

GradLife

grounded
in the
business

Hungry Jack's
new CEO
Aaron McKie

inside

TALKING TALKBACK

Paul Murray takes on a new challenge at Sydney radio station 2UE

EXPRESSING HIDDEN FEELINGS THROUGH ART

Sonia's insights on art therapy

FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE

Deng Thiak Adut's story

BRINGING THE GIANTS TO GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY

The AFL has a brand-new NSW team – the GWS GIANTS

GRADLIFE BENEFITS FOR ALUMNI

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It is exciting to see members of the extended family of University of Western Sydney Alumni making a significant impact on their world. Each issue of *GradLife* contains news of graduates from a broad range of academic disciplines who have excelled in their chosen fields.

In this issue business graduate Aaron McKie, who was recently appointed to the position of Chief Executive Officer for the Hungry Jack's chain of restaurants, reveals how UWS prepared him for his new role.

UWS Law graduate Deng Thiak Adut is one of only a handful of New South Wales solicitors who was born in the Sudan. Deng shares his remarkable story and tells how he is using his connections to help the Sudanese community.

Our oldest known UWS alumnus, 96 year old agriculture graduate Max Woods, made the trip from his home in Glen Innes to the Hawkesbury campus to re-live fond memories from his days at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College.

UWS Alumni sports fans will enjoy a sneak preview of the new Greater Western Sydney AFL team as it prepares to make its mark in the 2012 national AFL competition.

I encourage you to register your interest for membership of the UWS GradLife Benefits program, through the UWS Alumni site, and enjoy the range of benefits offered free of charge to members.

I hope you will enjoy reading about our graduate's achievements and continue to stay connected to your university.



Professor Janice Reid AM
Vice-Chancellor
University of Western Sydney



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Vice-Chancellor
University of Western Sydney

Grounded in the business

HUNGRY JACK'S NEWLY APPOINTED AUSTRALIAN CEO IS UWS GRADUATE AARON MCKIE. HERE HE SHARES THE SECRET OF HIS REMARKABLE RISE THROUGH THE RANKS TO BURGER KING.

Aaron McKie's career at fast food retailer Hungry Jack's received a boost when he studied a Master of Commerce (Human Resource Management and Industrial Relations) at UWS. When he began this part-time degree, the busy father of three was a state operations manager for Hungry Jack's, where he had worked for 16 years. Following his graduation in 2010, he was appointed CEO earlier this year.

Having been in his former role for four years, Aaron was encouraged to return to study to open more doors in his career by the Hungry Jack's HR manager, who was also a lecturer at UWS. By this time, he knew the Hungry Jack's business 'inside and out' and was able to devote some time to study.

Aaron completed a Bachelor of Business in property economics back in 1996 (while working at Hungry Jack's) following a four-year stint in the army after high school. He says returning to academia after a long period away was quite a culture shock for the 35-year-old mature age student – 'but one that I relished and thoroughly enjoyed more than I ever thought I would'.

The support of his employer in prioritising his study in the context of his busy life was also important. Aaron's mentor encouraged him to put all distractions to the side if he had sat down to study – even if a restaurant was on fire.

'[He said] everything else could be delegated and someone else could manage short-term issues. So I really took from him, as a mentor late in his career, that this was really important and that from a company [point of] view, this was something that was really valuable. And because it took priority, that was how I approached it.'

Having a Masters in HRM/IR (as opposed to an MBA) is probably unique for someone in his position, says Aaron, and something that is appealing to employers.

'For me, the program hasn't been just about developing the numbers in Hungry Jack's, it's about developing staff leadership capabilities, and having a qualification with a major in human resources is definitely guiding the steps that I'm taking in the business.'

With his new qualification and position, Aaron says he now has the capacity to move the business forward into growth opportunities that he had identified in the past, such as making Hungry Jack's more convenient, delivering a better menu, and broadening the company's customer base.

Returning to university also gave Aaron the chance to interact with colleagues from a diverse cultural background, and to be exposed to different industries and markets.

'Having the opportunity to associate with international students brought out a lot of different perspectives and points of view that I didn't have, so it really helped me become a lot more commercial.'

The conversations during breaks were also a great source of information to take back into the workforce, he says.

'I've still got notes from the downtime conversations. I've used some of the student's ideas, especially with certain programs within the business.'

It was during this period that Aaron began formulating the Hungry Jack's 'school of excellence' program (which launched in mid-October). At this stage the program enables senior management and senior level managers to do a two-year diploma course and through a consulting

company, get some face to face, 'real-life' commercial based learning.

'It's a program that I spent a lot of time thinking about when I was at uni, so I'm really happy to see that come to fruition.'

Aaron says his studies at university also reinforced for him that he was on the right path. Seeing that his approach – which had previously been instinctive – was in line with current business strategies and 'new age' management methods also provided confirmation that he was on the right track.

'I always knew I had the capacity and the skill but it was good to align it through the academic work I was doing. It was quite reassuring on a weekly basis to know that what I was doing was right.'

Aaron says having lecturers with real-world experiences that were easy to relate to on a business and personal level was important. Inspiration also came from studying a culmination of diverse subjects that interlinked across the two years.

'Putting all that together and using that information as a whole was the key benefit for me.'

What has been particularly helpful from his studies at UWS are practices around Human Resource Management such as engaging the workforce, understanding wellbeing programs, understanding the psyche of people – what they respond to and what they don't – and how to manage a large geographical area with local issues.

In his everyday working life, Aaron says one of the big things for him is having a sign in his office that asks, 'What am I doing today to make my manager's job easier'.

'I guess coming through the ranks makes me quite unique within Hungry Jack's and my owner says



that I was born under a broiler (which flame grills our patties), and that's reference to having that grounding in the business. I can still run shifts, I can still make burgers, I can still serve customers, so I can still man all those stations, which helps in the decision-making process as a CEO.'

Coming up through the ranks has also allowed Aaron the fortune of observing his Hungry Jack's colleagues progress within the company.

'A lot of them are still around and a lot of them occupy management positions, some occupy senior management positions, and it's just great to see that the people that you've nurtured and put a lot of your time and sweat equity into are now occupying positions for the betterment of the company.'

He says it's the people who work for him that make him a good leader and his ability to extract the best out of those people without them being influenced by his position.

'That's the key to leadership. Don't over-complicate it.'

His advice to someone returning to study is to ensure they understand the balance between home, study and work. 'Be prepared to do the hard yards, anything's possible – you've just got to put your mind to it. It is a lot about perspiration and inspiration. Have a positive attitude with a will to succeed and to finish.'

And if you want to succeed in your field, Aaron says you need to have a degree of integrity and respect for others and treat people how you wish to be treated yourself.

'Work with abundance of heart. Be open to other peoples' ideas. Respect people's positions without being influenced by it. Take on new knowledge. Take on new challenges. Have fun. Be proud of what you do.'

» For more information on Postgraduate study at UWS visit www.uws.edu.au/postgraduate

Taking on talkback

Heralded as a forerunner of a new generation in talkback radio, radio and TV host Paul Murray (UWS Bachelor of Arts – Humanities) has taken on a new challenge this year – hosting the drive program on Sydney radio station 2UE.

The UWS graduate joined 2UE in February 2011 as part of an all-new line-up designed to change the station's approach to talk radio as part of its relaunch.

Charged with delivering 'a fast-paced breakdown of current affairs each day', it is a more serious turn from his last role as co-host of the drive shift on Triple M.

Paul previously worked in the newsrooms of 2GB, 2SM and Nova 96.9.

Rounding out his schedule as surely one of the busiest men in Australia media, Paul also presents a nightly prime-time talk show on Sky News, Paul Murray Live.

Growing up in Sydney's north-west, Paul completed a Bachelor of Arts (Humanities) part-time at UWS. But he wasn't always keen on going to university, having not enjoyed school.

'My girlfriend, and her wonderfully inspiring mum, convinced me to go to a UWS Open Day. By the end of the afternoon, I was in love with the campus and intrigued by the course,' he says. 'My years at UWS, the people I learnt from and the students I learnt with brought, without doubt, the turning point of my life. The course broadened every possible horizon and informed my way of thinking about virtually everything to this day.'

But his passion for the media started much earlier. Paul says in the same way some kids just knew they wanted to play cricket for Australia, he knew he always wanted to work in radio. Even as a child, he listened to talkback on his clock radio at home, and he is a self-confessed 'radio tragic and news junkie'.

When he began working in newsrooms, this led to an amazing array of experiences on the job.

'By 25, I'd been to court, a federal budget lock-up, seen people shot on the street, talked to rock stars at

the Arias, and done plenty of one-on-ones with the Prime Minister.'

One of his best moments as a reporter was during the 2001 Sydney bushfires.

'Then-Prime Minister John Howard recognised I was a local boy during the Marsfield fires and spoke to me before the rest of the pack,' he says.

His journalistic work on this event, as well as the federal election and the collapse of Ansett, was acknowledged with the Brian White Award for radio reporter of the year in 2002.

By contrast, crime reporting was always his least favourite task, 'because of the obvious unpleasantness, and court stories, because of the consequences of getting it wrong'.

Paul's days now are a whirlwind of digging into the news of the day to plan his shows and then a hectic afternoon and evening of presenting.

Paul also loves using Twitter as a tool to keep up with what's going on in the world of news and current affairs, and tweets as part of his own show.

Already a seasoned media veteran in his early 30s, Paul believes that to succeed in this competitive arena, there are some critical attributes you need.

'For me it is an ability to see and assess what's in front of you, but be more interested in the margins. I also think you need to be very aware of the way you deal with others. This is a craft, not an ego trip.'

And for those wanting to forge a career as journalists or broadcasters, be willing to work for free, he says.

'You'd be surprised how often bosses don't look further than the room for a solution. Do whatever you can to get into that room. And when you get there, take time to talk to people who've been there longer than you. I'd also be realistic about what you can achieve in the first couple of years. They don't hire newsreaders fresh out of uni.'



Margaret's passion counts

UWS graduate Dr Margaret Drever has combined her passions for the pursuit of learning and community involvement in a stellar career in the accounting profession. Her current role, as President of the NSW Division of CPA Australia, marks the culmination of her academic and professional journey.

After spending seven years as a stay-at-home mum to three children, Margaret worked at Boral for 13 years as an accountant. 'My role was to look after the Port Kembla Slag Plant, reconcile the wages, pay the salaried staff, and maintain the asset register, which was about \$127 million. Technology changed so much during this time. Manual accounting for taxation moved from A3 sheets to computerisation,' Margaret says.

While at Boral, she studied a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting at UWS, graduating in 1994, and then became a TAFE accounting teacher.

'Studying this degree opened doors for me to follow my goals,' she says.

Seeking further education, Margaret completed a Master of Economics with specialisations in Accounting and Entrepreneurship at the University of New England, and then began what would be an 11-year stint with Southern Cross University, first as an Associate Lecturer in 1996.

During her time at Southern Cross, Margaret had the opportunity to conduct workshops overseas in Hong Kong and Shanghai – and some challenges she experienced led to an unexpected opportunity.

'International students struggled in understanding the concepts in accounting theory. I started to put together mind maps in order for them to get the flow of the materials. I had a conversation with Wiley Publishers about how to address accounting theory in a different way,' she says. 'They believed in me and we went ahead and produced a workbook in 2004, then a textbook in 2007 that included mind maps.'

Setting an even higher goal for herself, Margaret then undertook a Doctor of Philosophy, completing it in 2006 with a thesis entitled 'Determinants of Small Business Liquidity in Australia', and later

became the Director of Accounting and Business Programs at Charles Sturt University Study Centre, and an Adjunct Associate Professor with Charles Sturt University – a role she still holds today.

Margaret has a passion for small business research, and supervises a PhD student investigating the relationship between banks and small business. Over the years, she has also been involved with Small Enterprise Association of Australia and New Zealand (SEAAANZ) and International Council of Small Business (ICSB) conferences.

Margaret's association with CPA Australia began in 1994 when she was a member. She later became the Campus Liaison Officer for SCU's Coffs Harbour campus, and was the Branch Chair for Northern Rivers for two years. In 2004, she was elected to the NSW Divisional Council of CPA Australia, and was made a Fellow of the association in 2006.

'Through my work with CPA Australia I was a liaison officer for the Small Business Committee. Today, I am part of the NSW Division of CPA Australia SME Taskforce,' Margaret says.

While she left full-time employment in 2009 to spend quality time with her frail mother and work part-time, Margaret maintained her links with the industry bodies. In 2010 she was elected as a Deputy President of the NSW Division of CPA Australia, and was then voted as President in 2011.

'It has been a privilege to be part of NSW Divisional Council of CPA Australia over the last seven years,' she says.

Among the highlights of her time as President this year with CPA Australia, Margaret says, were meeting Max Walker at its Newcastle Convention and talking to him about cricket, shaking the hand of Neil Armstrong – the first man to walk on the moon – at a celebration of 125 years for CPA Australia, being involved with the Board of Studies to develop



the HSC Financial Services Curriculum, being involved in the launch of the TAFE Associate Degree, and seeing her mentee complete the CPA program.

'I found that teaching and mentoring go hand in hand to foster students' wellbeing. I remember all too well what it was like as an undergraduate student in a sea of other undergraduate students and only being a number. Having mentors on campus provides an opportunity for students to enjoy networking from day one,' she says.

In terms of what the future holds for Margaret, she says she is looking forward to providing service to the community, enjoying what life has to offer, and being available for whatever else comes her way – whether that is writing more books, working at a university again or taking on board positions.

Margaret's advice to others? 'Be creative – use the skills you have available. Have integrity, as your ethics will show you the way. Show leadership and treat people the way you want to be treated. Mentor others – along my journey I have had mentors or people that motivated me. Listen to others, as there are always two sides to a story. And be organised, you will be surprised what you can achieve!'

» For more information on Accounting courses at UWS visit:
www.uws.edu.au/accounting/soa

A life imprint

One of the most senior Alumni from the Hawkesbury Agricultural College (HAC) returned to his old campus this year to tour UWS Hawkesbury and visit the archives.

Now almost 97, Max Woods attended HAC from 1938 to 1940, and it left an indelible imprint on his life, both in terms of his professional path, and the experiences that shaped him as a young man.

His family says that after each festive family dinner, Max would regale them with his escapades while at HAC.

And what escapades they were. Having spent a couple of years after he finished school working on a farm, Max decided he needed some further education, and entered HAC as a mature age student at 22. He represented his cohort on the Student Representative Council.

In those days, the 'motting' ceremonies were an important initiation into college life, and while it was frowned upon to subject an older man such as Max to some of the indignities wrought on the other students – such as having to measure the oval in handspans, being thrown out of bed and dropped in pig muck – he felt the process was an important leveller.

'It was a tradition that welded the College into a cohesive body, there was no question about that,' Max says.

On his recent visit to the archives, Max was able to view his own name in the motting book, dated 1938.

'That was the traditional book that was stored at Hawkesbury College with the names of many, many students, covered in tears and sweat and dirt.'

As all the students boarded on campus, the College dining room was also the site of some shenanigans.

'Occasionally mayhem would break loose in the dining room. Especially when we had peaches with a stone in them, they were able to project them from one end of the table to the other. Boys will be boys ... Hawkesbury was a wonderful place.'

Max forged lifelong friendships at HAC, even though once they completed their course, the young graduates scattered far and wide, careers interrupted by war.

'We were a group of fellows that were tangled up in the war, and quite a few of them went off to war and didn't come back. They were fragmented years,' he says.

Max himself spent four years in the Army, and was based in New Guinea for two and a half years from 1942. On his return to Australia, he spent time in the agricultural and food technology division of the Army, looking at the quality of food for the troops.

'They wanted food technologists, so I applied and went along to do the course at Sydney University,' Max says.

After his time in the Army, he joined the Department of Agriculture, alongside many other HAC alumni.

'Hawkesbury Agricultural College was one of the keystones of agriculture in those days. Sydney University was too, but there were a great number of people who had been to Hawkesbury and went into the Department of Agriculture, and became soil conservationists and agronomists.'

With a strong interest in soil conservation, Max went into the Soil Conservation Service for a number of years, and then won a soldier settler block of 1200 acres of grazing land at Swan Vale, where he and wife Gwen lived and raised a family for nearly 30 years.

'It had no fences on it, not even boundary fences, but as the years went by I had a lot of soil conservation and fencing work done on the property, and it was in pretty good order when I finished with it,' Max says.

As an environmentalist, a passionate advocate for soil conservation and the

sustainable use of energy in agriculture, Max became the first producer member on the Faculty of Rural Science at the University of New England in 1966.

This was an association that was maintained for many years – Max was made an inaugural Honorary Fellow of the university in 1991, and an Honorary Master of Rural Science in 2004.

Max also worked on the problems facing the land at a local level – way back in the 1950s, Max, together with another local farmer Jack Black, set about urging the community together to help highlight and tackle landcare problems. This then led to the establishment of the Macintyre Development Unit (MDU 2000), which was formally convened as a landcare organisation in 1974, and has functioned ever since.

While Max had come across fellow HAC Alumni during the course of his professional life, it wasn't until 1984 – 44 years after they had left HAC – that a group of 15 1940 graduates and their partners started to hold annual reunions. These gatherings, held in country towns from Glen Innes in northern NSW to the Victorian snowfields, continued until 2004.

Although he has retired from farming and grazing, Max has maintained his professional interests. As recently as 2006, Max appeared before a House of Representatives Standing Committee to argue the need to reinstate specialist soil conservation services, and he still travels from his home at Glen Innes to Inverell for monthly meetings of the MDU 2000. The passion that was sparked at HAC all those years ago still remains.

‘Hawkesbury Agricultural College was one of the keystones of agriculture ... a great number of us became soil conservationists and agronomists.’



A portrait of Sonia Stace, a woman with short brown hair, smiling and looking slightly to the right. She is wearing a blue button-down shirt and a gold necklace with a small pendant. The background is a blurred brick wall.

Expressing hidden feelings through art

A challenging but ultimately rewarding therapeutic relationship with a young hospital patient during her final internship prompted art therapist, social worker and UWS graduate Sonia Stace to share her experiences and insights with other therapists.

Her journal article, 'Confusion and containment: Art therapy with an adolescent hospitalised with paediatric neuropsychiatric Systemic Lupus Erythematosus' was published in the International Journal of Art Therapy in June this year.

Sonia studied the Master of Art Therapy at UWS, adding to other professional qualifications including a Bachelor of Social Work (First Class Honours) and a Diploma of Statutory Child Protection.

The journal article came about when she was working with several children and young people at a children's hospital during her final internship. Struggling with uncertainty regarding the value of her therapeutic relationship with one particular young person, 'Wendy', Sonia found the lack of information about art therapy and Wendy's medical condition, paediatric neuropsychiatric Systemic Lupus Erythematosus made this even more difficult.

'Wendy displayed limited non-verbal and verbal communication, and her presentation differed from week to week and often fluctuated during each session, so it was necessary for me to help Wendy engage with art therapy,' Sonia says. 'Art therapy assisted to provide a safe space where engagement and containment were enabled, Wendy's difficult feelings were managed, themes emerged, and a meaningful therapeutic relationship developed.'

Having achieved a good outcome through her work with Wendy, Sonia wanted to share this experience with others, in the hope that it would assist in their therapeutic work, and having her article published in an international journal not only ensured it would reach a broad audience of art therapists, but also boosted her professional credibility.

Now working in private practice, Sonia offers a range of services based on the art therapy and social work professions, including therapy/counselling for individuals, siblings, families and groups, and professional supervision for other art therapists and social workers. She also locums as an art therapist at a private mental health hospital and works part-time as a social worker in child protection.

Art therapy is now being used throughout a wide array of health services, including mental and medical health, aged care, disability services and child protection. It's not about creating impressive artworks, and people don't have to be artistic to benefit.

'I use art therapy to, for instance, improve people's insight, process any past trauma and resolve inner conflicts. I generally invite people to explore their feelings using the art materials, or to make an artwork about how they are feeling or an issue they would like to address,' Sonia says.

'I think part of the reason art therapy is effective is because the person can

see their artwork while its meanings emerge (or 'feel' their artwork, if the person is visually impaired). This can be very powerful as the person can actually 'look at' the meanings in their artwork. The meanings that emerge can help the person gain insight and process their feeling and experiences.

'I have also found that people who have found it difficult to verbalise their feelings have shown their art therapy artworks, which hold such powerful images, to other health professionals (and significant people) to help them explain how they are feeling.'

Sonia now plans to author or co-author a book involving case studies of some of the children, young people and adults she and her colleagues have worked with.

'I find working as an art therapist to be very rewarding. It is particularly rewarding assisting people to express feelings that may have been "hidden" in their subconscious, or that they may have had difficulty verbalising. I feel honoured to witness the insight the person gains in relation to their self, and how the art assists them to process their experiences, thoughts and feelings.'

» For more information on studying the Master of Art Therapy at UWS visit www.uws.edu.au/postgraduate

Fighting for justice



Deng Thiak Adut overcame a stolen childhood in a war-torn country to study law and become one of the only Sudanese solicitors in New South Wales.

Not only did UWS provide Deng's legal degree – he graduated in 2009 – but it also offered the opportunity to provide legal support to members of the Sudanese community, something he has continued to pursue with dedication.

Deng's story is extraordinary – born in the Sudan, at age four he was taken involuntarily to Ethiopia, and walked over 1000km. In 1990, he began year one at school, but as war broke out in Ethiopia, he was unable to complete it and returned to the Sudan – another 1000km walk.

At age 10, he was conscripted into the Red Army as a child soldier and over the next three years was wounded several times, before his brother was able to smuggle him out of the country.

Deng arrived in Australia in 1998 as a refugee, and after undergoing a massive adjustment to his new home, learned English, finished school and began his law degree at UWS.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the social justice emphasis of law at UWS was highly appealing to Deng. 'I enjoyed [the University's focus on] advocating for social justice, encouraging students to take on broader community issues and continuing to help students in greater need,' Deng says.

'I believe that the most essential aspect of studying at UWS is the community; we are a very true multicultural university. As a former student of UWS, I understand that UWS' interest is always to support social justice through a meaningful law course and beyond.'

Deng now works with Grays Legal, and is most interested in the areas of criminal law and care and protection.

While studying at UWS, Deng provided support for Sudanese people at the Blacktown Local Court through the Sudanese Court Support program, which was part of the Pro Bono Students Australia volunteer program. Proficient in Juba Arabic and Dinka, Deng and fellow students assisted clients by translating and explaining court processes, and providing referrals to legal centres and other support services.

Deng has continued this work, assisting members of the Sudanese at Blacktown Court every second Wednesday. He initiated a weekly 'Think Tank' meeting with Superintendent Mark Wright, the NSW Police Blacktown Local Area Commander, and also runs a weekly workshop on Sundays for South Sudanese people appearing at court that week.

'I offer free legal advice and assist with the completion of court documentation, as well as information on the Australian legal system generally, court protocols and what to expect at court, the impact of a criminal record, new cultural and societal expectations of Australia,' Deng says.

'In addition, I assist Sudanese in civil matters such as motor vehicle accidents, debts owed, debt collection, victims' compensation, and criminal law matters such as drink driving, traffic offences, Court Attendance Notices and domestic violence incidents.'

Through this work, Deng has helped more than 200 people, guiding them through the legal process. Interviewed by the Sydney Morning Herald recently, he said many don't understand what is happening in court, and their language

difficulties can make already difficult interactions with the police much worse.

Superintendent Wright told the SMH that Deng's work has improved relations between the African community and the police – rather than starting from a place of fear because of the atrocities they have experienced or been exposed to at the hands of those in uniform in the past, with Deng's help they can better understand the environment they live in and the criminal justice system they must abide by.

Doing such a lot of volunteer work on top of an already busy schedule as a solicitor may seem like too much for some, but it brings Deng a great deal of personal satisfaction.

'It is important because it does feel good, especially when I am not doing it for money. It feels good because it is my responsibility to my community and the Australian community in general. Besides, I could never have become a lawyer in the Sudan so it is the greatest privilege to have achieved so much in the shortest time of my life. I am grateful always.'

As for the future, Deng hopes to continue work and return to South Sudan. He says he is excited because UWS senior lecturer in law, Dr Michelle Sanson, is currently working in South Sudan.

'I hope to become an arbitrator in water resources and environmental planning law. I am also hoping to go back to my second home, teach the Australian way of life, and I wish to encourage Australians to come and help rebuild my country.'

» For more information on studying Law at UWS visit www.myfuture.uws.edu.au

An interview with Lisa Giacomelli

Lisa Giacomelli graduated from UWS in 1993 with a Bachelor of Social Science (Youth Work). This year, Lisa made a decision to include the University of Western Sydney in her will. Lisa's bequest will establish a scholarship in memory of her grandmother, Dora Giacomelli.

We caught up with Lisa recently to discuss her gift and to find out what motivated her to make such a significant commitment.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE YOU GRADUATED FROM UWS?

After uni I started working as a local youth worker and then went on to complete my law degree while working full time.

I've spent over a decade working in local government, with a short stint in consulting. Right now I manage community and recreation services for Canterbury City Council which includes youth services, community development and recreation facilities.

I love being in a role where I can really make a difference for individuals and communities and although that is my personal ethos, I feel it also resonates with the ethos of the University and it was a strong theme throughout my time at UWS.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO STUDY AT UWS?

I grew up in North Rocks, near Parramatta and went to school locally. Back then, Western Sydney was fairly parochial so most of my life happened pretty close to home. The idea of leaving the area to study was, quite frankly, terrifying. I'm also the first in my family to complete a university degree so the whole process was quite overwhelming.

At that stage the UWS Bankstown campus was the only place offering a specialisation in youth work. I remember Dad driving me to my enrolment and the two of us walking the campus together. As we left, he turned and said to me 'You're really going to do well here. This place is for you.' He was right!

WHAT DID YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR UWS EXPERIENCE?

I really felt at home at UWS. Other students were just like me and shared similar life experiences. I remember laughing a lot. I was on a small campus so everyone knew everyone; there was a great sense of camaraderie.

UWS provided an environment where I could flourish. I was encouraged to challenge the traditional assumptions and critically engage with the world around me. It was great to finally find a place to locate and further explore my world view. I really felt as if I 'belonged' at UWS.

I would never have gone on to further study without my UWS experience and the confidence it gave me. UWS really set me up well and made me believe in my academic potential.

My ability to walk confidently through the world and feel as though my opinion is valued is thanks to my education at UWS.

'Education is so important and can make such a huge difference to someone's life. By giving to UWS I can have a direct impact on the lives of lots of people.'

WHAT KEEPS YOU IN WESTERN SYDNEY?

I've always worked in Western Sydney because it's where the action is.

It's got one of the largest and most diverse populations. As a community worker, you couldn't ask for a more dynamic, interesting and exciting work environment. The people of Western Sydney face loads of challenges but they are incredibly resilient and have lots to give. I feel incredibly privileged to work in partnership with them.

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO ESTABLISH A BEQUEST?

A few experiences I had recently prompted me to think about the difference I will make in my lifetime but also after I'm gone. The idea of establishing something that lives beyond me is really appealing. I want to create change for good, now and later, and to support people that, for a range of reasons, could otherwise not access such support.

I've planned well for the people around me and while I'm not particularly wealthy I want to leave a legacy with a gift that reflects my values and the type of world I want to create. That's why I've established a perpetual scholarship through a gift in my will.

WHY SUPPORT UWS?

Giving to UWS seemed quite obvious when I thought about it. Education is so important and can make such a huge difference to someone's life. By giving to UWS I can have a direct impact on the lives of lots of people.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO GIVE TO SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UWS STUDENTS?

My gift to UWS is in memory of my grandmother. She was an immigrant to Australia from Italy, following my grandfather out here, not knowing what she was in for. But she persevered, raising a large, happy family and creating a home filled with love and compassion. She always made sure that other people were looked after.

My scholarship will support local women from disadvantaged backgrounds in honour of my grandmother. I want to help women in that 'but for' category – but for financial need, but for putting their

family first, but for a lack of support.

I want my gift to set these women up to make a fundamental difference to their community. I want to encourage them to pay it forward; to translate the opportunity I am giving them into opportunities for themselves and for others.

Each recipient of the scholarship will receive a letter from me outlining this rationale and explaining my hopes for them. I want them to be able to hear this through my voice and hopefully be inspired to achieve more for themselves and their communities.

DO YOU HAVE A MESSAGE TO OTHER ALUMNI ABOUT GIVING?

I think it's important for Alumni to consider the value education has had in their life. For me, it's about how education has affected my ability to engage with others, to experience the world, to articulate ideas, to think critically, to develop a real world view.

Why should only a select few of us be the ones to access this experience? Imagine the society we could create if everyone had that opportunity.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT GIVING TO UWS AT WWW.UWS.EDU.AU/GIVING



SCHOLARSHIP SNAPSHOT

Dean Zinghini



Dean is a second year UWS Medical Student and scholarship recipient. Dean is 100% committed to his community, echoed by his desire to one day practise in his local area.

‘When I finish, the most beneficial impact I will have on a community is to work in a regional setting as a doctor. Even though it presents more challenges it will be more rewarding.’

Ashleigh Markowski



Ashleigh is a third year Design student at UWS and scholarship recipient. She is also an ambassador in her community. Ashleigh uses her free time to mentor secondary school students thinking of applying to university.

‘Helping out and volunteering in my local community is really important – I want to inspire others just like my scholarship inspires me.’

Opinion piece:

ten years on from the Tampa – refugees denied fundamental rights

UWS Law School Professor Michael Head reviews the controversial Malaysia Solution.

Inflated claims have been made by some lawyers about the August 31 High Court ruling on the refugee 'Malaysian Solution' – such as that the court has become a 'people's court' and a de facto court of human rights.

In reality, the court's decision was an extremely narrow one. It leaves in place the system of 'onshore' detention within Australia – a system that denies fundamental legal and democratic rights to asylum seekers, such as to seek political protection without being penalised, and not to be detained without trial.

It should be recalled that in 2001, the High Court permitted the forced removal of the Tampa refugees to Nauru, and in 2004 the court ruled that the government could keep refugees detained within onshore Australian detention centres indefinitely, even in violation of international law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The latest High Court decision was based on an interpretation of specific sections of the Migration Act and the Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act.

In particular, section 198A(3) of the Migration Act was interpreted to reflect obligations under the international Refugee Convention. These obligations are minimal: not to deport someone who is officially classified as a refugee to face political persecution and not to punish people making protection applications.

As several judges made clear, the ruling does not prohibit other versions of so-called offshore processing, as long as they satisfy these very limited requirements.

The High Court decision leaves intact mandatory detention, that is, the imprisonment of all asylum seekers

arriving in boats – a punitive regime that, in effect, violates the Refugee Convention by seeking to deter refugees from exercising their right to seek asylum. Australia is the only country to maintain such compulsory detention, which was first introduced by a Labor government in the 1990s.

Much of the commentary surrounding the court's ruling was guided by the conception that detention is acceptable as long as the Australian government remains in control of the process. This standpoint ignores the fact that the treatment of asylum seekers in Australian facilities is punitive and degrading, and has caused immense personal suffering.

Across Australia's detention network, incidents of self harm, most often through attempted suicide or mass hunger strikes, have escalated. According to statistics obtained by the Ombudsman from the Immigration Department, there were 1132 instances of actual or threatened self-harm in 12 months – an average of three per day. In just one week during July, there were 50 such incidents.

In line with the reaction of successive governments to any challenge by incarcerated refugees to the denial of their fundamental rights, the federal government has responded with repression, including the use of tear gas and rubber bullets. Desperate protests by inmates, attempting to draw public attention to their plight, have been met with the arbitrary removal of demonstrators to high-security prisons and threats by government ministers to retaliate by stripping refugees of their right to seek asylum.

The experience of the past two decades suggests that the conditions inside the detention centres will only worsen as asylum seekers wait longer

and longer for decisions on their visa applications. The High Court late last year held that detainees on Christmas Island could not be denied access to the courts. Given the numbers of detainees and the lengthy nature of the official and judicial processes, however, many are likely to remain imprisoned, waiting months, if not years, for appeal outcomes.

The government's move to circumvent the latest ruling reveals a contempt for basic legal norms. Its draft legislation effectively repudiated the requirements of the Refugee Convention, placed all power in the personal hands of the immigration minister to declare any country an 'offshore processing country' in the 'national interest' and precluded any overriding vote by parliament.

More fundamentally, the entire political establishment, including the Greens, advocate some form of 'border protection' regime, which ultimately means using military force, in one way or another, either to physically 'turn back the boats' or to otherwise block refugees. Intrinsicly, it denies the right to flee persecution and seek asylum, which means nothing if countries shut their borders.

Political and media commentators generally attribute this policy to widespread public hostility to refugees. An interesting opinion poll conducted by Fairfax Media, however, found just 25 percent support for 'offshore processing'.

To the extent that anti-refugee sentiment exists among certain layers of the population, it is largely the result of political and media campaigns aimed at fomenting xenophobic fears about the country being 'under siege' or facing 'invasion' by hordes of aliens responsible for driving 'Australians'

‘... the court’s decision was an extremely narrow one. It leaves in place a system that denies fundamental legal and democratic rights to asylum seekers’

Professor Michael Head



out of jobs, lowering their wages and cutting their living standards. Such rhetoric has always been used in times of economic crisis to deflect domestic discontent away from the real culprits – the political and ruling elite and the profit system itself.

Not only the right to asylum but a more basic democratic principle is at stake in this issue: that all people should have the elementary right to live and work with full citizenship rights in any country of their choosing. Without that fundamental right they can be denuded of virtually any other civil and political right.



TEACHER OF THE YEAR MAKES CHEMISTRY COOL

If anyone can help you understand the logic in a seemingly illogical chemical equation, UWS Associate Professor Roy Tasker can. Now, the university teacher who has spent over 25 years helping students unlock the mysteries of chemistry has been named the Prime Minister's Australian University Teacher of the Year.

Associate Professor Tasker received his award from the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) in a ceremony held at the Sydney Opera House in August.

The ALTC's Awards for University Teaching recognise university teachers across the country that have made an outstanding contribution to enhancing the quality of learning and teaching in higher education, and is the largest and most prestigious award ceremony of its kind in the sector.

Associate Professor Tasker, from the UWS School of Natural Sciences, has dedicated his career to transforming first-year students' understanding, knowledge and appreciation of science through his engaging teaching methods and his pioneering 'VisChem' – Visualising Chemistry – multimedia learning project.

His methods have enabled countless chemistry students to

conceptualise the invisible world of molecules – no mean feat.

By using simulation and animation technology, he's able to demonstrate how this dynamic molecular world has an impact on everything around us, such as the way in which ice melts, or how haemoglobin – a 'molecular handbag' according to Associate Professor Tasker – picks up and carries oxygen around the human body in such a way that it appears to have an instinctive intelligence all of its own.

He says he feels immensely proud and privileged to be the recipient of such a prestigious award, which he says is a great acknowledgement of the importance of learning and teaching in universities.

Even after 25 years Associate Professor Tasker says he still gets a great buzz from standing up in front of a group of first-year undergraduates and seeing the moment when a student who might be struggling with a challenging idea or difficult concept finally has their breakthrough.

'I've had students who were so scared of chemistry they were almost in tears, but by breaking the concepts down and helping them to visualise what's happening at the molecular level, it opens them up to a whole new world and helps them to see how all those daunting, formal chemical symbols and equations fit together,' he says.

TELEHEALTH RESEARCH: THE THRIL IS AT UWS

The future of healthcare is being created and tested in a unique simulation lab at the University of Western Sydney. The Telehealth Research and Innovation Lab (THRIL) will provide solutions for delivering state-of-the-art health monitoring for remote communities and for patients in their own homes.

The THRIL facility, at the Campbelltown campus, was officially opened in September by UWS Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Andrew Cheetham.

The THRIL includes a furnished home lounge room peppered with sophisticated sensors feeding data about its occupants to researchers in a control room next door. The THRIL's sophisticated computer network and 'smart home' space can be easily reconfigured to test different technologies and scenarios.

Adjunct Associate Professor Klaus Veil, from the UWS School of Computing and Mathematics, says in real life the home could be thousands of kilometres from medical staff and could be linked to multiple healthcare providers – each with specialist knowledge.

'Telehealth has the potential to deliver sophisticated healthcare services right in people's homes for a fraction of the cost of hospital or aged care facility stays. For the first time, rural and remote communities could also receive a level of healthcare, including specialist care, that is comparable to services offered in large metropolitan areas,' he says.

Technology developed in the THRIL facility could provide assistance for aged care and independent living, chronic disease management and rehabilitation.

Professor in Health Informatics at the UWS School of Computing and Mathematics and research leader for the THRIL facility, Professor Anthony Maeder, says governments have recognised the ageing population and growing numbers of patients with complex and chronic health problems will require new approaches to healthcare.

THROUGH THE RANKS

UWS graduates Racha Abboud and Anna Ford, whose story first appeared in GradLife in December 2009, have successfully risen through the ranks to be appointed Associates at leading western Sydney law firm, Coleman Greig Lawyers.

The promotion marks the culmination of many years of hard work for these legal eagles who are the first to rise to this level from the firm's Cadet Lawyer program with UWS.

The pair has spent over a decade with Coleman Greig – Racha in the corporate and commercial team, and Anna as a member of the litigation and dispute resolution team – since joining as fresh-faced first-year law students.

This appointment puts them on the right track to become leaders within the legal profession in Western Sydney, according to Coleman Greig Managing Principal Peter Stewart, also a UWS graduate.

'Their appointment is a great reflection on the cadet program and the opportunities it delivers for students studying law at UWS.'



Both Racha and Anna believe their UWS degree helped them to hit the ground running at Coleman Greig.

'I don't believe any other university has the close-knit relationship that UWS students have with their lecturers and supervisors,' Racha says.

Anna agrees, saying 'I was given the opportunity to develop my advocacy and research skills, as well as my ability

to apply legal principles to real-life case studies, from my first year of university – and those opportunities continued throughout the duration of my degree'.

Since being made Associates, Anna and Racha now have Principal appointments in their sights – and Racha also harbours aspirations to get back to academia ... this time on the other side of the lecturn.

'Over \$1 billion has already been earmarked for telehealth and eHealth development by the Australian Government. It is essential the technology and the systems used to monitor patients and send and interpret the data are developed in collaboration with those who will be using it.'

UWS APPOINTS NEW DEAN OF MEDICINE

One of the world's leading physiology scientists and researchers, Professor Annemarie Hennessy, has been appointed as the new Dean of the School of Medicine at UWS.

Professor Hennessy is a recognised international authority on complications during pregnancy, particularly preeclampsia. She has been the Foundation Chair of Medicine since the School's early beginnings, and has been teaching and mentoring UWS medical students since the first cohort began in 2007.

Professor Hennessy has held numerous leadership roles within hospitals and health services, particularly within Greater Western Sydney.

In her dual role as Professor of Medicine at UWS and Director of Medicine at Campbelltown and Camden Hospitals she led the establishment of



respiratory, neurology, gastroenterology, endocrinology services, as well as the expansion of the cardiology service.

Professor Hennessy is also heavily involved in community work, having jointly established with her patients the Preeclampsia Research Laboratories or PEARLS – a non-profit organisation that raises funds to purchase equipment and support ongoing research into preeclampsia, and to raise awareness for early detection and to help develop an early screening test for women.

UWS Vice-Chancellor Professor Janice Reid welcomes Professor Hennessy to the role, saying she will make a tremendous contribution to the School's medical education and research.

The Vice-Chancellor says Professor Hennessy particularly understands the health needs of the GWS region, and knows the importance of fostering a research culture that can partner with the region's health services and community to meet these health challenges in a collaborative way.



Winning the numbers game

As Kimberley Metals Limited makes its critical transition from resources explorer to precious and base metal producer, UWS graduate Richard Sheridan is along for the ride.

Richard was recently appointed as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and additional Company Secretary for the company, a subsidiary of CBH Resources.

Prior to joining Kimberley Metals, Richard was CFO of a national construction services business, Workforce International, which grew rapidly over four years from revenues of \$80 million to \$200 million.

'There was a large acquisition in that time, and it was also a market where infrastructure money was flowing in pretty readily,' Richard says.

He first got his grounding in the listed environment while financial controller and company secretary at transport and distribution provider Scott Corp.

'The CFO left so I was given some more responsibility to attend board meetings and learn a bit more about the CFO role.'

It was also this connection that smoothed the path to his current role – CBH Resources was a client of Scott Corp.

Richard kicked off his career with a Bachelor of Business and Commerce at UWS in 2000, and later gained a Master's Degree in Management from the Macquarie Graduate School of Management. He qualified as a CPA in 2003 and became a CPA Fellow this year.

He joins Kimberley Metals at an exciting time for the company, having just made its first shipment after listing in 2010.

'This business was just on the verge of production when I started. Not a lot of mining companies make the transition from listed junior explorer to production because they are two different skill sets and there is more risk,' he says.

While it's his first role at a resources company, the companies Richard

worked for previously had connections to manufacturing, transport and labour hire – all key areas in mining.

The skills shortage around mining also worked in Richard's favour to secure the role with Kimberley Metals, as ordinary experience in the sector is critical for these positions.

'Part of the reason I was able to get the job was because the expansion of mining in NSW had resulted in all the experienced CFOs been unavailable for a listed junior explorer, and there are only a limited number of people deemed qualified to work for a mining company,' Richard says.

'There are about 300 listed junior explorer mining companies, but only 20 or 30 would be making money. So there are a lot of niche companies where you could get your foot in the door.'

The new role has given Richard the opportunity to head west to Mineral Hill in Condobolin for site visits.

'I think you have to have experience of visiting the country and understanding the processes as the country approach to work is different to the city. You have to be in there, particularly creating jobs in the local community,' he says.

He also advocates a 'back to basics' approach for those aspiring to the CFO chair.

'You definitely need a grounding in the mechanics of financing and financial models. You really have to understand your balance sheets and the movements in and out to be able to present at the high level,' Richard says. 'Obviously you're presenting only very summarised data, but if you get hit with a question by a board member, if you're not able to communicate very quickly that you know what you're doing, then you can lose credibility.'

And for this solid grounding, nothing replaces on-the-ground experience

working in all areas of accounting – which his early career provided.

'Obviously a lot of people go into the big four accounting firms and have exposure to a lot of big companies but never actually prepare the accounts. I still think that is a fundamentally important skill. You have to have a level of knowledge in that area and you have to be able to communicate that to the business,' he says.

Working for a listed company also brings with it many additional compliance obligations, and though Richard learnt the ropes at Scott Corp, studying the listing rules, its shareholder distributions were relatively simple compared with Kimberley Metals. Within the mining context, there are additional rules around JORC for example, which define how companies can report on their resources.

'We have announcements going out every couple of days. I have access to a very experienced company secretary here, so I'm working with him at the moment, because it is such a complex environment. I'm doing the financial announcements and he is doing the continuous disclosure.'

Richard's experience across a number of corporate environments has shown him that for anyone aspiring to senior management, a solid base of accounting knowledge is incredibly helpful.

'It's hard for people without legal or accounting expertise who just go and do an MBA and expect to learn it all from one subject. It is our role to support CEOs who do not have formal finance training,' he says.

'I was lucky, we learnt the old methods and the nuts and bolts of how accounting all works. The accounting systems now have made it very easy to just run a report, but you don't want to get too far from the fundamentals.'

New forensic science facility a reality

It will be tougher for criminals to evade arrest and prosecution after the opening of a new joint forensic science facility with the NSW Police Force and the University of Western Sydney.

The Joint Facility for Forensic Science Research and Training is a unique million-dollar hub which can create crime scene scenarios in locations as diverse as a residential home, illegal drug lab, motor vehicle and outdoor area.

The NSW Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon. Michael Gallacher MLC, the NSW Police Commissioner Mr Andrew Scipione APM and UWS Vice-Chancellor Professor Janice Reid AM officially opened the facility in July.

Based at the UWS Hawkesbury campus, the building is the only purpose-built crime scene facility in Australia and its design draws inspiration from forensic facilities around the world. UWS students and scientists and NSW Police will use the facility for training and researching new forensic techniques.

Glenn Porter, Head of the Forensic Science program at UWS, says it's vital forensic science students experience realistic scenarios.

'In real life, a crime scene is extraordinarily complex and can be literally anywhere a crime has been committed. Students need to know what to look for and what to bag for further analysis. This new facility will help students become adept at assessing a crime scene and efficiently identifying the key pieces of evidence, says Mr Porter.

At the new facility crime scenes are staged by strategically planting key evidence in the scenario rooms. The students are given a brief and then evaluated on the way they navigate the crime scene and their effectiveness in locating the evidence which could range from a single strand of hair to a weapon hidden under a lounge cushion.

The scenario rooms are furnished as they would be in real life. There are bedrooms with beds, dressing tables, bedding and accessories, an office with a desk, computer, bookshelves

and filing cabinets, a lounge room with a sofa, armchairs, television, coffee table – even magazines – and there's an open plan kitchen and dining room.

Above the rooms is a gantry, or elevated walkway, which looks down into the scenario rooms. The gantry is used by students watching demonstrations

'Unlike the forensic experts on TV shows, real scenes of crime officers don't wear designer clothes to work.'

of how to work a crime scene and by instructors assessing students without interfering or influencing their activity.

There is also a purpose designed area for analyzing blood spatter, an outdoor area where evidence can be buried and a garage for examining crime scenes in and around vehicles.

The realism extends to students conducting their 'investigations' in full protective suits.

'Unlike the forensic experts on TV shows, real scenes of crime officers don't wear designer clothes to work. They wear hot and stuffy crime scene suits – full head-to-toe overalls – gloves, face masks and eye protection. It's uncomfortable, but without it the crime scene could be potentially contaminated and forensic evidence rejected by the courts.'

Mr Porter says the Joint facility with the NSW Police Forensic Services Group also encourages close collaboration with operational forensic experts.

'The benefits of working with active forensic officers are tremendous. Students have the opportunity to interact with police and build real, professional relationships with the

organisation. The joint facility also encourages greater collaboration on forensic science research with real world challenges facing the police informing our directions in research.'

UWS is already a leading centre for forensic science research with current projects on detecting bloodstains underneath paint using reflected infrared photography, assessing the reliability of CCTV images as forensic evidence, analysing the health risks associated with clandestine drug laboratories, the detection of tattoos removed by laser and the recovery of finger marks from bullet casings.

UWS graduates of the Bachelor of Natural Science (Forensic Science) program can work as forensic specialists in a variety of areas including state and federal police, environmental protection agencies, border protection agencies and workplace health and safety authorities.

UWS students from diverse fields such as policing, law, nursing, business and health are also using the new forensic science facility to get a fundamental understanding of crime scene management which may be useful in their professional careers.

The Joint Facility for Forensic Science Research and Training is a collaboration of the UWS School of Natural Sciences and the Forensic Services Group within the NSW Police Force.

The new joint facility builds on established strong links between UWS and the NSW Police Force. UWS offers the undergraduate Bachelor of Policing program and the NSW Police Force has located its Police Leadership Centre on the Hawkesbury campus.

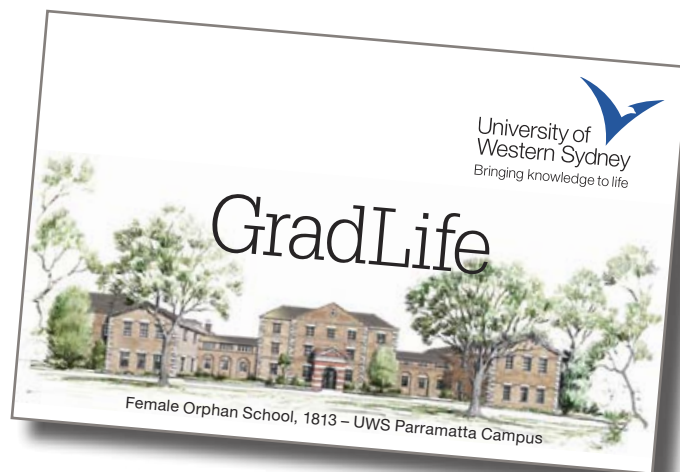


UWS Alumni GradLife benefits

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. Our new membership benefits are shown below for your information. 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.



Membership Benefits – Bupa & nib

The University of Western Sydney would like to extend an offer to all UWS Alumni for an exclusive corporate discount on health insurance, with two of Australia's leading health insurers.



To find out more or to join, visit the GradLife website at www.uws.edu.au/GradLife



\$50,000 donation a boost for students

Former Blacktown Hospital CEO Derek Howes and his wife Shirley have donated \$50,000 to the UWS School of Medicine to support the awarding of an annual prize to students. The donation coincides with the opening of the University's new Blacktown Mt Druitt Clinical School and Research Centre.

Mr Howes spent 20 years as the CEO of Blacktown Hospital, from 1966 to 1986. He oversaw the development of the hospital from a 162-bed facility to a key District hospital, with 365 beds, catering for the needs of a growing community.

A strong advocate for continuing education, Mr Howes was also responsible for the implementation of a staff specialist program at Blacktown Hospital which resulted in

the appointment of Professor Peter Zelas, now Clinical Dean at the UWS School of Medicine Clinical School located at Blacktown Hospital.

The UWS School of Medicine Blacktown Mt Druitt Clinical School and Research Centre will provide practical training for UWS medical students and, over time, enhance health services available in the local community.

In Mr Howes' experience, it is this close and ongoing interaction between doctors and students that leads to higher standards and better outcomes for patients.

'It became clear to me that when an atmosphere of continuing education exists it brings with it an associated increase in efficiency and standards as teachers strive to stay ahead of students.'

Mr Howes has personal experience of the value of education and the life-changing impact it can have.

'I grew up in East London in pretty poor circumstances but my parents were determined for me to break

the class mould. With the help of a scholarship, and my parents virtually depriving themselves of everything but necessities, I was given an excellent education and put on a pathway where I felt I belonged: hospital administration.'

Mr and Mrs Howes are incredibly passionate about both health care and education and are particularly committed to supporting the vision the University of Western Sydney has for increasing the aspirations of local students and improving access to and standards of health care in the region.

To be awarded for the first time in 2011, the prestigious Derek and Shirley Howes Prize for Medicine will recognise and inspire future medical practitioners studying at UWS and instil in them the importance of continuing education – a key theme of the new facility at Blacktown.

To find out more about supporting the UWS School of Medicine please contact UWS Development at giving@uws.edu.au.



UWS graduate Laura Penfold

Bringing the GIANTS to Greater Western Sydney

The coach, staff, and players have been selected, and they're ready to debut in 2012. The AFL has a brand new NSW team – the GWS GIANTS – and while simply establishing the new club is a feat which has been years in the making, building a support base is the next step for the competition newcomers.

As part of a plan to give AFL a truly national footprint, the team was formed to represent Greater Western Sydney, the ACT and southern NSW, and granted the 18th AFL licence in 2010. The club's home is firmly in the Greater West at Blacktown International Sports Park, a state-of-the-art training facility for the players.

Now, through a partnership with the University of Western Sydney, the AFL is not only establishing itself in the Greater Western Sydney community, it is providing exciting opportunities for both current students and alumni to be part of the development of the new team and of AFL in NSW as a whole.

Community is central to what the GIANTS are all about, and the club has been closely tied to the local region since its inception, with a range of employment, education, harmony and health initiatives already underway.

According to Cameron French, AFL manager for Greater Western Sydney (GWS) region, the partnership between UWS and the GWS GIANTS aims to connect the communities of Greater Western Sydney through health, education and community programs.

'Our organisations have similar aspirations, beliefs, ideals and a shared vision for the region,' French says.

With five streams to the partnership – education, health, marketing, commercial and community – its objectives include providing professional development opportunities for UWS students, potentially collaborating on research activities in the health and sports science areas, and promoting the theme of 'education aspiration' through all community programs.

As a brand new club, building a strong relationship with the community is one of the biggest hurdles the GIANTS face.

French says the AFL has quickly learnt that the GWS region is not one homogenous group and it needs to develop an organisation that is truly representative of the region.

'In partnership with the AFL, the club completes a number of multicultural, indigenous and engagement-based programs. The club and AFL are not just about kicking footballs – we want to help support the aspirations of the people who live in the region. We believe that as we embrace the community, the community will embrace us,' he says.

As a relatively new sport to the region as well, another challenge is educating people about the game itself. The GIANTS have a playing group that will be active throughout the community in schools, at UWS, junior AFL clubs and charity groups, along with some resources on the team's website (www.gwsgiants.com.au) to help people get to grips with AFL.

For UWS students and alumni, getting involved at such a critical stage of the club's life presents fantastic grassroots industry experience, with a range of internships and practical placements on offer with the GWS GIANTS and the AFL.

Several UWS alumni have already had the chance to be part of the GIANTS' journey.

Laura Penfold, who studied a Bachelor of Business and Commerce (Advanced Business Leadership) majoring in sports management at UWS, is now corporate partnership coordinator for the GWS GIANTS. Laura, who was a member of the UWS Aspire Program, connected with a representative of the



AFL at an Aspire event, and was later offered the first paid internship with the GWS GIANTS. This led to a full-time role, as part of a 'very talented, supportive and fun team', Laura says.

'The nature of the role enables me to meet and interact with a diverse range of people from a large cross-section of organisations, which is fantastic. I have really enjoyed being part of something from its formation and watching the club grow and reach milestones that we have worked so hard to achieve,' Laura says.

Fellow UWS alumnus Tina McKeown has channelled her love of ball sports into a thriving career. While studying a Bachelor of Sport Science in Sport Management in 2005, Tina worked with an NRL player agent, and then went on to work with the Sydney Swans as a member relations executive. After a stint working with a charity and returning to study a Master of Business Marketing at UWS, Tina decided her real passion lay with sport, and she



The GWS Giants will open the 2012 season with a stand-alone match against the Sydney Swans at the ANZ Stadium Sydney on Saturday, 24 March – five days before the second game of the season between Richmond and Carlton at the MCG.

secured a role in community marketing and fan development with the AFL.

Her work covers two levels – increasing participation in AFL among kids and senior players at the state level, and working on national AFL events.

'For example, the AFL draft is coming to Sydney for the first time this year, which is exciting, and we are basically running the event here in Sydney with the help of the national AFL office in Melbourne,' Tina says.

'I also work with the Sydney Swans and GWS GIANTS on their supporter marketing campaigns as well as game day events, where we leverage opportunities through our (AFL) database to engage supporters.'

Being part of the development is both very exciting and challenging, according to Tina.

'NSW, especially Sydney, is spoilt for choice in terms of different codes and different activities in general, so

we're trying to tap into that market to get them to enjoy our code. It's just giving the kids and adults in NSW another option and another avenue to watch sport,' she says.

From a corporate perspective, it can also be difficult educating a non-AFL market about the benefits of partnering with the GIANTS brand, but according to Laura, 'we are making great in-roads with this and have some fantastic partners on board'.

'Like any new business, we are relatively under-resourced, however there is a great culture of "all hands on deck" amongst our staff,' Laura says.

Despite the challenges, Tina relishes 'being involved in something you enjoy and have a passion for' as well as working with a great team, and both she and Laura look forward to developing their careers with the AFL.

'To see how the GIANTS has evolved in five years and to be a part of that would be fantastic,' Tina says.

Laura hopes to eventually 'become a strong female leader in the sports industry', but in the meantime, she is looking forward to a very special day: 'When our players run onto the field for the first time in 2012 – history in the making!'

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON INTERNSHIPS, JOBS AND WORK EXPERIENCE, CONTACT THE UWS CAREERS & COOPERATIVE EDUCATION UNIT. EMAIL: CAREERS@UWS.EDU.AU

Chapter News

Reaching out

A public relations internship helped UWS graduate Naima Omar secure an exciting full-time job as the Community Participation Coordinator for new AFL team, the Greater Western Sydney GIANTS.

Naima began her career at UWS Careers & Cooperative Education (CCE) as the Communications and Events Assistant. Through this role, she found out about the internship, which she says helped her professional progression immensely.

'It has given me different skills that I now utilise in my current role such as time management, organisation, interpersonal skills and a general work ethic that has helped not only in this role but which I will continue to use throughout my career,' Naima says.

Her busy role with the GWS GIANTS is focused on several key areas.

'The first is building and strengthening community relationships – for example, we have a really important and dynamic relationship with UWS, where we provide UWS students with various opportunities to be part of the GIANTS team through internships and volunteer opportunities. We love coming to UWS events such as Open Day to meet with students and to be actively involved in the Greater Western Sydney community,' she says.

Naima also looks after Cause Requests from the community, such as sending out merchandise and promotional materials, and organising meetings with community organisations. 'Requests usually come in from not for profit organisations, local sporting clubs and educational institutions where they seek donations such as GIANTS memorabilia to support their initiatives. My job is to review each request and determine the type and level of potential GIANTS support.'

'Another really exciting part of my job is managing the GIANTS player appearances. Endless requests come through from organisations who ask for GIANTS players to attend an event or



GWS star Israel Folau lends a helping hand

to take part in activities for a specific cause. It is my job to determine which ones are worthwhile, to pitch the appearance request to the GIANTS Football Department and determine scheduling for the appearance. I am also required to draw up the Player Brief and at times attend the event itself to make sure everything runs smoothly.'

'My favourite aspect of the job is that the role is very diverse and interactive – I get to liaise with different people and different community groups. I am right in the action!' she says. 'It's a great time to be involved with the GIANTS – it's fantastic to be part of this growing team and the Greater Western Sydney community.'

Having had such a positive experience herself, Naima encourages other students to stay in touch with the Cooperative Alumni Network (CAN).

'The Cooperative Alumni Network is a fantastic benefit for all UWS students who did an internship through the CCE. My advice to CAN members is to stay in touch with UWS and CCE. It is a great network to be a part of and I love going to CAN functions. You get to listen to amazing guest speakers from various industries, meet current and former UWS CCE students who are starting or well within their career. It is a great networking opportunity, where you exchange experiences, ideas, tips and networks.'

'Also, when you are in a position to potentially give back, in the way of providing internship opportunities to UWS students, do it. Support the system that has supported you!'

Cooperative Connections



Happy group at the Coop Awards Night – Left to Right: Michael Cox, Emmaline Tuza, Freny Tayebjee, Stacey Moseley, Michelle Duval and Daniel Krimmer.

University of Western Sydney (UWS) Careers & Cooperative Education (CCE) provides services to assist students to manage their careers and connect employers with UWS talent.

Through services such as UWS Career Hub and placement programs, students are provided with a head start in finding degree-relevant, paid industry experience. Students in return create valuable contacts and often find ongoing work.

The CCE has also formed the Cooperative Alumni Network (CAN) to support and stay in touch with high flying past students who have completed a placement program.

They also assist members to develop both personally and professionally.

CAN provides events that offer great food, activities and entertainment that are of interest to members, as well as offering the chance to network among industry partners.

To get involved:

- » Like UWS Alumni – Cooperative Alumni Network (CAN) on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/UWS-Alumni-Cooperative-Alumni-Network-CAN/293692997310676> to find out what's happening within the network and share your opinions on topics of interest.
- » Register for the CAN Newsletter – distributed bi-annually. It contains exclusive details on upcoming events.
- » Attending CAN functions – gives everyone a chance to catch up and mingle!

Every UWS graduate is invited to join the Coop Alumni Network. Membership is free. Join online at www.uws.edu.au/CAN.

alumni online



UWS ALUMNI FACEBOOK FAN PAGE

Our Facebook Fan page continues to grow with over 1,600 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 700 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

recent events 2011

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY & HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY 2011 HONG KONG AWARD CEREMONY

On Sunday, 29 May 2011 our newest UWS Hong Kong Alumni were invited to participate in the 2011 Hong Kong Graduate Award Ceremony in Hong Kong.

Each Alumnus was presented with a certificate of achievement in recognition of their participation in the ceremony by Chancellor Professor Peter Shergold AC,

celebrating their graduation in absentia from the University of Western Sydney.

Following the main ceremony, all Hong Kong Alumni were invited to attend the associated Alumni Networking Function where they were given the opportunity to re-connect with their fellow Alums as well as meet the Chancellor, and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Janice Reid AM.

**FOR MORE PHOTOS FROM BOTH
THE CEREMONY AND THE ALUMNI
NETWORKING FUNCTION, VISIT
WWW.UWS.EDU.AU/HONGKONGALUMNI.**





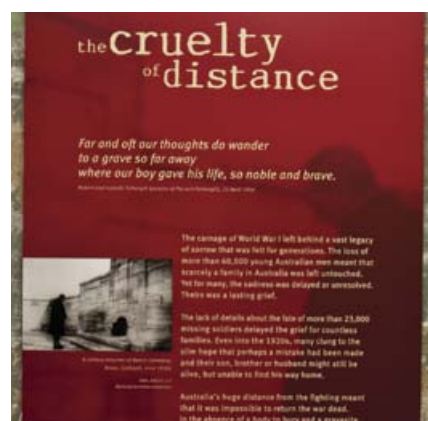
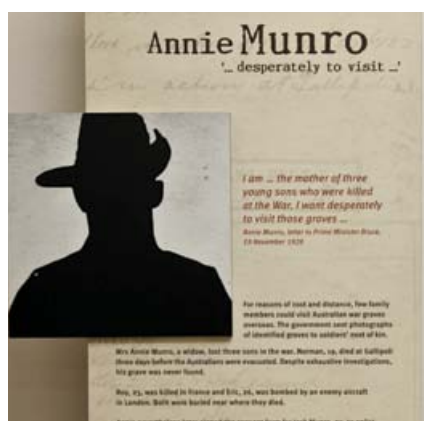
SHELL-SHOCKED: AUSTRALIA AFTER ARMISTICE EXHIBITION

Hosted by the Whitlam Institute during its time on the UWS Parramatta campus, 'Shell-shocked: Australia after Armistice' is a touring exhibition from the National Archives of Australia which explores the personal impact of war on Australian men, women and children, and the nation's attempts to recover from the loss or injury of almost three-quarters of its soldiers serving overseas during World War I. It shows how the nation channelled its grief into public commemoration, honouring the fallen with national monuments and ubiquitous small town memorials.

The exhibition was accompanied by 'Mapping our Anzacs', an innovative and popular website encouraging users to explore the National Archives collection and create and share content. 'Mapping our Anzacs' presents information on servicemen and their communities in a fundamentally different way, using Google Maps technology.

The exhibition was on show at the historic Female Orphan School building on the UWS Parramatta campus from 11 July – 23 September 2011.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS TRAVELLING EXHIBITION, PLEASE VISIT THE WHITLAM INSTITUTE WEBSITE AT WWW.WHITLAM.ORG.



SEPTEMBER GRADUATION CEREMONIES

September 2011 saw more than 2700 graduands don a cap, gown and hood to make the transition from student to proud UWS Alumni.

Hill High School, and Dr Kerry Schott, Managing Director, Sydney Water, and many more across the different ceremonies by areas of study.



David Bradbury, MP

As always, our newest Alumni heard from several distinguished speakers such as the Hon John Hatzistergos MLC, former Attorney General of New South Wales, Christine Cawsey, Principal, Rooty

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LATEST ROUND OF CEREMONIES, OR THE NEXT ROUND OF CEREMONIES SCHEDULED, PLEASE VISIT THE NEW ALUMNI WEBSITE AT WWW.UWS.EDU.AU/NEWALUMNI.

upcoming events 2011

2012 COOPERATIVE ALUMNI NETWORK (CAN) FUNCTIONS

Be sure to keep an eye out in the new year for more information on CAN's 2012 Functions.

Not yet a member of CAN? Join online at www.uws.edu.au/CAN for all of the latest news and invitations.

As we come to the close of another year, the majority of UWS Alumni Events have been held. As the majority of events for 2012 are still in the planning stages, please keep an eye out for all dates and event information in the new year. For further information on any of the upcoming UWS events scheduled, please visit our website at www.uws.edu.au/AlumniEvents.

AUTUMN GRADUATION CEREMONIES

APRIL 2012

For further information closer to the event please visit www.uws.edu.au/NewAlumni.

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