NOTWITHSTANDING THE SIGNIFICANT achievements of the Faculty this year, our deepening engagement with alumni was, for me, the highlight of 2008. Your participation in the life and work of the Faculty has high impact.

It has been a great pleasure to meet many of you during alumni breakfasts, cocktail receptions, dinners and reunions – in Sydney and throughout the region this year. We appreciate and welcome your advice, encouragement, friendship and support. To our illustrious graduates who have spoken at these many functions and at our Graduation Ceremonies during 2008, may I say a most sincere and personal ‘thank you’ on behalf of all your fellow alumni.

I am delighted that one of our internationally distinguished graduates, and a former Dean of our Faculty, joins me in sending warmest best wishes for you ... and the New Year: my colleague of over thirty years, Emeritus Professor Murray Wells – Sydney’s first PhD in accounting.

Times of financial and economic stress bring home to me the importance of the fundamentals that underlie our economic and financial systems – the things we all learned as students of economics and business. The role the University plays is to provide its graduates with an understanding of the fundamental principles that should
govern our behaviour, but which are too often forgotten in times of economic boom.

At the end of both another year and a period of sustained economic growth, it is therefore appropriate to reflect on those principles and to plan our way forward with the knowledge and skills that we, as alumni, have at our disposal.

The Faculty continues to develop and instil in its graduates those important principles and I am delighted to join with the current Dean, Professor Peter Wolnizer, in wishing alumni every success as they negotiate the troubled economic landscape that appears before us.

With best wishes,

Professor Peter Wolnizer
(MEc ’76 PhD ’86)
Dean, Faculty of Economics and Business

Emeritus Professor Murray Wells
(PhD ’74)
Dean, Graduate School of Business.