

# ECFS 2008 Annual Review



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# Editor's Report

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Warm welcomes to all current and new members of the Economics Commerce and Finance Society!

Unfortunately due to many unforeseen events in 2008, the ECFS publication was delayed. As result, the members of ECFS shall be compensated with an earlier release of the publication for Semester One 2009. Furthermore, the publication will be much larger and fuller of content relevant to students interested in pursuing a career in the business industry.

As you may already have noticed, the publications of ECFS will now be posted online in support of the sustainability efforts of the university. However, ECFS will still endeavour to print a limited copy of publications for distribution around the campus.

In an effort to maintain a transparency of operations for both our members and corporate sponsors, the 2008 Annual Review will be released and comprise of reports from 2008.

I wish to thank, on behalf of the society and its members, the Division of Economic and Financial Studies and all our corporate sponsors in the year of 2008 for making this publication possible. I hope the year was one of success and joy for all, and I wish you all the best for the new year!

Galvin Tsui  
*Marketing Intern*

# Secretary's Report

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I would like to take this opportunity to applaud this year's Executive on their remarkable effort in making ECFS events and initiatives bigger and better than ever before. Through our networking, careers and social events, we have recruited a record number of student members this year. This brings our total membership to over 800 economics, commerce and finance students and confirms our status as the largest student society at Macquarie University.

ECFS hosted two Big 4 Careers Seminars this year. It gave our major sponsors Ernst & Young, PwC, Deloitte, KPMG and ICAA the opportunity to speak directly to our members. It also gave our student members the chance to meet and liaise with their potential employers. These events were a huge success and credit goes to Jessica (PR Executive) and Mustafa (Careers Executive) for their fantastic organisation.

Through the efforts of Eric and John, our dynamic Project Development team, we have made our ECFS presence known and resound through Macquarie University. We had open stalls at O-week, EFS BBQ and Morning Tea and MacFest and these were perfect opportunities to network with the student body and raise our public profile. Not to mention recruit a record number of members!

A special thank you goes to Alper (Social Executive) who organised some of the most memorable parties of the year. The turnout and support at the ECFS Cruise and ECFS End-of-Year Ball were fantastic and everyone had a fabulous time. A special thank you also goes to Felton (Competitions Executive) who organised the prestigious Business Strategy Competition and pulled in record number of participants. These social events and competitions are something our members look forward to and we definitely did not disappoint!

In keeping with ECFS' new direction, we implemented an ECFS Internship Program at the beginning of Semester 2. We now have on board 8 bright-eyed interns who have been able to observe and help organise key ECFS events. This program will mean that ECFS ideas and initiatives will continue to flow from year to year and the new Executive is able to pick up where the last Executive left off. This will allow the continual progression and improvement of ECFS as the highest regarded student society at Macquarie University.

All this could not be achieved without the dedication and teamwork shown by all the Executives, the generous contribution from our major sponsors and the interest and support from our student members.

Here's to ECFS now and in the future!

Julie Thai  
Secretary

# Treasurer's Report

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With a record sign-up of new members, exceptionally successful careers and social events, and implementation of innovative initiatives such as the Executive Internship Program, ECFS has once again lived up to its reputation of being a fun and integral student society committed to furthering the interests of all of its members educationally, socially and vocationally.

A major change this year has been the affiliation of ECFS into U@MQ, Macquarie University's student services organisation. As such, ECFS's funds are now held by U@MQ in a trust account and all requests for any withdrawals must first be approved by U@MQ in accordance with the University Ethics Statement. The 2008 executive board have unanimously welcomed the setting up of this trust account as a mandatory requirement of affiliation. This lays testament to our genuine endeavour to provide greater accountability and transparency in the use of ECFS funds in order to further assure ECFS members that all funds are being used entirely for their benefit.

This year we have received over \$14,000 in sponsorship money from our highly esteemed sponsors including: BDO Kendalls, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, CPA Australia, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, Ernst & Young, KPMG, Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia and PricewaterhouseCoopers. We are also greatly indebted to the Division of Economic and Financial Studies at Macquarie University for their ongoing financial support.

The sponsorship money has allowed ECFS to run numerous careers events throughout the year including individual employer presentations and the 'Big Four' Careers Nights. We were also able to organise various competitions and social events at no cost or at a highly discounted price to our members including the Business Strategy Challenge, Soccer Competition, Harbour Cruise and Ball. Without the sponsorship money, ECFS would not have been able to capitalise on the opportunities presented to us and further establish the society within Macquarie University itself and the wider academic and corporate community.

On behalf of ECFS, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all our sponsors for their generous financial support and I trust that ECFS's ongoing professional relationship with all sponsors will continue to be a mutually beneficial one for both students and sponsors alike.

On a final note, I would like to thank all ECFS members, active members, interns and the 2008 executive board. It has been a privilege to work with everyone and be part of an exuberant society that truly has the interests of its members at heart.

Theresa Phan  
*Treasurer*

# Public Relations Sponsorship Report

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## Sponsorships

The year began with several sponsors from last year staying onboard plus a couple new sponsors. The 2008 sponsors include:

BDO Kendalls  
Commonwealth Bank, Australia  
CPA, Australia  
Deloitte  
Ernst & Young  
Institute of Chartered Accountants, Australia  
KPMG  
PriceWaterhouseCoopers

## 2008 Sponsorship Reflections

Over the past two semesters, ECFS has conducted various career events such as the Big4 Seminar Evening and having different sponsors coming on campus for workshops.

I am very open to feedback because it is my strong belief that any feedback is good feedback whether it is critiques or compliments and I am very grateful to have such supportive sponsors who have given invaluable guidance so that ECFS career events were about to run smoothly. I would also like to extend my appreciation towards the help and support from the rest of the ECFS executive team for they have shown their patience while these career events were being organised. Those endless meetings and countless emails were not done in vain. I thank you all dearly.

## 2009 Sponsorship Objectives

The number of sponsors coming onboard is increasing and we are currently devising a new sponsorship program to attract sponsors from different areas within the commerce and business industry. The aim of devising new sponsorship options is to provide sponsors more flexibility with how much they contribute to ECFS and how much they get out of cooperating with ECFS.

Rather than being concentrated on accounting firms, sponsors from the finance and marketing fields will be our target for 2009 sponsorships. This will open up a new range of opportunities for ECFS members to be exposed to new and exciting career events and will increase ECFS' appeal to more Macquarie University students such as marketing and finance students. In the up-coming years, ECFS will aim to open up to more students from a diverse background within the business and economic studies faculty.

Jessica Wong  
*Public Relations Executive*

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