

# GradLife

  
University of  
Western Sydney  
Bringing knowledge to life

## inside

### THE VOICE OF COMMUNITY INTERPRETING

Associate Professor  
Sandra Hale leads the field

### STEPHANIE'S LATEST CHALLENGE

New writing from renowned  
author Stephanie Dowrick

### WIDENING HIS SPHERE OF SOCIAL INFLUENCE

UWS doctoral candidate  
Farid Farid increases public  
awareness

### UWS A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

Indian students studying  
in Australia

### GRADLIFE BENEFITS FOR ALUMNI

missing peace  
the journey of Anne Deveson

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## CONTENTS

Missing peace	4
Sandra is the voice of community interpreting	6
Widening his sphere of social influence	7
Stephanie's latest challenge	8
Connecting the HR community	10
Leonie Young – a report from Harvard	11
Indian students find UWS a positive experience	12
An academic daydream fulfilled	14
Giving back to the University	15
UWS graduate hits Hollywood big time	16
Researching stingless bees in Switzerland	17
Breakthrough year for UWS musician	17
UWS graduate presents at international psychology conference	18
 ALUMNI CHAPTER NEWS	 19
• Chapter profile: Planning Alumni Chapter	19
• Planning graduates figure in awards	19
 UWS NEWS	 20
• New members appointed to UWS Board of Trustees	20
• Honours for UWS associates	20
• UWS appoints new University Legal Counsel	21
• UWS student wins prestigious Dromkeen Medal	21
• Parting Professor pays tribute	21
• UWS appoints new Deputy Vice-Chancellor	22
• Leading researcher heads UWS College of Health and Science	23
• UWS awards honorary doctorates	23
 GRADLIFE	 25
UWS Alumni GradLife benefits	25
 RECENT EVENTS	 26
• UWS Law Alumni Association Occasional Address	26
• UWS Singapore Alumni Chancellor's Dinner	26
• UWS Golden Key Seminar: Politics at the Pub	26
• UWS Law Careers Seminar	27
• UWS Equity and Diversity Open Forum: Can We Trust Generation Y?	27
 ALUMNI ONLINE	 27
Alumni social networking online	27
 FUTURE EVENTS	 28
2010 events	28
 Keep in touch	 28



It always gives me great pleasure to see the exciting contributions that University of Western Sydney graduates make to communities.

In this issue of GradLife you will follow the progress of several of our graduates as they spread their influence far and wide.

Law graduate Leonie Young tells of her first experiences at Harvard University while the story of the rise and rise of Yvonne Strahovski, star of the successful Australian film *I Love You Too*, is inspirational.

Documentary film-maker Anne Deveson shares the secret to her motivation for her latest work *Missing Peace* and you will also learn the background to renowned author Stephanie Dowrick's new book *In the Company of Rilke*.

You will also enjoy the remarkable stories of Andy Mak Shu Kay, a man who has overcome great adversity, and rising recording artist Jonathan Boulet.

As an alumni of UWS you will also want to catch up on recent events on campus and in Alumni chapters.

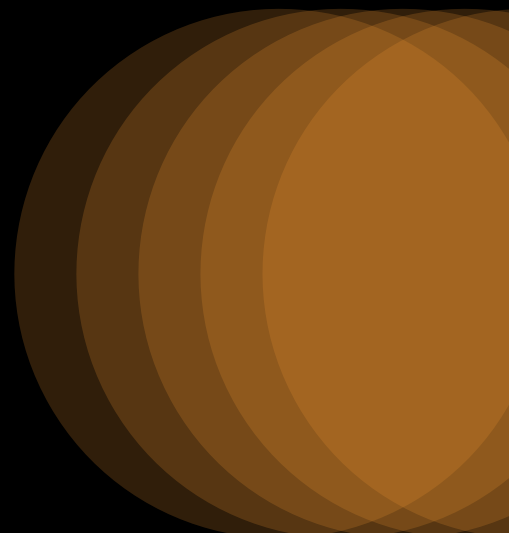
Why not enjoy the range of Alumni Benefits offered free of charge by simply registering your interest with UWS Alumni?

I trust you will continue to share our vision as ambassadors for UWS in 2010.

Professor Janice Reid AM  
Vice-Chancellor  
University of Western Sydney



Professor Janice Reid AM  
Vice-Chancellor  
University of Western Sydney







# missing peace

At a conference on war and peace in London in 2000, writer, broadcaster, and documentary film-maker Anne Deveson spent ages looking at the books on sale, counting the number on war and the number on peace. Like the general focus of the conference, the results shocked her.

"There were 111 books on war, and only three on peace. I went to the conference because I was interested in peace, because of my work in war zones and because of the terrible devastation I have seen caused by war. So I wanted to see what initiatives were being taken, what advances we'd made and what was the discount surrounding peace at that time," she says.

"What alarmed and angered me was that at the conference most of the primary focus was on war. That sent me on a trail of thinking, why do we always think of peace as a hiccup that comes after war, and not as a way to prevent war? We shouldn't be thinking that war is always an inevitability. I felt very strongly that at this stage of our social evolution, we should be doing better than that."

So at the age of 73, Anne began her Doctorate of Creative Arts in the School of Humanities and Languages at UWS on this subject in 2003. Called 'Missing Peace', the work explores her belief "that in spite of the wars and violence that are endemic in the world, knowledge and practices of peacemaking are really evolving at a much faster rate than most of us realise".

After a long and sometimes difficult journey (including coming to terms with an unexpected and debilitating chronic illness), the end is now in sight, and Anne expects to complete her doctorate next year. She says it took time to determine the right approach to this project, and, several years into the process, became "rather horrified" at what she had begun.

"I gradually came to realise that the way to tackle it would be really as memoir – looking at my life from being a child of nine in England when German bombs first began dropping from the skies and the effect it had on me as a child, and then our experiences as a family when we left England, and sailed straight into the arms of the Japanese, right through to later experiences working in human rights. So it's a much more personal story," Anne says.

Anne has had a long and distinguished public and creative career, with social justice a thread running through much of her work.

Born in what was then known as Malaya, where her father was a rubber plantation manager, Anne moved with her family between England, Perth and Malaya prior to and during World War II, before migrating to Australia in 1957, where she continued working as a political and current affairs journalist.

Her interest in social justice was aroused in the 1970s, during the rise of feminism. She was a founding member of the New South Wales Anti-Discrimination Board, and a Commissioner with the Royal Commission on Human Relationships in 1974.

Her creative work has also focused on bringing new light to issues such as poverty, disability, ageing, child abuse and resilience. Her documentaries in Africa and South East Asia won three United Nations peace awards, while a documentary series on disability, broadcast by the ABC, also won a Logie.

She has also written a number of best-selling books – including *Lines in the Sand*, a novel set in Rwanda during the genocide. During the 1980s, Anne ran the Australian Film, Television and Radio School and chaired the South Australian Film Corporation.

Anne is perhaps best known for her work in mental health. She helped found the NSW Schizophrenia Fellowship and the national organisation, SANE Australia.

She was a long-standing member of the NSW Mental Health Tribunal and the Government's Expert Advisory Group on Drugs and Alcohol, and she continues to be a member of the NSW Medical Tribunal.

After the illness and death of her elder son Jonathan, who suffered from schizophrenia, she wrote *Tell Me I'm Here*, an award-winning account of her son's life which has helped change understanding and treatment of mental illness around the world. Anne is now drawing on all this experience, together with the many films she has made in warzones in Africa and South East Asia, for her memoir. She says she chose to do the DCA at UWS because it gave her the opportunity to really spend time researching her subject.

"There is an emphasis on creativity, but obviously you are expected to produce something of quality, so it's more than just a surface glance. Also I found having the backing of a university very attractive, and was fortunate enough to win a scholarship for the first three years," she says.

Anne's first impression of UWS was as a speaker at graduation ceremonies, in the University's early days. "I was impressed then with the range and flexibility of subjects that were being taught there, and the approach of people that were coming to study from a diverse range of backgrounds. I found that exciting. It seemed to me to be making it possible to tackle subjects that were of particular value in what is now a very troubled world."

As she nears the end of what has been a "long haul", Anne is appreciative of the support of the University in tackling her own difficult but important subject. "I think this was a subject that took me quite a long time to realise where it was going and to give it the strength that it needed and the reality it needed coming from me. So I am grateful to the University for having faith in me."

# Sandra is the voice of community interpreting



Among the first to enrol in the Bachelor of Arts in Interpreting and Translation when it was introduced at UWS in 1985, Associate Professor Sandra Hale is now a leading voice in the field.

As head of the UWS Interpreting and Translation Program from 1994 to 2004 and current leader of the Interpreting and Translation Research Group, improving standards of interpreter training is an issue that has long been close to Sandra's heart. Responsible for designing and coordinating undergraduate and postgraduate studies, Sandra has been instrumental in gearing the UWS program towards a focus on community interpreting.

Community interpreting covers interpreting in the legal, social welfare and medical sectors, and assists members of the community who speak languages other than English, or who have a hearing disability, to communicate and access community services.

Sandra originally came to Australia from Argentina, and to maintain her native tongue, completed correspondence courses in Spanish for native speakers while she was at high school. When it came time to attend university, the BA in Interpreting and Translation (at the Macarthur Institute of Higher Education, as it was then called) was just getting underway, and she became part of the first cohort of students.

"It was a very significant course in the history of the industry. It was one of only a few around the country established in response to a series of government reports which recommended Bachelor degrees to train interpreters," Sandra says.

Sandra then worked as an interpreter and translator, and undertook further studies in Argentina, before returning to UWS as an academic. Her focus is now on building research capability in interpreting and translation.

Sandra's own research into how interpreting affects the opinion of juries in court cases has recently received media attention, and served to highlight the importance of specialist training for interpreters and translators – an issue she is particularly passionate about.

"Untrained interpreters are unaware of a number of issues that, when interpreting, affect the perception of the way a witness, in the Court in this case, is viewed by the jury. Interpreting is not a skill you are born with; you can be a bilingual but you may not be able to know how to transfer from one language to the other in a way that will have the same impact in the hearer as the original would," she says.

"Normally untrained bilinguals would simply summarise what they heard someone say in their own words, but a trained interpreter is trained to hear not only the content, but also the way something is presented."

Sandra is also co-editor of the international refereed online journal, *Translation and Interpreting*, which she co-founded with a UWS colleague, Dr Ignacio Garcia, as part of the Research Group's mission to see applied research become accessible to interpreting and translation practitioners, who often work freelance and lack institutional support.

Sandra says she finds the field of interpreting very satisfying and rewarding, particularly because of its role in bridging the gap between two languages and two cultures.

"People are disconnected when they don't understand or speak a language. Through an interpreter or translation, they are able to connect and to access what would not normally be accessible to them. For example, with community interpreting, it's an issue of equity to have access to the same services and be able to communicate in the community in which they live."



# widening his sphere of social influence



UWS doctoral candidate Farid Farid is emerging as an influential social commentator, drawing on his research into the politics of exile, race and religion in Iraq to write a series of opinion pieces for *The Age* online.

Using his expertise to increase public awareness of issues such as the democratisation of Iraq and the persecution of Coptic Christians in Egypt, Farid says he was inspired by Palestinian-American literary theorist Edward Said, who frequently contributed to publications such as *The Guardian* as a means of broadening his reach.

"Edward Said's role was to go beyond the academy and disseminate the knowledge that he gained through literary training and relay that to a larger audience," says Farid. "To relay what I was experiencing in terms of academic studies to a larger audience was a motivation for me, particularly in terms of increasing public awareness of religious, social, cultural and political tensions."

Farid began his doctoral studies at UWS in 2006, after completing a Bachelor of Arts (Honours), majoring in International Relations and French at the University of Queensland. Currently researching the cultural politics of loss and trauma amongst Iraqi exiles in Australia, Farid is analysing the ways in which art and cultural production might inspire a politics of healing.

"With the prominence of asylum seeker debates, my motivation was to try to humanise the pictures of refugees and migrants and to see their perspectives of loss and what they go through in coming to Australia," says Farid. "I also wanted to understand or counter media images of the landscape of rubble and bloodshed in Iraq, to get Iraqi perspectives, their stories, their narratives, their production about how they feel about their homeland."

Farid's research is predominantly based on interviews with 32 artists, theatre directors and newspaper editors, as well as participant observation. Based at the University's Centre for Cultural Research, Farid says that the opportunity to interact with academics and other doctoral candidates working in the field has been particularly helpful in developing this methodology.

"The University has been steadfast in supporting me and my research interest," he says. "I've had fantastic supervisors who have looked after me, who have given me the necessary methodological encouragement and helped build my research profile through seminars, workshops and symposiums."

Once he completes his Doctorate at the end of 2010, Farid plans to continue to raise awareness of the politics of exile, race and religion in Iraq and surrounding regions.

"I'm hoping to pursue an academic career where I can disseminate my research and turn it into a book," says Farid, adding that he is also interested in organising an exhibition of artwork and other cultural artefacts associated with his doctoral research.

"It would be interesting to collectively display their words and their art around the country in terms of an exhibition. I've been working with communities to pitch the idea of an Iraqi cultural forum and working with other Iraqi organisations on an ad hoc basis. Also I'd like to continue with my public and social commentary."

# Stephanie's latest challenge

As if writing a swag of non-fiction and fiction books, five of which have been No.1 best-sellers, wasn't enough, renowned author Stephanie Dowrick decided to set herself a personal challenge – writing a research thesis for her Doctor of Philosophy at UWS.

The subject of her PhD, and her latest book, *In the Company of Rilke*, is the work of modernist poet Rainer Maria Rilke in relation to the central questions of what poetry is for, and what poetry can achieve in shifting the perceptions of readers about what life is for.

"People turn to poetry generally in a moment of great celebration or intense need. Very often the poetry that they turn to in such moments offers something that is either spiritual or visionary or hopeful in some deep way. Poetry is able to express the inexpressible," Stephanie says.

Through her thesis, she was also interested in exploring the ontological acts of reading, and the possibility of discovery of knowledge beyond the linear through more conscious and open-minded reading.

"I felt it was wonderful to look at those things using Rilke as my central figure because he is so near to us in time, and was so modern in his thinking. He wrote mainly in German and French, but saw himself as European, an internationalist view which is very much of this time," she says.





"Rilke was drawn to the most profound levels of enquiry. He also had highly unconventional views of religion and spirituality. In many ways he was a totally anti-institutional man and was actually quite anarchic in his thinking." The fact that Rilke is still widely read in our time tells us much about what readers are seeking from poetry, she says.

Stephanie is an Adjunct Fellow with the Writing and Society Research Group, and her previous books, which include *Intimacy and Solitude*, *Forgiveness and Other Acts of Love*, *The Universal Heart* and *Choosing Happiness: Life & Soul Essentials*, address spiritual, psychological and ethical issues. She has also written two very successful novels.

Readers may also be familiar with her 'Inner Life' column in *Good Weekend Magazine*, which she has contributed since 2001. Stephanie's publishing pedigree extends much further back, however – all the way across the world to London, where in 1977, she founded and was first Managing Director of the prestigious independent publishing house, The Women's Press.

Stephanie began her doctorate in 2004, and following its completion, spent a further year adapting the text significantly for publication for a general audience as *In the Company of Rilke*. While she included "more poetry and less philosophy" to make it more transparent and inviting for readers, the voice of the book resembles closely that of her thesis.

"Because I was writing about a visionary poet from a spiritual perspective, it was central to my goal to write a thesis that was not only highly original, but was also eloquent in ways that would do justice to the subject matter," Stephanie says.

Even with this extended period working on the book, Stephanie did not wear out her enthusiasm for Rilke. "I found this whole enquiry absolutely fascinating, and more fascinating at the end of it than at the beginning," she says.

Despite being a more explicitly philosophical book, the experience of writing the Rilke work was not so different from her previous efforts.

"It's really interesting, because during the time I was writing my thesis, people would say, 'Oh, you poor thing, writing a doctoral thesis!' But actually I'd been writing difficult original books for a long time. Some books are easier, but no book is easy," she laughs. "I loved the Rilke work because it brought my passion for writing, my passion for literature and my passion for spirituality and psychological investigation all together."

While she is best known for her writing, Stephanie is also an Interfaith minister, and conducts regular services and retreats in Sydney and New Zealand. This interest in spirituality also permeates her previous books to a greater or lesser degree, but addressing spirituality within the strictures of the academic thesis was challenging at times.

"It was challenging and sometimes inhibiting, knowing how little spirituality is understood and respected within academic circles. Sometimes it's difficult for people even to find the language to explore what spirituality means – and how much of our need for meaning is undeniably spiritual.

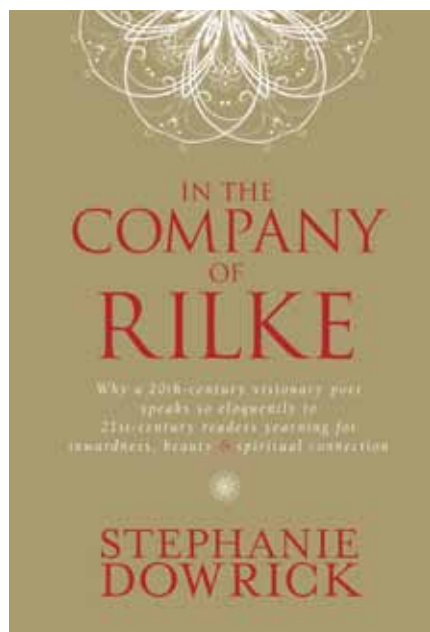
"They are just so quick to dismiss one of our most sustaining areas of knowledge. Inside and outside the academy people seem afraid of what Rilke would call the 'poetic space', which we have to enter in quite a surrendered way, not just with the critical mind, but with the innocent, receptive mind."

Her partner in this intellectual wrangling was supervisor Professor Jane Goodall. "We had the most wonderful intellectual journey together. Jane has a very high degree of intellectual maturity and was actively interested in the questions I was developing in the course of the work. I was exceptionally lucky," Stephanie says. Having already hit bookstores in Australia, where it is published by Allen & Unwin, *In the Company of Rilke* will soon be published in the US by Penguin, where it will reach both an academic and general audience.

Stephanie is currently working on a new book, and says she is interested in the borderline territories between the reader and the page, the writer and the reader, and between the publisher and the general public, including the role writing has as a catalyst for a depth of exploration and engagement not generally allowed by conversation itself. Another area of continuing interest is religious identity.

"At this point in my own intellectual life, I am particularly interested in the effects of how people are thinking about religious identity, and how that opens up or closes down the ways that they perceive themselves and other people. Because religion is playing a part in contemporary life that no one could have predicted, I think we need to look at religion and belief itself in radically fresh ways. In fact, what's needed here is not just more analysis. We also need the vision, courage and instincts of a poet."

*In the Company of Rilke* is published by Allen & Unwin (2009).



## SPECIAL ONLINE DISCOUNT OFFER

UWS Alumni can buy  
**"In the Company of Rilke"** online  
 at [www.allenandunwin.com](http://www.allenandunwin.com)  
 from now until the end of June and  
 receive 30% off the RRP.

To redeem this offer simply enter  
 the following promotional code  
 when purchasing online.

**Promotional Code: UWSA30**

Postage charges apply



# connecting the HR community

Not only is UWS graduate Jess Booth carving out a successful HR career, she is bringing Sydney's human resources community together through a social networking initiative.

While building her career in HR, Jess began to dabble in social media, prompted by her partner, who works in the digital media industry. Although she found it frustrating at first, she soon "got the hang of it" and began building networks.

"Then I went along to a social media event and was amazed. People were friendly, casual and were keen to have a glass of wine and meet people. I thought back to conferences or events that I had been to where I was in a room full of HR people and not really met anyone," Jess says.

This drove her to start HR Club Sydney, a blog with the intention of creating an HR community.

"The idea was that if we all started to share our learnings and experiences more, we could all be doing much more strategic work in our roles and lift the perception of the profession.

"It's now an interactive forum with more than 300 members on LinkedIn, a blog with over 300 visitors each month and a community that meets regularly to network with others in the industry."

After graduating from UWS with a Bachelor of Business, including a double major in Human Resources Management and Industrial Relations, Jess' early career included learning and development roles at Sara Lee Australia, Vodafone and BOC, before she landed a position at CSIRO as Senior Human Resources Adviser.

"This has involved providing support, coaching and advice to managers and staff on issues like recruitment, employee induction, talent management and other strategic HR projects," Jess says. "I really like project work because it's exciting setting goals and seeing the outcomes make an impact on the business."

Jess originally chose to study at UWS because of the flexible course delivery – allowing her to study at night while she was obtaining valuable work experience.

"This allowed me the opportunity to study with a diverse group of students (both my age and mature age students) and be taught by a mix of academics and experienced HR professionals," Jess says.

Being able to undertake a double major was beneficial, and Jess was also the recipient of a Vice-Chancellor's Leadership Scholarship, which was a "huge advantage", allowing her to pay off most of her HECS debt.

"It also gave me the opportunity to attend a number of leadership events such as the National Student Leadership Forum in Canberra. This was great for my own personal development, and was also something I was able to talk about with potential employers when I was going for my first job in HR."

Jess is now on the move again, having recently been appointed Human Resources Manager at specialist insurance law firm, Wotton and Kearney, where she is looking forward to learning about a different industry and undertaking projects on talent sourcing and succession planning. If that wasn't enough to keep her busy, Jess also recently completed a Masters of Education in Adult Education.

"After finishing my undergraduate degree and starting work, I realised that so much of what you do in HR is about human behaviour. It was so interesting to think about how you can get people in your workplace to essentially learn, perform and work together with others. I really enjoy studying so perhaps I'll be back for some more."

As she seeks to connect members of the HR community, Jess is certainly a strong advocate for the industry.

"HR is an exciting and evolving area to work in and a function in any organisation which has the potential to create huge impact. There are so many different areas of HR that you can work in, which means you can choose a job doing the things you like and are really passionate about."



# Leonie Young – a report from Harvard

*UWS has followed the success story of Bachelor of Laws graduate Leonie Young. Leonie completed her degree with first class honours and also received the University Medal in early 2007. In late 2007 Leonie was appointed as Associate to the Honourable Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG of the High Court of Australia. Last year she applied for the Frank Knox Memorial Scholarship which, if successful, would take her to Harvard. Leonie continues the story in her own words ...*

"The morning of 16 March 2009 was just another morning. I caught the bus to work, picked up my usual cappuccino from the café across the street, sat down at my desk and opened my email inbox.

I glanced through the familiar subject lines: 'Meeting at 4pm'; 'Phone message from ...'; 'Admission to Harvard LL.M Program'; 'Report for next week'. Wait a minute. There was one there I hadn't seen before. I sat forward on my chair and looked more closely. Could this be?

I clicked on the "Admission to Harvard LL.M Program" email, held my breath, and waited. The words I'd been waiting six months to hear were there on the screen in front of me: "On behalf of Harvard Law School's Committee on Graduate Studies, I am delighted to inform you that you have been admitted to our LL.M. Class of 2010." And the rest, as they say, is history.

From the ivy covered red-brick buildings, the millions upon millions of books in the law library, to sitting in the same lecture theatres where people like Roosevelt and Obama once sat – Harvard is nothing short of astounding. Despite the fact that I've been here for just over eight months, there are still times when I have to stop and pinch myself and realise that I'm at Harvard.

The LL.M degree itself has been challenging, but rewarding. Most of my subjects have focused on US Constitutional Law and foreign relations, with my LL.M paper examining the use of foreign law in interpreting the US Constitution.

The Socratic method teaching style at Harvard is very different to the style I was used to at home, but after a few weeks it became second nature. It's been great being taught by some of the most highly regarded academics in the field and having the opportunity to hear other lecturers speak at informal discussions and debates.

The LL.M class of 2010 is hugely diverse – there are very few countries that are not represented in our class this year. I've found friendships here that will last a lifetime, not to mention come in very handy for when I need a place to stay or a tour guide when I travel overseas!

As I write this there are only a few weeks left before graduation, which is very exciting but also very sad at the same time. I've become very fond of Harvard and of Boston generally, and have even become used to the Starbucks on every corner and discovering every day that there is yet another fast food restaurant somewhere in the country that I had not heard of before.

It is unbelievable how quickly time has gone, it doesn't seem like that long ago that I was stepping off the plane in Boston, anxious about what lay ahead. I needn't have worried.

The excitement of receiving that email back in March 2009 has stayed with me during my entire time here. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to study here at Harvard as a Frank Knox Fellow – it is certainly an experience I will never forget."



# Indian students find UWS a positive experience

For Indian student Mayur Malleni, studying in Australia, and in particular at the University of Western Sydney, continues to be a positive experience.

"People may hear bad things about Australia but I haven't come across it," he says. "I've really enjoyed my time so far at UWS. They take really good care of the students who are coming for the first time to the campus."

"In my course, the faculty and the head of the department are aware that a lot of the students are international, and also that they don't necessarily know anything about accounting. They totally understand that international students have to deal with a whole lot of other things, apart from just studying," Mayur says.

"You have time to get to know the place and hang out at the campus, getting involved with the crowd, and just experience everything." He is conscious that he has had an additional advantage in settling into a new home. "I have a wonderful family who take beautiful care of me".

Having family here was the clincher for Mayur when he was thinking about leaving India to study overseas. Courses in the US beckoned, but his sister, Sushma Doddala, had other ideas, convincing him to consider Australia instead. And that wasn't Sushma's only advice. As a UWS graduate herself, she was keen to recommend the University to her brother.

In India, Mayur completed a Bachelor of Technology in Electronics, and worked as assistant manager of a bank in India. After a couple of years in this role, Mayur says he "didn't want to get stagnant in the job", so decided to pursue further study.

He had enjoyed the financial aspects of his job, and so while he was considering undertaking a finance course in the US, Sushma suggested an accounting degree in Australia. With friends in the US witnessing some instability in the job market, Australia seemed like a better option, with better career prospects. "I thought finance would be an interesting career for me, and accounting in Australia has a bright future," Mayur says.

Accepted to study at four Australian universities, Mayur found making the final choice tough without first-hand experience of Australia; so he relied on his sister's recommendation.

"She did her degree at UWS, and studied at the Parramatta campus as well. She was happy with it and thought the environment there was pretty cool. Sushma liked the climate in Australia and thought it was a beautiful place, and she thought I would like it too," Mayur says.

Both Sushma and Mayur were originally from Hyderabad, and Sushma came to Australia to undertake the Master in Information Systems at UWS in 1998. She was attracted by the fact that her sister had already moved here in 1997, and found studying at UWS to be a very positive experience. "They teach well, they have good lecturers who are really helpful, I liked the campus and made good friends," Sushma says.

Sushma had no hesitation about staying after she completed her degree. "I came when I was 19, and I just loved the country – I enjoy the Australian culture, and it is multicultural so I love it," Sushma says.

Since completing her postgraduate studies, she has worked in IT development, financial planning and testing, and has been employed by Westpac for the last nine years.

Sushma also met her husband and has since had children here, and although their parents remain in India, she was keen for Mayur to have a similar experience. "Because I had studied at the University as well, I thought I could guide him," Sushma says.

Mayur is studying the Masters of Vocational Accounting at UWS in Parramatta, and believes it is really well-designed for students like him who are new to accounting, with good support from the faculty. Another aspect of the program that attracted Mayur is that it provides a pathway to gain CPA accreditation, and this is next on his agenda when he completes his degree in July next year.

Beyond graduation, Mayur says he would like to spend the next five years in Australia, gaining some experience working for a well-regarded accounting firm, but long-term, he plans to return to India to build his own business.

In the meantime, Mayur is enjoying living and studying in Australia. "I like the crowd very much – you can just pass off a joke that you couldn't get away with in India," he laughs.

There is only one drawback to Mayur's Australian experience – a lack of night-life. "Everything closes down in the evening – which is really quite different. Indian metropolises are really fast. The city is open and shining in the night – you have so much to do there. It was a total culture shock for me," Mayur says.

Are you a UWS Alumnus currently residing in India? Update your contact details online for info on an upcoming local event at [www.uws.edu.au/KeepInTouch](http://www.uws.edu.au/KeepInTouch)







# an academic daydream fulfilled

Studying amongst the “dreaming spires of Oxford” is a dream of many spellbound by the history and mythology associated with this hallowed institution. But UWS graduate Catherine Grayling made this a reality last year.

Catherine graduated from UWS in 2004 with a combined Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Communications. She completed her practising certificate through the College of Law in 2005 and began working with law firm Sparke Helmore in its Construction, Projects and Infrastructure division.

However, further study was soon beckoning, and she decided to apply for the Bachelor of Civil Law degree at Oxford, which is a Masters-level qualification.

“What I intended from the beginning was just to get that extra qualification so that I’d be more qualified for a career in law,” Catherine says. “My uncle went to Oxford and I was always really intrigued by the place and wanted to share in the magic of it.”

As you might expect, it is not an easy course to get into – applicants must have achieved honours (preferably first class) in their first degree. Catherine completed an application including samples of her work, a statement explaining why she wanted to complete the course and which subjects she would be interested in undertaking. She also had to provide references from UWS academics who had taught her as an undergraduate.

“I had a lot of support from my civil procedure lecturer, Dr Laura Horn, and my international law lecturer, Professor Steven Freeland,” Catherine says. “They were very supportive with my Oxford application, as was Associate Professor Mac Collings from the School of Law. I am very grateful for that help and that support because I couldn’t have done it without them.”

Having been successful in her application, Catherine headed for the UK in September 2008.

While she says the experience was amazing, Catherine described the course itself as “very intense”. “The workload was nothing like I had ever seen before,” she says.

Catherine studied subjects including Evidence, Civil Procedure, Restitution and Philosophical Foundations of Law, and although more often than not she had her “head in the books”, she enjoyed other aspects of the Oxford culture.

As a member of St Hugh’s College, Catherine had the opportunity to take part in some of the more ceremonial events that have become synonymous with Oxford life. She attended weekly College ‘Formal Halls’, and official ceremonies for an end-of-year law dinner and graduation.

“The dinners and ceremonies involved many traditions and formalities, including speeches in Latin. It was just a magical experience. It was particularly wonderful to have access to all the historical and beautiful university and college grounds.”

Catherine also managed to squeeze in some visits to London and to visit relatives in Scotland and Marlborough.

On her return to Sydney, Catherine rejoined Sparke Helmore Lawyers, and continues to specialise in building and construction law, which she enjoys because of the variety.

“I really enjoy the balance in my work between transactional work and litigation and other dispute resolution and advice work,” she says. Catherine says her extra studies in civil procedure and restitution have proved particularly invaluable.

More international travel and work could be on the agenda for Catherine in the future.

“I just spent a week in Geneva at the United Nations Human Rights Council working with a non-government organisation. I studied a number of international law subjects at UWS and working overseas is something which I might pursue in the future, possibly continuing work with non-government organisations in the international human rights sphere.”





# giving back to the university

From difficult beginnings Hong Kong-based Andy Mak Shu Kay has risen to head his section of the Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Co Ltd (HAECO), assisted in his quest for professional success by UWS.

Andy came from a poor family, and had to leave secondary school early. Despite the educational challenges he faced, Andy has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to learning.

When he left school, he undertook a four-year apprenticeship in the Base Maintenance Sheet Metal department for HAECO. He has risen through the ranks to his current role as Head of Section in this department, and has now been with the company for over 41 years.

"My responsibility is to do the sheet metal structural repairs, modification, corrosion prevention and general workshop tasks. My role includes Boeing and Airbus aircraft maintenance, staff administration and training development," Andy says.

After returning to complete his secondary education in 1994, Andy completed part-time a Diploma in Management Studies at the Polytechnic of Hong Kong in 1999, and also completed part-time a Masters of Business Administration program at UWS in 2003.

Andy graduated with his MBA in Hong Kong in 2003, where he met John Phillips, Chancellor of UWS, who during an address to Alumni reminded them of the benefits of giving back to UWS as donors and supporters. Andy has followed up on the request by making a recent donation to the UWS Alumni Scholarship Fund.

Motivated to make his donation so others could study at university, Andy says he was thankful for the opportunities available to him at UWS. Coming from a poor family of eight including his grandparents, brothers and sister, he says he was conscious that less well-off people sometimes need others to help them.

"When my own family economics became better, I wanted to support poorer people. It was very meaningful for me," Andy says.

Andy is now undertaking a Doctor of Business Administration program. He completed his studies with executive management programs at Yale, Stanford and Harvard Universities in 2004–05. Just as he has, Andy would like to see others improve their lives through education.

"Although I was not high in education and qualifications, I have managed to improve myself during this period of time. Success is not about luck. Everyone must walk the first step and continue improvement to achieve their goals."



# UWS graduate hits Hollywood big time

Attending film premieres, appearing on 'most beautiful women' lists, and even having an action figurine made in her image, is living the dream of many aspiring actresses. But it wasn't that long ago Yvonne Strahovski was a student at the University of Western Sydney's Theatre Nepean where she studied a Bachelor of Arts in Performance.

Born in Maroubra, Yvonne attended Santa Sabina College in Strathfield before beginning her degree at UWS. After graduating, Yvonne (then known as Yvonne Strzechowski – she was later urged to adopt the new spelling as her stage name for easier pronunciation) began her career in Australia appearing in TV and film roles.

This included a stint on satirical show *Double the Fist*, parts in *Sea Patrol* and *Headland*, and TV movie *Blackjack – Dead Memory*. She also starred in director Tim Boyle's low budget film *The Plex*, before deciding to try her luck at auditions during the US TV pilot season.

Within a few days of arriving in the US, Yvonne landed a starring role in NBC action comedy series, *Chuck*. Yvonne played top CIA agent Sarah Walker, who is charged with protecting her boyfriend Chuck (played by Zachary Levi) from the bad guys out to get him. Looking comfortable holding a gun was reportedly one of the reasons she was hired for the role. Yvonne moved to LA in 2007 to work on *Chuck*, which is now in its third season.

Along the way, Yvonne, now 27, has built up a considerable following – at last count, her Facebook fan page had over 43,000 members, and when production of the third season of *Chuck* was in doubt, fans of the show launched a 'Save Chuck' campaign, resulting in its renewal for another season. She was also named as one of Forbes Magazine's 'Next Breakout Stars' in 2009.

She is so convincing as an American action hero that interviewers are constantly surprised when she reverts to her native Australian accent on talk shows such as *The Late Show with David Letterman* and on the red carpet.

The action heroine credits extend to video games. Yvonne provided the voice of character Miranda Lawson in *Mass Effect Galaxy*, and for its follow-up *Mass Effect 2*, she had her face scanned and animated so she could portray this character. The popularity of *Mass Effect 2* also saw Yvonne immortalised as an action figurine.

But Yvonne's appeal is not limited to teenage boys – with film roles coming thick and fast. In 2007, she appeared in British psychological thriller *Gone*, and later landed a leading role in *The Canyon* opposite Eion Bailey.

Australians can catch her next in Peter Heliar's film, *I Love You Too*, starring alongside Brendan Cowell and Megan Gale.

Yvonne's character Alice is a complete change of pace from Sarah Walker, she told the *Macarthur Advertiser*. "Alice is very normal, has a normal job and like, most girls, wants to meet the right guy and settle down, have a family," Yvonne says.

She also appears in another Australian film, *Matching Jack*, directed by Nadia Tass and starring Jacinda Barrett and Richard Roxburgh, which is expected to be released in Australia later this year.

Although Yvonne says she is staying put in her adopted LA home for the time being, averaging one trip home each year, these new roles may herald her recognition in Australia as an exciting emerging talent.



## researching stingless bees in Switzerland

Entomologist and UWS PhD candidate Mark Greco is currently undertaking important research on Australian stingless bee colonies while employed by the Swiss Bee Research Institute at the University of Bern in Switzerland.

Stingless bees have the potential to be used to improve crop yields and work with humans in greenhouse environments, but little is currently known about parasites or pathogens of Australian stingless bees.

Mark hopes to complete his PhD, titled 'Management of Australian stingless bees in greenhouse environments', in June this year. Concurrently, he is working as a research scientist at the institute to further develop his new method of "diagnostic radioentomology" for the detailed, non-invasive study of *Apis mellifera* and other insects – a method which other researchers are also beginning to use.

"Stingless bee colonies are quite delicate in that it is difficult to observe what they do without damaging their hive or killing many in the process. Diagnostic radioentomology is a non-invasive observation method that does not harm or disturb the bees, which means that we can now observe them without modifying their normal behaviour," Mark says.

"I have found that stingless bees can very rapidly stop intruders such as the small hive beetle and I have linked stingless bee brood volume to colony health during my pollination experiments."

Mark and a team of researchers made this discovery while examining the response of the stingless bee to adult small hive beetles. Using an imaging technique to take pictures of the bee colony using a CT scanner and observing the insects' interactions, they found that when a small hive beetle enters the hive, worker bees fight with it and bite at its legs.

In response, the beetle tucks in its head and legs, and the bees take this opportunity to wrap it in resin, wax and mud to stop it from moving. Eventually the beetles starve and shrivel on the spot. This technique is so effective that within 10 minutes a beetle attack can be brought under control. This research has been published in the international peer-reviewed journal, *Naturwissenschaften*.

It is not the first time one of his journal articles has attracted attention – in 2008, Mark was awarded the Eva Crane Memorial Award by the editorial board of the *Journal of Apicultural Research* for his paper: 'X-ray computerised microtomography (MicroCT): a new technique for assessing external and internal morphology of bees' which was voted as the best, most innovative and scientifically exciting, article published in the journal that year.

Mark completes his contract with the Swiss Bee Research Institute in February 2011, and plans to return to Australia to continue to uncover more exciting findings on Australian native bees.



## breakthrough year for uws musician

Jonathan Boulet is a name you can expect to be hearing more often. A 21-year-old singer-songwriter, self-confessed "skate rat" and UWS Bachelor of Music graduate, he released his self-titled debut album last year to wide acclaim.

While still living at home with his parents in Castle Hill, Jonathan not only recorded and produced most of the tracks in his garage studio, but he also played almost all the instruments himself. He put the material together over three years, releasing songs online.

The buzz built and soon record label Modular, home to other indie acts such as the Presets, Cut Copy, Wolfmother and Ladyhawke, were knocking at his door. After signing with the label in late 2009, Jonathan's album was released.

This album, described as "anthemic folk-pop born out of a world of endless campfires and tribal jam sessions" was Triple J's feature album of the week in December, and after supporting more established acts such as Tame Impala and Mumford and Sons, in February Jonathan embarked on his first national headline tour. He also toured as part of the Groovin the Moo festival line-up in May.

One of his songs, 'Ones Who Fly Twos Who Die', has even been added to the soundtrack of EA Sports 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa video game.

While his self-titled music was originally only a sideline to his work with other bands – he plays drums in chamber pop group Parades and bass for thrash metal group Snakeface – it has certainly hit the forefront, and many of his fans will be eagerly awaiting the release of his second album, reportedly in the works.



Dr Tom Cerni, who recently graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy from the UWS School of Psychology, travelled to the University of London in December last year to present some of his research at the Second European Coaching Psychology Conference, 'Changing Perspectives'.

Tom, who was supervised by Dr Guy Curtis and Dr Susan Colmar, presented on his research topic, 'Information-processing and leadership in school principals: Cognitive-experiential self-theory and transformational leadership'.

Tom's presentation provided initial evidence that changing leaders' information processing systems can enhance transformational leadership techniques. "If leaders are better able to understand their own rational experiential systems, and how the two systems regulate each other, the development of more adaptive and productive leadership outcomes may result," says Tom.



## uws graduate presents at international psychology conference

"The regional system, falling within the realms of conscious control, is analytical and uses logical connections, whereas the experiential system operates at both the conscious and preconscious level and is considered to be automatic and holistic. It is hypothesised that the overlapping region between the two systems is associated with creativity and intuitive wisdom."

Considered to be novel and the first to consider leadership via the two perspectives of the cognitive-experiential self-theory and transformational leadership, this research, published in the *International Coaching Psychology Review*, Vol. 5, No. 1 March, 2010, is considered relevant to coaching psychologists and leadership consultants who are interested in employing an

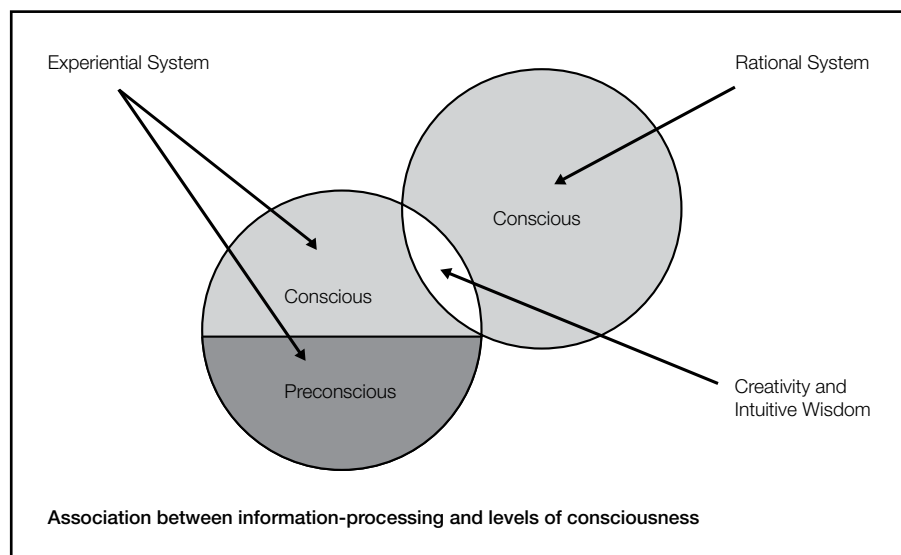
evidence-based technique for improving thinking and leadership.

Tom says the conference was well received by all who attended. "It was an excellent, engaging and professional event that brought together a diverse community of coaching psychologists and coaches to network, develop their practice and deepen their knowledge base."

Tom will present other aspects of his research that is included in his new book (see details below), at the International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP) in Melbourne later this year, and plans to continue investigating this area using more advanced research designs.

Cerni, T, Curtis, GJ & Colmar, SH (2010). *Cognitive-experiential self theory and transformational leadership: Information-processing, educational leadership, conflict-handling styles*.

Mauritius: VDM Publishing House Ltd.



# alumni chapter news



Professor Kevin Dunn

## CHAPTER PROFILE: PLANNING ALUMNI CHAPTER

UWS planning graduates now have a new avenue to connect with each other and the University, following the formation of the Planning Alumni Chapter late last year.

The UWS Planning program was put on hold for two years while it was reviewed and revised, culminating in the launch of a revised and expanded Bachelor of Social Science/Master of Urban Management and Planning degree for the 2010 academic year.

According to Professor Kevin Dunn, UWS professor of geography and urban studies, the Chapter was established as a way of making planning alumni aware that the university is still teaching Planning, and to advise them on the nature of the revised program, as well as some key new staffing appointments.

"I think it's very important that the alumni know that the University is still very committed to the field," Professor Dunn says.

Five planning graduates were involved in welcoming the intake of new students to the revised degree program in February this year.

The Planning Alumni Chapter also allows the University to stay in touch with planning graduates to inform them of events that the School of Social Science is co-hosting with organisations such as the Planning Institute of Australia and its Young Planners Chapter.

These professional and social events provide an opportunity for Planning Alumni to network with other graduates and young professionals in the area, and to exchange information on their experience and lessons learned in their career to date.

Professor Dunn says he is also very keen to explore the opportunities provided by social networking sites such as Facebook, to provide an avenue for Alumni to connect with others and the University.

Information about upcoming events, Alumni success in the profession, and news from the Planning Program is available at [www.uws.edu.au/alumni/chapters/planning\\_alumni](http://www.uws.edu.au/alumni/chapters/planning_alumni).

Planning graduates who would like to join the Alumni Chapter can also visit this page to complete the Alumni Keep In Touch Form.

## PLANNING GRADUATES FIGURE IN AWARDS

Two UWS graduates figured prominently among the 2009 Planning Excellence Awards bestowed by the NSW Division of the Planning Institute of NSW.

These annual Awards for Excellence aim to recognise innovation and achievement in urban and regional planning in and by New South Wales planners. The awards also serve to raise the public profile of the profession by showcasing the wide range of planning projects.

Transport Planner Matthew Thompson received an award for his company AECOM, which was awarded a



Matthew Thompson



Nazia Pokar

commendation in the Transport Planning category for its South West Sector Bus Servicing Plan. AECOM worked with the Department of Transport and Infrastructure to generate underlying principles for a sustainable plan to provide public transport services to 300,000 people of the South West Growth Centre over the next 20 years.

The plan includes 500 kilometres of new bus routes serving an area of more than 17,000 hectares, and according to the Planning Institute, gives the community a true public transport choice for their daily travel, including access to work, education, health care and community facilities.

Nazia Pokar is a member of the Mosman Council Urban Planning team who won an award for the Mosman Design Awards 2009 in the category of Media Public/Professional. This recognised Mosman's bi-annual Urban Design awards program, which acknowledges outstanding local contributions to the built environment and heritage conservation.

With many nominations of a high standard, it involves a purpose-built in-house website that displays examples of local best practice by built environment professionals.

Both Matthew and Nazia were at the awards evening, held last October, to receive the awards on behalf of their organisations.

# UWS News



Emma Stein

## NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO UWS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Accomplished business leaders Emma Stein and John Banks have been appointed new members of the UWS Board of Trustees by the NSW Minister for Education and Training.

"The evolution of UWS into a modern university with solid research results benefitting the community and a strong focus on teaching and learning, is in part due to the hard work and dedication of the Board of Trustees," says Vice-Chancellor Professor Janice Reid.

"The University is very fortunate to have Ms Stein and Mr Banks joining the Board of Trustees. They are both very accomplished business leaders who bring a wealth of experience and skills to their new positions at UWS," says Professor Reid.

Emma Stein is a Sydney-based director of energy company, DUET and engineering and construction company, Clough. She formerly had roles on the boards of Arc Energy, Integral Energy and the NSW Growth Centres Commission.



John Banks

Ms Stein is the NSW President for the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN), an Ambassador for the Guides and on the UWS Board of Trustees' Strategy and Resources Committee. Previously, Ms Stein held executive positions in leading European building materials, fuel distribution and energy industries.

John Banks is director of Talent2 Consult and has served on the board of the University's Foundation. Working with owners, boards and senior management in Australia and the UK, Mr Banks has assisted organisation review, managed change, recruited and developed leaders for the last 30 years. Mr Banks was founder and Chairman of The Banks Management Group which provided a range of human resource and performance management services to industry.

Ms Stein and Mr Banks have been appointed for terms of four years, from 1 January 2010.

## HONOURS FOR UWS ASSOCIATES

Professor Kathy Baker and Peter Brennan, both associates of UWS, were named in the 2010 Australia Day Honours list as recipients of the Order of Australia.

Professor Baker was made a Member of the Order of Australia for "service to the nursing profession through contributions to education and the promotion of clinical excellence in health care".

She became an Adjunct Professor of the School of Nursing in the College of Health and Sciences, University of Western Sydney in 2005, following a long and distinguished nursing career. She worked with the NSW public health system for more than 42 years, and was Chief Nurse Officer and head of nursing and midwifery for NSW Health prior to her retirement in 2006.

Professor Baker had been at the forefront of significant change in the former Northern Sydney Area Health Service, taking on reforms in workforce development, staff education, primary health care and nursing services.

She also facilitated the development of collaborative teaching and research in the development of undergraduate and postgraduate nursing programs at the University of Technology, Sydney. Professor Baker was named an Honorary Fellow by both UTS and UWS and now works as a consultant in health and aged care.

Peter Brennan, chief executive officer of development group Bradcorp, was also made a Member of the Order of Australia, "for service to the community of the Macarthur region through a range of health, educational and social welfare organisations, and to the housing industry".

Peter recently provided a generous donation to the University to establish a new endowed chair in General Practice, called the Peter Brennan Chair of General Practice.

The professor who is appointed to this chair will play a leading role in helping the School of Medicine's graduates meet the complex health challenges of the growing population of Greater Western Sydney.



Before joining Bradcorp, Peter held a number of senior management positions with AVJennings over 13 years. He has been a long-time advocate of social and corporate responsibility, serving as President of the Housing Industry Association New South Wales Division in 2000 and as President of the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation from 2000 to 2005.

He was named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International in 2003.

## UWS APPOINTS NEW UNIVERSITY LEGAL COUNSEL

The University of Western Sydney has appointed Helen Fleming as its new University Legal Counsel. She took up the role in March.

Ms Fleming brings a wide range of knowledge to UWS as a lawyer with 20 years' experience in the university sector.

From 1990, she was University Solicitor at The University of Sydney, before returning to private practice in 2003, where educational institutions formed a large part of her client base.

In 2007 Ms Fleming returned to the university sector to work on a research project reviewing student complaints, appeals and disciplinary matters. The project report recommended that universities improve the way they communicate their expectations of students, and suggested ways in which to streamline their complaints and appeals processes to reduce complexity and minimise the risk of procedural error. She also established her own legal practice to provide legal and consulting services for a range of universities across Australia, including UWS.

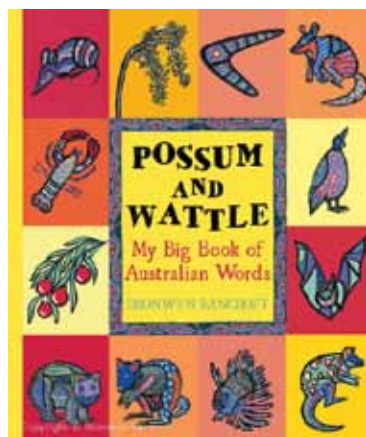
Ms Fleming is a member of the Australian Institute of Administrative Law, a founding member of the Australian and New Zealand Education Law Association, and the Society of University Lawyers. She has presented widely in Australia and overseas about issues affecting Australian universities.

## UWS STUDENT WINS PRESTIGIOUS DROMKEEN MEDAL

Bronwyn Bancroft, a renowned Indigenous artist and PhD student from the University of Western Sydney, has been announced as the 2010 winner of the prestigious Dromkeen Medal.

The Dromkeen Medal is an annual award, presented to an Australian citizen who has significant contributions to the appreciation and development of children's literature in Australia.

Bronwyn is a writer, illustrator, artist and designer of children's books, and has been recognised by the Dromkeen judges for her innovative style of storytelling and sharing the Indigenous traditional stories.



Possum and Wattle: My Big Book of Australian Words  
– by Bronwyn Bancroft

Perhaps Bronwyn's most well-known title is 'Possum and Wattle: My Big Book of Australian Words'. Her illustrations, which have a distinct Indigenous style, feature in more than twenty-five picture books including 'Fat and Juicy Place' by Diana Kidd and Sally Morgan's 'Just A Little Brown Dog'.

As a winner of the Dromkeen Medal, Bronwyn keeps prestigious company. Previous winners of the award include Mem Fox, Robin Klein, Colin Thiele, Graeme Base and Paul Jennings.

A descendant of the Bundjalung people, Bronwyn is the first Indigenous Australian to receive the Dromkeen Medal.

"Being the first Indigenous Australian to receive this award is a significant honour, because the work of Indigenous artists still tends to be under-represented and under-valued in Australia," says Bronwyn.

## PARTING PROFESSOR PAYS TRIBUTE

UWS farewelled its Dean of Indigenous Education, Professor Michael McDaniel, earlier this year. Prior to his departure to pursue other professional interests, Professor McDaniel expressed his gratitude to UWS for its role in his and his family's education.

"As some of you may know, until entering what was then Milperra CAE and later UWS Macarthur, I had very little formal education and consequently limited opportunities in life. UWS changed that, not only for me but as it has turned out, the change was intergenerational in that all three of my children are either university students or graduates. In short, I owe a lot to UWS," Professor McDaniel wrote in an email to UWS staff.

# UWS News



Professor Michael McDaniel

Professor McDaniel took up the position of Dean, Indigenous Education in mid 2006, attracted by the desire of the University's Executive to embed Indigenous education across the University and develop an Indigenous Graduate Attribute.

"This was a wonderful opportunity and one which many of my colleagues in other universities were and continue to be envious of. On a personal level, another attraction was the opportunity to contribute to a university which I consider my own," Professor McDaniel wrote.

He said he believed this objective had been achieved through establishing infrastructure and governance for an embedded approach to Indigenous education.

"What is now required are the many years of hard work and commitment to see it through, which I believe UWS will do," Professor McDaniel wrote.

"In conclusion, I would like to sincerely thank the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Board of Trustees, the Indigenous Advisory Council members, and staff at all levels of the University who have offered support during my time here. I would also like to thank the many Indigenous students and alumni who have supported me during my time here."

Acting Vice-Chancellor John Ingleson praised the work of Professor McDaniel during his time at UWS.

"Michael came to UWS to take on the task of establishing a strong, effective and united Indigenous education centre, and this he has done admirably. Badanami is acknowledged across UWS and beyond as a formidable force in the effort to improve education outcomes for Indigenous students and to bring an understanding of the world of Indigenous Australians to the broader UWS community.

"During his three and a half years at UWS, Michael worked closely with staff to promote Indigenous education matters and he built the governance and administrative infrastructure to make sure that good intentions are converted to concrete achievements. He leaves a fine legacy for UWS and for the Indigenous community that we serve. I am sure that all who have worked with Michael will miss his passion, intelligence and generosity of spirit."

## UWS APPOINTS NEW DEPUTY VICE- CHANCELLOR

Professor Wayne McKenna has been appointed to the new role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research) at the University of Western Sydney.

Professor McKenna will lead the new Division of Academic and Research which integrates all academic-related functions including academic development, teaching, research, engagement, the Library and human resources.



Professor Wayne McKenna

UWS Vice-Chancellor Professor Janice Reid welcomes Professor McKenna to the new role.

"For the past four years, Professor McKenna has provided exceptional leadership as the Executive Dean of the UWS College of Arts. He has been instrumental in the College's significant improvements in teaching and learning and the substantial growth of the College's research profile," says Professor Reid.

"I am delighted the University will continue to benefit from Professor McKenna's skills as an accomplished and innovative academic leader in his new role as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research)."

Professor McKenna takes the position during an exciting period of growth for UWS. Over the next three to five years, the University will expand to help meet new Australian Government targets for 40 percent of young Australians to have a bachelor degree or higher.

"UWS will play an increasingly important role providing educational opportunities for more people in Greater Western Sydney, while continuing to expand its internationally recognised research," says Professor McKenna.

## LEADING RESEARCHER HEADS UWS COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND SCIENCE

Professor Branko Celler, a biomedical engineer with expertise in research, commercialisation and corporate management, is the new Executive Dean at the UWS College of Health and Science.

For more than three decades Professor Celler has been a leader in the research and application of telemedicine, a specialist field of remote sensing and monitoring of patients using advanced technology and communications services.

Professor Celler's expertise across multidisciplinary health, ICT, engineering and science will be an advantage in leading the College of Health and Science, Australia's largest science-based group in an Australian university.

"I am excited by the opportunity to build on the solid foundation in research and teaching UWS has established in health, science, engineering and technology," says Professor Celler.

"This is a unique collaborative environment that has the potential to deliver an outstanding, world-class experience for both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

"The College of Health and Science has a reputation for delivering innovative research which directly benefits the community. I look forward to further expanding this role in the region and beyond."

Professor Celler has a BSc in Physics and Computer Science, an Honours degree in Electrical Engineering and PhD in Biomedical Engineering (Neural control of the heart).



Professor Branko Celler

He also completed a Post Doctoral Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University in the USA. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers Australia and a member of IEEE.

## UWS AWARDS HONORARY DOCTORATES

The University of Western Sydney awarded Honorary Doctorates to prominent Australians during its Autumn Graduation ceremonies at the Parramatta campus in April.

Founder and CEO of Youth off the Streets Father Chris Riley, distinguished educational leader Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley, social commentator Hugh Mackay, Schools Spectacular founder Mary Lopez, foundation Dean of the UWS School of Medicine Professor Neville Yeomans, and long-serving Board of Trustee Mary Foley each received an Honorary Doctorate of Letters *honoris causa* from UWS.

In 2006 Father Riley became a member of the Order of Australia for service to disadvantaged youth and the welfare of children both here and overseas.

He has been presented with the 2006 Human Rights Medal from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, the 2006 Austcare Humanitarian Award and the 2004 Prime Minister's Award for Excellence and Outstanding Contribution. He served as the NSW Australian of the Year in 2003.

In 2009, he received the Lions International Humanitarian Award in recognition of his achievements in humanitarian work through 30 years of working with homeless and disadvantaged young people, both in Australia and overseas. In receiving the award, Father Riley joined esteemed dignitaries including former US President Jimmy Carter, Mother Teresa and Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus. He is the first Australian to receive the award.

Professor Bradley is arguably Australia's most prominent university educator. Over the course of her career, she has been extensively involved in helping to shape national higher education policy and has been at the forefront of debate around key issues facing universities – equity, quality, internationalisation and research.

She was chosen by the Federal Government to chair the Review of Australian Higher Education. Its landmark report – widely known as the Bradley Report – has set the agenda for the future of higher education in Australia.

Hugh Mackay is best known for his qualitative social research series The Mackay Report which he established in 1979.

He has made a lifelong study of the attitudes and behaviour of Australians. For over 30 years his insightful commentary has also resonated throughout Australia in his weekly newspaper columns and discussions about social and political issues on radio and television.



# UWS News

Mary Lopez commenced her career as a high school teacher of music. Early on she developed a passion for performance and has since dedicated her life to the creative arts.

In 1999 Mary became a Member of the Order of Australia for services to the performing arts and the development of young Australian performers and in 2007 she received the Variety Humanitarian of the Year Award.

Since co-founding Schools Spectacular in 1984, Mary Lopez has been the driving force behind the production, which is open to more than 260 public schools in New South Wales and is

broadcast nationwide on ABC TV to hundreds of thousands of Australians each year. Mary directed her 25th and final Schools Spectacular in 2008.

Testament to her success in establishing the annual event is the Schools Spectacular's continued status as the "world's biggest variety show" in the Guinness Book of Records.

UWS Vice-Chancellor Professor Janice Reid says Emeritus Professor Yeomans has made an outstanding contribution to the University.

Professor Reid announced that in recognition of his distinguished

achievement and service, the innovative E-teaching Laboratory in the Medical School Building at Campbelltown, will be named the 'The Neville Yeomans Learning Laboratory'.

Mary Foley retired from the University's Board of Trustees in 2009 as its longest serving member.

Professor Janice Reid says Ms Foley has played an instrumental role in setting the strategic directions and profile of the University as it moved from the networked university of three affiliated institutions, to an integrated and focused institution serving Greater Western Sydney.



Father Chris Riley



Professor Denise Bradley



Hugh Mackay



Mary Lopez



Professor Neville Yeomans



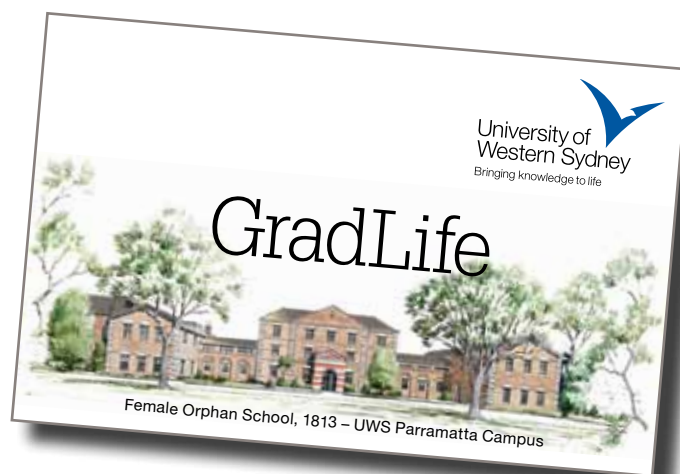
Mary Foley

# UWS alumni GradLife benefits

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

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

All graduates of UWS are eligible for a GradLife Card, so visit [www.uws.edu.au/GradLife](http://www.uws.edu.au/GradLife) to apply for yours today.



BENEFIT	DETAILS
<b>UWS Library Access Discount</b>	Discounted annual membership to any of the UWS Campus Libraries for \$50 (as opposed to \$100 full fee). This includes book borrowing rights, as well as access to a limited range of electronic sources not currently available to other subscribers.
<b>UWS Bookshop Discount</b>	10% discount on all purchases.
<b>UWS Connect Fitness Gym Discount</b>	Alumni to be offered same price as students for membership of UWS Connect Fitness facilities.
<b>Travel Discounts through exclusive UWS Alumni Portal</b>	Exclusive comprehensive Alumni travel portal through World Travel Professionals.
<b>Careers and Employment Services CareerHub</b>	Free continuing access to career services and UWS Career Hub – with the potential to build this service into a significant resource for both students and Alumni.
<b>Invitations to UWS Alumni Events and Networking Opportunities</b>	GradLife members will receive invitations to various UWS Alumni Events – Chapter Functions, Reunions, Seminars, Networking Opportunities, and other Alumni activities, including opportunistic discounts to theatre and sporting events, UWS Exhibitions and specific UWS 20th Anniversary events.
<b>Access to information on Discipline Specific Professional Development Activities</b>	GradLife members will receive information and any available discount on upcoming professional development opportunities facilitated by various Alumni chapters and networks, including Law, Engineering and Education. Liaison with UWS College and UWS Colleges to inform of professional development courses as they become available.
<b>Volunteering and Mentoring Opportunities</b>	Help UWS students through the Aspire Program and a range of volunteering opportunities currently under development by UWS.
<b>Discount Magazine Subscriptions iSubscribe</b>	5 to 10% discount on i-Subscribe prices.
<b>E-Newsletter and Alumni Alerts</b>	Members will be kept up to date with the latest UWS Alumni news and promotions through a quarterly e-newsletter.
<b>UWS Venue Hire</b>	Alumni discounts will be available in future.
<b>Keep In Touch with Friends</b>	Through staff at the UWS Alumni Unit, Alumni can reconnect with old classmates, search for long lost university chums, or make contact with those who were in their course, area of study, or graduating class.

For more information and the entire list of benefits please visit

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

# recent events



Photo by Olga Nebot. L-R: John Juriansz, Professor Michael Adams, Professor John Ingleson, Geoffrey Bellew SC, VC Professor Janice Reid AM, Chancellor John Phillips AO, Kieran Ginges

## UWS LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OCCASIONAL ADDRESS 30 OCTOBER 2009

The UWS Law Alumni Association (UWSLA) hosted the sixth annual Occasional Address late last year in Sydney.

The key address was given by Mr Geoffrey Bellew SC, former Director of National Rugby League Ltd, a former Director of the Manly-Warringah Leagues Club, and a former Chairman of the Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles Football Club.

Making many appearances during his career for amateur and professional sportspersons, Mr Bellew's address was an entertaining one.

Be sure to keep an eye out on the UWS Alumni Events Page for information coming soon on the 2010 UWSLA Occasional Address to be held later in the year [www.uws.edu.au/AlumniEvents](http://www.uws.edu.au/AlumniEvents)

## UWS SINGAPORE ALUMNI CHANCELLOR'S DINNER 16 MARCH 2010

Hosted by Deputy Vice Chancellor (International & Development) Professor John Ingleson on behalf of UWS Chancellor John Phillips AO, the recent Alumni dinner in Singapore provided local alumni with the opportunity to network with fellow graduates, and reconnect with their university.

Although unable to attend the event due to unforeseen circumstances, Chancellor Phillips delighted the 150 alumni guests with a thank you address given via video link.



L-R: Eric Lim, Associate Professor Robyn McGuiggan, Eddie Tay, Professor John Ingleson, Alan Cheong, Alex Tan, Andy Kuah

## UWS GOLDEN KEY SEMINAR: POLITICS AT THE PUB 25 MARCH 2010

Hosted by the UWS Golden Key Chapter, UWS Alumni and students were invited to attend the debate on Immigration and Population vs. Sustainability: How Big Can Australia Get?

Guest speakers included The Honourable Bob Carr, Dr James Arvanitakis, and Ms Anne Henderson.



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# alumni online



Photo by Rosemary Turner. L-R: Jonathan Adamopoulos, Daniel Dwyer, Daniel Petrushnko, John Juriansz, Jason Harris, Nelson Arias, Robert Ishak

## UWS LAW CAREERS SEMINAR 1 APRIL 2010

Hosted by the UWS Law Alumni Association (UWSLA) and UWS Law Students Association (UWSLSA), the 2010 Law Careers Seminar provided students with an opportunity to ask the expert panel of UWS Law Graduates how to forge ahead in their emerging law careers.

Chaired by UWS academic, alumnus, and former UWSLA President John Juriansz, close to 100 UWS Law students and graduates attended on the night, gaining insight from the alumni panel discussions, question and answer sessions, and smaller discussion groups with panel members, speaking individually about their experiences in the field.

Special guest and Solicitor Director of Williams Roberts Lawyers Robert Ishak also appeared on the panel and spoke of his experiences both as UWS alumnus, and an employer in the legal sector. Mr Ishak commented during discussions that "UWS law grads are among the best", and that "studying in the West is not a disadvantage".

## UWS EQUITY AND DIVERSITY OPEN FORUM: CAN WE TRUST GENERATION Y? 8 APRIL 2010

Hosted by the UWS Equity and Diversity Unit, UWS Alumni and local community members joined special guest Hugh Mackay for his address on Generation Y.

Mr Mackay put forward a strong case, defending the young working generation, alongside UWS student Sacha Krjatian who also spoke on the topic. Mr Mackay positively said that "Generation Y has learned to be adaptable in the face of this constant change".



Hugh Mackay



## UWS ALUMNI FACEBOOK FAN PAGE

Our Facebook Fan page continues to grow with more than 700 new users who have become a fan in the last 6 months.

We hope to continue to grow the page, so spread the word and help us get to 1,000 members!

Find us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/UWSAlumni](http://www.facebook.com/UWSAlumni)

twitter



## FOLLOW UWS ALUMNI ON TWITTER

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](http://www.twitter.com/UWSAlumni)

# future events

## 9 – 10 June 2010

Interventions & Intersections: A School of Communication Arts Postgraduate Conference – UWS Penrith

## 10 July 2010

Australia China Alumni Awards Presentation Dinner – Shanghai, China

## 16 July 2010

Coming Home: Some Connections between Body Awareness Practices, Environmental Sustainability and Australian Homelessness Policy

Hellene Gronda, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy Seminar Series, UWS Bankstown

## 16 – 17 July 2010

Research Symposium: Technology and the Future of Translation  
UWS Bankstown

## 15 – 16 September 2010

UWS Mental Wellbeing Conference  
Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour

## 20 – 24 September 2010

Spring Graduation Ceremonies  
UWS Parramatta

## ADDITIONAL EVENTS AND UPDATES

All new information and updates on upcoming events will be available to view on the UWS Alumni website at [www.uws.edu.au/AlumniEvents](http://www.uws.edu.au/AlumniEvents)

## DATES TO BE ADVISED

Although specific 2010 dates are yet to be advised for the events below, be sure to keep an eye out for updates on our website over the coming weeks and months.

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

- India Alumni Functions
- UWS Law Alumni Association Occasional Address
- Cooperative Alumni Network Function
- UWS Art Gallery Exhibitions
- Interpreting and Translation Seminar Series
- Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy Seminar Series

## TO REQUEST AN INVITATION

If you would like to request an invitation to any of our events listed here, or on the UWS Alumni website and social networking pages, please email us at [alumni@uws.edu.au](mailto:alumni@uws.edu.au)

## RECEIVE REGULAR UPDATES ON UPCOMING UWS ALUMNI EVENTS

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

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# keep in touch

Update your details, join chapters and stay connected online at

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

The University of Western Sydney holds our Alumni in high esteem, taking pride in each graduate as they progress beyond their studies and into their chosen career. Assisting more than 120,000 graduates, UWSAlumni aims to keep all Alumni “in touch” with UWS. Every new member of the UWS Alumni is also invited to join the GradLife program. Membership is free, with members gaining access to exclusive Chapter Membership, UWS Alumni benefits, and events.