This issue of *acunique* celebrates some of our many public achievements, in teaching, learning, research and more, from nurturing our excellence.

I take personal pride in the fact that our graduates are held in high regard and are welcomed into the working world. Their education has been shaped by the needs of the diverse communities ACU National serves.

The positive feedback we receive from our partners and from national and local representatives of government and the professions tells us we are targeting and achieving the right learning outcomes. And there are other indicators as well which validate vital skills, values and positive outcomes - excellence in context - at our University. For example, in *The Good Universities Guide 2008* our graduates have given us the highest rating possible (five stars) in positive graduate outcomes; and we achieved top ratings in graduate employment and other areas.

We also know that our academic and administrative staff are winning national awards. The University heartily congratulates them for their public achievement. Importantly, we regularly invite feedback from our students, who evaluate each learning unit as they complete it. The results assist our lecturers to fine-tune their teaching methods. Students’ positive responses are featured in more detail on page 13 of this *acunique*.

All these examples collectively validate our philosophical and strategic approach in the ongoing quest for quality, excellence and relevance in teaching, learning and research.

ACU National warmly welcomes the pending visit of representatives from the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) in 2008. We recognise the benefits of a culture of evidence, and our award-winning members of staff work very hard to open our processes to external scrutiny and to improve learning outcomes, as the University continues to meet the needs of a world of very rapid change.

Our University’s focus on specific intellectual and professional graduate attributes informs the regular development and revision of our courses. So too does a deliberate focus on values and our special ethos.

True to our Mission with its focus on social justice, the University is proud to engender in all its graduates a spirit of service to the community with respect for individuals and empathy with people of differing cultural and religious backgrounds.

Our students enjoy all the strengths and unique resources of Australia’s only national, public university, open to all. Yet each of them also benefits from being part of a small campus. They come to know their fellow students and their lecturers and tutors as individuals who genuinely care about their progress.

In closing, may I make the point that every *acunique* can only showcase a few of our many strengths. For this reason, I take this opportunity to congratulate every member of staff and each of our valued collaborators whose work contributes so successfully to the positive learning outcomes enjoyed by our students, graduates and ultimately the communities we serve.

I am indeed proud when, across the nation, our graduates, embodying vital skills and values, step out into the world as quality-trained professionals empowered by this University’s unique Mission. As Professor Johnstone tells us later, quality teaching is fundamental to a university’s reputation … now, and in the future; and it is not just the learning outcomes of an institution that matter. What matters also are the qualities the organisation values. I firmly believe ACU National lives and validates the wisdom of that opinion.

**Professor Peter W Sheehan AO**
Vice-Chancellor

**At Australian Catholic University (ACU National), we stand tall.**

Our track record in achieving quality learning outcomes is recognised nationally and internationally by government and professional bodies, and by employers, students and graduates alike.