

GradLife


University of
Western Sydney
Bringing knowledge to life

inside

PLAYING WITH LIGHT

Thi Nguyen's interactive light sculpture made a splash at VIVID 2013

FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL OPENS ITS DOORS

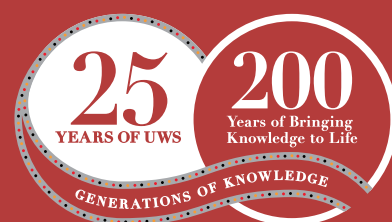
After a major restoration, this historic building is open

IN SERVICE OF THE NATION

Dianne Gallasch is the first female Commandant of the Royal Military College of Australia

GRADLIFE BENEFITS FOR ALUMNI

Celebrating 25 Years of UWS



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GradLife

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This year, we celebrate a significant milestone – 25 years of the University of Western Sydney.

We also acknowledge more than 200 cumulative years of bringing knowledge to life in Greater Western Sydney through the legacies of our antecedent institutions, Hawkesbury, Macarthur and Nepean, and recognise the generations of knowledge of the traditional owners of the land.

The driving force behind the establishment of UWS was the desire to bring to Western Sydney and its residents, greater opportunities to access higher education. Over the course of the past 25 years, the University has been successful in making a significant and tangible difference in our region. As our alumni, you are a vital part of that story. Your success is our success.

This edition of GradLife outlines how UWS will be celebrating this anniversary, and profiles some alumni who were among the first to graduate from the newly formed University of Western Sydney.

Hawkesbury alum Jennifer Brown graduated in 1989 with an agriculture degree and has maintained her connection with the University over 25 years, most recently as a member of the Board of Trustees, while taking on senior roles in the environmental management and agriculture sectors. Paul Newman was the University's first Indigenous graduate of the Bachelor of Business, and has gone on to become both a successful entrepreneur in his own right, and to support and mentor other Indigenous businesses. And Brigadier Dianne Gallasch AM, who was recently appointed the first female Commandant of the Royal Military College of Australia, reflects fondly on her time at UWS Hawkesbury, which to this day maintains a connection with the Australian Army.

These are but a few of the wonderful success stories to emerge from UWS over the last 25 years, and I encourage you to share yours with us.

I am privileged to be leading UWS at such an exciting time in its history, and invite you to join us in celebrating this significant milestone throughout 2014.

Professor Barney Glover
Vice-Chancellor
University of Western Sydney

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Vice-Chancellor
University of Western Sydney





Celebrating 25 years of UWS

To celebrate 25 years since its foundation, the University of Western Sydney will be celebrating with a range of events and activities during 2014.

This anniversary provides an opportunity to reflect on the contribution the University has made to the region in which it sits, and look ahead to the coming decades.

Though UWS became a statutory institution on 1 January 1989, the University's story actually stretches back much further, through its predecessor institutions such as Hawkesbury Agricultural College. As part of its 2014 celebrations, the University will also acknowledge and pay tribute to the work of its heritage and member institutions over almost 200 years, as well as the generations of knowledge held by the traditional owners of the land on which UWS campuses are located.

Marking the quarter-century is not just about the University of Western Sydney as an institution, but also about celebrating the achievements of alumni – many of whom found that their time at UWS changed the course of their lives.

David Elliott MP, now representing the electorate of Baulkham Hills, is just one of those people. He credits UWS with helping him achieve his boyhood dreams of becoming an Army officer and Member of Parliament, as the first person in his family to attend university.

'Growing up in Bankstown, university wasn't necessarily an option for a lot of people in that demographic. For me to be able to sit for the regional entrance test because I lived in Western Sydney was a wonderful opportunity,' David says.

'The four years was fantastic preparation for my professional life, which has taken me from Duntroon, to peacekeeping as an Australian Army officer, to chief executive of a multi-million dollar organisation to being a Member of Parliament.'

The close ties between UWS and the community of Western Sydney, always a key plank of the University's mission, are evident through the stories of alumni such as Elise Maehler.

One of the major milestones for UWS in recent years was the opening of the new School of Medicine on the Campbelltown campus. Having grown up in Western Sydney, Elise was excited to be one of the first students to graduate with a UWS Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, and to begin her medical career at Campbelltown Hospital.

'UWS prepared us very well for the demands of the job. It was always very interesting, with lots of support from very experienced people at the local hospital and at the University. It was a very tight-knit, small group of students, and I think we'll be in contact for many years to come,' Elise says.

It's also an opportunity to reminisce about the wonderful experiences of university days and the friends and connections made along the way.

Linda Westmoreland, now the Technical Team Leader, Biological in the UWS School of Science and Health, first visited the Hawkesbury campus for an Open Day in the early 70s.

'I remember loving it all then and thinking it was somewhere very special. I moved to the Hawkesbury as a young mother and so my association with the campus continued. I used to bring my children to the Open Days and buy milk, butter, cheese and ice cream from the dairy shop. It was, and still is, the best flavour I remember,' Linda says.

Linda not only graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Horticulture) from UWS, but has worked on the Hawkesbury, Parramatta and Campbelltown campuses since 2003.

'I love this institution and the people who work and study here. I am not alone with this feeling. It is not something one can explain; it is for me a sense of belonging.'

It is that sense of belonging, and what has been achieved as a community, that the University will be celebrating in 2014.

March has seen a series of events held at various campuses to kick off the year-long celebrations, including the official launch of the UWS 25th Anniversary at the UWS Hawkesbury campus, and Anniversary Games and Autumn Fair events at the Penrith, Campbelltown, Bankstown and Parramatta campuses.

TO SHARE YOUR STORIES ABOUT YOUR TIME AT UWS, AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE CELEBRATIONS AND HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

VISIT UWS.EDU.AU/25YEARS

SOME KEY MILESTONES

1989

The University of Western Sydney is officially formed, bringing together Hawkesbury Agricultural College and Nepean College of Advanced Education. Later in the year, Macarthur Institute of Higher Education is also brought into the fold.

1992

UWS produces its first PhD graduate, Sharyn Armstrong.

1995

As enrolments pass 22,000 students, the new Parramatta campus is announced and Nirimba campus is handed over to UWS.

1998

Professor Janice Reid takes up the role of Vice-Chancellor, a post she will hold for the next 15 years.

2000

The Sydney Graduate School of Management is established.

2007

The first intake of medical students begins studying at UWS, ahead of the opening of a brand-new School of Medicine facility on the UWS Campbelltown campus in 2008.

2009

UWS receives a \$40 million grant from the Federal Government to develop cutting edge facilities at the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment.

2013

Professor Barney Glover is appointed as the next Vice-Chancellor of UWS.



Growing connections for 25 years



Jennifer Brown
Bachelor of Applied Science
(Systems Agriculture) (1989)

Jennifer Brown has come full circle. She began her career working with an egg farming cooperative, and as director for intensive livestock and animal welfare at the NSW Farmers' Association, she has had responsibility for eggs again. Similarly, Jennifer began as a student at UWS, and returned years later as the Board of Trustees Alumni member, helping to make decisions on how the University would be run.

In fact, Jennifer's association with UWS began even before it was a university. She began a Bachelor of Applied Science (Systems Agriculture) in 1985, at what was then Hawkesbury Agricultural College, and was among the first cohort of students to graduate from the University of Western Sydney in 1989.

With Jennifer looking to pursue a career in agriculture, UWS was the obvious choice, as much for its approach to agriculture systems as its leadership in the field.

Back then, UWS Hawkesbury was quite a different place – it was undergoing a transition from primarily residential students to day students, and although women had been on campus for more than a decade, there was something of a gender divide.

'It was more male in agriculture and horticulture, and females on campus doing home economics. Nursing

also started the year I started, and the diversity of courses that now represents the University was starting to come through,' Jennifer says.

Jennifer's studies included intensive industries and after her stint working with an egg farming cooperative, she pursued her interest in landscape management and bush regeneration. She worked with Taronga Zoo on their bushland foreshore program, before becoming environmental manager for both the Taronga and Western Plains Zoo sites.

Jennifer then moved into roles for what was then the Environmental Protection Authority, working with other government agencies on policy, intergovernmental relations and stakeholder negotiations. During this time, she also completed further study in environmental management and international environmental law.

More recently, Jennifer has returned to agriculture in a role which covers a number of sectors – chicken meat and eggs, pork, oysters, and animal welfare. As the NSW farming community's representative to both State and Federal Government, the NSW Farmers' Association makes strategic policy recommendations on behalf of the industry, its members, but also advocates on other issues.

Jennifer was also able to bring her knowledge of environmental

management, sustainability and policy to bear when she served as the Board of Trustees Alumni member from 2006 to 2009. Living and working in Western Sydney at the time, she saw this role as an opportunity to be 'active in supporting people's access to lifelong learning'.

'Because I had been working in sustainability for some time, it was a chance to get all the great things the University was doing in its research centres and link those learnings together to push the agenda on campus for sustainability.

'There is still a strong sense of pride for me that the University does put a lot of time back into the community. We saw that with the October bushfires in the Blue Mountains, and the support the University offered for students caught up in all of that. I see that too working in the rural sector now – whether it's fires, or for my oyster farmers, floods, it's people pulling together and working together.'

Tackling chronic disease from the top



Peter Shine
Graduate Diploma in Public Health
and Master of Public Health (2011)
Master of Health Science (2012)

Aboriginal people are 14 times more likely to suffer from a chronic disease than non-Aboriginal people. This shocking figure is even true of those living in urban areas.

As Director of Aboriginal Health for the Northern Sydney Local Health District, UWS graduate Peter Shine is out to tackle these problems.

Appointed to this role in May 2013, Peter is now responsible for the overall management of policy and all health service delivery to the Aboriginal people of Northern Sydney, and has just written the very first Aboriginal Health Plan for the district (which can be found at www.nslhd.health.nsw.gov.au).

Estimated at 2,548 people in the 2011 Census, the Aboriginal population in Northern Sydney is relatively small compared to other parts of Sydney and New South Wales, but Peter believes this is underestimated by at least 40 or 50 per cent.

'Aboriginal people have a huge problem identifying as Aboriginal here because of racism and other issues. We have found that once Aboriginal people do identify, they are sometimes sent to the back of the queue as far as health care is concerned, and we are trying to change that style of thinking as we speak. We are running cultural appreciation programs to change that,' Peter says.

'What we hope to create is a common understanding of the health, the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal people in Northern Sydney, and to try to establish the beginning of a common language by which Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal can productively discuss healing in Aboriginal terms,' Peter says. 'By doing that, we are strengthening the possibilities for creating partnerships between government departments, Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people alike.'

Peter's appointment to this role is only the latest in an extraordinary list of professional and personal achievements. A Gomeroi man from north-western New South Wales, he is a member of the Stolen Generation. After a difficult early life, including a stint in prison, Peter began his career in health back in 1993, working with what was then the Sydney City Mission (now Mission Australia).

'I started volunteering on their vans, picking up alcohol and drug dependent people and taking them to places of relative safety, and was given a permanent position,' Peter says.

Unable to read or write proficiently at this stage of his life, Peter taught himself, with his daughter's help. 'She is finishing up her Bachelor of Education degree now,' Peter says.

Then in 1993, while working part-time as a drug and alcohol counsellor, Peter enrolled in the advanced certificate in alcohol and other drug work at Loftus

TAFE, and was bitten by 'the education bug', passing with distinction.

He went on to manage drug and alcohol services for the South Western Area Health Services and worked at Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation. While working as the rural coordinator for the Victims of Crime bureau in western New South Wales, he returned to study at Flinders University. Though a serious illness forced Peter to put his studies on hold for some years, he ended up completing a Graduate Certificate in Primary Health Care (distance at Flinders University), a Graduate Diploma in Public Health at UWS, a Master of Public Health at Flinders and a Master of Health Science at UWS. He is now also Conjoint Lecturer in Public Health and Health Promotion at UWS.

Peter says higher education has changed his life, both in terms of the doors his qualifications have opened and what he has learnt along the way.

'In the space of 22 years, I have come from the gates of Long Bay Jail to the Director of Aboriginal Health in one of the most prestigious health districts in Sydney,' he says. 'I think what university taught me more than anything else, apart from a lot of practical knowledge, was how to critically reflect – to listen to other people's points of view, to reflect on that at the end of the day and make decisions based on those reflections.'

Having found his university experiences to be powerful and extraordinary, particularly having 'invaluable' mentors at UWS such as Professor John Macdonald, he is always encouraging young Aboriginal people to take up education.

'People don't listen to you without education; you can't change things from the bottom up. Things need to be changed from the top down, so we need to be at the top to do that,' he says.

This passion for change is certainly still strong for Peter, and he feels his career has only just started.

'It's why I get out of bed every day. I am very lucky I have staff that are very passionate about it as well. It doesn't matter whether you're changing a bedpan or writing policy or implementing a clinical, health promotion or philosophical program, what we are trying to do is save lives.'

Playing with light



Chromatic Motions at Circular Quay



Thi Nguyen
Bachelor of Design (Visual Communication) (2012)

UWS graduate Thi Nguyen has made a splash on the Sydney interactive design scene, creating an installation for VIVID LIGHT 2013 based on work she began during her Honours research.

Her interactive light sculpture, Chromatic Motions, which was located at East Circular Quay during the festival, went on to win the Event Experience – Consumer category at the Sydney Design Awards – beating established studios Frost* Design and Reborn.

‘My fourth year at UWS was very pivotal in my career, because it was an opportunity to research anything I wanted to do. I was able to go back to my earlier interests in electronic arts, to study design in interactive environments,’ Thi says.

Chromatic Motions is a virtual instrument that allows users to paint

on a virtual canvas with their body. The installation analyses live feed from either single or multiple users and converts shape and motion into colours. Though the interaction is very simple – touch creates colour – the aim of the work is to capture the hearts and minds of its audience by ‘facilitating meaningful and memorable experiences through play’.

‘Chromatic Motions explores how design can influence our lives by interacting with us and shaping the ways in which we interact with each other,’ Thi wrote in a case study on the work. ‘It illustrates how play and interactive design responds to human stimuli in

order to change the way we reconfigure ourselves by addressing our individual, social and environmental needs.’

Not only was her pitch for Chromatic Motions to be part of VIVID the first proposal she had entered for a public interactive design project, she was surprised by her Sydney Design Awards win.

‘I just wanted to enter to see how I would benchmark against all the other studios, so I was totally surprised. I didn’t even attend the awards night,’ Thi says.

Thi graduated from the Bachelor of Design in Visual Communication at UWS



Chromatic Motions, interactive light sculpture

in 2012, and spent a few short stints working for leading design studios such as Frost* before going out on her own. Her portfolio of work is multidisciplinary, ranging from the more traditional visual communication materials such as packaging, branding and identity, to environmental and interactive design.

'I think the core message of design is really all about communicating and bringing ideas to life. No matter what type of design that you do, you still follow the same framework or principles – there are just different ways of executing it,' Thi says.

Thi is no stranger to winning awards – in 2012, she won two awards at the AGDA Design Biennale in Experimental Typography and Branding/Identity, Australia's most prestigious graphic design awards program.

Since VIVID, Chromatic Motions has been touring with new media arts festivals such as Electrofringe, and Thi has been commissioned to create a new work for the 2014 VIVID festival.

'My practice is still evolving, but I'm keen to continue experimenting with this type of design framework. Even right now when I'm working with my current installation for VIVID, it's still borrowing those principles I learnt during my time at uni,' she says.

Creating a successful interactive design piece is all about reaching out to people in different ways, according to Thi.

'That was the core message of Chromatic Motions – it's a feedback loop where you can have a kind of

conversation with your audience. It's bringing people together and finding ways for people to express themselves and understand feelings in general.'



Bjorn Jarvis
Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor
of International Studies (2004)

Charting the shifting sands of our population

Australia's population is constantly transforming and shifting, and as the director of demography at the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), UWS alum Bjorn Jarvis still finds it fascinating to see how the figures change every quarter and year.

'Demography is all about measuring and understanding how the population is changing over time – which is a fundamental question that most Australians are interested in,' Bjorn says. 'It's actually a bit surreal to think back to sitting in lectures and tutorials, that the key information that was being discussed would eventually become my job.'

Bjorn joined the ABS as a graduate in 2005, after completing a Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of International Studies at UWS, including a stint studying at the Université de La Rochelle in France.

Having grown up in Western Sydney, he enjoyed studying at the UWS Campbelltown campus, and found the practical aspects of his course made for an easy transition into full-time work.

'I still draw on my learning and experiences from my management units on a daily basis, and would recommend students pick up some of these as electives, regardless of their main discipline,' he says.

Bjorn spent his first five years at the ABS working in labour statistics,

before moving into population statistics, working in the Census Post Enumeration Survey and Demography areas.

'The ABS has a very broad range of statistical collections, so it's been great to be able to change the area of focus over the years while still working within the same organisation,' Bjorn says.

Bjorn now leads the ABS Demography team, which is responsible for producing the official estimates of the recent and projected future population of Australia, its structure and geographic distribution, and analysis of components of population growth and related demographic trends. It also produces population estimates and projections for households, families and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, as well as fertility, mortality and migration statistics.

'It's a broad program that definitely keeps me busy,' Bjorn says. 'My position is a fascinating combination of managing the key work of the ABS demographic statistics, together with providing leadership on a range of developments within official population statistics. The latter often involves discussions about our concepts, data sources and the methods we use – to ensure the ongoing relevance of the information we produce.'

Tracking some of the major emerging trends, such as the ageing of the population, is a key aspect of the work of the ABS.

'We've recently seen the first groups of Baby Boomers ageing out of the 15-64 age group – traditionally referred to as the 'working age population' – into the group aged 65 years and over. Australia is still trying to work out what this will mean for us in the future, as a society and as an economy,' Bjorn says.

Having recently moved from Canberra back to Sydney and having another child born in January, Bjorn has a personal interest in interstate migration and fertility statistics. The ABS produces information each quarter on where people have moved from and to around the country.

'While NSW may lose around 15,000 to 20,000 people each year through interstate migration, that's actually the net value of around 180,000 movements like mine – a huge number of moves.'

And the work of the demographer is not just retrospective, but forward-looking as well, making predictions about the Australia of the future based on statistical movements.

'In 2013, the population is just over 23 million people, growing at a rate of a little under 2 per cent per year – how many people will there be in a generation from now, around 2040? I find these discussions about change the most interesting, given how much there has been over the last two generations.'

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
BUSINESS COURSES AT UWS VISIT
UWS.EDU.AU/BUSINESS**



Tessa McGavock
Master of Education (Leadership) (2013)

Bringing play-based learning to Africa

Some people might not regard a trip that involved sleeping in a mud hut with no electricity or running water as fun, but for UWS graduate Tessa McGavock, it was a life-changing experience.

With a background in both teaching and managing early childhood educational settings stretching back several decades, including 10 years at Blacktown Council managing 27 children's services, Tessa upgraded her qualifications with a Master of Education (Leadership) at UWS, graduating in 2012.

Not only did she love the Master program, it opened up opportunities she could never have dreamt of. As well as being a UWS student, Tessa is also the director of the UWS Early Learning Centre at Kingswood, which offers 60 long day care places catering for children of staff, students and the community.

Tessa was inspired by a unit in the Master program to introduce sustainable environmental education at the service, which resulted in her receiving a Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Award. She used her prize money to attend the European Early Childhood Research Association Conference in Estonia last year.

'The other area that truly opened up for me as I did my research on developing cultural competence in Aboriginal culture for educators, was my understanding of this area, which was fully supported by the members of the Elders on Campus program,' Tessa says. 'That's been the most amazing journey of my life in terms of building cultural competence.'

This then led to Tessa establishing contact with a preschool in Swaziland, which she visited last July. She and a colleague stayed in a hut on the grounds of the preschool – an eye-opening

experience, Tessa says, providing professional development to teachers who had never undertaken this before.

'It was beautiful, I can't wait to go back,' she says.

In the mornings, they worked with teachers and the preschool's 30 children, ran a series of workshops in the afternoons for teachers, parents and grandparents, and on the weekend, brought preschool teachers from all over the region together for a huge regional workshop.

Tessa worked with the educators on how they could move from a very traditional approach to a play-based program, but the availability of resources was a challenge.

'What we prepared before we left, we had to rewrite by candlelight at night in our hut, because they had no equipment – just a few pencils, a couple of old Barbie dolls with no heads, and some wooden blocks they had broken up a wooden pallet to make,' Tessa says. 'So we really had to wrack our brains to come up with things that they could use from the natural environment that was meaningful for their children.'

Tessa now plans to continue the relationship – establishing an Australian-Swazi partnership arrangement, fundraising to bring one of the teachers to Australia to present at an early childhood conference this year, and running some professional development workshops via Skype – though this will be dependent on their preschool securing funding for a computer and internet connection.

Tessa also plans to extend her work on cultural competence in Aboriginal culture through a PhD starting in 2014.

'I think if we can develop in children respect for other cultures, other people who look different to how we might look, who do things differently, we are going to start building a generation that accepts diversity as a way of life,' she says.

Even with such a wealth of experience behind her, Tessa found studying at the Master level stimulating.

'It brings new ideas on what's happening currently, and an opportunity to add to the debate. The students and faculty were incredible; the school's lecturers were so supportive and encouraged me every step of the way.'

Tessa's commitment to educating other teachers through professional development stems from her personal philosophy.

'My philosophy in life has always been not to just sit around whinging about what's happening in the world, but to actually do something about it.'

'When you have built up a wealth of experience, I believe you have an obligation to pass on that knowledge to the next generation of young teachers, whether it's through mentoring or lecturing or tutoring. If I can pass that on and enrich the lives of another generation of teachers, then it's worth every minute spent labouring over the books.'

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
POSTGRADUATE COURSES AT UWS VISIT
UWS.EDU.AU/POSTGRADUATE**

Forrest forges a global career

Little did graduate John Forrest know when he accepted a management traineeship with property giant Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) (then Jones Lang Wootton) that he would still be with the company more than 20 years later, or that his career would see him working from Sydney, New York, Singapore, and now Chicago.

John was certainly destined for a bright future, though. Having achieved outstanding results at school, he had his pick of university courses, but opted for property over law or medicine.

'In those days, Alan Bond and Christopher Skase and those kind of tycoons were driving around in Bentleys and they all looked very exciting and flashy. And there was a huge property boom in the 80s. So I was watching all that during my high school years,' he says.

John chose to study the Bachelor of Land Economics at the UWS Hawkesbury campus. Again he performed very well academically, winning the University Medal, and making some great friendships, some of which have developed into lifelong relationships.

Having received several job offers upon graduating, he chose the two-year graduate management training program with JLL, rotating through four different divisions. John was then asked to relocate to the US to learn about some emerging areas of the business that had yet to be introduced to the Asia-Pacific region. Though he had just embarked on an MBA, it was an opportunity too good to pass up – particularly as he had never even left Australia before.

'I put the MBA on hold and took the opportunity to go to New York for three years, and worked in what was then the property fund management business, and then at our corporate real estate services businesses,' John says.

During his stint, he met his future wife, Juraporn, a New York native. Then in 1996 he was asked to return to the Asia-Pacific region to help start a new business within JLL. John and his wife chose to move to

Singapore, as he was able to continue his MBA there, but it ended up being a fortuitous decision for other reasons.

'I didn't know it at the time, but Singapore is by far the best location to do a regional role in Asia-Pacific from a lifestyle and business point of view. It's just a fantastic formula,' John says.

John's time in Singapore has seen him primarily hold regional roles with JLL, including responsibility for business lines such as Leasing and Tenant Representation, Project and Development Services, Facilities Management, and Corporate Solutions. Along the way John started several new businesses including Workplace Strategy, Corporate Residential Services and Sandalwood Retail Services.

In 2008, John was appointed as CEO of JLL's Corporate Solutions, Asia-Pacific business. With more than 130 strategic alliance clients in 14 countries – including the likes of Telstra, Centrelink, Suncorp and ANZ Bank in Australia – it is the largest provider of corporate real estate services and outsourcing solutions in the region. During his time as CEO, John also played an instrumental role in mergers and acquisitions that have established JLL as the largest provider of real estate services in India and expanded the platform in Japan and Australia.

John took a step into the global arena two years ago, with a part-time role as Chairman of the Global Corporate Solutions Board, and has now been appointed CEO of JLL's Corporate Solutions business in the Americas – a move that has seen him relocate to Chicago with his family, to work from the company's global head office.

The key difference in this role will be the sheer geographic span and the scale, with John now having responsibility for businesses in 75 countries.

'Outsourcing is a much more developed industry in the US, so it's a very mature, sophisticated, developed market. But equally we've got to grow the business in Latin America, Asia, Europe, Middle East and Africa, which are very exciting frontier markets and environments,' he says.

'It's very exciting as a new outsourcing industry is developing.'

In addition to being an important professional opportunity, the move to the US is also an exciting one for John's family, which now includes four kids under 10.

'My wife Juraporn is excited to be going back to the US after 17 years, and all her family is in New York, so it will be a couple of hours away instead of 18 hours. The move is partly about giving our kids a much deeper cultural emotional connection to the US,' John says.

Although his children were born and raised in Singapore, John maintains close ties with Australia.

'The kids have quite an affinity for Australia. Our relatives are cattle farmers in Victoria, so we've been camping out on their properties. The kids just love it,' he says. 'And most family holidays are in Sydney with family and friends.'

John attributes his career success to being given lots of opportunity within a good company in a growth industry.

'The company has always put lots of different challenges in front of me. I've had the opportunity to start and lead businesses, to undertake mergers and acquisitions, to work

across many cultures – in essence to constantly grow personally,’ he says.

‘I love the people I work with, both colleagues and clients. I love the fact that I’ve had the opportunity to work in really diverse, different environments. I’ve got to see the world and meet many great people along the way.’

Especially when starting out, John says you often don’t know what you don’t know. An early mentor once advised John to use his two ears and one mouth in proportion – to listen and learn, and that has proved to be really valuable advice.

‘My advice would be to get out there and explore and discover. It’s almost more important which industry and company you join than the exact job. I had a lot of wise people telling me, go and work for JLL – their management training is great, it’ll ground you broadly. That was all good counsel.’



John Forrest
Bachelor of Business
(Land Economy) (1992)



Female Orphan School throws open its doors

As one of the most historic buildings in New South Wales, the Female Orphan School has undergone a major restoration, restoring the building to its former glory.

The building dates back to 1813, when it was constructed as one of the first public welfare institutions in New South Wales, under the direction of Governor Lachlan Macquarie and Reverend Samuel Marsden. It replaced an orphan school established by Governor Philip Gidley King in Sydney Cove, and aimed to move orphaned girls away from the corrupting influences there, thus safeguarding the future of the next generation of Australians.

Later, in 1850, it became the Protestant Orphan School, before being converted into Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital in 1888. Over the following century, the Orphan School building became so dilapidated that it had to be closed, with deteriorating stonework, vandalism, pigeon infestation and squatters damaging the building further.

In 1995, the New South Wales government transferred the site to the University of Western Sydney for its Parramatta campus, and a three-stage restoration of the Female Orphan School site began in 2000, funded by grants from the Heritage Council of NSW and the Federal Government with the University providing further funding itself.

While much of the Female Orphan School site had been restored, the final piece of the puzzle was the east wing, which had been restored on the outside but was completely derelict on the inside, with holes in the floor, hundreds of pigeons in residence, graffiti, and evidence of squatters. Then in 2012, then-Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced a \$7 million grant to the University to complete the restoration of the Female Orphan School and provide a permanent home for the Whitlam Institute.

Fast forward to 24 September 2013, and the completely restored Female Orphan School was ready to open to the public in time for the bicentenary of the laying of the building's foundation stone.

Eric Sidoti, Director of the Whitlam Institute and Provost of the UWS Parramatta campus, says the completed restoration is symbolic of a coming of age for the University.

'The Female Orphan School links the University to the very earliest stages of the colony here in NSW. It was a building that was part of the grand vision of Governor Macquarie of a self-governing colony, and it was seen as a statement of confidence in the future,' says Sidoti.

'In many respects it is a statement by the University as well, laying claim to the fact that its roots are deep within both the European and pre-European history. That history is now inter-woven with the University's own story and its vision.'

In addition to the Whitlam Institute offices, the Female Orphan School now houses the Whitlam Prime Ministerial Collection in its entirety, making it easier for researchers to access. Previously, the collection was spread across the various UWS libraries.

As well as the original 'Letter of Dismissal', the Whitlam Prime Ministerial Collection also includes political ephemera and the original notes from crucial speeches made by Whitlam, such as the 1972 Campaign Launch speech.



Left: *Larger than Life: Gough Whitlam in Cartoons* exhibition at the Female Orphan School

Below: Her Excellency the Honourable Quentin Bryce AC CVO opens the Female Orphan School, 24 September 2013

The Female Orphan School Opening, 24 September 2013



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL, INCLUDING OPENING HOURS, THE PROGRAM OF EXHIBITIONS AND HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED IN THE FRIENDS OF THE FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM, VISIT UWS.EDU.AU/FOS.

The collection continues to grow in significance, as others such as Whitlam's speech writer and confidante, Graham Freudenberg, and Whitlam ministers donate their papers to the collection.

'The fact that the Whitlam Institute sits within this particular building seems very fitting, because like Macquarie, Whitlam was a national visionary and had very clear ideas about Australia's responsibilities in the world,' says Sidoti. 'So within the building itself, you have the coming together of the story of the University, the story of the Female Orphan School, the story of Australia's social and democratic history, and that's a fundamentally exciting story to be told.'

The restoration has also seen the Female Orphan School transformed into a truly public building, with the inclusion of a Visitor Information Centre, which features a display on the history of the building, education and function spaces, and galleries.

A permanent exhibition, *A Changing Australia: The Time of Gough Whitlam*, highlights key objects in the Whitlam Prime Ministerial Collection, and explores how Gough Whitlam and his government not only reformed Australia's laws and institutions, but changed the way Australia sees itself.

Adjacent to this exhibition is an education space to host visitors, and the Whitlam Institute is developing a comprehensive schools and community outreach program. Following the September opening, over 1000 visitors had already passed through the door by Christmas, including school and university groups, National Trust groups and international delegations.

The west wing of the building houses the Margaret Whitlam Galleries, the University art gallery space, which

features traveling exhibitions from other institutions as well as exhibitions created by the University's Art Curator Monica McMahon. A recent exhibition, *Uplifted Horizons: The artists of the Whitlam era*, featured works from the UWS Art Collection and the Whitlam Prime Ministerial Collection by Australian artists such as Brett Whiteley, Arthur Boyd, John Coburn, John Olsen, Brian Dunlop, Keith Looby and Lloyd Rees.

Sidoti says that as hoped, the Female Orphan School is already becoming a democratic space, in which 'the University is more steward than owner of the building on the public's behalf'.

'It is absolutely wonderful to hear it come to life again. Just before Christmas, there was a day where we had a UWS Board of Trustees meeting here, then there was a sit-down farewell lunch in the west wing for the outgoing Vice-Chancellor. At the same time, we had 90 school children on a visit, we had an academic seminar in one of the meeting rooms, and the Whitlam Institute Secretariat doing our everyday business here, so the whole place was buzzing.'

With the Female Orphan School now very much open to the public, the Whitlam Institute is seeking volunteers to assist with the building's activities year-round, through the Friends of the Female Orphan School program.

Volunteers provide information to visitors and answer questions about the building and its history, monitor exhibition spaces and assist with sales and promotion activities.

With UWS also celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2014, the Parramatta campus will play host to some exciting events on 29 March, including an Autumn fair and an evening theatrical event within the Female Orphan School.

UWS grad throws support behind GI motility research



L-R: Jennifer Greer, Dr Vincent Ho, Ashley Allum, Ellen Baron

Ellen Baron, UWS alum and owner of boutique market research and planning consultancy, Ruby Cha Cha, is supporting a new campaign to increase awareness of gastrointestinal motility conditions.

The Gastroenterology Research Team, based at the UWS School of Medicine, is investigating disorders where the muscles of the digestive system become impaired and changes in the speed, strength or coordination in the digestive organs occur.

Dr Vincent Ho, director of the UWS Gastroenterology Research Team and chief investigator for GI motility research, as well as a clinical academic gastroenterologist at Campbelltown and Camden Hospitals, says the

research program was initiated after one of his patients, 26-year-old Ashley Allum, was diagnosed with gastroparesis or 'paralysed stomach'.

'We have performed extensive tests and tried all current medical therapies to no avail. This disease, which has intractable nausea and vomiting as its main symptoms, has greatly affected her life, as not only does she feel sick every day, she is no longer able to work,' Dr Ho says.

With such devastating effects on patients' quality of life, the team is running a basic science research program and also a clinical research program at its teaching hospitals to better understand gastrointestinal motility disorders with benefits expected not only for very sick patients such as Ashley but also for patients with more common gut motility disorders such as irritable bowel syndrome.

In tandem with the research, UWS School of Medicine senior administrative officer, Jennifer Greer, has spearheaded an educational awareness campaign to teach the Greater Western Sydney community about the family of GI motility disorders, and the work of the Gastroenterology Research Team.

The campaign kicked off in the second half of 2013, with the creation of a GI motility website and a donation card, produced to attract donors and investors. Ashley is acting as the campaign's 'poster patient', providing a human face for the effects of GI motility disorders.

Already, the success of the campaign's fundraising efforts has led to funding a postdoctoral research fellow position in translation gastroenterology.

'This novel position will provide unique research opportunities into both clinical and basic science areas and bring 'bench' much closer to 'bedside', says Dr Ho.

The GI motility project will gain further impetus in 2014, with students in the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery degree (MBBS) using the project for their Medicine in Context attachment to engage with the community, via the GI motility clinic at Camden Hospital.

'The core focus of the attachment is centred on social determinants of health – social and economic factors that affect patients' health one way or another, and in the case of patients with GI motility disorders, the students will be trying to find out how their condition has been affected by these factors,' Jennifer says.

'Human capability is another part of the story, and students will use Ashley's case and other consenting patients from the GI motility clinic to document their stories. The students can also look into how the GI motility clinic is funded, map all GI motility clinics in Australia, and find out if GPs are aware of and refer patients to the clinic.'



Dr Vincent Ho with Ashley Allum

Enter Ellen Baron and her team at Ruby Cha Cha. Ruby Cha Cha will teach students in the Medicine in Context program the art of writing patient questionnaires and how to use the questionnaires in interviews. They will produce a video of selected students undertaking a role-play interview session with Ashley to produce a communication training tool for students in the future.

The medical students will also create a poster and give an oral presentation at the launch of the 'Gastroparesis Awareness Campaign' and at the Conjoint Research Forum being held at Campbelltown Hospital in March.

Ellen, who is Jennifer's sister, had already donated to the research project, but jumped at the chance to become involved in the campaign at a more significant level.

Ruby Cha Cha has extensive experience in medical and pharmaceutical market research, working for major players such as Sanofi, Eli Lilly, Kimberly Clark, Pfizer and GSK, and so will share their expertise in patient interviewing, strategic marketing and awareness campaigns.

'Ruby Cha Cha has a passion for 'giving back' to the community and philanthropic causes. We have recently completed work for the Children's Medical Research Foundation on their Jeans for Genes campaign and have also carried out pro bono work for a number of other charities

and outreach programs,' Ellen says. 'When the opportunity to work on something for my old university came up, I was keen to get involved.'

'My dad also suffers from a GI motility condition, so having seen the problems first-hand, anything we can do to help treat others is a passion for me.'

Ellen says her undergrad and postgrad study at UWS – during which time she completed a BA with first class honours, studied a PhD, helped start a postgraduate association, served as a student member on university boards, lectured and tutored in psychology, and worked as a researcher for the Australian Institute of Gambling Research – 'gave me more than I can articulate'.

'I gained a lot of opportunities from my time at UWS that I value greatly. I learned how to solve problems and think creatively, and that education has taken me to where I am today, running a successful multinational business,' Ellen says. 'I want to help others achieve and feel as proud as I do of UWS.'

Helping Indigenous businesses succeed



Paul Newman
Bachelor of Business (1991)
Master of Arts – Communication and Cultural Studies (2000)

As the first Indigenous graduate of the Bachelor of Business from the University of Western Sydney, Paul Newman has carved out a successful career as a senior executive in the public sector, in ministerial roles and as a private sector Aboriginal affairs advisor.

He has also gone on to become a successful entrepreneur – and to mentor many other Indigenous businesses, through his Aboriginal management consulting company, Black Pages.

Paul first had the idea for Black Pages during the IT boom in the late 90s.

‘As an Indigenous business person, I was actively involved in my local mainstream Chambers of Commerce and business groups, and I was quite often the only Aboriginal person there,’ he says. ‘It just hit home to me that Aboriginal business people, even though they were out there in different places doing business, just weren’t visible.’

Paul wanted to change that – and so Black Pages was born as an online national business portal for Aboriginal businesses, including private enterprises and not-for-profit community enterprises. Since then, Black Pages has provided a place for Indigenous business people,

whether they are just starting out or looking to grow their businesses, to connect with services and funding provided by various government agencies, private sector business services, and mentors and advisors.

During his time as founder and managing director of Black Pages, Paul has seen many Indigenous people gain the confidence to start or grow their businesses.

‘It’s really just been good to be able to mentor and support people, and give advice to help them,’ Paul says. ‘Even though there are mainstream business advisory services, historically Aboriginal people have tended not to use them, because they haven’t been culturally appropriate. So Black Pages fills that gap.’

One of the challenges some Indigenous businesses face in gaining support and funding during their start-up or growth phases, particularly from government or community organisations, is that they do not satisfy the strict guidelines attached to the available programs.

‘That certainly has been one of the challenges that I had in growing my business, and my experience is that Aboriginal businesses just don’t fit the criteria. There needs to be more flexibility, and services need to be culturally appropriate,’ Paul says.

It’s a problem one of Black Pages’ clients, Jabidi, faced during its start-up phase.

‘Jabidi initially tried to go for the mainstream government and business support services, and found them totally inflexible. So Black Pages was able to fill that gap and help their business team do their business plan, build their website and get their marketing strategy happening. We now mentor that business,’ Paul says.

And it’s certainly paying off for Jabidi, which has created an innovative silk artist’s canvas suitable for use with multiple media. Jabidi co-founder Evette Morgan has become the first Indigenous female inventor to patent an invention, and the company showcased their product on ABC TV’s *The New Inventors* program.

In addition to undertaking a Bachelor of Business at UWS back in 1990, with a double major in Personnel Management and Industrial Relations, Paul returned to complete a Master of Arts in Communication and Cultural Studies in 2000 to build his skills in research, publishing and the cultural diversity space.

This also stood him in good stead when he launched Australia’s first Indigenous business magazine two years ago. BlackBiz showcases online the diverse range of Indigenous businesses from across the country.

During his career, Paul has also served on various community sector Boards, including as chairperson of the NSW Reconciliation Council, director of Bankstown, Liverpool and Fairfield Business Enterprise Centre, and director of the Liverpool Business Growth Centre, which won a small business incubator award.

As Paul travels around the country helping to promote Indigenous businesses, he also spends time sharing this expertise with the Boards of Aboriginal community enterprises through training.

Throughout his career, Paul has drawn on the foundation he gained at UWS, to bring Indigenous businesses out of the shadows and towards greater success.

Philanthropy and alumni engagement become UWS top priorities



Dr Joe Collins
Executive Director, UWS Advancement & Alumni

The beginning of 2014 heralds an exciting new chapter in the history of UWS. I'm delighted to have the opportunity to lead a team responsible for philanthropy and alumni engagement at UWS. The timing could not be better. With UWS celebrating its 25th anniversary and the arrival of our fourth Vice-Chancellor, Professor Barney Glover there is a sense of excitement among staff and students, current and former, and friends of UWS here in Australia and overseas.

I have been charged with reinvigorating the University's connection with our alumni and building a better experience for all of you, as well as finding ways of better connecting with our benefactors and more generally the various communities of interest that we serve.

It is indeed a privilege to engage with our many stakeholders, particularly those who, through exemplary acts of generosity, volunteering and support, have facilitated excellence, innovation and opportunity in education, teaching and research. We believe celebrating this tradition of giving is a great jumpstart for the next 25 years of UWS 'making a difference'.

Philanthropy and alumni engagement unquestionably have become top priorities for UWS. We are now actively looking at ways we can positively change the lives of more people through a UWS experience, add more value to our alumni and in particular help them achieve their dreams throughout their professional lives.

We are very fortunate at UWS to already benefit from the support of many donors and friends, including alumni and staff, community members and organisations throughout Western Sydney, Australia and beyond.

I encourage you to watch this fantastic video uws.edu.au/givingvideo and enjoy the spirit of giving at UWS.

You belong to a strong international network of UWS graduates. With

access to leading industry knowledge, professional networks, and exclusive benefits and events, our alumni have the know-how and the opportunity to contribute to a meaningful exchange around the cutting-edge knowledge that UWS provides as a contemporary university.

Your experience, expertise and participation in volunteering, mentoring and philanthropic activities helps build a vibrant community of role models and industry leaders for past, present and future generations of graduates and students.

Together we can make an impact and contribution to the region and beyond – if everyone does a little bit, then together we can make a big difference.

We would like to connect to as many alumni as we possibly can so please update your contact details at uws.edu.au/stayconnected or call (02) 9685 9500.

Warm Regards,
Dr Joe Collins
Executive Director
UWS Advancement and Alumni

Fast cars and Formula One: driving marketing for Ferrari

When she was growing up, UWS graduate Nariné Salmasi's father had a passion for cars, and she spent plenty of time visiting motor shows. Little did she know that this would be the perfect preparation for marketing roles with some of the world's most sought-after luxury automotive brands.

Nariné completed an undergraduate degree in design, but found that the industry wasn't for her.

'I still liked the creativity behind it, so marketing appealed to me because it was more in the business arena but gave me that outlet to be creative,' Nariné says.

She then undertook the Master of Business (Marketing) at UWS, graduating in 2009. Nariné worked in a smaller business as a business and marketing manager while studying, before making the leap into the world of big brands.

Her first dedicated marketing role was as the National Marketing and PR Specialist at Jaguar Land Rover Australia.

'It was an exciting time because it was my first real foray into the marketing world for a luxury automotive brand. It was an interesting move and one that I actually recommend to other graduates, if they can get into a smaller team like I did,' Nariné says.

'You get to do a lot of different types of jobs within the marketing role, whereas if you are in a larger team, you might not get to.'

Nariné made the move to Ferrari Australasia in February last year, when a new local subsidiary was established, and she was appointed Marketing Manager.

Nariné relishes the diversity of her role – being able to have a hand in everything from PR and events to CRM and strategic marketing for the Australasian market.

'I enjoy working for one of the most powerful brands in the world. It's quite exciting to be associated with a brand like Ferrari as I get the opportunity to meet all different types of people while creating unique marketing activities locally. These types of activity allow you to show your creativity which is something that is important for me,' Nariné says.

One such event was the recent launch of the new Ferrari 458 Speciale, which has reportedly already sold out its production run for the first year.

'It has been a highlight to be able to re-engage with the market in Australia by developing and being involved in events like this and others such as the Melbourne Grand Prix and Ferrari Racing Days in Sydney,' Nariné says. 'The ability to communicate efficiently to the national media, prospects and our clients to launch our products and express our brand values are important aspects of my role.'

As the world of marketing is changing rapidly, particularly with the increased use of digital marketing, Nariné says as a marketing specialist, you need to stay abreast of current developments.

'More and more companies are becoming very versed in the digital world, so you need to have open communication with your media agency, and be open to attending digital forums and seminars – those kinds of things really keep you on top of it.'

For others looking to break into big brand marketing, which she admits

is a very aggressive and competitive market, Nariné recommends taking any kind of marketing role, but especially one in a small team, to begin with.

'I think it's more beneficial in the sense that you get to experience different aspects of marketing and see what your forte is,' she says.

'I would definitely encourage people to work as hard as they can to establish their networking and relationships. Always be open to helping people – that's really how you build those connections and trust within an organisation, and they give you more responsibility, and you get to build up your reputation with the industry that you're interested in.'

Nariné is looking forward to continuing to grow the Ferrari brand in Australasia.

'The luxury industry is a very niche market in itself, and automotive on top of that is a very interesting dynamic. As a female in this still very male-dominated industry it's great to see a lot more women coming into it. I really do have a passion for it, so automotive for me is a natural fit.'



Serving on the frontline

Public health in Australia is reaching something of a crisis point – with an ageing population and increasing rates of chronic illness, more of our gross domestic product (GDP) is being consumed by rising healthcare costs. While the situation is not sustainable, finding a solution is far from easy.



Diane Gill
Master of Public Health (1996)

No one knows this better than UWS alum Diane Gill, who, as executive director of the Royal Melbourne Hospital, is right in the thick of frontline healthcare delivery.

‘There is a great need for us to try and manage our health costs much more effectively than we have done,’ Diane says. ‘It’s becoming increasingly difficult because we have been shaving around the edges in health for years, and I think we need to make some wholesale changes about how we actually deliver care and what we do.’

With service delivery through large general hospitals being highly expensive, more changes need to be made in the public health arena, not least in convincing people to care for their health better, through diet, exercise and preventative health.

‘If we can actually get those changes occurring at a community level, we will actually start reducing some of the costs that are actually going to hit the hospitals. That’s a difficult message that we have been pushing for years, but there is still work to be done there,’ Diane says.

‘In the hospitals, all we can do is constantly look at our practices, how we are doing things and be very, very vigilant about trying to change how we spend our money. Certainly we have been doing that for a long time.’

It’s a challenge Diane is very familiar with – in her current role, which she has held for five years, she has responsibility for the complete operational and financial management of the hospital – including strategic direction, policy, process and protocols.

Having originally trained as a nurse, Diane progressed very quickly through the ranks. She was in charge of a ward just two years after

completing her training, at the age of 21, and then ran the renal unit at Concord Hospital for nine years.

Looking for another challenge, she worked in Saudi Arabia for over a year, during the first Gulf War.

‘You work with so many different cultures over there and so many different nationalities, and in some ways, it was almost a third world country with money. Some aspects of the population were very wealthy and some were definitely very impoverished,’ Diane says. ‘So it was a fascinating eye-opener to a different tradition of healthcare. The time I spent there certainly armed me with a skill-set I would never have acquired in Australia.’

Returning to Australia, Diane then moved into middle management in a cancer coordinator position across the Central Sydney Area Health Service. During this time she completed a Master of Public Health at UWS.

‘Even at that point I knew I wasn’t going to stay in straight nursing roles. I definitely didn’t want to do a course that was very clinically focused – I wanted a broad cross-section of health management, as well as finance and economics, which that degree certainly had,’ Diane says.

Diane found the UWS Master of Public Health provided an excellent complement to her nursing degree, and really underpinned the way her career then progressed. Diane became deputy director of nursing at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, and then took on the role of executive director. She stayed at RPA for eight years before moving to the Royal Melbourne.

Diane says the combination of her clinical training as a nurse and the knowledge she gained through her

Master at UWS has been very beneficial in her senior management roles.

‘Being a nurse by background has certainly helped because I have an absolute understanding about what’s going on out on the floor, so when I speak to the senior medical and nursing staff, I know what they are talking about,’ she says.

‘That health policy, economics and financial knowledge just makes it much easier to make decisions and to actually think about whether what we are doing is going to make the difference we are looking for or not. I enjoyed every minute of my Master because it filled in gaps for me that I had through my basic training.’

Having been engaged in the hard work of running major hospitals for 14 years, Diane is almost ready for a change. With a comprehensive cancer centre now being built across the road from the Royal Melbourne Hospital, her focus will shift to the integration of the two hospitals.

‘I am taking a slightly different bent for the next two years, but equally as important. It’s about trying to get two cultures to come together to actually still produce what they are looking for – outstanding patient care across two facilities instead of one,’ Diane says.

‘At the end of the day, there is nothing more rewarding than seeing decisions that you have made that actually make a difference to how patient care is delivered. I became a nurse because I have a real passion for the public health system and for what we can achieve in it.’

UWS Alumni GradLife benefits



In 2014 the University will be producing a special edition GradLife Alumni membership card as part of the UWS 25th Anniversary celebrations.

The limited edition anniversary card will be issued to all new alumni members who apply in 2014, including on-campus graduates and requested replacement cards.

The special design cards entitle you to the same great offers and discounts as a part of your general GradLife Alumni membership.

All graduates of UWS are eligible for a GradLife card, so apply online today – membership is free!

uws.edu.au/GradLife



Alumni may continue to use the existing card.

Chapter Profile

Hawkesbury Alumni Chapter: A proud history

UWS Hawkesbury has the longest history of any part of the University of Western Sydney, stretching back to 1891 when its predecessor institution, Hawkesbury Agricultural College, was first established.

Similarly, the UWS Hawkesbury Alumni Chapter (HAC) also has a long and distinguished history – originally as the HAC Old Boys Union, established by the second principal George Valder in 1895, and becoming the Hawkesbury Alumni Chapter following the incorporation of Hawkesbury Agricultural College into UWS.

The HAC Old Boys Union certainly served a greater purpose than just keeping in touch with fellow students. According to Dr Richard Thomas, senior lecturer in Science at UWS Hawkesbury and member of the HAC Committee, such was the reputation of the chapter in this sector of Hawkesbury Agricultural College, that membership of the OBU traditionally served as a means of securing employment.

Hawkesbury underwent several significant transformations, first becoming a College of Advanced Education (CAE) and then becoming one of the foundation campuses of the University of Western Sydney in 1989, and this is mirrored in the membership of the Alumni.

Following the creation of the CAE, Hawkesbury's traditional diploma courses were replaced with a suite of undergraduate degree courses that encompassed all aspects of sustaining

rural life including business, accounting, engineering, social ecology, valuation, tourism, environmental health, science and horticulture. Furthermore, for the first time the institution began to offer formal postgraduate research qualifications. Most significantly of all, women were admitted to the College for the first time and since then have enrolled in ever increasing numbers.

The new horizons for Hawkesbury graduates changes were also reflected in the Alumni organisations.

The advent of the CAE saw the creation of the Hawkesbury Association for Convocation, which operated alongside the OBU. With the creation of UWS, both alumni organisations were amalgamated and renamed the Hawkesbury Alumni Chapter, a name selected to respect the traditions of the institution and its new role as an organisation for graduates of the newly created University. Despite numerous changes the Alumni Chapter retains its original purpose as laid out by Valder: to keep staff and graduates connected to this most unique campus.

The nursing school, which was founded under the CAE, has grown steadily and brought significant numbers of overseas students to Richmond. The science

courses have been restructured and new disciplines such as forensic, zoological, medical, nutritional and animal sciences added to the traditional environmental sciences forming the focus for the campus. The agriculture degree has also undergone a transformation and although in its early stages, enrolments show promising growth for the first time in many years.

Despite the changes and the diversity of students and staff who form part of the Alumni Chapter 'because of the locations of the buildings and the tradition as Hawkesbury Agricultural College, we have a heritage and a history that Hawkesbury people continue to identify with,' he adds.

'In 2013 the Alumni Chapter successfully reintroduced its traditional annual dinner, hosted at Parliament House as 'celebrating Hawkesbury'. The Alumni Chapter aims to maintain the tradition of the place that was first and foremost a high level educational establishment, and help see it develop it as such within the University,' Thomas says.

**HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED
TO JOIN THE HAWKESBURY
ALUMNI CHAPTER, VISIT UWS.EDU.AU/HAC
MEMBERSHIP IS FREE.**



Celebrating Hawkesbury Event 2014

Professor Barney Glover, UWS Vice-Chancellor extends an invitation to Hawkesbury Alumni to attend a luncheon on Friday 20 June, 2014 at Parliament of NSW, Sydney.

For ticket sales and more information visit
uws.edu.au/CelebrateHawkesbury

In service of the nation

Hawkesbury Agricultural College graduate Brigadier Dianne Gallasch AM, CSC was last year appointed as the first female Commandant of the Royal Military College of Australia.

It is the pinnacle of a distinguished military career spanning 30 years and several deployments to East Timor, Iraq and the Middle East.

Dianne originally completed a Bachelor of Science and worked at the John Curtin School of Medical Research for a year, before deciding to join the Australian Army in 1984.

'I found that if I wanted to go forward in the academic medical research area, I really needed to go back and do a PhD. I had had enough of schooling at that stage, and I really wanted to be part of a team. That was what the Army was offering,' says Dianne.

She chose a specialised path through combat supplies in the logistics area, and a few years into her Army career, was posted to Hawkesbury Agricultural College (HAC) to undertake a Master of Applied Science in Food Science.

Not only was HAC a recognised leader in the field of food science, there has been a longstanding connection between Hawkesbury Agricultural College and the Australian Army. The Royal Military College Duntroon and UWS/HAC have tussled on the rugby field every year since 1923, making the Heritage Match the longest continuous intervarsity rugby match in Australia.

'I certainly have fond memories of my time at Hawkesbury, and the staff were just amazing. There was a fascination with the military there – they really supported me, and it was such a lovely spot too.'

Dianne's Master qualified her for critical roles in the foodstuffs area, including as the Army's Senior Inspector Foodstuffs.

Dianne continued to rise through the ranks in the logistics field, and also completed stints as the Commanding Officer of the Soldier Career Management Agency and as Chief of Staff, Joint Education, Training and Warfare Command, giving her human resources and training experience, which proved valuable for her most recent appointment as Commandant of the Royal Military College of Australia.

The College in fact encompasses three organisations – the Royal Military College Duntroon, which conducts initial officer training, the Army Recruit Training Centre at Kapooka, and the Land Warfare Centre at Canungra. Together they are responsible for all initial recruit and officer training, and ongoing training for officers and soldiers during the course of their career.

Dianne says she works with an amazing group of staff, especially in providing recruits and officer cadets with their first experience of the military.

'The staff are spectacular. It's also really rewarding to see somebody come in as a civilian off the street and grow into either a soldier or an officer,' she says.

The experience of female military officers is now 'chalk and cheese' from when Dianne joined the Army. At that time, women were trained through a separate training school, whereas now the training is mixed.

Dianne's own deployments have contributed diverse experiences to her career and understanding of military operations.



Dianne Gallasch
Master of Applied Science (1991)

'We are trained for war, so being allowed to deploy is everything we have trained for, and you get to use all these skills you have learnt. So it really is a pinnacle in everyone's career,' Dianne says.

The most challenging deployment for Dianne was in 1999's peace-keeping operations in East Timor when Australia was the lead nation and had to provide logistics support for all the other countries represented in the operation. In Iraq in 2007, she was posted to the Multi-National Force Iraq which was led by the US. The sheer size and volume of operations in Iraq was again an eye-opener for her.

It also gave her important insights for other senior roles, including as the Director-General Support for Joint Operations Command.

'Whilst you are deployed, you are very limited in the things you have and the things you can do. Being deployed gave me the ability to understand what people felt like when they were on operations, and how important it was to get them their food or get them their mail,' she says.

The Army is now seeing its highest numbers of applications for years, and having been in the Commandant's role for six months, Dianne is excited about the future.

'It's going to be pretty hard for them to give me a better job than this one. I'm very proud of this formation, and just absolutely loving it.'

alumni events 2014



A GLITTERING NIGHT TO CELEBRATE 10 YEARS

On 8 November 2013, a capacity crowd of 120 guests gathered at Doltone House, Hyde Park, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the UWS Law Alumni Occasional Address.

Staff, community partners and the highest proportion of alumni attendees ever for a UWSLA event, turned out to hear the Honourable Tom Bathurst, Chief Justice of New South Wales, give the address.

Chief Justice Bathurst was appointed as Chief Justice in 2011, and later, as the 21st Lieutenant Governor of New South Wales, following an illustrious career at the bar spanning more than 40 years. Appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1987, his expertise was in corporate and commercial litigation. Chief Justice Bathurst was a member of the Australian Takeovers Panel from 2006 and 2011, and also served as President of both the Australian Bar Association and the NSW Bar Association.

With such a rich background on which to draw, attendees were delighted to hear his insights into his time at the bar.

UWS Dean of Law, Professor Michael Adams, said, 'It was an amazing event – a genuine celebration of how far the law school has come in its short history and helps our current students to build on the success of our UWS Law Alumni. The Chief Justice of NSW gave an inspiring speech, and was introduced by Justice Margaret Beazley AO, the current President of the NSW Court of Appeal, who happened to give the main speech for the UWS Law Students Ball in 2013.'

The UWSLA Occasional Address has been presented in the past by luminaries such as Chester Porter QC, Justice Margaret Beazley AO, Justice Peter McClellan AM, Stuart Littlemore QC, and Chancellor Professor Peter Shergold AC.

The UWS Law Alumni Association, which now benefits from the patronship of the Honourable Brian Sully QC, is currently planning to hold the Occasional Address again in 2014.



LAW ALUMNI ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN THE ASSOCIATION – FIND OUT MORE AT UWS.EDU.AU/LAWALUMNI



ALUMNI HONOURED IN CHINA

In November 2013, the Australia China Alumni Association held a Gala Dinner in Beijing to present its annual awards.

Now in its fifth year, the ACAA/IELTS 2013 Australia China Alumni Awards honour Australian-educated winners and finalists in eight awards categories who have made enormous contributions within their professional fields in China.

More than 240 guests attended the Australian-inspired dinner with Australian wines and Coopers beer to match. The evening was hosted by Australian alumna and CCTA anchor

Cheng Lei, and featured a keynote address by President and CEO of GE Greater China, Mark Hutchinson – an alum of the University of Queensland.

Established 10 years ago, the Australia China Alumni Association aims to promote Australian education through celebrating alumni success, and supporting alumni in China through business and social networking.

As a silver partner of the ACAA, the University of Western Sydney nominates alumni with significant professional achievements for the awards.

This year, graduate of the UWS Master of Marketing, Leslie Huang, was

a finalist in the IELTS Australia China Alumni of the Year Award category.

Based in Guangzhou, Leslie is the national sales director of Wrigley China. In this role, Leslie is responsible for more than \$1.7 billion in sales, and over the last three years, transformed Wrigley China to a go-to market system, enabling the company to expand into more than 1000 cities and increase market share by more than 80 per cent. He credits much of his career success to his Australian education, providing him with a strong framework for business judgement and the ability to navigate complex challenges.

Mabel Han, senior international regional manager, Recruitment and Agent Management, UWS, says the University's involvement in the awards is an important means of promoting Australian education and the contribution alumni make to their home countries, such as China.

'We are an international university, and our alumni around the world are doing important things. We are delighted to be involved in celebrating their successes through the ACAA/IELTS Awards.'

20 YEARS OF ART THERAPY AT UWS

In October last year, UWS celebrated 20 years of offering Art Therapy, with a special cocktail event at the Boilerhouse Restaurant at UWS Parramatta.

The event was held in conjunction with the Australian and New Zealand Art Therapy Association's national conference, and brought together past students and staff to reflect on the contribution made by the Art Therapy discipline over two decades.

The Master of Art Therapy was first offered by UWS in 1993, when only one other such Master level university program existed, offered by Edith Cowan University in Western Australia (this course has since closed).

Over the course of 20 years, more than 244 students have graduated from the Art Therapy program, and many gathered at the event.



Art Therapy students

Professor Kevin Dunn, Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, gave attendees a sneak peek into plans to create a new art therapy studio and teaching space as part of a facility that will also include new Social Work Skills and Psychology Labs on the UWS Parramatta campus from 2016. He also flagged plans to conduct a fundraising campaign to upgrade the cottage on the UWS Kingswood campus, which currently houses Art Therapy, and open a clinical art therapy and counselling service there for the local community.

As well as treating guests to a contemporary arts-based performance by current and past staff members, the event provided a wonderful opportunity to network and catch up with old friends.

'It was really fabulous to hear all the diverse and creative ways that people who have graduated from the course over 20 years have expanded their work as art therapists into different areas of health, education and the community and government sector, and to see how strong their relationships are with each other, as well as with other people in the field,' Linnell says.

upcoming events 2014

20 JUNE	Celebrate Hawkesbury Luncheon	uws.edu.au/CelebrateHawkesbury
SEPTEMBER	Spring UWS Graduation Ceremonies	uws.edu.au/NewAlumni
COMING LATER IN 2014	UWS Law Alumni Occasional Address	uws.edu.au/LawAlumni

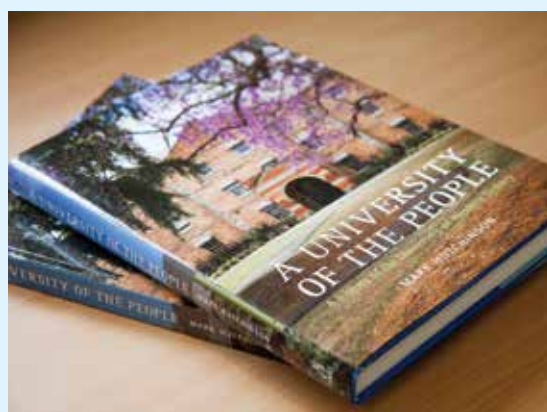
FIND OUT MORE

Look online at uws.edu.au/AlumniEvents or contact the UWS Alumni Unit at alumni@uws.edu.au for more information

stay connected

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.

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS, JOIN CHAPTERS AND STAY CONNECTED ONLINE AT
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