MEDIA RELEASE

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Academics rewarded as science reaches out to other disciplines

The Mekong e-Sim team of academics was announced the 2001 winner of the Pearson Education UniServe Science Teaching Award. The team was led by Dr. Robert McLaughlan from the University of Technology, Sydney. The team members consisted of Philip Hirsch, The University of Sydney; Denise Kirkpatrick, The University of New England; and Holger Maier, Adelaide University. The initiative involved collaboration across both, institutions and disciplines.

The Mekong e-Sim project consisted of over 140 geography and engineering students from across Australia and overseas that participated in an online role play-simulation set in the Mekong region of South East Asia. The online environment provided a setting for the construction of alternative points of view and a lively debate that created an authentic context for student collaboration. The role play-simulation involved decision-making and conflict resolution regarding natural resource development.

The project will be the subject of a special presentation at the UniServe Science annual national symposium to be held at The University of Sydney on 5th April 2002.

About the Award

The Award is a joint initiative of UniServe Science and Pearson Education Australia. The Award is designed to recognise and reward those who make an outstanding contribution to student learning outcomes through the innovative and integrated use of information technology in university science teaching. UniServe Science is the national clearinghouse for information about the use of technology in science teaching and learning. UniServe Science is sponsored by The University of Sydney.

Pearson Education Australia is Australia’s leading educational publisher and supports UniServe Science’s aim to promote the use of technology in science teaching and learning.
About the Judges

This well-regarded award attracted judges such as Professor Shirley Alexander, Director of the Institute of Interactive Media and Learning, University of Technology Sydney, and Professor Richard Gunstone from the Faculty of Education, Monash University. Professor Gunstone is one of Australia’s leading researchers in the field of science education.

Other judges were Associate Professor Robert Hewitt from UniServe Science and the School of Physics, The University of Sydney; and Lori Hales, Head of Marketing Pearson Education Australia.

For More Information Regarding this Award Please Contact:

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For information about the Pearson Education UniServe Science Teaching Award, use of technology in science teaching.
http://science.uniserve.edu.au/

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For information about the Pearson Education UniServe Science Teaching Award, publisher focus on flexible learning technologies.