

Chancellor, today we honour Professor Michael Miller, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the University of South Australia, the engineering community, and education and leadership in the field of telecommunications.

Professor Miller has long been acknowledged as a dedicated and resourceful leader who has played a pivotal role in the development of the University, especially in establishing world-class research.

A 1961 Honours graduate in Electrical Engineering from the University of Adelaide, Professor Miller began his professional career in the Post Master General's Department. After nine years there, he took up an academic post in the School of Electronic Engineering at the South Australian Institute of Technology (later to be incorporated into the University of South Australia).

Professor Miller continued to enhance his qualifications, receiving his Diploma of Education from the University of Adelaide, his Masters degree from Queen's University, Canada, and his PhD from the University of Hawaii. Over his career he has published widely, including three text-books, and many research papers on advanced telecommunications.

Professor Miller founded the Digital Communications Group at The Levels Campus in 1982. The Group was a focus for postgraduate research in the applications of error control coding, signal processing and encryption to satellite and radio systems and to digital telecommunication networks, technologies that underpin the capabilities and reliability of today's ubiquitous systems.

By 1994 the work of Professor Miller and his research group was recognised and acclaimed both nationally and internationally. That year, the Group was awarded Research Institute status, becoming the University's Institute for Telecommunications Research, known as The ITR, Professor Miller its Director.

Late in 1997, a new national Cooperative Research Centre for Satellite Systems was created to assist Australian industry to take advantage of opportunities arising from new generations of small satellite systems. The major partners of the Centre being the ITR and CSIRO, Professor Miller was appointed as the centre's Deputy Director.

Nationally, Professor Miller has been a member of the Australian Space Council and is a current member of the Institution of Engineers' National Committee on Space Engineering. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.

The Australian Engineering Profession has awarded Professor Miller their highest honours. In 1995 he was named Professional Engineer of the Year. His his outstanding contributions to Electrical Engineering has been been recognised with the Sir Lionel Hooke award of the UK Institution of Electrical Engineers in 1998, and the M A Sargent Medal of the Electrical College of the Institution of Engineers Australia in 1999.

Professor Miller's reputation and achievements are also recognised internationally. In 1983 he was appointed Honorary Professor of Electronics at Shandong University; he has worked as a foreign specialist with the China University Development Program, as a Consultant with Telebras Brazil, and a s an advisor in Thailand and Indonesia. He was a UK SERC Senior Research Fellow at Manchester University.

Here in Adelaide, the Institute for Telecommunications Research has thrived under Professor Miller's leadership, becoming a world-class research facility. The ITR is the largest telecommunications research group in any Australian university, engaging in research in the areas of satellite communications, cellular mobile radio, and defence communications. The ITR has had over 200 staff and students, more than 50 postgraduate students – mostly gaining doctorates. The ITR has conducted more than 150 national and international projects with industry and government. companies have been spun off from the research. The ITR's revenue over the last 10 years is more than \$35 million. The next public milestone for the ITR will be the completion and launch of Australia's FedSat, the Cooperative Research Centre's research microsatellite due to be launched from Japan early next year.

The character and success of the ITR are the products of Professor Miller's expertise, leadership, dedication, vision, and resourcefulness. Further, Professor Miller is renowned for his inspiring and infectious enthusiasm, and steel-edged humanity as a teacher and research supervisor. It was a surprise to those who did not also know of his passion to reduce his golf handicap that he decided to retire from his role as Director of the ITR at the end of last year, though he will continue to work with the ITR and University.

The Institute, Professor Miller's colleagues and students, the University of South Australia, and the community are fortunate indeed to be able to continue to benefit from his energy and expertise and ongoing commitment to the University and his profession.

Chancellor, I present Michael Joseph Miller for the title of Professor Emeritus.