TASTES OF SYDNEY
Using food to understand race, culture and ethnicity

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN
Comet particles could unlock the secrets of the universe

RIGHT TO DIE?
Unpacking the flaws in Australia’s euthanasia debate
As we begin a new year, how well placed is UTS in Australian higher education? Through the great endeavours of the UTS community we have secured a very strong position in the education landscape as we head into 2013. Our research reputation continues its strong upward trajectory, the reputation and popularity of our teaching and learning programs continues to grow, and our vision for the City campus – a world-class, vibrant and exciting place, right in the heart of Sydney and Australia’s creative precinct – is taking shape. Not bad for a university that celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

What are some of the major challenges facing UTS in 2013?

The major challenges that all universities face in 2013 are the political and economic environments, and determining an appropriate response to the apparent increase in popularity of online learning. No matter what the political situation in September, and despite how strong our cause remains, the current economic malaise in most of the world, and the high value of the Australian dollar, is having a substantial effect on government revenues and limits the ability of government to increase investment in education and research. We have recently seen the deferral of research infrastructure funding and base teaching funding increments recommended by several separate reviews.

Do you consider MOOCs to be a threat or an opportunity?

The high level of worldwide activity in offering free online courses, some of which are known as Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), is seen by some as the trigger for the demise of universities as we know them. My own view is that it is almost certainly a game-changer that will shake out the sector, but it will not result in the demise of universities. From a UTS perspective I see MOOCs and the like as a tremendous opportunity. Our model of teaching and learning is unique in providing practice-oriented education, cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary learning, and research-integrated education. Our graduate profile framework reflects our aims for students to develop analytical and problem solving skills and the soft skills, such as communication and teamwork, which make UTS graduates so highly valued by employers. UTS graduates are not just work ready, they are life ready. These approaches cannot be replicated in exclusively online environments. Why? Because their development must be embedded within the context of specific disciplines. Every day I see and hear of the really innovative teaching methodologies of many UTS staff and we need to share these approaches across the university. Central to this is the graduate attributes project; producing highly skilled graduates with a broad set of skills is our ultimate ‘value-add’, one which will ensure our future and, more importantly, one UTS is primed to meet head-on.

As the buildings under UTS’s City Campus Masterplan start to come on-line, which are you most excited about?

I am excited about each and every one of them, and the opportunities they will present to our students, staff and the broader community. But I must admit, I will always have a soft spot for the Tower – consistently voted the ugliest building in Sydney!

25 years ago I was ... A young man! Associate Professor at Queen’s University in Canada.

Photographer: Jesse Taylor
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FEATURES

REGULARS

ASK THE EXEC: ROSS MILBOURNE 2
U: SAID IT: SILICONE AND THE SUN 2
NEWS: BUILDING FUTURES 4
AROUND U: TODAY, TOMORROW 5
STAFF PROFILE: STRAIGHT SHOOTER 12
ALUMNI PROFILE: UNDERMINING COAL SEAM GAS 13
TWO OF U: HEY GAYBY BABY 14
STUDENT PROFILE: OUT-OF-CLASS ACTION 16
U: READ IT: UTS IN PRINT 17
FEATURED EVENT: WOMEN AT THE SUMMIT 18
WHAT’S ON: MARCH 19
ART & U: UTS ART COLLECTION 19

NEXT ISSUE:
2 April 2013. Send your story ideas, opinions, events to u@uts.edu.au. Deadline for submissions is 8 March 2013.

All U: articles are available to read online via newsroom.uts.edu.au.
“It’s going to be a really good year,” affirms Assistant Project Manager on the Dr Chau Chak Wing Building Liz Stuart.
“This is where you can actually see everything coming up out of the ground.”

Two years on from the announcement of the Gehry-designed Dr Chau Chak Wing Building, the soon-to-be home of the UTS Business School, and construction has broken above street level. Last month, the ground floor slabs and jump form – a horizontal steel structure encasing the lift core that slowly ‘jumps up’ to enable the builders to pour the concrete that forms the lift core – were completed.

“The jump form is one of the first things they build,” says Stuart. “It’s one of the first vertical sections that comes out of the middle of the site.” And, if you walk past the corner of Ultimo Road and Omnibus Lane, it’s what you can now see rising above the hoardings.

The building, which was partly funded by a $20 million donation from Australian-Chinese businessman Dr Chau Chak Wing, is, of course, only part of the story. Chau gifted an additional $5 million endowment to the university to be used for scholarships.

“The structure,” says Stuart, “is anticipated for completion in December this year. Then we’ve got the curtain wall, or glass facade, completion in March 2014, the brick facade completion in July 2014 and the practical completion, when the internal fit-out is finished, in August 2014.”

With the UTS Business School scheduled to move in at the end of 2014, it won’t be long before students have the chance to see and study in the building funded by Chau.

“We need to make sure all UTS students have the proper global skills and good inter-cultural capabilities because this is the world in which they’ll have to live and work,” says Purcell. “We want this to be an important graduate attribute, especially in light of the Federal Government’s Australia in the Asian Century strategy.”

While Purcell is excited by the opportunities the scholarships will provide, Stuart, who has been overseeing the building project with Senior Project Managers Mike Warner and Brandon Bell and Executive Project Manager Brian Moore, is excited by the building’s progress.

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“Part of being a world-leading university of technology involves becoming a truly internationalised university,” says Purcell. In addition to facilitating students’ ability to study overseas, Purcell is keen to see students develop ongoing networks and relationships, particularly with UTS’s KTP universities in China – Huazhong University of Science & Technology, Beijing Institute of Technology, Shanghai University and Sun Yat-sen University.
In a first for the university, the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology’s (FEIT) Research Laboratories Manager Ray Clout is creating a time capsule to be placed in the currently-under-construction Broadway Building.

“The idea came from a discussion with my partner at home,” explains Clout. “While talking about the progress of the FEIT building, she asked whether UTS currently had any time capsules and suggested now, as we’re currently pouring concrete slabs, would be an ideal time to install one.”

According to Clout, the historical cache is likely to be placed in the floor of the Wintergarden on level 12.

“It’s an indoor area designed for quiet time and reflection – an appropriate place to put the capsule, which will sit in the ground, the lid flush with the finished floor level. People will be able to walk over it and read a plaque detailing when it was placed and when it’s to be opened.”

Its contents, which aim to showcase the faculty and UTS in 2013, have been gathered from a FEIT staff wish list. It includes a leather-bound journal containing the names and signatures of all the faculty’s current staff and students, with a foreword by FEIT Dean Hung Nguyen. There will also be pictures of all current staff and students, a book – *Behind the Tower* – about the history of the faculty written by FEIT academic John Colville, an aluminium plate with the history of the faculty written in braille, a time-lapse video of the building’s construction, and a copy of this edition of *U*: magazine.

“I thought it would be neat to have an article about the implementation of the time capsule in 2013, that people can read when they open it in 2045,” explains Clout.

The 26-year UTS veteran also plans to include some everyday items like bus tickets, plane tickets, an iPhone 5 and a computer mouse – the last of which he believes will be obsolete come 2045.

Looking deeper into his crystal ball, Clout predicts great technological advances in the world of 2045, “I think there’ll be major changes in personal communications – how we interface with the network, with each other, with desktop computers, printers and more.

“T’m going out on a limb here, but we’re probably going to see the whole brain-computer interface thing happening – maybe implants in our heads to help us interface with the network, and we could have holographic displays in front of us so we can open files in the air, like in the film *Minority Report.*”

Whether he’s right about the future or not, what’s important to Clout is the chance to be involved, today, with a project that will benefit the faculty for years to come.

“With all the infrastructure we’re placing in the building, like environmental sensors, robotics and medical devices, I hope the finished building will be a giant research and educational test bed for our future staff and students. That would be a brilliant legacy when I leave UTS – not that I plan to retire any time soon. I have another decade of work to accomplish here.”

Tristan Craig
Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology
Photographer: Joanne Saad

Comment on this article at
UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/03/today-tomorrow
In 1999, NASA launched the Stardust mission in which a robotic space probe was sent to collect and intercept particle samples from the comet Wild 2. The comet fragments were imbedded into silica aerogels – a light, low density, solid foam-like substance – and returned to Earth for analysis after a seven-year round trip.

Since then, international teams of scientists have been examining the particles. However, many questions remain unanswered. While NASA’s main objective is to learn about the origins of the solar system, Aiden Martin’s work is aimed at using advanced nanotechnology techniques to remove the particles from the silica aerogels, without damage to their original state, for further analysis.

The second-year PhD student was recently awarded a competitive SIEF John Stocker Postgraduate Scholarship which will enable him to work on a special research project motivated by NASA’s Stardust Project.

The scope of Martin’s PhD project originally came from the work of two senior researchers – the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics’ Eric Silver and UTS Professor of Physics and Advanced Materials Milos Toth.

Silver and Toth have been collaboratively working together on electron beam induced etching and x-ray analysis, two techniques that are key to Martin’s research, for over six years. The pair met in 2005 when Toth was working for FEI Company – a world leader in electron microscopy technologies, based at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

Using funding from NASA, FEI Company and SIEF, they were able to find, and fund, the right PhD candidate to apply their research to, and contribute to the objectives of, the Stardust mission. Their aim is to develop a technology that can analyse the cometary particles from space.

Martin’s project is specifically looking at the development and technological application of advanced materials.

He explains: “Once the samples were brought back to Earth, the challenge has been to remove the tiny particles from the encapsulating aerogels in a non-destructive way so they can be studied and analysed, by scientists, to determine the make-up of different materials in space.”

To do this, Martin will use an electron beam to chemically etch the advanced materials and look at the reactions that take place when different gases are applied. At a fundamental level, what he is interested in is how these gas molecules interact on different surfaces and what happens when they are exposed to electrons, ions and lasers.

“If an electron beam is directly put onto a material it may not do anything,” says Martin. “But by adding an appropriate chemical in the form of a gas there may be an interaction between the beam, the chemical and the material. This can result in vapourisation, or the removal, of the material, like the aerogel, under the beam.”

The origin of our universe remains a mystery, but that may soon change. In collaboration with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Science and Industry Endowment Fund (SIEF), physics PhD student Aiden Martin is developing a technology that processes advanced materials from space. His work may, one day, help solve the cosmic mystery of how our solar system was formed.
“This is called electron beam induced etching. By using this technique in an electron microscope we can study a lot of interesting chemistry and physics that underpin many processes used in nanotechnology.”

To conduct his experiments and perform his research, Martin has been using the high-powered FEI Company scanning electron microscope (SEM).

He says, the “FEI Company is an official collaborator on this project as most of my research will be carried out using their world-leading electron microscopy technologies that are housed at UTS.”

Utilising the SEM to perform the electron etching technique Martin has been able to remove the aerogel foam without attacking or damaging representative test particles. The particles can then be subsequently analysed by Silver from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

“The gases that we’ve been using can’t really be put under a normal microscope; they’d literally eat the microscope away,” says Martin.

“We need to extract these particles out of the aerogel and determine whether they are going to be contaminated, or damaged, by the electron beam or the gases we are using to remove them.

“The gases also have the potential to etch the particles, so we need to make sure we are using the right chemistry and the right process to ensure the cometary particle is still in pristine condition for further analysis.

“The FEI equipment,” adds Martin, “enables us to expose the nanoparticles in a way that is reproducible and reliable for analysis.”

The young scientist’s work has a secondary benefit too. “An extension of my PhD project is to work with FEI to develop and improve the processes of electron beam induced etching which is one of the advanced techniques used to extract advanced materials without changing the original state of the particles.”

Though Martin’s research is still in its infancy, and there is still much work to be done, his test samples are already producing some outstanding results. He expects the project to take a further 18 months before the extraction technique can be fully verified.

Lisa Alboisio
Faculty of Science
Test particle image supplied by: Milos Toth and Aiden Martin
Photographer [A Martin]: Joanne Saad
Particle image: thinkstock
Euthanasia: it’s a controversial issue, but one 70 per cent of Australians claim to endorse. Nursing clinician and academic Joanne Lewis explains why decision makers shouldn’t rely on simplistic public opinion polls to determine support for legalising euthanasia, and why terminally ill patients themselves have much to say about preferences at the end of life.

Political, social and ethical debate on voluntary euthanasia continues in the Australian public and political arenas. Already this year, South Australian and Western Australian politicians have vowed to introduce voluntary euthanasia legislation into their respective state parliaments.

While opinion polls seeking the general public’s responses to preferences for euthanasia have reported broad support for legislation legalising the act, these polls have been criticised for their simplicity. They ask for yes/no answers to questions that touch on complex issues of law and medical ethics. Debate on voluntary euthanasia is driven by opinions which are rarely indifferent. Instead, they are compelled by strong preferences for support or rejection of the legislation. Opinions appear to develop in response to personal experience of a loved one, religious or personal belief in the sanctity of life, requests for the legislation to be passed to enable choice at the end of life and, equally, by a fear for lack of choice if the legislation is passed.

In countries such as the Netherlands, where voluntary euthanasia is legal, uptake is low – it accounts for less than 3 per cent of all deaths. As a clinician who has been caring for the terminally ill for nearly 15 years, this limited utilisation does not surprise me. Terminally ill patients are often occupied with living, and living well.

Indeed, research shows the preferences of the terminally ill are often distinct from the proxy perceptions of need, impairment and quality of life outcomes acknowledged by family and health care providers.

Research reports terminally ill patients have preferences for symptom management, psychosocial care and to be treated with dignity. Few have unrealistic expectations of the capability of medicine to reverse disease and dying processes when those interventions are explained appropriately.
For many terminally ill patients, comfort becomes the treatment of choice. They desire the ordinariness of their lives and relationships, and connections become as, or more, important than they were before they fell ill. Many describe concerns for intolerable suffering and fear of abandonment at the end of life.

In my experience, disquiet for burdening family with caregiving demands and dying alone underscore nearly all of the requests for euthanasia I have received – and these have been few.

While measuring and reporting attitudes to euthanasia rigorously in the general public are important, where this public opinion drives the process of political lobbying we must ensure it is well informed.

Euthanasia is, undoubtedly, a complex issue. The experience of introducing end of life legislation in the Netherlands is within a context of decades of complex social debate and freely accessible and affordable home care. Within Australian society, these two features have yet to be realised and therefore pose obstacles for safe legislation in this area.

Politicians who propose legislation for voluntary euthanasia appear to be grappling with these issues too. A most recent plan for new voluntary euthanasia legislation in South Australia proposed to outline this legislation in a living will document. However, the current scope and implementation of legislation for legal wills or advanced care directives in Australia is limited, and unlikely to sustain the additional inclusion of the voluntary euthanasia legislation.

Moreover, the terminally ill are a vulnerable group. There needs to be an examination of the range of ethical, legal and patient decision making outcomes this legislation could induce. My experience is that families and health systems do not always have the needs of the terminally ill as their priorities. Additionally, the terminally ill often make decisions or choices which are not in their best interests, but in the best interests of their families and carers.

Greater awareness of palliative care outcomes for the terminally ill and their families may well alleviate many of the fears the general public have about choice. The demand for quality end of life care is what the overwhelming majority of terminally ill patient’s desire, and palliative care aims to achieve these outcomes.

Likewise, the voluntary euthanasia debate needs to be more transparent – descriptions of an ‘overwhelming majority of support’ in a generally ‘well’ population are misleading. Preferences will only become meaningful, though probably no less complex, when as a society we have conversations about what good quality dying is.

Joanne Lewis
Lecturer
Faculty of Health
Photographer: Joanne Saad

U: SAID IT QUESTION
Is euthanasia a basic right, or are we playing God?

Comment on this article at
UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/03/right-to-die
Food lovers have long been visiting our city’s more multicultural suburbs for their traditional ethnic shops and restaurants – Turkish in Auburn, Vietnamese in Cabramatta, Italian in Haberfield. Two UTS researchers are examining how locally run tours in Sydney’s south west are giving tourists ‘food for thought’ when it comes to the politics of multiculturalism, race and diversity.
“WE’RE LOOKING AT THE WAYS GENDER, RACE AND ETHNICITY ARE CONSTITUTED, PERFORMED, COMMODOIFIED AND CONSTRUCTED THROUGH THE PRESENTATION AND CONSUMPTION OF MEALS”

Gozleme, pho, bolognese; they’re as much a part of Australia’s current culinary landscape as meat and three veg. But have they changed more than just our taste buds? Head of UTS’s Adult Education and Postgraduate Programs Rick Flowers and Head of the Communication Studies Academic Group Elaine Swan are investigating the ways foods are changing our understanding of race and ethnicity too.

The pair is currently conducting research into Taste Food Tours – half day tours to retail shops, cafes and restaurants in suburbs like Bankstown, Fairfield and Lakemba. The tours are part of a 10-year community development project being run by The Benevolent Society in south western Sydney.

Flowers says, unlike other tours that are run as a private business, the Taste Food Tours, which began 18 months ago, are run as a social enterprise.

The academic, whose journey into food pedagogies stems from his research into education and social action, adds, “The aim of these tours is to shift people’s perceptions about Bankstown, using food to break down stereotypes. They’re non-profit and have several social purposes, such as job creation and training opportunities for locals, bridging cultural divides and strengthening community connections.

“Places like Bankstown and Fairfield are seen in the media, and by some Sydneysiders, as a place people are scared of; where they don’t feel safe. That’s another aim of this project – to address the media stigmatisation of Bankstown.”

As part of their research, Swan, a critical race and feminist theorist, says, “We’re looking at the ways gender, race and ethnicity are constituted, performed, commodified and constructed through the presentation and consumption of meals through the embodiment of bodies, faces, clothes and the imaging and ‘storying’ of ingredients, selves and food.”

Swan and Flowers say the Bankstown tours have been popular, attracting people from all over Sydney, but predominantly from the eastern, northern and north western suburbs. They are interested in learning about the food shops and restaurants run by the suburb’s Vietnamese, Chinese, Middle Eastern and African communities.

“The tours are part of what we call food multiculturalism pedagogy,” says Flowers. “Food has long been imagined by policy makers, schools and festivals as a means through which empathy, tolerance and connection are enabled across different ethnic groups. Thus, there is also an assumption that eating different cultural foods is a sign that people or cities are more tolerant of racial and cultural difference.”

This view, however, has been much debated by both activists and academics. Some believe it’s a tokenistic visit that gives people a weakened idea of the histories and politics of racial and cultural differences; others say it makes a real difference in extending people’s horizons and challenging racism.

As part of their participant observation research, Flowers and Swan have been joining the tours, taking photos and interviewing the tour guides, shopkeepers and participants. They too have learned about the complex dynamics of ethnicity, race and culture in people’s lives.

“We’re examining how tourists consume ideas about multiculturalism, gender and race through the different ways in which the tour guides, The Benevolent Society, the local shop keepers and cafes construct culture and ethnicities. The politics of the representation of racialised minority groups is very important particularly against a backdrop of policy ideas about ‘happy diversity and multicultural pride’,”

Flowers and Swan coined the term ‘culinary ethnicism’ to highlight the complexities and politics of these dynamics.

Flowers cites the example of a thriving new Vietnamese coffee shop in Bankstown’s Little Saigon district, called Café Nho. “The man who owns it started off in Cabramatta. He came out on a boat with his parents as a refugee and wasn’t initially taken seriously in Sydney as a Vietnamese barista. Yet, Vietnam have their own centuries-old tradition of coffee making, and he was motivated to offer the best range of coffees because of such racialised assumptions.”

So far, an important finding of the research has been the complexity of the role and importance of the skills and expertise of the local tour guides. Many are local women, with different ethnic backgrounds who conduct their own research on the shops, shopkeepers and restaurateurs for the tours. Both Flowers and Swan believe they are highly skilled.

Swan adds, the tour guides play an important role in helping people feel comfortable, learn more about the local area, its diversity and history, as well as the range of ingredients and foods that are sold and how they can be cooked and eaten.

Taste Food Tours Business Development Officer Zizi Charida adds, “A lot of food tours have guides who have white people introducing other white people to exotic foods. We have locals who can talk of their own traditions.

“The tours have guides that are not necessarily always from the cultures the food is from, however, because they are locals they know the food intimately. We don’t exoticise food, we honour it and its importance in maintaining cultural identity. And indeed, its importance in being a platform for cultural exchange and learning.

“The food tours are not just about food and consuming food but about the traditions, the history and stories behind the food and ingredients.”

For Flowers and Swan, a key question is what the longer-term effects of this learning are. Will it change Bankstown’s negative stereotyping in the media and popular imagination, and does it lead to more anti-racist understandings?

Swan says, “Our aim is to help organisations like The Benevolent Society gain deeper understandings of what change and learning happens, but also of what sort of research methodologies are helpful when studying anti-racist and community development projects. Overall, we’re interested in how what we are taught about food has classed, raced and gendered politics."

The next step, says Flowers, “Is to interview the tourists and see what they have made of the tours and the food they bought.”

Katia Sanfilippo
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer [R Flowers and E Swan]: Joanne Saad
Photographer [can]: Paul Boosey
Tour photos supplied by: Rick Flowers and Elaine Swan
He once had a permanent search warrant from the South African president to perform tax audits and investigations. Yet moving to Australia and working for a university is a welcome change in both pace and lifestyle for Director of Internal Audit Frederik Theron.

“I’ve changed so much from what I did in South Africa. There it was more like, ‘You’ll do what I tell you and you will tell me what I want to know’. It’s a lot more threatening than here. You don’t want to be like that.”

Some Corporate Services Division staff may recall Theron’s tongue-in-cheek investigator portrayal in last year’s divisional film. It was a meeting with a careers advisor in Year 9 that set him on the internal audit and investigations path.

“I asked my advisor ‘who earns the most money?’ He said a neurosurgeon. I asked, ‘what’s second?’ And he said, ‘chartered accountants’. Isn’t that silly? I could have become anything, but on the basis of a simple capitalistic approach, I went into accounting. I would have actually loved to be a fisherman, or own a game farm.”

A self-proclaimed whiz at math – “I can remember people’s telephone numbers but not always their names” – Theron did his compulsory stint in the South African army following his accounting degree before going on to work as a tax auditor. He recounts his days of being able to go onto any property and take possession of documents – a job that had its downside.

“I was physically threatened and chased away from premises on a few occasions. I’d just return with the police. For some of the more dangerous places I went in with the military in one of those landmine vehicles; there was so much crime and violence no one would go in there unsupervised. They were interesting times.”

After 13 years at Ernst & Young and Deloitte, both in external and internal auditing, Theron moved to Australia. In 2001 he made the switch to the university sector and hasn’t looked back.

“We apply the university’s risk management framework to different areas, to determine where the highest possible exposure would be for UTS if something went wrong. This process is critical to ensure internal audit resources are prioritised and allocated to the areas that matter most.”

Over the years he’s worked on various investigations, and reported his findings to the university’s executive. Theron says the cases vary from anonymous allegations against someone involving fraud and corruption, to HR-related cases like a suspected office bully.

“We’ll analyse the information, perform a fact-finding audit, which may or may not result in a full-blown investigation. I’ve only had to escalate a couple of cases externally when required.”

Theron says he’s a different person work-wise compared to his auditing days in South Africa. And contrary to what one may think, he doesn’t get a secret thrill out of catching people doing wrong.

“I prefer what I’m doing now which is predominantly about assessing and improving the adequacy and effectiveness of managing risks. Sometimes it’s actually a bit more challenging working with people, some of whom could be difficult customers, and optimising your results. And I don’t need a warrant for that.”

Katia Sanfilippo
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer [F Theron]: Joanne Saad
Film still supplied by: Marcus Gale
As a third generation farmer’s daughter, Carina Lee understands the hardships associated with the farming lifestyle and livelihood.

Inspired by the ongoing conflict between food producers, landholders and coal seam gas companies, Lee spent 13 months developing her cookbook UNDERMINE. The book was part of a design research project she undertook during her final year of a Bachelor of Design in Visual Communication/Bachelor of Arts in International Studies.

According to Lee, each recipe in UNDERMINE serves to show the impact of coal seam gas on food supply, the environment and the local community. Having grown up on a farm in Liverpool Plains, 25-year-old Lee saw UNDERMINE as an opportunity to educate those less familiar with the issue of coal seam gas mining, what it involves and what is at risk.

“There are 17 recipes in the book,” says Lee. “Each was donated by a Liverpool Plains farmer who produces food for human consumption and is being threatened by coal seam gas mining.”

Recipes include the Weblands Osso Bucco, the Yarrawonga Yabby Pasta and Lee’s personal favourite, a snack made from a little known grain – sorghum.

“My favourite is popped sorghum. Not many people know what sorghum is or that it can be eaten like popcorn.”

Though coal seam gas is an increasingly popular source of power generation, Lee says the use of chemicals and valuable fertile land for mining is threatening Australian farming.

Though it has been mined in Australia for around 40 years, it has only become an issue for many rural communities in the last seven years as energy companies have begun explorations in agricultural areas.

Lee says, “The naturally occurring gas is trapped in underground coal seams and has been released using toxic concoctions of carcinogenic, non-biodegradable chemicals, tonnes of water and salt.” It is mined for both residential and industrial use, within Australia and overseas, for daily tasks such as cooking and heating.

According to Lee, the coal seam gas debate is well and truly alive in Liverpool Plains. There the annual Taste of the Plains food exhibition is held by the Caroona Coal Action Group – a group that opposes the mining of coal seam gas on Australian farmland.

“The idea behind my book, and this day, is to educate people who aren’t familiar with who, where and how their food is being produced, and how coal seam gas will affect this,” says Lee. “It’s to familiarise them with how all this essential food production will be destroyed if coal seam gas mining goes ahead within this region.”

In addition to immersing herself in the coal seam gas debate, the process of creating UNDERMINE has seen Lee interview scientists and farmers, educate herself in climate change and become familiar with state and federal laws related to mining.

“These laws are quite complicated and a little scary!” exclaims Lee. “By Australian law, the soil a few metres below our feet belongs to the government. Even if you own the land, the ground below your property could be bought for mining purposes.”

Lee says Australian petroleum licensing allows mining companies to buy soil ‘rights’ from the State Government. The soil is then tested for coal seam gas with the potential for mining, while the landowner is helpless to stop them.

“To begin with, I was just interested in the immediate cause; however the project grew exponentially throughout the year and culminated in a book that really only touches the tip of the iceberg,” says Lee. She hopes to soon pitch her cookbook to publishers and, in the future, take the concept of educating Australians about the impacts of coal seam gas mining on our farmland further.

Alison Brown
Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism)
Photographer: Hoc Ngo

Comment on this article at UTS:NEWSROOM newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/03/undermining-coal-seam-gas
Maya Newell and Charlotte McLellan met on the first day of their Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Media Arts and Production) degrees and became fast friends. Now the pair is working as Director and Producer on a topical and timely documentary: Gayby Baby. A crowd-funded film, it aims to tell the stories of children growing up in gay families in Australia.

**Maya Newell**

Charlotte and I met on the first day of class and we had these matching short haircuts. She was in all of my classes and she came in wearing this pink, fruit-patterned jumpsuit – it was love at first sight!

When I was a kid I didn’t really know many other kids with same-sex parents. I’ve grown up with two mums and I would’ve loved to have been able to watch a film and feel that my experiences were shared. Being a filmmaker, I naturally wanted to bring these things together: so the idea for Gayby Baby was born. And Charlotte, wonderful Charlotte – I approached her about producing the project and she was so excited about it she said yes.

Everyone seems to have an opinion on what’s best for me and kids like me. Kids from same-sex families have to constantly listen to politicians telling us our families are worth less than other people’s. I had a wonderful upbringing – I had two loving, supportive parents who just happen to be gay. I think the hardest thing about making Gayby Baby is representing a community who haven’t had their stories told before. There’s a lot of variety of experiences and when you’re first to represent people, you can’t tell everyone’s story.

To make the film, we raised over $100 000 through crowd funding. I think it’s a nice way of testing the waters; you get to see if your idea is something people want to see. You’re getting that support from the community – and it’s the encouragement of the heart, not just of the pocket, that gets you through.

People ask me if I missed having a father and I’ll ask them, ‘Well, did you miss not having two mums?’ Politicians who are against same sex marriage say they believe kids need a mother and a father and don’t want to encourage marriage equality because they think it’s not ideal for children. I feel like this film will be influential in that respect – it’ll show people what it’s really like for kids with same-sex parents. We have imperfections just like everyone else, not because we have gay parents, but because we’re individuals with different wants and needs, just like any other family.

Charlotte and I are intimately entwined in our learning to become storytellers. Our relationship is full of creativity and learning because we’re doing something quite serious, but we have a lot of fun. It’s not until this project with Charlotte that I really understood how to be totally ambitious and work hard.
It’s the other person who stands there and says, ‘You know what, go and take the week off; take yourself away from this’. We’ve found this way of working together that works to each of our strengths. I’ve never had a creative partnership quite like it.

To find out more about the film, go to www.pozible.com/archive/index/12047

Izanda Ford
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographs supplied by: Maya Newell and Charlotte McLellan

Half the time I’m not there when Maya’s shooting – she keeps it really intimate with the kids. We’re in the midst of the most difficult part now: the editing. We’re putting the story together and it’s been really hard because, while we want everyone’s stories to be included in the film, if we did, it’d be hours long, and Maya and I would probably be the only ones who’d have the stamina to watch it!

We have a little bit more shooting and editing to do, but should have the film wrapped up by September.

In some ways we’d like to keep the distribution of the film lo-fi and have it widely accessible and widely available using online platforms, in keeping with the ‘community’ feeling that surrounds the project now. But then there’s the theatrical dream as well – the fantasy of being able to get your film into a cinema! Soon we’re also going to be doing a half-hour doco for ABC2 on a similar theme.

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Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographs supplied by: Maya Newell and Charlotte McLellan

Charlotte McLellan

When I see a story or an idea that feels important and valuable and needs to be told, I just want to help whoever’s telling that story. Maya had been living in London after uni and when she got back we caught up for coffee. She said she really wanted to work on something together and had this idea for a doco about growing up in same-sex families. We thought what the film might do for the community, and got really excited. There was never any question in my mind, I just thought, this film needs to be made.

Of course I want to see the marriage act changed. I think it’s going to; it’ll just be a matter of when. Changing the marriage act doesn’t mean that everyone who’s gay is going to want to get married, but there are a lot who will, and it’s just about having that right like anybody else. It’s simple really.

It’s always interesting watching Maya with someone else who’s got same-sex parents – it’s like long lost cousins laughing over a shared history even though they’ve never met. As someone outside the community, the more I get into the film, the more I fall into the world of ‘gaybies’. And now I feel like an honorary member of the community.
Cramming at night; sleeping through the day. John Wu may seem like a stereotypical uni student, but looks can be deceiving.

The 22-year-old, who is in the final year of a Bachelor of Medical Science/Bachelor of Laws degree, also works two jobs (one with a barrister, the other with a commercial litigation firm), is the Education (Internal Engagement) Director for UTS’s Law Students’ Society and, in his spare time, composes soundtracks for short films.

“I like challenges,” says Wu. “When something is very hard it actually attracts me more.”

Last year he was part of two teams who took on and took out the Senior Mooting and Senior Negotiation Competition grand finals at UTS.

The moot, says Wu, “was basically like another subject. It was about transnational litigation which none of us had studied, so we had to do our own research. It was my second time mooting, so it was a very big achievement to win.”

For Wu, who readily admits: “I need to be quite active to be sane”, his secrets for success are to “persevere” and “do your best”.

“And, I know it’s easy to say, but don’t put too much pressure on yourself. When you feel like you can’t keep up with the readings or things are piling up, just do them one at a time and give it your best. More often, things are done better when you’re calm.”

With four years of study already under his belt, Wu admits, “There have been a few all-nighters.” The worst times of the year are “definitely mid-semester and during exams, because on top of work and other commitments, that’s when assignments are due and when competitions may still be running.”

All too often, it’s also when the deadlines for Wu’s compositions fall. The young musician, who has been playing piano and violin since he was four and is now “on the way” to mastering the viola, drums and guitar, began composing music at 16.

“When I finished high school, I didn’t have the parents who wanted me to do medicine or law; my dad actually suggested I follow the music path. However, I didn’t think I was ready back then. Probably in the future I’ll consider going to the US to study music or film, but not in the near future.”

Right now, Wu’s focused on finishing his degree.

“I’ve got three more electives to do – Intellectual Property, Medicine and Law and Family Law. Then I’ve got the PLT to do. That’s Practical Legal Training. You need to do that in order to be admitted as a lawyer to the Supreme Court of NSW.”

After that, he’s hoping to secure a graduate job at a Sydney law firm. “Intellectual property would be great because a lot of law firms deal with film companies as well as medical-related companies. My other preference would probably be in litigation and dispute resolution, because I like the active and engaging environment that it comes with.”

But, “It can be very competitive. Some students have to keep on trying, other students just get lucky.” Wu, though, is up for the challenge.

Fiona Livy
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Anna Zhu
Gillian Mears’ tender and sweetly troubling novel *Foal’s Bread* brings the reader back to the rural landscape of northern NSW before World War II. In the book, a young scrap of a girl, Noah, is spotted by renowned show jumper Roley Nancarrow, at the Port Lake Show, doing what he himself does best: horse high-jumping for prize money. Marrying and settling at the Nancarrow family’s One Tree farm with the rest of the clan, they pursue their crude, wishful dream of breeding horses for high-jump. However, malady, addiction, and loss make their hopes precarious. Vivid scenes repeat themselves as counterpart – the closely witnessed birth of a foal mirrors another, much earlier told, illegitimate birth at night by Noah as she bathed in a cold river near the farm. Before being spotted, she releases her newborn in a butter box down the river’s stream. Through Mears’ carefully archaic, wandering, elaborate style, she imbues the characters with a vernacular that never feels mannered. Romantic, sincere and passionate, there is a kind of innocence and force to this language; often with beauty and brutality intermixed. Through each flash of luck, or of dashing tragedy, Mears’ characters live through so much – so hopefully, yet so painfully. *Foal’s Bread* is like a clash of innocent sentiment and hard felt reality, made into something strange and unique.

Andrea Stigliano
UTS Library

*Foal’s Bread* is the winner of six awards, including the 2012 Prime Minister’s Literary Award for Fiction. Author Gillian Mears is a Bachelor of Arts graduate, who last year received the UTS Alumni Award for Excellence – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Set in England during World War II, *Another Time and Place* tells of the love story between the charming and spirited Anna Pilgrim and the sensitive American aviator Tom Blake. It is a novel for true lovers of love stories – amidst looming danger, two pairs of eyes meet across a tearoom sparking a passionate love affair that is soon cut short by the war raging in Europe. As Anna, who has discovered she’s pregnant with Tom’s child, struggles to deal with loneliness and the hostility of her oppressive mother, Tom’s plane is shot down from the skies over France. Though he first goes into hiding, the stricken aviator is captured while trying to flee France and sent to a prisoner of war camp. Grosser’s well-researched, clear writing makes *Another Time and Place* an absorbing narrative. The transitions between different points of view, and time and place, are managed effortlessly, and though the protagonists are enduring, at times they lack complexity. Despite this, Grosser’s skill at combining volatile and uncertain settings with likeable characters makes *Another Time and Place* good escapist fiction.

Aziza Green
Marketing and Communication Unit

Samantha Grosser is an author, freelance writer and second-year UTS nursing student. *Another Time and Place* is self-published and available as an eBook on amazon.com.

What to say about this idiosyncratic and somewhat jumbled book? The sub-title should be read and taken literally; it is essentially a very personal reflection of one academic’s 42 year’s experience in academic computing and information technology at NSWIT and UTS. With the 25th anniversary of UTS upon us this year, some may find searching for a few interesting anecdotes and facts about the early development of UTS worthwhile, but the book’s personal nature means to a large extent you had to be there to appreciate it. Anecdotes about members of staff (one lived on a farm outside Wagga Wagga after leaving UTS) and former students (one served breakfast in bed to the O-Camp organiser) may interest readers who knew those individuals. Perhaps forgotten details of NSWIT’s presence in the old Anthony Hordern building (now World Square) and other historical facts are of wider interest. I shared 25 years with John at NSWIT/UTS (and score seven mentions in the book) and reading *Behind the Tower* brought back a number of forgotten memories, some of which deserved recall but others I dare say should have stayed forgotten. I might quibble with a number of factual details, but hesitate to do so, as these are, after all, John’s personal reflections.

David Wilson
INSEARCH

John Colville is a Casual Academic in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology. He has taught at UTS, and the university’s antecedent institution, the NSW Institute of Technology (NSWIT), for 42 years. *Behind the Tower* is set for inclusion in a time capsule that will be placed in the currently-under-construction Broadway Building (see page 5 for more information).
"It has to be done now. It cannot be left to the next generation." Director of the Centre for Corporate Governance Thomas Clarke is adamant Australia’s leading listed companies need to employ more female executives.

Clarke, together with colleagues Alice Klettner and Martijn Boersma, were the researchers behind the Workplace Gender Equity Agency’s recently released 2012 Australian Census of Women in Leadership.

The census showed that over the last two years significantly more women have become directors on the boards of ASX 200 companies (the top 200 companies listed on the Australian Securities Exchange). However, only one in 10 senior executives is female.

"Although the board has ultimate decision making powers,” says Clarke, “it’s the executives that actually drive the company and it’s very important that change occurs there too.”

It’s one reason Clarke and Klettner are heading up this month’s UTSpeaks public lecture – Women at the Summit.

The question and answer forum, which will be held on Wednesday 6 March – just two days before International Women’s Day – is set to feature some of Australia’s leading businesswomen including Claire Braund, Judith Fox and Christine Holgate.

Clarke says the event will be “a celebration as well as a call to arms”.

“It’s intended to bring together some of the most successful women in Australia, in corporate life, and to have a keen debate moderated by the journalist Deborah Cameron.

"In one sense it’s a celebration of women in leadership, but it’s also an investigation of how the remaining barriers can be dismantled."

According to the corporate governance expert, the idea of an ‘old boys club’, “is not only true, it’s more true than you could ever imagine. And not just in this country.

"What it is, is a tiny gene pool that’s terrified of other genes coming in, so they just appoint each other.

"Women are now very well represented in all the relevant university courses for management careers, particularly business, accounting and law. If you look at first-line graduate recruitment, women do really well. But, once you get up to senior management – the executive suite and board of directors – there’s this huge falling off in the number of women. The traditional answer is of course child birth and child rearing, and that’s certainly got something to do with it, but of course if companies were more thoughtful about maternity and paternity leave and practises that problem could be alleviated."

According to Clarke, women are more often found employed in “small businesses, family businesses, not-for-profits and other employed work where you don’t have to put up with the 24/7 very hierarchical, rigid and ‘careeristic’ regime.”

Though quotas have been successful in bolstering numbers of female executives in Europe, Clarke believes targets may better suit corporate Australia. “Quotas seem to be a clear way forward, they produce the results because companies have to legally comply with them, but the question is: do they produce a cultural and behavioural change?”

UTSpeaks: Women at the Summit will be held on 6 March at 6pm in The Great Hall. For more information or to RSVP, email robert.button@uts.edu.au. In the weeks following, a podcast of the event will be available for download on newsroom.uts.edu.au.

Fiona Livy
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Joanne Saad

Comment on this article at UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/03/women-at-the-summit
MARCH

DEALING WITH DIFFICULT BEHAVIOURS
Identify difficult workplace behaviours, then develop ways to deal with them
9am to 4.30pm / Building 10, level 6, HR training room 1
jann.joy@uts.edu.au

LOOK THIS WAY
Seven artists consider the pervasive impact of signage in museums and galleries
12 noon to 6pm Monday to Friday / UTS Gallery, building 6, level 4
Until 5 April
art.uts.edu.au

LE TEMPS: EXPLORATIONS IN PHENOLOGY
A study of a changing complex biological system through our collective digital secretions
DAB Lab, building 6, level 4
Until 29 March
dab.uts.edu.au/dabl

UTSPEAKS: WOMEN AT THE SUMMIT
A provocative Q&A forum exploring the representation of women on company boards
6pm / The Great Hall / Tower, level 5
robert.button@uts.edu.au

ANTI-SLAVERY AUSTRALIA TRIVIA NIGHT
Raise funds for UTS’s Anti-Slavery Australia to produce multilingual materials on forced marriage
6.30pm / UTS Glasshouse Bar, building 1, level 3
$15 per person or $150 per table of 10
beau.neilson@uts.edu.au

VC’S WELCOME TO NEW STAFF
New staff are invited to listen to Vice-Chancellor Ross Milbourne discuss the university and its strategic direction (morning tea included)
9am to 11am / Building 10, level 6, HR training room 1
jann.joy@uts.edu.au

GRADUATE CAREERS FAIR
Students can explore the spectrum of job opportunities available once they graduate
12.30pm to 4.30pm / Tower, levels 4 and 5
ssu.uts.edu.au/careers

UTS BOOK CLUB
Literary lovers are invited to join the conversation on the third Monday of every month
5.30pm to 7.30pm / The Loft, Broadway
facebook.com/groups/utsbookclub or laura.earl@uts.edu.au

HARMONY WEEK
Five days of movies, talks, music and activities centred on the theme of respect
City campus
union.infodesk@uts.edu.au

THE JOB TRUTH
Are you a student? Do you want to know the truth about your dream job? Then come and get the real facts and learn how to get the job you want
9am to 5pm
UTS Aerial Function Centre / Building 10, level 7
union.infodesk@uts.edu.au

GOOD FRIDAY
Email your events for April 2013 to u@uts.edu.au by March 8.
Ultimo: "Part historical gem, part post-industrial non-place, part Chinatown-extension," says Penultimo blogger and PhD candidate in the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building Jesse Adams Stein. In an attempt to capture the Ultimo of today, Stein created the photographic series Every Building on Harris Street. The ode to Ed Ruscha’s 1966 Every Building on the Sunset Strip, is a poignant reminder of what Ultimo is and presage of what it will become.

Photographer: Jesse Adams Stein