Dean’s Message

Since I joined the Faculty in February this year, we have been redefining our vision, mission and values and putting in place strategies to ensure that the Faculty becomes the leading business faculty in the Asian region; a compelling place to work, to learn and to return.

At the core of our aspiration to excellence are our people and our programs. We have made a large number of outstanding senior appointments and by the end of 2002 our Professoriate will easily be one of the largest - and one of the best - in Asia. At present we are restructuring our postgraduate portfolio to include a suite of ‘advanced disciplinary’ masters programs. This suite of programs is designed to fully utilise the outstanding depth and breadth of talent in the Faculty and to ensure that we are positioned as the leading provider of specialist postgraduate business education in the region. Details of the first of these programs are on the next page.

May I take this opportunity to thank our staff, students and partners for their support in 2002 and to wish you all the best for 2003.
Innovations

From mid 2003 the Faculty will be offering a new postgraduate program – the Master of Finance (MFin) – a degree designed to propel its graduates to the top of their chosen field. The MFin is a unique and academically challenging cross-disciplinary program, with courses being offered by the Schools of Banking and Finance, Actuarial Studies, Economics and Mathematics. The program consists of eight, semester-length courses and participants will be able to specialise in one of the following streams:

- Applied Finance
- Mathematical Finance
- Quantitative Risk Management

The program will expose students to talented and internationally recognised academics and practitioners. It will cover the latest ideas in the field as well as providing an intellectual framework, giving students a structure to build their knowledge on after finishing the program. Entry into the MFin will be highly competitive and a limited number of places will be offered in the first round. The MFin will deliver tomorrow's financial leaders. For further information on this new program, please call +61 (2) 9385 5864 or visit the website www.mfin.unsw.edu.au

Focus on Research

Research grants awarded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) have been announced recently, and the results for researchers across the Faculty of Commerce and Economics are excellent – winning a total of 8 Discovery Projects worth in excess of $1.3 million and 4 Linkage grants, with ARC contributions of $400,000 supplemented by and cash and in-kind contributions from industry partners.

Discovery Projects include: ■ Professor Peter Swan and David Gallagher, of the School of Banking and Finance, Evaluating the performance of active Australian equity managers
■ Professor Denzil Fiebig, School of Economics, Economic analysis of inter-relationships between private health and health insurance expenditures ■ Dr Peter Robertson and Professor RG Harris, School of Economics, Human capital accumulation and economic growth ■ Dr GF Barrett, School of Economics, Robust empirical analysis of consumption poverty in Australia ■ Dr John O’Brien and Dr Anne Junor of the School of Industrial Relations and Organisational Behaviour plus external researchers, What does ‘New Public Management’ look like in the public sector workplace ■ Prof Sid Gray, School of International Business and Dr Richard Morris, School of Accounting, Corporate Transparency in the Asia Pacific Region ■ Dr Chung-Sok Suh, School of International Business and Dr Chris Wright, School of Industrial Relations and Organisational Behaviour and external researchers, Strategy and Structure of the Korean Chaebol ■ Dr Chris Styles and Professor Paul Patterson, School of Marketing, An investigation of export performance determinants across service types.

In addition, Professor RG Walker, School of Accounting; Professor Michael Quinlan, School of Industrial Relations and Organisational Behaviour, Professor Mark Uncles, both of the School of Marketing; are part of research teams awarded ARC Discovery Grants through other institutions.

The National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (NHMRC) also recently announced grants awarded, and Professor Denzil Fiebig, Head, School of Economics is part of a team who have been awarded a 5 year Program Grant worth $1.365 million per year. The grant is entitled Evaluating health policy by understanding consumer and provider decisions about health care: A new approach.

Distinguished Alumni

Cathy Rossi Harris, a distinguished alumnus, graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce in 1971. She is actively engaged in the life of UNSW, holding the position of Deputy Chancellor since 2000, is a Director of the UNSW Foundation and Councillor of the Australian Defence Force Academy. Other positions she currently holds include Executive Director of Australia’s largest chain of fresh produce supermarkets, Harris Farm Markets; Director of the National Gallery of Australia Foundation Board; and Director of Mary Rossi Travel.

Catherine has had an extensive career in marketing and change management, including holding the positions of Chief Executive Officer and Director of the Affirmative Action Agency. She has also sat on a number of Institutional Boards including as Chairperson for the St Margaret’s Public and Private Hospitals; Director of the AGSM Centre for Corporate Change; Chairperson for the Prime Minister’s Awards for Innovation (Public Sector); and member of the Federal Government Expert Panel “Best Practice Demonstration Program”.

Her amazing contributions in various fields have not gone unnoticed; in 2000 she was a recipient of the Australian Public Service Medal for “outstanding public service” and Attaché for Bhutan during the Sydney Olympic Games. Catherine has also been awarded the Centenary of Public Service Medallion.

Coming Events

■ 16-18 December – The 15th Annual Australasian Finance and Banking Conference: Presented by the School of Banking and Finance and the Asia Pacific Financial Research Centre the conference will be officially opened by Senator the Honourable Nick Minchin, Minister for Finance and Administration. Conference details and registration:
http://afbc.banking.unsw.edu.au
Working with Industry and Government

- The Faculty Advisory Board is a network of eminent leaders in commerce and industry, who are working with the Dean to ensure that the Faculty remains the leading business faculty in the Asian region. Most recent recruits to the board include Jackie Giles, Terry Davis and Stuart Grimshaw.

  Jackie Giles was formerly Director, Commercial & Finance Operations for Optus Wholesale Division. Jackie has made a significant contribution to Optus since her arrival in 1997, playing a leading role in a wide range of corporate transactions, funding initiatives and commercial deals. Jackie recently left Optus and is looking forward to spending time with her family before moving on to the next challenge.

  Terry Davis is Managing Director for Coca-Cola Amatil (Australia). He joined Coca-Cola Amatil in November 2001. Prior to this, Mr. Davis had fourteen years experience in the global wine industry, with the last four years in senior positions with the wine operation of Foster’s.

  Stuart Grimshaw joined the Commonwealth Bank as Group Executive, Financial and Risk Management in January 2002. This Business Unit provides a range of professional services including specialist advice, strategies, information and policies on financial, risk and capital management matters as well as comprehensive investor relations. Stuart is well-rounded banking and financial services executive with extensive Australian and international experience.

- The John V Ratcliffe Lecture is a highlight of the Faculty’s calendar, this year raising new issues and stimulating discussion. Over one hundred key corporate associates gathered in the Ballroom of the Westin Hotel on 6 November for a challenging seminar titled Institutional Owners Of Shares – The Sleeping Giant Awakes. The evening’s sub-title comes from the US shareholder Bob Monks He asks - What do lost dogs, abandoned shopping trolleys and Enron have in common? His answer is that… no one owns them!

  This evening was convened by Professor Bob Walker from the School of Accounting with three speakers of distinction:
  - Michael O’Sullivan, Present of the Australian Council of Superannuation Investors,
  - Dr. Tom Parry, Chairman of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, He is also Chair of the FSS Trustee Corporation. (Trustees of the NSW public Sector Accumulation Scheme), and
  - Ms Gai McGrath, Company Secretary/General Counsel of Perpetual Australia.

  The evening was co-hosted by the Dean and Professor Wai Fong Chua, Head of the School of Accounting. Professor Chua welcomed the guests to this year’s lecture which was established by Mrs Florence L Ratcliffe to commemorate the work of her late husband in the fields of accountancy, taxation and financial management.

  The lecture has been designed to bring together members of the university and persons in commerce, the professions and the public sector to consider issues of mutual concern and public interest.

  The Faculty of Commerce and Economics believes that it has a vital role to play in building relationships with industry and in providing a forum for discussion. Certainly this year’s lively discussion at question time and after the seminar, demonstrated just how much interest the topic aroused. We look forward to next year’s Ratcliffe Lecture.

Accolades

- When KPMG sought Australia’s most respected accounting and auditing academics for its Ethics Board, they appointed Professor Ken Trotman, Scientia Professor and Director of the Centre of Accounting and Assurance Research, Faculty of Commerce and Economics. The Board will oversee KPMG’s position on ethical dilemmas and conflicts of interest.

- The Nationals Finals of the Boston Consulting Group Business Strategy Competition were held in October. For this competition each Australian University is represented by an Undergraduate and Postgraduate Team. In the undergraduate category, the winners of the State Final - UNSW, represented NSW. In a very close final the UNSW Team came second. Each of the 6 UNSW Team Members have connections to the Faculty, undertaking majors in Accounting, Finance or Information Systems.
Community Partnerships

With support from Industry and Indigenous communities, the Faculty of Commerce and Economics is promoting opportunities for Indigenous students to experience business education through a new tertiary entry preparatory program being offered in January 2003. This new program, the Commerce and Economics Preparation Program (CEPP), along with the Indigenous Scholarships Appeal Fund (ISAF) were officially launched on 27 August at a cocktail party at the National Innovation Centre, Australian Technology Park in Sydney. Torres Strait Islander lawyer and UNSW alumnus, Terri Janke was guest speaker at the launch, which also included a performance by Indigenous female band, The Stiff Gins. As the CEPP was developed with major input from the ATSIC Queanbeyan Regional Council a second launch was held at the Canberra Institute of Technology, Canberra on Tuesday 15 October, with Councillor Bill Humes, Deputy Regional Council Chairperson and member of the Economic Portfolio for the ATSIC Queanbeyan Regional Council, doing the honours. Both events were well attended and gave the Faculty the opportunity to thank the many people who have supported the development of the program.

The ISAF was established to help students overcome the financial barriers of entry to tertiary study. Donations to the fund will provide financial assistance for university fees, living expenses and course materials. The Appeal was initiated through a generous donation from Colin and Jose Ryan. Colin Ryan (BCom) is an alumnus of the Faculty, Chairman of ATP Innovations and a Director of the UNSW Foundation. The Ryan Family Scholarship will be valued at $7,500 and Colin and Jose Ryan’s personal contribution was matched by the Faculty and the UNSW Foundation.

Since the launch, further donations have been received and 2 more scholarships have been established in partnership with Qantas and The Commonwealth Bank. These scholarships are a tremendous step forward in helping Indigenous students reach their potential in the business world.

Please consider supporting the Indigenous Scholarships Appeal Fund, your gift can make a real difference to the opportunities available to young Indigenous Australians.

Building Our Strength

Our human capital is critical to our continuing success. Recently the Faculty of Commerce and Economics has made a number of outstanding senior appointments. John Evans has been recently appointed Adjunct Professor in the School of Banking and Finance and is Director of the new Master of Finance program. Professor Evans is a professional actuary with considerable experience in the hedge fund industry, electronic appraisal systems in funds management and quantitative risk management.

Professor Philip Brown has accepted a fractional appointment, 50% at UNSW and 50% at UWA, and will be working in both the School of Accounting and School of Banking and Finance. He is probably the best-known Australian academic working in the area of accounting information and capital markets. Dr Les Balzer, Principal and Senior Portfolio Manager at State Street Global Advisors (the investment management arm of State Street Corporation) has taken up an adjunct professorial role and will be teaching on the Master of Finance program. Dr Balzer has been responsible for a number of innovative and groundbreaking research ideas. He will provide the Faculty with a wealth of both theoretical and practical knowledge along with his wisdom and experience in investment and research matters.

Also joining the Faculty next year will be Professor Stephen Taylor who is presently head of Accounting at UTS. Professor Taylor’s current teaching interest is in the area of financial statement analysis and in particular the intersection of corporate strategy and financial analysis and business valuation. He is a frequent commentator on accounting and financial issues in the media. Another major appointment is F. Douglas Foster. He is presently Professor of Finance at the Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM), having previously been at the University of Iowa and the Fuqua School of Business. Douglas Foster’s research interests include the use of information-based techniques to solve problems in market design, trading systems, investment banking, corporate finance and risk management. His research has had a major impact on academic and practitioner communities.

Dr Larry Dwyer has been appointed to the Qantas Professorial Chair in Travel and Tourism Economics, within the School of Economics, he will take up the position early in 2003. Dr Dwyer is currently Professor of Tourism Management and Director of the Tourism and Hospitality Strategy Group in the School of Management at the University of Western Sydney. He maintains strong links with the tourism industry. He has worked with the World Tourism Organisation in tourism strategy development in India, and the National Centre for Development Studies in researching the economic impacts of tourism in the Pacific. The calibre of these new appointments reflects well on the intellectual worth of the Faculty of Commerce and Economics and these new staff members build on our human capital, enriching the whole Faculty.