Monash in international bid to develop new anti-malaria drug

BY DAVID BRUCE

Monash University has become the only Australian partner in a global effort, led by the World Health Organisation, to discover and develop a new class of anti-malarial drugs.

The Victorian College of Pharmacy on Monash’s Parkville campus was chosen, after a worldwide selection process, to join a team leading the assault on malaria in developing countries.

The World Health Organisation, along with an array of other international agencies, including the World Bank, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, have established the Medicines for Malaria Venture with the goal of developing a new anti-malarial drug every five years. Each year, between 300 and 500 million people contract malaria, resulting in well over one million deaths, mostly in developing countries. Due to the spread of drug resistance, many common treatments for malaria are becoming ineffective. Recent research into new drugs has lacked the resources to discover, develop, register and commercialise new products.

The project director at Monash, Professor Bill Charman, said it was a unique opportunity for his research team to join with many international research and philanthropic agencies in the development of a new drug.

"We will be developing a whole new class of drugs for malaria. The work will build on the existing intellectual property, skills and research strengths of many partners," Professor Charman said.

Monash will team up with the University of Nebraska and the Swiss Tropical Institute to undertake the project initially funded for three years at US$1.2 million annually.

The University of Nebraska will be responsible for identifying a new class of compounds, and the Swiss Tropical Institute will test the compounds, both in culture and in animals. The Monash team, led by both Professor Charman and Dr Susan Charman, will be responsible for assessing and improving the pharmaceutical properties of the new compounds.

According to Professor Charman, research infrastructure previously obtained through the Strategic Monash University Research Fund played an important role in helping position the college at the forefront of drug development research. "This project again reinforces the leading international reputation the college has gained over many years for investigating new drug compounds," he said.

Barriers call for high speed roads

BY COREY NASSAU

Monash University's Accident Research Centre (MUARC) and Department of Civil Engineering are conducting world-first research into road safety that is looking at how road design features interact with vehicle design elements during a crash.

Over the last few months, the researchers have been crashing cars loaded with fully instrumented dummies into a range of roadside barriers at different speeds and at different angles.

The tests, conducted at AMP’s Laverton RAAF airfield, are looking at the interactions between the basic elements involved in a car crash — vehicle design, barrier design, vehicle restraint systems and speed.

MUARC director Professor Curt Tingvall said the tests pointed to the future for road safety.

"It is stupid to talk about crash-worthy cars or safe speeds in isolation of everything else. What we are talking about here is a developing a crash-worthy system.

"The message now for road agencies and vehicle manufacturers worldwide is that if they are not looking at the interface between car and barrier design, and how each performs in crashes of various speeds, then they are really missing the point."

Professor Tingvall believes that all roads carrying traffic at speeds higher than 70 kilometres per hour should have barriers on each side of the roadway and in the middle of the roadway.

"One of the early outcomes of this research is the realisation that all high-speed roads should have barriers protecting vehicles both from oncoming traffic and from roadside infrastructure such as poles, as this test last month demonstrated."
School refusers benefit from new research

Helping anxious students to overcome their fear of attending school can require therapy involving parents and the school, as well as consultation with teachers.

But new Monash research is showing that this intensive approach is not always necessary—and the study results could help to spread scarce resources, allowing more students to be helped.

Clinical psychologist Dr David Heyne coordinates a school refusals clinic under the Monash Centre for Developmental Psychiatry. School refusal—when a child’s extreme distress stops them from going to school—can be sparked by anything from feelings of inadequacy to fear of bullying, he says. Helping students to manage this anxiety is part of tackling the problem.

Some cases need a more comprehensive approach, he says. "The research question that comes up is, in which cases do you need to use which particular intervention?" Dr Heyne says.

Three approaches were compared: teaching the students anxiety management skills; teaching the caregivers (parents and school staff) how to help the students; and having therapists see both students and caregivers.

Treatment involved 61 families receiving eight sessions spread over four weeks, and the outcome was assessed immediately after treatment and again after four months.

In results soon to be published, the researchers found that in the period immediately following treatment, the involvement of parents was critical in getting children back to school. "When we worked with parents, either on their own or together with the young person, we found that kids were helped to attend school more of the time, and their emotional distress was lower than when we worked just with the younger alone," he says.

But the researchers found that after four months the students who had received treatment alone had caught up with the other two groups. "It tells us that you don’t always have to work with both parties—the caregivers and the young person—to help a family with a school refusal problem." In 75 per cent of the families across the three groups, attendance improved by 90 per cent or more.

The researchers are now interested in finding out which students are most likely to benefit from different approaches. Dr Heyne says older students and those with greater social anxieties or depression may require direct treatment, whereas younger school refusers may respond to indirect therapy through parents or school personnel.

Researchers are currently preparing a manual for publication in 2001, to share their findings with professionals in mental health and education.

Monash News November 2000

BRIEFS

Bush adviser delivers 2000 APEC lecture

Trade policy adviser for the Bush presidency, Mr Warren Maruyama delivered the Monash APEC lecture 2000 recently.

Mr Maruyama, who was visiting Australia as a guest of the Australian Government, spoke on ‘The United States and the Asia-Pacific Region’.

Mr Maruyama is regarded by observers as a candidate for a senior trade policy position in a Bush administration.

He served in the Reagan and Bush administrations, rising to the position of associate director for international economic policy in the White House.

Attorney-General visits unil legal service

Victorian Attorney-General Mr Rob Hulls visited the Springfield Monash Legal Service recently.

The visit included discussions about funding for community legal services and the current review of sentencing laws.

Also discussed was a state government proposal that could see lawyers from prisoner transportation tours. The charge for 1800-12 period month at the legal service.

Mr Hulls also expressed his support for the program in which Monash students work, under supervision and with the agreement of the Magistrate’s or Family Court, on behalf of clients who cannot afford their own lawyers.

MONSU wins customer service award

The Monash University Student Union (MONSU) has won its second consecutive state Australian Customer Service Award in the category of Medium Business, at a recent dinner at the Hilton on the Park.

The organisation last month also received a Highly Commended Award in the Medium Business Category at the National level.

MONSU was the only winner to receive the highly coveted award in its respective category.

The awards are presented by the Australian Customer Service Association, a non-profit professional organisation dedicated to developing excellence in the management and delivery of customer service in Australia.

Symposium promotes Pakistan relations

Pakistan and Australian experts in the fields of politics, commerce, media, law and economics came together last month for the Symposium on Modern Pakistan, hosted by Monash’s National Centre for South Asian Studies.

The event included a public policy forum on Pakistan’s business environment and a workshop on the economic fundamentals of the country.

Speakers included former Foreign Minister and Finance Minister in the Pakistan Government Mr Sartaj Aziz and former judge of the High Court of Pakistan Mr Nasira Iqbal.

Conference attracts world experts

The 5th Annual Conference on International Trade, Education and Research was hosted recently by Monash University’s APEC Study Centre.

The conference, which focused on ‘Managing globalisation for prosperity’, attracted experts from government and business in Australia and the US.

Speakers addressed subjects including e-commerce, the World Trade Organisation, the environment and trade and labour rights.

Paramedic students win competition

Two Monash students won events in the annual Australian College of Ambulance Professionals national competition held in Queensland recently.

Monash MICA student Ms Julie Scollary and her competition partner Ms Sue Lucas successfully defended their title and defeated New Zealand in the Trans Tasman Tussup.

Monash National Association President Ms Michelle Turner and her competition partner Mr Steve Reilly were this year’s winners of the overall competition in both the trauma and resuscitation sections.

Crow's are evalated on their performance while working through resuscitation and trauma simulations.

More road barriers needed: tests

"That is why this research is fairly novel. But this is the way road safety will be conducted in the future."

The tests have been sponsored by a number of Swedish stakeholders - Falköping Insurance, NTF and Swedish National Road Administration – as well as the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, Adnare, Victoria, TMC and the RAVC. The barriers used in the tests have been constructed of wire rope, 16mm steel guardrail, concrete and steel piping.

The Age at a proud part of Monash University.

For home delivery phone 13 27 82
South Africa campus launched

BY DAVID BRUCE

International education opportunities for South African students were given a major boost last month with the launch of Monash University's campus in Johannesburg. The Australian Minister for Trade, Mr Mark Vaile, officiated a plaque to mark the arrival of Monash University in South Africa. "The campus will be part of the new campus in Malaysia, a full 25 per cent for all Monash students to broaden their horizons by providing a new and independent, and will ask questions that could be enacted reasonably quickly." According to the organisation, Victorians and their integration is needed. "Whether it is dividing up an inheritance, or reconciling different world views, such as African and European ones, the law must be applied fairly to all parties involved. If we can follow the example of our neighbours, the South African law, it is possible that we can also create a fair and just society for all."

New law reform commissioner promises community consultation

BY STUART HEATHER

Victoria's newly established Law Reform Commission will be relevant and independent, and will ask Victorians themselves where reform is required, according to the organisation’s new head. Professor Marcia Neave, professor of law at Monash University, has been given the job of bringing life back to the commission, which was disbanded in 1992. Professor Neave said that without the commission, Victorians and their government have been in the "suffering situation of not having the benefit of its independent legal advice on important policy issues". "The government might have acted differently on big issues such as privatisation if it had been better advised on the legal implications and safeguards that could have been built in to give the community more confidence," she said.

Professor Neave will begin a four-year term as Victorian Law Reform Commissioner in early December. Specific areas of its work will be decided in discussions with the state Attorney-General, but several themes have been identified for the commission's first year of work. Among them are: separating a just outcome for the partner of someone who has died, or joint property owners who fall out of agreement, and the need to know about the other person's property.

Professor Neave said the commission would work to the principle of "looking for the best possible solution that could be enacted reasonably quickly." The commission would consider all possibilities and would work closely with other state and federal departments. It would also consult with community groups and legal practitioners to ensure its work was relevant and effective.

Heads of school announced

BY JUNE YU

Three Monash academics have been appointed heads of school at the new South Africa campus in Johannesburg, due to open its doors in February next year.

School of Business and Economics is headed by Associate Professor Alan Simon, School of Arts head Associate Professor Art Veno and School of Information Technology head Mr Edward Wilson will travel to South Africa later this year to take up their new appointments.

Dr Simon, of the Department of Management, said he was "looking forward to the challenge of establishing a state-of-the-art school of business and economics in South Africa". He said his first priorities would be to set up the Bachelor of Business and Bachelor of Commerce courses and build a strong research ethos.

"We will have good research, quality teaching and mutually beneficial relationships with the community and, ultimately, we will increase our offering beyond the undergraduate level," he said.

Dr Simon, born and bred in Johannesburg, brings to his new position his previous experience as a senior lecturer in business schools in South Africa.

Dr Veno, who lived in Zambia from 1979 to 1980, said he hoped to contribute to the rebuilding of South Africa as a nation after the reign of apartheid.

He will start by establishing the School of Arts with courses including history, mass communications, contemporary world and history, geography and environmental sciences.

"Arts is a highly sought-after degree in South Africa because many people want to study community development and then go back and help their communities," he said.

Dr Veno was formerly director of the Centre for Police and Justice Studies and deputy director of the School of Public Policy.

Dr Wilson, career director for the Bachelor of Business Systems for the last 10 years, said his new appointment was "a chance to start something from scratch and to make a contribution to both the university and South Africa".

He intends to focus on establishing links with the IT industry in South Africa by visiting organisations, sponsored research and cooperative education.

After becoming career director for the Bachelor of Business Systems in 1991, he was responsible for the high-level growth of the course, raised $7 million in industrial sponsorships, and built and implemented two double degrees.
Applications for the Monash 2001 Enhancement Studies Program close on Friday, 3 November 2000. Late applications will be accepted subject to availability of places.

The Enhancement Studies Program gives high-achieving students the opportunity to study a Monash subject as part of their Year 12 program. Subjects available include:

- Accounting
- Australian History/Politics
- Chemistry
- Chinese
- Communications/Media Studies
- Computer Technology/Programming
- Economics
- English Literature
- Geography
- History of World War II
- Indonesian
- Japanese
- Jewish civilisation
- Mathematics
- Music (Performance)
- Philosophy
- Sociology
- Sociology

To obtain a handbook and application form, contact Ms Philippa Brown in the Prospective Students Office on (03) 9905 5859 or email philippa.townshend@adm.monash.edu.au

Change of Preference information sessions

Monash will be conducting information sessions during the VTAC Change of Preference period. Students will be able to access information about all courses at all campuses at each session.

**Metropolitan region**

- **Wednesday 13 December**
  - 10 am to 2 pm
  - Level 3, K Block
  - Monash University Caulfield campus
  - Dandenong Road
  - Caulfield

- **Gippsland region**
  - Monday 18 December
  - 4 pm to 7 pm
  - Faculty of Business and Economics
  - Conference Room
  - Building 9N
  - Monash University Gippsland campus
  - Northways Road
  - Churchill

- **Regional sessions**
  - **Dandenong**
    - **10 am to 2 pm**
    - Faculty of Business and Economics
    - Conference Room
    - 400 Level, K Block
    - Monash University Caulfield campus
    - Dandenong Road
    - Caulfield
  - **Mornington**
    - **9 am to 1 pm**
    - Business and Economics
    - Conference Room
    - 400 Level, K Block
    - Monash University Caulfield campus
    - Dandenong Road
    - Caulfield
  - **Gippsland**
    - **10 am to 2 pm**
    - Faculty of Business and Economics
    - Conference Room
    - Building 9N
    - Monash University Gippsland campus
    - Northways Road
    - Churchill
  - **Regional sessions**
  - **10 am to 2 pm**
  - Faculty of Business and Economics
  - Conference Room
  - 400 Level, K Block
  - Monash University Caulfield campus
  - Dandenong Road
  - Caulfield

**Contact details**

- To obtain a handbook and application form, contact Ms Philippa Brown in the Prospective Students Office on (03) 9905 5859 or email philippa.townshend@adm.monash.edu.au
- To arrange a change of preference information session, contact Ms Philippa Brown on (03) 9905 5859 or email philippa.townshend@adm.monash.edu.au
- To arrange a special session, phone (03) 9905 5859 or email philippa.townshend@adm.monash.edu.au

**Advert West Asia Centre (WAC)**

**New initiatives help clear the air**

Monash students Mr Shalain Singh (left) and Mr Matt Fielden are part of a growing number of students and staff at Monash's Clayton campus who are taking advantage of the university's carpooling scheme and facilities. In an effort to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, another carpoolers' carpark has been planned at the campus for early next year. New bicycle loaner schemes and a bus shuttle service between the Caulfield and Clayton campuses, a website providing information on how to get to Monash using public transport, and new bus shelters are also proposed. Improvements to the existing bus loop, such as increased seating, improved lighting and a self-cleaning toilet, should be near completion by the end of the year. The improvements are an initiative of the university's Facilities & Services division in conjunction with the Monash Students Association. Photo by Janelle Jakowenko.

**Sue McAlister**

Researcher sheds new light on Japan's foreign aid program

A Japanese development assistance program in the Philippines is unusual in that it attempts to place the interests of local communities ahead of those of Japan, claims a Monash researcher.

For his doctoral thesis, Mr Henry Scheyvens is focusing on the developmental impact of Japan's aid program, the world's largest. It is an issue largely overlooked by a literature primarily concerned with motives.

After researching aid agencies in Japan, Mr Scheyvens undertook a number of case studies in Bangladesh and the Philippines. "Japan has generally preferred to fund large-scale public works development, much of it constructed by Japanese contractors," he said. "This does not necessarily translate into an environment which builds the capacity of the poor to plan and act for their own development."

By contrast, one project in the Philippines sheds new light on Japanese aid, revealing a more progressive, participatory approach to development, he says. "Coordinated efforts were being made to meet the needs of local people, even at the expense of Japan's commercial interests."

Japanese development assistance was used to fund facilitation workshops in a number of Philippine villages on Bohol Island. Villagers gathered to identify their needs and seek ways of acting collectively to improve their livelihoods. Based on these workshops, one coastal community decided to construct a marine sanctuary that it then policed, allowing depleted fish stocks to recover. Three other communities followed suit with the support of the district mayor. Another community applied sloping agricultural land technology to grow vegetables and fodder, showing potential for widespread application, as much of the island is mountainous.

"The key, Mr Scheyvens says, lies in the aid donor allowing local communities to decide what's best for them and how to use local resources most effectively. "In this way, locals develop a strong sense of ownership of the development process and begin to feel that they are in charge of their own destiny. The role of the donor, on the other hand, becomes one of facilitating rather than leading. Once pilot schemes have been identified by the community through this process, the donor should be willing to assist with funding and technical assistance if necessary."

But allowing local communities greater control over their development choices can have unpredictable results, and can deprive Japanese companies of lucrative aid contracts. This is why Mr Scheyvens is not optimistic that the participatory approach he observed in the Philippines will be replicated on a broad scale by Japan's aid administration.

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Australia's boat people: persecuted minorities or opportunists?

Most Middle Eastern boat people who reach Australia are succeeding in their refugee claims. However, Australia's first responsibility is to those who do not have a refuge against the threat of persecution, such as those in our own region, argues social researcher Dr Bob Birrell.

Refugee policy engages intense passions. Advocates for the unauthorised boat arrivals see them as the most miserable and oppressed of people. They have placed themselves at our mercy. Their future depends on our charity as a nation. Put in these terms, if Australia does not respond generously, its credibility as a compassionate community is put into question.

As a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Refugees, the Australian Government is bound to consider the claims of the boat people and the far larger number who enter Australia illegally, then subsequently apply for asylum.

Though coming from a small base, the number of boat people arriving in Australia has surged dramatically since mid-1999. In 1998-99 fewer than 1000 unauthorised persons arrived by boat. In the period from July 1999 to February 2000, the number increased to 3484.

Most came from Middle Eastern countries, thus confirming that our geographical isolation is no protection from the global movement of people searching for a secure haven.

The recently announced budget decision to build two new detention centres and to refurbish existing centres at a cost of $52 million substantiates the message. It also implies that the government anticipates a further flow of unauthorised asylum seekers.

To observers who believe that the boat people are deserving of our compassion, and that the numbers are small relative to European standards, this response seems excessive.

There is no doubt that emphasis on well-publicised deterrent measures partly reflects the Coalition's anxiety that it not be seen to be 'losing control' of migration movements.

Most Australians see the escalation in the number of unauthorised boat people as evidence that the government cannot manage our borders properly.

But there is much more to the situation. The problem from the viewpoint of the government's priority of limiting on-shore claims is that most of those arriving from the Middle East are succeeding in their refugee claims. This may seem surprising in the light of the accompanying graphic descriptions of self-immolation in protest against Australia's policies.

It seems that the smugglers led their clients to believe that they would gain instant asylum status. The Australian Government insists on case-by-case review.

Most of the applicants from Iraq are successful, as are the majority from Afghanistan. Of the minority who fail at the primary level, most succeed at the Refugee Review Tribunal level. In 1998-99, of the 54 cases from Iraq considered, 47 or 87 per cent were 'set aside' or approved.

Most of the Middle Eastern boat people arrive without documentation. If they can substantiate their claim that they originally came from countries like Iraq or Afghanistan, where it is well known that the losers to internal conflicts are likely to be persecuted on the basis of their religious or political beliefs, they are usually granted protection visas.

The message to other potential claimants, and particularly to the Syrian and other Arab applicants, is that Australia is an attractive destination. The highest priority should go to those who have the most need for protection, that is those who do not have a refuge against the threat of persecution. It is not clear that the boat people have a good case on this account.

As far as those from Iraq are concerned, most have lived for up to 10 years in Jordan and Iran. It appears that they are not in danger of being returned to Iraq, though there are pressures from Jordan and Iran for them to move elsewhere.

This issue was recently explored by the Federal Court of Australia, in the case of the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs vs Al-Sallal (October 1999).

The court rejected Al-Sallal's appeal against the Refugee Review Tribunal's denial of his asylum claim on the ground that persons of Arab origin who have fled to Jordan are not likely to be in danger of being returned to Iraq or Kuwait, where they might face persecution.

From a regional viewpoint, Australia's first responsibility is to our neighbouring region. Here, sadly, there are many locations, such as parts of Indonesia, where people desperately need protection from religious and other forms of persecution.

Dr Bob Birrell is director of the Centre for Population and Urban Research at Monash University. This is an extract of an article by Dr Birrell that first appeared in Dissect, Spring 2000, and has been reprinted with the permission of the editors.
Student art exhibition guarantees surprises

BY SUE McALISTER

A startlingly diverse collection of works by Monash students titled ArtArt will be on display next month.

And according to the kaleidoscopic show's curator, Ms Nadine Sawyer, the 23 participants are “full of energy and enthusiasm”.

“You can expect to be surprised,” says Ms Sawyer, who is studying for her masters degree in painting at Monash. “There’s a lot of exciting work evolving at Monash at present. You’ll see whirling washing machines suspended overhead, latex moulds of bath towels draped over a towel rail, exquisite prints and paintings, works in glass, bright synthetic tapestries that look as though they’ve just arrived from Tonga, and large navy blue ships made from wax. The list goes on and on!”

According to Ms Sawyer, the title ‘ArtArt’ was chosen “to reflect the fact that, unlike many exhibitions today, the works do not have to conform to a theme – this show is about art for art’s sake. Each exhibit is created by and for an individual, and included on the basis of its own intrinsic strengths as a visual work”.

All the exhibits are by third-year students as well as honours, masters and doctoral candidates from Monash’s Faculty of Art and Design. They were chosen through a process whereby each artist submitted three slides or photographs of their work, a resume and a statement about how and why their work was created.

Ms Sawyer’s approach to arranging the exhibits is, however, somewhat less orthodox. “Being a painter,” she says, “I enjoy this aspect of curating. I like to be spontaneous as possible, so I go into the gallery with only a very rough idea of where each work will sit – it’s similar to the experience of painting, though I’m using other people’s works, of course. When the first work is placed, its colour, texture and shape triggers the next move, and so on. The outcome is stimulating, with the viewer experiencing not only the wonderful art, but the fresh way the exhibition has been put together.”

What: ArtArt
When: Monash University Gallery, Clayton campus
When: 7 to 25 November

Much ado about high school teaching

Imagine a high school where Hamlet is the physical education teacher, Shakespeare is the head of the English department and the three witches from Macbeth are in charge of the canteen.

Much Ado About Teaching is set in such a school. The latest musical theatre production by students from the Graduate Diploma of Education at Monash takes a light-hearted look at conflict in a high school setting.

The production aims to help Monash students - who will be involved as cast members, set builders, publicity officers and choreographers - learn the skills they will need as secondary school music and drama teachers.

Performances will be held on 16, 17 and 18 November at 7.30 pm in the Drama Performance Space at the Clayton campus. For inquiries and bookings, contact Dr Jane Southcott on (03) 9905 2810.

Modern musical shows the way

Monash University Musical Company’s latest production creates a spellbinding tale of a young orphan propelled into a dark, winty New Year’s Eve to meet a host of bizarre characters, from a fallen angel to the richest man in the world.

Crepuscole, which will be performed at the Cromwell Road Theatre in South Yarra from 14 to 18 November, has been designed to challenge people’s assumptions as they follow the orphan on a symbolic journey to find his garden. The production involves a number of Monash students from a variety of faculties and year levels.

For inquiries and bookings, contact the Monash University Musical Company on (03) 9943 8994.

Clayton campus.

by Sue McAlister

The Baldessin Arts 21 Travelling Fellowship will be launched with the announcement of its first winner on 23 November at Monash University’s Caulfield campus.

The annual fellowship named for the gifted young artist and sculptor George Baldessin who was killed in 1978, is open to graduating tertiary students at Monash, the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and the Victorian College of the Arts.

“It’s hugely wonderful, fitting tribute to an artist of tremendous ability,” says Mr Malcolm Bywaters, manager of Monash’s Faculty of Art and Design Gallery, whose the 12 finalists will be exhibited. The deputy director of the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), Mr Tony Elywood, will judge the work, worth $16,000. The exhibition will be opened by Dr Gerard Vaughan, director of the NGV.

“The Baldessin Fellowship is unique in Australia as it enables graduating tertiary students to visit overseas galleries and collections with some financial support,” Mr Bywaters said. “It also gives students who have never exhibited an exceptional opportunity to show their work and to practice making applications as professional sculptors. Monash students are very enthusiastic about the opportunity and the exhibition.

The exhibition also shows that establishing a fellowship doesn’t require millions of dollars — in this case, it took only a modest bequest and a mother’s love.

George Baldessin was born in Italy in 1939. After suffering the trauma of World War II, his mother, Carmen, a pensioner, drew up a will specifying that $12,000 from the sale of the family home be used to create a public memorial to her beloved son. After she died in 1990, one of George’s close friends, Mr Les Kossatz of Monash’s Fine Arts department, suggested using Carmen’s bequest to pay for further research replicas of George’s early work, ‘Trapeze’ (1965). One of these gifts was donated to the National Gallery of Australia and the others were sold to start the George Baldessin Memorial Foundation, which, along with Arts Victoria, will fund the new prize.

What: The Baldessin Arts 21 Travelling Fellowship
Where: Monash Faculty of Art and Design Gallery, Caulfield campus
When: Winner announced 23 November, exhibition of 12 finalists, chosen by the boards of the sculpture
When: Monash, RMIT and VCA, from 24 November to 8 December

Who: Contact Malcolm Bywaters on (03) 9903 3902.

by Sue McAlister

The History of Burdens’, a large-scale linocut in black and white depicting historical images of figures carrying weights.

“The lads are very enthusiastic,” says Ms Caroline Durre, coordinator of Monash’s Art Prize for Works on Paper, held at the Albury Regional Art Gallery recently.

Ms Susan Purdy, a lecturer in photography from the Gippsland Centre for Art and Design, created an image of a decorative fan for the competition using a photographic process called photogram, where objects are placed on photographic paper to create an image.

Ms Caroline Durre, coordinator of Monash’s Art Prize for Works on Paper, held at the Albury Regional Art Gallery recently.

Ms Caroline Durre, coordinator of Monash’s Art Prize for Works on Paper, held at the Albury Regional Art Gallery recently.

ARTS SCENE

Monash academics win art prize

Two Monash Art and Design academics have won the prestigious Flemming Monaz Prize for Works on Paper, held at the Albury Regional Art Gallery recently.

Ms Susan Purdy, a lecturer in photography from the Gippsland Centre for Art and Design, created an image of a decorative fan for the competition using a photographic process called photogram, where objects are placed on photographic paper to create an image.

Ms Caroline Durre, coordinator of Monash’s Art Prize for Works on Paper, held at the Albury Regional Art Gallery recently.

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New book brings facts to modern bioethics debates

By Derek Brown

Questions over the use of medical and biotechnological processes, such as cloning and IVF, have long been debated in the public arena, but most of us are still missing the real issues. The rise of the virtual university and the development of new and innovative methods of course delivery have meant real changes to the way professionals in higher education are approaching university teaching.

One of many books in the Open and Distance Learning Series, Changing University Teaching draws on the experience of many contributors from a range of international universities, to consider if and how technological change can improve teaching.

The rise of the virtual university and the development of new and innovative methods of course delivery have meant real changes to the way professionals in higher education are approaching university teaching.
New technique to aid problem amputees

By COREY NASSAU

Despite ongoing advances in the production and design of specialised prosthetics, some amputees cannot adapt to a conventional socket prosthesis. But now, thanks to an experimental technique developed in Sweden, there may be an alternative.

Known as Osseointegrated Prosthesis for the Rehabilitation of Amputees (OPRA) and involving the direct skeletal attachment of a prosthesis to the bone, the technique promises to help problem amputees by providing benefits beyond those of conventional prosthetic devices.

According to Mr Bill Contoyannis, manager of the Monash University Rehabilitation and Technology Research Unit (Rehabtech), OPRA is helping to advance prosthetic technology.

"A person who has a very small stump is biomechanically at a disadvantage with a socket prosthesis, as the load to surface area is always going to be great. This new technique may, in future, provide a common alternative for such cases," Mr Contoyannis said.

Last month, Monash researchers became part of an extended team that performed this technique for the first time outside Sweden or the Nordic countries. The procedure was performed on two patients at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne.

Pioneered by Professor Per-Ingvar Bränemark from Sweden, osseointegration literally refers to 'bone integration' and is today a common technique used in dentistry and facial restorations.

"OPRA is based on the ability of the skeleton to attach to titanium metal. Surgeons insert a titanium implant into the bone and the skin is closed over for a period of about six months to allow the two to grow together.

"After six months, the final procedure is performed and a cut is made into the bottom of the stump to reveal the implant," Mr Contoyannis said. "This allows the insertion of another bolt that protrudes through the stump. The prosthesis is then attached to this device and a gradual rehabilitation process begins."

Rehabtech and Monash's Centre for Biomedical Engineering became part of the world-wide clinical trial through their involvement with the Caufield General Medical Centre, the Alfred Hospital and Integrum, the company heading the collaborative trial.

Rehabtech manager Mr Bill Contoyannis says new prosthetic technology which attaches directly to the bone promises hope for problem amputees.

Researchers collaborate on Arctic global warming study

By PETER GOLDE

Monash scientists are contributing to an important study of global warming in the Arctic climate zone which is being undertaken by the universities of Alaska and Colorado and funded by the US National Science Foundation.

A combination of its internationally-recognised role in climatology, skills with complex meteorological research tools and the experience of its scientists won Monash's School of Geography and Environmental Science the unit's invitation to collaborate in the ATLAS project.

The Australian contribution to the work is coordinated through Associate Professor Nigel Tapper at the school, while Monash researchers Mr Ian McHugh and Mr Chris Werle are conducting field research in Alaska.

Professor Ms Willow Hallgren is also involved in climate modelling back at Monash.

"It has been a great opportunity to bring the school's skills and techniques to bear on problems associated with possible changes in climatic patterns in the Arctic, particularly at the Arctic 'treeline', where the forest gives way to tundra."

"It is an area that is heavily snowed in winter and which melts out quickly through the summer, so changes in snow and ice accompanied by any degree of global warming are likely to have substantial feedbacks for climate," he said.

"The region is interesting to environmental scientists because its 'surface energy budget characteristics', including the amount of the sun's energy that is reflected, are not well understood, but thought to have profound implications for how the control of the environment operates and the effects of snow on the environment."

Mr McHugh has completed the better part of two years in Alaska and continues his work next year in Siberia. The ATLAS field program is being run through the University of Alaska's Institute of Arctic Biology and is headed by Dr Jason Beringer, a former Monash PhD student.