

# TOWER



WINTER 2017  
ISSUE 16



## EMBRACING THE THOUGHT REVOLUTION

UTS unveils the  
new Faculty of  
Transdisciplinary  
Innovation

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## UNLOCKING THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Giving new hope to  
Alzheimer's and  
Parkinson's  
patients

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## BETWEEN FAITH AND FOOTBALL

How Amna  
Karra-Hassan  
is conquering  
cultural barriers  
in the AFL

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## GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

CATHERINE LIVINGSTONE AO  
BRINGS A LIFETIME OF  
LEADERSHIP TO UTS

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# An optimistic outlook



Recently, it seems that everywhere we look the world is becoming a harsher place. Many of our leaders around the world are not leading but exploiting the concerns of populations and driving fear, not hope. Despite this, UTS's commitment to social justice and inclusiveness will not waver.

Where some leaders screech intolerance, UTS quietly and consistently – through the actions of our staff, students and alumni – supports cohesion. As always, I'm proud that at UTS actions speak louder than

words. We have a long track record of offering scholarship opportunities to students who are facing disadvantages and hardships. We have featured one of them within this issue.

But as an institution, we also need to ask ourselves some tough questions. Naively assuming that methods of engagement that have served us in the past will continue to be successful in the future could lead to our being isolated from the very society we exist to serve. Determining how best UTS should engage in the future with policy, with social discourse and driving social justice is a key priority that I ask everyone to consider.

I am also very pleased to be able to introduce to you UTS's new Chancellor, Catherine Livingstone AO. Catherine is one of Australia's few great thought leaders, bringing a vast wealth of knowledge and experience as a business leader at the highest level in Australia and internationally. She also possesses a deep understanding of Australia's research environment, and has been a driving force in our national understanding of innovation. Please join me in making her feel welcome.

**“I'm proud that at UTS actions speak louder than words.”**

Lastly, I am delighted to be able to inform you that the *Times Higher Education* has ranked UTS as Australia's top young university for the third year in a row. The rankings are based on teaching, research, citations, international outlook and industry income, and our success reflects a whole of university effort. While still sanguine about the rollercoaster nature of rankings, I am incredibly proud of our recent ratings successes and know that they reflect both on the hard work and dedication of staff over decades and accurately capture the momentum and success we all experience every day.

**Professor Attila Brungs,  
Vice-Chancellor and President**

## TOWER

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UTS recognises the Gadigal people of the Eora nation and the Boorooberongal People of the Dharug Nation upon whose ancestral lands our campus now stands. We would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present, acknowledging them as the traditional custodians of knowledge for these lands.

Amna Karra-Hassan (centre) training with here team-mates.



# BETWEEN FAITH AND FOOTBALL

STORY BY JACQUELINE ROBSON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY YIANNI ASPRADAKIS

## Amna Karra-Hassan shares her journey: from UTS to conquering cultural barriers and the AFL.

**A**mna Karra-Hassan is a pioneering daughter of modern Australia. At 21, she was the Muslim-Australian girl who confounded the white male world of Aussie Rules football when she started a women's team composed of players from Western Sydney's minority communities – most of whom had never even seen an AFL game before.

Now, at 28, she continues to champion the vital role sport plays in breaking down cultural barriers as the President of the Auburn Giants Football Club and a board member of the Council for Australia-Arab Relations with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She is also a former NSW Youth Advisory Council member, a NSW Australian of the Year 2017 Local Hero finalist and a TEDx speaker. Karra-Hassan is also on the Reform and Culture Standards Team at the Australian Federal Police (AFP), and she is an active role model for Muslim-Australian women.

Between all this, she still manages to squeeze in some time to tackle other women on the footy field three times a week.

"I had to really fight hard to do all of that," says Karra-Hassan.

### Tackling all obstacles

Born and raised in Sydney's western suburbs, she faced many tough obstacles, beginning at home.

When she was 18, her father objected to her going to university, wanting her to marry and have a family instead. By strategically recruiting the support of her mother and grandfather, Karra-Hassan won that battle and made her way to UTS to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Organisational Learning.

While at UTS, she took on the role of Women's Officer for the UTS Muslim Society. Combined with the diverse and practical nature of her degree, Karra-Hassan was considered the perfect candidate for a pilot community engagement program run by the AFP. The program's aim was to build rapport, trust and policy legitimacy between the AFP and a deeply sceptical Western Sydney community.

Initially, Karra-Hassan shared this scepticism. In her neighbourhood, there were tales of police harassment,

particularly during the early era of the Middle East Crime Squad. Karra-Hassan's plan was to blow the lid off the endemic corruption that she thought must have existed in the AFP.

"I thought I was coming in as a crusader! I was going to investigate and expose the corruption. Then I went in there and realised I knew nothing."

Karra-Hassan's learning curve was steep. For seven years, she built bridges between the AFP and Western Sydney's diverse communities, and she now advises on strategies for crime prevention by finding ways to partner with community organisations.

It was a partnership between the AFP and the AFL for Harmony Day in 2010 that sparked Karra-Hassan's interest in football. A cousin challenged her to start a women's AFL team and despite having no qualifications to do so, having never played or even watched the game before, she agreed. She convinced a group of willing girls to attend a training session; and the female Auburn Tigers AFL team was born.

**"Apart from our First Peoples, we are all from migrant families. For me, that's why Australia celebrates multiculturalism. It's not political: it's a real, lived experience."**

They were, initially, terrible. She recalls: "Our attitude was 'if I can't kick the best and I can't handball the best, then the best I can do is tackle someone as hard as I can'."

But it was also a unique opportunity to bridge a cultural chasm.

"The perception of AFL is that it is an Anglo-Australian game; not a game for culturally diverse communities," says Karra-Hassan.

"Soccer is for culturally diverse communities ... AFL was barely known ... I could have played soccer, but it wasn't going to push the envelope. It wasn't going to shift any thinking."

For the girls who played, it was also an opportunity to bridge their bicultural worlds.

"Many of the girls are Australian-born kids to migrants. This was about the girls understanding that you actually belong to two camps and there is strength in belonging to two camps," explains Karra-Hassan.

"We had great conversations about what it means to be Australian. I remember some of the girls saying 'I'm not Aussie' even though they were born here; or asking

me questions like ‘Amna, do you think when we go to the opposition’s field they’re going to be racist to us?’

“And that was simply because they lived in Western Sydney. Their parents had experienced racism in the past, so their perception was that all Anglo-Australians must not like migrants.”

After some touring, Karra-Hassan observed that perceptions were indeed shifting, and this inspired her to fight for the team’s long-term viability and make it independent from the men’s club. She needed to find sponsors.

“It was scary,” she recalls. “I didn’t know how to write a sponsorship proposal. I had to ask Google for a template.”

Eventually, Karra-Hassan established a mutually beneficial arrangement with the Greater Western Sydney Giants AFL Club, and so the Auburn Tigers became the Auburn Giants. Soon after, Katie Page, CEO of Harvey Norman, approached Karra-Hassan and offered to sponsor the Giants. This was the first time Harvey Norman had ever sponsored an AFL team.

### Culture clash

But Karra-Hassan was fighting a cultural battle on several other fronts. Some members of her Muslim community suggested that women playing football was inappropriate and possibly prohibited under Islamic law. Believing that her faith was being manipulated against her, Karra-Hassan fought back.

“Religious guilt is ugly. It’s like emotional blackmail,” she says.

“I had to learn very early on, through learning Islam, seeing my family live out Islam, that there were things that I absolutely knew were and were not true.”

Some of the toughest conversations that Karra-Hassan had to have were at home. Her father didn’t want her or her sister to play football, and the intrusive religious guilt only made it worse. Proving their marriage prospects were still bright despite rolled ankles, broken noses and bruised faces from football was a constant challenge.

“Our attitude was ‘if I can’t kick the best and I can’t handball the best, then the best I can do is tackle someone as hard as I can.’”





Karra-Hassan and her Auburn Giants team-mates at training.

She recalls of one such conversation, “I would ask, ‘what’s wrong with it? What do you object to? Is it religious or cultural? Because if religion doesn’t say it’s prohibited, then what is it culturally that you don’t like?’”

“Then I listened to him and addressed those things. And then he could go away and think about it.”

Karra-Hassan draws upon these conversations when she represents Australian Muslims. She is willing to sit down with anyone who is willing to sit down with her, who is open to asking questions, listening and sharing ideas about her Muslim heritage.

Deeply spiritual, her choice to wear the hijab came from years of learning how Islam was practiced by different people around her, and ultimately refusing to let the occasionally oppressive behaviours of some fellow Muslims defeat her.

Instead, it inspired her to delve deeper into her faith, particularly the ways it enhanced her life. This motivated her to engage more profoundly and publicly with it.

She loves to push against cultural boundaries with honesty and sensitivity. She embraces the

best of what Australia has to offer – kicking around a football with friends, barbecues at the beach and long bouts of basking in the afternoon sun.

“Apart from our First Peoples, we are all from migrant families. For me, that’s why Australia celebrates multiculturalism. It’s not political: it’s a real, lived experience,” she says.

Over the years, Karra-Hassan and her more traditional father have turned important corners together. Recently, she insisted he attend a football awards night to witness her sister receiving an award. Seeing his daughter so celebrated and respected by the community brought him to tears.

She’d seen this emotional display of pride and love in him before: at her UTS graduation.

“That was the first thing he ever came to. There was only me and one other Muslim woman receiving our testamurs,” she recalls.

“My dad sat back and saw hundreds of students graduate and said ‘that’s my daughter up there’. And he cried.

“That was really special. I think that was the first moment that he realised it didn’t need to be so hard.” ■■■





# GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

STORY BY STEVE MEACHAM

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN CHEUNG

## A career at the forefront of leadership and innovation brings Catherine Livingstone AO to her new role as UTS Chancellor.

She is regarded as one of Australia's most passionate and influential advocates of research, innovation, technology and enterprise.

She has headed both the CSIRO and the Business Council of Australia (BCA), is patron of the Australian Design Innovation Network and has also been elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science.

When she became an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2008 the citation praised her "service to the development of Australian science, technology and innovation policies".

Yet Catherine Livingstone – who moved into the UTS Chancellor's office in December, and whose appointment is considered quite a coup given the regard in which she is held by the corporate and political elite – admits her interest in science and technology "was total serendipity".

It was working for the medical device industry pioneer Paul Trainor that changed the course of her life, she explains.

Until she joined his Nucleus Group of companies in 1983, Livingstone's career as a chartered accountant had been fairly conventional, with spells working for PricewaterhouseCoopers in both Sydney and London.

But Trainor "was one of Australia's greatest entrepreneurs", Livingstone says.

"Paul had a vision for a medical technology sector in Australia – not just a single company, but an entire industry."

Known as "the father of Australia's medical device industry", Trainor created the Nucleus Group in the 1960s, producing medical devices in Australia and selling them to the world. His most famous legacy is Cochlear Ltd, the world leader in cochlear implants which now boasts over two thirds of the global hearing implant market.

"When I joined Nucleus, Cochlear was just a research project," Livingstone recalls.

"But there was a big pacemaker division, an ultrasound division, a dialysis division, and a hyperthermia division.

"Paul worked very closely with Senator John Button, who was the Industry and Commerce Minister in the Hawke government.

"At Nucleus I saw what a true entrepreneur like Paul does, and the high risks they take. I saw how a business that is heavily dependent on R&D works, and what sort of culture is required.

"I saw the link between the company and the research sector, because Paul kept in close contact with the universities.

"The Cochlear project, for example, drew on the massive research that had been done at the University of Melbourne.

"I saw the power of what good collaboration between industry and research can do if there is an entrepreneur prepared to take the risk – and if there is a politician like John Button who can create a government policy framework prepared to share that risk. ●



“Dealing with difficult situations is part of life. I’m not saying it is easy. Not at all. But if the difficulties become the focus of your thinking, they become the limitations of your thinking.”

“It was at that point that I really became interested in technology. How it works, how you can apply it, and how you can apply it in the national interest. Paul’s beacon was always about Australia and the national interest even when he was running a successful business that would make money for its shareholders.”

By the time Trainor sold Nucleus in 1988 to Pacific Dunlop, Livingstone had risen through the managerial ranks – eventually becoming Chief Financial Officer of Nucleus in 1989. Then when Pacific Dunlop decided to move out of the medical devices sector in 1994, she was made Chief Executive Officer of Cochlear Ltd to steer it through a potentially turbulent public float.

The company’s appearance on the Australian Stock Exchange in 1995 was not just very successful, but one of the first times a medical company had been floated in Australia.

Livingstone remained CEO until 2000 – still one of the few female CEOs in the country.

She had arrived in Australia 40 years earlier, at the age of four, having been born in Kenya’s capital Nairobi in 1955. Her British parents, both colonial civil servants, had met on the ship that was taking them to East Africa (“very romantic,” Livingstone adds), but the family had decided to leave Kenya because of the Mau Mau uprising (“lots of people running around with machetes”).

Post-war Britain proved too dreary on their return to the Home Counties so her parents emigrated to Sydney where her father – an economist – took up a job for the Bank of NSW, organising industrial surveys. The family (Livingstone has two younger brothers) settled in Wahroonga, with Livingstone attending the local primary school before transferring to Loreto Normanhurst.

Though she had enjoyed first level science at high school (“the old story – I had a great teacher”), she had already decided to become an accountant and went to Macquarie University in 1973, graduating with first class honours, majoring in accountancy and economics.

See Catherine Livingstone’s first speech as UTS Chancellor at [www.alumni.uts.edu.au/tower](http://www.alumni.uts.edu.au/tower)

Why accountancy? “Because I wanted a job, and because I wanted to travel,” she replies firmly. “Being a woman, I wanted a qualification that would be unequivocal in terms of getting a job anywhere in the world.”

Livingstone’s carefully laid plans paid dividends when PricewaterhouseCoopers transferred her to London in 1980 although she had just met her future husband, Michael Satherthwaite, who had recently done the reverse transfer. They reunited, had three children together, and he became Saatchi & Saatchi’s Chief Financial Officer Asia Pacific before becoming Executive Chairman of Pegasus Systems in 2009.

As CEO of Cochlear, Livingstone was invited to join the Australian body Chief Executive Women. The group was founded in 1985 to represent those few female leaders who had managed to break through the metaphorical glass ceiling and reach top leadership positions.

“There are amazing women in that organisation,” she says. “It is a very supportive group.”

She later became President of Chief Executive Women from 2007 to 2008.

Did she feel lonely as a woman at the top of the corporate tree? “That’s a hard question to answer. I’ve never regarded the fact I am a woman as an impediment as to whether I could do a job.

“I was realistic, but I never regarded being a woman as a limitation. I had the usual experiences along the way. Some people were helpful, others were less helpful.”

What would her advice be for female students at UTS today?

“Have confidence in yourself. There will be situations you don’t like. But don’t treat those situations as insurmountable. Find another way through.

“I’m sure men have those experiences too. Dealing with difficult situations is part of life. I’m not saying it is easy. Not at all. But if the difficulties become the focus of your thinking, they become the limitations of your thinking.”

When Livingstone left Cochlear in 2000 to further her career as a non-executive director, the corporate floodgates were opened, along with the accolades.

In 2002 she became a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Services and Engineering. The following year she was awarded a Centenary Medal and the Chartered Accountant in Business Award.

Apart from her stewardship of the CSIRO from 2001 to 2006, Livingstone took on big responsibilities, particularly being the chair of the Australian Business Foundation

(2000 to 2006); the chair of Telstra (2009 to 2016); and president of the BCA (2014 to 2016). These experiences, she hopes, will be useful in her relationships within the UTS Council and the management team.

She was invited to replace the retiring Professor Vicki Sara as UTS Chancellor in 2015, but had to delay moving into the office until her term at the BCA had finished. It is a mark of how highly Livingstone’s credentials and standing within the business community are regarded that the UTS authorities were happy to wait.

So what does she want to achieve by the time her term ends in November 2020?

“To build on the work Vicki achieved with (Vice-Chancellors) Ross (Milbourne) and Attila (Brungs) – that continual renewal of vision and intent. It might sound trite, but I want UTS to be the best it can be, because there is no limit to that achievement.”

Throughout the years, Livingstone has had “quite a bit of contact” with UTS.

“I have always been impressed by how it envisaged itself. It has really developed its sense of purpose, concentrated on a different perspective. It is now truly a university of technology.

“I have been very conscious of how often business people say,

‘Gosh, those UTS students are really good’.

“When I was at Cochlear, we had UTS students on three month rotations. What impressed me then was the whole concept of internships, of having a more porous interface between study and work. It was very crucial then, and it is going to be even more crucial going forward.

“At UTS, you get experience in the workplace while you are studying for your degree. That improves the quality of your learning while giving you valuable experience and a better idea of what you want to do, and what you actually can do. That philosophy of blending the learning with work experience is one of the most powerful aspects of being at UTS.”

Livingstone also praises the physical transformation of the UTS campus in recent years, particularly at a time when “increasingly, you have drive-in, drive-out students who don’t want to spend time (physically) at university”.

She points out of her office window across the lawn towards the building named after her predecessor.

“This is now an extraordinary campus. It – and the surrounding precinct – make it an exciting place where students want to be. The energy level here is incredible.” ■■■

“That philosophy of blending the learning with work experience is one of the most powerful aspects of being at UTS.”

# The TOWERING 10

Meet the high-achieving UTS alumni who've become success stories in Australia and abroad. Their inspiring work has enriched numerous fields, including business and entrepreneurship, science, media and more.

STORY BY JENIFER WATERS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN CHEUNG

## Professor Alaina Ammit

» **UTS Professor of Respiratory Pharmacology and Director, Woolcock Emphysema Centre**

Bachelor of Applied Science in Biomedical Science, 1985

Professor **Alaina Ammit**'s research into inflammation in chronic respiratory diseases – particularly chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), commonly known as emphysema – has earned her an international reputation for excellence. To date her research has attracted in excess of \$6 million in grants and philanthropic funding, and her leadership has been recognised through numerous prestigious appointments including to the Australian Research Council College of Experts.

She was recruited to UTS in early 2016. Here, Professor Ammit is at the nexus of a transformative partnership consolidating the research efforts of the two organisations.

With currently available anti-inflammatory medications ineffective in treating COPD, her present focus is on partnering with other researchers to develop new, more effective medications with the potential to greatly impact human health.

“We want to improve quality of life for people living with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease,” she says.



## Erfan Azadi

» **Architect and Founder, Duck & Shed**

Bachelor of Architecture, 2002

**Erfan Azadi**'s approach to architecture is not grounded in dogma or pastiche, but guided by a deep desire to create unique, interesting spaces that enhance people's lifestyles and interactions.

Azadi cut his teeth working with Philippe Starck and Jade Jagger. In 2012 he founded his London-based architecture and interior design consultancy, Duck & Shed, quickly building a reputation for bespoke residential projects in and around the Royal Borough, including a penthouse fit-out for a Russian oligarch.

In 2015 he made *Elle Décor*'s list of the top 30 designers in Britain and was shortlisted for the *World Interiors News*'s Emerging Interior Practice of the Year award.

Azadi's design hallmark is the luxurious, efficient and ingenious use of spaces; his innovations run to fold-away kitchens, jewellery box-like pods for loft apartments and digitally fabricated staircases.

“I enjoy them all; there is a conciliating point in each project when you get to sit quietly in the space that you created and just soak it all in,” he says. ◉

Photo: Supplied



## Hamish Cameron OAM

» **Chief Executive Officer, Chief Entertainment Pty Ltd**

Bachelor of Laws, 2000; Master of Laws, 2005

“One thing is for certain in this day and age: there is never a dull moment in the media world,” says **Hamish Cameron OAM**.

Cameron’s contribution to entertainment is immense. He established Sydney’s first and most enduring FM station, Triple M, and introduced Australia’s pioneer multimedia broadcasting operation leading to a world first: the delivery of Internet Protocol TV (IPTV). He has written and produced world-acclaimed music documentaries and arranged morale-boosting entertainment in overseas deployment zones for Australia’s military personnel.

Since 2004 he has led television and digital production company Chief Entertainment, a subsidiary of Telstra. He has delivered some of the nation’s best-loved content, including premium coverage of major sporting and cultural events, and recently guided the development of the company’s new multimillion dollar, world-class studio to extend its capacity for high-end production.

In 2014, Cameron’s indelible contribution was recognised with a Medal of the Order of Australia.

## Jo Brigden-Jones

» **Olympic Sprint Kayaker**

Bachelor of Nursing, 2011

For **Jo Brigden-Jones**, the path to becoming Australia’s fastest female kayaker was paved with hard work and many, many paddling strokes.

“It didn’t happen overnight, and I have had many struggles, setbacks and obstacles to overcome along the way,” she explains. “Going through the hard times makes you appreciate the good times and your achievements even more.”

Coming to sprint kayaking via a talent identification program at age 13, Brigden-Jones has been a major force on the international paddling circuit over the past 10 years. She has claimed victory at many of the sport’s peak events, including the world championships and

world cup, and counts representing Australia at the 2012 London Olympic Games among her proudest moments.

Brigden-Jones has showed astonishing determination and resilience to reach the pinnacle of her sport, bouncing back from two shoulder reconstructions and the disappointment of narrowly missing out on selection for Rio 2016. She balances her extensive training commitments with a full-time career as a paramedic and actively inspiring other Australians – particularly young people – to overcome adversity and pursue healthier lifestyles.



“Going through the hard times makes you appreciate the good times and your achievements even more.”



## Alice Collins

### » Director, Insight Communications

Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Media Arts and Production), 2005

For **Alice Collins**, there is considerable job satisfaction in turning her extensive communication skills to promoting social and community wellbeing.

Collins co-founded Insight Communications in 2008 with her mother, Clare Collins, who is also a UTS alumna. This award-winning agency specialises in providing strategic public relations for not-for-profit clients across the cause, culture, community and health sectors, who are often operating on limited budgets.

Insight Communications has consistently demonstrated the effective, strategic use of public relations for the greater good in areas as diverse as public health, empowerment of disadvantaged women, the environment and child safety. In 2015 Collins and her mother were behind the acclaimed national Where's William? campaign to support the investigation into the disappearance of three-year-old William Tyrrell, lending their professional expertise and passion to the emotionally challenging operation on a pro bono basis.

Though Insight Communications has garnered significant national and international recognition for its work, Collins sees these accolades as empowering greater reach for the agency's social campaigns.

"Knowing that the awareness you generate can have a life-changing and sometimes life-saving impact on those you might never meet is what drives me," she says.

## Dr Ashod Donikian

### » Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Navisens

Bachelor of Engineering Diploma in Engineering Practice, 2003; Graduate Certificate in Research Commercialisation, 2008; Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering, 2010

As Founder and Chief Executive Officer of technology start-up Navisens, **Dr Ashod Donikian** is eliminating the often frustrating – and even dangerous – limitations of existing location technologies.

Navisens is a software-only location platform that operates indoors and outdoors without relying on Wi-Fi, Bluetooth or GPS. It processes data from inertial sensors found inside mobile devices to provide a 3D navigation solution without the need for costly infrastructure.

Unlike other location technologies, Donikian's system can function outdoors in dense city blocks, inside buildings, and even underground. The technology's applications are endless, from helping users navigate shopping malls to improving employee safety in challenging environments.

Since launching in Silicon Valley in 2013, Navisens has attracted the attention of angel investors, venture capitalists and some of the world's largest tech companies. Last year Donikian raised US\$2.6 million in capital seed funding to fuel his ambitious growth plans.

"As an engineer, one of the most rewarding things is building a company with deep technology, and surrounding yourself with a great team and watching them and the company grow," he says. ▶



Photo: John von Pamer



## James de Vries

» **Creative Director, *Harvard Business Review***  
Bachelor of Arts in Visual Communications, 1984

For **James de Vries**, good design is a seamless confluence of the analytic and the creative, where storytelling and layout bring out the best in each other.

“It’s easy to get swayed into thinking design is science, but we need to keep a very loose hand on the controls and allow for real lateral invention, plus straight-out beauty as well,” he says.

De Vries’s almost 30-year career is characterised by deep experience and innovation in visual communication. In his 18 years co-directing consultancy firm de Luxe & Associates, he was at the helm of a myriad of publishing transformations including major re-designs of the *Australian Financial Review*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*.

In 2009, de Luxe won the contract to re-design the iconic *Harvard Business Review* (*HBR*) and embrace emerging digital platforms, beating out some of the US’s top designers. De Vries’ multi-platform, audience-focused strategy paid such dividends that *HBR* asked him to drive change from within in the new role of Creative Director.

Under his expert guidance, *HBR* continues to grow in whole new ways – in direct contrast to the downward trends plaguing its competitors.

## Norman Laing

» **Partner and Executive Director, Waratah Partners: Lawyers + Consultants**

Bachelor of Laws in Australian Indigenous Law 2002;  
Graduate Certificate in Legal Practice 2003

**Norman Laing** is currently a partner in Aboriginal-owned and operated law and consultancy firm Waratah Partners and Acting Commissioner in the NSW Land and Environment Court. Throughout his career he has driven meaningful national engagement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues, particularly with regard to the criminal justice system and the protection of centuries-old Aboriginal cultural heritage.

In 2008 he was awarded the NSW Law and Justice Foundation Aboriginal Justice Award for

his outstanding commitment to improving access to justice for the state’s Aboriginal people.

Laing draws upon personal experience in his vocation to close the gap and empower his people. Since breaking free of a family cycle of disadvantage and crime, he believes that creating change is both an individual and a collective obligation.

“We all have a responsibility to assist and encourage others to change their negative circumstances and use their lived experiences as motivators, not barriers,” he says.

“We all have a responsibility to assist and encourage others to change their negative circumstances and use their lived experiences as motivators, not barriers.”







Photo: Nigel Pacquette

## Danielle Gubbay

» **Chief Executive, Roses Only**

Bachelor of Arts (International Business and Trade Law), 2008; Juris Doctor, 2009

Roses are a part of so many of life's meaningful moments, and **Danielle Gubbay** sees bringing Australia's most loved online rose delivery brand to the UK as an incredible privilege.

Gubbay is Chief Executive of Roses Only, based in London. The brand's customer reach is global and the scope of her role is immense – on any given day she might deal with ethical farms in Ecuador, government departments, customers in different time zones and innovation rollouts.

Lured away from a 10-year career in banking and finance, Gubbay was chosen to drive the brand's global expansion, and she has delivered a monthly growth rate of 20 per cent.

Gubbay says that having a ground-up perspective on how the business works is crucial to her success in the top job.

"I believe in leading by example," she says. "There is no job that I won't do to achieve our goals – this includes having to drive a forklift!"

## Lana Hopkins

» **Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Mon Purse**

Bachelor of Business, 2005

Putting the customer in the driver's seat made **Lana Hopkins** a major force in the international luxury leather goods market.

Hopkins founded Mon Purse in 2014, a booming start-up bringing the 'design your own handbag' concept online and in-store. Innovative 3D technology allows the user to simply – and enjoyably – build bags, clutches, or accessories such as passport holders to suit their individual style and needs. With more than 50 million possible combinations and the best in materials and craftsmanship, Mon Purse prides itself on delivering a premium product without the unattainable price tag.

Two years on, Mon Purse enjoys a monthly turnover in excess of \$1 million. Building on a Sydney-based retail store and a national presence through Myer, Hopkins set her sights on the US and UK and landed a coveted partnership with two of the world's most prestigious department stores: Selfridges and Bloomingdales.

Hopkins says the next stage of the company's exponential growth leverages collaborations with key influencers to bring the Mon Purse experience to consumers across Asia and Europe.

"To create an unforgettable customer experience worldwide, theatre in retail is everything," she explains. ■■■





# EMBRACING THE THOUGHT REVOLUTION

The Faculty of  
Transdisciplinary  
Innovation will change  
the way UTS graduates  
tackle today's problems.

STORY BY MELINDA HAM  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN CHEUNG

**M**ore than 50 years ago, Professor Louise McWhinnie's mother was a midwife who cycled around inner city London delivering babies at home. Midwives at that time operated on their own, carried oxygen tanks in their bicycle baskets and worked with little technological support – not even a mobile phone.

Today in Australia, many midwifery students learn about the birthing process on high-tech mannikins that simulate lifelike contractions, cry with pain and then actually give birth.

These mannikins reflect not only the changes in education in one discipline in a generation, but also the impact of collaboration across disciplines – industrial designers, medical experts (including midwives), engineers and robotics experts all working together.

McWhinnie, the Dean of UTS's new Faculty of Transdisciplinary Innovation (FTDi), cites this as an example of how work practices and workplaces are changing in often unexpected ways due to the transdisciplinary combination of expertise, and why there's a growing demand for graduates who can lead and succeed in this collaborative environment.

"We have had an Industrial Revolution, and now a Technology Revolution and Thought Revolution," she says.

"Employers desire graduates who not only have the depth of disciplinary knowledge, but also agility and a breadth of thinking."

While other universities globally are also launching innovation and creativity subjects, McWhinnie says UTS is the first in the world to have a fully formed faculty that brings together a collaborative approach, weaving through and across disciplines. Offering Bachelors and Masters degrees as well as research opportunities, the new faculty is leading the university into uncharted waters.

"I have been told that these courses and now this new faculty could only happen at UTS," McWhinnie says.

"And it's true because, as an institution, we are not siloed by the perceived boundaries of our disciplines. Instead we are building an extraordinary ability in exchanging ideas and new ways of thinking together."

### **Creative intelligence**

The genesis of the new faculty began in 2014, with the launch of the groundbreaking Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation (BCII) degree, of which McWhinnie was a part.

Students don't undertake the BCII in isolation but combine it as a double degree, choosing from 25 degrees

**"We are building an extraordinary ability in exchanging ideas and new ways of thinking together."**

**– Professor Louise McWhinnie**

that range from midwifery and advanced science to law and fashion design. Once UTS put this degree out into the student market, they received an immediate reaction; this year alone, there were more than 3600 applicants for only 200 places.

And it isn't just the students who are engaging, McWhinnie says: "Parents also recognise that the world is changing rapidly and that students need to be at the forefront of change; they don't want their children to enter an institution simply resting on its history, but one facilitating the ways of thinking required for their futures in a rapidly changing world."

Much of the motivation for the new degree came from industry, adds Dr Paul Brown, who teaches both in the FTDi and the UTS Business School.

"Companies love what we are doing because they know that this kind of learning adds value to graduates," he says.

"And it's everyone; governments, not-for-profits, multinationals and local start-ups ... they are all facing challenges that can't be understood or solved by people from a single discipline."

In the BCII degree, students work on a wide range of real client briefs and projects provided by established companies and start-ups. They learn critical and creative thinking, problem solving and develop entrepreneurial skills through hackathons, hothouse days and think tanks.

"We have companies asking us to work with them. They are reaching out to us and we are fielding their phone calls," says McWhinnie. Visa, Accenture, Google and many others have all contributed their time, staff and projects to the students.

In their final year, students go out into up to two workplace internships from start-ups to multinational companies to social enterprises to test out their abilities.

FTDi also offers a Diploma in Innovation where students can experience much of the full degree through intensive summer and winter schools. Forensic chemist Associate Professor Alison Beavis, who is the new FTDi deputy dean, has taught at these intensive sessions.

"It's a special thing to be part of," Beavis says. "To see students enter their first session with a little fear ◀



See the Faculty of Transdisciplinary Innovation in action at [www.alumni.uts.edu.au/tower](http://www.alumni.uts.edu.au/tower)

**Professor Louise McWhinnie, Dean of UTS's new Faculty of Transdisciplinary Innovation (FTDi).**

but also excitement and energy, and then after a short time seeing them emerge, utterly exhausted but with a changed perspective after mixing in with students of all the other disciplines and learning about critical thinking and problem solving. At some point things just start to crystallise for them.”

The Bachelor of Technology and Innovation (BTi) is the faculty's stand-alone undergraduate degree designed for students who want to work in a wide range of technology-related careers that brings together practices and strategies from a wide range of other faculties.

**“Companies love what we are doing because they know that this kind of learning adds value to graduates.”**

**– Dr Paul Brown**


### **Animation and visualisation**

This year FTDi has introduced a new postgraduate degree, a Master of Animation and Visualisation (MAV), in partnership with Animal Logic, the multi-award winning creators of the animation and visual effects for *Babe*, *Happy Feet*, *The Hunger Games* and many other films. It's the only industry-led degree of its kind in Australia.

At the UTS Animal Logic Academy, a custom-built studio at UTS, the first 30 students began the course in January, working within a full-time production schedule, five days a week.

“This mirrors the industry's real practices as the students will collaborate on ‘live’ creative briefs,” McWhinnie says.

Over the coming months, these students will hone their skills in storyboarding, graphic design, character design and background design, as well as rigging, layout effects and lighting. Master classes and intensive industry mentoring will buttress the studio learning.



Rekha Dhanaram (left)  
and Dominica Ingui.

The course has been formed as a result of collaboration between the faculties of Engineering, IT, Design and Architecture, as well as Arts and Social Sciences.

At the same time, this year FTDi is also intending to act as a research nexus for students and academics delving into issues that cut across faculties and focus on transdisciplinary creativity.

### **The future**

By the end of this year, the first cohort of BCII students will be poised to graduate. Dominica Ingui, who is studying a combined degree with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Public Communication), says although she doesn't know what career she is hurtling into, she believes BCII has equipped her with the initiative, resilience and creative confidence to take the next step.

"Technological advances and social trends will come and go, but our agile professional qualities will prove to be enduring. I know it," she says. "We're on the brink of our journey and we refuse to wait around for it to happen to us."

Rekha Dhanaram, who combined the BCII with a Bachelor of Design in Visual Communications explains what she'll take away from the degree.

**"Technological advances and social trends will come and go, but our agile professional qualities will prove to be enduring. I know it."**

**– Dominica Ingui**

"At the core, what I've learnt is the ability to tackle the unknown. And I believe that this ability to work towards something that isn't tangible yet in any form is a skill that will benefit any career path I choose to take."

She hopes to combine her passion of service and environmental design with social entrepreneurship.

Developing these new skills are the key to Australia's future argues Brown.

"Innovation is what will drive Australia's economy, maintain our high wages and our standard of living," he says.

"These students have this; they have developed a new frame of reference. They are sensitive to other perspectives and see the world in a whole new way." ■■■

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Find out more at [www.uts.edu.au/future-students/transdisciplinary-innovation](http://www.uts.edu.au/future-students/transdisciplinary-innovation).

# A REWARDING JOURNEY

STORY BY AMOS WONG PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN CHEUNG

It was an extraordinary celebration when Zyrallyn Bacani stepped on to the stage at her graduation ceremony in late 2016. As she received a Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism), Bacani became UTS's 200,000th graduate. That's no small feat. The occasion is not only a milestone in the university's history; Bacani and her fellow colleagues have joined a vibrant international community of alumni, which includes *Origins* graduates from a number of antecedent institutions that transformed into the UTS of today.

Many of these innovators and leaders continue to work with UTS to share its vision, nurture a new generation of students, and make a difference around the world.

"There's a sense of pride for the institution in the alumni community, where alumni act as our advocates and ambassadors, and they're really proud to do so," says Kristy White, Deputy Director of Alumni Relations.

Since joining UTS last September, White has been working on new ways to engage with, inform, and further develop the community. The Alumni Advantage program, an initiative her predecessor oversaw that gives UTS graduates a 10 per cent savings on all degrees, signed up nearly 300 applicants for further studies at the year's start. More exclusive benefits are coming in 2017.

"Two key catchwords come to mind," says White about her vision: "to make sure that UTS has a sense of relevance and meaning in the lives of our alumni population."

## Changing lives around the world

UTS alumni are inspiring and changing lives in wide-ranging fields over the world. A lifelong commitment to the fight for human rights, democracy and empowerment of women garnered Sekai Holland the Sydney Peace Prize in 2012. The former Zimbabwean Co-Minister of State for National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration continues to campaign for a country built on peace, justice and freedom. In Australia, she founded the Anti-Apartheid Movement in the late '60s, supported the Aboriginal community and was an activist in the early environmental movement.

Technology entrepreneur and author, Adrian Turner, is the CEO of Data61, Australia's largest data innovation group within the CSIRO. Prior to this, he co-founded the Silicon Valley-based enterprise, Mocana, which specialises in security systems, apps, and connected devices. He was also the chairman of Advance, a not-for-profit network that connects 20,000 expatriate Australians across 90 countries. Turner is now racing to help Australia build new industries for the digital age.

**"There's a sense of pride for the institution in the alumni community, where alumni act as our advocates and ambassadors." – Kristy White**



Troy Lum co-founded Hopscotch Films in 2002, and is recognised as one of the world's top 50 young film executives. He got his start at Dendy, and was instrumental in snapping up the local rights to *The Blair Witch Project* and *Amélie*. Hopscotch has since become eOne Films Australia, where Lum continues as its managing director.

Last year's UTS Chancellor's Award recipient, Dr Frances Hughes ONZM, is the first CEO of the International Council of Nurses appointed from the Southern Hemisphere. The federation comprises over 130 national nurses' associations working to ensure quality care and policies globally. Dr Hughes also consults on nursing, policy and mental health with the World Health Organization, governments and non-government organisations.

#### **A focus on volunteerism**

White envisages a broader culture of volunteerism at UTS for alumni to give back in meaningful, relevant ways.

"You can give back with your work, your wealth or your wisdom," says White.

A pilot online e-mentoring platform launching later this year enables alumni, regardless of geographical location, to provide their time and expertise to current students.

Volunteering opportunities abound at alumni network and chapter events across Australia and the globe. These engagement events now provide opportunities in professional development, networking and thought leadership. ▶

**UTS's 200,000th graduate,  
Zyrilyn Bacani**



Dr Frances Hughes (left) and Sekai Holland

A 2016 London event, for instance, was organised by local alumni featuring an academic from the UTS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to discuss Brexit and its future implications.

White adds that new graduates returning to their home country greatly benefit from the participation of local alumni. “They’ve been away for three, four, maybe six years” she explains. “Quite a lot of them are returning without a professional network. So providing that UTS alumni network in the first instance as a bit of a soft landing for them is something that adds value.”

### Enhancing communications and experiences

Current students also need nurturing. A new program, Alum From Day One, will connect with them to foster future engagement. There are three components, White explains: firstly, it will increase alumni messaging throughout the student experience to raise awareness and convey the value of being a member of the alumni community. That way, when students graduate, “they understand what we are there for, what we can offer, and why they should stay connected.”

The overall graduating experience will be enriched. “It’s a milestone moment,” White says. “We’re already working closely with the Graduations Unit on how we can enhance graduations to make them more meaningful and really sing.”

The third component involves professional development and coaching for those who are about to graduate or who have just



“You can give back with your work, your wealth or your wisdom.”  
– Kristy White

graduated. Some programs being considered include setting up an effective LinkedIn profile, interview dos and don’ts, and dressing for success. “Basic stuff,” says White, “but something that I think is very relevant and helpful to young alumni.”

She is also ramping up social media and online channels to improve alumni communications. Chinese UTS groups on WeChat may have heard her Lunar New Year greetings earlier this year in Mandarin (White lived in China and talks the talk). Changes to the monthly alumni newsletter and the Events page on the alumni website will tailor content to be relevant for domestic and international readers. She’s looking forward to the response from a new section inviting alumni to share their journey since graduation and their memories of UTS, and facilitating access to new initiatives in the future.

“We have a great team here,” says White. “It’s a small but a mighty team. In Alumni Relations we have a lot of fun and work really hard; our alumni are busy people, and we really want to have a meaningful and relevant presence in their lives.” ■■





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STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY  
BY KEVIN CHEUNG

Professor Bryce Vissel  
(fourth from right) and  
the CNRM.

# UNLOCKING THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

The Centre for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine at UTS sits on the cusp of a revolution as it unlocks the secrets of the central nervous system.

Ground-breaking research at UTS's Centre of Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine (CNRM) is bringing new hope to Australians whose lives have been devastated by Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, stroke, and the paralysing effects of a spinal cord injury.

Lead by Professor Bryce Vissel, the CNRM has a unique opportunity to become known as a world-leading centre for spinal cord injury by providing a level of recovery from spinal cord injury previously thought impossible; as well as a world-leading platform for molecular, cellular and behavioural research that will ultimately benefit the lives of people suffering from neurodegenerative disorders, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

The human brain and spinal cord remain the most significant mysteries in science and modern medicine. Neurological and psychiatric disorders such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, stroke, spinal cord injury, and mental illnesses such as depression are some of the most challenging problems in human health and take a toll on individuals, families and society.



“We are on the edge of a revolution in neuroscience and brain repair,” says Vissel.

“Our goal is to contribute to a step change in our understanding and treatment of these diseases.”

Alzheimer’s disease alone affects more than 413,106 Australians. That number increases by 244 each day. By 2025, that figure is expected to rise to more than 536,164, with the annual cost of simply caring for them reaching \$18.7 billion.

Parkinson’s disease affects more than 70,000 Australians, with 32 new cases diagnosed every day. In a single year, the health system costs of Parkinson’s disease amount to \$567.7 million.

Spinal cord injuries in Australia also carry a considerable national cost – \$2 billion annually for the estimated 15,000 people who have lost not just the use of their limbs, but also their independence and their control over numerous functions we take for granted, such as sexual function, bowel control and bladder control.

Using a clinical focus, the CNRM will incorporate the most promising approaches from around the world into its own local research with a view to developing superior techniques and achieving improved outcomes.

Unlike other research centres, the CNRM has the ability to collaborate in unprecedented ways with unrelated disciplines; with physicists, engineers and nurses, as well as external organisations such as Spinal Cord Injuries Australia and SpinalCure Australia. With so much potential at its fingertips, it sits on the precipice of a revolution in neuroscience and brain repair as it edges closer towards bringing meaningful benefits, potential recovery, and most importantly, real hope, to these patients and their families.

Supporters who have seen Vissel at work do not doubt his resolve.

“He has an unbelievable commitment to creating an improvement in neuroscience that is everlasting,” says Andrew Boyarsky, whose family has made a significant investment in the CNRM. “It’s his commitment, his intelligence, his unorthodoxy and his compassion that set him apart.” ■

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For more information, contact [advancement@uts.edu.au](mailto:advancement@uts.edu.au)

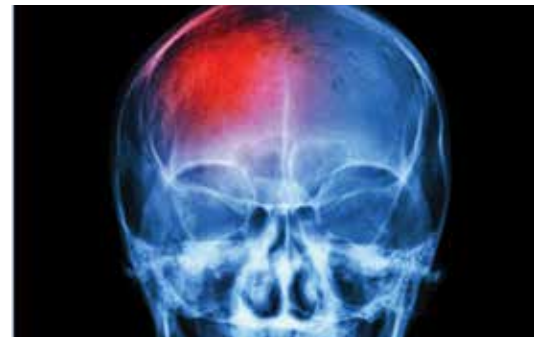
You can see the amazing work of the CNRM at [www.alumni.uts.edu.au/tower](http://www.alumni.uts.edu.au/tower)

## What is the CNRM working on?



### Spinal Cord Injury Program

This involves several projects aimed at restoring movement and bodily functions to those who have lost it through spinal cord injury. The CNRM will be working with UCLA’s Professor Reggie Edgerton, whose breakthrough techniques in electrostimulation have enabled 20 patients to regain some movement in their limbs. This program will also be driving research in stem cell regeneration, exercise rehabilitation and pain alleviation.



### Learning, Memory and Movement Program

The CNRM will be advancing our understanding and treatment of Parkinson’s disease and Alzheimer’s disease through its research of neurogenesis, the mechanisms in the brain that drive regeneration and repair, and the cellular and behavioural mechanisms that form the links between Alzheimer’s disease and traumatic disorders.

# WILLING

## Laurie Cowled's legacy gift to UTS will benefit Indigenous women for generations.

Philanthropist Laurie Cowled has a lasting contribution to make, and she wants to make it with UTS.

She and UTS are committed to providing quality education for Indigenous students. While UTS has fostered Indigenous opportunities and learning spaces such as Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, Cowled has been supporting the education of several Indigenous UTS students for several years via an endowment matched by the university. Now Cowled is ensuring Indigenous UTS students will continue to receive her support beyond her own lifetime.

Cowled's legal will includes a bequest that builds on the endowment to educate at least one Indigenous female UTS student per year, every year, in perpetuity.

Her vision is "to help the long-term improvement of the lives of the First Australians".

"Three per cent of the population gets a pretty rough deal and I'd like to help to equal that out," she says. "I think that educating young women is the way to go."

Cowled's personal interest and research into Indigenous education has convinced her that women, as the primary influencers of children, provide the strongest pathways to spreading the impact of education to the next generation.

The choice to partner with UTS came after a friend told her "how well UTS looks after Indigenous students". Cowled says "she convinced me that UTS is the place that I should try and achieve my aims".

For Cowled, supporting disadvantaged students is a joyful, rewarding experience

which has so far paid off: "a number of my students have achieved quite a lot thanks to their education at UTS."

She chuckles when she hears herself refer to them as "my students", explaining that she always feels "a bit motherly towards them".

Cowled has broad philanthropic interests, supporting girls seeking education in business, science and the arts – the latter in honour of Cowled's late sister. A country girl from Cootamundra, NSW, Cowled also helped establish a foundation there to fund country students pursuing tertiary education.

She enjoys the connections she has made with students. "They help me to feel very much part of the younger part of Australia. Here I am getting quite on in years and yet I have a connection with the younger people. And I feel that's very worthwhile," she says.

The joy of this work is sprinkled with the occasional exquisite surprise, such as the time one of her PhD students painted a portrait of Cowled and submitted it to the Archibald Prize competition. "I don't suppose it'll get hung, but anyway ..."

Impressed with how UTS has applied her vision and investment, Cowled reminds others who might be considering leaving a legacy gift that "this remarkable institution needs much support to enable it to continue its innovative work with all students".

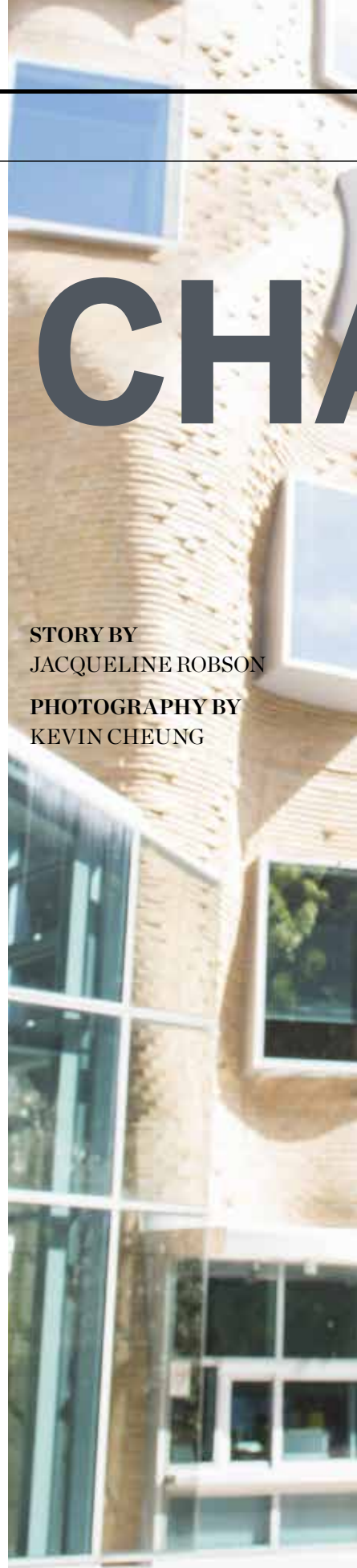
Cowled's bequest to UTS as part of the Creating Futures Society will continue to enable and inspire Indigenous women to further their education.

"It makes my work there more definite and more lasting." ■■■

# CHA

STORY BY  
JACQUELINE ROBSON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
KEVIN CHEUNG



# CHANGE



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Visit [www.giving.uts.edu.au](http://www.giving.uts.edu.au) or contact  
Andrew Graves on [andrew.graves@uts.edu.au](mailto:andrew.graves@uts.edu.au) to find  
out more information about how you can make a legacy gift.

# UTS-led consortium secures \$50m in funding for digital services to the food industry



Dr Mike Briers, AO

A new Food Agility CRC (Cooperative Research Centre) based at UTS's Faculty of Engineering and IT (FEIT) has secured \$50 million of funding over 10 years through the Federal Government's Cooperative Research Centres program.

The successful bid consortium is led by the Knowledge Economy Institute, established in 2015 in FEIT together with QUT and Curtin University.

"Global food production needs to double by 2050 and the opportunity that presents to the Australian food industry is enormous. Yet we are lagging behind our international competitors in preparing for a digital future," said Dr Mike Briers AO, the institution's founding CEO.

"The Food Agility CRC, backed by government, will be an independent, trusted intermediary to accelerate research adoption and commercialisation – including agTech start-ups – to improve digital services to the sector."

The Food Agility bid raised more than \$160 million in commitments for the proposal and has 54 partners across the food value chain, including 15 technology providers, 11 food production companies, seven service providers, seven research providers, six regional development agencies, five government agencies and three industry networks.

"Our unique combination of partners across the value chain will fast-track the

digital transformation of Australia's food and agricultural sector,"

Dr Briers said.

"Food Agility will use contemporary agile and user-centric design principles, combined with deep engagement with the food sector, to optimise adoption of digital services."

UTS Vice-Chancellor Attila Brungs acknowledged how the Food Agility CRC extends UTS's working relationships with the Australian Technology Network of universities, and our colleague regional universities.

"We have one of the most advantaged agricultural industries in the world and look forward to working to advance the sector, and demonstrate how innovation is crucial to providing opportunities and prosperity for all segments of Australian society. We will do this by bringing one of our key strengths – data science – to this critical sector, and by applying our proven trans-disciplinary research approach to the important challenges in food and agriculture: combining data science with the disciplines of law, social science, engineering and business," he said.

Food Agility CRC projects currently underway include:

- **Horticulture:** Consortium partners are using the Internet of Things to improve the shelf life of bagged lettuce, which is dramatically affected by its water content when harvested. Combining on-farm data with data from processing and

retailers optimises those harvesting decisions. Just one day of shelf life dramatically improves yields, reduces food wastage, worth billions to the food industry.

- **Food export markets:** The CRC is working with the industry growth centre Food Innovation Australia Ltd (FIAL) to develop a Market Insights & Information portal which will use real-time information to produce qualitative and quantitative insights to support businesses interested in entering new markets, both domestically and overseas.
- **Finance:** Working to provide viticulturists with better and more timely information so they can benchmark themselves and identify opportunities to improve farming practices, reduce costs and improve the quality and yield of their produce.

Dr Anne Astin will be the inaugural Chair and Professor Bronwyn Harch of QUT is the Research Director.

Executive Director of the Australian Farm Institute Mick Keogh, who will be an independent Board Member, says the Centre provides Australia with the opportunity to match and surpass the capabilities of global competitors and optimise the enormous potential the sector holds for the Australian economy.

Learn more about the Food Agility CRC at [www.foodagility.com](http://www.foodagility.com).

Photo: Anna Zhu Photography



A UTS nursing student works on one of the school's high-tech mannikins.

## UTS ranked best in Australia for nursing

The nursing and midwifery programs at the UTS are ranked fourth in the world and number one in Australia, according to the most recent QS World University Rankings by Subject. The result is a substantial lift on the previous year's QS subject ranking of 20th in the world.

"This outstanding result in our global rankings position reflects the high-quality nursing education provided by UTS and our commitment to producing

work-ready nurses and midwives able to perform with distinction across the health care system," says Professor John Daly, Dean of the Faculty of Health.

"As a bold, young university, we look to bring innovative and practice-based nursing to life, focusing on teaching excellence, ground-breaking research and healthcare leadership.

"Australians continue to hold the profession of nursing in the highest esteem and we can be rightly proud of our contribution over more than three decades to educating so many of those passionate and dedicated nurses."

Nursing and midwifery students at UTS receive an integrated approach to

learning, becoming familiar with real-world environments from day one, with access to start-of-the-art facilities and clinical practice laboratories with an emphasis on contemporary patient- and family-centred healthcare.

On the international stage, the UTS World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development provides leadership and support for nurses and midwives throughout our region.

The QS World University Rankings by Subject highlight the world's top universities over 42 subjects, based on academic reputation, employer reputation and research impact.

## Fulbright Scholarships to take two UTS graduates to Harvard

Two UTS graduates were among 48 scholars who received Fulbright scholarships in March.

Law graduate Alison Whittaker was awarded the 2017 Fulbright Indigenous Postgraduate Scholarship. Whittaker intends to use the Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship to complete a Master of Laws (LLM) program at Harvard. She hopes to explore similarities and tensions in the enforcement and development of Indigenous lawmaking with emerging responses by Indigenous women against gendered violence.

The other recipient is Arjun Bisen, a UTS Business School alumnus, who was awarded the Fulbright Anne Wexler Scholarship. Bisen hopes to research China's relationship with "weak states", its impact on security in the Indo-Pacific region, and possible responses by Australian and US governments.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship foreign exchange scholarship program of the USA, aimed at increasing binational collaboration, cultural understanding, and the exchange of ideas.

**UTS graduates enjoy a range of exclusive benefits as part of the UTS Alumni Advantage:**

- Save 10 per cent on further study;
- Access the UTS Library for free;
- Receive professional development and networking opportunities;
- Source support for your start-up through UTS Hatchery+ and
- Share your experience by volunteering.

Find out more at [www.alumni.uts.edu.au/benefits](http://www.alumni.uts.edu.au/benefits)



## UTS CELEBRATES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FIRST ENGINEERS

UTS's Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology marked 50 years of teaching civil and structural engineering in February – a tradition that began at UTS's antecedent institution, the New South Wales Institute of Technology (NSWIT).

Sixty former students, academics and heads of school gathered at the new home of the faculty – the much admired metallic Building 11 now gracing Ultimo's Broadway to celebrate the occasion.

"Many of our UTS and NSWIT alumni are leaders in their field – real captains of the industry. They have had an impact on our environment, on major building projects throughout Australia and overseas," said Alan Brady, from UTS's School of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Brady, who has been involved with the school for more than 35 years, welcomed past students and staff, including members of the very first engineering cohort. Ken Griffiths, a former staff member, who at 90 years of age travelled from his home in Lake Macquarie, NSW, to attend the event.

Keynote speaker Professor Ian Burnett, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and IT, observed that the school's history and culture of practical learning has been

critical in informing its future: "Our practice-based focus was ideal for the evolution of our strong research culture. Many key appointments of outstanding researchers over the years have ensured the Faculty's place in driving UTS research success."

Together with the five living heads of school (Steve Bakoss, Geoff O'Loughlin, Bijan Samali, Vigg Vigneswaren and John Zhou), the group of civil, structural, local government, and environmental engineers were able to put aside old rivalries to candidly reminisce upon favourite personalities, buildings, old hangouts, and various items of campus furniture that became part of the fabric of the UTS experience for generations of students.

Drawing the biggest laughs, Brady remarked, "Remembering things that happened 50 years ago is getting easier. It's remembering what happened last week that's the problem!"

The reunion observed many significant changes to the way engineering is taught at UTS. In 1967, the first student intake was capped at 90 per year. Today, it stands at around 400. The faculty has also expanded its industry links to overseas partnership agreements, such as the establishment of the Joint Engineering and Innovation Institute with Shanghai University.



What were your memories of studying on campus? We'd love to hear where your journey has taken you. Share your story with us at [www.alumni.uts.edu.au/mystory](http://www.alumni.uts.edu.au/mystory)



## UTS RECOGNISED FOR REIMAGINING EDUCATION



Professor Louise McWhinnie

UTS has won a bronze award at the third annual Reimagine Education Awards, a year-long global competition designed to uncover transformative initiatives across the educational sector.

UTS's unique Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation (BCII) combined degree was jointly awarded bronze in Presence Learning with Falmouth University in the UK.

It's a category for innovative classroom-based pedagogy resulting in enhanced student learning, recognising that "reimagining education involves more than just devising ingenious technological solutions to problems."

The BCII combines knowledge cultures from 25 degrees and seven university faculties, in collaboration with industry, public sector organisations and communities, to prepare students who can spearhead innovation in a rapidly changing world.

Its success has led to the launch

for next year of a stand-alone three-year undergraduate degree based on the same principles, the Bachelor of Technology and Innovation (BTi).

In December the Head of Creative Intelligence and Innovation and Dean of the new Faculty of Transdisciplinary Innovation, Professor Louise McWhinnie, was in Philadelphia to accept the Presence Learning award.

"To be not only shortlisted from such a wide range of international applicants, but then invited to Philadelphia to present for this prestigious award, is a reflection of what UTS has invested into the BCII and transdisciplinarity," McWhinnie said.

"The award must be regarded as not only an award for the core team and the broad team of staff and industry who have so wholeheartedly developed and built the degree, but also an award for the students who have made the BCII what it has so quickly become."



## UTS IN HISTORY

Sixty years ago, the Orange Grove Annex of the Balmain Teachers' College was established to educate female students. It moved to Lindfield and became known as the William Balmain College of Advanced Education in 1971. It subsequently became the Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education (KCAE) in 1974 and expanded to teach business, law, and information-related courses. In 1990, KCAE amalgamated with UTS to become its Kuring-gai campus, which it remained until its closure in 2016.





## UTS RECEPTION HIGHLIGHTS

UTS recently held receptions for its international alumni in India, with events held in Mumbai and New Delhi.

UTS Alumni Receptions are held across the globe throughout the year, and are a fantastic opportunity to catch up with old classmates and to forge new links with a powerful network of professionals in a variety of dynamic industries.

## OUR UPCOMING MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI EVENTS:



### UK

27 June – London

### China and Hong Kong

22 June – Guangzhou

23 June – Hong Kong

28 June – Shanghai

30 June – Beijing

### Vietnam

22-28 July – Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City

[www.alumni.uts.edu.au/international](http://www.alumni.uts.edu.au/international)



“It’s wonderful to see the transformation taking place in UTS ... it makes you realise that Australia is in fact a very competitive destination for the education market globally.” – Emily Menon, Executive Director and Founder of Innovoid Advisory Services.



“The effort and time they’re investing in connecting UTS alumni across the world simply proves their unparalleled passion for excellence!”  
– Anubhav Jain, Co-Founder and CTO of GoDoctor Solutions.

# GET INVOLVED WITH THE #UTSALUMNI COMMUNITY!

AS A UTS GRADUATE, YOU JOIN MORE THAN 200,000 ALUMNI WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE ACROSS THE GLOBE!

STAYING CONNECTED TO UTS MEANS YOU ENJOY THE ALUMNI ADVANTAGE – A RANGE OF EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR UTS GRADUATES.

## 1 NETWORK FOR SUCCESS

### Receptions and events

Share your ideas and experiences with a network of like-minded professionals at lectures, workshops and social events, held locally and internationally.

See what's happening [alumni.uts.edu.au/events](http://alumni.uts.edu.au/events)

## 2 STAY IN THE LOOP

### News and updates

Get the latest alumni news, achievements, campus research, and more at the UTS Alumni website. Also don't forget to sign up for our alumni newsletters and *Tower* magazine.

Read all about it [alumni.uts.edu.au](http://alumni.uts.edu.au)

## 3 FIND YOUR DREAM JOB

### Recent graduates

Access the latest job-search strategies, advertised roles, professional development events and services with our dedicated Alumni Careers Coach.

Learn more [alumni.uts.edu.au/careers](http://alumni.uts.edu.au/careers)

## 4 CONNECT WITH COLLEAGUES

### It's easy to stay social

Create your own career-building network with us through LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to get the latest news, advice, opportunities and inspiration.

Follow #utsalumni or find the interest groups most relevant to you [alumni.uts.edu.au/social](http://alumni.uts.edu.au/social)

## 5 A LIFETIME OF LEARNING

### Save on study

Hone your skills or pursue your passions through further study. Best of all, UTS alumni automatically save 10% on degree programs and a selection of short courses.

Be inspired [alumni.uts.edu.au/learn](http://alumni.uts.edu.au/learn)

**GET THE UTS ALUMNI ADVANTAGE!**  
[alumni.uts.edu.au/benefits](http://alumni.uts.edu.au/benefits)

*UTS celebrates our 200,000th graduate, Zyrallyn Bacani (Bachelor of Arts in Communication – Journalism), during graduation ceremonies on UTS Alumni Green*



# INTERNATIONAL FUTURES START WITH UTS:INSEARCH

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