

# GradLife

University of  
Western Sydney  
Bringing knowledge to life

## inside

### A MUSICAL CALLING

Steve Clark's eye-opening experiences at UWS

### FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

The inspirational story of John Falzon

### A BEAUTIFUL BUSINESS CAREER

Emanuel Perdis's success story in the cosmetics industry

### GRADUATE OFF TO HARVARD

The opportunity of a lifetime for Leonie Young

### GRADLIFE BENEFITS FOR ALUMNI

What you will get

## uws graduates succeed

David Harrison and David Southon, now co-managing directors of Charter Hall

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1 JUNE 2009

# GradLife

## CONTENTS

A beautiful business career	4
Graduate off to Harvard	5
Building success in tough times	7
<b>NEWS</b>	<b>8</b>
• Budget provides outstanding outcomes for UWS	8
• \$47.5 million School of Medicine a 'watershed moment in development of UWS'	8
• Scholarship for local doctors	9
• A glimpse into the future of climate change —The Hawkesbury Forest Experiment	9
• Research grants for UWS MARCS Centre	9
• UWS research team awarded \$2.2 million	9
• UWS SMExcellence Program benefits small business	10
• New facility provides a front row seat to scientific performance	10
• International visit for leading energy team at UWS	10
A musical calling	11
Fighting the good fight	12
<b>BENEFITS</b>	<b>13</b>
• The GradLife benefit program	13
• UWS Alumni on Facebook	13
<b>EVENTS</b>	<b>14</b>
• Law occasional address	14
• Ozmate Australian Alumni Awards in Indonesia	14
• Hong Kong graduation and Alumni reunion	14
• Cooperative Alumni Network (CAN) function	15
• 2009 UWS China Alumni dinner	15
• Future Alumni events	15
UWS Alumni – Keep in touch	16

GradLife, Locked Bag 1797, Penrith South DC 1797 NSW Australia  
www.uws.edu.au/alumni Email: alumni@uws.edu.au Tel: 02 9852 5454

Design: iMedia and Design Services, UWS Office of Public Affairs

Editorial: Mandi Keighan

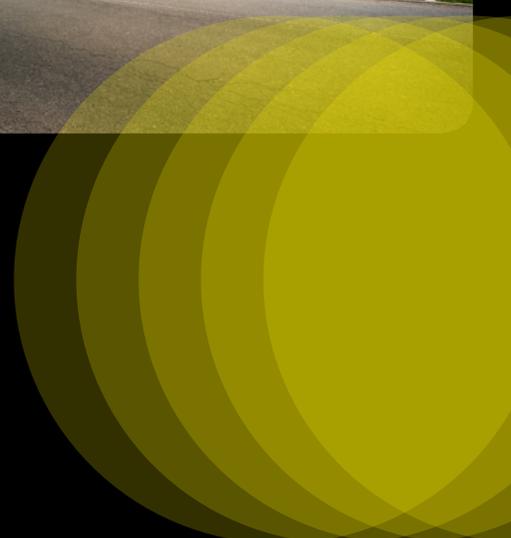
Alumni: Robert Wendon, Rosemary Turner

Editorial Enquiries: Wayne Hickson, Tel: 02 9678 7511

Printing: UWS Print Services

© Copyright 2009

No responsibility is accepted by the University, publisher or printer  
for the accuracy of the information contained in the magazine.



Welcome to the new look edition of GradLife, the biannual magazine that keeps you informed about what is happening at the University of Western Sydney.

The redesign gives the magazine a brighter, more eye-catching appearance that I hope will encourage more people to read about the leading research and educational developments at the University.

The contents for this issue reflect the current theme of Degrees of Success. Feature articles included are about successful UWS alumni who have developed wonderful careers, typically after their working lives started during an economic downturn.

This edition also provides updates on significant University initiatives, including the opening of the new School of Medicine, the Hawkesbury Forest Experiment, the SMExcellence program, and news of the Solar Energy team at UWS.

Recent local and international events involving alumni, the UWS Alumni Law chapter and upcoming key dates have also been included.

As you read the success stories of former students and new developments at the University, I trust you will share our vision as ambassadors for UWS in 2009.

Professor Janice Reid  
Vice-Chancellor

**UWS Graduate Lucy McNally**  
Bachelor of Communications  
(Journalism)  
Police Reporter for ABC News



**UWS Graduate Sandra Dill AM**  
Bachelor of Business (Management)  
Master of Law, PhD 'The implications  
of surrogate parenthood'  
Order of Australia Medal  
ACCESS Australia – Founder and CEO



**UWS Graduate Charlie Brown**  
Bachelor of Business (Marketing)  
CBN Media, Managing Director  
IT Editor, Channel 9 – Today Show





# a beautiful business career

When Emanuel Perdis and his brother Napoleon founded the cosmetics giant Napoleon Perdis 14 years ago Australia was in 'the recession we had to have'. The Bachelor of Business (Marketing) graduate had always aspired to work with consumer luxuries but the recession made Australia 'a tough market'.

Given the similarities to today's fragile economic climate, there is much to be learnt from Emanuel's success story. Prompted by the downturn at the time, Emanuel and Napoleon began to think about their business aspirations and passions.

His brother's love for cosmetics made the move into that industry only natural, says Emanuel.

'I love business, I love the mechanics of business, the nuts and bolts of business, and Napoleon loves cosmetics—we could marry that up quite successfully, and we did.'

Emanuel has fun with and loves everything he does, and it's this passion that largely contributes to his success. 'It's nice to be remunerated well for what you do but fun is a very major motivator,' he says.

He also enjoys the female dominated cosmetics industry. 'There's a lot more depth, a lot more soul, a lot more humanity than working with men.'

Choosing to study at UWS was an easy choice for Emanuel given its reputation for applied commerce and business studies.

The campus was also very close to home. 'I used to love popping out and watching some Oprah in between lectures, or going home to study and coming back to uni for tutorials at night.' It was the 'quality and care of the teachers' that Emanuel remembers most from his time at UWS, and 'not one of them was misplaced in academia'.

Emanuel, brother Napoleon, and Soula-Marie Perdis today preside over an \$80 million company with over 50 concept stores, 35 David Jones Napoleon Perdis counters and 650 stockists in Australia and NZ.

The company recently launched successfully into the US and Canadian markets. Spend time with him and you know he is not entirely joking when he speaks of a 'global conquest'.

Outside of his business life, Emanuel has a wide range of interests. These include writing, Greek culture, philosophy, psychology and science. He prides himself 'on being a bit of a renaissance man,' involved in the discussion and exchange of ideas, finding it a great platform for connection with others.

His children are at the centre of Emanuel's plans for the future. He hopes to have the privilege of spending more time with them as he matures, as well as being involved in 'more sharing ... more speaking, more writing, and more consulting'. Motivational speaking is a way Emanuel has found to begin giving back and sharing with the community.

The most important piece of advice Emanuel has for UWS alumni and students, is to find 'a worthwhile, caring and competent mentor ... the value it brings you—as a person, an individual, a professional—is priceless'.

For someone who has prospered through one recession it might just be very good advice.



# graduate off to Harvard

University of Western Sydney law graduate and former Associate to retired High Court Justice Michael Kirby, Leonie Young, has been awarded the opportunity of a lifetime to undertake postgraduate study at Harvard University as a Knox Fellow.

Leonie is the first UWS law graduate to be awarded a prestigious Frank Knox Memorial Fellowship, a scholarship which will allow her to study a Master of Laws (LL. M) at the well-known American institution.

The highly prized Frank Knox Memorial Fellowship provides funding for students from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom to complete postgraduate study at Harvard University.

Leonie is no stranger to success. In 2007, she graduated from UWS with first class honours and was awarded the University Medal.

Following graduation, she was the chosen candidate from more than 300 applicants to be offered the prestigious appointment as an Associate to the Honourable Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG.

Leonie's appointment was particularly significant as she was the last Associate to Justice Kirby before he retired from the High Court in February 2009. Leonie will leave for America in August 2009.

## UWS Law Alumni Chapter

This year marks the thirteenth year of teaching law at UWS and the sixth year of the UWS Law Alumni (UWSLA). Officially launched in 2004 by the late Honourable Justice Graham Hill, the UWSLA is one of the largest and most active alumni chapters at the University.

Members are encouraged to take part in social, cultural and professional activities through various opportunities promoted by the UWSLA. Since it began, the chapter has developed a valuable link between graduates and the intellectual capital the School of Law has to offer. Links for employment opportunities are provided and the Continuing Legal Education seminar series provides a valuable avenue for alumni to further their knowledge in the field of law.

The UWSLA also gives UWS law graduates a way to keep in touch and socialise through regular alumni events. The principal event is the annual Occasional Address, a dinner featuring a prominent practitioner or commentator who speaks on issues associated with the law. 'All events in this series have sold out and have been resounding successes,' said current President of the UWSLA John Juriansz. The 2008 speaker was Chester Porter QC, universally acclaimed as one of Australia's most illustrious advocates. Previous speakers have included Chris Murphy and Stuart Littlemore QC, Justice Margaret Beazley AO of the Supreme Court of NSW, and Justice Ian



Harrison SC of the Supreme Court of NSW and former President of the NSW Bar Association.

Every law graduate of UWS is invited to join the UWSLA and membership is free. To join, simply visit the website: [www.uws.edu.au/LawAlumni](http://www.uws.edu.au/LawAlumni)



# building success in tough times

David Southon is no stranger to tough challenges. In 1991 the property sector suffered a significant downturn and the climate was far from ideal for the establishment of a property investment group. In fact, there were many similarities between the economic environment then and today's economic crisis.

However, while it was tough going for a few years, Southon recognised that the market presented some interesting opportunities. And it was in this climate that Southon, Managing Director of the Charter Hall Investment Group, launched his business.

'The first three years of establishing and growing the business were particularly tough,' he recalls.

The strategies implemented by Charter Hall in those first few years were the genesis of the funds management business they operate today.

'We focused initially on cash flow generation through property advisory and property management work. We identified some good buying opportunities and accessed high net worth capital to acquire investment properties and development opportunities,' Southon says.

Today, Charter Hall has approximately \$900 million worth of projects under development, \$3.9 billion of Assets under Management and offices around Australia and New Zealand. 'The role of joint Managing Director is both expansive and diverse,' says David.

In 1986, David completed a Bachelor of Business (Property Management) at UWS, Hawkesbury. 'The lure of a business degree specialising in property seemed both interesting and exciting.' He says the degree chose him in many ways and refers to his time at UWS as a 'turning point' in his life and career. 'The course provided me with a new found direction where I could see the relevant application of the theory and this really inspired me to pursue a career in property.'

The lifelong friendships he made at UWS are some of David's fondest memories of his time at university. He has even developed one of these friendships into a successful business partnership and currently shares the role of Managing Director with fellow UWS graduate, David Harrison. 'While we hung out with different groups of friends at UWS, after uni we kept in touch from time to time through work and property functions.'

The friendships David made at UWS benefited his career from the earliest stages. It was a friendship with a fellow student that opened the door for a cadetship with Leighton properties. 'This was the key to me developing a real passion for property and the application of the basic fundamentals to practical situations—live projects.'

The cadetship led to a graduate position as an Assistant Development Manager. 'It was here that I gained invaluable experiences that would not only shape my career but also my life.'

It is the tangible nature of property development that attracts David to the industry. He is passionate about the opportunities he is given to focus on design integrity, quality, efficiency, environmental considerations and financial returns.

'It's great to be able to stand back from a property at the end of a project as a team and think—we created that, it looks great, it's fully leased and it's achieved an acceptable return for our investors and the Group.'

Growing a successful property funds management business from the tough financial climate of the early nineties to list on the ASX in 2005 ranks, along with the birth of his daughter, as David's proudest accomplishment.

# UWS News

## Budget provides outstanding outcomes for UWS

The recent Federal Budget contained exciting news for future development at the University of Western Sydney.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Janice Reid announced that UWS received \$40 million for a Centre of Climate Change and Energy Research at the Hawkesbury Campus, and \$17.6 million for a new UWS School of Medicine Clinical School at Blacktown-Mt Druitt Hospital.

The University is also a partner with the Sydney South West Area Health Service and UNSW in the Ingham Health Research Institute at Liverpool Hospital, which received \$46.9 million in health and medical infrastructure funding.

Professor Reid said 'This is an outstanding outcome which speaks to the quality of our submissions and our research, the support of our friends in the community and in politics, and to the standing and support of our School of Medicine'.

The Vice-Chancellor said there would also be increases in funding for access and equity initiatives and gradual increases for research funding.

'It is especially heartening to talk with the Ministers and senior departmental officers in Canberra and realise how committed and focused they are on socially just outcomes and on 'closing the gap' in education and employment between disadvantaged and other families and communities, especially in regions like Western Sydney.'

Professor Reid said UWS was 'conscious of the responsibility to use the funds well and make a difference to the lives and opportunities of people in the West in these tough economic times'.

## \$47.5 million School of Medicine a 'watershed moment in development of UWS'

Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, officially unveiled the University of Western Sydney's \$47.5 million School of Medicine building in November last year. The medical education and research centre will train much-needed doctors and medical staff, helping to solve Australia's critical medical workforce shortages. The school is home to 60 academics, researchers and support staff, and 200 UWS medical students—of which two thirds are proud locals from Greater Western Sydney.

UWS Vice-Chancellor Professor Janice Reid says 'The opening of this world-class medical education and research centre is a watershed moment in the development of the UWS'.

The School had its first intake of 100 students in 2007, and recently received close to 3000 applications for study in 2009. 'There is no doubt the UWS School of Medicine will be a catalyst for Australia's future medical education, research and innovation; serving as the epicentre for cutting-edge medical research and clinical leadership for the GWS region's hospitals and health services in the years to come.'

The new building is one of the most advanced medical training centres in Australia, and is purpose-built to meet the needs of the School's innovative curriculum. It gives students and academics 'access to state-of-the-art facilities, including simulated learning spaces for clinical skills, an anatomy laboratory, problem-based tutorial rooms and state-of-the-art research equipment,' says Professor Neville Yeomans, foundation Dean of the School of Medicine.

## A glimpse into the future of climate change—The Hawkesbury Forest Experiment

Australia's first and one of the most ambitious studies of climate change ever undertaken in the Southern Hemisphere has arrived at a crucial stage.

The University of Western Sydney's Hawkesbury Forest Experiment, which began in 2006, is now assessing collated results.

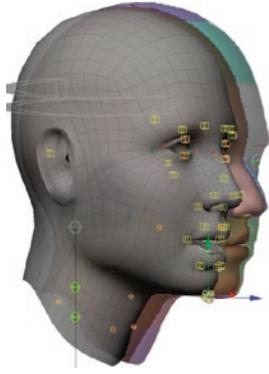


Knowledge of effects of climate change on Australian forest and woodland ecosystems, due to the rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide, will affect the way in which we approach environmental management and water catchment strategies in the future.

The information collated will also 'provide a more accurate prediction of the effect of global warming on our environment,' says Professor Jann Conroy from the Centre for Plant and Food Science (PAFS).

To date, the Australian Greenhouse Office has contributed \$1.2 million to the UWS project. The research effort is led by 'The Two Davids'—Professors David Tissue and David Ellsworth—who joined the Centre for Plant and Food Science (PAFS) from the United States.

They were lured to Sydney by 'the set of facilities at UWS [which] allow scientists to run experiments to understand carbon dioxide uptake by plants at both the small scale—in individual leaves—right up to giant chambers that can accommodate whole trees,' says Professor Ellsworth.



### Scholarship for local doctors

In 2008, 193 students were awarded UWS scholarships in recognition of their academic achievements and contributions to the local community. However, it is not only scholarships awarded by UWS that are vital to encouraging the Greater West's top students to study and work locally. Scholarships awarded by local councils and community organisations are also vitally important.

Every year Blacktown City Council awards 10 local students scholarships of \$1,500 each. The successful applicants must have completed at least one year at a tertiary institution.

UWS medicine student Patrick Pender is the current recipient of the Blacktown City Council Jim Anderson Memorial Leadership Scholarship for students enrolled in any course at UWS. Patrick is the eldest child of a family of eight who has lived in Blacktown all his life. 'From my family and community orientated upbringing, I've developed the desire to become a family GP and give something back to my local area.'

When asked how he feels about receiving the scholarship, Patrick says, 'I still feel the same elation now, as when I was given the news'.

Patrick was excited by the freshness of the UWS curriculum. 'Nowhere else do first year students get the opportunity to enter a hospital-based setting. It's this clinical learning that has most impressed me, especially because I'm able to see the clinical applications I learn in lectures being applied to my local community.'

The Rotary Club of Narellan's Medical Scholarship annually awards a first year medical student \$5,000 per year for the five year course on the condition students remain living in the local area. Current scholarship recipients are Mt Annan's Kelly Needham and Narellan's Sam Hall.

### Research grants for UWS MARCS Centre

MARCS Auditory Laboratories, the UWS Research Centre dedicated to auditory perception and cognition, has been granted \$746,000 by the Australian Research Council (ARC). The funding is part of \$3.9 million received by UWS across eighteen projects in the latest round of highly sought-after ARC research grants. 'This result is a clear demonstration that UWS research ranks among the nation's best,' says Professor Andrew Cheetham, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research).

Of twelve ARC discovery grants received by UWS, two were awarded to MARCS Centre projects. Expecting the Unexpected, led by Kate Stevens, was awarded \$186,000. It will investigate how a new method for learning complex rhythm and metre can translate across cultures and promote inter-group understanding and communication. Denis Burnham leads the project Making Speech Three-Dimensional, which was awarded \$355,000. The team will explore adding tone to consonant and vowel based speech perception and language acquisition, in order to understand language development.

The MARCS Centre was also awarded an ARC Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities Grant (ARC LEIF)—one of six awarded at UWS. The Australian Music Navigator was granted \$205,000 to develop an online facility for discovering, accessing and analysing Australia's musical landscape. This will ensure the prominence and accessibility of Australian music as a subject for future research. The University's Roger Dean is leading the project, with colleagues at both Edith Cowan University and the Australian Music Centre.

### UWS research team awarded \$2.2 million

Professor Louisa Jorm and team have recently been awarded a \$2.2 million capacity building grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). The capacity building grants support work in population health and health services, and the implementation of health research and studies into effective and efficient health care services.

The UWS research project awarded the grant is OSPREY. The program, led by Professor Jorm, will build human capacity, skills and methods to use linked health service data for research to inform improvements in health services for mothers, babies and children. It brings together experienced chief investigators from NSW and WA, and eminent national and international mentors.

The program will also develop the independent research abilities of nine team investigators, substantially boosting Australia's capacity for health services research focused on a 'healthy start to life'.

The main winners in the latest round of research grants from the NHMRC were Indigenous and older Australians. Nine capacity building grants totalling \$18.2 million were awarded to university research teams across Australia.



## UWS SMExcellence Program benefits small business

SMEs (small to medium enterprises) account for 30 per cent of Australia's economic activity, yet they remain an area that is not comprehensively addressed by most Australian Universities. This was the basis for development of SMExcellence—a UWS program taking a leading role in the local business community and redefining how university business courses are conducted.

The SMExcellence program, launched in March 2009, is a free online interactive learning platform that aims to improve the skills and performance of SMEs in Greater Western Sydney and Australia. Guided by academics, final-year UWS students contribute content to the website as part of their course assessment.

Up to 50 students were involved on the SMExcellence program as a Careers and Cooperative Education Summer Vacation Project. Contributing students are predominantly from the College of Business, but many other schools within the University have been involved.

Dr Geoff Lee, Associate Dean (Engagement) from the College of Business at UWS founded the program with the assistance of Professor Barbara Holland, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Engagement), to introduce students to a practical approach to learning.

SMExcellence is seeking to expand its industry alliances, partnerships and distribution networks. To be part of the SMExcellence program, please contact Dr Geoff Lee on (02) 9685 9462 or [g.lee@uws.edu.au](mailto:g.lee@uws.edu.au)

To view SMExcellence, visit [www.smexcellence.com.au](http://www.smexcellence.com.au)

## New facility provides a front row seat to scientific performance

Dr Mark Jones has a job most 3D enthusiasts would love.

'It's like having a front row seat at a scientific performance,' he says. 'No more looking down into a microscope's eyepiece.'

When UWS opened its Confocal Bio-Imaging Facility (CBIF)—the multimillion-dollar research facility at the Hawkesbury campus in 2007—science embraced technology in a big way.

Drawing together a dozen instruments that collectively produce live, three-dimensional images of almost any material, CBIF and its Chief Investigator entered a new world. 'It's all laid out for you live on a computer screen in vibrant colours,' Dr Jones says.

The state-of-the-art facility is unique in Australia and the best in the South East Asian region. The CBIF uses a suite of lasers to depict inorganic materials, plants and animal cells in incredible detail. 'Forensic scientists can use the equipment to identify explosives or unknown powders, chemists can witness reactions in unprecedented detail and the activity of experimental drugs can be studied—simply by analysing a 3D movie made from a series of images taken by the confocal microscope,' Dr Jones says.

The CBIF was the result of an equipment fundraising project in 2003 by the UWS Hawkesbury Foundation. 'The CBIF was identified by the then Dean of College of Science as being a key acquisition that would give the Plant and Food Research Group a cutting edge research tool,' said Brian Lindsay, the Chair of the UWS Hawkesbury Foundation.

## International visit for leading energy team at UWS

Imagine a car that pumps pure H<sub>2</sub>O from its exhaust pipe. Imagine water being purified by sunlight. For most of us these concepts belong in the realms of science fiction, but for the researchers of the UWS Solar Energy Technologies research group (SETG) these are visions of our future.

The group is working to develop a new generation of photosensitive materials for the conversion of solar energy into alternative energy, such as chemical energy (solar hydrogen) and electrical energy. A resulting emission-free solar-hydrogen energy system could potentially supply the cheapest, cleanest and most abundant energy ever produced by humans—bringing that H<sub>2</sub>O emitting car ever closer to the realm of reality.

The low-cost, low-maintenance system uses a titanium-based 'clever' chemistry to collect solar energy to power the splitting of water. This produces hydrogen—an environmentally clean fuel with no greenhouse gas emissions. Australia's plentiful supply of titanium oxide ceramics and abundant sunlight could potentially position Australia at the forefront of future energy producing nations.

SETG's research also has practical application as a new approach to water purification—removing bacteria and toxic organic compounds—using oxide semiconductors. Once developed, the technology would be in strong demand in Australia and areas of Asia and Africa where access to safe drinking water is often difficult but sunlight is abundant.

Earlier this year, Professor Truls Norby—an international expert on the subject from the University of Oslo in Norway—joined SETG's foundation members, Professor Janusz Nowotny, Dr Leigh Sheppard, Associate Professor Tadeusz Bak and Dr Maria Nowotny, as a visiting academic.



# fighting the good fight

Growing up the son of a Maltese migrant in Blacktown, John Falzon was a hungry reader. Unfortunately for John books were in short supply at home, so to quench his appetite for knowledge, he turned to the local public library.

It was there John's desire to learn was born while, at the same time at home, he was developing a passion for social justice and change. This was inherited from a father who suffered with a preventable cancer as a result of his industrial work environment, and who shared with his son what it felt like to be disempowered.

Understanding the importance of a tertiary education, John went on to complete two undergraduate degrees where he discovered some of the theoretical approaches that caught his imagination, and undertook a PhD in Sociology at the University of Western Sydney.

John was drawn to the newly created School of Humanities at UWS by what he describes as a 'real openness to trans-disciplinary approaches to social enquiry, and the opportunity to explore new modes of research.'

'The resulting three years were an enormously enjoyable experience. Research supervisor Bob Hodge constantly challenged me, constantly gave me space to experiment, to be creative, to break rules, to take risks.'

Although John enjoyed teaching as part of his PhD, completed in 1994, and originally saw his most likely career path in academia, he strongly believes that if you care about social justice, you don't just treat it as an academic concern. John believes you want to do what you can to be part of the movement of social change. He has certainly accomplished this.

'I was driven by the desire to be a part of that wonderful fight to place the needs of all people, especially those experiencing poverty and financial hardship, above the trappings of prosperity in our often upside-down society.'

John is now CEO of the St. Vincent de Paul Society National Council where his main focus is as an advocate for people who are effectively marginalised in Australia. He takes whatever opportunity he is given to raise awareness of not only the problem of social justice but also the achievable and concrete solutions to this problem.

John has a strong and colourful association with the outer western suburbs of Sydney and along the way has learnt from and been inspired by people from a variety of backgrounds.

One particular experience John recalls involved a stage of his life working with Latin American political refugees. 'They shared many wonderful and quite profound insights about the whole process of social change and how they had suffered for it.'

John's core values are family based and his proudest achievement is simply being father to his two children, Gabriela and Gian. John's passion for his family, social justice and change is contagious and spending time with him makes it impossible not to share his vision.

'My hope is for a better kind of society, where people are not punished and devalued but really given the dignity that is their human right, a society where people's voices are heard rather than silenced.'

# a musical calling



When Steve Clark began an honours year as part of his Bachelor of Arts (music) at UWS he described it as 'an eye-opening experience'. Looking back, Steve says he learnt more about composition and music than he ever thought possible.

After he graduated with first class honours, Steve was awarded a UWS scholarship to complete his PhD in Creative Arts. The scholarship enabled him to carefully examine the collaboration between composer and student performer, a collaboration which is central to his current work as a music teacher and composer for students.

Like many young children Steve developed an interest in music when his parents enrolled him in piano lessons.

'My parents were just thankful I didn't want to play the drums.'

His passion for music was developed throughout high school, where he realised that music was 'something that just got better and better'.

After his school years, UWS was the perfect environment for Steve to further develop his music and composition, giving him the academic freedom to explore a number of unusual topics and collaborations not possible at a more traditional university. His PhD was completed with the outstanding support of a supervisory panel that included Dr Bruce Crossman and Dr Diana Blom, and allowed Steve to develop his unique compositional voice without fear of boundaries.

Recalling his time at UWS, Steve says his most vivid memories are of his undergraduate years, and the big Sonic Circus performances the music department used to put on in the late 90s. 'There would be hundreds of people watching and a menagerie of performers and performance artists scattered around the grounds.'

The relationships born of such a performance, says Steve, continued on beyond the university gates. It was also during this time that Steve won the Young Composer award at Sydney Spring Festival of New Music in 1999, with a composition titled 'Postlude to a Prelude'.

Most of Steve's compositions are motivated by the simple desire to express what he cannot express in words. As a keen amateur astronomer, the compositions are often a way to explore astronomy-related concepts.

'I have used my music to try and personally grapple with many astronomy-related concepts, whether they be the vastness of the cosmos, the movements of celestial bodies, or even a specific cluster of stars.'

Steve writes predominately for student performers, and hopes to regularly contribute to the small amount of quality contemporary music currently available to younger performers, at both a local and global scale.

His proudest achievement occurred in 2007 when one of his piano students learnt and performed three of his compositions for her HSC music course.

'While this may not appear to be that amazing, for me it was the culmination and validation of all the work I had been doing with my compositions for student performers.'

This passion for education looks set to shape Steve's future career, and while he jokes about fame and fortune, he is really looking at exploring more of the educational side of his research, and the possibility of doing some classroom teaching with a view to writing some educational research papers.

Having just turned 30, Steve says he is looking forward to seeing what he can 'both learn and contribute within the next thirty years!'

# Benefits

The GradLife benefit program is currently undergoing development to ensure all UWS Alumni get the most from their membership. The revitalised program will be launched later this year and a new GradLife card will be forwarded to all members. Upgraded benefits and improved communication services are just some of the changes being implemented—keep posted on the new Alumni website, which will provide up-to-date information on chapter events and other Alumni activities.

[www.uws.edu.au/GradLife](http://www.uws.edu.au/GradLife)

## UWS ALUMNI TWITTER PROFILE

UWS Alumni has recently created a Twitter profile to further connect with our graduates. With a growing number of followers, 'UWSAlumni' provides additional news, updates and reminders to Alumni who sign up to the networking application. To follow UWSAlumni on twitter visit the link below:  
[www.twitter.com/UWSAlumni](http://www.twitter.com/UWSAlumni)

## UWS ALUMNI ON FACEBOOK

UWS has launched the official UWS Alumni (Graduates of the University of Western Sydney) group on social networking site, Facebook. The group, which now has 1000 members, provides the opportunity to stay in touch with old friends, network, and keep up-to-date on UWS alumni events. Once a member, you can post photos, share stories and discover what fellow alumni have accomplished. This main group has links to international alumni chapter groups, and alumni groups for specific faculties, making it easier to connect with people of similar interests. Run by UWS alumni staff, the group is for graduates of UWS and its preceding institutions—simply search the group name on Facebook to join.



# Events

## LAW OCCASIONAL ADDRESS

The fifth annual Occasional Address, hosted by the UWS Law Alumni (UWSLA), was held late last year at the Hilton Hotel in Sydney. The popular dinner, at which guests are addressed by a prominent figure within the law community, has sold out each year.

The 2008 address was given by the eminent barrister Chester Porter QC, best known for assisting in the Royal Commission into the wrongful convictions of Lindy and Michael Chamberlain, and successfully defending Detective Sergeant Roger Rogerson on bribery charges in 1985. His address provided interesting insights into his many and varied experiences as Barrister. Guests were kept entertained by his well-known acerbic wit and humour, which in the past has led observers to describe him as the 'smiling funnelweb'.

Coleman & Greig, Western Sydney's leading law firm, had a table on the night and over 50 percent of their solicitors are UWS alumni.

Principal, John Cowley, observed the event as 'a great way for our staff to hear that the UWS Law School is going from strength to strength ... and a good opportunity to reflect on the achievements of UWS law graduates'.

The firm was proud to see fourth year scholarship student, Matt Carr, receive deserving praise as part of the UWS Moot Team who recently won the Australian Law Students' Association Mooting Competition.

For more information visit  
[www.uws.edu.au/LawAlumni](http://www.uws.edu.au/LawAlumni)



Chester Porter QC, at the UWS Law Alumni 5th Annual Occasional Address

## OZMATE AUSTRALIAN ALUMNI AWARDS IN INDONESIA

Now in its second year, the Ozmate Australian Alumni Awards (AAA) celebrates the achievements of Indonesians who have studied in Australia. This year, UWS was proud to see graduate Fikri Bachmid was one of four finalists in the Business Leadership category.

Fikri completed his Bachelor of Business at UWS in 1992, and has spent over fifteen years in the banking industry, currently heading the Multi National Corporate Group at ABN AMRO Jakarta. Fikri is also heavily involved with the Australian Alumni Association. For over a decade he has collaborated with this group of Indonesian graduates and is currently Treasurer of the Association.

The AAA Dinner was held on 21 February in Jakarta, and although Fikri did not win the award, the night provided the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate many individual achievements, and to showcase cultural and artistic talent.

For more information visit  
[www.uws.edu.au/IndonesiaAlumni](http://www.uws.edu.au/IndonesiaAlumni)



## HONG KONG GRADUATION AND ALUMNI REUNION

On 8 March 2009, the Chancellor, John Phillips and Vice Chancellor, Professor Janice Reid welcomed new graduands across several faculties to the alumni community at the Hong Kong Graduation Ceremony. They joined a strong alumni community of over 6800 in Hong Kong, the 'Hollywood of Asia'.

Following the graduation, an HK Alumni Reunion was held at The Club Lusitano (The Portuguese Club), where the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and Alumni Relations Manager addressed a good turnout of past students and UWS staff. Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to network, and reconnect with old friends, with several committing to organise future events for UWS HK alumni.

Membership to the UWS HK Alumni chapter is free, and open to all graduates.

To join visit  
[www.uws.edu.au/HongKongAlumni](http://www.uws.edu.au/HongKongAlumni)

## COOPERATIVE ALUMNI NETWORK (CAN) FUNCTION

The Coop Alumni Network (CAN) function, late last year, gathered 50 UWS students and graduates together to discover how to find a professional mentor. The event, co-hosted by Deloitte and Careers & Cooperative Education, was held at Deloitte's Circular Quay office, where several UWS Law graduates are employed.

Kathryn Collins, Analyst for Deloitte welcomed the group with a speech focusing on the benefits of the Careers & Cooperative Education International Internship she undertook in 2004-05. Attendees then had the opportunity to network, explore various mentoring relationships and programs, and ask questions of an industry panel.

The Coop Alumni Network is a collaboration between UWS graduates who have completed a Careers & Cooperative Education internship—a paid, degree-related professional experience that provides the opportunity to make valuable industry contacts—and current industry partners.

For more information visit [www.uws.edu.au/CAN](http://www.uws.edu.au/CAN)

## 2009 UWS CHINA ALUMNI DINNER

Earlier this year in March, a group of enthusiastic Beijing-based UWS alumni were joined by Alumni Relations Manager, Rob Wendon, for dinner at a restaurant in the Chaoyang district. The successful dinner launched the newly established UWS China Alumni chapter.

Organised through the Australia China Alumni Association (ACAA), of which twenty Australian universities are now a part, the event provided the opportunity for attendees to network with other UWS graduates based in China.

A number of the attendees have formed a working committee for local alumni communication and events, ensuring the ongoing activity of UWS China Alumni chapter (UWSCA) in the future.

Membership to the UWSCA is free, and open to all graduates.

To join visit [www.uws.edu.au/ChinaAlumni](http://www.uws.edu.au/ChinaAlumni)



## FUTURE ALUMNI EVENTS

**15 June 2009** – Communication Arts Honours & Postgraduate Conference 'Interventions and Intersections'

**18 June 2009** – Getting to Grips with the Economy Series: 'Session 2: Hitting Home: The domestic impacts of economic re-alignment'

**6 July 2009** – Interpreting and Translation Research Node Public Lecture: 'Ethics in the Translation/ Interpreting Curriculum'

**23 July 2009** – Getting to Grips with the Economy Series: 'Session 3: New Times – New Approaches: exploring Australia's economic options'

**10 September 2009** – UWS London Alumni Dinner with the Vice-Chancellor

**September 2009** – UWS Spring Graduation Ceremonies

**November 2009** – UWS Law Alumni Association Annual Occasional Address

Additional events and updates will be available to view on the UWS Alumni website at [www.uws.edu.au/AlumniEvents](http://www.uws.edu.au/AlumniEvents) or via the 'UWS Alumni (Graduates of the University of Western Sydney)' Facebook Group.

To request an invitation to any of our events listed here, or on the UWS Alumni websites and groups, please email [alumni@uws.edu.au](mailto:alumni@uws.edu.au)

To receive regular updates on upcoming events, please visit [www.uws.edu.au/KeepInTouch](http://www.uws.edu.au/KeepInTouch) to join the GradLife Program, or a relevant Alumni Chapter.

For more information visit [www.uws.edu.au/AlumniEvents](http://www.uws.edu.au/AlumniEvents)

# UWS Alumni **keep** **in touch**

Update your details, join chapters and stay connected online at

[www.uws.edu.au/KeepInTouch](http://www.uws.edu.au/KeepInTouch)

The University of Western Sydney holds our Alumni in high esteem, taking pride in each graduate as they progress beyond their studies and into their chosen career. Assisting more than 110,000 graduates, UWSAlumni aims to keep all Alumni 'in touch' with UWS.

If you do not have internet access you can remain connected with your university as a graduate and a member of our Alumni, please fill in the form below. Every new member of the UWS Alumni is also invited to join the GradLife program. Membership is free, with members gaining access to exclusive Chapter Membership, UWS Alumni benefits, and events.

## PERSONAL DETAILS

UWS ID (former Student Id Number, if known)		
Family Name		
Given Name		
Name on Degree (if different to above)		
Date of Birth (Day/Month/Year)	/	/

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Home Number
Work Number
Mobile Number
Email Address (Please provide your home email address as your student email will expire shortly after graduation)

## ADDRESS INFORMATION

Street/Address Lines (including unit number and/or street number)	
Suburb	State
Postcode	Country

### Chapter Info

- I would like to become a member of the GradLife Alumni Program to receive access to a range of graduate benefits

**Please return your completed form in the Reply Paid envelope provided**