

# Chancellor's report

This has been a year of continuing change and significant challenge across the nation, and certainly here at the University of Sydney.

The retirement in June of my esteemed predecessor as Chancellor, the Hon Kim Santow AO, was received with considerable sadness. The University community were mindful and appreciative of his critical role in a difficult period. He was steadfastly committed to ensuring that harmonious collaboration could co-exist with robust debate in this creative and intellectual environment.

The announcement later in the year by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gavin Brown AO, of his impending retirement to take effect from mid-2008, evoked a profound awareness of the many new initiatives and positive changes which had been developed through his leadership.

He has steered the University of Sydney to a significant rise in the world rankings, and can proudly claim that the National Union of Students has nominated this University as Number One in the assessment of 'student experience'.

As an outstanding ambassador in the international environment for Australian Higher Education, the Vice-Chancellor, supported by the diligent and sensitive efforts of the International Team led by Professor John Hearn as well as many individual senior academics, has established both formal and informal collaborative engagement with prestigious universities in our immediate Asia-Pacific Region and beyond.

Indeed, through the Vice-Chancellor's energetic commitment to driving the University's activities and reputation as a worthy international partner, he has established links of far-reaching value with universities in the Middle East, particularly the Gulf area.

It was an inspiring experience to attend the ceremonies which the University of Sydney conducted in Beijing and Guangzhou in November, which were followed by alumni receptions in each of those cities and then in Hong Kong. These celebrations engender continuing attachment, loyalty and significant multifaceted support from an educated and effective group for their Alma Mater.

Apart from obvious benefits to the University of these valued alumni, I believe that these relationships contribute incalculably to the strengthening of understanding, and of peaceful collaboration in the region.

The Faculty of Medicine under the Dean, Professor Bruce Robinson, has developed a program of specialist medical education and collaborative consultation in challenging clinical problems with a number of University teaching hospitals in Vietnam. The continuing success of this initiative has reflected great distinction upon the reputation of Australia in Vietnam up to the highest levels in Government.

The Faculty of Arts has undertaken inspiring projects of immense local value but also respected internationally relating to restoration work at Angkor Wat in Cambodia and also water conservation in southern Vietnam. Hopefully the restoration and expansion of studies in Asian languages and culture will further strengthen the University's high relevance and effectiveness with regional partners.

These continuing dynamic external developments are also being mirrored within the University with the continuing implementation of the Campus 2010 project. Exciting developments in physical construction and aesthetic renewal is nearing completion on a number of sites within the main campus as well as on the Darlington campus.

Professor Gillian Triggs, who follows Professor Ron McCallum as Dean of Law, will have the pleasure of leading her faculty from its traditional home in Phillip Street, Sydney into the handsome glass building alongside Fisher Library.

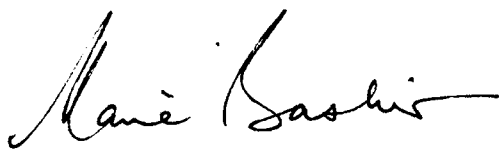
The design and construction teams associated with the Darlington Campus have responded creatively to sustainability imperatives and at the same time erected an area of outstanding beauty.

May I suggest that all who value the built environment of the University and its impact upon the wellbeing of students and staff of every sector, take a few minutes to undertake the walk from the southern perimeter of the Darlington Campus along The Walkway, pausing to note the beauty of Maze Green, before continuing along The Walkway to the Camperdown campus.

Dedication to the wellbeing of our students, undergraduate and postgraduate, is the driving motivation within the efforts of the Administration and Academic teams. I have no doubt that these creative efforts will continue energetically and with optimism in the forthcoming year.

In 2008, the Vice-Chancellor Designate Dr Michael Spence, Head of Division Four at the University of Oxford, an alumnus of the University of Sydney, will take up his appointment, continuing the legacy of William Charles Wentworth and the visionary founders of this University over 150 years ago.

Change and challenge will continue at the University of Sydney but I believe that the rewards will be substantial.



**Her Excellency**  
**Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO**  
Chancellor

