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MINING AND MONEY
Paul Cleary wrote an excellent article (SAM, November 2011) on the mining boom and how we are being short-changed because of it. He criticises the big three mining companies for, among other things, their opposition to the Resource Super Profits Tax (RSPT) but he omits the role of the “smaller” mining companies including Fortescue Metals and notably its billionaire chairman, Andrew “Twiggy” Forrest. These companies are hardly strapped for cash and don’t qualify as Aussie battlers, despite their bleating.

It would seem Paul Cleary supports the idea at least of a mining super profits tax even higher than the proposed RSPT of 40 per cent. It’s amazing he still has a job at The Australian, given its regular vociferous front-page editorialising against this and the moderate Minerals Resource Rent Tax (MRRT) of 30 per cent.

I’d like to hear his stories on that. I would like him to confirm his support for an increased – as well as a simplified – mining tax regime and whether he thinks it should be applied to other mineral resources such as gold, diamonds, copper, uranium, etc. Much of his commentary was implied rather than stated, critical rather than prescriptive and I’m not sure the comparisons with geographically smaller countries are helpful.

Given the broad-based nature of the topic, why the plug for the University’s Graduate School of Government at the end? Is this the only way of having articles published in SAM?

Justin O’Connell (BA ’84 M Litt ’98)
Windsor NSW

Editor’s note: The reference to the Graduate School of Government was included because it was felt to be relevant to the article.

LESS THAN IMPRESSED
I am a University of Sydney geology graduate and am not impressed by your cover story on mining (SAM, November 2011). Author Paul Cleary’s key thesis is that we are running out of mineral and energy resources, and so he raises again the same arguments of The Club of Rome in 1972, whose arguments have already been comprehensively trashed. He sneers at State royalties and bemoans Federal resource tax reform.

Nowhere does he mention that resources are the property of the Crown, which means each State, and most definitely not the property of the Federal Government, and thus the appropriate way for society to receive its fair share of the wealth of resources is via royalties at State level and income taxes at Federal level.

A BSc from 1986 ought to check some of his pre-1986 facts; they are not all medieval.

Paul W. Askins (BSc ’65)
Subiaco WA

IN PRAISE OF A POET
As a lover of poetry, I was interested to note that the writer of the prize-winning letter in SAM’s November 2011 issue received a copy of the anthology Australian Poetry Since 1788 [edited by Geoffrey Lehmann and Robert Gray, $69.95, NewSouth Books]. It is gratifying to know such an anthology has been compiled. This anthology has, however, one glaring omission.

To quote the review by Mike Ladd of Spectrum, Sydney Morning Herald, November 12-13, 2011, “The decision not to include anything by Michael Dransfield seems cavalier, almost an attempt to rewrite our literary history. True, he was very uneven but he is one of the few Australian poets who could claim to represent a generation and to have influenced a later one.”

Michael Dransfield’s poetry has been studied in Australia at secondary level, and also at universities here and around the world. His work was included in the University of Queensland Press anthology Made in Australia in which Australian poetry has been translated into German.

Michael was enrolled at the University in 1967. However, he was too interested in exploring life to settle down to study.

Frances Macdonald (BA ’67 Dip. ed ’68)
Miranda NSW

Editor’s note: Read Michael’s poetry in Michael Dransfeld: A Retrospective (UQP, $24.95).
THE WINNER

This issue’s prize-winning letter is “Mining and Money” by Justin O’Connell of Windsor, NSW.

The prize for the best letter this issue is Dancing With Warriors: A Diplomatic Memoir, by Philip Flood (Arcadia, $34.95). See page 32 for our review of this fascinating book.

Please send your letters by email to michael.visontay@sydney.edu.au, or by post to Michael Visontay, Publishing Editor, SAM, The University of Sydney, K6.05, Quadrangle A14, NSW 2006, Australia. Letters will be edited prior to publication.

CREDIT WHERE IT’S DUE

Richard Neville’s story (Letters, SAM, November 2011) that Tom O’Mahony’s work on Fisher Library has been written out of its history is incomplete. I have always stated that the appointed joint architects were E. H. Farmer, Government Architect (GA), and T. E. O’Mahony. I am known to have been the GA’s Design Architect. The joint arrangement became an unhappy one for Farmer and Rembert, his deputy.

The original librarian, Dr Andrew Osborn, did not get on with O’Mahony on design matters. He and many others have expressed opinions about the work, then and since. Osborn, his deputy Bea Wines, Harrison Bryan following and critics, writers, reviewers, chairman of the awards jury Sydney Ancher, academics, students and many contemporaries have all discussed the architecture of the building.

The design has been compared to the other current work of the participants around 1960 in regard to design character, details, materials and its Miesian discipline. Mine include the State Office Block, the Mosman House and the Lidcombe Hall.

A few years ago O’Mahony gave an account that used an illustration, from my own hand, of the final 1960 design. He used the occasion to disparage the work of the Government Architect’s Office on the Chemistry School, which was designed five years earlier than Fisher and is now highly regarded as the first modernist building at Sydney University. I would contrast this by adding that I liked and got on well with John Neville, Richard’s father.

Dr Ken Woolley AM (BArch ’55 Hon DSc Arch ’10)
Paddington NSW

CORRECTION

Please note that the article in the November 2011 edition of SAM titled “Gift of Life” incorrectly referred to Robert Maple-Brown as the father of the late Christine Maple-Brown, instead of father-in-law. Our sincere apologies for this error.

SAM’S NEW EDITOR

After four years under the valued editorship of Diana Simmonds, a new editor for, SAM will be commencing for Issue Two in 2012. Michael Visontay (BEc ’79) joins us after senior roles at The Australian, The Sydney Morning Herald and The Sun-Herald. Look out for further details in the July issue of SAM.

Tracey Beck, Director, Alumni Relations and Events

ACTIVELY ENGAGED

The University’s Alumni Council has been very active over the past three years, working closely with the Alumni and Events Office to post a number of notable successes.

AlumniOnline was launched three years ago and has enabled alumni to post their details, communicate with their peers via their regular social media networks and mentor students online.

The Alumni Awards program has grown, with the number of awards increasing from one to four, and the number of Graduate Medals being expanded from one to three (see page 10 for the 2011 recipients).

The events program has also grown. The quarterly Graduate Connections Breakfasts in Sydney CBD regularly attract up to 250 alumni, and celebrity alumni dinners fill the Great Hall, with speakers including the Honourable Michael Kirby and actor John Bell.

The Alumni and Events Office recently commissioned research into the needs of young alumni, out of which has come a program of exclusive “behind the scenes” events at places not normally open to the public. A number of recent graduates have joined the Alumni Council and are now actively contributing to policy development and debate. In addition, a student chapter of the Alumni Council is currently being established to give students an opportunity to display their leadership skills in fundraising on campus.

Our thanks to the Alumni and Events team who make this wonderful program possible, and to the Vice-Chancellor who is a strong supporter of alumni activities.

By David Turner (BArch ’71 MDesSc (Hons) ’97), President, University of Sydney Alumni Council, and Graduate Fellow of Senate. David was President of the Alumni Council from 2009 to 2012; the new President is John McLenaghan AM (BEc ’59). See the next edition of SAM for a profile of John.
EXCLUSIVE CCE OFFER FOR ALUMNI

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

* Offer is subject to review
Recent newspaper headlines have painted a confusing and even contradictory picture about the current state of innovation in this country. “Australia is no innovation leader,” read one; “Business has a poor view of Oz innovation,” claimed another; a third declared, “Australia is among the world’s best countries for supporting innovation.”

As always, there is a far more interesting and nuanced story beneath the headlines. The sources of the confusion were two fascinating reports released by the US-based technology company GE, which examined the current state of innovation in 22 different countries, including Australia.

The first, The Milken Innovation Report, prepared for GE by the US economic think tank the Milken Institute, ranked Australia among leading nations for its performance in such measures as patent production and collaboration between industries and academia.

However, the second report, GE’s own Innovation Barometer, which surveyed nearly 3000 executives of large companies, including 100 respondents in Australia, painted a very different picture. It is clear that international perceptions of Australia as an innovation leader are low and that Australian business executives feel their nation’s innovation environment has not improved in the past five years.

While The Milken Innovation Report found Australia is leading in five of seven innovation indicators and is above average in the other two, the GE Innovation Barometer survey was far more sober, ranking Australia 16th of 30 countries in innovation. This is despite the fact that between 2000 and 2008 the R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP in Australia increased at an annual growth rate of around 10 per cent — more than triple the average of OECD countries.

The heartening thing in these reports was the clear recognition that Australia has been a leader in facilitating collaboration, particularly between universities and industry. The $3.5 billion of Federal Government support for the national Cooperative Research Centre program is an obvious example.

However, we have much to learn from other countries such as Sweden, where as much as 97 per cent of publicly funded research is carried out at universities, complemented by networks and agencies to support industry and university collaborations. According to the World Economic Forum, Sweden ranks among the top five nations for investments in R&D and performance in knowledge creation for innovation. Yet Sweden’s outcomes are relatively modest in terms of producing profitable innovations or commercially viable products and services. According to Anders Hallgren, Director of Sydnovate, the University’s commercialisation arm, this “Swedish Innovation Paradox” has close parallels with the current situation in Australia. Although we have rich potential, intellectual capital and obvious research strengths, there is still a fragmentation of critical mass and allocation of resources.

Local business leaders surveyed by the Milken Institute identified communications, health and the environment as having huge potential for research and productivity growth. It is in exactly these areas where some of the University’s most innovative researchers are making significant contributions.

We have adopted a strategy of building excellence in the fundamental sciences and using this expertise to address some of the major problems facing the world today. Of particular interest to the European Union are our activities in the areas of nanoscience. In 2010 we secured $40 million for a new facility, the Australian Institute for Nanoscience, which will shape the future of research in this key discipline. It will encompass everything from photonics, for the development of low-energy high-speed communications technologies, right through to the development of nanotechnologies in medicine for the development of cancer treatments.

Professor Ben Eggleton heads up CUDOS, a collaborative research centre working at the frontiers of nanophotonics and optical signal processing. The centre’s work in optical science is considered to be as revolutionary as the work in silicon electronics that has reshaped the world over the past 50 years. Professor Eggleton and his colleagues are engaged in excellent collaborations with local industry partners Finisar and Silanna.

Another of our strengths is the important area of green chemistry, or the chemistry of sustainability, where researchers such as Professor Thomas Maschmeyer are at the forefront of devising options for renewable chemicals and fuels as well as for low-carbon power. Together with several industry partners, Professor Maschmeyer is making great advances in the use of catalysts to convert biomass to fuels and fuel stocks (see page 26) and in the use of nanoporous materials particles to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

These are just several examples of the enormous energy which is evident in our research labs as we develop new tools and ways of thinking that lead to innovation and to finding genuine solutions to real-world problems.
HAVE YOUR SAY

What do you think are the biggest issues facing Australia and the world today? What is it that matters to you? Maybe it’s finding a solution to climate change, extending lives, giving back to the community. Or perhaps you think we should be discussing the arts more, dealing with education or solving public transport issues. These and many other issues will be explored on a bold new website that has just been launched.

The aim of the University’s What Matters site is to find out what you think are the most significant issues, and to explain what the University’s best and brightest are doing about them.

You are invited to visit the site and join in the conversation, follow the polls and vote for what matters to you. You’ll be able to discover what some of our leading alumni and academics are doing in these important areas. Hear from inspirational members of your alumni community who will share their stories and opinions in video interviews. Those taking part include Anne Crawford (BA ’85 BSW ’87), the founder of the charity Can Too, and award-winning artist Ben Quilty (BA ’96).

Each month the website will reveal a selection of five new topics for visitors to vote on, so you can have your say on the most important issues that confront us today. See what’s on other people’s minds — and share what’s on yours — at sydney.edu.au/what-matters

NOTA BENE

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Once again University alumni were well represented in the 2012 Australia’s Day honours. Two were named Companion (AC) of the Order of Australia, the highest honour bestowed, with the Honourable Justice Virginia Bell and conductor Maestro Richard Bonyenge, who studied at Sydney Conservatorium of Music, both receiving the title.

Virginia Bell (LLB ’77) was named for eminent service to the judiciary and to the law through leadership in criminal law reform and public policy development, to judicial administration, and as an advocate for the economically and socially disadvantaged. She has been a Justice of the High Court of Australia since 2009, and was a judge in the Supreme Court of New South Wales from 1999 to 2009.

Richard Bonyenge (SCM ’49) was named for eminent service to the performing arts as an acclaimed conductor and musical scholar, to classical singing and the promotion of opera, and through the collection and preservation of operatic manuscripts. Throughout his career he has conducted in the world’s great opera houses including those in New York, London, Paris, Barcelona, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and many others.

Other alumni to have received honours this year include:

Officer (AO) of the Order of Australia

Malcolm Begbie (BEC ’66) for distinguished service to the international community in the provision of humanitarian relief, particularly through the Crossroads Foundation, and as a significant contributor to United Nations efforts to connect business organisations with those in need.

Professor Charles MacKenzie (BSc(Vet) ’69 BVetSc ’71 PhD ’76) for distinguished service to veterinary pathology and to medical science through significant contributions to filarial disease eradication in the peoples of Equatorial Africa, and as a researcher and educator.

The Very Reverend William Uren (GradDipJur ’68) for distinguished service to education as a philosopher and bioethicist, as a commentator on contemporary issues in Australian society, as a scholar and mentor to the Catholic Church and in Australia.

Member (AM) of the Order of Australia

The Hon Jennifer Boland (LLM ’92) for service to the judiciary through the Family Court of Australia, to legal education, and to the community, particularly through social welfare organisations.

Dr Jillian Benson (MBBS ’79) for service to medicine through contributions in the field of mental health, particularly for refugees and people seeking asylum, and to the Indigenous community in South Australia.

Dr Susan Briggs (BScAgr ’73) for service to conservation and the environment through scientific, research and advisory roles supporting natural resources management and policy development.

Stirling Mortlock (BSc ’99) for service to the sport of rugby union football, particularly as Captain of the Wallabies. He is currently captain of the Melbourne Rebels, with whom he has played since 2010.

Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia

Emeritus Professor Brian Fletcher (BA ’53 DipEd ’54 MA ’62) for service to education as an academic, researcher and author in the discipline of Australian history.

Judith Friend (BA ’61) for service to the arts through voluntary roles with the Art Gallery of New South Wales and the Museum of Contemporary Art.

For a full list of recipients, visit sydney.edu.au/alumni and click on “Our Alumni”.

For a full list of recipients, visit sydney.edu.au/alumni and click on “Our Alumni”.

8 MAR 2012 SAM
RAISE YOUR HAND FOR RECONCILIATION The University's commitment to encouraging diversity will once again be on display during Reconciliation Week, taking place from 27 May to 3 June, and all alumni are cordially invited to take part. Events include a flag-raising ceremony, community barbecue, public discussions and performances at the Seymour Centre, as well as tours, special events and a Koori Centre visit. You can also show your support for genuine reconciliation by planting a hand in the “Sea of Hands” on the Front Lawn, helping to complete the design by one of our Sydney College of the Arts students. Last year’s design (pictured) was a sight to behold. For further information, visit sydney.edu.au/events/reconciliation, or contact the Alumni and Events Office at alumni.rsvp@sydney.edu.au or on +61 2 9036 9278.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS You still have time to send in your nominations for honorary degrees and honorary fellowships, which recognise exceptional achievement and outstanding service to the University. Nominations need to be sent to Dr William Adams, Secretary to Senate, by 30 April 2012. Those approved by Senate will normally be conferred in 2013.

For details about eligibility, selection criteria and how to prepare and submit nominations, please visit sydney.edu.au/senate

SUPPORT WHERE IT’S NEEDED The University had a record year for donations in 2011, with more than $79 million raised in philanthropic support from nearly 9000 donors. The figure is more than any other Australian university has ever received in a year.

More than 60 per cent of the money raised came from gifts of 11 donors. Significant achievements include:

- Bequest income in 2011 was more than double that of 2007 and is now more than $20 million per annum.
- The number of gifts of more than $1 million has doubled in two years.
- Most donors (58 per cent) are aged between 40 and 60, although the number of younger donors rose dramatically from 100 in 2007 to 1200 last year.
- The number of current-student donors tripled between 2010 and 2011, to 363.
- The sale of the Picasso painting *Jeune Fille Endormie* raised $20.6 million to fund research into obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
- The $8.8 million Nancy Roma Paech Bequest was designated to rangeland science programs.
- John Hooke donated $5 million to endow a new academic chair of nanoscience in the School of Physics.
- The Maple-Brown Family gave $5 million to fund a new colorectal cancer clinic at RPA's Lifehouse Cancer Centre.
- Daniel Petre donated $2 million to appoint a chair of prostate cancer research.

Philanthropic donations provide vital support for teaching, research and student achievements; 99.93 per cent of donors allocated their gifts to a particular area of interest, including scholarships, research projects and a myriad of other areas.

For more information, contact the Development Office on +61 2 8627 8818 or development.fund@sydney.edu.au
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVERS

What do the founder of a charity, a veterinary scientist, a surgeon and a rugby league player have in common? They’re all recipients of the 2011 Alumni Awards, which recognise some of Australia’s foremost thinkers and achievers. The awards celebrate the way the recipients’ exceptional contributions, sense of innovation and generosity of spirit have enriched the lives of others.

Anne Crawford (BA ‘85 BSW ‘87) received the Alumni Award for Community Achievement because of her work with Can Too, the charitable program she set up. The organisation trains ordinary Australians to achieve goals they never thought possible, such as running a marathon or half marathon or completing an ocean swim. In return, the participants raise funds for Cure Cancer Australia, with more than $7 million raised since April 2005, by more than 6000 people. (You can hear more from Anne at sydney.edu.au/what-matters – see page 8.)

Associate Professor Robyn Alders AO (BSc (Vet) ‘83 BVSC ‘84 DipVetClinStud ‘86) received the Alumni Award for International Achievement. The award recognises her exceptional research and contributions to veterinary science, particularly for her vital work on the prevention and control of emerging infectious disease and village poultry health in Asia and Africa. She has made a significant and long-term contribution to the improvement of poultry production in rural villages, working closely with farmers, not only as a veterinarian and researcher, but also as a diplomat and negotiator between people and government departments.

Dr Virginia Maixner (MBBS ‘86) received the Alumni Award for Professional Achievement for her extraordinary work as a surgeon, her groundbreaking research and for establishing a course that educates and inspires young neurosurgeons. She has been described by colleagues as “the neurosurgeon’s neurosurgeon”, which is testimony to her reputation as a leading practitioner in this high-pressure discipline. She has performed numerous operations on children suffering rare conditions, and each of these operations required meticulous attention to detail, stamina and considerable courage. In 2007 she performed the first auditory brainstem implant on a child in Australasia. This has been described as a procedure that “could pave the way for revolutionary advances in medicine”.

Rugby league player Corey Payne (BCom ‘07) received the Young Alumni Award for Achievement for his efforts to inform, educate and inspire young people from less privileged schools or low socio-economic areas about the importance of attending university, and for devoting his time and energy to supporting a range of charitable causes.

Corey, who plays for the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, founded the Future Direction Network in December 2009 to provide support to students from south-west Sydney, through mentoring, career pathway planning and by helping them to find and apply for university scholarships.

Meanwhile, four outstanding students have been honoured with medals after showing strong leadership or achieving academic excellence while also enriching the diverse life of the University of Sydney and making a difference to the broader community. Naomi Hart (BA (Hons) ‘09 LLB ‘11) and Nathaniel Ware (BEx ‘11) were honoured with Convocation Medals, Erin Law (MN ‘11) received the Edmund Barton Medal, and Dr Kirsten Harley (BSc ‘92 PhD ‘10) was named the Rita and John Cornforth Medallist.

For information on nominations for the 2012 Alumni Awards and Graduate Medals, visit sydney.edu.au/alumni/awards

STAY IN TOUCH WITH WHAT’S ON

Looking for a University event? There’s now an easy way to find it. A new online calendar provides a central source of information on all University events taking place on our campuses and internationally.

You can use it to see what talks are coming up, check the details of an alumni reunion or browse the many lectures, cultural performances and open days – and it’s just a couple of clicks away.

The calendar includes a description of each event, its location, date and price. You can also add the event to your electronic calendar, ‘like’ it on Facebook, tweet about it and register your attendance online.

Among many events in April and May are the Golden Graduates Luncheon for alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago, a Sydney Ideas discussion on the politics of cultural identity and an entertaining session with Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, who’ll present his latest swag of super science stories.

Visit sydney.edu.au/events to explore the calendar. And to see some of the events coming up, turn to SAM’s Diary, page 36.
THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP

Imagine how it feels to arrive in Australia with no knowledge of the local culture, customs or traditions. Here’s a way for alumni to help make the University’s international students feel more at home as they face the daunting task of settling down for their time here.

The University of Sydney’s Fun, Fare & Future Alumni program connects students with alumni who host a meal and offer a warm, friendly environment so that people new to the country can meet other people, form friendships and exchange experiences with each other and their host. Gatherings can range from a leisurely breakfast or a barbecue lunch to a formal dinner – the host decides.

International students comprise 22 per cent of all those studying at the University of Sydney, and participants have included students from Chile, Iran, the Philippines, Kazakhstan, Singapore, the USA, the UK, Germany, Colombia, India, Malaysia, Taiwan, South Korea, Mauritius and Pakistan. The program is also open to Australian students hoping to increase their networks.

It provides alumni with an opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of current students, as Greg Moore (DipCrimm ’86) testifies. “We had a great time,” says Moore (pictured above), who has hosted events at his home in Goulburn, NSW. “I took the students down the south road and we stopped for lookout views of Wollongong and the south coast, and then went on to Goulburn. We had king prawns, some drinks, a barbecue and Aussie pavlova for dessert.

“We laughed so much. My wife and I received very nice comments from them afterwards by SMS and email, and I think we’ll all be keeping in touch.”

If you’d like to host a function, visit sydney.edu.au/alumni/hospitality or call +61 2 9036 9504.

AN UNWELCOME DECISION

Professor Trevor Hambley, Dean of the Faculty of Science, believes changes to HECS contributions for maths and science students will be bad for the country.

From 2013 undergraduate students starting science and mathematics degrees will no longer enjoy the lower fees that have been in place for the past four years, after the Federal Government announced that these subjects would no longer be National Priority disciplines.

From 2009 until 2012, new domestic students paid almost half the amount of HECS fees compared to previous years. Undergraduate fees fell from as high as $7260 per year in 2008 to $4162 per year in 2009, making science and mathematics degrees far more appealing to students.

With the skills shortage in these areas, any deterrent to studying sciences is most unwelcome. By placing science and mathematics degrees back in HECS Band 2 from 2013, the Federal Government risks turning students away. We need to continue to encourage Australian students to study science and mathematics, and to recognise that a degree in these areas opens up a huge breadth of career opportunities. Finance, business and government sectors employ maths and science graduates for their analytical and problem-solving skills. These degrees are useful in such fields as science education, communication, journalism and marketing. And, of course, they open up a huge choice of exciting scientific research fields.

The Federal Government estimates that cutting the HECS discount will save $403 million over three years, but this is such a small amount compared with the potential losses incurred from making science and mathematics less attractive study options in Australia.

The Government also states that the National Priority fees were not successful in improving student participation in maths and science degrees, even though the number of enrolments rose.

It is hard to measure the success of the program by using student numbers as an indicator, as these are often subject to quotas and because degree offerings change from year to year. What we do know is that any change that jeopardises the attractiveness of choosing to study science and mathematics is unwelcome at a time when we sorely need more such graduates to secure Australia’s future success.
Calling All Former Uni Soccer Players

Sydney University Soccer Football Club (SUSFC) is trying to track down any alumni who have played for the club since its inception in 1946. It wants to reconnect with missing players to welcome them back into its family, help piece together its current patchy history and strengthen the club spirit.


“During my years of involvement with SUSFC I’ve seen the club progress from strength to strength. Over this time I’ve had the privilege of sharing the field and an after-game beer with numerous highly dedicated and passionate people,” he says.

“I wholeheartedly recommend joining our alumni network as a way of celebrating the hard work of many since the club’s inception and maintaining the traditions of the mighty ‘Students’ for years to come.”

There will be two opportunities to catch up with other SUSFC alumni at the club’s Homecoming Day on 11 May or at the Blue & Gold Dinner on 8 June.

If you’ve played with the club, you can sign up to its alumni database at www.susfc.org.au, or contact the SUSFC Operations Manager, Nathan Kosmina, for further information at info@susfc.org.au or on +61 2 9351 8113.

Sancta Sophia College desparately seeking lost alumni

Are you lost?

Help us find you! If you haven’t heard from us in the last 3 months, contact our Alumni Relations Manager on 02 9577 2326 to register or update your details.

Follow us forward at www.sanctasophiacollege.edu.au/alumni/
Kate Curtis still remembers the huge buzz she felt during her nursing training in a hospital emergency department. “I liked the adrenalin rush, as well as being able to provide good care to people who were under duress,” she recalls.

It was this that led Curtis, now an Associate Professor at the University’s Sydney Nursing School, to become a researcher whose PhD study has brought about widespread changes in Australian hospitals. It has also seen her being honoured with a highly significant prize – one that recognises work leading to the greatest improvements in the care of severely injured patients over the past 10 years.

Curtis (GradDip CritCare ’97) was presented with the 2011 Frank McDermott Award, named after the man whose own research led to (among other things) the introduction of the zero blood-alcohol limit for learner and probationary drivers. Curtis’s study is just as far-reaching, even though (fortunately) fewer people are likely to know about it. She found that the simple measure of introducing a single case manager for each trauma patient in hospital would dramatically improve the care they received and their recovery.

The 14-month study, carried out at Sydney’s St George Hospital and published in 2006, looked at the effects of assigning a specialist nurse to oversee all trauma cases, rather than the patient being seen by numerous people according to his or her injuries. Before the study, Liverpool Hospital was the only one in Australia to appoint a trauma case manager. St George became the second, enabling Curtis to compare the situation before and after, looking at 1300 patients. The study proved so successful that its findings were adopted into NSW Health policy, and case managers have since been appointed at virtually every Australian hospital offering major trauma services.

“We found that having a trauma case manager in place saved more than 815 bed days over the 14-month period, and reduced the number of complications patients suffered, such as clots in the legs and pneumonia,” Curtis explains. In addition, there were fewer unplanned admissions to the intensive care unit or an operating suite, and pathology tests were reduced by more than 6600.

Curtis describes receiving her award as a great honour. “It’s nice to know that the work you’ve done has meant something to other people and made a difference,” she says.

She is now finalising a three-year post-doctoral study looking at the cost of trauma care in New South Wales hospitals. It has been jointly funded by a fellowship from the University of Sydney and Sydney Nursing School, with 10 hospitals taking part. One of its findings is that trauma-centre hospitals in New South Wales are likely to be losing out on up to $14 million a year in Government funding. Curtis is now examining how well the State’s trauma system works. “I’m looking at whether it makes a difference which hospital a child involved in a car crash is taken to, for example, and whether that affects the chances of survival,” she says.

It is all meaty stuff, with an emotional element that fuels Curtis’surge to uncover all of this evidence. “That’s one of the things that drives me to do the research,” she says. “I want the way we look after patients to be the best it can be, and I want it to be evidence-based. I want to make sure that if you’re involved in a traumatic incident, we’re giving you the best opportunities you can have.”

Thanks to the work of Associate Professor Kate Curtis, trauma patients in hospitals across Australia are assured of the highest levels of care.
INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

SCHOLARSHIPS

Education is seen by many as a right rather than a privilege, yet the fact is it still needs to be paid for. Thanks to donations from generous benefactors to the University, numerous students are reaching milestones and achieving breakthroughs that wouldn’t otherwise have been possible.

Samantha Cheung has been able to put the Faculty of Science’s 2011 Selby Research Award to good use as she carries out her PhD. Thanks to the $14,000 award, she is hoping to genetically engineer a bacterial enzyme that can produce epoxides (a type of chemical compound) for the pharmaceutical and fine chemicals industries. She aims to make epoxides available to be produced on a large scale for drugs such as Indinavir, which is used to treat HIV.

“If we can provide a cost-effective, environmentally friendly method for producing these compounds, then ideally we can make the drugs more accessible to people who need them,” says Samantha, who is working with Dr Nick Coleman in the School of Molecular Bioscience. She adds that making pharmaceuticals using biologically produced enzymes, or biocatalysts, is far safer than using man-made chemicals.

“There are some wonderful examples of biocatalysts that have been integrated into industry, such as in the...
production of beta-lactam antibiotics, where they have overtaken chemical production, but these are isolated examples,” says Samantha. “The holy grail would be to create a whole library of biocatalysts capable of catalysing any chemical reaction.”

Around $2000 from the award paid for a piece of equipment known as a Chiral GC Column, which can physically separate smaller epoxides – up until now the School of Chemistry has had GC Columns capable of separating only larger compounds. Samantha also hopes to travel to international conferences in Germany and the UK, presenting her work and learning from others in the field.

Even after she completes her PhD Samantha plans to continue academic research, preferably in biocatalysis. “I love research (when it works) and the end goal of biocatalysis is application – to change the way we currently do things for the better,” she says. “For me, it’s not about money – realistically, no one goes into science for money – but rather it’s a tangible means of making a contribution to society within my own capabilities.”

Daniel Kim was one of four recipients of the Littrell-Cartwright International Exchange Scholarship, which awarded him $6000 to spend a semester at Yonsei University, in Seoul, South Korea. He was born in Seoul but was brought to Australia when he was less than a year old, so he was keen to experience academic life in Korea and to improve his written skills in his mother tongue.

“I’d never had the chance to discover the country my parents and I came from. The exchange program allowed me to discover Korea and enrich my cultural awareness,” says Daniel, who also received a $3000 International Exchange Asia Pacific Targeted Scholarship. “I also wanted to add a Korean perspective to my business studies, particularly learning about how firms such as Samsung have become so successful.”

He is now in his final year of a Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in accounting, finance and Chinese Studies. While on exchange, Daniel found the way of studying quite different to that in Australia, particularly the familiarity between students and staff. “In Korea, it’s acceptable and common for students to dine with professors, because having good relationships is a vital characteristic of the country’s culture and society,” he explains. “I was able to network with my professor and make new contacts, which turned out to be a really great opportunity.”

As well as studying, Daniel also volunteered as an English teacher and took part in Yonsei’s huge student festival, which he describes as “absolutely astonishing”, with thousands of students participating. “It involved major Korean pop stars as part of the entertainment, seeing students perform musical and dance acts, group cheering activities and so on,” he says. “It’s definitely something you won’t see anywhere other than in Korea.”

For some students, scholarships are the lifeblood of their whole University experience, particularly for those from rural areas. Tom Fenton is the 2011 recipient of the Sydney Business School’s four-year David W. Johnson Scholarship, which has enabled him to travel from his hometown of Orange, NSW, to study at the University. Being able to live on campus at St Paul’s College and not having to work during the semester to fund his accommodation leaves him free to gain as much as he can from student life.

“Essentially, coming from a country area, my scholarship allows me to prioritise my degree and enjoy the full range of activities at the University,” says Tom, who is in the second year of a Bachelor of Commerce (Liberal Studies) degree.
Many people are happy to donate any number of body parts – apart from their corneas. New research reveals why many of us just don’t want to give up the windows to our souls.

Of all the human body parts a person can donate after their death, the corneas are the most likely to be used – and yet they are also the least likely to be donated. Now, though, we are able to understand the reasons for this. A University researcher has revealed why it is that even when families are happy to donate their loved one’s heart, kidneys, bones or lungs, many of those same people refuse when it comes to the eyes.

Ophthalmology fellow Mitchell Lawlor (MMed (OphthSc) ’07 PhD ’11), a clinical associate lecturer at the Sydney Eye Hospital, found that as many of 30 per cent of families refuse consent for a deceased person’s corneas to be transplanted, despite being happy to donate other bodily organs. So he interviewed these families to tease out their reasoning.

Lawlor found that people generally view the body in one of two ways. First, there’s the “medical body” view, which is the idea that once you’re dead, you’re dead, and your organs are just spare parts to be used. “That’s a very rational way of viewing the body,” Lawlor says.

Second, however, there’s the “social body”, in which the body is seen as the medium through which people communicate and form relationships.

For example, a woman knows her mother through looking at her, talking to her and touching her.

“You know the organs, the eyes seem to be the most important in this respect, probably because we look at them all the time and we tend to form relationships quite strongly through them,” says Lawlor. “So, at that moment of death, if you ask, ‘Can we remove your loved one’s eyes?’ then you’re potentially fracturing that relationship. For a lot of families that’s extremely confronting and challenging.”

What’s particularly interesting about Lawlor’s research is that it reveals that many people simultaneously hold both views. “In certain circumstances they might say, ‘Yes, I understand that this person is dead and it doesn’t really matter what we donate,’ but then they can flick back to the other view and decide, ‘Oh, I just really feel uncomfortable about removing the eyes,’” he explains.

Lawlor didn’t set out to raise donation rates, but his PhD paper does make suggestions about how the research could help. The main one is that while donation co-ordinators are often attuned to the social-body idea, public education tends to focus on the medical-body view.

“In essence, those wishing to increase donation rates have engaged well with the ‘medical’ concept of the body but not so well with the ‘social’ perspective,” he says, and he suggests that policy-makers need to engage with both perspectives.

Without that taking place, he is sceptical about the benefits of public awareness campaigns as a means of raising donation rates, because his previous research has shown such initiatives can backfire.

“I looked at the data for what had happened over the 10 years that the Government had been encouraging people to tell their families about their donation decision. It revealed that the percentage increase of those people saying no to donation was substantially higher than the increase in those people saying yes,” he says. “This could potentially have a negative impact on donation, as families are much more unlikely to override the wishes of somebody who’s said no than somebody who’s said yes.”

Equally, he is not convinced that the decision to donate should be removed from families and left with the donor, as a NSW Government discussion paper has proposed. Many people are happy with the present system, according to a survey he carried out among 400 people indicating their wishes about donation at the RTA.

“That research showed a substantial minority want their family to make the final decision,” Lawlor says. “It’s clearly a complex issue.”

THE CORNEA CURE

The main reason corneas are transplanted in Australia is to cure keratoconus, a disease in which corneas that have become conical and pointed need to be replaced with healthy, rounded ones.

For most organs to be donated, a person has to die in intensive care and be kept on a respirator to maintain bloodflow while permission is sought from families. Donation of the corneas is more common, however, as they lack blood vessels so can be donated up to 24 hours after death and in many different circumstances – such as after a car accident.
The Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund Prize for Discovery in Medical Research is awarded in alternate years at the University of Sydney and at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. It recognises discovery in medical research by a researcher under 45 years of age who has made a major contribution to the understanding or treatment of disease. The inaugural award in 2006 was made at the University of Sydney.

The Trustees of the Fund are pleased to announce the 2012 award of the Prize to:

Associate Professor Barry Slobedman
Discipline of Infectious Diseases & Immunology, University of Sydney.
Centre for Virus Research, Westmead Millennium Institute.

Prof Slobedman was nominated for discoveries which have profoundly changed our understanding of how the human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) can persist in a latent state for the life of the human host, despite the presence of a huge anti-viral immune response. His work has resulted in the discovery of a viral homologue of the potent immunomodulatory cytokine human IL-10, which is expressed by latent HCMV. He has shown that this viral IL-10 gene functions during latency to make infected cells “invisible” to the T-cells specific to controlling them. The virus thus actively evades detection during the latent phase of infection. The discovery provides a novel drug target for development of therapies to interrupt latency, and detection during the latent phase of infection.

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**VISIT REGIONAL FRANCE 2013**

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**BIOGRAPHICAL ENTRY**

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The next call for nominations for the Prize will be for scientists of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Visit the Fund’s website or contact us for more information about this work and about The Prize.

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While debate rages on about the best way to limit spending on poker machines, a team of psychologists has come up with a targeted way of treating problem gamblers, and now they hope to show just how effective this method can be.

Barely a week has gone by over the past few months when we’ve not heard something about problem gambling in the news. All sides are arguing about how best to deal with this issue as the Federal Parliament thrashes out proposals for a mandatory pre-commitment system for poker-machine players. Away from the headlines, however, a University of Sydney team is confronting problem gambling head-on. It is making significant inroads by treating those struggling to overcome their behaviour, which causes misery and hardship both for themselves and for those close to them.

Staff at the School of Psychology’s Gambling Treatment Clinic believe they have come up with a way of working with problem gamblers that is the most effective program so far devised, and now they are planning to test it to evaluate its effectiveness against the current “gold standard” method. They believe the Cognitive Therapy (CT) program they have come up with offers a far more effective way of helping problem gamblers stay away from poker machines than the more traditional Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT).

Christopher Hunt (BSc (Adv) ’03 BSc (Hons) ’05) is one of the psychologists who will be treating clients as part of an 18-month trial comparing the outcomes of CT and CBT, which is being run under the supervision of the clinic’s director, Professor Alex Blaszczynski.

“The standard therapy of CBT is a mixture of looking at cognitions (or thoughts) and behaviours, so it focuses a lot on identifying triggers to someone’s gambling and ways of dealing with them,” Hunt explains. “The B part of CBT looks at those times when you feel the urge to gamble and what sort of behaviours you can do instead of gambling, as well as behaviours you can enact to avoid those situations that trigger you to want to gamble.”

In contrast, the program the clinic has devised avoids dealing with behaviours, but goes into tackling in far more depth the thought processes that problem gamblers experience. Given that the clinic’s average client comes for six to ten sessions, it’s a matter of ensuring he or she receives the most targeted treatment possible.

“The treatment we’ve developed deals with the specific thoughts that problem gamblers have. For example, we look at...
what they believe about poker machines or horse racing or sports betting, as the case may be, and what sort of logical errors or thought errors they might be making,” says Hunt. The clinician treating the gambler will then seek to challenge and correct those errors.

“A lot of the things we talk about are understanding concepts such as randomness. For instance, there’s a specific cognition called ‘the gambler’s fallacy’. This is the belief that, say, in a game of roulette the number five hasn’t come up for a while so it’s more likely to come up now, which in fact isn’t the case.”

The CT program also looks at where the gambler’s beliefs came from, based on their early experiences and history with gambling, to see how they helped form the client’s behaviour. It is this melding of psychology with numbers that attracted Hunt to working at the clinic.

“I’ve always been quite good at things like mathematics and statistics, and I enjoy dealing with questions of randomness and probability that we talk about here,” he says. “I’ve found this work fascinating because it brings together that sort of mathematical world view with the everyday world view that people have, and it helps people to reconcile those two ideas.”

The clinic has been using CT for gamblers of all persuasions, including those who favour poker machines, horse racing and online sports betting, but the study will initially focus just on clients who use poker machines (the biggest group of problem gamblers) simply as a way of eliminating variables that might affect the trial’s outcome. The clinic hopes to study between 100 and 200 clients, who will be randomly allocated to either a CT or CBT treatment program. They will be scored according to the clinic’s Gambling Effect Scale, which allocates points according to the harm that gambling is causing in someone’s life – such as financial problems, not being able to maintain one’s home and feelings of depression and anxiety. The scale is reviewed at the start and end of treatment and at follow-up sessions to assess a client’s progress.

“We’ll follow up with clients at least six months after they’ve finished treatment, but also hopefully over longer time periods to see how they’re going,” Hunt says. “It’s one thing to have people stop gambling temporarily, but we’d like to help them stop indefinitely.”

Hunt adds that he and his colleagues hope to prove that their CT program is as effective as they believe it to be, based on their own experience of treating clients to date. “We believe it’s better than the current gold standard, but we need to do a controlled trial to ensure that that’s the case,” he explains. “If CBT proves to be more effective, then obviously the behavioural component is doing something, but if the two methods prove to be equal or if CT proves to be more successful, we’d argue it’s the cognition part that matters more.”

If that is the case, Professor Blaszczynski and his team hope to see their model for treatment being adopted more widely, and Dr Fadi Anjoul, the clinic’s Education and Training Officer, has been developing manuals for the treatment. “We want to help train other agencies in the techniques we’re using,” says Hunt, “and we’re also disseminating some of the knowledge we’ve developed here throughout the sector.”

So, while politicians argue, it’s good to know that practical help is available to those gamblers who need it the most.
There is no denying that China will play a huge role in Australia’s future. In a short time the University’s China Studies Centre has become a prominent voice in this country’s conversations about how best to engage with the powerful nation.
It was the barbecue-stopping issue of the Keating era: does Australia’s future lie with Asia? Today, one might expect the debate to be settled. After all, Australia’s $100 billion worth of trade each year with China, our largest export partner, helped the nation sidestep a global recession.

Yet despite our economic reliance on China, we still maintain the same hesitant, even sceptical, attitude towards that country as 20 years ago, according to Chinese politics specialist David Goodman. “In some ways we have gone backwards,” he says. “There was a buzz in the early 1990s which now needs to be revived.”

Enter the University’s China Studies Centre, founded 12 months ago to take on just this role. The Centre’s permanent leadership team was recently announced: China analyst Dr Kerry Brown, currently head of the Asia program at Chatham House in the UK, will become its new executive director, while Professor Goodman, who piloted the Centre during its first year, will be the academic director.

In its short lifespan the Centre has brought together an impressive range of heavyweight researchers to work on China, from an archaeologist investigating western influences there some 4000 years ago to an anthropologist looking at opportunities for disadvantaged youth in present-day Nanjing. It is becoming a prominent voice in the public conversation on China, continuing a long tradition of agenda-setting by the University of Sydney in this field – the nation’s first Department of Oriental Studies was founded here back in 1918, not long after The Bulletin magazine was depicting Chinese immigrants as rats invading Australian homes.

One of the Centre’s most high-profile achievements is the Sydney China Business Forum, launched on 29 November last year at Customs House and which will now become an annual event. The symposium brought together an Australian and Chinese business elite with political leaders such as Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan and influential commentators such as Beijing-based journalist Hu Shuli. Much of the discussion focused on one critical issue: how to diversify Australia’s business relationship with China beyond the sale of resources, especially through partnering with Chinese business.

Our nation has long been suspicious of Chinese investment, notes Professor Goodman, despite China’s stake in Australia being dwarfed by that of the US by a factor of 10 to one. He recalls trying unsuccessfully...
to get the Western Australian Government interested in a visit from a Chinese soft-drink company back in the early 1990s. Snubbed by Australia, that small but entrepreneurial firm – which gained its start selling ice-blocks to a local school – found another foreign partner to aid its expansion, French food giant Danone. Today, the Wahaha beverage company boasts a larger share of China’s soft drink market than PepsiCo.

To clarify exactly how we might benefit from China’s growing drive to invest overseas, researcher Hans Hendrischke from the China Studies Centre collaborated on a report with advisory firm KPMG that was released during the Forum. “Australia is the largest single-country destination for Chinese outward-bound direct investment, but that investment is still 95 per cent in energy and resources,” he explains. Since up to $2 trillion is likely be invested by China overseas in the years leading up to 2020, there is a “compelling opportunity” for Australia to become a strategic business partner in everything from publications and media to pharmaceuticals, he argues.

Infrastructure is one obvious area where Australia may benefit from the growing tide of Chinese investment. China could provide much-needed capital to improve our roads, railways and ports, particularly those necessary for energy and resource projects, Professor Hendrischke says. Funding these vast, multi-billion-dollar infrastructure projects can only be done with syndicated finance, and China’s existing involvement in our resources sector makes it a likely potential partner.

Equally, Chinese investment may help to galvanise Australia’s agricultural sector, if community objections can be overcome. ("There are no easy answers: this is an important issue that needs to be argued through," the researcher concedes.) As well as bringing injections of capital, Chinese investment could help Australian agribusinesses overcome the constraints of their small capacity and – crucially – provide access to booming Chinese markets. Australian knowhow could play a huge role in China’s domestic agricultural production, offering expertise in areas ranging from irrigation techniques to organic farming. (China’s Ministry of Agriculture estimates that the nation is home to more than 6000 organic food producers, with the market growing at around 20 per cent per year.)

Our financial sector could also enter into fruitful partnerships with Chinese investors, according to the joint report by Professor Hendrischke and KPMG. The expertise of Australian banks in areas such as wealth management may offer new revenue streams for both Australian and Chinese financial services institutions. Australia may also have a part to play in the growing role of the “redback” – China’s currency, the renminbi, whose primary unit is the yuan – in the global financial system. Sydney or Melbourne could become centres of foreign exchange trading in the currency, while Australian and Chinese banks could build joint facilities to make payments and settle in renminbi.

These kinds of business partnerships, and other commercial opportunities for Australian firms in China, must be strongly encouraged, says Professor Hendrischke. Indeed, fostering links between Australia and Chinese partners was one of the goals of the Sydney China Business Forum. “The discussions that took place out of the public eye were just as important as the ones that took place on camera,” says Professor Goodman.

However, it is governments of all levels that must play the starring role in promoting Australian interests in China, both researchers agree. And they must do more than simply send trade missions to Beijing. “A tendency is to go there because everything is run from the top, but we need a much stronger focus on talking to partners and promoting our industries at the provincial level,” says Professor Hendrischke.

While high-level ties are important, both scholars say it is equally vital to cultivate Australian engagement with China at the grass-roots level. That means better language education in our schools, as well as more scholarships at university level to promote cultural exchange.

China must also become a known and trusted partner rather than an exotic destination for business, says Professor Hendrischke. To achieve that,
James Kwong is an economics law student who has recently returned from studying at Peking University in Beijing.

"There is plenty you can read about China, but to really understand it you have to be there," says economics law student James Kwong, who has just come back from a study exchange to Peking University's Guanghua School of Management.

The 20-year-old was one of the recipients of last year's $5000 Larry Kwok and Gough Whitlam Australia-China Scholarship, created by a gift from Larry Kwok (BEc '79 LLB '81 LLM '86), one of Hong Kong's best-known corporate attorneys. The award sends undergraduates to Peking University for one semester as a way of promoting better understanding between Australia and China.

James says his experiences, inside and outside the classroom, have given him a much deeper insight into China's development and how it is perceived. He cites as an example the suburb of Wudaokou, home to Peking University, where dilapidated shacks and hastily constructed lean-tos (including his favourite dumpling shop) are nestled between the luxury apartments and technology parks of China's digerati.

"Many people did not seem to find it strange or resent the fact that glittering stores such as Louis Vuitton are right next to their houses," he says. "There's an overwhelming sense of hope about the direction they're going in."

A similar theme arose in discussions on campus at Peking University, which was a cradle of the Tiananmen Square protests. Unlike the class of 1989, the students James met seemed sanguine about the future of their country and their government's ability to lead it. "China has been growing for only 30 years, and it has brought incredible turmoil, and 30 years before that there was no central government," he says. "But the transition from taking orders to making orders is only just beginning."
For the University’s first 100 years, the ingrained expectation was that as a public institution it would enjoy support from both Government and public-spirited citizens, a joint exercise in civic responsibility.

The idea of giving money to the University of Sydney broke previous notions of colonial middle-class philanthropy as a religious obligation where one served one’s church by tackling poverty or by providing for poor scholars.

As one of the first significant public institutions in New South Wales, the University of Sydney helped to shape this new relationship between the colonial government and the public, with private benefaction continuing as a crucial element. The act of “giving” to such institutions was a civic duty, not so much bound by a personal relationship with God, as in charitable giving, but an act of faith in public institutions as important building blocks for the advancement of society. Private benefactors and governments were partners in funding such endeavours, and benefactors, by lending their names, could be seen to believe in their worth and usefulness.

It was no surprise, then, that in 1853, only a few months after the admission of the first students, a benefactor drew up an endowment agreement with the University. Though not the University’s first benefaction (which had been inherited from the defunct Sydney College), Thomas Barker’s gift of £1000 held great symbolic significance. The interest alone earned from this endowment was enough to fund a student scholarship awarded on examination results that was relatively generous by mid-19th century standards. But its symbolism went far deeper by signifying the meritocratic purpose of the new University.

Thomas Barker was born in England, orphaned at nine years, and arrived in New South Wales at 14 years with his guardian, the engineer and manufacturer John Dickson. Born into England’s growing urban middle classes but with no private estate to sustain him, Barker had to earn his way and so was articled to Dickson to train as an engineer. A free settler, he received a land grant of some hundreds of acres near Yass, and by his late 20s he was soon earning enough money to consider the gains he might
make through commercial investment. With entrepreneurial flair, he built several large windmills and, in partnership with others, established a millwright business to help break what he saw as a “flagrant … monopoly” in flour milling. He did not live modestly, early on acquiring a large estate at Darling Point where he built Roslyn Hall, said to be “more like a palace than a private house”.

Though born in England, he had strong Scottish connections: his guardian was a Scotsman who migrated to England, and probably his parents were also. In 1840, the citizens of Edinburgh presented him with a silver tray, two matching claret jugs and coasters “in testimony of their esteem for his character, and their admiration of his public usefulness in promoting the welfare of all classes of Scottish emigrants, and the prosperity of the important Colony of New South Wales”. By the late 1840s, when he built a cloth mill, he was an established and wealthy industrialist with vast agricultural interests.

He obviously enjoyed his role as a leading citizen, participating in early debates about elementary and higher education, serving in honorary capacities on various boards, including the Sydney Mechanics’ School of Arts, and participating in various charitable institutions such as the Sydney Bethel Union, and, with his wife, the Female Refuge Society. He served several terms as a member of the New South Wales Parliament in the 1850s, during the politically charged atmosphere of establishing self-government.

Around this period, having been widowed, he remarried and applied for a coat of arms, a declaration of high status and a move probably designed to consolidate his reputation as a gentleman. Whether this was an example of what the British historian of philanthropy Brian Harrison calls the “philanthropic importance of snobbery” – the acquisition of social status through philanthropy – it was certainly a display intended to impress the local citizens. The University endowment was named after him, which prompted the following note from Charles Nicholson: “To be remembered and honoured by the youth of succeeding generations in these colonies will be the certain and well-merited reward that will flow from the endowment with which your name will be associated.”

Thomas Barker was a benefactor who in many ways conformed to the requirements of mid-19th century colonial philanthropy: male, a Protestant, who having made his fortune, determined to spend some of his time and wealth to improve the social condition of the colony by actively participating in charitable organisations. But we also see in Barker a new type of colonial benefactor, one who was prepared to give money to a public institution. He mixed in some of the same circles as the founders of the University, though he himself was not University-educated. Through these connections he was probably introduced to Sir Charles Nicholson, the University’s first vice-provost, who spent much time in its first decade promoting the virtues of the local university and seeking philanthropic support for its endeavours.

Nicholson approached Barker, it seems privately, about endowing a scholarship. Barker replied in a letter, dated 1 January 1853, which gives the only account of his reasons for funding the scholarship. Barker wrote of the “easy attainment of wealth” in New South Wales and his belief in the “superior cultivation of the mind” as a counterpoint to the influence of “those sordid feelings which the rapid acquisition of wealth is too apt to generate”. Perhaps Barker spoke from experience as someone who had acquired wealth relatively easily, yet without the opportunity to attend university and benefit from the “superior cultivation of the mind”. Perhaps he felt the weight of experience from personal “sordid feelings”. Young minds exposed to higher learning, Barker was suggesting, helped provide a moral barrier to the behavioural excesses associated with the rapid rise of the industrial classes, and this, he believed, would be to the good of the colony.

Barker’s own social background, rooted in Britain’s new urban, commercial classes, illustrated the enthusiasm of a class deprived of higher education. When Barker disembarked in Sydney in 1813, he had left behind him a society where someone of his social position was unlikely to be admitted to an English university without the support and favour of a patron. By the time he drew up the deed of agreement with the University of Sydney in 1853, English dons were arguing for university reforms in admitting students. The University of London had also been established to cater for the sons of the middle classes, including dissenters, for whom university previously was not considered an option or a necessary prerequisite to make one’s way. Half a world away, Barker’s endowment to the University of Sydney indicated support from the self-made middle classes for an institution they hoped would be relevant to their needs and sustain civic ideals of an educated citizenry, with local university-educated men the new leaders in all colonial walks of life.

Barker’s social background provides one way of reading the symbolism of this early endowment as support from social classes with little, if any, personal experience of universities. But there is also the symbolic relevance of what Barker endowed — a scholarship. The scholarship was for proficiency in “Mathematical and Physical science”, indicating a preference for subjects most relevant to his original training as an engineer. But the real significance of this endowment was that it served a purpose held dear by the University’s founders: to offer opportunities through the award of scholarships on academic merit, according to William Charles Wentworth, “to the child of every class to become great and useful in the destinies of his country”.

Above: A portrait of Thomas Barker, taken in 1873 by Barrcroft Capel Boake.

Opposite: The first-known photograph of University of Sydney students and staff, taken between 1857 and 1859. Attributed to Professor John Smith.
Imagine the possibilities of turning the waste from natural products into oils, plastics, paints and other high-demand materials. That’s the vision that Professor Thomas Maschmeyer and his team are bringing to reality as they exploit the potential of materials such as seaweed and forestry waste. Their four-year, $10-million collaboration with the CSIRO is engaging in real-life, save-the-world science with potentially huge economic benefits for Australia.

Professor Maschmeyer (BSc ’91 PhD ’95), an ARC Future Fellow in the University’s School of Chemistry, last year opened a commercial demonstration plant that turns two tonnes of wood-waste into chemicals and fuels. Through a method called “hydrothermal upgrading”, it uses water, high pressures and high temperatures to process the waste, which otherwise would be sent to landfill.

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With Australia’s crude oil refining capacity diminishing and refineries shut down, we are now importing more expensive, ready-made fuels rather than refining them from imported crude oil, Professor Maschmeyer explains, adding that this is already negatively impacting our balance of trade.

“Refineries don’t just make fuels, they make bulk chemicals, or chemical feedstocks, which are used to produce resins, films, plastics, paints and so on. But with less feedstock available locally, the Australian chemical industry is under threat because production is then less viable and companies can’t compete internationally,” he says.

“We’re aiming to make renewable bio-based chemical feedstock to help our $19 billion chemical industry to stay in Australia.”

“We have a finite planet and we need to use our materials as well as we possibly can.”

The new process is a far more sustainable prospect than current first-generation biofuels that are based on vegetable oils, which could potentially jeopardise human food security.

Following the completion of his PhD in 1994, Professor Maschmeyer spent several years working in the UK and the Netherlands. He returned to Australia with his family at the invitation of the University of Sydney to take up a research position in 2003 and is enthralled by the potential to resolve huge, worldwide resource problems through chemistry and chemical engineering.

“We have a finite planet, we need to use our materials as well as we possibly can, and I feel chemical engineers can take the discoveries of the chemists and apply them in the real world to make a real difference,” he says. “That’s basically been the theme of my professional life.”

Professor Thomas Maschmeyer is making liquid fuels out of waste products and non-edible crops in a project that could have world-changing benefits.
ARCHITECTURE

SAM MAR 2012 27

HOME IS WHERE THE HEALTH IS

WORDS FRAN MOLLOY

By improving living conditions among Indigenous communities, Paul Pholeros and his team have raised health standards dramatically.

Architect Paul Pholeros is immensely proud of the 2011 World Habitat Award given to the non-profit organisation he co-founded, Healthabitat. He's even more proud of the NSW Health report that shows Healthabitat's work has reduced Indigenous hospital admissions by 40 per cent.

Healthabitat works to lift standards of health in poor communities by improving housing. It is led by managing director Pholeros (BSc (Arch) ’74 BArch ’77), who recalls his years at the University in the 1970s as being pivotal in his approach to his work. "It was a time when the teaching of architecture changed radically, and the University of Sydney led the charge in that," he recalls. "In our first year, we had courses on ecology, anthropology, sociology – all completely new concepts to budding architects."

Healthabitat was last year also awarded the Australian Institute of Architects Leadership in Sustainability Prize, and this year was selected for the Venice International Architecture Biennale. Now it is extending its "Housing for Health" expertise overseas.

Simple toilets and biogas systems installed in housing in remote communities can have dramatic effects.

This involves assessing the safety and health functions of a house and carrying out basic repairs from day one. Rather than simply receiving a report listing their home’s faults, residents see an immediate improvement, which builds trust and allows for more complex and time-consuming work to then be carried out.

Pholeros and his colleagues have perfected this methodology over the past 27 years, since they were first engaged by Indigenous activist Yami Lester, then head of the Pitjantjatjara Land Council’s health service in central Australia. Despite Lester’s improvements to local health services, Indigenous people were quickly getting sick again. He was looking for solutions.

Housing in remote communities was in crisis. Many washing facilities didn’t work, electrical connections were frequently dangerous, drains were often disconnected or blocked, and uninsulated houses offered little respite from the relentless outback sun.

Lester realised poor housing was linked to illness. In 1985 he commissioned three people to help him resolve the issue: Pholeros, who was on a short-term contract supervising additions to the health clinic; Paul Torzillo (MBBS ’76), a doctor with the Nganampa Health Council; and anthropologist Stephan Rainow, who worked as the Health Council’s environmental health officer.

Lester told them, “Stop people getting sick.” “It was a simple, one-line brief that was to completely change my future,” Pholeros says. Six months later, the team had developed the nine healthy living practices that were to direct all their projects from that point on.

“I couldn’t believe it at first,” Pholeros admits. “These principles all looked so simple that they were almost dumb, but they were very basic things that maintain health, such as washing kids once a day and washing clothes and bedding.”

Years later, the Healthabitat team were able to cite statistics discrediting the commonly held belief that Indigenous residents were responsible for all damage to their homes. Rather, they found that poor design, overcrowding and bad building practices were the main cause of housing failure, with just nine per cent of damage attributable to residents.

Healthabitat has now repaired more than 7500 homes, but since Federal funding for its programs came to an end last year, Pholeros sees greater potential for change offshore.

“In Australia, our work has been enthusiastically accepted by Indigenous people, but we’ve spent a lot of time and energy battling bureaucracies and government departments every step of the way,” he explains. “People overseas are actively seeking our expertise, so it makes more sense to put our energies into delivering services that improve people’s lives rather than lobbying and debating our work here.”

One day, perhaps, we will see more of this valuable work on our own shores.

For more information on this housing program, visit www.healthabitat.com
Jonathan Mills learnt one of his most important life lessons in the unlikely setting of a class for first-year students on how to use Fisher Library.

“The class was taken by this rather wonderful middle-aged lady who told us she had seen thousands of students, studying everything from engineering to eschatology,” he recalls. “She said her responsibility was to teach us to regard the library as a companion on our journey through life, so no piece of knowledge would be strange or unusual to us.”

The librarian’s encouragement not to fear new ideas – but also to be appropriately critical of them – continues to guide Mills (BMus ’84) today. Indeed, it is part of his job description as director of the Edinburgh International Festival, for which he curates some of the world’s most exuberant forms of artistic expression, from the ancient Persian theatre called Ta’zieh to western ballet influenced by Chinese opera.

His appointment in 2006 to one of Europe’s top arts posts surprised some, but Jonathan Mills has proved the naysayers wrong, earning an extension to his term and showing himself to be the perfect cultural attaché.

Up to that point, Mills had held two major appointments in Australia, as artistic adviser to the Brisbane Biennial International Music Festival and as director of the Melbourne International Arts Festival.

Proving his critics wrong, he produced a string of much-admired festivals and, with his contract renewed, will stay at the helm of the Edinburgh juggernaut until 2014.

His philosophy as a curator, he says, has been to hold a public conversation with his audience, reflecting their hopes and concerns; his job is not to be a project manager who decides “which Beethoven symphonies to schedule on what night”. This year, the event will respond to the excitement surrounding the London Olympics, which takes place just before the festival kicks off on 9 August.

Yet despite his high-profile achievements, Mills still regards festival directing as a “fascinating adjunct” to his true vocation. “I see myself as a composer who has, from time to time, run festivals,” he says.

His passion for composing was kindled during his Bachelor of Music studies at the University by memorable faculty staff such as composer Peter Sculthorpe and...
Associate Professor Winsome Evans, whose lessons wove together traditional Japanese music with The Eagles.

Peers were a strong influence, too – not just his fellow composition students but friends studying Australian literature. Mills recalls long, revelatory discussions at Manning Bar which introduced him to Australian poets ranging from Charles Harpur to Dorothy Porter. As a result, he went on to collaborate with Porter on his chamber opera The Eternity Man.

Mills also has other operas to his credit, including Sandakan Threnody, about the World War Two death march of Australian and British POWs. He continues to compose today – in January, he spent time on the NSW South Coast developing a new work – and he intends to return to the art form in earnest once his term at Edinburgh ends.

Another role in which Mills has distinguished himself is as a catalyst for public debate, particularly in the arts, a skill mentioned in the citation for his Order of Australia last year. One issue he is particularly passionate about is the need for Australians to embrace the cultural expression of other countries: multiculturalism means more than just being able to eat at “a bigger range of restaurants”, he says.

Tackling this need might just help us create a cosmopolitan society based on respect and understanding, he believes. “If you study Indian classical music, for example, you understand the incredible sophistication of that music,” Mills explains. “Because you have an understanding of their culture, you are not going to be disrespectful to an Indian you meet.”

**MORE ON MILLS**

- Appointed artistic adviser to the Brisbane Biennial International Music Festival in 1995 and artistic director of the Melbourne Millennium Eve celebrations in 1999 and of the city’s celebrations for the Centenary of Federation in 2001
- Founded the Alfred Deakin lecture series in 2001
- Composed the operas The Ghost Wife and The Eternity Man; won the Prix Italia for Sandakan Threnody
- Awarded Centenary Medal in 2002; made Officer of the Order of Australia in 2011

**TOM TRIES FOR THE TOP**

**WORDS NIGEL BARTLETT**

**PHOTOGRAFHY PAUL SEISER**

It’s fair to say that 2011 was quite a year for Tom Kingston. The University rugby player signed a contract with the NSW Waratahs, making his first-grade debut at the age of 19. “It was exciting,” he says. “I’d followed the Waratahs since I was eight, when my family came back to Sydney from Hong Kong, so to get the chance to run out in the sky-blue jersey was very special for me.”

Joining the team, though, meant Tom had to take a new approach to his game. “You quickly realise that you have to be on top of every part of your strength, conditioning and rehab,” he says. “You also have to be across all the preparation, whether that’s watching training and game videos, taking part in coaches’ meetings or studying the moves. I’m really enjoying being better able to understand the game… gradually.”

Last year, Tom also represented the Australian Under 20s and scored his first Super 15 try, as well as playing with the University’s first-grade team. “I’ve really enjoyed being involved with the University club. The coaching by Todd Louden and his team is incredible, and I feel I’ve definitely improved my game under their tutelage,” he says. “It’s certainly no fluke that the club has produced as many Super Rugby players and Wallabies as it has. I consider myself very lucky to be part of a culture like that.”

He also considers himself lucky to be a part of the University from an academic point of view, and Tom, who is in the third year of a Bachelor of Commerce degree, hasn’t shirked his studying for the sake of sport. Currently on an Elite Athlete Scholarship, he explains, “I’ve always found I play better rugby when there are other things on my mind, so study provides the perfect counterbalance for me. It’s also something I take seriously. That said, obviously there are certain time expectations for both rugby and study, so it’s a matter of constantly being organised. The University has been great at helping me achieve that.”

As for his sporting ambitions, Tom’s main one has not changed since he was a kid. “In the short term I’ve set myself the goal of being involved in as many games as possible this year with the ‘Tahs,” he says. “Longer-term, my goals are the same as they were when I was 10 years old – and that’s to one day play for the Wallabies.”

Sydney University Football Club kicks off its 2012 campaign with a home game against West Harbour on Saturday April 14. Visit www.sydneyunirugby.com.au
SIGHT OF THE CENTURY

WORDS
DR NICK LOMB (BSC ’69 PHD ’75)
ILLUSTRATION
BRIAN GREIG COLLECTION

The upcoming transit of Venus in June will not take place again for more than 100 years, so take your pews to witness this astronomical event – which is of particular importance to the history of Australia.

On the morning of Wednesday 9 December 1874 Henry Chamberlain Russell, director of Sydney Observatory, was waiting for the planet Venus to start moving across the Sun. Russell had graduated in 1859 from the University of Sydney, where he had received the Deas-Thomson scholarship, which is still awarded today to the student “who demonstrates the greatest proficiency in Senior Physics”. Many years after the transit, in 1891, Russell was appointed as the University’s first Australian-born Vice-Chancellor. (His daughter Jane Foss Russell was also to have strong links to the University, links that were recently commemorated by naming a new building on the University campus in her honour.)

Russell had prepared carefully for the 1874 transit. He had equipped the Observatory with new modern instruments and, to insure against cloud disrupting observations, he had set up observing stations at Woodford in the Blue Mountains, Eden on the South Coast and Goulburn in the Southern Tablelands. To staff these three country stations, Russell had recruited the best scientific men in the colony, including Archibald Liversidge, the newly appointed Professor of Geology and Mineralogy at the University.

The 1874 transit and the following one in 1882 were two of the most important events in 19th-century astronomy, just as the transits of 1761 and 1769 were in the 18th century. They were important as...
they provided a way of measuring the distance between the Earth and the Sun. This was the key distance that astronomers needed to work out the scale of the Solar System and to establish the distances to the nearest stars. The idea was to time the instants when Venus just appeared to touch the inside edge of the Sun at the beginning and at the end of the transit.

If the timing could be done accurately, astronomers could compare observations from widely separated places and determine the sought-for distance using simple trigonometry. However, various atmospheric effects, the best known of which is called the “black drop”, made timing difficult. James Cook, who observed the 1769 transit from the Pacific island of Tahiti, was despondent that his times differed slightly from those of the two other observers with him. He was not to know that observers elsewhere in the world had experienced similar problems and that the observations from Tahiti were better than most.

After completing the necessary observations in Tahiti, Cook opened sealed orders to search for “Terra Australis Incognita” or the “Unknown Southern Land”. Not finding this mythical land, he decided to return home by sailing towards the unexplored east coast of what was then known as New Holland. Mapping New Zealand on the way, he reached Australia, named it New South Wales and followed its coast northward, charting it as he went. This first visit by Europeans to the eastern part of the continent was to have far-reaching consequences, for it led directly to the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 and British settlement.

Due to the consequent importance of transits of Venus in the history of the country, it was fitting that the next transit after that witnessed by Cook was so well observed from Australia. In addition to Russell and his team in NSW, there was a similar team in Victoria and observations from South Australia plus two separate teams of American observers in Tasmania.

Russell and the other New South Wales observers were fortunate in having generally clear skies and made excellent observations of the transit. A few months later, Russell gathered up the observations and photographs taken during the event and personally delivered them to the Astronomer Royal at Greenwich in the UK. He also collated the results into a beautifully illustrated book that was published 18 years after the event. The long delay was probably due to an oversight by the Government Printer.

Russell’s book, Observations of the Transit of Venus, 9 December 1874, is so well known around the world that almost every article or book that is published about the transits today includes illustrations from it. It was this book that triggered my own interest in transits of Venus, for it was one of the first Observatory publications that I was shown when I started work at Sydney Observatory in 1979. While preparing an exhibition on transits of Venus in 2004, I was excited to find the original illustrations for the book in the archives kept at State Records. These originals became the highlights of the exhibition, although for conservation reasons each illustration could only be shown for a relatively short time.

On seeing that the original illustrations were even more striking than the photolithographs of them that had appeared in the book, I became keen to make them more widely accessible. Eventually, NewSouth Books took up the idea and the new publication expanded to become the full history of transits called Transit of Venus: 1631 to the Present. This book takes the story from the first sighting of a transit by the young Englishman Jeremiah Horrocks in 1631 to the widely observed 2004 transit.

Now there is a new transit of Venus coming up on Wednesday 6 June (5 June in the USA). As the following transit is not until 2117, this will be the last opportunity for anyone alive to see one of the rarest and most famous astronomical events. Australia and New Zealand will be among the best places from which to view the 2012 transit as, clouds permitting, it will be visible from beginning to end from most of the two countries. From Sydney the transit begins at 8:16am and ends at 2:44pm AEST, with similar times elsewhere in Australia, and New Zealand, after allowing for different time zones. From Perth the transit will already be in progress at sunrise.

The entire transit will also be visible from New Guinea, Japan, Korea and the eastern parts of China and the Russian Federation. It will also be fully visible from Hawaii and Alaska, while from the rest of the USA the transit will still be in progress at sunset. From Europe (apart from parts of Spain and Portugal), the Middle East, eastern parts of Africa, India and Indonesia the transit will already be in progress at sunrise.

However, although there is something exciting going on in the direction of the Sun on 6 June, it needs to be emphasised that looking at the Sun is highly dangerous. Serious and irreparable eye damage can occur from viewing the Sun with the unaided eye or, even worse, through binoculars or a telescope. For safe viewing go to your nearest public observatory, such as Sydney Observatory, or check whether a local amateur astronomy group has arranged a public viewing of the event.

Whichever way you do it, do not miss the 2012 transit, because you will not have another chance! For more about this astronomical event, visit www.sydneyobservatory.com.au or read Transit of Venus: 1631 to the Present by Nick Lomb, NewSouth Books, $49.95. A US edition will be published in April.

Left: View of Point Venus and the Endeavour at anchor in Matavai Bay, Tahiti.

AUSkONbOY
This memoir encapsulates the intricacies and challenges, as well as the rewards, of a diplomatic life. Philip Flood’s father had hoped he would have a successful career in the private sector. Instead, the author began learning to engage in the “dance” that is diplomacy.

Flood (BEc ’58) shares with us the world of foreign affairs, from his overseas postings in Europe, the USA and Asia to his appointment as High Commissioner to the UK. In his long and successful career he worked closely with a number of Australian prime ministers and Federal ministers (the “warriors” of the title). He contributed to Australian foreign and trade policy and strategy at a time of changing relationships between Britain and Europe, and Australia and Asia.

There are satisfying glimpses of famous (and infamous) shapers of recent history. Flood is adept at quick character sketches, maintaining political impartiality within the domestic landscape, but he does not hold back from concise condemnation of those he judges to have failed in their service to the Australian public.

This eminently readable book demonstrates that Flood possessed warmth, skill and grace, and was highly adept at dancing through the intricacies of unwieldy bureaucracy, strong personalities, differing ideology and diverse political interests.

DANCING WITH WARRIORS – A Diplomatic Memoir
Philip Flood
Arcadia $34.95

HOME – Evolution of the Australian Dream
Philip Cox, Philip Graus, Bob Meyer
Exisle Publishing $45

The ever-popular Australian dream of owning your own home is just one of the topics examined in this comprehensive overview of the evolution of Australian housing. The authors are three eminent architects – Philip Cox (BArch ’62 DipTCPlan ’71), Philip Graus (BSc (Arch) ’80) and Bob Meyer (MTCPlan ’69) – with a wealth of experience in housing and town planning in Australia. The pages are beautifully illustrated with evocative water-colour drawings and photos.

Home explains where Australia drew its inspiration for housing and town planning, referring to significant historical developments and modern prototypes around the world. It looks at cities, suburbs, expansion, decentralisation, high-rise, low-rise and everything between.

There is no judgment about what makes a good house or a good town. In fact, the authors celebrate the diversity of housing in this country. Yet it is when they look to the future that the book becomes most interesting. Cox, Graus and Meyer reveal the four criteria they believe are needed for accommodating the rapid growth of our cities into the next decades. One thing’s for sure, we’ll need very fast trains to make it all work.

BLACK SOIL – Stories by Peter Bishop
Toombul Publishing $25

A short story is attractive because it takes you on a rollercoaster ride in just one sitting. It’s a good-value literary package. Peter Bishop (BScAgr ‘57) has clearly mastered the art of the short story, and has many awards and prizes to prove it. His recent book, Black Soil, is a collection of 18 very different experiences, each unfolding rapidly but full of surprises, humour and unashamed darkness.

Bishop describes his tales as “Stories your mother wouldn’t let you read”, “Stories you wouldn’t let your mother read” and “Stories Jesus didn’t write”. That about sums it up. He is not afraid to write about crime, murder, adultery and lust. His relationships are complex, sometimes beautiful and delicate, and sometimes violent or just plain dysfunctional. He can throw humour into a horrible situation, and in the briefest time make his characters real and interesting.

Bishop writes economically. Not one excessive word, and very short paragraphs. This works equally well for a humorous story like Pension Plan, or a brooding story such as Lukey (which won first place in the Banjo Paterson Writing Award).

Each individual story that Bishop tells is a voyage worth taking, but it’s the collective journey you won’t want to miss.
CLOSE TO THE EDGE
Sujatha Fernandes
NewSouth Books $29.95

The world of hip hop might seem elusive to the uninitiated, but author Sujatha Fernandes opens up that world and invites us right inside. She takes an engaging look at the hip hop phenomenon through the viewpoints of youth from diverse cultures.

At the same time Fernandes (BA ’96 BA ’98) allows us to share her experiences and travels. There is a real sense of the districts she lived and worked in for 11 years. She describes the people who are a part of those communities, and the political or circumstantial world that drives them to have a voice through the medium of hip hop. Her passion takes her to the western suburbs of Sydney, the barrios of Caracas and Havana and the ghettos of Chicago. Behind the scenes with hip hop performers, failures as well as successes are revealed.

Although Fernandes has an academic background, her book is personal and unpretentious. She examines themes of dispossession, racism, poverty, abuse, violence and neglect. Yet each street culture with which Fernandes becomes involved has its own unique way of dealing with disadvantage. Finding a commonality in her search for the global hip hop generation is not as straightforward as one might imagine. This book asks why.

FROM KURMOND KID TO CANCER CRUSADER – Pioneering Integrated Cancer Treatment
Professor Fred Stephens
Wakefield Press $29.95

Emeritus Professor Fred Stephens starts his autobiography with a beautiful observation of simple country life for a family for whom a sense of good citizenship was integral to growing up. Stephens (MBBS ’51 MD ’70 MS ’70) always wanted to be a doctor. As a child, he was impressed by the care a GP gave his war-wounded father. He left his country town for the inner-Sydney, suburbs, and began his studies to fulfil his dream.

With humorous encounters along the way and several appointments as ship’s doctor later, he began his ascent to the top of his field in surgical oncology. Far from being meteoric, it was gradual and influenced by circumstance.

He describes without malice the political manoeuvres that did not go in his favour. He tells of remarkable medical achievements, the greatest of which were in oncology. He determined the most effective order for administering radiotherapy, chemotherapy and surgery, which led to investigation of intra-arterial chemotherapy administered prior to radiation or surgery. As a result, the need for surgery was eliminated in many cases.

Royalties from this book will go towards establishing a Dorys and Hedley Stephens Chair of Surgical Oncology.

JUSTICE – A History of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia
Fiona Skyring
UWA Publishing $39.95

The information in this book is epic. Author and historian Fiona Skyring (BA ’89 PhD ’98) embarked on six years of travelling, interviewing and researching from 2005 to 2011. Her attention to detail is meticulous. The result is a compelling story with far-reaching significance for the whole nation.

This could easily have turned into a book of facts, but instead, there are characters – lots of them – captured on the page in such accurate transcriptions that you feel they are in the room. We hear from the people who built the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (ALSWA) and those who advocate for social justice and equality. Chilling and candid are the statements of those who have witnessed or been victims of terrible injustice based on racial hatred.

The ALSWA works not only to change the justice system, but to ensure Aboriginal voices are being listened to. New methods of distributing justice, such as community courts, are giving hope to young offenders and their families. However, with more Aboriginal men, women and children being imprisoned than ever before, the devastating truth remains that there is so much more to be done.

BY TRAIN TO DACHAU
Ernst Raubitschek, translated and introduced by Renate Yates
Sydney Jewish Museum $25

This moving story might be brief, but it’s unforgettable. Renate Yates (BDS ’54) tells of her father, Ernst Raubitschek, who was a cultured professional enjoying a middle-class life in Vienna in the early part of the 20th century. By the mid-1930s, things were getting ugly in Austria, culminating in one of the earliest mass arrests of Jews in Vienna in May 1938. Raubitschek was one of them.

At this point, Yates hands the story over to her father. To read such a personal account of history is confronting. Raubitschek recalls his disbelief at being carted off to the nearest police station, along with many other men in the same circumstances. A few days later they were taken by truck to a holding centre, then forced to board a train. After 30 hours full of unspeakable cruelty, which some did not survive, they arrived at Buchenwald. Even before the war had started, there were 10,000 inmates.

Raubitschek was released 11 months later (he never learnt why), arriving in Australia two days before the war broke out. He had been warned by his captors never to speak of his experience in the camp. We must be very grateful that he eventually did.

ALL REVIEWS BY COLLEEN COOK
CLASSNOTES

1960s

RONALD RIDLEY (BA '62, MA '66) was honoured to be a student of Geoffrey Evans and Edwin Judge, before being appointed inaugural Teaching Fellow in Ancient History (1962–4). He then became a lecturer at the University of Melbourne, where he was promoted to a personal chair (now Emeritus).

He took with him Therese Dominguez, who worked in Fisher Library (they married in 1965) and who is now an historian and translator. Ridley’s main areas of teaching and publication, apart from the history of the ancient world, are the histories of Egyptian and Roman archaeology, the history of historical writing, the history of autobiography, and the history of the University of Melbourne.

1980s

MARK TREDINNICK (BA ’84, LLB ’86) won the prestigious Montreal International Poetry Prize in December. British former poet laureate Andrew Motion said of Tredinnick’s poem Walking Underwater, which won the $50,000 prize, “This is a bold, big-thinking poem, in which ancient themes (especially the theme of our human relationship with landscape) are re-cast and re-kindled. It well deserves its eminence as a prize winner.”

Tredinnick is the author of The Blue Plateau, Fire Diary and nine other acclaimed works of poetry and prose, and has taught at the University’s Centre for Continuing Education for a number of years. He lives in the highlands south-west of Sydney. Fellow poet Judith Beveridge describes him as “one of our great poets of place – not just of geographic place, but of the spiritual and moral landscapes as well”.

In addition to his 11 books, two more are on the way in 2012. As well as The Blue Plateau: A Landscape Memoir (which won the Queensland Premier’s Literary Award and was shortlisted for the Prime Minister’s Literary Award) and Fire Diary (winner of the WA Premier’s Book Prize), Tredinnick is the author of The Road South (poems on CD), The Little Green Grammar Book, The Little Red Writing Book (published outside Australia as Writing Well: the Essential Guide), The Land’s Wild Music, A Place on Earth, The Little Black Book of Business Writing, with Geoff Whyte, The Lyrebird (poems) and most recently Australia’s Wild Weather. www.marktredinnick.com.au

1990s

DR ANNE HOLLAND (BHlthSC ’94) is the recipient of the prestigious American Thoracic Society/Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation Grant. The award, valued at $80,000 over two years, will support Dr Holland’s research into pulmonary fibrosis and recognises her achievements as an outstanding early-career scientific investigator.

Her work will examine people with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), who live with breathlessness, reduced exercise capacity and poor quality of life. She hopes to show why pulmonary rehabilitation benefits some patients but not others in improving breathing and walking ability. The study, which will compare 94 patients with IPF, will provide patients and doctors with certainty regarding the role and timing of pulmonary rehabilitation, ensuring the best possible outcomes in quality of life and community functioning.

IAN OPPERMANN (BSc ’90 BE (Elec) ’92 PhD ’98) has been named an IEEE Fellow in recognition of his contributions to mobile communication systems. The distinction is conferred by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Board of Directors upon a person with an outstanding record of accomplishment in any of the IEEE fields of interest.

IEEE Fellow is the highest grade of membership and is recognised by the technical community as a prestigious honour and an important career achievement. Oppermann is one of 329 people to have been elevated to IEEE Fellow for 2012.

The US-based IEEE is an association with more than 400,000 members in 160 countries around the world and is a leading authority on a wide variety of areas ranging from aerospace systems, telecommunications and computers to biomedical engineering, electric power and consumer electronics.

ALUMNI REUNIONS

Numerous Alumni Reunions are held throughout the year. Please visit the event pages at sydney.edu.au/alumni for more information.

If you would like help arranging your own reunion, contact us at events. assistant@sydney.edu.au.
2000s

**BRONWYN LOVELL (BA ’04 MLitt ’08)** says she was “stunned and honoured” when one of her poems reached the top 50 shortlist for the $50,000 Montreal International Poetry Prize. The prize was judged by an editorial board of leading poets from around the world, including Australia, Canada, England, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Malawi, Nigeria, Northern Ireland and the United States.

Lovell is an emerging poet and spoken-word performer in Melbourne, where her poetry has been featured at several local events and festivals, as well as on community radio and television. She has a writing residency at the non-profit organisation Kinfolk Cafe as part of Australian Poetry’s Cafe Poet Program, and she is a workshop facilitator for the Centre for Poetics and Justice. In 2011 she travelled to the US, where she was the first Australian to compete in the Women of the World Poetry Tournament.

She has been published in literary journals and anthologies, and she is also a published children’s book author. www.bronwynlovell.com

2010s

**LYNDA H HORD (BMusStud ’11)** was chosen as one of 11 women from around the world to take part in 3 Peaks 3 Weeks 2012. She climbed three of Africa’s highest mountains in just three weeks to raise money and awareness for key issues facing East Africa. At the age of 23, she was the youngest member of the team and was excited at the prospect of summing Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount Meru and Mount Kenya in what she described as the toughest physical challenge of her life.

At the time of writing, the team members had collectively raised more than $80,000 and hoped to reach a goal of $100,000. “The fundraising is split three ways between St Jude’s School in Tanzania, the Laikipia Wildlife Forum in Kenya and the HIV/AIDS program run by Support for International Change,” she explained before her departure. “Not only do we climb three different mountains, we also get to visit the three charities and it is a great opportunity to see where the money goes and the people we are helping first-hand.”

Hord graduated from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music last year and is now studying a Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy).

DR DAVID MCINTOSH (MBBS ’79 MPHlth ’86 PhD ’98) was named a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia in the Queen’s Birthday Honours in October. Pictured here with the Governor-General of Australia Quentin Bryce, Dr McIntosh received the honour for service to medicine, particularly in the areas of vaccines and infectious diseases, and to the community through the Glebe Music Festival, of which he is Artistic Director.

He has had a distinguished career that has included roles as Honorary Paediatrician at London’s Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children; Honorary Professor at the Russian Academy of Medical Science; Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer at London’s Imperial College, and Visiting Lecturer at Charles University and University Hospital Bulovka, both in Prague in the Czech Republic.

He is a member of a number of committees and a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (UK) and others.
8 MARCH
Insights 2012: Inaugural Lecture Series
Join David Schlosberg, Professor of Government and International Relations as he discusses “Politics in a Climate-Challenged Society”.
5.30pm: Refreshments will be served in the Nicholson Museum. 6pm: General Lecture Theatre 1, Quadrangle, The University of Sydney. Bookings are essential at sydney.edu.au/alumni/insights. Enquiries: +61 2 9351 7454.

21 APRIL
Faculty of Medicine Alumni Reunion: Graduating Year of 1955
The Royal Sydney Golf Club, 11.30am–3.30pm.
For further information, contact John Wright at rebjohj@netspace.net.au.

18 MAY
Pharmacy Research Innovations Dinner 2012: Cancer
The Maclaurin Hall, The University of Sydney, 7pm.
Join us for the inaugural fundraising dinner for the Faculty of Pharmacy. Enjoy an evening of entertainment and catching up with friends while helping to raise money for cancer research. For further information, please contact Rebecca Palser on +61 2 9351 1963 or at rebecca.palser@sydney.edu.au.

23 MAY
Veterinary Science Alumni Cocktail Reception
The National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, 6.30pm–8.30pm.
Hosted by the Dean, Professor Rosanne Taylor, this special opportunity brings together alumni and friends during AVA national conference week. Reception, $25 per person, or a private viewing of collection and cocktail reception, $35 per person. For further information and registration, contact Skaidy Gulbis, Alumni Relations Officer, at skaidy.gulbis@sydney.edu.au or on +61 2 9351 8020.

30 MARCH
Human Movement & Health Education Alumni Reunion
Grandstand, No 1 Oval, The University of Sydney, 5.30–6.30pm.
Reconnect with your classmates over casual drinks, followed by a pub crawl starting at the Nags Head, Glebe, and then on to Newtown. For further information and registration, contact Helen Loughlin, Alumni Relations Officer, at helen.loughlin@sydney.edu.au.

24 MAY
USUKAA Spring Reception
The Royal College of Surgeons, London, 6.30–8.30pm.
All alumni residing in the UK and Europe are invited to join us for our annual alumni reunion reception. For further information, please contact Andrea Besnard on +61 2 9351 1963 or at andrea.besnard@sydney.edu.au.

31 MAY
Insights 2012: Inaugural Lecture Series
John Keane, Professor of Politics and Director, Sydney Democracy Institute, will speak on “Silence, Power, Catastrophe: New Reasons Why Media and Democracy Matter in the Early Years of the Twenty-First Century”. 5.30pm: Refreshments will be served in the Nicholson Museum. 6pm: Lecture in the General Lecture Theatre 1, Quadrangle, The University of Sydney. Bookings are essential at sydney.edu.au/alumni/insights. Enquiries: +61 2 9351 7454.

ALUMNI REUNIONS
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16 APRIL 2012
GOLDEN GRADUATES LUNCHEON
The Great Hall, 12–3pm
Enjoy a three-course luncheon including entertainment and an address by the Vice-Chancellor. Open to all pre-1962 alumni and their friends; $80 per person.
For further information and registration, visit sydney.edu.au/alumni/golden or contact the Alumni and Events Office on +61 2 9036 9278 or alumni.rsvp@sydney.edu.au.
29 MARCH 2012
10-YEAR SYDNEY REUNION
CLASS OF 2002
Celebrate your 10-year anniversary since graduating from the University of Sydney.
Join us for an entertaining evening of reminiscing, socialising and fun. With opportunities to reconnect with classmates from your faculty, great prizes to be won and food and wine on offer for you and a guest, this is a reunion not to be missed! Earlybird tickets: $20 for alumni and $30 for guests. Standard tickets (2–22 March): $30 for alumni and $40 for guests. For further information, visit sydney.edu.au/events, and watch out for event details in our regular newsletter, eSydney.

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 local area.

LEARNING FOR ALL
You may have put your formal education behind you, but that doesn’t mean your learning days at the University are over. The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) offers more than 700 courses throughout the year, covering 13 disciplines as diverse as business and management, computers and IT, the creative arts, humanities, languages, personal or professional development, science and social science.
There are courses in entertainment, food and wine, gardening, relationships, photography and sport. You can go out and about on a walking tour, or even further afield on an overseas study tour. You could take photographs in North Africa or explore the pyramids of Mexico.
The best part is that all University alumni receive a 10 per cent discount on course fees, up to a maximum of $500 (visit sydney.edu.au/cce/alumni). Here are some ideas to whet your appetite.

FINANCIAL PLANNING TO ACHIEVE YOUR LIFE GOALS
Few of us are taught how to be financially literate. This one-day course will help you develop life goals and the confidence to develop financial strategies to help you achieve what is important to you.

THE ART GALLERIES OF SYDNEY
Visit Sydney’s major public and private art galleries in seven weekly sessions, investigating the wonderful permanent collections and changing exhibitions that make up the dynamic art scene in Sydney.

MUSIC OF THE CLASSICAL PERIOD
Eighteenth-century composers believed music should be appreciated by all, regardless of class or education. Discover the music from this period during this one-day course.

SICILY AND MALTA: A CULTURAL EXPLORATION
Spend 22 days touring these beautiful Mediterranean cultures, starting in Palermo, going off the beaten track, over to the island of Lipari and finally to Malta. The focus is on the local history, art, architecture and literature.

Find out about these and many more courses at sydney.edu.au/cce

OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS
A number of our national and international alumni chapters run social events for alumni on a regular basis. Visit the chapters’ websites at alumni.sydney.edu.au/chapters to find out what is happening in your local area.
Are you interested in starting up a local chapter or online group? Contact Andrea Besnard in the Alumni and Events Office at andrea.besnard@sydney.edu.au or +61 2 9351 1963.

WRITER’S BLOCK
An inspirational six-evening course that aims to help writers and would-be writers better understand what might be in the way of starting, developing, committing to and/or completing their projects. The nurturing classroom environment will provide a place to learn, observe and practise different methods to manage blocks. The course includes information, management techniques and exercises.

Find out about these and many more courses at sydney.edu.au/cce
CROSSWORD WINNER

The prize for the first correct crossword drawn out of SAM’s hat is Dancing With Warriors: A Diplomatic Memoir, by Philip Flood (Arcadia, $34.95). See page 32 for our review of this fascinating book.

Congratulations to Caitland Baker (BA ’06) of Greymouth, New Zealand. She wins the prize for Gizmo’s November 2011 crossword.

CROSSWORD TO GO ONLINE

This may be the last prize crossword to be printed in SAM, as we are considering putting it online. If so, you will be able to find it at sydney.edu.au/sam and we’ll look forward to receiving your entries.

SAM NOVEMBER SOLUTION

decrepit effete o avalador x lathe libertine menue cr earpieces isaac n.writeln taught rangers sue m picturesque olion an a newt realm palmistry ctrl slip hotpotato to teach e as r we t u sorbet usurpers

BY GIZMO

ACROSS
1 Poet/novelist’s earnest son (6)
4 English poet’s spleen working (6)
9 Copper finds freedom fighters have died (4)
10 German theologian’s awful wiener schnitzel Lenin passed up (10)
11 Queen of England is seen to turn a shade of yellow (6)
12 Prone to abstraction at visit he organized to hospital! (8)
13 Publisher gets to stand in time (9)
15 Shock when dwarf takes time off (4)
16 In the middle of sacred Israeli city (4)
17 Complain when college head’s chucked missile at lovely little piece (5,4)
21 Penny cooked knockout Irish and Russian pastries (8)
22 Wanderer returns, bearing east – such a genius! (6)
24 Bears, holding party in America, put on a new item of apparel (5,5)
25 Musical instrument half-broken (4)
26 Compliance with directions maintained by assistant (6)
27 Intellectual egghead who made room at the top! (6)

DOWN
1 French love this smchalzy novelist (7)
2 Poet composed rondeau without using “or” (5)
3 A boy in Narnia somehow unesthetic, though not thin (7)
5 Former place of exile not south of peninsula? (6)
6 Bird I’ve almost taken on date badly needs to be smartened up (7)
7 Danish composer’s discordant lines on... (7)
8 ...romantic French writer getting cut (13)
14 Beat writer digs being read aloud (9)
16 Arab woodcutter who did well out of sesame! (3,4)
18 Ultimate recipient’s butt sure to be misshapen (3,4)
19 Greek character has drug for mythical queen of Thrace (7)
20 Composer’s work in China not quite finished (6)
23 I’ve no arrangement to produce last bit of book (5)

TELL US YOUR VIEWS

We’d love to receive your letters, entries for Classnotes, ideas for articles or just your views on SAM. Email Publishing Editor Michael Visontay at michael.visontay@sydney.edu.au, or write to him at the address on page 3.
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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E wendy.marceau@sydney.edu.au
sydney.edu.au/bequest
TOURS IN MAY-NOVEMBER 2012

MAY 2012
• Berlin, Dresden and Leipzig, from $6,490
• Eastern Turkey, from $4,990
• Lakes and Villas of Northern Italy, from $7,490
• Florence and the Italian Renaissance, from $5,490
• The World of the Hapsburgs, from $6,500

JULY/AUGUST 2012
• Paris: revolutionary city, from $5,695
• European Summer Music Festivals, from $8,370

SEPTEMBER 2012
• London: Art and history, from $6,950
• Grand Tour of Italy, from $6,500
• Croatia and Montenegro, from $6,590
• Japan: Land of the Chrysanthemum Throne, from $6,495
• North East USA: art, history and culture, from $9,640

OCTOBER 2012
• South-West China, from $5,500
• Sicily and the Aeolian Islands, from $6,950
• Food and wine of Northern Italy, from $7,250
• Classical and Ottoman Turkey, from $5,890

NOVEMBER 2012
• Laos and Angkor, from $4,700
• Taiwan: landscape and culture, from $4,500

* prices are twin share, land content only