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WELCOME FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



I am pleased to introduce to you the latest issue of *UNSWWorld*. The magazine aims to keep you in touch with the University's major achievements and significant events and developments on campus, as well as the outstanding efforts of the many members of our alumni community who are making a difference in the wider world. Global warming is arguably the greatest challenge facing the world today. UNSW has allocated \$6 million over five years to the establishment of a Centre for Climate Change Research, which will bring together some 60 academics across the University in a research program addressing all aspects of climate change – from its causes to its impact on

communities, public health, the law, the built environment and the economy. The Centre has already attracted distinguished researchers from other institutions to UNSW and, in fact, will be a focal point for a national network of researchers. We are proud that UNSW will play a pivotal role in furthering the research on this important issue.

UNSW has always been known for its innovative "hands-on" approach to tertiary education, and in this issue we look back at several areas where the University played a trailblazing role.

We are now celebrating 40 years of planning education at UNSW. When the Bachelor of Town Planning Degree started here in late 1966 it was the only undergraduate planning course in Australia, and it has continued to be a leader in the field. The School of Surveying and Spatial Information Systems in the Faculty of Engineering is also reflecting on some proud achievements for its Golden Jubilee this year. And we pay tribute to St Vincent's Hospital for its Sesquicentenary. Through the St Vincent's Clinical School, the hospital and UNSW's Faculty of Medicine share many high-achieving alumni whom we'd like to acknowledge.

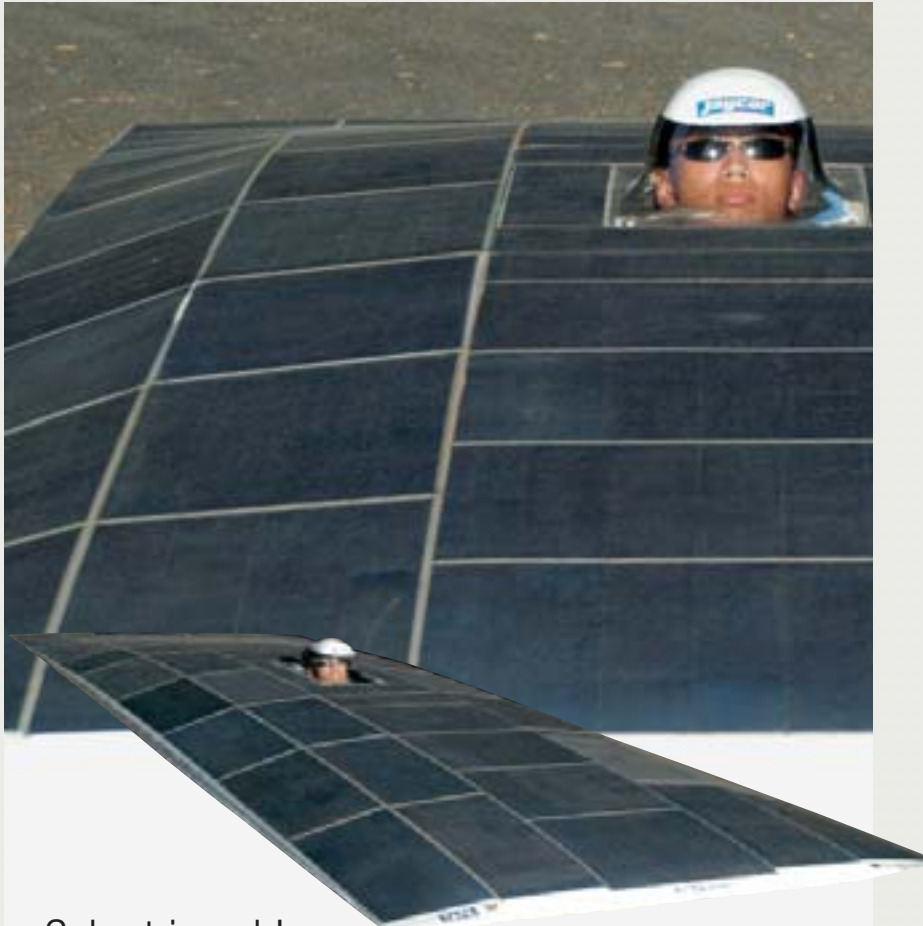
Undoubtedly, the relevance of tertiary education is best seen in how graduates use their learning and make their way in the world. So we're particularly pleased to highlight the contribution of several UNSW alumni to the pioneering Oscar-winning animation, *Happy Feet*. As this issue of *UNSWWorld* demonstrates, we greatly value our alumni. I hope you enjoy the magazine and take advantage of the many opportunities available to alumni to remain involved with the University community.

Professor Frederick Hilmer AO
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Solar triumph!

UNSW's solar car, Jaycar Sunswift III, has broken the world record for the fastest solar-powered road trip from Perth to Sydney. The student-designed solar car, with a team of 11 students and three support vehicles, set out from Perth's Scarborough Beach on 10 January and arrived at Sydney Harbour five days later, defeating Dick Smith's previous world record by just under three days.

"Jaycar Sunswift III is a vehicle to inspire Australians about what the future may hold for sustainable road transport: it's efficient, it's lightweight and it's solar powered," says Yael Augarten, Project Leader of the UNSW Solar Racing Team. (Jaycar, sponsor of the solar vehicle, was founded by UNSW alumnus Gary Johnston.) The team was elated to have broken the world record, says Augarten who admits the prototype requires refinement for everyday use. "Sure, it doesn't have much in the way of air conditioning, and it is rather sleek, but this is a demonstration vehicle. In much the same way that a Formula 1 vehicle demonstrates what is possible with a combustion engine, you're not going to take the kids to school in it – just yet." More information can be found on the team's website www.sunswift.com

Basser Jubilee 2009

UNSW's first residential college, Basser College, will celebrate its jubilee in 2009. Basser alumni, and those of Goldstein and Philip Baxter Colleges, are encouraged to be in touch so that contact can be made about the 50th anniversary and other events and developments in the life of The Kensington Colleges. The Colleges provide residence, academic and pastoral support, and a range of activities that add value to the student experience at UNSW. They also offer facilities for conferences and casual visitors during vacation periods. Update contact details on the Alumni & Friends section of the website: www.kensingtoncolleges.unsw.edu.au; or by emailing: kenso-colleges@unsw.edu.au



Australia's first Aboriginal surgeon

A UNSW medical graduate has become the first Aboriginal surgeon in Australia.

Dr Kelvin Kong, who helped establish UNSW's Indigenous Pre-Medical Program when he was an undergraduate, has become an ear, nose and throat specialist.

"Indigenous Australia remains over-represented on every poor determinant of health. There are high rates of ear disease in Australia's Indigenous communities and I want to help address those," says Dr Kong, who is based at St Vincent's Hospital and is involved in clinics run by the Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS).

Nominated for his contribution to health in this year's national Indigenous awards, the Deadlys, his citation acknowledges his outstanding contribution as a national leader and his position as a role model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

As a board member of the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) he co-wrote the AIDA *Healthy Futures* report, which defines best practice in the recruitment and retention of Indigenous medical students.

UNSW is one of the few universities with "the vision, will and support from staff to really encourage Indigenous students" – and this is reflected in increased enrolments, says Dr Kong who remains a strong supporter of UNSW's Indigenous programs at Nura Gili. (He was a student at the University during the time of the Aboriginal Education Program which was combined with the Aboriginal Resource and Research Centre to form Nura Gili.) An interest in medicine runs in the family. Dr Kong's mother is a nurse, his twin sisters are doctors and his father Dr Kong Cheok Seng is a doctor and alumnus of UNSW.



Laughter At-Large

Corporate satirist Rodney Marks has the mission of enlivening the intellectual and cultural life of the University in his new role as UNSW artist-in-residence. His half-time role fits with the University's strategic priority

to improve the student experience, and accordingly the Visiting Professor-at-Large will participate in a range of uplifting cross-campus activities throughout 2007. As a graduate of AGSM in 1982, Marks is no stranger to on-campus humour. While undertaking MBA studies, he also wrote and produced the inaugural AGSM comedy review, *There's No Accounting For Taste*. "I'm truly excited to be back at my *alma mater*. The role is to perform comedy for student audiences: discovering, articulating and addressing their issues," says Marks. "The hope is to make student life on campus more engaging, fun, positive and flamboyant." In 1988, Marks received a Masters in Public Administration from the John F Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where he also spent a term as artist-in-residence. The co-author of a tongue-in-cheek dictionary of management terms, *The Management Contradictionary*, (Michelle Anderson Publishing Pty Ltd 2006), Marks performs in Australia and overseas for leading international businesses.



Picture this

Dr Joe Suttie, a UNSW academic and alumnus, has won a 2007 General Sir John Monash Award to undertake postgraduate study in Britain. The prestigious Monash awards are considered

to be the Australian equivalent of Britain's Rhodes Scholarships and the American Fulbright Awards. Dr Suttie will receive up to \$150,000 over three years to undertake a PhD at Oxford University. He will be studying novel techniques in cardiac imaging for the detection of cardiac failure and the causes of heart attacks. "Current methods of detection are invasive and carry potentially life threatening complications including stroke and cardiac arrhythmias," says Dr Suttie, who is an advanced trainee in cardiology at St Vincent's Hospital. The new methods of diagnostic assessments will enable early detection and treatment of cardiac disease, which is more frequently found in people of marginalised socio-economic status.



Computer kudos

Mike Cannon-Brookes (pictured left) and Scott Farquhar who met and developed a business idea while studying at UNSW were named overall winners of the 2006 Ernst & Young Australian Entrepreneur of the Year. The founders of Atlassian Software Systems are the first in the Young Entrepreneur category to take the major title in Australia. In the four years since they launched the Sydney-based company, it has grown to be one of Australia's largest software exporters with 90 percent of sales overseas and offices now in Sydney, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The company develops software tools, primarily in task tracking and knowledge management, with a focus on ease of use and affordable pricing. Atlassian clients include global brand names CISCO, Citigroup, NASA, the BBC and Microsoft.

Frame it!



Afghans choose to wear their chapans, but UNSW alumnus Samuel Chan plans to frame his and hang it on the living room wall. "It's beyond priceless. Too valuable to be worn as a cloak," says Chan, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree, with a statistics major, in 2001.

Chan's colourful chapana was presented as a token of appreciation by the President of Afghanistan, His Excellency Hamed Karzai. Through a fellowship sponsored by the Jebson Centre for Counterterrorism at the US-based Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Chan, 28, has been leading research projects, mentoring Afghan researchers and forging relationships between the Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies (CAPS) and various military contingents in Afghanistan. CAPS is based in Kabul and was established by the Singaporean International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research as Afghanistan's first independent research centre. CAPS director Hekmat Karzai says Chan is remarkable for immersing himself in Afghan society to the point where Afghans often mistook him as a local. Chan himself commented on the friendliness and hospitality he had experienced in the Afghan community. At the presentation ceremony, Chan explained: "Afghanistan has been plagued by instability since 1978, the year I was born. They deserve all the help they can get in rebuilding their home, and I am happy to be in a position to help."



The global achiever

UNSW Faculty of Engineering alumnus Sir Richard Feachem has retired as the first Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. After five years in the role, Sir Richard, who is also Under Secretary-General of the United Nations, expressed confidence he was handing over "a strong institution that is positively impacting tens of millions of lives in 136 countries". In recognition of his trailblazing achievements with the Fund, Sir Richard was made a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire earlier this year. A report on the organisation's first five years shows the number of deaths averted through the activities supported by the Fund exceeded 1.5 million. In addition, 1.5 million AIDS and TB infections were prevented, while 33 million malaria episodes were also avoided. The Fund adopted an innovative approach to international health financing, operating in partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and affected communities. Instead of running programs directly, the Fund attracts, manages and disburses resources to fight AIDS, TB and malaria, relying on the knowledge of local experts, organisations and agencies. In September, Sir Richard will return to the US west coast where he is concurrently Professor of International Health at the University of California, San Francisco and the University of California, Berkeley. His distinguished 30-year career in international health and development has included appointments as Director for Health, Nutrition and Population at the World Bank, and as Dean of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



Pod performer

Jenny Zhu is far too modest to suggest she's a new media star, although as the host of an innovative Mandarin-language teaching service, her audience is growing rapidly around the globe. Shanghai-based Zhu who did a Masters in Policy Analysis at UNSW in 2004 is helping to meet the worldwide demand for lessons in "real life" Chinese language through chinesepod.com, a teaching tool that delivers audio podcasts with transcripts and interactive online lessons. The success of podcast learning is that it can be done anywhere, anytime, says Zhu who has been teaching and writing lessons since the service started in early 2005. On top of this is the immediacy of being able to deliver "fresh" lessons continually updated with ideas from users, she says. After finishing her Masters, Zhu worked as a translator in China when the podcasting opportunity landed. She also hosts a local jazz radio show. "I never imagined or planned to do any of the work I'm doing now but that's precisely what keeps me interested and forces me to learn," she insists.

Archibald Win



John Beard, visiting professor at UNSW's College of Fine Arts (COFA), has won the 2007 Archibald Prize with a monochrome portrait of fellow artist Janet Lawrence. Beard says his prize-winning work captures a fleeting moment of Laurence, an installation artist who entered the Archibald more than 20 years ago. The coveted art prize, worth \$35,000, is awarded annually at the Art Gallery of NSW to the painting or "mixed media" artwork judged to be the best Australasian portrait of a man or woman, preferentially distinguished in art, letters, science or politics. Beard has been represented in group and solo shows at galleries including the National Portrait Gallery and National Gallery in Canberra, the National Gallery of Victoria, and in London at the Tate, Whitechapel Gallery, Royal Academy, Science Museum and National Portrait Gallery. Most recently, his works were shown in a solo exhibition at The Gulbenkian's Centro De Art Moderna in Lisbon.



Calling on change

Better telecommunication is the key to improving outcomes for Africa, according to Monica Kerretts-Makau, who has graduated with a doctorate from UNSW. Dr Kerretts-Makau, 32, who wore a traditional Massai outfit to her graduation ceremony, studied and lectured in the School of Social Science and Policy as she completed her PhD in Africa's telecommunications policy, with a focus on her country of birth, Kenya. "Telecommunication infrastructure is the key building block of the economy," she says. "It is the basis for so many things, from education through to energy. Unfortunately, there is really poor telecommunication infrastructure in Africa. Only one percent of Africans have access to the internet – partly because the international agreements favour the Western World and partly because they are used by African governments as a bargaining tool with the people."

Dr Kerretts-Makau has returned to Africa with plans to work in negotiating policy between governments and international organisations.

UNSW tops for learning and teaching

UNSW leads all Australian universities for the quality of learning and teaching in business and law, according to the Federal Government's assessment of excellence in these areas. UNSW received a total of \$6.65 million for 2007 under the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund, the highest overall allocation received by a NSW university and one of the highest Australia wide. Almost \$2 million was allocated to UNSW for the discipline group Business, Law and Economics. UNSW was also rewarded for excellence in the discipline categories of Science, Computing, Engineering and Architecture, for which the University received an allocation of \$2 million, and Humanities, Arts and Education (\$1.6 million). "This reflects the underlying strengths of the University, and the excellence of education we provide," says Vice-Chancellor Professor Fred Hilmer. "UNSW has always been a leader in business education, while our Law School is recognised as one of Australia's finest. This assessment confirms the high quality of our teaching and the quality of the learning experience we provide to our students." The Learning and Teaching Fund rewards universities that demonstrate excellence in teaching and learning for domestic undergraduates. For the purposes of the Fund, universities are awarded scores in each of four discipline groups. The assessment is based on graduate surveys measuring levels of satisfaction and employability or progress to further study, and Department of Education, Science and Training data on retention and progression rates. A total of \$83 million was awarded to universities under the Fund for 2007.

Project Venice

Australian contemporary artist and COFA doctoral candidate Susan Norrie is one of three artists chosen to represent Australia at the 2007 Venice Biennale. John Kaldor, the commissioner of the Australian exhibition says his aim for the Biennale – an event recognised as the world's most important critical forum for contemporary visual art – is "to show the richness and diversity of Australian contemporary art". He has selected works by Ms Norrie, Daniel von Sturmer and Callum Morton who have strong reputations at the forefront of our visual arts practice. The artists will work in different sites in Venice, which comprises about 70 national pavilions in the Biennale gardens and across the city from June to November this year. Norrie is affiliated with the COFA's Centre for Contemporary Art and Politics (CCAP), which fosters research activities by theorists, artists, and curators in the fields of visual culture, current political issues and new media. In Venice, she will present her PhD work – a video installation that explores pervasive geopolitical issues of a planet in turmoil. The work will be experiential, physically immersing audiences and transporting them to precautionary tales of an uncertain future. "I feel an enormous responsibility to document the truths of our experiences, not just simply erase history and support a collective amnesia," she says. *Carolina Totterman*



A FASTER PACE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Acting sooner rather than later on human rights issues is the key to avoiding much conflict, confusion and unnecessary bloodshed, according to Dr John Pace, a UNSW Visiting Fellow in the Faculty of Law with over 40 years experience in international human rights law. It is possible to head off the polarisation that creates many of the world's worst human rights violations – and, in the case of Iraq, prevent conflict from dragging on and possibly escalating, he believes. Dr Pace draws a long perspective on human rights issues in reconstruction, reconciliation, internal displacement or situations of conflict. He has had high-level UN assignments in some of the world's most volatile and war stricken nations, including Sudan, East Timor, Kuwait, Liberia and Cambodia.

A former director of the Australian Human Rights Centre in UNSW's Faculty of Law, Dr Pace is back in Sydney sharing the depth of his knowledge through the faculty-affiliated Diplomacy Training Program and writing a book on the evolution of human rights law.

The subject of human rights is controversial, sensitive and commonly misunderstood, he says. "Most people think it's only about civil and political rights, but economic and social rights are an integral component of human rights. We can see this in the many cases of asylum seekers who have been fleeing their countries not due to the sheer impossibility of survival but because they have no hope socially and economically." One of his resounding observations is the need for speedy action when human rights are threatened – and he has witnessed some of the most extreme violations of human rights first-hand. As one of a team of three he was sent on a confidential mission by the UN Commission of Human Rights in the late 1970s, and found himself face to face with the late Ugandan dictator Idi Amin. It was a mission that had taken two years to come to fruition. "By the time we arrived, Amin was upset and surprised we knew so much, and by the time an international inquiry had been held and policies were being changed, it was too late," recalls Dr Pace, citing one case of where acting more promptly may have saved thousands of lives.

In the case of Saddam Hussein's dictatorship in Iraq, the stage was already

set for his removal in the late 1980s and early 1990s, says Dr Pace who was able to use his specific expertise in the protection of civilians in armed conflict when posted to Iraq in 2004 as Chief of the Human Rights Office of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq. It was a situation that presented unprecedented challenges. "For the first time the human rights sector of the UN was trying to operate in a situation of active war fare involving the two most powerful armies in the world – the Americans and the British," says Dr Pace. Despite the difficult conditions, he successfully established human rights offices across Iraq in Basra, Baghdad and Erbil. Working with both government ministries and civil society, the Office monitors human rights violations in the country and assists in the reconstruction of Iraq through capacity building and institution building.

"Among the support activities, we were involved in establishing a National Centre for Missing and Disappeared Persons in Iraq and clinics for the rehabilitation of victims of torture," says Dr Pace. The ongoing violence, including military interventions and insurgent attacks, and the rising death toll illustrate the difficulty of the task.

In fact, Dr Pace believes the situation in Iraq has only deteriorated since the US-led invasion in early 2003, and it has spread conflict throughout the region. While politicians may fear the repercussions if the US pulled out of Iraq now, Dr Pace believes a withdrawal could have positive outcomes. "It would throw the Iraqi parties up against each other, and they would have no alternative but to work it out."

There's no quiet life for a human rights expert. Dr Pace is frequently called to address some of the world's most complex situations. His return to Australia in 2006 lasted

just five months as the war broke out in mid-July when Israel attacked Lebanon following the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah paramilitary forces. Dr Pace crossed through the blockade in the south to act as the Senior Advisor to the Humanitarian Coordinator on the Protection of Civilians as part of the UN's Mission to Lebanon. Plans to devote this year to finishing his book have also been interrupted by a call to West Africa to work with the UN and regional organisations on conflict prevention in the area. ■



DR JOHN PACE FREQUENTLY ADDRESSES SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST COMPLEX HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

HOW GREEN IS OUR CAMPUS?

UNSW AIMS TO BE THE MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CAMPUS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE. HERE'S HOW WE WALK THE TALK.

ENERGY

UNSW's Facilities Management department is extraordinarily active. And its countless initiatives have brought hard savings to UNSW. For example, for the second consecutive year UNSW has used less electrical energy than the year before, representing a saving of more than 1300 tonnes of greenhouse gases. Other initiatives include:

- Tapping into a 42k Wp photovoltaic array on the roof of the Quadrangle building.
- Tenders being sought for the supply of 100 percent Green Power for five percent of the University's consumption. This level will make us one of the country's leaders.
- Solar thermal systems or natural gas used to replace appliances utilising electrical energy wherever possible.
- Ongoing Spot It and Stop it campaign to eliminate energy and water use.
- Environmental criteria in new tenders for contracts such as cleaning services and motor maintenance.
- Variable speed drives on electric motors to save on greenhouse gases, energy and cost.
- The Lighting Challenge, a campaign to improve effectiveness and efficiency in lighting without compromising aesthetics, will begin in the library.
- The re-commissioning of major air conditioning plant, tighter control of equipment operating hours and lighting upgrades.

WATER

UNSW has reduced its potable water consumption by a third over the past seven years. The University uses bore water from the Botany aquifer to replace drinking water for many uses and has installed Sydney's largest percolation pit to replenish the aquifer with 70 percent of the stormwater from the campus. It is estimated that 160 million litres – equivalent to 64 Olympic swimming pools full of water – will be harvested each year and returned to the ground water.

Other water-saving features on campus:

- Waterless urinals. About 35 have been installed so far and will be included in all new buildings.
- Timed-flow taps are being installed throughout campus. Each tap saves an estimated 20,000 litres of water each year.
- A borewater treatment plant to be built for the western end of Kensington campus. The plant will enable recycling of harvested stormwater collected via the new percolation chamber to be used as cooling water for air-conditioning systems, in laboratory water systems and in toilets. The treatment plant will save the same amount of potable water consumed by 375 Randwick households in a year – or about 100 Olympic swimming pools full of water.

RECYCLING

UNSW has gone a new way for container recycling. With the resulting increase in recycling rates, UNSW has surpassed the NSW Government 2014 waste reduction/resource recovery targets.

- Recyclable containers and general rubbish are now collected in the same bin.
- These bins are delivered to WSN Environmental Rockdale Transfer Station which facilitates recovery of more than 70 percent of materials through the UR-3R resource recovery facility at Eastern Creek.
- Clean paper is still collected separately in blue bins. This is a dedicated paper recycling service.
- UNSW implements a range of waste and recycling services to manage materials in over 10 different streams for reuse, recycling and disposal. UNSW clearly supports source separation, with a focus on computers and electronics (e-waste), batteries, food and garden organics, paper, furniture and laboratory equipment.

BUILDINGS

The design team working on the planned new Cancer Research facility to be built in the University's upper campus biomedical "hub" have stars in their eyes – green stars, to be specific. The Green Building Council of Australia, to which UNSW belongs, has established a set of environmental building rating tools known as "Green Star". Through the Kensington Campus Master Plan, UNSW has committed to achieve a Five Star or better rating for new buildings and major refurbishments, recognised by the GBCA as "Australian Excellence".

UNSW's Environment Unit manager, Paul Osmond, has been working with the GBCA Technical Working Group to develop a new rating tool for education buildings, due for release as a pilot version in the first half of this year.

BIODIVERSITY

An embankment infested with litter and weeds is being transformed into a sanctuary for small birds on the Kensington campus. An initiative of the Faculty of Science, the Fairy Wren project has won support from UNSW Facilities, the Eco-living Centre and a small army of student and community volunteers. Hundreds of local native plants are now thriving on the site, near Gate 7, which will serve to publicise the decline of small birds across Sydney, and become part of the biodiversity corridor. More details www.recycling.unsw.edu.au; www.energy.unsw.edu.au; www.environment.unsw.edu.au ■



150 YEARS ON: ST VINCENT'S PIONEERING MISSION

FROM TEACHING EXCELLENCE TO MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS AND COMMUNITY CARE, AN OUTSTANDING INSTITUTION HAS PLENTY TO CELEBRATE.

Alumni of the UNSW Faculty of Medicine will play a significant part in the ongoing celebrations to mark the Sesquicentenary of St Vincent's Hospital. The anniversary, a recognition of the hospital's 150 years of historical and groundbreaking medical achievement, presents the opportunity to focus on the important "symbiotic" relationship between St Vincent's and UNSW, according to St Vincents & Mater Health Chief Executive Officer, Mary Foley, herself a UNSW alumnus, graduating in the early '70s with an Arts (Honours) degree.

The two organisations have a large number of shared alumni due to the clinical training provided to UNSW medical students through St Vincent's Clinical School, many of whom have gone on to work at the hospital, in research and with the numerous outpatient and community-based services run by St Vincent's. Prominent among these are Professor Bob Graham, Director of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, and Professor Michael Feneley, the current Director of the Heart Lung Program and President

of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand. Additionally, the current Professor of Medicine and Senior Associate Dean of the Faculty, Terry Campbell AM, is a UNSW graduate who came to St Vincent's as an Intern in 1975 and did all his clinical training there.

2007 brings a year of special activities and events, including the launch of a book, *St Vincent's Hospital 1857 – 2007: 150 years of charity, care and compassion*, published by UNSW alumnus Catherine Warne of Kingsclear Books. The title explores the hospital's unique beginnings, milestones and outstanding firsts.

During its 150 years, St Vincent's Hospital has pioneered clinical practice in a variety of specialties. Among many firsts, the hospital conducted the country's first heart transplant in 1968, the state's first bone marrow transplant in 1975 and treated the first HIV/AIDS patient in 1983.

For almost 40 years the St Vincent's Clinical School has been a flagship Clinical School of UNSW's Faculty of Medicine training both undergraduate and postgraduate students. UNSW students and alumni learn and work across all sectors of the campus which now includes St Vincent's Hospital, St Vincent's Private Hospital, Sacred Heart Hospice, the Garvan Institute of Medical Research and the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute.

The hospital was first recognised as a medical school in 1883 by the University of Sydney, however it was not until 1923 that St Vincent's achieved teaching hospital status and the first 20 students began their training. With the establishment of the second medical school in New South Wales, in 1968 it was decided to be in the 'general good of the hospital and

community' for St Vincent's Hospital to partner with UNSW, and the first UNSW students – 47 fourth-year intake students – began clinical studies there in 1969.

Approximately 250 students annually, now work in close collaboration with clinicians, managers and researchers on the St Vincent's campus, which provides world-class clinical skills, information and computing resources on site. The St Vincent's Clinical School also hosts a number of overseas students who apply for clinical placement for their Elective Term.

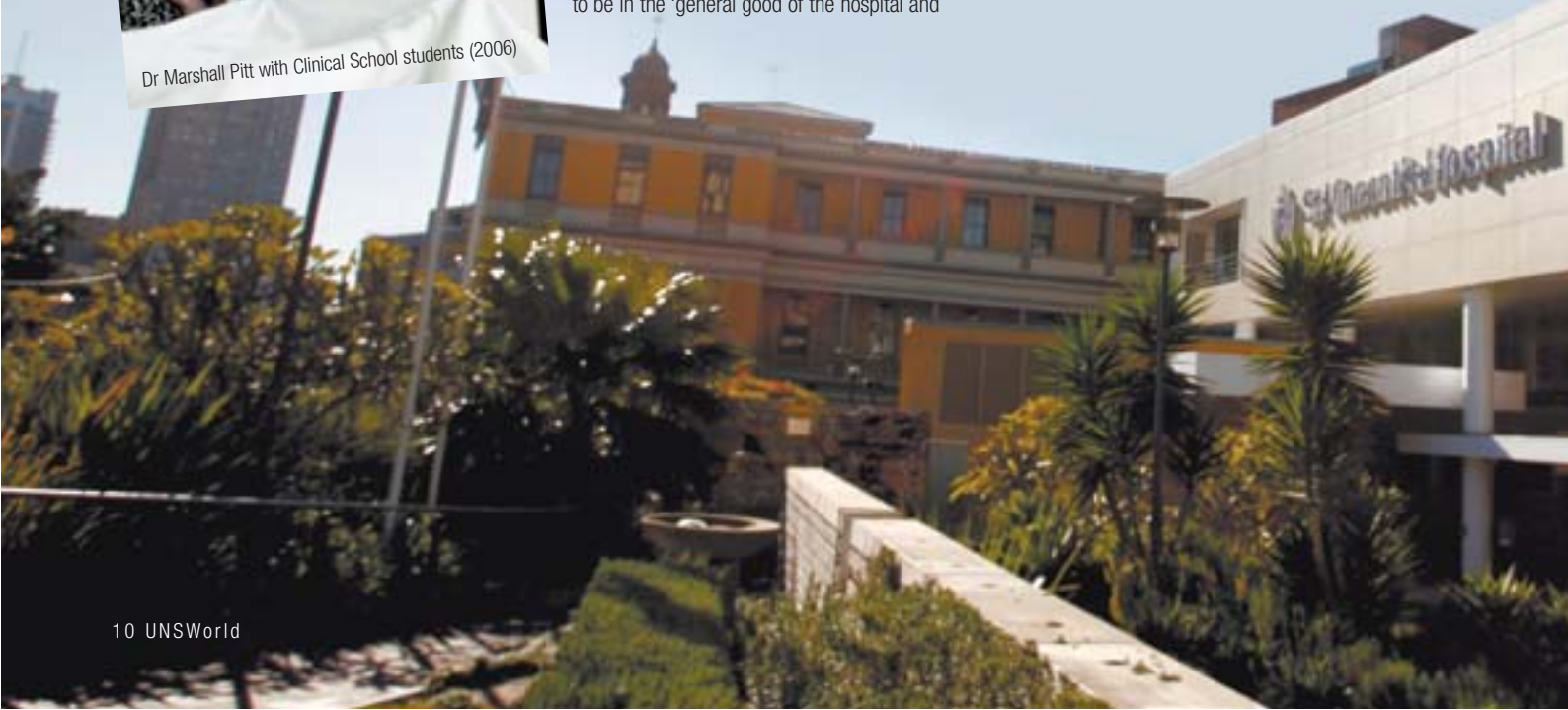
As well as teaching excellence, the clinical academics and conjoint staff of the St Vincent's Clinical School have international reputations in various fields of medical research, including cancer, mental health, pain and pharmacology.

The School also engages in educational research to improve the education of future students and outcomes for patients. In 2004, the New Medicine Program was introduced. An innovative curriculum of integrated clinical and basic studies, the program places major emphasis on acquiring communication skills, and allows students to spend time with patients in the wards from the first weeks of their first year. The teaching of the medical sciences is integrated into this program throughout the six years of the course and all students spend a year carrying out an independent learning project in which they are introduced to the elements of research.

The first students to participate in this program are now in their fourth year, making 2007 a challenging and busy year for the St Vincent's Clinical School, with attendance from UNSW medical students in all years of the undergraduate course for the first time. ■



Dr Marshall Pitt with Clinical School students (2006)



THE VISION LIVES ON



In 1838, a group of five Sisters of Charity sailed from Dublin to Sydney to provide care for the poor and needy within the framework of the Sisters' mission and values of compassion and care. By 1857, St Vincent's opened its doors to the public at Tarmons, Potts Points as a

22-bed facility. It was Australia's first Catholic hospital and the second hospital in colonial Sydney. In 1870, the Hospital relocated to its current site at Darlinghurst. In 2001, the St Vincent's Darlinghurst Campus merged with the Mater Hospital in North Sydney to become St Vincents & Mater

Health Sydney. Today the hospital treats well over 500,000 patients a year and is an international leader in medical research, at the forefront of developing new therapies for the treatment of cancer, heart disease, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, arthritis, asthma and diabetes. Construction is underway on the St Vincent's Research & Biotechnology Precinct on the St Vincent's Campus. Once completed, the precinct will house around 850 researchers. Upholding the mission and values of the founding Sisters, St Vincent's Hospital continues to provide outreach to the poor and marginalised. Together with the NSW Government, the hospital has announced plans to build Australia's first integrated mental health, drug and alcohol and community health facility to be located on the St Vincent's Darlinghurst Campus.

Below: The hospital's first site, Tarmons;
Above left: The Sisters of Charity in 1884



St Vincent's Hospital today



Great career mobility

How did a UNSW Arts Honours graduate land the top job at one of Australia's pre-eminent medical organisations?



Mary Foley was appointed in January 2001 as CEO of the then newly merged entity, St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney which comprises St Vincent's Hospital, St Vincent's Private Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospice at Darlinghurst, the Mater Hospital North Sydney, and St Joseph's

Health and Aged Care Service, Auburn.

Foley's diverse career has spanned health care, business, social policy and advocacy. In the 1970s she worked in the Federal Public Service in various social policy portfolios. During the 1980s, Foley held senior positions in the NSW Department of Health including Deputy Head of Department and Head of the Office of Health Policy. From 1992, she worked for Mayne Nickless, a publicly listed company in a number of corporate and line management roles where she was part of a small team developing this major private health care business. As General Manager of Diagnostic Services and Director of Acquisitions for Mayne Nickless, she established Mayne's diagnostic services division, developing it to a \$250 million turnover business over three years. Her achievements were recognised when she was awarded Telstra Business Woman of the Year for NSW in 1998, and in 2003 she received the Centenary Medal for service to Australian society in business leadership. Heading up St Vincents & Mater Health, an organisation with revenues of over \$500 million and 5800 staff, has provided some of the most inspiring and challenging moments of her career to date, she says. "Looking back over St Vincent's robust history is energising. From such humble beginnings, it has grown and innovated to meet the challenges of modern health care, and this delivers a great sense of purpose and a confidence for the future."

Former doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners are invited to join the newly formed St Vincent's Campus Alumni. A special function for all members of the Alumni will be held on the hospital's Open Day on 26 May. For more information on this event or to join the St Vincent's Hospital Campus Alumni please phone 02 8382 6445.

LEADING THE WAY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

A NEW UNSW CENTRE IS TAKING RESEARCH ON "ONE OF THE BIGGEST THREATS FACING HUMANITY" TO A NEW LEVEL, REPORTS BOB BEALE.

A major new climate change research centre is to be established at the University of New South Wales, with a \$6 million funding boost. The University has thrown its weight behind a special strategic initiative proposed by the Faculty of Science, with the aim of becoming Australia's leading national institution in climate change research.

The new UNSW Centre for Climate Change Research brings together some 60 academics across the University in an integrated research program addressing all aspects of climate change, from its causes to its impact on communities, public health, the law, the built environment and the economy. As well, it will become the focal point for a diverse national network of researchers from universities and major government research groups – including ANSTO, CSIRO, Bureau of Meteorology and Australian Antarctic Division – known as the ARC Research Network for Earth System Science. The Centre also brings together two of the best and brightest Australia researchers in the field, Professor Matthew England and Professor Andy Pitman, to jointly head the new research centre. Professor England, of the UNSW School of Mathematics, holds a distinguished Federation Fellowship and is internationally known in climate change research, especially in understanding its

effects and drivers in the neglected Southern Hemisphere. "Climate change is emerging as one of the biggest threats facing humanity, with potentially devastating impacts on world food and water supply, human health, ecosystems, economies, infrastructure and global security," Professor England says. "It is rapidly becoming one of the highest priority areas for research on all continents, and we aim to be Australia's best university in this vital field." Professor Pitman, a globally recognised expert in climate modelling, resigned from Macquarie University to join the new UNSW centre. (See breakout box.)

The Dean of the UNSW Faculty of Science, Professor Mike Archer, says the new centre's \$6 million funding over five years is a major boost to climate change research nationally. "We're going to take climate change research in universities to a new level with this important initiative, and we're backing it accordingly," Professor Archer says. "Few issues can be more important than this one. So much is at stake for the world with climate change and its consequences that we need to focus our best resources on tackling it." The new centre will bridge many of the traditional boundaries between disciplines to bring the full force of UNSW's research strengths to bear on the immense challenge that faces us all.



THE EAST COAST'S BIG DRY

A priority for the new centre is to better understand the mystery of why Australia's most populated region, the continent's east coast, has suffered such major declines in rainfall in recent decades.

At a recent roundtable of Australia's leading climate-change researchers, this emerged as the biggest unknown issue and, "of course, it seriously affects the largest concentration of people stretching right down the coast from Cairns to Melbourne," says Professor England.

"Virtually the whole of the eastern coastline has seen an incredible decline in rainfall in recent decades. Compared with the relatively wet years of the 1950s, rainfall over the last 10 years has fallen by 300 to 400mm on average. Places that used to receive 1300 or 1400mm now only get 1000mm," he says.

"The consequences are painfully apparent for about half of the nation's population, especially with the major urban water supply problems now facing Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne." The continent's south-west and Tasmania have become drier as a result of rain-bearing low-pressure systems shifting further south, by about five degrees in latitude. It is thought that higher evaporation rates from the ocean to the north-west of the continent, combined with air pollution from Asia – mainly China – explain why the western deserts have received more rain. Likewise, parts of northern Australia have become wetter as a result of greater ocean evaporation.

"But we all agreed that the east coast issue is the key one we urgently need to understand better, especially if we want to predict what's going to happen in the future." Professor

Pitman notes that the climate of NSW has been relatively poorly explored. "A major effort has been under way in Australia for many decades to understand the greenhouse effect, natural climate variability and other related processes, including changes in land cover," Professor Pitman says. "But this effort has been focused on the southern states – mainly Victoria – and on south-west Western Australia, due to a major Western Australian government initiative.

"THE EAST COAST ISSUE IS THE KEY ONE WE URGENTLY NEED TO UNDERSTAND BETTER"

"The vital role the northern monsoon plays in Australian climate has also been carefully researched by CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology and various university groups. Caught in the middle, our understanding of the climate of NSW has major gaps. For example, we do not know in detail the mechanisms that cause climate variability over NSW, nor why the rain-bearing low-pressure systems that re-fill our coastal dams, vary greatly year-by-year. We do not know why we are in such a severe drought, nor if this is natural or significantly enhanced through human activities via global warming." The initiative that UNSW has launched provides a world-class team of scientists who will provide a focus, a critical mass, to build our understanding of NSW climate, Professor Pitman believes. "Through its strong national and international links to the world's leading climate groups, the UNSW team will provide a catalyst to accelerate climate research in NSW and re-position the state as a national leader in climate science." ■

Lights out

The entire campus of UNSW Sydney participated in Earth Hour on 31 March, by switching off all lights between 7.30 and 8.30pm, consistent with security and safety standards. Earth Hour, spearheaded by the World Wildlife Fund Australia and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, kicked off an awareness campaign to address global warming by reducing Sydney's greenhouse emissions by five percent over the next 12 months. It's hoped this initiative will be adopted globally. UNSW will conduct a comparative survey on its energy savings through the first Earth Hour effort.

EMINENT CLIMATE RESEARCHER JOINS UNSW

One of Australia's most respected climate scientists, Professor Andy Pitman says UNSW's strong support for the new \$6 million project and its existing breadth and strength in scientific research were key factors in his decision to join the new UNSW Centre for Climate Change Research.

"The climate change initiative at UNSW is clearly at a scale that is simply outstanding," says Professor Pitman who took up his new position at UNSW in late March. "The opportunity to co-locate with genuine world-class scientists in climate, hydrology, vegetation science and many others is simply too good to refuse. Instead of competing as we did before, we can now develop a synergy that will allow us to lead climate science nationally." Professor Pitman plans to focus initially on exploring the likelihood of abrupt climate change over Australia driven by terrestrial processes, and exploring the role of increasing carbon dioxide levels in causing plants to shut down transpiration, which leads to higher surface temperatures. He will continue his role as Convenor of the Australian Research Council Research Network for Earth System Science, which links together relevant scientists in universities, the CSIRO, ANSTO and the Bureau of Meteorology. Internationally recognised, as lead author of Working Group 1 of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2005 and 2007 and editor of the *Journal of Climate*, Professor Pitman is Chair of the World Climate Research Program's committee on Global Land Atmospheric System Study; National Representative to the International Geosphere Biosphere program; Member of the National Academy of Science's committee on Earth Systems Science, and of the Advisory Board of Risk Frontiers Natural Hazards Research Centre. He holds a BSc (Hons) and PhD from Liverpool University and is the author of more than 100 internationally peer-reviewed journal publications.

Professor Andy Pitman



BRING ON THE DANCING PENGUINS

IT TAKES ALL KINDS OF ALUMNI TO CREATE A GROUND BREAKING MUSICAL ANIMATION

UNSW alumni played many roles in the creation of Australia's first digitally animated feature film, the Academy Award-winning *Happy Feet*.

In no small part, of course, was the film's director, Dr George Miller, a graduate from the Faculty of Medicine in 1971. His "second" career has spanned many box office successes but he took out the global film community's highest accolade for an animated feature with an environmentally-conscious, technologically-pioneering film about a tap-dancing penguin who can't sing. Computer science graduates from UNSW were also in high demand in the 300-strong production team that worked at Animal Logic, the visual effects, animation and design company based at Sydney's Fox Studios. They joined Miller as he learned a new medium and pushed the boundaries of computer-generated imagery for *Happy Feet*, which has been roundly lauded as visually ground breaking.

The \$110 million Warner Bros/Village Roadshow film, produced by Kennedy Miller in association with Animal Logic, was four years in the making and presented many artistic and technological challenges: from capturing the spectacular scenery of the Antarctic to achieving the "art-directed reality" where a whole cast of penguins, headed by the tap-dancing Mumble, were given individual personalities and looks, right

down to the fine detail of the colour and texture of their feathers. Mumble alone, had six million features.

Every key character and scene was brought to life through a production pipeline that began with a script, concept art and design and ran through a series of processes: modeling, rigging, motion-capturing, 2-D and 3-D animation, surfacing, lensing, crowds, visual effects and lighting. As Lighting Supervisor, Ben Gunsberger, 30, who graduated with a Bachelor of Computer Science in 1998, was responsible for capturing "the mood" of the scenes in *Happy Feet*. "Lighting brings out the final look. Everything is lit and rendered by us, all the shading and illumination," he says. Before being lit by Gunsberger and the lighting team that grew to 70, the film segments were generally grey objects over a grey environment. At the outset of production, Gunsberger admits he had no idea the film would achieve such acclaim, but he's learned after 10 years working on the cutting edge of a rapidly developing industry, that's the nature of the business. Before *Happy Feet* came along in 2003, his CV already featured a number of cinematic triumphs, including the first *Matrix* film in 1999 and the animated feature *Shrek* in 2001. "At the time, we thought [*The Matrix*] was just this small sci-fi film that would come and



FROM MEDICINE TO MOVIES

In 1971, the final year of his medical degree, George Miller and his younger brother Chris won a student competition with a one-minute short film. While completing his residency at Sydney's St Vincent's Hospital the following year, Miller spent his spare time crewing on short experimental films. Driven by a "constant sense of curiosity", Miller left medicine behind, and went on to write and direct the *Mad Max* and *Babe* movies along with *Lorenzo's Oil* and *The Witches of Eastwick*. He has also produced several feature films and television series. Miller has said he believes the new digital age of movies, exemplified by *Happy Feet*, is the most significant development in the film industry since the advent of sound. Miller received an honorary Doctor of Letters from UNSW in 1999.

go. Who knew that it would be such a phenomenon?" Gunsberger says. *Shrek* presented a similar scenario, as an animated feature about a monster coming out of a comparatively small Californian production house.

Happy Feet was a new style of film-making, a new genre. Part of the reason the production took so long was the need to build new infrastructure and tools, he says. "The nature of the way we work means that we see the film in bits and pieces. It's a pipeline of lots of different segments from the design of the character to the computer images, seeing how it reacts to light, looks, acts, where the shadows are... Then there's the importance of maintaining consistency throughout."

Gunsberger also took on the role of VFX Department Supervisor working closely with Digital Supervisor Brett Feeney to oversee shot production for the entire film. He admits he found it difficult to watch as a finished film

"after having seen every scene shot so many times with freeze frames and then back again. I know every pixel in so much detail," he says.

His career is a classic instance of being in the right industry at the right time. Rather than a predetermined career direction, he's seized opportunities as they have arisen. As a school leaver, he had more of a general interest in computers, he says, but he pared back the full-time computer science degree he started in 1994 to part-time in his second year when an opportunity to work for a small computer graphics company presented itself. The following year, he took a systems administrator's role at Animal Logic, the most prestigious visual effects company in Australia, which had just 30 employees at the time. Then, he moved into the production of television commercials. His career has grown and developed with the industry, and along the way, he finished his degree.

Christian So, 25, who is expecting to graduate in mid-2007, is another from UNSW who opted to take his computer science degree part-time when a NSW Film and Television Office traineeship landed him a job at Animal Logic. Fortuitously, So's arrival coincided with *Happy Feet* going into production. When he began

his university studies in 2000, So had tossed up between software engineering and digital media, but found being able to study and gain experience on the job made the decision for him. Working with new 3-D animation software, So became one of the main animators for the *Happy Feet* lead character Mumble (voiced by actor, Elijah Wood) and he worked closely with Miller as they "fleshed out" the penguin's performance.

"There's a part of me inside that character," laughs So. "People say I gave Mumble some of my mannerisms."

One of the benefits of the long production process – which in the final stages involved long six-day weeks – was having the time to get it right, he says, although So concurs with Gunsberger. "It's amazing to see how it all fits together. Years of work go by in 100 minutes," he says. Now he's back to working on commercials and finishing off his degree. So's thesis, under the supervision of Faculty of Engineering research fellow Waleed Kadous, involved creating a working prototype for automatic software animation. For this invention, So received a Canon Information Systems Research Award Project Prize for 2005 and is now considering the possibility of commercialisation. ■



Christian So and Ben Gunsberger



FORMATION OF BATTLERS FOR KELLY'S BUSH

SAVE KELLY'S BUSH

1970

July 2 members of the NSW Nature Conservation Council (NCC) formed the Battlers for Kelly's Bush.

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

1974

NSW HERITAGE ACT 1977

1977

1980

Cityscape as a city expression planning implementation that had lasting effect on the face of the city.

Strategic Planning enabled Cityscape to develop into a global city.

1980

TRANSFORMING PARKS

1984

1984

Keating determined to fix Urban Design issues in our Towns and Cities

My Urban Design Task Force is going to change the Face of Australian Cities

1994

1994

Sydney Olympic Park Authority Act 2001

2001

The Act sets out three goals to provide the future direction of the park, ensuring it meets the needs of the community, the environment, and the economy. The responsibility of Sydney Olympic Park can be described as a successful and... (text partially obscured)

2001

Desalination Plant, Kurnell

What is Desalination?

Removing salt and impurities from seawater in order to produce drinking water, by using a process called reverse osmosis.

Issues:

- Financially and Environmentally Unfeasible (Sydney Water)
- Matters of National Environmental Significance
- Places of National Heritage Significance
- Kurnell Peninsula Headland
- Cape Colarader Drive
- Bonny Bay National Park
- Security of Water Supplies
- Public Interests

Key Dates:

- June 20th 2005 - Kurnell Forum held in Sutherland Shire
- July 13th 2005 - Premier's Sub-Car announces commencement of a desalination plant, for one of three proposed sites in Kurnell
- 2006 Progress Report on Metropolitan Water Plan for Sydney
- January 18th 2006 - Community Consultation on Kurnell Desalination Plant, 100-1 votes for No Plant
- February 2006 - Plan for Desalination Plant Withdrawn - Plant only to be considered if dam levels fall below 30%

Proposed Site

Source: Metropolitan Plan for Sydney, 2006

Robin Ma - 3202500
Kurnell Desalination Plant
2006

PLANNING FOR GENERATION NEXT

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SUSAN THOMPSON, HEAD OF THE PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, PAUSES TO REFLECT... AND PLAN AHEAD.

In 2006 UNSW celebrated 40 years of planning education. This milestone reached a fitting climax on 25 November in the John Niland Scientia Building at the University when alumni, current students, supporters from industry and government, together with past and present teaching staff gathered to celebrate. The Planning40 Anniversary provided the opportunity to look back as well as beyond, reflecting on achievements, challenges and what the future might hold for planning education and practice.

1966 was a momentous year in the history of Australia. Jonathan Falk, one of the first students to enrol, reminded me that as well as the Bachelor of Town Planning Degree being established, the long-serving Prime Minister, Robert Menzies, resigned; pounds and pence changed to dollars and cents; the Sydney Opera House architect Joern Utzon left the country and Harry Seidler's Australia Square was well on its way to becoming Sydney's tallest building. And that was only the beginning! The next 40 years were witness to some of the most significant environmental, economic, political, legislative and socio-cultural shifts in the nation's history – most of which have been reflected in different aspects of the Planning Degree.

The Whitlam Government and its planning reforms defined those early days. In the late 1970s the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act heralded a new era for planning in NSW. More gradual change has been evident in the increasing participation of the private sector in public infrastructure provision and a reduction in the level of government intervention in the public sphere.

The Bachelor of Town Planning Degree at UNSW was the vision of foundation Professor John Shaw. When it started, it was the only undergraduate planning course in Australia and has continued to be a leader in planning education ever since. There have been 26 permanent staff members throughout its history. The longest serving teacher Associate Robert Zehner has been lecturing in planning for 30 years. Recently retired Stephen Harris also taught for 30 years and was amongst a group of former staff who attended the Planning40 celebrations. Andrew Kelly, Elias Duek-Cohen and Danny Wiggins also caught up with alumni. Zula Nittim and Tamas Lukovich sent their 'Happy Birthday' wishes and Emeritus Professor Hans Westerman, Head of School for 13 years, cut the Planning40 cake. His successor, Professor Alexander Cuthbert was disappointed that he could not make the celebrations. Professors Peter Murphy (now Dean of Faculty and former planning academic) and Robert Freestone (Head of Program 2002 – 2004), were there together with other current staff members Drs Nancy Marshall and Bruno Parolin, Peter Williams and Mrs Kathy Argyropoulos.

I was fortunate enough to host the evening and delighted to introduce alumni Kerry Nash, Petula Samios (nee Geminis) and Jonathon Rudduck, together with graduand Natalie Stanowski, who spoke about key events in the history of the Degree. Others made major contributions to Planning40 including alumni Simon Taylor, Jonathan Falk and Lara Ngyuen (nee Dominish), designer Colin Rowan and Mrs Jill Shaw.

The first students graduated with their Bachelor of Town Planning Degrees in 1971 which also saw the creation of the School of Town Planning within the Faculty of Architecture. In 1996, this was renamed the School of Planning and Urban Development with a major restructuring of the Faculty in 1998 seeing planning emerge as one of the core 'Programs' within a unified Faculty of the Built Environment. The Bachelor's Degree has undergone both significant

restructuring and 'finetuning' throughout these years to ensure its currency with industry needs, community expectations and shifts in educational delivery and philosophy. A revised and streamlined curriculum was introduced in 2003 when the Degree name was also changed to the Bachelor of Planning (BPlan). Since the program began, close to 800 people have graduated with Planning Degrees. Working in a host of different organisations, spanning the private and public sectors, they have made major contributions to the planning and management of the environment both in Australia and abroad.

There are now more women studying and working in planning than men. The majority works in the public sector, but more and more are deciding to live and work abroad. Others have chosen different paths showing that planning is a springboard to a multitude of professions. From its inception the Planning Degree at UNSW has been strongly linked to the profession. Founding Professor John Shaw established this tradition with his commitment to planning practice, an abiding interest in local government and the promotion of town planning at the grassroots. The strong connection to practice continues today. Students undertake fieldwork in many of their courses and for 12 months work fulltime in a planning office. This is when the discipline really comes alive and connections between theory and practice make more sense for the young, aspiring planner.

Accreditation of the Degree by the Planning Institute of Australia has been an important aspect of the ongoing links with practice. So too have the industry advisory committees which each new Head has established to ensure relevancy of the curriculum. The Degree also has a theoretical and visionary context to assist students with imagining new, creative planning solutions to the increasing needs of communities and the environments they inhabit. It is now possible to combine planning with another degree such as law, environmental management or urban design. Within the BPlan itself there is room to pursue individual interests in elective

subjects and in the thesis undertaken by all students as the finale to their time in undergraduate planning. Higher degrees are also offered – up till now principally by research, but from 2007 a new course work Master of Planning is available.

The Planning Degree is healthy and strong but there is no room for complacency. Changes in the worlds of planning and tertiary education affect both the profession and the way it is taught. Some would argue that planners face a new set of challenges unprecedented in human history – global warming, the depletion of non-renewable resources, globalisation and threats to our democratic traditions. It is critical that planning education at UNSW ensures a new generation of planners is well equipped to deal with these future scenarios. Learning about the discipline's possibilities – its multidisciplinary, creative and visionary approach; its understanding of the interdependence between people and place; its capacity for collaboration with different and diverse groups; its ability to advocate sustainable and environmentally responsible living – will go a long way to building this capacity in our graduates.

Planning Australia: An Overview of Urban and Regional Planning will be published later this year. Edited by myself and published by Cambridge University Press, the project is an initiative of the Planning Program with many of the chapters written by those who currently teach at UNSW.

Find out more about the Planning Degree at UNSW and the publication of *Planning Australia* at www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/degrees/BPlan/ ■

SOME OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT
SHIFTS IN THE NATION'S HISTORY
HAVE BEEN REFLECTED IN DIFFERENT
ASPECTS OF THE PLANNING DEGREE.

FROM THE PRESIDENT
OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Alumni Board was delighted that our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Fred Hilmer, and the new Chief Executive Officer of the UNSW Foundation, Ms Jenny Bott, joined us for part of our planning day last

November. With the theme "Connections, Continuity & Change: Challenges & Opportunities for Alumni", the Board considered key messages from previous planning days as well as those presented on the day. These messages included the need to work with the faculties as "building blocks" for alumni development; identifying other areas where there are strong connections with the University, such as the residential colleges, sports associations, clubs and societies. There's also the need to develop a "true giving" program involving alumni in such activities as mentoring and student interviews as well as seeking sponsorship for events and scholarships – and the importance of nurturing alumni awareness and connection from the beginning of the university experience.

The Board identified three areas for initial focus, and working groups have already begun to explore these areas. They are awards and scholarships; the improvement of connections with faculties and groups, including the promotion and further development of our excellent "Brain Food" lecture series; and the growth of Young Alumni activity including involvement with the new UNSW student organisation, Arc. Needless to say, we will continue to support in whatever way we can the formation and growth of interstate and overseas networks and Chapters. Our Victorian Chapter has recently become a corporate member of the Graduate Union of the University of Melbourne, entitling all UNSW Alumni to use the convenient and comfortable facilities of the Union at any time. It was a great pleasure to be present at a well-attended Victorian Chapter reception for the Vice-Chancellor at the Graduate Union in February. Congratulations to our 2006 Alumni Award winners, and 2007 Graduate Award and Scholarship winners who received their awards at our Annual General Meeting and Awards Reception in March. Congratulations also to one of our faithful and much needed band of volunteers, Ms Virginia Walker, who won the 2006 Human Rights Community (Individual) Award for her work with asylum seekers released from detention in Sydney. Each award recipient represents so much of the purposes and value of our Association and University. Your support for and involvement in Alumni activities in the life and work of our University is encouraged and greatly appreciated.

With best wishes,
Dr Ian Walker, President

OUR AWARD-WINNING ALUMNI

A presentation event in March recognised the recipients of the 2006 UNSW Alumni Awards and the UNSW Alumni Association's Graduat Awards. The Graduat Awards acknowledge the contribution and

achievement of final-year students to the quality of communal life within the University through original modes of service, by promoting cross-cultural links, by outreach to those in need or other service-related activities.



Cathy Sertori, daughter of Alumni Award recipient Dr Peter Farrell with Dr Doreen Clark, Chair of the Alumni Award Selection Committee



Alumni Award recipient Simon Rice with Mr David Gonski, Chancellor and alumnus



Alumni Award recipient Mrs Dagmar Schmidmaier with Mr David Gonski



Alumni Award recipient Professor Alan Trounson



Right: Graduat award recipients; (left to right): Jeff Forrest BA, Dr Eunice Liu BSc (Med), MB BS, David Hume BA, LLB, Michael Thornell BArtEd



Anna Doukakis at the book launch with the Governor of NSW, Dr Marie Bashir

COLONIAL ATTITUDES REVISITED

AFTER RESEARCHING 60 YEARS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES AND EXPLORING THE PREVAILING ATTITUDES TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO, RESEARCHER AND AUTHOR ANNA DOUKAKIS ADMITS EVEN SHE WAS SURPRISED BY HER FINDINGS.

The politicians in the time that gave rise to the legislation that created “the stolen generation” and their predecessors held wide-ranging views on Indigenous people. The legislation wasn’t the result of cut-and-dried decision-making. Some parliamentarians actively supported Indigenous people’s inclusion in colonial society. Debates in the house ranged from their right to vote and wages to the settlement of Indigenous people and the provision of blankets.

“I was expecting an urban/rural divide and a difference in attitudes between socio-economic groups, but it just wasn’t there,” says Anna Doukakis whose 20,000-word thesis, completed in the final year of her Arts (Honours) degree under the supervision of School of History senior lecturer Grace Karsens has now become a book. As the cover notes explain, it’s a work that provides an “unusually nuanced” picture of parliamentarians and, through them, colonial society. Governor Marie Bashir acknowledged the historical insights and significance of Doukakis’s work at the launch of *The Aboriginal People, Parliament & “Protection” in New South Wales 1856–1916* (The Federation Press) at NSW Government House in late 2006. The book is a most diligently explored area of Australia’s colonial history, Dr Bashir observed. “It is a unique and important contribution which should engage the interest of all thoughtful Australians who take seriously our continuing journey of reconciliation.”

In the book, Doukakis shows that no one group of politicians dominated policy or debate and due to this openness Indigenous Australians participated in the political process. “They were involved. There’s a recorded instance of Aborigines travelling 28 miles to vote,” says Doukakis. Some politicians spoke in parliament on behalf of Aborigines who had approached them with their grievances and there were enlightened individuals, such as pastoralist Edward David Stuart Ogilvie who set out to learn the culture and language of the Indigenous people and encouraged visits from the local tribe. During the Gold Rush, he employed Indigenous male and female shepherds.

Such openness ended in 1916, shortly after the NSW Parliament passed



legislation empowering the state to remove Indigenous children from their parents. “No one had used the parliamentary debates as the basis for a detailed study,” says Doukakis who supported herself through the intense research period with the help of a UNSW Alumni Scholarship in 2003. A timely project, it captured the attention of members of the organising committee for the Sesquicentenary of Responsible Government in NSW who put Doukakis on the path of applying for funding to turn her academic work into a book for a wider readership.

Writing the book was “a very steep learning curve”, insists Doukakis. “It went from a 20,000-word thesis to somewhere around 80,000 words. It had to be completely rewritten and restructured. It was written for an interested general audience,

so I had to include new information and omit sections more concerned with an academic thesis. I stopped counting at draft 17.

“When it was finally finished, it seemed rather surreal – it looks both very big, because it took three and a half years of my life, and very small... and it seems strange that it’s now out in the world and not just mine anymore.” Doukakis hopes the book will encourage readers to think about the complexities of race relations. “It’s too easy to draw a line between what is considered to be good and bad,” she says. With the benefit of several years research, she suggests the legislation that created the stolen generation needs to be viewed in the context of the society of the day.

Not surprisingly, perhaps, Doukakis is back at UNSW. Her family has multiple affiliations with the University as both her parents, Dianne Carroll and Tony Doukakis, graduated from the Faculty of Medicine in the 1970s. Anna’s latest research is for a PhD on female education in colonial British Malaya and the rise of early women’s movements. There are some similarities in the approaches taken to educating women in Malaya and Indigenous Australians in colonial times, she reports. To fully immerse herself in the research, she’s learning the Malay language and is about to pack her bags for a trip to the UK, Singapore and Malaysia. “Fingers crossed,” she says, “this could be the birth of the next book.” ■

50 YEARS OF SPATIAL EFFECTS

THE SCHOOL OF SURVEYING AND SPATIAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS COUNTS AMONG ITS DIVERSE ALUMNI A FORMER AUSTRALIAN CRICKET CAPTAIN, AN MP AND A LONG LINE OF DISTINGUISHED ACADEMICS AND PROFESSIONAL LEADERS.

2007's celebrations for the School's Golden Jubilee – the 50th Anniversary of the start of the undergraduate Surveying program at the (then) University of Technology, New South Wales – present a timely opportunity to reflect on the outstanding achievements of an alumni community that began with just nine students in the first Bachelor of Surveying program in 1957.

The inaugural four-year, fulltime course, offered by the Department of Surveying within the School of Civil Engineering, had five academic and support staff and strong backing of the (then) Head, Professor Crawford Munro.

The first graduating class was not until 1962, with five students graduating (John Allman, Ron Benjamin, Brian Kent, Tony Robinson and Jim Sheaves). The tradition of the graduation dinner dates back to that year, and is still holding strong. The Golden Jubilee Graduation Dinner will celebrate both the achievements of the graduating class of 2007 and the School's alumni.

The Department became an independent, autonomous School in 1970, and quickly grew to become the largest School of Surveying in the English-speaking world, with a first year intake of about 120 students! Staff numbers grew to well over 20 in the mid-1970s, but as the number of universities and surveying programs increased, the competition for university places became more intense and student numbers coming into the program started to decrease. The current first year intake can argue the highest proportion of scholarship holders of any School in the University, such is the strong support the School enjoys from the surveying profession and spatial information industry.

The School lays claim to such luminary researchers as Dr Ron Mather, Dr George Bennett and Dr Peter Angus-Leppan, who in the 60s and 70s made the School a world leader in the field of Geodetic research – the study of the shape and size of the Earth and its gravity field.

Associate Professor Bill Kearsley made significant contributions in physical geodesy and gravity. Associate Professor Jean Rüeger wrote the definitive text on Electronic Distance Measurement (EDM), a technology that revolutionised surveying in the 1970s. With the advent of space techniques in particular the Global Positioning Systems (GPS) Professor Chris Rizos (current Head of School), Professor Richard Coleman and Associate Professor Art Stolz advanced the knowledge and applications in this new field. Meanwhile Professors John Trinder and Bruce Forster set about making important contributions in their Photogrammetric and Remote Sensing research areas respectively. Dr Bruce Harvey's "least squares" text remains popular for students and the profession.

Among the School's notable alumni are 1963 University Medallist and current President of the Australian Academy of Sciences, Professor Kurt Lambeck, the Honourable Member for Eden-Monaro Gary Nairn, Professor Gary Jeffress now Head of Surveying at the Texas A & M University, USA and the former Australian Cricket Captain Mark Taylor.

The School has enjoyed close relations with academic institutions in Europe, North America and Asia. Former Head of School Professor Fritz Brunner (now Head of Department at the Technical University of Graz, Austria) considers himself "half-Australian". Ties with Indonesian institutions that began with the Colombo plan in the 1970s have continued through student exchanges,

collaborative research projects and a special Land Administration postgraduate degree program. More recently, many highly skilled students from China have contributed to the School's research success with advances in satellite navigation and wireless positioning, and relationships with a number of Chinese, Korean and Japanese research institutions are expanding.

Modern research initiatives are broadening with the development of the School's first reconfigurable software Global Navigation Satellite System receiver – in short, a GPS receiver for research on new constellations of satellites, such as those operated by the Russians and Europeans, and proposed by the Chinese, Japanese and Indians. The School has also been closely involved in establishing a start-up company, Locata, which offers a "world's first" indoor wireless positioning system that can also be combined with existing GPS signals.

Further research combines GPS with inertial navigation systems to enhance positioning in difficult environments, and advances in remote sensing hardware and software have placed the School at the forefront of land subsidence monitoring due to mining or water extraction using satellite radar imagery.

The alumni are living testaments to the strength of the School and its programs, and for this we wish to salute them in this our Golden Jubilee year.

Please visit http://www.surveying.unsw.edu.au/2007_50years/ for details of events. ■ *Dr Craig Roberts and Associate Professor Bill Kearsley*



Australian surgeon Rowan Gillies says he'll miss the field work now he has returned to Sydney after three years as the youngest international president of Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF).

Since he joined MSF at the age of 27, during his general surgery training, Gillies who graduated with honours from UNSW Faculty of Medicine in 1995, has been working in countries including Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Darfur, Liberia, Beirut, Congo and Sri Lanka.

Australia's clean, technologically advanced hospitals are far removed from the working environments he's grown used to, and Gillies is not anticipating any difficulties adjusting back to the first world way. He will, however, miss aspects of working under often highly challenging conditions.

The practice of medicine has distinct similarities, no matter where it's being carried out, he told *The Bulletin* magazine recently. "There's an incredible enjoyment out of looking after people. It's about how you look after them when they're sick, when they're dying... I just don't see the difference."

HUMILITY IN ACTION

ROWAN GILLIES PLANS A RETURN TO WORK IN THE WORLD'S MOST CHALLENGING PLACES



He does not subscribe to a "change the world" philosophy, he said. "You have to have a bit of humility about what you can actually do."

Elected president of the Australian branch of MSF in 2002, a post he still retains, Gillies left his fulltime role at Sydney's Mona Vale Hospital when he took on the role of leading MSF globally in 2004.

He quickly learned the international presidency often meant making controversial decisions under difficult circumstances. In his first year, five MSF workers were executed in Afghanistan, prompting MSF to announce with regret it was withdrawing its efforts in the country after 24 years. His tenure also covered the time of the Boxing Day tsunami which saw MSF overwhelmed with donations and offer to return funds to donors – a move that outraged international relief groups carrying out long-term work in affected countries.

Gillies, 35, has chosen to spend the next four years training in plastic and reconstructive surgery with the aim of using his expertise back in the field. He plans to contribute to an MSF program in Jordan treating people injured in the Iraq war. ■

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JUNGLE BOOK

A DUAL DEGREE CAN LEAD TO A CAREER ON THE WILD SIDE, REPORTS ALUMNUS VANESSA WOODS

It's high noon at the Dead Cow Pond. The cow died years ago, but its ghost is still present in the stench that radiates from the stagnant water. In the desiccated overhanging branches, a scandal is taking place.

Dopey, the new alpha male, is in the middle of coital bliss with a high-ranking female, Assassin. Dopey hasn't been in charge long and having sex with Assassin is a kind of initiation ceremony into the group. Murder, the alpha female, looks on, her dark eyes slitted in rage. Dopey killed her baby, and Assassin is her best friend. Assassin and Murder used to threaten and scream at Dopey together, and Assassin's acceptance of him is the ultimate betrayal.

Capuchin monkeys are the world's greatest drama queens. I sit on a rock in the jungle, rapidly typing

the soap opera into my handheld computer. I used to find these monkeys horrific. Their intensity, violence and constant debauchery made me feel nauseous and embarrassed. But it wasn't long before I discovered the monkeys and I had more in common than I thought. I lived with seven other people next to the jungle. We began civilised but over the course of several months degenerated, Big Brother-style, to become intense, violent, and yes, there was the occasional debauchery.

The sun is too hot for even monkeys to keep screaming, and Murder Assassin, and Dopey call a truce and settle down for a nap. I put away my mini computer and take out my notebook. It's a kind of therapy for me to write down what's happening, not just with the monkeys, but with the humans. I scribble

how groggy I am with the 3:30am starts and how when I finally get out of the jungle I'm going to sleep for a year. My best friend Brad and I are worried about whether the most senior researcher Andreas (who we adore), is going to have his own sexual initiation ceremony with the new researcher, Annie, (who we hate).

Little do I know that these idle notes will become a book. Which just goes to show, you never know when you'll need to know how to write.

When I graduated from high school in 1994, UNSW was the only university that offered a combined Arts and Science degree, which meant I could take English Literature and Biology at the same time. Since graduating, I've counted zebra in the Kenyan desert, chased monkeys in the Costa Rican jungle, and now finally study the psychology of bonobos and chimpanzees in the Congo. When you're researching endangered wildlife, it's hard not to feel a sense of responsibility to share the stories. Publishing in scientific journals is one thing, communicating broader issues to a wider, non-scientific community is another.

Four years of English Literature taught me what writing could and should be. My professors were endlessly patient in helping me develop and refine my style. Whether I was fingerprinting stripes on zebra bums [a means of identification] or waving red porcupines in front of baby bonobos [to see if they feared unknown objects], I could use my writing skills to raise awareness through press releases, articles in *BBC Wildlife* and books for children.

I wanted people to think about scientists differently. We have a reputation, mostly created by ourselves, of being as precise and inhuman as the equipment we use. But we are human, and are subjected to every kind of human frailty including bias and desire. Especially in remote, exotic locations where sexual frustration, loneliness and politics are exacerbated by isolation and confinement.

Now I want people to realise we're not so very different from our primate ancestors. If you scratch the surface, our civilisation, isn't so civilised after all.

The sun loses a little of its incinerating power and the monkeys wake up. Assassin creeps over to Murder and gently turns her over so she can groom her armpit. Murder closes her eyes, forgiving Assassin's earlier betrayal. I've learnt from monkeys not to worry too much about sex, lies and politics — you'll get by with a little help from your friends. ■

Vanessa Woods is a freelance writer and a member of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology Hominoid Psychology Research Group. Her first book for adults, *It's every monkey for themselves* (Allen & Unwin), was released in March. Ten percent of the author's profits will be donated to Lola ya bonobo, a sanctuary for orphaned bonobos in Congo. For more information: www.vanessawoods.net

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