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Tour leaders: Archaeologist Dr Estelle Lazer and cultural historian Jeni Ryde.

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SAM READERS’ SURVEY WINNERS
Thanks to the thousands of readers who took part in the SAM survey. As promised there are winners among them:
A Sony digital camera goes to: Dr Rowan Cowie (BVetSc ’90) Riverview NSW; Greg Murphy (BVArts ’98/’97) Annandale, NSW and Dr Robyn Edelston (BVetSc ’77) Tamworth, NSW.
And the iPad goes to Julie Gibson (MBA (Exec) ’04) Brighton Victoria.
LETTERS

ID EST SICUT EST

The parsing, analysis and translation of “Mens eadem sidere mutato” by Robert Forgacs is, of course, impeccable. However, my Latin teacher, an elderly Marist brother Gerard, told us that after getting the parsing and analysis right, we should often try a free translation. “This is not a Meccano set, lads! This is the language that Cleopatra used to seduce Mark Antony!” – that got our attention.

After my experience of the Law School in the ’50s, I therefore suggest, “I don’t care if the sky is falling in, my mind is made up”. After spending some time on the Law Faculty at the ANU, I translated its motto, “Naturam primum cognoscere rerum”, as “try before you buy”. Occasionally English can be as succinct as the Latin.

Alan Hogan (LLB ’54)
Lavender Bay NSW

ELEMENTARY M’DEAR GRIGGS

In the Sherlock Holmes story “Silver Blaze”, Holmes advises the detective investigating the case to take note of the curious behaviour of the dog in the night. Inspector Gregory replies that the dog did nothing in the night.

That, says Holmes, is the curious thing. The curious thing about all the long, superficial and tedious writing about the long, superficial and tedious 2010 Federal election is a similar silence.

Since they are written by right-wing journalists or people taking money from right-wing media outlets they all manage to say nothing – probably in the interest of keeping their jobs – about the main feature of the Australian political landscape.

That is, that since about 1916 there has been an abiding and pervading right-wing bias in the media.

Nobody doubts the right of the proprietor of a media outlet to express opinions in support of their class interests through editorial comment, however, even items which are supposedly ‘news’ are carefully slanted to present the right viewpoint in the most favourable light while ignoring or denigrating any and all alternative viewpoints.

Certain radio stations only broadcast opinion, mere facts never being allowed to disturb their prejudices. This systematic bias has been progressively exacerbated by the emergence in recent years of what is very close to a media monopoly. Does this really matter?

It can be argued very strongly that it does, because in Australia, owing to the strange way the AEC has chosen to draw up electoral boundaries, a couple of hundred people in Queensland decide the outcome of all Federal elections and the Courier Mail owned by News Limited is the only Brisbane newspaper.

A review of the Courier Mail for the period leading up to the 2010 Federal election is very instructive.

If you do think media bias has never really been all that important, ask yourself why the last time the ALP had control of both houses of the Federal Parliament was in December 1949, and why since then the right wing coalition parties have formed the government of this country for nearly two-thirds of the time.

It is true that this bias isn’t the only factor in deciding the governments of Australia but if you still do not think that media bias matters, I will bet you any sum you like that Mr Rupert Murdoch would not agree with you.

Michael Griggs
(BA (Hons) ’73 DipEd ’74)
Lidcombe NSW

NAME OF THE GAME

The review of The Good Mother, (March ’11), prompted me to respond to an idea which is not new to me but is clearly communicated in this piece. The authors are quoted as saying that “having children continues to interrupt” the trajectory of “higher education and the establishment of career”. I trust there are still other women who, like me, see motherhood as a primary role and trajectory of choice, and education and career as a supportive, secondary role, rather than the other way around. Motherhood is a high calling. It is a privilege not granted to all who would dearly like it.

A mother has the wonderful opportunity to shape the life of another human being, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. This takes enormous time and focus. As a woman who pursued her postgraduate studies at Sydney University, I was thrilled to be able to pursue motherhood as my primary role. My studies helped equip me to fulfil this role competently and with great enjoyment.

My career is fulfilling and stimulating, but cannot hold a candle to the joy and rewards of motherhood as my priority. My studies continue to interrupt” the trajectory of career”. I trust there are still other women who can become mothers to think twice before considering motherhood as an interruption to the main game. Perhaps consider it the main game and see where that takes you.

Hilary Hoevenaars (DipDiet & Nut ’78)
Geelong VIC

JOLLY HOCKEY STICKS

Further to Anton Crouch’s letter (November ’10), and John Blount’s full text of the University song “The Varsity” (March ’11), I must report that it is alive and well, and still sung at full volume by the University...
men’s hockey teams in the dressing rooms after a win.

Alumni may be surprised to know that the hockey club is one of the largest, if not the largest, sporting club within SU Sport and Fitness, having almost 50 teams playing in men’s, women’s, veterans’ and junior teams (more than 150 juniors play for SU!) in both outdoor and indoor Sydney competitions. Unfortunately, the club has no on-campus outdoor facilities at present, but uses the excellent Sydney Olympic Park venues as its “home ground”.

In 2007 the club celebrated its centenary with a full-house dinner in the Great Hall, and in 2009 the Centenary of Inter-Varsity hockey v Melbourne University was celebrated with a series of matches at Olympic Park. Present for the big day were five of the IV Syme Cup winning team from 1959: Richard Barnard (captain), Bruce Pryor (vice captain), Don Kerr, Roger Pegrum and Ken Mayman (club captain). But to everyone’s amazement, two members of the 1931 Intervarsity team also arrived: Emeritus Professor Ruthven Blackburn (well known to generations of medical students and son of our late Chancellor, Sir Charles Bickerton Blackburn), and former Combined Universities, NSW and Australian player, Dr Malcolm Stening. Both then well into their 90s, they enjoyed meeting the first-grade team in the dressing rooms after the game and telling stories of long-past days, including Dr Stening’s recollections of his WW2 experiences in the Navy and playing hockey on the deck of his aircraft carrier out at sea.

Bruce Pryor (BArch ‘61 MArch ’63)
Northbridge NSW

HORATIO SCOTT CARSLAW

My 1960s undergraduate lectures were mainly in the Physics, Chemistry and Carslaw buildings. Who was Carslaw? I doubt if I wondered.

Now reading Oliver Heaviside: The Life, Work, and Times of an Electrical Genius of the Victorian Age, by Paul J. Nahin, this remarkable Sydney University mathematics professor pops up again. Obviously Carslaw (1870-1954) with a name like Horatio Scott, was well qualified to be the Sydney University Mathematics professor from 1903 to 1935, with a father who was a well-known writer on the martyrology of the Scottish Reformation and of the Covenants. Yes, martyrology. But there is a bit more to it.

Carslaw was author of Operational Methods in Applied Mathematics (1941), a book still available on Amazon, among others such as his standard work Fourier’s Series and Integrals (1906) and Non-Euclidean Geometry (1916). Apparently Carslaw put Oliver Heaviside’s “mathematical blasphemy” in operational methods used to correctly solve equations of mathematical physics into a rigorous form. Carslaw said that “Nothing more obscure than his mathematical writings is known to me”, although Heaviside had said “It is obvious that the methods of the professedly rigorous mathematicians are sadly lacking in demonstrativeness as well as in comprehensiveness”. In defence of Heaviside, undersea telegraph cables did successfully radiate out from London based on his mathematical physics.

Carslaw also participated indirectly in estimating the age of the earth by assuming the earth has two heat diffusivities: one for the majority of its interior and another smaller value in a thin skin layer on the surface. Anyway, in about 1905 a question concerning a cooling globe was set on the Mathematical Tripos examination at Cambridge. Unfortunately the examiners incorrectly solved their own question! Carslaw supplied the correct solution in 1921.

So that was Carslaw. I remember his successor Professor Thomas Gerard Room lecturing to us in 1963 but probably not his mathematics. I do remember the good professor chalking boards with mathematics, which would be pushed up when filled. Unfortunately, being the last lecture of the year, some wag had put quotes such as “There is Room at the Top” on each newly exposed board.

Dr Malcolm Cameron (PhD Physics ’71)
Camberwell VIC

A RESPECTFUL SUBMISSION

I refer to Anne Julienne’s letter “Kant be wrong, surely” (March ‘11) and comment that I bow to her more proximate knowledge.

I respectfully submit that Ms Julienne’s reliance upon (an albeit robust) chunk of “approximate knowledge” is severely limiting to the human spirit. Her assertion that “reason can neither prove nor disprove God’s existence” is not in question. It is, however, nought but a small brick in the wall of human enquiry, understanding and spiritual exploration and development. Knowledge is power. Power corrupts.

Absolute power corrupts absolutely. Universal systems thinking does not pretend absolute knowledge.

John Ganter (BSc ’79 BE ’81)
Darwin NT

NB: HUBERT WHITFELD

In the March ‘11 letters there was reference to HE Whitfield as author of the words of the University song. I would just like to correct the spelling: it is Whitfeld – a common mistake that I, as his great-niece, well know.

Hubert (1875-1939) really was one of the University’s distinguished sons. The seventh child of Edwin Whitfeld, foundation classics master of the Sydney Grammar School, Hubert graduated BA in 1897 (University medallist in Classics), taught for two years, studied engineering and gained a BE in 1902. He went to Western Australia where he spent 10 years as a metallurgist and mine manager in the Murchison district. When the University of Western Australia opened he became foundation professor of Mining and Engineering and its first Vice-Chancellor.

Margaret Beale (nee Whitfeld)
(BA (Hons) ’49 MA ’98)
Birchgrove NSW

THE WINNING LETTER

This issue’s prize-winning letter is “Elementary m’dear Griggs” from Michael Griggs of Lidcombe NSW.

The prize is a copy of Set in Stone - the Cell Block Theatre by Deborah Beck (MA ‘10). Published by UNSW Press (to whom many thanks for this copy), it is a beautifully illustrated and fine history of a vital part of Sydney’s recent cultural history.
EXTRAORDINARY GENEROSITY

WORDS VICE-CHANCELLOR, DR MICHAEL SPENCE

EXTRAORDINARY GENEROSITY

With the sale of Picasso’s wonderful painting Jeune fille endormie, we celebrate an extraordinary moment in the University’s history—extraordinary not only because of the sheer magnitude of the gift but also for its impact on the University and what it says about the transformational power of generosity and the difference one individual can make.

While recognising that government plays an important role in financing tertiary education, many alumni and friends are surprised to learn that our Commonwealth operating grant accounts for only 18 per cent of our revenues, a share that has steadily declined since the mid-’90s. Less widely recognised is the important history of philanthropic support and how it has revitalised the University time and again.

In the late 19th century, John Henry Chaliss bequeathed his substantial estate, giving it the opportunity to put into place long-standing plans for modernising the University especially by introducing new disciplines and establishing a School of Law. The bequest also enabled us to establish 10 new professorships, and recruit staff in a range of disciplines.

Around the same time a Darlington resident, Thomas Fisher, bequeathed his estate to build a new library, enabling the University to build Fisher Library, the state-of-the-art facility to which it aspired.

In the early 20th century, the income of the estate of Sir Samuel McCaughey, one of the University’s renowned benefactors, established seven professorial chairs. In the 1920s and ’30s, the aspirations of the medical school—extending its functions to include research—were made possible by the generosity of George Henry Bosch, who established several Chairs; and the US-based Rockefeller Foundation, whose gift financed the construction of what later became known as the Blackburn Building. In the interwar period, specifically from 1925 until the outbreak of WW2, the University received more from philanthropy than from government funding.

Globally, we are witnessing a period of dramatic social, technological, environmental and cultural change. These are extraordinary times, requiring that we rapidly adapt to keep up with the dizzying pace of change while continuing to fulfil our fundamental purpose as a university: creating knowledge, educating students, transmitting culture.

Amid this, I believe that we are seeing a new era of philanthropy at the University of Sydney, one that future generations will recall as deeply transformational. In addition to the donation of the Picasso painting, we have recently benefited from several other gifts, which promise to be equally significant. As important, we are also witnessing an unparalleled growth in the number of alumni who choose to support the University through their annual contributions.

As an expression of his commitment to exploring Australia’s Indigenous history, Tom Austen Brown (LLB ’46 BA (Hons) ’74) contributed $8.7 million to the University both during his lifetime and through his estate. With these funds, the University is naming a new Chair of Australian Archaeology and establishing a grant program to support research and fieldwork. This position and fund, endowed in perpetuity, will enable us to appoint a leading expert in the field and ensure that future generations understand and appreciate the legacy of Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We recently learned of an $8.4 million bequest by Nancy Roma Paech. Earmarked for the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, the gift will be directed to support research and teaching that benefits the sustainable management of rangeland, pastoral and related inland Australian landscapes. Such low-impact agriculture represents the future of sustainable land management for a large proportion of the Australian continent.

Given their timing, purpose and size, these gifts will influence the University for generations to come. They enable us to recruit and retain leading scholars and researchers, provide state-of-the-art facilities, enrich the student experience and prepare our alumni to contribute to the global community. They support and provide enhanced opportunities to study and create the kind of groundbreaking ideas that transform the world. And they help maintain the University among the top ranks of universities worldwide.

While these visionary gifts move us towards our goals, significant resources—financial and otherwise—will be necessary to achieve our ambitious vision for the future. Our success will rely increasingly on the generosity of all our philanthropic partners.

An extraordinary university is built on extraordinary generosity. On behalf of the staff and students of the University of Sydney, thank you for helping us to respond to our ever-changing world through your transformational giving.
He remembers it as an intense time. “The college was still on the Balmain campus and was made up of old warehouses with a great sense of history and a terrific atmosphere. They were carved into sandstone down into a labyrinth of studios where very toxic stuff leached out of the soil. We couldn’t work on the ground because of all the fumes from heavy metals. I thought it might help filter the toxic fumes I was already ingesting.”

Of the (more conventional) stimulation he got from the curriculum he says, “Someone changed my life every week. The film Baraka blew my mind and sparked my interest in film theory. But the course was very multi-disciplinary and conceptual so we learned about jewellery, object design, the body and identity. Up until that point, it had been all about drawing for me. I got into ArtExpress from school but I had no idea what being an artist could mean or what the other opportunities might be. It never occurred to me, for example, that one could become a curator, which I think is a fantastic job.”

In 1998 Quilty started on a second degree in visual communication, this time at UWS – “because I wanted to learn more about design and computers. I was thinking I might get a job in desktop publishing.”

Halfway through the course he met a friend who worked in television and from there, got a job as an editor at Channel Seven in current affairs.

“I thought about film-making as a career,” he says. “I still think it could be an option when the bug of painting wears off, but the joy of what I do now is that I have total control.”

In a way, film and university brought him back to painting. “When I was at Sydney Uni, we thought, like previous generations, that painting had died. We were writing its obituary every day. Then I discovered what an immediate medium it was. At that stage, film technology was still so clunky. I was fast, impatient, aggressive. I still work quickly, in a very organic way.”

He points to the picture of a man with a mastiff’s head and an inscrutable expression, thanks to dark glasses. “That portrait of Evo took me about 40 minutes. I do about two portraits a week. You’re not supposed to say that. The one of Margaret Olley took under two hours. If you’re in the zone, the music’s pumping and you’re not hungry or cold, it just happens very naturally.”

Ben Quilty is represented by GRANTPIRRIE Gallery in Sydney.
Professor Shane Houston, recently appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services) at the University, was Master of Ceremonies at the flag-raising celebration to mark the beginning of Reconciliation Week.

“It is important that Indigenous culture moves from the corner to the main part of University life,” Professor Houston said, referring to the usual position of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, outside the Nicholson Museum and flying proudly from the Clock Tower for the first time in the University’s history.

Dr Michael Spence, Vice-Chancellor of the University, spoke of the University’s commitment to Reconciliation, saying, “We will never know what it means to be an Australian university until there is reconciliation.”

We invite you to enjoy a three course meal with special guest speaker John Bell AO OBE (BA ’63 DLitt ’96) who will reflect on his life and stellar career at this year’s Alumni Discussion Dinner.

No legacy is so rich as honesty
William Shakespeare, All’s Well That Ends Well

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ENQUIRIES
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In 1998, a laboratory technician walked into the office of CSIRO chemist Ezio Rizzardo (PhD ’69) with a printout of the results from his latest experiment.

Up to that point, the researcher had spent almost 20 years investigating new ways of creating polymers, the building blocks of modern life used in everything from plastic cups and water filters to paint and motor oil. He had made steady progress in the field, but no revolutionary breakthroughs.

As Rizzardo and a colleague looked over the results – a graph from an instrument known as a gel permeation chromatograph – he saw that the polymer chains created by the experiment were much more uniform in size than those formed by conventional techniques. They had stumbled onto an entirely new way of making polymers.

“We knew straight away that something special and highly desirable had occurred,” Dr Rizzardo recalls. “I just said ‘wow!’”

The process he had discovered – known as reversible addition fragmentation transfer, or RAFT – is a form of free radical polymerisation, which creates polymers by adding a chain of free radicals together. RAFT is activated by a series of chemical reactions, all of which have fluctuating rates; only if these reactions have specific rates at the same time does polymerisation occur.

What remains so surprising about Dr Rizzardo’s results is that he had not planned to align the rates of the reactions: they coincided by chance. “It would have been very difficult to design such an experiment,” he says. “It was serendipity.”

Over the next few years, RAFT came to be regarded as a quantum leap forward because of the unprecedented control it gives over the properties of polymers. It has ushered in a new field of science, inspiring more than 10,000 journal articles and 500-plus patents for products ranging from drug capsules to eco-friendly paints.

It also won Dr Rizzardo an invitation to join the Royal Society and to his being acclaimed earlier this year as one of the world’s top 20 chemists. The ranking, by international publishing company Thomson Reuters, was produced by comparing the citations of leading chemists to determine who made the greatest research impact over the past decade. Dr Rizzardo’s work had an average of 91 citations per paper.

Despite his passion for the field, chemistry was not the first career choice for the young Ezio. “I was born into a family of metal workers and was particularly interested in the internal combustion engine of cars,” he explains. “But when I went to my careers adviser and said I wanted to develop better motor engines, he said I couldn’t do that in Australia.”

Disappointed, he enrolled in medicine instead. In his second year, however, he attended his first, stomach-churning anatomy class “and that was enough to put me off”. Only then did he decide to become a chemist, enrolling in a Bachelor of Science at the University of New South Wales. Previously, he had enjoyed the subject – “I would make rocket fuel out of zinc dust and sulphur at high school” – but had not regarded it as a serious career choice.

He next enrolled in a PhD at Sydney University, studying the interaction of light with organic compounds, and then spent time in the US working on biologically active compounds such as vitamin D. “Compared to that, polymers are made from a whole range of different molecules, some short and some long, some branched and some straight,” he says. “For me, it was unsatisfactory. We knew if we could control the structure of the polymers better, we would control the properties better.”

Dr Rizzardo entered into a productive collaboration with chemical giant DuPont, which was interested in developing new polymers for car paint, and notched up a number of advances. Then came the career-defining discovery of RAFT, something that made “getting up early to get to the lab even more pleasurable”.

Since then, he has focused on further refining the process and has also begun to develop new applications for polymers, such as a plastic solar cell to replace expensive silicon cells.

While he acknowledges that serendipity shone on his RAFT experiment, he points to other factors that have been as important to his success. One is the support of talented colleagues; another, his decision to specialise in a narrow field rather than be a generalist.

Perhaps his most important skill, he adds, is his ability to filter out mediocre ideas and channel his energy into the most promising experiments.

“Researchers should ask whether colleagues will say ‘wow, that’s interesting’ if an experiment succeeds,” he says. “If the answer is no, then go back to the drawing board. It’s by rejecting bad ideas that you come up with the good ones.”
CONGRATULATIONS!

Close to 50 Sydney alumni were recognised in the 2011 Queen’s Birthday honours and include those below. A full list of alumni honoured can be found on our website at sydney.edu.au/alumni.

John Anderson (BA ‘78 MA ‘80) former deputy prime minister & former leader of the National Party, was awarded an AO for distinguished service to the Parliament of Australia, particularly through support of rural and regional communities, transport development and water management initiatives.

Richard Le Plastrier (BArch ‘63) a leader in Australian architecture, received an AO for distinguished service to architecture, particularly through the application of environmentally sensitive design, and as an educator and mentor.

Mark Scott (BA ’84, DipEd ’84, MA ’93) managing director of the Australian Broadcasting Commission since 2006, received an AO for distinguished service to media and communications, and to the community through advisory and governance roles with a range of social justice and educational bodies.

Peter FitzSimons (BA ‘83) former Wallaby, author and columnist with the Sydney Morning Herald, received an AM for services to literature as a biographer, sports journalist and commentator, and to the community through contributions to conservation, disability care, social welfare and sporting organisations.

Kerryn Phelps (MBBS ‘81) former president of the Australian Medical Association; medical professional and media personality, AM for service to medicine, particularly through leadership roles with the Australian Medical Association, education and community health, and as a general practitioner.

Congratulations also to Sir David Higgins (BE (Civil) ’77) former chief executive of the London 2012 Summer Olympics Delivery Authority, who received a knighthood in the UK’s Queen’s Birthday honours.

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is hosting a fascinating series of lectures this winter. You can, for instance, join leading authority Professor Barry Spurr to dissect several centuries of English verse to see how poets express solitude through the ages in The Bliss of Solitude (10 November).

Writers and readers will want to hear Professor Barbara Caine (Head of School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry) explore the changing nature of autobiography and biography, and look at new approaches to historical writing in History and the Individual Life (28 July).

Professor of Anthropology Linda Connor will speak on a variation of a hot topic: Anthropology in the Time of Climate Change, examining new and productive ways of thinking about humanity’s visioning of immortality, death, survival and politics (6 October).

And in Malthus and the New World: Peopling America and Australia, Professor of Modern History Alison Blashford will riff on bringing recent scholarship on colonial, gender and environmental histories to Robert Malthus’ famous Essay on the Principle of Population (18 August).

All events are free, at the Nicholson Museum, with refreshments from 5.30pm, starting at 6pm. Further information bookings: Kate McFarlane 02 9351 7454 or sydney.edu.au/arts/

Sancta Sophia College is looking for lost alumnae.

Visit our website www.sanctasophiacollege.edu.au/alumnae/ or contact the College on 9577 2100 to update your details and make sure you are included in special events throughout 2010.
TURNING UP THE HEAT

WORDS
MATTHEW DA SILVA
(BA (HONS) '85
MMEDIAPRACT (MERIT) '08

From their origins in the New World, chillies failed to spark much interest in Europe after Columbus brought them back, but they took root in the African colonies of Portugal and Spain, whence they were taken to the Portuguese colony of Goa, on the west coast of the subcontinent. From Goa it was but a short hop to Southeast Asia, where a thriving peppercorn culture meant chillies were quickly embraced by peoples already familiar with the concept of heat-plus-spice.

The heat in chillies led to a profusion of varieties as growers in different countries selected the trait of hotness. It’s curious because the heat in capsaicin – the active constituent of chillies – is actually designed by nature to discourage mammals from eating the fruit, says Mark Peacock (BHortSc ’10) (above).

He says it is an evolutionary advantage for chillies to produce capsaicin because the chemical deters mammals from eating the fruit while birds are attracted to them as they don’t detect capsaicin. “In birds, stomach acid breaks down a hydrophobic layer on the seed and allows it to take in water and germinate,” says Mark, “while in the mammalian stomach the seed is essentially destroyed”.

For his fourth-year thesis Mark used genetic analysis to investigate the differences between what were then the world’s hottest chillies, the Bhut Jolokia and its cousin, the Bih Jolokia. He located polymorphisms between the two varieties at markers on six different chromosomes using three different molecular genetic techniques.

Guinness World Records first recognised the hottest chilli in 1994, when the title was awarded to the Red Savina Habanero (1994 special), developed by GNS Spices of Walnut, California. It measured 570,000 Scoville units. The current record holder, the Naga Viper, registers 1,382,118 Scoville units. (The Scoville scale is named after American Wilbur Scoville who invented the measurement in 1912.)

Now, NSW Central Coast company, The Chilli Factory is marketing the Trinidad Scorpion Butch T, which registers 1,463,700 Scoville units, now the Guinness record holder.

Mark Peacock became involved with The Chilli Factory after his thesis supervisor, Adjunct Professor Nick Derera of the University’s Plant Breeding Institute, suggested he contact owner Marcel de Wit. De Wit gave him samples and helped him with work experience requirements for his degree and soon recognised the student’s special knowledge. De Wit sought his advice as they pushed ahead to the goal of developing the world’s hottest chilli.

“It was all trial and error, and I felt like I took their trial and error and gave scientific explanations why things would work and what would work better,” says Peacock.

His advice covered such aspects as watering frequency, row spacing, fertilisation frequency, the different fertilisers available, light conditions, and even which potting mixes to use.

“I think, if anything, I helped fine-tune a lot of the processes,” says Peacock, who chose to study the Bhut Jolokia because it was “new and exciting”, although he also grew chillies at home.

“Everything I learned throughout the degree I tried out on my little plants in the backyard,” he says. “They just happened to be chillies which, I suppose, were easy plants to grow and I loved eating the fruit.

“We were asked if we’d like to do something different, like something crazy. ‘Pick your own topic and you’ll enjoy it more.’ So I thought, ‘I’m going to do the world’s hottest chilli!’”

He now works as a researcher developing biocontrol products for multinational agribusiness Becker Underwood at their facility in Somersby near Gosford. Peacock’s passion for plant breeding turned out to be an asset as the company manufactures biologicals such as rhizobial inoculants for use in agriculture.

“It was a bloody great feeling, actually. I was really excited. I really wanted to work in the industry. It was luck, but Sydney gave me the best opportunity.”
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* Offer is subject to review
ALUMNI TO STUDENTS

From little things big things grow: student mentoring is a relatively new initiative but University alumni have been quick to take it up. Mentoring provides a unique opportunity to contribute to the career development of a student by sharing knowledge you have acquired through years of experience.

Students from all faculties are currently seeking alumni mentors, so please register now.

It’s easy to do – no special qualifications are required – and for a simple investment of time and care the dividend may be lifelong and ever growing.

It’s not a one-way transaction either: current mentors and mentees report unexpected and welcome friendships flowering between families and colleagues; it’s definitely the gift that keeps on giving.

Register today at sydney.edu.au/alumni/mentor

ON COURSE WITH CCE

“Doing a course at CCE,” is often the answer to the question: “What are you going to do this winter?” Now there are even more courses to daydream over, contemplate, even choose from and get out and do!

Here are some ideas.

**Film and Music: a fusion for the senses** – a new course with well-known movie man Andrew Urban. Join him and some eminent film composers to go inside the creative process of mixing music and image to create heart-stopping moments at the movies.

**Restaurant Quality Stocks and Sauces** – with Phillip Strasser. By the end of the three sessions you’ll understand the value of homemade stocks and the five leading sauces. It has to be an answer to the would-be foodie’s prayer.

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And finally, the course of the year would have to be...

**South America’s Southern Cone: Argentina, Uruguay and Chile** – with Chris Carter. A 19-day study tour starting in Buenos Aires, crossing the river Plate to Uruguay and historic Colonia; then by air to San Carlos de Bariloche on Lake Nahuei Huapi and the gateway to Chile. Ten days in the long thin country take in private buses, ferries, a Patagonian cruise, the island of Chiloe, the Gulf of Ancud and the Torres del Paine National Park; before turning north and back into Argentina to El Calafate and the Perito Moreno Glacier.

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MAY DAY POLAND

1 May 1983

Sap rises in Spring showers
veining leaves iridescent
fresh as war paint in grey Gdansk.

Teargas blossoms to clouds
cannons stream rivers of water
men are blown like fallen leaves.

by Gail Hennessy (Kearns) (BA ’60)

Russell Crowe in Master and Commander. Music composed, orchestrated and produced by Christopher Gordon, Iva Davies and Richard Tognetti.
From 500 entries, two of the University’s Master of Architecture students have won first prize in the Barcelona 2011 International Architecture Competition. Marinel Dator and Katie Yeung’s design, titled The Hanging Cloud: Lightweight Living for Barcelona, incorporates a reinterpretation of Antoni Gaudi’s inverted hanging model, with the tower broken down into light-suspended elements.

The competition challenge was to design a 100m tall, “zero-ecological impact” tower-hostel to create a new landmark opposite the city’s Museum of Contemporary Art, which was designed by renowned architect Richard Meier.

Dator and Yeung’s winning design utilises locally produced terracotta columns to collect and preserve water at a constant temperature to create thermal comfort, and vibro-wind panels on the columns and pods to capture wind vibrations to create energy.

The competition was open to professional architects (student entries to be accompanied by academic staff), making the students’ win even more remarkable.

Daniel Ryan, coordinator of the faculty’s Sustainable Architecture Research Studio, said, “We encourage students to participate in architectural competitions as we hope that the public and private sector in NSW will start to recognise the value of competitions for both the commissioning of avant-garde architecture and the support of a new generation of architectural practice.”

The students, who balance work at architectural firms Bates Smart and Patrick O’Carrigan and Partners with their studies, put a lot of effort into the project. “We each spent about 20 hours a week working on this design,” said Dator. “We could see presentations used for previous awards,” Yeung said, “so we had a precedent for the high standard we had to aim towards. It was not just the architectural design we had to get right but how you present it graphically.”

The tutors for the studio were Daniel Ryan, Allison Earl and Associate Professor Glen Hill; and consultants were Su-Fern Tan, Matt Markham-Lee and Professor Max Irvine.

The prize is $3500 and a trip to Barcelona, which will be the students’ first visit not only to the city but also to Europe.
“Meet you at the Fisher” – if University Librarian John Shipp has his way that catchcry will echo across the Camperdown campus when the upgrade to the iconic library is complete. “We hope to make it a destination, a place where people want to go, restoring its essence as well as meeting current needs,” says Shipp, who has been advocating the $27m program of improvements – the first in the building’s 40-plus year history – for more than ten years. When it opened there were 14,000 students enrolled at the University; today there are more than 49,000 and space is at a premium.

“We have to rethink use and improve facilities, especially for students, eradicating long queues for computers and making more seating available,” says Shipp. The Library’s collection has also outgrown the space. In order to allow room for this and annual growth the Library will move material that hasn’t been borrowed in the past five years into storage. Academic staff will review the material before transfer, and at least one copy of every purchased title will be kept in the collection. Low use duplicates will be offered to the University community first, with the remaining copies then sold at the annual Chancellor’s book fair.

“Patterns of use have changed due to technology. The new library will reflect that,” explains Shipp. “For example, there is much more group work undertaken nowadays, especially in business courses. Up until now we simply haven’t had enough power points to make that practical. Teams need to be able to practise their presentations and we have not been able to provide quiet space to do that. In the new library, one floor will be dedicated to quiet space, one will be specifically designed for collaborative work and one floor will suit mixed usage. We’ll be much more flexible, catching up on a global trend.”

But without compromising the original aesthetic of the library which, when it was built in 1963, was a landmark example of modernism at its most elegant. It remains one of architect Ken Woolley’s (BArch ’55 DScArch ’10) favourite projects, an early example in his illustrious career as a pioneer of the brutalist Sydney School. Remarkably, he was the design architect on the project at the precocious age of 25 and today, is one of the few architects in Australia to see his work listed as a heritage building in his lifetime.

Woolley formed a close bond with his client, University librarian Andrew D Osborn. “He was an American who brought radical ideas with him about the way books were to be accessed for ease of use by students; and the efficiency of the book stack storage system. Despite our age difference, we had a great rapport,” remembers Woolley, who has been retained as a consultant on the project. He used new concrete hauling construction methods to build the five-storey undergraduate section and the nine storey book stack.

“Everything in the building was purpose-designed – details like the solid timber and wrought iron balustrades. So many places now are about generic, cheap, thin finishes, says Shipp, “whereas the Fisher combines a sense of history with a sense of the future.”

Students and faculty members were encouraged to give feedback about the proposed library upgrade; some responded in surprising ways. “A few academics wanted to exclude students altogether and make the library a place just for the books,” laughs Shipp.

“A few students opposed a coffee shop as detracting from space that could be better used for books,” he says, but a compromise was reached. A coffee shop will be integrated into the stack-building forecourt, supplemented by vending machines and a microwave in the undergraduate section. “Traditionalists will hate it,” predicts Shipp.

Reflecting the changing nature of the student faculty, the library is more than a resource. For many international students, it is a home away from home. “They are our heaviest users,” confirms Shipp, “and stay much longer hours. Often they have nowhere else to go; they live in over-crowded, cramped conditions, with little privacy. Here, we provide a space that is warm in winter, cool in summer, safe, pleasant and light, open ‘til late at night and with helpful staff.”

Shipp hopes disruption and inconvenience to users will be kept to a minimum during the refurbishment, which is expected to be completed in 2013. “We have yet to decide whether we are going to close one floor at a time or half the building. It will depend on which is the most efficient and cost effective way to do it.”

NOTA BENE
The Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund is a Sydney trust funding medical and scientific research and promoting co-operative work between the University of Sydney and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Recognising that many great scientific discoveries are based on once blue-sky, fanciful ideas looking for a backer, the Fund has established a grant, to provide such backing.

The Fund now seeks applications, made according to guidelines below, for the SIR ZELMAN COWEN UNIVERSITIES FUND Blue Sky RESEARCH GRANT

Guidelines:
1. The Grant will comprise an award of AUS$100,000 for 1 year, commencing January 2012, for a research project in an emerging area such as (but not limited to) organ/tissue regeneration where researchers will aim to use the funds to gain sufficient momentum to be competitive in larger funding systems. Preference will be given to imaginative proposals with good scientific rationale and potential to make a significant innovative advance in human health.

2. Applicants should have their primary appointment at the University of Sydney or the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Preference will be given to joint applications for cooperative projects between staff of both Universities.

3. Applications should be made using the form available from the Fund's office (see below).

4. Completed applications should be sent by email to the submission address below by the closing date.

Closing Date
Friday 26 August 2011

Applications & Enquiries
Sue Freedman-Levy – Administrative Officer
Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund
University of Sydney, F13, NSW 2006, Australia
Phone +61 2 9351 6558 Fax +61 2 9351 6647
Email sueflevy@anatomy.usyd.edu Web www.szcf.org.usyd.edu.au
Submission Address szcf@anatomy.usyd.edu.au
Libby Gleeson (BA ’73 DipEd ’74), an adjunct Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education and Social Work, was recognised in the 2011 NSW Premier’s Literary Awards with a Special Award, worth $20,000, for her body of work, work in education, advocacy, and for the mentoring of young writers.

She has published more than 30 books for children and young adults, as well as books about writing. She is widely published overseas.

Gleeson has been shortlisted for the Children’s Book Council of Australia awards many times and won the award for fiction for younger readers in 1997 with Hannah and the Tomorrow Room and the picture book award in 2002 for An Ordinary Day. In 2007, Amy and Louis, illustrated by Freya Blackwood, won the Early Childhood Book of The Year. The Great Bear won the Bologna Ragazzi in 2000, the first for an Australian title.

In 2007 Gleeson was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to literature and literacy education. Gleeson was a teacher in NSW, London and Italy before becoming a full-time writer. She has maintained her interest in education and the Special Award honours her contribution to the discipline. In her adjunct role Gleeson conducts guest lectures and seminars for pre-service (qualifying) teachers as well as professional learning workshops in schools for qualified teachers. She is also a popular creative writing lecturer at the Centre for Continuing Education.

A passionate supporter of the public education system, Gleeson is currently a director of the Foundation for Public Education.

Accepting her award, Gleeson spoke about her commitment to exciting young people about writing and her involvement with WestWords, a youth literature centre in Western Sydney.

"WestWords brings writers and illustrators to Western Sydney. It represents everything I love because not only does it get the kids excited about writers and reading their work, it encourages them to express themselves through writing."

In 2011 she will publish I am Thomas, illustrated by Armin Greder and Look! A Book! illustrated by Freya Blackwood; and in 2012, RED, a novel for adolescents.

From Witnessing by Gail Hennessy (Kearns) (BA ’60). Published by Gailan, Rankin Park, NSW. Available from the State Library Bookshop, Gleebooks and from gailan@idl.net.au

OPEN DAY 2011

On Saturday 27 August the University welcomes the public to Open Day. This is a great opportunity for anyone, of any age, who is thinking about university. Sydney’s highly regarded courses deliver the latest thinking and research, encourage personal expression and aim to inspire students to achieve professional and personal goals.

Future students can attend a mini-lecture, take a campus tour, try hands-on experiments and activities and get a feel for on-campus life. Full information about undergraduate and postgraduate courses is available in one place and our friendly staff and student ambassadors can answer all your questions.

Whatever the age or interests of prospective students, we can help you help them discover their future. Encourage them to visit or bring them along to the University of Sydney Open Day in The Quadrangle, Camperdown campus. Info: sydney.edu.au/open_day

this country’s too big, too brown, too sunburned
flowing with neither milk nor honey but dust clouds, its rivers choked

I picture its sweeping plains, its vast encroaching
deserts, I cling to the fringe of its circling oceans
that fat middle girth

too many sporting heroes, too much sport,
copious celebrities whose names I don’t know
and don’t want to, corrupt politicians

who lie and no-one cares or votes out of office,
like Pied Pipers they have led us into wars
not of our business

still the index finger of Cape York beckons me
back to its nibbled-out gulfs, grinning
oversized Bight

I come home to a harbour more beautiful than
any other that lassoes my heart
and ties me to this land

and in the supermarket the man in blue overalls
behind me in the queue holds my place
when I forget the milk and says, no worries darl
we’ll all get to the same place in the end
I like to approach the cup as half full,” says Professor Shane Houston, a mug of Earl Grey tea cradled in his hands.

It is the first week on the job for Sydney University’s new Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Indigenous Strategy and Services. Sitting in his office overlooking the Quad, the softly spoken former health administrator is describing his approach to advancing Aboriginal rights – and life in general.

He gives as an example the time he was starting a new job as the regional director of a large Western Australian health service and encountered an ugly case of institutional racism.

Houston had gone to visit one of the hospitals under his authority and approached the triage nurse, asking to see a staff member. “They told me, ‘Oh no, the Aboriginal people need to go to the area out the back,’” he recalls. “They actually made you go through a glass door and sit in a separate area, because they didn’t like Aboriginal
people sitting in the same room.”

Needing to address the issue, Houston found a way of turning the problem into an opportunity: the previously segregated area was converted into an inviting outdoor space decorated with Aboriginal artworks, giving Aboriginal people who might have been nervous about coming to the hospital “a place where they could feel safe and strong”.

It is typical of the unfailingly positive attitude of Houston, 54 (“I am lucky to have lived that long: the life expectancy of an Aboriginal male is 56”, he says). In his newly-created role at Sydney, he will lead a whole-of-university strategy to increase Indigenous participation, education and research.

Houston is, unashamedly, an activist whose outlook was forged during the early years of the struggle for Aboriginal equality. Back in the 1980s, he recalls storming the steps of Parliament House when the Hawke Government tried to retreat from its policy on land rights.

(At a recent function, Houston says, a young Aboriginal woman approached the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Michael Spence, and told him he had “brought in a real radical” in Shane. The Vice-Chancellor replied, “Yes, that’s what we wanted”.)

At the same time, Houston’s strategy has changed as Australian society has advanced. “We don’t need to reinvent the wheel and we don’t need to have the old fights again,” he says. “We used to march in the street, but now we’ve found ways of sitting down and moving forward together.”

Shane Houston is a descendant of Queensland’s Gangulu people, the son of an Aboriginal father and a white Australian mother. He says that his “coat-pegs” – the values on which he has hung his life – come from his father, Stan: a veteran of WW2 and the Korean War. Houston recalls his father stubbornly refusing to accept compensation from the Federal Government for the years he was underpaid as an Aboriginal serviceman: “He said that war has nothing to do with what you were paid, and that there are more important things in life than the shillings you earn.”

On the other hand, Houston says his mother Pat gave him his abiding sense of optimism. She had begun dating his father against the vocal objections of her family, he explains: “They told her, ‘You marry that man and don’t you ever walk through the gate again’. So she packed up her bags and left for the country. I don’t think you can walk out on a life you’ve known like that unless you have an enormous well of hope.”

Houston grew up in Mount Morgan in central Queensland and later moved with his family to Sydney’s western suburbs. There he began working for a number of local Aboriginal organisations that were sprouting up in the heady days of 1970s community activism. A key early achievement was setting up the Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation, a community-controlled health and community service organisation which still exists today, serving 12,000 people.

In 1982, Houston spent time working in Canada for the UN-affiliated World Council of Indigenous People. He says the experience deepened his views about humanity, teaching him that all people are interconnected: “I saw the common bonds between the lives of the 400 million Indigenous people around the world, and that cultural, spiritual and social values are shared by this international Indigenous family.”

On his return to Australia, Houston was elected as head of the National Aboriginal and Islander Health Organisation (NAIHO), the peak body of Aboriginal community health services. In 10 years in the role, he oversaw a doubling in the number of Aboriginal health services, not least due to his strident approach to lobbying: “Some ministers didn’t like the fact I’d send them three-foot long telexes berating them about their failure to resolve issues relating to Aboriginal health,” he remembers.

In his role at NAIHO, he made an important contribution to what became the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Houston’s idea of equality – “it’s not about being the same, but about having the right to be different and not suffer any disadvantage” – was accepted by the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations and eventually made its way into the Declaration’s preamble.

Eventually, the long-time community activist came round to the idea that he might have a role to play in government. His decision was influenced by his great mentor, Charles Perkins: “He said to me: don’t forget we need people inside the tent as much as we need people outside it.”

Houston worked initially for the Western Australian health department in a senior executive role, then in 2003 took on a central management role with the Northern Territory health service. He gained a reputation for his innovative strategies to strengthen Aboriginal cultural security within the department: one scheme involved permitting employees to purchase leave in order to attend family funerals, which vastly improved Aboriginal staff retention. He also undertook a PhD from Curtin University that explored the way Aboriginal values are incorporated into health funding decisions.

Today, in his role at the University, he has a number of immediate priorities, including finding ways to nurture the next generation of Indigenous (and non-Indigenous) leaders; expanding research into the many challenges facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and increasing Indigenous employment within the University.

More broadly, he is also focusing on the spectrum of strategic issues facing the University as part of the leadership team of Deputy Vice-Chancellors.

Houston says he wants Sydney to take a leading national role in bridging the social divide that confronts Indigenous people. “The University sits on the land of the Gadigal people, the first people to confront the colony of NSW,” he says. “The first Aboriginal man to graduate from an Australian university studied here. The Freedom Ride started from here in 1965. And we are a stone’s throw from Redfern, the cradle of Aboriginal-owned services. We are right where all those things occurred, and we have an obligation to take those opportunities and do something with them.”
One morning last year, an overseas visitor walked through the sandstone gates of the University of Sydney carrying an unassuming package.

Inside was a gift that the owner had flown halfway across the world to deliver: a 1935 portrait by Picasso of his lover, Marie-Thérèse Walter, entitled Jeune fille endormie.

The mystery donor explained to the University administration that the gift came with two conditions: that the donor would remain anonymous, and that the painting would be sold and funds raised spent on scientific research.

That sale has now taken place: at Christie’s evening auction of Impressionist and Modern Art on 21 June, one of the biggest events on the international art calendar, Jeune fille endormie fetched $20.6m.

The money will be used, in part, to fund endowed chairs in the University’s major new centre for research into obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. “It was an extraordinary act of generosity and a very far-sighted gift,” says Vice-Chancellor, Dr Michael Spence. “It speaks volumes not only of the University’s international standing but more broadly of the calibre of Australian research.”

For David Ellis, director of the University’s museums, receiving the gift on behalf the University and organising its sale has been a “once-in-a-career” experience.

He admits he was initially sceptical when the benefactor first appeared with the unframed oil painting in hand: “It’s not an everyday occurrence someone turns up with a significant Picasso,” he says. “There was definitely a moment of disbelief.”

Within hours of seeing it, however, Ellis had confirmed that the work was listed in the artist’s official catalogue raisonné. “The great thing about Picasso is that he kept such good records, so we know most of his output,” he explains. “But there are many
fakes so you need to go through a due diligence process to ensure the work is what it’s supposed to be.”

He spent the following months in a flurry of detective work, scrutinising the painting’s brushwork and probing its history. One early concern was how a 75-year-old canvas could be in such an impeccable condition, but that was explained by the fact it had spent most of its life out of the spotlight.

Not long after it left Picasso’s studio, *Jeune fille endormie* was acquired by Walter P Chrysler Jr, son of the automotive tycoon. It was shown in the celebrated 1939 retrospective of Picasso at New York’s Museum of Modern Art, which also introduced *Guernica* to the United States. After going on tour, *Jeune fille endormie* was sold in 1950 to the family that eventually gifted it to the University.

Another concern for Ellis was that the signature on the painting was not visible in a photo taken in Picasso’s studio during the 1930s. It turns out that the artist (as was his custom) had simply added his name later: “I checked the Barr catalogue from the retrospective of Picasso’s work and the painting was in there, this time with the signature.”

With its provenance established, the painting was sent to Christie’s in London, which outflanked rival Sotheby’s for the right to sell the major work. Finally, after a year of secrecy, the gift has been made public. The announcement drew global media coverage from the *Guardian* to America’s Fox News, as well as immense curiosity from art collectors in Europe, the United States, Russia and Asia.

Giovanna Bertazzoni, head of Impressionist and Modern Art at Christie’s, says the connection to Picasso’s famous mistress sparked strong interest from the art market. “There is a mythical aura around Marie-Thérèse that is irresistible to buyers,” she says. “Picasso truly found his muse in her.”

She adds that the work exerts a “sense of wonder” when viewed in the flesh, recalling the moment she saw it for the first time. “I went down to the warehouse, almost running,” she says. “The painting had just been uncrated and was on the warehouse bench, about to be taken to the photography studio. All the swirls and rich arabesques of oil painting, which we could already see in the photos, are exceptional in reality.”

Since donating the Picasso to the University, the anonymous benefactor has made additional gifts of valuable jewellery and art, including bronzes by Ossip Zadkine. These have also been sold, with those funds supporting the University’s museums and collections in line with the donor’s wishes.

David Ellis notes that it is unusual for philanthropists to stipulate that cultural gifts be sold on. More usually, he says, artefacts are entrusted to the University’s collections – as with Sir Charles Nicholson’s famous gift of antiques that launched the Nicholson Museum.

“Of course I would love to have this one in the collection,” he acknowledges. “But the money raised is going to a wonderful cause.”
The subject of *Jeune fille endormie*, one of Picasso’s greatest muses, was first spotted by the artist outside the Galleries Lafayette in Paris. She had gone to the department store with her sister to buy a detachable Peter Pan collar and cuffs. But Picasso, 45, was smitten with her youthful beauty, even without these accessories.

Marie-Therese Walter was only 17 when they met and had never heard of the artist who boldly introduced himself. He then followed the sisters from afar, spying on them at the Gare Saint Lazare through a hole he tore in his newspaper. When her sister finally left her alone, Picasso pounced, insisting he had to paint Marie-Therese, who was flattered. A sunny, easy-going girl from a bourgeois family, she could hardly have guessed that she would become an iconic figure in the oeuvre of a 20th century genius, nor the mother of his child, and that it would end in tragedy.

Terece Malloon, curator of special exhibitions at the Art Gallery of NSW says of *Jeune fille endormie*: “It's very red, from a period when Picasso really gave great scope to his unfilled gifts as a colourist. The emotional states in his life are readable through his work. You are struck instantly by whether they express wellbeing or perversity. Marie-Therese was the sunshine of his life. Her sensuality and innocence struck a chord with him. The first works disguise her identity while the relationship is still secret. He abstracts her into curves and fruits, ripe forms and arabesque rhythms of her figure. Her passivity and sweetness of nature are writ large.”

Picasso was still married at the time he met Marie-Therese but his relationship with Russian former dancer Olga Khokhlova was stormy due to her fragile mental health, exacerbated by – justifiable – attacks of jealousy.

An exhibition earlier this year at the Gagosian Gallery in New York, of works by Picasso featuring Marie-Therese was called “L’Amour Fou”, capturing the intense physical passion that developed between the two. Initially the relationship was kept from Picasso’s circle, although soon condoned by Marie-Therese’s mother. She provided a discreet hideaway (actually the garden shed) for them to meet, where her daughter would pose nude for her lover.

When Marie-Therese reached the age of majority at 21, Picasso moved her into a house opposite his family home at 6 Rue de la Boetie. Then he bought the Chateau de Boisgeloup, ostensibly for Olga but telling Marie-Therese he had bought it for her. She would cycle onto its grounds when Olga left for the city at the end of the weekend. Always submissive and without any ambition for a glittering social life, Marie-Therese occupied herself with simple outdoor pleasures such as kayaking, swimming and cycling, but she also loved reading and sleeping.

Where once Picasso disguised her as a guitar waiting to be plucked, now Marie-Therese became his goddess of classical beauty, expressed in the engravings he did inspired by Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*. He represented her as the nymph Daphne and in several phallus-nosed busts. An erotic painting of her from this period gained notoriety in 2006 when its owner, Las Vegas billionaire Steve Wynn accidentally put his elbow through it. (Repaired, it later sold for $US139 million).

After nearly drowning during a boating accident in the Marne, Marie-Therese became ill with an infection that caused her to lose all her hair. Picasso was distraught and cared for her. In 1934, she became pregnant, giving birth to his daughter Maya, named in memory of his late sister Maria Conchita. At first he was a caring and attentive father, cooking and helping with housework, but within two months of the birth, he was on the prowl. He soon met Dora Maar, a photographer and member of the Surrealists circle, who would become his next mistress and muse.

“But the relationship never quite ended,” says Malloon. “Picasso preferred to let them peter out but he never let go completely. He is often portrayed as an ogre in his treatment of women but I think he was very emotional, warm, empathetic. He cheated a lot, certainly, but I believe he loved each woman sincerely. With the works that depict Marie-Therese you can see the rapture of that relationship and feel the heat.”

She appears, allegorically, three times in his masterpiece, *Guernica*. It was in front of this gigantic canvas that she and Maar finally came face to face. When Marie-Therese asked the artist to choose between them, he merely shrugged, leaving them to sort it out. The two began to wrestle, which Picasso later described as one of his choicest memories. Despite the constant infidelity, Marie-Therese was loyal to him to the end of her days, living alone. She wrote him passionate letters but seldom saw the artist except to bring Maya to him for summer holidays in the south of France. After Olga died in 1955, he offered to marry Marie-Therese but she refused.

Malloon says: “Picasso gave her a few unsigned pictures. Later, when she was hard up for cash, she asked him to sign them, but his then mistress Jacqueline Roque forbade him from doing so. Marie-Therese got far less for them than they were worth.” Following the artist’s death in 1973, a great concrete figure of Marie-Therese with a lamp in her outstretched hand was placed over his grave in Aix en Provence. Jacqueline Roque then had the mould destroyed (one other cast exits in the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid). Four years later, Marie-Therese, who had brought such radiance to Picasso’s life, extinguished her own, committing suicide.
Nor is it just the affluent West that is affected: in India, other parts of Asia, the South Pacific, Central and South America and Africa, the incidence of obesity and diabetes is increasing at alarming rates.

The causes of these diseases are complex and the product of many factors, ranging from which genes people inherit to the foods they are able to buy in their supermarket, and how they spend their working lives. Reducing the prevalence, incidence and impact of the diseases requires a broad-based and coordinated effort.

“Importantly, we will integrate the humanities and the social sciences, as well as medicine and science, in formulating the problems themselves, the solutions, and how they can be implemented on a global scale,” the Vice-Chancellor says. “The new centre will transform research into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of these conditions, involving everything from metabolic research to the economics of food supply.”

Professor Jill Trewhella, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, shares this vision. “We will be investigating how food gets from the paddock to the plate and how it gets marketed, as well as legal and policy questions, such as what kind of regulatory regime you need to put in place to make sure people are not exploited by those selling cheap food,” she says.

Architects and urban planners will help to design communities that encourage people to stay healthy and active, while cultural theorists will explore issues such as the media construction of obesity. Inspiration may come from the most unlikely sources: one major NHMRC-funded study now being undertaken into human metabolism by biologist Professor Stephen Simpson was initially inspired by his studies of why locusts swarm. “The scope of possible research directions is almost infinite,” says Trewhella.

The centre’s Academic Director, Professor David Cook, will be putting the emphasis squarely on studies that make a practical difference to global community health. “A core driving philosophy is outcomes,” says Cook. “We will be looking not only for great research but evidence of the impact of that research.”

The $385 million building, which will become the centre’s research and teaching hub when it is completed in 2014, represents the largest infrastructure investment in the history of the University. It is being partially funded by a $95 million Federal Government grant, and the work of the centre will also be supported through the sale of a painting by Picasso given to the University by an anonymous donor on condition that it be sold and the funds directed to scientific research (see story, page 20).

Construction begins in September on the new complex, which will house many of the centre’s researchers. Set over 50,000 square metres – more than twice the size of the Sydney Cricket Ground – the six-storey building will offer wet and dry research space for 800 researchers as well as a host of new teaching facilities.
Roger Irving Pryke changed thousands of lives. Chaplain to Catholic students at the University for a decade before the second Vatican Council (held 1962-65), he was an early exponent of the major themes that make up the Vatican II event. Students influenced by him became a new type of Catholic known as “Vatican II Catholics”.

Beginning in 1951, his work as a chaplain coincided with the Menzies Government’s Commonwealth scholarships, which opened up the University to diverse students. Previous generations of Catholics had been wary of the University and its values. Enrolled in Arts, Pryke himself demonstrated a love of university life and, handsome and gregarious, he was soon a recognised campus identity. He appeared in Honi Soit, and co-authored a Hermes article with the Protestant president of the SRC. He became a regular O-Week speaker and a defender of the University against critics in the church press.

Pryke’s Catholics were formed in small faculty groups, where Bible discussions expanded into problems of university life. They did not seek to colonise the University; their aim was to serve it by making it a better university. Weekend camps and interstate conferences consolidated the work begun in the groups. In his personal counselling the chaplain introduced them to the new thinking then energising the Catholic world.

Here were themes later canonised in the teaching of Vatican II. It was all here at the...
One of the startling innovations of the Council was in the area of parish worship, most noticeably in its decision to celebrate Mass in the vernacular, rather than in Latin. Pryke led a group of young priests who prepared the local ground for this innovation with gramophone records, leaflets, cards, booklets and other worship aids. Their most successful venture was the “Living Parish” hymnbook that sold a million copies in a dozen years, going into schools and churches across Australia. Simple, cheap and durable, this hymnbook changed previously silent worshippers into singing congregations. Its outstanding feature was the Australian hymnody of James McAuley and Richard Connelly, both Sydney graduates.

The most important pastoral work Roger Pryke did was to organise theology seminars for nuns at Sancta Sophia College. Through their schools and colleges nuns had been the primary makers of popular Catholicism in Australia. But as the church geared up for Vatican II, many felt they were being left behind, so they asked Pryke if he would help them. Yes, he would; and he gathered the best brains in the Sydney church to teach them. For most of the nuns it was a life-changing experience, not only because of the new thinking they encountered but also because of the friendships they made with women from different religious orders. When they returned to their convents and schools, they became agents of change.

Not every church authority approved of what Roger Pryke was doing; and in 1966 he was transferred to the quiet coastal parish of Harbord. By then, he had become a leader in the church anti-war group, Catholics for Peace, and he was prominent in demonstrations against the Springbok rugby tour. He started a magazine, Nonviolent Power, to explore ways of developing peaceful personalities and a peaceful world. His rebuke of a Sydney bishop’s rude abuse of a visiting nun-scholar led to a public protest meeting; he sponsored a visit to Australia by Dorothy Day, a renowned American lay activist. His friends, however, could see that he was becoming unhappy and they were not surprised when he resigned from the priesthood, in 1972. He joined the NSW corrective services department and then married a woman he had met in earlier days at the University; he died in 2009.

Now Francis Ravel Harvey has published a biography of Roger Pryke. It is a big, handsome, widely researched book that captures for future generations the complexities of a creative priest’s life. It also records some of the history of the University and so deserves a place on our shelves alongside books such as Alan Barcan’s Radical Students and WF Connell and his colleagues’ history of the University, Volume Two (1940-1990).

Traveller to Freedom by Francis Ravel Harvey (Freshwater Press, $49.95).
Destiny happens in the least expected way. Sometimes it may be through our actions creating a path, or many times it just happens. My connection with Australia began in 1997. As a fairly young conservationist with a passion to contribute to my country’s rich natural heritage, I was requested by a local travel company in Bhutan to give a talk on conservation and national parks’ management to a group of enthusiastic tourists. They were from Australia, mainly vets interested in wildlife.

What was meant to be one of those usual presentations has turned out to be a lifetime association with the lovely people from Australia. This event led to forging stronger ties, with a memorandum of understanding that was enacted, founded on the principles of cooperation and friendship. Ten years later I am in Australia with my family to pursue a doctoral program on sustainable tourism with the University. The lovely country town of Orange, NSW was our home for over three years. It’s no surprise that we were the first Bhutanese in Orange, and had no option but to expand many people’s geography, in explaining where Bhutan is. However, by chance we bumped into a couple who were among the group visiting Bhutan in 1997. This karmic reconnection with Judith [nee Wyatt] (DipPhys ’69) and Andrew Hansen (BVSc ’67 MVSc ’00) blossomed into a fulfilling friendship. As an old Chinese saying goes – true friendships are made through meeting by chance and not by purpose.

Likewise through this academic journey my life was greatly enriched through close associations with many friends in Australia. Although my initial inspiration for environmental conservation was ignited by US National Park rangers during my six months’ attachment to a few of the American national parks, the Australian association provided the impetus. Many of my Australian friends hold strong admiration for my country, Bhutan. Located in a historically volatile political region, it is a small, land-locked country sandwiched between two giant neighbors, India and China. Bhutan has not only survived as an independent country but under the visionary leadership of its kings, the nation has thrived on peace, stability and prosperity.

The country may not be rich or prosperous in terms of commercial industries or technology but is significant in its spiritual well-being. The country is held in awe for its development philosophy based on Gross National Happiness – as opposed to the conventional economic measurement of Gross National Product. As a nation in pursuit of happiness via a middle-path approach, the government has identified four key pillars to uphold this vision – Environmental Conservation, Cultural Preservation, Equitable Socio-economic Development, and Good Governance.

Bhutan existed as a group of hostile fiefdoms until the early 17th century, when Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, who fled Tibet and religious persecution, unified it. In 1907 came the appointment of the first King of Bhutan, and the population of a little over 700,000 celebrated 100 years of successful monarchy in 2008. The then reigning fourth king, His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck (53) abdicated the throne for his son, announcing a democratic form of governance. Bhutan has now peacefully transformed into a democratic state and is working hard towards achieving the King’s vision of Gross National Happiness.

Bhutan’s natural environment plays a vital link in upholding this vision. The country ranges from the south’s subtropical plains to the sub-alpine Himalayan in the north, where some peaks exceed 7500 metres. Under the king’s dynamic leadership, Bhutan now stands out as a haven for conservation with 72 per cent of the country under forest cover, harbouring
many species of biological significance. Fifty-one per cent of the country is designated under the protected areas system, comprising national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, nature reserves and biological corridors.

Buddhism is Bhutan’s main religion and the government has framed stringent conservation policies to protect wildlife. This, however, is at the cost of local people losing crops and livestock to tigers, leopards, snow leopards, wild dogs, bears, pigs, deer, elephants, monkeys and so on. The people are a vital link in nature conservation and strengthening this link is fundamental to achieving conservation objectives. An incentive-based approach is necessary and an integrated approach that combines conservation and development is being pursued. Therefore, recognising this situation, I chose to examine sustainable tourism development as a viable tool both for conservation and community development as a theme for my PhD research.

The research investigated the significance of tourism for conservation and determined the type, intensity and structure of sustainable tourism development, based on a participatory planning process that will drive the development of remote communities and strengthen one of the world’s most extensive (per country area) protected areas networks. In Bhutan, a country with limited potential for industrialisation, but with a unique culture and an intact natural environment, the capacity of tourism to be a major force for development is apparent. It is, however, also known that tourism can undermine cultural values and degrade the natural local environment. This research for the protected areas system, before tourism gains momentum, can hopefully be a major milestone in preventing the undesirable from happening. The major finding from the research was that community participation is vital for tourism engagement and this has stimulated the people’s support for the tourism resources, which are largely based on the cultural and natural heritage. The end result is participation towards conservation and protection of these precious resources, thereby generating a win-win situation for both conservation and development.

Bhutan’s tourism policy is founded on the principle of sustainability. Aware that tourism has the potential to create a high impact on the culture of the people ever since tourism began in 1974, the government has followed a cautious policy. Based on the concept of ‘High Value and Low Volume’, all travel to Bhutan is well regulated through a package tour with a minimum payment of $US200 per day, per tourist (this is to increase to $US250 from 2012). This includes food (three meals), accommodation in standard hotels, ground transport, and daily services of an accompanying local guide. Tourism development in Bhutan is effective in creating jobs for local people and minimising revenue leakage – a common problem faced by many developing countries.

After returning to Bhutan on completion of my PhD I have resumed my job with the Department of Forests and Park Services and find myself very fortunate to be in a position to translate my academic knowledge into action and contribute towards the happiness vision.

PS: In May, Karma Tshering received his PhD in the Great Hall. He was accompanied by his cousin, to whom he dedicated the thesis, for putting him on the path to education. He celebrated his achievement with his friends in Australia – a place that has inspired him to further the happiness vision for his country. Learn more about Bhutan for the visitor at www.bhutangayul.com.
peak to Emma Partridge (nee Green) (BSc ’94 MBBS ’98) and it’s not hard to see how she successfully combines a demanding career as a GP Registrar while bringing up four young children. Calm and composed, she makes you believe that it’s really not that hard to work full time, manage a household and enjoy a fulfilling relationship with one’s family.

Partridge’s path to medicine, however, was not so clear-cut. “When I finished school in 1989 I wasn’t really sure what I wanted to do,” she explains. “I enjoyed science so I enrolled in a Science degree, studying maths, physics, biology and chemistry. The biochemistry and genetics subjects really interested me, so I did Honours in genetics in the School of Biology. By that stage I had been accepted into medicine so I combined my Honours year with my first year of medicine.”

Deciding to become a doctor became clearer for Partridge as she progressed in her Science degree. “I just felt that I couldn’t see myself going into research. I enjoyed the theory but I also enjoyed interacting with people – I just found the human side of things more interesting. So I tried quite hard in my third year of the science degree to do well and luckily I was successful,” she says.

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particular role was to be accessible so as to identify and support those students who were having difficulties. During the 1990s, when Emma was a student, the faculty was deeply engaged in planning and developing a new curriculum based on graduate entry. That entailed maintaining the ongoing existing curriculum and simultaneously planning and developing the new philosophies and strategies. It was a busy but exciting time.”

Highlights of university life for Partridge were the “support and friendships of other people who I studied with (in Science and Medicine) and did gymnastics with”. Being so close to the medical buildings through living at Women’s College was also helpful for Partridge and living on campus also had its advantages: “I loved walking down from my room to eat dinner – no preparation,” she laughs.

On the personal front, life for Partridge was busy and full. “I got married to Matthew when I was in fifth year medicine. He was doing a Machine Learning PhD in the Department of Electrical Engineering so we were both spending a lot of time at university.”

Partridge gave birth to their first son, Zac, in 1998, after her final medical exams. “I took a year off and then I began my intern year full time. Thankfully, Matthew was only working two days and I had the support and help of my parents and Matthew’s parents to look after Zac. During my intern year I was pregnant with my second son, Harry. Royal North Shore Hospital, where I was doing my internship, was very supportive. I had to do some late night shifts and overtime but not any night shifts.”

With Zac (two and a half years old) and their second son, Harry only 12 weeks old, Partridge and her husband moved to Germany for Matthew’s work. “We lived in Berlin for six months, although we planned to stay much longer. It was a stimulating and interesting time in our lives.”

Back in Australia, Partridge started working in Emergency at Royal North Shore Hospital. Asking how she juggled two small boys and a challenging job, Partridge said that the hospital was “really good in helping me get shifts that suited me and I also had the support of grandparents to help with childcare”.

In 2003, Partridge’s third child, Abi, was born and in 2005 Partridge gave birth to their second daughter, Maya. Having four children meant that Partridge drastically reduced her workload to one shift a fortnight. “Mum helped a lot with the kids,” Partridge says. “She lived nearby which was fantastic.”

She admits that cutting her working hours had an effect on her confidence: “I wasn’t working much – things change so fast in the medical profession and I felt like I was just hanging in there.”

By 2008, Partridge had made the decision to work as a GP Registrar. Explaining how she manages four children and her full-time workload, Partridge says that her husband works from home, so he organises the school drop-offs and pick-ups; and the grandparents continue with their help and support.

Finding time to be involved with the Australian Breastfeeding Association has been a priority for Partridge. “I am not as involved as I used to be but I still volunteer as a counsellor for their 24-hour breastfeeding helpline. I do the overnight shift from 10pm to 6am once a month. The calls range from maybe one to up to eight a night. Night-time calls are different – they are mainly for emergencies such as women who are worried that they might have mastitis or they might have gastroenteritis – they question whether they should still keep feeding their baby. Some women ring up when they can’t attach the baby to feed and, by that stage, both the mum and the baby are quite distressed. Sometimes they have relatives ring up on their behalf. Women also ring up to ask questions about when they should stop breastfeeding.”

Partridge mentions that she breastfed Maya, her fourth child, for four years. “Breastfeeding is a personal choice,” she advocates. “I had been breastfeeding for about ten years and I enjoyed this special relationship with my children.” The outlook for Partridge involves, “working as a GP and spending time with my family. All my children are at school now so it’s a different time of my life,” she smiles. “I’m excited about the future.”
BOOKS

SET IN STONE – the cell block theatre
Deborah Beck
UNSW Press $49.95

In 2005 Beck (MA '10) published Hope in Hell - A History of Darlinghurst Gaol and the National Art School, and it led naturally to a deeper investigation of the former women’s prison. It’s as well she did, because although it’s arguably the most historically and culturally significant existing theatre in the country, very little is known about the Cell Block.

Now absorbed into the National Art School, where Beck is a senior lecturer, archivist and artist, the Cell Block opened its doors in 1958. It quickly became a hothouse where the flowers of Australia’s emerging arts community bloomed and ran riot.

The first production, Euripides’s The Trojan Women, suited the stark beauty of the place, which had so given visiting theatrical royals Sibyl Thorndike and Katharine Hepburn the willies, they contributed towards the building’s conversion.

Beck’s main obstacle in unearthing the theatre’s seminal place in the seminal ’60s and ’70s, was that it was always a space for hire: no company or artistic director around to collect properly the vital scraps of paper that tell the story.

Nevertheless, Beck has done a magnificent job of finding and making sense of what does exist and talking to those with vivid memories of the times. The book is beautifully illustrated and provides a fascinating browse to see what people looked like back then, such as Yvonne Kenny, David Malouf, John Bell, Jim Sharman, Nick Cave, Peter Sculthorpe and on and on. A must-have book for every theatre(lover’s) library.

SCHOOLS IN THE LANDSCAPE
Edith Ziegler
University of Alabama Press
$US41.50 amazon.com

The United States, its culture and history remain a source of endless fascination for many. Ziegler (BA ’70) is one of those, and after a career in the upper reaches of corporate USA, she returned to Australia to do something about her interest. The result was a doctoral thesis at University of New England that examined the development of the public education system in Alabama between 1865 and 1915; and a wise editor who advised her to rewrite it – from thesis-ese to readable, lively English.

Alabama and Australia may not, on the face of it, have much in common but, as Ziegler describes the disparity between the rich soil of “black belt” lands and the meagre scratchings of the subsistence farming majority; rural isolation and the dispossession of original inhabitants; the link comes into focus.

The book begins at the end of the Civil War when only four states (all in the South) had more school-age children than tax-paying adults. All suffered high rates of illiteracy and low school attendance; while Alabama was ruined and embittered. Slavery was outlawed but discrimination against the black population remained rampant.

Alabama was shaken again in 1915 with the advent of the tractor and mechanisation of cotton production, followed by the Great Migration of one million African-Americans from the impoverished South to the industrial North.

The cover image of the one-room “Clarke County School, circa 1910” is sweetly similar to one where Bob Hawke’s mother first taught, as a young woman, now at Ceduna Museum.

POZIERES – the anzac story
Scott Bennett
Scribe $36.95

While Gallipoli long ago captured public imagination and sentiment, Patrick Lindsay’s Fromelles and now this fine addition to the WW1 popular history genre, are important reminders that the Dardanelles were a fraction of the story. Pozieres, once a pretty village on the Somme, population 350, and finally a wasteland where one million-plus young men perished, is now indelibly added to the account of Australians in the Great War.

Bennett (MBA (Exec) ’04) gives us an immensely readable and well-written account of the pivotal and bloodiest battle of the war. Without histrionics, it’s nevertheless drenched in blood and sadness; and grounded in research and careful consideration of sources and context. His view of General Sir Douglas Haig, for instance, is measured, “Haig’s burden was that his Somme victory was so expensive it became indistinguishable from defeat.” And he concludes: “This viewpoint adds gravity the words attributed to a Roman general after conquering Carthage – ‘Another such victory will destroy us.’”

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**NIGHT STREET**  
Kristel Thornell  
Allen & Unwin $23.99

Thornell (BA ‘97), joint winner of the 2010 Vogel Award for an unpublished work by a writer under 35, is one whose imagination and discipline are on display in equal measure in this book. The former in devising a fictional, episodic account of the life of Clarice Beckett; the latter in doing so in a way that – quite extraordinarily – fashions the story in the same compelling, atmospheric, vivid yet subdued colours that the artist employed in her modernist depictions of ‘20s-’30s bayside Beaumaris, Melbourne.

Beyond painting with unrelenting energy and a unique style, she lived in obscurity and relatively little is known about her. And, through neglect and misadventure, the bulk of her work was destroyed after her untimely death at the age of 48. Thus Thornell creates a portrait – from the bare sketches of facts – but she has withstood the temptation to turn it into something gaudy and unlikely.

As a dutiful daughter who cared for ailing parents, Beckett’s art life was constrained. Whether a reader approaches the book from the perspective of being an admirer of Beckett’s work, or simply in search of exceptionally fine and intuitive writing, there is no disappointment to be found here.

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**DAMPIER’S MONKEY:**  
the south seas voyages of william damper  
Adrian Mitchell  
Wakefield Press $45

The author is an honorary research associate in the English Department at the University and was previously Associate Professor in the department and Director of Postgraduate Programs.

This book – in two distinct parts – is as much about Dampier’s influence on those who came later as it is about the man himself. Without his journal – held in the British Library and published here in full – it’s likely that, for instance, neither Gulliver’s Travels nor Robinson Crusoe would have been written. Swift read Dampier’s descriptions of the miserable inhabitants of the region and its strange creatures before embarking on the novel; while Defoe lifted Dampier’s account of the marooning and rescue of Alexander Selkirk for his.

More than that, however, Bligh, Cook and Flinders had his day-by-day descriptions, accomplished navigation and hydrographic work to go by – and did. Dampier’s painstaking work and endeavours – he circumnavigated the globe three times – are unparalleled and, in the 17th century, were extraordinary. It’s a little sad that those who followed him are now the household names; which is why Mitchell’s book is important and in many ways, revelatory.

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**THE WEDDING SHROUD**  
– a tale of early rome  
Elizabeth Storrs  
Murdoch Books $32.95

The Etruscans have fascinated everyone else since there were Etruscans. It’s serendipitous then, that Storr’s (BA ‘81, LLB ’83) richly researched and written historical fiction is published at the same time as an exhibition of Etruscan treasures is on at the Nicholson Museum: the two complement each other beautifully.

The novel’s heroine is Caecilia, a young Roman woman who is married off to an Etruscan nobleman, Vel Mastarna, for reasons of treaty and business relations. The differences between Rome and the Etruscans’ Veii – just 20km away – are immense. Roman women were cloistered, put upon and silenced; Etruscan women ate and drank alongside their men, were included in politics and society and altogether had a much better time, as Caecilia soon discovers.

Nevertheless, she is still her husband’s possession and her main role in life is the production of heirs.

Storrs, a lawyer in real life, negotiates the sexual and social politics with skill and verve. Beyond that, however, the priest Artile – her brother-in-law and a dangerous man – represents the darker elements of ancient life and places Caecilia in the centre of tumultuous events.

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**PRIMAVERA**  
– or the time of your life  
Giulia Giuffre

Rarely do memoirs come along like this one. Giuffre (BA ‘74) and University Medallist, has condensed her Italian-Australian family saga into a sprawling, amusing, original and often-profound compendium of a life lived with eyes wide open.

She is an exuberant polymath, whose then teenage son said, on learning that his mother was about to write the book, “There’s no point doing it unless it’s true”. And so it turns out that Giuffre has tried to comply. The result is questions, answers and ruminations on all the important things in life, such as friendship, sex, reading, dogs and birthdays.

As has been noted elsewhere: what other book will give you instructions on cooking pasta properly and offer you reasons for writing?
1940s

JAMES (JIM) COLLINS (BSc '47 DipEd '50) began teaching in Bega in 1950 and has been an active and respected member of the community ever since. He travels to Timor Leste several times a year as the Team Leader of Bega Valley Advocates for Timor Leste, which he started in 2004. He was appointed a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia as part of the 2011 Australia Day Honours. The AM recognises his service to the community through roles with the Advocates, as a supporter of environment and conservation initiatives, as an innovator within the Bega dairy industry and to people with disabilities.

1960s

THOMAS D RICE (BSc '62 MSc '75) in 1992 when working as a geochemist in Madang, PNG, I wrote a musical setting for Dorothea McKellar’s poem My Country. Since then I have written settings for more than 50 poems; I recorded 15 on my 2003 CD, Chindwin River Dreaming. I have lived in Katoomba since 1993, apart from working as a geochemist in Myanmar from late 1994-97. Since 2008 I have convened an afternoon of poetry, plus some music, at Blackburn’s Family Hotel in Parke Street, Katoomba from 2pm-5.30pm on the second Sunday of the month.

1970s

VIRGINIA HOOD (MBBS '70) professor of medicine at the University of Vermont, has been elected President of the American College of Physicians. The ACP is the United States’ largest medical specialty organisation representing 130,000 members including internists, related subspecialists, and medical students.

Her academic interests lie in metabolic acidosis, epidemiological and public health aspects of hypertension and chronic kidney disease, and the integration of public health and clinical medicine approaches for managing chronic disease.

In 1993, she received a master’s degree in public health from the Harvard School of Public Health.

WILLIAM O’TOOLE (BSc '72 MEng (Project Management) '05) my latest textbook is Events Feasibility and Development (Elsevier, 2011) www.eventsfd.com. It’s my third international textbook used for tertiary courses in event management around the world. I’ve been working in many countries over the past 15 years, assisting in the development of their events industries. In the new growing economies, events such as festivals, conferences, exhibitions and sports are taken very seriously as they have enormous economic and social returns.

I worked with the Supreme Commission for Tourism in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on and off for six years, writing its events strategy, developing courses and generally assisting with the growth of new events. It now has festivals and events in all 13 provinces. Some, particularly the agricultural-based events like the Olive Festival, attract half a million visitors and significantly contribute to industry development.

Recently I’ve been working with the United Nations in Khartoum and developing the events industries in Kenya and Uganda.

I never imagined I would go down this path, but I’ve always been pretty good at organising – I was co-vice president of the University bushwalking club!

Above: William O’Toole with the Governor and event managers in Qassim, Saudi Arabia 2010

1980s

PETER GODFREY-SMITH (BA’88) received his PhD from UC San Diego; taught at Stanford and the Australian National University, and joined the Harvard Department of Philosophy full-time in 2006, after several terms as a visitor. He is the recipient of the Lakatos Award, which is given for an outstanding contribution to the philosophy of science, for his book Darwinian Populations and Natural
Selection (Oxford University Press 2009). The award was made possible by a generous endowment from the Latsis Foundation. It is in memory of former LSE professor, Imre Lakatos, and is administered by an international Management Committee organised from the LSE.

MARA GIRIBALDI (BSc (Orthoptics) ’94) and DR JOHN GULOTTA (BPharm ’86) (above left) were married in St Mary’s Cathedral and later celebrated with a formal reception at MacLaurin Hall.

Dr Gullotta is Adjunct Associate Professor, General Practice at the Sydney Medical School and was awarded the 2007 Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Service for his contributions to medicine, medical education and pharmacy, as well as for his service to the Italian-Australian community in Sydney. Dr Gullotta is past president of the Australian Medical Association NSW and is in private general practice in Sydney.

Mara currently works in a private ophthalmology practice and is also Associate Lecturer, Orthoptics in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University. She is past President of Orthoptics Australia NSW and is an Executive Councillor of the federal body.

Other alumni in the bridal party included best man, Raymond Lee (BPharm ’86 LLB ’89), maid of honour, Dr Anna Alexiadis (MBBS ’90) and groomsman, Danilo Giribaldi (BEng (Civil) ’94).

John proposed on the family boat during the midnight fireworks, NYE 2010 on Sydney Harbour!

1990s

GEOFF USHER (MA ’90) retired at the end of April 2010 after 19 years as Minister to the Unitarian congregation at Upper Chapel, Sheffield, and returned to Sydney in November. He is rediscovering how warm (and humid) Sydney can be. During his time in England Geoff competed a Master of Philosophy from Birmingham University, through the Urban Theology Unit in Sheffield. He is enjoying the opportunity to do much more reading for leisure rather than work, and is taking his time before becoming involved with voluntary work.

YOUNG-MIN KWON (MBBS ’97) MD PhD FRCS FRACS (above centre) is an orthopaedic surgeon at the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. He has been awarded the prestigious Kappa Delta Investigator Award from the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS). Since 1947, the Kappa Delta Awards are bestowed by the Academy for outstanding research in orthopaedic surgery that is of the highest significance and impact. It is the highest award in orthopaedic research in the US.

The research, titled Evidence-Based Approach in Understanding ‘Pseudotumors’ in Metal-on-Metal Hip Replacements, elucidated mechanisms involved in adverse reactions in metal-on-metal joint replacements, which are commonly used to treat young and active patients with significant hip osteoarthritis.

As a surgeon-scientist, it is critically important to investigate and gain insights into any unexpected complication that adversely affects patients’ outcome. The research concluded that, pseudotumors develop as a reaction to the metal debris generated from the wear of metal-on-metal implants. Excessive wear of these implants, as a result of sub-optimal placement, can lead to damage to the soft tissues in susceptible patients.

2000s

ALEX DAWSON (BDesArch ’11) has been working in an architecture firm in Washington DC and commenced postgraduate studies at the Cooper Union in NYC in June.

TESSA McGRATH (BEd (Primary Hons) ’08) writes: with the recent graduation of two of my siblings, we have continued a strong family affiliation with the University. With much affection for this institution, we are proud to say that all five children from our family have now graduated with six degrees between us (and hopefully more in future!)

We are: KATHLEEN (BSc (Med) ’02 MBBS (Hons) ’06) working as a paediatrician at the Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne, SEAN (BPharm ’06) a pharmacist in Tuross Heads, NSW, ADELE (B Liberal Studies (Int) ’10) applying for graduate positions in government sectors; EDMUND (BArts (Adv) ’10) travelling to Japan to teach English for 12 Months; and I am teaching English at the Immigration Detention Centre in Curtin, WA.

Above right: L-R Adele, Sean, Kathleen, Edmund and Tessa.
DIARY

3 AUGUST
Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
Public Lecture: Soils To Society, The Unseen Power Beneath Our Feet
The Judith and David Coffey Chair in Sustainable Agriculture, Professor John Crawford, will talk about how the world’s agricultural capacity will be able to meet human demands and the intimate links between soil and society. Further information and bookings: Sydney Science Forum 2011, 02 9351 3021 or science.forum@sydney.edu.au

4-7 AUGUST
SUGUNA Annual Conference
An exciting program of events and activities is planned for our 20th anniversary conference in Vancouver BC. Please visit our website for program and booking details: sydney.edu.au/alumni/suguna/conference Further information: Robert Bear, Conference Chair at ro.bear45@gmail.com

5 AUGUST
Alumni Drinks At The Brassey Hotel, corner of Belmore Gardens & Macquarie Street, Barton, ACT. 6.00-7.30 pm. No cover charge. Light canapés provided. All welcome by prior RSVP by 29 July; alumni.canberra@sydney.edu.au Further information: sydney.edu.au/alumni/canberra or 02 9036 9222

15 AUGUST
Annual Michael Hintze Lecture with Professor Wang Jisi
The Refectory, Holme Building 6pm-8.30pm. The guest speaker is Dean of the School of International Studies, Peking University. More information: alumni.rsvp@sydney.edu.au

19 AUGUST
Sydney Business School Alumni Dinner with Professor Daniel Kahneman
Nobel laureate and founder of the concept of behavioural economics, psychologist Daniel Kahneman will speak at this exclusive alumni event. The Great Hall
Cost: $125 per person (alumni), $150 per person (guest) or $1250 per table of ten, inc GST, three-course dinner and beverages. Further information and bookings: Alexandra.middleton@sydney.edu.au

24 SEPTEMBER
ALUMNI DISCUSSION DINNER WITH JOHN BELL AO OBE
The Great Hall
See advertisement on page 8 for more information.

6 SEPTEMBER
GRADUATE CONNECTIONS BREAKFAST WITH DAVID MORTIMER AO
The Four Seasons Hotel 199 George Street Sydney, 7.15-8.45am
The guest speaker is Director of Macquarie Infrastructure Investment Management Ltd, Chairman of Australia Post, Crescent Capital Partners and Leighton Holding Ltd. Register online: sydney.edu.au/alumni/breakfast

8 SEPTEMBER
University of Sydney Reception Singapore
The Pines, 30 Stevens Road, Singapore Further information and bookings: sydney.edu.au/alumni/singapore

4 OCTOBER
THE COMEDY DEBATE
The Great Hall
Alumni and students battle it out at this ever popular and highly entertaining debate. 6.30-8pm. Free entry, bookings recommended. Further information and bookings: sydney.edu.au/alumni/comedy

4 & 5 OCTOBER
Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
PBI Narrabri 50th Anniversary Alumni Dinner and Field Day Alumni and Friends Dinner, The Crossing Theatre, Narrabri, 6.30pm Join us to celebrate 50 years of research at the University’s IA, Watson Grains Research Centre, and participate in field tours and a Sustainable Futures Forum. Further information: Skaidy Gulbis on 02 8627 1006, or skaidy.gulbis@sydney.edu.au
21 OCTOBER
Beijing Alumni Reception
Grand Hyatt Hotel, Beijing
7pm tbc.
Further information and bookings: sydney.edu.au/alumni/beijing

28 OCTOBER
ALUMNI AWARDS
The Great Hall 6-8pm
Free entry, bookings recommended. Further information and bookings: sydney.edu.au/alumni/awards

3 NOVEMBER
DR CHARLES PERKINS AO
11TH ANNUAL ORATION AND MEMORIAL PRIZE
The Great Hall, 6pm
With guest speaker Mr Murrundoo Yanner, prominent Aboriginal activist from the Carpentaria Land Council. A renowned activist and a fearless spokesperson, Dr Charles Perkins AO, dedicated his life to achieving social justice for Aboriginal people. Actively involved in Indigenous organisations, he fought hard to improve Aboriginal health, education, and housing and to obtain better employment conditions for Indigenous Australians. Further information: 02 9036 9278 or register online: sydney.edu.au/alumni/koori

4 NOVEMBER
Tasmanian Alumni Association Dinner and AGM
6pm onwards. University of Tasmania Staff Club, $54 per person. RSVP by 28 October. Further information: www.alumni.sydney.edu.au/tasmania-2011AGM or Andrea Besnard 02 9351 1963

11 NOVEMBER
ALUMNI DRINKS AT THE BRASSEY
Brassey Hotel, corner of Belmore Gardens & Macquarie Street, Barton, ACT. 6.00-7.30 pm. No cover charge. Light canapés provided. All welcome by prior RSVP by 4 November: alumni.canberra@sydney.edu.au. Further information: sydney.edu.au/alumni/Canberra or 02 9036 9222

22 NOVEMBER
GRADUATE CONNECTIONS BREAKFAST WITH AMANDA McCLUSKEY
The Four Seasons Hotel 199 George Street Sydney, 7.15-8.45am
The guest speaker is Head of Sustainability and Responsible Investment, Colonial First State
$35 for alumni, staff and students of the University; $45 for friends or guests; $280 for a table of eight Further information, email alumni.rsvp@sydney.edu.au or register online sydney.edu.au/alumni/breakfast

OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS
A number of our national and international alumni chapters run social events for alumni on a regular basis. Visit our chapters’ websites at alumni.sydney.edu.au/chapters to find out what is happening in your area. Are you interested in starting your own local chapter or online group? Contact Andrea Besnard in the Alumni and Events Office at andrea.besnard@sydney.edu.au or 02 9351 1963

ALUMNI REUNIONS
There are numerous Alumni Reunions being held throughout the year. Please visit the event pages at sydney.edu.au/alumni for more information. If you would like help arranging your reunion, contact us at events.assistant@sydney.edu.au

AND THERE’S MORE…
Not all our events make the SAM publishing deadline. Keep an eye on our web pages and make sure that your contact details are up to date (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 area.
CROSSWORD

SET IN STONE

The prize is a copy of Set in Stone - the Cell Block Theatre by Deborah Beck (MA ‘10). Published by UNSW Press (to whom many thanks for this copy), it is a beautifully illustrated and fine history of a vital part of Sydney’s recent cultural history.

And the first correct entry out of SAM’s hat came from Peter Hanson (BSc ’72) of Castle Hill, NSW

CROSSWORD WINNER

ACROSS
1 Carriage one held in reserve (6)
4 Battle going on forever? (8)
9 You lousy lovers! (6)
10 Hunter’s companions in Turkey with boxers? (4-4)
12 Knight leaves, profanely misrepresented in erotic activity (8)
13 Smuggler keeps too many drugs in unit (6)
15 Nearly getting involved in public discussion about case (9,3)
18 She couldn’t keep quiet to save herself! (12)
21 Signs of things to come? (6)
22 Servant shows pluck when caught in Israel (8)
24 Incorrectly realign hot pipe (8)
25 Unpleasant melody not broadcast (3-3)
26 In retrospect, courses could get you worried (8)
27 Standing of middlemen at present (6)

DOWN
1 Inaccurate flowcharts not right for depicting money movements (4,4)
2 Teetotaller generally hides the thing that makes him sick! (8)
3 Knocked out trainers who might be needed on long trips (8,7)
5 Great singer turns up very hungry (4)
6 Parties often express agreement like this (3,2,3,2,2)
7 Obsessive pirate ready to make a connection (6)
8 Rocket scientists on radio to Egyptian leader (6)
11 Corrupt magistrate sat out with policeman in novel (7)
14 Spell “expanse” (7)
16 Without using plates, parliamentarians prepared sauce (8)
17 Source of nourishment for small animal turning up on Sunday, when there’s little about (3-5)
19 Publications appropriate for sending up outside Norway’s capital (1-5)
20 She’d love to order a pie (6)
23 Fight dirty (4)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

MULTIPICATION
EINUASHVF
PROTESTEREMEER
HNRHERRTI
INEPTENSHATEH
GERSAFCON
TESERALPOPPED
OPHOTIR
PUNCHYEMBEZZLE
HOEPPES
EXTEMPORECLUES
LAETRAHXR
EMBERTRIILOBITE
SLLAEUITS
SELLERSMARKETS

Answers in next issue of SAM, send your entries to The Editor
For the benefit of future generations, Composer Peter Sculthorpe announced he would leave his estate to the University of Sydney’s Conservatorium and Department of Music.

Become part of the University’s work as we explore new frontiers of knowledge across a wide range of areas including science, health, sport, art, culture, business and education.

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Graduate Options Expo is the one-stop postgraduate study event – you can talk, listen, read and take home all the information you’ll need to make your decision.

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Ignite the possible, go to sydney.edu.au/graduate_options