

NEWS & NOTES

October 2009

Dear Member

I often get asked what University House *is*; and what does it *do*? I usually answer by giving a description of its origins as the residence for the research students and professors of the then research only University, and go on to say a little about its history. Of course, I draw attention to Jill Waterhouse's fine Jubilee history as well. I like to emphasise that it is the place where the University celebrates, but I also summarise its day to day operation as a hotel, function centre, staff club and club for members. People are often surprised when I tell them that we still have a thriving community of research scholars here. Many are not aware that we have 60 doctoral students in residence at University House and a further 150 postgraduate students in Graduate House, itself a part of the University House community. A focus on our own graduate residents, and support for the postgraduate community of the ANU, is an important element of the operation of University House and is the topic of this *News & Notes*.

As many of you would be aware I invite our students to join us at Wednesday evening dinner. While not all attend we have, at any one time, about 110 to 150 at dinner. I am told that prior to the construction of the Liversidge and Judith Wright apartments, when most academics visiting ANU would stay at University House, many of the visitors would join the students and members for dinner so that the students had the benefit of meeting and conversing with many of the world's top scholars. We have just appointed 10 University House Academic Fellows and a Senior Administrative Fellow who will now join the students at dinner and restore some of the former intellectual interaction.

On Friday 4th September we opened the Graduate Lounge at University House. The old billiards room off the Buttery in The Fellows has been fitted out for use by the University's graduate students as a meeting and tutorial room. The development was funded and supported by the Registrar's Division and the Postgraduate and Research Students' Association (PARSA). It is complementary to the use of The Fellows, as a social and intellectual centre for the ANU's graduate students, and as a University staff club.

In the past the House has run several scholarship and bursary programs to support postgraduates. Six years ago we introduced a new scholarship scheme under which we fund from Graduate House and University House 6 research scholarships, equivalent in value to Australian Postgraduate Awards. The scholarships have recently been named the Trendall and Hohen Scholarships in honour of the first Master of University House and the first Registrar of the University, who did much to support the establishment of Graduate House. Overleaf you will find short biographies of some of students currently supported. Our scholars are given free House membership and Wednesday evening dining rights, as well as their stipends. University House also gives a small voice scholarship to a student in the School of Music.

Please remember to book for the last two House lectures for the year (see booking sheet inside) and keep in mind our end of year Christmas Dinner and St Andrew's Night.

John Richards
Master



UNIVERSITY HOUSE
AT THE AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY

BALMAIN CRESCENT ACTON ACT 2600
PHONE 6125 5211 WWW.ANU.EDU.AU/UNIHOUSE

October 2009

*University House and Graduate House Scholars**Ian Wood, College of Engineering and Computer Science*

I'm lucky enough to be the recipient of the Trendall Research Scholarship, funded by University House. I've had a somewhat chequered past, with a degree in mathematics, an aborted start to a PhD and a lengthy stay in central Europe. I've done a few different things, notably, worked as a musician in Prague (I played didjeridu), sailed across the Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean and learned a couple of languages along the way. Recently I've returned to my roots here in Canberra, and find myself once again immersed in academia, working on inductive reasoning.

Inductive reasoning is the fundamental technique we use to make sense of the world. We observe the world, and when we recognise patterns in our observations, we conclude that those patterns may continue to appear in the future. The patterns represent real objects and processes. When they continue to appear, we conclude that we have (probably) understood something about the world.

It is applied in many contexts. We use it in our everyday lives, recognising objects and drawing simple or complex conclusions. All conclusions in science about the world are inductive in nature. Artificial intelligence, machine learning and data mining embody attempts to perform inductive reasoning with computers.

Numerical techniques for inductive reasoning (including artificial intelligence) make many assumptions about underlying processes or phenomena. A key motivator for my research is to make explicit and justify (or not!) the assumptions (on various levels) that we use. That knowledge can then be used to understand the strength of our conclusions and identify areas (and alternative approaches) where that strength is lacking.

Brian Garms, College of Medicine, Biology & Environment

My interest is in entomology, agricultural systems, biological control/IPM, and invasion biology. I am researching native insects to understand how introduced insects perform, either as biocontrol agents or as potential pests.

I am studying native herbivorous insects feeding on introduced weeds. This represents a novel interaction and understanding whether native insects have evolved to take advantage of a new resource is of great interest. While testing for evidence of host race formation or other types of rapid evolution, the preference and performance of various insect populations on differing hosts must be determined. It may indicate that there is indeed a real

difference between plants and might suggest a direction for a biological control program.

It is of interest to determine whether native insects could be useful biological control agents. Looking at what damage native insects do to introduced weeds provides a null model for an exotic biocontrol agent. If native insects on a weed do a certain amount of damage, then any biocontrol agent of a similar feeding niche would have to exceed that damage to be effective.

My third system involves the recently South African Citrus Thrips that has the potential to be a serious pest of citrus and mango. For the last six years it has only been found on a particular weed in Australia, but in its native South Africa it also feeds on a number of economically important crops. While the populations of the insect present in Australia have been shown to feed on these and other plants in a lab setting, it is unclear what risk this insect poses to Australian agriculture.

Drew Ninnis, College of Arts and Social Sciences

My father used to say that the only thing more useless than a philosopher was a psychiatrist, so it is only natural that my research is the Philosophy of Psychiatry. I take some very radical approaches to social and philosophical issues that come out of the twentieth century French tradition (Foucault, Deleuze and Nietzsche), and apply them to

current issues in psychiatry in order to get at key issues that seem to be ever present in psychiatry as a scientific practice and a form of knowledge.

I consider the fluidity of our nature and the seeming absence of a fundamental and absolute description of what we are like as beings; I apply these ideas to a psychiatric context. For example, could we say that individuals who are disturbed in similar contexts have lost this ability to fluidly change and reconstitute themselves in different contexts? Could the paranoid schizophrenic, who is constantly afraid of being arrested and persecuted, be stuck in a particular static conception of themselves which they cannot escape or negotiate in the same way we can? If this is the case, should we think about different forms of treating or dealing with mental illness? Could the problem be with the way in which our communities have built up these structures (placing security guards at the doors of shops) rather than with the individual? It is my job to try and forward some tentative answers to these questions which change the way we think about these problems, and open up new areas or directions of applied research in order to think about and address them.

I am a West Australian who studied Law and Arts at the University of Western Australia but decided to pursue a far more lucrative career in philosophy!

The Accommodation Division

Accommodation has been trading well. Occupancy levels have increased by 14% in September compared with 2008. Overall occupancy levels for the year are at 72% year to date, excluding student accommodation where the occupancy is a steady 98%.

The queen beds in blocks D through to H have been fitted with electric blankets as have all beds in the two bedroom apartments. By next winter all beds in Accommodation will have electric blankets.

We currently have a Floriade Package in force which includes accommodation, full breakfast and a two course dinner valid till 30th October 2009, priced at \$199.00 per night for two guests. We also have on sale a Gallery package for the upcoming exhibition "Masterpieces from Paris: Van Gogh, Gauguin, Cezanne and beyond" at the National Gallery of Australia (4th December 2009 to 5th April 2010). The package includes accommodation in a North Wing suite, breakfast and entry ticket to the exhibition at \$194.00 for 2 guests. Do not miss out on this once in a lifetime chance to see these masterpieces.

Mohammad Kamran, who held the position of Night Auditor for the past two and a half years, is moving on to a new position in the Department of Defence. We wish him well in his new role although he will occasionally be helping out here at University House when possible.

Tony Karrys, Rooms Division Manager

From the General Manager

The arrival of Spring and the warmer weather has seen members and guests return to the Fellows Garden for lunch and during the afternoon – what a great place it is! With daylight savings we will also see live entertainment back every Friday afternoon in the garden.

We have opened "Graduate Lounge" in the Fellows Bar & Café as a place for post graduate students to meet & relax. The research Student Development Center and PARSA have come up with a calendar of events, from chocolate tastings to trivia and guest speakers. It is great to see students using the facility.

Boffins' a la carte menu has seen some changes and I encourage you to come and try the new fare. Our daily lunch special is great value at \$25 for 2 courses including a glass of wine, and the restaurant is very popular with members and visitors.

We have just completed the upgrade to our audio visual set up in the Common Room, Scarth and Drawing Rooms. All now feature automated screens, digital data projectors, DVD/VCR and a central control panel. All the client needs to bring is their own laptop computer.

On a lighter note, the new addition to our family is a group of 13 ducklings that roam the Quadrangle. I have seen a house guest under attack from "father duck" one morning after getting too close for a photo opportunity.

Walter Sauer, General Manager

Our Featured Staff Member

Paul Drake

Manager, Food and Beverage Division

I was born in Essex where I lived for a grand total of one year before my father decided we would venture to Australia. We flew in to Sydney and then onto Darwin for our final destination. The wet and dry season climate was a rude shock to my parents but we did acclimatise.



My mother and siblings loved the heat but my father and I didn't, and he transferred from the Darwin Police to the ACT Police in 1976. I have lived here ever since and have raised my own family here.

I began my hospitality experience while I was still in High School working at clubs around Canberra. My father told me "I must get a trade" so I became a builder after an apprenticeship in Carpentry. I worked as a sub-contractor and class C builder for 8 years; I kept my hand in hospitality by working at clubs as casual Duty Manager and at a Golf Club as Functions Manager.

I was offered Assistant Manager at one of the largest clubs in Canberra and after 12 months was promoted to Staff Development Officer of all the clubs in its consortium. Over the four year period I received one-on-one training, covering from supervisory management to armed robbery response and everything in-between.

I was invited to take a position at the Hyatt Hotel in Canberra, managing The Speaker's Bar, Tea Lounge and Promenade Café which I embraced enthusiastically. I continued my education with Hyatt International Hotel Management courses, which are tertiary accredited and run parallel with the Le Cordon Bleu International Hospitality School in Paris. I stayed for two years meeting and serving world leaders, and Her Majesty the Queen. I was part of the management team that was awarded the Hotel Associations award for best in Hospitality in South East Asia.

I was offered a post in Sydney at the Park Hyatt but had to refuse owing to my wife's work and her desire to return to study. So I applied for the position of Food & Beverage Manager at University House where I have, for nine years, been part of a wonderful team responsible for many fantastic changes from food quality, service and of course upgrading of the Hotel, Function Rooms and the magnificent Fellows Café and Bar.

Latin Reading Symposium

Dr Wendy Brazil convenes a Latin Reading Group every Monday evening from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. All materials are provided and no previous experience with Latin is required. If interested contact Wendy on 6258 3053.

News from Functions

Spring is here and with it comes the thought of Christmas and Christmas parties – just a reminder our Christmas House dinner is on the 16th December – book early to ensure a place at our end of year celebrations.

Our rooms are heavily booked for Christmas parties, generally towards the end of each week in December although bookings early in the week are still available.

Business has been brisk, a sharp turnaround from early in the year, which now puts us back on track for a successful year. Thanks to all staff concerned.

The Coonawarra Vignerons Assoc wine tasting held here on 19th August was a resounding success with 120 guests attending the tasting. The client and attendees were very happy.

St Andrews Night on 27th November is also just around the corner, this event just gets better each year. Please book early as we only take the first 100 bookings. Cost is \$48.00 for members and \$52.00 for non members.

We all wish a speedy recovery to Mr Charles Lucre and Dr Thelma Hunter and also wish continued improvement to Mary Newport. To all of our readers who may have been ill – we wish you a speedy recovery.

Lyn North
Functions Manager

New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new Members of University House:

Mr Christopher Crewther
Ms Grace Do
Ms Vanessa Jones
Mr Desmond Ko
Ms Suzanne Michaelis
Miss Dintle Molosiwa
Mr Drew Ninnis
Dr Denise A Roper
Mr Benz Chalernpol Samrangpong
Ms Zara Elizabeth Stanhope
Mr Ian D Wood
Mrs Janelle Caiger
Ms Kathryn Cole
Mr Steven Fekete
Mrs Barbara Foran
Mr Richard Gray
Mr Peter Hamilton
Mr Howard Harrison
Mr Kerrin Henderson
Mr Andrew Hine
Dr Douglas Mackenzie
Dr Timothy Macnaught
Ms Aldona Martin

Mr Rown McIndoe
Mr Cameron Muir
Mrs Jill Richards
Mrs Sybil Ritter
Mrs Josephine Stevens
Mr Robert Tugen
Dr Aat Vervoorn
Mr John Wedderburn

In the Fellows...

Blues in the Garden commences Friday 9th October in the Fellows Garden; come and enjoy Happy Hour prices or one of the Barmen's exciting cocktails of the week at and listen to the magic of blues played by "Kooky Fandango" or Latin Jazz by "Bossa Nova", or "The Bridge Between" playing pop covers songs on acoustic guitars. Enjoy food cooked to order by our talented Chefs. Happy Hour runs from 1700-1930.

Tuesday Trivia is still going strong but we are always looking for groups of 2 or more people to test their skills against the students, ANU staff and anybody else who attends. Entry is free. 1st Place, 2nd Place and a random prize are awarded. There are great spot prizes as well. Bookings are preferred.

Thursday Gourmet Pie Night Come and sample the Chef's exciting and delicious House-made pies every Thursday from 1800. Choices are Chicken, Beef, Lamb and a Vegetarian option. Each week we have different fillings. The pies are served with chips and salad, a glass of draught beer or University House red or white – all this for \$10.00.

Wine Tasting In the Garden. Every fortnight will see a different winery offer tastings in the Garden, commencing from 1700. The winery for a particular week will be advertised in the Fellows Café and Bar.

The Board of Fellows

At the September meeting we determined that the 7th University House Wine Symposium will be held in October 2010; Kiaran Kirk has agreed to chair the organising committee. The new AV facilities in the Common, Scarth and Drawing Rooms were described, including their HDTV options. The Master advised that a draft version of the review report on the residential hall and colleges was available for correcting errors and misinterpretations and that the final version would shortly be available for public comment. Members were advised of the opening of the Graduate Lounge in The Fellows and there was discussion on the paucity of accommodation on campus for graduate students with families.

News & Notes Functions Booking Sheet

Member Details

Name: _____ Member Number: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Payment: Please charge my Member account or Please find enclosed a cheque for \$ _____

<p style="text-align: center;">UNIVERSITY HOUSE LECTURE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Professor Ian White</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Water Resource Challenges in Pacific Small Island States</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 14th Oct 2009, 6:00 for 6:30 pm</p> <p>Number attending: _____</p> <p>Names: _____ _____ _____</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">UNIVERSITY HOUSE LECTURE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Professor Geoffrey Lancaster</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Death of Early Music</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 11th Nov 2009, 6:00 for 6:30 pm</p> <p>Number attending: _____</p> <p>Names: _____ _____ _____</p>
--

<p style="text-align: center;">UNIVERSITY HOUSE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">St Andrew's Night</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday 27th Nov 2009 7:00 for 7:30pm</p> <p>Number attending: _____</p> <p>Names: _____ _____ _____</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">UNIVERSITY HOUSE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Christmas Dinner</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 16th Dec 2009, 6:00 for 6:30 pm</p> <p>Number attending: _____</p> <p>Names: _____ _____ _____</p>

**Please return this sheet or send an email to Lyn North, Functions Manager
on Fax: 02 6125 5256 or lyn.north@anu.edu.au**

