



SUAA Newsletter No. 6 August 2006

SUAA FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006

1 Our fifty-second year

The Sydney University Arts Association celebrated its fifty-second year in 2005-2006, having been founded in September 1953. At its beginning Emeritus Professor Angus Martin stepped down from office after more than six years as President, with the warm thanks, admiration, and acclaim of everyone involved with the Association. In his record term, he led the Arts Association with style, care, and dedication. To the great good fortune of us all he continues to serve as a Vice-President.

2 Forty-seventh Annual General Meeting

The forty-seventh Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on 1st June 2005 in the Philosophy Room, Main Quadrangle, commencing at 5.00pm. The minutes of this meeting have been distributed to members.

3 Office Bearers 2005-2006

At the Annual General Meeting the following office bearers were appointed:

President Emeritus Professor Paul Crittenden
Vice-Presidents Emeritus Professor Angus Martin
(elected) Associate Professor Sybil Jack
(ex officio) Professor Stephen Garton, Dean of
the Faculty of Arts (or his
nominee)

Hon. Secretary Assoc. Professor Rosemary
Huisman

Hon. Treasurer Assoc. Professor Ross Steele AM

Hon. Editor *Arts* Assoc. Professor Geoffrey Little

Committee Members:

Dr Tony Ball
Dr Elizabeth Bonner
Mrs Beverley Fletcher
Mr Norman Gabriel
Mr Geoff Howarth
Professor Margaret Harris
Ms Frances McDonnell

Mr Steve Rawling

Ms Michelle Rayner (U/G Student Rep.)

Dr Michelle Royer

Mr John Shipp

Mrs Sarah Walters Dingwell

Mr Robert Winter

P/G Student Representative (to be determined)

Honorary Auditor: The University of Sydney Union
Clubs and Societies Auditors

4 Events

The Sydney University Arts Association has organised a successful series of lectures and social functions since the last Annual General Meeting.

In September 2005 Kate Grenville, Australian author and Honorary Associate of the Department of English, delivered the 2005 Herbert Blaiklock Memorial Lecture 'Writing *The Secret River*', an insightful treatment of 'the choices faced by the writer of historical fiction' with reference to her recent novel *The Secret River*. The Association joined with the Department of English again in October 2005 for Professor Penny Gay's inaugural lecture " 'So persuasive an Eloquence'? Roles for Women on the eighteenth-century stage', an impressive lecture embellished with dramatic readings. Then in early November, Emeritus Professor Virginia Spate, Power Professor of Fine Arts 1979-2003, gave a valedictory lecture to a large and appreciative audience on the topic 'The Dream of the body as nature: Themes in nineteenth-century French painting'. The lecture was offered in conjunction with the Power Foundation and the Department of Art History and Theory. In December the Association held the much-anticipated 'Summer Drinks in the Quad'.

In March 2006, Professor Stephen Garton, Dean of Arts, spoke about the current state of the Faculty

and its place in the University following the recent decision by Senate to dissolve the College structure. In early May, we co-sponsored Professor Eric Csapo's inaugural lecture with the Department of Classics and Ancient History and the School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry. Professor Csapo gave an illustrated lecture, 'Cockfights, Contradictions, and the Mythopoetics of Ancient Greek Culture'. A program for further lectures in 2006 is in place. The Association is very grateful to all our lecturers over the year. The texts of the 2006 lectures will be published in volume 28 of *Arts*, due to appear towards the end of the year.

5 Membership

Associate Professor Rosemary Huisman, Honorary Secretary, has continued to revise and expand the database over the year. Her work has been of great value in providing the Association with a reliable record of current membership. This has expedited the task of sending out timely membership renewal notices and keeping members informed of forthcoming events.

As of February 2006 there were 124 Life Members in the members database, 10 of whom became life members in 2005. 87 Annual Members paid to join or renew in 2005, 18 being new members. Some 18 members did not renew from 2004 to 2005 (in addition to 40 who did not renew over the previous two years). The task of retaining current members and attracting new members continues to be a matter of primary concern for the Association.

In connection with developing a Strategic Plan up to 2010, the University has been giving considerable attention to the importance of its alumni. The Alumni Relations Office has taken this up around the goal '*Engage alumni in the life of the University*' and to this end determined in 2005 to establish a single University Alumni Association with a single charter embracing alumni associations (called 'chapters') throughout the University. The Standing Committee of Convocation, with endorsement by Senate, has now assumed the role of the peak Alumni body of the University. The idea is that each alumni association, while retaining full local autonomy, would become part of a larger association led by the Standing Committee of Convocation. Members of the Association will be pleased to know that two members of our committee – Angus Martin and Steve Rawling – were elected late in 2005 to the Standing Committee of Convocation under its new constitution. I congratulate them on their election and wish them well on behalf of the Association.

We must hope that that these developments promoted by the University and the Alumni Relations Office will lead in time to a bright new

era for the Arts Association. Angus Martin and I discussed these matters recently with Professor Stephen Garton, Dean of Arts, and are now exploring with him and the Alumni Office a proposal for a targeted survey of Arts graduates with a view to drawing many more to engage with the life of the Faculty, not least by becoming members of the Arts Association. For this we will be seeking funds from the Faculty and the Alumni Relations Office. We are grateful for the support of the Office, especially the Director, Tracey Beck.

6 Publications

Volume 27, 2005, of the Association's journal *Arts*, was distributed to members in early January 2006. The journal is a peer-reviewed research journal that aims to present the work of members of the Faculty through the publication of scholarly papers and the text of lectures organised by the Arts Association. Printing this year was undertaken by the University Printery, with a substantial saving on costs. This year too, *Arts* has changed its typeface, 'from staid Times to the sharper Palatino', in the words of the Honorary Editor, Geoffrey Little. The editor is to be congratulated on yet another volume of high quality. Congratulations and thanks too to Annette Krausmann for the design and formatting of *Arts*.

The *SUAA Newsletter*, Number 5, edited by Paul Crittenden, appeared in March 2006. The issue provides an informative account of achievements and developments in the Faculty in 2005.

7 Arts Web Site

The Arts Association continues to be represented on the Faculty of Arts home page:

<http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au>

To gain access click on 'Alumni' (underlined in green at the right of the contacts list). Or you may gain direct access by entering the complete address:

<http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/alumni/about.shtml>

The Alumni site has the following sections: Contacts; What's New; Join; The Journal of Arts; Newsletter; Committee. If you go to the Newsletter section, for instance, you will find the current issue and an archive of previous issues. At the alumni site, you can also gain access to the web sites of *University Events* and *University Alumni Relations*. Once again, the Association wishes to thank Anne de Broglio and Shannon Byrne of the Arts META Centre for maintaining our web site and distributing SUAA publicity electronically to members of the Faculty.

8 The Arts Association and the Faculty

Professor Stephen Garton, Dean of the Faculty, has long been a supportive friend to the Association. Among other involvements this year, he continued

to contribute his informative annual report to the *Newsletter*, and he gladly spoke about the Faculty – and responded to questions – at the *SUAA Welcome* function in March 2006. Alerted to the need for SUAA to have some space on campus, he has given us a desk and a computer, and storage space, in the Faculty Office. Arrangements have also been made for Professor Nerida Newbiggin (Department of Italian Studies) to be the Dean's representative on the SUAA Committee. These are very welcome developments intended to strengthen the presence of the Arts Association *within* the Faculty (and of the Faculty in the Association). SUAA is also grateful for the substantial financial contribution we continue to receive from the Faculty.

I would like to thank the Heads of Schools and Chairs of departments for supporting associated functions – such as inaugural lectures – and for providing material for the *SUAA Newsletter*. Thanks are also due to administrative staff in the Schools who distribute electronic publicity for Association events to Faculty staff and assist in organising functions. The Association is particularly grateful to the department of English for assistance rendered (photocopying facilities, for instance), and especially to Pat Ricketts, the always very helpful Administrative Officer in the School of English, Art History, Film and Media.

9 Committee Meetings

Full Committee meetings were held on 6 October 2005 and 9 February 2006. The major task of meetings has been to arrange the program of forthcoming lectures and social functions; the major concern has focussed on membership and finances. At the various functions, many committee members helped greatly by waiting on tables (with help on occasions from partners or family); committee members have also formed working bees, as required, for sending out publicity through the mail. I wish to thank the Committee for its dedicated work during the year. In particular, I would like to thank Rosemary Huisman for her efficient and cheerful contribution as Honorary Secretary, Ross Steele, the Honorary Treasurer, for keeping our finances in order, Geoffrey Little especially for his work as editor, and Angus Martin who has continued to play a critical role in all the Association's concerns. Warm congratulations too to Ross Steele, who was appointed as a member (AM) in the General Division in the 2006 Honours list.

10 Financial matters and the Future of the Association

The Association is registered with the Sydney University Union as a recognised society, and we

are grateful for assistance received, including the provision of audit arrangements. Whether, or how, this will be affected by the recent federal government legislation relating to University unions – due to take effect from July 2006 – remains to be seen.

The Treasurer's Report shows that the Association is managing to remain solvent, due in part to a reduction in expenditure on events. We could not survive, however, without the continuing financial support of the Faculty. And if we are to become financially secure we need to attract many more members. Beyond that, the Association should aim, not only to cover its (modest) annual costs, but to make a substantial financial contribution each year to the Faculty.

I became President in 2005 for one year only in the expectation that a successor would be ready to assume the role in 2006. Since this appears not to be the case, I am willing to continue for one more year, until the Annual General Meeting in 2007. Along with the challenges of increasing membership and becoming financially secure, the problem of ensuring continuity in the Association is now critical.

Paul Crittenden,

President, SUAA

11 May, 2006

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Vice-Presidents	Emeritus Professor Angus Martin
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