ME, FIRST.
THE MBA RE-IMAGINED

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
BUSINESS SCHOOL

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CONTENTS

12 THE HOMECOMING
The new Chancellor, Belinda Hutchinson

30 ANGKOR AWAY
Sydney archaeologists discover a hidden civilisation

34 HIS SPECIAL ABILITY
Jacob Baldwin, advocate for the disabled

37 GETTY UP
Timothy Potts has one of the art world’s plum jobs

4 YOUR LETTERS
The Quarantine Station, Standing room only PLUS a letter from the Editor

7 VC’s REPORT
Dr Michael Spence on the enduring power of generosity

8 UP FRONT
Alumni Award winners, Queens birthday honours, pigeon’s performance

14 BLUE WATER THRILL
Edwina Tanner is on a mission to solve Sydney Harbour’s climate secrets

18 FLU DETECTIVE
Kevin Downard’s new analytic test will speed up diagnosis of the virus

20 IRRESISTIBLE CHALLENGE
INCUBATE: bright student minds develop new digital products

21 INSPIRED – CAMPAIGN LIFTOUT
A special liftout on the University’s new campaign

40 WHY I TUTOR AT ST PAUL’S
Historian Alan Atkinson is a tutor at the residential college

41 SECOND LOOK
Interesting articles for other University publications

43 CLASSNOTES
Catch up with what your peers have been up to

44 BOOKS
Tales of spying and war escapes, art and architectural historian Joan Kerr, Norman Haire’s sex life

45 DIARY
Events to inspire and enjoy

46 BREAKING THE MOULD
Meet Jillian Kilby, civil engineer and Monash scholar

ENTER OUR TRAVEL PHOTO COMPETITION
Details page 11
Quarantine Station rekindles pride in lecturers

I always look forward to seeing my SAM in the letterbox, and especially so with the March edition – two of my favourite lecturers’ smiling faces on the cover.

I completed my BA over seven and a half years, whilst working, parenting (including an HSC student), and battling an injury and chronic pain the entire time. I often feel a little inadequate when reading SAM – the illustrious alumni with glamorous and important careers, while I continue working in admin with the same building company I’ve been with for over 20 years.

Seeing Annie and Alison reminded me of what I had accomplished, and the sheer joy of learning and studying I experienced during my years at Sydney Uni. I feel proud to be counted as a member of the Sydney University alumni family.

Corinne Johnston (BA ’07)
Gymea Bay NSW

I read with interest the cover story article Stories from the Sandstone, and that the highlighted research is designed to “... answer the question of why internees felt the need to stamp themselves onto the landscape”. My immediate reaction was that they needed to affirm they were in a new and exciting place which was both promising and anxiety generating. Each and every one of them wanted to record “I was here” by some means or other.

There is a long line of records from the rock carving and painting of our Indigenous inhabitants through to reminders of the visits of explorers such as Hartog, Dampier and Cook. The earliest European settlement examples of a story from the sandstone asserting that “I am here” are found on Garden Island in Sydney Harbour, where carvings of initials and the date are found in the sandstone.

The plainest of these carvings reads “F. M. 1788”. It is believed that this was the work of Frederick Meredith who was a member of the crew of one of the First Fleet ships. He returned to England because of his terms of engagement but arrived as a free settler on the Second Fleet.

Frederick made a success of his life in the colony, scattered his seed widely and became the patriarch of a large family.

Descendants of Frederick Meredith have latterly married descendants of another First Fleeet, the convict Henry Kable, who initiated the first civil proceedings in the colony, took part in the first theatrical performance and was among the group of convicts who were married in the first wedding ceremony in the colony.

I am pleased to claim Frederick and Henry as forefathers.

Peter Kable (BA ’56)
East Kew Vic

Standing room only in Sweden

Adrian Baumann talks about the health benefits of standing up in Don’t just sit there (Second Look, SAM March 2013). A colleague attending a meeting in Sweden was somewhat surprised when 10 minutes into the meeting, the entire board table rose to standing height. The locals all just stood up and continued the meeting as though nothing had happened, and, when it went back down again in 10 minutes, they sat down. This went on throughout the entire meeting, with the table obviously hooked up to some sort of timed automatic lifting device. A standing desk was one of the few things US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld got right.

Margaret Winn (BA ’74 DipEd ’75)
Newtown NSW

Being on time is not everything

The First Rule of Lectures offered by Malcolm Cameron (Letters, SAM March 2013) is engaging, but wrong in its “don’t be late for lectures” lesson for new students. And, apparently, SAM fell for it. The letter describes a student who was late and consequently did great work because he missed the fact that the problems on the blackboard were famous unsolved problems, not assigned homework. Had he been on time, he would have realised that the problems were not homework and he may not have tackled them.
MEETINGS WITH REMARKABLE REVERENDS

Thanks for the March issue of SAM which I enjoyed reading. I was particularly interested to read what Rob Oakeshott had to say about his time at St Andrew's College and his comments about the Reverend Peter Cameron (Camperdown to Canberra). Recent adverse publicity about events at St John's College have led me to recall the time when the Rev Peter Cameron was the principal of St Andrew's College. He arrived in Sydney in 1991 after a distinguished career in Scotland as a lawyer and academic, having been ordained as a Presbyterian minister.

The Presbyterian Church in Australia decided in 1974, following the Scottish example, to admit women to the ministry, but when the Uniting Church of Australia was formed in 1977 most of the more conservative congregations decided not to join it and in 1991 the General Assembly of Australia revoked their 1974 decision. This resulted in Cameron stating his view that there was no theologically sound reason why women and homosexuals should not be ordained to the ministry and his comments about the theological issues and finally, before his resignation and return to Scotland, an expose of the macho male ethos of the college and his comments about the Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society. Many were surprised to hear that the High Court and other courts of appeal may contain overbearing personalities and weaker spirits with a herd mentality which threatens judicial independence. It seemed as if retired High Court judge Dyson Heydon, who was dean of Sydney Law School 1978–79, was lifting the curtain and exposing the truth about the Wizard of Oz.

There are always going to be judicial differences, sometimes revealed after retirement or occasionally detectable in judgements. No-one reads legal judgements for enjoyment and the law students of my day were delighted to find evidence of judges getting personal. The most famous example is Lord Denning contrasting timorous judges holding back the development of the law with bold spirits ready to innovate if justice so required. Legal humour is never of the side-splitting variety and we really had to search for amusement in the law reports, such as a judge saying that he could not usefully add anything to a colleague's judgment and another judge saying "I agree".

As Professor Julius Stone often said, not even the strictest legalist can decide cases without making choices left open by the law, and tensions can arise from the different choices made by individual judges. Bismarck was referring to parliaments when he said that laws are like sausages, it's better not to see them being made. The same advice could be applied to decision-making in appeal courts.

James Moore (LLB '55 MA '72)
Kingsgrove NSW

LETTERS ONLINE

Full versions of letters are available online.
sydney.edu.au/sam/regulars

DEAR READERS...

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the Travel Photo competition. Some of the entries have been spectacular and we look forward to receiving more in the lead-up to the closing date on 1 November. For full details, go online to sydney.edu.au/alumni/photo-comp

Meanwhile, there are another two important items I would like to mention in relation to this edition.

INSPIRED

Many of you will be aware of the launch last month of Inspired – The Campaign to support the University of Sydney. This campaign, the first of its kind in the University’s history and in Australia, aims to build a new foundation for greater research and development at the University over the coming decades and beyond.

Accordingly, in the centre of this edition of SAM you will find a special supplement dedicated to the campaign. I do hope you will read about why the University has embarked on this major undertaking, some of the amazing research projects that still need further funding to realise their full potential – and how alumni can contribute.

CALLING OVERSEAS ALUMNI

Alumni living overseas may have noticed a brief questionnaire on the flysheet (that has their address on it) accompanying this edition of SAM. You have been asked to confirm whether, starting in 2014, you wish to receive a print version of the June edition of SAM.

If you wish to continue receiving all three editions we print each year, simply email your reply to WHERE? If we do not receive an email from you, we will assume that you are happy to continue receiving two print editions. You will of course still be able to access SAM online, any time.

This questionnaire will also be sent out in our October edition, to give extra opportunity to declare your preference.

Michael Visontay, Editor
sam.editor@sydney.edu.au
Not all colleges are the same. Sancta Sophia College is a peaceful haven on the edge of the University of Sydney campus.

We know that postgraduates need an environment that is conducive to scholarly achievement, one that provides flexibility around their busy schedules. So in January 2014, we will open the first bespoke postgraduate building featuring a stylish, contemporary design, all-ensuite rooms and common facilities that encourage social interaction and community.

Be one of the first to experience purpose-built residential living for postgraduate women and men on the campus at University of Sydney.

**Postgraduate living at Sancta Sophia College is much more than just accommodation...**

With 128 ensuite rooms featuring mini fridges and microwaves, the pursuit of academic excellence can remain your primary focus. Meal plans are flexible to suit your own preferences, from fully catered to minimal.

When the time comes for social interaction, the common areas and the rooftop terrace are the perfect place for a casual catch up.

As part of the Sancta Sophia College community, which also has 160 undergraduate women, you will be able to experience the cultural, spiritual, sporting and recreational activities that form the pulse of the College.

With easy access to Sydney University campus, buses to UTS, Notre Dame, ACU, the city and main train lines, Sancta Sophia College will be home to a vibrant postgraduate community from across Sydney, Australia and the world.
ENCOURAGING PRIVATE BENEFACIONS.

Legislature for providing permanent funds for hospitals and charities.

In some ways, the foundation of the University in 1850 provided an important impetus for ‘giving’ for a new affluent middle class culture, different from the established notion of giving money as a matter of religious duty to hospitals, churches and charities.

As Charles Nicholson said at the University’s inauguration ceremony in 1852: “the foundations for the higher branches of learning can only be maintained and perpetuated by permanent endowments”. Although Nicholson was mainly thanking the NSW legislature for providing permanent funds for the fledgling university, he was also encouraging private benefactors.

His appeal was answered almost immediately by Thomas Barker, a self-made man with no university education but who recognised the importance of learning and gave an endowment of one thousand pounds to fund a student scholarship to be awarded on examination results. That single gift was hugely symbolic because it underlined the meritocratic purpose of the new university.

Many more gifts followed and in the University’s first decade there were 21 benefactors who gave a total of 7500 pounds, about the same as the annual salaries of six to seven professors. But it was in 1880, when government funding was severely restricted, that the really significant Challis bequest was announced. Like Thomas Barker, John Henry Challis did not have a university education. He made his fortune in property and pastoral investments and returned to England in 1859.

When he died 20 years later, nobody at the University knew him and his bequest came as a complete surprise, but an extremely welcome one valued at 276,000 pounds (well over $30m today). The funds were used to establish seven academic chairs in disciplines spanning the arts, law and science. The bequest still exists and currently supports nine Challis chairs.

I’ve been reflecting on our past because we’re at another significant moment in the University’s history. Just like our founders we’ve set ourselves an ambitious target, to raise $600m from around 40,000 supporters. We’re faced with some major challenges. It seems highly unlikely the tertiary education sector will see an increase in government financial support in the next decade, whatever the outcome of the forthcoming federal election.

As a leading comprehensive research and teaching university we are committed to the transformative power of education. Our mission is to create and sustain a community in which the brightest researchers and the most promising students, whatever their social background, can thrive and realise their full potential.

The foundation of the University as a secular and non-denominational institution was integral to its character as a public institution. Wentworth’s vision of a public university where the students were selected on the basis of merit, is still at the heart of what we are about.

Our research is world class, confirmed by the most recent independent Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) analysis. Sydney is among the top universities in the nation based on the breadth and depth of our research performance. For ERA 2012 all areas of our research were rated at or above world standard, with the vast majority being above or well above world standard.

We are making major advances with our new interdisciplinary research initiatives and have some of the world’s leading thinkers in our China Studies Centre, the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre and the Charles Perkins Centre for obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease research. With generous support from our benefactors we’re planning new cross-faculty centres in areas as diverse as urban planning, project management and nanotechnology.

Philanthropy plays an important role in helping us be at the forefront of research, ensuring we can attract the brightest students and carry out our research and teaching in the best facilities possible. It makes the difference between a good university and a truly great one. I encourage you to read further details of our campaign elsewhere in this magazine, and I hope you too will be inspired.

*Sydney, the making of a public university by Julia Horne and Geoffrey Sherington, Miegunyah Press is available from Sydney University Press. sydney.edu.au/su

PS: I am delighted that the University has worked with Sancta Sophia College to open a new accommodation building for postgraduate students next January. Full details are in the announcement on Page 6.
An opportunity to enrich our lives in many ways

Newly-elected President of the Alumni Council, Annie Corlett, believes that “we can all be inspired and strengthened by connection with others” and is keenly interested in the Alumni Council continuing to facilitate opportunities for alumni to connect meaningfully with the many different members of the University of Sydney community. “Alumni can make a very important contribution to the University through creating new ties, sharing ideas or mentoring and supporting students,” she says.

“The challenge is always, how do we, the Alumni Council, become more effective in promoting alumni connectivity, friend-raising and relationship-building across our community.”

A Strategic Review of the Alumni Council and its operations is currently being undertaken. This review coincides not only with the four-yearly elections later this year, but with the Alumni Council’s 75th anniversary next year. “I’m very, very excited about this,” says Annie of the opportunity to improve and clarify the role of the Alumni Council in supporting the University community.

As a University of Sydney Business School alumna, Annie has had a diverse range of life experiences. She graduated with a Bachelor of Economics and for much of the 1980s was an executive director of two publicly-listed mining companies. Annie has had a long-time involvement and active engagement in supporting groups in the not-for-profit sector as a volunteer. This has included 15 years as a volunteer guide and, for a period, the elected Coordinator of Guides at the Art Gallery of NSW.

Currently, Annie is a National Board Member of Lifeline Australia and is Chair of the Board Service Committee. Annie is also a member of the External Advisory Committee for the Department of Government and International Relations at the University.

In 2009, Annie was elected to the Alumni Council as the Business School Representative, before serving as Vice-President under her predecessor as President, John McLenaghan. Of her new role, she says: “I am grateful to have a role that gives me a lot of joy. I enjoy being part of the team; the Alumni Council, the Alumni Relations and Events Office, and the greater University. That’s a fabulous team to be a part of.”

“Alumni have the opportunity, via the University’s website, to connect with the University and with each other. Alumni can now browse information in respect of university-wide and faculty events focused on alumni and friends engagement, Alumni Awards, Graduate Connections Breakfast Program, mentoring programs, volunteering opportunities and much more.

“The University of Sydney has proudly been a community university, serving the public interest from the outset, and as important alumni stakeholders in this ‘university community’ we need to consider how we can best be ‘of service’ to our University,” Annie believes that “engagement with our University can not only be intellectually stimulating and provide effective networking opportunities, but can also enrich our lives in many ways.”

Honorary Contributions

Former president of the Alumni Council, Barry Catchlove, has been appointed Pro Chancellor of the University. In this new role Barry will – among other duties – deputise for the Chancellor at graduation ceremonies.

The appointment acknowledges Barry’s long-term contribution to alumni relations at the University. He has been a member of the Senate for the past four years (and will stand again this year) and also served as its Chair of the Safety and Risk Management Subcommittee.

Barry was made an Honorary Fellow of the Senate in recognition of his vigorous leadership of the Alumni Council for three years, and as President of the Medical Alumni Council for six years before that.

In his new role Barry will join fellow Pro Chancellor Alec Brennan, appointed by the Minister for Education and Training in 2006, who has chaired the Finance and Audit Subcommittee of Senate. Although not an alumnus, Alec has volunteered much time in this role, and his contribution has been widely appreciated.
Vale Ralph

One of the University’s most popular figures, Ralph Panebianco, who operated Ralph’s Cafe at the Sports centre on lower campus, has died after a brief illness.

Ralph has operated the cafe since 1984 and was a generous and welcoming host, famous for his booming voice, his gourmet focaccias and quality coffee. He will be greatly missed. The University extends its deepest sympathies to his wife Rose and to their children Daniel, James and Rebecca, who will continue to operate the family-run cafe.

2013 ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Alumni Awards features four categories of awards to recognise outstanding achievements made by alumni locally and internationally. This year, because of the high standard of nominations, there are five recipients – with two joint winners in the Young Alumni Achievement category.

COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT
Dr Russell Dickens OAM (BVSc ’54 MVSc ’75)
Dr Dickens is a founding member of the Koala Foundation, has supported Rotary and the Salvation Army, among other voluntary roles. Dr Dickens is dedicated to the animal world and is known as the ‘father of koala medicine’.

INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT
Martin Indyk, BEd ’73
Dr Indyk set up the Washington Institute for Near East Policy (a think tank specialising in the Middle-East) became an adviser to US president Bill Clinton and later, the US ambassador to Israel. Dr Indyk remains an influential commentator on international issues across all media.

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT
Emeritus Professor Jeremy Davis, BEd ’64
Professor Davis was the first dean of the Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM). He is a former vice-president of the Boston Consulting group in the US and also helped pioneer the St James Ethics Centre.

YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT
Julie McKay, EMBA, ’11
Ms McKay is Executive Director UN Women Australia, which is the UN agency for gender equality. She is a prominent advocate for women’s rights, and was named the 2013 ACT Young Australian of the Year.

Majok Tulba, MSW, ’09
Mr Tulba is a refugee from the Sudan who arrived in Australia in 2001 with no knowledge of English. He completed a Master of Social Work and wrote a novel based on his experiences in his homeland, which has been short-listed for several literary awards.

For full details, go to: sydney.edu.au/alumni/awards/.

CALLING OLD FILM BUFFS

Where are the members of the Sydney University Film Group from the 1950s?

David Donaldson, who later became the first director of the Sydney Film Festival, intends to organise a reunion of audience members from that era to celebrate 60 years since SUFG’s restoration of the now-iconic Australian film, The Kid Stakes.

Donaldson told SAM that in 1953 the prints of The Kid Stakes had been cut up into two-reel comedy shorts for the newsreel theatres. The materials were ‘rescued’ by a working party of members of the SUFG and presented in a revival season in 1954 in the Union Hall at Sydney University. Some of the 1927 cast were on stage for the presentation.

The existing version of the film is the 1954 re-edit done by John Jackson Morris, a member of the group. From the proceeds of that successful re-presentation, a new negative was made which the National Library of Australia was persuaded to acquire for posterity.

In Sydney for a panel at the recent Sydney Film Festival, David told SAM he hoped to flush out some of the 1954 audience “to record memories and influences of that student group effort”.

People with information can contact David on filmart@dodo.com.au
On 9 July Sancta Sophia College will host drinks to coincide with the biannual international meeting of the Robert Louis Stevenson Society, which is being held in Australia for the first time.

The guest speaker is Robert Louis Stevenson world expert Associate Professor Roslyn Jolly (pictured), who will talk about Stevenson’s recently discovered manuscript poem, *Birthday Wishes To A Lady*, held in the Sancta archives.

There is an intriguing story behind this manuscript, which has been authenticated as Stevenson’s hand writing. The poem was originally published in a children’s paper called *Young Australia*. This has been verified in a letter from Josephine Fotheringham dated 2 July 1926, which the college also owns. The donor, John Lane Mullins MLA, presented Sancta with both the poem and the letter in the 1930s or thereabouts. What is still unknown is how and why Lane Mullins had the poem in his possession: was it a gift from Stevenson or did he buy it?

Alumni are warmly invited to attend the event at the college, 8 Missenden Road, Camperdown from 5.30–7pm. Cost is $25.

Sancta is also embarking on a series of three talks this year, by women engaged in different fields. The first was given in May by Misha Schubert, a former national political editor of *The Sunday Age* and now Director of Communications for Recognise, the campaign for constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The second talk will be in August by Dr Anne Rogerson, the Charles Tesoriero Lecturer in Latin and frequent presenter on the Self-Improvement Wednesdays on ABC702. She will be followed in October by Susannah Fullerton, author, lecturer, literary tour leader and President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia.

For inquiries about all talks, ring 9577 2326 or alumni@sancta.usyd.edu.au

**FULL QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST**

At the time of SAM going to print, the Queen’s Birthday Honours were not yet released. For a full list of recipients, go to SAM Online: sydney.edu.au/alumni/
TRAVEL PHOTO COMPETITION STILL OPEN

There is still plenty of time left to enter the SAM travel photo competition. The quality of entries so far has been breathtaking, as this snap from Argentina demonstrates. We look forward to receiving more in the lead-up to the closing date on 1 November. To see photos submitted to date, and for full details, go online to sydney.edu.au/alumni/photo-comp

BIRDS IN THE ORGAN LOFT

During restoration work to the roof of the Great Hall last year, a pair of pigeons found a way into the building and decided to make the top of the Great organ case their home. Things immediately started to get a bit messy in the Great Hall, including on the new horizontal trumpets and the organ bench.

But matters took a dramatic turn for the worse when Mrs Pigeon fell into one of the large 16’ case pipes and became trapped, her head trying vainly to lead the rest of her body out through the pipe mouth. Suggestions for dealing with this problem included letting the bird die of starvation before pulling out the bits (not desirable, especially in the freshly-cleaned organ) or hiring a giant cherry-picker to remove the pipe so that the bird could be tipped out (very expensive).

It was young German organbuilder Henrik Jarmatz who devised and implemented a simple solution. After discovering that the decorative grille-work of the case has several small, hinged doors accessible from inside of the case – including one over the top of the ‘pigeon pipe’ – a light rope was lowered down the length of the pipe until Henrik could reach it through the pipe mouth.

After much non-cooperation from the bird, the rope was eventually secured around one of the bird’s legs. The bird was then hoisted up through the top of the pipe and released, seemingly unharmed, outside the building where it flew to freedom!
At the start of this interview with Chancellor Belinda Hutchinson, the University’s evocative carillon begins playing in the nearby clock tower. The peeling of the bells reverberates through the courtyard, providing an ideal accompaniment to the visual beauty of the moment.

Hutchinson’s office sits at one of the oldest corners of the campus, in the neo-Gothic sandstone quadrangle which emulates the English Oxbridge ‘dreaming spires’, inspiration for the University when it was first built. It also backs on to a more intimate flagstoned courtyard.

She delights in this space, which she sees as a gift. “I was surprised to find I had an office at all, and such a beautiful office. It was not something I had expected,” Hutchinson says.

Since Hutchinson (BEC ‘76) is enthusiastically putting many hours a week into her role, it was the perfect place to meet, especially given she started her career here almost 40 years ago, drawn to studying architecture before realising she didn’t have the passion required for drawing and switched to Economics, where she quickly found her métier.

From that point on, Hutchinson never looked back and in the Economics Department she built the foundations for a career that has now brought her all the way back to the University at the start of the year as its Chancellor.

“As I said in a recent graduation ceremony, my University of Sydney degree has been a passport for my life. My first job helped me get my second job, helped me get my third job and I’m sure it was an underpinning to my ability to achieve in the positions I’ve held since,” she says.

Hutchinson’s plan is to knit her wide-ranging experience in the business and not-for-profit sectors with a deep, personal affection for the University. As a graduate whose father, siblings and three of four children attended the University, her affiliations are strong.

“I remember coming for my first day of meetings here and I thought ‘It feels like coming home’. I feel comfortable being here. I mean, it’s all new in terms
Hutchinson has replaced NSW Governor Marie Bashir, whose reputation for warmth and humanity are legendary. It’s a hard act to follow but she looks to the challenge with confidence, explaining quite sensibly that the secret to her own success will be to try not to compete but to make the role her own.

Her style will involve bringing the leadership and management experience she has developed in her 35-year career to a range of the University’s committees and activities. She will advise and support the Vice-Chancellor where needed and wants to have an input into the University’s strategic development.

“It’s already a great institution, it’s already one of the top-ranking universities in Australia. But could well be better? Of course we could.

“There’s the very important role of working alongside the Vice-Chancellor and his team in implementing its strategy and managing the operational issues with an organisation of 50,000 students and almost 10,000 employees,” she says.

“I think I’m good at working with people. I’ve got strong diplomacy skills but I’m also very focused on achieving outcomes. So hopefully I can bring that to bear here.”

Hutchinson wants to see the commitment to improved buildings continue. The new Charles Perkins Centre for research into obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, the new Business School building at Darlington and the new Australian Institute for Nanoscience will all help the intellectual life of the University to surge. Ideally, other building works will follow.

Although the new Chancellor has a financial background, she left the world of investment banking in 1996 and believes it is her skills as a non-executive director, built and honed over the last 15 years, which will give her the opportunity to make her greatest contribution.

She has been on the boards of a raft of public, private and not-for-profit businesses, the most recent of which is her high-profile role as Chair of the QBE Insurance Group.

She also sits on the board of AGL, the State Library Foundation, St Vincent’s Health Australia and Australian Philanthropic Services.

“As a non-executive director of both public companies and a whole range of not-for-profit organisations, I’ve really been working with institutions around their governance, strategy, operational issues, succession planning, their external and internal communication and culture development,” she explains.

“So I’ve had that role where you act as a sort of adviser and mentor to the CEOs of those organisations, and that’s what I like doing. I actually find I really enjoy working with a senior management team and hopefully I can bring my experience and knowledge from those organisations to bear here.”

Hutchinson is a director of Australian Philanthropic Services, was recently president of Chief Executive Women, and keenly mentors other businesswomen.

When Facebook executive Sheryl Sandberg’s book Lean In was recently published in Australia, Hutchinson jumped at the opportunity to write the foreword. She is passionate about securing a better place for women in our society, whose potential she believes is still, even in 2013, severely underutilised, at high cost not just to women themselves but the whole of society.

“I think it’s a really big challenge and that’s why I took on the role of being president of Chief Executive Women. I think it’s incredibly challenging, not only in business but in government and the not-for-profit sector as well, for women to really succeed and reach the most senior leadership roles. And I think that’s actually a societal issue.”

Other major social issues will have an impact on the way Belinda Hutchinson approaches the role of Chancellor.

Recent political developments reinforce a need for a sharp focus on the University’s financial management. Prime Minister Julia Gillard’s controversial plan to fund the Gonski education reforms to primary and secondary schools by cutting up to $2.8 billion funding for education-related expenses at the university level will present its challenges.

Ms Hutchinson is deeply concerned, not just about the impact of this but an additional $1 billion removed by the federal government from the bottom line for university research last year.

“It’s very disappointing, particularly in light of the previous policy ambition of the government to have 10 of Australia’s universities ranked in the top 100 in the world,” she says.

As Chancellor, Ms Hutchinson has a strong ceremonial role and her early tasks prepare her for the busy pace ahead. She opened the University’s Centre for Carbon, Water and Food at Camden, ran an International Women’s Day event on campus and then launched the 1850 Society to honour University benefactors, while at the same time representing the University at many graduations, sometimes up to two a day.

She considers her role at graduation ceremonies, while symbolic, as one of the most important she performs, since she talks to graduates about focusing on the higher purpose of their education and aims to pull a range of experiences together to give being a graduate of the University of Sydney a real sense of meaning.

It’s not just the ambience of the University she loves but the people. “I tend to come on campus and often wander down Eastern Avenue to get a cup of coffee because I want to see the students, I want to feel the place and be part of it.

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MYSTERIES OF THE DEEP
Sydney Harbour is the birthplace of modern Australia and the postcard that defines a global city. For Edwina Tanner, it is also the most beautiful petri dish in the world, a living laboratory where she and her colleagues can investigate whether estuaries around the world are a help or hindrance to global warming.

The climate change story is the compelling backdrop to the work being undertaken by Edwina Tanner, a physical oceanographer in the School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney, and others such as her research partner Professor Ian Jones, from their base at the Sydney Institute of Marine Science at Chowder Bay, near Mosman.

From the window, through the trees, the harbour’s sparkle is not a distraction. For Tanner it is the main event. She knows the ocean beyond the heads is buffering the world from far more extreme climate change by absorbing enormous quantities of carbon dioxide. But does the harbour help or hinder that process? Is it source or carbon sink?

Before she can answer this Tanner needs to explore the water beneath and measure its composition. What’s the temperature? Salinity and acidity? What are the nutrient levels? And, crucially, what are the levels of oxygen and carbon dioxide and how do they change as you travel from Parramatta weir to the heads; how do they change by day and night, over the year and with inflows of rain and run-off?

“What we are looking at is how this little chemistry lab, which is the harbour, processes the carbon released by the breakdown of soil, trees and plant life and how it then gets into the ocean,” Tanner explains. “Is it doing a job of actually processing the carbon and providing a sink before it gets into the ocean or is it producing more carbon for the ocean to deal with?”

“You have fresh – and saltwater meeting, high organic content water and low content water and the question is how do all the chemical and biological processes play out along the length of the estuary and where is this happening? We want to know how much carbon dioxide is being absorbed or released into the atmosphere and how much organic carbon is being flushed out into the ocean.”

Ultimately, the ocean will prove the main game but the harbour is a great place to start, says Tanner.

“The ocean is bigger but we need to know what is happening here, which is where all the terrestrial carbon is entering the water system, in order to quantify what is happening in the overall carbon budget. It might only be a small piece but we still need to know that piece.

“And, while it may only be a small percentage of the world’s water, there’s a whole bunch of estuaries around and they all add up. If you look at every estuary around the world you actually have a sizeable contribution. If there is something we can do in estuaries to reduce the impact of carbon and other pollutants it is worth looking at.

“Also, you can get to understand the processes quite well by looking at the estuary: it’s a fast-action environment.”

Tanner’s passion for her research has been intertwined with the rise of our awareness of global warming. “I have always been interested in the climate story and I guess as I was going through my degree the climate story became louder. When I first started there were about five papers published a year; now there are thousands of papers published on climate science each year. When I started in physical oceanography it wasn’t a big issue,” she says.

Before that, however, Tanner, who enrolled at university as a “bit of a greenie”, flirted with agriculture and
Above and previous page: Edwina Tanner at her Chowder Bay ‘wet lab’.

Opposite: The image shows how the Sydney Harbour Observatory models the millions of litres of freshwater that flow into the harbour. The freshwater forms a discrete layer above the saltwater and the plume shoots across the top of the harbour from the river tributaries towards the heads. As the rain stops and the plume slows, it starts to break down and mix with the saline water.

The oceans are already doing their bit, explains Tanner. “The ocean is central to the climate story because it absorbs between one-third and one-half of the anthropogenic (or human-induced) carbon dioxide. If it wasn’t doing that job we would be in dire straits already.”

Specifically, the heroes of the story are phytoplankton, microscopic organisms that use photosynthesis to consume carbon dioxide and release oxygen that are doing the work. The process is most active in nutrient-rich areas of the ocean. Often they are the result of upwellings, when water rises up from the depths of the ocean, bringing nutrients to the surface which interact with sunlight, allowing phytoplankton to grow. The notion that this process could be enhanced by seeding the ocean – which is characterised by large desert-like areas low in nutrients – to cause phytoplankton to bloom and process carbon dioxide is a compelling one for Tanner and Jones, and could be a fertile area for future research.

The process is at work in the harbour, too, and as Tanner cruises the waters collecting samples she can actually see it happening.

“It’s really quite amazing,” she says. “You can actually see the response of the CO2 in wet conditions with patches of phytoplankton bringing down the level of CO2 using the nutrients that have been washed into the harbour.

“That response is actually due to the phytoplankton blooming, producing oxygen in response to a rain event which brings in more nutrients. That’s why it is so interesting to study. You can see these large-scale processes happening here in the harbour in this short period of time.”

The harbour is a discrete entity but it includes diverse conditions. At the weir at Parramatta the water is comparatively stagnant, low in oxygen and with little processing of carbon dioxide happening. The fresh water carries carbon in the form of particulate matter such as leaf litter and soil which is eventually processed, some of it in the form of CO2.

The groundwater, seeping in underneath, brings more carbon into the system. Then, as you go down the river and you meet with the fresh ocean water, more oxygen enters the system, the phytoplankton come and do their bit and
Professor Ian Jones, director of the Ocean Technology Group at the University of Sydney, is partnering with Edwina Tanner to build a computer model of the magnificent estuary that sits at the heart of Sydney.

The aim of the Sydney Harbour Environment Data (SHED) model is to collect and collate an enormous array of data about what is happening within the waters of the harbour and crunch it into forms that can be used for advanced scientific research, as well as providing a useful tool for the interested layperson.

Jones says the model will be available free to any researcher, providing vital infrastructure for a suite of harbour studies that are either planned or underway. It builds on earlier work by Gavin Birch and Serena Lee from the University of Sydney, which modelled the movement of contaminants in the harbour. But its reach is much broader, both geographically and in the range of variables being collected – including temperature, nutrients, salinity, carbon dioxide and oxygen levels.

Tanner and Jones want to use the data, some of which is collected from set points and some taken from vessels as they traverse the harbour, to answer questions about nutrient flows and their relationship to carbon dioxide. The studies will also allow researchers to begin assessing how climate change will alter the functioning of the harbour: how recreation, commercial activities, primary productivity and ecology will be affected by changes in the flow of nutrients and other contaminants.

The research will produce an accessible display of variables such as currents, storm surge, water temperature and pollution levels – available almost as it happens. Jones hopes the model will eventually be taken over by others. “When it is operationally sound we would like to convince an organisation like the Bureau of Meteorology to take it on.”

In fact, the bureau is already involved in the project, along with the Sydney Institute of Marine Science, the CSIRO, Professor Bradley Eyre, a biogeochemist from Southern Cross University, and researchers from Macquarie University.

Jones says SHED promises to be another important analytical tool. “What is unusual is that we are getting real-time inputs of rain rates, wind speed and tide heights and we are able to give, continuously, a picture of the properties throughout the whole harbour,” he explains. “But you will be able to come back in a year’s time, ask ‘what was happening in June that affected my mussels?’ look back at currents, temperatures and salinity and come up with the answer.”

We are looking at how the harbour processes the carbon released by the breakdown of soil, trees and plant life, and how it gets into the ocean.

“I am really quite encouraged by this generation of children. They have grown up with climate change, knowing it is a big problem. They know about environmental pollution and I’m hoping they have a much better attitude towards these global problems than our generation had. We’re only just getting it now.”

As a scientist who understands the data, however, Tanner accepts the scale of the challenge. “We’ve got a big job ahead,” she says.

“As scientists we have answers but there’s so much politics we have to get past to get the answers heard. Humans will persist. And life will persist: look at all the things life has gone through, with massive climate change events in the past. Humans are quite resilient. But I think we will need to be.”
The flu has often been mistakenly considered more of a nuisance than a serious threat to human health, a relatively minor ailment to be endured with the aid of bed rest and chicken soup. It’s curious that one of the world’s deadliest diseases has such an innocent reputation, says Kevin Downard, a researcher from the School of Molecular Bioscience who has been studying the virus for 15 years. “This is not an innocuous beast,” he explains. “Familiarity has bred complacency. You’d think very differently about it if you’d lived through the 1918–19 pandemic.”

As many as half a billion people became infected and up to 100 million people died in the Spanish flu pandemic that broke out at the end of the First World War. Among them was Associate Professor Downard’s own great-grandmother, a London charwoman. Another flu pandemic could happen at any time, he says, and it could kill just as many people again or even more.

Our main defence against it is an international surveillance network, overseen by the World Health Organization, which has served as an early warning system for influenza since the 1950s. Potentially dangerous outbreaks of flu are characterised using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR). A sample of virus is first collected then transferred to a laboratory, converted to double-stranded DNA, copied to increase the amount of DNA, then identified. The entire process can take several days.
But soon, thanks to a breakthrough by Professor Downard, health authorities may have access to a new testing protocol for influenza viruses that is faster and simpler while being just as effective. According to the scientist, that could make a big difference in the crucial early stages of a pandemic.

Professor Downard’s test relies on detecting signature peptides, or segments of viral protein. “In every type and subtype of influenza, there are peptides that have a conserved amino acid sequence and a unique mass that allow the virus to be characterised by their detection alone,” he explains. In his procedure, a sample of the whole virus is first broken down and then placed in a high-resolution mass spectrometer which reveals the mass of the constituent peptides. The technique is known as proteotyping.

In contrast to the time-consuming PCR method, Professor Downard’s approach takes less than a minute to analyse a prepared sample once the virus has been broken down by the enzyme. Even more importantly, the procedure is simple enough that, in the future, it could be carried out in a mobile laboratory on the front lines of an outbreak.

The procedure could be carried out in a mobile laboratory on the front lines of an outbreak. There would be no need to fly a sample from a remote village.

As well as speeding up our public health response, Professor Downard’s method could also prove useful to the laboratories that develop new drugs to combat the flu. His lab has used mass spectrometry to show whether the proteins of particular strains interact with antiviral drugs and thus whether they are resistant. Its a procedure that could help in developing new, more effective antivirals. It may also shed new light on how strains are evolving from one lineage to another, potentially helping to predict how they will evolve in the future (a vital task when developing a vaccine).

The rapid testing procedure could also find a use in clinical settings. If doctors were able to quickly determine that a patient definitively has influenza, they would not need to follow the widespread practice of prescribing antivirals as an insurance policy to patients with flu-like symptoms. That would help to check the growing problem of antiviral-resistant flu strains, which mirrors the rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Currently, Professor Downard is continuing to refine his proteotyping procedure and perfecting the approach for testing nasal swab specimens, while exploring ways to widen the application of the method to study virus evolution. He has the assistance of two ARC Discovery grants, and is also looking for investors to help him commercialise the discovery and promote its use in flu surveillance.

The scientist credits his breakthrough to a long-held fascination for the mass spectrometer, a technology first developed nearly a century ago to identify isotopes and measure atomic weights. “I’m an instrument sort of guy,” he says. “I like playing around with equipment.”

Beyond the satisfaction of seeing his research bear fruit, he is also excited about the potential to make a widespread impact on human health: “Obviously it is too late to help my great-grandmother, but it’s nice to think that I’m working on something that could help others.”

He notes, however, that there are no guarantees the world will avoid another pandemic like the one in 1918–19. “Having all this technology still might not help you if a strain emerges that’s very deadly and spreads very quickly, and if your antivirals and vaccines aren’t effective,” he says. “Then you’ve got a problem.”

SYDNEY’S SPANISH ENCOUNTERS

The University of Sydney wasn’t spared when Spanish flu arrived in Australia in 1919, most likely brought back with the ANZACs from the Great War. As the pandemic raged across the city, afflicting almost 40 percent of Sydney’s population, the campus was shut down by government order along with schools, cinemas and racecourses across the country.

When it reopened five weeks later, emergency measures were introduced by the Professorial Board to curb the spread of the disease. Students were commanded to wear masks in class and all members of the University were asked to undergo repeated inoculations at the Department of Pathology. According to Kevin Downard, the bacterial vaccine used at the time, which was manufactured by the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories in vast quantities, may have been of some help against the virus, if only because it stimulated an immune response.

Meanwhile, many of the University’s medical students joined the army of volunteers staffing flu hospitals in temporary locations such as the Sydney Showground. Dr Cawley Madden, a third-year student at the time, later wrote of his experience tending the sick and dying in one of the makeshift hospitals. “I had had no clinical training,” he recalled, “but I was able to look like a young doctor, and dole out the stock medicines and the instructions I was handed. Perhaps I dided out a little confidence to the poor people too.”

SAM JUNE 2013 19
universities are renowned for hot-housing ideas but not always necessarily for fusing them with business. In the digital age, however, old habits are changing fast, as Sydney’s new Student Union technology start-up project has demonstrated.

Last summer eight start-up student projects were selected to be in the inaugural INCUBATE start-up program, which was designed to stimulate student innovation and entrepreneurship.

The project has already paid dividends for one of the start-ups, which has attracted over $1 million in investment. Not bad for a bright idea and just a fraction of what INCUBATE co-founder James Alexander expects start-up businesses in the fledgling entrepreneurial scheme to generate in the future.

“We started INCUBATE last year because we saw a gap in the way all universities were encouraging people to go out and start up new businesses,” says James.

“The attitude was very much skewed towards joining an existing enterprise rather than looking at creating something from scratch and thinking about how many jobs you could create.”

He was inspired by an internship with Sydney software developer Atlassian, a global company that was founded by two former University of NSW graduates in their garage. “We are seeing changes that make starting a business faster and more affordable than ever before,” he adds.

These rapid advances in affordable technology, which made starting a business more accessible, prompted James and co-founder Mina Nada to start the INCUBATE program with the backing of the USU.

The scheme selects the best eight ideas from the dozens submitted and then provides those eight with co-working space on campus in the Student Union offices, a $5000 seed funding grant and business mentoring from Sydney alumni.

“The deadline of just 11 weeks before they have to pitch to the public is pretty scary and really concentrates their minds.”

The inaugural summer cycle concluded with a Demo Day in which the young entrepreneurs pitched their businesses to a room full of investors, industry representatives and the university community.

INCUBATE mentor and Sydney alumnus Matt Barrie, the CEO of Freelancer.com, watched and guided as the business ideas developed. “Interest in the program was huge, and certainly the transformation in the teams participating over the summer was incredible to watch,” he said.

“The presentations at Demo Day (in March) frankly blew the roof off. The quality of some of these teams was
The University of Sydney has announced the launch of its first major fundraising Campaign, the biggest fundraising drive of its kind in Australian higher education.

INSPIRED – The Campaign to support the University of Sydney aims to raise $600 million from more than 40,000 donors to advance the standards of tertiary education, research and innovation. In January 2008, the University embarked on the silent phase of its Campaign journey and decided that every person who made a gift, regardless of the dollar amount, would be contributing to the goal. By May 2013, the University raised more than $300 million with the help of 28,000 passionate donors.

Philanthropy provides an opportunity to rise above the level of business-as-usual and achieve something special. This campaign can help to reshape the Australian university landscape, to position our nation as a global thought leader. The impact of this support will be felt and seen in every facet of our work, and benefit many generations to come.

Since the University’s inception in 1850, the generosity of its benefactors has had an indelible effect on the institution. Names like Thomas Fisher, John Henry Challis, Sir Samuel McCaughey, JW Power and William John Macleay will forever be associated with the University.

These gifts live on in the sandstone, books, equipment, ideas, and the achievements of its people. Philanthropy has touched every one of the University’s faculties, libraries, museums, research tools and multidisciplinary centres. The generosity of its alumni has increased the bursaries and scholarships available to students struggling with financial challenges, helping more than 1500 students in need last year alone. Philanthropy has supported some of the most prolific scientific breakthroughs of our time and changed people’s lives.

The University of Sydney is leading the way towards a new era of partnership with the wider community to address real-world challenges.
On Saturday 4 May, against the stunning backdrop of Sydney Harbour, Vice-Chancellor and Principal Dr Michael Spence, publicly launched INSPIRED – The Campaign to Support the University of Sydney. At a black-tie dinner for more than 350 of the university’s most committed supporters at the Overseas Passenger Terminal at Circular Quay, the Vice-Chancellor unveiled the university’s ambitious target of $600 million.

ABC presenter Adam Spencer, an alumnus and himself a donor to the University, acted as master of ceremonies, sharing with guests a glimpse of the talent and expertise from across the faculties.

Guests enjoyed pre-dinner drinks in the gallery space showcasing specially selected works from recent undergraduate and postgraduate exhibitions at the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning and Sydney College of the Arts. More curious guests had an up-close encounter with Shrimp, a mobile robot from the Australian Centre for Field Robotics, which is more commonly used for mapping crop yield information for farmers.

Others took the opportunity to stargaze with Newtonian reflector telescopes, provided by the Faculty of Science, set up on the balcony overlooking Circular Quay and the Opera House. Students from the Conservatorium of Music dazzled unsuspecting diners by performing a flash mob opera. As the orchestra played, singers broke into spontaneous song performing the finale from Act 2 of Johann Strauss’s opera Der Fledermaus.

Attendees were treated to a three course meal, designed by Executive Chef Brent Savage of Bentley Restaurant and Bar and prepared by Bayleaf Catering. Professor Steve Simpson, Academic Director of the Charles Perkins Centre, provided tasting notes on the meal, giving guests an insight into nutritional benefits of the meal and the centre’s research work.

During each course, guests were joined at their table by different academic speakers, researchers and students, who spoke informally on topics ranging from the London Paralympic Games, engineering the quantum future and Australia’s historic tobacco plain packaging law. Michelle Lim, a first year science student, danced her way

The campaign launch last month showcased the impressive breadth of the University’s past and present achievements, and shone a light on the great challenges that lie ahead.
through an impressive array of faculty achievements represented in an interactive multimedia performance.

A highlight of the night was the announcement of three principal gifts totalling $16 million, which will each have a significant and lasting impact on a different area of the University.

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Australian entrepreneur Sean Howard pledged $10 million to establish the Valerie Mary Howard Initiative to advance new research, outstanding patient care, and exceptional teaching and learning facilities at the Save Sight Institute.

An anonymous donor made a commitment to donate $5 million to create a Teacher Enrichment Academy for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) teachers – a multidisciplinary collaboration to strengthen the confidence of mathematics and science teachers in schools Australia-wide.

Campaign Board member and long-time supporter of the University of Sydney, Michael Hintze, also pledged $1 million to launch a flagship research and development incubator with the Charles Perkins Centre to explore commercially viable applications for improving individual and population health.

As an unforgettable evening of inspiration more than 160 years in the making drew to a close, the Vice-Chancellor made a toast to the University of Sydney, inviting guests to celebrate the University’s achievements, past, present, and future.
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Donation</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Judith and David Coffey</td>
<td>Establish a chair in sustainable agriculture with a pledge of $4m</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Greg and Kay Poche</td>
<td>Donate $10m to establish a groundbreaking centre for Indigenous health</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Enid and Alan Ng</td>
<td>Endow the Enid Ng Fellowship in Haematology with a $2m gift</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Joan Barnet</td>
<td>Give $1m to the Brain and Mind Research Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Ted and Susan Meller</td>
<td>Memorial Scholarship fund of $1m supports outstanding talent of young violinists</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John and Marcelle Gilbert</td>
<td>$2.12m fund supports the Nicholson Museum and the Library, as well as postgraduate and undergraduate scholarships in Arts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>An anonymous donor</td>
<td>Establishes the Challenge Fund to encourage young alumni to become donors by matching gifts dollar for dollar</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>The Australian Diabetes Council</td>
<td>Donates $5m to establish Australia's first chair for diabetes research</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tom Austen Brown’s bequest</td>
<td>Establishes a $6.9m fund for prehistory</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Maple-Brown family</td>
<td>Donates $5m to establish the Christine Maple-Brown Clinic for Colorectal Cancer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Janet Dora Hine bequest</td>
<td>Supports research at the Charles Perkins Centre</td>
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<td></td>
<td>An anonymous donor</td>
<td>Establishes another $2m to set up the pioneering Life Lab at the Charles Perkins Centre</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Warren Halloran</td>
<td>Gift establishes the Henry Halloran Trust to advance research into liveable cities and sustainable development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>John Grill</td>
<td>Donation establishes a new collaborative centre for project leadership</td>
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**Some of our Campaign HighlightS So far**

**INSPIRED – the Campaign to support the University of Sydney** is launched

Our youngest donor to date supports the Campaign at age 17

The Student Support Fund receives its 5000th gift

The family of Dr Charles Warman AM donates $3m for the Clinical Education Centre at the Sydney Adventist Hospital
**HIGHLIGHTS SO FAR**

**2011**
- John Hooke's $5m pledge establishes a Chair of Nanoscience
- Daniel Petre donates $2m to prostate cancer research
- Picasso's portrait *Jeune fille endormie* sells at auction for $19.8m to fund research at the Charles Perkins Centre
- The Maple-Brown family donates $5m to establish the Christine Maple-Brown Clinic for Colorectal Cancer
- Bequest of $8.6m from Nancy Roma Paech supports research into low-impact broad acre agriculture for sustainable land management

**2012**
- Janet Dora Hine bequest of $4.04m supports research at the Charles Perkins Centre
- Judith and David Coffey give another $2m to set up the pioneering Life Lab at the Charles Perkins Centre
- Our youngest donor to date supports the Campaign at age 17
- The Student Support Fund receives its 5000th gift

**2013**
- INSPRITED – the Campaign to support the University of Sydney is launched
- Warren Halloran's $5m gift establishes the Henry Halloran Trust to advance research into liveable cities and sustainable development
- The family of Dr Charles Warman AM donates $3m for the Clinical Education Centre at the Sydney Adventist Hospital
- John Grill's $20m donation establishes a new collaborative centre for project leadership
- The Maple-Brown family donates $5m to establish the Christine Maple-Brown Clinic for Colorectal Cancer
- Our youngest donor to date supports the Campaign at age 17
- The Student Support Fund receives its 5000th gift

*Some of our Campaign highlights*


HOC MÃI FOUNDATION
SAVING LIVES IN DIEN BIEN

Hoc Mãi, the Australia Vietnam Medical Foundation, is a non-profit organisation of the University of Sydney whose mission is to improve medical education and health outcomes in Vietnam.

One of its most significant projects concerns maternal, neonatal and child health in Dien Bien province in the remote northwest of the country, which is home to 21 ethnic minority groups with one of the highest rates of maternal and infant mortality in the world, compounded by low literacy levels.

Hoc Mãi has been able to provide essential supplies for pregnant women in Dien Bien, and run a series of educational workshops for local doctors, nurses and midwives. Participants develop essential maternal and child health skills, such as infection control, nutrition and dealing with post-partum haemorrhage.

Continued support from our donor communities will allow Hoc Mãi to build on its achievements. It doesn’t take much to make a difference.

• $60 covers local transfers for doctors, nurses and midwives to attend workshops
• $200 pays for the insurance of the health professionals travelling to Vietnam to provide education and training
• $500 provides enough basic kits to measure haemoglobin in an entire region
• $1000 covers the cost of interpreters for a six-day workshop.

See sydney.edu.au/medicine/hocmai for more information

SYDNEY BURNS FOUNDATION – REVOLUTIONISING BURNS TREATMENTS

The Sydney Burns Foundation (SBF), based at Sydney Medical School, is supporting research that could revolutionise the treatment of burn injuries. To date, the most common treatment for burn wounds has been skin grafting – a surgical procedure that takes skin from a healthy part of the patient’s body and transplants it to a prepared wound bed. However, this often involves scarring and subsequent loss of integrity and function, and potential for ongoing pain.

The SBF’s innovative Living Skin project, which develops full-thickness, three-dimensional skin in a laboratory, offers a far better outcome for patients. A fully functioning ‘living skin’ contains the majority of the lost skin elements, such as sweat glands, hair follicles, blood vessels and nerve fibres. As the skin is synthesised in a lab – not removed from elsewhere on a person’s body – it is a much better option for burn victims who have a limited amount of healthy skin left for skin grafts.

The SBF and the Living Skin project is led by Associate Professor Peter Haertsch OAM and Professor Peter Maitz, both of whom were recognised for the medical assistance they provided to the victims of the 2002 Bali bombings.

“The Living Skin project has the potential to change lives,” says Associate Professor Haertsch. “We are leading the way in developing an affordable and safe alternative to the classic skin grafting procedure, to make the pain of surviving a burns injury worth it.”

Research undertaken to date has been extremely promising. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the SBF is helping to change lives.
AUSTRALIAN STUTTERING RESEARCH CENTRE

The Australian Stuttering Research Centre (ASRC) is leading the development of treatments for stuttering, thanks to the support of the Herbert and Valmae Freilich Research Fund.

Established in 2006, this fund supports post-treatment services for adults and adolescents. It was generously provided by Herbert and Valmae Freilich, who also instigated two Indigenous scholarships at the University, for students of law and medicine.

Stuttering is a widespread public health problem, with recent reports showing that one in 10 preschool children are affected by it.

Based in the Faculty of Health Sciences, ASRC researchers have developed and trialled new stuttering treatments and train future researchers to continue the centre’s work. Its research involves clinical trials of innovative treatments to control stuttering, investigating the cause of stuttering, the mental health of those who stutter, and the effects of stuttering on young children.

The centre’s other major aim is to support those who stutter and their families, providing techniques and strategies to minimise the impact of this prevalent speech disorder in everyday life.

Head of the ASRC Professor Mark Onslow believes that treatment can be effective. “There are effective treatments for preschool age children that can stop stuttering from developing. There are also treatments for adults that can offset the speech and psychological problems associated with stuttering,” he says.

ASRC researchers are also focusing on modern technology to improve patient access to treatment, such as online programs that can be used by anyone in the world.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO AUSTRALIA’S PREHISTORICAL PAST

Tom Austen Brown was a remarkable man, and his legacy lives on through his bequest in 2009 towards the study of prehistory. Valued at $6.9 million, the bequest came on top of the $1.8 million he gave the University during his lifetime.

“This is an extraordinary gift. Understanding the deep past of the cultures that have inhabited this continent will play a vital role in helping us to imagine what our future might be,” said Professor Duncan Ivison, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Tom Austen Brown was an avid amateur archaeologist. As a lawyer, his work required him to visit clients living on remote outback properties where he began collecting ancient Aboriginal artefacts. This inspired a passion for prehistory that led him to enrol in an arts degree at the University of Sydney, majoring in archaeology.

After graduating in 1974, Brown completed a master’s in anthropology at Washington State University. He returned to Australia in the early 1980s to explore remote ancient Aboriginal sites in his campervan.

When Brown died in 2009, he left half of his estate to the University. The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences has put the gift to excellent use, establishing a chair of Australian archaeology filled by leading pre-history expert Professor Peter Hiscock, along with the Tom Austen Brown Grants Program for Prehistory to foster research, education and fieldwork archaeology.

Recently the program supported research into ancient technology and lifeways in the South Australian deserts, which found evidence of an ice-age occupation in Australia’s driest desert, highlighting the adaptive skills of early Aboriginal peoples.
INSPIRED – The Campaign to support the University of Sydney is a significant milestone in the history of higher education in this country. We are leading the way in Australia by forging a new path to raise the standards of tertiary education, research and its impact on your community.

A successful Campaign will ensure that we can remain a place of exceptional scholarship, world-class facilities, and research brilliance. Raising $600 million from 40,000 supporters is an ambitious target, but we have a history of outstanding achievement in philanthropy, and I am confident we can reach it.

The year 2013 and beyond presents an array of challenges. Constraints on the federal budget mean the tertiary sector is unlikely to see an increase in government support within the next decade, regardless of which party is in office.

We have a thriving student community, full to overflowing with extraordinary people who deserve to reach their full potential. But to support them we need great teachers, excellent facilities, and a curriculum that encourages them to be all that they can be, regardless of where they have come from.

As one of the premier research universities in the world, we feel a keen responsibility not just to maintain our standing but improve on it. We are at the forefront of major cross-disciplinary research and our people are making significant contributions towards solving some of the world’s most serious issues. However, as government research grants become increasingly competitive, we need to find new ways to fund the depth and breadth of our pioneering research initiatives.

Philanthropy has played a critical role in our evolution and growth. Without the far-sighted gifts from people like Thomas Fisher, John Henry Challis, JW Power, William John Macleay and Sir Samuel McCaughey, our University would not be what it is today. Their legacy endures in our libraries, museums, art collections, faculties and centres, and most importantly in our people. We need to build on this foundation of philanthropy to ensure we remain a great public university.

INSPIRED – The Campaign to support the University of Sydney is a celebration of all that we are capable of delivering. Our supporters, students, staff and alumni all have a part to play. By working together in pursuit of our shared passions, we can make a real difference for future generations.
superior, in my opinion, to the very best that you would see come out of an start-up incubator like Y Combinator in the USA.”

Whitney Komor’s idea for a social planning tool called The Best Day attracted over $1 million in funding at the end of 2012. The concept aims to make it easy for groups to make a plan of where and when to meet up without constant messaging. Businesses are assisted because The Best Day provides a PLAN widget that allows customers to organise and pay for group booklings.

“We have several major Australian business partners already on board for our launch. Businesses want to make it easy for their customers to organise group bookings so we have developed a simple plan widget that a partner can add to their site so their customers can instantly put their plans into action,” says Whitney, who now has four employees.

She attracted half of her capital from Sydney Angels, a group of start-up entrepreneurs, and half from Australian venture-capital firm OneVentures. But despite her success, the venture capital industry in Australia still has a long way to go.

In an interview with the Sydney Morning Herald, Matt Barrie said Australia’s venture capital industry was in “dire straits”. The amount of funding had halved to just $40 million in 2012 despite the country being in “the middle of the greatest technology boom of our time”.

Despite this, the INCUBATE entrepreneurs behind SnapDisco rejected $50,000 in investment because they were confident they could sell the product from the ground up and did not want to dilute their equity in the project.

Co-founder James Boyden entered INCUBATE with a great idea and leading-edge computer vision technology. The technology allowed customers to remove photographic backgrounds from their product shots without the time-consuming manual process of ‘clipping’ around a picture. “Great pictures mean great sales,” he explains.

It was a great idea but it was the mentoring that they received during their INCUBATE internship that allowed SnapDisco to take off and leave its founders confident enough to knock back investors. “We were accepted into INCUBATE with some cutting-edge technology and big ideas, but the customers just weren’t buying. The mentors helped us find our product-market fit, and we now have customers waiting to buy our product,” said James.

Georgia Kia received $20,000 in funding from Research in Motion and her pitch to Blackberry was so impressive that her app, WeSit, will be part of the official Blackberry 10 launch and feature on the Blackberry app store.

Her idea was inspired from her job as a babysitter. She saw first-hand the anguish parents went through to find a trusted sitter when their regular person was unavailable. She hatched the idea of leveraging the trusted networks of babysitters through an online referral system.

Alexander Stamp founded CloudHerd as an online livestock management and sales platform and recently attracted $10,000 ‘proof-of-concept’ investment funding from a major bank. “The idea is to remove inefficient sale methods, wasted energy in transportation and the spread of diseases by creating a global marketplace for the livestock industry,” he says.

Investors are also talking to the six members of the Edisse team. CEO Nicholas Tong explains the concept. “This is a watch made for the elderly that is designed to give peace of mind to carers. Current systems rely on a panic button which requires the user to be conscious to raise the alarm. Our watch detects a fall and automatically tells the carer that there has been a fall and where the person is.”

The six members of the team have successfully created the hardware and software of the prototype and are looking at growing a global market with a product that will ultimately save lives.

Photo-sharing platform Muro has also attracted investor interest. Computer Science undergraduate James Peter-Cooper Stanbury created an elastic social network that allows people to share photographs instantly. The idea is that people hosting an event – such as a party or a wedding – can register with the app and then guests can download and share pictures instantly. Two weeks after its public launch, Muro had over 700 Apple Store downloads.

The team at Weaver used their technical skills to create an interactive toy for children using sensors, robotics and artificial intelligence. Weaver CEO Fernando Vega says: “Programming is often seen as boring and demotivating, yet it is essential for students to learn in our modern world. We believe we can teach engineering principles and programming through an engaging toy robot.”

Mentor and Head of Commercialisation at The University of Sydney, Randal Leeb-du Toit, attended Demo Day and said afterwards: “On all counts, as a pilot, INCUBATE has exceeded my expectations. There’s no need to go all the way to Silicon Valley to find world-class technologists and aspirant entrepreneurs – they are right here in Sydney and on campus.”

INCUBATE is currently looking for leading alumni who are interested in supporting this innovative program, either as mentors for entrepreneurs or as program supporter.
For more than one and a half centuries, explorers and scientists alike have relied on the machete to clear the dense vegetation that obscures much of the remains of the great medieval civilisation of Angkor, which flourished across mainland Southeast Asia from the ninth to 15th centuries AD. Until the past year, that is.

In July 2012 Roland Fletcher, a Professor in the Department of Archaeology, and I sat in an air-conditioned office at the University’s Robert Christie Research Centre in Cambodia, having just taken delivery of the results of a landmark aerial survey.
which deployed an airborne laser scanner strapped to the side of a helicopter. The whole project had been something of a gamble: several years of planning and a quarter of a million dollars invested in a technology that had never been used for archaeology anywhere in Asia.

The laser scanner, or ‘lidar’, had the potential to see through a dense forest canopy and reveal traces of the civilisation remaining on the forest floor, but no-one was entirely sure that it would work, or that there would be anything much to see even if it did. As a map derived from four billion laser measurements of Angkor slowly unfolded on the screen of a high-performance computer, however, we watched in awe as entire cities were revealed for the first time beneath the jungle of northwest Cambodia, and realised that the age of the machete had just drawn to a decisive close.

The great monuments of Angkor, along with their inscriptions and artworks, have long fascinated scholars, and over the past century a huge body of work has been produced on these aspects of Khmer civilisation, mostly by French scholars. In the 1990s, as decades of conflict in Cambodia finally wound to an end, the arrival of modern archaeological methods sparked a renewed interest in Angkor, but with an entirely different focus. For the first time, scholars began seriously to address broader questions about the context of the temples: Who exactly were the people who built them, where did they live, how were they so successful in the unforgiving environment of monsoon Asia, and perhaps most importantly, what happened to them?

The problem for archaeologists had always been that houses of stone were reserved for the gods, and that the stuff of everyday life was mostly non-durable material – houses made of thatch, and even royal palaces made of wood – that has long since disappeared. However, in 1992 a French archaeologist, Professor Christophe Pottier, noted that traces of the remains of ponds, occupation mounds, village shrines, roadways and canals could still be discerned from the air. It was the fabric of the urban and agricultural network of greater Angkor.

Pottier began to use aerial photos to sketch those traces by hand onto paper maps from the 1950s, setting in motion a process that would lead eventually to the lidar survey two decades later. A meeting between Pottier and Fletcher in 1998 laid the groundwork for the University of Sydney’s involvement in Angkor. The technical skills of the Archaeological Computing

We are currently fundraising for a second mission to take a first look at a couple of other temple complexes in the region where, it is suspected, entire cities also lie undiscovered.
EXCLUSIVE FEATURE

Laboratory (now Arts eResearch) were brought to bear on Pottier’s maps, which were converted into an enormous digital mapping database and, as Pottier jokes, “allowed me to enter honourably into the 21st century”.

For the next decade and a half, professors Fletcher, Pottier and I continued the mapping work, eventually expanding the inventory of temples in the Greater Angkor area from around 350 to 1250, and discovering that Angkor was actually the largest integrated settlement complex of the pre-industrial world, a sprawling conurbation comparable in size to modern-day Sydney.

The results are “a total game-changer” for archaeology in the region. Just recently, a group of prominent Mayan scholars likened the emergence of lidar to the advent of carbon dating.

The very few archaeologists in the world who specialise in remote sensing have long been looking forward to the ‘next big thing’ on the horizon, as new technologies, often developed initially for military applications, slowly transformed into relatively inexpensive commercial applications. In the 1990s it was radar, in which the University was a world leader, using it for archaeological research (my honours and PhD theses at Sydney both revolved around using it at Angkor); in the late 1990s and early 2000s it was very high-resolution conventional imagery, of the kind we commonly see these days in Google Earth; in the last few years, it has been lidar (see accompanying article).

In 2005, Roland and I began to hatch a plan to use lidar’s capacity to ‘see through’ the forest to fill in those blank spaces on the map. The problem was that no-one had ever used lidar for archaeology anywhere in Asia before. It was an untested technology in this specific context, and many researchers working in Cambodia were sceptical that the instrument could see through the dense vegetation that surrounds the temples and deliver worthwhile results. No-one was prepared to commit the six-figure sum the mission required. Encouraged by a successful application of the technology in a similar context at a Mayan site in Belize, however, and given momentum by seed money from National Geographic, we spent years essentially going door-to-door seeking the participation of the various other international teams working at Angkor.

Eventually, by 2011, enough small contributions had been raised to make the project viable. Convincing the Cambodian authorities of the merits of the idea was a different matter entirely: the permissions process took six months, involved several different ministries, required an unprecedented exemption from the no-fly zone above Angkor Wat, and went all the way up to prime ministerial level. In the end, eight different teams representing seven different countries committed support, in what would turn out to be the broadest research cooperation ever achieved in Cambodian archaeology, and the largest archaeological lidar acquisition ever undertaken anywhere in the world.

In April 2012 the Indonesian branch of a Canadian survey company, PT McElhanney, was contracted to import the necessary equipment and undertake the lidar survey. A red helicopter spent nearly a week systematically crisscrossing the airspace just 800 metres over the World Heritage Site of Angkor, as well as two other remote and forested locations. The vast amount of data produced had to be hand-carried to Cambodia from McElhanney’s labs in Jakarta in July.

Once the complex process of interpreting the data was completed, the excitement of that first day has turned out to be entirely justified. The imagery reveals that archaeological features are almost ubiquitous beneath the forest cover, and that the ceremonial centre of Angkor, with its great temples shrouded in jungle, was surrounded by a formally planned, grid-like network of roads. A French team had spent many years surveying one part of that ‘downtown’ area on the ground, using machetes and hand-operated survey levels; the lidar mission covered that same area in 45 minutes of flying time, and produced a map with greater precision and accuracy.

At least half a dozen previously undocumented temples have been uncovered in the immediate vicinity of Angkor Wat, which more than two million tourists visit every year, along with a previously unknown urban layout within the very confines of the temple’s moat. In the remote Kulen mountains to the north of Angkor, where dense forest and extensive mine fields have traditionally frustrated mapping efforts, an entire urban layout has emerged from beneath the vegetation. It corresponds to a previously undiscovered city referred to in thousand-year-old inscriptions as Mahendraparvata. The newly discovered cities clearly extend beyond the limited lidar coverage that has so far been achieved, and we are currently fundraising for a second lidar mission to extend that coverage and take a first look at a couple of other temple complexes in the region where, we suspect, entire cities also lie undiscovered on the forest floor.

Our job will be significantly easier this time around: thanks to the first results, the initial scepticism surrounding the method has largely evaporated, and has now given way to enthusiasm. The results, according to Professor Fletcher, are “a total game-changer” for archaeology in the region. Just recently, a group of prominent Mayan scholars published an article in which they likened the emergence of lidar to the advent of carbon dating in terms of its importance for the study of tropical forest civilisations. They, too, plan additional, more extensive lidar acquisitions. A collaborative network of researchers interested in the archaeological applications of lidar is rapidly emerging, not only in Southeast Asia and Mesoamerica but in other regions as well, bound by a common interest in the ability
of lidar to provide extraordinary insights into interactions between humans and their environment in the distant past.

There are also implications for site preservation and heritage management, as illegal logging, corporate land concessions and rapid urban expansion threaten the delicate traces of the Angkorian civilisation that remain inscribed into the landscape around the temples. These are urgent issues, and UNESCO is at the forefront of efforts to extend the lidar coverage in Cambodia in order to fully understand the spatial extent of the remnant cultural heritage. This dry season, staff and volunteers from University of Sydney teams have been working in the field with Cambodian colleagues to confirm and document new sites so that they can be protected. The thrill of discovery is only partially offset by the difficulty of the task, which often involves trekking deep into the dense forests of northwest Cambodia. As it turns out, the machete is not quite redundant around here just yet.

Damian Evans is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in Professor Fletcher’s Angkor Research Program.

LIDAR - THE RADAR WITH LASER

Airborne laser scanning revolves around a technology called light detection and ranging (Lidar), which is analogous to the more familiar technology of radar. Instead of radio waves, however, a Lidar instrument sends out a laser pulse, which is then reflected back to the instrument by any object or surface that the laser beam encounters.

The instrument measures the time that it took for the reflection to return, which it uses to calculate the distance between the instrument and the reflective surface: the longer the time, the more distant the surface is. Given enough of these measurements taken looking down from an aircraft, incredibly detailed three-dimensional models of the landscape can be created.

The Lidar used in the Angkor mission emitted about one million laser pulses every four seconds, acquiring an enormous amount of data in a 600-metre-wide swathe along the flight path of the helicopter. The laser light does not actually penetrate or ‘see through’ vegetation. For archaeological applications, the idea is to bombard every square metre of the landscape with so many laser beams that at least a handful of the laser pulses are likely to find tiny gaps in the foliage, hit the ground, and reflect back to the sensor.
Every morning, Jacob Baldwin would arrive on campus and begin his day with the same ritual. At the bottom of the stairs that led to his classroom, he would call out for four volunteers who were willing to carry him, plus another team of volunteers willing to lift his heavy motorised wheelchair. Slowly and carefully, they would bring him and his chair up the narrow staircase and position him for his first lecture.

Getting to class was not the only hurdle Jacob faced while studying at the Cumberland College of Health Sciences in 1976, before the advent of disability discrimination laws and assistive technologies. With movement in only two of his fingers, he could not hold a pen and had to record each lecture onto a cassette tape, to be transcribed later by his stepfather. And at the end of the day, he had to find a taxi willing to take him home – many would drive off at the sight of his wheelchair – as well as someone to lift him into and out of the back seat.

Yet in spite of the obstacles, or perhaps because of them, Jacob thrived during his studies and made an indelible impression on his peers and teachers. More than 30 years on, many still recall him clearly, describing a forceful advocate for the rights of people with disabilities, especially access to buildings.

“He demanded to be noticed and listened to,” says Dr Rod Rothwell, a senior lecturer in rehabilitation counselling who taught Jacob in the late 1970s. “His philosophy was: ‘I’m going to say what you need to do and if you need to carry me up the stairs then that’s too bad, build something that gets me up instead’.”

Jacob graduated in 1979 and became the first disabled student to be awarded a diploma in the field of rehabilitation counselling. He would go on to dedicate his life to raising awareness of the needs of people with disabilities, becoming one of the nation’s most prominent disability activists before his death in 2010 at the age of 59.

Now, he is set to be remembered in
a new scholarship at the University of Sydney, which amalgamated with the Cumberland College of Health Sciences in 1990 and has since become a leader in disability policy research. His parents, who are funding the scholarship, hope that it will inspire future students at the University to follow in his footsteps.

Jacob’s struggle against the odds began even before he was born. In 1951, his mother, Veronica, fell pregnant while she was living in the Chinese city of Tianjin; her parents were White Russians who had fled to China during the 1917 revolution. The pregnancy ran into complications, but with China now in the midst of its own revolution, Veronica found herself turned away from the city’s hospitals which were filled with Mao’s Red Army soldiers. Finally, a local clinic took her in and she endured an agonising labour lasting five days.

Baby Jacob was born three months premature – “he was as small as a beer bottle,” his mother recalls – and was too young to breastfeed. With no breast pump available, the doctor fetched one of his Alsatian dog’s newborn puppies and gave it to Veronica to suckle so that she maintained her milk supply. Defying expectations, Jacob survived. It soon became apparent that he had cerebral palsy, likely as a result of the forceps used during his traumatic delivery.

Not long after, Jacob’s parents emigrated to Australia where their marriage quickly broke down. His mother was faced with the monumental task of raising her disabled son alone at a time when there was little support for parents of children with disabilities.

With no real estate agent willing to lease a flat to them because of Jacob’s condition, she and her son were forced to make a public plea for assistance in the pages of the Sydney Morning Herald. Their situation improved as Veronica found work in a department store and Jacob’s doting grandparents, Baba and Deuda, moved out from China to help raise him. Meanwhile, Jacob began his education at the Spastic Centre, now the Cerebral Palsy Alliance.

As he grew up, Jacob became increasingly frustrated with the limited paths available to him as a young person with a disability. Kevin Baldwin, who married Jacob’s mother and adopted him in 1968, recalls his distress at being given repetitive manual tasks to occupy his time at the Spastic Centre. “At one stage he was drilling holes into metal plates,” he says. “It was extremely frustrating.”

With the centre’s support, Jacob moved out of the workshop and into an office environment where he flourished and was encouraged to pursue higher education. He applied to study at the University of New South Wales, only to be told that it could not accommodate someone with his needs. Jacob then approached Cumberland, and although its campus was also inaccessible to wheelchairs, his application was accepted. “That was like bricks being pulled out of a wall and the light shining in, and he never looked back,” says Kevin.
According to his parents, Jacob’s education was a major turning point in his life, giving him the skills and self-confidence he needed to realise his potential. After graduating, he became a foundation board member of the Disability Council of NSW and a policy consultant on disability. He also established an information centre on disability, and worked as an educator and motivational speaker.

His most ambitious undertaking came in 1992 when he set off to ride around Australia in his electric wheelchair, an adventure he called his ‘Ability Trek’ in line with his view that he was empowered by ability rather than limited by disability. Each day saw him travel an average of 80 kilometres, steering his chair down the highway with just two fingers of his left hand.

Along the way, he faced setbacks ranging from a ban on fundraising to a crash into a roadside ditch; he was once flagged down on the Nullarbor Plain by a horrified truck driver who offered him $100 to turn around and go back. Undeterred, he returned home four years later to a hero’s welcome at Sydney Town Hall, having spread his message of empowerment in dozens of local communities.

Following his Ability Trek, which earned him an Australian Achievers Award in 2000, Jacob renewed his focus on improving practical assistance for people with disabilities. Janelle Saffin, the Federal Member for Page, was a supporter of his efforts to lobby for greater accessibility and especially his dream of a unified disability support scheme.

“For a long time, Jacob had advocated that people with disabilities needed individualised service tailored to their specific needs in order to live relatively independently,” Saffin explains. His other consistent demand was for a nationally coordinated scheme rather than a patchwork of local services around the country. “And after pushing on that for a long time, he finally cut through,” she says. His ideas fed directly into the federal government’s National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), which recently passed into law and will be trialled in five locations across Australia from July.

Jacob died from bowel cancer in 2010, before the NDIS was officially launched. However, Janelle Saffin was able to reassure him privately that the scheme had won the support of senior ministers and was on the path to becoming government policy: “It hadn’t been announced but I knew where it was going and he did too,” she says.

Last year, Veronica and Kevin Baldwin began the poignant task of sorting through Jacob’s papers, from memoirs and poetry to a book he wrote explaining disability to primary school students. They are now set to find a new home at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra, which has taken a keen interest in Jacob’s story. In October the museum will be displaying an exhibit on his life in its Eternity gallery, which profiles 50 remarkable Australians.

The couple has also been making plans for what they will do with their estate now that their son is no longer with them. “Everything was renovated for him,” says Kevin Baldwin, gesturing to his home on the NSW Central Coast, just north of Sydney. “All this was going to be left for Jacob.” Instead, they are planning to leave a major bequest to the University. The money will be used to create a scholarship which will help more students with a disability pursue higher education. “What better way could we donate than to help other person like Jacob,” says Veronica.

To be known as the Jacob Francis Baldwin Scholarship, the grant will be funded in perpetuity so their son’s contributions are remembered into the future.

“I always say that the reason the horse Phar Lap was so good was that his heart was twice the size of a normal horse’s heart,” says Kevin. “Phar Lap was out of the ordinary and so was Jacob. He was an inspiration to the world.”
As director of the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, Timothy Potts has a budget and resources that make him the envy of the art world. But he is a careful shopper.

WORDS
CAROLINE BAUM
PHOTOGRAPHY
GETTY MUSEUM
alternative temptations and distractions of a social or sporting life.

His chief mentor was Professor of Archaeology Basil Hennessy, a specialist in Near Eastern civilisations. “He was very supportive, helped to get me to Oxford for my postgraduate work and invited me on my first dig in Jordan,” says Potts, who went on to work at several sites in the Middle East which would today be inaccessible, such as those in Iraq.

Potts saved up to go to Jordan by washing dishes in a restaurant at night. Today he talks about the life on a dig with undimmed, almost boyish enthusiasm and nostalgia. “That first site was fascinating; it went from the neolithic era to medieval times, including the Roman and the Byzantine. It was both primitive and romantic, undeniably authentic. I am glad I experienced living on site in tents, the simplicity of it. The actual digging today remains a manual craft – you still have to feel your way. What has changed is the science for dating things and the technology for recording data.”

He worries about looting at sites which he describes as “a scourge” and says that providing security to protect such places of cultural significance is a priority that most countries caught up in the current wave of war and upheaval ignore.

At the Getty, he sees his role as similar to that of a storyteller. “I am keeping an eye out for what the state of a subject is, to see if a story can be assembled through artworks that can convey a meaningful experience to audiences. It is the scholarship in that process that excites me, not the wheeling and dealing,” he says emphatically.

But isn’t there some satisfaction in bartering with institutions that are normally loath to lend? “Of course, but the reason they lend is because they get excited by the story you want to tell; they also share in the opportunity to learn something new about a work in their collection. You don’t lend a Giotto just because it’s the Getty that’s asking. The power of an idea secures you the loans. The challenge lies in finding a fresh approach.”

Potts compares the Getty, with its 200 staff, to a university: “With so many experts on so many subjects in one place, we are all both professors and students at the same time. That is incredibly stimulating.”

Before his appointment to the Getty Museum, Potts spent five years as director.
of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, England, where he derived personal satisfaction from two exhibitions he curated, attracting unprecedented numbers to view shows devoted to the Han Dynasty Royal Tombs and Vermeer’s Women. “The trick is to find a balance between scholarship in the raw as you find it in journals and research and knowledge that is worn lightly and can be shared with non-experts.”

In the early ‘90s, before his museum career took off, Potts spent four years in the Media and Communications Group at Lehmann Brothers investment bank in New York, an experience which he now says gave him an advantage in understanding how the corporate world works, “especially the focus on follow-through, deadlines and outcomes, since those are the terms in which most of our funders think and assess us. It also gives sponsors of the museum a higher level of comfort in me as the steward of their support. They know I understand what they need to get out of the relationship.”

Following that stint he was appointed director of the National Gallery of Victoria (1994–98). He does not hesitate when asked to nominate his personal highlights from his four years there: “Firstly, abolishing the entry charge and seeing the attendance double in the first year. Secondly, persuading the Kennett government that the major building on Federation Square should be a museum of Australian art drawn from the NGV’s collections. As for a curatorial highpoint, that was organising Rembrandt, A Genius And His Impact.”

From Melbourne he moved to Texas, as Director of the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth (1998–2007), where he shifted the emphasis to sculpture through opportunistic purchasing – including a Bernini which experts claimed was ‘a steal’ and a major coup largely because its authenticity at the time was uncertain. Potts’s rigorous scholarship won the day, demonstrating that the year he and his curators put into determining it was genuine paid off. “I don’t think I am aggressive but I do have a clear sense of purpose and how to get there, which often means standing firm,” he says, adding that “in most situations judgement underpinned by scholarship is the key to success.”

Describing his management style as informal, and clearly appreciating LA’s laid-back vibe, Potts is currently renting an apartment in Santa Monica with his partner, an artist photographer, and looking to buy something more permanent. The two entertain a lot.

His office at the Getty is minimalist, in keeping with the aesthetic of the building by Richard Meier, and overlooks the Robert Irwin garden, which he describes as “the most contemplative part of the site”. Two of the walls are glass, one is covered in books from floor to ceiling. The fourth is reserved for a work of art. “With a de Kooning and a few antiquities, it would be perfect,” Potts jokes.

“It’s been easy to settle here, perhaps because it reminds me so much of Australia,” he says. “I do miss it, on a personal level,” he acknowledges. “If life were just about lifestyle, I would live there.”
I graduated in Arts from the University of Sydney in the 1960s. As an undergraduate I lived at St Paul’s College. Now I live there again. In the intervening 39 years, 1968 to 2006, I was an academic writer and lecturer. It was a productive time. I loved teaching. My books (in Australian history) won various prizes and I ended up with a five-year research professorship.

All the same, my briefer time at St Paul’s, since 2007, has been even more rewarding. Overseas, the educational potential of university colleges seems to be common knowledge. Not so in Australia. Here colleges have a keen appeal to many students, and yet interest in them is usually negative or nil.

At St Paul’s our usual boast is that seven of our students since 2001 have been Rhodes scholars. In the same period St Paul’s also supplied half the annually elected presidents of the Student Union. In 2012 two of our students shared the Convocation Medal, awarded to recent graduates for service to the University and wider world.

Besides boasting, which is pleasant enough, we need to ask how this is happening.

When I came back in 2007, at first just as a stopover, I was struck by the quality of leadership among the students, especially the way the older ones supported the first years in their academic work. I stayed, and I came back out of retirement, because there was clearly an unusual educational experiment underway. The fresher initiation system, as I remember it in the 1960s, was gone. Academic standards were high. There was a keen and generous sense of achievement.

A lot of this is ultimately due to the College Council. In the 1970s some members set up a scholarship fund, now very substantial and bringing in a critical mass of excellent and deserving students. Also, in 1994 the council appointed a first-class Head of College, the present Warden (Ivan Head), and they have stood by him in his efforts to make St Paul’s an increasingly interesting place. These are the fruits of a sometimes eccentric independence.

Genuine independence is crucial. The original purpose of the Sydney University colleges was not just residential. They were meant to be centres of intellectual life which in some sense challenged the University. In the 19th century that independence was expressed in religious terms. St Paul’s was and is still, liberal Anglican. The first warden, in the 1850s, aimed to run college courses in astronomy and geology, so that students could keep up with the impact of scientific progress on religion. Now there is a chance for independence to be expressed more widely.

University teaching practices are changing. Classes are getting very big and online instruction is very common. On the one hand, student individuality matters less for teaching. And yet in the world at large some of the more advanced workplaces are being reorganised so as to stress “relational leadership”
and initiative at all levels. Social networking (electronic or not) makes that easy. In a recent book one of our young alumni, Eric Knight, explained how this approach “does not diminish individual brilliance but focuses on the tight network of supporters and collaborators gathered around an individual”.

A college which can nourish and use intellectual and organisational leadership of this sort is in step with the world. This is up-to-date student collegiality. It is initiative interwoven with teamwork. The colleges at the University of Sydney are places where student collegiality can be attempted most easily and effectively. Of course, there’s plenty of it elsewhere. The student union is a great example, with all its internally-generated clubs and societies. The University is also developing peer-assisted learning. The union is driven by student leadership, but peer-assisted learning is contingent on the official curriculum. Here are two siloed worlds. One is non-academic, the other academic.

Colleges can pull the two together, energising academic work with the spirit of creative leadership. Institutional independence and small numbers make student initiative a lot easier, and the college tutorial system is wide open to leadership by both graduates and undergraduates. Class teaching can be interwoven with social networking, orchestrated by student tutors. With tutorial groups of (say) half a dozen, colleges are the perfect antidote to the overwhelming class sizes situation confronted by most new undergraduates at Sydney.

In 2012 the students at St Paul’s decided to use this advantage by launching a program called Positive Education, which involves training in mental resilience, focus and self-knowledge. Positive Education has not been tried before at the university level, and management by students is rare. The challenges are just now being worked out.

I now realise, as I didn’t when I was just teaching, how important the relationship across age levels is for good student communities. One Paul’s fresher has described the behaviour of seniors as “absolutely extraordinary ... [I have] never seen anything like the voluntary effort for others”. That seems to be the general verdict. St Paul’s is a college for men. They call themselves a band of brothers, and of course brothers are usually of different ages. The Positive Education program is designed to refine that relationship, and to allow for a more expert and educational sense of responsibility.

The program has two sides to it. Occasional lecturers speak on subjects of immediate interest, such as physical wellbeing, including sports psychology. Also we look to the special needs of first years. The college has contracted with the Positivity Institute, which provides basic training to a number of senior students, who each manage workshop groups of 10 or more fresher. From there we aim to move up to issues of cognitive psychology. This is a rapidly evolving area of research with big implications in a number of disciplines. With us, ‘Know thyself’ will be backed up by recent research findings in neuroscience, how decision-making works and so on. Thinking, Fast and Slow, by Daniel Kahneman, Nobel prize-winner in Economics, is a leading text. It’s all experimental so far, but we have high hopes.

Taking a view from among the students (a live-in view), colleges can ask questions about what the University does and about the way teaching works. In some things they can manage better and point the way forward. This is what makes it worth living at St Paul’s.

Alan Atkinson is Senior Tutor at St Paul’s College, an Honorary Professor of the University of Sydney and author of The Europeans in Australia.
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* Offer is subject to review
1970s

GRAHAM HILEY QC (BA ‘69 LLB ‘72) has been appointed a justice of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory. Graham has practised as a lawyer since graduating in 1972, first as a solicitor (until 1978) then as a barrister. He lived and worked in Darwin from 1976 until 1994, and in Brisbane from 1994 until 2012. He took silk in 1987. He is a National Accredited Mediator. He has practised over a wide range of areas, particularly commercial, administrative law and native title. He was one of the founders of the Northern Territory Bar Association and of William Forster Chambers and was an active participant in various associations and tribunals in the NT.

NIGEL DOUGLAS (BSc’79 PhD ’86) has been awarded an honorary associateship by the Sydney Institute for Astronomy in recognition of decades of scientific contributions to observational astrophysics and innovative instrumentation. Nigel is living in the Netherlands, where he works at the University of Groningen.

JANE RUTTER (Sydney Conservatorium of Music) has just released her 16th album, titled French Kiss. A renowned flautist and concert performer, Jane studied on a French government scholarship in Paris with Alain Marion and Jean-Pierre Rampal and during her career she has lectured at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, founded the Music Scheme, formed the innovative chamber group POSH, performed with the Australia Ensemble and has worked as soloist with many international stars. Her CD An Australian in Paris, released in 2012, reached Number 1 in the Australian classical charts and was nominated for an Australian ARIA award.

2000s

JAMES CASTRISSION (BCom ’04) and his friend JUSTIN JONES made history last year with the longest unsupported polar journey of all time from Hercules Inlet to the South Pole and back. Castrission wrote a book about their adventure, Extreme South (Hachette 2012), reviewed in SAM last October, and this year the pair were recognised by having their individual portraits painted for the Archibald Prize. Castrission was painted by Mark Roper, and Jones by Graeme Gates.

HELEN VINCENTI (BA ’09) has recently rewritten a psychological crime thriller she began in 2001. The idea for the book, titled The Othello Syndrome, came from two sources: her University preparation course lecturer at Sydney, Dr John Merchant, who gave classes on the subject of memory, and an article in New Scientist about a controversial theory of memory which argues that it is stored in DNA rather than structural changes to the synapse. The first part of the book was published on Kindle Amazon in December. The final chapters are being posted on her website. A print edition was available at the start of April.

2010s

DANIEL ROBINSON (BScAgr ‘11) has won the NSW Australian Contaminated Land Consultants Association’s ACLCA Young Achiever award in 2012 for his work on groundwater containment. David works for Environmental Earth Sciences (EES) in Artarmon on Sydney’s lower north shore, and he is the second employee of EES to win the award in a row, following the success in 2011 by Matt Miklos. The ACLCA Young Achiever Awards recognised scientists in the contaminated-land consultant industry. Entrants need to be under 30, with less than five years in the industry.
ON THE FRONT LINE
REAL LIFE STORIES OF SPYING, ESCAPING AND SURVIVING WAR
Michael Hambrook
New Holland $40

Nothing brings history to life like first-hand accounts. This book is a collection of 20 stories set against a backdrop of 20th-century wars and conflicts throughout the world, told by people who had been in the thick of the action. Michael Hambrook (MA ’93) provides the context, along with photos and documents, but the survivors, all now living in Australia, tell their own tales.

One World War II account describes the effect of the bomb dropped on Nagasaki, witnessed from a Japanese prison camp. Another recalls the marathon journey of a young Polish man who found a Hitler youth uniform which enabled him to escape from a prison camp and be accidentally reunited with his brother.

The only woman in the book tells of her secret work gleaning information from German prisoners at Latimer House in Buckinghamshire, England. Also included are accounts from the more recent wars in Cambodia and Vietnam, the United Nations intervention in the Congo and the last days of Rhodesia.

Many of the storytellers were remarkably young when they were first exposed to front-line combat. They talk of fear, death, uncertainty and confusion, but also of camaraderie and quick thinking. Universally, they acknowledge that luck played a significant part in their remarkable tales of survival.

A MOST GENEROUS SCHOLAR
JOAN KERR, ART AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
Susan Steggall
LHR Press $35

Joan Kerr was a rigorous academic researcher, but also an irreverent, witty intellectual who loved spirited debate. She uncovered Australia’s cultural traditions like a detective, piecing together the unexplored fragments of our artistic past.

As a professor at several universities including Sydney, ANU and the College of Fine Arts (UNSW), Kerr is fondly remembered for her engaging and lively lectures. As a historian, she sleuthed out forgotten artists from the early colony, and gave women artists just recognition, often by reinventing the definitions by which they should be assessed.

Her early years were no indication of what she would become. Well into her marriage, she and husband Jim Kerr both switched to an academic career path in art and architectural history. Jim became a steadfast supporter of her many challenging pursuits.

Author and art historian Susan Steggall is a fan of Kerr’s, but her biography is also able to show how a personality as forthright as Kerr’s would come up against opposition. She describes the almost impossible task of compiling the two enormous works – The Dictionary of Australian Artists and then Heritage. In both publications, Kerr believed that the real story lies within the artwork and not the text, and insisted that Australian art must be valued on its own terms.

NORMAN Haire AND THE STUDY OF SEX
Diana Wyndham
Sydney University Press. $35

Diana Wyndham was awarded a Norman Haire Fellowship from the university’s Faculty of Medicine, and now she offers us a complete picture of the man himself. Norman Haire was one of the many Australians who achieved fame and prominence throughout the world, but not in their homeland. His executors burned controversial diary entries, and his personal life was kept very private.

Haire was remarkable. He was a consummate actor, his French was fluent, he furnished his homes with fine collections of chinoiserie, and he was a gourmand who could throw a brilliant dinner party. He was also a thoroughly skilled professional, setting up his medical practice in Harley Street, London in the 1920s where he advocated birth control, enabled healthy pregnancies, and was a leading expert in ‘rejuvenation’ surgery (vasectomies). He understood the importance of diet in a healthy lifestyle and was a member of the Eugenics Society.

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Haire spoke openly about sex and published broadly on the subject. He gained respect from his peers in spite of the prudish attitudes of the time and in spite of his Jewish background and the fact that he was homosexual. At his death, he bequeathed his vast library to the University of Sydney, along with a substantial sum of money to be used for the study of sexology.
DIARY

THURSDAY 11 JULY
USUKAA Summer Reception
HQS Wellington, Victoria
Embankment, 6.30–8.30pm
With guest speaker Corey Payne (BCom ‘07), NSW Young Australian of the Year.

THURSDAY 8 AUGUST
Insights 2013 Inaugural Lecture Series
Nicholson Museum and General Lecture Theatre 1, 6pm

WEDNESDAY 14 AUGUST
Vice-Chancellor’s Morning Tea
The Great Hall, 10–11.30am
A morning tea for all alumni who graduated prior to 1960, and their guests.

WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER
Sydney Nursing School Dean’s Gala Dinner and Challenge
The Great Hall, 6–10.30pm
Join us as alumni, friends and industry partners come together for a night of inspiring entertainment and fine dining.

FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER
AAME Annual Reunion
St Andrew’s College, Newtown, 7pm
Graduating classes of years ending in ‘3’ and ‘8’, with guest speaker John Young.

WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER
Sydney Connections Breakfast
The Ivy, George Street, Sydney, 7:15–8:45am
Biannual reception for all alumni based in Beijing.

FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER
Canberra Alumni Drinks
The Brassey, Barton
Regular networking drinks for Canberra-based alumni.

SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER
The Australian Boat Race 2013
Yarra River, Melbourne
Annual rowing race between Sydney and Melbourne University Boat Clubs.

KEEP UP TO DATE
There’s always lots going on in and around the University – too much to fit it all in here! So stay up to date with alumni events and more via our online event calendar – sydney.edu.au/events
You can also keep in touch via our alumni pages – sydney.edu.au/alumni.
Also, make sure that we have your latest contact details (you can do this online at sydney.edu.au/stayconnected) so that you receive our monthly eSydney email newsletter, as well as invitations to events in your local area.
Ph +61 2 9036 9222. Email alumni.office@sydney.edu.au

2013 ELECTIONS
University of Sydney graduates are advised that two elections will occur in 2013

Election of five Fellows of Senate by and from the graduates of the University
- Nominations open 6 August 2013 and close on 10 September
Visit: sydney.edu.au/senate

Election of 36 members of the Alumni Council by and from members of Convocation
- Nominations open 31 August 2013 and close on 1 October
Visit: sydney.edu.au/convocation/elections
You’ve never met a more talented and diverse group of 10 young people,” says Jillian Kilby of her fellow 2013 John Monash scholars. “If you pooled the 10 of us, imagine the business we could start!”

Having established her own project engineering firm four years ago, Kilby can appreciate the potential of a venture built around some of Australia’s most promising future leaders. This year’s John Monash scholars, whose expertise spans the fields of engineering, technology, social justice, international relations and indigenous culture, will be supported by scholarships worth $50,000 per year to study at the world’s most elite universities.

Kilby, the 2013 BHP Billiton John Monash Scholar, is a former Australian Young Professional Engineer of the Year and the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies Young Alumni of 2010. She will use the scholarship to study supply chain management and a Master of business administration commencing in September at Stanford University in San Francisco. In the long term, she sees herself working as a strategic consultant to improve national infrastructure using her experiences in supply chain management.

Not that the Coonamble-born 29-year-old plans to abandon her profound commitment to rural Australian communities; Kilby counts this as something that likely appealed to the Monash Foundation. “I want to continue to help improve infrastructure in regional Australia, but I need this education to allow me to work at a more strategic level, where the critical decisions are being made,” she says.

In 2002, Kilby left the family farm to study civil engineering at the University of Sydney. “I was just so fortunate to have chosen the right degree,” she says, crediting the practical and rural focus of the course in particular, plus the exceptional peers she studied alongside. “If you wanted a case study on the most amazing young men and women in engineering, my friends are it. They’re in France, London, Perth, Townsville, Kempsey Bypass, Sydney, New York. The career path is boundless, engineering presents global opportunities for young men and women.”

While in Sydney, Kilby spent four years with Waterway Constructions, building wharves and pontoons on Sydney Harbour, Circular Quay and Walsh Bay, before relocating to her boyfriend’s farm, 50km west of the small town of Walgett in north-western NSW. “There weren’t any employment opportunities,” she says of the town that sits a 2.5-hour-drive away from the nearest traffic light. “I always wanted to have my own business. I guess I was 25, I wasn’t scared of anything. The young people I meet today, I just say ‘go for it’. It’s not as hard as you think. The hardest thing is finding the work and maintaining the workload and customer satisfaction.”

Business meetings in Sydney also presented a unique challenge. “[I would] leave home at five in the morning … and be in bed at midnight. It’s eight hours of driving and two hours of flying,” she says. “You just do it. I think country women have a level of resilience to do these crazy things. Marie Bashir was originally a country girl, and Quentin Bryce. They’ve been my idols for a long time.”

Now on her way to an international career, Kilby is committed to providing the same kind of assistance to rural education and community initiatives through grants and scholarships as a Director of the Royal Agricultural Society Foundation of NSW. “For me, I was always going to come to Sydney to study. I’m a third generation Wesley College [resident], so I had my sights set on it. But for a lot of young people, the expense of leaving the country, and leaving family and friends, isn’t an option,” she says. “Through my work with the Royal Agricultural Society Foundation and my rural infrastructure company, I have been able to give back to rural Australia, as I know how fortunate I have been.”
Through a bequest in their wills, Clare Craigie (BA ’82) and her late husband (Frederick) John Craigie are helping to support future generations by investing in scholarships for women studying education or medicine.

You too can help us to shape a better Australia.

Find out how easy it is to include the University of Sydney in your will.

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sydney.edu.au/bequest
Academy Travel’s North East USA tour surveys American history and culture from Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello to the latest contemporary art in New York. Our unique itinerary features a special focus on the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, America’s greatest architect. In Chicago we visit his early domestic work, including Robie House. In New York we check out his last project, the swirling Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum on Fifth Avenue. But the highlight is Fallingwater, deep in rural Pennsylvania, described by the Smithsonian Institute as one of ‘28 places to visit before you die’.

The tour also includes a full week in New York, with walking tours, a private viewing of the Museum of Modern Art, fine dining, orchestral concerts, Broadway and the Metropolitan Opera. Well located four and five star hotels throughout. Maximum group size is 20.