

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

NEWSLETTER

EDITION ONE - 2011



Opportunity to host *Future City 2050* forum

The Community Engagement Advisory Committee (CEAC) is an external advisory body chaired by Ms Deborah Wright (CEO - NBN Television). It has played an integral role in assisting and providing advice to **Professor Stephen Crump** in his capacity as Pro Vice-Chancellor, External Relations.

In July, 15 local sustainability and environmental experts helped the Committee review the University's opportunity to host a "Future City 2050" community sustainability forum in 2012.

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stephen Crump, will be returning from long service leave on 26 September 2011.



New ER appointment

Dr Andrew Johnson was appointed Director, Office of External Relations. From August 2011 the Research Development staff has joined the External Relations portfolio to enhance the team's business engagement opportunities.

Focus areas include:
Social Inclusion
Equine
Energy and Resources

The Research Development team includes Angela Gray, Belinda Peden and Gerry Bobsien.

Campus Partnerships

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT: The Central Coast campus has \$20 million worth of capital works nearing completion.

The new infrastructure includes:

- New general purpose teaching and learning spaces and specialist spaces for Exercise and Sport Science, Psychology and Education programs.
- Extension to the Library including a café and revitalised 24 hours access computer lab.
- Relocation of the Central Coast operations of the NSW Department of Primary Industries to the Ourimbah campus.
- Upgrade of utilities and plant.
- Extension of the south west car park.



WOMEN CONNECT: External Relations, represented by **Lisa Vandyke**, participated in the **Regional Women's Connect 2011 Conference** in August sponsored by Grad.School.com, TAFE and others, providing opportunity for further collaboration with our TAFE partners.

Key Partnerships: "We depend on effective partnerships and will benefit from a more consistent and conscious approach to engaging partners and communities in collaborative opportunities."
Building Distinction Institutional Strategic Plan 2011-2015

Alumni and Corporate Relations

CANBERRA RECEPTION

The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor hosted the annual reception in Canberra in August for over 60 alumni including 93-year-old Emeritus Professor Reyn Keats (the foundation Dean of Mathematics) and his family. A pro-tem Canberra Alumni President – an Ourimbah graduate has been put in place and is looking to establish a program to support alumni in that region.

ALUMNI MENTORING PROGRAM

An alumni mentoring trial was launched in August.

Members from the Executive Committee of Alumni and other graduates are mentoring final year iLEAD students until the end of this year when the trial will be evaluated for possible broader delivery.

2011 ALUMNI AWARDS

The Executive Committee of Alumni will host their 2011 gala Alumni Awards dinner on 14 September at City Hall with 33 finalists across the suite of eight awards.

We welcome back to Newcastle eight international finalists who will travel from China, Jordan, London, Malaysia and the USA with 12 finalists arriving from across Australia to join the 13 local finalists.

One of the finalists is a pilot in an astronaut program in Malaysia adds new meaning to this year's "The Sky is the Limit" theme.



Go online to purchase your ticket - limited tickets available: www.trybooking.com/13048



CHANCELLOR'S DINNER

There is still a buzz in town about the recent Chancellor's Dinner held at the Newcastle Club in July.

Emerging leaders joined established regional and University leaders at a dinner to illuminate leadership.

Six outstanding young finalists in the 2011 Leadership Awards from the Central Coast, the Hunter and the Mid-North Coast joined the group, with our own Professor Phil Morgan taking the prize.

Community Partnerships

A Tri-Institutional Collaboration

A collaboration between the University of Newcastle, the University of Fort Hare (South Africa) and Syracuse University (USA) is underway to further the global engagement agenda in research, teaching and service provision.

Sharon Douglas (Community Partnerships' Team) has been invited to present a paper at the "Community Engagement: The Changing Role of South African Universities in Development" Conference in East London, South Africa in November. This visit will also incorporate a visit to the UFH and attendance at a 3-day writing workshop with representatives from the three universities. The intention is to develop and publish a series of journal articles. This collaboration will initially be around community engagement and experiential learning but has scope for further development.



Faculty Liaison – Business and Law

Collaboration with the Faculty of Business and Law continues with the External Engagement Strategic Plan and Operational Plan ready for sign off. External Relations' Sharon Douglas is seconded one day per week to help build the Faculty's community engagement agenda.

Faculty Liaison – Health

A successful project officer secondment for the first six months of 2011 significantly assisted the Faculty's community engagement planning and activities. This will be continued with representation from ER on the Faculty's Community Engagement Committee.

AUCEA – External Relations appointed to the Scholarship Committee

The Australian Universities Community Engagement Alliance (AUCEA) is a not-for-profit organisation committed to fostering university-community engagement throughout Australia and the Asia Pacific region. External Relations' Sharon Douglas was recently selected on the AUCEA Scholarship Committee.



TEDx Newy - Saturday 12 November 2011

The promotion for TEDx Newy has begun.

External Relations' Sharon Douglas represented the University on the TEDx Newy Speaker Committee and five staff members from the University of Newcastle were short listed and confirmed to present at the event.

The speakers will be officially announced in September.

The Business and Law and Science and IT faculties also have several students engaged in various aspects of the event including film, public relations, tourism, event management and marketing.

Research Development



NSW TechVoucher Program

Recent involvement in the NSW TechVoucher program developed strong industry partnerships for the University. TechVouchers is a NSW Government program established to foster a culture of research collaboration between small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) and public research facilities. The program provides SMEs with access to research facilities, infrastructure and collaborative projects with researchers.

The University successfully attracted eleven TechVouchers, the highest number allocated to NSW research institutions. The program also generated significant ARC linkage partnerships and with solid connections to the manufacturing industry.

Research Development now aligned with External Relations

Research Development (RD) has been incorporated within External Relations to provide greater consistency for University partnerships across industry, government and community. RD identifies external research priorities and develops these for the mutual benefit of the University, our partners and the wider community.

Cooperative Research Centres

Researchers at the UoN had a strong presence in the 2011 round of the CRC Program with a lead role in two applications: Securing and Rebuilding Biodiversity; and Social Inclusion.

The University participated to varying degrees in five other CRC bids including Cities and Regional Development, Regional Innovation, Lung Health, Polymers, Education and Invasive Animals.

The team recently submitted a major CRC bid for social inclusion and is engaged in the development of several industry partnerships across the equine sector, energy and regional development spheres.

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