THE NEXT BIG THING
Inside the unsung hero of UTS’s City Campus Master Plan

NOTHING BUT A NUMBER
Improving outcomes for older patients

THE PROBLEM WITH PORN
Let’s talk about consent, not violence
ATTILA BRUNGS
Vice-Chancellor and President

What has been the highlight of your job so far?
I’m only seven months into the role and there have already been so many! An obvious one would be the official opening of the Dr Chau Chak Wing building. It was a privilege to have the Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove, Frank Gehry, Dr Chau Chak Wing and others, including the world’s media, here at UTS. This has really put UTS on the global map in terms of being an innovative higher education player. But more broadly it’s the actual physical manifestation of our blended model of learning and new approaches to teaching come to life in our new buildings, including seeing the innovative ways academics have used the new spaces over the last six months in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology building.

It’s been great to get the opportunity to meet so many of our students – their achievements are a reminder of the importance of education and a great source of inspiration. A real highlight for me was last year’s UTS Human Rights Awards; seeing the impact that our graduates, staff and students are having on the world is awe inspiring!

What are you most looking forward to achieving as VC?
There’s so much we can achieve together at this university! I’m fortunate in that I inherited an institution that is really well placed to succeed, regardless of what happens externally. Key to this success will be fostering and building the distinctive UTS culture of excellence – one of collegiality alongside our commitment to equity, social justice and our values – to enable UTS staff and students to excel in everything they do.

This is central to us achieving our vision of becoming a world-leading university of technology.

Universities and education are also key to Australia’s long term prosperity and productivity. Our graduates, our research and discoveries drive innovation and improve quality of life. Australia has a high quality, world-leading higher education system. I will continue to drive the debate to ensure that we have not only a sustainable and high quality university sector, but one that remains affordable and accessible to all those who merit a place.

Favourite motto or saying?
I often quote a former boss who said, “innovation walks on two legs”. I came to UTS precisely because of the people, their commitment, enthusiasm and focus on impact. Everyone here wants to make a positive difference and my job is simply to enable them to do that. In fact, I think we’ve built a campus on that premise; it’s designed to encourage and promote collaboration. Our campus is a porous space for our staff, students and external partners to exchange ideas and work on real world problems, a place that encourages and promotes innovation and creativity.
FEATURES

Nothing but a number 6
Meet the researchers designing a new diagnostic tool to enable doctors to prescribe more appropriate treatments for older patients

The problem with porn 8
Discover why learning how to negotiate consent is the major issue surrounding pornography and our children’s healthy sexual development

The next big thing 10
Find out why the new Thomas Street building is the secret success story of UTS’s City Campus Master Plan

REGULARS

EXECUTIVE COLUMN: ATTILA BRUNGS 2
NEWS: TOPPLING TABOOS 4
AROUND U: CARP DIEM 5
STAFF PROFILE: ALL IN THE FAMILY 12
ALUMNI PROFILE: A CURIOUS MIND 13
TWO OF U: A LOVE WITHOUT BORDERS 14
STUDENT PROFILE: ARTFUL RECOVERY 16
U: READ IT: UTS IN PRINT 17
FEATURED EVENT: MINING THE COLLECTION 18
WHAT’S ON: MARCH 19
ART & U: UTS ART COLLECTION 19

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue will be released on Tuesday 7 April 2015.

All U: articles are available to read online via newsroom.uts.edu.au
Send you story ideas, opinions and events to u@uts.edu.au

Quirky conical flask lighting in building 7’s green auditorium.
Photographer: Andrew Worssam
Sarah Portwine is pretty candid when it comes to mental ill-health – a challenge the nursing student has experienced on and off for 16 years.

“It got to the point in my life where I was like, ‘My family’s not good, my relationships aren’t good, uni’s stressing me out like crazy, I’m stuck in a degree I don’t want to be in and I can’t escape.’”

As the UTS Chapter President of non-profit organisation Batyr, mental health awareness is something she’s keen to promote. “I guarantee there are countless students walking around, putting on a face, saying everything’s great, then going home and being the complete opposite of the university personality they’re putting on.”

Batyr’s University Manager David Lt agrees. “Statistically, in a class of 30 students, there’ll be seven who are experiencing or have experienced, in recent times, a diagnosable mental illness. That’s a huge chunk of the uni population.”

Indeed, the statistics are staggering. Suicide is the leading cause of death for Australians aged 15 to 44. And for every completed suicide, it is estimated there are 30 attempts. Yet the topic, says Portwine, remains taboo. “How do you go up to your friends on what is an otherwise normal, average day for everyone else and say, ‘Hey guys, I’m actually really struggling?’”

That’s where Batyr comes in. Named after a talking elephant from Kazakhstan, Batyr aims to empower young people and give voice to the elephant in the room: mental illness. Batyr does not provide mental health services, but aims to de-stigmatise mental health issues and facilitate access to professional services.

“The idea of Batyr started around personal stories,” says Lt. “People who have gone through the lived experience of mental ill-health and are trained to share their stories.

“The aim is to create a sense of community and camaraderie around support and engaging in meaningful conversation. We want to stand with people and encourage them to do what they need to do.

“We’ve been working closely with UTS’s Counselling Service and Health Service to make sure that students who need help, are able to find it.”

UTS became the first university to engage with Batyr in a long-term program model in July. Since then, their approach has been two-pronged. One is grassroots, student-to-student engagement activities, the other is developing ways for students to connect with Batyr@UTS through their coursework.

To date seven UTS students have been trained through Batyr’s two-day Being Herd program where they learn about self-care, public speaking and how to tell their own story of mental illness at UTS and in high schools.

Portwine says, “It’s really good because Batyr has given a lot of credibility to a group of students who probably wouldn’t otherwise have been listened to.”

While her experience of university has been challenging – beginning with two years in a science degree she didn’t complete – Portwine has found her path. “It’s obviously not gone the way I planned, but at the end of the day I’m finishing. And that’s something I never thought was going to happen.”

To find out more about Batyr or get involved, visit facebook.com/BatyrUTS

UTS students can access free confidential counselling or a doctor by phoning 9514 1177. In case of an emergency on campus dial Security on freecall 1800 249 559 or dial 6 from a campus landline, or dial emergency services on 000.

Anyone concerned about themselves can call Lifeline on 13 11 44.

Fiona Livy
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Joanne Saad
Staff, students and visitors are mourning the loss of the school of Koi that called the atrium pond at Kuring-gai campus home for more than 20 years.

The fish were first introduced in 1990 under the care of Building Services’ Gary Allen and Robert Chatterton. In more recent years, Tony McDermott and Scott Horne from UTS Security cared for and fed the fish daily – they had even arranged for a nearby school to take the fish when UTS consolidates its learning and research activities at its City campus at the end of this year.

The word ‘koi’ in Japanese simply means carp. The species includes both the dull grey fish as well as the brightly coloured varieties so familiar to all who work and study at Kuring-gai campus. Koi is also a homophone for another Japanese word that means ‘affection’ or ‘love’, and the fish are symbols of love and friendship.

“Whenver Scott or I approached the pond they would dash towards us,” recalls McDermott. “I’m sure it was just because they knew it was feeding time but I like to think it was something more than that.”

With the atrium that housed the fish in a prominent position near the main entrance, the huge koi attracted many admirers. A fault in the filtering system is thought to be the cause of death.

Horne says, “They have been part of our day-to-day for so long that their death has left a hole. It’s certainly not the same without them.”

The koi, much like the bush setting and the green carpet, were intrinsic to Kuring-gai campus.

What was once the Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education, the college and buildings became part of UTS in 1988. The same year the World Health Organization began its mission to eradicate polio, former President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev initiated perestroika and the NSW Institute of Technology became the University of Technology, Sydney.

Since then, the Faculty of Health, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and, until recently, the UTS Business School have educated thousands of students in the leafy northern suburb of Lindfield.

The closing of the campus brings an opportunity for Kuring-gai staff, students and alumni to celebrate and reflect on their shared experiences and memories, with plans underway for a farewell event.

And as the City campus community prepares to welcome current Kuring-gai students and staff in 2016, new beginnings are also stirring in the koi pond where baby fish have recently emerged.

McDermott estimates, “A conservative count of the baby fish would be around 100 – mostly small with a few larger ones amongst them.

“We’re feeding them once every two days, but they mostly eat the weed growing in the pond. They are all showing signs of growing into bright orange koi.”

So how do you think we should we say goodbye to Kuring-gai campus? The Vice-Chancellor invites those who have taught or studied at Kuring-gai to submit their goodbye event ideas to the KG Management Group. Email your suggestions to Kevin.Peters@uts.edu.au by Friday 29 May.
In 1975, renowned sociologist and demographer Norman Ryder set out to answer the question, “At what age does someone become elderly?”

In his calculations he wanted to identify the age at which the average remaining lifespan was 10 years – leading him to conclude that people became elderly at the age of 65. Since then, this number has been adopted by the World Health Organization, and subsequently doctors, physicians and pharmacists, to understand and treat any person aged 65 and over.

Fast forward to 2015 where life expectancy has risen dramatically around the world. Thanks to improved health, nutrition, food supply and hygiene, Australians now have an average lifespan of 84.2 years. Given this upward trend of living longer, why are we still following an archaic health definition?

PhD candidate Shamsher Singh and his supervisor Associate Professor Beata Bajorek, from the Graduate School of Health’s Discipline of Pharmacy, argue 65 is no longer an appropriate age to define elderly.

“You just have to walk through any hospital’s aged care ward – no longer do you see people in their 60s, you see people in their 80s, 90s and 100 years plus,” says Bajorek. “This definition needs to progress with the times and changes in the longevity of the population.”

Besides the ambiguity of using this number as a reflection of today’s life expectancy rates, the chronological age cut-off has many unfortunate implications, especially when providing access to much-needed medication.

“As soon as you turn 65, your GP’s approach towards prescribing medicines changes,” says Singh. “In some instances, this could mean your likelihood of receiving certain medication is reduced by as much as five times. Your age has a tremendous effect on pharmacotherapeutic decision making – it can be the sole influencer in deciding whether your doctor prescribes a medicine or not.”

As a pharmacist by training, Bajorek describes this approach as incredibly frustrating. “To see older people missing out on really important medications based on their age goes against the grain of what we think should be a healthy ageing process, and limits our role as pharmacists trying to facilitate the quality use of medicines.”

To Bajorek and Singh, one’s age might be a consideration when determining treatment, but not the deciding factor regarding one’s access to medication. Rather, they argue it is the condition of a person’s health, not their chronological age, that counts.

“In terms of medicine use, it just doesn’t make any sense to base such an important decision on someone’s age,” says Singh. “Ageing is a highly individual and dynamic process that is impacted
by one’s own health status, activity level and other socio-environmental factors.

“My research is seeking to develop a tool flexible enough to identify patients’ medicine eligibility based on other more important parameters such as cognition, function, biological age and physiological health status.”

In order to develop this diagnostic tool, Bajorek and Singh have begun looking at clinical trials and guidelines that exclude patients based on their age, often those aged 65 years or over.

Says Bajorek, “There’s a contradiction at work here. If you are testing a potential drug or device to manage a health condition usually experienced by the elderly, the findings from the trial data may be misrepresented since you are extrapolating results from healthy, young participants.

“Despite this, we see clinical trial evidence implemented into clinical guidelines, which are then applied into clinical practice today.”

Health professionals making decisions based on these clinical guidelines are prescribing medicines to older patients who do not fit the clinical trial sample participant group, which can effectively mean decisions are based on largely untested results.

Moreover, as this group are more likely to be taking a multitude of age-related medications, there is greater risk of medication misadventure.

Singh explains, “We plan to take age out of the equation and look for different influencers – for example, physiological characteristics of older people – to identify how patients respond to the medication.

“In our approach, we are not suggesting that older persons don’t need special attention, we’re just saying that you need to move away from using a number to determine their suitability for treatment.”

Ultimately, the researchers aim to deliver a suite of resources to help clinicians make better decisions without using the actual age of a person as a key influence.

“In doing so,” says Singh, “we will also develop some educational approaches to make people more aware about ageing itself.

“We hope our research will help contribute to a future that sees people being treated for their condition and not their age.”

Elizabeth Kuo
Research and Innovation Office
Photographer: Joanne Saad
Number image: Thinkstock
The biggest problem with pornography these days isn't the violence. It's that it doesn't teach you how to negotiate consent, says sexual development expert Alan McKee. And that's a major concern when it comes to teaching our children about healthy sexual behaviour.

I've been researching pornography for a long time now: what's in it? What effect does it have on consumers? Is it destroying a generation of young men?

One common concern I hear is that pornography these days is getting ever more violent. For example Gail Dines, the anti-pornography activist who recently toured Australia, worries that when the 11-year-old boy puts 'porn' into Google, he's not looking at your father's Playboy, he's looking at a world of cruelty, and a world of brutality. So I ask, "What are the long-term effects of bringing up boys on violent images when you think about pornography as being the main form of sex education in our society?"

And the academic research seems to support her concerns. A 2010 article by a group of American researchers found that 89 per cent of scenes in best-selling pornographic videos included violence, mainly against women. If that's how young people are learning about sex, we should be concerned.

But here's another point – most pornography isn't meant to be realistic. It isn't trying to teach people how to have sex in real life – it's meant to be fantasy. And that's fine too – we all need a bit of fantasy in our lives. But the problem is that nobody is teaching young people how to have sex in real life and how to negotiate consent when they have sex. They're not getting that information in schools, and they're not getting it from their parents.

In another research project we found out that for most young people the sex education they get at school is biological information about STIs and HIV. Or, as one young girl put it, "This works like this because of the two x-proteins and all that stuff like that". They're not getting taught how to talk about sex or what to negotiate before you start, or anything like that – just the functions of the protein molecules in viruses. And the situation with parents wasn't good either:

Facilitator: And again do your parents talk to you about sex at all?
Student 1: No.
Student 2: No.
Student 3: No.
Student 4: No.
Student 5: Kind of but not really, like they'll just be like don't have sex because you'll get pregnant.

So how about this for an idea? Just as a starting point, just to introduce young people to the complexities of sexual negotiation, let's teach every high school student about safewords. A safeword is a word that's completely outside of the sexual context, like 'pineapple' and when you say it there's an agreement that the sex immediately stops.

You move into a caring phase – offering emotional support, asking your partner if they want to talk about what happened, letting them decide what they want to do next. Negotiate the rules for how it works before you get into the hot and heavy.

Let's make that a common idea for everyone, so it doesn't seem strange when it happens. Put that at the centre of the sexual practice. Because for a lot of young people, pornography is the only real sex education they're getting. Now that's something we should be worrying about.

Alan McKee
Associate Dean (Research and Development)
Faculty of Arts and Social Science
Photographer: Joanne Saad
Male and female image: Thinkstock
THE PROBLEM WITH PORN
It may not have the glitz of the binary screen-clad building on Broadway, or the glamour of Gehry's undulating brick facade, yet for many the Thomas Street building is the silent success story of UTS's City Campus Master Plan. Building 7, which opened for teaching in late February, is full of surprises that are set to change the future of health, science and research in Australia and overseas.

Walking through the abstract artworks adorning the five main entry doors of building 7, the last thing you’d expect to find are state-of-the-art science labs. But head inside and that’s exactly what you’ll find.

Gone are the pokey, dingy work spaces traditionally associated with academia, and in their place are state-of-the-art pharmacy and clinical psychology research, simulation and treatment facilities, problem-based learning spaces, a fully decked-out forensic suite (complete with a furnished kitchen, office and bedroom), and a 220-seat Super Lab with abundant natural light.

Executive Project Manager Marc Treble says the building was "purpose-built for research." Design in collaboration with the Faculty of Science and Graduate School of Health, Treble says the ethos of the building was simple: "This was going to be more than just a building; we were building a temple, and the religion of this temple is research. We know that in the future research done in this building will touch your family or your life in some way, and that’s a fact.”

The building will also help create Sydney’s own health and science precinct. Head of the Graduate School of Health Charlie Benrimoj says, "UTS is academically and morally obliged to ensure we contribute optimally to national and international health care developments.

"The quality of life of the population, particularly an ageing one, is of utmost importance to society."

And, adds Dean of the Faculty of Science Bruce Milthorpe, "In order to provide the necessary basis for a world-leading university of technology, we needed enough scientists to be able to provide the critical mass in various areas to really make a splash on the world stage."

And splash they have. The Super Lab, spanning the entire length of level 1, is perhaps the most well publicised feature of building 7. At any one time the open-plan area is able to hold up to 220 students in 12 separate classes.

According to Treble, the Super Lab “will be the first of its kind in the world with the technology we’ve used”. This includes having a wireless audio communication system with each student using individual wireless receivers during class.

“The technology wasn’t off-the-shelf,” says Treble. “We’ve had to work with technology companies to get this lab to do what we want it to do.”
Together with UTS's Information Technology Division and Audio Visual Services (who helped develop, program and install the Super Lab’s hardware and software) Treble says, “We’ve been pushing the commissioning of the lab with the sole purpose of testing every component to the limit. There are some elements we are still fine-tuning to make it world class. And for the start of semester? “We have a new subject,” says Milthorpe, “which is designed to take advantage of the Super Lab. It’s a first-year subject for most students – Principles of Scientific Practice. And while we know we’ve got a lot to learn about how to best use the Super Lab we’ve already got a team in place looking forward to driving that.”

One floor below the Super Lab is space for a cutting-edge imaging suite and a Clean Room with two PC2, or physical containment level two, suites.

“The Clean Room,” says Treble, “has positive air pressure to prevent dust getting in. Conversely, to keep dust, bacteria and nanoparticles from getting out you need a negative air pressure. So the Clean Room is positively pressurised and, within it are two interconnecting, negatively pressurised PC2s. That way, nothing can get in or out.”

According to Milthorpe, “There are a few facilities like this around the world, but they are quite rare.” He says it “will enable us to start building nanotechnology-based devices that include not only the physical silicon-based technology, but also biological molecules derived from cells.”

Back in building 7, nestled between the Super Lab on level 1 and the entrance on level 3, is a green (both literally and figuratively) auditorium. Here, quirky conical flasks hang from the ceiling, delivering light and air conditioning.

Also on level 2 is the Graduate School of Health’s suite of clinical psychology treatment rooms. The plan is to use these consulting rooms both for research and teaching (starting this semester) and as part of a public-facing psychology clinic (starting July). Additionally, there’s a plinth room that will be used to expand the services of the Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine and to teach physiotherapy when it comes to UTS in 2016. The aim is to facilitate interprofessional and translational research, which is ‘bench to bedside’ research that broaches the gap between theory and practice and expedites benefit to patients.

“The facilities,” says Benrimoj, “allow our graduates to experience current and future health care practices and services and actually become health care providers under expert supervision.

“WE WERE BUILDING A TEMPLE, AND THE RELIGION OF THIS TEMPLE IS RESEARCH.”

“For example, the interaction between clinical psychologist, pharmacists and physiotherapist in dealing with patients with severe chronic back pain will develop multi-disciplinary modes of practice that will enhance patient care.”

To help achieve these outcomes, levels 4, 5 and 6 are filled with generic labs and collaboration spaces. It’s a move Milthorpe says will lead to greater efficiency and collaboration. “This is a very, very highly efficient building in terms of the usable floor space.”

The breakthroughs don’t end there. Treble and his team – Senior Project Manager Dane Sinclair and Assistant Project Manager Danny Hung – have also been responsible for delivering the Library Retrieval System (LRS), Alumni Green and upgrade of building 4. This multi-project approach has enabled the installation of a stormwater capture, storage and treatment system under Alumni Green, with recycled water used to supply the building’s toilets, and water the rooftop garden and Alumni Green.

The building design also includes a natural cooling-system which is estimated to save up to 20 per cent of the building’s running costs. This is one of the factors that helped building 7 achieve a certified Green Star Rating.

Another is the self-cleaning material forming the building’s monolithic exterior facade. The material is able to expand and contract without developing cracks, and the outer layer is comprised of 97 per cent recycled glass.

To test it, Hung says, “they put a hardened piece over a speed hump and drove over it. The material just flexed and bounced back into shape.”

For Treble, whose expertise is in the strategy and delivery of health and life science buildings, “This is one of the most complex I’ve ever worked on. For more than a decade it’s been acknowledged the future of science lays not in the silos of how science has operated traditionally, but it’s actually in the correct co-location and collaboration.”

The new building 7, which physically links science and health and places them between business and engineering at UTS’s City campus, will enable just that. “Without a doubt,” says Sinclair, “for generations to come there will be ground breaking research done here.”

Fiona Livy
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer (C Benrimoj): Jim Woulfe
Photographer (B Milthorpe, D Sinclair, M Treble, D Hung): Joanne Saad
Photographer (Super Lab, office space, exterior, facade): Andrew Worssam
Photographer (Main entry doors, auditorium): Joanne Saad

Comment on this article at UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2015/03/the-next-big-thing
Sepia-toned photos, obituaries cut from newspapers and letters posted almost 100 years ago. Executive Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor Diane Hewson sifts through these relics in her spare time to piece together her family tree.

Hewson has become a familiar face to many during the last 12 years; she's worked in UTS International and the Chancellery, as well as completed her undergraduate and master's degrees at UTS.

What some may not know is that Hewson also stays up late going through birth, death and marriage records, and enjoys visiting cemeteries.

“That used to be a family joke,” she laughs. “My children would say that when I took them on excursions we’d go for a picnic, then go to the cemetery!”

Hewson shares her passion for genealogy through two blogs that are now part of the Pandora Archives at the National Library of Australia. Her first blog, Family Stories, explores her family tree and personal memories. Her second blog, The Other Half of my Tree, is dedicated to her female ancestors.

Hewson’s ability to organise and manage large projects comes in handy when delving into family history – especially when unearthing stories about women.

“Prior to the 20th century the identity of a woman was tied to her father, husband and family,” writes Hewson in her blog.

“This is my attempt to give some of the women that came before me an identity. I think they deserve to have their stories told.”

Hewson’s research has seen her travel to England in search of records of female ancestors. On this trip, her husband’s great-great-grandmother’s diary inspired a short stay near Lancashire in order to create a more complete idea of her life.

“Her name was Elizabeth Rushworth. She was the person family and the local community went to when they were sick. Then, in the late 1800s when the St John’s Ambulance started to come about, she became involved and ended up becoming a superintendent.

“She helped run a hospital for returned soldiers during the war and was awarded a medal by the Prince of Wales – an amazing lady!”

Even when Hewson isn’t investigating her family history, she still enjoys travelling.

“I’ve travelled a fair bit,” she says, “While I was working in UTS International I completed a Master of Arts in International Studies and to finish that degree I spent six months in Guadalajara, Mexico.”

Her stay in Mexico involved working with CAMPO (Centro de Apoyo para el Movimiento Popular de Occidente), an NGO that previously helped women in remote villages run their own small businesses.

“They’d been supporting these women for about 10 years,” explains Hewson, “however the funding was stopping so my project was focused on capacity-building education for the women and helping them take over and manage themselves.”

Hewson says it was interesting to see the women in rural areas balance the responsibilities of their businesses, their families and their communities.

These common themes of strong women balancing family and work unite Hewson’s projects, making it easy to understand why she says she has “a bit of a feminist side”.

“I feel that a lot of my good fortune and the strength of this family tree is due to my female ancestors.”

Hannah Jenkins
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer (D Hewson): Joanne Saad
Mexico and family tree photographs supplied by: Diane Hewson
Tree image: Thinkstock

Comment on this article at
UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2015/03/all-in-the-family
When Parkinson’s disease claimed the life of his surrogate grandmother two years ago, Dominic Hare’s mission to develop a treatment became personal.

“Seeing what Parkinson’s disease does to someone you care about only spurs you on,” says Hare. “I’ve always thought the grandmother I knew passed away years before her body physically shut down.”

The 31-year-old Chancellor’s Post Doctoral Research Fellow with the School of Chemistry and Forensic Science hopes a treatment for Parkinson’s, similar to insulin for diabetics, will be available within the next few decades – offering relief for around 80,000 Australians who suffer the disease.

“If we can identify the reactions that cause cells to die in Parkinson’s disease, we can design treatments that can stop it happening in the first place.”

Hare was originally enrolled in forensic science, but his interest in Parkinson’s was sparked during his undergraduate years at UTS when he scored a part-time job at the NSW Department of Forensic Medicine.

“I ended up working in the histopathology laboratory and I actually found that my interest was more directed to natural diseases,” he says.

This interest in natural deaths rather than those caused by crime convinced Hare to transfer to a Bachelor of Science in Applied Chemistry, which he finished in 2005.

Hare went on to complete his PhD at UTS four years later, developing a method to take pictures of metals in brains. The technique uses UTS’s world-class Elemental Bio-Imaging Facility, of which Hare was a founding member.

Sections of brain tissue thinner than a human hair are positioned on microscope slides and a laser beam is fired across them. The laser hits the tissue and forms tiny particles that are carried into plasma as hot as the surface of the sun.

The tissue is broken down into its elements to reveal the metal imbalances in areas of the brain affected by diseases, such as increased iron in areas affected by Parkinson’s.

This technology has been applied to different fields of biological research around the globe, including cancer research.

Hare’s work has earned him an adjunct position at the prestigious Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS) in New York, and a secondment to the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health in Melbourne to investigate why the brains of Parkinson’s patients contain more iron than healthy ones.

While there is a natural tendency for the amount of iron in the brain to increase with age, Hare is convinced early exposure to iron could be a major risk factor for Parkinson’s.

“If you give your body a head start by overloading it with iron early in life, it will fill up in your body faster than nature intended, starting the chemical process that leads to cells dying in Parkinson’s.”

Hare’s experiments at ISMMS look at patients’ teeth as records of previous exposure. He believes correlating the amount of iron in someone’s teeth and brain could reveal their risk of developing Parkinson’s as they age.

“Our focus is on identifying when the disease begins. Knowing this will permit early detection and a longer, improved quality of life.”

Natalie Clancy
Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism) / Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation
Photographer: Joanne Saad

Comment on this article at
UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2015/03/a-curious-mind
I met Cecilia in our Global Strategic Management class and at first I thought she was quite shy and quiet, but that has most definitely changed! Once you get to know her and she feels more comfortable speaking with you, then it’s hard to keep her quiet. We met through a mutual friend and ended up in the same group for an assignment. We had to sell shoes through a business simulation game where we were competing in the same ‘market’ as the other groups in the class. It was fun but required a lot of work and many group meetings. So Cecilia and I were forced to get to know each other very well, and the rest is history.

A couple of my family members had some initial concerns; these were short-lived once they met her. Cecilia is a very kind, caring and generous person and she makes me laugh every day. So I’m definitely a lot happier and a better person as a result of meeting her. She gets along with my family and friends extremely well, and they’re very happy for us. After Cecilia graduated she found it difficult to find a job in Sydney, so she moved back to Norway and we had a long distance relationship for about 10 months. We very much wanted to be together and we knew that we couldn’t do long distance forever. As she had already experienced Australia, we agreed that I would give Norway a go. I moved here just over one-and-a-half years ago. It was also the right time in terms of my career; I’d been with the same company for quite a while, climbing the corporate ladder as they say, so it was definitely time for a new challenge and a fresh start.

Everyone was really supportive about my move to Norway; my family especially as they absolutely love Cecilia and saw it as a great opportunity for me to travel more. I love how easy and cheap it is to travel from Norway to other countries in Europe. Five weeks of annual leave is not too bad either! What I don’t like is how dark it gets during winter. I don’t mind the cold and I think the snow is beautiful, but the darkness and not seeing the sun for weeks can get a little depressing. Of course I miss my family and friends in Sydney too.

I still have strong links with UTS. As a Marketing and Communications Manager at Keystone Academic Solutions we provide online marketing solutions to the higher education industry with UTS being one of our long-term partners. We promote UTS courses in 34 languages on our websites with the aim of attracting and recruiting international students to the university.

I not only have UTS to thank for my education, but also for my relationship. We want to stay in Norway for at least a couple more years then reassess. Depending on our careers and our family situation, we’ll decide on whether to stay or move back to Australia. Of course, getting married is not too far around the corner either.
CECILIA NGUYEN

I was finishing up the last year of my undergraduate degree in Oslo when my little sister Chau decided to move overseas. To support my sister and make my parents’ life easier – and to continue my studies – I decided to do my postgraduate degree at UTS while my sister did her degree at UTS too. Like me, she found it extremely challenging in the first year as it was very different from how we study in Norway. For example, at UTS we were assessed on presentations, essays and assignments throughout the semester rather than just a final exam. Once we got used to it we managed to achieve better results.

In the beginning he seemed to have an answer to everything and knew what to do and when to do it. The more I’ve got to know him, the more I’ve realised that he doesn’t have everything under control but he is trying his best. Most of my family members and friends like Steve a lot as they find him easy-going and easy to talk to. Steve’s English was perfect so I thought having him part of my group would work to my advantage. He was very supportive when it came to studying and was almost always available to do group work. He was also the only guy in the group so he tried to be charming and funny all the time. Now I find his jokes very goofy and weird.

Sometimes I get frustrated because I cannot express myself fully in English. Steve only understands and speaks English like the majority of people around the world. When travelling, I can’t always discuss bargaining tactics like I would with friends and family, so it can be difficult to have a private discussion without others understanding us.

Steve must miss Australia a lot as we always have to have at least one jar of Vegemite at home. Some early mornings when New South Wales play against Queensland in the State of Origin, or when the Bulldogs or Wallabies or Hawks are playing a big game I struggle to sleep because Steve’s yelling at the TV!

UTS has played a great role in my life; it has given me a good degree to build my career on. Today, I am working as a Commercial Lead at Aker Solutions ASA, one of Norway’s largest oil and gas services companies. I feel I have a great advantage coming back to Norway with the experience and knowledge I have gained from studying at UTS. Having said that, I have always wanted to do a doctoral degree at a later stage. If we move back to Sydney I am most certain that I would want to apply to UTS.

Tresa Ponnor
UTS International
Photographs supplied by: Steven Yun

Comment on this article at
UTS NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2015/03/a-love-without-borders
He used to hide from the world. Now Thomas Grainger is taking it by storm. After overcoming years of anorexia and orthorexia nervosa (a fixation on eating only healthy or ‘pure’ foods), Grainger is using his experience to raise awareness of mental illness on a world stage.

“My illness was something I was originally ashamed and embarrassed of,” says the 21-year-old Media Arts and Production and International Studies (Germany) student. “But I have combined the skills I learned in my UTS degree with my personal experiences to develop projects and services that help others suffering from the impacts of eating disorders and other mental illnesses.”

His latest project, and first book, You Are Not Your Eating Disorder, was released last month. It aims to help people who are suffering from an eating disorder by providing advice on how to beat the mental illness.

In addition to his cinematic exploits, Grainger maintains his own health and wellness blog, The Dream Life, and weekly podcast, Beyond the Body.

Grainger says he’s received positive feedback about the free podcast from many UTS students because, “anyone can listen in anonymously. It’s just a tiny way of getting the message out there to help improve the lives of those who may be afraid to seek support.”

While his passion to help others is intrinsic, the young filmmaker says some inspiration came from the classroom.

“This film is a part of my identity and personal history in the way it explores male body image dysmorphia and mental illness. To have people from across the world genuinely wanting to know more about the issue is the reason why I want to continue to share my passion through the form of cinema.”

The film’s copyright belongs to Purple World Productions – a media company founded by Grainger. The company has been the creative hub for 10 of his films. Among them Forty Seven Point Zwei and The Flat That Darod Killed, which premiered at The Sydney Underground Film Festival in 2013.

As for the international component of his degree, Grainger has used his German to create Forty Seven Point Zwei, arrange interviews for his podcast and make contacts in the industry.

“Although the majority of Germans can speak English, they look at you favourably if you communicate in their language because you have put in the effort to understand where they are coming from.”

This month, he’ll be jetting back to Germany for a year’s study. But for the long-term future, “I would love to be a creative producer in documentary, particularly around the education of health and wellness; something that allows me to take the messages of self-acceptance as widespread as possible, while having fun in the process.”

Sofie Wainwright
Bachelor of Arts in Communication [Journalism]
Photographer: Ansh Bose
Like a nightingale, Allen’s latest collection is small, delicate, and full of song. Some poems are fragile, some are witty, others sarcastic, and still others carry with them a sense of resignation. This collection has an arc – a journey all of its own – bookended by a prologue and an epilogue that speak directly to the reader. In five distinct sections, Allen takes us through the everyday and the extraordinary, the public and the private, the things said and those left unsaid as he explores the light and shade of life – be it life exposed as in ‘Surry Hills Hip Hop’ or life in the shadows as in his touching ‘My Mother’s Home’. Each section is markedly different in tone. The first has a strong, rhythmic heartbeat while the next is lyrical, its poems almost floating off their pages. A later section is possessed by the haunting strains of death and resignation. However, time and inevitability ripple throughout. As Allen tells us in his prologue

*It doesn’t matter how the poem is reaching you – if it is reaching you*

Jacqui Wise
Marketing and Communication Unit

Richard James Allen graduated from UTS in 2005, winning the Chancellor’s Award for the most outstanding doctoral thesis. Fixing the Broken Nightingale is his 10th collection of poems.

*Fixing the Broken Nightingale*
*BY: RICHARD JAMES ALLEN*
*PUBLISHER: AUSTRALIAN POETRY*

After Darkness shares the experiences of Japanese doctor Tomokazu Ibaraki living in Australia during World War II. While working in a hospital in Broome, Ibaraki is arrested as an enemy alien and sent to Loveday internment camp in South Australia. His beliefs are thrown into question and Ibaraki is forced to confront his dark past. The narrative alternates between Ibaraki’s life in Japan, his life in Broome and his current time at the internment camp. By interweaving the three narratives, Piper gradually unravels the secrets and struggles of Ibaraki’s past, compelling the reader deeper into his story. Piper’s imagery is captivating. From the opening line, ‘The sun spreads on the horizon, bleeding colour like a broken yolk’, Piper seizes the imagination. Through the perspective of Ibaraki, Piper illustrates intimate moments that reveal his reclusive personality, and his inability to connect and empathise with others and disclose his true feelings. By fusing fiction with history, Piper effectively recreates a time and place in Australia’s contemporary history. After Darkness provides a human perspective on little-known aspects of World War II, while also exploring the themes of guilt, honour and discretion in the search for identity.

*Rachael Brown*
*UTS International*

After Darkness is Christine Piper’s first novel, written as part of her Doctor of Creative Arts degree at UTS. It won the 2014 The Australian/Vogel’s Literary Award, one of Australia’s most prestigious awards for young writers.

*AFTER DARKNESS*
*BY: CHRISTINE PIPER*
*PUBLISHER: ALLEN & UNWIN*

The Railwayman’s Wife is set in 1948 in author Ashley Hay’s childhood town of Thirroul, a coastal mining town south of Sydney. The ocean is omnipresent, at first a metaphor for overwhelming grief but transforming into a source of healing and growth. The Railwayman’s Wife revolves around three main characters, the most central being Annika Lachlan, the novel’s namesake, who is grieving the sudden loss of her beloved husband and striving to understand her identity in a world without him. The others are Roy McKinnon, a war poet who has lost his ability to write after WWII, and Frank Draper, a doctor also returning from the war who is plagued with guilt and memories. This is not a plot-driven novel, more of an immersive experience. The characters and setting are brought to life by Hay’s beautiful prose which makes this book simply a joy to read. The story explores love and loss and how much we truly know the ones we love and even ourselves. Readers will appreciate the other literary references, such as to Yeats and Jane Eyre, as well as the illuminating original poem ‘Lost World’ that is central to the novel, enhancing its depth. It is a read best for those slow contemplative afternoons when the world’s passing by.

Roslyn Coutinho
Bachelor of Design in Visual Communication

Ashley Hay is a UTS Doctor of Creative Arts graduate and the author of six books.

*THE RAILWAYMAN’S WIFE*
*BY: ASHLEY HAY*
*PUBLISHER: ALLEN & UNWIN*
Many people think of Indigenous art as something that’s done within remote communities and usually has a dot aesthetic to it,” says Education Outreach Coordinator with UTS Art Alice McAuliffe. “However there’s so much more going on. There are artists working in Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and all over the country, who draw on their connection to country, on their culture, their political situation, their social situation and on the past.”

McAuliffe sees UTS Art’s latest Mining the Collection exhibition as an opportunity to engage people – particularly UTS students – with this diversity of Australian Indigenous art practice.

Currently on display on level 4 of the Tower building, the exhibition is made up of a selection of Indigenous artworks from the UTS collection, some of which have not previously been on show at UTS.

It grew out of a collaboration with Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning and Sydney Story Factory in 2014, which utilised a selection of Indigenous art as the focal point in working with Indigenous high school students to introduce them to the possibilities university can offer.

The collaboration, and the broader UTS education and outreach program in which McAuliffe has been involved for the last four years, have been extremely successful.

Last year alone, the program brought 500 primary, high school, TAFE and college students from low socio-economic and Indigenous backgrounds onto campus, and the exhibition was highly commended in the Museums and Galleries National Awards.

Since federal funding for widening participation programs across the university sector has been discontinued, McAuliffe is now focusing on engaging current UTS students.

Along with UTS Art Assistant Curator Janet Ollevou, she has been liaising with faculties about the possibility of using the collection as a complement to Indigenous components of UTS coursework.

McAuliffe says, “Starting off with works in the collection can be an interesting way to begin talking about some of the deeper issues and the more important political issues going on in the country and in Australian history.”

As well as providing teaching staff with the opportunity to bring students directly into the exhibition, McAuliffe has put images of many of the works online with interpretive texts.

She says, “It’s much easier logistically for faculty staff to be able to bring up the image, all the information they can talk about, links to videos and so on. And they can do that at any time in the year – not just while the exhibition is open.”

The Indigenous art exhibition is the third in the Mining the Collection series, a project designed to hone and expand understanding of the UTS Art collection, which comprises over 1000 pieces, most displayed throughout the university.

“Often people can see a work on a wall and not really understand what it is or where it comes from – which is fair enough; people are busy and just walking by and may not have time to visit our online content,” says McAuliffe.

“These exhibitions are a chance for us to bring works together and give more information. It allows people to delve into the works and understand them a bit more.”

Mining the Collection: Indigenous art from UTS Art collection is on display in the exhibition space on level 4 of the Tower until Friday 20 March.

Learn more about the individual artworks at art.uts.edu.au/index.php/category/indigenous-art-from-uts-art-collection

Rachael Quigley
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Joanne Saad
Artworks by: Janet Goulder Kngwarreye, Roy Wiggan and Tony Albert

Comment on this article at UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2015/03/mining-the-collection
WHAT’S ON

MARCH

Email your events for April to uts@uts.edu.au by 13 March.

UTS GALLERY

Técha Noble’s CRYSTAL/ROMEO features video, printmaking and costume in an installation that explores decorative typologies towards landscape, time and the body.

UTS Gallery, 3 March-3 April
Building 6, level 4
email: utsgallery@uts.edu.au

FROM 03

SUNDAY SESSIONS

What could be better than a few quiet bevvies by the bay? Check out UTS Haberfield Club’s Sunday sessions and find out for yourself.

UTS Haberfield Club,
every Sunday from 2pm-6pm until 17 May
utshaberfieldclub.com.au

FROM 08

RACISM STOPS AT UTS

Find out how you can counter racism wherever it happens by joining Vice-Chancellor Attila Brungs and Chief Executive Officer of Multicultural NSW Hakan Harman for the launch of Racism stops at UTS.

8.30am (for breakfast)
Building 1 foyer
email: arif.ongu@uts.edu.au

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

In this two-day course, run by the Equity and Diversity Unit, you will learn how to confidently and effectively support others experiencing mental health problems or crises until professional support arrives.

9.30am-5pm
Bookings essential: arif.ongu@uts.edu.au

16

27 & 30

ART & U

Rosemary Laing, Brownwork #9, Type C photograph, UTS Art collection

In the cavernous interior of an aircraft, a lone figure rappels from the roof, a shock of red hair a flash of colour in an otherwise monotone interior.

This dramatic scene, intensified by its scale and deep perspective is one of a series created by artist Rosemary Laing in and around Sydney Airport in 1996 and 1997.

Originally trained as a painter, Laing’s wide-angle photographs explore both traditional pictorial space and the interface of technology and nature.

The incidental figures in the Brownwork series suggest a cinematic narrative or performance that reach beyond documentary of the warehouses, tarmacs and machinery of a working airport.

A popular work from the UTS permanent collection, Brownwork #9 was one of several artworks (including two others by Laing) selected for the Dr Chau Chak Wing Building’s inaugural art installation.

Other artists from the UTS Art collection placed in the new School of Business facilities include Janet Laurence, Sally Gabori, Simryn Gill and Guan Wei.

For more news and highlights from the UTS Art collection, visit art.uts.edu.au

Janet Ollevou
UTS Art
SEEING INSIDE YOUR SOUL

“What if we could see through each other’s mood and feelings? What if we could see when we are happy or sad, when we have butterflies in our stomach or when our heart drops? What about that indescribable sensation of happiness when you feel like your soul is blossoming like a flower? What would that look like?”

For Bachelor of Business student and UTSPhotoSoc member Anna Zeykan it would look like this. ‘Spring Soul’ is a self-portrait overlaid with one of her own photographs from Canberra’s Floriade. Zeykan says, “I wanted to create something more artistic, alive and meaningful. It’s one of my favourites because it has a piece of my soul.”

Photographer: Anna Zeykan