



Pictured Left to Right: Rob Maitland MCom (Water Polo), Terrence Alfred BCom 2008 (Rowing), Sam McGregor BCom (Water Polo), Professor Peter Wolnizer (Dean, Faculty of Economics and Business), Robin Bell BEc 2007 (Canoeing) and Trent Franklin GDipCom (Water Polo)

PROFESSOR PETER WOLNIZER, Dean, Faculty of Economics and Business proudly welcomed home the nine Australian Olympic athletes who represented Australia – and the Faculty – at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Of the group pictured above, Robin Bell won a bronze medal in the C1 Men's Canoeing. Francis Hegerty BCom 2006 (not pictured) bagged a Silver medal in rowing with his partner Matt Ryan.

Three other outstanding athletes from the Faculty who were also part of the Australian Olympic team include: - Marty Rabjohns MBus 2007 (Rowing), Lachlan Renshaw BCom (800m running) and Thomas Whalan BCom/LLB 2008 (Water Polo).

Here's what Lachlan Renshaw (LR), Thomas Whalan (TW), Robin Bell (RB) and Sam McGregor (SMc) told us about their Beijing experiences and studying at the University of Sydney.

E&B: What was the highlight of Beijing?

LR: Being in the village with the greatest athletes in the world and being around people like Usain Bolt, Michael Phelps and Kobe Bryant.

TW: Our first game against Greece.

Walking onto the pool deck with confidence and seeing my wife (fiancée at the time!), my parents and my friends cheering us on. To come away with a strong victory after that game was such a wonderful feeling. It was a very proud moment to lead such a strong team.

RB: Sharing my medal with 17 of my good mates who spent their hard earned cash to come over and cheer for me. It was an awesome moment for me walking into the stands after just winning the medal and also returning to the village knowing that I had helped the Aussie medal tally.

SMc: Representing my country in the sport I love.

E&B: What are the most important skills you've learned at University?

LR: I have learned time management and study skills.

TW: Discipline, organisation and not being afraid to ask for help. Without these skills, completing a degree is impossible.

RB: Analytical skills which have transferred to the sporting arena.

SMc: Commitment

E&B: What's your next big goal?

LR: My next goal is to win a medal at the 2009 World University Games in Belgrade, Serbia, and do well at the 2009 World Championships in Berlin, Germany.

TW: To work out what to do professionally; keep playing sport in Italy or elsewhere overseas or return to Australia to use my degrees. Sporting wise – I want to lead a successful Australian team to the World Championships in 2009 and most importantly to enjoy married life!

RB: Finding a new career in Sydney working in the finance industry.

SMc: Winning a medal at the London Olympics.

E&B: If you weren't an Olympic athlete...

LR: I'd probably have finished my degree a lot earlier!

TW: I'd be training to become one!

RB: In the work force along with my friends from school.

SMc: Probably trying to start a career in something and being undecided as to what to pursue.