This message is from the Vice-Chancellor to all staff. If you are not a member of staff at Flinders University please ignore this message. If access to email is shared by a group of staff please print this message and display it in a prominent position.

In 2006 Flinders will have its 40th Anniversary. The University is planning to celebrate this through an ambitious program of events and activities to run from March to November.

We have five main objectives we want to achieve.

A. To celebrate the achievements of Flinders University over forty years
B. To showcase the University to the community in South Australia, nationally and internationally
C. To profile significant contributions of Flinders Alumni
D. To provide a focus point for re-engaging Alumni
E. To develop and execute a major fund-raising strategy.

This is to be a combined initiative of the University and the Alumni Association and has received endorsement from the University Council. Earlier this year, we set up an overall Steering Committee chaired by the Chancellor, Sir Eric Neal, a University Management Committee and an Alumni Management Committee. Staff from various areas within the University and representatives from the Students Association are on the University Management Committee which I chair and the two Management Committees have been working together to produce a provisional program.

We have now reached the stage where we want to engage all staff across the University in the planning and execution of the Anniversary Year's events. We are moving from the ideas generation phase of the process to forming project organising groups for each of the identified events and activities drawing on staff, students and Alumni. We have also created FACes (Flinders Ambassadors in the Community), a new Alumni body, to increase the number of our graduates who are in close touch with us and keen to contribute to the 40th Anniversary activities.

As you will see from the program outlined below, we have a number of high profile events and they will require detailed planning, starting more or less at once, and substantial staff and other resources.

The main events and activities in the proposed program are:

1. Formal Dinner in March in the Adelaide Convention Centre to launch the year for University people and Alumni.
2. A mid-year mini festival on campus in July, for either a concentrated ten-fourteen day period or spread over several weeks, comprising public lectures, showcasing Flinders research, other activities on campus, showing of films associated with Flinders graduates and students, and other ideas, run by staff and students, open to the general community in South Australia as well as Flinders Alumni.
3. Alumni Return to Flinders Weekend in late October, with many outdoor as well as indoor activities for Alumni and their families, and with participation by all Faculties, staff and students, University Hall, Library and Alumni.
4. Program of a day or two of events for Alumni in regional South Australia and interstate capital cities spread through the year.
5. Fundraising strategy, memorabilia and products for distribution and sale.
6. Website to be set up and operating by early 2005.
7. Flinders participation in the Festival of Arts, the Fringe Festival and the Writers' Week in March. (Plans are well underway for this.)
8. Special exhibitions during the year at the City Gallery in the State Library, at the Art Museum on
campus and exhibitions and other events in the University Library. (The program for the City Gallery is already in place.)
9. Enhancements and special features associated with key events in the regular University calendar such as Graduations, the Investigator Lecture and other annual University lectures.
10. Special Awards for various categories of achievements by Alumni, present and previous staff, and students.

I want all our staff to be aware of what we have in mind for 2006 and have the opportunity to play a role in making the Year a success. This is an exciting, varied and demanding program and I would like to invite you to participate in what will be a major commitment for us all over the next two years.

We are particularly looking for staff input into Items 1 to 6. Your contribution could take various forms such as:

* suggesting ways the program of proposed events can be extended, added to and improved;
* volunteering to join one or more of the organising groups;
* offering assistance in the form of resources or expertise to one or more of the events and activities;
* encouraging staff in your area to participate;
* suggesting external organisations or individuals that we could contact who may provide assistance;
* offering souvenir items or photos from the University's past for possible auction at the celebration dinner or display in an exhibition; and
* any other ways.

Please send your responses to Sheryl Chandler (sheryl.chandler@flinders.edu.au), in the Public Affairs and Alumni Office. We would appreciate receiving suggestions about the program itself and offers to join the organising groups for any of the events as soon as possible and within a couple of weeks. Offers of other forms of assistance would be welcome at any time.

Anne R. Edwards