

GradLife


University of
Western Sydney
Bringing knowledge to life

inside

WHITLAM PRIME MINISTERIAL COLLECTION

Significant donations from
veteran speechwriter
Graham Freudenberg

YOUNG WOMEN OF THE WEST AWARD

The story of Najeeba
Wazefadost

CHANGING THE DYNAMICS

Lindsay Charles'
engaging project with the
Aboriginal community

CHARTING 25 YEARS

A published history of UWS

GRADLIFE BENEFITS FOR ALUMNI

from one
Prime Minister
to another
redefining the Labor character

**VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1
JUNE 2011**

CONTENTS

From one Prime Minister to another	4
Veteran speechwriter makes donation to Prime Ministerial Collection	6
Najeeba – a young woman of substance	7
Changing the dynamics	8
London calls sound researcher	10
Behind the camera	11
Charting 25 years of history	12
Opinion piece: who or what is feeding the public debate on racism?	14
 UWS NEWS	 15
• UWS graduate takes Archibald Prize	15
• Gail Jones rings up five bells	15
• UWS research scores highly in national era report	15
• UWS Chancellor installed	16
• Boost to Indigenous employment and engagement	17
 GRADLIFE	 18
UWS Alumni GradLife benefits	18
UWS Foundation match alumni gift	19
 ALUMNI ONLINE	 19
Alumni social networking online	19
 Working towards a better future for western Sydney	 20
 Military history through one family's eyes	 22
Mark's drive to improve	23
Accountants build numbers	24
Climbing the ladder to partner	25
 RECENT EVENTS	 26
• UWSLA annual occasional address	26
• UWS open forum: should Australia keep growing?	26
Immigration & multiculturalism seminar	26
• CAN function – pay vs passion	27
• December and April graduation ceremonies	27
• Business Masters information evening	27
 UPCOMING EVENTS	 28
Keep in touch	28



Staying connected with friends, colleagues and business networks is an important part of the benefits of keeping in touch with your UWS Alumni Chapter.

It is exciting to see new graduates of the University reaching out, using the skills and talents they have developed at UWS, and making a real difference in their communities here and abroad.

In this issue of *GradLife* you will read the story of a courageous UWS graduate, asylum seeker and human rights advocate Najeeba Wazefadost, recently named Young Woman of the West.

Ed Husic, now the Federal Member for Chifley and the first UWS graduate to enter Federal Parliament, tells of his love for western Sydney and his plans for the region.

From the University of London, UWS graduate Sonia Wilkie speaks about her UWS experience at MARCS Auditory Laboratories, and how her studies here have helped establish her ground-breaking research as a PhD student at Queen Mary College.

You will also enjoy the story of Jet Wilkinson, who has made her mark in the Australian television industry as a Sydney-based producer and director since graduating from UWS, and also the story of UWS graduate and artist Ben Quilty who won this year's prestigious Archibald Prize in Sydney.

GradLife provides a great opportunity to stay in touch with other successful UWS alumni and with recent events on campus and in alumni chapters.

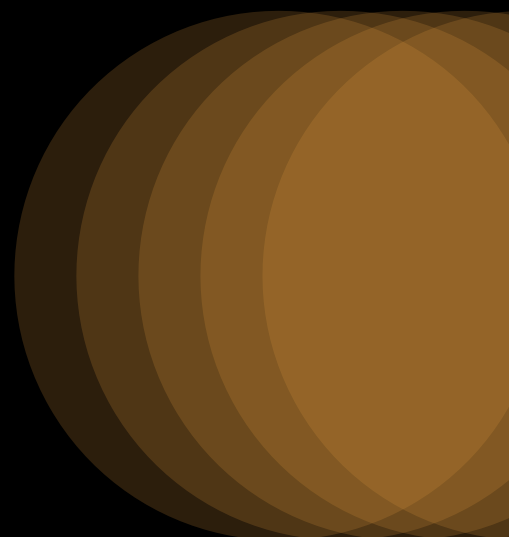
Why not enjoy the range of alumni benefits offered free of charge through the UWS Alumni *GradLife* Benefits Scheme by simply registering your interest with UWS Alumni?

I hope you will continue to stay connected with UWS through 2011 and in to the future to share with us how you are making a difference in your world.

Professor Janice Reid AM
Vice-Chancellor
University of Western Sydney



Professor Janice Reid AM
Vice-Chancellor
University of Western Sydney



from one Prime Minister to another

The Whitlam Institute, based within the University of Western Sydney, recently honoured its namesake and one of the great Australian champions of political and social reform, The Hon. Gough Whitlam AC QC, through the Inaugural 2011 Gough Whitlam Oration, delivered by the Prime Minister, The Hon. Julia Gillard MP.

Held at the UWS Parramatta campus on 31 March, the Prime Minister delivered this major national address on her chosen topic of 'Walking the Reform Road' – in so doing, becoming the first serving Prime Minister to speak at a UWS campus.

Planned as the first of a series of annual lectures by leaders of national and international standing, the Whitlam Oration has been three years in the making. Professor Janice Reid AM, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Sydney, said the University could 'not have been more thrilled or more honoured' that the Prime Minister was able to launch the series.

Providing members of the Western Sydney community with a unique opportunity to hear first-hand from Prime Minister Gillard, the event was attended by a dazzling array of dignitaries, including Margaret Whitlam and other members of the Whitlam family, former Prime Minister Bob Hawke, former NSW Premier Nick Greiner, the Hon. Peter Garrett MP, the Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, Jim Spigelman, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales and former senior adviser and principal private secretary to Whitlam, and speechwriters and advisers Graham Freudenberg and Evan Williams.

THE WHITLAM LEGACY

Through events such as the Whitlam Oration and other initiatives, the Whitlam Institute commemorates the life and work of one of Australia's most respected Prime Ministers by bridging the historical legacy of Gough Whitlam's years in public life and the contemporary relevance of the Whitlam Agenda to public discourse and policy.

Gough Whitlam first won the Federal seat of Werriwa in 1952, and became leader of the Australian Labor Party in 1967, a position he held until 1977. He became Prime Minister in 1972, the first Labor leader to win the House of Representatives election since 1946.

In government, he instituted a range of far-reaching reforms – among them, abolishing conscription and withdrawing troops from Vietnam, establishing diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, commissioning an inquiry into Aboriginal land rights, assuming financial responsibility for tertiary education and abolishing fees, establishing universal health care through Medibank (now Medicare), reducing the voting age to 18 years, instituting equal opportunities for women in Federal Government positions, and transforming the legislative and administrative relationship between the state and federal governments.

However, his Prime Ministership came to an end in 1975 when, in what remains one of the most dramatic events in Australian political history, the Whitlam Government was dismissed by the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, following a refusal by the Senate to pass the Government's bills. Although Whitlam resigned from Parliament following successive electoral defeats in 1975 and 1977, he continued his public life for decades through academic and diplomatic appointments.

'To promote equality, to involve the people of Australia in the decision-making processes of our land, and to liberate the talents and uplift the horizons of the Australian people.'

At the Oration, Whitlam Institute director Eric Sidoti made reference to the three great aims of the Whitlam program, set out in one of Australia's great political speeches in 1972.

'These are to promote equality, to involve the people of Australia in the decision-making processes of our land, and to liberate the talents and uplift the horizons of the Australian people. It is those same three aims that drive the Whitlam Institute,' Sidoti said.

Although unable to attend the Oration personally, Mr Whitlam addressed the gathering through a recorded message, expressing his gratitude to the Prime Minister 'for the honour she confers on the Institute by delivering the inaugural lecture'.

'The Whitlam Institute exists to help in the great and continuing work of building a more equal, open, tolerant and independent Australia. These values are at the heart of the Whitlam legacy,' he said, exhorting friends and supporters of the Whitlam Institute with characteristic vigour to 'maintain your enthusiasm'.

Professor Reid also highlighted why the University of Western Sydney made such a fitting location to discuss the 'road to reform'.

'A university in western Sydney was imagined by Gough Whitlam at a time when the people of the region lacked schools and hospitals, and had houses that were not sewered, and when federal governments took little interest in the burgeoning cities of the states,' she said.



REDEFINING THE LABOR CHARACTER

In her address, Prime Minister Gillard reflected on the work of Gough Whitlam, 'the restless reformer', in transforming the Labor Party's structures, platform and support base, so it was once again fit to govern.

'I see the Whitlam period of leadership as one which regenerated the idea of the Labor Party as a vital institution in Australian society. A great force for fairness in our country which must in a very profound and serious way be true to itself, to its best self,' the Prime Minister said.

Making reference to the 'shattering but expected' defeat of the NSW Labor Government in the March election, Ms Gillard dismissed the idea that the party had lost its philosophical footing, and said her role as Federal Labor Leader requires the clear articulation of the party's vision.

'The historic mission of our political party is to ensure the fair distribution of opportunity. From the moment of our inception our mission has been to enable the son of the labourer, the daughter of the cleaner, to have access to the same opportunities in life as the son of the millionaire, the daughter of the lawyer. Creating opportunity and enabling social mobility has required different policies in every age,' she said.

Ms Gillard also foreshadowed some tough measures in the 2011 Budget, which she said will be focused on making the right decisions for the country, for families and for jobs, even if they are difficult and potentially unpopular.

'Above all else, like Gough, I am a complete optimist about the future of our country. I do not believe in being afraid of the future. We best combat fear by taking deliberate steps to shape the future together, a future of opportunity for all,' she said in closing.

To watch the Inaugural 2011 Gough Whitlam Oration visit www.whitlam.org.



veteran speechwriter makes donation to Prime Ministerial Collection

One of Australia's greatest speechwriters and most trusted political advisers has donated many significant items from his personal archive to the Whitlam Prime Ministerial Collection, housed at the Whitlam Institute within the University of Western Sydney.

Originally a journalist in Sydney and Melbourne, Graham Freudenberg was appointed press secretary to Arthur Calwell, then the leader of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) in 1961. From there, he served as speechwriter and confidante to a 'who's who' of Australian politics, including Gough Whitlam, Arthur Calwell, Bob Hawke, Neville Wran and Bob Carr, among others – who he said 'were all great speakers in their own right'.

Freudenberg witnessed the rise and fall of the Whitlam Government at close quarters, and was involved in shaping some of the most significant speeches of the modern political era – including the historic 'It's Time' speech of 1972, which helped sweep Gough Whitlam and the ALP to victory.

Eric Sidoti, Director of the Whitlam Institute, said after a lifetime of making (longhand) notes for speeches and campaigns and collecting political ephemera, Freudenberg's collection has national significance, and the donation will add depth to an already rich archive.

'These documents offer illuminating insights into Gough and Graham's almost symbiotic relationship, which can be seen in the progression of notes and drafts as a major speech develops;

or in the handwritten Q&As between the two in preparing for major press conferences in the midst of some of the most turbulent moments of that time,' he said.

At a recent event organised by the Whitlam Institute and hosted by Gleebooks, Freudenberg discussed his donation and experiences with Rodney Cavalier, former Education Minister in the Wran and Unsworth Governments.

He said that he decided it was the right time to donate his papers as he turns 77 next birthday, and the Whitlam Institute was 'the obvious place' for them to be housed. While he has kept his collection of papers with him over the years, making the donation has required spending time to ensure they are properly filed and analysed for the first time.

Asked about the highlight of his career, perhaps not surprisingly, he nominated the time working with Gough Whitlam.

'My relationship with Gough was undoubtedly the highlight of my life, and actually the most productive and constructive. The years with Neville were the most joyous. But my years with Gough are the core years,' he said.

Freudenberg's donation will become part of the Whitlam Prime Ministerial Collection, which includes books, papers and memorabilia gifted by Whitlam and other donors.

'The Whitlam Prime Ministerial Collection is already one of the nation's more important repositories of Australia's political history, housing among other things, the original Letter of Dismissal, and Graham's generous donation is a very welcome addition,' Sidoti says.

'We are incredibly fortunate and proud to be the recipients of these personal items from one of Australia's political legends. These documents are currently in the process of being digitised so, most importantly, they can be accessed by all Australians for generations to come.'

To access the Whitlam Prime Ministerial Collection online, follow the links from www.whitlam.org

GEMS IN THE COLLECTION

Among the boxes of historical material Graham Freudenberg has donated to the Whitlam Prime Ministerial Collection are:

- » An original proposal for the 1972 'It's Time' campaign, from the agency Hansen-Rubensohn-McCann-Erickson. There were only ten copies of the proposal in existence at the time, and as far as the Whitlam Institute is aware, this is the only publicly-available copy in Australia.
- » A letter dated 22 February 1974 from Prime Minister Gough Whitlam to then-NSW Premier Sir Robert Askin seeking consent to construct a federally-funded metropolitan railway line that 'will radiate from Parramatta to Hoxton Park, Castle Hill and through Carlingford to Epping.'
- » A draft speech with handwritten notes by Gough Whitlam, which was delivered following the double dissolution election of May 1974.
- » A 1985 handwritten Christmas card to Freudenberg from Gough and Margaret Whitlam, despatched while the Whitlams were based in Paris following Gough Whitlam's appointment as Australian Ambassador to UNESCO in 1983.

Najeeba – a young woman of substance



Human rights advocate and UWS graduate Najeeba Wazefadost was named the winner of the Young Women of the West award at a special ceremony at UWS Parramatta in March. The awards were created by the University of Western Sydney to celebrate the global centenary year of International Women's Day.

Najeeba, who arrived in Australia with her family by boat in 2000 as a 12-year-old asylum seeker from Afghanistan, graduated with a Bachelor of Medical Science from UWS in 2009.

Before she came to Australia, Najeeba wasn't able to access education. Following a period in a detention centre, she spent several months studying intensive English, before entering high school in Year 8 and moving through to Year 12. Her aim was always to go to university, and with a strong commitment to social work, her goal is to become a doctor.

Najeeba says she and her family faced many obstacles as they tried to start their new life. 'I came from a country that was all in dark, where I did not have one single good memory of childhood, but I came to Australia with a hope that I was going to start a new life with peace, security and safety. Then when I was placed in a detention centre, I started to get a very negative image of Australians, and began judging everyone the same,' she says.

Going to school and particularly university changed those perceptions, as she found many different people from a variety of cultures.

'Spending time at UWS, I could see the sharing of different cultures between people, the sharing of experiences and stories regardless of race, country, colour, religion – everybody was giving each other a chance to learn. This is what I admire about UWS, this is what I love about UWS, because you can see people getting along with each other,' she says.

Though she had no background in Science, Najeeba completed her degree successfully within three years. She is now hoping to study Medicine, undertaking a second degree in Nursing in the meantime to gain clinical experience. 'It's the best opportunity for me to understand hospital policy and the relationship with the nurses, the doctors and the hospital, so once I enter to become a doctor, I will already be familiar with the environment.'

She says despite their difficult start in Australia, when she learned to speak English, she promised her family that she would be a positive, active member of the community and contribute to this country as an Australian citizen. 'When I got that award, I was given the message that I am reaching that goal, where I can look at Australia and say, "One day I was that refugee you were trying to reject and send back to my country, but today I am doing something where you can be proud of me".'

Not only is Najeeba pursuing her own career goals, but she is an active member of her community – she works as an Afghan Youth Support Officer with the Bamiyan Association and ambassador for Amnesty International, and was recently nominated to become president of Hazara Women in Australia, a group supporting women from her ethnic minority in Sydney.

'Give everybody a chance to be heard.'

Najeeba believes that by sharing their stories and receiving help and support, many Afghan people will be able to overcome the same barriers she and her family once faced. 'There are a lot of women in my community who are still living in fear, they are still living in the past trauma of war, and they are still very abandoned and depressed. They are still living in the past, but it is the future we should be focusing on,' she says.

'There are still a lot of Afghans living in Australia who have a lot of difficulties even raising a family – because of language barriers, and access to health, employment and education. So it's really important to make sure the children are educated and can contribute to Australian society. Since I have been given a lot of opportunities in Australia to educate myself, I can use this to help them in future.'

'My message to other young people is please, give everybody a chance to be heard, because once their real voice comes through, people's hearts will be touched. We know that there are many asylum seekers living in Australia, coming from different countries including Afghanistan.'

'But the reason for that is they have been in war and persecution. It's all about giving those people a chance to have their stories heard, and once they are, I'm sure there will be an instant peace and friendship between people. It is always easy to respect people when you are all the same, but a person is strong when they can respect someone else for the differences they have.'

changing the dynamics

UWS graduate Lindsay Charles, a senior project manager with NSW Public Works, has a passion for improving Aboriginal outcomes within the construction industry. Her efforts were recognised last year when the 'South Coast Correctional Centre – Increasing Aboriginal Participation in Construction' project won a NSW Government Premier's Public Sector Award, in the category of 'Engaging with the Community'.

Lindsay undertook a Bachelor of Building at UWS part-time between 1993 and 2000, while working at the NSW Department of Public Works. As a mature-age student and one of only two females in the course, she excelled, graduating first in the course with First Class Honours and was awarded the first Australian Institute of Building medal.

She now serves as the project manager for one of the largest projects the state is undertaking – the \$300 million 1,000 Inmate Beds project. The project, which began in 2006 and is due for completion next year, includes gaol construction works at a number of different sites, including the South Coast Correctional Centre at Nowra and the new Cessnock Maximum Security Centre. As the project manager, Lindsay is responsible for the total delivery of the project, from inception to occupation.

According to Lindsay, one of the priorities is engaging with the local Aboriginal community on employment opportunities, particularly when the department is building in a regional area. In the past, this has taken the form of requiring builders to employ a certain percentage of Aboriginal people.

With the 1,000 Inmate Beds project, the department decided to take a different approach, first engaging with the local Aboriginal communities in Nowra and Cessnock two years before construction was due to begin. A consultative committee was formed with representations from the community, and funding for training and employment services was sourced through the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

'The word went out to the community, and courses were offered so that people could make sure they were skilled up ahead of the project commencing,' Lindsay says.

Builders contracted for the project agreed to work with the Aboriginal participation plan, which specified that they interview from the Aboriginal lists first, but there were no targeted or identified positions that had to be filled.

On the South Coast Correction Centre project, where construction was completed in December 2010, 10 per cent of the workforce involved was Aboriginal – well above the target of 6 per cent originally set for the project.

'With no targeted jobs, the most I've ever heard before is 5 per cent, so that really was staggering,' Lindsay says.

Don Jessop, Managing Director, Shoalhaven Community Development Limited, who was involved in brokering relationships around employment services with the local community from the project's inception, says over 75 per cent of these workers came from the local community – of particular importance as the Shoalhaven area has very high rates of unemployed amongst its Aboriginal residents.

'There were around 17 indentured apprenticeships, which are still running. It very much changed the dynamic of employment for Aboriginal people in the area of Shoalhaven,' Don says.

When the correction centre was opened, a similar committee structure and approach to employment was used, resulting in 20 per cent of the correctional officer workforce and 10 per cent of the staff overall coming from the local Aboriginal community.


'Normally in gaols there are very few Aboriginal prison officers,' Lindsay says. 'In Nowra, around 25 per cent of the inmate population is Aboriginal, so that's going to have a significant impact on those inmates, particularly when it comes to reoffending.'

The vast majority of the people employed through the program are long-term unemployed, and it helps to provide young people with a step up into employment and break the cycle of unemployment. 'Some have never had a job, so getting them to TAFE is very important. It starts the mindset of regular hours that they haven't been exposed to since they left school. So the purpose is twofold – to give them training and get them job-ready,' Lindsay says.

With a very motivated community behind it, the South Coast project has had a flow-on effect, as the RTA has adopted a similar employment program since construction of the correction centre was completed. Lindsay says one of the members of the Aboriginal consultant committee in Nowra reported that last year, the local high school had 39 Aboriginal students complete Year 12.

'She believed that the success of this program is one of the reasons for this, as they can see a reason to go to school. They realise there is a helping hand into that first job,' she says.

Don agrees that the project has been extremely beneficial, with the model initiated in the Shoalhaven now adopted in five other contracts with the Federal Government. 'It is providing a healthy outlook in terms of introducing income into that community, and spreading opportunities throughout that community,' he says.



'I think one of the basic tenets is to be honest, and never promise anything that you can't guarantee to deliver.'

Importantly, particularly in regional areas such as Nowra which were struggling economically, a gaol brings jobs to the community, during both construction and operation. 'A gaol injects \$2 million into the local economy in salaries alone,' Lindsay says.

'Socially, the aim is to bring inmates back to their point of arrest, because one of the key factors in reducing recidivism has been found to be keeping that connection with family together, particularly when inmates are nearing release.'

Having learned from their experiences in Nowra, the project team was able to avoid some of the pitfalls and build on the successes. Accordingly, the proportion of Aboriginal workers in the construction workforce at Cessnock has increased to over 17 per cent.

Lindsay says there were a number of critical success factors for this project, including ensuring community members are involved in the selection process, and that the applicant's family is behind them.

'Many Aboriginal communities have felt let down in the past and, as a result, they are not quick to trust. I'm not Aboriginal, and it is people just like me who have come along before and disappointed them. But I think one of the basic tenets is to be honest, and never promise anything that you can't guarantee to deliver.'

It was also important that the quality of what was being delivered to the client was never compromised. 'It is not social work, and the Aboriginal community was made quite aware from the beginning that there was not going to be any tokenism. Any Aboriginal workers on these sites were coming into real jobs, rather than jobs just created for them, and they had to earn the right to be there. We were all speaking the same language right from the word go.'

London calls sound researcher



Inspired by the international impact of the work undertaken at the UWS MARCS Auditory Laboratories, UWS graduate Sonia Wilkie is now pursuing a PhD at Queen Mary, University of London.

Sonia, who completed a Master of Arts (Honours) research degree at the MARCS Auditory Laboratories in 2008, is now researching elements of sound for the development of psychoacoustic-based audiovisual software for use as a post-production tool in film and gaming.

One of the ways creators of multi-dimensional worlds make their films or games more realistic is by presenting objects moving on an approaching trajectory towards the viewer – otherwise known as audio-visual looming. Examples of this can be seen in 3D films where it seems objects leap out of the screen, or in games, where objects are thrown towards the player.

‘The extent that viewers can perceptually immerse and progress through these environments is reliant on many elements, including the simultaneous presentation of auditory visual sensory information and the degree that algorithms integrate the sensory stimuli parameters, all which individually vary in real time,’ Sonia says.

‘My research is focusing on which parameters of sound are used in these looming scenes; the degree and envelope that are used; how the audio corresponds with the visual movement of the object; the amount of dynamic and perceptual qualities desired; and the environment’s level of reality or hyper-reality.’

‘Living in London is so energising. It’s such a vibrant city, constantly buzzing with social and intellectual events.’

Developing psychoacoustic audio software requires interdisciplinary knowledge and experience, and while Sonia gained a strong foundation in auditory perception and psychological methodology during her time at MARCS, she wanted to further develop her computer programming skills and gain a deeper understanding of acoustics and audio digital signal processing.

She was attracted to Queen Mary because of its international scholarly reputation and several dynamic research groups working in her field (including the Interaction, Media & Communication group, and the Centre for Digital Music).

‘Having the opportunity to work in both groups allows me to work with a diverse range of researchers, and by bringing together the different backgrounds it spurs innovative ideas and novel approaches to research questions,’ Sonia says. ‘Being in an active research community allows me to participate in other researchers’ projects, or collaborate with them outside of the core university work, on digital arts events or creative projects such as installations or performing in concerts.’

Queen Mary also boasts an extensive portfolio of patented software and technologies.

‘This was appealing, as it’s extending the impact of your research, and giving it a practical real-world application so that the concepts are not just theoretical,’ Sonia says.

And enjoying the sights and sounds of one of the world’s great cities is an added bonus for Sonia. ‘Living in London is so energising. It’s such a vibrant city, constantly buzzing with social and intellectual events. Whether it’s being able to attend seminars held by the science academies and museums, to the special exhibitions at the galleries or the quirky underground electronic music scenes, it’s an inspiring city to live and work in.’

behind the camera



As a kid, Jet Wilkinson loved watching ‘behind the scenes’ shows on TV. Now, as a Sydney-based director and producer, she is the one running the show behind the scenes.

Since completing a Bachelor of Arts at UWS, majoring in Communications with a specialisation in media studies and film theory, she has worked consistently in the Australian industry for the past 15 years, directing Australian television drama series such as *City Homicide*, *All Saints*, *Home and Away*, and *Neighbours*. In 2009, Jet was nominated at the Australian Director's Guild Awards in the category of Best Achievement in Direction for a Television Drama Series.

Jet has also spent time in the non-stop world of live TV, as senior producer for Foxtel's Channel [V], where she spearheaded live-to-air shows for music events like the Big Day Out, Homebake, the ARIAs and WaveAid.

While the dream for many might be to shoot a short film and be catapulted onto the set of a major movie, the reality of what it takes to make it in the Australian industry can look rather different. Now regarded as one of a new wave of young directors making their mark, Jet began at the very bottom – as a production runner on *Home and Away*. ‘Having that degree certainly helps to get your foot into the door, and then you work your way upwards,’ she says. ‘You have to know what you want and work hard to get it.’

This hard work has certainly paid off for Jet, who considers herself ‘really lucky’ in that she hasn't been out of work since she left uni and started directing. Jet acts as her own agent, and says having experience with serials like *Neighbours* and *Home and Away*, which shoot 48 weeks a year, helps to keep her in work. ‘I've been very fortunate with producers, especially the Seven Network, who continue to employ me.’

These days, there's no such thing as an average day for Jet – she might be working on set or location, in which case a very early start and a 12-14 hour workday is guaranteed, or she might be doing research, as she is on the day we speak, hunting for locations in Melbourne's bar and restaurant scene.

Whatever is on the agenda, Jet says she just loves every day. ‘I feel like a big kid, because I essentially come to work and play pretend. Every day is such a highlight because it's such a fun industry to be a part of, creating different worlds,’ Jet says.

There's no question though that it is hard work, and especially when working in live TV, high pressure. ‘With drama, where you are working with scripts and actors, and you do multiple takes of a scene, shooting one 30-second scene can take up to two-and-a-half hours,’ she says. ‘With live TV, there is no take two. You have got to be on the ball and get what you need as it goes through. You are never going to get a band to do a song again at the Big Day Out if you miss something.’

To be a successful director, Jet says it's most important to be able to understand and manage people, and have good negotiating skills. ‘You have really got to be able to chat to people, and understand what their needs are for the production, and then act as the mediator, to say, ‘How can you give me something within your capacity for us to achieve this?’ Everyone has their own personality and approach, and you have to learn how to click into that,’ Jet says.

Good script analysis and interpretation skills are vital for aspiring directors. ‘You've got to have a great vision, not just for the one scene, but for the project overall. So it's having that creative capacity, as well as the people and negotiation skills to achieve your vision.’ And as the TV and film industry is notoriously tough to break into, a thick skin, passion and strong self-belief are essential, according to Jet.

‘If you love what you do, and you give that energy and are willing to put in the hard yards, people want to work with you and have you on their team. You also need persistence. I endured a lot of no's before I received any yes's! You have just got to keep calling and banging on those doors. Never give up. and believe in yourself.’

Jet's schedule is fully booked for the rest of the year, working on new TV shows such as the ABC's *Crownies* and Channel 7's *Winners and Losers*. Just to keep things interesting, there is always a side project on the go. Jet has written a feature film script and is working on generating some funding and finding a producer for the project.



charting 25 years of history

On 30 January 1989, the Board of Governors of the University of Western Sydney met at Werrington for the first time, marking the official foundation date of the institution.

The University will celebrate the 25th anniversary of this date in 2014, and as part of the celebrations, a history of the University of Western Sydney will be published.

Historian Dr Mark Hutchinson, who has particular expertise in the social history of intellectual movements and higher education, has been employed by the University to undertake this important project over the next two years, which he describes as 'a work by the University on its own past and its own future'.

While the University officially began its life 25 years ago, the story stretches back much further than this – encompassing its preceding institutions and historic sites such as the Female Orphan School, Hawkesbury Agricultural College and Colleges of Advanced Education at Westmead and Milperra.

These institutions all have their own stories, according to Dr Hutchinson. 'For example, the Female Orphan School is one of the oldest institutions in the country. It goes right back into the colonial roots, and the building itself was built by Samuel Marsden, so it is quite a remarkable history to appropriate,' he says.

'There is a sense in which UWS picks up all of those local histories and articulates them for the western suburbs. It is a very important institution in that regard.'

The history will also reflect the work undertaken by governments over many years prior to the establishment of UWS, to provide educational and other social services into the west.

'What makes it such a great story is that everybody was trying different solutions. It really begins back in the 1950s, with attempts to try and deal with the massive expansion of western Sydney and how to provide services to the area, and in particular, after Gough Whitlam's period, how to bring a more equitable solution to higher education access,' Dr Hutchinson says.

'There is a sense in which UWS picks up all of those local histories and articulates them for the western suburbs. It is a very important institution in that regard.'

'It provides insights into how Australian society wrestled with much bigger issues. It also picks up the history of the great reform movement of the 1970s. In New South Wales terms, UWS is arguably the most significant product of all those people who tried to bring about equity and fairness and openness to education. They also had very strong ideas about culture, the role it plays in local communities and all the difficulties which went into that.'

Dr Hutchinson is in the midst of his research for the project, with several hundred hours of oral history expected to be gathered from University staff, students and alumni by the time this phase is completed. This material will then form part of the University archives. He says his aim is to not only write the history of the University's first 25 years, but to lay a foundation for the historians who will come along in the institution's 50th and 100th years to chart the development of the University in the future.

Among the themes which are already emerging from the research, and which will be explored through the history, are the response to demographic expansion through the federated model, the tension between innovation and necessity, leading to cycles of revision and restructuring, and the emergence of the University from the turbulence of the 1990s as a mature institution.

The history will be published in a variety of formats – as a printed book, a series of websites highlighting different elements of the history, and a series of e-book chapters with embedded video and audio for a more accessible experience.

'The idea is to create something that is open and that continues to build through alumni telling these stories and connecting themselves to the University's history, but at the same time, to be a contribution to the new picture of higher education, with regard to which UWS is a very distinct and important experiment,' Dr Hutchinson says.

'I think it is important for people to look up from all those struggles, of trying to make a complex institution, to understand what a fantastic story this is. It involves all the key figures in modern Australian history, all the big issues of post-war, consumer, migrant Australia, and it is really about humans struggling to bring those together to give form to those visions.'



Opinion Piece:

Who or what is feeding the public debate on racism?

Over Sunday lunch a few weeks ago, my grandma took a strong stand on the demonstrations at the Villawood Detention Centre in Sydney. 'Terrible behaviour,' she said. 'Why didn't they just wait their turn in the first place?' That my normally compassionate, well-informed 87-year-old grandma was making such a strong statement and asking the question made me wonder where it was all coming from.

The *Challenging Racism* project undertaken by the University of Western Sydney recently released national data about racial attitudes and experiences of racism. The release of data was timely; heated discussions about the place of asylum seekers arriving by boat and the compatibility of Muslims and Australian culture were appearing in the media on a regular basis.

In addition, a new Multicultural Policy was released by the Federal Government on 16 February 2011, exactly a week prior to the release of the data. The previous national Multicultural Policy expired in 2006, so the establishment of a new policy was well overdue.

It may have been the timing of the release of the new research, or perhaps simply the potential for a national study on racism to raise controversy, but nonetheless the research attracted significant media attention, and after a few days of being inundated with media requests, researchers on the project were left thoroughly exhausted.

Although there were many optimistic findings from the research — for example, most Australians (87 per cent) think cultural diversity is positive — the media immediately focused on what they saw as news-selling findings.

One of these, apparently newsworthy findings, was that some 40 per cent of survey respondents expressed some concern about a close friend or relative marrying a person of Muslim faith.

While this was not included on the media release, it was nonetheless tracked down and became the most frequently cited statistic. The focus on bad news is, of course, unsurprising and not at all new. What is worthwhile thinking about though is the relationship between the media, political discussions, and people's everyday lives.

One issue that attracts ongoing media and political attention are the so-called 'boat people seeking asylum in Australia'. If my grandma is anything to go by, public attitudes towards the boat people interacts in a dynamic way with media and political discourses – the idea that asylum seekers are a social problem circulates through these spheres.

In his lectures at UWS, Professor Kevin Dunn, Head of the School of Social Sciences, often cites research done for the National Human Rights Consultation, which found that almost one in three people believe asylum seekers deserve less protection of their human rights than they currently receive.

This is in contrast to the groups seen as more deserving, including people with a mental illness, the elderly and people with disabilities.

Professor Dunn refers to these as the 'hierarchies of sympathy'. These hierarchies can also be seen in the media and the political arena. An analysis of departmental and ministerial media releases, as well as transcripts of media interviews, by Klocker and Dunn, found asylum seekers were discussed in overwhelmingly negative terms, frequently associated with ideas of illegitimacy, illegality and threat.

More than ever, asylum seekers have become a political issue. When politicians are asked to justify their policies on television shows like Q&A, by and large the right to be treated as a human being fails to get a mention.

Are politicians responding to public opinion, and their polling data? Or is it the public who are being led astray by politicians? What role does the media play in shaping attitudes? I believe it's all of these things. And with all this going on, there's not much room in the public consciousness to empathise with asylum seekers. My grandma's comments are testimony to the current level of public discussion about 'boat people'.

Jacqueline Nelson (pictured) is a Researcher and HDR Candidate in the Challenging Racism Project at the University of Western Sydney.

UWS GRADUATE TAKES ARCHIBALD PRIZE

UWS Graduate Ben Quilty has taken out this year's prestigious Archibald Prize in Sydney.

A former UWS Bachelor of Design graduate (2002), Quilty beat 800 other artists to claim the \$50,000 contest with his portrait of Margaret Olley. Quilty regards Olley, as an artistic mentor who helped him mature as an artist.

Now based in the Southern Highlands, Quilty also won the 2009 Doug Moran National Portrait Prize with a portrayal of singer Jimmy Barnes. Quilty has been known for portraying the darker side of being young and male, painting pictures of V8 cars, skulls smoking cigarettes, snakes, and scowling faces.

In his prizewinning painting of Ms Olley, her face is just a blank canvas with just a few bits of paint to define her features.

GAIL JONES RINGS UP FIVE BELLS

Professor Gail Jones, an author and academic at the University of Western Sydney, has released her latest novel, which critics have tipped as 'one of the most exciting and refreshing literary offerings' of 2011.

At UWS, Gail Jones is a Professor within the Writing and Society Research Group. *'Five Bells'* is her fifth work of fiction, following the critical acclaim of *'Black Mirror'*, *'Sixty Lights'*, *'Dreams of Speaking'* and *'Sorry'*.

'Five Bells' is told over the course of a single Saturday at Sydney's Circular Quay. It allows readers into the minds of four unique individuals as they arrive at the tourism hotspot, and as the story unfolds it delves deeply into the personal histories and tragedies of each.

At the launch of the novel at Sydney's Gleebooks, Professor Jones explained that the idea for her novel came during one of her first visits to the iconic city. On a late night ferry from Balmain to Circular Quay, a couple of lines of Kenneth Slessor's poem of the same name came to mind and inspired her to write.

Coming from Perth, Professor Jones says she had no idea that Slessor's poem was so well known, or that it was studied as part of the NSW school curricula. For fans of the original, she hopes her book will be seen as a tribute or a homage, and will hopefully encourage people to return to the poetry.

Professor Jones' previous novels have received a plethora of literary prizes, including the WA Premier's Award for Fiction, the Nita B. Kibble Award, the Steele Rudd Award, the Age Book of the Year Award, the Adelaide Festival Award for Fiction and the ASAL Gold Medal. She has also been shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award three times.

'Five Bells' is published by Random House.

UWS RESEARCH SCORES HIGHLY IN NATIONAL ERA REPORT

UWS research scored highly in the Australian Research Council's (ARC) Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) evaluation, with two of the University's key research areas, cultural studies and plant biology, labelled 'well above world standard' and achieving a score of five, the highest ranking possible.

The ERA 2010 National Report is the first comprehensive assessment of the research quality within Australia's universities, measuring it against research carried out by other institutions around the world. It found the University's cultural studies and plant biology research concentrations — the University's Centre

for Cultural Research (CCR) and the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment (HIE) — achieved the top mark of five.

UWS research across the categories of agriculture, civil engineering, performing arts, and creative writing and literary studies all achieved ranks of four, also putting them 'above world standard'.

'Of the 21 broad research disciplines that UWS is research active in, the majority were rated at or above world standard, which is very pleasing,' says Professor Andrew Cheetham, UWS Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research).

'Our highest performing areas, cultural studies and plant biology, are competitive with the best in Australia and the world. Only two other institutions scored five in cultural studies - the University of Sydney and the University of Queensland.

'These results demonstrate the depth and strength of the UWS research program, and confirm the effectiveness of the University's strategy to selectively concentrate research strength with significant research investment to boost research activity and quality.'

The report also highlighted a number of disciplines where the performance of UWS research was 'world standard', including: pure mathematics; physical chemistry; microbiology; nursing; urban and regional planning; education systems; specialist studies in education; human geography; cognitive sciences; other studies in human society; film, television and digital media; historical studies; and linguistics.

'This ERA result positions us well for the next stage of our research development, which includes recruiting another 500 new academic staff over the next five years.'

More information on UWS Research is available at www.uws.edu.au/research



UWS chancellor installed

The University of Western Sydney invited members of the Greater Western Sydney community to celebrate the official installation of its new Chancellor, Professor Peter Shergold AC in March.

Professor Shergold was installed as UWS Chancellor by the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, at a special ceremony at the Parramatta campus.

With a distinguished academic and public service career that spans over three decades, Professor Shergold brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his role with the University.

The Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet from 2003-2008, Professor Shergold was the nation's most senior public servant, serving four Prime Ministers and eight Ministers in both Labor and Coalition governments.

During this time, he established the Office of Multicultural Affairs, headed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), and was Secretary of government departments, including the Department of Education, Science and Training.

Professor Shergold has a Bachelor of Arts (First Class) from the University of Hull in the United Kingdom, a Master of Arts in History from the University of Illinois and a PhD in Economics from the London School of Economics.

He serves on the Boards of AMP and Corrs Chambers Westgarth. In the not-for-profit arena, he Chairs the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation and is on the Boards of the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence and the General Sir John Monash Foundation. He also Chairs the Board of the National Centre for Vocational Education Research. Most recently he has been asked to head the Ministerial Expert Group on Gambling.

In 2005, Professor Shergold was elected a Fellow of The Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. He is a Fellow of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government and of the Institute of Public Administration Australia.

In 2010 the UWS Board of Trustees elected Professor Shergold as successor to Mr John Phillips, who retired in December after almost 10 years of service as Chancellor.

BOOST TO INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

Federal Minister for Indigenous Employment and Economic Development, Senator Mark Arbib, and Member for Parramatta, Julie Owens, have announced \$570,000 in funding for a new employment and engagement project for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at the University of Western Sydney.

The funding will help boost employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians across the Greater Western Sydney region – the largest urban Indigenous population in Australia – by creating ten cadetships, six traineeships and five direct employment opportunities as part of a three-year project.

It also includes an 'Elders on Campus' initiative, which will see Indigenous Elders provide leadership, cultural support and mentoring of students and staff across the University's campuses.

The funding builds on a successful partnership between UWS and the Federal Government that has seen 20 traineeships and six cadetships initiated since 2008.

The announcement was made at the Female Orphan School on the UWS Parramatta campus, and was attended by UWS Vice-Chancellor, Professor Janice Reid AM, along with Mr Mick Gooda, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, industry partners, members of the University's Indigenous Employment and Engagement Advisory Board, DEEWR representatives, UWS Indigenous trainee hiring managers and other senior staff, and representatives from the University's Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education.

The event showcased the successes of the Indigenous Employment and Engagement office, headed by its Director Ms Melissa Williams.

Minister Arbib and Ms Owens had the opportunity to meet with a number of Indigenous trainees of the existing programs who have been employed by UWS as well as their hiring managers, finding their stories inspiring and motivating.

Minister Arbib praised the work of the University and the success of the project, which has created job opportunities for Indigenous Australians across the University as well as local employers, ranging from business administrators to human resource officers.

Ms Williams said the Government's support will help continue to strengthen the University's commitment to being an employer of choice for the Indigenous population of Greater Western Sydney.

For more information on the Indigenous Employment and Engagement office please visit: http://www.uws.edu.au/indigenous_opportunities/indigenous_employment_and_engagement

A new Associate Degree in Creative Industries has been developed by UWS College in association with the University of Western Sydney, College of Business and Law and the College of Arts

EQUIPPING CREATIVE PEOPLE WITH BUSINESS SKILLS

To be successful in your creative field your entrepreneurial skills need to be on par with your creative ones. UWSCollege offers the Associate Degree in Creative Industries to support and ensure your success in your chosen endeavours. Courses designed to equip the creative mind with business savvy and high level communication skills.

WHERE CREATIVITY DOES BUSINESS

University of
Western Sydney
UWSCOLLEGE

Available in 2012. For further details, please visit:

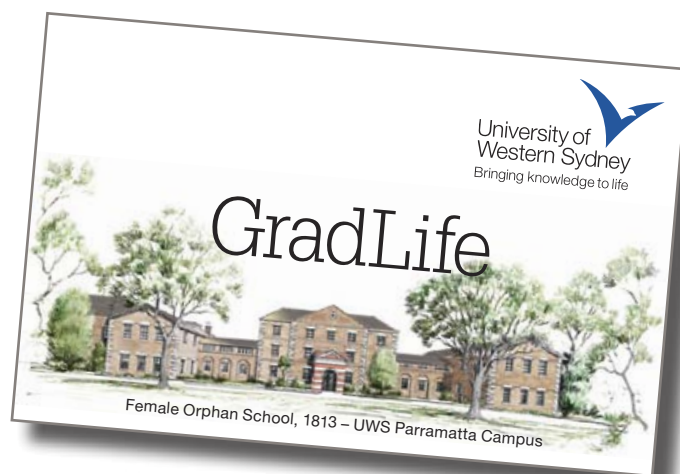
WWW.IAMCREATIVE.COM.AU
Or telephone (02)9852 4488

UWS Alumni GradLife benefits

The UWS GradLife Alumni Benefits program is back and better than ever. Members should now have received their new-look GradLife Card, featuring the historic Female Orphan School site at the UWS Parramatta campus, and begun taking advantage of the great benefits on offer.

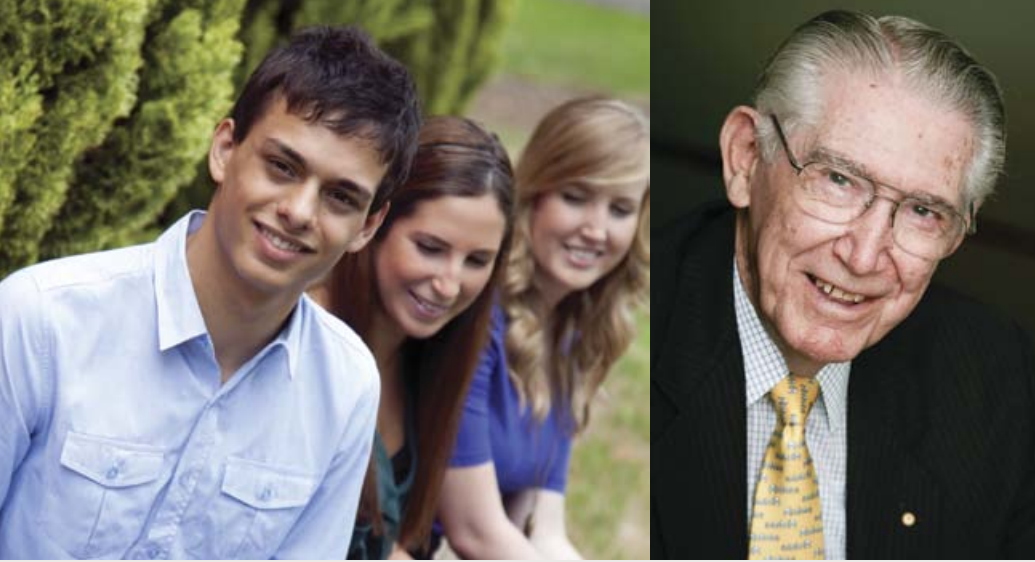
Being a member of the UWS GradLife program entitles you to a range of special alumni benefits, including discounted membership to the UWS Library and Gym, discounts at the UWS Bookshop, as well as invitations to special University events. A list of our most popular benefits has been provided in the table below for your information, and a full list is available online via the GradLife website.

All graduates of UWS are eligible for a GradLife Card, so visit www.uws.edu.au/GradLife to apply for yours today.



BENEFIT	DETAILS
UWS Library Access Discount	Discounted annual membership to any of the UWS Campus Libraries for \$50 (as opposed to \$100 full fee). This includes book borrowing rights, as well as access to a limited range of electronic sources not currently available to other subscribers.
UWS Bookshop Discount	10% discount on all purchases.
UWS Connect Fitness Gym Discount	Alumni to be offered same price as students for membership of UWS Connect Fitness facilities.
Travel Discounts through exclusive UWS Alumni Portal	Exclusive comprehensive alumni travel portal through World Travel Professionals.
Careers and Employment Services CareerHub	Free continuing access to career services and UWS Career Hub, with the potential to build this service into a significant resource for both students and alumni.
Invitations to UWS Alumni Events and Networking Opportunities	GradLife members will receive invitations to various UWS Alumni Events – Chapter Functions, Reunions, Seminars, Networking Opportunities, and other alumni activities, including opportunistic discounts to theatre and sporting events, UWS Exhibitions and specific UWS Anniversary events.
Access to information on Discipline Specific Professional Development Activities	GradLife members will receive information and any available discount on upcoming professional development opportunities facilitated by various alumni chapters and networks, including Law, Engineering and Education. Liaison with UWS College and UWS Colleges to inform of professional development courses as they become available.
Volunteering and Mentoring Opportunities	Help UWS students through the Aspire Program and a range of volunteering opportunities currently under development by UWS.
iSubscribe Discount Magazine Subscriptions	Five to 10 per cent discount on i-Subscribe prices.
E-Newsletter and Alumni Alerts	Members will be kept up-to-date with the latest UWS Alumni news and promotions through a quarterly e-newsletter.
Keep In Touch with Friends	Through staff at the UWS Alumni Unit, alumni can reconnect with old classmates, search for long lost university chums, or make contact with those who were in their course, area of study, or graduating class.
Coming Soon	Keep an eye out for our new Health Insurance Discount benefits to be available soon.

For more information and the entire list of benefits please visit www.uws.edu.au/GradLife



John Phillips AO, Chairman of the UWS Foundation

UWS foundation match alumni gifts

UWS alumni are giving to support future generations of students from Greater Western Sydney through the Alumni Scholarship Fund – and these gifts are set to become even more meaningful to our students with the UWS Foundation committing to match all gifts from alumni.

Scholarships play a crucial role in ensuring all students have the chance to access and make the most of their university studies. But even more motivating is that others believe so much in the potential of our students they are willing to invest in their future – and when these supporters are graduates of this institution the message becomes incredibly powerful and inspiring.

The Alumni Scholarship Fund was established in 2009 and has benefited from the support of many graduates since that time. In 2011, we look forward to awarding the first alumni scholarship, and to supporting many more students every year from now.

The UWS Foundation is committed to supporting our students, in partnership with our graduates.

The Foundation Board, made up of volunteers from our local community, recognises the great impact alumni gifts have in motivating and inspiring our students. The Board have therefore committed to match all gifts from alumni to support UWS students.

“Our aim is to be able to say that any student from Greater Western Sydney with the skills and motivation to attend university is able to do so, without concern for cost. Our alumni are important partners in pursuing that goal. They are great role models for our current students and for future generations of young people in our community. We are proud to be working with them to give more students the opportunities they deserve.” – John Phillips AO, Chairman of the UWS Foundation

The gift of knowledge is one of the most effective ways of empowering our students to embrace opportunity, growth and change. As a supporter of the Alumni Scholarship Fund you are a partner in our vision, helping our students to reach their full potential.

Thank you to all those graduates who have so generously contributed to the Alumni Scholarship Fund.

You can give now to support the Alumni Scholarship Fund by visiting www.uws.edu.au/alumnigiving or completing the form enclosed.

alumni online



UWS ALUMNI FACEBOOK FAN PAGE

Our Facebook Fan page continues to grow with over 1,500 fans!

We hope to continue to grow the page, so spread the word!

Find us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/UWSAlumni



FOLLOW UWS ALUMNI ON TWITTER

More than 600 followers!

We encourage all Twitter users to follow us. Tweet us @UWSAlumni, and help us spread the news even further by re-tweeting (RT) our posts to your followers.

Follow UWS Alumni on Twitter at
www.twitter.com/UWSAlumni

working towards a better future for western Sydney

Not only was Ed Husic MP, Federal member for Chifley, part of the first wave of students to graduate from the University of Western Sydney, but he is also the first UWS graduate to be elected to Federal Parliament.

‘At a personal level, I’m very proud of that achievement, because I have always been such a big fan of my old university,’ Ed says.

Having grown up in Blacktown, where he still lives, Ed says he was attracted to UWS ‘because it provided us with a university literally in my own backyard’, and he began studying a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Communications in 1988.

While he originally planned to work as a journalist, after graduation Ed ventured into public relations before deciding to move into community-based work, taking up a job with the then-Department of Social Security as a migrant liaison officer working with migrant communities in Western Sydney.

Later, he held adviser and chief of staff positions for the Ministers for Communications, Arts and Tourism, and later the NSW Minister for Water Utilities Regional Development, Small Business and the Illawarra, as well as senior roles with the Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union, including a period as National President, with a focus on helping workers in Australia Post and Telstra.

Following an unsuccessful first run for Federal Parliament in 2004, Ed was elected in the seat of Chifley in 2010.

‘It’s just a huge honour to represent the area I’ve grown up in,’ he says.

During his first year in Parliament, Ed’s focus has been building his network of links within the electorate by working with community groups and neighbourhoods, as well as contributing to ‘big ticket’ projects such as the National Broadband Network and encouraging the development of Trade Training Centres.

The fortunes of young people are a particular focus for Ed, as Chifley has one of the highest proportions of young people aged 15-24 of any electorate in the country.

‘Ensuring young people stay in school longer and build their own personal base of skills is important on so many levels, not the least of which is that they hold onto jobs longer, they are more satisfied in work, and are able to sustain themselves and their families into the future,’ he says.

Ed is also keen to provide a platform to showcase the talents of young people, and to this end, he has initiated the Chifley Youth Award (the Whitlam Institute’s Eric Sidoti was part of the Award judging panel), which provides those who have been noted for their community involvement and leadership with the opportunity to voice their views on what they would like to see changed in their local area. He has been encouraged by their willingness to engage.

‘If you indicate that you are willing to spend the time and, importantly, to listen, young people do open up,’ Ed says.

Ed has demonstrated his fresh approach to the democratic process by actively using Twitter as a platform to exchange ideas, particularly with young people.

‘The good thing about Twitter is that it’s pretty robust. There are a lot of people who are very direct and frank about their views, but that’s what you want. I deliberately use Twitter as a way to get ideas and be challenged, because I think it’s good to have a lot of people thinking about the big issues affecting people and the country,’ Ed says.

‘People have raised issues with me that I have been able to represent onwards to other places and it has been a really vibrant way to spruce up our democracy.’

Some of the highlights of his time in Parliament so far include making headway on some big local commitments on health and infrastructure, speaking on key debates, and at a personal level, being sworn in.

‘Only just over 1,000 people have been able to sit on the floor of the House of Representatives as elected representatives, and it’s been an amazing experience and one that is very humbling,’ Ed says. ‘The community element has been another of my personally enriching experiences – working to help reinvigorate, in some way, the faith of individuals in the capacity of government to deliver for them at a personal and a neighbourhood level.’

This thread of community work has run through Ed’s career, with involvement in community groups such as the Blacktown Migrant Resource Centre and the Mt Druitt Community Legal Centre, which he says is motivated by the concept that ‘big problems get solved when a lot of people get involved’.

‘It’s really good to tap into that energy to get things done. I see, on a regular basis, people making a difference because they work together,’ Ed says.



‘Certainly getting an education through UWS is a tremendous way to boost your own ability to engage through the local community and economy. But once you have enriched your own skills, staying focused in a local community and being able to give something back is also really important. I think it rounds you out individually and there is a huge multiplier effect in terms of the fortunes and opportunities available to our region.’

For the remainder of his first term, Ed’s priorities are local access to health, education and infrastructure, as well as participating in important debates, such as on climate change.

He is particularly positive about the role of UWS in the development of Western Sydney.

‘UWS has a critical role to play, not only in terms of being able to support the aspirations of young people in the region, but also in the quality of work that it is providing to the community and the economic contribution it makes,’ Ed says. ‘I am a huge supporter of its work, because obviously I can speak from personal experience, but I also know how important it is to the region’s future success.’

Having already made such a significant personal contribution to his area, Ed encourages others to do the same.

‘Certainly getting an education through UWS is a tremendous way to boost your own ability to engage through the local community and economy. But once you have enriched your own skills, staying focused in a local community and being able to give something back is also really important. I think it rounds you out individually and there is a huge multiplier effect in terms of the fortunes and opportunities available to our region.’



military history through one family's eyes

A chance discovery in the UWS Bankstown library started alumnus Brent Kerehona on a journey that has taken over six years and seen him criss-cross the globe.

Brent, whose father is Maori, grew up in Australia and served in the Australian Army as a soldier for 10 years. When he left the defence force, he began studying at UWS in 2005, first completing a Bachelor of Arts, then a Master of Teaching (Primary).

While hunting for a book in the university library, he discovered a section of books on New Zealand's military history, and leafing through them, found mentions of four members of his family serving in various conflicts.

This began an intensive research project titled *Born for War: New Zealand's Military History – A Family Perspective*. Brent, who teaches in primary schools in Sydney's south-west, is writing a historical novel based upon New Zealand's military history, which will consist of three parts – a printed novel (with interactive CD), an interactive e-book and a documentary.

Early on during his research for the project, tracing the involvement of his family in military actions that have contributed to New Zealand's history, Brent decided that to do his subject justice, it was important to conduct onsite research.

'I committed to travelling around the world to every battle site I'm writing about, to make sure the story is as correct as it could be, based on the terrain and so on, and also for the credibility of my research and peace of mind that I'm paying my ancestors proper respect,' Brent says.

'I'm lucky I've got that passion for it so it doesn't seem like it's hard work.'

Along the way, Brent has made some important discoveries through his research, with some of New Zealand's prominent treaty historians acknowledging his work.

However, as an Australian of Maori heritage researching New Zealand military history, he has had difficulty securing funding for the project from either the Australian or New Zealand governments.

With one research trip to go before he can complete his massive project, Brent is seeking financial assistance to fund the final piece of the puzzle.

He says the academic research and writing skills he learnt while studying at UWS have been critical to being able to undertake what many would see as a labour of love.

'I'm lucky I've got that passion for it so it doesn't seem like it's hard work.'

Visit www.tumatauenga.webs.com for more information about Brent Kerehona's writing project.



Mark's drive to improve

Managing a 450-bed hospital with over 2,100 staff and a budget of over \$150 million might sound like a huge headache, but UWS graduate Mark Shepherd relishes his role as general manager of Bankstown Hospital.

Beginning his career as a clinical neurosurgery nurse at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, where he managed the Neurosurgical Unit for almost 10 years, Mark then moved into the management of area-wide clinical health services.

During this time, he completed a Bachelor of Health Science majoring in Management at UWS, and in 2002 shifted his focus from nursing to clinical business management. He first became hospital general manager at Fairfield Hospital in 2005, and moved to Bankstown in his current role in 2007.

His earlier experience has played a key role in his success in management. 'In health, you have got to have an understanding of the clinical aspects that assist you in making sound business or managerial decisions, so they are often looking for people with a clinical background to take on a variety of responsibilities,' Mark says.

While Bankstown Hospital is one of the smaller teaching hospitals in the state, Mark holds strategic and operational responsibility for all aspects of the facility's operation.

Essentially, the buck stops with him on a whole range of activities – staffing, budgets, and clinical performance on benchmarks such as emergency access, surgical access, efficiency measures such as length of stay and readmission rates, and clinical programs in areas such as hand hygiene.

Mark's great passion is in clinical services development and clinical resource efficiencies. During his time at Bankstown, he has been working to improve a number of areas of the hospital's operation and capability, to ensure the hospital provides safe services and good access to the local community for all its programs, whether they be surgical, emergency, rehab or others.

'We have been working on improving our clinical performance. What that means is we are reducing things like falls in hospital, where patients may be injured, and reducing hospital-acquired infections. We are ensuring we have good follow-up where incidents do occur, such as complications post-operatively. We have sound investigation processes to ensure that we investigate not only clinical incidents but complaints by the public,' Mark says.

The demographic of the Bankstown area population has some unique needs which must be addressed with hospital services. 'This is one of the older populations in metropolitan Sydney, but it also has new, medium-density housing, and a very high birth rate,' Mark says.

To meet the needs of this community, developing services has been a priority, and a \$3.5 million aged care day hospital is a new addition to the Bankstown facility. 'The purpose of that is to try and support aged care patients at home longer, so they don't have to go into residential care or be admitted to hospital,' Mark says.

Under Mark's leadership, Bankstown has also developed specialty services for bowel, upper gastrointestinal and pancreatic cancers, and is currently performing around 40 per cent of Australia's pancreatic surgery. To support this area, the hospital's integrated cancer centre has been enhanced and now delivers double the number of cancer treatments such as chemotherapy.

An ageing population is not just a problem for the Bankstown area – it is one of the key challenges facing the entire public health system.

'The longevity of Australians today has dramatically increased. That directly affects health, because the expectation of the public is that we treat people well into their '90s on occasion with all available treatment modalities that are available. The longer people live, the more health services they require, but we also have a finite budget, so we need to get more efficient year upon year.'

To this end, Mark developed and implemented a 'threshold pricing' model for orthopaedic joint replacement programs, which is now utilised in numerous area health services in NSW and Victoria, with plans for a further roll-out to the rest of NSW in the coming months.

accountants build numbers

Late last year, UWS Accounting Alumni gathered for the inaugural Accounting Alumni Function.

While accounting has been offered at UWS since 1976, the current School of Accounting was formed in 2000 by the amalgamation of the former accounting departments at UWS Hawkesbury, Macarthur and Nepean. Now, around 750 accounting graduates complete their studies at UWS every year.

The Accounting Alumni Chapter has been newly established to help these alumni keep in touch with each other, and with the University.

Associate Professor Philip Ross, Head of the School of Accounting, says, 'We want to reconnect with some of our graduates, and to be able to tap into the expertise that they have and use them to enhance the learning experience of students by involving them in guest lectures. Our graduates are also able to provide invaluable input into our current courses by being members of our advisory board.'

The advisory committee consists of representatives from the accounting profession, across public practice and industry, to ensure UWS keeps pace with changes taking place in the sector.

'The accounting profession has become very much more specialised. In terms of how we respond, our curriculum is very broad, and gives students exposure to a range of different parts of the accounting profession, which allows them to pick an area that they may specialise in when they graduate,' Ross says.

'For example, if they want to go into audit, management accounting or corporate financial accounting roles, we expose them to all of that as part of the course.'

With building relationships playing a key role in career success, the Accounting Alumni Chapter also provides graduates with the chance to meet new people and perhaps find some old friends.

'Being involved with the alumni chapter is a good networking opportunity for alumni to stay in touch with their fellow colleagues,' Ross says.

Last year's event brought together 60 accounting alumni, including a graduate of the very first accounting intake, at what was then Nepean College of Advanced Education. There are now plans to hold this event on a biannual basis.

The UWS Accounting Alumni Chapter now boasts more than 200 members, and all UWS Accounting graduates are encouraged to join online at www.uws.edu.au/AccountingAlumni

'Being involved with the alumni chapter is a good networking opportunity for alumni to stay in touch with their fellow colleagues.'

climbing the ladder to partner

Last year UWS accountancy graduate Graeme Bellach was made business services partner at CIB Accountants and Advisers in Parramatta, marking the culmination of his rise through the ranks from first-year cadet accountant.

'I was lucky in that the first firm I happened to join looked after me well, and it was beneficial to continue all the way to become partner,' he says. Graeme undertook a Bachelor of Business in accountancy at UWS part-time while working at CIB, taking a full-time study load every second semester when things were quiet at work. He graduated in 2003.

Graeme says the flexibility and structure of the UWS degree made it easy to combine study and work in this way, and he recommends other students do the same.

'Because I was studying mainly part-time, I was getting the practical knowledge from work with the theoretical knowledge from the University at the same time. It gave me a well-rounded experience in my knowledge base,' he says.

'It showed me how important it was to do them both at the same time as you progress, so they blend together well.'

As business services partner, Graeme now works with small to medium businesses from a range of industries, with turnover ranging from \$2 million to \$70 million.

His work covers mentoring business managers, benchmarking, and providing advice on taxation, self-managed super funds, business start-ups, and valuations.

He says what he enjoys most about his work is that it is not just about looking at the numbers. 'It's working with clients to get them into a better position, and make their businesses more profitable,' Graeme says.

Given the constant changes in the regulatory environment for tax and superannuation, learning for accountants doesn't end at university. They must undertake at least 120 hours of continuing professional development every three years to stay up-to-date, and so Graeme and other accountants at the firm keep their knowledge current through regular seminars from a visiting tax expert, as well as attending educational events held by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia (ICAA).

When he's not working, Graeme enjoys travelling, both within and outside of Australia, as well as playing sport and catching up with friends – some of which date back to his university days.

'It was a great group of people that attended UWS; they were really down-to-earth, and I still keep in touch with many people I met at uni even nine years later,' he says.

As a shareholder in CIB, he is looking forward to taking a greater role in the company over time, and is positive about his prospects. 'With the education you get from UWS and the practical experience, there is no limit to what you can achieve.'



'With the education you get from UWS and the practical experience, there is no limit to what you can achieve.'

recent events



L-R: Adjunct Professor Brian Sully QC; John Juriansz; Jonathan Adamopoulos; Former Chancellor John Phillips; Justice Peter McClellan, Chief Justice in Common Law, Supreme Court of NSW; Vice-Chancellor Janice Reid AM; Sir Laurence Street AC, KCMG, QC; Professor Michael Adams

UWSLA ANNUAL OCCASIONAL ADDRESS

The UWS Law Alumni Association (UWSLA) held their seventh annual Occasional Address in Sydney on 19 November 2010.

The key address was delivered by the Honourable Justice Peter McClellan, Chief Justice in Common Law of the New South Wales Supreme Court.

The address was again a memorable one, with the event well attended by UWS Law Alumni, students and staff.

To view more of the photos from the night check out the UWSLA website.

Be sure to also keep an eye out on the website for upcoming information on law alumni specific activities and news in 2011.

Visit the UWSLA website at www.uws.edu.au/LawAlumni

UWS OPEN FORUM: SHOULD AUSTRALIA KEEP GROWING? IMMIGRATION & MULTICULTURALISM SEMINAR

UWS Equity and Diversity held their first forum for 2011 on Parramatta campus in February.

Hosted by the Director of Equity and Diversity, Dr Sev Ozdowski, the forum featured special guest speakers Dr Tanveer Ahmed, Professor Andrew Jakubowicz and Ms Sandra Kanck.



Guest speakers Dr Tanveer Ahmed, Ms Sandra Kanck and Professor Andrew Jakubowicz

The night was well attended and this hot topic forum will be televised on TVS. The guests were delighted to hear the engaging speakers discuss whether our population should keep growing, along with the re-adoption of multiculturalism as a national policy, despite concerns for the impact on the environment and infrastructure OR should we think about sustainability as the most important concern for Australia's future?

The forum was a continuation of the series which started in 2008 and continues to deal with topical and contemporary social issues, with an aim to bring academia and the Greater Western Sydney Community together. More information can be found on the UWS Open forum website at www.uws.edu.au/equity

The next forum will be on 9 June 2011 on 'Multiculturalism, Terrorism and Peace – An Indian perspective'. The international guest speaker is Dr Priyanka Upadhyaya, UNESCO Chair and Professor of Peace Studies, Banaras Hindu University with commentary by Ms Julie Owens MP.



L-R: Guest speakers Jesse McKenzie, Helen Lyons and Scott Stephenson; Freny Tayebjee, Manager of Careers & Cooperative Education



CAN FUNCTION – PAY VS PASSION

The last 2010 CAN function was held on 25 November at Parramatta campus, with the theme of **Pay vs Passion**. Should graduates pick money over their passion? Or can they have both and create their dream careers?

There were three dynamic speakers on the panel: Helen Lyons, who spoke about going from Investment Banking to Human Resources; Jessie McKenzie, who decided to pursue his passion to play poker and put his Business Marketing degree on the back burner; and Scott Stephenson, who accidentally stumbled across ice hockey and intertwined his Marketing degree and his passion for playing ice hockey by launching the Sydney Ice Dogs' first marketing campaign.

The event was attended by current and past Careers & Cooperative Education (CCE) placement students with their guests, volunteer students and the CCE team.

The next CAN Function theme is **Small Business vs Big Business**, which will explore the advantages and disadvantages of working in a small/medium business compared to a large company when graduates begin their career. The speakers for the evening will include Mahmoud Kebbie, the Outdoor and Industrial Lighting Marketing Manager for Thorn Lighting, and Kristen Yates, the Human Resources Assistant and Return to Work Coordinator at The Le Mac Australia Group. This event will be held at Parramatta campus on Thursday 2 June 2011 from 6.30-8.30pm.

BUSINESS MASTERS INFORMATION EVENING

The Sydney Graduate School of Management (SGSM) hosts three personal consultation evenings each year. Recent research has shown there are a large number of managers and professionals who live in the Greater Western Sydney region, many of them believing they should be undertaking a Masters Degree but have encountered barriers to actually enrolling. These barriers include life complexity, concerns with cost, and even a lack of confidence for those that have never been to university, or are returning to study after a lengthy absence.

The consultation evenings provide an opportunity for prospective students considering enrolling in a Business Masters program to discuss their individual circumstances with the relevant academics. SGSM courses are designed to provide flexible learning, so if time or cost are issues, students are able to enrol for a single unit to begin the process. Many flexible entry and exit points are embedded in the degrees to cater for changing personal circumstances over the time of study.

The most recent consultations were held in May and August, attended by well over 100 prospective students. Visit www.sgsm.edu.au for more information on the next available consultation evening.

DECEMBER & APRIL GRADUATION CEREMONIES

The most recent round of UWS Graduation Ceremonies took place on the Parramatta Campus in December 2010 and April 2011.

More than 4,000 of our newest UWS alumni made the transition from student to graduate across the ceremonies held across the disciplines of study.

A highlight of the graduation ceremonies is the occasional addresses. UWS Graduands and their guests had the opportunity to hear from a range of distinguished guest speakers including Dr Linda Selvey, CEO of Greenpeace Australia Pacific, Dr Tom Calma, National Coordinator for Tackling Indigenous Smoking, and Dr Robert Lang, CEO of Parramatta City Council, just to name a few.

For more information on the latest round of ceremonies, or the upcoming September 2011 ceremonies, please visit the new alumni website at www.uws.edu.au/NewAlumni



From Sustainably Managed Forests – For more info: www.pefc.org

upcoming events 2011

19 MAY - 15 JULY 2011

LAY OF THE LAND EXHIBITION

Imagery inspired by the landscape of Australia and beyond, featuring photographs by Kim Armstrong and Yan Zhang, and paintings by Jennifer Gabbay. Gallery open Monday to Friday, 9.00am-5.00pm
UWS Werrington North

2 JUNE 2011

COOPERATIVE ALUMNI NETWORK FUNCTION

The next CAN Function theme will be Small Business vs. Big Business. 6.30-8.30pm
UWS Parramatta

9 JUNE 2011

UWS OPEN FORUM

'Multiculturalism, Terrorism and Peace – An Indian perspective' by international guest speaker Dr Priyanka Upadhyaya, UNESCO Chair and Professor of Peace Studies, Bandaras Hindu University. 5.30pm arrival for 6.00pm start
UWS Parramatta

29 JULY 2011

**CENTRE FOR CITIZENSHIP & PUBLIC
POLICY SEMINAR SERIES**

'Cosmopolitanism, Provincialism, Pluralism' by Nikolas Kompridis, Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy, University of Western Sydney. 10.00am-12.00pm
UWS Bankstown

SEPTEMBER 2011

SPRING GRADUATION CEREMONIES

The next round of UWS Graduation Ceremonies is scheduled to take place in September 2011. For more information on the upcoming September 2011 ceremonies, please visit the new alumni website at www.uws.edu.au/NewAlumni
UWS Parramatta

OCTOBER 2011

**UWS LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
COCKTAIL FUNCTION**

Further details will be made available closer to this event. To ensure that you receive up-to-date information on this event, join the UWSLA online at www.uws.edu.au/LawAlumni
UWS Parramatta

For further information on any of the upcoming scheduled UWS events, please visit our website at www.uws.edu.au/AlumniEvents

stay connected

**UPDATE YOUR DETAILS, JOIN CHAPTERS AND STAY CONNECTED ONLINE AT
WWW.UWS.EDU.AU/KEEPINTOUCH**

The University of Western Sydney (UWS) 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 130,000 graduates, the objective of the UWS Alumni Unit is to ensure all of our alumni 'keep in touch' with their University.

Immediately following your graduation or completion of studies at the University of Western Sydney, you become a valued member of the UWS alumni community. We encourage all of our graduates to update their details online and remain connected with UWS.

GRADLIFE MEMBERSHIP

We also invite you to join the GradLife Membership Program to gain access to benefits exclusive to UWS alumni. To find out more, visit www.uws.edu.au/GradLife