WHODUNNIT?
SYDNEY’S SANDSTONE SLEUTHS

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THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

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3 MAR 2013 SAM
CUTREATIVITY IMPORTANT FOR ENGINEERS
The Vice-Chancellor, Dr Michael Spence, refers to the new governance structure (Unifying Diversity, SAM, October 2012), with five new divisional boards to cover the Natural Sciences, Architecture and Creative Arts, Business, Engineering, and Humanities and Social Sciences – reflecting the University’s desire to expand its business and engineering programs.

The university does a good job of producing professionals across many fields. However, we don’t have to travel far from the university to realise that, despite some remarkable exceptions, creativity is a general weakness of the engineering profession, and our business leaders who are too focused on quarterly profit guidance. Engineering should be grounded in the creative arts and business within the humanities.

Peter Egan (BCivil Eng ‘82)
Artarmon NSW

GORDON WOOD’S APPEAL
Caroline Baum writes that alumni and top crown prosecutor Mark Tedeschi “secured” Gordon Wood’s conviction (SAM, October 2012). She includes Wood in the same group as murderers Ivan Milat and Bruce Burrell. It needs to be noted that Gordon Wood’s appeal earlier this year was successful.

Teresa Kiernan (BA ‘11)
Elizabeth Bay NSW

QUANTUM PHYSICS MIND-BOGGLING
I find Quantum Physics (Tiny Particles, Quantum Leaps, SAM, October 2012) very difficult to get a handle on. I do not understand how a physical thing can be in more than one place at exactly the same time. But assuming that there is a rational explanation that I am not aware of, I fail to see how “… qubits, which can either be one, zero or both states simultaneously”, could have any value as a hardware platform for computing.

The certainty that a bit is either zero or one, and will remain that way until deliberately changed, is the basis for data storage in conventional computers. The article makes an assertion but to my mind provides no supporting explanation, even in outline. This is disappointing in a University publication.

Further, the article claims that Michael Biercuk says that “If you were to construct a standard computer with the same computational capacity as that projected for this device, it would need to be larger than the size of the known universe”. Such unsubstantiated claims belong in comic books or fiction such as The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy. He could have said “very very very large”, but to pick a measure this extreme really requires some explanation.

Michael McLean (MLitt ’94)
Sunnybank Hills Qld

HEALTH AND VESTED INTERESTS
Thank you for the most interesting and important article, The fight against fat, by Chris Rodley (SAM, July, 2012). Rodley’s article focuses on the threats to health and quality of life in relation to diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease (CD).

It is worth pointing out that in 1990 American researcher Dean Ornish’s ‘Lifestyle Heart Trial’ demonstrated that serious CD could actually be reversed without surgery by changes to diet (ie from animal to plant-based) and lifestyle.

So effective is the Ornish program – the first non-surgical non-pharmaceutical
heart disease therapy to qualify for insurance rebate — that by 1998, in the US, 45 health insurance providers were reimbursing members for it as a treatment.

Yet in Australia, health authorities, charities and health insurers still don’t promote the Ornish program but continue to promote animal-based diets as the main contributor to CD.

In Rodley’s article, Professor Steve Simpson points out the importance of demystifying “the clamour of conflicting advice that people receive on diet and lifestyle” and calls for “a dispassionate presentation of our current understanding that’s unpolluted by vested interests”.

Simpson is absolutely right. I wish him and his team well in their endeavours.

Paul Bacon
(Dip Rehab Couns ’90)
Belmore NSW

TAKING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY
I was interested to read the article on lecturer Fiona Allen (Female Fans: It’s Personal SAM Oct, 2012). A Saints fan has to be accorded due attention. However, two comments by Ms Allen seemed to reveal a lack of historical perspective. After the impact of the GFC, she writes of the “increasing dominance of economics and markets in social life”. Yet economic crises have troubled social life much before the recent GFC.

Further, she argues that as “the state retreats from its previous responsibilities there has been a huge transfer of risk onto the ‘household’, with “ordinary people ...required to take responsibility for their savings, retirement funds, education, health” etc. If that is true, would it not be a reversion to the state of affairs for most of human history?

More concerning is the implied lesson to be taken from the comment: ordinary people needing to take responsibility for their own savings and welfare. What an eccentric proposition. To be a spectator in sport is one thing, but who wants to be a spectator in their own lives? You only get one, if you want to live it you have to take to the field.

Nic Angelov (BA ’95 LLB ’98)
Sydney

THE FIRST RULE OF LECTURES
When I enrolled at the University in 1963, the Registrar addressed all new university entrants in The Great Hall on the first day of our Orientation Week, offering advice, drawing our attention to portraits of past academics, and shocking me with witty comments. Later on, I heard a story which would have been appropriate for the occasion.

It concerns a student called George Bernard Dantzig who arrived late to a statistics lecture in 1939 at the University of California, Berkeley.

On the blackboard were two problems apparently assigned for homework, which Dantzig scribbled down during the lecture. A few days later, he apologized as he handed in his overdue work, explaining that the problems seemed harder than usual.

One Sunday morning about six weeks later, Dantzig was awakened by someone banging on his front door. It was his professor who rushed in with papers in hand, all excited: “I’ve just written an introduction to one of your papers. Read it so I can send it out right away for publication.”

For a minute Dantzig had no idea what he was talking about, until the professor explained that the problems on the blackboard he had solved were not homework but two of the most famous unsolved problems in statistics, which he had written to pique the students’ interest.

A year later, when he began to worry about a thesis topic, his professor just shrugged and told him to wrap the two problems in a binder and he would accept them as his thesis. George Dantzig went on to become the Father of Linear Programming.

The moral of the story: don’t be late for lectures.

Dr Malcolm Cameron (PhD Physics ’71)
Camberwell Vic

CALLING ALL HAPPY SNAPPERS!
This edition SAM launches its first ever Travel Photography Competition, themed around ‘People, Places and Nature’.

Send us your best or favourite travel photo, and if you don’t have one, take the opportunity to go out and shoot one – here or overseas.

The winner will receive a MacBook Pro 13” with Retina Display with a ‘Runner up’ and ‘People’s Choice’ each receiving an iPod Touch 32GB.

We will publish a selection of the best entries during the year. Keep an eye out for details in the next edition of SAM about how to access the photo gallery on our website.

Entries close on Friday 1 November 2013, and are open to alumni, students, staff and donors of the University, who are Australian residents.

For full details please go online to sydney.edu.au/alumni/photo-comp

LETTERS ONLINE
Full versions of letters are available online.
sydney.edu.au/sam/regulars
EXCLUSIVE CCE OFFER FOR ALUMNI

GAIN NEW INSIGHTS AND DISCOVER YOUR UNTAPPED CREATIVITY WITH A CCE SHORT COURSE

Alumni will receive an exclusive 10% discount* (up to a maximum of $500 per course) on enrolments with the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE). With more than 700 courses to choose from, there is a short course for everyone. To participate, register your alumni membership at sydney.edu.au/cce/alumni or call us on 02 9036 4789 (please have your alumni membership number ready - you’ll find it on the SAM mailing sheet).

For more information on our range of courses, head to sydney.edu.au/cce

* Offer is subject to review
I’d like to begin my first column for the year on a personal note. The death of my wife after a very short illness just before Christmas was an enormous shock for my family and me. We have been comforted and deeply touched by the many messages of support, and indeed love, from across the wide university community. Let me take this opportunity to thank those many members of our alumni family who sent condolence. Of course, during this experience, I saw again the skill and dedication of the staff of our hospital system and was proud to lead a University that plays such an important role in it.

Some things remain constant: the rhythm of the University is a reminder of the many good things in life, and its achievements are a source of solace and pride. And so it gives me great pleasure to report that this year has begun on a really positive footing, continuing some excellent results achieved last year.

Once again, more New South Wales school leavers chose to come to our University than to any other in the state. This has been a continuing trend for a number of years and is very heartening in a highly competitive market where the number of undergraduate places across the sector is now uncapped.

The strong demand for places reflects interest across a broad range of our course offerings. As well as traditionally high demand areas like law and medicine, it has been pleasing to see increased interest in arts, business, education and a wide range of health-related courses in nursing, pharmacy and health sciences.

Our Dean of Nursing, Professor Jill White AM, says this trend reflects a desire among many young people to give something back to the community, which gives the lie to the myth that gen Y is selfish and only focused on the money! It has also been heartening to see a growth in applications from international students after the last two years where the market has been tight.

Further evidence of the strength of the University was published late last year by the Australian Research Council in their study of the quality of research across 41 Australian universities. The independent Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) analysis confirmed that Sydney is among the top universities in the nation based on the breadth and depth of our research performance.

For ERA 2012 all areas of our research were rated at or above world standard, with the vast majority being above or well above world standard. We received the maximum score, indicating research was well-above world standard, in nine diverse disciplines: mathematical science; agriculture and veterinary sciences; engineering; medical and health sciences; psychology and cognitive sciences; law and legal studies; language communication and culture; history and archaeology; and philosophy and religious studies. This is a splendid outcome which reflects on the excellent work by our dedicated researchers and our research portfolio, and confirms our strategic priorities.

Our collaborative research strategy has caught the imagination of some very generous benefactors. For the second consecutive year, the University of Sydney has generated more philanthropic support than any other Australian university and by a sizeable margin. Last year the number of donors supporting the University grew by a staggering 16 percent – the largest single increase we’ve experienced. With your wonderful support we raised just over $80 million.

More than 10,000 individual donors were generous enough to give to the University last year. Most don’t make the headlines, but the extraordinarily far sighted and transformational gift from leading engineering alumnus John Grill simply could not be ignored (see separate story page 28). We have set ourselves ambitious targets for the years ahead and will soon be releasing details of our forthcoming fundraising campaign.

The coming year will be an important one in a number of ways. In a federal election year our challenge is to keep the major parties aware of the importance of universities to the Australian economy and the need for better support both for research and education. Internally we have a number of major projects underway including plans for increased student accommodation on or adjacent to our campuses, continued progress on the exciting new Charles Perkins Centre and the implementation of significant improvements to our student administration system.

I look forward to bringing you news of our further successes throughout the year.
NEW CHANCELLOR FOR SYDNEY

Company director Belinda Hutchinson AM is the new Chancellor of the University of Sydney. Ms Hutchinson is Chair of QBE Insurance Group, and is a director on several prominent boards. She is also the President of Chief Executive Women, comprising 240 of Australia’s women leaders.

“I feel honoured to be elected as Chancellor of the University which has always been a leader in education and research,” said Ms Hutchinson, who holds a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Sydney and was a recipient of a University Alumni Award in 2012.

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

University alumni were strongly represented in the Australia Day Honours, announced in January. The list of 60 recipients included one Companion (AC), nine Officers (AO), 28 Members (AM) and 16 Medals of the Order of Australia (OAM).

The AC was awarded to the Hon Tom Uren (DArch 2002) “for eminent service to the community, particularly through contributions to the welfare of veterans, improved medical education in Vietnam and the preservation of sites of heritage and environmental significance”.

Recipients of the AO included Paul Dyer (SCM), founder and conductor of the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, for distinguished service to the performing arts; writer and critic Clive James (BA ‘61 D Litt ‘99) for distinguished service to literature; lawyer Rod McGeoch (LLB ‘69) for distinguished service to the community, particularly through leadership in securing the Sydney Olympic Games; and Dr Helen Zorbas (MBBS ‘78) for distinguished service to public health.

Notable recipients of the AM include Dr Michael Hintze (BSc ’75 BE (Elec) ’77) for significant service to the community through philanthropic contributions to organisations supporting the arts, health, and education. Honoured as the UK Australian of the Year in 2008, and the 2009 winner of the Alumni Award for International Achievement, Hintze’s generosity as a philanthropist has enabled the restoration of frescoes by Michelangelo in the Vatican, and he has made significant donations to the Victoria and Albert Museum and National Museum in London.

Other recipients of the AM include former NSW MP John Aquilina (BA ’71 DipEd ’72) for significant service to the Parliament of New South Wales; Sr Marianne Dacy (MPhil ’93 PhD ’01) for significant service to interfaith dialogue, and to the Congregation of Our Lady of Sion; architect Michael Dysart (BArch ’58) who co-designed the Regent Hotel and designed Grosvenor Place in the Sydney CBD, for service to architecture.

Others to receive an AM included the Reverend Harry Herbert (BD ’72), for significant service to the community through leadership and advocacy roles in the area of social justice and welfare; Louise Herron (LLB ’82 BA ’86), the Chief Executive of the Sydney Opera House, for significant service to the performing arts; and barrister and NSW public prosecutor Mark Tedeschi QC (LLB ‘74), for significant service to the law, and to photography.

Recipients of the OAM include Dr Anthony Jordan (BSc ’66 PhD ’70) for service to the Australian wine industry as a wine maker, administrator and judge; William Phippen (BSc ’74 BE (Civil) ’76) for service to people with disability, and to the community; and Dr John Schwarz (BPharm ’66 MBBS ’73) for service to international relations, particularly through the African AIDS foundation.

FULL AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS LIST sydney.edu.au/alumni/
The Sydney Development Fund’s 2013 Telephone Program is now underway, building on the success of last year’s program. In 2012, 25 student callers, from a diverse range of faculties and schools, spoke to alumni across all faculties to reconnect with them, give updates on University news and invite them to support Sydney. Last year, nearly 4000 alumni pledged a donation towards an area of their choice, and this year the University hopes to reach 5000 alumni and friends.

One of the most popular areas from last year’s program was the Student Support Fund, which provides emergency bursaries to students in need. Other key areas of support were Alumni Scholarships and the Dean’s Priorities within their faculty or school of graduation.

Student caller Georgia Feltis said: “the alumni we call are often surprised to be informed of the high number of areas of the University they can donate to – programs, research, scholarships, sporting clubs, libraries, museums. They like to be specific about where their money is going.”

The Development Office’s team of callers thoroughly enjoy the conversations they have with alumni from their own and other faculties. They also gain insights into other aspects of the University and get unexpected career advice. “In calling alumni from outside my faculty, it has been interesting for me to learn about other areas of the University and branch out. For some other callers it has ignited a spark to transfer to another degree or head in a different direction in their studies,” Georgia added.

“Calling alumni gives our graduates a chance to reminisce about their time at Sydney – their classes, where they used to live, even which bars they used to go to – and it is really nice to be able to relate to that.”

The 2013 Telephone Program started in February and will run through to the end of the year.

REV BETH SPENCE FUND. The Reverend Beth Spence passed away recently and the University will remember her via a fund for cancer and health care research. Details are at sydney.edu.au/supportsydney/memorial/rev-beth-spence.pdf

Call for honorary awards nominations

Nominations are invited for honorary degrees and honorary fellowships. Those approved by Senate would normally be conferred in 2014.

Nominations addressing the relevant criteria need to be sent to Dr William Adams, Secretary to Senate, by 30 April 2013.

The purpose of honorary degrees is for the University of Sydney to recognise exceptional achievement.

The award of the title of Honorary Fellow is to recognise outstanding service to the University.

sydney.edu.au/senate

Thank you, alumni

I would like to say thank you to the 20,000 alumni, donors and friends who completed the 2012 Alumni and Donor Census.

Your participation was greatly appreciated and the information collected will enable us to better tailor our extensive range of events and communications. It has also provided us with important information about the impact the University had in your life your career, and to find out your views on philanthropy.

Congratulations to Karen Quine, a speech pathologist from Picnic Point, who won the return airfare for two travelling from Australia to Singapore.

Ms Tracey Beck, Director, Alumni Relations and Events, Division of Alumni and Development
### ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now open for the [2013 Alumni Awards](sydney.edu.au/alumni/awards), which provide an opportunity to recognise the outstanding achievements of our alumni. The recipients of these awards are people whose achievements are of the highest calibre. They will be divided into two categories:

**Alumni Achievement Awards** for graduates already established in their careers. There are four categories in this group: community, international and professional achievement, plus an award for a graduate 30 years or younger.

**Graduate medals**, which recognise younger achievers who in the previous year graduated or completed their degree requirements. The six awards recognise the achievements of undergraduate, masters by coursework, PhD, international, Indigenous and sporting students.

The awards will be presented at the Alumni Awards Presentation on Friday 27 September. Nominations must be received by close of business Friday 26 April 2013.

### Promote your business – for free

The University’s new Online Business Directory for alumni allows you to promote your business to the University of Sydney alumni community – free of charge. Here is a sample of the listings and service areas:

**POST YOUR OWN LISTING**

sydney.edu.au/alumni/directory

creditcard.com.au allows you to find the perfect credit card. The site includes expert ratings and reviews to help you choose your next credit card.  
Mark Meyerson (BA ’07)  
www.creditcard.com.au

**Intentional Leadership**  
Intentional Leadership provides business and executive coaching, and leadership development services to a range of industries. A 30% discount for alumni on executive coaching is available.  
Denise Bofill (MAppSci ’12)  
denise@intentionalleadership.com.au  
www.intentionalleadership.com.au

**Inner South Veterinary Centre – Canberra**  
Inner South Veterinary Centre has been serving the people and pets of Canberra for over 10 years.  
Amanda Nott (BVSc ’89)  
47 Jerrabomberra Ave ACT 2604  
Phone 02 6295 0770  
www.innersouthvets.com.au

**MyOrthodontist**  
Specialist Orthodontist Adults & Children. A free consultation is available for alumni. Mention this listing when booking.  
Morris Rapaport (BDS ’76 MDSc ’80)  
Suite 105/ 251 Oxford St Bondi Junction NSW  
Phone 02 9389 1382  
braces@orthodontist.net  
www.myorthodontist.net

**Interim Executive Search**  
A leader in finding executive and senior management talent for short-term or interim and project assignments, with clients ranging from blue chips to SMEs to Not-for-Profits. Mention this directory and receive a 20% discount.  
Phil Tuck  
Level 31/ 88 Phillip St Sydney NSW 2000  
Phone 02 8211 0699  
ptuck@interimexecs.com.au  
www.interimexecs.com.au

The University does not make any endorsement of the products and services offered by third parties through the AlumniOnline Business Directory.

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**Single? University educated? 50+?**

GRADS Social Club Inc. introduces you to like-minded people – graduates who love to chat over a meal, take in a theatre, join a discussion or book group, bush walk, and lots more.

GRADS is strictly non-profit, run just for its members. Emphasis is on friendships and fun, with social events organised by members.

**This Club may be for you!**

Come join us and enrich your social life.  
**Male graduates especially welcome.**

Phone Les on 0418 202 514 or email:  
newmembership@gradssocialclub.com.au  
web:  
www.gradssocialclub.com.au
Come hear Verdi’s Requiem

To celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of the Italian composer, Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901), the University of Sydney Graduate Choir will open its 2013 subscription season with a performance of his choral masterpiece, the Messa da Requiem, on 28 April.

To perform this celebrated work according to Verdi’s wishes, the choir needs more singers than the Great Hall can accommodate, so it will be mounted in the Sydney Town Hall. The choir will invite 200 guest singers to join in, and will present the work as a community event, as per its “Sydney Sings Messiah” concerts.

Verdi’s Requiem, 3pm 28 April in the Sydney Town Hall
Tickets from the Seymour Centre: 9351 7940 or www.seymourcentre.com

Find time to get involved

Alumni are invited to help support our students by participating in the “Fun, Fare and Future Alumni” program – an initiative aimed at connecting current local and international students with our graduates. Lunches and dinners hosted by alumni provide an opportunity for students to meet and engage with their peers and alumni families, enabling all to share academic, professional and social experiences and foster new friendships.

Past gatherings have ranged from a day visit to Goulburn and a cocktail party in Woollahra.
sydney.edu.au/alumni/support

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Reconciliation Week, held annually from 27 May to 3 June, is a time to celebrate and build on the respectful relationships shared by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians. Highlights at the University include:

Sea of Hands
Camperdown Campus
10am-3pm, daily
Monday 27 May – Monday 3 June

Show your support for reconciliation in Australia by planting a hand in Sydney’s public artwork.

Flag Raising Ceremony and Community Barbecue
Monday 27 May 12.30-2pm
Featuring keynote speakers, entertainment and a free BBQ lunch

I’m Not Racist But ... panel discussion
7pm Monday 27 May, Seymour Centre

Forum on recognition of Constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians
6pm Tuesday 28 May, Law School Foyer

For the latest event updates and to register visit sydney.edu.au/events/reconciliation

Sancta Sophia College desperately seeking lost alumni

ARE YOU LOST?

Help us find you! If you haven’t heard from us in the last 3 months, contact our Alumni Relations Manager to register or update your details. Telephone 02 9577 2326. Email alumni@sancta.usyd.edu.au
Follow us forward at www.sanctasophiacollege.edu.au/alumni
Greg Inglis lopes into view in a small café underneath the grandstand at Redfern Oval. A tall man, his body seems barely contained by the singlet and shorts he is wearing. His is not the stacked-on muscle of beefcake but something more graceful and permanent. And this year he’s making a big step towards ensuring his own contribution to Australian life is more long-lasting than the dazzling talent he displays on rugby league grounds across the eastern seaboard.

Inglis, 26, has been one of the best players in the National Rugby League almost since he began to play first grade and his presence has grown to the point where he is among the most recognisable faces of the sport. Now with South Sydney, the NRL club with the longest and deepest connections to Aboriginal Australia, Inglis is becoming not just a great player but a leader with a presence in the sport and cool authority among Indigenous Australian youth.

But that authority will count for little this year when he enters a new arena. From weekend sporting star, Inglis will become another nervous young man finding his way around the University of Sydney, taking the first steps towards a degree in business and marketing.

As an Aboriginal man who didn’t finish Year 12, Inglis will be filled with even more trepidation than the typical new student. The weight of sandstone,
the generations of studious minds who had passed through its doorways sat heavily on his first visit to the campus. But not heavily enough to crush his sense of humour. “It was a bit intimidating. It looks like Hogwarts. I feel like I’m in Harry Potter,” Inglis told Professor Geoffrey Garrett, the (former) Dean of the Business School.

“As big as I am, it’s pretty intimidating: I pretty much had to pick the scariest-looking university of them all,” Inglis jokes.

Professor Shane Houston, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services) is working hard to break down the fear factor, “to show that the University of Sydney isn’t just for people from the North Shore and the Eastern Suburbs” but is an environment in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians can thrive.

“Greg’s coming to Australia’s oldest university, getting in and succeeding sends the right signals that the University of Sydney is a place where Aboriginal people can flourish. And that is exactly the message we want people to have: that we can help build their future,” he said.

It looks like Hogwarts. I feel like I’m in Harry Potter.

A talk Houston gave to South Sydney players last year got Inglis thinking. “I had always wanted to do something: I always knew that footy is not going to last forever but listening to him got me thinking and I decided to chase him up and do something about it,” he explains.

Houston is thrilled to have Inglis on the team. “This is about setting him up for a life after professional football. Greg is using this as a platform to build something for the future and to me that is a signal we should be sending to every Aboriginal person in sport anywhere in the country: we have to think about life after football.”

Inglis completed a Certificate IV in youth work when he played with the Melbourne Storm but since moving to Sydney two years ago he has built up his own GI clothing label, hence his interest in marketing. “I had always wanted to have my own brand and clothing line and I’ve got that up and running now and I wanted to build on that. I want to come out of my football career with something behind me, either a degree or an area in which I can work.”

The only certainty of a football career is that it will end – and probably sooner than expected. Players joke that NRL stands for Not Real Long. Last season Inglis switched from centre to fullback, a move he hopes will see his shoulders last another couple of seasons. Having started in first grade aged 18, Inglis, now just 26, has already played 157 NRL games and wants to play as long as he can.

“It goes so quick. Before you know it you’re into your final season of footy,” he says. Now, Inglis is dedicating his off-field time to the season after that: life.

“University is going to benefit me in life – of course, I’ve got to pass first. It’s going to be a long few years. They reckon at the university I’ve got a 10-year window to get it done. If I get through it I will be happy, even if it takes me to the last year to finish it. But first I have got to nail the opportunity. I want to pass, to do the best I can and to walk away with something – not a participation medal,” he says.

“I think a degree would do wonders for me and what I want to do with the rest of my life after football and hopefully it will inspire some other Indigenous kids to go all the way through to Year 12 and to put their hands up and go to uni.”

Inglis will be the first in his family to go to university, a fact that thrilled his parents. “I think they’re very proud of me. I told them about it and you couldn’t wipe the grin off my mum’s face.” But, as Inglis notes, putting your hand up to go and actually making it through to a degree are two different things. He is comforted by the idea that the University, in the form of Shane Houston, is in his corner.

“He totally understands that I am a professional athlete and knows that trying to juggle sports and studying is a pretty hard thing to do,” he says.

Houston acknowledges it will be a big challenge. “Uni’s hard for everyone, let’s make no mistake about it. But we want to make sure Greg walks out of Australia’s best university with a degree that means something and that it is based on the quality of the work he has put in.”

Houston said research shows Aboriginal students are the least likely to seek help when they need it. New Indigenous support officers will start this year to work proactively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. “Their job will be to ring up students every two weeks, find out how they’re going. If they’re struggling they will line up tutors and get them the support they need. They’ll give them encouragement and a kick up the pants if they need it but their job will be to do what it takes to get them through.”
STORIES FROM THE SANDSTONE
Scattered around the old quarantine station at Sydney’s North Head is a vast collection of rock engravings by internees. Annie Clarke and Alison Bashford have set out to unlock the stories behind them.

If you shade your eyes and look for a small wall of rock just beneath a sandstone overhang you will see the faded black characters that make up Xie Ping De’s message.

The inscription is simple and unadorned in contrast with other, more elaborate inscriptions that decorate the cliff behind the Quarantine Station wharf at Manly’s Spring Cove.

But it has a poignancy that strikes at the heart. It is early summer in 1917. Far from home and, perhaps, alone in this foreign land, Xie Ping De seems overwhelmed by a big sky and the ocean. He is afraid he will be infected by the deadly disease afflicting others on the island.

“Feeling pessimistic and despondent,” he writes on the rock. “I am not used to maintaining hygiene yet. If you asked me the feeling about the voyage, I shall persuade you never come here for pleasure.”

Like thousands of others who made the long sea journey to Australia, Xie Ping De was interned at the station to minimise the risk passengers would import deadly diseases such as smallpox and bubonic plague to Sydney. The station was first used for quarantine purposes in 1828, and at its busiest, there could be as many as eight ships moored off the beach waiting to offload passengers. The travellers would be forcibly detained until it was clear they were not infected or until they were cured of or died from the disease.

Isolated for weeks, sometimes months, on rocky, scrubby North Head, afraid, lonely, and perhaps bored, internees spent their time engraving their ships’ names or religious icons into the soft Sydney sandstone, carving large, bas-relief company logos and flags into the rock, and scratching and painting their own names and arrival dates on cliff sides and headlands.

Little is known about who made the inscriptions. The precinct around the wharf, and another area about 500 metres away, at Old Man’s Hat, are littered with inscriptions, mostly in English, but some in Chinese, Arabic, Hebrew, Greek and Russian. There is a Maori tiki and several Japanese flags.

A new project could soon unlock some of these secrets 177 years after the first known inscription was made. An interdisciplinary team from the University of Sydney has embarked on a major, three-year project to research and trace the stories behind the inscriptions, and answer the question of why internees felt the need to stamp themselves onto the landscape. These personal stories point to a much broader history of Australia’s medical, migration and maritime legacy, and the global movement of people.

Dr Annie Clarke will direct the archaeological investigation of more than 1000 inscriptions dating from the 1830s to 1970s, with the help of Research Associate Ursula Frederick, while historian Professor Alison Bashford (BA ’91 PhD ’96) will direct and pursue the personal stories and the station’s medical history, with the help of Research Associate Peter Hobbins and the curator and managers at the Quarantine Station.

The project has been funded by an $820,000 grant from the Australian Research Council. Mawland Group, which leases the site from the NSW Government for a conference centre and retreat, has committed about $1.3 million in cash and in-kind assistance to the project.

“The station is an extraordinary archaeological and historical site, both because of the buildings and quarantine infrastructure, and the large number of inscriptions,” says Clarke.

“People are always scribbling things on rocks but ... I have not read of a government institution like this where there is such a concentration and such a formality of inscriptions because there are both scrawls and these incredibly formalised stone masons’ works,” she says.

There is no clue yet as to how the tradition began of leaving a mark or a message on the rocks.

“We have found no references, or any diary [referring to the inscriptions] and that is one of the things we hope that, squirming away in the archives, we might find.”

Clarke had known about the Quarantine Station for many years but her long standing research interest in archaeology and rock art meant much of her field work had been spent in places such as Groote Eylandt and eastern Arnhem Land. One of her students landed a job as a curator at the Quarantine Station, which sparked Clarke’s interest and led to a conference and an academic paper about the inscriptions, based on data collected in 1983 by archaeologist Wendy Thorp, and new field work.

Bashford is a medical historian. Research for her 2004 book Imperial Hygiene: a critical history of colonialism, nationalism
Clarke and Bashford began talking to each other early in 2011 about collaborating on a grant application. “Our historical team will use the information [recorded by the archaeologists] about the ships, the diseases, the people and work back through the historical records to find out which ships were there, who the people were, where they came from, how many died, what their stories were, where they went, tracing back in time and perhaps forward in time. That is why we have called this project ‘Stories from the Sandstone’,” says Bashford.

“We are using these inscriptions as a way into the social history, the medical history and the national history of Australia. “It is like a little portal into a long history of Australian immigration.” Australia’s class and racial politics, and national policies such as the White Australia Policy, are reflected in the way internees were treated and in the very design of the station. After well-connected passengers complained of having to share accommodation with second and third class travellers, for example, the government built new First Class buildings. Dedicated ‘Asiatics’ accommodation for Asian crew and passengers was built in 1902 and turn-of-the-century posters depicted Asians as disease-carrying pests.

The project team will create a sophisticated interlinked digital database that will include descriptions of the inscriptions – their condition, what type of
Who was John Howie and why did he carve his name on two memorial messages in the sandstone at the Quarantine Station? Among the many stories University of Sydney historians and archaeologists hope to uncover at the station is that of the crew and passengers of the Samuel Plimsoll, who arrived in Sydney from Plymouth on 11 June, 1879.

An inscription at the Station, on a rock face about three metres above the ground, commemorates the ship’s arrival. The rock has been professionally dressed and hewn to produce a plaque, on which a star and the word ‘SHIP’ is deeply etched into the stone, followed by ‘Samuel Plimsoll’ and in descending order the name of the captain, officers and the matron. It records 462 emigrants surviving the journey, and the ship’s arrival date. At the bottom is the one name spelt out in full – John Howie.

Nearby, a second inscription, plainer and closer to the ground but of similar engraving technique, also bears the name John Howie, along with four other names, including Mary Howie and A. Howie but no other information.

It raises untold questions for Clarke and Bashford to solve. Is this the Scottish stone mason John Howie who sailed to Sydney with his wife Agnes, and who lost their infant son William on the journey? Then there is the prospect that Mary may have been John’s sister. And if it is the same John Howie, why has he not recorded his wife’s name in full or memorialised his dead son? Another puzzle relates to whether the two other people were friends or fellow Scotsmen. And why did John feel the need to create one elaborate and formal inscription, and a second much more personal one?
A volunteering holiday to Ghana inspired recent graduate Boyd Whalan to help devise a simple, cheap form of solar lighting to improve the lives of people in the struggling African nation.

Like most Australians, Boyd Whalan had spent his life with electric light usually available at the flick of a switch. Then in 2010, he travelled to Ghana for a volunteering holiday and saw first-hand how the safe, reliable light he took for granted was still an unattainable luxury for many. His experiences during that six-week trip not only changed him, they might one day change the lives of some of the world’s poorest people.

The 23-year-old had flown to Ghana to work for the non-profit organisation Energy in Common, which is run by his brother and fellow University of Sydney graduate Hugh Whalan. As a microfinance lender, the NGO provides small loans to entrepreneurs in developing countries so they can buy renewable energy technology such as solar-powered LED lanterns.

During his stay, Boyd criss-crossed the country and encountered dozens of people who were gaining access to clean, dependable lighting for the first time. In a small town in Ghana’s eastern region, he met a nurse who had struggled for three years to run her medical clinic by the light of smoky lamps made from kerosene cans before acquiring a solar-powered lantern.

In the capital city, Accra, he met a shopkeeper who would have to close her convenience store during the city’s frequent blackouts until she took delivery of an LED light. And in a mud-hut village in the country’s Volta region, he saw how solar-powered lanterns were helping to transform a whole community by making it easier to see, work and socialise after dark.

“It was very obvious how it improves people’s lives,” says Boyd. “The light would be in a communal area and there would be five or six families gathered around it. Fifty metres away there would be a campfire and the quality of light from it was not even comparable.”

But as he travelled through Ghana’s rural areas, often on the back of a loan officer’s motorbike, it became obvious to Boyd that solar-powered lighting remained out of reach for those who needed it most: the millions of subsistence farmers living off the electricity grid. The vast majority could not afford the upfront cost of solar technology or commit to monthly repayments, since their incomes were unpredictable and dependent on the harvest of their cash crops. Issuing a loan to these customers was also prohibitively expensive for the microfinance organisation, which had to send loan officers across vast distances to collect tiny repayments. As a result, they remained trapped in a cycle of energy poverty, paying as much $3 per week for kerosene out of a weekly budget of $7.

When he returned to Australia, Boyd discussed the problem with his friend and fellow student Dan Wilson, 25. Together, they came up with a simple yet ingenious solution: a pay-as-you-go solar lighting system for “bottom of the pyramid” consumers. Under Boyd and Dan’s system, people would not need to pay upfront or make regular repayments. Instead, they would receive a solar lighting system and be able to top it up to access more light.
for success. As he explains, the Hessex solar lighting system has one stand-out feature that should make it particularly attractive to customers: its repayment cost will be slightly less than the cost of traditional kerosene lighting. “This is the next generation of microfinance,” he explains. “In traditional microfinance you give people a loan and they are battling to repay it, but in this model, they are not spending any more money on it.” Then, once the unit is paid off after 12 to 18 months, users are free from the cycle of buying costly lighting fuel.

That is just one of many possible benefits. The system will improve users’ health by reducing the burning of fuel indoors. It will also help curb greenhouse gas emissions from fuel-based lighting.

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I met Ann Macintosh only once; a small, quiet, almost regal figure perched on the edge of a chair in the Anderson Stuart Common Room. It was a spring afternoon in 2008 and she was waiting to be summoned to the opening of the refurbished JT Wilson Museum of Human Anatomy upstairs. The white-haired woman before me was not exactly as I had imagined. Had this elegant woman really spent the entire Second World War living in a tent? Was this really the granddaughter of Sir Edmund Barton and Dr Robert Scot Skirving who’d taken dingo pups for walks around campus in the 1950s? And was she still passionate about bones?

Born Ann Margaret Scot Skirving on General Election Day, Sydney, 1922, she grew up on a country property in Queensland and received a ladies’ education at Frensham, Mittagong, NSW in the 1930s. When war loomed she was too young, so she lied about her age, took a crash course in Voluntary Aid Detachment nursing, entered the AIF, and sailed straight to Palestine.

She dealt with gunshot wounds and soldiers with shellshock, and remembered big baskets of Jaffa grapefruit, so sweet she ate them like oranges. Ann later served in a POW role in muddy-floored tent wards in British North Borneo, caring for soldiers from the camps in Changi. Many had tropical ulcers on shins eaten right down to the bone, and some who’d been in death marches were so emaciated that Ann could actually lift them up.

It’s little wonder then that this strong-minded 25-year-old woman told them she had no qualms dealing with cadavers when she fronted up to Sydney Medical School after the war. She said she could start immediately, and in 1947 was appointed to the Department of Anatomy as secretary to Dr Neil William George Macintosh (later Challis Professor of Anatomy 1955-73).

Macintosh, affectionately dubbed ‘Black Mac’, the anatomist and anthropologist was in his undergraduate days “a handsome, dashing fellow with a careless disregard for unnecessary conventions” and drove a sporty blue Triumph around campus. She met him on her first day and there began a love story which would not come to light for another 18 years.

Devoting herself to the department, Ann frequently worked back late each night. With no photocopy machines or electric typewriters, she typed cadaver letters, cadaver interviews, examination papers and correspondence for academic staff on a manual typewriter with carbon paper. In her meticulous papers Ann left a note revealing one day of sick leave in 18 years, claiming: “I spoiled the staff rotten!”

Ann was passionate about anatomy and evolution and supported one of Mac’s major research interests to discover the ancestry and origins of the Australian dingo. Mac became interested in the dingo whilst studying the origins and variation of Aboriginal Australians. He was intrigued that so little scientific investigation had been undertaken considering the dingo was the only placental mammal native to Australia. Canvassing farmers, graziers, vermin boards, and reading newspaper abstracts and stock and station journals revealed hundreds of contradictions. So he decided to find out for himself.

Mac set up an animal house in the basement of the Anderson Stuart building, and bred four generations of dingoes over seven years in the 1950s. From four pups collected on a field trip came a colony of 42 dingoes. It was Ann’s job to exercise the puppies on campus before starting work each morning and on weekends, and she and Mac gave each dingo a name. They measured them weekly for growth studies, and drove them to Long Reef to measure their tracks on the wet sand.

When Mac threw the dingoes in the water they didn’t like it, but proved to be powerful swimmers. Data was collected including sound recordings on an electronic wave recorder, and speed...
photography documenting movements in slow motion. The puppies attracted attention whenever they’d scamper away over Long Reef golf course, and passers-by asked after their breed with great curiosity. Mac decided the dingo was not a pest, claiming it was not as savage and predatory as popularly thought. He observed its affectionate nature but confirmed its resistance to domestication. After many decades of research he was able to show that a 3000-year-old dingo skeleton was no different from a modern skeleton.

Ann resigned from the department when she quietly married the charismatic Mac in 1965. By this time he had taught generations of medical students and was known for never wearing a singlet and “legendary threats of world-wide castigation for any acts of improbity in the dissecting rooms”. He was considered the leading physical anthropologist in Australia, and world renowned.

Ann supported his long hours of intensive work, field trips, and their many anthropological friendships; they encouraged Czech anthropologists to visit Sydney Hill in 1977. They had no children.

After losing her companion, Ann was alone for the next 35 years. In that time she dedicated herself to the Department of Anatomy, edited and published the memoirs of her grandfather Dr Robert Scot Skirving, and worked with Mac’s papers. Ann had a strong personality, and even in her older years was known for her ‘salty tongue’.

Although formally recognised in 1993 as an Honorary Fellow and Foremost Benefactor for her family’s long association with the University and her own generous efforts as a volunteer and advocate, she shunned publicity and did not give ostentatiously. An appraisal such as this may very well have gotten her hackles up.

‘Black Mac’ set up an animal house in the basement of the Anderson Stuart building, and bred four generations of dingoes. It was Ann’s job to exercise the puppies on campus before work.
‘An important and happy part of my life’

Ann Macintosh passed away on 1 July 2011. Throughout her life she was a munificent benefactor to the University and particularly loyal to Sydney Medical School and its discipline of anatomy, donating more than $1.5 million.

She left the residue of her estate for the purposes of the NWG Macintosh Memorial Fund, and so far $5 million has been received. Her hope was that the fund named in memory of her husband would help graduate and postgraduate students “for the support of research work in the Department of Anatomy and Histology, including the JL Shellshear Museum, preferably, when applicable for the support of young investigators”. Ann recognised the ever-increasing difficulties young students experienced accessing funding for research projects. It is now expected that more PhD students, postdoctoral fellows and junior academic staff will be able to join this active, progressive department which will be able to embrace in the long term all aspects of anatomical sciences from dissection through to anthropology.

In the last decades of her life, Ann tirelessly supported all the things her husband had been passionate about. She was responsible for funding the refurbishment of the Macintosh Dissecting rooms to make them safe and modern, and reinstate the teaching of anatomy through dissection – the classical approach Mac had always favoured. She was also involved in every aspect of the renovation of the JT Wilson Museum of Human Anatomy, now considered the greatest student anatomy museum in the southern hemisphere.

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Her support helped to refurbish the Shellshear Museum of Physical Anthropology and Comparative Anatomy, and her diary entries for 1993 record 96 visits. She catalogued skeletal human remains, casts of human ancestors, animal bones, and in her 70s was taught computer skills by the museum’s curator so she could catalogue all the books bequeathed by anatomist Professor Joseph Lexden Shellshear. Her attention to detail was enviable and she helped to ensure the fabric of the department was maintained. The museum has since been used extensively as a teaching resource for undergraduate and postgraduate students, attracting visiting researchers and forensic scientists.

Ann was responsible for establishing the NWG Macintosh Centre for Quaternary Dating to help the University maintain its progressive work in anthropology. She made donations to Sydney Medical School Foundation, and also created Centenary fellowships for medical technicians in view of the complexity and volume of their work. She believed they deserved more acknowledgement for their contributions to research and recognised that few opportunities existed for them to travel for professional development.

She was the largest donor to the expensive heritage restoration of the Anderson Stuart building in the 1990s, and had some reservations about the appropriateness of the commissioned portrait of herself. At its unveiling, she claimed Sydney Medical School “has been a most important and happy part of my life, and I have such affection for the old building.” She called it her second home.
In this election year, SAM invited federal parliamentarians who went to Sydney to reflect on their student years and how the University shaped their political ambitions. Three Liberal MPs, two ALP and one Independent responded.

**TONY ABBOTT (LIB)**
People don’t usually decide to ‘have a career in politics’ the way they might decide to have a career in medicine, for instance, because there is no standard path to getting into parliament or other political positions. There’s no university course you can do or accredited training that leads more-or-less automatically to a job in politics. What normally happens is that people become interested and look for opportunities. In my case, I’d always been interested in politics. I’d run for the SRC at university, had frequently written about politics as a journalist and had been a press secretary to John Hewson when he was opposition leader. But I actually decided to run when I heard, in January 1994, that Michael MacKellar was retiring as Warringah Liberal MP and learned from John Howard that it was a pretty open pre-selection.

**BRONWYN BISHOP (LIB)**
I actually decided to go into politics when I was 16, at school and studying contemporary European history. It showed me that individuals can make a difference for good or for evil. Hitler was a clear example of evil and Churchill a force for good. I also thought that people seem to fall into one of two groups, those who make decisions and those who have decisions made for them. I wanted to be one of the decision makers and I knew in Australia, even in the late 1950s,
I am not sure how it helped my political life but it did allow me to appear as a lawyer in a Channel Nine television series – Bronwyn Bishop

it was possible. From that I thought that if I wanted to write laws I had better understand them so I decided to study law.

GREG COMBET (ALP)
My interest in politics goes back to my childhood – from family values, political discussion at home and events of the times, especially the Vietnam War and the period of the Whitlam Government. I was not particularly active in student politics but was a member of ‘Left Action’ at Sydney Uni. I have been a political activist for most of my working life, including many years as a union official.

ANDREW LEIGH (ALP)
I’ve always been interested in politics. My father taught in the University of Sydney Government Department from 1970 to 1996, so political discussions were a staple of dinnertime conversations. Indeed, he was a visiting fellow at the Parliamentary Library for a semester, so we got a regular subscription to *Hansard*. I remember enjoying reading the transcript of Question Time, and can still recite good chunks of Keating’s “because I want to do you slowly” response to Hewson’s question about why he wouldn’t call an early election.

ROB OAKESHOTT (IND)
I decided on political life after I had left university, around the age of 24 when I started working for an MP. Many incidents in life contribute to any political thinking, but one milestone moment from my university days was the way the Reverend Dr Peter Cameron was treated by the Presbyterian Church for his sermons at St Andrews College when I was a student. He was a lovely man, with a big heart, and had the strong support of the student body. Unfortunately, he was put through the mincer by the church at the time, and many, including a younger me, felt it was very unfair. Before he headed back to Scotland, he said to me: “if I taught you nothing other than to stand up for what you believe in, regardless of consequences, then it has been worthwhile”. That has always stuck with me.

BISHOP I didn’t get involved in politics at university, I was involved in the Young Liberals at Killara. I went on to become the vice president because back then they still had the blokes as president. Instead at university I became involved in the Sydney University Drama Society, mostly because our campus was on Phillip Street, away from the University, and I wanted some participation in university life. I am not sure how it helped my political life but it did allow me to appear as a lawyer in a Channel Nine television series. I did the pilot for them and they asked me to star in the show. I stopped for a while when I was pregnant with Angela and the repeats ran for long enough that she was still able to watch it on TV.

COMBET See previous answer. My experience as a political activist was outside university.

LEIGH I was heavily involved with the Labor students club, and with Young Labor. In the 1995 NSW election, I ran as the Labor candidate for the seat of Northcott. My opponent was Barry O’Farrell, who was also in his first race. I think we were both happy with the result. I got an 8 percent swing, and he won by a margin of 24 percent.

On campus, I ran in 1992 for *Honi Soit* (successfully) and the SRC (unsuccessfully), and participated in a plethora of clubs, from debating to rockclimbing.

OAKESHOTT No, I wasn’t formally active in student politics on campus. I was at St Andrews College. Enough said … (sorry fellow phantoms …)
How did politics at university help shape your current political stance?

Abbott I’m not sure that it shaped my values or beliefs although, inevitably, in the cut and thrust of argument these are refined. As a conservative, student politics was an education in learning how to make a case to an often hostile audience.

Turnbull It didn’t really, I found both the left and the extreme right at university pretty off putting. My natural home was in the sensible, liberal centre.

Bishop I think at university we were among a group of pioneering young women. The fact that there were so few girls in our faculty allowed us to develop friendships and connections that may not happen today. The dynamics were different and the girls who were there were very achievement orientated and went on to do really good things. Politically, I enjoyed the Young Liberals because I wanted to be involved in the party. Back then few women had gone to Federal Parliament and none from NSW. I became the first female elected senator from NSW, the first female from NSW to move from the Senate to the House of Representatives. I became the first woman for the Liberal Party from NSW to enter the House and the first female from the NSW Liberal Party to become a minister. I am the only woman to have been a senator, a member and a minister and I was the first female president of the Liberal Party in NSW.

Combet The most important experience for me at Sydney Uni was through studying political economy, economic history and neoclassical economics. I was very privileged to learn from Ted Wheelwright, Frank Stilwell and others. They had an immense influence on my thinking and development, and I am deeply indebted to them for the opportunities they helped create in my working life. Studying political economy provided a theoretical framework that complemented my values and commitment to social justice.

Leigh My political ideas were probably shaped later in life, but I learned a great deal about writing (particularly through Honi) and speaking (particularly through debating).

Oakeshott Most of my old mates from university want to put me in a headlock on a lot of my policy or political positions, so in hindsight, I guess hanging out with them in my early 20s didn’t impact on my political thinking much at all. And if you knew them, you would understand why.

DID YOU CROSS SWORDS WITH ANY OF YOUR CURRENT POLITICAL RIVALS AT UNIVERSITY? IF SO, CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THAT AND WHO CAME OUT ON TOP?

Abbott Not really. It was more a question of teaming up with future allies like Peter Costello, Eric Abetz, Michael Kroger and Michael Yabsley.
FEATURE

TURNBULL Not that I can recall. Student politicians in the parliament, like Hockey, Abbott and Albanese, were all a bit behind me.

BISHOP We all knew each other very well in the law faculty. I knew people from both sides of politics – Michael Kirby, John Howard, Phillip Ruddock, David Bennett, Paul Lander, Frank Walker, Maggie O’Toole, Kevin McCann. We had some fairly interesting discussions, particularly downstairs in the coffee shop under the law school where we would sit around and talk.

COMBET None. I knew of Tony Abbott by reputation.

LEIGH I find it strange to hear about people who had terrible fights at the University of Sydney, because all the people I coincided with are folks I’d regard as friends. I feel lucky to have had the chance to edit Honi Soit with a team that included Lucy Burgmann and Verity Firth, to debate with Adam Spencer and Michael Fullilove, to act in the Sydney Law Revue with the Chaser lads.

OAKESHOTT From memory, no, I didn’t cross swords with anyone who is now in politics with me. I have found I deal a lot with friends from university who are now lobbying for things, and that is always pretty funny. Often you just know too much about someone to keep a straight face in what should be a serious conversation.

WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST/FUNNIEST MEMORY OF UNIVERSITY?

ABBOTT Fondest memory: the comradeship. For instance, 33 years after the 1979 SU rugby tour to the United States, we still have an annual reunion just before Christmas.

TURNBULL Winning the Henry Lawson Prize for Poetry with a truly terrible piece of bush doggerel that I had written one afternoon for a Union Night speech. My mother, who had also won that prize years before for a verse play, was horrified that standards had slipped so far, and I thought that was quite funny.

BISHOP There are so many. We used to organise a lot of fundraisers for charity and I remember that we organised one at the South Korean Embassy but printed the tickets in red. It caused a bit of a problem and we had to have them reprinted.

COMBET Here’s an insight into me – I loved economic history and that was the best experience for me.

LEIGH At the end of 1992, a team of us got together at Sydney University to run for the student newspaper, Honi Soit, under the name ‘The Naked Truth’. By day we sang our campaign song to bemused classes, removing much of our clothing to reinforce the team name. By night we put up posters and chalked ‘The Naked Truth’ around the campus. One of our team, Verity Firth, even brought along her younger brother Charles to help out. A class of medical students promised to vote for us en bloc if a member of the Naked Truth team would streak through their lecture hall. One of us obliged.

In my year as a student journalist, I interviewed Andrew Denton, Henri Szeps and Dorothy McAra-McMahon, went inside Long Bay jail and a submarine, spoke to a magician, a monk and a basketball commentator, and wrote about child sponsorship, biblical literalism and virtual reality machines. I also reviewed a handful of sports cars, making me (I hope) the only motoring writer in the history of student journalism. When the 1993 election came around, I managed to get Keating and Hewson to answer 20 questions apiece.

OAKESHOTT Everything! I really did enjoy my university days and regard them as some of the fondest of my life. I still have lifelong friends, secret scars on my body that make me smile when I see them, and happy memories of Cordobies pizzas, local pubs, formals and informals, inter-college and inter-university sport, and just the whole size thing of Sydney University – a massive university campus with thousands of beautiful and interesting people, and all the human interaction – good and bad – that goes with that. They were golden days.

HOW DO YOU FEEL UNIVERSITY HELPED OR HINDERED YOU IN YOUR POLITICAL CAREER?

ABBOTT See answers to questions 3 and 4.

TURNBULL Well without my time at the University I couldn’t have practised law which was a most important part of my career. At university I studied government and politics with me. I have found I deal a lot with friends from university who are now lobbying for things, and that is always pretty funny. Often you just know too much about someone to keep a straight face in what should be a serious conversation.

BISHOP It was very important to my political career. It taught me how to look at both sides of an argument, to assemble and properly argue a case, to utilise case law and to read legislation.

My political ideas were probably shaped later in life, but I learned a great deal about writing, through Honi Soit, and speaking, through debating – Andrew Leigh

Fondest memory: the comradeship. For instance, 33 years after the 1979 SU rugby tour to the United States, we still have an annual reunion just before Christmas – Tony Abbott

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COMBET See previous.

LEIGH Sydney University was a great chance to learn to speak and write. Looking back, I feel fortunate to have been an undergraduate in the political atmosphere of the Keating Government (I was at Sydney Uni from 1991 to 1996), when topics of reconciliation, economic reform and engagement with Asia were at the fore. It was probably also a strength that fewer students had full-time paid jobs then than is now the case.

OAKESHOTT This is probably not the right thing to say, but I found the social side of university life so engaging that it was this more than anything that kept me coming back, and therefore it was this social side that kept me engaged in learning and completing a degree, often despite myself. I had the sort of personality that could have seen me drop out of university but the whole fun-park of university life kept me engaged in learning, and this was then invaluable knowledge later on when I finally decided I better get serious about life.

ARE YOU STILL IN TOUCH WITH THE FRIENDS YOU MADE AT UNIVERSITY? HOW IMPORTANT HAVE THE CONTACTS YOU MADE AT UNIVERSITY BEEN IN LATER LIFE?

ABBOTT Yes. Over summer I was on holidays on the South Coast with friends from school and university and their families. The people you have shared formative experiences with tend to be those with whom you have the closest bonds. They’re the people you get on with because of the person you are rather than the job you do.

TURNBULL Yes, a number of my very best male friends were at university with me.

BISHOP We recently had our reunion, which comes every five years, and we had 60 people turn up. They are still real friends, I bump into them all over the place and you immediately pick up as if the years have not passed by at all.

(Note: I took a straight law degree at Sydney University which lasted for five years. In my fifth year I got engaged to (and subsequently married) Alan Bishop and did not finish my degree. I had three subjects to complete to be admitted so rather than take the whole year again I gained my professional qualification through the Solicitors’ Admission Board.)

COMBET Yes, sometimes, and when I see anyone from that time it gives me great pleasure.

LEIGH I have remained close with some, and enjoy reminiscing with others when our paths cross.

OAKESHOTT I do stay in touch with many people, both personal friends, but also people I only casually knew at the time and now live in the same regional town with them, or work with them in politics. There is some sort of unspoken bond about it all, which is kind of nice.

Most of my old mates from university want to put me in a headlock on a lot of my policy or political positions. If you knew them, you would understand why – Rob Oakeshott

I found both the Left and the extreme right at University pretty off putting. My natural home was in the sensible, liberal centre – Malcolm Turnbull
Always a bit of a radical

Former agriculture science student Natalie Bennett is now head of the UK Greens.

“I was always a bit of a radical and a change agent,” recalls Natalie Bennett as she reflects back on her time as a student at Sydney in the 1980s, when she studied Agricultural Science.

“I was the world’s worst netball player, but I did play soccer at Uni, and I insisted on playing on the men’s team simply by standing on the pitch and refusing to move – so in the end they had to let me play! So I guess you could say I was a bit political in those days too.”

Bennett, 47, recalls that she was also on the committee of the Women’s Sports Association back then. “I suppose it was quasi-political, in that we had meetings late into the night, so I remember that.”

Last September, her innate tenacity helped Bennett fend off three other candidates to become leader of the UK Greens political party. She had been a member since her 2006 New Year’s resolution: “I took a look at the state of the world, the state of our soils, fresh water, oceans, and biodiversity; all these things were becoming deeply concerning and it made me realise I needed to move from my feminism roots and join the Green Party. And I joined without an inkling that I’d be where I am today,” she laughs.

Interestingly, it wasn’t her degree (BScAgr ’88) that inspired her career choices, but her love of philosophy, a subject she took up in her third year at Sydney. “I learned an enormous amount doing philosophy with Liz Gross in the feminism department, and the philosophy of science. I found it so enlightening and it set up my intellectual frameworks for the future.”

Bennett’s background includes more than 20 years as a journalist, and also stints as a consultant for the World Health Organization, the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation. Her journalistic career began straight after graduation, with jobs on regional NSW newspapers in the Riverina, Cootamundra and Tamworth, and then after a few years in Bangkok, she moved to London in 1999 where she worked as a subeditor on a variety of British broadsheets.

“If you’re a print newspaper journalist, London is the logical place to end up for a competitive, high pressured and fun place to be. It’s where journalism is at its height.”

She worked at The Times and The Independent before landing her ultimate job in journalism as editor of the Guardian Weekly, from 2007 to 2011. “It’s my kind of paper. It doesn’t do any celebrities, or fluffy stuff and I love the serious international news and culture, and the exploration of life around the world,” she explains proudly.

London has now been Bennett’s home for the past 13 years and she adores the city’s deep cultural and historical
When I first visited as a tourist shortly after graduating, I remember going to St Bartholomew’s Church and stroking the Norman wall there, and thinking, wow, this is a thousand years old. In London you can feel centuries of history beneath your feet. Now I live a stone’s throw from the British Museum and the British Library, which is an absolute luxury.

But what about being a politician in a country which is not your country of origin? Do people sometimes question her commitment? “I do face questions about my accent, which is still very Australian. But actually it’s an advantage. In the UK people make assumptions about you from your accent based on class, but my accent is basically classless. It’s just Australian. To me it means more, as it shows I chose to become British and live here. That’s a huge commitment in itself.

“The most annoying aspect of my job is being a female politician and having to worry about your wardrobe and your appearance in a way that doesn’t come naturally to me.

“The best thing (about my job) is sharing and talking about ideas at this time of questing and searching for new answers. It’s very clear that the last three decades of neoliberalism and globalisation have failed and people are looking for new answers. It’s challenging but a very exciting time to be involved in politics.”

I do face questions about my accent, which is still very Australian. But actually it’s an advantage.

Bennett also thinks Australia could learn a thing or two from Europe’s attitudes in terms of caring for the environment. “Australia is ecologically very fragile, so I think I bring a heightened awareness of the damage we humans can do. The human impact on Australia has been quite recent. They mine the soil rather than husbanding it, and I learned that very early on.

“In Europe, humans have been shaping the landscape for tens of thousands of years. There aren’t such things as natural landscapes here. Communities are smaller, and public transport is better. I think it’s important to look at things in a holistic way, like the idea of bringing manufacturing and food production back to the UK. This could have significant positive social, economic and environmental impacts on the country. These are battles we cannot afford to lose.”
I’ve never given away anything like this before in my life, but I want to try and make a difference.” And with that, the modest and softly spoken businessman turned philanthropist ensured his place in the record books with one of the largest single gifts by an Australian in their own lifetime to an Australian university. His personal gift of $20 million will establish the new John Grill Centre for Project Leadership at the University of Sydney.

It certainly wasn’t a spur of the moment decision. Around two years of talks and negotiations with the University preceded his international headline grabbing announcement. Those close to the discussions confirm that the Sydney alumnus was always keen to be much more generous than originally asked. “I wanted to be sure how the money is to be used and that ultimately it will benefit Australia.”

Understandably, Vice-Chancellor Dr Michael Spence is delighted, not simply because of the size of John Grill’s generosity. “This is a new kind of philanthropy for Australia where a donor with an intellectual vision has identified the need for a new academic initiative which will benefit the community. It is a genuine partnership where the University is combining its intellectual forces to bring that intellectual vision into fruition”, he said.

John Grill’s vision is to create a world class Centre for Project Leadership which will attract senior executives across a broad range of industries from both the private and public sectors. The first executive courses are expected to be offered in 2014.

“I want the centre to target high potential project leaders with 10 years work experience, enabling them to accelerate their careers by gaining the appropriate skills to effectively deliver large projects which will benefit all levels of our society.”

For the notoriously media-shy businessman, his sudden elevation from an occasional mention in the business section to the front pages around the nation must have been rather uncomfortable. But his commitment to this project is obvious and one that he is keen to explain even if it means the intrusion of cameras and microphones.

“And not only is there a lack of leadership skills in this country, it’s worldwide.” As the CEO of WorleyParsons, one of the world’s top three resources and energy firms, with offices in 43 different countries employing 41,000 staff, John Grill identified a lack of suitable leadership training programs to properly equip managers to handle the complexities of today’s global projects.

His views were backed up by a recent major study by industry firm Independent Project Analysis of more than 300 megaprojects which indicated as many as 65 percent of these ventures failed to meet their objectives.

As a young engineer Grill worked on a number of large projects, including the first generation oil and gas projects in Bass Strait, the North Rankin project servicing the North West shelf off Western Australia and studies into the ocean outfalls off the Sydney coast. “In those days there was very little in the way of formal training and it was very much a matter of learning on the job with all of the challenges that presented.”

Even today there is no real forum for educating project managers moving into senior leadership roles.

**THE MAN WITH THE $20M VISION**

John Grill’s landmark donation to set up a centre for project leadership will provide business leaders with a new set of management skills, and redefine the horizons of philanthropy across our nation.
roles, a void the Centre for Project Leadership is designed to fill. As John Grill says, complex project leadership skills are needed in every sector of society including mining, hydrocarbons, government projects, education, defence and IT.

“These days it requires managers to understand schedules, costs and quality but also to have a sophisticated understanding of industrial relations, Indigenous land rights, environmental issues, risk management and how to undertake proper community consultation”.

The John Grill Centre for Project Leadership will draw on the combined strengths of the School of Business and the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies, as well as other areas of the University.

As Dean of Engineering Professor Archie Johnston points out, senior executives can expect to benefit from the University’s existing relationships with industry. “Our multi-million dollar partnerships with Qantas and RioTinto are already informing our teaching and research in complex systems.”

Johnston sees enormous potential for in this new venture, both for the University and the City of Sydney.

“There can be few initiatives better placed to leverage Australia’s unique assets into long term global leadership,” he wrote recently in the Australian Financial Review.

“Sydney is a global city and the world is investing here because of its pivotal role in the dynamic Asian Pacific region. With its thought leadership and cutting edge research, this new centre will give the University and the city a unique opportunity to grow quickly this global profile”.

They cite data from Deloitte Access Economics and the Defence Department that there are currently well over 100 projects valued at $1 billion or more under consideration, committed to, or in construction in Australia. The majority of these are in mining, followed by transport, with the remainder spread across defence, power, communications and manufacturing.

John Grill says Australia is in a position to lead its own development in this new phase of the global economy and he sees the University of Sydney at the centre of it. “With its outstanding reputation for academic excellence and professionalism, I could not think of a better institution on which to bestow this gift.”

LEADER WITH A LOW PROFILE

Despite his position as one of Australia’s outstanding business leaders John Grill, 67, has deliberately maintained a low public profile. His sparse entry in Who’s Who gives nothing away, but his story is really worth telling.

He has three degrees from Sydney (BSc 1966, taking computer science in the first year it was offered, BEng(civil) with 1st class honours 1968, and an Honorary Doctorate of Engineering 2010).

He joined Esso in the late 1960s before branching out in a small specialised consultancy which eventually acquired the business of Worley Engineering Pty Limited in Australia. Following group restructuring the Worley Group Limited listed in the ASX in 2002 and several years later acquired the US-based global project services company Parson E&C.

John Grill has been inextricably linked to the growth and success of WorleyParsons, leading them from a small private domestic engineering firm to be Australia’s biggest contractor and a global leader proving professional services across the resources and energy sectors.

His announcement of his extraordinarily generous gift coincided with his retirement as CEO of WorleyParsons to take up a position as non-executive chairman of the company.

SECOND LOOK

SAM brings you interesting articles from other university publications.

DON’T JUST SIT THERE
If you are serious about losing weight, don’t take up a gym membership; stand up more often, says Professor Adrian Baumann, Professor Public Health.
sydney.edu.au/sam/second-look

FANTASTIC VOYAGE
Many of the items in the University museums arrived in unusual circumstances. One of the oldest stories is that of the ancient Cypriot lagynos, which found its way here via an overheard conversation, and the generosity of a New York social institution.
sydney.edu.au/sam/second-look

ADOLESCENT DEPRESSION
For young people, there are three critical pathways to depression. Understanding them opens the door on early diagnosis and intervention, says Professor Ian Hickie, professor Psychiatry and Director of the Brain & Mind Research Institute.
sydney.edu.au/sam/second-look

MASTER COLLECTOR
The Macleay Museum owes a great deal of its natural history collection to the enthusiasm of one man: prolific collector George Masters, an English gardener who became a fearless Aussie forager.
sydney.edu.au/sam/second-look
several decades ago, on a day that was to be marked by one of the more contentious episodes in the nation’s history, Michael L’Estrange packed his worldly belongings into a beat-up red Holden Gemini and began the journey from Sydney to Canberra.

At the very moment that he rounded Lake George and prepared for the ascent towards the capital – he says he can still pick out the spot now, 31 years later – he listened in as Trevor Chappell stepped forward to deliver an underarm delivery and snatch an unsportsmanlike victory for the Australian cricket team.

L’Estrange, then 28, a graduate of the University of Sydney (BA ’75) and Oxford, and a cricketer for both, was on his way to take up a position in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. It was Sunday 1 February, 1981 and he was about to start the job – his first significant career one – the following morning.

The Gemini made it up the hill and got him to Canberra. He never turned back.

“I didn’t know what I was getting into,” he recalls. “Malcolm Fraser was still prime minister. I went into the international division – foreign policy – and stayed there ever since, really.”

Was the underarm delivery an omen? “I don’t know what it was,” he says.

L’Estrange, now 60, was to forge a distinguished career as an adviser and a diplomat and reached the highest ranks of the nation’s public service. He distanced himself from politics but devoted himself to public policy and readily accepted what he calls “the rules of the game”.

“If at the end of the day your advice is not accepted, you accept it and move on,” he says. “If you keep fighting, then you become more of an activist. I have always been comfortable taking your wins and losses and then getting on with it.”

After further studies at Georgetown University and the University of California, Berkeley, in the United States as part of a Harkness Fellowship, L’Estrange went on to work as a policy adviser for Andrew Peacock, Alexander Downer and John Hewson.

He then served as Cabinet Secretary for John Howard, who also appointed him High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. After finishing as Secretary in 2009, he left the public service and was appointed to his current position as the first Director of the National Security College at the Australian National University.

Despite his loose association with the Liberal Party, L’Estrange has worked for both sides of politics and was kept on as Secretary of DFAT after Kevin Rudd won the 2007 election.

“Obviously it was within their remit to do what they want,” he says. “It is part of the deal … Whatever perceptions of my alignment may have been, I was hopeful of staying on because I did not want there to be a perception that I was only there to serve with one side of government.”

L’Estrange says he did not consciously avoid a more public profile and enjoyed his time as High Commissioner, when he was the “face and voice of Australia”.

“It is not as though I am a shrinking violet but it is just that if you are in a job like secretary of cabinet or secretary of a department, your job is not to be on the front page of the paper,” he says. “I took a traditional view of the role of a secretary. I think you have got a minister who does the presentational work.”

Earlier this year, however, L’Estrange was thrown into the debate over one of the country’s most divisive issues when he was appointed by Prime Minister Julia Gillard to a three-member expert panel on asylum seekers.

“I didn’t seek it,” he says. “Certainly in my mind was that when a prime minister asks you to do something like that, you have to have a pretty damn good reason not to do it … I didn’t.”
So, L'Estrange, along with Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston (Ret’d) and refugee advocate Paris Aristotle, spent six weeks grappling with various policy options. Their recommendations – including a return to offshore processing – were accepted by the government, though the sensitivity around the issue shows no sign of abating.

“We have been wrestling with this issue as a country for 10 years, or longer,” he says.

“I knew people had very strong views. I knew a lot of them were very emotionally held. But in the circumstances the parliament found itself in – which was essentially that it had reached an impasse – it would have been pretty irresponsible to say it was someone else’s issue.

“We met a lot of people, we did a lot of soul-searching and we did a lot of writing and redrafting... The term of reference was how do we, as a country, stop people making dangerous voyages by boats. I think I did as good a job as I could have done.”

L'Estrange, the middle of seven children, says he was “never attracted to politics” but was always fascinated by it. He was steered towards the public service by both his upbringing – his father was a local GP, his grandfather had been mayor of Mascot in the 1930s – and his years at Sydney’s St Aloysius’ College.

“My father was not in politics but as a GP he talked to everybody,” he says. “Around the table, policy was always talked about at home. We all grew up debating and talking about issues. I was always interested in doing something in public policy – not politics.” His schooling, meanwhile, taught him “to scrap and survive”.

“I enjoyed going to St Aloysius. It taught me that there were purposes beyond yourself,” he says.

At university, he says, his interest in policy grew but he studiously avoided politics. “One of the good things about Sydney University in those days – and probably now – was that it encouraged a certain scepticism, and my scepticism extended to political organisations as well,” he says.

“I was pretty sceptical of university politics. I involved myself much more in sport – in rugby and cricket – and I was in the Sydney University Regiment for two years. I involved myself in that side of student life rather than student societies or politics.”

L'Estrange says his natural political inclinations are to the right but he had little exposure to politics before Canberra. For several years in the early 1970s, a next-door neighbour to his family’s house in Wollstonecraft was his future long-time boss, John Howard, the local member of parliament, yet he does not recall whether they ever met.

“I can’t remember ever meeting him but my father knew him and liked him,” he says.

“I have never been a member of a political party but my instinct on a lot of issues would have been towards the right of the spectrum. I would hope the informed right – I just philosophically took that view of the world. But being a Libran I could always see the greyness, and coming from a university background I could always see the other side of an argument. I never thought anything was that clear.”

L'Estrange does not find it unusual that he ended up staying in Canberra. He met his wife, Jane, who was born in England, while skiing in Switzerland in the early 1980s (she was running a chalet), and they have five sons, aged 18 to 26. All five, he notes, have studied or will study at the University of Sydney, though he is less certain that any will end up in the public service.

He says his current role at the ANU, which involves teaching public servants, fits well with his interest and experience in academia and the public service. Looking back, he says, his career seems to have followed a consistent trajectory, though it was never planned and has spawned only the odd regret.

“I kept that Holden Gemini right into the ’90s,” he says. “I was very, very reluctant to let it go.”
1940s and ’50s

THE HORT FAMILY has something worth celebrating: the four children of May and Henry Hort of Arncliffe, who all graduated from Sydney in the 1940s and 1950s, are alive and well and enjoying their 80s. The three brothers and one sister present a formidable lineup. Harold (BA ’46 MA ’48 MPhil ’54 and MA ’79) retired from the ABC in 1985 as Director of Music. Merle (BA ’50 Dip Ed ’66) retired from Jannali High School as their library teacher in 1979. Leon (BA LLB ’54) worked for the Federal Attorney-General’s Department and the NSW Department of Public Planning, and the baby, Doug (BA ’51) worked for the Commonwealth Public Service for 30 years, before retiring as Director, Financial and General Services in the Department of Defence in 1982.

1970s

STUART WESTGARTH (BA ’72 LLB ’75) has been appointed Chairperson of the NSW Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal (CTTT).

Mr Westgarth is an expert in corporate commercial and banking litigation, and has worked in the law for almost four decades. He is a former president of the Law Society of NSW and a current director of the Law Council of Australia. He was appointed to the Fair Trading Advisory Council in 2011. He is a Partner at HWL Ebsworth and a former Managing Partner of Corrs Chambers Westgarth.

PETER CAMPBELL (BScAgr ’74) has been named, along with his wife Alison, NSW Farmer of the Year for 2012. Peter and Alison manage their farm at Henty between Albury and Wagga Wagga in south-western NSW, with a view to maximising financial performance while managing natural resources. They crop about two-thirds of their 1550 hectare property as well as run a merino self-replacing Rock. NSW Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson presented the Campbells with the Award at a Farm Writers’ Association Christmas lunch attended by 140 people at Parliament House in January in Sydney.

1980s

LES WICKS (DipLabRel & Law ’85), poet and author, has been selected as Australia’s representative at this year’s Medellin Poetry Festival in Colombia, the largest poetry festival in the world. Wicks, the author of 10 books of poetry and guest at festivals from the Ukraine to Quebec, as well as Australia, is being sponsored by the Australia Council for the Arts. Wicks has also been an official judge in the NSW Premier’s Poetry Prize and the Blake Poetry Prize. His first competition success was in the 1984 University of Sydney Union Literary Competition.

Paul KRAUS (Dip Ed ’74 MEd, ’76 MA ’80) has written many books since 1982. At first they were HSC Modern History and English Language books. Later they were books on health and healing in the light of the fact that he suffered the asbestos cancer of mesothelioma, which is almost universally fatal. His most recent book is Prayers, Promises & Prescriptions for Healing (Ark House Press), which addresses the universal need for healing. He is just finishing another book, a detailed biography of his late mother, Clara Kraus, a Holocaust survivor. Paul himself was actually born in one of the camps and had a traumatic younger life.

2000s

DAVID WICKHAM (GradCertMgmt ’04) has been appointed as a non-resident Fellow of the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. The Brookings Institution is a non-profit public policy organisation ranked as one of the most influential in the world. David is also a Director at HSBC Global Asset Management and Associate Fellow of the Said Business School at Oxford University.

LEONARD COX (BA ’06) is currently a clinical nurse specialist with the University of Sydney’s Medical Foundation Transplantation Unit. He majored in archaeology during his degree, which led to him volunteering for five dig seasons with the Greater Angkor Project in Cambodia. Leonard was recently awarded the National Development Medal of Cambodia for his work with a small NGO in the country. In October he returned, just
back from another month in Cambodia, where he has taken on feeding between 16 and 22 children of seasonal workers who stay on site as their parents work the salt pans.

2010s

MIARIAM-ROSE ASH (BSc ’06 PhD ’12) has been awarded the 2012 Australian Synchrotron Thesis Medal for her study into the essential roles that iron and copper play in living organisms. Miriam’s research work produced new insights into two important bacterial proteins that help regulate intracellular levels of iron and copper, metals that are essential for life but also potentially toxic. After graduating in 2006, Miriam missed her graduation ceremony as she had moved to Berlin to start work in a lab over there for two years. She returned to Sydney to undertake a doctorate in the Faculty of Science but missed that graduation ceremony too because she had moved to Denmark to start her postdoctorate studies. Miriam is currently an EMBO postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre for Structural Biology at Aarhus University in Denmark, where she is conducting research into membrane proteins from eukaryotes, a classification that includes animals, plants, fungi and other organisms. She plans to pursue an academic career that involves both research and teaching.

Brothers ANDREW AND GABRIEL WATTS both received the University medals for their honours studies in 2012. Andrew, 22, completed a Bachelor of Science (Hons) with the Centre for Ultrahigh Bandwidth Devices for Optical Systems in the School of Physics. His project involved shining a green laser on chalcogenide glass optical fibres to trap light in a cavity in the fibre. These cavities have applications in fields as diverse as nonlinear optics and biomolecular sensing. He intends to start a PhD on the same project. Gabriel, 27, completed a Diploma of Arts (Philosophy). His thesis examined David Hume’s (1711–1776) engagement with the philosophy of Nicholas Malebranche, a French philosopher from the previous century. This year he begins a Master of Philosophy (Research) at Sydney.
ZOMBIE TITS, ASTRONAUT FISH AND OTHER WEIRD ANIMALS
Becky Crew
Newsouth $24.99
If you ever doubted that nature could throw up some weird creatures, then picture a bug whose penis, which is merely the width of a human hair, gives off the sound level of a symphony orchestra. Try a shrimp that can punch with the acceleration of a .22 calibre bullet, a fish that smothers its prey in slime and eats not with its mouth but with its skin, and a spider which is encouraged to eat its mother before going it alone.

Author Becky Crew’s enthusiasm for science writing was a surprise, considering she hated science at school. Apart from a love of animals as a child, she studied near eastern archaeology at the University of Sydney (BA ’08 GradDipMedPrac ’10) before learning about these animals became her métier. Now, her fascination with this subject and years of research would make her great value at a dinner party.

Her descriptions are meticulously detailed and accurate, butting onto playful scenes where these animals morph into characters that would be right at home in Alice in Wonderland. It’s hard to remember that this is not fiction. Life may be stranger, but it is equally engaging and fanciful beyond belief. These tales go to the top of the ‘best trivia’ list.

MORE REVIEWS ONLINE
For more book reviews, go to sydney.edu.au/sam/regulars

BROOMSTICK
Personal Reflections of Leonie Kramer
Australian Scholarly Publishing $49.95
These few chapters Leonie Kramer offers us hardly touch upon a full and controversial public life. Instead they explain how it was that she came to do what she did and make the decisions that she made. Her increasing dementia meant that daughters Jocelyn and Hilary prepared her completed book for publication.

Kramer writes about select experiences like her secure and creative childhood, and her time in Oxford and Harvard. She also offers her side of her tumultuous dismissal as Chancellor of the University of Sydney, and she describes events leading to her controversial appointment as Chairman (her choice of title) of the ABC. She was sceptical of feminism, yet supported women’s rights. She criticised some of Patrick White’s work, yet Voss would be one of her desert island books. She was not in favour of ‘progressive’ education, but she took her own teaching very seriously and encouraged critical thinking.

Leonie Kramer was not swayed by fads. She valued the humanities and the arts for giving her the disciplines of reasoning and argument and independent thought. Armed with these abilities and vast experience, she spoke her mind.

Patrick White once dubbed her ‘Killer Kramer’, which she points out several times. Broomstick was the name she gave to her book, confronting her reputation head on. Perhaps these reflections are her fearless moment to set things straight.

PREACHERS, PROPHETS & HERETICS
Anglican Women’s Ministry
Edited by Elaine Lindsay and Janet Scarfe
UNSW Press $59.99
Throughout Australia, excluding the diocese of Sydney, more than 500 women have been ordained as priests, and some have become bishops. These chapters look at the women, and some men, who have worked to bring about this progress. The book also addresses the issues concerning the many legal, political and religious challenges, and the efforts of those groups which strove for validation and recognition. Less obvious to the public are the chapters on ‘Changing metaphors’, the new language of inclusion in liturgy, and the re-examination of Biblical source material for interpretation of gender.

There have been female church leaders since Governor Macquarie’s time, but the legal and theological struggle of the 1980s and 1990s illustrates just how complicated this journey has become. Courts, tribunals and the media were challenging forces for the many groups working towards ordination of women.

Preachers, Prophets & Heretics is the first book to document and analyse the journey towards the ordination of women into the priesthood. For this alone, it is compulsory reading for anyone interested in female ministry in the church, Anglican or otherwise. It is also a testimony to some strong, intelligent and compassionate women, who, to put it mildly, were tenacious in the face of adversity.
DIARY
sydney.edu.au/events

14 MARCH
Insights 2013 Inaugural Lecture Series
General Lecture Theatre 1, 6pm
Professor Pippa Norris speaking on “Why Elections Fail”. Bookings essential

22 MARCH
Canberra Alumni Association Drinks
The Brassey, Canberra
Link in with your Canberra alumni community

23 MARCH
Faculty of Health Sciences Graduating Class of 1993 – 20 Year Reunion
The Nicholson Museum, 6.30-9.30pm

3 APRIL
Class of 1962 Physiotherapists Annual Reunion
Cumberland Campus, 12-2pm

4-7 APRIL
Musica Viva
The Conservatorium of Music will be the setting for the 2013 Musica Viva Festival, where our brightest performers will come together with the Australian Youth Orchestra and a stellar line-up of international artists
Book now musicavivafestival.com.au or 1800 688 482

10 APRIL
Golden Graduates Luncheon
The Great Hall, 12-3pm
An event for all alumni who graduated 50 years ago or more, and their guests

20 APRIL
Shanghai Alumni Forum
Pullman Shanghai Skyway Hotel
“The return of traditional Chinese Culture” with Professor Bao Ling Kan

6 JUNE
Insights 2013 Inaugural Lecture Series
Professor Colm Harmon speaking on “Evidence-Based Policy or Policy-Based Evidence? Making Economics Matter in Australian Society”. Bookings essential

15 MARCH
Singapore Alumni Drinks
KPO Café Bar
Connect up with fellow alumni based in Singapore over casual drinks

22 MARCH
Canberra Alumni Association Drinks
The Brassey, Canberra
Link in with your Canberra alumni community

23 MARCH
Faculty of Health Sciences Graduating Class of 1993 – 20 Year Reunion
The Nicholson Museum, 6.30-9.30pm

3 APRIL
Class of 1962 Physiotherapists Annual Reunion
Cumberland Campus, 12-2pm

10 APRIL
Golden Graduates Luncheon
The Great Hall, 12-3pm
An event for all alumni who graduated 50 years ago or more, and their guests

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

37 MAR 2013 SAM
Davina Reichman Schuck has made it in New York and wants to help emerging designers do the same.

Often it’s not what you learn at university that ends up shaping your career, but how you learn it. Davina Reichman Schuck’s entrepreneurial mettle began to show during her undergraduate years at Sydney, when she served as president of the Information Technologies Society, implementing a ‘Paid Work Experience Program’ for students, and co-managed a budget of over $170,000 for the Clubs and Societies Committee of the University of Sydney Union, organising events for its 120 clubs and societies.

“That’s when I found my passion,” says Davina, 29, who completed a Bachelor of Computer Studies in 2004. “It wasn’t in computers, it was in events planning and directing.” Since completing her degree in 2004, she has founded and run three companies, and is now focusing her attention on helping emerging fashion designers make it in New York City, through a new monthly fashion event, the NYC Fashion Runway.

It takes a certain type of personality to become a successful entrepreneur. Fellow Sydney alumnus, Matt Barrie, CEO of Freelancer.com, was quoted in a recent Good Weekend Magazine as “fizzing with energy”. It’s a quality you could easily apply to Reichman Schuck – even her hair, which frames her porcelain skin in a thick, gravity-defying crop of pitch-black coils, appears to be making plans to break free and take over the world.

Today it’s the fashion runway, two years ago she designed the world’s first iPad-friendly clothing, spearheading a company called iClothing, which in 2010 released the world’s first iPad-compatible garments. The iTee and little black iDress featured reinforced, padded ‘kangaroo’ pouches for iPads, and caught the attention of press around the world, including CNN and the Wall Street Journal; Steve Jobs shot them a quick email for good measure.

She also founded Being Born Again Couture, an initiative that paired both established and emerging designers with artists to create couture garments, and it prompted a new career focus for Reichman Schuck and relocation to New York.

“What inspires me is the amount of talent designers have,” she says. “I want to assist designers to be the gifted creators that they are and help push them to the next level and into the spotlight.”

Having made the move, Davina soon realised that she would need to ramp up the intensity. “One thing I learned quickly is to not downplay your accomplishments. New York City is a rapid-paced metropolis and they don’t have the time or the patience to just chill out and have a beer like we Aussies do.”

Having spent a year as the PR and events director of Couture Fashion Week, she founded NYC Fashion Runway in January 2012. It’s a monthly fashion show in New York that gives young designers the chance to showcase their works in venues such as the Empire State Building and the Waldorf Astoria.

“Many designers can’t afford the tents of NYC Fashion Week, so this is a fantastic alternative. There’s nothing like the rush a fashion designer gets when cameras start clicking, newspapers and magazines are clamouring to interview you and buyers start fighting over you. I know I’ve done my job!” says Davina.

“Why should famous designers have all the media attention?” After all, says the Engineering and IT graduate’s email signature, “someone has to be the next Armani ...”.
For the benefit of future generations, Monique Hoa Lockhart (DipTEFL ‘76, MEd ‘80) and her husband Greg (BA (Hons) ‘79, PhD ‘85) are investing in scholarships for the study of Asian cultures, through a bequest in their wills.

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