There was a 3,000 rise in the number of applicants for places in Sydney's three universities this year. The Associate Registrar, Mr John Gannon, said last week that while the number of newly matriculated students wanting to come to metropolitan universities was only about 600 more than last year's figure, there was an increase of 2,400 in other categories, including mature age applicants.

The University of New South Wales this year encouraged men and women who had left school some time ago without matriculating in the usual way to seek university entrance in 1975. There were some 300 responses to special press advertisements to this effect and of these, 65 applicants were offered places, most of them in Arts.

In all, the University will have enrolled some 4,000 first-year students this year - about the same number as last year.

Generally speaking, the University had more eligible students wanting places than there were places available, with the exception of some science courses.

Medicine and Law continue to be the hardest of all Faculties to get into. Indeed, this year the entrance standards were higher than ever, with the professional course in Psychology not far behind.

Mr Gannon made what he called "an educated guess" about why this should be. "No one has done an accurate study of why demand should be so high for places in these Faculties, but I would say that the attractions were social status, security in a respected profession, and the monetary reward," he said.

Dr Laura McKenzie, who was awarded the only Doctor of Philosophy degree at the recent medical graduation, just after she had received her testamur from the Chancellor, Sir Robert Webster. See Golden Relief for Arthritis on p.2.
GOLDEN RELIEF FOR ARTHRITIS?

Dr Laura McKenzie, who gained the only Doctor of Philosophy degree awarded at the conferring of medical degrees on 12 February, is searching for a drug that will not only relieve the pain of arthritis and ease the joints, but will actually repair the damage caused inside the joint by the arthritic condition.

Dr McKenzie is conducting her search as one of a team working at the Raymond Purves Laboratory, Royal North Shore Hospital.

For a drug that is helpful at the biochemical level she is going back to the gold-based drugs which largely went out of use about 20 years ago because of their unpleasant side effects on some patients. Nevertheless they do hold promise of cure rather than mere relief.

Dr McKenzie and her fellow researchers stress that they are not inventing new drugs but are reviewing at a molecular level both established drugs and new ones coming from the drug companies. Just how successful the group has been can only be gauged once the laboratory work has been assessed by doctors in the field and the work is supported by interested drug companies.

Another of the 12 February graduates was Dr Philip Morris of Maroubra, who graduated MBBS with honours and was named one of the two winners of the Alumni Award for Achievement in 1975. The other winner is Margaret Fischer of Redfern, who will receive her Diploma of Education at a graduation in May.

... 2,400 LATE STARTERS SEEK METROPOLITAN UNI ENTRY

This year for the first time most of the Faculties pooled their services in one location, making it easier for a student, who found himself contemplating a course inappropriate to his ability or ambition, immediately to seek alternative advice.

But Mr Gannon reflected the thinking of many in student services when he suggested that the January advisory service came too late to help students decide on the composition of their courses. As a result, many students change their preferences only after enrolment.

While hundreds of new matriculants either called at the centre in the Roundhouse, or phoned it for advice and information, the University is planning to do more to help the prospective student make one of the most crucial decisions of his life.

It is soon to appoint a full-time professional officer to act as what Mr Gannon calls "a facilitator" between vocational guidance counsellors, teachers and students on the one hand and the University and its Schools and Departments on the other. He will travel the State spreading the word about the nature of university, and in particular the University of New South Wales, the courses available and which subjects are required as preparation for University study in any given field. Already each of the Schools in the University has been asked to prepare a guide for students contemplating entry to the School.

Pressures on the Faculties of Arts and Commerce were greater than last year, when both Faculties had some trouble finding the numbers to fill their planning figures.

Engineering this year did not maintain last year's upturn in the student popularity stakes and some courses were obvious casualties of the changing economic conditions. It was not long ago that up to 70 students a year sought to do Mining Engineering. This year it will be fewer than 20. A lessening demand for Textile Technology could reflect the vicissitudes of the industry, and there is also a trend away from Industrial Arts. But Social Work continues to attract members, as do the courses in the Faculty of Architecture.

But having committed themselves to a course of study lasting three, four or five years, what guarantee is there that the students will not emerge degree but disillusioned, or perhaps not even degree? While this question has been asked with increasing frequency of late, universities have recognised its urgency for some time.

At the University of New South Wales the various Faculties have for some years conducted an enquiry and counselling service in the pre-enrolment period.
THREE VIEWS OF ORIENTATION

Kathy: ... then suddenly it's all off and the first weeks of term are pretty flat

Orientation Week co-ordinator Kathy McMillan believes that the central purpose of the traditional opening burst of activity is "to give everybody a good time, besides introducing students to what the University has to offer".

The welcoming bombardment of guided tours, get-togethers, music and movies, the new mingle-in, forums, symposiums, physical fitness, judo, aikido - all this has been merely the end-product of a massive organisational effort which began last November when Kathy, who began Commerce III this year, and Debbie Shapiro (Science III) were elected by the Students' Union as co-ordinators. While Kathy was doing her exams, Debbie began writing letters and talking to every club and society around the campus - religious, cultural and sporting groups, the International Women's Year Collective, the Hong Kong Students, Baha'i, the Psychology, Geography and Speleological Societies... Kathy's pretty sure that nobody was left out.

She has scheduled Orientation events for lunch-hours and several evenings into the second and third weeks of the session because, she says, "I've found, before, that just when the new students are getting interested in what's going on, then suddenly it's all off and the first weeks of term are pretty flat".

Behind all that she has a concern that the bemused fresher shouldn't feel suddenly dumped after his and her first week by the University community, and she feels that "after all, it's largely through the extra-curricular things that the University expresses itself as a community".

George: ... put rather more stress on "presenting the academic picture"

George Gray, Head of the Student Counselling and Research Unit, would largely agree with her, but he thinks the Orientation programme ought to put rather more stress on "presenting the academic picture".

"Okay, so it's got to be impressionistic, kaleidoscopic, a bit of a nonstop funfair," he said. "But when the chips are down and they've got to get into that lecture room and that library, they should at least be able to put the work ahead of them against some sort of broad mental canvas, bring a perspective to bear on it.

"We've always found here that the kids who've tended to pass and do well were the ones who focussed their lives here, not at Hornsby or Bronte or wherever they came from. Orientation ought to create a climate in which the student, his parents, all those involved in his life, get to know us as a whole working community."

Peter: Perhaps we should think about an Orientation Year?

By contrast Deputy Registrar Peter O'Brien, who has been partly responsible for the Administration's part in Orientation, would be happy to see the programme cut down in the future.

"For about twenty-five years Australian universities have been turning on this highly organised one-week event which doesn't really have much to do with the years of study in front, and now some people think it ought to carry on for weeks. Perhaps we should think about an Orientation Year?

"If we keep to something in the present style, remember that Monash cut it all down to three days a few years ago, I think without losing anything. All right, bread and circusses. But I believe we ought to do something in that week to introduce students to their academic courses, so that all the characteristic problems of choice and decision-making in the first year become significantly less worrying."

UNIKEN

With the first edition of UNIKEN the Public Affairs Unit is launching a potentially vital channel of communication within the University. UNIKEN will be published fortnightly, principally for distribution to all staff working on the Kensington campus, at the teaching hospitals, at Duntroon and Broken Hill. The initial circulation list is over 3,600 copies.

UNIKEN replaces and extends the Information Sheet, an old friend for many at the University. We are trying to design UNIKEN to fit your needs. For example, the Diary of forthcoming events is designed to be pinned on your noticeboard, and page seven brings together items of service information for speedy reference. We shall also be introducing some other regular and occasional features, but before doing so we are keen for your ideas and suggestions.

Much of UNIKEN will be devoted to reporting recent events and developments in the academic, administrative, social and off-beat sides of university life. We are only one end of this channel of communication - you are the other end. There is space available for you to publicise University-based events which you are organising. Let us know what is going on so that we can inform others who may be interested.

CONTACT a member of the UNIKEN team on these extensions:

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NEW ELECTRON MICROSCOPE LABS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

In the depths of the Biological Sciences link building there exists equipment by which, in the words of American poet e.e. cummings, "electrons deify one razor blade into a mountain range". Indeed, such possibilities are commonplace in the newly opened laboratories of the Biomedical Electron Microscope Unit, where microscopes costing up to $50,000 have a magnification more than 1,000 times greater than standard light microscopes.

Originally established 11 years ago to provide the Faculties of Biological Sciences and Medicine with facilities for research on the fine structure of biological material, the Unit has extended its facilities and services to embrace most of the techniques commonly used in this field of study. The new laboratories, which were officially opened Thursday 27 February, represent a capital investment of some $150,000 of University funds.

Head of the Unit, Dr Melvyn Dickson, would like to encourage greater awareness of the Unit's facilities in the Faculties of Biological Sciences and Medicine and to encourage enquiries from other Faculties where people are working on biological problems. Dr Dickson said last week that postgraduate students were expected to carry out their own work with the Unit's instruments after suitable instruction. Staff with projects that involved a considerable amount of electron microscopy may send their laboratory assistants to the Unit for training.

"This arrangement leaves the Unit staff free to perform microscopy for those who need relatively sophisticated experimental techniques or whose need for microscopy is relatively infrequent. In these cases the Unit can accept samples for processing and microscopy and will produce publishable prints or micrographs. Some stages of microscopy are so critical for the production of good results that the Unit staff routinely carry out work for everyone using the Unit's services."

The Unit is administered by an electron microscope management committee under the chairmanship of Professor D.L. Wilhelm. Besides Dr Dickson, the Unit's electron microscopist, the staff comprises a senior technical officer, Mr B. Glas, a technical officer, Mr A.B. Martin; and two laboratory assistants, Miss C. Ellis and Mrs K. Greenland. Dr Dickson instructs research workers in the operation of the instruments, suggests experimental approaches to work, develops new methods and instruments, collaborates in selected research projects and arranges courses in electron microscopy. Mr Glas services the instruments and builds new apparatus, while other staff carry out specimen preparation, microscopy and photography.

The laboratories are air-conditioned and the vibration-sensitive instruments have specially designed anti-vibration supports. Four microscopes are accommodated in separate rooms next to photographic darkrooms in a dark suite approached through light-locks so that operators can work undisturbed and without losing their visual dark adaption when obtaining assistance or fresh photographic film. There are two darkrooms for general use in the dark suite - one of them is available to anyone working in the Unit who wishes to print his own micrographs, the other is equipped for developing plates and films and reloading the microscope cameras. There is also a third darkroom for staff use.

Each year there are two courses on electron microscopy. The first for 1975 begins on 3 March (see Diary). It is a five-day introductory course which outlines elementary theory of microscopy and introduces participants to the instruments of the laboratory. The second course, in December, gives experienced operators an appreciation of some of the more advanced microscopy techniques. Any University member with a research project that requires electron microscopy is invited to discuss it with Dr Dickson (ext. 2670), who will either arrange tuition or assistance as appropriate.

Scanning electron micrograph of a weevil
BRED FOR THE U.S. MARKET

Fifteen top American sheepmen, including Mr Joe Burke (centre) of the U.S.-based Lamb Promotion Co-ordination Council, and Mr Dick Biglin (right) of the American Sheep Producers' Council, visited the School of Wool and Pastoral Sciences in February after attending a sheepbreeders conference in New Zealand. With Mr Burke and Mr Biglin is Associate Professor Euan Roberts, who showed the visitors some of the latest developments in Australian stockbreeding, as well as detailing the work of the School.

During their visit the Americans saw lamb carcasses selected from an experiment conducted by the School to evaluate the suitability of different breeds of sheep for the American and Middle East markets.

Some members of the party went on to study sheep-raising methods in Europe after their survey of sheep production and research in Australia and New Zealand.

TEACHERS PREPARE FOR SCIENCE 75

The Schools of Physics and Chemistry have devoted much of their pre-Session energies to a series of summer schools designed to help teachers from metropolitan and country high schools handle the new science curricula being introduced in NSW high schools this year.

Almost 50 teachers from throughout the State attended the first of the summer schools to learn of developments in areas outside the regular science Syllabus. The program was led by Dr Peter Southwell Keely, Lecturer in Chemistry, and Dr Jim Russell, Lecturer in Physics.

The second course dealt with new approaches to senior physics. Again teachers from all over the State came to Kensington, this time for a course run by Dr George Paul, Lecturer in Physics, and Professor Ken Taylor, Professor of Experimental Physics.

In February the two Schools again co-operated with a three-day course attended by 100 city science teachers.

Professor Paul George, Professor of Physics, predicted that many inadequately prepared teachers would be drafted into the teaching of physics this year but he believes that the UNSW courses will have given at least some of them knowledge essential for satisfactory teaching in the subject.

Learning about the new approach to secondary school physics from Dr George Paul (pointing) are, left to right, Bruce Few, Wollongong High School; Bill Hind Griffith High School (behind); Sister E. Omerod (St Ursula's College, Armidale); Cecilia Senior, North Sydney Girls' High School; and Gordon Thomas, Arthur Phillip High School, Parramatta, with his back to the camera.
A FAMILIAR PICTURE?

This picture appears on the front cover of the new Guide to Campus - the latest publication from the Public Affairs Unit.

The Guide to Campus is a pocket sized handbook of information on the people, buildings and facilities at the University of New South Wales. It includes a list of the principal University officers, useful telephone numbers, an alphabetically arranged campus directory, principal dates for the year, a list of people who can help students, an indexed campus map and a bus time-table.

The Guide to Campus has been designed to help visitors and newcomers become better acquainted with the many aspects of the University. The Public Affairs Unit is currently trying to assess the probable demand for the Guide. A copy of the booklet and a circular have been sent to your Head of School or Department. Please see him/her about bulk requirements. Single copies are available by ringing extensions 3576 or 2162.

GUIDE TO THE CAMPUS

N.B. In case you're not sure, the picture was taken from the Morven Brown side of the Library Lawn with the Library and Sciences Building in the background.
The School of Accountancy has introduced a Bachelor of Commerce course which gives students the opportunity to specialise in the application of information systems in business and commerce.

Students taking the information systems major will also complete the full accounting stream within the Bachelor of Commerce degree course. Thus they will have received an education which will enable them to specialise in the application of computer and information systems technology to commercial problems typically found in business and government organisations.

Professor C.H.P. Brookes, Professor of Information Systems, says that the new course is designed to fill a gap in Australia's education scene, where a high proportion of computer and information science degree courses centre around the computer itself. "Australia's biggest problem in computer staffing is to provide sufficient computer applications specialists who are also professionals in more traditional disciplines such as accounting, engineering and statistics," he said.

Professor Brookes has also announced a new Master of Commerce by course work program in the School of Accountancy. The course is open to scholars from all disciplines, not just those of Commerce. Further details from Professor Brookes, ext. 3457.

**APPLICATIONS EMPHASIS IN NEW COMPUTER COURSE**

The University Council at its January meeting approved the reconstitution of the Board of Professional Studies as the Faculty of Professional Studies as from 20 January with Pro-Vice-Chancellor Willis as Acting Dean.

**FROM BOARD TO FACULTY**

APRIL

Tuesday 8: Commerce - all degrees in Accounting and Financial Management, all degrees and diplomas in the Graduate School of Business

Thursday 10: All degrees in Applied Psychology, Economics, Economic History, Econometrics, Industrial Relations, Marketing

Monday 14: Applied Science - all degrees and diplomas

**DELIVERY OF UNIKEN**

The PAU is progressively revising the distribution list of the superceded *Information Sheet* to meet the emerging demand for UNIKEN. We aim to have UNIKEN delivered through the internal mail in sufficient numbers to Schools (or Departments, as appropriate), hospitals and the Administration for distribution to individual staff members by every second Monday.

If you are not getting a copy, check first with the person in your work area who receives the bulk copies of UNIKEN. If we are sending too few (or too many!), or if they are wrongly addressed, please ring PAU on 3508, 2162 or 3576.

**NEWS ERRATA**

The December issue of *University News* incorrectly stated that the 1974 academic salaries tribunal had recommended salary increases of from 16% to 20%. The range is in fact from 16% (for professor's salaries) to 33.7% (for tutors' salaries).

The Staff Association story on the back page of the same issue stated that Mr John Perkins did not seek re-election as secretary. However, it has been pointed out that he was successful in seeking re-election to the Association Executive.
Monday 3

SESSION 1 BEGINS

Unchant: Rehearsal, Science Lecture Theatre B, 1-2pm. Unchant, the upper campus choir, welcomes anyone, staff or student, who enjoys singing. Rehearsals will be on Mondays and Thursdays during term at the same time and place. Enquiries to Sandy Newman, ext. 2117.

Electron Microscope Course: This course, which continues throughout the week, will introduce interested staff and students to the methods and instruments of the newly opened Biomedical Electron Microscope Unit. It is particularly for those using the facilities for the first time, and is part of the Microbiology Honours program. There is a $2 fee for printing and materials. Basement, Biological Sciences Building, 9-10.30am and 2-4.30pm. Enquiries to Dr M.R. Dickson, ext. 2670.

Postgraduate Extension Studies: Radio courses, Economics for Non-Economists, 6pm, and Counselling Case Studies, 7pm. Enquiries ext. 2691.

Tuesday 4

Orientation Week: Engineering Freshers welcome by Dean of Engineering, Professor P.T. Fink. Undercroft, Mechanical Engineering Building 5-7pm.

Postgraduate Extension Studies: Radio courses, Linguistics, 6pm; Human Transinformation Theory, 1pm; Photometry and Lighting, 8pm; Written and Spoken Communication, 9pm. TV course, Family Planning Practice, 6pm. Enquiries ext. 2691.

Wednesday 5

Orientation Week: Al Grassby on Racism. Clancy Auditorium, 1pm.

UNSW Graduates' Club: Mr Hans Bel, Senior Field Engineer for Hewlett Packard (Australia) in a lecture, Listening and Talking, on modern techniques of measurement. Graduates Club, 7.45pm. Light refreshments at 50c. Enquiries 212 2155.

Postgraduate Extension Studies: Radio courses, Basic Fortran I, 7pm; Noise Control in Buildings, 8pm. Enquiries ext. 2691.

Thursday 6

Orientation Week: Video film and discussion on Elsie Women's Refuge. CLB 6, 1pm.

John McKenna Benefit: Unisearch House, 6pm. Everyone attending is asked to contribute $10. This will include food, ale and soft drink. A band and entertainment have been arranged. If you find it impossible to attend, please send your donation to Mrs Kearney, room 130, the Chancellery. Cheques payable to John McKenna Benefit, will assist his widow and five children. John McKenna worked in areas of Accounts and Personnel during his 16 years with the University.

Interdisciplinary Graduate Course in Tribology: Conducted by Professor R. Dawson of Leeds. To continue throughout Session 1. Room 304, Mechanical Engineering Building, 6-8pm. Enquiries to Associate Professor Archer, ext. 2857; or Dr Hahn, ext. 2876.

Postgraduate Extension Studies: TV Course, Computer Industry Developments, 6pm. Enquiries ext. 2691.

Friday 7

Great Books Group: Twenty-first annual general meeting. Room G3, School of Electrical Engineering, 1-2pm. The Group meets each Friday during the academic year in an informal atmosphere to listen to discussion by invited speakers or one of the Group on books considered to be great because of their impact on our society. New members welcome. Enquiries to Ms M. Jenkin, ext. 2810.


Monday 10

Faculty of Engineering Faculty Hour: The Dean, Professor P.T. Fink, on The Engineer in Society. School of Electrical Engineering Theatre LG1, 12 noon.

UNSW Tennis Club: Annual general meeting. Wurth Room, Roundhouse, 5.30pm.

Tuesday 11

Graeme Bell and his All Stars: Concert arranged by the Department of Music in conjunction with the Union. Roundhouse, 1pm. Enquiries to Mrs Carpenter, ext. 3412.

Scientia Society Public Lecture: Professor D.J. Struik, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mathematics and Society. The School of the History and Philosophy of Science, CLB 1, 1pm. Enquiries to David Oldroyd or Randall Albury, ext. 2170.

School of German Films: Der Hauptmann von Kopenick, 1956, 93 min., colour, German; also newsreel. Room 209, Arts Building, 8pm.

Wednesday 12

Jazz Society General Meeting: Third floor, Union Stage III, 1pm. The Jazz Society aims to create opportunities for the enjoyment and appreciation of jazz and hopes to hold regular workshops for players. Regular record listening sessions will be held when the Union replaces its playback equipment. Meanwhile, the music listening lounge is available with a large and representative collection of records. Records can also be purchased at a discount through the Students Union record shop. The Society will help members interested in forming groups. Enquiries to Collin, ext. 2662; Russell, ext. 2962; Bruce, ext. 2824; or write Box 181, Union Stage III.

School of Physics Lecture/Demonstration: Life Saving and Resuscitation presented by the Royal Life Saving Society. Burrows Theatre, 3.15-4.30 pm. Enquiries to Mr Rosario ext. 2276. The lecture will offer advice particularly applicable in cases of drowning or severe electric shock. Mr Rosario would appreciate being informed of the number of staff/students who plan to attend.

Mountaineering Club Meeting: Slides and meeting, Union Stage III, 1-2pm. Enquiries to Ross Vining ext. 2392 or (a.h.) 579 3406.

Lecture on St Paul: First in a series by Father Michael Fallon, Catholic Chaplain to the University. Father Fallon is currently lecturing in Scripture at Saint Paul's National Seminary, Kensington. Electrical Engineering Theatre, 1-1.50pm. Enquiries to Chaplaincy, Hut F, ext. 2379.

Friday 14

Orientation Week: Dr Jim Cairns on current Australian economic policy. Roundhouse, 1pm (tentative).

Great Books Group: Plato's Last Days of Socrates. Room G3, School of Electrical Engineering, 1-2pm.

School of German Films: Zeichnungen von Oswin, 1962, 13 min., b & w, no commentary; Within These City Walls, 1963, 27 min., b & w, English; Wilhelm Conrad Rontgen, 1953, 15 min., b & w, German. Room 209, Arts Building, 1.10-1.50pm.

Saturday 15

UNSW Graduates' Club: Guided tour of the historic Rocks area. The size of the group is limited so, if interested, leave your name with the Club's receptionist, 212 2155.

Sunday 16

UNSW Graduates' Club: Swimming and taking it easy at North Stanwell Park. Meet at Central Railway, 8.30am. More information from the Club 212 2155.