

Young graduates strengthen university links with Australian Hydrographic Service

Three young spatial sciences professionals from the Australian Hydrographic Service (AHS) will return to their former classrooms at the University of Wollongong on Monday 6 August – as guest lecturers.

Susan Brandner, 23, Michael Clarke, 27, Kimberley Worthy, 22, and AHS Head of Geospatial Intelligence and Innovation Gordon Homes were invited by the Co-ordinator of the GeoQuest Research Centre (School of Earth and Environmental Sciences) Professor Colin Woodroffe, to present a special guest lecture to the third-year Geographic Information System (GIS) students. AHS Product Development and Support Administrator Andrew Pike will also attend.

The lecture, “*GIS in hydrography*”, will be a first for the young trio of UOW science graduates.

“I have been at the Australian Hydrographic Service since graduating in 2005 – and it is valuable to now give something back to UOW and the current students,” Susan said.

Spatial technology is a rapid growth area in the Geosciences - and the Australian Hydrographic Service is one organisation in the Illawarra that makes considerable use of these technologies.

“It is really valuable for the Geographic Information Science students to see that there are organisations using the technologies they are learning about, that are custodians of enormous spatial databases, and are encountering the challenges of GPS positioning, projections, analysis and visualisation,” Professor Woodroffe said.

AHS’s Ms Worthy agrees.

“My particular area of interest in this profession is being able to use a unique and innovative geospatial system and having the opportunity to use the latest technology in order to produce nautical products,” Kimberley said.

The city of Wollongong has a unique historical link to geographic information science.

Captain James Cook tried to land at Wollongong when he sailed past in the *Endeavour* in 1770. Famous early explorers Matthew Flinders and George Bass then explored this part of the coast in the *Tom Thumb*, naming many of the local places such as Coalcliff. Some of the very first surveys of Australian waters were of the entrance to Lake Illawarra.

The guest lecture will build on the links between the University of Wollongong and the Australian Hydrographic Service developed through the International CoastGIS conference last year.

Guest Lecture: Monday 6 August, 9:30-11:30, Building 41.153 at UOW

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