



ANU COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

Staff Newsletter – May 2008

A NEW BUILDING FOR CBE

Subject to certain University approvals; CBE may have a new building in the Copland precinct of the campus. At the beginning of 2003 the then Faculty of Economics and Commerce was not at the top of the University's new building program; indeed it was not on the list at all.

By September 2004 the various committees of the University had approved the funding and design requirements of what was to become the H W Arndt building. The building's construction commenced in December 2004 and was completed by November 2005. The College completed the project ahead of time and under budget.

At the time the H W Arndt Building was the largest structure permitted to be built but the newly formed College quickly filled its capacity. Indeed, all the buildings in the Copland precinct were filled at or beyond planned capacity. There was only minor relief from this position when ABIS made the policy decision in late 2007 to move many of its HDR students into the Sir Roland Wilson Building. Even then, we had no room to grow.

Now CBE is toward the top of the building priority list and has consequently requested approval to build substantial further space and integrate into one location – the northeast corner of the campus. The College requires further space for teaching activities, student facilities as well as academic and general staff space. In addition, and important for the sense of community, the College Executive is firm in its resolve to locate in one area of the campus.

"The University Finance Committee meeting on Friday (9 May) will be the key decision point," said Professor Houghton, Dean, ANU College of Business and Economics. At present, with changed financial circumstances, the crucial decision is about the funding of a new building to the north of the existing Crisp Building. The larger of the two options would have four levels and the capacity to house almost 150 academic and general staff (two Schools could be housed in whole or part in such a structure) together with a wealth of new teaching facilities on the ground floor. The second option would be smaller and less costly. In the longer term the College might also gain access to a refurbished Dedman Building.

A recent meeting of Heads of School was enthusiastic to opt for the larger structure. The College proposal to the University Finance Committee is for the larger, more expensive, structure over four levels facing the North Oval with links at two levels to the Crisp Building.

Completion of the building is scheduled for early 2010 (subject to planning permission timing).

The Dean has set aside an extended period of time after building begins to carefully plan the inevitable relocation of a proportion of staff and PhD students. He said, "The careful integration of around 70 people currently in the Sir Roland Wilson Building into the existing and proposed new College buildings will be important. We will seek to minimize disruption to the ongoing work of staff."

"The College will ensure the availability of professional movers to assist in the relocation. Feedback thus far suggests that staff want individual Schools to be located on one level wherever possible and to shift no more than once during this process," Professor Houghton said.

If approval for the larger option is given, then upon completion of all the development plans, the College will benefit from a net increase of approximately 7,000 square metres of additional space with new and refurbished space for staff and research students. This will include added teaching space and facilities for coursework masters students. It will be a major enhancement for the College and the community of scholars it supports.

Professor Houghton said, "Much is riding on Friday's decision".

SCHOOL NEWS

ACCOUNTING & BUSINESS INFORMATION SYSTEMS

University of Amsterdam

Ms Jacqueline Birt has recently returned from six months OSP leave in the Netherlands. During that time she spent four months as a visiting academic at the Amsterdam Business School (ABS), which is part of the Universiteit van Amsterdam. The ABS provides high level business education with a strong academic basis for both local and international undergraduate and postgraduate students. Ms Birt delivered guest lectures in advanced financial reporting issues and international accounting standards. She also participated in research activities in the areas of segment reporting, IFRS and accounting education.

Lin's PhD thesis accepted

Mr Aleck Chao-Hung Lin had his PhD thesis accepted. The title of his thesis is 'Designing websites for enjoyment and learning; a study of museum experiences!'

31st Annual Congress of the European Accounting Association in Rotterdam, Netherlands



Professor Gary Monroe and Dr Rebecca Tan attended the 31st Annual Congress of the European Accounting Association in Rotterdam, Netherlands from 23-25 April 2008. They rubbed shoulders with many of the 'who's who' of accounting academia from around the world. Around 1,100 delegates attended the premier conference, presenting papers from various areas of accounting. Topics included auditing, public sector accounting, social and environmental accounting, management accounting and behavioural aspects of accounting. Professor Monroe presented a co-authored paper entitled "Auditor Switching in an Emerging Market for Auditor Services" while Dr Tan presented her co-authored paper entitled "The Impact of IFRS Adoption in Australia on User's Involvement in the Due Process".

Additionally, Monroe chaired two sessions in auditing and Tan was the discussant for a paper on suppression of negative financial information in Chinese state-controlled enterprises.

ECONOMICS

Labour Econometrics Workshop

The Labour Econometrics Workshop was a two day workshop held 25-26 April 2008 at the ANU. The annual workshop focused on applied micro-econometrics; and the ANU hosts the workshop every three or four years. The workshop format provides for lengthy paper presentations. Each paper has a discussant who reviews the work in depth. The presentation of work in progress is encouraged, and the workshop has traditionally been a venue for presentation of new and innovative micro-econometric techniques. The absence of parallel sessions means that all participants are involved in thinking about and discussing each paper. This year the workshop was pleased to have Professor Myoung-Jae Lee of Korea University as its keynote speaker. Professor Lee has published widely in econometric theory and is well known for his work on instrumental variables, limited dependent variables and panel data estimation.

Congratulations to Ryan Fang

Ryan Fang, a recent first-class Honours graduate of the School of Economics, has accepted a place and full scholarship in the prestigious PhD program in Economics at the University of Chicago. To get into the program at Chicago, which is consistently ranked in the top three to five of Economics PhD Programs in the world, let alone to get a scholarship, is a tremendous achievement so we congratulate Ryan and wish him the best of success.



Ryan Fang

MANAGEMENT, MARKETING & INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

HIGH PROFILE PRESENCE

Dr Stephen Dann and Mr Andrew Hughes made a high profile presence nationally on Friday 2 May 2008 both in print and electronic media. Their insightful comments on the 2007 Federal Election gained widespread coverage focusing on marketing strategies used by both major parties. Mr Hughes says Mr Howard could have learned from the Toyota Corolla. "It has been a top-selling car for many years, but while the brand is the same, the car has changed over time to meet the needs of consumers." The Australian newspaper stated, "A top Liberal strategist laughed at the comparison yesterday, saying 'Howard looked like a steam car'".

Dr Dann and Mr Hughes have a forthcoming paper on the political marketing lessons of the Kevin O7 election in the Monash Business Review (Dann S, and Hughes A, (2008) Australian Political Marketing after Kevin O7: Lessons from the 2007 Federal Election, Monash Business Review, 4 (1) April 2008).

MBA Special Research Topic Updated

As reported in Issue 17 of the staff newsletter, Mr Stephen Gniel is currently studying his MBA and has elected to complete a special research topic as part of his degree. Mr Gniel is researching the question: 'What are the challenges that exist for establishing farmers' organisations as microfinance institutions to provide financial services to the poor in rural Cambodia and



Mr Stephen Gniel in Cambodia

how can they be overcome?' Mr Gniel returned to Cambodia in February to conduct field research for his project, centering on the success of Ta Ong Soybean Development farmers' association (TSA) in Kampong Cham Province. The TSA has transformed itself into a microfinance institution (MFI) offering financial services to local villagers, mainly farmers. The research has involved semi-structured interviews with Ta Ong villagers and farmers, board members of the farmers' association and key players from the National Bank of Cambodia, the Rural Development Bank (Cambodia) and Ministry of Commerce, Kingdom of Cambodia.

The research context has provided many challenges including language barriers when conducting semi-structured interviews, the general difficulties with administration and the interpretation of Cambodian Government and financial institution policies and guidelines. However, he has had great support from the Cambodian Development Research Institute (CDRI), where he is based. CDRI is Cambodia's leading independent development policy research institute and includes on staff another ANU student whom Mr Gniel is collaborating with, Pak Kimchoeun, currently a PhD candidate in the Policy and Governance Program, Crawford School of Economics and Government.

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Tsinghua Master of Management students

Knowledge Management in Beijing

In April Mr Ed Russell taught the course Knowledge Management, to the fourth and final cohort of students in the current ANU/Tsinghua University Joint Master of Management Program in Beijing. He was assisted by Ms Song Lei, an ANU MBA graduate and academic at the Beijing Film Academy.

About 70 students from all over China undertook the course. They included entrepreneurs, the CEO's of large engineering, mining and construction companies, and a number of senior government officials.

The course was challenging, in particular the subject matter required great care in

translation, but the students responded with hard work and great enthusiasm. As this was the last course in their degree program, the students were in high spirits, and there were a number of lively celebrations during two weeks of the course. In particular, students from Inner Mongolia organized a celebratory dinner on 13 April. In addition to fine food, such as a sheep transported by car from Mongolia especially for the dinner, there was a great deal of Mongolian song, including a ballad celebrating the exploits of the lecturer. As this was sung in Mongolian, its lyrics fortunately remain a mystery.

The students will graduate in July, and a majority of them are expected to travel to Canberra for the Conferring ceremony.



Mr Ed Russell ceremonially carves a roast Mongolian sheep

CENTRE FOR APPLIED MACROECONOMIC ANALYSIS

CAMA On Top

Earlier this year, the top 20 per cent Institutions and Economists in Australia were named. CAMA was ranked number one, knocking off the University of Melbourne. The top 20 per cent authors in Australia included:

- Adrian Rodney Pagan
- Alison Lee Booth
- Warwick J. McKibbin
- Kenneth Frank Wallis
- Farshid Vahid
- Don Harding
- Heather M. Anderson
- Peter N Smith
- Mardi Dungey
- Jeffrey Sheen
- Rodney Tyers
- Karen A. Mumford

For further information head to <http://ideas.repec.org/top/top.australia.html>

From Our Program Directors

Professor Don Harding, co-director of the Macro-econometric Models and Methods program report, has been awarded one of the Thompson Scientific Awards for 2008.

La Trobe University Media Release: http://www.latrobe.edu.au/news/2008/mediarelease_2008-18.php

Announcement at SBS World News: http://news.sbs.com.au/worldnewsaustralia/awards_recognise_aussie_research_544086

April Visitors

Professor Pierre Siklos from Wilfrid Laurier University visited from 21 - 24 April 2008

Dr Barbara Buchner from International Energy Agency visited from 14 - 18 April 2008

2008 Working Paper Series

Four new additions to the CAMA Working Papers Series can be viewed at: <http://cama.anu.edu.au/publications.asp>

RESEARCH OFFICE

Change Management: Achieving Organisational Evolution

Date: 7 - 9 May 2008

Where: Sydney

In life and in business, change is inevitable. Organisations constantly find themselves undergoing change and moving through transitional periods, so it is therefore crucial to know how to actively and effectively manage the change process

Organised by: Ark Group Australia.

For more information contact Michele Marrero or go to

<http://www.arkgroupaustralia.com.au/events-c012changemangement.htm>

CBE IN THE NEWS

According to Media Monitor reports for the month of April, CBE Academics activities have appeared in local and national media.

- **Professor Warwick McKibbin** was mentioned in seven articles discussing the Reserve Bank as well as the climate change policy. His media coverage included Sydney's 2GB, the Age and AFR.
- **Professor Steve Dowrick** appeared twice on Radio National and Australian R&D Review in regards to Innovating Australia.
- **Dr Sigi Goode** was in the Daily Telegraph for the article: Cracking crackers' code of morality. He also appeared on ABC 666.

UP COMING EVENTS

ANU College of Business and Economics Annual Prizes and Scholarships Ceremony

Date: Thursday 8 May

Time: 6:00pm

Venue: The Hall, University House

Graduate Studies Information Evening

Date: Tuesday 13 May

Time: 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Venue: The Hall, University House

More Information: http://info.anu.edu.au/studyat/050PP_Graduate_Coursework/_Events/_may1308.asp

IARU & YALE UNIVERSITY

The Presidents of the ten universities which comprise the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) met in late April 2008 at Yale University to discuss a number of items relating to greater cooperation amongst the ten world-leading universities.

Yale University hosted Professor Keith Houghton, Dean, ANU College of Business and Economics over a two-week period in April, during which he also visited the University of Chicago and the University of Connecticut.

The Yale School of Management is relatively small by some standard measures, with a total number of 60 academic staff (but with more than 200 general staff members). Spread over six buildings, the School of Management is presently consolidating into one new building, which is expected to cost more than \$US100 million.

One of the proposals going forward is for IARU to be responsible for a Business Sentiment Index to be prepared on a global scale with each of the ten IARU universities contributing for their own region. This proposal will be discussed by our College Executive Committee in the near future with its possible implementation, subject to IARU support, commencing in 2009.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT LINK

The former Dean of the National University of Singapore Business School (a member of IARU), Professor Christopher Earley, recently took up the position of Dean of the Business School at the University of Connecticut. Connecticut for historic reasons is one of the key centres in the USA for insurance and reinsurance and the University of Connecticut is well placed with support from some of the major insurance houses in the USA. Professor Earley and Professor Houghton discussed the possibility of ANU students having access to the University of Connecticut's "accelerator" laboratories. One accelerator program is in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, another in Finance and Risk Management. The third accelerator involves student teams working on problems for a large private sector organization.

The University of Connecticut has kindly offered to provide ANU with access to some of their online and other innovative educational design resources to assist with flexible learning. The ANU College of Business and Economics have also been offered extended periods of time to visit the University of Connecticut. They have particular interest in academic staff in the fields of risk management and actuarial studies. This may be an opportunity for academic staff considering OSP leave in 2009 and beyond.

CBE PLANS TO LEAVE THE SIR ROLAND WILSON BUILDING

As part of CBE planning we are seeking to consolidate into one location on campus; that being in and around the Copland precinct in the northeast part of the Acton campus.

Inevitably this will, in time, mean that CBE will vacate the Sir Roland Wilson Building. Our physical move will not dampen our close affection with the memory of Sir Roland Wilson and our ongoing association with his surviving spouse, Lady Joyce Wilson (who in recent years was honoured by the naming of a special seminar room in the Sir Roland Wilson Building). CBE staff will continue to serve on the Sir Roland Wilson Trust Board and participate in the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation.

Additionally, the integration will entail the movement of around 70 CBE colleagues to the northeast part of the campus. Planning for this will be detailed and involve a committee including representation of those currently housed in the Sir Roland Wilson building. "We seek to nurture and support the work of both students and staff." Dean Houghton said, "The expected outcome will be a highly functional set of buildings serving one strong community."

HUMAN RESOURCES

2008 Academic Promotions

It is time to start thinking about the University's annual Academic Promotions round for 2008. The timetable for the 2008 round will be published shortly by the Human Resources Division and will be available at:

http://info.anu.edu.au/hr/Salaries_and_Conditions/Policy_Info/Academic_Promotions/index.asp

The site contains a great deal of information on the Policy and Procedures for Promotions as well as Frequently Asked Questions on the process, and steps taken when making an application or supporting a staff member for promotion.

Over the past two years, the College has had a success rate of 100% for applicants applying for promotion from Level D to Level E. Each year the University publishes the statistics for promotions. In 2007 they were:

Each College is required to have a Local Promotions Committee (LPC) which considers all applications from Level B to C and C to D. The core membership of the Committee will normally consist of:

Level applied for		Applications	Successful	Success rate
Level E1	Female	0	0	-
	Male	21	11	52%
	Total	21	11	52%
Level D	Female	10	8	80%
	Male	23	14	61%
	Total	33	22	67%
Level C	Female	17	15	88%
	Male	14	11	79%
	Total	31	26	84%
Level B	Female	12	8	67%
	Male	18	17	94%
	Total	30	25	83%

- The Chair – usually the Dean or Director (or where appropriate an alternate senior Academic);
- Between three to six local area academic staff, the majority of whom will be at Level D or above;
- For proposals of promotion to Levels C and D – at least two members external to the College and representing either the Science, Health and Engineering disciplines, or the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences disciplines, whichever discipline encompasses the LPC.

All applications for promotion from Level D to Level

E are considered by the University Promotions Committee. For further information on this process refer to the website or speak with your supervisor or Head of School.

ANU Exit Survey

An Exit Survey has been developed by Central Human Resources. This is an online, confidential system and staff are encouraged to complete the survey prior to their departure from the University.

When staff leave the University they take valuable information with them that, if shared, can help influence the experience of others. This type of feedback provides valuable information to the University and in turn each of the Colleges to improve the working conditions and environment for all staff.

Many people may think of an exit survey as an opportunity to mention those things that were negative about their workplace, and whilst this is important information that needs to be heard, positive information will also be most welcome.

The exit survey can be found: http://info.anu.edu.au/Policies/_DHR/Forms/OHR04.asp.

STAFF CHANGES

New General Staff Member

- Ms Ranka Videnovic, Student Administrator, MMIB

Staff who have left:

- Mr Masoud Azizkhani, PhD Candidate, ABIS
- Ms Elizabeth Marburg
- Ms Janet McDougall, CBE IT

For all HR enquiries please contact:
hr.cbe@anu.edu.au

DEADLINE FOR CONTENT FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER EDITION IS: MONDAY 26 MAY

Please forward your news items to Garmisch P.S. Aguilar (Garmisch.Aguilar@anu.edu.au) for inclusion in the College's next newsletter.