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TAKE THE ONLINE QUIZ AND WIN AN iPAD
sydney.edu.au/sam
CHINA: BEYOND THE STEREOTYPE
Being an Asian simplistically categorised as Chinese by most Aussie blokes, I was attracted to the story on the China Studies Centre (Land of Opportunity, SAM March 2012) that is bringing fresh thinking about a 1990s BBQ-stopping debate: does Australia’s future lie with Asia?

I found great comfort knowing that the University has gathered some of today’s best minds and practitioners to shed light on how Australia ought to relate with China as a “land of opportunity”, rather than revert to its old-time hysteria of “rats and infestation”. With revenue of $100 billion each year from China, one would expect logically that Australia is now doing solid sense-making in order to sustain these massive relational foreign exchange inflows.

I believe the recent monsoon rains also shook the mindset of many an Australian to accept that – and whether we like it or not – what initially precipitates in mainland Asia usually blows into the whole of Australia. It is up to Australians to strategically manage what flows in and out between the two distant worlds. And the writer, Chris Rodley, amply clarified how Australia might exactly benefit from its intertwining with China.

Perhaps it is time to be weaned off the greenback and tie Australia’s future with the growing role of ‘redback’ (China’s renminbi) in the global financial system via Sydney and Melbourne foreign exchange trading centres.

Dan Umali (MPadmin)
Leichhardt NSW

INVESTMENT PROPOSAL NAIVE
The suggestion by Professor Hendrischke (SAM March 2012) that Australia would benefit from letting China invest in our infrastructure and resources is as naive as it is economically laughable.

It has been a cardinal error of Australian economic policy to privatise or corporatise monopoly infrastructure in favour of rapacious investors and State Treasuries who have driven up costs of production in this country so much that our industries are leaving.

Rather than selling off monopoly infrastructure rents, we should be collecting full resource and land rents from Chinese and domestic “investors” in our resources and urban land. We should be using the money to build infrastructure.

Terry Dwyer (BA ‘70 BEc ’74)
Canberra ACT

GRATEFUL FOR DONATED CORNEAS
By the time I graduated from Sydney University in 1978 I already had two transplanted corneas. My first operation was performed when I was 16 and at school. My second operation occurred in my second year at university. Since that time I have had a third cornea transplant in 2003. Because of the generosity of three donors I have enjoyed good vision most of my life and so far it has been very full and rewarding.

I have had a rewarding career, a happy marriage and two sons. The only major setback in my life was the death three years ago of my eldest son, Paul, while he was living overseas. Very sadly, none of his organs were able to be harvested. So I know only too well the tragic circumstances under which organs become available to recipients like me.

If the eyes are “the windows to your soul”, then the souls of three people have looked out on the world many years after their deaths. I hope more people will follow their examples and give the gift of sight to grateful organ recipients like myself.

Catherine Morrow (BEC ’78)
Castlecrag NSW
DEAR READERS...

In this, my first edition as editor of SAM, you will notice a few changes to the magazine. Most of them are related to the exciting range of digital and online features that are now available to enrich the readers’ experience of magazines and stories.

LETTERS are now edited for length to enable more to be published in the magazine. Letters will be published in full on the SAM website, allowing longer, more complex responses to be read in their entirety.

ONLINE QUIZ & CROSSWORD
Readers are invited to apply their knowledge of the University to our new quiz, which can be accessed on the website. The first five correct answers will win prizes. Details at the link below. Also, from this edition onwards, the popular SAM crossword will be on the website. Go to sydney.edu.au/sam/regulars

VIDEOS
You will notice this icon on several stories in this edition. This means a video with an interview on the subject, or a related subject, has been posted on our website to complement the printed story. Follow the link to access the video.

READER PHOTOS
You will notice this icon at the end of several stories. This means we invite readers to send in any photos of their own experiences relating to the story they have just read. Send your photos, clearly captioned, to the email provided.

SECOND LOOK
On Page 33 you will find a column of four short summaries and photos relating to interesting stories that have been recently published in other Sydney faculty magazines, or online. Follow the link provided next to each summary and you can access the stories on our website.

BEST OF THE SAM READER SURVEY
The results of this survey, undertaken last year are now also available on the SAM website.

In the future, we will be increasingly using the SAM website and online extras to complement the print version of the magazine. I am excited about these new ways of engaging with our alumni and I hope you enjoy the enriched experience on offer.

Michael Visontay
Editor

DANCING TOO CLOSE
As a long-term academic, I was surprised to read in the March edition about Philip Flood’s Dancing With Warriors, a title too close, it seemed to Inga Clendinnen’s Dancing With Strangers – to be overlooked. Perhaps Flood spoke with Clendinnen about his title. Her use of ‘dancing’ was carefully chosen to cover behavioural patterns of Australians and early white arrivals.
A title for Flood’s analysis of diplomatic vagaries must have been difficult to find. Perhaps “Hip Hop with Warriors” would have been closer to his experience.
Joan Ritchie (MEd ’68)
Aachen Germany

LIBRARY IS NO OIL PAINTING
I don’t know why anyone would want credit for designing Fisher Library (Letters, SAM, March 2012). It’s a hideously ugly building.
Niall Clugston (BA ’94)
Parramatta NSW

LIMITS TO GROWTH, IN HINDSIGHT
Paul Askins (Letters, SAM, March 2012), objects to Paul Cleary’s criticism of the big mining companies, and particularly the similarities with the arguments of the Club of Rome in 1972, which he says (without offering any references) have been “comprehensively trashed”. He goes on to say that a BEc from 1986 “ought to check some of his pre-1986 facts”.
Perhaps Mr Askins should check some of his own facts. In a recent analysis (“A comparison of The Limits to Growth with Thirty Years of Reality,” Global Environmental Change 2008), Graham Turner, from CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, concluded that: “analysis shows that 30 years of historical data [from the time of the initial report] compare favourably with (its) key features”.
Len Fisher (BSc Hons ’62 MSc ’64)
Bristol UK

TOO MUCH POLITICAL POINT SCORING
I am more than a little disturbed that SAM magazine has allowed its pages to be sullied by printing letters and articles that have a blatant political direction. I refer to the letter, Mining and Money (SAM, March 2012) as if mining is the only activity where money is the principal objective of the enterprise. How pathetic.
I can purchase any newspaper in the country and they will contain numerous letters on the subject of the proposed mining tax, ad nauseam. Why do you demean SAM by permitting, even encouraging political “point scoring” and invective?
Bill Darley (BSc Ag ’50)
Leura NSW
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One can only speculate whether William Charles Wentworth could have foreseen how his vision of a university would evolve into today’s institution; with more female than male students, increasing numbers of Indigenous students and an institution embedded in and engaged with our region.

What many at the time judged to be a bold experiment was much more than that. Our founders believed that new beginnings should be based on different principles – both public and secular, and ‘open to all’.

As two of our scholars, Dr Julia Horne and Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Sherington, point out in their splendid new book, Sydney: the making of a public university, it could be argued the University was based on seven pillars of wisdom: belief in the value of public institutions, of meritocracy, of liberal education and of research, a belief in the value of character building through mind and body, of the engagement of religious and secular faiths with knowledge, and of philanthropy.

Despite the claims about being open to all, some were more equal than others. Women were not admitted as undergraduate students until 1882, but then it was on an equal basis and to all courses, unlike Oxford, Cambridge and Melbourne. But it wasn’t until more than 100 years after the University was founded that an Indigenous Australian was admitted. In 1963, two Aboriginal students enrolled and Charles Perkins earned a place in history as the country’s first Aboriginal graduate.

However, progress has been painfully slow. Recently we have given considerable thought to how we approach Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander higher education, research and engagement. Our new integrated strategy establishes a vision for the University as a uniquely Australian institution that recognises rights, builds capability and creates opportunity.

We have many challenges ahead but we have already acted on a number of issues, recruiting to a senior Aboriginal leadership role, finding new partnerships with Aboriginal and other community service organisations, investing in new cross-cultural training for staff and adding our world-class research talent to efforts to address the wicked problems Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples confront.

“Our founders believed we should be both public and secular.”

We are as much a university for regional as for metropolitan NSW. In 1886 the Senate approved lectures being given outside the University, initially in the suburbs of Sydney, but soon also in Newcastle, Bathurst, and further afield. We have just celebrated 10 years of delivering medical education in Orange and Dubbo through our School of Rural Health which has the dual aims of teaching medicine in a rural setting and strengthening the medical workforce. Our coverage stretches from Bathurst in the east to Broken Hill in the west and from Lightning Ridge in the north to Cowra in the south – about a third of the state.

We were delighted that in the recent Federal budget, despite serious belt tightening in many areas, the University was granted $4.7 million to establish a series of multidisciplinary allied health clinics to be run through public and private primary schools in Broken Hill.

One of the main aims is to improve child development, educational outcomes and family well-being for Broken Hill residents.

But it’s not only regional NSW where we are engaged. As we await the release of the Federal government’s White Paper on Australia’s Place in the Asian Century, the University of Sydney, more than ever before, is thoroughly committed to our region. We first began teaching Chinese language and culture to our students in the early 20th century. We were the first university in Australia to welcome Chinese students in the 1970s, and over the last three decades our relationship with China has strengthened through partnerships in many different spheres.

Today we are one of the most engaged universities in the world with China’s next generation: 5000 Chinese students are enrolled to study here, and we are involved in many exchanges and research collaborations across all of our academic activities. A recent Federal government report, Science and Research Collaboration between Australia and China, shows that the University published more joint papers with China from 2000-09 than any other Australian university.

Building on the momentum of our exciting China Studies Centre, we have recently announced the establishment of a new Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, bringing together the University’s 179 academics working throughout the region in research and capacity building. It will mould interdisciplinary teams to address questions such as emergency management, mobility and the refugee question, and practical issues such as the spread of infectious disease.

Our founders had the courage and foresight to establish a public university, open to all. Their values shaped our development in our role as an educator and expander of knowledge. Today’s comprehensive university may be a far cry from our modest beginnings, but it is one of which they would be proud.
Adding value to an intangible asset
The new president of the Alumni Council outlines his priorities

In the late 1990s, toward the end of his time with the IMF, he came across a copy of the SUGUNA newsletter, the alumni magazine of University graduates living in North America. "A little light turned on, it sparked my interest," says McLenaghan, who put himself on the mailing list for the University Gazette (the predecessor of SAM).

One thing led to another: he went to a SUGUNA conference in San Diego in 2002 where he met an eclectic mix of Sydney alumni, and then found himself hosting the next conference in Washington. These two-day events provided a diverse range of presentations, ranging from medical research to art history and archaeology. The conferences were enhanced by social and sporting events, and sightseeing.

When McLenaghan and his wife returned to Sydney in 2004, he was asked to represent SUGUNA back home. With his family grown up and working as a consultant, he had more time on his hands to re-engage with the University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Economics in 1959.

In 2006 he was appointed to the Alumni Council as a Vice-Chancellor’s nominee, and following a stint as Deputy President, this year McLenaghan was appointed President. He relishes the challenges of the role, the chance to meet graduates of all ages and backgrounds, and channel his natural enthusiasm into inspiring them about their alma mater (Indeed, the AM he received in 2009 referred to his history of academic involvement.)

As President he faces a busy schedule of Council meetings and alumni functions. But the satisfaction of working with other committed volunteers is enhanced by the people he gets to meet. Over the past few months McLenaghan has met with the Chancellor, lunched with “golden graduates”, who gained their degrees up to 1962, and attended a dinner for former alumni Olympians and those bound for the Games in London.

McLenaghan says there are several priorities for the period ahead. “One significant challenge, reflecting the growth of overseas student numbers (nearly 24 per cent of the total student population), is the need to engage with the rapid increase in overseas alumni, especially in Asia. New alumni chapters have already emerged, notably in China,” he says.

For many Australian graduates, the culture of alumni relations and fundraising arms are a newish experience, a bit like trying on a new coat. For McLenaghan, however, it’s more like slipping on an old cardigan. After raising four children through the American education system, he is very comfortable with the emphasis on nourishing student engagement with their institution. “The tradition of private philanthropy in America showed me how important it is for universities to maintain and foster links with their alumni. That spirit is an intangible asset and it’s an asset we can add a lot of value to.”
COME ONE
COME ALL

The University of Sydney will once again open its doors to prospective undergraduate and postgraduate students, their family and friends on Saturday 25 August.

Sydney Open Day is the perfect opportunity for new students to discover the campus, explore their study options and ask any questions of faculty representatives and academics all in the one day.

High school students will have the chance to speak with current Sydney students and see the campus on one of the many tours running all day. There will also be 100 mini-information sessions to help explain the transition.

Come and join us in the activity tent, have your health checked, see our MakerBot print a 3D model or even learn how to make a racing car. If you’ve got time, enjoy the live entertainment by our clubs and societies and see why our student life is the best on offer.

If you are considering returning to study at Sydney, there will be specialised postgraduate advice on hand for your next step.

For more information visit:
sydney.edu.au/openday

Hands of Hope and Recognition

The University presented a diverse and often provocative program to celebrate this year’s Reconciliation Week from May 26 to June 2, with a theme of Let’s Talk Recognition. In addition to popular annual features such as The Sea of Hands exhibition on the Front Lawn (pictured), the program was notable for a concert by singer Casey Donovan and a production of Bindjareb Pinjarra: A Comedy about a Massacre.

This provocative play lives up to its name, offering a comic take on the sensitive subject of an infamous 19th century massacre of indigenous people. The two performances, at the Seymour Centre, were hailed for their combination of humour and social comment.

On 14 June the University launched Wingara Mura – Bunga Barrabugu, a strategy which sets out detailed initiatives across the University to support our promotion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement.

sydney.edu.au/indigenous

Photo: Ted Sealey

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

Since the start of April, people from all over the world have told us what matters to them by voting in our poll. In the first two months of our What Matters campaign, we received more than 11,000 votes for our first 10 topics. From Nairobi to Colombia and the far reaches of Australia, people have voted for the issues that matter to them.

Every month until the end of September the What Matters website will feature five new topics, designed to find out what you think are the most significant issues and to reveal what the University’s academics and alumni are doing to address them.

Does finding a solution to childhood obesity matter to you? Or do you think we should be doing more to protect human rights? Join the conversation, follow the polls and share what you are passionate about.

What matters to you, matters to us.
sydney.edu.au/what-matters
University alumni were strongly represented in the Queen’s Birthday Honours, announced in June. The list of recipients included one Companion (AC), nine Officers (AO), 31 Members (AM) and 25 Medals of the Order of Australia.

The AC was awarded to Professor Gareth Evans (LLD ’08), former Attorney-General and now President of the International Crisis Group in Brussels, for eminent service to international relations.

Recipients of AO included Jennifer Bott (BA ’71), former CEO of the Australia Council and currently Chief Executive of the UNSW Foundation, for distinguished service to the arts through executive and leadership roles; Professor Michael Halmagyi (BSc ’68 MBBS ’71), Professor in the Institute of Clinical Neuroscience at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, for distinguished service to neurology as a clinician and educator; and Stephen Sedgwick (BArch ’72), the Commonwealth Public Service Commissioner, for distinguished service to community in innovative economic and social policy reform.

Recipients of the AM included Grahame Bond (BArch ’68), well-known for his role in the 1970s Aunty Jack TV comedy show, for services to the performing arts as a singer, writer and composer; Alanna Nobbs (BA ’66 PhD ’73), for services to the field of Ancient History and classics as an educator, and professional leadership, particularly The Society for the Study of Early Christianity; Chris Johnson (BArch ’68), the NSW Government Architect from 1999-2005, for services to architecture in the field of urban design and the development of major public projects.

Recipients of the OAM include Rosalind Fischl (BPharm ’65) for her role as the first female president of the Great Synagogue and her contribution to other Jewish organisations; Chris Noel (BEC ’72), the Sydney University Boat Club and convener of the Australian Boat Race, for his contribution to the sport of rowing; and opera singer Amanda Thane (Alumni Affiliate) for her contribution to the performing arts.

Gabi Hollows received an honorary doctorate from the University of Sydney in recognition of her work in the field of blindness prevention on Friday, 30 March.

Scholarship keeps on giving

“There is a particular stage in every doctor’s career when they are at a crossroads,” says Professor David Celermajer. “You’re in your mid-20s, you’ve done some training, some clinical work, and been exposed to an amazing mentor. You wonder what your place in the world is going to be.

“Will I be able to work in the teaching hospitals environment that my role models are working in, the place I have spent so much time with them?” The pathway is daunting, and there is a lot of uncertainty.

“That was why the Sir Zelman Cowen scholarship was a key moment in my career – because it happened so early,” says Celermajer, now Scandrett Professor of Cardiology at Sydney and a trustee of the (Zelman Cowen) foundation for the past eight years.

The Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. In its earliest days, the fund raised money and distributed small grants to individual scientists from the University of Sydney and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, while also building a larger body of funds for distribution to the two universities.

In 1990, a medical research fellowship was established and Celermajer was the inaugural recipient for his research project on Pulmonary Vascular Disease at the Hospital for Sick Children in London during 1991. Although the fellowship was initially for one year, the British Heart Foundation chipped in with additional funding, enabling him to spend nearly four years studying in London.

“The fellowship gave me an environment to undertake high quality research and an insight into ways of managing research that you can’t do here,” he says. There was another, less visible benefit. “This was at an age that you might want to get married and start a family. There are financial pressures to stay in Australia and take a high-paying job here, especially if the alternative is a poorly-funded job overseas.”

Professor Celermajer has strong views about the long-term benefits of such scholarships. “Fellowships hothouse potential. Without them, people like me might go into community or suburban cardiology. There’s nothing wrong with that but this provided a window to a different career trajectory.”

The Fund continues to support a wide range of research initiatives for the two universities, from laboratories to grants, student and academic exchanges. The grants include a Prize for Discovery in Medical Research, with recent winners researching cystic fibrosis, bioinformatics and iron-overload disease, and an Alzheimer’s Disease research grant valued at $100,000.

For more information, visit www.szcuf.org.usyd.edu.au.
SYDNEY OLYMPIANS FOR LONDON

The Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held in London in August and Sydney will be represented by 26 athletes. At the time of going to press, the following athletes have been selected. All are current students unless otherwise noted:

**BASKETBALL**
Belinda Snell

**CANOE/KAYAK**
Jessica Fox BA
Kynan Maley BE (Mech) ’09
Murray Stewart BDesArch ’09 MArch ’12

**CYCLING**
Kaarle McCulloch BEd

**DIVING**
Matthew Mitcham BA
Loudy Wiggins BA (Media&Comm) ’05

**HOCKEY**
Megan Rivers BAppSc (Ex&SportSc) ’03
Matthew Butturini BSc ’10

**MODERN PENTATHALON**
Ed Fernon BCom ’10

**SAILING**
Krystal Weir MPhty
Olivia Price BPRESS

**WATER POLO**
Thomas Whalan BCom ’08 LLB ’08
Sam McGregor BCom

**ROWING**
Brodie Buckland
Toby Lister
Matt Ryan
Francis Hegerty BCom ’06
Sam Loch GradCertPC
Nick Purnell BCom
Brooke Pratley BHlthSc (PT) ’02
Sarah Cook
Sally Kehoe BCom and BA
Bronwen Watson BEd ’00

**PARALYMPICS**
Angela Ballard BSc ’11 (Athletics)
Jennifer Blow BEd BA (Goalball)

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CHANCELLOR TO STEP DOWN

The Chancellor of the University, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, will step down from the role of Chancellor on 15 December 2012. A number of functions will be held to farewell Professor Bashir, and the Senate Nominations and Appointments Committee has been appointed to advise Senate on the selection of a new Chancellor. The Secretary of the Nominations and Appointments Committee is Dr William Adams.

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THE COLOSSEUM WASN’T BUILT IN A DAY

The Nicholson Museum’s new exhibition on the Colosseum opens on 1 July, featuring the largest model ever made of the Colosseum in Lego. The model was built in Melbourne by Ryan McNaught, the only certified Lego Builder in Australia, and one of only 13 in the world.

The Lego bricks came from Denmark and McNaught built the model over a month in June.

The exhibition runs until February. For more details of upcoming lectures and events, visit the Nicholson website.

sydney.edu.au/museums
As a global shortage looms, David Guest explains how science can save chocolate.

Everyone loves chocolate but not everyone has found a way of integrating it into their life as well as Professor David Guest from the Faculty of Agriculture and Environment at the University of Sydney. After he completed his PhD in plant pathology – exploring the way plants defend themselves against pathogens – Guest was looking around for ways to apply his knowledge. “I wanted to somehow combine my interest in reggae music, cricket and chocolate.”

The West Indies seemed the obvious destination. Jamaica, in 1986, was still mourning the loss of Bob Marley and the West Indies were enjoying their most successful cricketing years, but the cocoa industry was in decline, he says. The discovery of oil had drawn labour away from cultivation.

As much as he wanted to continue working in the Caribbean, he concluded that he could accomplish more productive work on cocoa closer to home in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, both of which (like Jamaica) satisfy the two basic conditions necessary for the growth of cocoa, he says: “It thrives only within 15 to 20 degrees of the equator and it’s a labour-intensive crop.”

These factors explain why, of the annual global output of three to four million tonnes of cocoa beans, Côte d’Ivoire in West Africa contributes 40 per cent, followed by Ghana with 20 per cent and Indonesia, which harvests around 15 per cent.

However, with political and social instability a problem in Africa and the demand for chocolate increasing, especially among newly affluent populations such as China, India, Eastern Europe and Brazil, manufacturers are now concerned about a shortage of supply.

In a public lecture at the University in April, titled The Chocolate Crisis, Guest talked about the era of “peak chocolate”, echoing a term first used to describe the demand for oil. He explained that rising global
demand is placing huge pressures on the supply and price of chocolate.

“Barry Callebaut, the world’s leading supplier of high-quality cocoa and chocolate products, estimates that by 2020 we are going to need another million tonnes a year because of the growing Asian and Eastern European market,” says Guest. (Incidentally, Germans consume the most chocolate per head: 11-12 kilos. Australians, North Americans and many European nations eat around 6 kilos. The Chinese consume around 30 grams each per year.)

Guest says that although supply has met demand in the last two years, over the past decade there has been a shortfall that has pushed cocoa prices up. Not only that but “around the world, farmers are losing 30 per cent of their crop to disease and if the weather is poor, they can lose the whole crop”.

The reason is poor management. “We have the technology to reduce pests and diseases but it has very little impact. There are very few farmers who grow cocoa the way they could, producing between 300 and 500 kilograms per hectare instead of several tonnes per hectare.”

Guest is trying to address the problem at a grassroots level, by finding ways of making smallholder production more efficient. He has been working with other researchers in PNG and Sulawesi, in Indonesia, to understand why smallholders, who are the majority producers of cocoa, aren’t adopting methods to improve their yields.

The industries in both countries are very different in their histories, structure and the chocolate they produce. German colonialists introduced a very high-quality plant into PNG and that reputation has stuck, with the chocolate notable for its fine, full flavour. By contrast, Java, colonised by the Dutch, was planted with its high-quality cocoa, but the Indonesian industry now is based on low-quality plantings in Sulawesi. Nevertheless, years of underinvestment have led to problems in common for both countries.

“We know that cocoa is a major part of their income but they don’t invest much in improving production,” explains Guest. “The reason is that the plant is very resilient; once established (around five years) it always produces pods. Farmers use their trees like ATMs. When they need to pay hospital bills, they go and harvest cocoa pods.”

“Our work is helping the Indonesian Coffee and Cocoa Research Institute in East Java improve their skills and links with the industry in Sulawesi. So first we’re selecting high-yielding pest and disease-resistant cocoa genotypes, then developing and demonstrating how to improve soil fertility, agronomic aspects of production and pest and disease management. My colleagues are also examining how government policy supports growers, and how they go about promoting new technology used by farmers.”

“It’s only in the past year or two that the researchers have begun to focus as much on the socio-economic factors that affect production as the scientific and technical issues.

“We’re also working with extension agencies – the people who advise farmers.” Guest says many of these people don’t have the confidence, skills or resources to offer advice and so remain office-bound. In turn, farmers get most of their information informally from cocoa buyers or local agricultural supply shops. “There is a risk of terrible mismanagement of agricultural chemicals that could lead to all sorts of potential problems,” says Guest.

But in the complex interaction between developed and developing countries, he is acutely aware that the manner in which aid is distributed is crucial to its success. “One of the worst things with aid projects is that people go into villages and say: ‘This is how you’re going to do it.’ Farmers’ eyes glaze over. [It’s important to] consult and be approachable and ask what do they want most help with.”

Once the specific problems of a group of farmers have been resolved, then they are recruited to become trainers. “The advantage is that they are local and other farmers trust them and can see the difference it has made to their business in terms of yields and disease prevention.”

Professor Guest says one of the reasons he likes working with a crop like cocoa is that by helping farmers get the most out of their beans, they’re earning a good income. “Then they’re in a much better position to buy food, build housing, access education and medical facilities. If you’re trying to alleviate poverty, then these things need to be linked. When grown sustainably, cocoa is a fantastic driver of development.” ■

Farmers use their trees like ATMs. When they need to pay hospital bills, they go and harvest cocoa pods.”
Warm sunlight streams through the window on this beautiful spring day and sailing boats bob up and down on the waves.

I’m here to meet international human rights lawyer, John Hocking, at his home overlooking the beach. He relaxes on the sofa, cup of tea at the ready, toes poking through a pair of ancient Uggh boots as he gazes out at the view over the North Sea.

We are in the Hague, the Netherlands – home to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia – the ICTY. It was established by the UN Security Council to deal with the crimes committed during the Balkans wars of the 1990s. Hocking (LLB ’84) has been the Registrar of the ICTY for the last three years, but he’s been instrumental in running the Court for the past 15 years. Officially his title is Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, which makes him one of the highest-ranking Australians within the organisation.

Somewhere in the background a baby is gurgling contentedly. At 54, Hocking recently became a father for the first time. His partner and baby live in France and visit every couple of weeks according to a complex calendar arrangement.

Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Serbia, and Romania are just some of the destinations Hocking has visited in the last few weeks for his job. He struggles to remember them all.

“Ever since I was a little kid, it was my dream to work for the United Nations,” he recalls. “I was in the car with my parents driving somewhere in western Victoria, and I asked them if there was a government of the world. They said: ‘well, yes, it’s the United Nations’. So ever since, I’ve had this desire to work for the UN, to make a contribution to people’s lives and I always knew I wanted to travel.”

But first there was his law degree. “The Sydney University Law School was extremely rigorous. I can still to this day recall the lecturers we had. Some were academics, some practitioners. That
mix, their expertise, gave me an incredibly thorough and broad education in law. The skills I learnt from them have followed me throughout my career and laid the foundations for where I am today.

While at Sydney Uni I became aware of work being done on native land rights and I think this is what sparked my interest in human rights.

Following his law degree and a year as the associate to former High Court judge Michael Kirby, Hocking went to London to do a Masters in international law. A weekend trip to Paris during that time was enough for him to fall in love with the city. He learned French, and found a job with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). These two things, says Hocking, helped him secure his dream job at the UN.

During his time at the ICTY, Hocking has seen the prosecutor indict and arrest all the main players of the Balkans conflicts. The arrival of Bosnian Serb leaders Slobodan Milosevic, Radovan Karadzic and more recently, Serb military leader Ratko Mladic all happened on his watch.

“I was waiting to meet Karadzic in a military hangar at the airport in Rotterdam, surrounded by Dutch Special Forces in their outfits that look like they’re from Star Wars. He’d been on the run for 15 years. Suddenly the steps of the plane are lowered and down he comes. As I shook his hand in greeting he said, ‘Sorry to have kept you waiting so long’. But Mladic, he was a different character altogether. I always shake hands, but he didn’t, he just saluted me. That was a harder scenario to deal with.

“And Milosevic I visited on several occasions while he was in prison. He tried to convince me he needed a glass of red wine and then he mocked my Australian accent! So yes, they can be interesting people to talk to and meet.”

Interesting they may be, but these men are accused of unspeakable atrocities. It’s hard to see how he can put that to one side when dealing with them.

“Radovan Karadzic had been on the run for 15 years. Suddenly the steps of the plane are lowered and down he comes. ‘Sorry to have kept you waiting so long’, he said.”

“The presumption of innocence is a really key principle of my work. That is fundamental and it’s the basis of the ICTY. If you don’t believe that then you may as well not bother with a trial and just sentence them immediately. But these trials are about answering the question – did these people in front of me commit these crimes? – and the ICTY has acquitted some 10 per cent, so it shows the system is working.”

The ICTY is winding down after nearly 20 years, but Hocking has somehow managed to double his workload recently. In January he was appointed Registrar of a brand new UN body he’s in the process of setting up from scratch with its president and prosecutor. It’s called the ‘Residual Mechanism’.

“Basically, it will ensure any remaining fugitives can be tried after the ICTY and the ICTR (the Rwanda Tribunal) close in the next couple of years, and secondly it will hear requests for early release from those already serving their prison sentence. This means that the work remaining from these tribunals can continue effectively after they officially close their doors.”

For someone who should be used to public speaking, Hocking appears almost embarrassed when talking about his achievements. Self-deprecation aside, he’s clearly proud to have been so instrumental in the successful running of the ICTY.

“I can honestly say I love my job. You get hit and punched from all directions as there are so many different issues that are happening, there’s never a dull moment. The Tribunal is full of very committed people. They believe in what they do and they want to make it work. That’s what makes it a fascinating and challenging place to work.”

The ICTY is the first tribunal of its kind and a precursor to all the other international tribunals now up and running. Its place in the history of international law cannot be underestimated.

“The ICTY helped remove those responsible for atrocities from the leadership, so that a new generation of people can step in. Equally importantly, we’ve worked with the local judiciaries and helped them build up their legal systems so they can try people domestically. That will be the most important legacy. And if it hadn’t been for the ICTY, we wouldn’t have all the other international courts like Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Cambodia. Before the ICTY there was nothing. Now people in positions of power who abuse that power can be held accountable for their actions.”

MORE ONLINE
Danielle Celermajer: Fighting against torture sydney.edu.au/sam/video

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A new trust, to be called the Henry Halloran Trust, is being established in honour of a man who was an active advocate for town planning in the first half of the twentieth century. He introduced and implemented new concepts of town planning in the many settlements he established as part of his contribution to nation building.

His son, Warren Halloran, who has actively continued his father’s pioneering works, made the generous donation to the University “in memory of my father and his vision”.

“This transformative gift will enable the University to promote interdisciplinary research in the field,” says Vice-Chancellor Dr Michael Spence. “Our ambition is to become a leading voice and advocate for the advancement of liveable cities, thriving urban communities and sustainable development.”

The primary aim of the trust will be to bring together scholars, students and practitioners from around the world for interdisciplinary and collaborative projects to address the most important challenges facing land management and urban development in Australia and overseas. These are global challenges.

John Toon, Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University from 1960 - 2005, has been an adviser to Warren Halloran for many years, working on a number of projects for his company Realty Realizations. These projects included the master plan for Jerrabomberra, a suburb of Queanbeyan, and plans for Vincentia and other settlements in the Jervis Bay region.

“The Halloran contribution to the establishment of new settlements throughout New South Wales is a story yet to be told,” observes Toon. “You cannot fail to be impressed by Warren’s wealth of knowledge about the development of settlements and his abiding interest in the communities he has helped to create.”

“The beauty of this new trust is that it will bring together experts from diverse academic disciplines such as public finance, infrastructure planning, the social sciences, the built environment, ecology and natural resource management, and law to work together on a range of critical issues that will shape the future of society and the environment.”

“It is imperative that we consider the best ways to husband our limited natural resources as well as searching for new ways to create shelter, to create an environment in which we can live sustainably.”

These words would have been music to Henry Halloran’s ears. He was a surveyor, valuer, engineer and town planner as well as a flamboyant and dynamic real estate developer who promoted and created new settlements throughout coastal NSW. The areas he opened up for settlement were sometimes difficult to access and little explored; others were new estates adjacent to existing settlements, including Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

One of his lasting successes was the development in 1905 of the Seaforth Estate, a waterside suburb on Sydney’s Middle Harbour. He had trouble getting his proposed development approved by
the local council, but eventually won the day and decided to name one of the streets “Battle Boulevard” to commemorate his hard-won success.

The huge number of lots for sale meant the auction was spread over two days, complete with a band to entertain the crowds. Special steamers operated from Circular Quay and Neutral Bay to give prospective purchasers the opportunity to view the blocks from the water.

Other well-known settlements established by Henry Halloran include Avoca on the NSW Central Coast, Stanwell Park on the South Coast and the garden suburb of Mount St Thomas in Wollongong.

Halloran’s vision extended from Port Stephens to Jervis Bay, from Canberra to Coffs Harbour. His ambitious plan was for Port Stephens City to be the future New York of Australia.

He commissioned Walter Burley Griffin to prepare plans for the future city, using similar planning concepts to those Griffin used in Canberra – wide streets, circles and a very careful fitting of the urban form to the topography. But his ambitious plans evaporated when the railway wasn’t extended to Port Stephens, ending hopes for a big naval base north of Sydney.

St Vincent City on Jervis Bay was intended to be Sydney’s sister city but only embryonic parts of the city were established, notably the suburbs to be, now distinct settlements, of Orient Point and Culburra.

Henry Halloran was a man who dealt in land and dreams. Some of those dreams are about to come to fruition because of the generosity of his son.

Urban planning and the Halloran name have been synonymous in Australia for over a hundred years. Now thanks to Warren’s foresight and transformative gift, future generations will know the name and reap the benefits for many years to come.

Sydney Connection

Neither Warren Halloran nor his father Henry Ferdinand had any direct links with the University of Sydney. But a gentle shake of the family tree reveals a fascinating connection going back to before the University was officially founded in 1850.

Full Story

sydney.edu.au/sam/news

Enthusiastic students are calling alumni as part of our telephone program to update you on university news, invite you to support Sydney and reconnect with you

Our colourful ‘Sea of Supporters’ wall represents each gift made by alumni – our students are truly seeing the impact of your gifts. We invite you to join our community of supporters.

Students are making calls from campus in the evenings and on Saturday afternoons and they look forward to hearing your stories.

Enquiries

To learn more about the telephone program, make a gift today or update your details, please visit sydney.edu.au/supportsydney
Over the past 50 years, John Power’s landmark bequest to the University has nurtured generations of Australia’s leading curators, historians and artists.

**The Power of Giving**

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Power bequest to the University to foster the study of art and art history, a gift estimated to be worth $42 million in today’s money, according to Julia Horne’s recently published history of the University. It is the single largest donation ever made to the University and has helped educate generations of students who have developed into some of Australia’s leading curators, historians, artists, gallery directors and critics. The notable Power alumni have made their mark at home and overseas (see accompanying story).

In addition to the education of students, the bequest has also provided seed funding to the Museum of Contemporary Art, at Circular Quay, to the value of $23 million over 20 years or so.

The bequest by John Wardell Power was to “make available to the people of Australia the latest ideas and theories in plastic arts by means of lectures and teaching and by the purchase of the most recent contemporary art of the world ... so as to bring the people of Australia in more direct touch with the latest art developments in other countries,” according to the terms of his will.

Power graduated as a doctor from the University in 1904 and left Australia in 1906, the same year he inherited the greater part of his father’s fortune from an insurance company, according to Dr Ann Stephen, Senior Curator of the University Art Gallery and Art Collections.

“The bequest might be best understood as a response to Fascism and war – an affirmation of his belief in the humanist values of art and cosmopolitan exchange.”

Power joined the Royal College of Surgeons in London and served in the Royal Army Medical Corps in World War 1. After the war, with the encouragement of his wife, Edith Mary James, Power gave up medical research to study art in Paris. He became an artist and benefactor in Paris to many artists in the 1930s.

He became closely involved with the Paris-based Abstraction-Creation, its membership was international, based on exiles from Russia, Poland and the Fascist regimes in Spain, Germany and Italy. Although Power had a solo exhibition in Paris in 1938, according to Stephen, the threat of war prompted the Powers to leave Paris that year for the apparent safety of Jersey in the Channel Islands.

“It proved a terrible choice, as Jersey was occupied by the Germans in June 1940. Power wrote his will the week after war was declared,” says Stephen. He died of cancer, in 1943, still on the island.

His will and the University bequest did not come to light until after the death of Power’s wife, Edith, in 1962. Dr Stephen says his bequest “might be best understood as a response to Fascism and war – an affirmation of his belief in the humanist values of art and cosmopolitan exchange in engendering international understanding.”

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Words: Michael Visontay

John Power 1931
THE LEGACIES OF POWER EXHIBITION SERIES

The University is holding four exhibitions to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Power bequest, based on the Power Collection.

The first, Joseph Beuys and the “Energy Plan”, focusing on the groundbreaking German artist and his photographer Werner Kruger, ran from April until June. The second is Vibration: Latin American Art of the Sixties, which runs from July to September.

It will be followed by two exhibitions specifically dedicated to Power: JW Power and Abstraction Creation, which is a recreation of Power’s 1934 exhibition in Paris. “Power’s career in Paris was unprecedented for an Australian, and its avant-garde status demands our attention,” writes Dr Stephen. “Through the forthcoming exhibition, that recreates his 1934 one-person exhibition with Abstraction Création in Paris, we will reveal how Power was an artist at home in London, Paris and Brussels in the interwar years. He learned to paint as a cubist, and his painting evolved into part-abstract surrealism, part-surreal abstraction.”

“Power was also deeply engaged in the art worlds in which he moved and worked, contributing to artists’ groups and societies, exhibiting and writing, particularly as a member of the international avant-garde gathered in Paris in the 1930s. His work illuminates the relationships between Sydney and Paris, and between France and Australia, an exchange that goes to the heart of our modernism.”

Finally, Atelier Paris: the Power Studio, looks at the legacy of the studio for Australian artists and art writers.

POWER ALUMNI
Some of the Institute’s prominent graduates

BRUCE ADAMS writer/art historian
NEIL ARMFIELD theatre director
GEOFF BATCHEN Professor of Art
History, Victoria University, Wellington – pictured

JOCELYN HACKFORTH-JONES
Director of Sotheby’s

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JOCELYN HACKFORTH-JONES
Director of Sotheby’s

MARK HUGHES former director of
Galerie Lelong, NY

CRAIG JUDD
Director, Wollongong City Gallery

VICTORIA LYNN Director of Tarra Warra
Gallery – pictured

ANDREW MCNAMARA Associate
Professor, School of Visual Art, QUT

PETER MCNEIL
Professor of Design History, UTS

JACQUI MENZIES
Head Curator Asian Art, AGNSW

GAEL NEWTON
Senior Curator photography, NGA

INGRID PERIZ art writer and lecturer;
New York University and University of
Melbourne

MARY ROBERTS Associate Professor,
Department of Art History, University of
Sydney

ANDREW SAYERS Director, National
Museum of Australia – pictured

SEBASTIAN SMEE
art critic The Boston Globe

ANN STEPHEN Senior Curator of the
University of Sydney Art Gallery and Art
Collections

TERRY SMITH Professor of
Contemporary Art History and Theory,
University of Pittsburgh

IMANTS TILLERS artist

ANN WALDMAN art advisor, former
Director of Visual Arts, Australia Council

NICHOLAS BAUME
Director, New York Public Art Fund

MARA BRAYE
CEO Biennale of Sydney

GORDON BULL Head, School of Art, ANU

MEREDITH BURGMANN
NSW Labor politician

REX BUTLER Associate Professor, Art
History, University of Qld

JANE CAMPION film director

DEBORAH CLARK Curator of the
Canberra Museum and Gallery

DINAH DYSART author, former editor of
Art & Australia and inaugural editor of Art
Asia-Pacific, and former director of the
SH Ervin Gallery

DEBORAH EDWARDS
Senior Curator, AGNSW

JULIE EWINING Curatorial Manager,
Australian Art, Qld Art Gallery – pictured

FELICITY FENNER Chief Curator,
National Institute for Experimental Arts,
College of Fine Arts, UNSW

BLAIR FRENCH Director of Artspace

BENJAMIN GENOCCHIO art critic

GEORGE GITTOES artist

HELEN GRACE Professor, Hong Kong
Baptist University, founder of MA in Visual
Studies Culture at Chinese University of
Hong Kong

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Finally, Atelier Paris: the Power Studio, looks at the legacy of the studio for Australian artists and art writers.
As newly-appointed director of the Charles Perkins Centre, Steve Simpson is spearheading a bold new research offensive to find real-world solutions for obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
It was a slow and laborious start to a scientific career. As a young PhD candidate studying the diet of locusts, Steve Simpson needed to make detailed observations of their feeding habits. So for six days and nights, he isolated himself in a heated room with 10 of the insects and carefully measured their every meal and dropping, working around the clock except for an hour’s nap each day.

By the end of that exhausting week, he had gathered an impressive collection of data. Although he did not realise it at the time, it was the first step in an epic journey of scientific discovery that led from understanding the behaviour of locusts to new paradigms for thinking about nutrition, human obesity and why we grow old.

Professor Simpson is now an Australian Research Council (ARC) Laureate Fellow in the School of Biological Sciences and a former NSW Australian Scientist of the Year. In February, he received another honour with his appointment to the helm of the Charles Perkins Centre, the University’s new research hub for the study of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. His international reputation in nutrition, as well as his multidisciplinary approach to science, made him an ideal fit for a centre which seeks to bring together divergent areas of study.

As academic director, he will control an unprecedented research effort to tackle obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. His international reputation in nutrition, as well as his multidisciplinary approach to science, made him an ideal fit for a centre which seeks to bring together divergent areas of study.

As academic director, he will control an unprecedented research effort to tackle obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, which are “among the greatest threats to health and quality of life” facing humanity, he says. In Australia, where more than 60 per cent of adults are overweight or obese, they are particularly urgent challenges.

To drive forward the ambitious research agenda, at least seven new academic chairs are being launched. Chairs in nutrition, psychology and metabolism will be created using funds from the sale of the Picasso painting donated by an anonymous benefactor last year. Other chairs will span across the disciplines of arts and social sciences, applied economics and health sciences, while the Australian Diabetes Council is funding a new chair to spearhead diabetes research.

“It is exceptionally rare for this number of new chairs to be advertised at once,” says Professor Simpson. “It makes a very large statement about the ambition and commitment of the Centre, as well as the generosity of donors who have proven willing to share our vision.” The search for top international talent to fill the new positions has already begun and is expected to inspire some intense competition.

But why should the University of Sydney expect to solve such complex problems where so many others have failed? Other initiatives around the world have tended to focus mainly on the genetic and cellular basis of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, he says, but the conditions are much more complicated than just their biology.

“What we need to understand is how human biology interacts with the environment,” he says. “We must look at how our psychology, social and economic pressures, urban planning, education, agriculture, the food industry, media and government all play a role in disease.”

The Centre will unite scholars in all these areas and more, enabling “a new era of collaboration” to begin, according to the researcher. “It’s the interfaces between disciplines that are going to create the really new and interesting breakthroughs in this area,” he says. “That is what excites me so much about the project.”

His first priority will be to identify networks of academics across the University working on the three conditions and encourage a “mesh” of new partnerships between them. He will also look outside the University to form collaborations with government agencies, health and education systems, policy-makers, not-for-profit agencies and industry.

Another focus will be on public outreach to help us as individuals make better lifestyle choices. “One of the really important things we want to do is demystify the clamour of conflicting advice that people receive on diet and lifestyle,” Professor Simpson says. “We need a dispassionate presentation of our current understanding that’s unpolluted by vested interests.”

Two research projects in this area are already underway; one is using social media to teach us how to balance our diet, the other working with Aboriginal communities to find new ways to promote nutritious eating.
He says his leadership role represents a “once-in-a-career” opportunity to translate his research philosophy onto a much wider canvas. “This may be the University’s most ambitious project of the past 100 years,” he says. “It is happening at a half-a-billion-dollar scale that I could never have imagined.”

This career trajectory all started with a love of insects in early childhood, says Professor Simpson: “From the age of three, I was telling relatives that I wanted to grow up to become an entomologist.” His passion only increased when his parents moved from Melbourne to subtropical Brisbane, where an abundance of moths and beetles would gather each night around the light above the family dinner table: “There was never any question I would go on to study insects at university.”

On completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Queensland, he moved to the University of London where he received his PhD for his work on locust feeding. Following a brief detour into experimental psychology during his postdoctoral research, he returned to the study of locusts again when he joined the Department of Zoology at Oxford.

“We want to demystify the clamour of conflicting advice that people receive on diet and lifestyle.”

A turning point in his research came when he began investigating why locust plagues were devastating crops in North Africa. He eventually discovered that the locusts were swarming because they were on a desperate mission to find protein, which was causing the insects to cannibalise each other. Once they ate enough protein to satisfy themselves, the cannibalism ended and the swarm subsided.

It was to be a breakthrough with far-reaching implications. Over the following years, Professor Simpson went on to show that a diverse range of other animals – from fish to mice, cats and monkeys – have distinct appetites for the macronutrients of protein, fat and carbohydrates, which they constantly aim to satisfy. Of the three appetites, the hunger for protein is particularly strong: if an animal’s diet becomes dominated by carbohydrate or fat, it keeps eating until it hits its target level of protein.

Professor Simpson clearly recalls the “Eureka moment” that led him to develop his model for how organisms regulate their appetites for different nutritional targets. “I was sitting in Oxford one day with a messy data set from our locust studies, and saw with beautiful clarity how target-like regulation of nutrient intake emerged,” he says. “It had been there all along, but you needed the right lens to view it.”

After sealing his reputation with his new model for nutrition, developed in collaboration with colleague Professor David Raubenheimer, he was lured back to Australia in 2005 to become an ARC Federation Fellow at the University of Sydney. Here he has focused on expanding the scope of his work in several exciting new directions, particular in the area of human health.

While his previous work at Oxford had suggested that our protein appetite could be a key reason why humans overeat, Professor Simpson did not yet have firm evidence. To prove his ideas, he instigated a major study of human nutrition at the University’s Woolcock Institute. In the experiment, his team fed participants either low, medium or high-protein menus, which were otherwise matched for taste and appearance, and observed how much they ate over week-long periods. He found that those on a diet of 10 per cent protein consumed significantly more calories than participants on a 15 per cent protein diet – and also turned to more savoury snacks to satisfy their protein craving. It was just the effect that his protein hypothesis predicted.
According to Professor Simpson, that hypothesis provides a compelling explanation for the spiralling rates of obesity seen across many developed nations. The growing availability of cheap, palatable foods that are low in protein but high in fat and carbohydrates has caused us to eat more total calories in order to satisfy our strong protein appetite.

Through a parallel line of enquiry, Professor Simpson and his collaborators have also uncovered a biological explanation for why humans and many other animals are so reluctant to overeat protein. In an experiment funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, his group fed mice on a high protein diet across their entire lifespan and observed how they fared. As expected, the mice ate fewer total calories than those in the control group – but they also ended up dying earlier.

It is a finding with revolutionary implications for the study of longevity, Professor Simpson believes. “The central prevailing dogma in this field to date has been caloric restriction: if you reduce calories you will live longer,” he says. “But what we have shown is that it’s the ratio of protein to carbohydrate that is critical in ageing. The higher that ratio, the less long organisms live.”

All this creates a paradox for those seeking practical nutrition advice from research. For while his work implies that a higher protein diet can help us avoid overeating, it also suggests that high levels of protein may shorten our lives. “Nutrition is a balancing act,” he responds. “Our aim has to be to understand where the fulcrum lies.”

As well as making nutrition his life’s work, Professor Simpson also has an intense personal passion for food – finding it, catching it, cooking it and eating it. He is a keen fisherman who has written a guidebook for fly fishers and even taught the entomology of trout fishing at the department of continuing education at Oxford. He enjoys baking his own bread and brewing his own beer. While living in Oxford, he and his family would spend their weekends picking mushrooms or exploring the hedgerows to find blackberries and crab-apples to turn into jam.

Using fresh ingredients is an important step towards countering obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, he points out: “The likelihood of you eating a healthy diet is much higher than if you rely on processed food because you know what went into your meal, the origins of those ingredients, and how you’ve treated them.”

But a knowledge of good food has benefits beyond health, he suggests. “We need to understand the language of food: which flavours go together and how to read a recipe,” he says. “The fact that these skills are becoming increasingly rare in our society should concern us, just like the loss of any language.”

Beyond transforming our understanding of obesity and ageing, Professor Simpson’s research is also providing new insights into how ecosystems and food webs are shaped by the search for nutrition. He is even working with the pet food industry to help design better foods for our companion animals, and with the aquaculture industry to optimise fish feed formulations.

This year his career will pivot in a new direction when he makes his television debut as the presenter of the ABC1 series Great Southern Land. The four-part documentary will look at Australia from an aerial perspective to reveal otherwise hidden patterns, such as the impact of our demand for food and power on the environment. After some initial reluctance (he had to be asked twice), he is looking forward to his reinvention as a high-profile science communicator. “It’s a fantastic chance to share my interest in complex networks with the wider community,” he says.
Most people think of tangles as irritating knots in hair or wires. But when Associate Professor Lars Ittner studies tangles, he is examining microscopic tangles of fibre in the brain cells of mice and men that are a sign of Alzheimer’s disease.

The tangles occur when a protein, known as tau, malfunctions and clogs brain cells. The gradual destruction of the brain leads to Alzheimer’s, a form of dementia which affects 250,000 Australians and around 35 million older people worldwide. By 2050 it will affect at least double that number, and the treatment of people with Alzheimer’s is predicted to eat up three to four per cent of Australia’s gross domestic product.

But not if Ittner has his way. The German-born neuroscientist and an international team of researchers at University of Sydney’s Brain and Mind Research Institute have developed a vaccine which targets abnormal tau and slows the development of Alzheimer’s in mice. The study, reported in the journal *PLoS One*, showed that the vaccine halted and cleared “neurofibrillary tangles” in the brain cells of affected mice.

Mice injected with the vaccine put on weight, became fitter and more active, and outlived a control group of mice who were not vaccinated.

The breakthrough has brought new hope of an effective treatment for the millions of people affected by Alzheimer’s. Ittner, who heads the Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s Disease Laboratory, says: “The vaccine could eventually be used as part of a cocktail of treatments for people suffering from Alzheimer’s.”

Research in this area is littered with dead ends, so when a promising line of investigation yields results like these, scientists have to temper their excitement with caution. With the increase in life expectancy and explosion in numbers of people suffering from Alzheimer’s, Ittner’s work has the potential to improve the quality of life of millions of people. Currently, an American pharmaceutical firm is collaborating in the trials to see if the vaccine can be modified for use in humans.

To reach this stage, Ittner spent many long hours at the “mouse house”, one of his favourite haunts at the Institute, which accommodates around 4,000 mice, and includes animals being tested in a second trial of the vaccine.

The research team has altered specific mouse genes so that the animals “develop a pathology that is like Alzheimer’s. We introduce aspects of the disease to modify their behaviour,” says Ittner, who emphasises that the rodents are treated well and spend most of their time in cages where they have lots of objects to chew on, exercise equipment and hiding places.

One floor below, Ittner works with a dozen scientists, including his brother Dr Arne Ittner, a molecular biologist. While Lars, a medical doctor, was headhunted from the University of Zurich in 2005, Arne was recruited from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in 2010. “Arne’s molecular biology knowledge is phenomenal and his research was critical to this study,” says Ittner.

In the laboratory, researchers are busy analysing DNA, culturing neurons or doing microsurgery on mice to find ways to prevent and treat Alzheimer’s and related Parkinson’s diseases. In one room, monitoring screens show live video footage of mice as they explore an empty...
rectangular tray. The mice will be tested to see if they can remember new things introduced into the barren cages.

“We can monitor the brain activity of these mice by reading EEGs (electroencephalograms) from transmitters implanted in their brains,” explains Ittner. The restless animals show no sign of being wired up, perhaps giving new meaning to the term “wireless mouse”.

The researchers monitor the EEGs for silent seizures, which affect Alzheimer’s patients. He says it is a complex disease, with random autopsies of people, who died from other causes, showing the first brain changes may start in teenagers. “It can take 60 to 70 years before it becomes an overt disorder.”

Alzheimer’s usually first manifests itself in retirees, with one per cent of people over 65 years old affected. The incidence doubles for each five-year increase in age above that. “There are so many processes going on that what we understand is only the tip of the iceberg.”

Sufferers progressively lose their memories and have increasing difficulty with thinking, emotional control and behaviour. Eventually, they may not recognise their spouses, children or closest friends, causing enormous distress to themselves and their families. The destructive process has been well documented through the lives of public figures such as former US president Ronald Reagan and in Australia, Hazel Hawke. It is, ultimately, fatal.

Ittner explains there is a delicate balance in creating an effective, safe Alzheimer’s vaccine. In this case, it is critical that the vaccine targets only damaged tau. If the vaccine attacks healthy tau, all the neurons could disintegrate and the brain turn to mush, which would be lethal for anyone vaccinated. “We don’t want to go the same way as the amyloid beta therapy which went awry.”

Three teams of scientists elsewhere have tested prototype tau vaccines on young mice, with little effect. Instead, Ittner’s team vaccinated “older mice”, aged between four and 18 months old, that already showed symptoms of Alzheimer’s.

The test mice were injected with “pathologically changed” tau protein. They had a “massive reaction” to this, developing antibodies which attacked the abnormal tau. The vaccinated mice recovered their health, while the untreated mice continued to deteriorate and died.

Now a second trial of a “passive form” of the vaccine is showing even more promising results. Ittner says not only is the disease being halted but there are “indications that the memory of mice treated with the vaccine may be improving”.

“What we are currently doing is modifying the treatment so it can go straight into humans.” He says it will probably be at least five years before the vaccine can be tested in humans, and many years more before it becomes a therapy.

While some people have volunteered to serve as guinea pigs for a trial of the vaccine, Ittner says: “Obviously, I have to reject that. I try to refer them to my colleagues like Sharon Naismith so they can get the best treatment available.” [See story below.] “There is still a huge gap between basic research and getting treatment to the bedside.”
Ann Harding’s pioneering research shows the impact of economic policies in dollars and cents.

“I have always been interested in how the numbers come out,” says Ann Harding, as she sits in her office in a building named after her, nursing a mug of tea and pondering the question of why she has devoted her life to applied economics.

“Someone who had done sociology might be equally passionate, but they can’t tell you how many millions of dollars it would cost to reduce poverty by, say, five per cent.

“Whereas the stuff we do, we can give you numbers about how much particular outcomes might cost you in either lower taxes or increased outlay. I was always interested in giving data that helped support decisions.”

As the founder and inaugural director of the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM), Professor Harding has channelled that interest into the creation of Australia’s first micro-simulation research outfit.

Before Harding brought micro-simulation to Australia, having completed a PhD on it at the London School of Economics in 1990, politicians and policy-makers had no life-like picture of how their policies might actually look once implemented.

Now they do. NATSEM is a gold mine for policymakers, who can give its researchers a certain idea – for example, an increase in the aged pension, or a cut to superannuation contributions tax – and have them simulate its effects on real people in the real world.

Instead of using statistical averages, researchers get a more accurate result by using the real-life circumstances of the tens of thousands of people surveyed in detail by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Harding completed her Bachelor of Economics at Sydney in 1979 and returned in 1983 for her Honours degree. As a student she witnessed the ideological split in the Economics department between academics interested in orthodox economics and those who wanted to branch out into political economy, and lived in a series of cockroach-infested “hovels” in Redfern and Newtown.
Harding claims she was, and is, “really bad” at theoretical economics but was always “fascinated by questions of equity and fairness”, a passion she initially thought was best channelled into journalism. So in the final year of her undergraduate degree, she accepted a cadetship with the now-defunct National Times.

Harding’s first story was what is known among journos as a “good get”. She won the first interview with a Federal MP who wanted to end the Medicare subsidy for abortions.

Once she finished the interview (she had called the politician reverse-charges from home), Harding walked down the road to the National Times, in the old Fairfax building on Broadway, and told her editor, Paul Kelly, that she thought she might have a story. “He pointed to a typewriter and said: ‘This is copy paper. Write it,’” she recounts.

Harding glows when she talks about the “amazing” feeling of seeing her first-ever byline, but the buzz must have worn off because journalism failed to keep her. “I felt I was getting de-skilled...reporting other people’s thoughts as a cipher without putting my own intellectual effort in.”

“Researchers use the real-life circumstances of the tens of thousands of people surveyed in detail by the ABS.”

She left the paper to work as a legislative researcher in Parliament House, thereby setting herself on a trajectory which saw her involved in the great social and economic reforms of the last two decades: from the GST to the reform of the child support payments system, superannuation changes, and the economic conundrum of how to support an ageing population.

Her centre does modelling for government agencies like Treasury, but also for corporations including AMP, political parties and Senate committees. As such, the results of Harding’s research often become part of the political debate, a side to the job she finds stressful.

In 1999, during the lead-up to the introduction of the GST, Harding and her team were commissioned by a Senate Committee to model the impacts of the controversial tax. They then had to appear before a Senate inquiry to present and defend their research.

“They were all unhappy with the report we’d done,” she laughs. “The ALP were unhappy because there weren’t that many losers. The Liberals were unhappy because there were some losers, and the Democrats were unhappy because we modelled an option where you put food into the tax base as well. So that was by far the most fraught experience ... and it was all being televised.”

In 2009, Harding stood down as director of NATSEM to concentrate on research, but not before she secured $11 million in federal government funding for the centre’s elegant new digs on the University of Canberra campus.

The university’s Vice-Chancellor named the building after her, something she finds gratifying, but also, one suspects, a little embarrassing, for the same reason she doesn’t want to appear on television, and chose academe over a flashier career in journalism.

Because what she is most interested in is how the numbers come out.

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EXPAND YOUR MIND

The thirst for knowledge and curiosity for learning new things give life its sparkle and zest. The Centre for Continuing Education offers a wide range of courses to keep that spark alive.

INDIA AND CHINA: A MODERN AND HISTORIC RIVALRY
No other pair of countries offers such frequent comparison and yet share so little in common. In this course, Natalia Borisova offers an introduction to the cultural, socio-economic and political comparisons of the world’s major growing world powers of India and China. Major controversies and foreign policies are analysed from a historical perspective as well as the present political debate.

THE GENIUS OF ORSON WELLES
When Orson Welles, aged just 26, made Citizen Kane in 1941, it was one of the most extraordinary debuts in cinema history. Welles managed to make a series of flawed masterpieces over the next decades, including The Magnificent Ambersons, The Lady from Shanghai, Touch of Evil and Chimes at Midnight. Well-known critic David Stratton will discuss Welles’ career, using clips, documentary material and the screening of three of his features in full.

APPLE’S iPAD FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS
Apple’s iPad has made a significant impact on how photographers shoot, store and process both still and moving images. For the first time in years, one single device offers us a fabulous range of easily achievable and supremely creative options, and all at the mere swipe of a fingertip. Robin Nichols will help students dive into this stimulating and interactive class.

NIETZSCHE, HEIDEGGER AND THE QUESTION OF MEANING
Heidegger and Nietzsche offered profound reflections on the question of meaning, of being, of purpose and of freedom. Ray Younis teaches a class that focuses on Nietzsche’s attempted ‘overcoming of metaphysics’, his response to the challenge of nihilism and his deep debt to the ancient Greeks. It also looks at Heidegger’s critique of Nietzsche; his engagement with technology, and his critique of existentialism.

For all courses and alumni discount, visit: sydney.edu.au/cce
When David Handley founded Sculpture by the Sea 16 years ago, it was a one-day show that he had to underwrite by putting up his own apartment as security. The public sculpture exhibition has grown into one of Australia’s iconic cultural events, and his achievement has been recognised as a co-winner of an Alumni Award for Community Achievement.

The three-week exhibition, which runs in spring each year along the Bondi to Tamarama Coastal Walk, attracts up to 500,000 visitors, has an international reputation and is considered a major tourism beacon that is now promoted by the NSW Government major events group. Similar exhibitions have now been mounted in Cottesloe, Western Australia and Aarhus, Denmark.

David, who graduated with arts and law degrees in 1989, found his inspiration while working as a lawyer in Prague. He had always loved free public events but didn’t know how to channel that enthusiasm until he found a sculpture park in Prague where contemporary works were set among medieval ruins. “Suddenly, I understood the theatricality of sculpture,” he told an interviewer.

Aided by volunteers, David scraped together the money to put on Sculpture by the Sea as a one-day show, and with media – but no government – support, the exhibition continued to grow in popularity. It now includes works by major international sculptors.

Mary Kostakidis is a co-winner of the Alumni Award for Community Achievement for her role as chair of the Sydney Peace Foundation and human rights leadership in the wider community. Mary’s award epitomises the way a broad liberal arts education (BA ’77) provides the foundations for a critical engagement with society.

From her career as Australia’s first woman to present a national prime time television news bulletin to her period as chair of the Sydney Peace Foundation, Mary has become a leading figure in Australian public life.

This began at university, when Mary founded the Sydney University Greek Society and became its first president. She was a member of the management team that set up and developed SBS Television, and maintained her role as newsreader for 20 years until 2007.

At the same time, she has nurtured a long-standing interest in human rights. In 2009 Mary served on the National Human Rights Consultation Committee and from 2010-11 was Chair of the Sydney Peace Foundation. In this role she championed Wikileaks, chairing a packed meeting at Sydney Town Hall, organised by the Foundation and Amnesty International, which was titled “Breaking The Silence” over Wikileaks and its founder Julian Assange.

Among many other community roles, Mary has also served as an Ambassador for Beyond Blue and was a member of the Drug and Alcohol Council.
**INTERNATIONAL**

**DAVID HUNTER**

Epidemiologist Dr David Hunter (MBBS ’82) has won the International Alumni Award for his pioneering leadership in researching the variety of factors that cause cancer, principally through his creation of global studies that have built huge rich databases of information.

Dr Hunter is Professor in Cancer Prevention and Dean for Academic Affairs at the Harvard School of Public Health, where he has led several major research studies.

Dr Hunter has led two major studies, firstly the Nurses’ Health Studies (and a similar-sized follow-up study of nurses), and secondly, the Breast and Prostate Cancer Cohort Consortium, which encompasses major world epidemiological cohort studies totalling 750,000 participants with lifestyle information and DNA samples.

In the words of one of his nominators, Professor Bruce Armstrong, Professor of Public Health at Sydney: “He has created enormous infrastructure for research that will lead to more precise understanding of the role of the common genetic variants in cancer aetiology.”

Dr Hunter is also the principal investigator of a four-year grant, from the US National Cancer Institute to study the genetic and biological mechanisms that contribute to breast cancer. Dr Hunter also collaborates with researchers in Tanzania to investigate the relationship between nutrition and HIV.

**PROFESSIONAL**

**BELINDA HUTCHINSON AM**

Belinda Hutchinson originally studied architecture but after two weeks knew it was not for her. After some quick counselling, she tried economics, discovered accounting and found her métier. She graduated with a Bachelor of Economics in 1976 and has gone on to make a significant impact on the corporate world as one of Australia’s most sought-after female directors.

After seven years working for the audit firm Arthur Andersen, here and in the US, in 1992 Belinda made news when she was appointed as the only woman on the Board of Sydney Water, and has since been an active participant on a number of business boards, including Telstra, Coles, AGL, Energy Australia, plus community organisations such as St Vincents Health Australia and the Salvation Army.

This CV was crowned in 2010 when Hutchinson was appointed as Chair of the global insurer QBE, making her one of just a handful of female chairs in Australian corporate life.

Belinda has also established a family foundation with her husband to support a variety of community-based projects, including The Hunger Project in Malawi, Africa, which provides assistance to 10 villages through a food bank and microfinance program.

They have also supported a Not-For-Profit scholarship in 2010-11 of the Global Executive MBA within the Business School at the University of Sydney.

**YOUNG ALUMNI**

**ERIC KNIGHT**

Eric Knight has made a significant and energetic contribution to both academic and public life, with an influential body of work in media and publishing in the five years since he graduated with a BA and LLB in 2007. This began during his Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford, where he earned his PhD with a thesis on The Finance of Climate, in which he investigated the best means of using financial markets to stimulate investment in climate change technologies.

However, Eric did not limit himself to academic challenges. At Oxford he swam in a relay across the English Channel with three other Australian students to raise money for children’s medical research in Australia.

In 2008 Eric was invited by the Prime Minister to attend a panel on this field at the Australia 2020 Summit. Since returning to Australia has engaged in public debate on a wide range of subjects, speaking at the Sydney Festival of Dangerous Ideas and Ted X.

Since 2011 Eric has been working with the Boston Consulting Group, consulting on economics to business and government. He also found time to write a book, published earlier this year, called Reframe, which offers fresh perspectives on solving economic and social problems. The book has been reviewed and well received across the mainstream media.

NB: The book has been reviewed in this edition of SAM (page 34).
When Damien Freeman graduated from the University of Sydney Law School in 2000, he worked as a clerk for a Supreme Court judge, yet frequently found himself occupied by the larger-than-life inhabitant of the notorious room next door, Justice Roddy Meagher.

Freeman was not alone in being drawn to Meagher, whose life and times were a source of intrigue and chatter for many in the bar, the judiciary, the art world and the public.

His curiosity was piqued at law school, when a teacher described Meagher as a person who “took a perverse pleasure in being gratuitously archaic”. Eventually, Freeman befriended the judge, though it was several years before he set out to write a biography of him. “I was always fascinated by him – he was a part of the mythology of the bar,” Freeman says. “I applied to work for him but he didn’t want me.”

Meagher had become widely known in various guises: as an avid art collector, a bastion of political incorrectness, a bohemian wit, a monarchist, a Catholic who read the Koran at mass, a self-confessed elitist and primarily, a natural and oversized eccentric.

He had his haters – his cousin, the novelist Patrick White, called him “my creepy lawyer cousin” – but he was also loved for his warmth, humour, friendship and oddities. The judge’s chambers at the NSW Supreme Court were a testament to the man: it was a trove famously overflowing with artworks, books and antiquities.

While Freeman was working as a tipstaff to Justice Kenneth Handley, he caught the attention of Meagher and the two struck up a sort of friendship. Strangely, or typically, the judge learnt that Freeman could speak Hebrew and announced: “I am in need of a Hebrew teacher”. So the young clerk became the older judge’s tutor. They began by
working on a translation from the Book of Judges. “He was funny - he would sort of test you,” Freeman says. “He tested me on something to do with reconciliation ... he tested me to see if I would be politically correct. I remember being aware that this was a test. I must have passed.”

In 2009, around the time that Meagher’s art collection attracted a record attendance at the Sydney University Art Gallery, Freeman began to consider writing a biography of him. The book, Roddy’s Folly: R. P. Meagher QC, art lover and lawyer (Connor Court), like its subject, is not conventional but is something of an intellectual biography that attempts to pick apart the main strands of Meagher’s life.

Freeman, who went on to complete a PhD in philosophy at Cambridge, where he now teaches, says the book on Meagher “needed to be done”. Meagher immediately agreed to assist with the biography, though he died last year before it was completed.

“He tested me to see if I would be politically correct. I remember being aware that this was a test. I must have passed.”

Meagher had a lifelong involvement with the University of Sydney and held strong views about the ideal role of a university. After finishing at Saint Ignatius’ College, Riverview, he lived at St John’s College, graduated with a University Medal in law and later taught at the University. Before he died, he donated his collection of paintings, drawings, sculptures, carpets, ceramics, furniture, and archaeological artefacts to the University.

“I think he really believed the University made him who he was,” says Freeman. “As a student, he appreciated that people wanted to share their knowledge. He had this view that there are intellectual pursuits, that here is an institution that is all about the dispassionate pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. He was interested in the refining of the mind - he was probably a bit romantic.”

Freeman spent more than a year working on the biography and had unrestricted access to Meagher’s papers. He interviewed dozens of people from Meagher’s life, including prominent judges such as Sir Laurence Street, Murray Gleeson, Jim Spigelman and Michael Kirby, as well as John Howard, Edmund Capon, Cardinal George Pell and architect Glenn Murcutt. The High Court judge, Dyson Heydon, who wrote a foreword, also spoke at a rousing launch for the book in April at the old Law School building, along with speeches by the Federal Opposition Leader Tony Abbott, and Marie Bashir, the Chancellor and Governor of NSW.

Freeman says it is impossible to give anything more than a limited perspective of a man who straddled such varied spheres. But a shared outlook on law, politics, aesthetics and the nature of eccentricity, he believes, proved helpful in providing a fuller understanding. “Everyone will see him through a lens, but I think my lens does not distort him too much because we did see a lot of things in a similar way.”

In particular, says Freeman, he sought to show that “Roddy’s folly” – his eccentric take on the world – was an achievement of its own. “If you’re an eccentric type of person, you tend not to be taken too seriously in our culture, in Sydney,” he says. “It is just not a world for that sort of person. He showed you could live that sort of life. My book wants to emphasise that this is the sort of person he was and it is a good thing.”

**SPEECHES ONLINE**

To read speeches from the book launch, go to sydney.edu.au/sam/features
Mongolia is not your usual career move for a recently-graduated physiotherapist. Home to nomadic herders, Arctic winters and sandwiched between China and Russia, its climate and location turn even the simplest undertaking into a complicated project. The mixture of mystery, an interest in development and an enticing job description was irresistible to a young man with itchy feet and a curious mind.

My interest in development is a product of an unusual upbringing, spent for the most part, running around barefoot in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. I first tasted volunteering in development in Guyana in 2007 following my undergraduate degree in Exercise and Sports Science in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Cumberland. On my return I applied to enter into the Masters of Physiotherapy course at the University of Sydney as I was itching to continue working in development.

Throughout my Physiotherapy course there were lecturers who drew on and spoke about their experiences working in countries like South Africa and Vietnam or with refugee communities in Australia that captured my attention and shaped the kind of therapist that I have become.

As my studies in Physiotherapy at the University drew to a close in 2009 I was given the opportunity to explore the appeal of working in development and practise my profession in Vietnam through the University’s Hoc Mai Scholarship, which offers exchanges for health students and professionals between the two countries. That experience left me hungry for the next opportunity and I spent a good part of the next two years stalking volunteer organisation websites to pounce on my ideal job.

In late 2011 along came the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD) Program, part of Australian Volunteers for International Development, an initiative by the Australian government. The job, the destination and the opportunity were too alluring to resist.

My volunteer placement in the capital, Ulaanbatar, is as a Physiotherapy Educator at Kindergarten and Nursing Complex No. 10. The kindergarten employs a multi-disciplinary team of doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, social workers and teachers.

It is the only centre in the city that provides services for children with disabilities. It also acts as an advocate to protect their rights. The children range from 18 months to 12 years, with many coming from impoverished backgrounds. Sometimes families will make special trips from the countryside to visit the kindergarten.
It is an exciting time to be involved with physiotherapy in Mongolia as it is only just starting to develop. A School of Physiotherapy was opened at the Health Sciences University of Mongolia in 2007. Despite their lack of professional training, the therapy team at the kindergarten is determined to improve their skills and knowledge. This, coupled with the steady influx of physiotherapy, social work and medical students, gives me a captive audience.

Early intervention and family-centred practice are two cornerstones of paediatric therapy practice. These are both ideas that my colleagues at the kindergarten were aware of but weren’t implementing effectively, so I have been training the therapy team (not just the physiotherapists) in these and other skills. I have also been developing resources so the children’s parents are better equipped with the knowledge and skills to care for their children.

There are many social issues associated with disability in Mongolia. As you fly into Ulaanbaatar’s Chiingis Khan International Airport, the empty moonscape of the rolling steppe blanketed in snow is contrasted with Ulaanbaatar's sprawling shanty-like ‘ger districts’ and an ever-evolving city skyline. Ulaanbaatar is a city galloping towards Western development but the many challenges faced by people with disabilities are obvious.

Access is just one of the issues. When children are younger it is easy to carry them from place to place. As they grow older, carrying them becomes more challenging and with the lack of access to good quality, well-fitted wheelchairs, mobility becomes difficult. So only a very small number of high-functioning children manage to integrate into mainstream schools and continue their education, with the rest remaining at the kindergarten for as long as possible or being forced to stay at home. This leads to a revolving door of poverty, plus issues of dependency.

There have been constant challenges but these have been outweighed by the rewarding nature of the work. I am baffled on a daily basis by the Mongolian language. My daily bewilderment, however, is lessened by the presence of an outstanding translator. There are also the frustrations that come from working in a resource-poor setting.

“Only a small number of children integrate into mainstream schools. This leads to a revolving door of poverty.”

However, this lack of resources is part of why I enjoy working in development so much. I take pleasure in the independence and challenges of working in these types of environments, where initiative and creativity are key requirements. The caring and dedicated nature of my colleagues towards the children and towards improving their skills has also helped soothe the frustrations.

I am only halfway through my assignment so I have many more challenges and frustrations to look forward to. Given the developing nature of physiotherapy and the social issues relating to disability, there is a lot of work still to be done. I think that physiotherapists trained in Australia are among the most well-trained in the world and that it is a part of our duty to share our knowledge and skills with others around the globe. I hope that my experience here in Mongolia can encourage others to apply for and work in similar positions.
REFRAME: How to solve the world’s trickiest problems
Eric Knight
Black Inc. $29.95

Any ‘how to’ book usually promises something enticing. Former Rhodes Scholar and author Eric Knight (BA ’06 LLB ’07) offers solutions to some weighty political and economic problems around terrorism, climate change and immigration. Through his examination of the world’s trickiest problems, Knight reveals with astonishing clarity how large-scale mistakes in problem-solving have arisen.

A generation ago, Edward de Bono (also a Rhodes Scholar) showed us how to ‘think laterally’, an expression which has become part of our vernacular. Yet flexible thinking seems to have had little impact. Knight provides countless examples which illustrate how rigid organisations, governments and nations can be. By holding the magnifying glass too close, the real answers lying just out of view are missed.

Knight invites us to ‘reframe’ the problem. By adjusting our focus and our definition of a solution, we can bypass what is “flashy, or noisy, or bright” in favour of what is “complex, and quiet, and in the background”. Knight opens us to the possibility that small enterprises and individuals, solving problems from the bottom up, offer the greatest opportunities for success. By the end of this book, you can’t help but think that he’s right.

ALEXANDER MACLEAY: From Scotland to Sydney
Derelie Cherry
Paradise Publishers $59.95

Unbelievably, this is the first biography about this colourful Scotsman. Author and historian Derelie Cherry (PhD ’04) brings to light Macleay’s eccentricities as well as his many achievements, in part due to the discovery of letters written by Macleay’s daughter Fanny, which were locked away for over half a century.

Alexander Macleay was an unemployed senior civil servant after Napoleon’s defeat. At the age of 58 he embarked on a new career in Sydney as Colonial Secretary under Governor Darling, arriving with a broad range of interests and expertise, and six daughters still unmarried.

Macleay was recognised in his lifetime for his contribution to horticulture (the University’s Macleay Museum holds the premier collection of his specimens). Yet few know that he introduced wisteria and the jacaranda to Australia, along with dill, coriander and cumin. It’s also surprising to learn that he became Australia’s first Speaker in the Legislative Council at the age of 76.

The book, with foreword by Stephen Garton, is enhanced by beautiful illustrations and photos taken by the author. Among these is Elizabeth Bay House. Built by Macleay, it remains the finest colonial mansion in NSW. Finally, there is a book worthy of this founding father of Australia.

A PIECE OF MY MIND: A psychiatrist on the couch
Professor Gordon Parker
Pan Macmillan Australia $32.99

This is a man who has attempted more things than most of us. Professor Gordon Parker (MBBS ’67), Founding Director of the Black Dog Institute, has been campaigning for greater recognition of depressive and bipolar disorders for decades. The book reveals a respected clinician and academic with a strong international profile. Parker shows us just how provocative he has been; highly regarded by most but loathed by some. He examines what good psychiatry should be, invoking his medical background and passion for the humanities.

Even though this book is largely about depression, it’s side-splittingly funny at times, thanks to Parker’s skills as a creative writer. He talks fondly of growing up as an only child, of his parents and other significant influences in his life. He is disarmingly frank about his ineptitude during his education and admits to a lack of direction until luck helped him find a career path. Once found, that path has been a rewarding road of discovery.

REVIEW ONLINE

THE EDGEWORTH DAVID WOMEN
Jennifer Horsfield
WA. WINDEYER
JB Windeyer

For more book reviews, go to sydney.edu.au/sam/regulars
1960s

IAN CURTHOYS Emeritus Professor (BA ’65) has been awarded the prestigious Robert Barany Gold Medal for his contribution to vestibular research, which is concerned with balance. Professor Curthoys, who joined Sydney as an academic in 1971, retired officially from the University in 2006 but continues to hold grants and conduct research and teach in the Department of Psychology. The award, which is only awarded every six years, was given by the Barany Society, which is an international specialist society for vestibular research. It is “awarded by the Medical Faculty of Uppsala University (in Sweden) to the scientist who, during the preceding five-year period is deemed to have published the most valuable work on the vestibular system in its widest sense”. The award was presented to Professor Curthoys at Uppsala in June.

DASIA BLACK (BA ’64) has recently written a memoir of her journey from Nazi-occupied Poland to rebuilding her life in Australia. Her book, Letter from My Father - Memoir of a Journey from Survival to Fulfilment (Brandl & Schlesinger) traces her traumatic childhood and the hope provided by her father’s letter, which became a guide and anchor as she tried to escape and rebuild her life. Dasia arrived in Sydney aged 12, completed her schooling and a Bachelor of Arts. She has lectured on Child and Adolescent Psychology, Intercultural Education and the Psychology of Racism at the Australian Catholic University, Sydney. She considers her seven-year involvement in teacher education programs for Indigenous students in remote communities a most rewarding part of her professional life. She is now a psychologist in private practice.

2000s

VIVEK BRABHU (MBA ’03), a Senior Portfolio Manager with Perpetual Limited, has won the 2011 Hugh DT Williamson Performance Scholarship. The $16,500 scholarship acknowledges exceptional performance and achievement made by an individual within the financial services industry and can be used towards the cost of attending any leadership or professional development program, anywhere in the world. Vivek’s involvement in not-for-profit activities with the Deaf Society, as well as his work mentoring a number of financial services professionals within Perpetual, were cited as the key reasons for his scholarship. Vivek will travel to France in October and in January to study in the INSEAD Executive Education School in Fontainebleau, just outside Paris.

MATT MIKLOS Environmental Scientist (BSc ’07) has won the Young Achiever Award 2011 from the NSW Australian Contaminated Land Consultants Association (ACLCA). Competition entrants must be under 30 years of age with less than five years’ experience in the field. Matt’s winning presentation was entitled Landfill Gas Monitoring – Practical Implementation in a High-Risk and High-Profile Case Study. Matt works for Environmental Earth Sciences, an Australian firm that specialises in the environmental management of soil, groundwater and property.

THE WOTTON FAMILY
March was a happy month for the Wotton family of Pyrmont, when three generations of alumni attended a graduation ceremony at the University. Rev Roy Wotton (BA ’47), who served as a senior chaplain in New Guinea and Borneo during World War II, is now 99 but mobile, independent and living by himself after nearly 30 years as Anglican Rector of St John’s Gordon, according to his son, Peter (BE (Chem) ’69). The family looked on proudly as Peter’s daughter Kathryn graduated with a Master of Nursing in March.

Also present were his two sons Mark (BSc ’01) and Chris (BSc ’02).

MAGGIE FERGUSON, who has Graduate Diplomas - of Music (’01) and Performance (’02) - from the Conservatorium of Music, recently released a new CD, Tango Project Loca Bohemia, recorded in Buenos Aires. The album was a two-year collaboration with Latin Grammy-winning producer and double bassist, Ignacio Varchausky, and three leading young tango virtuosos. The CD marks a decade of commuting by Ferguson to Argentina to perform and study the art of tango performance. Ferguson has also created TangoOz, a tango training orchestra created in collaboration with SYO (Sydney Youth Orchestras), and is touring rural Australia giving lessons.

Congratulations to Matt Miklos, Maggie Ferguson, the Wotton family and Ian Curthoys.
24 JULY
Sydney Ideas Lecture with Sir Christopher Bayly, University of Cambridge
The MacLaurin Hall, 6-8pm

2 AUGUST
Melbourne Alumni Drinks
The Long Room, 162-168 Collins St, Melbourne, 6.00 pm
All welcome – online bookings essential at sydney.edu.au/alumni/victoria or contact Andrea Besnard on + 61 2 9351 1963 or alumni.victoria@sydney.edu.au.

2-5 AUGUST
SUGUNA Conference
Boston University, Boston, MA
Register by 6 July 2012. Visit sydney.edu.au/alumni/suguna/ or contact Wanda Haschek-Hock at whaschek@illinois.edu.

9 AUGUST
Insights 2012 Inaugural Lecture Series
General Lecture Theatre 1, 6pm
Professor Colin Wight speaking on “From Enlightenment to Irrelevance? The failure of Western Social Science”. Bookings essential. Visit sydney.edu.au/alumni/insights.

17 AUGUST
Law v Pharmacy Charity Rugby Cup
St John’s Oval, 5.30-7.30pm
Entry by gold coin donation, with bar and BBQ. Contact pharmacy.alumni@sydney.edu.au or law.alumni@sydney.edu.au.

21 AUGUST
Sydney Ideas in Canberra
Parliament House, 6-8pm

23 AUGUST
The Dean’s Newcastle Cocktail Reception – Pharmacy Alumni
Venue TBC, 6-8pm
Contact Maritza Messina, Alumni Relations Officer, on +61 2 9351 7829 or at maritza.messina@sydney.edu.au.

30 AUGUST
The Alumni v Students Comedy Debate
The Great Hall, 6-8pm
Motion: “We should chase idle dreams”, with Adam Spencer, Julie McCrossin and Julia Featherston. Visit sydney.edu.au/alumni/comedy.

6 SEPTEMBER
Sydney Connections Breakfast – Cameron Clyne (BA ’89)
Four Seasons Sydney, 7.15am-8.45am
With Cameron Clyne, Chief Executive Officer of NAB. Contact the Alumni and Events Office on + 61 2 9036 9278 or alumni.rsvp@sydney.edu.au.

7 SEPTEMBER
20th Anniversary Pharmacy Alumni Reunion
Pharmacy Common Room, 6.30pm
Contact Maritza Messina, Alumni Relations Officer, on +61 2 9351 7829 or at maritza.messina@sydney.edu.au.

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 and keep in touch via our alumni pages at 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.

The 2011 Alumni Award winners.

The Vice-Chancellor at the 2010 Comedy Debate.
11 SEPTEMBER
The Dean’s Dubbo Cocktail Reception – Pharmacy Alumni
Venue TBC, 6-8pm
Contact Maritza Messina, Alumni Relations Officer, on +61 2 9351 7829 or at maritza.messina@sydney.edu.au.

11 SEPTEMBER
R J Chambers Memorial Research Lecture & Dinner
The MacLaurin Hall
6.30pm-10.30pm
Delivered by Sir David Tweedie, President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS). Contact Michelle Parkinson on + 61 2 9114 1134 or at michelle.parkinson@sydney.edu.au.

26 SEPTEMBER
Class of 1952 60th Anniversary Pharmacy Alumni Reunion
Pharmacy Common Room, 10am
Contact Maritza Messina, Alumni Relations Officer, on +61 2 9351 7829 or at maritza.messina@sydney.edu.au.

29-30 SEPTEMBER
Class of 1972 40th Anniversary Medical Alumni Reunion in Canberra
Contact Harry Merkur at hmerkur@bigpond.net.au or Diana Lovegrove at diana.lovegrove@sydney.edu.au.

8 OCTOBER
Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies – Dean’s International Lecture
The Seymour Centre
6.30pm-7.30pm
Presented by Sir David Higgins, CEO, Network Rail UK. Contact Karen Worsfold on + 61 2 9036 9760 or at karen.worsfold@sydney.edu.au.

10 OCTOBER
Lambie-Dew Oration
The Great Hall, 6pm
Renowned alumna Professor Dame Valerie Beral, AC DBE FRS FRCP, will challenge popular myths of Australian health in crisis. Register at sydney.edu.au/medicine/register/lambie-dew.

12 OCTOBER
School of Aerospace, Mechanical & Mechatronic Engineering Annual Reunion Dinner
St Andrew’s College Dining Room, 7-10.30pm
For graduates whose final year of study ended in the number ‘2’ or ‘7’. Contact Karen Worsfold on + 61 2 9036 9760 or at karen.worsfold@sydney.edu.au.

20 OCTOBER
Class of 2002 10th Anniversary Medical Alumni Reunion
Nicholson Museum, 6.30pm
Contact Helen Benham at helenh1@med.usyd.edu.au or Diana Lovegrove at diana.lovegrove@sydney.edu.au.

25 OCTOBER
Annual Dr Charles Perkins AO Memorial Oration and Prize
The Great Hall, 6-8pm

26 OCTOBER
Annual Alumni Awards Presentation
The Great Hall, 6-8pm
Admission is free but bookings are essential. Visit: sydney.edu.au/alumni/awards.

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When Naomi Hart was ready for university, she chose to study at Sydney because of its History department. “It was ranked about fifth in the world when I was there. My experience really vindicated that decision, because every lecturer I had was devoted, and the range of choices available to me and the quality of teaching, and of other students was just extraordinary. I count myself very lucky.” Hart, 25, later graduated with a law degree and during her time at the University was also a keen debater. She found lots of synergies between arts, law and debating. “Arts really teaches you to reach out and try and understand other people. The whole point of history is looking back across generations and trying to piece together elusive stories. “It’s really similar to law where you have to take on people’s cases, try and understand them, and tell those stories in court. There is a lot of overlap between history and law.” So, too, with debating. “The University of Sydney Union takes the debating tradition very seriously. I debated every week at an internal, informal gathering called regionals and then I had the opportunity to debate all over the world – Canada, Oxford and Cambridge, China. The breadth of opportunity was fantastic.” She is adamant that the skills she developed through debating provided a major boost to her work as a human rights lawyer. “Debating develops an ability to work with other people, the ability to articulate an argument, an ability to really take one side of a case whether or not you believe in it. Being able to advocate that other side rigorously is what debating is all about and that is directly transferable to when you become a lawyer.” After gaining her Bachelor of Laws last year, Hart went to America to work with prisoners on death row. She applied to an Australian organisation called Reprieve, which has relationships with criminal defence offices throughout the country. “They set you up in a state with death row prisoners and once you’re there, you’re working five days a week as a volunteer. She says the work drew on her Arts degree more than she had expected. “It is really connected to (studying) history because often the way you get a death sentence reduced is by researching everything about a person to uncover any mitigating factors in the past – parental abuse, a drug addiction, poverty, a psychological trauma – and build an entire narrative. “This is exactly what you have to do in history. So I felt that what I had done in my history degree, especially in Honours, was exactly what I had to do over in America. Although she is now working in a Sydney commercial law firm, Allens Arthur Robinson, Hart says her internship opened her eyes to other possibilities. “Sometime in the future I definitely want to be working in areas related to constitutional law and international law and working to uphold individual rights.” In recognition of the leadership Naomi showed as a student, she was awarded the University Convocation Medal last year for undergraduate achievement as part of the annual Alumni Awards program. “It was incredibly flattering. Going through the process of being nominated by one of my friends was humbling. Even more humbling, on the night, was being announced as the joint winner.” It’s especially so when your whole family is steeped in the culture of Sydney. Hart’s parents, sister and brother all studied at the University, encompassing everything from physics to education, art history, social work, and peace and conflict studies. Was there any pressure to choose Sydney? “None at all.”
For the benefit of future generations, Composer Peter Sculthorpe announced he would leave his estate to the University of Sydney’s Conservatorium and Department of Music.

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www.academytravel.com.au

Tour leader Darryl Collins in an acknowledged expert in the art and history of South East Asia. He was a curator at the National Gallery of Australia before playing a major role in the rehabilitation of Cambodia’s National Museum. He has been resident in Cambodia for more than 10 years.