

TOWER

UTS: ALUMNI

Issue 5: Summer 2011



**SETTING
THE DIAL**
THE FUTURE OF
COMMUNITY RADIO

**ELITE
ATHLETES**
AUSTRALIA'S
SPORTING
STARS AT UTS

**Who
inspires
you?**

MEET THE 2011
ALUMNI AWARD
WINNERS

**PEELING BACK
THE SKIN**
THE PROCESS OF
PLASTINATION

SHINING LIGHTS
LAUNCH OF THE UTS
LUMINARIES



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UTS Alumni Award winners (clockwise from left):
Graham Jahn
Matthew Cleary
Guy Templeton
Karieshma Kabani
Rangan Srikhanta
Drenka Andjelic
Photography by Fiora Sacco

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What does the future hold for higher education in Australia?

It's hard to escape the sound and fury of the national public debate about new laws to price carbon to tackle climate change, and the Australian Government's response to processing asylum seekers.

But behind the scenes in Canberra two pieces of very important public policy work are being carried out that will have significant and lasting impacts on Australia's future.

One is the review into funding for all Australian schools, chaired by Australian businessman and philanthropist David Gonski, and the other is the Higher Education Base Funding Review. Both are expected to be finalised by the end of this year.

Together, these reviews are a 'once-in-a-generation' opportunity to get the resourcing principles for almost the entire education system in this country right.

The Higher Education Base Funding Review is headed by former South Australian Education Minister, Jane Lomax-Smith. It is a wide-ranging review looking at the very structure and funding principles that will potentially determine the quality and international competitiveness of Australia's universities for generations.

FROM THE VC'S DESK

WITH UTS VICE-CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR ROSS MILBOURNE

The UTS response to this review is to argue that we need world-class resourcing and principles of equity to be applied system-wide – not just confined to a handful of institutions.

If Australia is to maximise its human capital and promote a civil society, every undergraduate student should have access to a similar quality educational experience irrespective of geographical location or socio-economic circumstances.

Moreover, our sector has an ageing workforce both in Australia and globally, so that the investments by other countries in education, if not matched in Australia, will create immense difficulties for us to attract and retain high-quality academic staff.

The high value of the Australian dollar is likely to be here for some time, triggering a restructure of the Australian economy. Manufacturing and some primary industries will recede and our economy will need to grow in services and high value-added industries. This requires a highly educated workforce.

If Australia is to maximise its human capital and promote a civil society, every undergraduate student should have access to a similar quality educational experience irrespective of geographical location or socio-economic circumstances

The university sector is very aware of the difficult balancing act facing the Federal Government as it tries to maintain Australia's enviable economic position in the face of global turmoil, and has engaged constructively and positively with Government on these hard questions.

For its part, UTS has argued that Government needs to benchmark total resources – from public and private sources – per student across the OECD and use this data to work to a goal of reaching the OECD average for Australian universities by 2020.

Among myriad other social and productivity benefits delivered through the creation of a highly educated workforce, the Government is more than repaid its investment via the tax system, as university graduates earn a much higher income over their lifetime than non-graduates.

Universities Australia (UA) is calling for an immediate per-student public funding increase of 10%, and modelled the productivity gains to support this.

According to this modelling, the pay-off from this investment is vast, with a projected cumulative net benefit to the public purse of \$325.5 billion taken forward over the period 2010 – 2040.

So we will watch with interest as the response to the reviews into schools and higher education funding plays out.

As beneficiaries of a good education, I think it's incumbent on all of us in the UTS community to keep the value of a well-funded and resourced university system alive in the public debate. ■

OUR TALENTED GRADUATES

A university can be judged by the calibre of its graduates. UTS is proud to have a long list of alumni who now provide inspiration to others, who have become change-makers, and who impact their world positively. Each year, the University comes together through the Alumni Awards to celebrate some of these acutely talented people who began their professional life at UTS.

Following almost 100 nominations submitted from alumni, staff and friends of the University, UTS is proud to present the Alumni Award winners for 2011.

You can find out more about the winners from this year's awards on the UTS alumni website www.alumni.uts.edu.au

Alumni Award for Excellence – Faculty of Engineering and IT

Drenka Andjelic
(B Engineering, 1996)
Owner and Managing Director
of Construction Assignments

"I'm the captain of my own ship and I take the responsibility of providing a work environment (that's genuine, supportive, enthusiastic and fun) very seriously"



Alumni Award for Excellence – Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building

Graham Jahn
(B Architecture, 1981)
Director of City, Planning,
Development and Transport
at the City of Sydney

"Architecture and city design is a competition of interests... and just how that competition is fashioned, resolved, absorbed and imprinted, largely decides the character and spirit of a city's physical form"



Alumni Award for Excellence – UTS Business School

Guy Templeton
(MBA, 1992)
Managing Director, GD
Templeton Holdings

"I think it is really important to do what you enjoy. You won't have a fulfilling life if you don't. But I don't always know what I'll enjoy until I dip into an area and see if I have a taste for it"



Young Alumni Award

Karieshma Kabani
(B Science, 2006)
Transplant Scientist,
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

"To all the young people I would say follow your dreams no matter what they are, as long as you enjoy what you do, you can achieve anything"



Alumni Award for Excellence – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Shawn A-in-chut Atleo
(M Education, 2003)
National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Canada

"A huge inspiration and mentor for me was my late Grandmother... She said to me shortly before she died, 'Grandson, I am and always was a fighter, I raised my kids to be fighters. We no longer should fight our fights with our fists, we fight our fight with education'"



Alumni Award for Excellence – Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health

Matthew Cleary
(M Health Services Management, 2004; GradCert Critical Care Nursing, 2002; B Nursing, 1997)
Senior Manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers

"My biggest challenge was... to ensure high quality surgical services for war victims... [while] international staff such as myself started to fetch up to \$US3-5 million in ransoms"



Alumni Award for Excellence – Faculty of Science

Shari Forbes
(PhD, 2003; B Science with Honours, 2000) Director, Forensic Science at University of Ontario Institute of Technology

"Many of the young professors who taught me forensic science at UTS continue to be an inspiration to my career... I have tried to model my career on their example of leadership and collaboration"



Alumni Community Award

Rangan Srikhanta
(B Business/B Computing, 2007) Executive Director, One Laptop Per Child (OLPC)

"Above all I feel the need to inspire myself... I am driven by one question – how will you be remembered?"



International Alumni Award

Dimitri Argyriou
(PhD, 1993; B Applied Science, 1989) Director of Science, European Spallation Source

"Today, in Sweden, we're building a very exciting source for the future – a source of neutrons – what I like to call 'a source for discovery'"



Chancellor's Award for Excellence and Alumni Award for Excellence – Law

Rob Coombe (B Laws, 1990)
Former Group Executive, Westpac

"Coombe has had a sustained record of accomplishment, an acknowledged reputation as an expert in his field, with exceptional leadership skills and has devoted time not just to the wider community, but is also a passionate advocate of UTS. For these reasons, he was awarded the Chancellor's Award in recognition of his achievements."
– Chancellor Vicki Sara



IMAGES: FIORA SACCO PHOTOGRAPHY

UTS: ALUMNI 2011
Awards
who inspires you?

NEWSBITES



CROSS-CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

Leading political, economic and academic leaders from China and Australia will soon be meeting regularly through high-profile public forums – hosted by UTS.

Under a \$3 million agreement between resources and infrastructure firm China Raybo International Corporation and the University, the forums will kick-start a program of engagement and collaboration through the new Australia China Strategic Relations Institute that is set to strengthen Australia-China relations.

Such is the significance of the UTS-China Raybo relationship, Prime Minister Julia Gillard was present for the signing

of the memorandum of understanding during her visit to China earlier this year.

The Institute will help attract the best researchers as well as postgraduate and undergraduate students to UTS.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development) Professor Bill Purcell says forging relationships with organisations based overseas is an important part of the University's internationalisation strategy.

"The relationship has the potential to provide UTS with a new source of research funding and cooperative research arrangements offshore, as well as access to international internships and work placements for our students."

Prime Minister Julia Gillard joined representatives from China Raybo International Corporation and UTS for the signing of the MOU.

The China Raybo partnership is one of the first major gift agreements between an Australian university and a Chinese company, and reflects the University's – and Australia's – strengthening relationship with China. It follows a \$25 million donation from Dr Chau Chak Wing last year, which went towards an endowment fund for Australia-China student scholarships and the Frank Gehry-designed UTS Business School, due for completion in 2014.

GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION



Leading the nation: the new Indigenous Education and Employment Policy was launched by Professor Michael McDaniel, with a keynote address by the Federal Minister for Human Services and Social Inclusion, and UTS graduate, Tanya Plibersek.

A new, nation-leading policy, which will mandate jobs for Indigenous people and boost the number of Indigenous students entering higher education, has been launched by UTS.

For the first time, the new Indigenous Education and Employment Policy (IEEP) will embed Indigenous strategy as core business for UTS.

The development of the policy has been led by Professor Michael

McDaniel, Director of UTS's Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning.

"The higher education sector has long shown leadership in changing the perception and reality of the place of Indigenous people in Australian society, but now it is time to take these efforts beyond the confines of university Indigenous and equity units," says Professor McDaniel.

"There's often a misunderstanding that Indigenous education is just for Indigenous people, where in fact it is relevant to every student at university. That's certainly how we should be thinking about it... it's about nation building."

As part of the policy, each faculty and division will nominate at least one vacancy per year that will be targeted to be filled by an Indigenous Australian.

The Policy can be viewed at www.gsu.uts.edu.au/policies/indigenous-education-employment.htm

NEWSBITES



Scholarship recipient Danielle Mansour with Michael Whitbread, who journeyed from London to Sydney on a motorbike to raise funds for the scholarship.

WINNER BACK ON HOME SOIL

Danielle Mansour had the audience glued to her every word as she described her experiences learning from some of the UK's top barristers. Mansour is the inaugural winner of the Michael Whitbread scholarship. Launched earlier this year, the scholarship was established to help UTS Law students get real-world experience internationally.

Speaking at a recent UTS:Law awards ceremony, Mansour says the scholarship embedded in her an understanding of how the law affects real people as well as a confidence in her own abilities that she will take with her throughout her career. "It is one thing to get a Distinction in an exam, but it is quite another to scribe for a

barrister in a family law matter where there are six parties to the proceedings, you have had a five-minute introduction to the client and the case, and where cases and legislation that are quite foreign are being bandied about with great speed and apparent familiarity by those that are citing them.

"By far the most important lesson was the realisation that the law exists in the real world. For that reason, your client's interests need to be put above your own. You may have a compelling legal argument that will win you favour with your opposition or perhaps allow you to write a thesis on it, however your client may rather you plead the matter based on factors that have nothing to do with the law. They are a real person and not merely 'the defendant'."

ON THE WORLD STAGE

UTS has been placed in the top 500 universities of the world according to the highly respected global rankings produced by the Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China.

This is the first time UTS has made it on the coveted list and it is indicative of an increased focus on research.

The University has also been awarded five stars in the new QS Stars system, which recognises excellence in higher education. UTS was independently assessed by QS, the company also behind the World University Rankings.

The assessment provides feedback in eight categories including research, employability, teaching, infrastructure, internationalisation, innovation, engagement and specialisation. Receiving the top overall rating provides affirmation of the quality of UTS. Other five-star rated universities include MIT and Stanford.

According to QS, a five-star institution will often be world-class in a broad range of areas, with cutting-edge facilities and be internationally renowned for its research and teaching.

ALUMNI APPEAL UPDATE

Many thanks to all alumni who donated generously to this year's Alumni Appeal. So far more than \$15,000 has been raised, of which 100% will go to scholarships and grants for students facing financial hardship.

Giving back to your university is important. While education institutions do receive some government funding, UTS relies on the support of its alumni and friends of the University in order to ensure the opportunity of higher education

is something that is available to everyone – regardless of circumstances.

Help us achieve our goal of reaching \$20,000 in the 2011 Alumni Appeal. Read how financial assistance has changed the lives of three UTS students on p26, and consider the impact your degree has had on your life. Donations can be directed to the faculty where you studied or you can select the area of need to support. Give today via www.alumni.uts.edu.au/givingtostudents

A model relationship



Michele Rumsey, Director of Operations and Development at the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre at UTS, talks about making change happen in developing countries.



In the developing world, the urgency for change through tangible and fast-paced 'outcomes' often means things that can have the greatest long-term impact get lost. When it comes to enacting real and positive change, the effectiveness of financial support and capacity-building comes down to the strength of relationships.

With more nurses and midwives participating in programs based on this model, the momentum of strengthened leaders will have far-reaching impacts on health systems in the Pacific

One relationship we at the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre at UTS have nurtured for seven years is with the South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers Alliance, a group of senior nurses and midwives who are in positions of leadership and have the ability to effect change in 14 South Pacific island nations. This partnership has been in place since 2004 and aims to strengthen health systems in the Pacific.

As part of this capacity-building, we developed a model for enhancing leadership skills.

Through the model, funded by AusAID, the Pacific's future leaders in nursing and midwifery have gained skills that have enabled them to strategically plan with key stakeholders, such as Ministries of Finance and Ministries of Health, projects in their countries which are ongoing and having beneficial impacts today. With more nurses and midwives participating in programs based on this model, the momentum of strengthened leaders will have far-reaching impacts on health systems in the Pacific.

In brief, the model consists of a country team of potential leaders in nursing and midwifery mentored by the Chief Nursing/Midwifery Officer in the Ministry of Health of their country. The teams, in collaboration with key

stakeholders, recognise a problem and devise an action plan to help solve it. A reference group oversees the teams through constant communication, ensuring the program is running effectively.

A multitude of partnerships has allowed this model to be so successful. As we are within the Faculty of Nursing Midwifery and Health at UTS we are able to engage with leading nursing and midwifery professors and researchers who have greatly supported their Pacific nursing and midwifery colleagues through this model. Also, volunteers from

UTS and other organisations who are passionate about development work have given their time and expertise to help build the trust between organisations.

Looking at this model in practice, it's clear what drives successful change:

TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS

This is the foundation of how any work done in partnership succeeds. In the struggle to find funding and the need for measurable outcomes, basic concepts can be lost and there often isn't enough time for the obvious – relationship building.

TRUE COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

Our model is so successful because we empower the participants to be leaders. We provide access to global and regional policies and information that guides them to do what is right for them, rather than telling them what to do.

BEING THERE FOR THE LONG HAUL

It takes time to make real progress. It also takes understanding and patience. For example, in the Pacific a relatively early retirement age is commonplace. This means we lose key individuals after investing time into building relationships and developing their expertise. This continual loss of knowledge can have devastating impacts on a health system. Because of our long-standing relationship we understand the issues facing our colleagues so we don't lose momentum, we work closely with them on succession planning. Being there for the long haul has allowed us to witness the personal growth of individuals and across teams. ■

TOWERING 10

Fighting for women's rights in Afghanistan, ensuring the survival of endangered species, setting up community development programs across South America, and 'catching babies' – it's all in a day's work for these UTS grads.



1

"Running a zoo is all about project management reinventing yourself and your product to ensure your visitors return and the annual visitor number continues to grow," says **MADOLON WILLEMSSEN**, who graduated with a UTS Master of Project Management in 2010. And Willemsen should know, the winner of the Grosvenor Master of Project Management Award and the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Project Management Prize, she is also the Curator of Life Sciences at Werribee Open Range Zoo. Overseeing the zoo keepers and vet team who care for and manage the zoo's animal collection, Willemsen has a key stake in the protection of endangered species. Her ascendency to what she calls her 'dream job' has been a long and persistent journey; with previous positions at Artiz Zoo in Amsterdam, Taronga Zoo in Sydney and The Australian Wildlife Park.

2

Market research company pureprofile is responding to a growing problem for businesses everywhere: just how do you connect with clients in an already saturated media market? "People aren't willing to just sit and watch ads that aren't relevant to them, or answer questions that they don't personally care about," says company founder **PAUL CHAN** (B Land Economics, 1998). "There are too many ways to tune out." Chan, who was previously involved in property development and the building of a global property portal during the dot-com boom, started pureprofile off the back of a business plan he roughed up on an A3 sheet of paper. His idea, which used market data not only to empower his clients but also to empower the registered users supplying it, hit a nerve. "We were a true pioneer in the sense that the kind of online research processes we developed back in 2002 just didn't exist before. We helped to create the market."



3 GUIDO TAPIA (B Science / B Arts, 2002) is a staunch advocate of using technology to enhance workplace productivity. With an impressive history in software development, starting with a role in the late '90s as a Senior Developer and Project Manager for the Gaming and Entertainment Group (GET Systems), Tapia has had a wealth of experience in developing tailor-made business systems for his clients. He is currently the Software Development and Innovations Manager at PicNet, and was one of the brains behind PicNet's Mouse Eye Tracking system, a web analytics tool that uses time lapse heat maps, mouse tracking and page navigation to inform online marketing strategies. It's these sorts of projects, coupled with the rapid pace and relentless progress of the IT industry, that keep Tapia hooked on his chosen field. "There's an enormous amount of innovation at the moment in the IT and communications sectors," he says. "It's like being in a storm of ideas and innovation, surrounded by brilliant people."

4 Director of UTS Midwifery Studies and Director of the Centre for Midwifery, Child and Family Health, **PROFESSOR CAROLINE HOMER** (PhD Nursing, 2001) has helped change the face of the midwifery profession. With a research program that's centred around the development and implementation of innovative models of midwifery care, practice and education, Homer was instrumental in the creation of the first Bachelor of Midwifery course in NSW and in changing the way maternity care is offered in Australia. "The findings from many of my studies have been incorporated into government policy across the country," she says. "Hopefully this means that many women are now receiving more satisfying and effective care." She's currently involved in a project that looks at the physical design of hospital birth units and how it impacts patients and staff. But it's not all academia; Homer continues to do what she loves as a clinical midwife – 'catching babies' – through her ongoing work with St George Hospital.



5

STEPHEN SUMMERHAYES took the road less travelled

when he packed in his law career to return to university, determined to make a bigger contribution to the world around him. It was during a stint in Argentina as part of his B Science / B International Studies degree (2010) that Summerhayes saw how his skills could contribute to community development projects. And so he stayed in South America, coordinating a project in Ecuador that sought to minimise migration of youth and increase the income of impoverished families. Then he set up a homestay program that provided an income stream for the local population, and later ended up in Guatemala, teaching communities how to manage their natural resources. Today Summerhayes, who unconventionally completed a Master of Science a year before his undergraduate degree, can reflect on his unusual journey. "I've not trodden the usual path, but maybe my history will demonstrate the different ways in which various studies can be combined," he says.

6

Tackling gender imbalances in Afghanistan is all in a day's work for

NASIMA RAHMANI.

Rahmani is the Director of the Women's Empowerment Centre at Gawharshad, a higher education institute where she works as a lecturer and advocate. Rahmani's journey started with a Master of Laws (2007) at UTS, which she commenced with the aid of a scholarship through the IDP Peace Scholarship Program, and later supported by funding from UTS:Law. In her current role at Gawharshad, Rahmani supports female students and educates the student body on empowerment issues. "My goals are to institutionalise gender studies in the higher education system in Afghanistan, and establish a women's college at Gawharshad that will offer further opportunities to women whose education has been interrupted by culture, war, economic conditions and children," she says. "I believe education is the first step to empowerment."

WORDS: CLAIRE THOMPSON
IMAGES: JOANNE SAAD (PROFESSOR CAROLINE HOMER)



7 Chinese-born **LINDA YU** (MBA, 2002) knows a thing or two about bridging cultural gaps. Previously, as the Managing Director of China Insight, Yu helped Australian companies understand how to successfully conduct business in China. In another role as a specialist consultant for the National Centre of Language Training, she provided training for small to medium-sized Australian businesses on cultural and export issues in the Chinese market. Yu currently is CEO and partner of BHI Architects, China, a company that straddles both these worlds with its offices around Australia and in Shanghai. On her role as a cultural ambassador between her native and adopted homes, Yu says: "I think it's important to play a role as a bridge between the two countries, to deliver benefits from one culture to another by extending people's vision and encouraging them to see things from different angles."

8 Former journalist and founder of Macleod Media, **LOUISE MCELVOGUE** has lived a thousand lives since she graduated from UTS with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications in 1986. Once a high-flying freelancer working for the BBC, CNN, *The Guardian* and *The New York Times*, the advent of the internet pulled McElvogue into web production where she delivered websites for McDonald's, HP, and a United Nations forum in New York. "As the media changed around the world, my career adjusted with it," she says. McElvogue has since synthesised her expertise into launching Macleod Media, a media consulting practice based in Sydney. "We've built businesses, technology solutions, produced programs and done programming rights deals all around the world," she says. McElvogue is currently a member of the Australian Government's Convergence Review Committee.



9 **CHRISTIAN TIETZ** (B Design, 1992) is a designer with a difference. A current PhD candidate at UTS and the head of Designlab Oceania, Tietz is using design to respond to the needs of Indigenous and other remote communities. "The debate is still about the provision of housing and not about what makes those houses work," he says. "For example, if a house is poorly insulated, a fridge designed for an urban, air-conditioned apartment has to work very hard in 40 degree heat, and yet there are no tropical or desert fridges on the market." Much of Tietz's work designing fixtures and amenities for Indigenous communities has been informed by his involvement with the Healthabitat on the Fixing Houses for Better Health initiative, which provides safe and well functioning homes as well as training in maintenance and repairs for Indigenous Australians. Working on such a complex issue can often be slow going, but Tietz says: "The biggest achievement is to be happy with small steps forward."

10 **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR STUART TANGYE** (PhD Science, 1996; B Applied Science (Hons), 1992) is solving some of the world's biggest health riddles in his lab at the Garvan Institute. His research looks at diseases of the human immune system and the rare diseases that are the result of a single gene mutation. "Although humans have more than 30,000 genes in their DNA, the fact that a fairly severe disease occurs when just one of these genes doesn't work tells us which genes play a very important role in the way the immune system operates," he says. Tangye often investigates only small numbers of patients suffering from the rare conditions he studies, but the genetic information he's collecting can be applied to the whole population. A recent project looked at X-linked Severe Combined Immunodeficiency, or what most people know as the 'Boy in the Bubble' disease. ■



GOOD TO DO BUSINESS WITH



Telstra's Vyvyan Hammond and UTS's Dr Lian Loke are working together to solve industry problems by involving students in cutting-edge research and design.

A strategic partnership between Telstra and UTS is helping both organisations stay at the leading-edge of research and design.

How do 'connected citizens' use their smart phones to inhabit, enjoy and navigate their urban environment?

Telstra partnered with 20 UTS design students recently to conduct user-centred design research into how connected Sydney's citizens are – and how they integrate their smart phones into their daily life, from leisure and socialising, to business and personal administration. The data collected informed proposals for the development of smart phone applications by the students, which may be used by Telstra for future development and commercialisation.

Mike Hickinbotham is Telstra's Head of New Media and a connected super-user himself. His interest in anticipating and addressing the ever-changing needs of customers by creating new media applications has been stimulated by working with UTS: "Establishing a partnership with UTS provides us with access to researchers that generate truly innovative processes, together with the broad field of ideas from students, this creates the seeds for innovation that we will use in the future."

The Connected Citizens: Urban Social Media project is one of many with which Telstra and UTS have collaborated over the past three years – and a prime example of how the University fosters mutual collaboration with industry partners to benefit students, academics and industry.

"Our partnerships with industry allow our research and learning to have practical impact," says External Engagement Director Gauri Bhalla. "We aim to equip our students with high-end technical skills, a researcher curiosity and rigour and the complementary capabilities that are needed to become a successful professional."

Telstra is one of 15 companies represented on the Vice-Chancellor's Business Advisory Board.

Bhalla works closely with Telstra and the Business Advisory Board to ensure the partnerships meet the University's vision of working with industry across each element of its strategic plan.

"Working well with external partners is part of our DNA – we understand the mutual value that practical learning and research affords both the partner and ourselves."

Developing these close ties with industry also helps the University attract the best academics – who have the opportunity to work at the forefront of their own practice. The Connected Citizens: Urban Social Media project was led by Dr Lian Loke, an expert in User-centred Design and IT who is fast growing her reputation in the field of customer experience and participatory designed applications.

Loke understands the value of customers co-creating the applications that they will use. "Our students researched and then will design solutions for the group that Telstra wants to reach – super

connected users. The students themselves are part of this group and clever companies like Telstra understand the power of the end user co-designing applications that they want to use.”

Bhalla agrees, “By creating a ‘living lab’ at UTS on Connectivity, Telstra can find out what motivates their users, build the right solutions and have students advocate and take their services out for them. And the users – the students – have a real stake in making sure the services they recommend and build are usable and fun.”

The opportunity to conduct innovative research is a major factor in UTS’s quest to develop strategic relationships with large companies.

“When it is a truly mutual partnership we can build new capability and work on new discovery which is tremendously exciting for academics and staff. We all feel that we can apply our skills and work on the most interesting and challenging problems right now.”

Both cutting-edge research and work-ready graduates are why companies such as Telstra, Motorola, Westpac, Cochlear and IBM choose to work with UTS, and Vyvyan Hammond, who works with Hickenbotham at Telstra, embodies this.

Hammond has a particular interest in the partnership – as a UTS design alumna herself, she exemplifies for the students the role that visual and creative thinking plays in companies such as

“More than 150 companies partner with the University at any one time, providing resources and expertise in exchange for leading research outcomes”

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development) Professor Bill Purcell has a clear vision for developing transformational partnerships for UTS: “A University’s place in the world is defined both by the education it offers and by the research and discovery it makes. At UTS, we are all about practical impact – we believe in getting our work out and used in the world so that we make a real difference”

Professor Purcell is excited by the opportunity that working with large companies can bring to UTS.

Telstra. “My Visual Communication Design degree at UTS gave me the tools to progress in this area of Telstra. I found the practical and outcomes-focused nature of my degree really important and I wanted to continue that tradition with UTS.”

And Telstra is building on the partnership with UTS as a key way to innovate, Hickenbotham says. “Having access to these resources, including some of the best researchers in the country, is invaluable in keeping Telstra at the forefront of the telecommunications industry.”



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PARTNERS IN HOPE

Although they may want help, many women dependent on drugs or alcohol won't seek support for fear of having their children taken away. A seven-year project led by UTS aims to tackle the lack of services available to these women and to break the cycle of dependency.

They are often survivors of inter-generational cycles of family violence, trauma and offending. They most likely grew up as wards of the State. And they are frequently the primary carers of children.

But the prospect of losing their child means many substance-dependent mothers are afraid to seek help – even though they recognise they have a problem, says Professor Alison Lee of UTS: Centre for Research in Learning and Change.

An estimated 60,000 Australian children have a parent undergoing treatment for drug addiction, and 18 per cent have witnessed their parent overdose or die.

“These women don't have the ability to marshal the services they need. Mental health teams often struggle to work with the additional substance dependency and parenting issues. And if they seek treatment for substance dependency, these services often don't have the resources or funding to treat the women's mental health problems and address the parenting needs of children.”

Lee says the program at Kathleen York House works with mothers to raise their children differently to the way in which they were raised, despite managing and living with adversity.

“I'd gone a really long time without having any hope, without having any aspirations or dreams or goals. I thought those sorts of things you don't go near because you just set yourself up to be disappointed... Having had the staff have that belief and hope in me, it's given me the belief in myself” – ‘Kelly’, one mother who found help at Kathleen York House

While this undoubtedly affects a child's development and puts them at risk of repeating the destructive cycle, evidence shows a child will develop more normally if they remain with their primary caregiver. For a positive outcome for the child, the parent requires significant long-term early support and intervention.

Lee is heading a team of researchers on a seven-year project called Partners in Hope, which aims to change the way government services deal with substance-dependent women who, in many cases, are also dealing with mental illness and domestic violence, as well as having children.

“In our preliminary studies, we found many women with substance-abuse problems have had their children taken from them, but they have been left in the same situation, for example dealing with domestic violence,” says Lee, who is completing a pilot study at Kathleen York House in Glebe.

The pilot and an awareness-raising film produced by UTS: Marketing Communications Unit, with funding from the Rotary Club of Drummoyne, demonstrates that with personalised care and support women can rebuild their life – and that of their children.

Case studies in the second stage of the project will illustrate the scope of the problem – statistics are not often collected or available due to a lack of acknowledgment that children are important in the success or failure of treatment. Ultimately, Lee and her team will develop a model of care as an alternative to current models used by government service providers.

Not only will this break children free of the same lifecycle as their mothers, says Lee, it will save the taxpayer money: “These children are particularly vulnerable. [If nothing is done] they are the people who will present into the mental health system, juvenile justice system, and corrections systems down the line.”

A full-length documentary to raise awareness is also planned as part of the project.

“It will change your life,” says Lee of the pilot film. “This is a deeply neglected area of our social responsibility, and it's been invisible to most of us. It is moving to see what happens when these women gain access to services that help them understand their role in their own life and in their children's life, and what a difference that can make in a population that we would simply leave to fall through the cracks.” ■

WORDS: CAROLINE JENKINS



If you would like more information or would like to support the Partners in Hope project, please contact Liz Hardy via liz.hardy@uts.edu.au

A new program has been launched that will build stronger relationships between UTS and its most distinguished graduates.

Luminaries

A select group of exceptional alumni, with a sustained record of achievement, have been invited to become founding members of UTS Luminaries.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Ross Milbourne says: "Luminaries are high-achieving alumni who will help steer UTS toward achieving its objectives; they will be our advisors and ambassadors.

"These graduates shine a light on the University and demonstrate to every student that walks through the door of UTS what possibilities are available to them when they leave.

"They include stars from the arts, policy-makers and leaders in government, innovators across every industry – people who have achieved success in Australia and all over the world."

Membership will be by invitation only. Each year further UTS graduates will be invited to become Luminaries, with the Chancellor's Alumni Award winner each year also invited to join.

Here are four of our Luminaries – the property developer, the CEO, the writer, and the high court judge:

"UTS taught me about commerce and prepared me for business. UTS gave me the confidence to analyse the opportunity then approach problems by initialising questions and becoming proactive to find the solution. Above all, to have an open mind and never stop learning from the knowledge and experience of others"



David Wang (Xiong Wei Wang) worked three jobs to support himself while studying; he now owns a property firm listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

"I graduated with my MBA at UTS almost 20 years ago and without doubt it has proven to be one of the most important steps in my own career and indeed development as a person. I can reflect on three reasons why this is so.

Firstly, my MBA was a 'ticket to ride' so to speak – although I suppose today it's like a price of entry into senior management ranks.

Secondly, my MBA gave me knowledge. Knowledge I've been able to apply in various careers including my present role – such is the dexterity and durability of learning. And thirdly, my MBA gave me a lifetime hunger for more learning"

Mark Fitzgibbon has held numerous CEO positions for local government, industry bodies, and within health services.



“From the minute I arrived in Australia, my work opportunities were minimal. Australia was very much at that point of discovering its own voice. Rightly so. And all the films were really examining who Australians were. And there I was, you know, the personification of the imperial lass. And we had really moved on from that here. It really made me have to rethink my career options. So after Joe was born, who was my last child, I enrolled in a Communications course at UTS and that was to change my life”



Rachel Ward has moved from an award-winning actor to become an acclaimed writer and director.

“I enrolled in the UTS law school after having read an advertisement. I had just left Canberra after working as a commissioner on the interim children’s commission, implementing the Whitlam Government’s policy for child care...”



All the enrolments in the first few years at UTS Law School were part time students... The reason I think UTS became well known as a very highly skilled and intellectually sound law school was because we were the first group of graduates well placed in our various professional fields to advocate for the University, and to also prove to others UTS was producing intellectually sound and personally sound graduates”

The Hon Justice Tricia M Kavanagh was one of the first graduates from the UTS law school and one of the first female trade union advocates.

THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE UTS LUMINARIES

Mr Russell S Balding, AO

Dip Tech Commerce, 1976; B Business, 1978
Chairman, NSW Visitor Economy Taskforce;
Deputy Chairman, Destination NSW

Mr Luca A Belgiorno-Nettis, AM

GradDip Urban Estate Management, 1983
Joint Managing Director, Transfield Holdings Pty;
Chairman, Biennale of Sydney

Mr Neil G Chatfield

M Business Accounting and Finance, 1994
Chairman, Virgin Blue Holdings Limited;
Chairman, HomeGround Services

Mr Rob Coombe

B Law, 1990
Former Group Executive, Westpac Retail & Business Bank

Mr Michael P Coutts-Trotter

BA Communication, 1995
Director-General, Department of Finance and Services, NSW

Mr Mark A Fitzgibbon

MBA, 1991
Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, nib health funds limited

Mr Hugh M Jackman

BA Communication, 1991
Actor and Producer

The Hon Justice Tricia M Kavanagh

LLB, 1981; PhD Law, 1998
Justice of the Industrial Court of NSW;
Deputy President, NSW Industrial Relations Commission

Mr George Koukis

Dip Tech Commerce, 1978
Founder and Director, Temenos, Switzerland

Ms Kim C McKay, AO

BA Communication, 1981
Director, Momentum2; Founder, Clean Up Australia

David V Murray, AO

B Business, 1977; Hon Doc Business, 2008
Chairman, Future Fund

Mr Michael A Myers

BE Mechanical Engineering, 1979
Founder and Executive Chairman, Re-Engineering Australia Foundation

Mr Warwick M Negus

B Business, 1985
Director, Terrace Tower Group;
Director, FINSIA

Mr Timothy C Palmer

BA Communication, 1991
Gold Walkley Award winning journalist;
Winner, United Nations Media Peace Prize

The Hon Tanya J Plibersek

BA Communication (Hons), 1993
Federal Minister for Sydney; Minister for Human Services; Minister for Social Inclusion

Mr Gregory J Poche, AO

Dip Tech Management, 1976; B Business, 1979
Philanthropist; Founder and former Chairman, Star Track Express

Mr George Savvides

MBA, 1985
Managing Director, Medibank Private

Mr David Wang (Mr Xiong Wei Wang)

B Business, 1992
Chairman, SPG Land (Holdings) Limited, Shanghai

Ms Rachel Ward, AM

GradDip Communication, 1995; GradCert Writing, 1996
Actor, Director, Writer

Mr Scott B Wharton

LLB, 2009
Managing Director, APAC Head of Expense Management & Services, Citi, Hong Kong

WHAT LIES BENEATH



The shark is not an animal most people befriend. For Rachel Robbins, spending almost every day getting up close and personal with these apex predators is the best part of her work.



Their reputation as ‘man-eaters’ is more suited to fiction than reality – sharks are one of our most misunderstood creatures.

Dr Rachel Robbins (PhD, 2007) is the Chief Scientist of the Fox Shark Research Foundation. Robbins spends entire days at sea, studying the habitat, migration and development of great whites.

Along with bull sharks and tiger sharks, great whites are one of the main species of shark involved in attacks on humans. Robbins explains that attacks are often due to a shark’s innate curiosity, and are really only a test bite.

“Sharks don’t have hands, they can’t feel what things are. The only thing they have to test out whether something is edible or not is their mouths.”

Looking at the statistics, more people are killed every year by dogs, bees, lightning or tigers, than by sharks. In Australian waters there are on average

fewer than two fatalities a year from great whites.

“There are millions of people in the water each year and yet the shark attack statistics are incredibly low. If sharks were ‘man-eaters’ then the attack numbers would be proportionately higher.”

It was a decade ago when Robbins experienced first-hand the excitement of diving with sharks as a customer with the Rodney Fox Shark Expeditions in South Australia – an experience that became a turning point in her life. In 2002, joining forces with Rodney and Andrew Fox, Robbins co-founded the Fox Shark Research Foundation.

The foundation’s mission is to inspire appreciation and understanding of great white sharks through research and education. This means increasing public knowledge about the important ecological role that this species plays in our oceans and why their future needs to be ensured. Sharks are apex predators and help control

populations of animals that sit further down the food chain. Declines in shark numbers have a knock-on effect that can completely disrupt the marine ecosystem.

It also means the foundation is tasked with dispelling some of the mythology around sharks. In one project, Robbins and her team have been using satellite tagging to look at migration patterns and population dynamics of great whites in South Australian waters. By tracking the paths of sharks, the team is identifying key habitat areas, which will help ensure effective protection of the species.

Passionate about her research subjects, Robbins says her underwater experiences have refined her appreciation for what she describes as graceful creatures.

“They all seem to have their own little personality. They’re not just this mindless eating machine that people think they are. We have ones that are more

SHARKS



curious or more nervous around us than others, while some are really cheeky and others really aloof. It's just interesting the personalities they have."

Humans are the great white shark's only real enemy. Robbins says most people don't realise the increasing impact

" Compared to how many people die a year from shark attacks, we certainly kill a much higher proportion, even though great white sharks are a protected species in Australian waters "

people are having on sharks – either directly or unintentionally. Recently, Robbins' team encountered a young great white, who was fondly given the nickname 'Strappy'. The name referred to the circular gash that encircled the shark's mid-section, making it look like it had a large white strap around its body. On closer inspection, the researchers discovered the shark suffering immensely from a

plastic packaging strap that had become embedded in his flesh.

Robbins says this is just one example of human-related injuries on sharks. With such an intensely negative attitude toward sharks from the general public, Robbins says that between 70–100 million sharks

are killed each year for the shark meat industry and as a result of human-inflicted injuries – whether accidental or deliberate.

"Compared to how many people die a year from shark attacks, we certainly kill a much higher proportion, even though great white sharks are a protected species in Australian waters."

Robbins completed her doctoral thesis on the sexual and size segregation

of white sharks in the Neptune Islands, off the South Australian coast, looking at the relationship between great whites and their environment. This included studying the sex and size ratio of great whites compared to variables such as temperature, tidal ranges, moon phases and swell heights to determine how the distribution changed in different conditions.

Dedicating more than ten years of her life to uncovering their secrets, Robbins' enthusiasm for sharks is unflinching as she gears up for her next expedition to sea.

In getting to know the unique personalities of so many great whites, has Robbins chosen a favourite?

"I do, a shark called Jonny, who has probably been around for about 10 years now."

Measuring 4.6 metres in length, Jonny is known for lifting his head above water as if to examine the crew onboard.

"He is so reliable as he comes back year after year after year, without fail." ■



Pharmacy is entering a new age. And so too is the way in which pharmacists are being educated. Pharmacists of the future won't be responsible for just preparing and dispensing medications. Their skills will be put to increased use as they play a much greater role in ensuring the overall wellbeing of their patients. They will collaborate with GPs on home medication reviews; offer in-pharmacy consultations; conduct practice-based, leading-edge research; and diversify into consulting roles.

Ultimately, it's about improving patient care – a service that has, until now, not developed as much as it should have, says Professor Shalom Benrimoj, head of the new graduate school of health under which the school of pharmacy has launched this year.

"The pharmaceutical industry has been spending millions of dollars developing safe and effective medications but there hasn't been significant investment in making sure that people use medications appropriately and that they are optimally prescribed."

Benrimoj analysed the educational changes taking place and found a need for students to undertake more practical training to ensure they are ready to adapt to the emerging areas of patient demand and healthcare needs.

Presc for ca

"We found that the profession is moving from a product focus to a patient focus," says Benrimoj. "The patient focus is about quality use of medicines. This means the role of a pharmacist is evolving to address the needs of patients in a more holistic way and working collaboratively with medical practitioners and other healthcare professionals."

Pharmacists at the cutting-edge of their profession will provide a range of additional services including home reviews to improve the management of a patient's medication

"Because pharmacists will need a higher level of expertise, the UTS Masters program has been developed to be very practice-focused," says Associate Professor Kylie Williams, who works alongside Benrimoj. "The idea is that when students complete their degree, they are better prepared to practise."

Pharmacists at the cutting-edge of their profession will provide a range of additional services including home reviews to improve the management of a patient's medication. This means a GP can refer patients on multiple medications to an accredited pharmacist who then visits the patient's home to discuss and evaluate their medication.

These discussions could cover how a person is taking their medication (dosage and frequency) and any issues there might be. The pharmacist will provide information to the patients and as well as reporting any recommendations to the doctor: something may be missing; a dose might be too high; or the patient may be having an adverse reaction.

Problem-based learning, one of the many elements of the UTS course, will develop these critical skills and ensure the pharmacists of tomorrow are ready for the challenges associated with these new areas of expertise.

Using a high-tech simulated dispensary, students will be put under pressure in scenarios that reflect the real-life challenges facing today's practising pharmacists. New facilities on campus will also ensure they are up-to-date with the latest technology – and are ready to walk straight into a community pharmacy or consulting role.

"Through these simulated scenarios students will become familiar

with technologies that are being introduced in the field now and in the future," says Williams. "Role plays will build vital skills to help them effectively interact with patients; how to best communicate with them and how to handle challenging situations. It's about replicating the environment.

"Another advantage to the program is that each student will be paired with an academic mentor for the duration of the two-year course to ensure that we develop their skills to their full potential and they are therefore well prepared for the industry's emerging needs."

Says Benrimoj: "We want to make sure the students are professionally practice-based, very technologically advanced, have international knowledge, and that the teaching is research-led – all elements that are characteristic of a UTS degree."

The postgraduate program is open to science and medical science graduates, with research scholarships available for Masters and PhD candidates. For more information on this course or the school of pharmacy visit www.pharmacy.uts.edu.au ■



Adaptation

Life

"The pharmaceutical industry has been spending millions of dollars developing safe and effective medications but there hasn't been significant investment in making sure that people use medications appropriately"



DESIGN SHOW TWENTY ELEVEN

Expect to see some changes in the annual UTS Design Show. Anna Watanabe peaks under the covers to see what work was revealed in this year's exhibition, and catches up with a few stars from previous shows.

Walking down Broadway, it can be hard to imagine that the 28-storey tribute to Brutalism we lovingly call the Tower could be home to one of the country's most recognised, multi-disciplinary design schools.

And that's because it isn't. The brains (and the brawn) behind the UTS School of Design is an easily overlooked building on Harris Street that, without the footbridge connecting it to the Bon Marche building, could very well be mistaken for part of the ABC.

And it's this concept of looking beyond the easily recognised object, to the people and processes behind it, that has shaped the re-vamped UTS Design Show.

Professor Lawrence Wallen, Head of the School of Design, says the University's annual show exhibited works

by students at every stage of their degree – from fresh-faced first-years to highly defined postgrads.

"This year the exhibition was a group show and the school as a whole was made visible through the work," he said. "What we were looking for was a level of clarity where the audience gained insight into the working of the school."

Traditionally the Design Show was dedicated to showcasing work done by final-year students. This year, the show evolved into a curated exhibition titled *Material Culture*. Wallen explains that the idea came from an ongoing dialogue in the School of Design and is one of the central themes in the research and practice carried out within the school.

The UTS Design Show is held in the first weeks of December every year. For more information visit

www.dab.uts.edu.au

Name: **Jessica Kirkby**

Fourth Year Fashion and Textiles



◀ **Him bike and stuff smaller,** a still from Kirkby's short film, which is designed to provoke conversation about men's clothing and its impact on society. Photography: Sam de Teliga (Kirkby short film still).

Jessica Kirkby has "stretched the brief as far as it possibly could go", creating a digitally based, multimedia exhibition that explores the recent evolution of men's fashion and features several interactive displays including a short film and a photo booth.

"Australian men's fashion magazines all really try to assert their heterosexuality. The idea they're pushing is, 'you're not gay for looking at twelve pages of guys in nice clothes because now you're looking at four pages of some half-naked chick'."

Name: **Gemma Alberton**

Seventh Year Interior and Spatial Design / International Studies



◀ **These images track the process** behind Alberton's final work. Research was done on the significance of memory in an urban environment and turned into a book. From there, Alberton made a conceptual model, which informed her project on the Hub in Newtown.

Gemma Alberton's 'The Significance of Time' has been 12 months in the making, from researching the significance of memory in an urban environment to creating a plaster model based on a space in Newtown. "I really have an interest in creating spaces

that help people. You can do that with more traditional interior design, but starting with a space from scratch – and seeing how people interact with that space – you can really work to better people's lives."

Name: **Alastair Sew Hoy**

Fifth Year Visual Communications / International Studies



◀ **Stills from Alastair's** short film, *Serifa*. The animation brief was to create a motion graphics piece based on a specific font, which was assigned to each student.

Inspired by the rural countryside around his university in south-west Japan, Hoy has done many watercolour and charcoal pictures during his time on exchange, including more than 100, individually drawn frames for his 75-second animation. *Serifa* is a short film filled

with so many typography puns, "it will make even the most green of design students throw up inside". "I worked on it for at least a month and I don't think I ever had so many 10-hour days or KFC dinners at uni before."

Name: **Caitlin Murray**

Fourth Year Fashion and Textiles



◀ **Murray's menswear collection** 'Maramures' – made possible through a scholarship from Calcoup Knitwear, which meant her designs could be brought to reality using professional equipment.

Stumbling upon a 1970s sewing machine that used to belong to her grandmother was the inspiration behind Caitlin Murray's passion for knitting, which forms her unusual work: a men's knitwear collection inspired by Romanian folk dress.

"Menswear has always clicked with me. I guess I'm lucky enough to have some close male friends who've been quite experimental with clothing, so I've never had that preconceived idea that men can't be fashionable."

Name: Joshua Mun

Degree: Industrial Design **Graduated:** 2011

Now: Designer with Blue Sky design group



Name: David Davoll

Degree: Master in Animation **Graduated:** 2010

Now: Building his profile in the US



Name: Rachael Cassar

Degree: Fashion and Textiles **Graduated:** 2006

Now: Designs for her own label





◀ **Mun's Liquid Nitrogen Carrier.**
This design won Mun Gold in the Dyson Student Design Awards.

It's one thing to see a problem and fix it within your own area of expertise, but it's something else entirely to hear of an inefficiency in a completely different field of study and *invent* a solution for it.

Joshua Mun's award-winning Liquid Nitrogen Carrier was inspired by a close friend and ophthalmology medical scientist, or eye surgeon, who found transporting living cells in liquid nitrogen using the Dewar Flask (the industry's standard device) limiting and potentially dangerous to himself and others.

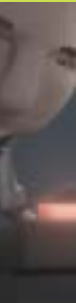
"The basis of this finding ultimately became the grounding for the Liquid Nitrogen Carrier: to design a safer product solution which would seamlessly adapt into their everyday tasks where the danger of liquid nitrogen is involved."



Mun's impressive design not only sealed his graduation with first class honours, but it also won him Gold in the 2010 Dyson Student Design Awards. Along with priceless exposure, the award provided Mun with a prize package valued at \$10,000, including a trip to the United Kingdom to meet the award's benefactor, James Dyson.

Throughout the long design process, Mun said his greatest inspiration came from his external advisor who told him: "I don't think there is a better solution to this problem."

"This comment was the main motivation for me to show, firstly, how designers can translate a problem into an opportunity for a product and secondly, what possibilities design can bring to users in making tasks more efficient and user friendly," he said.



◀ Davoll's award winning short film, **Searching for Sam.** Davoll says the story was largely based on his own experiences, searching for his dream job as an animator.

Mature-age students can sometimes get a bad rap from their younger peers who are fresh out of high-school. Their drive and belief in their studies makes them a force to be reckoned with in class and during assessment time. But it was "embracing the mature-age student cliché" that helped David Davoll reach his high-school dream of becoming an internationally recognised animator – even if it took him a while to get there.

"Computer Animation is a blend of the artistic and the technical so I decided it would be far better for someone else to teach me my weaker area of the two – the technical – while in my own time I could practise the artistic.

"In hindsight it didn't really work out how I'd planned... I finished my degree with a job offer from Rio Tinto and spent the next four years working as a Database Administrator."

This year, Davoll's bitter-sweet animation,

Searching for Sam, which he confesses is based on his own experiences of searching for his dream job, won the Teen Choice Award at the Sydney International Animation Festival and was a finalist in the Student category for the Australian Effects and Animation Festival.

"I always want to be telling a story that makes the audience feel something. I am not so interested in making people laugh as there is already so much of that kind of animation, I'd much rather make them feel a different emotion."

Davoll says the recognition *Searching for Sam* has received has encouraged him to push himself further and to investigate his interest in developing audience empathy for on-screen characters.

"I think there's room for another genre of animated film that looks and feels different to anything we see from the big studios today that's aimed at an adult audience."



Rihanna, Kirsten Stewart and Christina Ricci have all worn her label. She's won international awards and Lady Gaga's stylist took some items from her latest collection at New York Fashion Week, this year. But Rachel Cassar's eco-fashion has not always been met with such enthusiasm.

Cassar, who says recycling materials has been something she's done instinctively since childhood, almost gave up on her dream to work in fashion because she felt she wasn't creating the "right kind of design".

"At the end of third year, I just kind of had a moment where I thought 'maybe this isn't what I should be doing'. I wasn't getting good marks and I wasn't going very well. I just doubted everything I did."


But a chance opportunity from the Lancôme Colour Design Awards, and the determination to design in a way that felt right to her, has led to her own internationally recognised label.

Cassar's passion is 'eco-fashion' – clothing created from recycled materials – and her philosophy is to create something that is aesthetically pleasing first, and environmentally conscious second.

"I think that green fashion is the way of the future and we all need to try and embrace that. But I think at the same time we need to maintain that we're still designers and that we still need to push boundaries."

Cassar hopes that the future for her label will be in its own boutique, eco-fashion store in Sydney; something she believes will help boost her image of green clothing. In the meantime, though, Cassar reminds herself of the testing, initial years at UTS and says it was all for the best.

"I tried to be a certain kind of designer that I wasn't and that I didn't know how to be. But once I got over that and started to do what I wanted to do everything fell into place. You have to believe in yourself – as corny as that sounds." ■



To cull or not to cull? That is the question exercising the hearts and minds of many Australians when it comes to one of their most treasured icons, the kangaroo.

Jumping the gun

Over the years, debate on the sensitive issue of culling has polarised opinion, with scientists, ecologists, environmental and animal protection groups, policy-makers, farmers, Indigenous groups and hunters seemingly no closer to agreement on the commercial killing of kangaroos.

To promote further debate and foster independent research on the topic, UTS has established an innovative think-tank, called THINKK, set up by macropod ecologists at the University's Institute for Sustainable Futures.

They realised that much of the research available was about the ways to kill kangaroos and that government policy had not comprehensively examined whether this method of management was most appropriate or even needed.

THINKK (The Think Tank for Kangaroos), launched late last year with a donation from the Sherman Foundation, has since attracted support from philanthropists – notably a generous grant from the The Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP Salary Trust. It aims to help foster understanding among Australians about kangaroos living in a sustainable landscape by reviewing kangaroo management practices and exploring non-lethal management methods that are consistent with ecology, animal welfare, human health and ethics.

This is a controversial topic and some of THINKK's recent findings raised questions and challenged existing thinking and practices in this area. As a result further research and debate is important.

Research fellow Keely Boom has been investigating the legal and policy issues surrounding culling.

"We are looking at a gap in research and knowledge around kangaroos," she says. "The current management has come out of kangaroos being seen as pests, but we don't understand the benefits they may give to the landscape.

"It's a controversial area, because there are

always people who support culling or killing for meat, and others who think it's the worst thing you can do."

Boom is employed as a part-time research fellow with THINKK, which otherwise relies on volunteers, including scientists and sustainability experts.

The organisation has exciting plans for future projects including researching Indigenous perspectives on kangaroo management, developing policies for kangaroo management, extensive field work and the publication of peer reviewed articles.

"It's a controversial area, because there are always people who support culling or killing for meat, and others who think it's the worst thing you can do"

THINKK also wants to research the perspectives of farmers: what damage they think kangaroos are causing and whether culling achieves any tangible outcomes.

"It's an interesting area to research because there are lots of different views out there," says Boom. "There's a lot of public value in researching the issues and disseminating the information through reports, peer-reviewed publications and media and then using that to influence government policy."

In a UTSpeaks public lecture called 'Killing Skippy', Dr Dror Ben-Ami addressed the contentious issue of harvesting and eating kangaroos as a means to protect the environment.

"Emerging science does not support the notion that kangaroos are over-abundant pests that compete with livestock for resources and there is no evidence of sheep replacement occurring over the past 20 years," he said.

"Eating and placing a commercial value on kangaroos will not save the Australian environment but does create conservation and animal welfare concerns."

WORDS: DOMINIQUE ANTARAKIS



Indigenous expert adviser to THINKK, 'Uncle' Max Dulumunmun Harrison, senior elder of the Yuin people, said kangaroos were regarded as a sacred animal in the Aboriginal Dreaming and laws, and should not be killed.

The prescribed method for killing kangaroos is with a shot to the brain. Kangaroos are killed in the field and the objective is to achieve instantaneous death. THINKK believes there are two key welfare issues with the commercial killing of kangaroos.

Every year 855,000 dependent young die as a waste product of the commercial kill. There is no routine field auditing of compliance with the National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos (Commercial Purposes) into the manner of killing of pouch young or to the fate of dependent young. Ecological data suggests the young are highly unlikely to survive without their mothers and will die of starvation, dehydration, exposure or predation.

Also, field data suggests that, annually, anywhere from 120,000 to more than a million kangaroos are shot by mis-hits. It is not known how many are left behind because there is virtually no monitoring of killing in the field.

THINKK has published three reports since its launch: *Shooting our wildlife: An analysis of the law and policy governing the killing of kangaroos*; *Advocating kangaroo meat: Towards ecological benefit or plunder?*; and *The welfare implications of commercial kangaroo culling: Do the ends justify the means?* ☰



If you would like further information or would like to help support THINKK's research, please email Liz.Hardy@uts.edu.au



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Most students these days are likely to be juggling study, work and even family – but for some, added stresses mean that their dream of an education is under serious threat.

That's why UTS offers Equity Scholarships to students whose circumstances are such that, without added financial assistance, they simply would not be able to continue, or even begin, their studies.

These scholarships range from \$500 to \$2000 – this may not seem much, but to a student like David, it made all the difference.

“UTS gave me a grant of \$500. It might not seem like a lot, but it made all the difference and meant I could buy the things I needed to continue my studies.”

DAVID* was in his final year of Engineering when a sporting injury left him with paraplegia. After undertaking several months of rehab, he was ready to come back to university and resume his studies – but soon found that the commute from his parents' home on the Central Coast was just too arduous. It soon looked like he might need to drop out when he heard about our Equity Scholarships, and applied. He was delighted to receive an amount of \$1000.

“Luckily I was eligible for a scholarship which helped me move closer to university, and buy a special computer to help with my studies,” David says.

Some of the students who've received scholarships have a disability, like David, while others are dealing with chronic illness, or caring for someone who does. Some are recent refugees to Australia. For the most part, they are students who cannot undertake paid work to support their studies, or whose situations also involve higher living expenses than the majority of students.

To receive assistance they must provide documentation to the UTS Financial Assistance Service to confirm their financial difficulties.

KAMRAN*, now in third year of a Bachelor of IT, never dreamed he would be studying at a world-class university when he fled Iran with his family in 2001 due to religious persecution. Living in Australia under a Temporary Protection Visa, Kamran was classed as an international student and would have been required to pay full fees, something which was simply not possible for his family.

“I was 16 when I arrived in Australia and spent the next two and a half years in detention centres,” Kamran says. “After my family gained Temporary Protection Visas, I started studying IT at TAFE. Then I learned that UTS offers scholarships to holders of Temporary Protection Visas.

“After submitting my TAFE results and completing an English proficiency short-course, UTS offered me a place in its IT program. UTS gave me an opportunity when I thought it impossible. I will be forever grateful.”

This year the UTS Alumni team is aiming to raise an extra \$20,000 to go towards the Equity Scholarships Program next year. So far, \$15,000 has been raised towards this target. UTS is appealing to current students, alumni and supporters of the University to dig deep and support students like Janine.

JANINE* is lucky to be in her final year of a Bachelor of Medical Science – it was not long ago that her dream of a career in medicine looked like being over.

“I was 19 and in my second year of the Bachelor of Medical Science course when my father left the family,” Janine says. “One of my three younger brothers has a serious chronic illness. Because my mother spends most of her time caring for him and the rest of the family she can't do paid work. I work part-time, but I needed emergency financial help to pay for text books.”

Like David and Kamran, Janine heard about our Equity Scholarships and applied. She was absolutely delighted to receive a grant.

“UTS gave me a grant of \$500,” Janine says. “It might not seem like a lot, but it made all the difference and meant I could buy the things I needed to continue my studies.”

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED NOW.

A donation to the Alumni Appeal will contribute to a pool of funds distributed to students facing financial hardships which threaten their academic progress.

You can donate to the Appeal by visiting www.alumni.uts.edu.au/givingtostudents today. You can choose to support scholarships that help students from across the University or you can nominate the faculty you prefer your donation to be directed to. And since all administration costs are already covered, 100% of the value of your gift will go towards helping students in need. ■

*not his/her real name



Donate to the UTS Alumni Appeal and support scholarship programs for disadvantaged students. You can make a difference and make sure education is accessible for everyone.
www.alumni.uts.edu.au/givingtostudents

A small financial boost can make a world of difference

NURTURING OUR SPORTING ELITE

Sport and education now go hand in hand, especially at the elite level. Through its prestigious Elite Athlete Program, UTS has positioned itself as one of the nation's premier institutions for our most talented sporting stars.

As London 2012 approaches, a focused group of athletes is finely balancing end-of-year exams with preparations for one of the biggest achievements of their sporting career – the Olympic Games.

Thanks to the UTS Elite Athlete Program (EAP), they are able to perform at the highest level both in competition and in the classroom. If training or competition takes them interstate or overseas – think up to 10 weeks at a time – they can sit their exams there. And if they need some flexibility

in their study program, they will get it. They are awarded a Union scholarship of up to \$3000 and receive Fitness Centre membership.

Now, more than ever, the world championship medallists, Olympians and Commonwealth Games representatives passing through UTS are studying here for a reason.

“We are one of the most elite athlete-friendly universities in Australia,” says acting UTS Union CEO Elizabeth Brett, a 2000 Olympics volleyball representative.



Scott Robertson

Diving (Construction Project Management)

The 2008 Olympian overcame wrist injuries to win bronze at the Delhi Commonwealth Games last year, as well as the 3m springboard and 3m synchronised national titles. He was named 2010 UTS Sportsman of the Year.

< Fine-tuning for London 2012, Scott Robertson will be part of the Australian Olympic Diving Team.

"We offer flexibility with their study up to the point where it doesn't compromise the integrity of their degree practically – we can assist with alternative exam periods, extension of assignments, and more recently we've had athletes sit exams overseas."

Athletes competing in sports as diverse as clay target shooting, mountain biking and acrobatics, to golf, cricket and swimming, get all the support they need because the bulk of their study is completed on campus – not through distance education.

Beijing Olympian Scott Robertson studied in Melbourne and Brisbane before settling on the UTS Elite Athlete Program.

The 24-year-old diver had undergone wrist reconstructions following the 2008 Olympics and spent all of 2009 in rehab. It had been a difficult period for the 3m springboard and 3m synchronised specialist, who also lost his long-time coach and friend Doug Walton that year. Robertson's passion and motivation for the sport were dwindling.

However, while in the final stages of rehabilitation, the Victorian decided to move to Sydney to enrol at university and reignite his career.

Along with an EAP scholarship, Robertson was supported by a full scholarship with the NSW Institute of Sport, where he now trains under Salvador Sobrino.

The Bachelor of Construction Project Management student, a bronze medallist at the Delhi Commonwealth Games and dual Australian champion last year, capped a stellar 2010 by claiming the UTS Sportsman of the Year title. Now at the peak of his career, he is focused on London.

"Scott decided that he wanted to train down here in Sydney, and he chose UTS because of the

program we offer," says Brett.

"It's something that has really developed in the past decade. We had such a large contingent of athletes competing in the 2000 Olympics, so I think that really flagged a gap in the university sector that we needed to be supporting our student athletes. From that, this style of program really developed."

The UTS Elite Athlete Program has more than 100 athletes on scholarship this year, with a further 40 benefiting from the Emerging Athletes Program.

"We recognise that younger athletes who are yet to break through to the elite level often need the same support services academically that our elite athletes need, if not more, because at times they are not supported by their state or national body at this point."

EAP scholarships are tiered, with criteria ranging from Olympian, world champion or top 5 in the world, to state representative.

Brett says the ability of elite athletes to balance study with intensive training through the program is vital both in competition and life after sport.

"I think it's slowly being recognised more and more by our elite coaches that the best athletes are those who have balance and something that is stimulating their brain as well as every other muscle in their body. This is critical in them being not only elite athletes but more rounded people."

This has also been recognised by the University and the academic community, thanks to the work of Brett and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Teaching, Learning and Equity) Professor Shirley Alexander. "Most UTS faculties are now intimately aware of the special needs of our student athletes," says Brett.

"It's being recognised more and more by our elite coaches that the best athletes are those who have balance and something that is stimulating their brain as well as every other muscle in their body. This is critical in them being not only elite athletes but more rounded people"



Gavin Woods

Water polo (Business/Law)

A member of the Australian men's water polo team for more than 16 years, Woods has competed in three Olympic Games, and is currently in contention for London 2012. He will be one of the few athletes in the world to have competed at four Olympics. Woods combines sport at the highest level with a Business / Law degree, full-time work and a young family. His wife, Caroline, competed for Australia in swimming.

< Gavin Woods rises to the challenge as a water polo star.

While the UTS alumni who have made a mark on the sporting world number in the hundreds, it is the balance that sets them on track for life after uni, says Brett – whether it is in sport or in business.

“I think when looking at the business side of things some of the best leaders in our community, business, finance and other industries are those

who have been involved in sport at a high level. They have that ability to work effectively and efficiently with other people; they often have great communication skills; they’ve certainly got drive and passion; and those traits that make them great athletes so easily transfer into the business world.” ■



Joanne Brigden-Jones

Kayaking (B Nursing, 2011)

A World Championship bronze medallist in the women’s K2-200m in Hungary in September, Brigden-Jones was only half a second off winning gold. The 2008 and 2009 UTS Sportswoman of the Year, and the first UTS student to win the NSW Institute of Sport Academic Excellence Award (2009), she is now preparing for London 2012.

< Joanne Brigden-Jones in training for London 2012.



Hannah Campbell-Pegg

Luge (BA Human Movement, 2006; B Education, 2009)

The two-time Winter Olympian reached speeds of up to 140kph as she raced down the 30-storey Vancouver ice track in 2010. The luge competitor, who also competed in the 2006 Turin Olympics, held an Elite Athlete Scholarship in 2008 in the final year of her B. Education at UTS. She continues to be an ambassador for the Elite Athlete Program.

< Centimetres from rock-hard ice, Hannah Campbell-Pegg reaches speeds in excess of 100km an hour.



Peter Proctor

Waterskiing (B Engineering, 1991)

A member of the Elite Athlete Program for four years until he graduated in 2008, he was named UTS Sportsman of the Year following his whitewash at the US Open Waterskiing Championship during his final year. He won all five rounds there, and also took out the Sydney Bridge to Bridge Race, recording the second-fastest time in history. Proctor has assisted in the promotion of the EAP since graduating, presenting at the 2010 Blues Sporting Awards.

< Ski racing champion, Peter Proctor.



WORDS: CLAIRE THOMPSON; IMAGE: COURTESY OF ORIONVM

CLOUD SUCCESS

World's fastest cloud computing platform? Check. Built from the ground up with no external investors? Check. Run by three guys under 25? Welcome to OrionVM.

Sheng Yeo is a pretty unflappable character. When asked about OrionVM, the cloud computing company he co-founded two years ago, he smiles.

"It's going okay," he says.

'Okay' might be an understatement.

OrionVM is now, according to a US cloud benchmarking company, the world's fastest cloud computing platform. It has a rapidly growing reputation and revenues that are increasing at a rate of 80 – 110% per month. Not bad for a company where the average age of the employees at start-up was 19.

OrionVM was the brainchild of Yeo, now 23 and the company's Managing Director, and two friends, 19-year-old Joseph Glanville and 20-year-old Alex Sharp. The three met during their undergraduate degrees (Yeo and Glanville at UTS, Sharp at the University of Sydney) and it was in a UTS dorm room that the idea for OrionVM came about.

"When we started the company, people told us we couldn't do it. We said 'okay', that's a challenge accepted!" Yeo says.

"When we started the company, people told us we couldn't do it. We said 'okay', that's a challenge accepted"

Cloud computing is basically the provision of computing services through the internet. At a consumer level, cloud computing provides the option to have data hosted away from the user's computer; applications like Facebook, Dropbox and Gmail, for example, are all applications that store data in a 'cloud'.

However, OrionVM supplies much more fundamental cloud services, providing the foundation infrastructure on which cloud applications sit.

"If you buy a hosted sales or accounting application from somebody, it's going to need to be hosted somewhere," Yeo says.

"So we don't give people an application; we give them on-demand IT infrastructure."

In a heavily populated market, OrionVM manages to stand out from

the crowd through a combination of approaches, including the speed of the platform, the no-single-point-of-failure system with rapid recovery, a flexible billing approach and the fact that all the company's software and architecture has been built in-house.

"The number one thing we focus on is giving high-quality service," says Yeo, who picked up a 2010 Anthill 30under30 award for his entrepreneurial vision.

"For our clients, it's all about being able to do things instantly without large up-front costs."

Despite its stellar success today, OrionVM came from humble beginnings. Yeo, Glanville and Sharp have spent the last two years pouring heart and soul into their company. In the beginning, they worked day and night and invested their own money – to the tune of about \$70,000 – into getting the business up and running.

It has meant a few sacrifices along the way. Yeo, who is partway through completing a double degree (Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Science in Information Technology), took leave from

his studies in order to focus his energy on the business.

"We spent a lot of time sleeping under the desks in the office, spending \$4 a meal to feed the whole team," Yeo says.

"We spent all our money on hardware. We needed to have the best servers so we spent all our money on that."

It's an investment that's paying off. The team is about to bring their first investor on board, and Yeo is pushing for a revenue of \$1 million by the end of the 2011/2012 financial year – only their third year in business.

Sounds like they have a pretty impressive future ahead of them, doesn't it?

Yeo shrugs, smiles.

"We're going okay," he says. ■

In the name of SCIENCE



It's a little science fiction, a little macabre and, for some, just too grotesque to want to think about. The invention of plastination has delivered equal measures of controversy and curiosity – and it's coming to UTS.

Corpses have always been highly prized in learning institutions that teach anatomy. The opportunity to intimately study the inner workings of the human body provides students with an unparalleled learning experience. Up until the early nineteenth century in England, it was against the law to dissect a body unless it was the corpse of an executed criminal. This was a major problem for fledgling anatomical sciences and, as is often the case when demand dramatically outweighs supply, a black market trade emerged, which was largely bolstered by grave robbing.

Thankfully, modern-day attitudes have shifted. Laws now reflect the important role dead bodies (referred to as cadavers in the medical profession) play in furthering education, and in most countries a person can now bequeath their body to medical science. But demand continues to eclipse supply.

As well as scarcity, the environmental conditions required to house specimens and maintain their integrity add to the challenge. Strict regulations govern the transport of cadavers. At UTS, new specimens must be brought in 'under cover of darkness' (late at night when security has shut down the building).

The specimens must be kept at a consistent temperature with fresh air pumped through the labs at regular intervals to prevent the build-up of formalin. A pungent chemical by-product from the method of preservation, formalin becomes carcinogenic in high doses and its odour is infamous for permeating nostrils, hair and skin long after exposure.

According to UTS Laboratory Manager Mohammed Shareef, this creates obstacles to the learning process. "At the moment a dissected specimen still emits formalin into the surrounding environment and the specimen doesn't look real as all the colour has been lost during the embalming process."

Students will be able to learn using cadavers that have every organ, muscle, blood vessel – every part of the body – almost exactly as they would have appeared in life

UTS plans to remedy this with a new lab dedicated to the groundbreaking process of plastination. Set to open in early 2012, the lab forms part of wider plans to introduce a biotechnology education program in the UTS Faculty of Science.

Plastination is a method of preserving the body that involves a process of replacing the body's cellular

fluids with plastic (polymer) in order to preserve its structural integrity.

"What plastination allows us to do is to eliminate the chemical smell completely... you don't feel nauseous or anything like that," says Shareef.

Plastinated specimens can then be used to teach anatomy in less controlled environments like normal science labs or classrooms. Students will be able to learn using cadavers that have every organ, muscle, blood vessel – every element of the body – almost exactly as they would have appeared in life.

Shareef has been studying plastination since initial planning for the new lab began. Last year, Shareef travelled to Germany to attend classes at Dr Gunther von Hagens' plastinarium,

where he spent time learning the theory behind the process and getting hands-on experience in cutting-edge plastination techniques.

If you've heard of plastination, you've heard of Dr Gunther von Hagens – the German scientist who invented plastination in 1977; Dr von Hagens is to plastination what Sigmund Freud is to psychoanalysis.

Hagens created headlines all over the world for his controversial *Body Worlds* exhibitions, where human and animal plastinates are displayed in life-like poses. For the first time, the public could see inside the human body in a way that had previously been reserved for those in the medical profession. More than 32 million people have seen the exhibitions to date.

Shareef says that the Faculty of Science has big plans for the plastination lab, which will be the first in New South Wales, and will potentially supply specimens to surrounding universities.

As well as supervising the project, Shareef is conducting research to improve the polymers used in the process as part of a Master of Science.

"The process of plastination makes the specimen quite rigid, so you can't move the structures as easily as you can in a 'wet specimen'," Shareef says. "So what we're trying to do is find newer ways or other alternatives to make sure the specimen is still quite malleable."

Of course, all of this would not be happening without one critical ingredient: bodies. The University will be launching a body bequest program to coincide with the opening of the lab next year. If you would like more information about the bequest program or the new lab, please contact the Faculty of Science on + 61 2 9514 9703. Updates on the project will also be announced via www.science.uts.edu.au ■

The state's first plastination lab has been fast-tracked thanks to the support of Plastic Surgeon and philanthropist Dr Jerry Schwartz. As well as giving professional guidance to the project, Dr Schwartz has generously donated \$50,000, saying he was eager to be involved. "The specialists of tomorrow are educated today... Education helps

the individual to function better in their society."

If you would like to help further education by supporting the Faculty of Science, please email Liz.Hardy@uts.edu.au or visit www.alumni.uts.edu.au/give for more information about becoming a financial supporter of the University.



A LITTLE BIT OF HEART AND

So(U)L



A new community engagement and leadership program at UTS will provide an outlet for students to get involved with their local community and to understand the role of not-for-profit and community organisations.

So(U)L, due to be launch in early 2012, is a three-year extra-curricular program that encourages students to undertake volunteering projects and seek mentorship opportunities within

‘active citizenship’ and the idea that you can still be active and you can make a change by helping out, by contributing, by volunteering,” says Tam Ho, UTS’s Community Coordinator.

“Today’s students actually want to be involved with the world; they’re not this apathetic group that a lot of people stereotype young people to be.”

In addition to the volunteering aspect, So(U)L will provide students with ongoing extra-curricular activities in the form of workshops, seminars,

“The program will instil in our students a sense of their social responsibility as citizens and give them experience working with the not-for-profit sector as well as an understanding of the important role that non-profits play”

their specific field of study. It assists students to find placements with charitable and not-for-profit organisations in Australia, combining the social benefits of community engagement with real-world professional experience.

“What we want to do with So(U)L is capture students or young people who are unsure of how they can contribute. We want to revive the term

lectures and discussion groups. Participants will receive points for attending these activities and will need to reach a set target of 100 points of activities and 50 hours of volunteering over a three-year period to complete the program.

So(U)L’s structure will encourage general volunteering in the first year, followed by a second year that will be more discipline-focused – assisting

students to source an organisation or area that suits their academic background and individual skill set, preparing them for the final year, which will involve a more in-depth project.

"We hope that the program will instil in our students a sense of their social responsibility as citizens and give them experience working with the not-for-profit sector as well as an understanding of the important role that non-profits play in the community," says Professor Bill Purcell, Deputy-Vice Chancellor (International and Development), who initiated the program.

commitment into the city they live in. In future, the program will be expanded to include opportunities in regional, remote and Indigenous communities around Australia.

"What we're really hoping to produce is a generation of capable graduates who are going to be the future leaders of community organisations," says Ho.

So(U)L has received strong support from across UTS and the University's corporate partners have expressed strong interest in supporting the new program. While So(U)L has been developed largely to cater to the needs of students, it also offers

"So(U)L's major point of difference is its focus on local communities and social entrepreneurship"

If existing UTS programs are any indication, the thirst for volunteering initiatives among the student population is still unquenched; programs like BUiLD and the Brennan Justice and Leadership Program have been inundated with eager participants since their inception. However, while BUiLD provides international volunteering and leadership opportunities and Brennan offers law faculty specific programs, So(U)L's major point of difference is its focus on supporting and engaging with local communities.

According to a 2010 Productivity Commission report, community organisations contribute \$43 billion to Australia's GDP, making them a significant aspect of the Australian economic landscape. It's these organisations that So(U)L is targeting. For the first year, Ho says, So(U)L's placements will be in Sydney, allowing students to put their energy and

a modified program structure for staff and alumni, who can sign up for a condensed version of the program and still reap the benefits of the various activities on offer. Alumni living overseas and international friends of the University will also have the opportunity to engage with the program, with seminars and lectures uploaded onto the website.

"One of the long-term goals is to hold an annual So(U)L driven community engagement day so that at least once a year alumni will be encouraged to take the day off to re-engage with the program and mentor students or go out and volunteer themselves," says Ho.

"We want to plant the idea in students, staff and alumni that it is important and valuable to give back to your community." ■



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SETTING THE DIAL ON COMMUNITY RADIO

In an era of media proliferation, where audiences are no longer defined by geography and almost anyone can broadcast to the world, what space is there for community radio? Managing Director of 2ser, Melanie Withnall, confirms why your local station is just as important as ever.



When you look back at your time spent at uni, how much of what you did has directly influenced your life today?

As a Bachelor of Arts in Communication/International Studies (2003) graduate from UTS, I majored in filmmaking and Russian. I don't make films, and I rarely speak Russian anymore. While the skills I learnt in the degree have carried me through various jobs, it was volunteering at 2ser – a community radio station owned by UTS and Macquarie University – that really taught me the skills I needed to kick-start my career in radio.

In those student days it was impossible to imagine how much things would change in just a few years: back then, a community radio show was the only way that you could really 'broadcast yourself' to the whole city, now you can tell your stories to the world on the internet. Then, sponsors would fight to bring their message to the diverse group of 'underground' listeners on 2ser, now they can market directly via social media. Today, 2ser operates across multiple platforms to be heard on 107.3FM, digital radio, and from anywhere in the world via the internet. There is even an iPhone app on the way.

In a constantly evolving media landscape, the question for 2ser, like so many other traditional media, is how do we stay relevant? How do we build on radio's traditional strengths, and use those strengths to drive listeners to engage with us in new ways, on new platforms? How do radio presenters and brands keep their relationship with listeners strong when there is so much competition for people's attention? While I don't have all the answers, I know that radio's strengths – particularly its adaptability, credibility and portability – mean it will always play a vital role in the community.

“For a station like 2ser, its value is not defined solely by the end product – it's not just about producing a unique radio experience for our audience – but about our responsibility in fostering the next generation of talent”

For a station like 2ser, its value is not defined solely by the end product – it's not just about producing a unique radio experience for our audience – but about our responsibility in fostering the next generation of talent. For 32 years, 2ser has been a training ground for thousands of students, giving them invaluable real-world on-air experience that they couldn't get at most other stations. 2ser has been where successes such as 702's Robbie Buck and ABC Foreign Correspondent Matt Brown learnt the ropes. While we continue to help the stars of tomorrow get their foot in the door, community radio's contribution isn't limited to supporting new journalists,

producers and presenters. At 2ser we offer opportunities for students studying across many disciplines, such as business, engineering and marketing, to develop their skills.

Returning to community radio to become the new MD of 2ser in April this year after working at the ABC and in the commercial sector, I realised how diverse the stories were compared to other media. Community radio truly provides a multiplicity of voices in the media landscape. It's able to resist following the traditional news cycle, instead seeking out the untold or quirky stories – it's still the place where young bands get their start, and community groups have easy access. In our station programming, 2ser uncovers music or subject matter that won't find a home anywhere else. 1920s dance tunes? Listen to the Phantom Dancer. A segment called The G-Spot about improving women's sex lives? Listen to the award-winning Double X on Wednesday mornings. Where media ownership is becoming less diversified, community media provides a safeguard – giving members of the community a chance to make programs, not just contribute to them via talkback or a blog post.

2ser's ability to champion unique and different voices, shed light on social and community issues, and provide opportunities for students to get real practical experience is what makes it more than just a radio station. It's also why more than 300 volunteers dedicate their time each year to keep the station running; less than 5% of the people that work at 2ser are in paid positions.

Our challenge for the future is not only going to be about adapting and changing to keep up with audience demand, but continuing to do what we do best, all the while using limited resources to get the best possible result. ☰



As a non-commercial station, 2ser relies on the support of subscribers and its university partners to stay on air. Good training, staff and equipment cost money. Find out how you can ensure 2ser's place in the future and help support the next generation of committed volunteers to bring you great music, interesting conversations, stories and ideas via www.2ser.com/support/subscribers



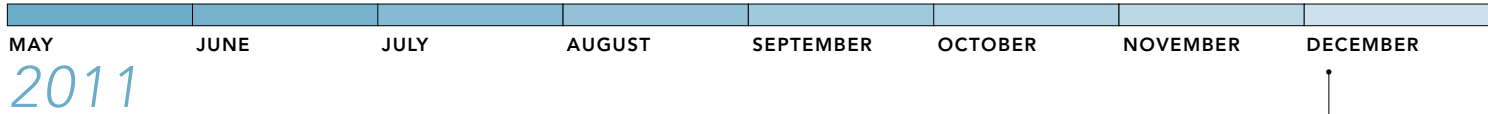
MULTI-PURPOSE SPORTS HALL

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ON-CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING

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CITY CAMPUS MASTER PLAN UPDATES



GREAT HALL UPGRADE

Opened December 2011



IMAGES: ANDREW WORSUM (SPORTS HALL AND STUDENT HOUSING), DENTON CORKER MARSHALL (BROADWAY), DBJ AND BVA ARCHITECTURE (THOMAS ST), GEHRY PARTNERS (DR CHAU), JAMES STUART (GREAT HALL)



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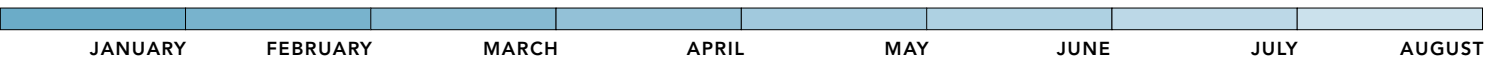
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Recently securing a \$15 million injection from a US venture capital firm, co-founder and CEO of BigCommerce Eddie Machaalani (B. Science in Computing Science, 2000) shares his advice about making it big.

ON... BUILDING A BUSINESS

Great people are what make a company...

You could have the greatest business model or product, but without great people who can execute, your business won't succeed to its potential. Attracting great people is hard. You have to create a positive work culture – a place people are proud to work in. At the same time, hiring poor performers is the number one destroyer of any business. Let go of the people who don't fit as quickly as possible. It's tough to do, but typically they're better off elsewhere.

Take a hard look at your business model...

Is it a model that others have used successfully in the past? Is there something you can change or shift that might be better suited to the market? We did that by shifting from purely licensed software to software as a service. That simple shift in business model has changed everything. We can service our customers better, our product has improved leaps and bounds and our financial model is a lot more attractive to investors.

Hire a business coach...

Finding a successful athlete who doesn't have a good coach is almost impossible, so why not follow the same approach as a business owner? Just like a sports coach, your business coach doesn't have to be incredibly successful running a business or have the skills that you do. Instead, they should have good systems and processes they can teach you and help keep your emotional roller coaster under control. A good business coach is worth their weight in gold.

Growing a company is difficult...

Trying to do it all yourself is even tougher. Find people who have done it before and if you can't hire them, ask them to be advisors. This could be formally (you pay them either a fee or a percentage of equity) or informally (they do it for beer and fun). You'll be surprised who will help you just because they want to. Every entrepreneur has had some help along the way and is usually more than happy to help another entrepreneur on their journey.

Marketing is king...

You are in the business of marketing every single day. Typically entrepreneurs will find one or two ways to generate new business and focus purely on those ways. The better approach is to constantly be looking for new ways to market your business through different channels and mediums while continuing to improve the current channels you are using.

Shortcut the learning process...

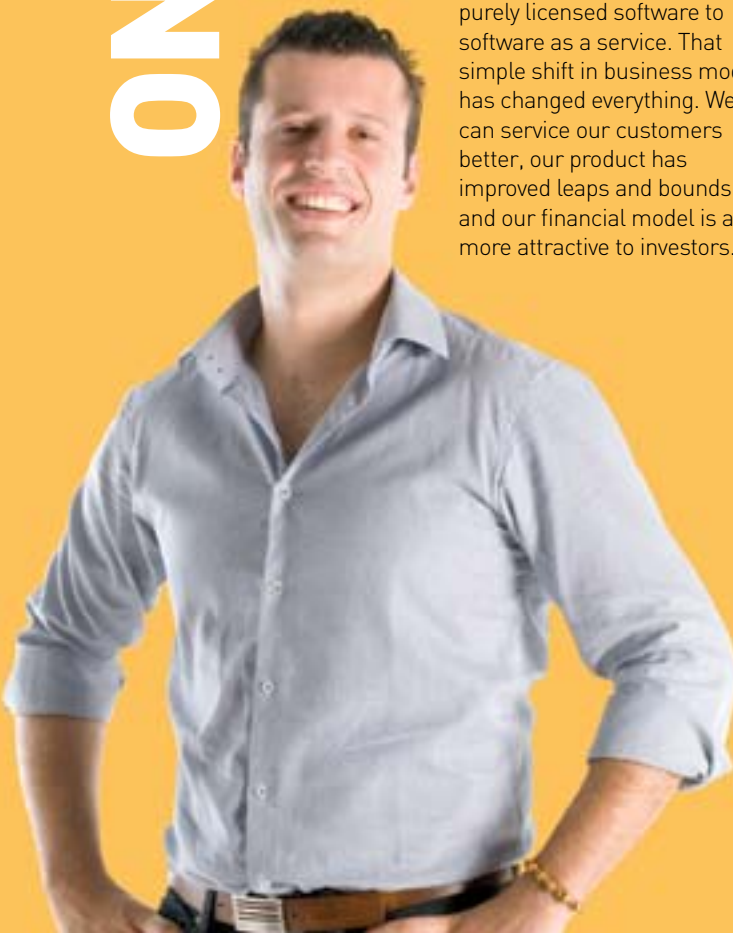
Why reinvent the wheel? Almost everything you want to do has already been done by someone else before. Find that person or that business and model what they've done. You can learn from their mistakes and greatly shortcut your time to success.

Think big and plan big...

As you continue to grow, it's important to put systems in place that can help you scale. What would happen if you hired 10 people tomorrow? Do have the right training systems in place to cater for that many new people? What if you landed 20 new contracts, or signed up 1000 new customers tomorrow? Can you handle that much new business? If you intend to grow, then you must put in strong systems early on.

Work on improving yourself and your mindset...

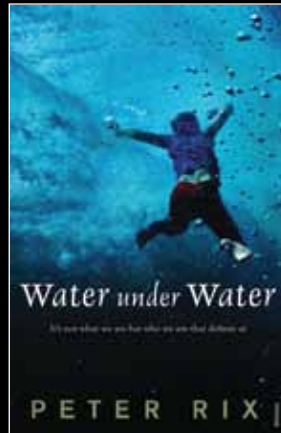
Often business owners think that they should focus purely on improving their business and do not give as much attention to improving themselves as leaders, visionaries and expanding their concept of what is possible. Much of running and growing a successful business is about who you are and what you believe is possible. A well-rounded, happy and healthy person makes for a much better leader that others want to be around. ■



NETWORK NEWS

WANT TO GET CONNECTED?

See the full list of UTS alumni networks at www.alumni.uts.edu.au/networks



WRITERS' NETWORK

There's nothing better than to curl up on the couch with a great piece of literature and be transported to another world. UTS graduates continue to provide a great selection of newly published work to help transport you. In particular, congratulations to award-winning Peter Rix (*Water Under Water*) and PM Newton (*The Old School*) for having their debut novels published.

This year the Writers' Network developed a new biannual newsletter and created a Facebook page. Keep up with all the best books and connect with other graduates passionate about writing by joining the network via www.alumni.uts.edu.au/networks

ITMP

UTS hosted the 2011 **IT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (ITMP) CIO ROUNDTABLE** in June, with a distinguished panel discussing how is IT enabling business today and into the future. UTS thanks event partners Gartner and Wipro IT Business for helping to make this event possible, and such a success.

The ITMP provides students with a world-class postgraduate business education and access to a strongly bonded network of IT professionals and strategic business leaders. The CIO roundtable is held every year and is one of the major initiatives of the ITMP community with 100 guests, including present and future students, alumni and ITMP partners.

Also, the ITMP Community Toastmasters Club has celebrated its first year of operation and is still providing a positive learning environment where UTS post-graduate alumni can improve their public speaking and leadership skills. For enquiries, please send an email to itmp.tm@gmail.com.

REUNIONS



Over the past six months hundreds of alumni attended reunions held in China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. As well as enjoying fine food and wine, many new connections were made and attendees were treated to special guest speakers. The events were hosted by either the Vice-Chancellor or Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development), who provided guests with a sneak-peak at the latest developments of the \$1 billion city campus redevelopment as well as other news about the University.

Did we see you at a UTS alumni event this year? You can find all the photos from the events held in Shanghai, Beijing, Jakarta, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore on the UTS Flickr site www.flickr.com/photos/utsengage

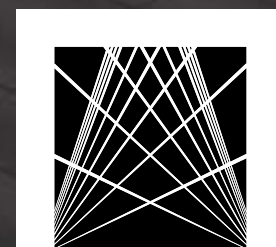
A VENUE WITH ALL THE OPTIONS

Situated on the edge of the Sydney CBD, Aerial UTS Function Centre is within close proximity of all forms of transport including Central Station, light rail, Sydney buses and the Sydney airport.

Featuring modern, flexible spaces Aerial can be tailored to suit your individual needs. Whether you require an intimate meeting space for 20 or a large sweeping space for 400 the centre is able to accommodate.

FEATURES INCLUDE:

- State of the art technical equipment
- Rooms featuring natural light
- Expansive balcony access
- Views of the Sydney CBD and ANZAC Bridge
- Extensive menus and package deals



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