect you! Email us your latest details at alumni@newcastle.edu.au

If you are interested in leading this charge to get your college back together, let us know. Alumni Relations is very keen to work with you and will support you in establishing a successful network.

LAW ALUMNI CHAPTER

In 2007, the University of Newcastle held the inaugural Law Alumni Dinner. It was a great success with hundreds of law graduates turning out to network and reminisce about their University experience. The Honourable Justice Michael Kirby AC was guest speaker and a great evening was had by all.

In 2008, the Law Alumni Chapter is going national, starting in Sydney as well as Newcastle.

Why is it beneficial to you?

- Opportunities to network and make connections
- Meet prominent graduates
- Meet fellow Alumni in your city
- A great way to keep in touch with your fellow Law grads.

If you are interested in being involved in the Newcastle Law Chapter or setting up a chapter in the city you will be working in, contact alumni@newcastle.edu.au

It's free and could change your life. So ask yourself – why not?

MEDICINE CHAPTER

In 2008, we are getting the medical crew back together for an incredible Medical Alumni Dinner in November, a night not to be missed!

Make sure we have your latest contact details or you will miss out on an invite!

The Dinner will provide great networking opportunities and a chance to catch up with old friends.

If you are interested in being involved in the Medicine Chapter, which we hope to establish early in 2008, please contact alumni@newcastle.edu.au

BRISBANE BUSINESS BREAKFASTS

Are you an Alumnus living in Brisbane? Interested in networking and meeting fellow Alumni in your city?

We have an exciting program of events for 2008 starting with a business breakfast in March. If you are interested in finding out more information on the Brisbane Chapter, contact alumni@newcastle.edu.au or Alain Guillemain, Brisbane Chapter President on adg@guillemain.com.au

INDIA IN ACTION

We have had a few enquiries from graduates in India about developing an Alumni network in India. If you are interested please email alumni@newcastle.edu.au

In 2008, senior staff from the University will be visiting India and we may be able to support an Alumni event for our graduates in India. Please contact us.

CALLING ON CANADA

We are wondering if our Canadian graduates are still living and working in Canada? We have some senior staff visiting Canada in 2008 and would love to arrange an opportunity for you to get together. We invite any of our graduates living in Canada to email us at alumni@newcastle.edu.au and we will see what we can do!

GLOBAL GALLIVANTING – GRADUATES IN OR NEAR LONDON

As our graduate community gets more and more mobile, we would like to hear from you if you are living and working in or near London so we can organise a get together of our University of Newcastle expats. If you are living in or near London, please email us at alumni@newcastle.edu.au.

ALUMNI MEMBER BENEFITS

DR BERNIE CURRAN ON TOUR MAY 2008

GREECE AND TURKEY HIGHLIGHTS HISTORY TOUR

Discover some of the world's most ancient and remarkable civilisations

A superb 33 day escorted tour containing history, culture, sights, cuisine and experiences of the very highest quality

Tour includes: all international and domestic air travel, ferry crossings, all tours, entrance fees to all sites visited, meals and much more...

Twin Share A\$7890 – Bookings close 15th February 2008

Website: www.aegeantours.com.au

We are delighted that Aegean Tours have given us this great opportunity to provide our Alumni with a well organised tour of Greece and Turkey. We are also very excited that Dr Bernie Curran, formerly a Senior Lecturer in Classics, has agreed to be part of the tour. Dr Curran has been a long standing member of the University, and apart from his career in Classics with the late Emeritus Professor Godfrey Tanner, he has been actively involved in University Sport (particularly rugby), Evatt House, of which he was Foundation Warden, and Community and Alumni Relations. He is currently Executive Officer of the University of Newcastle Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the University.

Family and friends are welcome. If you are interested in joining this once in a lifetime tour, contact Alumni Relations alumni@newcastle.edu.au

Disclaimer: In the event the minimum number of 20 bookings is not reached Aegean Tours reserves the right to cancel.



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE FOUNDATION

I have much pleasure in reporting that philanthropic support from our communities and especially from our Alumni, continues to grow and contribute to the strength of the University.

At the beginning of the year, the Foundation launched a scholarship campaign with the help of NBN Television and the Newcastle Herald. A number of very generous donations and bequests were received. These gifts have supported scholarships in Business and Law; students from disadvantaged backgrounds; and indigenous scholarships. The campaign will continue through 2008 where the emphasis will be on support for academic, sporting, residential and cultural scholarships.

One of the highlights of the year was the donation of a new organ for the Great Hall. This became possible through the generosity of Mr David Pitts and the Friends of the University. It is a magnificent instrument and continues the great tradition of philanthropic support for the University which began with the Great Hall.

The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle is also making a very significant donation to support the establishment of a Chair in Theology at the University of Newcastle. This follows on previous successful commitments from Ampcontrol for the Chair in Power Engineering and Suters Architects for the Chair in Urban Architecture.

One of the most encouraging aspects for the Foundation is the number of donors who continue to contribute to prizes, scholarships and research projects every year. We have tried to recognise this continued generosity through our website (<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/foundation>), which has been revised this year to provide a better overview of ways to support the Foundation and to tell the stories behind our donors and the beneficiaries.

This year also saw the establishment of the new Foundation. Mr Jeff Eather is the Chair, and he is ably supported by Dr Geoff Leonard and Mr Phil Smith (both graduates), Ms Julie Ainsworth (Newcastle Herald), Professor Nicholas Saunders, Associate Professor Martin Fitzgerald and Mr Craig Wallis. The new Board will be responsible for fundraising and investment strategies.

Thank you for your support. Best wishes for 2008.

Dr Bernie Curran, Executive Officer,
UoN Foundation

UNIVERSITY SEMINARS ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

Climate change has been the hot topic for 2007, with the community avidly interested in finding out what is in store for the future. On the 10th October, the Office of Corporate Development and Community Partnerships, in conjunction with the Tom Farrell Institute for the Environment (TFI), arranged for three experts to reveal the latest in climate science and predictions for the future. An audience of around 200 attended the talk and learnt a great deal about the issues.

The three experts are all members of various Working Groups of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and were involved in writing the international reports of their respective Working Groups.

Dr Scott Power, a Principal Research Scientist from the Bureau of Meteorology, discussed the science of climate change, examining the current state of climate science and the models used to predict climate outcomes. Outcomes from even the most conservative modelling suggests that there will continue to be further global warming, further sea-level rise and significant future changes in rainfall patterns in response to greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr Kevin Hennessy, a Principal Research Scientist from CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research, examined the climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability in Australia. He noted that we are already experiencing impacts of recent climate change through increased stress on water supply and agriculture, changed natural ecosystems and reduced snow cover. Some adaptation has occurred in these sectors. In future we expect more extreme weather events, warmer and drier conditions and major impacts to water, ecosystems, agriculture, forestry, coasts, cities, infrastructure, health and tourism. Risk management will require further adaptation and emission reductions.

Mr Roger Beale AO, is a Senior Associate with The Allen Consulting Group. He provides advice on economic regulatory, environmental and corporate strategy issues. Roger discussed the key mitigation technologies required for emissions to be reduced in energy supply, transport,

industry and buildings. Roger also examined the types of policies that Governments must look to in order to ease the pressure of climate change.

On the 23rd November, Dr Barbara Holland, an international expert in service-learning and Director of the (US) National Service Learning Clearinghouse, visited the University to talk about University engagement with communities in general and service learning in particular.

Service learning is a mode of learning in which students experience a placement which is linked to the educational objectives of their course and which at the same time addresses a community aspiration, issue or opportunity. It was noted that service learning assisted in undergraduate retention and in the potential for future engagement by graduates with their community. Undergraduates involved in service learning experience a deeper understanding of the curriculum through a contextualisation of their studies. The University has identified "community responsiveness" as one of the desirable attributes of our graduates, and already undertakes a number of service learning initiatives that help to achieve this goal.

These presentations are part of a series of public lectures and seminars organised by the Office of Corporate Development and Community Partnerships. Details of future talks, as well as podcasts and notes from those already held, are being made available through our website <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/community>



(left to right) Associate Professor Martin Fitzgerald, Pro Vice-Chancellor Corporate Development and Community Partnerships, Dr Scott Power, Mr Roger Beale AO, Mr Kevin Hennessy and Dr Wej Paradise (TFI Board Member)

CONTACT US

Office of Corporate Development
and Community Partnerships
Chancellery Building

Alumni
alumni@newcastle.edu.au
T 02 4921 5366

Community Partnerships
Partnerships@newcastle.edu.au
T 02 4921 8762

Corporate Development
T 02 4921 8762

Foundation
foundation@newcastle.edu.au
T 02 4921 8762

<http://alumni.newcastle.edu.au>