Head of School of Physics Newsletter - June 2011

Congratulations to Lyn Oliver - Adjunct Associate Professor Lyn Oliver was recently recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Lyn was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for "service to medical physics in the field of radiation oncology, and through executive roles with the Australasian College of Physical Scientists and Engineers in Medicine, and to professional associations". Lyn was Director of Medical Physics in the Radiation Oncology Department at Royal North Shore Hospital for 20 years until 2010 and played a significant role in assisting the establishment of the postgraduate coursework Master of Medical Physics program in the School of Physics from 2004.

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Congratulations to Dick Hunstead - The School's Annual Student Prizes and Scholarships Awards Ceremony was held on Friday 27th May 2011. In addition to the awarded student prizes mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Harry Messel Award for Excellence was presented to Professor Dick Hunstead. This award recognises excellence in contributing to the School activities by any member of the School's academic, administration and technical staff.

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Grant Success - Professor Dale Bailey from the Faculty of Health Sciences and Associate Professor Zdenka Kuncic and Professor Clive Baldock will receive $265,000 over four years for an ARC Linkage Project grant for "a phenomenological approach to improve radioembolisation treatment of cancer". The treatment uses radioactive microspheres that when injected into patients seek out and target tumours directly without harming healthy tissue. The partner organisation is SIRTeX Medical Limited through Dr Stephen Jones. The University of Sydney received a total of $6.709 million for 19 successful applications.

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Professor Bryan Gaensler recently spoke at the prestigious talks series TEDxSydney, a local version of the US-based TED enterprise which brings together people from three worlds: technology, entertainment and design. The full day event was held at CarriageWorks in Redfern, with an audience of 700 people in the theatre and a further 1300 people watching the live broadcast in the CarriageWorks foyer. The talks were also streamed live on YouTube and broadcast on ABC Radio National. For further details - http://tedxsydney.com/

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Denison Travel Grants - Denison funds will not made available for travel again this year due to financial constraints imposed by the recent global financial crisis. Further information regarding this will be made available in due course.

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Indigenous ISS Scholars - For the first time in its 49-year history as many as 8 Indigenous Science Scholars will attend the 36th Professor Harry Messel International Science School (ISS) being held from 3-16 July 2011 in School of Physics. Since 2005 at least five places have been offered to Indigenous Science Scholars attending the ISS to encourage them to go onto tertiary study and to work in science related areas. One hundred and fifty ISS scholars will attend the ISS2011 from all over Australia, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Thailand, the UK and the USA. They will take part in a variety of science activities and challenges all planned to help these talented
students realise their full scientific potential. Staff are encouraged to attend ISS events. For further details see Chris Stewart or Alison Muir.

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AIN - New Physics Building - The chief design consultant / architect has now been chosen by the evaluation team and a recommendation, endorsed by the AIN Project Control Group and the Executive Steering Committee, has been submitted to the University Tender Board. Once the Tender Board has approved the recommended architect design of the new building will commence. A quantity surveyor has now been appointed and currently tenders are being evaluated for mechanical, electrical, fire and hydraulic consultants.

Plans for decanting of A29 continue with the recent acquisition of part of Level 1 of Carslaw and 21 Ross Street. Further space will be provided by the University before the end of the year in order to provide enough space for decanting. Professor Charlie Marcus and Mr Mark Reed from Boston have been engaged to provide expert advice during the design process and will be visiting the School from 20-22 July.

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A28 Building update - Refurbishment of A28 Eastern Tower rooms from storage to offices has been completed and staff and students now occupy this area. Level 5 landing is being returned to a near original look, with added ventilation ducting into Lecture Theatre 1 (LT1). We now have air conditioning in LT1. The store has been relocated from Level 2 to Level 1, with swipe card access. Drier weather has allowed progress on the lift to resume, with an external concrete pad poured and brickwork underway.

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Space Audit – A space audit was undertaken in the School in 2010. The report of the audit undertaken by the School’s Space and Infrastructure Committee is now available on request to Elizabeth Starkey.

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School Review - The current reviews of School General Staff and Workshop are continuing and will reach their respective conclusions in the near future. All School staff are thanked for their contributions.

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School Strategic Plan - A School strategic planning session will be held in September. The aim of this session will be to seek input from School staff as part of the School's strategic planning process. The specific date will be announced in the near future and will likely be during the week beginning 26 September 2011.

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Medals - School nominations are being sought for the 2011 Walter Boas Medal and 2011 Australian Institute of Physics (AIP) Award for Outstanding Service to Physics in Australia.

The Walter Boas Medal was established by the AIP in 1984 to promote excellence in research in Physics and to perpetuate the name of Walter Boas. The award is for physics research carried out in the five years prior to the date of the award, as demonstrated by both published papers and unpublished papers prepared for publication. For further details - [http://www.aip.org.au/content/boas](http://www.aip.org.au/content/boas)
The AIP inaugurated an award for Outstanding Service to Physics in Australia in 1996. The Award for Outstanding Service to Physics recognises an exceptional contribution on the part of an individual. For further details - [http://www.aip.org.au/content/serviceaward](http://www.aip.org.au/content/serviceaward)

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Respect the Science – The Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS) was established in 1985. The Federation consisted of societies representing the interests of Australia scientists and technologists. Recently FASTS was relaunched as Science & Technology Australia (STA) – [www.sta.org.au](http://www.sta.org.au). Science & Technology Australia represents approximately 68,000 scientists and technologists, and promotes their views on a wide range of policy issues to government, industry and the community. ‘Respect the Science’ was launched recently as an initiative of Science & Technology Australia at ‘Science meets Parliament’ 2011 and received considerable attention in the media and has been commended by the Prime Minister, the Chief Scientists across Australia, scientists across a range of disciplines, parliamentarians and the general public. Further details - [http://respectthescience.org.au](http://respectthescience.org.au)

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PROF CLIVE BALDOCK  
Head of School | School of Physics | Faculty of Science