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Director of Prentice Retires

After nearly a quarter of a century working for the University of Queensland, Alan Coulter, Director of the Prentice Centre, has retired.

Described by Dr Ian Reinecke, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Services), as 'Father of AARNet', Alan steered the development of the University's computing network through changing times and technologies.

In 1962 the University installed the first computer in Queensland. Today it boasts the largest supercomputer in the Southern Hemisphere and a network connecting over 10,000 accounts.

Alan first became involved in computers in 1959 when his employers, the then PMG Department (Australia Post), sent him to Sydney on a computer course and he subsequently became their first programmer.

During his 35 years in computing and data communications, Alan has contributed his knowledge and expertise to the computing community.

He is Chairman of the QUESTNet Management Committee (the Qld region of AARNet) and Chairman of the Board of Management of AUSCERT (the computer/network Security Emergency Response Team). Previously he was Chairman of the Organising Committee for the joint Queensland Universities Pavilion at World Expo 88. He also served as a Board member of the



Alan Coulter (left) and Graham Rees
at the farewell presentation

Centre for Information Technology Research.

Though vacating the helm of the Prentice Centre, Alan will work part time with Dr Reinecke on the implementation of the University's IT Strategy.

Speaking at a farewell afternoon tea, Graham Rees, Deputy Director of the Prentice Centre said, "Throughout this period Alan's been very innovative and a great visionary. We've always installed leading edge equipment and systems. The reason the supercomputers—the Cray and the SGI—are there is largely due to Alan's efforts in realising the University would benefit from them."

Graham Rees has been appointed Acting Director until the end of March so it's business as usual at Prentice.

The staff of the Prentice Centre would like to join in thanking Alan for his many years of service and leadership and wish him all the best for his retirement.

WHAT'S IN A NAME ?

The Television Unit has changed its name to VIDEOVISION to reflect technological advancements and developments in video production.

VideoVision is still primarily in the business of producing educational and promotional videos but can now offer improved services.

Video conferences and video recording of 3D models created on the supercomputer are now available.

An autocue, (teleprompter) purchased with part funding from the Biochemistry Department, can enhance presentation pieces to camera, and save time and money. A new camera jib arm and dolly adds dazzle and sparkle to camera pans, tilts, zooms and tracks. (Stand aside Spielberg!)

With the emphasis on quality teaching at the University, VideoVision is co-producing a number of videos aimed at the teachers themselves.

Topics include Adventure Based Learning with Nadja Spegal from the Law Department, Problem Based Learning in Medicine with Dr David Price, and Tutor Training for Clinical Physiotherapists with Rosemary Isles.

If you need video technology in your teaching or research work call the team at VideoVision. Contact Charles Costanza, the Production Coordinator, on ext. 57069 or send email: c.costanza@cc.uq.edu.au.

25 Years Service

As the new year rolls along, Bill Louvel begins his 26th year at the Prentice Centre. He commenced work in March 1970 as a technician working on the GE225—the first computer in Queensland.

The Computer Centre was then part of the Department of Computer Science and was tucked away in the basement of the Hawken Engineering Building.

The GE225 was given to the Queensland Museum after its decommission in the late 1970's.

Bill attributes his long stay at the Prentice Centre to its staff and its being at the forefront of technology.

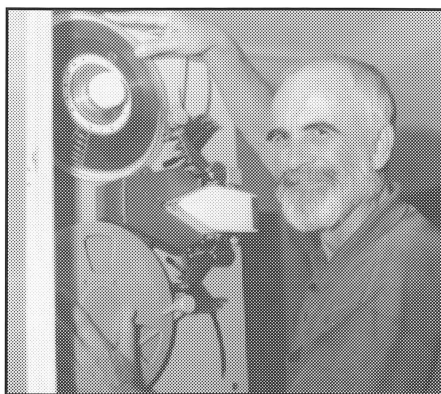
"There is always something new to learn. If it hadn't been for the everchanging environment and the great group of people at the Centre I would've left years ago."

As the Prentice Centre and computing technology have evolved, Bill has seen many changes, both in technology and staff.

"Today's PCs make the old GE225 look like a minnow, capability wise. Comparing it [the GE225] with the PC is like comparing a rhino to a fox—big and slow as opposed to the small quick-witted fox."

Internet development and the growth of AARNet have also had a big impact on Bill's job. During his time at the Prentice Centre, the data network at the University has grown from a few lines operating at 110 bits per second to a network servicing 10,000 accounts operating at speeds up to 115 million bits per second.

Bill's experience and skills in network installation, maintenance and trouble shooting are highly regarded. The Prentice Centre would like to join in thanking him for 25 years of dedicated service to the University.



Bill Louvel renews acquaintance with an old friend, a magnetic tape unit from the GE225, now housed in the Prentice Museum.

Audio-Visual Services Catering For Conferences

Planning a conference, workshop or seminar?



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Web Sites of Interest

FOUND IN SPACE

Galileo Orbitor and Probe—visit the PointNow page to see how the visit to Jupiter is going

<http://www.pointcom.com/now/galileo/index.html>

Now take a look at the russian space program

<http://www.iki.rssi.ru>

Or on the Prentice Centre page there is a small piece on colonising mars

http://www.uq.oz.au/pcc/publications/papers/colonizing_mars.html

Computing and Video Courses for Staff and Students

A range of courses is offered by the Prentice Centre. For latest information and timetable, type **course** on dingo, UQVAX or brolga.

To enrol in any course telephone 3365 4255, email help@cc.uq.edu.au or come to **Client Service** on level 2 (ground floor), Prentice Building from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm.