FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS
Exploring UTS’s origins and its future

FINGER LICKIN’ ACCOUNTING
How a chicken burger is helping to make accounting fun

UNHEALTHY BUZZ
Why energy drinks and exams aren’t a smart combination
What was your first paid job?
I earned my first shilling (seriously) catching mice on the family rice farm, but my first ‘real’ job was an after-school gig at the local chemist in Parkes. My first full-time position was ‘Girl Friday’ (Monday through Saturday!) at a muffler manufacturer in Bathurst where I was completing my degree. I ran the office (post to payroll) and, as it turned out, it proved to be an excellent business internship.

Australian higher education appears to be headed for a perfect storm. What do you think that means for UTS?
It means change and lots of it. I know many of you will be thinking ‘more of the same’ and yes, change has become a constant for UTS in recent years. We are now far more accustomed to adapting than we once were, able to navigate our own way through the external and internal challenges by staying focussed on longer term strategic goals and adjusting as needed along the way. This is just as well given what lies ahead.

How will this change business at UTS?
Over these next few years, we will question what we do and how we do it even more than we have in the past. We will need creative and innovative solutions to address future funding constraints and we will have to allocate our resources as effectively as possible. It won’t be easy in this ever-changing environment, but given the level of talent and degree of staff engagement, combined with our track-record for strong financial management, I have every confidence we will weather the storm.

How is UTS positioned to thrive in the new Australian higher education environment?
By the end of 2014 (18 short months from now) our City Campus Master Plan vision will become a reality in a big way. Between now and then we will have successfully completed the construction of three new buildings, the very complex relocation of more than half our academic workforce, and ‘re-programmed’ our operations to accommodate our new physical environment. We will have begun to adapt to the new external environment too, one shaped by reduced government funding and, in all likelihood, a new Federal Government. Throughout, we will have continued to deliver high quality learning experiences and increased our output of high quality, high impact research. Whatever the next few years hold for UTS, I can’t help but see past the storm clouds towards a very bright future. I love a good storm and the best place to be when one hits is where it’s calmest – in the eye of the storm.

What is your antidote for work-related stress?
My kayak. There’s nothing like a paddle on the harbour (or anywhere!) to work off the stress and clear your mind.

What is your favourite saying or motto?
Don’t panic – it’s (probably) not the end of the world.

Describe yourself in three words.
Coleambally meets Pyrmont.

Twenty-five years ago I was …
Working at Ansett Air Freight – I had just left their accounting department to establish and run their first IT department.

ANNE DWYER
Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Corporate Services)

DRUGS IN SPORT

“CRIMINALS BREAK THE LAW; ATHLETES BREAK THE RULES”. SHOULD ATHLETES ACCUSED OF DRUG USE BE HELD TO ACCOUNT OR ARE ANTI-DOPING AGENCIES SETTING THEM UP TO FAIL?
As soon as you become an elite athlete and put your name on the elite athletes’ register, it’s very clear what your responsibilities are. You have a responsibility to your family, peers and fan base to ensure you adhere to the rules, just like you do on the field with the referees. Especially for those professional athletes who enjoy earning the big bucks, they have to take responsibility for their actions.

Liz Brett
Anti-doping agencies need to take pause and re-evaluate their original mandate: the protection of athletes. One would need to question if there is mission creep when it is no longer about the protection of athlete’s health and where sport rule violations become criminal offences. If the focus of anti-doping is on penal pursuits, rather than educational prevention through clearer and more consistent rules, then policies may be viewed by athletes as entrapping and not empowering. Diffident ends do not justify draconian means.

Dr Ben Koh
Athletes who break the rules should always be held to account - otherwise, why have the rules? The real issue is which drugs should not be allowed, and when? It is by keeping up with the science that the anti-doping agencies will maintain credibility and thereby not set-up the athletes for a fall.

Paul Jonson

NEXT MONTH’S QUESTION
How do you view energy drinks: akin to a cup of coffee or a more sinister beverage?

Read Caleb Ferguson’s opinion piece on page 6 and email your name and response to u@uts.edu.au or comment online at newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/06/unhealthy-buzz
FEATURES

6 Unhealthy buzz
To tired students, caffeine and taurine may sound like a winning combination, but health academic Caleb Ferguson warns energy drink consumption can carry nasty, and embarrassing, side effects.

8 Finger lickin’ accounting
Once ‘the hardest accounting unit on offer’, three academics reveal how they’re using a renowned chicken burger to make Accounting Standards and Regulation easier.

10 From humble beginnings
As UTS’s launches its 25th anniversary celebrations, a new exhibition is set to explore where the university came from and where it’s heading.

REGULARS

ASK THE EXEC: ANNE DWYER 2
U: SAID IT: DRUGS IN SPORT 2
NEWS: MAKING HEADLINES 4
AROUND U: THE NEW BROADWAY 5
ALUMNI PROFILE: FLUENT GLOBE TROTTER 12
STAFF PROFILE: EYES ON THE BALL 13
TWO OF U: A NEW CONVERSATION 14
STUDENT PROFILE: ECO RUNNING 16
U: READ IT: UTS IN PRINT 17
FEATURED EVENT: GOING GREEN 18
WHAT’S ON: JUNE 19
ART & U: UTS ART COLLECTION 19

CONTENTS
Intelligent debate is set to receive a boost following 2SER’s announcement that the community radio station is broadcasting UTSpeaks lectures.

The free public lecture series is presented by UTS experts and discusses a range of important issues confronting contemporary Australia. Topics this year have already included the return of creative intelligence and women breaking through the glass ceiling in the workplace.

2SER Program Manager Anthony Dockrill says, their research has shown Sydneysiders want to hear more intelligent conversations behind the cutting-edge issues that affect today’s society.

“There has been a real trend towards that material, for example TEDx. There is definitely a pent-up demand for intelligent talk.”

According to Dockrill, the content of UTSpeaks lectures is a perfect fit for 2SER’s audience who are tertiary educated, 25 years of age and above, and have a strong interest in alternative issues and current affairs.

“The broadcast will help to give a focus on intellectual capital and what’s happening in the industry, all the time providing a platform that our listeners can tune into and get access to this material,” he says.

Managing Editor of The Conversation Misha Ketchell says his online news portal is also considering offering readers the chance to download vodcasts of the lectures from their website.

“The important thing about The Conversation and what UTSpeaks does is trying to improve the quality of public debate,” he says.

According to Ketchell, the appeal of broadcasting UTSpeaks to The Conversation’s audience lies in the high quality content, the range and depth of high-profile interesting guests and the engagement experienced by audiences in the context of an intelligent and educational debate about meaningful issues.

These factors align with the needs of The Conversation’s audience – 90 per cent of readers have an undergraduate degree and 75 per cent are aged under 45 years. They also reflect the website’s charter to unlock the knowledge and expertise of academics and to foster ongoing public discussion.

As a result, says Ketchell, The Conversation will only be publishing debates that focus solely on the work of academics.

“We will be monitoring the UTSpeaks debates and looking for the ones that are the best fit for what we do on The Conversation,” says Ketchell.

2SER, meanwhile, has already begun broadcasting recordings of past lectures on their new program, Talk of the Town, at 1pm on Saturday. These lectures can be heard on both 107.3FM and digital channels. They will also be podcast and streamed online at 2ser.com for online listeners.

The partnership, says Dockrill, “shows the two institutions playing to their strengths: UTSpeaks being a platform for debate and 2SER having a long history of communicating ideas and stimulating debate within the community.”

Rachel Worsley
Bachelor of Arts in Communication [Journalism]/
Bachelor of Laws
Photographer: Joanne Saad
You might have noticed a few construction sites or caught a glimpse of some new skyscrapers on Broadway, but there are even more dramatic changes afoot in Sydney’s southern CBD.

While UTS’s City Campus Master Plan is certainly playing a major part in enhancing the precinct, partnerships and cooperation with other local landmark developments, mean the benefits reach far beyond the buildings themselves.

UTS’s Government Relations Adviser Kate Meagher says, “This is not just a physical transformation.

“Working with all levels of government, our industry partners and neighbours, UTS is helping to grow a globally significant creative and digital precinct which will generate jobs, new services, products, knowledge and ideas to help build the digital economy.”

These collaborations mean UTS staff and students will have access to developments such as Central Park. Located just across the road from the Tower, the Frasers Property and Sekisui House development includes the 6400 square metre public park Chippendale Green (which opened last December), a six-storey ‘vertical mall’, and thousands of apartments, 688 of which have been specifically designed for students.

Another noteworthy development is the revamped Goods Line – a walkway extending pedestrian access all the way from Central Station to Darling Harbour through UTS.

"In the precinct’s spirit for innovation, the development distinguishes itself from any ordinary walkway by the addition of an amphitheater and a variety of other social spaces to make the line a vibrant asset, rather than just a thoroughfare,” says Meagher.

It also forms an important part of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority’s Darling Harbour South master plan. The most significant of these changes include the revamp of what will be Australia’s largest convention and exhibition space.

But UTS is not just an onlooker. “UTS is at the heart of this with our $1 billion investment in the campus master plan which is contributing $3.2 billion to the NSW economy,” says Meagher. Landmark UTS buildings will include the Dr Chau Chak Wing building, designed by iconic architect Frank Gehry, and the Broadway building, west of the Tower.

There may even be opportunity for the university to collaborate in the Federal Government’s Industry Innovation Precinct program, which could offer further funding and access to a large scale Industrial Transformation Research program.

It is because of these sorts of opportunities that Sydney-siders should be excited about the future of this precinct with the creation new jobs, services, markets and ideas on a large scale.

And, as the completion of construction rapidly approaches – later this year the Dr Chau Chak Wing and Broadway buildings will reach full height, Central Park will near overall completion, and the Goods Line will begin construction – UTS staff and students will arguably be best placed to reap the benefits.

Ryan Diefenbach
Program Management Office
Images supplied by: Frasers Property/Sekisui House

Comment on this article at UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/06/the-new-broadway
In the British TV comedy *The Inbetweeners*, the main character Will McKenzie spectacularly overindulges in energy drinks prior to his exams. Thanks to the stress and overindulgence, he suffers explosive diarrhea during his final test, much to his embarrassment. A lesson well learned that energy drinks cause gastrointestinal upset.

June spells exam period at UTS and at universities across Australia. For many students this month is stressful and will prompt several hours slumped over a desk, cramming and studying hard for the end of semester exams. Whether intentional or not, sometimes students leave preparation until the 11th hour, resulting in several nocturnal hours spent in last-minute preparation. For many, this is when energy drinks become the go-to. Caffeine is a stimulant drug commonly used to assist with maintaining alertness and combating sleep deprivation. Caffeinated, carbonated energy drinks are readily accessible and heavily marketed to students, sportspeople and drivers. This marketing is enforced through attractive, modern product design and sponsorship of extreme sports and events. They’re also widely available through local convenience stores and service stations, as well as more broadly in supermarkets and in vending machines. Consumer research shows an estimated $15 million was spent on the marketing of energy drinks in Australia alone in 2009.

Researchers have also found students consume energy drinks between one and four days a month. And, that young adults had three or more such drinks with alcohol when partying.

Perhaps it’s no surprise then that students, particularly young males 19 to 24 years of age, are the highest consumers of all types of sugar-sweetened beverages. Fifty-eight per cent of this group consumes an average of 2.1 cans per day (800 milliliters). This consumption of sugary soft drinks contributes to the development of diabetes and obesity, both of which are risk factors for cardiovascular disease and stroke. Globally, soft drinks consumption poses a major health concern.

Energy drink manufacturers in Australia and New Zealand are required by law to advise in print on the packaging: “This food contains caffeine and is not recommended for children, pregnant or lactating women and individuals sensitive to caffeine”. They are also expected to advise consumers to limit intake to a maximum of two cans in one day. The ingredients commonly include caffeine, taurine and sugar; a standard can of RedBull contains 80 milligrams of caffeine in a 250 milliliter can.

A study funded by Red Bull showed that energy drinks can be helpful in improving physical performance in sport and increased cognitive function, including choice reaction time, concentration and memory. However, there is increasing concern in the health profession regarding the potential negative health implications.
A growing body of evidence and increased reporting of adverse events underpin this concern.

The “Jägerbomb”, is a popular way to combine alcohol and energy drinks. It is comprised of a shot of the alcohol Jägermeister dropped into a glass of Red Bull, which is then consumed at rapid pace. The drink delivers an alcohol, sugar and caffeine fix and can be consumed with high frequency.

Research from 2010 suggests that adding alcohol to energy drinks leads to an increased rate of absorption through the carbonation and dilution of the alcohol. This allows the drinker to stay awake for longer and consume an even greater amount of alcohol through binge drinking. It also lessens the appearance of drunkenness, but not its effects.

My current doctoral research examines atrial fibrillation (an abnormal heart beat), which can be caused by the excessive consumption of energy drinks. This irregular heartbeat may be temporary (atrial flutter or paroxysmal atrial fibrillation), however it can have a lasting effect (permanent atrial fibrillation).

Consuming energy drinks has been associated with a number of other health complications including gastrointestinal upset, irritability, anxiety, headache, nervousness, insomnia, hallucinations, seizure, irregular or rapid heartbeat, heart attacks and death.

Last year the US Food and Drug Administration investigated a well-known brand of energy drinks due to their association with deaths. In one of the cases, a teenager, Anais Fournier, had consumed just two 24-ounce cans of energy drinks. The autopsy reports concluded “cardiac arrhythmia due to caffeine toxicity” which had exacerbated a pre-existing heart problem.

Clinicians have also raised concerns that energy drinks may not only trigger cardiovascular events, but also unmask underlying genetic cardiovascular disorders. This includes conditions such as Long QT or Brugada syndromes, which may cause dangerous heart rhythms (including ventricular fibrillation) and prove fatal.

Needless to say, excessive consumption of energy drinks is fast becoming a public health concern. Research examining the amount of calls to the Australian Poisons Information Centre recorded a 400 per cent increase in annually reported incidents between 2004 and 2010. It found a total of 297 reports about energy drinks recorded over the seven years, noting the number only included cases the centre was alerted to.

This research was limited, and the under reporting of the actual, related emergency room presentations is problematic – clinicians may not be educated to the need to alert the poisons information centre.

Increasingly, it’s becoming obvious that we need to encourage our friends and family to lay off the energy drinks, or at least use them with care. Not only for their personal health, but to avoid an embarrassing ’Will McKenzie-esque’ experience.

Caleb Ferguson
Lecturer and PhD Candidate in the Centre for Cardiovascular and Chronic Care
Faculty of Health
Photographer (C Ferguson): Joanne Saad
Can image: Thinkstock

U: SAID IT QUESTION
How do you view energy drinks: akin to a cup of coffee or a more sinister beverage?

Comment on this article at
UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/06/unhealthy-buzz
"You tend to see a lot of jargon in accounting and finance, and really, it doesn’t have to be that way."

Robert Czernkowski
Accounting Standards and Regulation may not sound like a subject students would regale as the “best” of their degree. But that’s the experience of Senior Lecturer Robert Czernkowski, Lecturer David Bond and Professor Peter Wells. The trio say it’s not so much about comparing apples and oranges, rather ‘revenue recognition’ and ‘chicken’.

If you’ve ever wondered what accounting has in common with KFC, the Accounting Standards and Regulation (ASR) subject in the UTS Business School is the place to find out.

Taught by lecturers Robert Czernkowski, David Bond and Peter Wells, ASR was previously known for its complex and jargon-heavy subject matter and had garnered a reputation for being the hardest accounting unit on offer. In the last few years, however, it has experienced something of a turnaround, becoming a subject where theory and numbers collide with fun.

The lecturers, who won a 2011 UTS Learning and Teaching Award for their work, say they have invested heavily in making the course content entertaining both inside and outside the classroom.

“One of the big things we do is to make sure the ideas themselves are accessible,” says Bond.

“You tend to see a lot of jargon in accounting and finance, and really, it doesn’t have to be that way. There’s no point in going hard with that sort of language when three-quarters of the room may have no idea of what you’re talking about.”

The teaching team uses a series of techniques, employing memes (like the Double Down burger – but we’ll get to that later) and ‘Trojan horses’ that use pop culture references to introduce difficult or abstract concepts.

They have harnessed the power of social media, including a Facebook page that students can visit for supplementary information on difficult course concepts, and they prepare screencasts and ‘weekly wrap’ videos and emails that summarise key topics, give students guidance as to where they should be at with their learning, and help them walk through complex content at their own speed. This varied approach to teaching and learning acknowledges that not all students learn in the same way.

The KFC Double Down burger meme is a prime example of their approach. The burger, a culinary insult comprised of bacon, sauce and melted cheese wedged between two pieces of fried chicken, has become the enduring metaphor for accounting regulation around the halls of the UTS Business School.

“We used it in relation to revenue recognition – so, when do you actually recognise a profit from a product?” Czernkowski says.

“Is it when you produce it, is it when you come up with the idea, is it when the sale actually gets made? So we used it as an example to illustrate these points.

“The cool thing about it was that it was just so tacky and gross that students simply couldn’t forget it.”

Both Czernkowski and Bond are quick to point out, however, that for students in the class, fun doesn’t come at the expense of learning. Rather, it’s about encouraging them to connect to topics that could otherwise be dry and uninspiring.

“If you get someone interested in what you’re talking about – and to be honest, not many students walk into a subject titled ‘Accounting Standards and Regulation’ and are interested in it – it makes it a lot easier for you to work through difficult concepts with them,” Bond says.

The team also spend time following up with individual students – those who are struggling in the class, and those who are exceeding expectations.

For those experiencing difficulties, the personal follow-ups reinforce they still have a chance of passing the class if they’re able to get their performance on track, that the teaching team is available to discuss the reasons behind their poor results and to help them work through the issues they’re experiencing with the subject matter.

“I try to be proactive by email and say, ‘Is anything going wrong? Is there anything I can help you with?’ I don’t want students to fall between the cracks,” Czernkowski says.

For students who are succeeding, an email congratulating them on their good results both acknowledges their success and inspires them to continue working hard. It’s a personalised approach, which both Bond and Czernkowski believe is crucial to their success.

“You have to give a bit of yourself to the class,” Bond says.

“Students like to know they’re being taught by a real person. There’s obviously a limit – you don’t want to give too much of yourself – but every good lecturer I’ve seen has always embedded a sense of who they are in their work.”

And the students are certainly responding. Student feedback results are at an all-time high, and former students regularly pop in or make contact via email with fond memories of their time in the class.

Czernkowski says, “I actually think it’s one of the nice things about the job – students will come back a few semesters later and say, ‘You guys taught the best subject of my degree!’”

Claire Thompson
Photographer (R Czernkowski): Joanne Saad
Photographer (D Bond): Anna Burrows
Calculator image: Thinkstock
FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS
UTS’s official history may have begun in 1988, but the origins of the university date back much further. A new exhibition, opening this month, is set to explore where UTS came from and where it’s going.

In the early hours of the morning on 26 January, 1988, a man named Gus Guthrie ordered huge polystyrene letters to be attached to the front of the NSW Institute of Technology (NSWIT). Later that day, Guthrie would walk past these letters – which spelled out UTS – and into his role as the first Vice-Chancellor of Sydney’s newest university.

This key moment in the story of UTS, and many others like it, are being remembered this year with the launch of UTS’s 25th Anniversary. Year-long celebrations will pay homage to the university, its quirky and unconventional history and the many successes of its staff, students and alumni.

“The celebrations will look towards the future, but do so while acknowledging where UTS has come from,” says Senior Manager, Events, Exhibitions and Production Mark Lillis. Lillis, along with his team, is managing the 25th Anniversary events schedule.

While the founding of the university is undoubtedly a date to remember, UTS’s long and colourful chapter in Sydney’s history began well before its launch. UTS’s immediate predecessor, NSWIT, was formed in 1964, and construction of the Tower building began later that decade.

The building quickly earned itself the moniker of both ‘the ugliest building in Sydney’ and ‘the Broadway Opera House’, the latter a reference from the Sun newspaper in response to the multitude of budgetary issues the construction team encountered. Upon its completion, public opinion remained divided. Guthrie himself was claimed to have said: “We have a tower, but no one could claim it was an ivory one.”

And yet, these humble beginnings are the very foundations on which the UTS of today is built. UTS became an institution that shunned the ‘ivory tower’ approach to academia in favour of practice-oriented teaching and research with the potential to shape the wider world.

It boasts a long legacy of making education accessible to the wider community, not only through the provision of formal university courses, but through community initiatives like short courses, public lecture series and volunteering programs.

The celebrations will be no different. The first event on the 25th Anniversary calendar is a campus-wide exhibition called UTS: Creating Futures. It aims to showcase the links between the UTS of the past, the present and the future, and the impact of its teaching, learning and world-class research.

“We want to capture the idea that by looking back at where we came from, you can clearly see how we got to where we are now, and where we’re going,” Lillis says.

“But there is certainly a focus, particularly in the exhibition, on UTS’s future. Within the next five years, as a result of the City Campus Master Plan, we’ll be living in a very different campus and find ourselves in a very different local community, so the celebrations will also function as a way to allow people to understand what’s ahead.”

Exhibition content will be developed from historical information stored in the university’s archives, as well as from contemporary sources such as Stories from the Tower – a compilation of stories, memoirs and first-person accounts of life at UTS.

UTS: Creating Futures is being designed by Sai Designs, led by Amy Common. Common, who is also a Lecturer in the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building, says the exhibition will focus on three-dimensional displays and cut-outs that encourage visitors to interact not only with the content, but with the exhibition layout itself.

The main display will be housed in the exhibition space in the foyer of the Tower, with satellite displays on show in the UTS Library and at the Kuring-gai campus at Lindfield. The exhibition’s content will be updated over the course of the year, keeping the spaces fresh and vibrant so visitors return time and time again.

“The exhibition needs to work on a large scale in order to give people an understanding of what it’s about, very quickly, as well as actually having enough depth to sustain a viewer’s interest for a long period of time,” Common says.

“You always have a number of different types of visitors to this kind of space – people just coming through for a quick glance, and others who’ll be in there for hours really reading through things in depth. We aspire for the exhibition to offer something for everyone and work on a number of levels.”

In addition to the exhibition, other anniversary celebrations include a variety of events and public lectures, including a two-day staff and student event that will incorporate market stalls, performances, sporting events, the 2013 3 Minute Thesis competition and social activities.

Staff and students will also be encouraged to contribute their own ‘stories from the Tower’ via the publication website, in order to capture the memories of current staff, students and the Sydney community for future generations.

UTS: Creating Futures runs from 17 June 2013 to 30 June 2014. The exhibition and Stories from the Tower will be launched on 17 June 2013 in the Tower foyer exhibition space. To RSVP, email events@uts.edu.au.

Claire Thompson
Photographer (A Common): Joanne Saad
Photographer (UTS buildings): Sherran Evans

Comment on this article at
UTS: NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/06/from-humble-beginnings
The ability to switch consciously and coherently between languages is not an easy skill. But, for Bachelor of Global Studies graduate Greta Whyte, multilingualism is a way of life.

Fluent in English and French, and on her way to fluently speaking German, Whyte credits her passion for language to her love of culture, international affairs and law. It’s an enthusiasm she was able to combine at UTS.

“Global Studies was perfect because it aligned with my passions and interests, but it didn’t necessarily put me on a straight line career path. I think I was scared of that, because I loved so many things and didn’t want to be set on one. It allowed me to be flexible with where I wanted to go.”

At only 22 years of age, Whyte has lived in three countries – Australia, Belgium and France. Most recently, in 2010 and 2011, she spent six months on exchange in Strasbourg, on the French-German border.

“I think it was the highlight of my degree,” explains Whyte. The experience, she says, enabled her to explore her interest in international affairs by visiting the European Parliament and European Court of Human Rights.

“Almost every second Wednesday I liked to just go and listen. They have headphones in eight different languages, so I’d always swap over from English to French to German.”

Initially apprehensive about the direction she would take after graduating, Whyte has embraced the adaptability and flexibility of the skills she developed during her degree.

“The opportunities are endless, and I think for me, that was the perfect combination. I’ve got big dreams and I knew that obviously I wasn’t going to achieve them as soon as I got out of the degree.”

Instead, Whyte’s eye opener into the world of government procedures and corporate life came when she was hired as an Assistant Policy Officer at the NSW Department of Education and Communities.

Positioning herself to take on bigger challenges, Whyte says her three-month contract with the state government was the perfect stepping-stone out of university. Her next move was a position with an international focus; in 2012 Whyte successfully transitioned to The World Bank and quickly put her linguistic skills to work.

“Because I am fluent in French I did a few diplomatic translations, which was kind of the highlight for me.”

Today, Whyte has just accepted a position as a Government Relations Coordinator that she looks forward to starting, and hopes to be able to use her legal and language skills. Whyte says she wants to pursue the road to foreign and external affairs with the aim of one day working overseas.

“I’m really just following my nose in terms of what I like and what I’m good at. Essentially, I’d like an external relations role that involves languages and law, in a large multinational company, where I can move around the world and experience different cultures.”

Alison Brown
Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism)
Photographer (G Whyte): Anna Zhu
Photograph (Eiffel Tower, G Whyte in Stockholm) supplied by: Greta Whyte
"It’s about helping the players believe they can do something. Once they believe that, their imagination can take off," says Ryan. As Captain of the St George-Illawarra Dragons WRL team – and undefeated winners of the 2012-2013 premiership – Ryan keeps his players focused and working in unison.

"We have two able-bodied players; the youngest one is 15. His chair skills weren’t great to begin with, but they’re always improving. It’s more about confidence and just trying something different. One of the able bodies plays because his brother is wheelchair bound and it gives him some understanding."

With the WRL World Cup putting the sport in front of an international audience, Ryan says the training schedule for the 12 person team has been great. "We participated in a week-long development and training camp at the Australian Institute of Sport Rugby Union. They wanted to get numbers on fitness levels and see how quickly we could move between points. Then there were games to see how well we could pass the ball.

"More recently we’ve been attending sessions on nutrition and drugs – what you can and can’t take and how the drug testing process works. We also have sport psychologists teaching us how to manage aggression and failure. When another team scores, you need to get it out of your mind quickly and focus on what to do next. If you let things get on top of you, you let the team down."

Next month, he will fulfill his long-time dream to represent his country in sport when he travels to the United Kingdom for the 2013 Wheelchair Rugby League (WRL) World Cup. Not bad for someone who only started playing football to help improve his fitness level for wheelchair basketball.

"I’ve been watching YouTube videos of the teams we’ll be up against," says Ryan. "They look dangerous. That’s the level we need to get to, or be better than. We can’t be intimidated; we need to focus on our game and not stray from that."

In 2010 Ryan helped get WRL Australia (an affiliate of the Australian Rugby League Commission) started in NSW and is still a committee member. Their wider aim: to open opportunities for people through sport by building confidence and self-discipline.

Following their return from the UK, the Australian WRL World Cup team plan to visit rehabilitation centres to share their experiences and achievements with people with recent spinal injuries. For Ryan, who was left wheelchair bound at the age of 18 following a motorcycle accident, the opportunity to share his own experience with others who are struggling is important.

"I’ve been in rehab centres, I know what it’s like. Sometimes people just need a kick; it’s a life changing moment and, of course, they’re often depressed.

"A guy called Nick has been a big influence on the wheelchair community. He’s climbed the Three Sisters in the Blue Mountains. Nick visited my rehab centre and showed me how to use my chair. He really taught me you can do more than you think you can,” says Ryan. “So to represent Australia in the world cup is an honour and something I will cherish for a very long time.”

If you’d like to donate to Wheelchair Rugby League Australia, visit wrlaustralia.com.au (donations over $2 are tax deductible).
Two years ago, The Conversation launched in Australia. Today, the independent news site, which enables experts not ‘shock jocks’ and uninformed opinion makers to drive the news agenda, is celebrating its recent launch in the UK. The Conversation’s News Editor (and UTS graduate) Sunanda Creagh, together with contributor and UTS sustainability researcher Chris Riedy, reveal what it’s really like working with the website.

**CHRIS RIEDY**
I really didn’t know what I was getting into the first time I wrote something for The Conversation; it’s a very different kind of writing to more academic pieces. My academic articles aren’t particularly jargon-heavy anyway, but it still takes a lot of work to do some of the things they recommend, like using shorter sentences and shorter words. One of the really hard things is what to leave out – often you’ve got 800 words, instead of maybe 8000 like you do in a journal article.

At the Institute for Sustainable Futures we’re trying to create change, to influence what the media’s talking about and the public debate on different sustainability-related topics. The Conversation is a really good way to do that. It’s always a case of how do you allocate scarce time and prioritise that, but it’s also something that once you’ve done it a couple of times, it becomes much easier and quicker. The first article I slaved over for days. The one I published a few weeks ago, I probably knocked out in two or three hours.

I first worked with Sunny in 2011 – she was writing an article about the emissions trading scheme. I was away on leave, so I couldn’t write a long piece, but when the scheme came out, Sunny called me to get a couple of quotes about what I thought. A lot of journalists are incredibly pressured by deadlines and can be a bit snappy on the phone because of that, but I’ve never really found that with The Conversation. You get to approve everything and there are several opportunities along the way to have a discussion about what and how things should be said.

Every time I publish something I get a bunch of contacts afterwards that are interested in what I’ve written. It might not always lead to a project, or deliver funding, but it means you’ve built up your network. It’s opening up a conversation, as the name suggests, and you can, through the comments, get a lot of great feedback that can be really useful for your research. Sometimes the comments can be a little bit confronting, but I’ve been working on climate change for 13 years so I’ve had plenty of time to develop a thick skin. You just need to take them with a grain of salt and write down your own response; that’s all you can really do.

I also get The Conversation’s daily newsletter; I’ll fire up the iPad over breakfast and read through the headlines and hit any that interest me. Obviously I’m really interested in sustainability and climate change, but I read a lot of other things as well – research about astronomy and medicine that I would never come across otherwise. You have a real opportunity to build up your scientific literacy by accessing the site and I think the more we can improve that knowledge, the better.

In terms of what it’s meant for me career-wise, I was promoted to Associate Professor a bit over a year ago and in my application I highlighted my articles on The Conversation. There’s a dashboard for authors that’s got everything you’ve ever published, how many views each article has had, how many people have commented. So I was able to say this many thousand people have viewed my articles on The Conversation, many more than have ever viewed my journal articles. It’s an important measure of impact. You can also can dig
through to the UTS dashboard and see where you rank. I haven’t looked recently, but for a while I was in the top five.

**SUNANDA CREAGH**

Chris is always really good to work with; he’s very thorough, he’ll look over the research before he speaks, and he’s always ready with a great quote that makes research relevant for the average reader. I write a lot of news stories, so I know that he’s somebody I can go to on very short notice to get a quote.

We’re the most read independent news website in Australia. Our readers are mostly people who have at least a bachelor’s degree, so they’re educated with an interest in policy, news and science. We always try to remember that we’re writing for an audience that’s interested and engaged, but may not be experts in these fields. We try to remove as much jargon as we can from the pieces that come our way and from the stories that we produce, to make it relevant for everyone.

All of our articles are published on creative commons so they can be republished, and they have been in places like *The Huffington Post, The New York Times*, and of course the Australian media as well – SBS and the ABC. So we would encourage people to start a profile for those reasons. Probably 80 per cent of our coverage is analyses and commentary pieces written by academics, and then we have the news column which is what I look after. I cover basically three story types – new research findings, expert opinions on big news items and stories about the tertiary education sector.

The Conversation always gives the stories back to the academic for final approval; they have total control over the way their work is presented, everything from the headline, to the picture we caption and sub-editing. That’s something academics will not get at any other publication, so it’s a very safe publishing space, particularly for those who want to engage more broadly with the general public, but don’t want to throw themselves into a live-to-air interview on the radio. Some academics have had bad experiences with journalists – they’ve had their work completely misrepresented or taken out of context – and that’s a gap we’re trying to bridge.

UTS has been there from the very beginning; without UTS’s support, we couldn’t exist. UTS is not number one when it comes to published articles, which is a bit of a shame. There are individuals who are really well read, like Eva Cox, Caroline Homer and Thomas Clarke, but overall it would be great to see even more people from UTS sign up as authors.

I’m also a very happy UTS graduate; I started at UTS in 1999 and did a five-year degree – the Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism) and International Studies, focusing on Indonesia. It’s a really funny feeling coming back to UTS – I’m here almost every Monday. You forget how vibrant campuses can be. It’s like a micro city; there are different types of people and different places you can go and it’s a really fun place to work.

I’m very keen to meet with academics, even if people just want to have a chat, or a coffee, or talk about some story ideas off the record. My door’s always open; not that I have a door. But my contact details are all on The Conversation’s website, and my mobile’s always on if you want to give me a call.

To find out more, and join The Conversation, visit theconversation.edu.au

Fiona Livy
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Joanne Saad
Aaron Morellini was studying medical science when he realised he was more interested in healing the environment than curing sickness. As he struggled through requisite medical subjects, the 22-year-old found, “I was performing far better in subjects that explored the environment, global impacts and sustainability.”

“It shifted my entire perspective on life – it made me realise things like overpopulation and consumerism were the real problems in our society.”

Three years on and Morellini is halfway through a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in International Studies degree. He is majoring in environmental science and opting for Japan as the international component of his degree. Studying, however, is only a small part of Morellini’s story.

Undertaking a leave of absence since January, the young environmentalist has been travelling back and forth between Sydney and Brisbane, working on Australia’s first Earthship; an eco-house made from tyres, cans, used glass and plastic bottles. Originally starting out as a team member, but soon graduating to team leader, Morellini reflects on this project with a sense of fulfilment.

“It’s a great feeling knowing that you have built this 100 per cent sustainable home that is cheap to build and completely self-sufficient. Forty people have worked on this, and a family of three will be living there once we’ve finished.”

So what’s next for Morellini?

In August, he will travel to Japan and begin a 1500 kilometre run around Tohoku to translate and convey the stories of those affected by the recent tsunami. His route will begin in Tokyo, then he’ll travel along the west and east coasts of Tohoku, and finish in Sendai and Fukushima – some of the most heavily devastated areas.

His relationship with Japan has grown from a high school interest in manga and anime. His first trip to Japan was in 2010, exactly one year before the devastation of the 2011 tsunamis, when he went on a 10-day exchange program in Year 12. The experience struck a chord in Morellini, a chord that has twinged ever since. However, a chance meeting in March this year inspired Morellini to take action.

“JICE, or the Japan International Cooperation Center, a Japanese Government-funded organisation, connected me with 80 Japanese students who had come from the tsunami affected areas of Japan. For four days, I stayed with these people, shared their experiences, heard their stories: they had lost so much. As I was listening to them, I felt this immense sympathy and desire to help them, to learn from them and just to be with them.

“The Japanese people are so respectful and humble, both to each other, and to the environment. I chose Japan as my international studies country to learn more about the language and culture, but never in my wildest dreams thought that I’d be running 1500 kilometres to help their country, and communicate their stories.”

His challenge has not come without disbelief. “A lot of people think I’m not capable of doing this – but I’m not concerned. I’m just doing what makes me smile.”

Elizabeth Kuo
Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology
Photographer: Joanne Saad
Photograph (Earthship) supplied by: Aaron Morellini
My first connection with UTS dates from the mid-1970s, marching down Broadway from Sydney University, where I was an economics tutor, past the hole in the ground where the UTS Tower building now stands. This year, UTS is 25 years old and the Tower sits more comfortably within the Sydney skyline. To commemorate this remarkable journey, from hole in the ground to vibrant and successful university, Stories from the Tower recounts the experiences and memories of current and former UTS staff and students. What emerges is a series of pictorial and scripted snapshots of the history, characters, achievements, buildings and culture of UTS. Perhaps understandably, the book is top-heavy on the power elite – its ‘fluffy floor’ occupants of Chancellors, Vice-Chancellors, Pro-Vice-Chancellors and Deans – and the history of its faculties, departments and organisational units. But the book also tells the story of the passing parade of academic and support staff and students, including famous alumni like the film star Hugh Jackman, the writer Anna Funder and the politician Tanya Plibersek. What impresses is the scope of the educational achievements and social engagements of UTS in its short history, and the diversity and energy of the many vibrant communities and individuals who have made this possible.

Jock Collins
UTS Business School

Paul Ashton is a Professor of Publish History, Co-Director of the Australian Centre for Public History and Academic Director of Shopfront, all at UTS. Debra Adelaide is an author and Associate Professor in UTS’s Creative Practices Group. Annette Salt is a professional historian, with a particular interest in institutional, women’s and indigenous histories, and an Associate of UTS’s Australian Centre for Public History.

Dexter Dunphy’s second volume of poems, Strange Wings, holds between its covers fragments of a passionate life – or, as the poet himself puts it, “of what it means to be human and alive”. Written over the course of a decade, the poems in this collection are generous, frank glimpses into a life worth examining. They also resonate with us as readers who, as bystanders to his fears and frights, joys and anguishes, love and ire, are stirred by Dunphy’s words to recall the most poignant moments of our own lives. The title poem serves to remind us of those nights when we wake in fright “in the shocked silence/my heart’s wild beating”. ‘Miniatures’ conjures those small moments that pepper our lives “from overhead/a rumble of arriving planes…/dawn in Sydney”. And ‘Cunjevoi’, the longest poem in the collection, offers us a visceral reminder of our relationship with nature; it is an undulating, tactile and sensual poem that tinges “At low tide/young boys roam the rocks/squeeze the cunjevoi knobs with their toes/to make them piss –/and laugh knowingly.” There is a lightness to Dunphy’s poems – they feel oxygenated – and even at their darkest, their aeration is uplifting.

Jacqui Wise
Marketing and Communication Unit

Renowned environmental campaigner Dexter Dunphy is an Emeritus Professor and formerly a Distinguished Professor at UTS. His main research and consulting interests are in corporate sustainability, the management of organisational change and human resource management.

Over the past few decades there has been a wealth of research on the causes and treatment of psychosis. However, there have been very few efforts to translate and condense this information into a user-friendly format for practitioners working in the field. Moving Forward fills that gap superbly. It’s aimed at clinicians who may be new to the field of psychosis or who work in remote areas where specialised mental health services are not available. The manual is written in four parts and laid out in a clear, easy-to-read format. Topics include explanations of symptoms and causes of psychosis, the use of cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) skills to enhance outcomes, and specific techniques such as engagement and motivational interviewing to maximise treatment adherence. Practitioners will find the clear, concise handouts very useful in their work with both individuals and their families, and these can also be downloaded from the accompanying CD. At the end of the manual is a comprehensive resource list of websites and self-help books for those needing further information. Moving Forward is a much-needed resource that will surely be welcomed by practitioners and clients alike, and hopefully will assist in improving outcomes in this important area of mental health.

Dianne Fitzgerald
Health Psychology Unit

Anna Dedousis-Wallace and Danielle Ellis are Clinical Psychologists, Rachael Murrihy a Senior Research Consultant and Antony Kidman the Director of UTS’s Health Psychology Unit, based at Sydney’s Royal North Shore Hospital.

U:BOOKWORMS

During June, the Co-op Bookshop on Broadway is offering Co-op members a 20 per cent discount on Stories from the Tower and Moving Forward reviewed in this issue. For more details, email uts@coop-bookshop.com.au.
“What I love most is the variety and mix of different topics,” says UTS PhD student and Green Week stall holder Jessie Lymn.

This year’s Ultimo Precinct Green Week will be held from 3 to 7 June to coincide with World Environment Day on 5 June. The events, says Lymn, will range from an electric car display and science talks to gardening workshops and knitting sessions.

“The week really cuts across the different areas of sustainability, from how we shop and live as individuals to big global issues like climate change. There’s something for everyone.”

Lymn, who volunteers at the Broadway Food Co-op, says food sustainability is close to her heart. “We have a stall at the Green Week market day with other eco-themed shops, and last year we invited Year 1 students from Ultimo Primary School to help pack our organic vegie boxes. That was loads of fun – kids and carrots everywhere!”

Events like Green Week, which is organised jointly by UTS staff and students, UTS Union, Ultimo TAFE and the ABC, highlight the collaborative nature of the precinct. Activities will be run across all three organisations and are open to staff, students and the wider community.

The ABC will be hosting a public exhibition in their foyer, with the 25 best photos from this year’s Green Week Photo Competition.

Lymn says the Broadway Food Co-op is looking forward to the photo exhibition because the theme is Think. Eat. Save; the same as the World Environment Day theme focusing on food waste and global food distribution.

“The Green Week debate should also be fun with the UTS Debating Society taking on the Institute for Sustainable Futures debating ‘Worm farms should be mandatory in every kitchen’. They are a great way to dispose of food waste, but I am not sure I’d go that far!”

Other key elements include documentary films and a green-themed dinner at TAFE, a roof top gardening workshop at the Aerial UTS Function Centre, a clothes swap, ‘Sex in the Sea’ talk by UTS Professor Bill Gladstone, Green Week trivia at the Glasshouse Bar, and an art installation in building 4 that incorporates the latest scientific data on climate change.

The Tower building’s Broadway forecourt will also take centre stage on Tuesday 4 June with Holden, Mitsubishi and Nissan all showcasing their electric vehicles.

UTS’s own annual Green Hero Awards, which recognise big and small sustainability activities undertaken by the university’s staff and students, will also be announced during the week.

For the full Green Week program visit green.uts.edu.au.

Seb Crawford
Sustainability and Quality
Photographer: Fiona Lixy

Comment on this article at UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/06/going-green
**GREEN WEEK**
Week-long events will include an electric car display, science talks, gardening workshops, knitting sessions and more
Until 7 June
City campus
seb.crawford@uts.edu.au

**ECHSONICS**
This exhibition is part of ISEA2013 – an international symposium of electronic art and ideas being held alongside Vivid Sydney
12 noon to 6pm Monday to Friday / UTS Gallery, building 6, level 4
Until 12 July
art.uts.edu.au

**POSTGRADUATE INFORMATION SESSIONS**
Discover opportunities to enhance your professional qualifications, skills and knowledge through further education (online registration essential)
City campus
Until 26 June
postgraduate.uts.edu.au

**CENTRALLY CONDUCTED EXAMINATIONS BEGIN**
Until 28 June

**QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY**

**THE COMEDY LOFT**
The Vaudeville Smash and some of stand-up comedy’s finest will be performing at The Loft on the second Tuesday of this month
7pm to 11pm / The Loft, Broadway
utscomedyloft.eventbrite.com.au

**GETTING STARTED AS A NEW SUPERVISOR**
Find out how to make the transition from staff member to supervisor smoother
9am to 4pm / Building 10
jann.joy@uts.edu.au

**MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WORKSHOP**
This three-hour workshop covers definitions of mental illness, early signs and how to respond to students experiencing a mental health issue
2pm to 5pm / Building 6, level 6, room 106
jessica.mander-jones@uts.edu.au

**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

**MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WORKSHOP**
This three-hour workshop covers definitions of mental illness, early signs and how to respond to students experiencing a mental health issue
2pm to 5pm / Kuring-gai campus, building 5, level 4, room 11AB
jessica.mander-jones@uts.edu.au

**LAST DAY OF AUTUMN SEMESTER FOR GRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS**
Email your events for August to u@uts.edu.au by 5 July.
A picture tells a thousand words; in this case just how much learning and teaching have changed in 25 years. At UTS today, it’s no longer about talking at students (nor entirely about online learning), rather learning and teaching practice is collaborative, face-to-face and supported by technology.

Photographer (lecture theatre): Sherran Evans
Photographer (collaborative learning space): David Terrazas