LEADING LIGHT
THE CHANCELLOR STEPS DOWN
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December 27, 2012 – January 8, 2013. From $5,250 per person. Tour leader: Dr Kathleen Olive

Venice: city, republic and empire
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Malta and Sardinia
March 28 – April 10, 2013. From $6,500 per person. Tour leader: Dr Estelle Lazer

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Featuring a private visit to the Sistine Chapel
April 5-22, 2013 OR September 26 – October 11, 2013. From $6,500 per person. Tour leader: Dr Nicholas Gordon (April) Carolyn Andrew (September)

The city of Rome
April 24 – May 1, 2013. From $2,900 per person. Tour leader: Dr Nicholas Gordon

Lakes and Villas of Northern Italy
April 25 – May 11, 2013. From $7,490 per person. Tour leader: Dr Kathleen Olive

Sicily and the Aeolian Islands
May 3-19, 2013 OR September 27 – October 13, 2013. From $6,950 per person. Tour leader: Dr Estelle Lazer (May) Jeni Ryde (September)

The Fabulous Bay of Naples
October 16-30, 2013. From $5,990 per person. Tour leaders: Dr Estelle Lazer and Jeni Ryde
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LETTERS

CHARLES PERKINS AND EARLY ABORIGINAL STUDENTS
I’m delighted at the naming of the centre for research into obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease after Charles Perkins (The Fight Against Fat, SAM July 2012). However, there has always been some confusion about the early Aboriginal students. Charlie and Garry Williams enrolled at Sydney in 1963, as did Margaret Valadian and Betty Anderson at Queensland University.

All were assisted with Abschol scholarships, an initiative of the National Union of Australian University Students which also funded tutoring, research and public advocacy.

Margaret subsequently became the first postgraduate student and had an important position at the University of Hawaii. Charlie, of course, also had the assistance of his soccer skills and this helped support his family.

The Hon Tom Roper (BA ’67) Southbank Victoria

I am wondering why Dr Margaret Weir never gets mentioned in this context. As Margaret Williams, she graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1959 with a Diploma of Physical Education and is the first recorded Aboriginal graduate in Australia. Although she was from northern NSW, Margaret went first to Queensland University and then to the University of Melbourne.

Margaret (Duncan) Sim (BA ’54 DipEd ’55) Epping NSW

HENRY HALLORAN, LARGER THAN LIFE
I am a retired surveyor and a member of the Senior Surveyors Group, a subset of the Institution of Surveyors NSW, and also a graduate in town planning from the University of Sydney. I was taken by the news item (SAM, July 2012) regarding the gift from the estate of the late Henry Halloran. That report brought back many memories of my time at the University during the 1960s, working with Professors John Toon and Denis Winston, and the staff of the Town Planning Department.

The name of Henry Halloran brought back to mind the man I had read and learned about from members of the surveying profession, as well as from descendants of his family. Halloran was a developer, entrepreneur, surveyor and engineer, a man well ahead of his time and a visionary in aspects of town planning.

Henry Halloran is also remembered within the ranks of the surveying profession through the establishment many years ago, by the Institution of Surveyors NSW, of an award entitled the HF Halloran Prize which is awarded to surveyors and members of the institution, in recognition of services to the profession in a particular sphere.

John Curdie (DipTCPlan ’67 ME ’95) Beecroft NSW

THE OTHER HALLORAN
I was surprised that John Toon (SAM, July 2012) did not refer to the other close association that the Halloran family had with planning at the University. In 1966 Warren Halloran’s brother, Laurence, completed a postgraduate Diploma in Town and Country Planning at the University of Sydney.

Anthony Winter (BA ’63) Broadbeach Qld

WOMEN ON THE WATER BOARD
In the article concerning the 2012 Alumni Awards for outstanding achievement (SAM, July 2012), the item on Belinda Hutchinson stated that in 1992 Belinda “made news when she was appointed as the only woman on the Board of Sydney Water”.

For the sake of historical accuracy, I wish to point out that this statement is incorrect and misleading. Dr Judy Messer was the first woman member of the Board of Sydney Water, having been appointed in 1988 by the then NSW Minister for the Environment, Tim Moore.

Michael Messer (MSc ’89) Balmain NSW

LETTERS ONLINE
Full versions of letters are available online.
sydney.edu.au/sam/regulars
DEAR READERS...

Thank you to all those alumni who responded to our online quiz in the July edition with such enthusiasm — and erudition. We welcomed the number of entries, and the kind words from so many of you about the improvements to the SAM website, and its integration with the magazine.

Congratulations to the five winners: Louise Bedggood from Dubbo (who won an iPad) Anthony Logaraj from Turramurra, Clive Pack from Berry, Margaret Jordan from Waitara, and Sarah Wood from Concord — who all won digital cameras.

THE ONLINE QUIZ

In this edition we have another online quiz to test your knowledge of the University. It will be more challenging than the last one. So, good luck with your research. The first five correct entries will receive copies of some of the books reviewed by SAM this year.

sydney.edu.au/sam/quiz

ONLINE VIDEOS

Don’t miss Restoration Epic, the compelling video of the restoration of the Great Hall, shot on location specifically for SAM viewers while the building work was being done. It is the first of a series of online videos that will be posted on the website in the coming months.

sydney.edu.au/sam/video

Currently in production is a mini-doco of the renovation and additions to the University organ (see story Page 38). We hope you enjoy the beautiful photo gallery on the website that celebrates the craft that has gone into the project.

sydney.edu.au/sam/gallery

TEN QUESTIONS ABOUT SYDNEY

The first of our new history capsules is also underway. Narrated by the University historian, Dr Julia Horne, this series casts a fresh light on intriguing chapters of the University’s past. To whet your appetite, Julia has sketched Sydney in Ten Questions, which can be viewed on the SAM website.

sydney.edu.au/sam

ALUMNI STORIES ONLINE

If you have an intriguing experience from your working life, email SAM with an outline of your story. First off: read Don Heussler’s account of how he was drafted from a quiet job as a chemist into one of the 20th century’s most dramatic wars. sydney.edu.au/sam

SAM READERS ONLINE FORUM

Finally, SAM would like to extend our interactive engagement with alumni through a new, regular online forum. (See panel on left).

Happy reading, and we look forward to seeing you on the SAM website.

Michael Visontay, Editor
sam.editor@sydney.edu.au

RICH READING EXPERIENCE

I congratulate the new editor on his first edition (SAM, July 2012). I did not only notice a digital new look but also enjoyed a rich readers’ experience of WC Wentworth’s founding vision of “Sydney: the making of a public university”.

In the interview with John McLenaghan (Adding value to an intangible asset, SAM, July 2012) the new Alumni Council president never mentioned “rich” to qualify a graduate to re-engage with the University. Rather, he said that philanthropy and nourishing student engagement with the University comprise the spirit that is an intangible asset, and we can add a lot of value to.

Another story, Henry’s legacy, emphasised that one need not have any direct links to see the University’s transformative role in Australian society. What matters is a generous heart, driving a man whose head is full of his father’s dreams.

Dan Umali (MPAdmin)
Leichhardt NSW

SAM ONLINE FORUM

SAM would like to extend our interactive engagement with alumni through a new, regular online forum. Readers are invited to submit a 200-word response, on any one of the following three areas of public debate.

• The Gonski Inquiry into high school funding and the state of higher education
• That Australia is too compliant in its relationship with the US
• How to stop the brain drain of researchers to other countries

We welcome your thoughts and will publish an extended collection of letters on each subject on the website. You are invited to respond to these online letters; the best of these responses will also be posted.

If there are other subjects you believe are suitable for public discussion, let us know. We look forward to hearing from you.

Send your letters to SAM editor at sydney.edu.au/sam/forum
Some mighty productions await you on our stages next year from the pens of writers including Tom Stoppard, Jean Genet, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett and William Shakespeare. Bringing these works to life will be an extraordinary mix of acting talent – Hugo Weaving, Richard Roxburgh, Isabelle Huppert, Cate Blanchett, Tim Minchin, Toby Schmitz and Helen Thomson just for starters – and master directors including Neil Armfield, Tamás Ascher, Simon Phillips, Nicholas Hytner and Benedict Andrews.

It’s Cate and Andrew’s final program for STC as an Artistic duo. We hope you’ll join us for the big bang.
We have always placed great value on the student experience by enhancing the services and support we offer. With the help of federal government funding, we have established the Learning Networks Project, providing 700 seats in informal teaching and learning spaces across the campus. Fully equipped with the latest IT, they are proving immensely popular for individual and group work.

We are acutely aware that we must also address the shortage of residential accommodation. Currently we have just over 2500 beds spread across our residential colleges and rental houses, which is hardly enough. Our plan is to establish an Affordable Student Housing Fund which will deliver another 3000 beds on or close to campus in the next three or four years.

Some of those beds may be located in the redeveloped Abercrombie Precinct, which will eventually house the new world-class Business School, presently constrained by having to teach in more than 20 different buildings of varying standards.

There is a great deal of activity and energy on our campuses at the moment. The Fisher Library refurbishment is almost complete, construction on the new Charles Perkins Centre for research into obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease is underway, and planning is proceeding for the new Australian Institute for Nanoscience building which will house combined research, laboratories, teaching spaces and academic offices. We have appointed leaders for both the Charles Perkins Centre and the China Studies Centre, who are now working closely with our many academic experts in these disciplines.

These are the first of our major multidisciplinary initiatives. Our aim is to create an environment that promotes cross-disciplinary collaborations of high social impact, through targeted and transparent investment in visionary research and education. We have also initiated the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, bringing together nearly 200 academics from 13 different faculties who work in the region in disciplines ranging from archaeology and agriculture to health, medicine, law and government. We have a wealth of expertise and the centre’s key aim is to harness this unparalleled group into interdisciplinary teams to engage with big, real world problems and so make a difference in the region.

Our aim has been to rediscover what it means for so large and disparate an organisation to be a single university, a federation of academic communities working more closely together. We are indeed in the process of becoming one university.

The Chancellor’s ‘youthfulness’

I met the Chancellor, who is stepping down in December (see Page 20), for the first time in her office as governor in Macquarie Street. It is a remarkable room: almost perfectly preserved, with the furniture, and many of the personal effects, of Henry Parkes. In contrast to that sombre Victorian setting, the Chancellor’s youthfulness was apparent. By ‘youthfulness’ I do not mean her extraordinary energy. We have always joked with her gubernatorial staff that, when her capacity for work wears them out in Macquarie Street, they send her to the University, and that when we are panting to keep up with her, we send her back to town. But that is not what I mean by ‘youthfulness’. On that first meeting, we had a conversation about the wellbeing of students. It was clear that she immediately understood what it means to be a student at the University at the beginning of the 21st century, and was blessed with a unique capacity to relate to them as equals. Although I knew from that first meeting what a privilege it would be to work with the Chancellor, my respect for her has only grown over the past four years. The University is profoundly indebted to her.
This year’s Australian Boat Race between the universities of Sydney and Melbourne, to be held on Sydney Harbour on 4 November, will have an international audience, thanks to a deal which will see the event broadcast across Asia on cable television.

Chris Noel, convenor of the Boat Race and Vice-President of the University of Sydney Boat Club, has spent much of the past few months in negotiations with ESPN, Star Sports Asia and Foxsports. Thanks to his entrepreneurial efforts, the race will now be shown to an audience of millions across Asia, Australia and New Zealand three weeks after it is held.

The revived Boat Race, held in Sydney in 2010 after being first held in 1860, was over 7.3km around the harbour, which the Sydney men’s team won convincingly. “It was the longest match race in Australian rowing in more than a hundred years,” says Noel.

“The 2010 event was an unknown quantity,” he says, “and the aim was essentially to raise the profile of, and create something special between Australia’s two oldest universities, Sydney and Melbourne.”

Last year’s race in Melbourne attracted several hundred parents and alumni, and a few thousand spectators along the banks of the Yarra River, who watched the Sydney men’s eight win by just 30cm after the lead changed several times. Melbourne won the women’s eight for the second year in a row, so honours are even.

With the outstanding success of the first two years, Noel is now enticing more alumni – as well as University friends and the general public – to view and attend the event.

Although Sydney does not have as many vantage points on the water’s edge as Melbourne, the spectacular finish line in Darling Harbour is expected to draw a crowd. Alumni will also have the opportunity to follow the race on boats specially chartered for the event, and attend a harbourside brunch with crews after the race.

“The race rules ensure the crews are fully university based. Each boat is allowed two graduates and the balance of the crew must be currently enrolled students attending lectures.”

For more details, and photos from last year, go to: www.australianboatrace.com

The University will confer honorary degrees to five outstanding achievers on 12 November. The conferral of honorary degrees by the University of Sydney recognises individuals who have achieved academic or creative excellence, or have made an outstanding contribution beyond their recognised field of endeavour, which has benefited the wider community.

This year’s recipients include an Oscar-winning actress, a double-platinum winning musician, one of Australia’s best-known authors, a Nobel Prize winner and the Astronomer Royal.

The recipients, and their honorary degrees, are: actress Cate Blanchett (Doctor of Letters), author Kate Grenville (Doctor of Letters), Royal Astronomer Martin John Rees (Doctor of Science), Nobel Prize winning scientist John Robin Warren (Doctor of Medicine) and Aboriginal musician Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu (Doctor of Music).

The degrees will be conferred at a reception in the Great Hall, which will feature a performance by Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu.

If you want to attend, RSVP by 30 October at sydney.edu.au/alumni/ceremony.

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Celebrating global achievements

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If you want to attend, RSVP by 30 October at sydney.edu.au/alumni/ceremony.
GLORY AND GOLD
London was Sydney’s second-best Olympics. Here is the honour roll.

GOLD
Murray Stewart BDesArch ’09 March ’12
men’s kayak K4 1000m

SILVER
Jessica Fox BA
women’s K1 kayak slalom
Brooke Pratley BHlthSc (PT) ’02
women’s rowing double sculls
Olivia Price BHlthSc
women’s sailing Elliott 6m

BRONZE
Matthew Butturini BSc ’10
men’s hockey
Kaarle McCulloch BEd
track cycling women’s team sprint
Belinda Snell women’s basketball
Nicola Zagame women’s water polo

OTHER RESULTS
Brodie Buckland
final, men’s pair rowing
Sarah Cook
final, women’s eight rowing
Ed Fernon BCom ’10
27th, modern pentathlon
Francis Hegerty BCom ’06
final, men’s eight rowing
Sally Kehoe (BCom and BA)
final, women’s eight rowing
Toby Lister
final of men’s eight rowing
Sam Loch (GradCertPC)
final, men’s eight rowing
Kynan Maley BE (Mech) ’09
final, men’s canoe single and men’s canoe double
Sam McGregor BCom
7th, men’s water polo

Matthew Mitcham BA
semi-final, diving 10m platform
Nicholas Purnell BCom
final, men’s eight rowing
Megan Rivers BAppSc (Ex&SportSc) ’03
5th in women’s hockey
Matthew Ryan
final, men’s eight rowing
Murray Stewart BDesArch ’09 March ’12
semi-Final, men’s K1 1000m, heats men’s K1 200m
Bronwen Watson BEd ’00
final, lightweight double sculls rowing
Krystal Weir MPhty
12th women’s laser radial
Loudy Wiggins BA (Media & Comm) ’05
4th women’s synchronised 10m platform diving
Thomas Whalan BCom ’08 LLB ’08 7th,
men’s water polo

PARALYMPIANS
GOLD
Prue Watt BSc swimming: SB13 100m
women’s breaststroke

SILVER
Angela Ballard BSc ’11
athletics: T53 200m, 400m
Katie Hill, Sarah Stewart
wheelchair basketball

BRONZE
Angela Ballard
athletics: T53 100m
Prue Watt swimming: S13 50m women’s freestyle

OTHER RESULTS
Sarah Rose swimming
Katrina Porter BCom swimming
Jennifer Blow BEd BA goalball

Above: Jessica Fox. Bottom: Murray Stewart (2nd from left) and crew. Photos: AFP

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SAM OCT 2012 9
On 21 August a special celebration of the University’s history and future was held at Parliament House in Canberra, where two separate yet equally important topics at the forefront of Australia’s national conversation were addressed.

The Australia and China at 40 book launch by the Foreign Affairs Minister, Bob Carr, commemorated the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Australia and China. This groundbreaking book was edited by Sydney academics from the China Studies Centre, Dr James Reilly and Associate Professor Jongdong Yuan.

The book is a collection of critical writings about the past 40 years, and it also looks to the future. Some of the themes include the differing values that Australia and China assign to the bilateral relationship, and to the supposed triangular relationship with the US, and the goodwill that exists between ordinary people in each country, despite the ideologies or tensions between governments of the day.

More than 200 alumni and guests attended the launch, which was followed by a keynote speech by Professor Shane Houston, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services) on Knowledge to Action in Higher Education. This address focused on the University’s commitment and approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation, education, research and engagement.

The University has launched a new Online Business Directory specifically for alumni, allowing you to promote your business to the University of Sydney alumni community – free of charge.

Alumni can use the directory to identify a range of businesses that offer products and services you need – and anyone visiting the website can view the listings.

You can search the directory by Geography or by Product/Service Type. Some businesses have special offers just for fellow alumni.

There are 22 product categories, covering the full range of business and professional classifications found in commercial directories.

The geographical locations cover all parts of Sydney plus regional NSW, interstate and even overseas locations.

**FULL DETAILS**

sydney.edu.au/alumni/directory

The University is proud to once again partner with the Sydney Festival in 2013. Both the Festival and the University share a passion to stir Sydney’s cultural soul together.

Running over three weeks in January, the Festival is Australia’s most attended annual cultural event, presenting the biggest and best of the world’s performing and visual arts, ranging from theatre to music, dance, films and talks as well as a large free events program.

The Festival program will be announced on 23 October, and University alumni will be entitled to a 10 percent discount across some Festival events. For details on how you can take advantage of this offer, visit sydney.edu.au/sydney_festival from 23 October.
This year close to 8000 alumni and friends have supported the University of Sydney. Gifts of all sizes have been directed to the areas people are passionate about.

The generosity of alumni, staff, students and friends enables us to assist leading researchers investigating solutions to global challenges, provide state-of-the-art facilities, offer more scholarship opportunities to promising students, and prepare our graduates to contribute to the global community.

At the end of this month, many *SAM* readers will receive a letter with the option to make a gift before the end of the year. This letter is part of the 2012 Spring Appeal and by responding to it, you will be joining the growing community of University supporters.

The Development Office would like to thank all alumni and friends who have shown their support in 2012. Your gifts are very much appreciated and have a far reaching impact.

If you do not receive the Spring Appeal letter, you can make your gift online sydney.edu.au/supportsydney

### MBA FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The University of Sydney Business School will offer a new Master of Business Administration (MBA) next year as part of its drive to enter the upper ranks of global business education. The industry-oriented MBA program will begin in February 2013, in partnership with the international executive recruitment and talent management firm Korn/Ferry International.

“Launching our world class MBA is a core element of our strategy for becoming a global top 50 business school within five years,” said Professor Geoffrey Garrett, Dean of the Business School.

“The program is probably best described as the ‘MBA Re-imagined’, he said. “It reflects a new approach to leadership. Instead of focussing on examples of heroic, flamboyant and charismatic leaders, our MBA will give graduates the critical thinking, collaboration and communication skills needed to turn each of them into leaders.”

The MBA will consist of 12 subjects, including staples such as strategy, accounting and finance, data analytics, marketing, HR and organisational behaviour, as well as core classes in leadership development and practice, critical analysis and thought leadership.

Up to nine elective units will be available, some delivered in association with other faculties. “A key elective unit will be an intensive two-week module giving students hands-on experience studying and working in an emerging economy in the region,” said the MBA Director, Associate Professor Nick Wailes.

Initially, the MBA will be offered locally on a part-time basis to 50 students with at least three years of experience in the business world. But from 2015 it will be offered internationally.

*For more information visit mba.sydney.edu.au*

### Abercrombie precinct redevelopment

Following extensive community consultation, the University has finalised plans for new facilities for its Business School on the Darlington Campus. The Abercrombie Precinct project, which will also include student accommodation, will increase the Business School’s ability to attract the best students, teachers and researchers from around the world. Part of the precinct will also be used in the University’s informal learning space network, which can be used by students from across the University.

*sydney.edu.au/abercrombie_precinct*

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**CHANCELLORS’ COMMITTEE**

**Monster relocation book sale**

Save more than 60% on a great range of books about the University of Sydney, its history, buildings and people. Visit the website for the complete listing. Orders can be placed over the phone, by email or at the shop, The Quadrangle Clocktower, Tues – Fri, 10am – 3pm.

*sydney.edu.au/ccs or phone 9351 3927*
Ralph Heimans has just finished painting a portrait of the Queen. He reflects on the tension, protocol and excitement of a unique experience.

A hint of shadow below the eyes and a few unruly curls are the only outward signs that portrait artist Ralph Heimans is under pressure. The stubble appears to be more through choice than any oversight on his part.

We meet via Skype on computer, which opens a window into his studio at a secret location in south London. It’s here that Heimans, who completed a BA in 1992 (majoring in Fine Arts and Pure Mathematics), is working on his most ambitious project to date – the largest official portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, in commemoration of her Diamond Jubilee.

Despite this awesome task, his manner is relaxed, his smile friendly and he laughs heartily and often throughout our chat. Nevertheless, there’s a strong sense that I’m an intruder in his private space and interrupting the flow of his work.

No-one is allowed to see the painting. It’s safely tucked away beyond the realms of Skype. But the computer camera reveals the studio as surprisingly clean, its floors gleaming and not a splat of paint to be seen. “I’m paranoid about dust,” he laughs. “It can get lodged in the paint so I must have a tidy studio. I’m disorganised in every other aspect of my life, but my studio is very organised.”

The painting is to be unveiled at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra in October, so time and secrecy are of the essence. “It’s pretty full on at the moment,” admits Heimans. “I’m locking myself away and just painting. I’m almost at the point when food is delivered under the door on trays. I get in at nine in the morning and I don’t leave till 2am sometimes.”

The 42-year-old painter has to juggle this strenuous work rhythm with the demands of family life. “My little girls are nearly one and nearly two. When they come to my studio, I’m afraid. Everything I use is toxic. I use lead white and mercury red, so I’m terrified they’re going to touch something nasty. But the only relaxation I get at the moment is with them so I love having them in London with me.”

Heimans is in his element in Europe, having spent 11 years living in Paris, and four in London. The cosmopolitan European lifestyle has had a profound influence on his work. “The Dutch tradition is steeped in painting. For me, Rembrandt is the Grand Master with a humanity and insight into the human condition, which is rare. As far as portrait painters go, he’s unsurpassed.”

The beauty of European cities has captured Heimans’ heart. “I need to know there’s a Rembrandt round the corner. It’s a nice feeling to be able to access inspirational art work whenever you feel the need. The beauty nourishes your soul and that in turn nourishes your art.”

London and the royal commission are a world away from his days as a student at Sydney, when he toyed with architecture in an attempt to marry his love of pure maths and fine arts. The fine arts and maths won him over in the end. His first-ever commission was from his history of architecture lecturer, Trevor Howells. The painting still hangs at the University and it was from this point on that his career took off. Heimans started painting one portrait after another.

“Architecture and mathematical aspects are important parts of my work. Perspective, geometry and reflection are strong, recurring themes. I love to exploit the crossover between art and maths and my mathematical background has given me the tools
to tackle problems. It helps me think logically, which is important, as I base my work on an empirical observation of nature.”

“When she appeared in full regalia, complete with diamonds and her footman holding the train, I was left speechless.”

Heimans had plenty of time for observation during the 18 months of negotiation leading up to the portrait sitting. Yet when the green light finally arrived, he had only 10 days to prepare for his 60-minute slot with the Queen. “We were kept hanging for a while by the Palace but when I received an informal email suggesting that it would go ahead, the project shifted to the ‘diary secretary’ and I decided I should head over to London as I felt it was imminent.”

The artist says many conditions were imposed, and the process has been very confidential. “The Palace wanted control of the press release, understandably.” Although his experience painting Princess Mary of Denmark (2006) gave him a taste of royal protocol, he says this project is on another level altogether. That made the surprises even sweeter when they occurred. “I was told the Queen would not be in formal attire due to time constraints and other commitments. So when she appeared in full regalia, complete with diamonds and her footman holding the train, I was left speechless. It took her five minutes to walk down the corridor of Buckingham Palace and the light reflecting off the diamonds as she walked was amazing.”

But after such a long build-up, Heimans had developed a clear idea of what he wanted to capture at the brief sitting. “As a portrait painter, I have to get a quick impression of somebody and I think after 20 years, I’ve developed a good insight into trying to understand people’s essence. In the short time available, you can only be faithful to your own vision, your own feeling about somebody,” he explains. “Also, you can learn a lot from listening to the subject on how they want to be represented. It isn’t good if too much comes from the artist and not enough from the subject.

Has it been hard to capture the Queen’s essence and getting behind the mask of the public persona, given that she famously never reveals her innermost thoughts?

Heimans is silent and puts his head in his hands. “Ah......it’s difficult to answer without giving too much away and it’s a big challenge. I had a particular mood I wanted to capture in the sitting, so my ideas had to be well thought out and approved by the Palace in advance. I wanted a particularly reflective Queen, because her Diamond Jubilee is a landmark moment, so I took that as a guide. The whole sitting had a dreamlike quality. He says he wanted to set the painting in a particular place “which I can't reveal until the painting is unveiled. But it required me to set the scene, so we talked a bit about the National Portrait Gallery and how happy I was that this painting will be exhibited there. She definitely has a fondness for Australia, and maybe that’s why this was allowed to happen.

“I was struck by how incredible she looked. You think you
know what the Queen looks like, but really she has an aura and an incredible presence. I think there was a degree of creative understanding, she’s a seasoned sitter, she knows what an artist needs, and I was so focused on the moment. But I did need to communicate the aspect of history I wanted for the painting.”

Heimans considers himself lucky to have been given access to the Queen this year. No other artist has had that privilege at this special time. “The Queen is so very busy in her jubilee year. It’s crazy that an 85-year-old lady could be that intensely busy.

Is he nervous? “Of course I am. It’s a huge commission. You can’t get a bigger commission as an artist. I have so many people waiting on the results and I’m working with the big institutions such as the Palace and the National Portrait Gallery. It’s a huge potential break in any artist’s career.”

Besides the Queen’s fondness for Australia, another contributing factor in clinching the commission came in the form of a helping hand from his influential friend and one-time subject, Michael Kirby.

In fact, he says that the former High Court judge was instrumental in getting the gallery in Canberra on board in support of his bid to paint the Queen.

Heimans’s 1997 portrait of Kirby, titled Radical Restraint, is one of three works by the artist on display in the National Portrait Gallery. It’s a work that’s always generated interest because of its play with time and context. Kirby’s companions in the painting are judges he never actually worked with and come from another era. Others are dead.

“For me, the context is just as important as the subject,” explains Heimans. “I like to engage the viewer. To get what I want, I need to immerse myself in the physical world my subjects inhabit.”

In his portrait of Crown Princess Mary, Heimans also played with the context and transformed the actual surroundings to reflect the reality of her Hobart origins. But he had much more time to plan his vision, making seven trips to Denmark to prepare with Princess Mary. “I was the artist in residence, and as such I had the room which has the best view in Denmark, over the moat. It was a wonderful time in my life and I made a lot of good friends at the Museum [of Natural History, Frederiksborg Castle, Denmark]. They were like a family to me and we’d sit down to meals together. I felt completely immersed in the world I was painting. I try to use the sittings to say as much about the subject as the figure itself.”

In terms of restrictions, some of his suggestions regarding Princess Mary’s outfit were rejected as “too figure hugging” so in the end he has her wearing a smart suit to please the establishment.

He confirms that the concept of the Queen’s portrait will also include similar playful elements of time and place. The setting is symbolic and rich in meaning. “All I can say for now is that I have altered the context and it’s based on an actual place. I think I’m always developing new narrative devices and ways of telling a story. This painting should represent a great evolution – it’s the most challenging work compositionally that I’ve ever done.”
Salah Sukkarieh is helping Qantas save on its fuel costs.

How much can you save off your annual petrol bill by making sure your car engine is tuned properly? It might be up to four percent a year, according to the US Department of Energy.

Qantas thinks that by applying the same strategy to its aircraft, the saving will be millions of dollars, according to Salah Sukkarieh, Professor of Robotics and Intelligent Systems at the Australian Centre for Field Robotics.

Qantas has a fuel problem: the cost of jet fuel is eating up their margins. Fuel accounts for 20 to 40 percent of its base costs, so anything they can save on fuel is a bonus for them, especially with rising fuel costs at the moment, says Professor Sukkarieh.

So last year, in a world-first initiative, the company asked the centre to investigate techniques to find fuel efficiencies for their jets. “Qantas supplied us with an estimate of how much fuel each of their domestic and international craft will use. The estimate is based on figures given to them by the various manufacturers. However, as time goes on, aerodynamic surfaces are tweaked and engine performance deteriorates, all of which affects fuel consumption,” he explains.

“Up till now Qantas has calculated an overall fuel estimate based on the manufacturer’s standards methods. But some jets might need more, some might need less. So they want us to calculate the individual fuel needs for each aircraft based on an analysis of the actual data. No other airline in the world is doing this. It is particularly important for Qantas because they have so many long-haul flights.

“We are already getting more accurate estimates than Qantas, or the manufacturers, have calculated. Finding less than one percent efficiency will be a benefit; enough to save them a significant amount of fuel each year.

“It’s a bit like driving around in your car with tyres that aren’t inflated properly. One journey won’t make much difference, but over a year, you might save significantly.”

“Finding less than one percent efficiency will be a benefit.”

As part of its wider strategy to address the problem, the airline has also investigated using biofuels. In April a Qantas flight between Sydney and Adelaide used a 50-50 mix of conventional fuel and refined cooking oil, and the federal government has given the airline $500,000 to fund a study into the feasibility of alternative energy fuel.

Originally, Professor Sukkarieh and his team of two research fellows focused their fuel efficiency research on machine-learning techniques: creating mathematical algorithms that trawl through historical data, finding patterns in that data, and using it to calculate fuel consumption in each craft.

But as they drilled down into the numbers, they decided it was better to use the principles of aerodynamics as the cornerstone of their calculations, and then fine-tune their estimates with algorithms.

They started with the knowledge that older models are less efficient due to greater maintenance, leading to a greater deviation from their estimated fuel usage.

Among other patterns, they found that the fuel bill for domestic craft is proportionately higher than it is for international craft because domestic jets spend more time taking off and landing. “Cruising at the one speed uses less fuel, so we have more reliable information and estimates for that type of flying than for climb and descent. That’s what we spend most of our time investigating.”

The University team meets weekly with Qantas engineers, who take a close interest in their progress. “The conversation involves much more than a quick catch-up. They have a passion for finding improvements. They see this as a genuine mechanism for saving on costs.

The project has a two-year life. This month Sukkarieh hands over a software system with a form of estimation about fuel usage; the remaining year will be dedicated to improving on the algorithms.

By that stage Qantas will have a mechanism that enables savings on their fuel bill. The University of Sydney will retain the intellectual property ownership of the software but Qantas retains the commercial rights. “If another airline comes to us and wants to use it, we would have to ask Qantas. It is an Australian icon ... and we like the idea of being able to help it maintain its reputation.”

This project is just one of several that Professor Sukkarieh is working on. Others include robotic research for application in the aerospace, mining and defence industries. There is also the exciting new area of social robotics – machines that interact with humans.

When I ask for more detail, his eyes light up: “How much time have you got?”

WORDS MICHAEL VISONTAY
PHOTOGRAPHY MATT EASTWOOD
Fiona Allon is recalling seeing the St George Dragons rugby league team for the first time in her early 20s. Taken along by her avid-supporter boyfriend, Allon now shares that passion, going to watch the team at least a couple of times a year. “I always pick the important matches, when they’re playing old rivals Easts or Souths.”

Having grown up in the Sutherland Shire in Sydney’s south, where if you didn’t spend time playing sport you were watching sport, Allon says supporting a rugby league team reflects a sense of connection and belonging to a community and place.

Allon, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Gender and Cultural Studies, is more aware than most female sports fans that supporting your team is not always an easy role for a woman. The writer and critic, who specialises in analysis of contemporary Australian culture, has contributed a chapter to a new book, Sport and Its Female Fans (published by Routledge), which examines the history and experiences of women rugby league supporters in particular.

Perhaps more than any other sport, rugby league has been and remains a male-dominated environment. Allon says that, historically, “men often regarded these spaces as a sanctuary away from domestic interference of women and families. That division between public and private spheres in male and female culture in Australia has always been deep and entrenched.”

Nevertheless, women were making their presence felt in rugby league as early as 1910. Allon found a photograph of a game in that year between Balmain and South Sydney that reveals “a sprinkling of women spectators”. Allon says she was surprised at the number of untold stories about women fans that she came across during her research. Stories such
“Many women are attracted to the sheer physicality of rugby league and to the performances of strong male bodies.”

“I think many women are attracted to the sheer physicality and toughness of rugby league and to the performances of strong male bodies. When Tina Turner was used to advertise the NRL competition, she encapsulated something quite specific about women’s relationship to rugby league. She was a strong, physically fit and sexy woman celebrating rugby league. I think many women responded to that association.”

For some, the so-called ‘footie chicks’, it’s an association that they seek to consummate. “There’s an interesting phenomenon of young women who follow the players and become the equivalent of groupies. They want to get as close to these men as possible and talk openly and explicitly about their sexual interest in these men and their bodies.”

Underlying this, says Allon, is a tension that exists between an aggressively physical style of football that is a celebration of rugged masculinity – depending largely on the exclusion of women – and the desire to create a sport that is inclusive and recognises the positive influence of women on the game or at least their de facto presence in the game’s broader culture.

“A real paradox exists between the fact that although more women are following the game and there’s been a deliberate ‘feminisation’ of the game’s image more generally, incidents of sexual abuse and violence towards women continue to be made against many rugby league players in the 21st century,” she observes. “I don’t know why this is happening but I’m sure teams are under more public scrutiny than in the past. We don’t know if these behaviours have always existed and not been targeted before.”

Allon has a penchant for examining the darker side of other Australian obsessions. Her book Renovation Nation (2008) explored the distorting effect of the real estate game and the transformation of a nation into a population of grasping property speculators. “I wrote about the whole housing boom when it was at its peak and the way real estate became a way of making money and began to dominate popular culture. If you went to a dinner party, it’s all anyone talked about,” she recalls.

Her interest in cultural transformation is the subject of another current project: the financialisation of everyday life. Allon has been awarded an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship grant to research and write a book, titled Home Economics: Speculating on Everyday Life, which was prompted by the impact of the GFC. “I think it’s important that we have a cultural debate about the increasing dominance of economics and markets in social life. As the state retreats from its previous responsibilities there has been a huge transfer of risk onto the ‘household’.

“Ordinary people are required to take responsibility for their savings, retirement funds, education, health insurance and welfare needs in general. This ties everyday life into market volatility in quite new and unexpected ways.”

The notion of the ‘good life’ has been completely transformed in contemporary Australia, says Allon. “The home, for example, is no longer seen as a sanctuary or just somewhere to live, but as an investment, something that can be leveraged in all kinds of ways. Everyday borrowing, savings and credit networks are all now completely interconnected with global financial markets.”

While people are expected to be more financially literate than in the past, Allon’s forthcoming book poses two questions; one explicit, the other implied: do we recognise the financial risks our decisions now carry and if so, what are we going to do about it?

If there’s anything that gets people up in arms, it’s the value of their home and the cost of living. Perhaps the only subject they might feel even more passionate about is their favourite sporting team. Allon seems to have struck the trifecta.
Michael Biercuk is doing something that very few people will have the opportunity to do in their lives. The researcher is performing experiments at the absolute limits of human knowledge – and he cannot hide his excitement. “The understanding that you’re doing something that no-one has ever been able to do before is incredibly motivational,” he says.

Biercuk is an experimental physicist who works in the realm of quantum physics, which governs the behaviour of objects down to, and below, the scale of single atoms. In his subatomic world, particles sometime behave in ways that defy common sense, such as existing in two places at once.

For most people this strangeness is a source of wonder but for Biercuk, it represents a practical opportunity. Working from his Quantum Control Laboratory in the University’s School of Physics and the Centre for Engineered Quantum Systems, he and his colleagues are seeking ways to harness the bizarre effects of quantum physics to enable a new generation of technologies.

Most of the technologies we use in the information age, including the microchips in our computers, rely in some way on our understanding of quantum physics. “But these devices don’t take advantage of the most exotic predictions in quantum theory,” says Biercuk. “The next step is to actually build technologies based on these counterintuitive phenomena.”

Some advanced equipment, such as the atomic clocks that power the GPS system, already utilise these effects but it is likely to be just the beginning. A revolution in quantum technology is coming and at its forefront is Biercuk and his team, whose focus is on quantum computing.

While conventional computers encode information as bits that can either be one or zero, quantum computers store and process data in the form of qubits, which can either be one, zero or both states simultaneously. The capacity of tiny particles to exist in two states at once gives quantum computers the potential to drive enormous advances in information processing power.

Together with collaborators from the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Georgetown University and South Africa’s Council for Scientific and Industrial Research,
Biercuk has helped develop a special kind of quantum computer called a quantum simulator, which made global headlines when the first performance results were announced in April this year.

Its purpose is to simulate the behaviour of natural systems that are far too complex to be analysed by conventional modelling. “It’s like testing a model of an airplane wing in a wind tunnel to understand how a full-scale aircraft will behave,” he explains.

The frontiers of science have long captured the imagination of Michael Biercuk, 33, who recalls being engrossed by TV documentaries on the Big Bang around the age of five. He maintained his interest in science at high school and enrolled in a pre-medicine degree at the University of Pennsylvania with the intention of becoming a doctor. However, he became frustrated with what he saw as the limited scope for innovation in a pre-medical degree and one day simply got up and walked out of his organic chemistry class: “I realised that if this was what was required to be a medical doctor, it wasn’t the right career for me,” he says.

He transferred into the field of condensed matter physics and began studying the new material of carbon nanotubes; his undergraduate thesis on the heat conductivity of nanotubes and nanotube-based materials has since spawned a flourishing area of research. After completing his PhD at Harvard studying carbon nanoelectronics for quantum information, he worked as a scientific consultant for the US defence funding body DARPA. Not too long after, however, he was lured back to working in the laboratory by the exciting prospect of building on his organic chemistry class: “I realised that if this was what was required to be a medical doctor, it wasn’t the right career for me,” he says.

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It has been a steep learning curve for Biercuk, who had to retrain in atomic physics and the science of lasers and optics while a researcher at NIST in Boulder, Colorado, essentially resetting his technical skills. His drive to push himself out of his comfort zone has paid off, however: “It took a huge amount of effort, and I’m still learning now, but it’s been a great switch,” he says.

At the heart of his recent research is a tiny crystal of 300 atoms measuring less than one millimetre across, floating in space within a device called an ion trap. Lasers and microwaves are used to manipulate the intrinsic magnetism or spin of the atoms within the crystal, allowing the scientists to make them behave in ways that correlate directly with the interactions between electrons in natural materials. “Add to that the ability to tune the system and a relatively easy way of measuring it, and you’ve got a potentially very powerful computing device,” says Biercuk, who was a senior author on the research paper in Nature which introduced the simulator to the world.

The significance of the invention is its unprecedented computational potential. It can simultaneously process 300 interacting qubits of information; the incredibly complex interactions between qubits makes such a feat impossible on even the world’s most advanced supercomputer. “If you were to construct a standard computer with the same computational capacity as that projected for this device, it would need to be larger than the size of the known universe,” he says.

“Doing something that no-one has ever been able to do before is incredibly motivational.”

While other kinds of quantum simulators may one day offer insights into biological processes such as photosynthesis (the conversion of light into energy), Biercuk’s project is specifically designed to study magnetic interactions at the subatomic scale. A breakthrough in this field could hold the key to understanding a range of unusual materials such as superconductors, which conduct electricity with no resistance and can be used to distribute power with no loss of energy, but only when kept at very low temperatures.

“If we can build a quantum simulator that allows for the right kinds of interactions to be programmed in, we hope to gain some insight into the origins of superconductivity in exotic materials,” he says. That application is still a long way off for the team’s simulator, which to date has only run simple test programs. Eventually, however, it may provide insights that help scientists to attack hard problems in materials science, such as engineering superconductors which work at room temperature.

That could pave the way for ultra-efficient energy grids that transmit electricity over vast distances without any loss of power, making it easy to route renewable energy wherever it is needed. Room temperature superconductors might have many other futuristic applications too, such as enabling a new generation of high-speed magnetic levitation trains.

In another project, he has also developed a powerful new technique for making quantum computers less sensitive to error. Unlike conventional digital computers, which can tolerate a high degree of imprecision when interpreting electrical signals as ones or zeros, quantum computers are extremely sensitive to minute errors. Finding a way to reduce these mistakes will be essential if quantum computers are to do useful work.

Building on his previous small-scale experiments, Biercuk has developed existing error suppression techniques into what he calls quantum firmware (the term refers to code that comes pre-programmed on a computer). By adapting mathematical formulas used by engineers to filter out background noise signals, his firmware can efficiently reduce errors to tolerable levels.

Moreover, he has been able to develop techniques that make the firmware compatible with standard control hardware, dramatically simplifying the path to implementing it in large systems. The breakthrough has earned the researcher selection as a finalist for the $10,000 Eureka Prize for Innovation in Computer Science.
THE COMMON TOUCH
If there were a concept of a Renaissance woman, Marie Bashir would personify it: musical, artistic, well read, well educated. And if there were a concept of a University woman, she has embodied that too, right from the day she enrolled in Medicine and lived at the Women’s College.

Marie is, of course, a psychiatrist by profession. “Of course”, not simply because that is well known, but because those who knew her as a medical student saw in her the characteristics which led her to be so effective and well regarded in that profession – the fact that she listened and was a natural mentor to others, especially the (few) other women then studying medicine. One of those, several years behind, was the now Emeritus Professor Ann Sefton AO.

Ann was elected as the Medicine (Women) representative on the SRC, and found to her surprise and dismay, that that carried with it ex officio membership of the Council of the Sydney University Medical Society (Medsoc). She found Medsoc in those days an intimidating and chauvinist environment, but Marie Bashir was already there, a senior and leading figure in that society (and perhaps the only other woman at that time) – but not an activist, I am assured. She took Ann under her wing, and taught her how to deal with “the blokes”.

Ann Sefton was to repay the favour many years later when, as deputy chancellor, she led the process which resulted in Marie becoming chancellor.

What happens in the Women’s College stays in the Women’s College – apparently, since no-one will talk to me about those days. I have heard Marie do so only once, when she spoke movingly at the recent launch of Damien Freeman’s biography of the late Justice Roddy Meagher (SAM, July 2012). She regaled the gathering with a touching account of being invited out to dinner by the charming and attractive Roderick Meagher of St John’s College. What a power couple they would have been!

This was, needless to say, before the arrival of the redoubtable Nicholas Shehadie on the scene. It is said that relationship happened inadvertently, in that she arranged to go out with him in order to introduce him to someone else, only to fall for him herself.

Marie graduated in medicine but could have been a music graduate instead, or these days, in addition. She juggled her violin study at the Conservatorium with medicine, and while the latter won out, her interest in classical music has not waned.

We are no longer surprised to hear that she has attended a Ring Cycle performance in Bayreuth, Germany, on her way back from China via the Australian Archaeological Institute in Athens (sic).

She became a staff specialist psychiatrist at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, and was actively teaching our medical students in that capacity. The late Professor John Young arranged for her

“The University will reluctantly let Marie Bashir go back to her day job in December. Her colleague and deputy, Alan Cameron, reflects on the special qualities she brought to her five years as Chancellor.”
At times she was holding two day jobs; we only knew she was doing so if plain-clothed people talking into their lapels accompanied her to campus as she continued to perform her duties there.”

“...to be appointed as a clinical professor, and she was a pioneer in childhood psychiatry both here and in the developing world, especially in China, Vietnam and Cambodia.

Indeed, she believed long ago that it was Australia’s destiny to contribute to the development of our neighbours, and put that into practice herself. These three countries were her prime focus in those days. On one occasion, she spent several weeks in Vietnam simply waiting for a visa to enter Cambodia. On at least one occasion, she may well have carried unofficial supplies of lifesaving drugs into other places.

She was in Dien Bien Phu for the 50th anniversary of the Vietnamese victory over the French, when she rang our Dean of Medicine to seek his help for a project in Vietnam, only to find he was already in Hue, in central Vietnam. And she was involved in family reunifications in both Vietnam and Cambodia after the conflicts in those places. She self-selected as the obvious person to be the patron of the faculty’s initiative in Hanoi, the Hoc Mai Institute, and went there on numerous occasions including the official opening, all before she became our Chancellor.

She became Chancellor of the University of Sydney on 1 June 2007, when her term as governor was to conclude in March 2008. Future historians may ponder whether she ever expected or intended to serve in both roles at the same time for quite so long, but no-one other than she was surprised when the then government extended her term, and when its successor in due course extended her term again!

The result has been that she has spent five and a half years as Chancellor, while at the same time fulfilling her responsibilities as Governor of NSW, the highest office in the state. While some chancellors are semi-retired or in portfolio careers as company directors, none of her counterparts at other Australian universities currently seems to have a day job quite like that of our Chancellor.

As senior state governor, she often also served as Administrator of the Commonwealth, at which times she was holding two day jobs; we only knew she was doing so if plain-clothed people talking into their lapels accompanied her to campus as she continued to perform her duties there.

It is tempting to assume that the role of a chancellor is just the university equivalent of the chairman of the board in modern corporations. The role is more than that, but especially so for her.

She has thrown herself into what may be thought to be the repetitive task of presiding over graduations, giving them a personal feel, and giving every graduate a word in the ear. I can feel the warmth in the Great Hall for her at those ceremonies at which she presides, almost to the point where I feel the need to apologise when I preside because she cannot.

Some react very warmly – too warmly, I believe; one or two recently have asked to give her a hug to mark the event. She always agreed. On the very rare occasion that I am asked, I always decline; somehow it’s right for her, but not for me. (But then, nor would I emulate her in addressing a certain senior staff member as “Sweetie”.)

Graduations in the other Great Hall, the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, were a particular joy for her, but also for the graduates and their families. No-one can miss the genuine sense of delight that she gets from sharing that moment with the students.

It was Henry Kissinger who is reputed to have said that “university politics are vicious precisely because the stakes are so small”. I could not possibly comment, and in any event I believe he was talking about some obscure university in the Boston area, I can say that feelings often run high at our Senate meetings, and consensus, even if defined loosely, has not always been quickly or easily found on many of the diverse issues...
which come before Senate. What better person to chair a fractious meeting than a clinical psychiatrist, even if some of us occasionally thought those who disagreed (but not ourselves, of course) were being psychoanalysed as the meeting progressed.

Marie threw herself into the detail of the job, actively chairing the two committees, Nominations and Chair Appointments, which come with the role. Those committees are about maintaining the high reputation of the University, always her first priority.

As she told former Fellow of Senate, ABC presenter Adam Spencer, after announcing her departure, among the special issues she cared about were Indigenous issues and international students.

She was actively involved in creating the role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services) and seemed to know personally all of the shortlisted candidates already. She helped entice Rachel Perkins, Charles’s daughter, to accept appointment to the Senate. And she was and is a great fan of our Sydney graduate, Jack Manning Bancroft, the founder of AIME, the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience.

As a student at the time of the Colombo Plan and having since met so many leaders in Asia who were positive in their views of our country because of their Australian university education, Marie has warmly welcomed the prominent international presence on our campuses. She felt keenly the anguish of the families of overseas students when several were the victims of violence in recent years, and was personally involved in comforting them and their families. She also strongly supported the strategic imperative of improving access to housing which would be secure and affordable for all of them.

Her international representation on the University’s behalf has not always been at comfortable or convenient places. In recent years she has paid several visits to Mongolia because of her concern with its state of development, and is seeking to encourage links in diverse areas such as engineering and medicine.

Her rationale? Australian mining companies are doing well out of Mongolia, and we should put something back. She has been there so often and to such effect that she is now claimed by the expatriate community there as a ‘mossie’ – an honorary Mongolian Aussie. (Not all her attempts to reach Mongolia succeeded, however. High winds last year prevented her and the Dean of Medicine reaching Ulan Bator, but their advance party had got in, and completed the work at hand while she and the Dean sat, I suspect impatiently, in Beijing.)

No-one could have been a more active, successful and committed chancellor. We shall reluctantly let her go back to her day job in December, when she will resume the title of Visitor, and we shall look forward to her doing so – visiting, that is.

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HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR MARIE BASHIR AC CVO

1930 Born Narrandera, NSW. Educated at Narrandera Public School, Sydney Girls High School
1956 MBBS Sydney. Lived at the Women’s College during her studies
1972 Founding director of the Rivendell Child, Adolescent and Family Service. Lectured at the University of Sydney
1987 Director of the Community Health Services in the Central Sydney Area
1988 Made Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)
1993 Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Sydney
1994 Clinical Director of Mental Health Services for the Central Sydney Area
1996 Senior Consultant to the Aboriginal Medical Service, Redfern and in Kempsey
2001 Governor of NSW; Companion of the Order of Australia (AC)
2002 Honorary Doctor of Medicine (Sydney)
2006 Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) in 2006
2007 Chancellor of the University of Sydney

sydney.edu.au/senate/Bashir
A SOUTHERN TAKE ON RACE

WORDS
MARK DAPIN
PHOTOGRAPHY
THOMAS STRONG

Is there a concept of race specific to the southern hemisphere? Warwick Anderson wants to find out.

Professor Warwick Anderson is entitled to wear the Ivy League academic robes he keeps in his office at the Centre for Values, Ethics and the Law in Medicine at the University of Sydney. He is a research fellow at both VELiM and the Department of History, and the first historian to hold an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship, and he has a PhD in the History of Sociology of Science from the University of Pennsylvania. The splendid cap, hood and gown – which, he points out, bear the colours of both Pennsylvania and North Melbourne Football Club – are his by right.

“I took up history, and the poetry went out of my life … I’ve been a bit of an intellectual vagabond.”

I am taken slightly off guard, however, when he puts them on. But that’s what Anderson does: he demonstrates, he demystifies. And he has a deep reservoir of experience to draw on.

Anderson, 53, was born in the small surfside town of Apollo Bay, Victoria. Both his parents were schoolteachers, whom he describes as being “on the margins of academic life” as well. His father, Hugh Anderson, became a historian, and produced “40 or 50 books”, many of them high school texts. His mother, Jean, lectured in drama at Melbourne Teachers’ College, later a part of Melbourne University, and wrote about teaching drama and creativity.

Hugh was a communist until the 1950s, a member of the Realist Writers’ Group with Ian Turner and Stephen Murray-Smith. Jean was part of the drama department which, in the 1970s, gave rise to the “alternative theatre” group, the Pram Factory, which first performed David Williamson’s play, Don’s Party.

“My parents dragged me along to the Pram Factory quite a bit when I was a child,” says Anderson. “I knew a lot of those people as friends of my parents. I used to see Max Gillies, and play board games with him on rainy days in summer.”

The family felt intellectually isolated in Apollo Bay and moved back to Melbourne when Warwick was eight years old. He attended University High School, “a left-wing, intellectual school, with some extraordinarily good teachers”. As he was good at science, he “drifted into” studying medicine at Melbourne University. He completed an internship at the Royal Melbourne Hospital’s Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, where his clinical work was dominated by autoimmune disease, the conceptual history of which he is currently writing with former Hall Institute director, Ian Mackay.

He later worked in the neo-natal intensive care unit of John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, UK.

“I think that turned me into a historian,” he jokes. “It was in the NHS, the hours were terrible. It was an incredibly stressful job.”

He returned to Australia to practise as a GP in the western suburbs of Melbourne. In his spare time, he applied to study Arts subjects at Melbourne University, but the lecturers steered him towards the History and Philosophy of Science. He also wrote and published poetry, until he started his PhD, at the age of almost 30.

“I took up history, and the poetry went out of my life,” he says.

But he has recently returned to his early writing, and his collection of “resuscitated” poetry, Hard Cases, Brief Lives, was shortlisted for the best first book of poetry award by the Association for the Study of Australian Literature.

When he left Australia for the US, he was working on a history of tropical medicine and ideas of race in the north of Australia, which became, much later, his book The Cultivation of Whiteness. He taught at Harvard, then Melbourne University, where he ran the Centre for Health and Society. Returning to the US, he took up a position at the University of California, San Francisco’s medical school, which eventually came with a joint appointment to the Berkeley history department. He moved to the University of Wisconsin, where he wrote his second book, Colonial Pathologies, about US colonial medicine in the Philippines.

Anderson also continued to practise medicine up until 1999. (“I’m still registered,” he says.) Even when he taught in the US, he’d come back to Australia in the Northern summer and work at a community health centre in Melbourne.

He took up a research professorship at Sydney in 2007. “I’ve been a bit of an intellectual vagabond,” he says,
“moving around from place to place, but I now feel I’d like to stay at least 10 years somewhere. Sydney does possess an extraordinary group of historians of science and medicine and philosophy, and people doing sociology of science as well. It’s a group that’s as good as any in the world.”

His Laureate Fellowship – “Southern racial conceptions: comparative histories and contemporary legacies” – builds on ideas he has developed about the way medicine and public health became sites of racial thinking as much as anthropology in last 150 years. Anderson has been studying the shift within anthropology from rigidly typological thinking, which regarded races as being fixed and separate, to a biological anthropology more interested in race-mixing and the formation of new races. He is organising a comparative study of the way human difference (or “race”) has been understood in the global south.

In the 19th century, various New Zealand physical anthropologists – including Maori anthropologists – had talked about the racial amalgamation of Maori and Pakeha as leading to a superior race. These ideas, says Anderson, are mirrored in Latin racial thought which, in countries such as Mexico, has set great store by the creation of a better Mestizo race.

Standard histories of racial thinking have been dominated by European and US ideas of eugenics, discredited in the extermination camps of Nazi-occupied Europe. But, says Anderson, “Maybe one can even argue that most of the world had different understandings of race than the North Atlantic ones.”

The Fellowship will allow for the examination of networks of southern racial thinkers – doctors, public health officers, anthropologists and biologists – and the way their ideas influenced public policy. “I’m not saying the southern societies are not racist,” he stresses, “and the science that is practised there is often quite racist as well, but I’m saying, in a sense, it’s racist in a different way.

Anderson’s work on the history of autoimmunity grew out of his most recent book, The Collectors of Lost Souls, which looks at the “discovery” and study of an autoimmune disease called Kuru in the highlands of New Guinea. Lost Souls won the NSW Premier’s History Award, along with two major international awards, the William H Welch medal and the Ludwik Fleck, which had never before been given to the same work.

In an autoimmune disease, the body attacks its own tissues. Up to 20 percent of the population will develop an autoimmune disease at some point in their lives, but its history is barely studied. Anderson’s book with Mackay is, he says “a sort of conceptual history of autoimmunity, looking at how it became, in a sense, conceivable, from the late 19th century up until the late 1980s.

“You first need to have the idea of an immune system and antibodies, and there was actually great resistance to the notion that the immune system could do anything except defend the body. That it was a cause of disease in its own right was regarded as unimaginable, anathema. It was only in the 1940s and ’50s that people came to accept autoimmunity at all.

“Autoimmune disease is a biographical disease in a way (that) getting an infection is not. You have to understand the biography of the sufferer.”

At this point I notice the decoration in his offices: an embroidery illustrating vaccination, from Baha state in India; a photograph of Sigmund Freud’s desk; and what looks like a Medieval tri-corn but turns out to be his academic cap.

He models it for me, with the rest of his regalia, in order to give a full answer to my casual question. He says he likes wearing his robe because “it’s rather ridiculous”. But it will always have one drawback for the boy from Apollo Bay. It’s the colours of North Melbourne, and he barracds for Essendon.
HOT SHOTS COLD CASES

Crown prosecutor, photographer and now crime writer – Mark Tedeschi is bursting with creativity.

It’s typical of an over-achiever like Mark Tedeschi that he’s not just a Sydney graduate, he’s a third-generation alumnus. First came his beloved great-grandmother Rosina, a pre-war immigrant who taught Italian at the University, followed by his mother, himself and his children (including Simon, the well-known pianist.)

A photograph of Rosina receiving an honorary doctorate sits behind his desk, a reminder of the family’s Italian roots and successful integration into Australian society at the highest levels of public service. Today Tedeschi is top prosecutor in NSW, overseeing a team of 90 lawyers working for the Department of Public Prosecutions. He has been responsible for securing some of the state’s most high-profile convictions, against Ivan Milat, Bruce Burrell and Gordon Wood.

Mild-mannered and gracious, giving no hint of the steeliness that such cases involve, Tedeschi is proud of his origins. “My family came from Turin and Verona,” he says, acknowledging that his surname is also the Italian word for ‘German’, which indicates that further back, their origins were Teutonic. But while Tedeschi apologises for his poor command of the Italian language and confesses that he is no lover of opera, he recognises stereotypical traits – sentimentality and volubility – in himself that we think of as typically Italian. “My colleagues say that I use my hands a lot in court.”

Tedeschi came to the University of Sydney in 1969 straight from Sydney Grammar School and graduated from law in 1974. He was essentially studious rather than social. “I did not go wild, I was conservative and moderate, as I am today,” he says, sitting in his cluttered chambers overlooking Hyde Park. He enjoys courtroom dramas on TV (Law and Order is his favourite) but says the depiction of his University contemporary, the prominent barrister Charles Waterstreet in Rake “made me angry. Yes, Charlie is flamboyant, cheeky, creative, clever and big-hearted but he’s not as extreme as that.”

The corridor to Tedeschi’s office is lined with black and white prints from his recently-released book of photography, Shooting Around Corners: portraits of grinning children in Redfern’s Block (an area whose redevelopment he decries), and images of solemn police officers and court staff. It’s all part of his ongoing passion for photography, pursued in every spare moment.

His rooms are humanised by personal mementos: strappy-leafed plants hint at his Sunday gardener status, calligraphy brushes are souvenirs from a trip to China. Aboriginal art bought on a trip to Central Australia adds a bold accent of colour amid shelves of leather-bound legal volumes and plastic binders. Two panama hats suggest lunchtime walks on sunnier days. The large round fish tank remains sadly empty and in need of serious attention. There are also a few bottles of wine on a sideboard – gifts from grateful families of victims, a quiet reminder of the high emotion surrounding his work.

For the past year Tedeschi has been obsessed in his spare time by a project that has required him to go beyond his normal boundaries of investigation and explore new territory: now he can add ‘author’ to a considerable list of achievements.

Tedeschi has written the story of one of Australia’s most intriguing and scandalous cases: Eugenia Falleni, born in 1875, a woman who spent 22 years living in Sydney as a man named Harry Crawford, and who went to trial in 1920 charged with the murder of her first ‘wife’. The case has fascinated him for the past seven years, ever since he first spoke of it at the gala dinner for the 175th anniversary of the NSW Crown prosecution office, describing it as one of
the most significant trials prosecuted by his forebears.

“The transcript of the trial shocked me, because her defence counsel made so many errors,” he says. “An injustice was done to her and someone more shrewd could have saved her. I also felt a connection to Eugenia because we both had Italian ancestry. Also, the place where the death that led to her being charged with murder was the park near the river at Lane Cove, somewhere I used to play as a child.”

“I was afraid that I might not be able to write the bits about human psychology.”

Describing himself as a novice at writing, Tedeschi had the good sense to engage a mentor to help him with the task, choosing Alan Gold, the author of several bestselling works of historical fiction. “I was afraid that I might not be able to write the bits about human psychology,” he admits. But of course his skill as a prosecutor relies on an acute understanding of human nature and all its flaws and foibles.

“I found I could write those parts that required me to speculate on what might have been going through Eugenia and the other protagonists’ minds. My professional life had prepared me for that more than I expected,” he says. Tedeschi describes his approach to everything he tackles as “driven. I devote a lot of time to personal projects, whether it’s this book or my photographs because I genuinely believe the journey is as important as the destination.”

In the case of Eugenia, he brings his calm, deliberate insights to a case that was overheated at the time as a public scandal, focusing on the sexual deception that she perpetrated, fooling two wives with the use of a fake penis fashioned of wood and leather that she employed with great skill. Today that object has disappeared, though, as Tedeschi delights in recounting, “the Justice and Police Museum has something catalogued as ‘the article’ (the euphemism of the day), except that it looks like a draft excluder: it’s 30 centimetres long and five centimetres thick.”

He’d like to see a film made of the Falleni case, claiming it has the right elements of drama and intrigue but won’t speculate about who he imagines in the role.

Tedeschi likes to think in images. It was Rosina who gave him his first camera at the age of 12. Today, he is a Nikon man, passionate about taking portraits. “I like to study emotion and the candid unguarded moment,” he says of his subjects, including artists, footballers and legal associates. He regrets never having had the opportunity to photograph the artist Margaret Olley (“she said she was too busy”) and would love to shoot the Governor, Her Excellency Marie Bashir. “But she’s so fair; she said if she let me, she’d have to let everyone else.”

And if he had the chance to photograph Eugenia? “It would be as Harry Crawford, at the Empire Hotel in Annandale, his favourite drinking spot, and thankfully, still there. He would have felt comfortable, secure and at peace, so I would have had a good chance of capturing his essence.”

The Women’s College was the first residential college for women in Australia, and when the first principal, Louisa Macdonald, took up the job she was the highest paid woman in NSW. Currently there are 282 students, making it the largest on campus. This year the college celebrates its 120th anniversary, with a Gala Ball on 13 October and a Back to College Weekend on 7 to 9 December.

To salute the 120th anniversary of the Women’s College, SAM invited several residents to reflect on their experiences there.
“The college reinforced my belief in the capability of women to shape society and instilled in me a sense of responsibility to do the same.”

ROYA BAGHAI (1987–90)
The Women’s College is an institution that encourages and enables leadership in young women at a formative time in their lives. Although I probably didn’t understand its full value at the time, attending the Women’s College has had a remarkable influence on my life and career. My time there not only reinforced my belief in the capability of women to lead, influence and shape society, but also it instilled in me a sense of responsibility to do the same. I realised that the greatest legacy for a leader is to enable others in their success and self-development. The founders of the Women’s College have done just that.

OLIVIA MURPHY (2001–04)
The Women’s College was my home for four years and I loved it. No other place has had such a profound effect on me: it is the most nurturing environment I have come across. One memory springs to mind: on my 20th birthday, I woke up in the dark to rush to an early-morning law exam in the city. In those days I lived in the tower room, up its own steep flight of stairs. It had been a terribly busy semester, and I was tired, stressed and exhausted. I dragged myself back up to the third floor, only to find that the whole tower staircase was covered in balloons and streamers, with a sign on my door wishing me a happy birthday.

These were some of the best years of my life. I’m really not quite sure how I managed to get through my degree while having so much fun! There is no doubt that some of my strongest friendships came from my days at college. It is a unique and bonding situation where you are living with your friends for years in the same place. Everyone who attended is extremely grateful for such a wonderful opportunity.

NHI-Y PHAM (2008 – )
My decision to move into college was driven primarily by the appeal of the extra-curricular opportunities available, and the potential for networking. I am still living at the college and it has delivered over and above my expectations. The friendships I have formed with the fellow residents and the people I have met along the way hold a key place in reflections of my time at university. Above all, the level of support from residents and staff has made me proud to call the college my second home.
ME, FIRST.
THE MBA RE-IMAGINED

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When the elite Sydney school, Ascham, faced its last media blitz, the principal, Louise Robert-Smith, told one of the school parents: “We seem to be a target”.

“No,” he replied. “We’re a lightning rod.” He was right. The independent girls’ school, perched on 3.7 hectares of prime eastern suburbs land at Edgecliff, exerts a magnetic force on the media. Any drama, big or small, tends to end up on the front page, just because it’s happened at Ascham.

For 31 years, the school was led by Rowena Danziger, a prominent player on the Sydney stage. “D” as she was known, was a lightning rod herself, attracting attention for her iron grasp on every aspect of the school but also for her life outside, as a director of arts organisations and her personal and professional links with the Packer family.

Louise Robert-Smith, by comparison, is a backstage woman, spending the past seven years at Ascham out of the spotlight. Almost every evening she has dinner with the Ascham boarders and is never, if ever, seen at art gallery openings, the theatre, or parties.

“That was part of the brief when I came here. We didn’t want to be part of the papers, we’d had enough of that ... it was a conscious decision from the school that I would keep a low profile. I’ve been asked to be on panels on TV shows and always said no. I haven’t done self-promotion.”

At the end of this year she will leave the 125-year-old school, which was named after Roger Ascham, tutor to Queen Elizabeth I. Ascham retains tangential ties to Britain through its connections with British private schools. Rowena Danziger forged close links with St Paul’s Girls’ School in London and her successor, Susan Preedy, came from there. Robert-Smith’s successor will be Dr Helen Wright, the principal of St Mary’s Caine, a girls’ boarding school in Wiltshire.

Robert-Smith, 64, is the odd one out. After graduating from Sydney with a BA and Dip Ed (’69 ’70), she spent her entire career as a teacher and principal in the public school system until 2005, when the headhunting firm, Korn Ferry, asked if she was interested in moving from the selective school, North Sydney Girls High, to Ascham.

It was a tumultuous time at the school, with a revolving door of principals, and parents in revolt. “I had been reading about what was happening at Ascham,” said Robert-Smith. “We all had. But it was a completely foreign concept for me. I wouldn’t have believed I could move systems, from the public to the private ... I was flattered, but I just said ‘No, why would I do that?’”

Eventually, “I thought I could make a real difference here. One of my strengths is building community and building morale. Ascham wanted a safe pair of hands, someone who was Sydney based, knew about Sydney, knew how things ran and who was an experienced head.”
Nevertheless, “I knew the change was not going to be easy because there’s such a divide between the public and the private systems, in New South Wales particularly. I was anxious that people would see this was a defection to the private system and there were people who did.”

Robert-Smith’s own education was in public schools. Having been born in Kempsey, where her parents managed a pub after her father’s return from the RAAF in Britain during World War II, the family moved to Sydney where she attended Pennant Hills Public and then West Ryde Public School prior to completing her education at Cheltenham Girls’ High School, in Sydney’s north-west.

Her mother, who described herself as a homemaker, told her daughter: “You’ve got to have a career. I’ve had four lovely children but it’s not fulfilling enough.”

Robert-Smith became the first in her family to attend university, supported by a Teachers Scholarship from the NSW government. She studied French, English and Indonesian at the University of Sydney where she also met her future husband, Dr Geoffrey Robert-Smith, then a medical student.

Her time there seems brief in retrospect and she remembers most vividly the lecture rooms full of students and the day a first-year lecturer announced: “Look to the left and right of you and only one of you will get through first year.”

Robert-Smith made a strategic choice with her decision to study Indonesian. “I didn’t go into teaching passionate about being a teacher. I was passionate about the subjects I was doing,” especially Indonesian, “a new thing then, the Mandarin of the ’70s.

“I wanted to stay in Sydney although technically I could have been sent anywhere in the state, but there were schools vying for Indonesian teachers and I got Pennant Hills High School.”

During her seven years at the school she led two student excursions to Indonesia and “it was very exciting. It was a total love affair with the country and the language”.

But in the last 10 years, she says, the popularity of Indonesian studies has declined rapidly, due to the Bali bombing – “it tainted it”.

As for teaching itself, “I adored it. You were actually entrusted with professional responsibility, because while you’re in the classroom, you’re it. I loved that autonomy … I really found my vocation.”

After a short stint at Strathfield Girls High School as relieving head teacher, Robert-Smith was appointed head teacher of languages at North Sydney Girls High in 1978. (The following
year her son Michael was born.) Her appointment at North Sydney Girls
entailed a laborious process involving advanced paperwork, and Department
of Education inspectors who shadowed her and quizzed staff and students.

“In 1989, the department changed the way they did promotions and merit
selections and you could apply for anything you liked. I got Willoughby Girls
High School as deputy head.”

Robert-Smith used her persuasive powers to build up the comprehensive
school’s student numbers.

Through this relatively new system of interview and merit selection, Robert-
Smith returned to North Sydney Girls High in 1997 as principal. “That was a
defining moment in my life, the jewel in the crown as far as I was concerned.”

“I adored teaching. You were actually
entrusted with professional responsibility,
because while you’re in the classroom,
you’re it. I loved that autonomy.”

Selective schools, however, have changed dramatically during her career.
In the 1970s, students were offered places on the basis of their potential and
IQ tests.

“I don’t think people realised in those early days you could actually coach
for those tests and particularly multiple choice tests.”

Student coaching took off in the 1990s, she said, “but a lot of families don’t
want to play that game. They don’t want their children to go to coaching
colleges in order to access the schools, so in fact you are disenfranchising quite
a number of bright children who would otherwise have gone to these schools.”

“Having said that, I think North Sydney and other selective schools are
wonderful places to be and teach … students spur each other on.”

The Ascham offer came at the right time. Robert-Smith, who was planning
to leave North Sydney within two years, had recalled the words in a farewell
speech by Dr Ken Boston, former director general of the NSW Department
of Education: “Everyone has a bag of tricks and you’ve seen all mine. It’s time
for me to take my bags of tricks and move on.”

In the future, she believes, “tenure [for principals] will be five to 10 years
max. Renewal is good”.

At Ascham, she faced the challenge of balancing continuity with the need
for change, avoiding the enmity of the school community by saying “it’s all
gonna be different now”, and the adjustment to living on the campus.

This “identity merge”, as she called it, “was brought home to me forcibly
when I went into the Motor Registry and said I am changing it [her licence
address] to 188 New South Head Road and they punched it in and it came up
as Ascham … it was really confronting”.

No doubt there were other challenges, such as the high expectations of
fee-paying parents.

But Robert-Smith found the private system had major benefits too, not
least its administrative resources such as a finance department, maintenance
staff and an IT unit.

Although she has a Master’s of Education (Sydney ’85), she says that after
leaving Ascham in December: “I wouldn’t mind going back to university” (In
one sense, she already is back, as a member of the Dean’s Advisory Board in
the Faculty of Education and Social Work). She is also considering a couple
of full-time jobs.

“Ascham has been fantastic but it’s been all-consuming. I would be out
five or six nights a week at school functions.” But it was, always, all about the
school. “I haven’t sought an outside profile and that has been deliberate.”

And now she can? “Yes, watch this space!”

SOLDIERS OR ASSASSINS?
Was America’s killing of Osama
Bin Laden a lawful act of war,
or an illegal extrajudicial
assassination? Professor Ben
Saul explores whether self-
defence is permitted against a
non-state actor (Al-Qaeda) on
the territory of a foreign state
(Pakistan) where the foreign
state does not control or direct
the non-state actor.
sydney.edu.au/sam/second-look

CHILDREN AS CONSUMERS
The branding strategies adopted
by fast food companies in
the marketing of junk food
to children should be used to
promote healthy alternatives,
says Associate professor Teresa
Davis, who has conducted fresh
research into the area.
sydney.edu.au/sam/second-look

TIC-ING AWAY
Professor Tim Usherwood has
lived with the neurological
disorder known as Tourette
Syndrome since he was a
young boy. He reflects on
how he has coped with facial
tics, grunting and other
involuntary behaviours that are
characteristic of the condition.
sydney.edu.au/sam/second-look

METALS IN MEDICINE
What do wedding rings, car
exhausts, electronics and
drugs used to treat ovarian and
testicular cancer all have in
common? The precious metal:
platinum. Dr Nial Wheate is
leading research at the Faculty of
Pharmacy into the effectiveness
of platinum drugs.
sydney.edu.au/sam/second-look
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* Offer is subject to review
1950s

**DR MAX BARRY OAM (BVSc ’52)** joined more than 6000 veterans at the Bomber Command Ceremony in London on 28 June, for the unveiling of a memorial to the 50,000-plus airmen of Bomber Command who died during World War II. Max served as a rear gunner in a Lancaster bomber when the crew had to bail out over France in 1944 due to fire, and was sent by the Germans to POW camps in Poland and Germany. In Sydney after the war he studied Veterinary Science, and married medical student Ruth Maegraith (MBBS ’52). Both daughters, Associate Professor Katherine Brown (MBBS ’78) and Christina Barry (BSc ’80) also studied at Sydney. Max was accompanied to London by his son-in-law, health sciences alumnus John Brown.

1970s

**VICTOR KLINE (LLB ’74)** has just published his novel *Rough Justice* in electronic form through Kindle Direct Publishing. The novel, a romantic comedy set in and around the Sydney bar and rural NSW, was first released by Allen & Unwin in 1995. Victor started his working life as a federal prosecutor in Sydney, then went on to be a defence counsel in the Northern Territory where he narrowly avoided being shot in open court. He travelled widely overseas, and worked as an actor and theatre director in New York. He is now Editor of the Federal Court Reports and has come full circle to study a BA at the University of Sydney in the subjects he always loved, History and French.

1990s

**AKRAM OMERI (PhD ’96)** was awarded an OAM in June for service and commitment to Transcultural Nursing. Dr Omeri grew up in Tehran, earning her nursing qualification from the School of Nursing, American University of Beirut in Lebanon, and midwifery certificate in the UK, then studied in America before completing the first PhD in Australia in Transcultural Nursing. Since that time she has continued teaching and promoting her specialty in Australian universities and overseas in Saudi Arabia. Dr Omeri now runs her own consultancy, Transcultural Nursing and Health Care Consulting, which is committed to supporting and promoting holistic, humanistic and culturally safe nursing and health care.

2000s

**COLETTE GRIPLAS (LLB ’04) and CARINA ONZER (LLB ’04)** became friends in the hallowed hallways of the University Law School. They both tried brief forays into individual commercial careers – Colette was a litigation lawyer, then worked for the Crown and later, a Hollywood film studio, while Carina was a banking and finance lawyer in Australia and overseas. However, in May, after three years of planning, the two friends opened a company called Specaddict, pooling their talents and satisfying their creative urges. The fledgling retro-chic eyewear company, which offers “affordable and fashionable spectacles”, also launched its online collection earlier in the year.

**SIMON JIANG (MLMgt ’03)** got more than he bargained for when he volunteered to help establish the China Alumni Network’s Beijing alumni group. Business School alumnus Simon, who owns Silk-Roads Shipping Ltd, met **LIN WANG (MCom ’07)** at a Beijing Alumni Olympics Party in 2008 and a very strong connection was made. They recently got married in Beijing with a crowd of more than 180 family and friends, including many fellow Sydney alumni. Congratulations to the happy couple.
WHEN HORSE BECAME SAW
A Family’s Journey through Autism
Anthony Macris
Penguin Books $34.95

Anthony Macris (BA ’91) is father of Alex, a severely autistic child. He also writes lyrical prose with style and sensitivity, generously engrossing us in his very personal world. The title indicates the moment when his bright little toddler began to regress into autism, propelling his family into a journey that would draw on all the love, resourcefulness and stamina they could muster.

The need to learn about his son’s world led Macris to investigate everything he could find out about autism. It wasn’t very much. It also became clear that early intervention was the key, but that therapies were vague at best, and heavily reliant on parent involvement. The best one-on-one therapy was privately run and very expensive.

Anthony and his wife Kathy were faced with daily worries about income, balancing work and the emotional intensity of the son’s full-time therapists, perhaps for the rest of their lives.

Macris’s descriptions of treasured moments, unconditional love, daily family struggles and triumphs, and the joy to be found in repetitious mundane daily tasks make this book about so much more than a journey through autism. It is deeply moving. It invites us to wake up to how we perceive our own worlds, and to appreciate each moment.

DUELLING SURGEON
COLONIAL PATRIOT
The Remarkable Life of William Bland
Robert Lehane
Australian Scholarly Publishing $44.00

So many early Australians fail to receive rightful recognition. Robert Lehane’s (BSc ’65) meticulous research reveals a portrait of one such man. In so doing, he provides lively snapshots of the chaotic life of a fast-growing colony.

William Bland was sent to Australia after fatally wounding a fellow naval officer in a duel. He was headstrong, vocal and unafraid to speak his mind. He was also compassionate and benevolent, an excellent surgeon, a prolific writer, an inventor and a leader, an animal lover, gardener and philanthropist.

That a convict could come to this country and become one of its leading statesmen led Bland to support the rehabilitation of convicts. He argued against capital punishment and supported trial by jury. He set up the precursor to Sydney Grammar School, and was central to establishing the University of Sydney, elective legislature and public education.

Bland cared for the sick, whether they could pay or not. He himself died insolvent and though loyal friends praised his contribution to the colony, it was not widely acknowledged. Does anyone know he invented an early form of fire extinguisher and an airship? Lehane has given us more to think about next time we drive down Bland Street.

DANCING WITH EMPTY POCKETS
Australia’s Bohemians
Tony Moore
Murdoch Books $29.99

Most of us secretly long to be part of a bohemian subculture, taking risks and not caring about money. Now we can experience this world vicariously, through Tony Moore’s (BA ’84, PhD ’08) riveting investigation of the past 150 years, which avoids romanticising the bohemian lifestyle.

From dandy remittance man Marcus Clarke in the mid-1800s through to Julian Assange, these rebels were clearly not the least bit ordinary, and that is their attraction. A surprising number of them are second-generation bohemians, such as Mirka Mora’s son Philippe, Frank Hardy’s grand-daughter Marieke and Norman Lindsay’s son Jack.

There was a good deal of drinking, sex and disobedience to be had, but more significantly, our culture owes much to the audacity of those who were prepared to go out on a limb in favour of free speech and artistic autonomy. It’s a rich legacy which, Moore argues, will continue as long as there is a need to “outrage the bourgeoisie”.

MORE REVIEWS ONLINE
EXTREME SOUTH
James Castrission
LADYLIKE
Kate Lilley
For more book reviews, go to sydney.edu.au/sam/regulars
20 OCTOBER 2012
UK Alumni Association AGM and Autumn Reception
Goodenough College, London.
With guest speaker alumnus Dr Danny Sriskandarajah (BEngSc ‘98), Director of the Royal Commonwealth Society.

25 OCTOBER 2012
The Charles Perkins Memorial Oration and Prize
The Great Hall.
Join us in celebrating the life and achievements of Dr Perkins AO, and the achievements of Indigenous Australians.

26 OCTOBER 2012
Alumni Awards Presentation
The Great Hall.
This prestigious awards program features a wide range of awards to recognise outstanding achievements made by alumni locally and outside of Australia in community service and their professional field.

28 OCTOBER 2012
Shanghai Alumni Afternoon Tea
Shanghai Marriott City Centre.
Hosted by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, all alumni are invited to attend this important networking opportunity.

30 OCTOBER 2012
Hong Kong University Dinner
Island Shangri-La Hotel.
Hosted by the Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor, all alumni are invited to attend this prestigious dinner.

4 NOVEMBER 2012
The Australian Boat Race
Woolwich to Darling Harbour.
Sydney v Melbourne Uni, women’s and men’s eights, head to head on Sydney Harbour. Alumni hospitality packages available.

18 NOVEMBER 2012
Sydney Sings Messiah
Town Hall, Sydney.
Join the Sydney University Graduate Choir and orchestra, with a massed choir of 600 singers as they perform Handel’s Messiah.

19 NOVEMBER 2012
A German Requiem Concert
The Great Hall.
Join the Sydney University Graduate Choir with orchestra and soloists for a performance of Brahms’s A German Requiem.

3 JANUARY 2013
Info Day
Camperdown Campus, Sydney.
Explore the University, attend mini-lectures, and find out more about life on campus.

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Amy Johansen beams as she takes me on a tour of one of her “offices”. Hers is no ordinary job – she is the University Organist and Carillonist – so her offices are anything but ordinary: the Great Hall organ and the Clavier Room of the carillon. We are at the organ office where the German-made organ, built in 1972, is being given fresh vibrancy with a new stop and a major cleaning, all to mark the 40th anniversary of its construction.

The centrepiece of the restoration is a shiny, brass trumpet stop (a sequence of pipes of similar tone, one for each note of the keyboard). Made in Germany, and consisting of 58 pipes, the trumpet stop was shipped out in crates and mounted horizontally, and very visibly, in the front of the organ. The new trumpet stop, to be called the “Chancellor’s Trumpet”, is a project generously funded by the Chancellor’s Committee in honour of Lady Joyce Black, wife of a former chancellor, Sir Hermann Black, and an organ and carillon student at the University in her student days.

But the majority of the 12-week process is being spent on the less glamorous task of cleaning the 4000 pipes. The cleaning is laborious and risky, says Johansen. Three of the largest front pipes had sunk and needed to be repaired. These zinc pipes are six metres long, weigh around 60kg each and require three strong people to lift them out of their position and reinstall them. Every single pipe has to be taken out and cleaned, then re-voiced and tuned.

The work was carried out by two teams of organ repairers sent out by the manufacturer, Rudolf von Beckerath, from Hamburg in the north of Germany; two teams because neither was allowed to stay longer than six weeks each due to government visa restrictions. The first team was Siegmund Tessmer and Anja Sattler, who showed great enthusiasm for the task, and music in general. The Great Hall organ compares well with those in Europe, they agree, in sound and size. But is it the biggest in Australia?

“No, much larger are the organs in the Sydney Town Hall (where Amy’s husband Robert Ampt is the organist), the Sydney Opera House and Melbourne Town Hall.” Amy was born in the USA but speaks with an American accent so mild that she could pass for Scandinavian, like her surname. During my tour, the name of Johann Sebastian Bach is mentioned often – he wrote much of his music for the instrument. Both the repairers and Amy are huge fans. “The Chancellor once told me that she didn’t know what she would have been without music, Bach’s in particular,” she says with relish.

As Amy takes me around to inspect the repair work, she delights in regaling me with interesting trivia about her instruments. Did I know that the expressions ‘pull out all the stops’ comes from the organ and, ‘goes like the clappers’ from the bells of the carillon? Or that the new trumpet stop will give the organ its 54th stop, the same as the number of bells in the carillon?

Anyone wanting to hear what the enhanced and cleaner organ sounds like can come to a gala 40th anniversary concert on 4 December. The program will feature music by – you guessed it – Bach, among others. And, of course, the official debut of the Chancellor’s Trumpet. ■
For the benefit of future generations, alumnus Peter Davidson (BEC 1954) is supporting the adolescent health program in Medicine and scholarships in both Medicine and at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music through a bequest in his will.

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