

TOWER

UTS: ALUMNI

Issue 4: Autumn 2011



VISION FOR THE FUTURE

MEET NSW AUSTRALIAN
OF THE YEAR, PROFESSOR
LARISSA BEHRENDT

**THE ANTARCTICA
CHALLENGE**
ONE BIG BOAT,
ONE BIG DEBATE

**THE LEAGUE OF
EXTRAORDINARY
WRITERS**
UTS WRITERS'
ANTHOLOGY
LAUNCHES
25TH EDITION

FIRE STICKS
READING THE LAND
TO SAVE LIVES



TOWER AUTUMN '11

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PHOTO BY: CHRIS BENNETT

Welcome to this Autumn 2011 issue of *TOWER* magazine.

UTS is fortunate to receive financial support – sometimes in the form of multi-million dollar gifts – from governments and large corporations. This level of support enables us to deliver an enhanced learning experience to our students and to undertake research on key problems and issues facing our local and global communities.

But when it comes to encouraging the brightest and best students to study at UTS by creating opportunities for people who are disadvantaged, it is individuals to whom we turn for help.

Disadvantage can take many forms, including disability, distance, financial hardship or lack of opportunity. Equity Scholarships for students experiencing these kinds of hardships are made possible by the generous donations of individuals, who believe, as I do, in the value of a UTS education.

In this issue of *TOWER* we hear from two different donors to UTS. They tell us what has motivated them to give, and why they will continue to do so. I was interested to discover that a mix of pragmatism and passion has driven their decision. They like the fact that UTS provides a quality education, and they have a real desire to make a difference in the lives of students. We value this commitment and these types of gifts, every bit as much as we appreciate the large donations which enable major projects to go ahead.

In this issue you can also read about how receiving a scholarship changed one student's life, enabling her to access an education and ensure a future for her and her son.

I encourage you to give generously to the UTS Annual Appeal and help make a difference in the life of students facing hardship. Enjoy this issue of *TOWER*, and stay connected.

Professor Ross Milbourne
Vice-Chancellor



PHOTO BY: MATTHEW DUCHESNE
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We're half way through the year and already so much has happened. Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts and opinions in the UTS Alumni Survey in March. It was fascinating to hear what is important to the alumni community and, in particular, what you think about *TOWER*. The information you have given will be invaluable in shaping the alumni program that UTS offers over the next few years, and the way that program is communicated. You can read about some of the highlights from the survey on p6.

One thing we do know is that you are looking for clear information about events, alumni benefits, and opportunities for professional development. Recently, the UTS alumni website was re-launched with a complete re-design to make finding these things much easier. We've also included some top UTS news, graduate profiles, and of course you can view a full version of *TOWER* online.

Finally, I'd like to give you advance notice of the 2011 UTS Alumni Awards. The nomination process will be open from July, so now is the time to start thinking about who you might like to recommend for consideration this year. The search is on for alumni who have made outstanding contributions in their chosen careers, or in the community. These are people who are doing extraordinary things in their lives post-UTS, who deserve some recognition, and the chance to inspire today's students. Find out more details via the UTS alumni website.

For lots more University news, as well as updates on alumni events happening around the world, please check www.alumni.uts.edu.au.

Jane Miller
Manager, Alumni Relations

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“I felt a huge amount of responsibility. I thought: I am a young person in the 21st century. I can stand up for other young people around the world”

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Experience light and soundscapes through a digital art exhibition in the Tower Foyer

COVER:

Professor Larissa Behrendt, Future Australia; Photography by Fiora Sacco



EDITOR'S LETTER

If you're currently somewhere in the Southern Hemisphere and feeling the chill of winter, just imagine standing in nothing more than your swimsuit, toes curled over the edge of a ship's deck, about to jump into the icy waters of Antarctica.

This is exactly what graduate Gemma Borgo-Caratti (p17) did during her recent voyage to the coldest place on earth.

Brendan Lonergan is another graduate taking on a challenge. If you've ever wished you didn't have to go to work, find out what a job means to a person with disability on p34 and how Brendan is working hard to make sure everyone in Australia has the same opportunity to earn a living.

These are just two of the remarkable stories featured in this issue of *TOWER*. While UTS graduates are renowned for being 'industry-ready', they clearly also have a passion for giving back to the community. No one embodies this more than NSW Australian of the Year Professor Larissa Behrendt who shares her vision for the country on p3. You can also find out about how current students at UTS are getting to combine social venturing with studies in The Global Classroom on p14.

As the new editor of *TOWER* I look forward to bringing you even more inspirational and fascinating stories about UTS graduates in future issues. *TOWER* is your connection to what's going on here at the University and within the alumni community.

I hope you enjoy this issue and if you want to share your story, or if you have any comments or questions about *TOWER*, don't hesitate to email me.

Cheers,

Vanessa Marks
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IMAGE: FLORA SACCO PHOTOGRAPHY

CONTRIBUTORS

CLARRIZA FERNANDEZ has written for another UTS publication *U:* magazine, *The Daily Telegraph* and *Computerworld*. Currently the Chief Editor of *Reportage Enviro*, she previously worked in advertising but got addicted to catered food. These days she has to settle for cereal.



PAOLO HOOKE is in his second year of a Master of Arts in Journalism. He has written for *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *TAASA Review* and the largest news agency in China. Paolo has a keen interest in Chinese culture and presents a monthly program of Chinese classical and traditional music on 2MBS-FM 102.5.



CAROLINE JENKINS is a writing and communications specialist with more than a decade of experience working in media and marketing-communications. Her skills have been utilised by organisations such as Qantas, the Queensland Commission for Children and Red Cross. When in Bolivia, Caroline advocates taking a swim with alligators and pink dolphins.



ANNA WATANABE is a regular contributor to *TOWER* and is also an Editor for the UTS student publication *Vertigo*. She has written for news.com.au and for various local newspapers. Last year she placed third in the National Chinese Poetry Eisteddfod and will be trying for a silver or gold later this year.



Future Australia



Inspiring, passionate and sometimes controversial. Professor Larissa Behrendt, the NSW Australian of the Year, shares her vision for the future

"I've been very lucky that I've got to work on the issues that I love the most"

"My vision for Australia is that I'd like to get to a point where all Australians see Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture as a key part of Australian cultural life. In that vision, it's about making sure that Aboriginal culture, people and issues, aren't kept to the side and always seen as a problem that needs to be solved but brought to the forefront. That more Australians feel like the story and the culture of the Aboriginal community is a national story and something that everyone in some way could feel engaged with and proud of."

Larissa Behrendt (Grad. Dip. Legal Practice, 1993) has an incredible list of titles: Professor of Law, Director of Research at UTS's Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, Harvard graduate, Land Commissioner at the Land and Environment Court, founding member of the Australian Academy of Law, Board Member of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chair of the Bangarra Dance Theatre, award-winning author, and *InStyle* Women of Style finalist. Foremost, and at the heart of all her achievements and accolades, she is a tireless Indigenous rights campaigner.



"I hope what the award will do is put a little spotlight on the sort of work we are doing in Jumbunna"

A Kamilaroi and Eualeyai woman, Behrendt's resolution to improve the world for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders happened when she was a child. The pivotal moment was at age eleven when her father found out his mother had been 'removed' as part of what would become known as the Stolen Generation. Behrendt remembers vividly her shock and disbelief, and she felt compelled to ensure it could never happen again.

Growing up in a working-class suburb in Sydney's south before moving to Norfolk Island, the Behrendt children were exposed "to a lot of thinkers and real activists" through their father's activities in the Aboriginal community.

"You've got to make your decisions about what you want to do based on what your passion is. If you work on what your passion is, everything will fall into place."

The steady stream of political debate that featured in their childhood resulted in Behrendt and her brother being very aware of the issues in their community, and instilled in them a strong social conscience.

Behrendt says her parents taught their children that if you were in a position to help someone, then you should.

"They had a really good sense of right and wrong. My parents were very good at reminding us that there are people worse off than us... They had strong opinions about the need to be more inclusive. We grew up in an environment where the idea of prejudice was seen as something really wrong – not just in relation to Aboriginal people. Neither of them was tolerant of homophobia, for example. They had a real live-and-let-live attitude."

Being so aware of the injustices in their community and their own family, it is unsurprising that both Behrendt children ended up in the legal profession. While her brother is a practising native rights lawyer and is "interested in the same things but does it in a different way", Behrendt says he is her most-valued source of support and guidance.

In turn, Behrendt also mentors younger Indigenous women. She is an inspirational figure for a younger generation – from all cultures. Reaching the level of Professor at the age of 31, Behrendt has also been named NAIDOC's Indigenous Person of the Year. Her involvement in different projects and organisations has become so sought-after, one of her biggest challenges has been having to learn how to say no.

There is a touch of glamour about Behrendt that makes it easy to see why many young people would want to emulate her. However, she says her best piece of advice is "not to think about what awards you want to win or

the accolades. You've got to make your decisions about what you want to do based on what your passion is. If you work on what your passion is, everything will fall into place.

"I've been very lucky that I've got to work on the issues that I love the most. I'm lucky because I had an education and got my law degree at a time when not a lot of people in my community had that. I get lots of opportunities to do really interesting things, challenging things, fun things, but I am able to choose things that I think will be rewarding."

UTS Vice-Chancellor Professor Ross Milbourne says that Behrendt has a rare level of dedication, and the University is proud of being in a position to foster and support her work over nearly a decade. "As Director of Research within the UTS Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning she is both a shining example and a leading agent in promoting higher levels of Indigenous engagement in tertiary education and research."

Jumbunna was originally set up in 1987 to support Aboriginal students at UTS. Back then there were just two Indigenous students at the University, now there more than 350. Similarly, Jumbunna has developed into a hub for

Indigenous students as well as academic research.

Jumbunna is something Behrendt is immensely proud of. She says the work is exceptional because of Jumbunna's ability to critique existing policies independent of government funding, allowing a higher level of objectivity.

"UTS has been incredibly supportive and staunch about our speaking out on things that aren't working when that's what our research says – even if it is unpopular with government. The commitment to academic independence is really strong here."

Behrendt says this has garnered a lot of respect from the Aboriginal community. "We will go out where maybe the funding isn't but where the need is. We don't just research and write up academic articles, we make sure that research is implemented back into the community."

One of the most recent research projects undertaken by Behrendt and Jumbunna looked at crime and governance in Aboriginal communities; comparing communities, which are geographically very close, but have markedly different crime rates among the Indigenous population. The research reveals that Aboriginal communities with a strong sense of ownership and involvement are empowered to manage social problems themselves. This corresponds to lower rates of crime.

"Across a lot of research we do, one of the key things that comes up over and over again is the need to have Aboriginal people centrally involved in the policies and programs that are affecting them. And although that sounds like common sense, it's so rarely done by government."

Behrendt sees the NSW Australian of the Year title as something she can share with the UTS community. "I hope what the award will do is put a little spotlight on the sort of work we are doing in Jumbunna, the findings in the research about what's not working and what is working in Indigenous policy and highlight that there is some really innovative work being done here. Work that can make a difference." ■



Graduates enjoy an alumni event in Kuala Lumpur last year

UTS ALUMNI REUNIONS IN ASIA

This June and July, take the opportunity to connect with all your old friends and perhaps meet some new ones. Alumni receptions will be held in Jakarta on 30 June (hosted by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Bill Purcell), Hong Kong on 4 July and Shanghai on 7 July (both hosted by Vice-Chancellor Professor Ross Milbourne). If you are living in the area or just passing through, you are invited to join us. Please see the events page of the UTS alumni website for further details. www.alumni.uts.edu.au

ALUMNI SURVEY RESULTS

The UTS Alumni Survey took place in March this year. We discovered that for nearly 60% of you, the desire for continued learning is an important motivator for staying in touch with the University, and the vast majority of alumni who aren't involved with UTS indicated they are open to more involvement. We were also happy to hear almost three-quarters of graduates would recommend UTS as a place to study. *TOWER* also proved to be well-received with 75% of graduates rating this magazine as good or above. Thank you to everyone who participated. Over the coming months we will be looking at ways to implement some of the learnings from the survey. A full summary of the research will be available by the middle of 2011.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG GRADUATE

Khoo Sze Boon has been recognised for his achievements and contribution to Australian education at the Austrade Alumni Awards in Singapore earlier this year. Sze Boon, who graduated with a Bachelor of Building in Construction Economics in 1999 along with First Class Honours and a University Medal, won the Outstanding Young Alumni Award. An Executive Director at Davis Langdon & Seah Singapore, Sze Boon has also been a volunteer with the National Police Cadet Corp as an Honorary Instructor since 1996.



Khoo Sze Boon with Professor Bruce Milthorpe, Dean of Science, at the Austrade Awards ceremony

NEWSBITES



The sports hall is the first project to be completed under the University's visionary City Campus Master Plan



ABOVE TOP: Vice-Chancellor Professor Ross Milbourne cuts the ribbon to open the new Sports Hall
ABOVE: The UTS community comes together for the launch

FIRST MILESTONE FOR MASTER PLAN

An indoor state-of-the-art sports court, gym and dance studio are just some of the features of the new Multi-Purpose Sports Hall officially opened in April. The underground facility brings recreational and academic opportunities to the heart of the City Campus and is the first project to be completed as part of the University's \$1 billion Master Plan. The next project scheduled for completion is a 13-level, 720-bed student housing tower on Harris Street.

You can stay up to date with all the latest news about UTS's Master Plan by signing up for the monthly e-newsletter. Visit www.alumni.uts.edu.au and click on the link.



NEW WEBSITE FOR ALUMNI

You can now go online to see the new website for UTS alumni. With a fresh look and easy-to-navigate layout, visit alumni.uts.edu.au to find out the latest news about your fellow alumni and your university. Recently we sent all alumni instructions on how to access and change their details online. If you are a graduate of UTS and didn't receive your login details, email alumni@uts.edu.au.

Mapping the Land



A new generation of landholders and the latest mapping techniques are helping restore some of the most iconic wetlands of inland NSW.

Most city dwellers don't know they exist, let alone give them much thought, but for Science doctoral candidate Sharon Bowen the inland wetland floodplains of NSW occupy most of her very crowded waking moments. Combining a full-time job as a Senior Environmental Scientist with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), with a PhD candidature involving remote location field work, a family and house renovations might seem like an impossible workload, but Bowen has no doubt that this research can't wait. Despite very recent drenching rains causing an explosion in vegetation and birdlife, unique wetlands like the Macquarie Marshes have been in decline

The conflict between land and water use, compounded by decades of drought has resulted in the destruction of 95% of wetland marsh rushes in the Gwydir wetlands. Situated in the north-west of NSW, the area is home to half a million nesting birds.

"The signs of ecological stress are plain to see."

Using high-resolution aerial digital photography and comparing this to images from the 1990s, Bowen has been able to show the immense decline in native vegetation. Some areas have just 5% of wetlands in "good condition".

However, Bowen's research is already helping instigate change. "The vegetation mapping has resulted in the listing of an endangered species

"The conflict between land and water use, compounded by decades of drought, has resulted in the destruction of 95% of wetland marsh rushes – home to half a million nesting birds"

for decades. Considering the predicted impacts of climate change, many scientists believe a tipping point has been reached.

"It's a critical time for Science to inform policy for the sustainable allocation of water resources. My research aims to test the effectiveness of targets. We want to be able to tell stakeholders that if you put so much water back into the environment then this is what you'll get out," says Bowen.

Ecologists refer to wetlands as "biodiversity hotspots", genetic stores that provide whole ecosystems with services that support life. They are critical for groundwater recharge and thus for agriculture and grazing.

which has led to a review of the Native Vegetation Conservation Act."

Bowen also hopes change will come by working with a new generation of landholders, especially graziers who have a vested interest in preserving wetlands for the benefit of their animals.

"If we want to restore the floodplain habitat we have to look at the whole mosaic and have landholders, OEH and the water authorities working together. By making an investment in water and by quantifying the impact of that investment we can help restore the wetlands and increase farming productivity." ■

Sharon Bowen is a PhD candidate within C3, the Plant Functional Biology and Climate Change Cluster. Formed in 2008, C3 harnesses more than a decade of research by UTS Environmental Scientists on some of the most fragile and vulnerable ecosystems on earth and is a key research strength at the University. www.c3.uts.edu.au



IN YOUR FACE

“It’s an addiction and a way of life”

For award-winning designer Andrew Aloisio, it all started when he was a child. “Ever since I could remember, I was always in the garage either making something or breaking something... I was a big dreamer.” This inherent need to design continues to drive Aloisio today. After graduating with a B. Design in 1997, Aloisio opened his own studio and has developed products that range from a table inspired by a kimono gown to a garment made from moulded silicone.

“The work I do is all about discovering new visions and solutions, and interpreting these into real-world objects.”

Aloisio’s ability to find unique solutions resulted in a Peroni Young Designer Award for his Chiller Glass, a self-cooling glass perfect for beer, and he was invited to collaborate with Italian furniture brand Kartell. This resulted in a limited-edition range entitled *Somewhere in Between* in which Aloisio re-engineered Kartell lab products like test tubes and glass clamps into wearable art. The range won Aloisio international attention.

“Collaborating with Kartell was enjoyable because it gave me the freedom to dream without restrictions – like

when you are young and free of constraints.”

A sense of playfulness permeates many of Aloisio’s designs. One of his latest products reinvents the humble fruit bowl by using movable wooden slats to create a “matrix” of fruit.

After working with other international brands like Swarovski and Versace Home, Aloisio is now designing for Napoleon Perdis Cosmetics and is developing his own range of quirky homeware products, describing the process as “approaching everyday concepts with a twist.”

“My personal drive is to seek the best solution possible and wrestle with the idea that the design must be unique for now and tomorrow. Mediocre is not in my design vocabulary.”



Abstract Magnetic Aperitivo Tray



Ark Fruit Vessel



Chiller Glass



Kartell Design Installation



Kimono Table



Lusso Armchair



Olivia's Day Table

TOWERING 10



1

After gaining a Bachelor of Law in 1993 and then a Graduate Diploma the following year, the demands of a young family prompted **MAUREEN JORDAN** to start a business where she could work flexible hours. Today, Jordan is CEO of Switzer Media + Publishing, a leading supplier of business and financial information. During her 20-year involvement in media and publishing, Jordan has held editor-in-chief roles for esteemed financial publications and has authored several books. In 1996 Jordan was inducted into the Australian Business Women's Hall of Fame and has also been invited to speak at Parliament House to share her experiences and advice with small business owners. One of her more recent projects, of which she is particularly proud, is a bi-monthly magazine called *Russh*, which Jordan says is at the cutting-edge of fashion and now sells in London, New York and Paris.

2

Most people know her as the co-host of *Letters and Numbers*, but **LILY SERNA** is much more than a mathematician. This year she will graduate from an honours degree in mathematics with an application in biology – a course she says allowed her to indulge her passion for environmental issues. Serna has been undertaking research with the CSIRO to look at the flow of pollutants into the Great Barrier Reef. "It's rewarding to think that the research that I'm doing will in some way positively contribute to the situation." Serna says she feels lucky to be given an opportunity to present maths in a different light through *Letters and Numbers* – a popular television quiz show on SBS. "I've had a few high school and even primary school students contact me to let me know how much they're enjoying maths – that, to me, is really special."

"For those who have what it takes... there are pots of gold waiting to be collected. Usually, there's more than money inside those pots. And those non-money rewards are what keep me in the race"

From the glitzy lights of television, to underwater voyages of discovery, UTS alumni are trailblazing all over the world.



3

2011 was the first year **MATT BIRD** made it into the renowned short film festival Tropfest. It was also a winning year.

Bird's film, *A Desperate Deed*, collected awards for Best Editing and Best Original Score. The film was written, directed, produced and edited by Bird who said it was rewarding even though he was limited to a tight budget.

Graduating in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Media Arts and Production), Bird has directed more than half a dozen films over the past decade as well as numerous TV commercials, music videos and network television programs. This has given him the chance to work with some of Australia's best acting talent, including Pia Miranda and *Underbelly's* Gyton Grantley.

Bird is currently wowing international crowds with a thriller he has written and directed, *Cold Sore*, which to date has screened at more than 20 festivals across the United States. The film won Best Short Film at the Indie Spirit Film Festival and Best Screenplay at the Boston International Film Festival.

4

"After 20 years of working in travel, you could say that it now runs through my veins and I couldn't see myself working in any other industry."

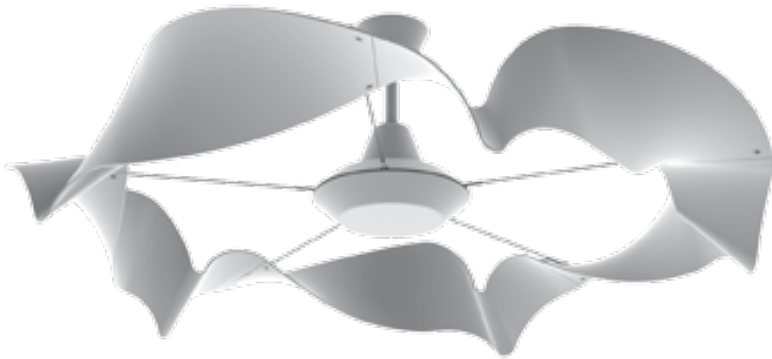
DANNY KONDIC (MBA, 1997) has recently been made Vice-President of the Channel Management Division in one of Asia's leading providers of travel solutions, Abacus. An industry veteran, Kondic's career began straight after university, when he joined Qantas.

"It is an exciting industry that has seen both tremendous challenges and changes over the years. I am greatly inspired by the people who work across this industry and the camaraderie and great relationships that develop."

Kondic's experience has been forged through senior management roles in the airline industry as well as the agency side of the travel industry, with most of his career spent in Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

"Working in Asia has certainly been an eye-opener. It reminds me of a well known saying in Thailand – 'same same, but different!'"

Above: Filmmaker Matt Bird and scenes from *A Desperate Deed* and *Cold Sore*, two of his films that have won awards this year



5

"I really like taking everyday products, evaluating their use and purpose, and determining how their function may be improved by reinterpreting the basic form."

It was this way of thinking that won **BEN MCMAHON** a prestigious James Dyson Award in the last round of the Australian Design Awards. McMahon, who completed a Bachelor of Design last year and graduated with First Class Honours, beat other emerging designers from across the country with his revolutionary interpretation of the household ceiling fan. Resembling a flowing ribbon, McMahon says designing and constructing the fan is his career highlight.

Currently working as an Industrial Designer for Design + Industry, a Sydney design consultancy, McMahon is still working on his own projects that continue his theme of reinventing everyday objects.

"I have a number of prototypes that I'm currently working on getting to market."



6

As Research Manager, **DR TOM TRNSKI** is

responsible for developing

the research strategy for the Auckland War Memorial Museum. With more than two decades experience working in museums, it's Trnski's own research that has won him international recognition. Trnski, who was awarded a PhD in 2004, is a world authority on fish. He has authored two books and more than 100 chapters describing the larval stages of fish and how they relate to their environment.

As part of his ongoing study into fish ecology, Trnski has travelled to the most remote parts of Australia and the Pacific Ocean.

"Marine science involves a diverse skill set, requiring knowledge of statistics, physics, chemistry and biology – this diversity means that there are always new challenges in every project."

This year Trnski is coordinating an expedition to the remote Kermadec Islands. A 'voyage of discovery', the goal is to investigate biodiversity in an undisturbed environment.





ABOVE TOP: Nichola Garvey with HarperCollins CEO Michael Moynahan
 ABOVE: Simon O'Donnell interviews Garvey at the launch of her book

7

Not everyone gets to realise their dreams,

but **NICHOLA GARVEY** is one of the lucky ones. After building a successful career in recruitment, Garvey decided to take a chance and follow her passion for writing. Six years later she has just graduated with a Master of Creative Writing, has locked in a book deal and is being touted as one of Australia's most exciting up-and-coming non-fiction authors.

Garvey's first book was released earlier this year. Entitled *Beating the Odds*, it tells the story of Alan Tripp, one of the country's most notorious gaming figures from the 1980s. The biography was originally Garvey's master's thesis, but when mentor Peter FitzSimons read the first chapter he immediately passed it on to his publisher, HarperCollins. Having achieved such success early in her career, Garvey is already branching out beyond books. "I have a couple of projects on the go. I'm starting to put together a treatment for a TV series based on the book about Alan."



8

Professor **SUE KILDEA** (PhD, 2005)

has played a role in the births of many babies across Australia. As a leading researcher, Kildea was involved in the development of the national competency standards for midwifery in 2005 and in 2010, the development of national core competencies and an educational framework for maternity services in Australia.

Foundation Chair of Midwifery at the Australian Catholic University and Mater Mothers' Hospital, Kildea was the first Professor of Midwifery in Queensland and is now the Director of the newly established Midwifery Research Unit.

Kildea is passionate about improving the safety and quality of health services across the spectrum, particularly in rural and remote areas and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, and was awarded a UTS Human Rights Award in 2004 for her contribution to advancing reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.



9

The success of last year's World Expo in Shanghai

can partly be attributed to **JEANNIE WANG**, who was a key member of the Australian team from the Department of Education and Training NSW that provided a training needs analysis for the Chinese Government. Utilising her numerous qualifications gained at UTS, which includes a Master of Education (1998) and Master of Arts in Leisure Studies (1992), Wang is currently a Head Teacher in Tourism and Hospitality Management within TAFENSW and manages the overseas Hospitality Management Diploma programs in China. An award-winning educator, she has previously earned a NSW Quality Teaching Award as well as a Teaching Excellence Award from TAFENSW Sydney Institute. Wanting to 'give back' to her university, Wang was instrumental in the launch of the UTS Alumni China Network, which brings together graduates of Chinese origin living in Australia.



10

For a 23-year-old, **KATRIE LOWE**

already has an enviable list of accolades under her belt. Graduating this year with First Class Honours (B. Eng/BA Int. Studies), Lowe has been a recipient of the prestigious Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Award and represented Australia as a delegate in the inaugural 2010 Australia-China Youth Dialogue. An up-and-coming engineer, Lowe's area of interest is water conservation – something she has been working on during her internship at an Australian design consultancy based in China as a result of winning a place in the ACC AustCham Scholarship Program. "The true purpose of an engineer is to act for the benefit of the community and I try to keep this philosophy in mind as I progress through my career."

Lowe says she is looking forward to developing her skills further both in Australia and internationally. ■



ABOVE: Jeannie Wang at the construction site of the World Expo in Shanghai



A Global Class



sroom

A new initiative is helping UTS students get their hands dirty in their mission to change the world. Paolo Hooke finds out more.

There are some things you can't learn from within the four walls of a classroom. Although university life is traditionally textbooks and lectures, a program launched last April is taking students all over the world and teaching them some real-world lessons.

"An experience that is hard to describe. Meeting lifelong friends from over 27 nations. Hearing talks from inspirational speakers who are leaders in their own field. Flying kites with local orphans who've been through more than many of us have been. One week, so many amazing moments."

Chris Jones is one of more than 1000 students who are currently engaged with the Beyond UTS International Leadership Development program [BUiLD]. As part of the program, Jones travelled to Malaysia in August to attend the Global Youth Symposium which was aimed at highlighting humanitarian issues and connecting future leaders. This was an incredible opportunity for aspiring entrepreneur Jones, "[it sparked] new ideas for me that I could bring back and implement in many programs that I am a part of in Australia, and hopefully in the near future, around the world."



As part of the BUiLD program, UTS students are travelling to places like India and Ghana to work with local communities and learn leadership skills



BUiLD is fostering the next generation of leaders who are both globally and socially aware by giving students the opportunity to develop skills, forge global connections, learn to lead as well as enhancing their job prospects. Highly flexible, BUiLD is designed to fit in with the study, work, family and social commitments of students, according to UTS Leadership Programs Coordinator Fiona Tschaut.

This year, a group of eight students found themselves in one of the poorest slums in Mumbai, learning about micro-finance and experiencing the real face of poverty. MBA student Nathan Wiltshire says the experience blew him away.

“To see and empathise with these people is something I will never forget. It is certainly not something that could ever be taught in a classroom. I am truly grateful for this experience

“Fostering the next generation of leaders who are both globally and socially aware”

Students who participate in BUiLD programs might volunteer with children in Nepal, complete a film and media internship in Bollywood, join the World Model United Nations, complete leadership studies in the Czech Republic or undertake conflict and peace studies in Costa Rica.

Tschaut says one thing that distinguishes the BUiLD program from other leadership programs is that it’s not elitist. “This program has been specifically designed to give all students the opportunity to grow, develop skills and learn about leadership. By the end of the year 1500 UTS students will be involved.”

The BUiLD student body is also highly diverse. International students make up 22% of the community and 38 different nationalities are represented – making it a celebration of culture and a cross-cultural integration.

as I have not only learned an incredible amount about business in India, but also about myself.”

Wiltshire says BUiLD has a wide range of events that cover almost every conceivable interest in the fields of politics, world events, human rights, economic development, creative arts and more. “Just pick and choose which ones interest you.”

About 50 core activities are organised each semester and in June, BUiLD will be sending ten students to attend the Gadjar Mada University’s DREaM program in social entrepreneurship in Indonesia. As part of this trip, students will attend lectures by international experts on best practices in running social ventures and undertake community work in the local area. ☰



Conceived by Professor Bill Purcell, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development), BUiLD is an exciting new international leadership development program at UTS that is helping students learn new skills, forge global connections and enhance their job prospects.

← Professor Bill Purcell speaks at the launch of the BUiLD program



THE ANTARCTICA CHALLENGE

It's the coldest, windiest place on earth – so remote that there are no permanent residents. It's also a perfect place to debate the future of the world.



“It was all about young people understanding where big business and corporate companies are coming from, as well as them understanding that it is our future that they’re risking”



Fellow UTS graduate Anna Zhu also travelled to Antarctica recently, after winning the World Nomads travel scholarship. Some of her amazing images can be seen here. “Antarctica, teeming with life and bizarre neon icebergs – I loved that it pushed me to the limit, and defined my attitude as a photographer.”

The temperature is south of zero, so cold that ice forms a carpet on the ocean’s surface. Antarctica is a place that is as dangerous and unforgiving as it is breathtakingly beautiful.

A discussion is heating up onboard the *Sea Spirit* about appropriate carbon emission targets for the world, and the group is debating the merits of being ambitious versus realistic. The international contingent is a combination of young people, ‘future leaders’ passionate about environmental issues, and corporate executives – half from ‘green’ companies and the other half representing some of the most polluting businesses in the world. Recent graduate Gemma Borgo-Caratti (BA Communications, 2010) is one of the young environmental campaigners and the only Australian in the group. Borgo-Caratti gets off her chair to rise above the banter. She points out that whatever the target is, it will undoubtedly end up being negotiated down, making an ambitious estimate essential if any real difference is to be made. She wins the crowd over.

This voyage is part of the Inspire Antarctica Expedition (IAE), a leadership

program that aims to create ambassadors for sustainability and the environment. The program educates and inspires leaders from around the world, who then return home and instigate change through their own personal networks. As well as seeing the effects of climate change first-hand, Borgo-Caratti says the group discussions presented life-changing lessons for everyone.

“It was all about young people understanding where big business and corporate companies are coming from, as well as them understanding that it is our future that they’re risking and it’s not fair for them to leave behind a totally destroyed environment that our generation will have to deal with.

“I saw some people who had been stuck in their corporate lives, had been stuck working in coal or oil or gas, realise there are other people that this is affecting and it’s not just about how much money the company makes.”

Only twelve months before this incredible journey, Borgo-Caratti was lost. She was coming to the end of her studies and had no idea what was next. After doing an internship at the Centre for Policy Development where she worked



UTS GRADUATES GEMMA BORGOCARATTI AND ANNA ZHU SHARE PHOTOS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE VOYAGES TO ANTARCTICA

on the Green Economy Toolkit (an online collaborative research project that is aimed at showcasing 'green' policy ideas), Borgo-Caratti chose Climate Change Politics and Ecology as her final subject. It's here that Borgo-Caratti had her 'environmental awakening'. Learning about the effects of climate change on global weather patterns and how this was impacting the poorest people in the world, Borgo-Caratti knew she had to do something.

"I felt a huge amount of responsibility. I thought: I am a young person in the 21st century. I can stand up for other young people around the world whose voices can't be heard."

Following this, Borgo-Caratti decided to join the Australian Youth

leaders of AYCC for a personal meeting with her after the election.

While fancy dress wasn't a part of the expedition to Antarctica, the trip was just as memorable. Along with lectures and debates, the two-week journey included plenty of leadership-building activities where group members were challenged to push their boundaries to the ultimate limit.

"We got to really explore the continent; we did big hikes on glaciers, saw penguin colonies and ice-camped. We also did a polar plunge."

Borgo-Caratti explains that a polar plunge in Antarctica involves driving the boat around in circles to mash up the ice. Then, in nothing more than your

and empower other young people to be more aware of their impact on the world.

"If we're going to change behaviour we need to educate people, so it's my professional pledge to do this by teaching others about how they can make changes to reduce their impact on the environment."

Borgo-Caretti is educating others through the Switched-on Schools program – organising AYCC volunteers to visit schools and run workshops that educate and empower students to start their own sustainability projects. She is also helping run a campaign called Meet Your Member, which gives young people the chance to discuss climate change with their local and state politicians. Borgo-Caratti says that everyone can make a difference by doing one thing. "Just question: why are we doing this, what impact is this having and how can I change it?" ■

"I felt a huge amount of responsibility. I thought: I am a young person in the 21st century. I can stand up for other young people around the world whose voices can't be heard"

Climate Coalition (AYCC) and ended up in another unusual situation. It was directly before Australia's 2010 Federal Election and the AYCC had conjured up a way to get the attention of candidates. For two weeks prior to voting, Borgo-Caratti and a herd of other AYCC representatives dressed in elephant costumes and followed Tony Abbott and Julia Gillard wherever they went.

"It was based on the idea that climate change is the elephant in the room. We wanted to make sure they knew that young voters cared about climate change."

The stunt was a great success. It was included in *The Sydney Morning Herald's* top ten political moments of 2010 and Prime Minister Julia Gillard invited the

everyday swimsuit, each person takes a turn to jump into the ocean. Contrary to expectation, this is apparently not dangerous and does not result in freezing to death.

"It's about mentally preparing yourself for a challenge. You have to push yourself as far as you can go. You're only in there for a few seconds and then you get dry. It's an incredible rush."

Borgo-Caratti says the group saw a lot of things that were confronting, but that everyone left with a pledge to make a difference at home.

Currently studying a Master of Environmental Management, Borgo-Caratti is now the NSW Coordinator of AYCC and is working hard to help educate



Helping the next generation...

Michael Whitbread

There are usually two things on the minds of recent graduates: celebrating and finding a job. Instead, Michael Whitbread was dreaming up ways to ensure future students could access the same educational opportunities that he was fortunate to have.

"I value education a lot – just from my own personal experience, it's been very useful. Making sure it's available to everyone is very important to me."

Michael decided to establish a scholarship program to help UTS Law students gain experience in a leading

London barristers' chambers and embarked on an epic motorcycle ride from London to Sydney to raise funds. Battling monsoons, horrendous roads and exhaustion, knowing that "something good was going to happen at the end" kept him going.

His passion for 'giving back' will mean other law students have the opportunity to gain priceless real-world experience, gaining the skills and inspiration to go on and help others

Although he is a graduate from another university, Michael chose to work

with UTS to create the scholarship fund. The University matched the funds raised dollar for dollar, resulting in a total of \$20,000 for the program, which launched this year.

"UTS is well above [other universities] in the practical experience. A rounded education is really important and not emphasised enough – UTS is doing a good job of that."

Make sure we can help more students reach their full potential by donating to the Annual Appeal.

www.alumni.uts.edu.au/givingtostudents

SUPPORT

Donate to the UTS Annual Appeal and support scholarship programs for disadvantaged students. You can make a difference and make sure education is accessible for everyone.

Michael Whitbread journeyed from London to Sydney on the back of a bike to raise money for a UTS scholarship



Why I give...



(L – R) Vice-Chancellor Ross Milbourne, Development Manager Enid Charlton and UTS donor David O’Mahony share the same commitment to supporting disadvantaged students at the University

David O’Mahony

As a Senior Manager at Macquarie Group, David O’Mahony knows what a good investment looks like. Like any smart investor, he researches the market, reviews each option carefully and identifies the area that will return maximum value. This is why David is a regular giver to UTS.

David understands that supporting education is an investment in the future, not just for one person but the broader society.

“For every dollar you invest in UTS, it probably generates three or four dollars elsewhere. Your investment is returning far more and impacting across a broader range of things, communities, individuals, people who go on to inspire others – the impact is far larger than you can put your finger on.”

As a regular supporter through the Annual Appeal since 2007, David is a great example of how ongoing support can make a real difference.

“I give smaller amounts across a broad range of areas because I know all of these work side by side... you need a library, you need scholarships, you need the best teaching – it’s the quality of all of them combined.”

UTS needs more regular donors. Help ensure the next generation can have access to world-leading education by becoming a supporter of UTS today.
www.alumni.uts.edu.au/givingtostudents

UTS A scholarship changed my life...

Aseel Khalili

Not everyone can gain access to a university education. It might be because they live in a remote area of Australia and the cost of moving is too great, because family commitments meant they couldn’t finish high-school or because they simply can’t afford it.

When Aseel Khalili came to Australia she had battled situations that most of us wouldn’t want to imagine. A refugee, her dream was to make a new life for herself and her young son and she knew the only way she could do this was by educating herself.

Without any form of support network, Aseel managed to complete a diploma course at TAFE, working hard and gaining top marks in all her classes. While her fellow students began preparing to transition to university, Aseel was stuck. Because she was on a Temporary Protection Visa, Aseel was considered an international student and would have to pay more than \$20,000 upfront – an impossible ask.

Newly graduated Aseel Khalili has been able to provide a better life for herself and her son because of a scholarship

Aseel decided not to give up and went through the phone listing for universities in Sydney asking one question: can you help me? UTS was the only place she called that answered ‘yes’.

There was one scholarship aimed at helping people who were on a visa like Aseel. She handed in her application the next day.

In May this year, Aseel graduated with a Bachelor of Biomedical Science, is working in the industry and her son is planning to follow in his mother’s footsteps and study at UTS.

“Graduating is the proudest moment of my life... I would never have been able to do it without the scholarship.”

Helping passionate and deserving people like Aseel gain a brighter future not only helps the individual, but enables them to go on and help those around them. Since being awarded her scholarship, Aseel has acted as a mentor to other scholarship recipients and new immigrants.

Aseel is just one of many deserving individuals who have one dream: to attend university. Donate to the Annual Appeal and help UTS create more scholarships for students like Aseel.

www.alumni.uts.edu.au/givingtostudents





TALKING PICTURES

When Bronwyn Kidd submitted her first short film entry to Flickerfest in 1991, she didn't imagine she would ever become the Festival's Director.

"I made a short film at UTS that I entered but it never got in... although I did get into Tropfest in the same year."

Kidd didn't end up winning Tropfest either but six years after watching the very first screening of Flickerfest, she took on the role of Executive Director. At that time, Kidd fondly remembers inheriting just "a 16mm projector, a cable and a dream".

In the 14 years under Kidd's wing, Flickerfest International Short Film Festival has grown from its humble beginnings at Balmain High School with roughly 200 entries to an Academy Award and BAFTA accredited international short film festival that attracts more than 1750 entries every year.

A documentary filmmaker, Kidd's initial motivation to get into celluloid was through a passion for social justice, developed after taking a class about Aboriginal history while studying for a BA Communications.

"It just really opened my mind to a whole different way of looking at history. At this point in time, the Mabo decision hadn't been made, there were no native title rights or recognition of Indigenous people's land here in Australia."

After graduating in 1990, Kidd's interest in social and political issues continued through her films. Her first documentary *Walking With My Sisters* (1998) tells the story of the Arakwal people's plight for native title and her second documentary *Beachballs* (2000) follows the protest movement at Bondi against building the Olympic volleyball site.

"I inherited a 16mm projector, a cable and a dream"

Kidd admits working as a filmmaker and directing an international short film festival is hard; her latest project *Back to Country* (a follow-up to her first film) has been put on the backburner but she hopes to release the film in 2012.

This year Flickerfest introduced the Green Flicks program – a line-up of short film entries that explore environmental issues and themes. In line with this, the festival has introduced the use of organic food and beverages, and has implemented a waste strategy with Waverley Council.

"For me it's not just about putting on an event, it's about being inspiring and entertaining and also about having awareness that everything you do has an impact on the planet." ■■■



Relax – you're about to give birth



TOOWOOMBA'S NEW BIRTHING CENTRE, DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE MOTHER'S EXPERIENCE

Operating theatre or double bed with bath – does it really matter what type of room is used when giving birth? A team of design, communications and midwifery experts are out to prove a stress-free environment is essential.

Giving birth is life-changing, intimate, exhilarating. It can also be frightening and stressful. New research reveals this can have an adverse effect on mother and baby.

As interventions such as the use of drugs and caesarean section – and their associated risks – continue to rise in the developed world, UTS is embarking on world-first research to explore the relationship between birth unit design, the quality of communication, and staff and patient stress.

Led by Professor Maralyn Foureur, the multi-disciplinary project spans the faculties of Midwifery, Nursing and Health; Arts and Social Sciences; and Design, Architecture and Building. It is funded by a \$227,000 Australian Research Council grant, which will cover the cost of two PhD scholarships.

Foureur, Communication Professor Rick Iedema, Industrial Design Course Director Berto Pandolfo and their teams will use their own specialised techniques and perspectives to analyse relevant elements of the same research data.

Data, in this case, is video footage recorded by a research midwife in the lead-up to labour.

Many factors are at play in minimising stress, including the environment – facilities, design, equipment – and the communication techniques used by hospital staff.

"We are looking at how staff use the space and how they communicate about the space to the woman."

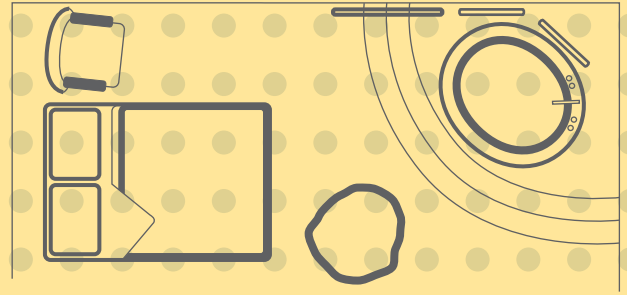
For example, says Foureur, a woman ushered into a room, with a bed being the main piece of furniture, would instinctively approach the bed and lie down.

"That's counterproductive to normal physiology in labour. Lying down on a bed is not the best thing to do. We are trying to look at other options that explain or make sense to the woman.

"We are looking at how the staff member communicates non-verbally to the woman and what the other objects and artefacts [in the room] do to communicate to her. This can be much more powerful



ABOVE AND BELOW: TOOWOOMBA'S BIRTHING CENTRE HAS BEEN CALLED THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY



rooms. These days we have highly sophisticated, highly technological environments that we usher women into."

However, these modern rooms may not be stress-free.

Currently in Australia, fewer than 5% of women are able to access "domestic-like" primary birthing units in public hospitals, which contain reassuring design elements such as a comfortable bed and access to water such as a bath.

Instead, they may be admitted to standard labour wards or tertiary referral centres, which may seem too clean, scary or even threatening.

"You can walk into a tertiary referral hospital or a labour room and they look like operating theatres," says Foureur. "There is all sorts of equipment on display.

"If you're trying to create a non-stressful environment... you don't want to be sitting in a room where you're staring at this huge prenatal resuscitation trolley with a hidden message that something might go wrong and your baby might be put on this machine.

"We have a challenge ahead of us to modify the environment and make it stress-reducing."

The three-year project, which began in May is being conducted on an exploratory level, and may lead to more in-depth research into the levels of stress. In the meantime, it is hoped a new understanding of health facility design will reduce the number of interventions and other long-term health effects. ■

than words – which is why we need to videotape what goes on."

Consenting patients will then be interviewed about their experience, comfort and anxiety levels.

The project also looks at the impact of the environment on hospital staff. Foureur says discoveries in neuroscience show that stress can interfere with the way people communicate and their ability to attend to their surroundings.

'Currently in Australia, fewer than 5% of women are able to access "domestic-like" primary birthing units in public hospitals, which contain reassuring design elements such as a comfortable bed and access to water such as a bath'

"In a health setting, that's problematic. People are much more likely to make errors in judgement."

It is hoped that reduced stress leading up to and during labour will steady the increasing number of interventions during birth such as the use of drugs and caesarean section, which is now at an average of 25–30% in Australia, according to Foureur.

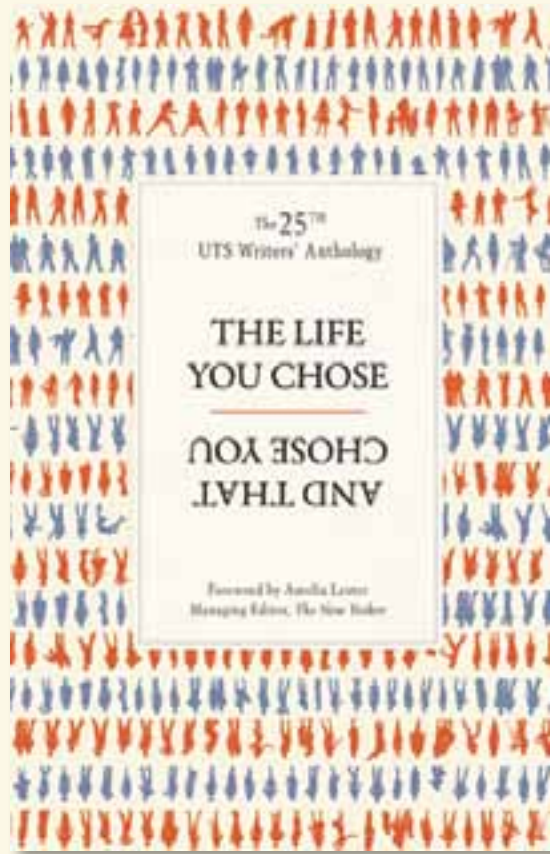
"Giving birth requires complex chemical processes to unfold in the mother's brain and body. The process can be interrupted or stopped altogether if the woman becomes frightened or stressed."

She estimates that less than 25% of Australian women experience a natural birth.

"All interventions have consequences," she says. "In some cases they are absolutely essential and life-saving for the mother or the baby. Those cases are fortunately quite rare.

"Health departments around the world have said enough is enough: we have to stop the rise in caesarean section. Twenty years ago, about 5% of women had caesareans. Twenty years ago, labour wards were fairly unsophisticated, non-technological





THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY WRITERS

The latest UTS Writers' Anthology marks the publication's 25th edition. Caroline Jenkins delves into the past and discovers a roll call of literary stars.

As editors worked around the clock to put the finishing touches to this 25th issue of the UTS Writers' Anthology, co-facilitator and celebrated Australian author Delia Falconer was confident the talent to come out of this special edition would be no different.

The names that have emerged from the anthology since its launch in 1982 – and UTS writing courses in general – read like a *Who's Who* of Australian literature.

Authors Bernard Cohen, Beth Yahp, Arabella Edge, Gillian Mears and Tegan Bennett Daylight are just a few who could put the anthology down as one of their first publications.

It is a showcase of emerging Australian talent, and is viewed as such by the industry.

"There's nothing like that first publication. Every writer has great anxiety about whether anyone is ever going to want to read what they have to say," says Falconer, lecturer and bestselling author of *The Service of Clouds* and *The Lost Thoughts of Soldiers and Selected Stories* – both shortlisted for major literary awards, including the Miles Franklin and Commonwealth Writers' Prize. She has just published *Sydney*.

"I still remember my first publication at university, and the first time I read in public. It's such a thrill – there's nothing like it. It's one of the best things in your writing career – to have that validation."

The best thing about the anthology, she says, is the fact that works are selected for publication anonymously.

VANESSA BERRY

TEGAN BENNETT DAYLIGHT

BERNARD COHEN

KATERINA COSGROVE

MARGOT DALY

PETER DOYLE

ROSS DUNCAN

ARABELLA EDGE

JUSTINE ETTLER

PAMELA FREEMAN

NIKKI GEMMELL

SUSANNE GERVAY

KERI GLASTONBURY

MIREILLE JUCHAU

GILLIAN MEARS

PATTI MILLER

SUNEETA PERES DA COSTA

BETH YAHP

ASHLEY HAY

JOHN DALE

TOM FLOOD

ANNA FUNDER

KATE GRENVILLE

JILL JONES

ANDY KISSANE

ANGELO LOUKAKIS

KATE LYONS

JANE MESSER

GABY NAHER

MANDY SAYER

SUSAN TEMBY

SUE WOOLFE

"You know that when your work goes in, it's purely to do with the work. It's so exciting, apart from having that sheer validation, that people do want to read what you've written – voluntarily."

Aside from securing publication early in their career – essential in pursuing a career in publishing – contributors are also exposed to literary agents, newspaper reviewers and industry heavyweights who make up the national and international distribution list.

"Apart from the fact people do actually look at it, it's a showcase where work is noticed and always has the potential to be picked up," says Falconer. "Moreover, you often find that students who work on publications like this have a great advantage when going into the publishing industry. It is a tremendously important part of the writing ecosystem."

PATH

Isabelle Guaran

I built my garden path with words
but what a waste.
It grew like language,
became full of holes and simply
enormous in places.
Rotten with sudden corners.
I tell people that I stay inside
to avoid the confusion,
but really it's the terrible disappointment.
Getting from one place to another should
never have been such a difficult affair.

In recent times, Isabelle Li's *A Chinese Affair* was selected from the anthology for publication in *The Best Australian Stories 2007*, and Walkley Student Journalist of the Year 2008, John Connell's *The Little Black* appeared in *The Best Australian Stories 2009*. Falconer edited the 2008 and 2009 editions. Connell has since been awarded the Eleanor Dark Varuna flagship fellowship and a bronze medal in the New York Festival Drama section for the adaptation of the story.

Nick Marland, an author featured in last year's anthology, is now working as a freelance writer, with articles appearing in *the(sydney)magazine*, among others, and three editors from the 2010 edition have established their own online journal for new writing, *Seizure*. It was launched this month by Falconer.

It was just two years ago that Miriam Cosic, then Literary Editor of *The Australian*, told Falconer she had been blown away by the quality of the readings at the Sydney Writers' Festival launch of the anthology. It has since been reviewed nationally.

"The anthology has as much of a profile as one of the better literary magazines – it's a very high-quality publication with a good reputation," says Falconer.

CLOSE

Mathilde de Hauteclocque

The lights went out over dinner. Annie dropped her fork onto her plate and swallowed her mouthful. We sat a moment in the silence of the interrupted dishwasher cycle until Annie could no longer contain a whimper. I could see that the lane at the back of the house was still lit.

'It's okay,' I reassured her. 'Probably just a fuse.'

My body knew the way down the hall. Annie refused to sit alone in the dark. She tugged at the back of my T-shirt, tailing me to the front door where I felt my way into the fuse box. I flicked the main back on, setting off a chorus of beeps as the machinery of the house came back to life.

'It's back!' As soon as she spoke, it was gone again. Three more times we tried.

'We'll have to wait til Daddy gets home,' I said. She whimpered again. Lenny wouldn't be home until the sun came with him.

Back in the kitchen, I felt around in the drawers, pushing aside worn coasters and tea towels, glad wrap rolls and rubber bands. I couldn't remember if we even had a working torch. 'Shit,' I muttered. Annie waited on her stool, swinging her feet into the cupboards, stiffening as the minutes passed.

'It's okay. Finish your dinner.' I fumbled in a box above the fridge, and turned back to the bench. 'And pass me the bread.'

I stuck 24 birthday candles in what was left of the loaf. Annie brushed her teeth by half of them and we read the final chapter of a tale about a love-struck frog by the other half. I tucked her in, leaving her curtain open so the streetlight crossed her pillow, and told her to count the stars for sleep.

John Dale, Director of the prestigious Centre for New Writing, says the anthology is the most important student writing publication in Australia.

"It is extremely important that students can select, edit and see a professional anthology such as this through to publication."

Dale attributes the critical role UTS has played in developing talented writers and fostering Australian literature to the University's creative environment, where Australian literature is taught, appreciated and produced.

"Many of Australia's new, developing and established writers have studied or taught writing at UTS, and been given the opportunity to develop their literary skills and further their critical knowledge of Australian literature."



1982



1997



1984



2000



1987



2001



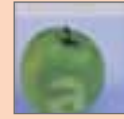
1988



2002



1989



2003



1990



2004



1991



2005



1992



2006



1993



2007



1994



2008



1995



2009



1996



2010



DOWN SOUTH

Angus Benson

Mul and Seano surfed without thinking. Their waves were mangled and ugly and they got hammered most of the time. I think this was the point of surfing for them; so they could laugh about how big their cuts were and prove to the older crew that we surfed at Aussie Pipe.

I can remember one particular wave from that day. It was much bigger than my others but it shaped up nicely before the reef. I timed the drop in so I wouldn't have to crash down the steep face. I caught it early and leaned into the barrel effortlessly. The wave held its shape all the way down the line. The energy of the swell sucked up the remains of water covering the reef and streaked its face. The peak fell listlessly and perfectly overhead. I saw how the wave was moving and I rode accordingly. All I had to do was pump across and glide, pump across and glide, along the smooth surface of water. I travelled that barrel like a dream. Then I woke up, out in the deep, and I just shouted out to the pounding waves as loud as I could.

For the anthology's 25th edition, *The Life You Chose and That Chose You*, eight editors – undergraduates and now-recent graduates – were selected from a field of 40.

Contending with more than 330 entries, editors Kate Butler, Jason Childs, Kit Henderson, Stephanie King, Maggie Korenblum, Kate Laidley, Sophie Roberts and Jacqui Wise were tasked with undertaking every aspect of production, from agreeing on a theme, title and cover design, to selection, editing and launch.

Each year the anthology features a foreword by a distinguished writer. This year, the editors approached Australian-born Managing Editor of *The New Yorker*, Amelia Lester, who experienced that publication's own torturous selection process for the 2010 Summer Fiction Issue which featured 20 writers under 40. She draws on this in the foreword to the anthology. Previous foreword contributors include authors Nam Li, Kate Grenville, Malcolm Knox and James Bradley.

This year's mix of writing – including modern realism, fantasy, poetry and a film script – was launched at the Sydney Writers' Festival, mid-May. It received a second launch at Gleebooks by renowned author – and UTS graduate and lecturer – Mireille Juchau.

"There's a good mix of genres from experimental writing and young adult fiction to realist stories about threshold moments in young lives – which is not surprising, given that so many writers are in their 20s," says Falconer.

"It gives everyone a sense of ownership of a process that can seem daunting and mysterious"

"The editors decided this year to widen the selection of genres."

She says her involvement, and that of fellow facilitator and author Debra Adelaide, is to act as an inconspicuous guide. That, she says, gives the editors the invaluable experience that will help launch their careers. And that means late nights, foregoing their summer break, zero remuneration – but a hugely rewarding end product.

"It's not a professional placement – there are no credit points or brownie points for your degree. It's purely a labour of love. But they have the opportunity to see every aspect of production and discover their strength."

"Everyone who comes to university [to study creative writing] wants to be a writer or literary editor. In this process, you might find that your talent is production, publicity or organising people – they are as important in publishing as anything else. It's not one of those lotteries of work experience – it's the full gamut of everything involved in publishing."

Falconer says the project demystifies the process of putting a publication together for contributors and editors: "It gives everyone a sense of ownership of a process that can seem daunting and mysterious."

The anthology is endorsed and funded by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. ■



To celebrate the 25th edition of the UTS Writers' Anthology, The Co-op Bookshop UTS is pleased to offer Co-op Members 'The Life You Chose and That Chose You' at the special price of \$19.95 (RRP \$26.95) for a limited time in-store, or online with free postage at www.coop-bookshop.com.au



IT Girl



A computer geek at heart, Alicia Navarro is growing accustomed to life as CEO of a burgeoning global enterprise.

That Alicia Navarro co-founded world-leading technology firm Skimlinks should come as no surprise.

The B. Information Technology and University Medal winner for Computing Sciences has always had a passion for technology and innovation, and by the age of ten had taught herself how to program on her Commodore 64.

But the CEO of a multi-national company needs more than technical expertise. Navarro has taken her business, launched in the midst of the global financial crisis, to the brink of world domination in online content monetisation.

In just three years, the London-based Navarro acquired investors, a co-founder, a growing and passionate team of 28, and thousands of clients around the world.

Navarro's journey toward the creation of Skimlinks began with an idea for a social decision-making tool – conceived in Australia – that would ease the frustration of making decisions: organising group holidays, buying furniture with a partner, finding a home with flatmates.

"I hired a team of developers in Romania and worked nights and weekends while working full time," explains Navarro, who had intended to license the technology to other websites.

When she discovered the product links collected and shared by users could be automatically turned into money-making 'affiliate links', Navarro realised the focus of the business needed to change.

"Every day I considered giving up... it was, and remains to this day, the hardest thing I have ever done"

"It was two years of my life, my savings, my pride and my energy that I had to essentially throw away. But I did it to survive, and it was absolutely the turning point. Skimlinks was born from that decision."

It wasn't long until Navarro secured investors and then co-founder, fellow UTS B. IT graduate Joe Stepniewski. He now heads up the London team while Navarro develops a presence in the US.

Affiliate marketing is a common way for online publishers such as blogs to earn revenue – they earn commission by incorporating product links into their content. Skimlinks provides the technology for websites to automate this linking and commission process.

Having worked for the likes of IBM, Fairfax Business Media and Vodafone, Navarro's enthusiasm for her business – and her staff – is palpable.

"Every day I considered giving up, and every day I was inspired to keep on going. It was, and remains to this day, the hardest thing I have ever done, and no one should go into entrepreneurship thinking it will be easier than working as an employee. But it is also what inspires me: to build something that matters, and to be my own master; to know that my hard work is benefiting me." ■

HEADING SOUTH

Tsunamis, riots and political coups couldn't keep Jane Kittel from doing her job. Meet UTS graduate and BankSA's Managing Director.

The spotlight was firmly directed at one issue during this year's International Women's Day: the comparative lack of females in senior management positions. Even in a country that now has a female Prime Minister and Governor-General, the absence of females in C-level executive positions means younger generations have to look harder to find role models.

This makes Jane Kittel's (B. Teaching, 1995) career trajectory all the more noteworthy. Recently handed the reins of Westpac-owned BankSA, the born and bred South Australian is returning to her roots in the Festival State. This follows her position as General Manager for Westpac's Pacific Banking operations where her responsibilities extended across seven South Pacific Island countries. Kittel says the role was just as rewarding as it was challenging. During her four-year tenure, the region saw rioting, political unrest and a tsunami, which hit Samoa in 2009.

Kittel is clearly accustomed to handling challenges, a skill that will be invaluable in her new role at BankSA. In a climate where negative public sentiment towards the financial sector is high, Kittel says successfully steering the bank through a tough economic climate is a key challenge for 2011.

"What's required is a real step up in energy and focus and in tough times you have to be that much more disciplined about everything you do."

Kittel strongly believes that to make effective decisions, you need to make sure you know the context in which you're making those decisions. This means a substantial part of her time is spent away from head-office, talking to members of the community.

"My whole job is really about building and developing relationships, with our customers and with the BankSA team.

"We have a really important role to play in the economy and helping communities grow and prosper, helping individuals grow and prosper. To do this you really need to get out there, building that face-to-face time."

Recently, Kittel's visit to a local community was a more charitable affair. The MD put herself up for auction to raise money for the Queensland flood victims. Her hometown branch in Port Augusta scored the winning bid and had Kittel at their disposal for an entire day. "They put me to work as a teller. I'd never been a teller before but it was fantastic. I was dealing with customers and processing transactions. It was fabulous, for me that type of experience allowed me to understand what the everyday challenges and opportunities are at that level of the business."

"Always be focused on continuing to learn and develop either through formal study or on the job. The way that I have done that is to always ask questions. If you don't understand something, don't fudge your way through it"

“We have a really important role to play in the economy and helping communities grow and prosper, helping individuals grow and prosper”



Determination and commitment are qualities Kittel has in abundance. A background in human resources management, which had a focus on teaching and learning, led Kittel to study a Bachelor of Teaching (Adult Education) at UTS. Back in the 1990s, the course was run at Yarramundi – a two-hour drive north-west to a small town near the Blue Mountains. Trekking this far for classes would be an impressive effort for many Sydneysiders, but it was a mammoth effort for Kittel because she didn't even live in NSW. Based in Melbourne, she completed the course while working full time and studying another course part time, flying up to Sydney for her classes. Kittel still remembers the time fondly. Her fellow students were mostly from the armed forces, which provided an interesting learning environment.

“It was the first time in my life I was called a civilian. It was a bit unique because there weren't many females, but it was a great experience.”

Kittel says this is just one of those opportunities that came in her direction that she grabbed with both hands, even though the timing wasn't the best. Taking advantage of every opportunity is something Kittel advocates strongly.

“Opportunities come in many forms, but you should never turn one down – even if it means doing something you're not immediately interested in because you never know where it will take you.

“When you meet people, make sure you take the time to talk to them – it doesn't cost much and you don't know what opportunities might come out of that conversation. People are interesting and everyone's got a story to tell.”

Kittel holds a similar view when it comes to personal development.

“Always be focused on continuing to learn and develop – either through formal study or on the job. The way that I have done that is to always ask questions. If you don't understand something, don't fudge your way through it. Be brave and ask the questions.”



“Fire Sticks is derived from two meanings. It refers to a traditional way Aboriginal people create fire (by rubbing two sticks together), and also references ‘message stick’ which is a traditional Aboriginal way of sharing knowledge and information (by passing engraved messages on wooden sticks)”

Images taken during and after traditional burning.

Far left: A UTS student in Cape York observes an ant nest after a burn
Right: Dr Tommy George, Senior Elder of the Kuku Thaypan clan and the lead Indigenous researcher on the Kuku Thaypan Fire Management Research Project.

FIRE STICKS

Bushfires present an ominous threat every summer, but is the solution as simple as fighting fire with fire?

To many Australians who live outside the cities and especially those who enjoy their homes among eucalyptus-rich bush settings, fire embodies a deadly menace that seems as unpredictable as it is unyielding. Each year the same debate about back-burning and clearing of land erupts – whether there is too much, whether there is too little, whether it is going to be effective at all during those days of 45-degree heat when some thoughtless camper hasn’t paid attention to the fire ban.

Our relationship with fire is understandably hostile. The Black Saturday horror during the Victorian bushfires two years ago has etched its place in history along with the Christmas Day firestorms that plagued Sydney in 2000, and Ash Wednesday before that. However, this perspective of seeing fire as a threat is being redefined. A collaborative project that brings together expertise across multiple

faculties within UTS and Traditional Knowledge Revival Pathways (TKRP), an organisation that works to preserve Aboriginal practices, is developing better understanding about the unique relationship between the Australian landscape and burning.

The project, called Fire Sticks, intertwines Aboriginal knowledge and understanding with 21st-century science and technology to create an improved way of managing the land and, it is hoped, bushfires.

Before colonisation, fire was fundamental to the way many Aboriginal people lived with the land. As Dean Yibarbuk, a fire ecologist and Elder, describes: “Aboriginal people burn to hunt, to promote new grass which attracts game, to make the country easier to travel through, to clear country of spiritual pollution after death, to create firebreaks for later in the dry season and a variety of other reasons which overall bring the country alive again.”

From this standpoint, fire has a positive impact. UTS Senior Lecturer in Visual Communication Design, Jacqueline Gothe, who helped initiate the project, says fire can be seen as an ancient way of gardening. “Conventional fire mitigation practices are about avoiding fire whereas traditional burning is about burning to give health to country.”

Rather than burning on a prescribed date, traditional practices involve being able to ‘read’ the land, looking at indicators such as how dry it is, considering what the plants and animals are doing in the area, the weather and making judgements about what kind of burning is most suitable, and when to burn.

This requires an intimate understanding of the land. Working with Gothe is UTS graduate and Jumbunna Fellow Oliver Costello (BA Adult Ed. & Community Mgt., 2011) who says traditional ways of natural resource management involve communicating with the environment; interpreting what the land is saying, as well as being able to speak to the land in a language it understands. Costello explains that native Australian flora will react differently depending on the time and intensity of the burning. This means contemporary methods of hazard reduction could be doing more harm than good.

“At the moment most fire



management is about reducing fuel loads, but there is not necessarily a lot of evidence that says that by burning things in this manner you're actually going to achieve long-term reduction. Incorrect and poorly timed burning could be sending a message to that scrub to regenerate and rebound to produce as much or even more scrub than before."

Aboriginal culture and knowledge has been eroded. However Fire Sticks and TKRP are working to build on existing local knowledge by bridging principles from other communities.

Bolstered by funding from The E Robert Hayles & Alison L Hayles Charitable Trust, managed by Perpetual, Fire Sticks is sharing existing traditional knowledge

people to have a look and consider what Aboriginal people have to offer. For 40,000 years in this country there was a practice across the land that was common to all groups and that was fire management. We haven't practiced that for the last 200 years but I can see [traditional knowledge] is part of the solution around fire management and hazard reduction."

"Aboriginal people burn to hunt, to promote new grass which attracts game, to make the country easier to travel through, to clear country of spiritual pollution after death, to create firebreaks for later in the dry season and a variety of other reasons which overall bring the country alive again"

Transforming perceptions about fire and burning will require education. As part of Fire Sticks, the UTS Media Lab, together with students from the University, has been involved in documenting these workshops so this knowledge transfer can be shared on an even larger scale. By filming the workshops and capturing the processes and techniques of traditional fire management, this crucial knowledge won't be being lost.

Costello says while the workshops have been a great success, the next stage will be developing test programs where knowledge learnt from northern Australia can be applied in different areas across NSW to learn how the land responds, and to generate techniques that can be applied in other areas. ☰

Costello's interest in traditional fire management was sparked by his step-father, an Elder from Arnhem Land who was skilled in traditional fire practices. Costello wondered if the same principles could be used where he lived, in the Blue Mountains. However, the transferral of this kind of knowledge presents some challenges. The language of the land is specific to each region, so the principles from northern Australia won't be exactly the same for western Sydney because the landscape will follow different rules. The problem of needing local expertise is compounded by the extent that

with government organisations as well as other Aboriginal people across the country to redevelop traditional skills. In recent workshops held in Cape York, representatives from NSW Aboriginal Communities, Parks and Wildlife Service, Rural Fire Service and Office of Environment and Heritage shared experiences with Aboriginal fire practitioners.

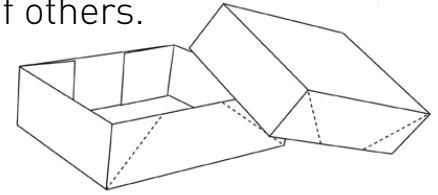
Terry Hill from the NSW Rural Fire Service attended the workshop and sees the potential for traditional practices to help relieve some of the "pressure points" in NSW.

"We need to start changing the mindset of people. We need to get

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

WORKING A DREAM

Jamie van Geldermalsen speaks to a passionate graduate who is championing the rights of others.



Looking for work can be tough. Finding a job that matches your skills, writing applications and then getting one chance to sell yourself – it's gruelling even for the most-organised and confident. Imagine the challenge if you suffered from severe anxiety, depression or an obvious physical limitation.

A job not only enables independence, allowing people to support themselves, but can be crucial to self-esteem and happiness. This is why Brendan Lonergan (M. Marketing, 2006) has made it his mission to help those with disability find work and stay employed.

Lonergan is in charge of business development for Packforce, a packaging and fulfilment company set up to provide employment opportunities specifically for people with disability. When businesses use Packforce they are helping improve quality of life for more than 150 people.



Brendan Lonergan with workers from Packforce

“Some of the workers... need help with meals, some can't go to the bathroom without assistance, but they really love working, and this is where they want to be”

“Some of the workers... need help with meals, some can't go to the bathroom without assistance, but they really love working, and this is where they want to be.”

Success for businesses like Packforce is dependent on their ability to remain competitive within the market – something that was proving an issue when going up against 'big fish'. Knowing there is strength in numbers, Lonergan came up with a solution that has resulted in more business and more jobs.

Lonergan formed Alliance1, a co-operative that allows companies who employ people with



disability (called Australian Disability Enterprises) to work together on large projects. This meant removing the little fish effect and keeping these outfits in competition with mainstream businesses.

“If we can just get our name out there, and give a quote, then we've got a shot. If the quote doesn't stand up, then fair enough. But I think we're competitive, and we deserve a chance in this market.”

Recently Lonergan came up with another great idea. Working with Dr Anurag Hingorani from the UTS Business School, Lonergan challenged 125 UTS students to devise communication plans to raise the profile of Australian Disability Enterprises (ADE) around the country.

The nine-week project explored ways to overcome the limited government funding available for ADE, requiring some particularly creative output from the students. The key findings were then synthesised into one document, which Lonergan is submitting to the CEO of National Disability Services and the Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers in the Federal Government, in the hope of securing greater funding for the sector.

Lonergan's work with disabled employment is a recent development in his career. After

By providing employment opportunities, Packforce is helping improve the lives of many people with disability





One of the 150+ people with disability working at Packforce



17 years as a successful executive, Lonergan realised the extent of his own disillusionment with the corporate world and the relentless profit imperative.

“If we can just get our name out there, and give a quote, then we’ve got a shot. If the quote doesn’t stand up, then fair enough. But I think we’re competitive, and we deserve a chance in this market”

“For me, it got to a point where it was totally meaningless. Making more money every year, getting a better car, it was nothing.”

Today, Lonergan says his job satisfaction has never been higher and the ability to ‘give back’ drives him far greater than a better car ever could.

Although not everyone may like their job, most will know the exhilaration of returning home from a successful day at the office, of having done something to be proud of. Brendan Lonergan believes this feeling is something every Australian should be able to experience and will be continuing to think up new ideas to support people with disability. ■

For more information about finding work for people with disability or employing people with disability, contact Brendan Lonergan via blonergan@packforce.com.au



PROBABLE IMPROBABLES

When Tristan Barnett was 15, he was learning how to count cards in blackjack. By the time he was 22, the mathematician put game theory into practice at Star City casino, winning enough from the house to fund a trip to Las Vegas – to beat an even bigger house.

A UTS Graduate Diploma in Operations Research led Tristan to a successful career in predicting the outcome of sports games.

“A lot of musicians express their feelings and emotions through their music... as a mathematician you can express your feelings through your research”

And now, five universities, 30 publications and a PhD later, Barnett believes he’s discovered a mathematical theory that will change how we understand risk management in our everyday lives.

“I’ve called it the Kelly Equilibrium (after the famous Kelly criterion used in blackjack and the stock market to grow the size of the bank) and I’m kind of hoping that it will be the next big thing since the Nash Equilibrium,” he says.

The Nash Equilibrium – created by John Nash of *A Beautiful Mind* – is a solution concept in applied mathematics, and arguably recognised as the biggest achievement in social sciences.

By combining Nash’s theory, which is based on maximising positive gains from a conflict, with another theory that is designed to minimise risk, Barnett has developed a groundbreaking mathematical theory which can be applied to any real-life problem that requires conflict resolution, and is particularly relevant for litigation and settlement.

The theory has been so well received that it was published in several legal journals, even though Barnett has no background in law.

And just like John Nash (with whom Tristan confesses he has a “bit of an obsession”), Barnett stumbled across his theory through his own personal experiences.

“I got involved in a legal dispute. To solve this real-life problem I found a connection between how much to bet in blackjack and whether it is beneficial to file a lawsuit, given there are risks involved if unsuccessful in court – so essentially I modelled a lawsuit like a casino game.”

Barnett explains that costs in a litigation settlement, such as paying for legal representation, are comparable to how much money one should bet while gambling. His Kelly Equilibrium is designed to minimise the risks of spending too much in the short-term to have a minor long-term gain like winning the case.

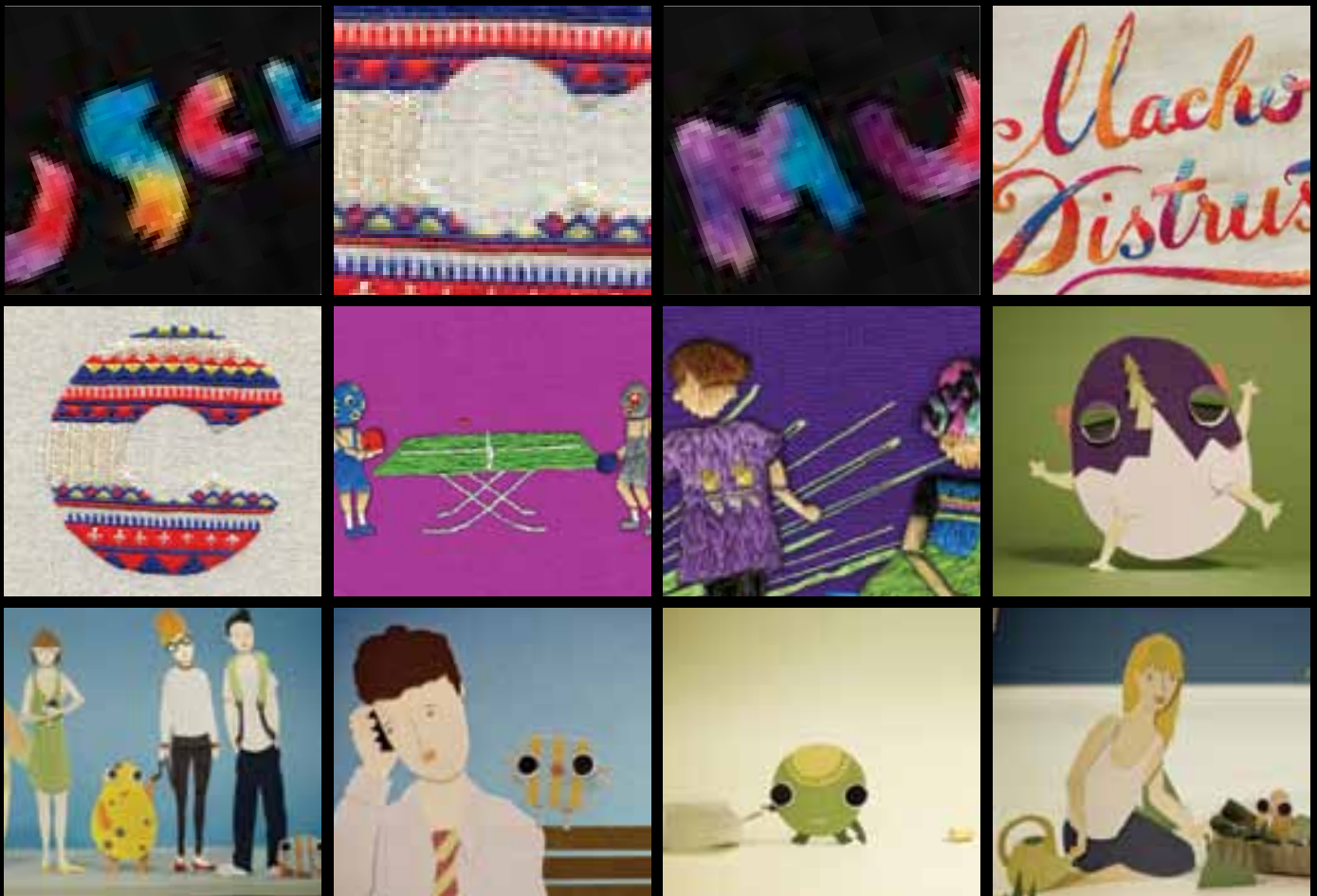
“In the litigation case... the plaintiff is going to be risk-averse because you want to avoid the risk of going to court because you could end up with a negative pay-out. So in some ways you should be risk-averse. But then how risk-averse should you be?”

As innovative as it is, Barnett understates this research as his “hobby” – something he does on the weekend. Rather, tennis match predictions and statistics have been paying Barnett’s bills. His PhD on games theory in tennis led him to dominate the field of match prediction and he now works closely with the Australian tennis industry.

Barnett confesses to living mathematics “on a daily basis”. His career is testament to the philosophy of following one’s passion. ■■■



WORDS: ANNA WATANABE



MARICOR/MARICAR

Maricor and Maricar (B. Design, 2005) are two artists making their mark on the international stage using a most unusual medium. The twin sisters, who had their first solo exhibition in Sydney earlier this year, are transforming the humble needle and thread into playful and quirky art.

Handcrafted pieces along with animations created from embroidered designs have led the design duo to work with an enviable list of Australian music celebrities.

This has included Empire of the Sun, Sneaky Sound System, Death Cab for Cutie, Architecture in Helsinki and even Playschool's Justine Clarke.

Not limited to the painstaking art of embroidery, Maricor and Maricar's work also utilises paper, illustration and print to create colourful and whimsical graphics and video that have become their signature style.

"We've always liked working with our hands and experimenting with various techniques, we love the tactility

of using different materials in our work. Lines, patterns, texture. These are the basis of everything we do."

However, the decision to branch out under their own name has only been a recent one. After graduating, the sisters originally went in separate directions, one into print and the other into motion.

"We finally got a chance to work professionally together at a design studio and that's where we got to combine our different interests in animation, illustration and print. We decided to go off on our own at the beginning of last year and focus on our handcrafted design and graphics work."



1 ↑

“All made out of paper and shot in stop motion - an animation process in which objects are moved in-between takes and still frames captured. These are then sequenced to create the illusion of movement”

Success followed quickly. Maricor and Maricar were finalists in the Qantas Spirit of Youth Awards (SOYA) and began getting overseas attention. An animated music video they created made it into international film festival Plus Camerimage; they were featured in Russian magazine *Free Hugs*; and some of their designs are set to be published in a book on graphic design.

“We’ve been really lucky in the last year and a bit since branching out under our own name. We won the British

2 ↗

“This is from our Turns of Phrase & Figures of Speech series of hand embroidered type experiments, based on mixed phrases and accidental wordplays. One of our more earnest lyrics, it’s a reminder to keep on moving”

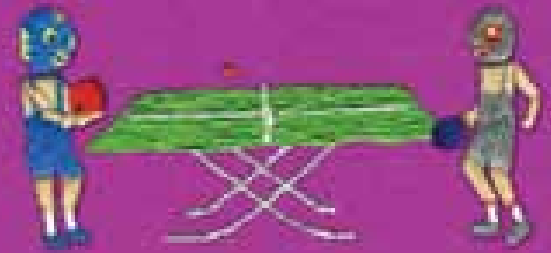
Council Australia’s Realise Your Dream award last year which grants creative professionals with tickets and money to travel to the UK.”

Listing the UK trip as the highlight of their career thus far, Maricor and Maricar say it is an invaluable opportunity and they are looking forward to meeting with other designers who they admire, to talk about future collaborations.

Like their famous client list, Maricor and Maricar say music is a big inspiration for them. Their recent exhibition was



4



3

Macho Distrust

5



2

MUSCLE ON

OPP. PAGE: 1. BIG GREEN IDEA – A PAPER ANIMATION CREATED FOR BRITISH COUNCIL AUSTRALIA
 THIS PAGE: 2. MUSCLE ON: MENOMENA, AND 3. MACHO DISTRUST: BLONDIE – BOTH FROM A RECENT EXHIBITION INSPIRED BY MISHEARD SONG LYRICS; 4. LIKE IT OR NOT: ARCHITECTURE IN HELSINKI – STILLS FROM THE ANIMATED MUSIC VIDEO; 5. SWEATER LETTER ‘C’ – PART OF A SERIES OF HAND-SEWN ‘SWEATER LETTERS’

3 ↑

“We mixed up lyrics from Blondie’s *Heart of Glass* – approximately 13 different colours went into the making of it and at any one time we had three needles on the go”

based on misheard song lyrics and it was through their work with a band that started their fascination with embroidery.

“The Architecture in Helsinki video clip is one of our favourite projects because it introduced us to a technique that’s since become our main creative outlet. We had a very limited budget and tight deadline but were able to experiment with embroidery, something we’d never worked with before at that time. ■■■

4 ↑

“Four hectic weeks of sewing and animating around the clock. Impossible to do in stop motion with that tight deadline but we tried to simulate that look”

5 ↑

“Inspired by our love of winter woolly knit sweaters... this alphabet series is our typographic version of embroidery samplers”

King completed a Bachelor of Architecture in 1993 at UTS and was awarded a University Medal. He now runs his own practice, Design King Company, has won numerous awards and writes a blog, Mypad, for Domain.com.au.

ON ARCHITECTURE... WITH JON KING

I have long been of the view that life's most interesting moments rest somewhere on the threshold between triumph and disaster. It is those who straddle this tricky territory who seem to do the most interesting work and tell the most interesting tales.

The requirement for success and safety are key drivers in much of what we do, and the systems and processes we put in place as a society are increasingly aimed at mitigating failure and supporting good outcomes.

The profession of architecture is no different as we individually and collectively strive and struggle for respect and broad acceptance of what we do and who we are.

For me, this deeper drive to practice architecture lies outside what I'd call conventional practice and is derived from the excitement I draw from a 'not quite knowing'. It is in the imagining, discovery and the delight. This is not necessarily an easy fit with conventional wisdom, but doubt and, to some extent, fear of the unknown are very much key ingredients.

Rarely in my practice of architecture have I found the confidence, strength or occasion to let this desire for adventure quite escape the grasp of good conduct, but it remains a prime motivator and I hold firmly to the desire of at some point producing a piece of architecture that resonates at this level.

It is now 17 years since I graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture and the Medal from UTS and much has happened in the intervening years. That gritty and sometimes difficult education now seems somewhat distant. But with a small and successful practice now established, and the opportunity to communicate about architecture through my work with Fairfax and other media, I feel am ready to step over that threshold and begin anew the search for a deeper and clearer narrative to my work.

Walking down to Broadway from my city office recently, taking my first methodical steps towards a return to the Tower and the opportunity to engage more broadly in the dialogue and debate with my master's thesis on architecture, I felt a sense of strength and excitement that is a necessary accompaniment to my ongoing practice.

I have come a long way since I first studied here and feel simultaneously the old institution may also now be more assured of its place in the world. ■■■



LOCK IT IN:

change has come



Jonathan Jones, *untitled (chevrons)* 2011. Aluminium, tarpaulin, fluorescent tubes and fittings (detail). Supported by Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney. Courtesy the artist



Christian Thompson *Heat* 2010, digital video still (detail), video duration 5:52. Courtesy the artist and Chalk Horse, Sydney



Joshua Yasserie *Slady Styles* 2010, DVD (still). Courtesy the artist



Emma Loban *Unheard or Ignored,* 2011, DVD (still), Courtesy the artist



Destiny Deacon and Virginia Fraser *Runner* 2009, DVD, loop, (still). Courtesy the artists and Roslyn Oxley9, Sydney

If you ever needed a reason to venture back into the concrete confines of the Tower Building, this is it. Until June 3rd, the foyer will host an array of electronic and digital art, which will include mammoth screens, animation, as well as the creation of light and soundscapes.

The exhibition, entitled *change has come*, highlights Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives looking at the past and reimagining the future.

Wanting to step away from the traditional four walls of a gallery space, curator Nicole Foreshew was drawn to the site's accessibility and chance for passers-by to interact with the exhibition.

"What I find captivating is that this foyer is a transient space and in this place there is an opportunity to have a

dialogue with the exhibition on the move."

The eleven artists contributing to the exhibition range in experience from emerging to established and have produced work that questions the concepts of change and possibility.

"I describe the work as rising from the rubble of recent times – of floods, earthquakes and mass media coverage. What's interesting is that these works will be seen and heard at a time when we are bombarded with the images of global tragedies."

While these works address a range of themes, there are common threads that weave possibilities of change together. Foreshew says humour and hope are also captured in the exhibition.

One of the highlights will be a lightscape by

renowned artist Jonathan Jones. Created specifically for the exhibition, Jones will be taking his signature style of using everyday objects and transforming them into an illuminated display, which will broadcast light designs from floor to ceiling facing the 'outside'.

"This amazing design-scape will bleed all the way out. Light will trek through Parramatta Road, speaking to people as they drive past."

change has come is the inaugural digital and electronic art project developed by the UTS Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning and UTS Events, with the support of Arts NSW and UTS Gallery. The exhibition will feature iPhone recordings, animation and digital montages, some of which will be exhibited for the first time. ■

WHERE: Tower Foyer
Exhibition Space
Level 4 (street level)
Building 1
15 Broadway,
Ultimo

OPEN: Monday to Friday
9am to 5pm
Until 03 June

COST: Free

TOWER



IMAGE: © ANNA ZHU



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