TOWARDS HOPE
Helping mothers at risk

THE POLITICS OF ASYLUM
When popular opinion drives policy

DELIVERING CHANGE
Indigenous perspectives on midwifery
2011 has been a landmark year on many fronts; for the country, for the higher education sector, and of course, for UTS. The Federal Government’s plans for higher education were certainly slowed down by the cost of the natural disasters we experienced earlier this year.

However, the Prime Minister has pushed ahead with Labor’s Education Revolution, and from 2012, the government has committed to funding an undergraduate place for every student who is eligible and wishes to study. This move to a demand-driven system is the biggest change in higher education since the Dawkins Revolution in the late 80s.

We have also welcomed the introduction of a Student Services and Amenities Fee, which will allow campus culture, student services, student amenities and student representation to be funded adequately for the first time since 2006.

Against this backdrop of change, UTS has continued its trajectory to becoming a world-leading university of technology. I said at the beginning of the year that 2011 was shaping up to be big for UTS – and we have certainly achieved some great things.

Another great success has been the BUILD program. Over 1000 students are now involved in BUILD, gaining valuable experience in leading international community projects, growing their capabilities and making lasting connections. This is an important aspect of creating lifelong learners who are committed to making a global impact with their careers.

Next year will hold many more achievements and challenges. I will share more details with you in the new year.

Ross Milbourne
Vice-Chancellor and President

Our fantastic new student housing facility, Yura Mudang, opened its doors in July and has proven hugely popular with students. The city and harbour views from their rooftop barbecue area are enviable! For the first time we’re able to meet student demand for affordable, safe accommodation, which is a tremendous achievement, and will enable students from regional areas to viably consider studying at UTS.

In October we launched our revitalised UTS Indigenous Education and Employment Policy (IEEP). This nationally significant policy positions Indigenous education and employment as core business and reflects international best practice. We are also working with the Redfern Waterloo Authority to develop community, staff and student engagement initiatives between the two organisations. An important aspect of this is creating employment and training opportunities for Indigenous Australians throughout the $1 billion campus redevelopment.

As you know, UTS benchmarked at world standard or above in 80 per cent of our research in the Federal Government’s Excellence in Research for Australia 2010 National Report; we were ranked twelfth out of 39 Australian universities by The Australian. And for the first time, UTS has been ranked by the Academic Rankings of World Universities (formerly the Shanghai Jiao Tong University rankings) in the top 500 universities, placing us in the top two per cent of universities worldwide.

It has been very rewarding to see students and staff making the most of our first City Campus Master Plan developments. The Multi-Purpose Sports Hall opened in April and is being used by such diverse groups as hip hop, Chinese medicine and the UTS Faculty Fit program.

Ross Milbourne
The University of Technology, Sydney’s vision is to be a world-leading university of technology. Our purpose as a university is to advance knowledge and learning to progress the professions, industry and communities of the world. Our values - to discover, engage, empower, deliver and sustain - guide our performance and our interactions with each other, with students, our partners and the wider community.

**NEXT ISSUE**
This is the final edition of U: for 2011. The next issue will be distributed on 5 March 2012.
Send your story ideas, opinions and events to: u@uts.edu.au
Deadline for submissions is 3 February 2012.
Wingara is an Eora word that means ‘to think’. It is also the word the university has chosen to represent its Indigenous employment strategy. And according to Equity and Diversity Unit (EDU) Indigenous Employment Officer Matthew Walsh, it’s a fitting choice.

“Wingara helps bring a unique perspective to working at UTS. We’ve thought about how we want to make this strategy different from previous ones, and we’re doing it by getting out in the community and actively participating so they know what Wingara is, what it can mean for them.”

EDU organised UTS sponsorship of four of the 82 teams participating in this year’s NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout. A well-established annual competition, the knockout is about more than just rugby. It’s a way to bring people and communities together, and has been described as a ‘modern day corroboree’ by some of the 15 000 participants.

One of the UTS-sponsored teams – the women’s Redfern All Blacks – secured a 48-0 victory in the final, but all four teams played proudly in rugby jerseys emblazoned with UTS:Wingara.

“The Tower overlooks Redfern – the biggest urban Aboriginal population in Australia – and there’s the perception that we’re this big ivory tower, but we’re just made of concrete,” Walsh says with a sense of irony.

“The Wingara Strategy is a genuine attempt by the university to work with the Indigenous community to build a pathway to uni, making it more accessible. With the foundations laid by previous Indigenous employment strategies, we’re now building on that to reap the rewards and shape UTS’s long-term commitment.”

A cornerstone of that commitment is the recently launched Indigenous Education and Employment Policy, developed by Jumbunna Director Michael McDaniel. The policy sits alongside the UTS Reconciliation Statement and positions Indigenous education and employment as core university business. The Wingara Strategy fits under the policy umbrella, alongside a strategy focused on attracting Indigenous students to tertiary study.

“I think UTS’s new policy, the education strategy and Wingara are built to complement one another,” says Walsh. “Where the previous employment strategy used to sit by itself, we now have a policy to tie it to. We’ve also got a committee system set up and it means more people can get involved – from the VC-level right down to the grassroots ‘doers’ like me.”

The ‘doing’ part of Walsh’s role will involve supporting the implementation of the new strategy. The university has set some “ambitious but real targets”, says Walsh: at least 36 Indigenous people in employment across the university by 2014.

“My personal aim for the strategy in practice would be to have so many Indigenous employees that I’d be tested to remember each of their names. It seems like a funny thing to say, but that would mean the strategy is so successful it’s become ingrained within our recruitment thinking.”

Walsh also points out there are areas where an Indigenous perspective could be an advantage. “Like dealing with students face-to-face for example – having that extra bit of cultural perspective really can help. Actually knowing someone and hearing their story is a better way of getting an understanding. Then cultural awareness changes from something we have to focus on to something we just do.”

As Kevin Rudd said in his formal apology to the stolen generation, “It is not sentiment that makes history; it is our actions that make history” , and UTS is striving to do just that.

For more information about the UTS:Wingara Strategy, visit equity.uts.edu.au/wingara

Izanda Ford
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photography: Joanne Saad
Comment on this article at newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2011/11/win-for-wingara
In this green age of self-sorted recycling, have you thrown out a plastic bottle on campus and wondered what happens to it?

You might be pleased to know your plastic bottle – indeed the great majority of what is thrown away as garbage at UTS – is recycled. What may surprise you is the complicated process involved in keeping that bottle out of landfill.

“Staff are aware our office paper is recycled, but it’s not widely known the university has a number of other progressive recycling activities,” says Sustainability Coordinator in the Project Management Office Amber Colhoun.

Following a 10-day audit, UTS’s waste management facility Galloway has found that an impressive 81 per cent of all waste disposed of in work and student areas on campus is separated and recycled.

So, what actually happens to your plastic bottle once it’s in the bin?

Every morning at 3.30am, trucks collect UTS waste and transport it to the Galloway recycling facility at Seven Hills. Waste is liberated from plastic bags by sharp blades in a large, rotating cylinder. Organics such as food are the first to be removed – they are processed in a bioreactor and turned into mulch and compost.

Then the mixed waste is sorted by hand to separate recyclable metal and eliminate as much rubbish as possible, such as cling wrap, before moving on along a system of conveyor belts.

After paper is sorted, aluminum and ferrous metals are collected via an electrical and magnetic field. Finally, another round of hand sorting separates the remaining glass and plastic, including your bottle.

While such an amazing system ensures the best recycling rate possible, some simple changes by staff and students on campus can ensure an even better result for next year’s audit.

“We’d like to see the amount of waste drop off, even with an increase in students,” explains Colhoun.

“Almost the same volume of paper was thrown into garbage bins as was put in our office paper recycling bins. When paper is kept separate from waste, it stays clean and means a better quality recycled product.”

Polystyrene packaging can also be kept from the waste stream – collection bags can be found around our campuses in the city and Lindfield. A contraption called the ‘hungry giant’ compacts the polystyrene into blocks to be used in construction on site.

“We’re committed to reducing our impact as much as possible,” says Colhoun. In 2008, UTS signed the Declaration of Commitment to Local, National and Global Sustainability, which aims to integrate sustainability into the university’s everyday practices.

“Compared to other universities, we have a very thorough waste management process in place and some great recycling programs.”

That said, the best thing staff and students can do is limit what they throw out. An independent report released by the NSW Government last year indicated Sydney’s landfill sites will be full by 2016. Even transporting, processing and re-manufacturing recycled materials involves many unseen costs in energy and water use.

“Re-usable water bottles are just one way to reduce waste,” says Colhoun. “While it’s great to have an 81 per cent recycling rate, avoiding such a complicated process in the first place is a much better outcome.”

For more information on recycling at UTS and for polystyrene collection bag locations, visit green.uts.edu.au

Xavier Mayes
Marketing and Communication Unit
Images supplied by: Peter Lewis
Comment on this article at newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2011/11/sorted
THE POLITICS OF ASYLUM
The Labor Party’s inability to secure federal opposition support for its controversial ‘offshore processing’ policy has divided Australians on how best to receive those who seek asylum. With the Liberal Party claiming asylum seekers are linked to social unrest, UTS Professor of Social Economics Jock Collins examines how our country’s leaders are handling the hysteria.

The Gillard Government has been forced, against its will, to abandon the policy of offshore processing of asylum seekers who arrive on Australian shores by boat. This is not because the Australian Government has unearthed concealed humanitarian warmth to the plight of asylum seekers. Its policy of the mandatory detention of ‘boat people’, introduced by the Keating Labor Government, remains intact. Rather, Abbott’s political opportunism has prevented him supporting a policy that he actually believes in.

The ‘boat people’, as they’re being called, will undoubtedly become a major issue at the next Australian election. This reflects the lack of leadership that characterises contemporary Australian politics in the area of immigration policy.

Issues related to immigration are very controversial across the western world today. Media images involving immigrants from religious, linguistic or cultural minorities are generally situated in a negative news item involving some kind of conflict. This is particularly the case in Australia where immigration has been relatively larger and more diverse, than most western nations. At the top of the immigration controversy: asylum seekers, undocumented arrivals, social unrest and crime.

One feature of globalisation has been the acceleration in the global movement of people. However, the demand for immigrants in western countries like Australia is outweighed to a massive degree by the number of people who want to become new immigrants. Since all western countries strictly control and limit their intakes, this imbalance between the supply of, and demand for, immigrants generates large flows of undocumented arrivals.

It’s this component of the immigration intake that is most controversial. While the majority of undocumented immigrants arrive at Australia’s airports, it is the few thousand who arrive by boat on Australia’s north western shores that worry Australian politicians and the Australian public. The boat people may be small in numbers, yet they generate a disproportionate political and public response.

To put this into perspective, there are over 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States, and hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants arriving per year in Europe. While this controversial issue is central to the anti-immigration critique and to the rhetoric of the anti-immigration far right political parties in these countries, it doesn’t generate the hysteria it does in Australia.

There is an asymmetry here, partly explained by Australian political history. Our island nation enacted an explicitly racist ‘White Australia’ immigration policy as the cornerstone of the new Australian nation at Federation in 1901. This was not officially rescinded until the Whitlam Labor Government was elected in 1972. The xenophobia that produced widespread public and political support for White Australia was whipped up again by conservative Liberal governments over threat of the ‘invasion’ of Chinese communists in order to justify Australia’s involvement in the Vietnam war.

The latest chapter in this hysterical response to the boat people issue – the recent claim by federal Opposition Leader Tony Abbott that he was briefed by Immigration Department officials on evidence linking asylum seekers to social unrest in Australia.

It’s not surprising Abbott is interested in inflaming public concern about refugees. His previous political leader and mentor, John Howard, won the 2001 federal election by playing the Tampa saga as a winning political card. Like Howard, Abbott is apparently unconcerned about tapping into core racism, prejudice and xenophobia to win political votes.

Unfortunately the Gillard Labor Government isn’t much better. It maintains mandatory detention for undocumented immigrants who arrive by sea, with Australia the only western nation to do so. The current government is so concerned with avoiding the wedge politics of the opposition that it put all its hopes in a policy solution of offshore processing. It was suggesting that a Malaysian or PNG solution has merit, whereas a Howard/Abbott Nauru solution does not.

The claim that asylum seekers cause social unrest and conflict in Australia has no supporting evidence. Research shows despite having proportionally more immigrants of greater religious, ethnic and linguistic diversity than nearly any other nation, social conflict involving immigrants is surprisingly rare in Australia.

One of the worst post-war incidents, the Sydney Cronulla beach riots of December 2005, bears no comparison to the riots of Paris in 2005 or in the United Kingdom in September 2011. Social cohesion is the norm, social conflict the aberration – as the four-year study of Social Cohesion in Australia, conducted by Professor Andrew Markus of Monash University and completed in September 2011, documents in great detail. The research tells us immigrant minorities and asylum seekers such as the Sudanese are much more likely to be the victims of crime and violence rather than the perpetrators.

The first post-war asylum seekers to arrive by boat in Australia were the ‘displaced people’ from Poland and the Baltic states in the late 1940s. They were met by widespread public opposition, but federal political leadership persisted against this. The second post-war wave of asylum seekers was the boat people fleeing from Vietnam following the fall of Saigon in 1975. Once again, public opposition was ignored by the conservative federal government led by Malcolm Fraser, who assisted Vietnamese boat people with settlement in Australia within the broader context of a new multiculturalism policy.

Similarly, the Hawke Labor government accepted large numbers of Chinese students and asylum seekers from Lebanon following the Tiananmen Square massacre and conflict in the Middle East. The government assisted their settlement into the Australian community (though they arrived by air, not boat) without bowing to public opinion.

Set against the strong resolution of past political leaders who have rejected the temptation to tap into public sentiments rooted in racism, the last decade of Australian politics can only be seen as a remarkable, and regrettable, about-face in political leadership and humanitarianism.

Jock Collins
Professor of Social Economics
UTS Business School

Photographer: Joanne Saad
Comment on this article at newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2011/11/the-politics-of-asylum
DELIVERING CHANGE

EDUCATION
RESPONSIBILITY
PRECONCEPTION
MOTHERS
BABIES
CULTURE
MORTALITY

Christine Catling-Paull
Maternal mortality rates for Indigenous women are more than two-and-a-half times higher than for other women. A second-year midwifery subject is enhancing students’ understanding of how colonialism continues to impact on the health of Indigenous women and examines existing practices helping combat the issue.

Lecturer in midwifery Christine Catling-Paull may have only begun lecturing in Indigenous Health: Women and Babies this year, yet she wholeheartedly believes in the need for such a subject.

Introduced seven years ago with the inception of the Bachelor of Midwifery degree, it has successfully been raising awareness of issues relating to the health of Indigenous women and their babies, both locally and overseas.

“It arose from a recognition of the disparity between the health outcomes for Indigenous mothers and infants in this country,” says Catling-Paull. “The students have really taken to it. They’re learning something quite different – it’s the social aspect to midwifery.”

The statistics are indeed alarming.

“The neonatal death rate of babies born to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander mothers is around seven per 1000 live births, whereas the rate for babies of non-Indigenous mothers is three per 1000 live births.

“We’re teaching students to be culturally aware, to realise what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their elders have experienced in the past. Students are given an understanding of the colonisation of Australia, and then we focus specifically on the Indigenous health programs in Australia and around the world.”

It’s this awareness Catling-Paull says that’s needed in order to develop appropriate models of care for pregnant women from diverse backgrounds. She isn’t surprised by the lack of knowledge on the issue, arguing it stems from the absence of Indigenous education in older school curricula and the clustering of populations around coastal metropolitan areas.

“Rural or remote is somewhere we go on holidays occasionally, but most people don’t live there and understand the intricate cultural issues in these places where a large minority of Indigenous Australians live.”

She says mature age students make up a big part of the Bachelor of Midwifery’s intake. For these students, the subject has allowed them to explore their own personal and professional beliefs and attitudes.

“A number of our students are in their 40s and attended school in the 70s and 80s and possibly weren’t aware of their country’s Indigenous history. They’re amazed at what they’re learning; the gaps in their knowledge are being filled.

“What happened during those defined moments since European settlement has led to the current preconceptions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and this history has much to do with the health and psychosocial outcomes. It’s great to see students actually grasp that and know their cultural understanding will help them in their future practice.”

“THE NEONATAL DEATH RATE OF BABIES BORN TO ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER MOTHERS IS AROUND SEVEN PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS, WHEREAS THE RATE FOR BABIES OF NON-INDIGENOUS MOTHERS IS THREE PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS.”

The subject has also proved a helpful precursor for those students who choose to undertake a rural two-week placement in the third year of their Bachelor of Midwifery degree. Catling-Paull says students in these placements are often given more autonomy and obtain invaluable experience working with a different demographic of women.

“Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women would like to stay in their communities to have their babies, and there’s a lot of work being done to help women achieve this. However, there are many difficulties, for example, getting midwives to live and work in those areas.

“Often, the only option for women who live in remote communities is to be brought into a city hospital once they get to 36, 37 weeks of pregnancy, so they don’t have to endure a six-hour transfer to hospital during the actual labour. This causes a lot of issues. They’re out of their environment and community, separated from their partners and children – sometimes for weeks.”

She cites the Northern Territory’s Midwifery Group Practice, based in Darwin, as an effective continuity-of-care model for Indigenous women who come in from outlying communities to await birth. The same midwife cares for the women throughout their pregnancy, during childbirth and in the early weeks at home with a new baby.

“The students were set an assignment to examine such services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in Australia and compare them to what was happening overseas – for example, with the Indigenous population in Canada. These services are often owned and run by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, so they have a complete grounding in what their people need and want.”

To enhance the subject in a similar way, the Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health is hoping to employ an Indigenous person to assist with teaching in the subject next year. “It’s more culturally appropriate,” explains Catling-Paull.

Students in the subject currently have access to podcasts developed by an Indigenous Bachelor of Midwifery graduate. The midwife conducted interviews with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander midwives and women to form the basis of both in-class sessions and assessment work. In addition, a number of guest lecturers are invited to speak to students and share their experiences of working with Indigenous women and their babies.

Catling-Paull says many of the UTS Midwifery degree’s Indigenous graduates go on to work in the Malabar Service (a Sydney community midwifery service that provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with more personalised care), while others go on to work in Aboriginal centres in rural areas.

“This is particularly satisfying – knowing our graduates are taking their skills and making a difference.”

Katia Sanfilippo
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Katia Sanfilippo
Comment on this article at newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2011/11/delivering-change
In a light-filled house in Glebe, three women talk about their lives: their struggles, achievements and children.

The room behind them pops with primary colours – toys, crayons and child-sized furniture – a picture of comfortable domesticity.

But the picture doesn’t tell the full story. Listen, and you’ll hear these women’s reflections encompass drug addiction, childhood abuse, forced separation from their children, as well as their achievements in overcoming these challenges.

They are graduates of the six-month residential drug and alcohol treatment program at Kathleen York House, where their testimonials were filmed for the Partners in Hope DVD.

Such support and recognition from a high profile public figure is invaluable to the program, not least because of the stigma surrounding addiction.

“Kathleen York House is for women with an entrenched history of drug and alcohol use who have tried several options and their life has essentially been destroyed,” says Senior Lecturer in Addiction Medicine at the Sydney University Medical School, Dr Carolyn Day.

“These women are a frequently maligned group of people, but their stories are often complex. It seems somewhat unjust and I became very passionate about it for that reason,” says Day, who is also a member of the Partners in Hope research team.

The DVD’s July launch attracted representatives from alcohol and drug treatment services, researchers and policymakers, including members of the NSW Department of Health. Following the event, the Hon Penny Sharpe spoke at length about the project in NSW Parliament.

While traditional drug and alcohol programs focus purely on rehabilitation for the individual, the Kathleen York program incorporates parenting support and skills development in collaboration with Australia’s largest child and family health organisation, Tresillian Family Care.

Family therapist and Partners in Hope researcher Dr Lorraine West describes this element of the program as “absolutely magical”.

Before these mothers had to battle on as best they could. They either had their child removed or they struggled on until some system picked them up and reported them to the Department of Community Services.

“At Kathleen York House, these women can do their own work on their personal trauma and simultaneously work with Tresillian child and family health nurses to improve their parenting in a safe environment.”

The Tresillian Chair in Child and Family Health, Professor Cathrine Fowler, says following the expansion of the program to include parenting aspects, “The staff and board at Kathleen York House recognised something quite unusual was starting to happen with the clients.

“There was an improved retention rate, the mothers were continuing to breastfeed their babies, they were staying in the program longer.”
After 18 months, the board decided research was needed to better understand the success of their program, and Partners in Hope was born.

As Director of the Centre for Research in Learning and Change and Partners in Hope coordinator, Professor Alison Lee says the Kathleen York initiative was a good fit for her centre’s research focus.

“We’ve been looking at practice innovation in healthcare. We’re really interested in how new services are created and sustained, how professionals who might be nurses or drug and alcohol workers or social workers or psychologists work together in a new way to develop better services.”

Supported by a UTS Partnership Grant, Lee’s research team began examining the drug and alcohol rehabilitation service at Kathleen York House as a stand-alone case study, but has since scoped out a larger program of research.

Scheduled to take place over five years in successive stages, the research will now look beyond mothers trying to overcome substance dependence to include other vulnerable women with children.

“The aim is to develop a model of comprehensive care for this population, implementing that model and evaluating it over time,” says Lee. “To design an effective model we need evidence, and that’s what we’re building up.”

To this end, the research team will undertake four more case studies into innovative services for women and their children. These include an outpatients’ program at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital for women on the methadone program who have children in their care, and Jacaranda Cottages, a centre within the prison system allowing imprisoned women to live with their children.

Lee explains the broadened scope: “It’s about working in adversity, trying to develop parenting capabilities in vulnerable mothers to help them do what they want to do – which is provide a better life for their children.”

The interdisciplinary research team is composed of members from across UTS as well as the University of New South Wales, the University of Sydney and Macquarie University.

This includes Professor in Indigenous Education Juanita Sherwood and Professor of Law and Director of Research at Jumbunna Larissa Behrendt. “They will be working with us to address the really serious lack of services for indigenous families in these areas,” says Lee.

The partnership with Rotary continues to grow, with Lee and Fowler presenting at a large Rotary district conference in late October, and an application for a Rotary Health Research Grant in progress.

Moving beyond addiction, the three women in the lounge room of Kathleen York House are able to celebrate more ordinary achievements: gaining part-time work, earning a driver’s licence, sharing time with their children.

The Partners in Hope initiative aims to secure the funding and support needed to put such hope within reach for all vulnerable mothers.

More information about the Partners in Hope research program can be found at rilc.uts.edu.au/partners-in-hope

Rachael Quigley
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer [A Lee]: Joanne Saad
Photograph [child]: iStock
Comment on this article at newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2011/11/towards-hope
Shark attacks and stingers didn’t deter British-born UTS Manager of Construction Safety Julie Hughes from braving icy waters with over 4000 other participants earlier this year as part of the Cole Classic, Australia’s largest ocean swim.

Barely able to swim freestyle before she started training three months prior to the one kilometre course between Shelly and Manly beaches, Hughes managed to raise $1300 for cancer research – “Mainly through donations from mates in the United Kingdom.

“I think to them it was more of a novelty, like, ‘Julie’s swimming with sharks in Australia!’” she says.

Having moved from England with her husband over two years ago, Hughes manages construction safety for the City Campus Master Plan. “There’s obviously a lot of work happening. The Broadway Building has started on site and the Thomas Street Building excavation will start later in the year. It’s going to be a hive of activity.”

Enthused by all the building works taking place around campus, Hughes says she’s most excited by the Dr Chau Chak Wing Building designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry, and the Broadway Building designed by Denton Corker Marshall.

“It’s really amazing to be working at UTS during the design and construction of these large projects, and the safety of staff, students and visitors is a high priority for the project teams.”

For Hughes, the move to Australia has exposed her to a variety of new experiences, especially ocean swimming. "I definitely didn't do that in England – the water where I come from is brown and sludgy with a lot of industrial shipping. It's definitely very different from Bondi Beach where I now train.”

It was a fellow colleague who first encouraged her to take part in the Cole Classic. This time, Hughes is the one doing the encouraging and dragging said-colleague into the ocean’s depths to help her raise money for Can Too, a not-for-profit program that funds innovative cancer research.

“My grandfather was recently diagnosed with cancer, so it was a major incentive for me to sign up again.”

The training program offers free preparatory sessions for runners and swimmers who take part in charity endurance events. In return, participants raise funds for Cure Cancer Australia. The rising popularity of the charitable training program has seen it collect over $7 million so far.

Hughes trained twice a week for three months for her one kilometre Cole Classic swim in February this year. She enjoyed it so much she kept training all through winter with 10 other teammates. They’re now in training for the February 2012 swim, though this time she’s taking on the two kilometre course.

Despite precautions, there have been some hairy situations for her ocean swimming team. During one swim, a teammate was stung by a jellyfish nearly 20 times, making her more afraid of the stingers than she is of bigger ocean predators.

“I never used to think about sharks until one morning at Bondi Beach; we were swimming and saw a large grey shadow. I was quite afraid until I had a second look and realised it was a pod of dolphins. They played around us for about 10 minutes; it was just incredible.”

If you would like to help Julie meet her goal of raising at least $2000, visit gofundraise.com.au/page/Julie_Hughes1

Clare Blumer
Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism)
Photographer: Joanne Saad
Wave illustration: Claudia Iacovella
Comment on this article at newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2011/11/freestyler
For civil engineer Drenka Andjelic, studying engineering at UTS was a tough gig, yet dropping out was never an option.

“It was hard work,” she says with honesty. “I love where it’s gotten me now, though.”

Graduating with a Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering in 1996, Andjelic recalls being one of only about 12 females in the mostly male course.

“It was unusual in that I was a girl, but I was also just one of the boys. Having said that, I wasn’t really prepared for technical engineering basics. The boys just seemed to have more intuition with the subjects during our first year.

“It didn’t get in the way for too long – I just had to work a whole lot harder. As the years went by, my communication skills and traits of being well organised kicked in and gave me the opportunity to shine.”

Andjelic’s rise began by accident. Having ascended beyond middle management and become disillusioned with the corporate world, she realised she wasn’t in an environment aligned with her core values of trust and respect.

“When I saw what it was going to take to get to the next level, I didn’t feel I could remain true and genuine to what I stood for. So I thought I’d go it alone.

“She acknowledges her success in such a gender-imbalanced industry. “I guess it’s a brave thing to run your own company, but to run it in two male-dominated industries is another thing. I have an engineering background and I work in construction, but then I service the property industry – which is very ‘male’ in a corporate kind of way.”

Andjelic believes her success comes down to identifying and servicing the gap in the hotel construction industry for cost-effective designs.

“Hotels have to try really hard to balance their build costs per room with the return they can get on the investment. People’s perception of a hotel is that it needs to be built of stone, marble and gold. These high-end finishes aren’t assets that make a return for investors; you can still make it look really good without these things. It’s keeping it simple. My philosophy is that design – rather than money – is the answer.”

Katia Sanfilippo
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Fiora Sacco
Comment on this article at newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2011/11/projecting-success
Last year, law and international studies student Michael Munk was invited to join the Faculty of Law’s High Achievers Mentoring program, connecting academically outstanding students with leading professionals in law and related fields. Munk found himself paired with Australian former high court justice and human rights advocate the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG.

I was asked to participate in the mentorship by UTS Dean of Law Jill McKeough and there is nothing I could deny her. I’ve known Jill for 10 years and have enormous respect for her. She’s a top intellectual property lawyer and a great female dean – a role model for all lawyers. She also happens to be charming and can twist me around her little finger.

I considered her request, and after I’d met with Michael, I decided there was something in it for both of us. I realised that with this program, UTS was – as usual – out there leading the way. I agreed to participate, and I’m glad I did.

We met up about once a month over the year. Occasionally I would seek assistance from Michael on a speech I had to give. One of these was at Inner Temple in London, where I’m an Honorary Bencher.

I was invited to deliver the Lord Chief Justice Taylor Memorial Lecture and I asked Michael to perform the research for this speech. I persuaded Inner Temple to invite him to the event. He sat there hobnobbing with President of the Supreme Court Lord Phillips, former Lord Chief Justice Lord Harry Woolf and countless judges and lawyers from the United Kingdom. If you could have seen Michael that night, you would believe he’d spent his whole life in Inner Temple. He charmed the great and the good.

The lecture will be published in England in the Denning Law Journal and in Australia in the Australian Bar Review. In both journals, Michael’s work is acknowledged with appreciation. So it will look good on his CV.

I’ve accepted a new UTS mentee this year. We’ve already met and signed our lives away in the mentorship agreement. I’d certainly recommend this program to my peers. It’s valuable to remember what it was like to be a young lawyer grappling with legal issues and finding your path in the profession. And we dinosaurs have the benefit of experience to offer them.
I was invited to participate in the High Achievers Mentoring program in early 2010. It sounded great; they had a really exciting group of people as mentors. Michael Kirby wasn’t yet on the list but there were many impressive people. I thought I could get good, practical experience from it in terms of the mentor’s advice and their own career journey.

When I found out I’d been partnered with Michael Kirby, I was a bit shocked. It was very surreal – you wouldn’t think someone so well known and who has done so much for the profession, for human rights and for Australia, would be that accessible. Most of all, it was exciting. I knew it was a really great opportunity. Once that particular point marinated a bit, I started to get nervous.

I did prepare for the initial meeting to make sure I didn’t end up sounding like a total idiot. I looked at his recent speeches and read a few of his judgments. I wrote down some points I thought I could raise, but ultimately that preparation proved absolutely useless, because the things my law student brain thought he might like to talk about, he, of course, did not.

In the end, the tactic that really worked and created a good flow of conversation was just being inquisitive and listening and asking questions about what he was doing. Equally, he would ask what I was doing. You go in there, you have a chat and the structure of the mentoring relationship really develops around that.

The moment you walk into Michael’s chambers, you’re automatically put at ease. The first impression I had of him was that he was very warm, very welcoming, very funny and very intelligent.

Under the door to his chambers, there’s a plaque affixed to the floor. It says, ‘Never never never never give up’. And that is absolutely emblematic of his work ethic.

He gets to his chambers early, and he leaves late. He’s always travelling for speaking engagements and for his work with the United Nations Development Programme. He’s a very dedicated, hardworking man and has been so all his life. Sometimes I’d say to him, ‘Don’t you want to take a break?’ He’d say, ‘No. Not at all. I’ve got to keep going. There are still things to be done.’

One of the best features of the program is the way it demystifies major players in the Australian legal system. It helps students to better follow in the footsteps of the judges, solicitors, barristers and academics they look up to.

My mentorship with Michael Kirby has taught me that if I want to make any kind of difference in the profession, if I want to leave any footprint at all, I need to be absolutely dedicated to what I’m doing. I need to be constantly enthusiastic, I need to be consistently hardworking to realise that goal.

Rachael Quigley
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer (M Munk): Anna Zhu
Photographer (M Kirby): Justin McManus, John Fairfax and Sons Ltd
Comment on this article at newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2011/11/a-judicious-match
180 seconds was all it took for Sirinut Sawatdeenarunat to win the faculty prize in the recent Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. 3MT calls for research higher degree students to sum up their thesis topic and present it to a non-specialist audience within three minutes.

So how did Sawatdeenarunat sum up four years’ work and 30 000 words?

“My research is about how students read online. Students these days are digital natives, often technologically more advanced than their teachers, and teachers sometimes take this for granted. But, when it comes to reading online for school purposes, especially in a language that is not their mother tongue, they can struggle. I’m looking at the process students undertake in these situations and the problems they face.”

A Thai native and experienced undergraduate teacher, Sawatdeenarunat has studied in the United States, England (a master's from Cambridge, no less) and now Australia, where she’s studying education on an internationally competitive Endeavour scholarship – a merit-based program offered by the Australian Government.

Sawatdeenarunat says her many travels are all part of her attitude to education. “I believe your studies should be a journey, not a destination; it’s what you do along the way that matters most. A lot of international students don’t mix outside their cultural groups, or they spend all their time studying. They undervalue the education and personal growth they can develop by spending time in different cultures. It’s important to remember it’s the experiences you accumulate that shape you, not just your grades.”

Sawatdeenarunat is adamant about the importance of exposing yourself to different things. This includes throwing herself into extra-curricular activities like joining Exposure, UTS’s photography club. “I like taking photos, I just don’t really know how. Being in the photography club, I look at how other people take their photos and learn by emulating them.”

Drawing inspiration from her experiences in Australia, Sawatdeenarunat’s photography skills have definitely come further than she humbly admits. The black and white photo featured above was taken at the Easter Show last year. The image captures a sense of loneliness that Sawatdeenarunat says is often felt by international students. “One of the toughest times are the holidays, but taking photos reminds me I’m not only here to get my degree; I also need to enjoy life.”

The cultural differences Sawatdeenarunat has discovered are not just social. On a professional note, she sees variances in global teaching methods.

“In England, teachers feel knowledge is out there and it’s your job as a student to go and acquire it, whereas in Sydney students are more spoon-fed. These both differ greatly to Thailand, where teachers take a hierarchical approach – the teacher is wiser and so always knows best.”

This global exposure to education practices has set Sawatdeenarunat in good stead for when she returns to Thailand to continue teaching after completing her PhD. “I’ll be able to take the best aspects from each and combine them.”

Rebecca Lawson
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer (Sirinut Sawatdeenarunat): Joanne Saad
Photographer (flying chairs): Sirinut Sawatdeenarunat
Comment on this article at newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2011/11/an-education-vocation
In this timely book, Dr Anthony Kidman considers the impact of rapid technological change and other societal problems of this era, such as terrorism and population growth, on the mental health of the wider community. He argues information from the internet, mobile phones, TV and the 24-hour news stream has led to a sensory overload that has had significant implications for the emotional health of many people. In particular, he stresses the pressure that technological change has had as the work day becomes longer and increasingly creeps into family life. Kidman highlights this stressful environment has coincided with a substantial increase in emotional problems such as anxiety, depression and anger. The book uses non-technical language to plainly explain these mental health problems and, of importance, provides advice for how they might be addressed. The strength lies with Kidman’s ability to clearly and simply outline evidence-based methods to help people better control their emotions and behaviours. The reader will come away with hands-on strategies for understanding and addressing anxiety, depression and anger. Altogether, this book is a wonderful starting point for those wanting a better understanding of emotional health problems and what to do about them.

Rachael Murrihy
Health Psychology Unit

Dr Anthony Kidman is a clinical psychologist and Director of the UTS Health Psychology Unit. In 2005 he was awarded an Order of Australia for his contributions to clinical psychology.

The term electronic commerce is often associated with the transaction of goods over the internet, but it’s much more than this. It describes the entire process of marketing, selling, delivering, servicing and paying for products and services online. Based on the dramatic growth in internet usage, globalisation is seen as one of the key drivers for the diffusion of e-commerce. Consumers are able to access websites from different physical locations and without time zone restrictions, changing the way we conduct our business transactions. This open-access e-book examines these changes in contemporary business environments, making key points based on the varied experiences of practitioners in the e-commerce field. Focusing on web-based e-commerce development, the book covers issues around technology, interface design and performance measurements, while also using a number of empirical case studies from various countries to focus on the cultural aspects of e-commerce.

Siva Mir
Faculty of Engineering and IT

Dr Kyeong Kang is a Lecturer in the School of Systems, Management and Leadership in the Faculty of Engineering and IT.

Of a number of questions posed in this book’s preface, there is one that lingers over the entire volume: what happens when the distinction between the human voice and the voice of the digital machine is blurred? The book’s first section concerns the ‘disembodied voice’ made possible by recording, synthesising and disseminating technologies. The second section frequently exemplifies an ideological seam that runs through the book. Lewis Mumford’s ‘cultural preparation’ refers to technologies that are anticipated in the humanities, arts and in everyday social interaction before they actually come to be, in contrast to McLuhan’s ‘rear view mirrorism’ – a deterministic approach that has technology guiding usage. In Brandon La Belle’s chapter on sound poetry, he shows how Dada and other radical phonetic poetry foreshadowed the use of digital sound technology. Section three looks at the digital manipulation and redeployment of voice in recorded music, films and computer games. In these chapters there is a sense that voice is used to bridge the gap between the harsh, alien digital world of special effects and the real world. The ‘ghost in the machine’, the magical, the inexplicable, is the subject of the final section, whereby Philip Brophy finishes by exposing us to the flipside, the post-human voice, stripped of the humanness (or even humanity) normally associated with voice. Overall, this book is a compelling journey.

Greg Shapley
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Professor Theo van Leeuwen is the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. His past books include The Language of Colour and Speech, Music, Sound.

U:BOOKWORMS

During November, the Co-op Bookshop on Broadway is offering Co-op members a 20 per cent discount on Staying Sane in the Fast Lane and V01CE: Vocal Aesthetics in Digital Arts and Media. For more details, email uts@coop-bookshop.com.au
Money is an intrinsic part in the day-to-day life of people the world over, but its value is intangible; we can’t eat it, breathe it or use it to keep warm. It’s the one global constant which increasingly seems to define our differences even as it draws us closer together.

Dollars and cents are something we look at every day, but it’s rare for us to reflect on money as an object in its own right. Exhibition curator and UTS Gallery staff member Holly Williams hopes the current show, Creative Accounting, will encourage viewers to see money from a different perspective.

“The show aims to develop a sense of wonder and spark one’s curiosity to look at money as a construct, rather than something we take for granted. Through money, the story of the contemporary condition can be told. This exhibition brings to light some of the stories that surround currency.”

The convict love tokens, on loan from the Powerhouse Museum, are a great example. These poor souls repurposed money for sentimental reasons, inscribing coins with enduring messages for the loved ones they left behind when they were sent here.”

In the development of the project Williams was able to delve into the extensive archives of the Westpac Banking Group. “It’s an incredibly rich collection of objects and documents and I’m delighted to be able to include such a large collection of early adding machines. These machines are the forerunners of computers and point to the time in the future when all money is virtual.”

As well as historical objects, the exhibition includes work by contemporary artists from across the world. With Money is No Object artist David Shapiro has created a narrative of his life by meticulously rendering every receipt he received during 2010 onto large vellum scrolls. Shapiro says he intends his creation to be a “reflective surface for viewers to consider their own fine print”.

One of the more radical works is a video piece by Canadian-born artist Melanie Gilligan. She has personified the global economy as a middle-age woman undergoing radical therapeutic treatment for an acute psychological condition caused by her recent meltdown. A timely artwork given the recent market crisis.

Williams says, “The exhibition’s a really interesting mix of alternative currencies, pop culture, banking archives and contemporary art.”

To expand on some of the ideas raised by the show, a Wednesday night talk series will bring together a designer, magician, forensic accountant, futurist, artist, economist and archaeologist for lively and informal discussions in the gallery.

Creative Accounting is on until 25 November.

Visit utsgallery.uts.edu.au/gallery or the exhibition blog: creativeaccountingexhibition.wordpress.com

Rebecca Lawson
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer (H Williams): Joanne Saad
Controlling social housing for Indigenous communities is a crucial, and currently missing, ingredient to the housing crisis in Alice Springs. Sadly, the federal and NT governments’ approach to housing through the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program has been to aggressively exclude Aboriginal voices from the decision-making process. Allowing local Aboriginal people to determine their own priorities in terms of the design, tenancy and employment policies involved in housing is necessary to ensure it is affordable and sustainable, and that social conditions in town camps and housing estates improve more broadly.

Paddy Gibson

I visited Alice Springs only recently and immediately noticed a compact city nestled within hills and open area beyond. The density of the city is evident but there aren’t too many options for the growing community. I believe Alice Springs has a long road ahead of it to establish a plan that incorporates all residents and not divides them by factors like class and ethnicity. The community should start drafting social and infrastructural goals to ensure a positive future for all.

Martina Sladkova

I don’t think there’s one answer to Alice Springs. By having a series of smaller interventions dispersed through the city, it gives itself the opportunity to grow over time. Adding an art college or sports complex, for example, would allow precincts to develop around them and change the nature of the city as it slowly becomes more populated.

Kim

There’s no quick fix to a problem so deeply rooted in racial inequality. The Kilgariff ‘solution’ is lacking the much-needed consultation that allows genuine dialogue with people who truly understand what their communities need because they have cultural understanding and first-hand experience of the issues.

Anonymous

YOUR THOUGHTS

If you’d like to share your opinion, you can comment on any of the U: magazine articles online via newsroom.uts.edu.au
Snap! A backstage look at last year’s graduate fashion show.

Tickets for this year’s UTS Fashion & Textiles Shows, taking place opening night of Design Show 2011 on Tuesday 6 December, can be purchased from moshtix.com.au from mid-November.

The UTS Tower foyer will play host to this year’s curated Design Show exhibition, Material Culture. Showcasing student work from the six design disciplines, the exhibition explores the shifting relationship between material objects and digital culture.

Material Culture is on display 6 to 13 December 2011.

Photography: Anna Zhu