

# Head of School of Physics Newsletter - March 2011

Graduations - Many congratulations to the following School of Physics students who will be graduating on Friday 1 April 2011. The School will be hosting a luncheon prior to the ceremony in the Forum Restaurant, Darlington Centre before the graduation ceremony at 2pm. Professor Tim Bedding will be giving the graduation ceremony occasional address. Academic staff are strongly encouraged to attend the graduation ceremony.

Postgraduates:

Chi Kit Ronald Cheung, MMedPhys

Alan Chiang, PhD

Thomas Evans, MSc

Madhura Killedar, PhD

Van Le Nguyen, MMedPhys

Amanda Rider, PhD

Vello Tabur, PhD

Liam Wells, MAppNucSci

Darran Wu, MSc

Honours (or equivalent):

Romesh Abeysuriya, BSc (Adv)(Hons)

Craig Anderson, BSc (Hons)

Nicola Asquith, BSc (Hons)

Christopher Betters, GradDipSc

Henry Bilinsky, BSc (Adv)(Hons)

Curtis Black, BSc (Adv)(Hons)

Francesca von Braun-Bates, BSc (AdvMaths)(Hons)

Matthew Collins, BSc (Adv)(Hons)

Thomas Cunningham, BSc (Hons)

Alexander Hinde, GradDipSc

David Kedziora, BSc (Adv)(Hons)

Timothy van der Laan, BSc (Adv)(Hons)

Rebecca Lewis-Enright, BSc (Hons)

Hannah McFarlane, BSc (Adv)(Hons)

Michael Morris, BSc (Adv)(Hons)

Christie Nelan, BSc (Adv)(Hons)

Barnaby Norris, BSc (Adv)(Hons)

Aaron Rizzuto, BSc (Adv)(Hons)

Bjorn Sturmberg, BSc (AdvMaths)(Hons)

Matthew Wardrop, BSc (Adv)(Hons)

David Webster, BSc (Adv)(Hons)

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Congratulations - It gives me great pleasure to inform you that Professor Ross McPhedran in the School of Physics has been honoured by election to the Australian Academy of Science in recognition of his distinguished research in wave science leading to improved performance in microstructured optical fibres, diffraction gratings and photonic crystals. The Fellowship of the Academy is made up of over 400 of Australia's top scientists, distinguished in the physical and biological sciences and their applications, who are considered to have made an exceptional contribution to knowledge in their field and have significantly advanced the world's scientific knowledge. This is a very significant honour and on behalf of the School I congratulate Ross on his election to the Academy Of Science. Ross joins Prof. Don Melrose and Prof. Elaine Sadler from the School as members of the Academy. You may also be interested to know that our Dean, Professor Trevor Hambley has also been elected to the Academy of Science in recognition of his distinguished research in bioinorganic chemistry, crystallography and molecular mechanics, including multidisciplinary research on metal anti-cancer drugs. Many congratulations also to Trevor.

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Enrolments - As we are now well into Semester 1, the following provides an update on our current student enrolment numbers in the School.

Junior Physics:

PHYS1001 Regular - 600

PHYS1002 Fundamentals - 287

PHYS1901 Advanced - 137

MRTY1031 Medical Radiation Physics - 111

Intermediate:

PHYS2011 Physics 2A - 79

PHYS2911 Physics 2A (Adv) - 68

Senior:

Students enrolled in at least 1 unit of study (6 cp) - 108

Honours - 33

Postgraduate Coursework:

MedPhys - 28

NucSci - 3

Photonics & Optics - 6

Postgraduate Research: 135

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Postgraduate Student Prizes - Nominations for the following postgraduate student prizes are now open:

School of Physics Prize for Best Refereed Publication (value \$2,000)

School of Physics Prize for Best PhD Thesis in 2010 (value \$1,000)

Faculty of Science Postgraduate Research Prizes for Outstanding Academic Achievement (value \$500)

The School prizes will be awarded at the School's annual Prizes & Scholarships Ceremony on Friday 27 May. The closing date for nominations to the Student Services Office is 5pm Friday 15 April. For further details contact Student Services.

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Postgraduate Research Support Scheme (PRSS) - Applications for PRSS funding are now open. Funds will be allocated on a competitive basis to eligible students. PRSS funding can be used for conference expenses, visiting specialist facilities, books and periodicals, etc. Closing date for applications is 5pm Thursday 21 April 2011. For further details contact Student Services.

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CUDOS Launch - You are strongly encouraged to attend the celebration of CUDOS's success in obtaining ARC funding for the new Centre of Excellence in 2011, which will build on the outcomes of the original centre.

Details are as follows:

Date: Wednesday 6 April, 2011

Time: 3.00 - 5.00 pm (time will be confirmed)

Venue: McLaurin Hall, The University of Sydney

Senator the Hon Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research has accepted an invitation to attend & open the 'new' Centre. The event will showcase CUDOS' current and planned research capabilities and provide opportunities for industry, government & the community to engage with CUDOS researchers, graduates & students. Light refreshments will be served

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Careers Workshops for Research Students - A number of career workshops have been organised for Masters and PhDs research students on the following topics:

- Resumes and Cover Letters

- Interview Techniques
- Networking
- Presentation skills for postgraduates
- Grant writing applications
- How employable is my postgraduate degree? (or Life, Love and Laughter after a postgraduate qualification)
- The 7 Secrets of Highly Successful Research Students

For further information contact the Careers Centre at [www.sydney.edu.au/careers](http://www.sydney.edu.au/careers) or email [careers.information@sydney.edu.au](mailto:careers.information@sydney.edu.au)

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### **New Physics-AIN Building**

User consultations with DEGW, the company engaged to produce a Detailed Design Brief for the New Physics-AIN Building project have been completed. The consultant company, a joint venture between DEGW and AECOM represented by DEGW, presented an initial draft Detailed Design Brief which has been reviewed by the Project User Group (PUG) and Physics Working Parties Groups and professors. The PUG has now provided detailed comment to DEGW, who will provide a revised draft for final review in mid April.

Expressions of Interest (EoI) are currently being evaluated by panels for structural, mechanical, electrical, hydraulic and fire services engineering. The evaluation process has now been completed for the evaluation of architecture EoIs and a shortlist of 5 high quality architects has been approved by the Project Control Group. After Tender Board approval, the successful architecture practices will be invited to submit full tenders.

A general geotechnical site survey has now been completed. Eight investigation bore holes, approximately 14 meters deep, were drilled across the site. Surface level vibration and EMI measurements have also been completed and a report has been received by the University. The data shows that the land has low levels of ambient vibration and electromagnetic interference and is potentially well-suited for the purpose of nanoscience laboratories.

The University's Office of General Counsel is advising on the process to transfer the land required for the AIN from St Paul's College sub-lease to the University's lease agreement with the Crown. An in-principle agreement has been reached between the University and St. Paul's College regarding the land purchase and the wording of an associated Memorandum Of Understanding has been finalised.