Head of School of Physics Newsletter - May 2010

AIP Congress - Being held from 5 - 9 December 2010 at the new Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, the 19th Australian Institute of Physics Congress will be the biggest and most diverse scientific meeting of the Australian physics calendar. In 2010 the AIP Congress will incorporate another major conference - the 35th Australian Conference on Optical Fibre Technology - increasing the representation at the Congress of delegates from this important technology sector. The call for papers is now open and will close on Friday 9 July 2010. See the Congress website for more information at http://www.aip.org.au/

AIP Rep - Dr Michael Biercuk has taken over from A/Prof Mike Wheatland as the University of Sydney AIP representative.

Congratulations - Dr Mike Ireland has been awarded the Louise Webster Prize for 2010. This prize is awarded annually by the Astronomical Society of Australia in recognition of outstanding research by a scientist early in their post-doctoral career, on the basis of the scientific impact of a single research paper. Mike was nominated for his paper "The Disk Around CoKu Tauri/4: Circumbinary, Not Transitional", which appeared in the Astrophysical Journal Letters in May 2008. This paper overturned prevailing wisdom about the link between planet formation and disk structure in young stars.

Space Audit - The School is undertaking an audit of space utilisation. Space in the School is under enormous pressure and it is essential that we ensure the best utilisation, especially if we are to make a successful case for increased space. The audit has two parts. In the first part of the audit, separately all members of the School will be asked to provide basic information regarding where they undertake their work. In this second part of the audit, information will be sought to determine how well that space is used for the core business of the School. All members of the School are asked to participate in this process.

Facilities - Work will commence on refurbishing the Council Room on 7 June 2010 with work to be completed during the Semester 1 break. This work will include ducted air conditioning above a new ceiling, new cupboards and display cabinets, lighting and carpet. The Council Room will therefore be unavailable for use from 7 June to 16 July. Plans are also well underway to install a new lift and refurbished and disabled toilets in A28 in the School. These will be welcome additions to the School facilities after many years of lobbying. They will ensure that students with disabilities will be able to gain more equitable access to the School's facilities.

School Board Meeting - University governance requires the School to hold two Board Meetings per year. The first School Board Meeting of the year will be held in the Slade Lecture Theatre at 12 noon on Tuesday 15 June 2010. The Board Meeting will replace June's School Academic Meeting.

Biophotonics Symposium - An IPOS-School of Physics Biophotonics Symposium is being held from 1 - 2 July 2010 at the University of Sydney focusing on biophotonics and advances in photonics. Bringing together photonics and bio-science researchers to encourage communication and collaboration across disciplines. For further details contact Dr Peter Domachuk. Details of the program are online at: http://www.usyd.edu.au/ipos/news_events/events/symposium.shtml

Input-Output Conference - The Integrated Sustainability Analysis group in the School will be hosting the 18th International Conference on Input-Output Economics to be held in Sydney from 20-25 June 2010. The theme of this conference will be "Re-thinking economic growth towards sustainability and wellbeing"; it reflects important concerns that many people harboured throughout the past few years, but also reflects a major challenge we are facing: To avert dangerous environmental change whilst being able to ensure well-being for the world's people. For further details contact Prof. Manfred Lenzen.

Honouring Excellence - 350 people gathered in the Great Hall for the Tribute to Harry Messel on Thursday 20 May 2010. This event was extremely successful with a number of donations including two $100k donations to support the running of the International Science School (ISS). Next year's ISS will have the theme of light and matter.
**Code of Conduct for Responsible Research Practice** - The DVC-Research has directed staff to familiarise themselves with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Research Practice if they haven't already done so. The policy may be found at: [http://www.usyd.edu.au/ab/policies/Rsch_Code_Conduct.pdf](http://www.usyd.edu.au/ab/policies/Rsch_Code_Conduct.pdf)

**Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship** - Applications are now open for the 2011 Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship in Science and Engineering sponsored by BHP Billiton. Valued at up to $A45,000, this Scholarship supports 8-12 months of research in the United States. The Scholarship may be started anytime between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012. The Scholarship is open to Australian citizens to undertake postgraduate research or study in Science and Engineering in the United States towards an Australian higher degree, or enrolment in an American higher degree. Applications are invited from postgraduates and graduates who have an interest and commitment to a career in Science (non-medical) and Engineering. Current Australian Postgraduate Scholarship holders are encouraged to apply as guidelines have recently been changed to support international research experiences related to Australian postgraduate studies through awards, such as Fulbright. Applicants from every state and the Northern Territory are also encouraged to consider the state/territory specific Fulbright Scholarships that have now been established. Applications close 31 August 2010. For further information and application forms see: [www.fulbright.com.au](http://www.fulbright.com.au).

**Rhodes Scholarships** - If colleagues are aware of an outstanding student who might be a suitable candidate for a Rhodes Scholarship they should encourage him or her to contact the Honorary Secretary to the New South Wales Selection Committee, Dr William Adams, email [William.adams@sydney.edu.au](mailto:William.adams@sydney.edu.au), phone 93513633, for further information. It is important that potential Rhodes Scholars are identified and encouraged to contact the Honorary Secretary as soon as possible if they are to make worthwhile contact at Oxford, as those planning to read for a D Phil will certainly need to do so.

The success of a university's students in competing for prestigious awards such as the Rhodes Scholarship does much to influence the perceptions of the community, government and potential students as to the standard of excellence at that university. University of Sydney students have an enviable record of being awarded the Rhodes Scholarship but there is always strong competition from other universities. If we are to retain our pre-eminence as the leading university in securing postgraduate awards it is essential that our best students are aware of the existence of the awards. This will only happen with the support and encouragement of academic staff.