

## Professor Michael Rowan Citation March/April 2008 Graduation Ceremonies

Chancellor, I am delighted to present Professor Michael Rowan to you for the title of 'Professor Emeritus'.

In a long career, Professor Rowan has played a major role in the evolution of the University of South Australia, in shaping its direction and leading its successes.

He retired on 31 March this year as Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice President of the Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences,

Professor Rowan has contributed to the University and its predecessor institutions since the late 1970s, beginning his career as a Lecturer in Philosophy and Philosophy Education at the Murray Park College of Advanced Education. He had an active academic career in the fields of reasoning in natural language and philosophy of science. He remains a member of the Australian Association of Philosophers. Philosophers are renowned *inter alia* for their logical analysis such as that taught by the great Cambridge philosopher Bertrand Russell and the Harvard based Willard Quine. Philosophers also engage deeply with ethical values and like the famous GE Moore, many particularly value friendship and beauty. In common with such philosophical forbears Professor Rowan exhibits those traits: a keen intellect, and an analytic approach underpins his career in management.

In 1983 he became Head of the Philosophy Department of the Hartley CAE and in 1991, the year UniSA was established, was appointed Head of the School of Communication and Information Studies.

In 1994, he was promoted to foundation Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and then foundation Director of the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre in 1997. He has led the Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences, a Division the size of a small university, since its establishment in 1998.

As Pro Vice Chancellor, his management portfolio has included the Schools of Communication, International Studies, Psychology, Social Work and Social Policy, The David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research, Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design, South Australian School of Art, and Education.

As a senior manager, Professor Rowan has taken a keen interest in planning, quality assurance and improvement and industrial relations. His contributions to the management of the University have been strategic and influential. His instinctive

understanding of a situation, his ability to listen and to quickly weigh up an argument, and his sense of fairness, have characterized his dealings with colleagues.

Among many leadership roles, Professor Rowan was head negotiator for the University in the 1997, 2003 and 2006 rounds of Enterprise Bargaining. His intelligent and sensitive approach ensured a smooth process for each delicate round of negotiations.

Professor Rowan has also contributed to the University's profile in the community through his leadership of the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre – first as foundation Director and then as Chair of its Management Committee. The Centre and the affiliated Hawke Research Institute is now highly regarded throughout the world for its efforts in strengthening democracy, valuing cultural diversity and building the future through its research, its public program, and library.

As the Senior Manager responsible for the Anne and Gordon Samstag Museum of Art and a member of the Board of Governors for the Helpmann Academy since 1998, he has assisted the development of visual and performing arts in Australia, an area in which he has a keen interest.

Professor Rowan has a strong sense of fairness and social justice. He has been an advocate of Indigenous education through his support of the David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research; and of equity more generally through his role in the development of UniSA PAL, a well accepted alternative entry pathway for adults who have not completed secondary school.

Beyond the University, Professor Rowan has been a significant contributor to the early success of the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA). He chaired the 2002 AUQA audit of the Australian Catholic University, was a member of the Sydney University audit panel in 2004 and chaired the audit of Victoria University in 2006. He has also been a central figure in the deliberations of the Australian Technology Network (the ATN).

Professor Rowan will be dearly missed by the University. His good judgement, sharp intellect and quick sense of humour have contributed to the ease with which he has established friendships across the institution and in the state, national and international arenas. The high regard with which he is held is evident in all his dealings and relationships.

Under Michael's leadership, the Division of EAS is in a strong position for future success and growth. With a clear vision of the role of the humanities and social sciences in the contemporary university, Michael has championed their critical place

in scholarly professional education, and this has benefited UniSA greatly. I wish him well for the well-deserved sea change which awaits him.

Chancellor, I present Professor Michael Rowan to you for the honorary title of 'Emeritus Professor'.