STEP BY STEP
The new device helping stroke and spinal injury patients walk again

LEARNING
LA VIDA LOCA
Co-designed assessments improving student success

TAKING THE LONG VIEW
Why reducing short-sightedness really is child’s play
What are you working on at the moment?
Our re-energised focus on excellence across the university has all in Corporate Services focused on what that means for service delivery, both internally and externally, to support the university’s commitment to learning and research excellence.

Excellence is at the core of our Managing for Performance program, our work on new service models for student administration, renewal of IT capabilities to leverage new innovations and meet the rapidly changing needs for teaching and research technologies and our focus on marketing transformation for a new competitive paradigm. Of course we have a lot of hard work ahead of all of us; academics and professional staff alike. But I sense a renewed vigour in the UTS community, which is both inspiring and energising. If we continue to sharpen our focus on our core objectives then we will only be working on what matters most to the success of the university.

I am very committed to ensuring that UTS continues to be a place of significant engagement for staff and to growing our capability in working with all staff on their success and career development which ultimately is how UTS will succeed.

Following the opening of all the new buildings at UTS, which is your favourite new space and why?
I do have my ‘Colorbond’ moments. Usually when I’m in my office where I have a great view of the new Faculty of Science and Graduate School of Health building. And, of course, it houses my favourite new space – the Super Lab. If you haven’t seen it, it’s worth a peek from one of its observation windows. It occupies the entire length of level 1 (52 metres end-to-end) and can accommodate more than 200 students at a time. The technology is impressive and with touchscreen monitors and microphones on each workbench, multiple classes can be concurrently scheduled in the Super Lab.

If you could witness any event, past, present or future, what would it be?
I am a big traveller. I especially love to visit those places least touched by humans – like the Arctic and the Antarctic – and witness Mother Nature in all her unsullied glory. So, if I could go back in time, I would want to be aboard the HMS Beagle alongside Charles Darwin. Perhaps not for the entire voyage which lasted almost five years, but to sail, in the early 19th century, from England down and around South America to the Galapagos Islands – that really would have been something.

Tea or coffee?
Coffee – strong.

What is the thing you most wish you excelled at?
I wish I could sing. In fact, I would be content just to be able to carry a tune. I remember one year being kicked out of the Egansford Public School eisteddfod and another year being asked to lip-sync. This does not deter me from belting out Happy Birthday and other family celebratory songs to the great embarrassment of my nieces and nephews.
NEXT ISSUE
The next issue will be released on Monday 4 May 2015.

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

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Biosecurity, antibiotic resistance, pandemic influenza; these terms are enough to strike fear in most adults. However, a strategic research collaboration between UTS’s ithree institute and the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) is set to change that.

Ausgem, the Australian Centre for Genomic Epidemiological Microbiology, was launched in December 2014, after it was established under a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2013. Ausgem aims to use genome sequence information to better understand, manage and treat pests and infectious diseases of humans, livestock and plants.

Steven Djordjevic is a Professor of Infectious Diseases at UTS’s ithree institute and a founding member of Ausgem. Before joining UTS in 2009 he spent 20 years working at NSW DPI, a key factor in establishing the partnership.

“Our collaborative relationship had quite a long incubation time,” says Djordjevic. “With the shrinking scientific dollar, it’s very difficult to duplicate essential resources to undertake cutting-edge science, so it makes a lot of sense to partner with research institutions that have strengths in areas which are complementary to the strengths you have in your own organisation.”

For Djordjevic, the collaboration “is about being able to track pathogens, predict emerging pathogens and understand, with a far greater insight, the interplay of microbial organisms within a complex niche, for example the gastrointestinal tract of humans or in major food producing animals.

“We are working on a number of bacterial, viral and parasitic pathogens that affect the health of humans, livestock and plants. We aim to understand the genetics of antibiotic resistance and establish stronger collaborations with hospitals in the Sydney basin as well as national and international groups more widely.”

Director of the ithree institute Ian Charles says, “UTS prides itself on its vision of combining innovation, creativity and technology in a way that impacts the community and the world around us.”

When it comes to Ausgem, that innovation isn’t restricted to just sequencing pathogenic microorganisms. The centre’s team approach is bringing together scientists with different skill sets to enhance the potential for sequence information to be used to mitigate disease threats.

“Bioinformatic methods and software tools are needed to assemble and interrogate the genetic sequence information and infer evolutionary relationships,” says Djordjevic.

“Ausgem is supported by researchers with cutting-edge expertise in computational genomics and bioinformatics, led by ithree’s Associate Professor Aaron Darling.”

Likewise, Djordjevic is keen to see the collaboration produce a new generation of highly trained early- and mid-career scientists.

“Ausgem is also about opportunities for junior scientists to acquire and develop the skill sets needed to perform the computational genomics. Early-career scientists, post-doctoral researchers and PhD students within ithree and at NSW DPI are receiving training from senior researchers as part of the research programs being undertaken within Ausgem.”

All of which is contributing to the urgent quest to find alternative strategies that reduce reliance on antibiotics to control infectious agents. “If we could reduce the amounts of antibiotics that are used in human and veterinary medicine that would be a great achievement for society,” says Djordjevic.

**To find out more, visit ausgem.org**

Lisa Aloisio
Faculty of Science
Photographer (S Djordjevic): Joanne Saad
Image (virus): istock, Kirstypargeter
Other images supplied by: Ausgem
“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” So says renowned English primatologist Jane Goodall.

The 81-year-old scientist made these remarks in an American newspaper in 2014. Today, they’re being used as the theme for the 2015 Green Week photo competition. Opening on Monday 13 April, the competition is “a collaboration with our Ultimo neighbours – the ABC and Ultimo TAFE,” says UTS Sustainability Coordinator and Green Week photo competition coordinator Seb Crawford.

The precinct event was initiated by UTS Green and ActivateUTS in 2012 as part of an effort to raise awareness of and celebrate World Environment Day on 5 June. But before those celebrations can begin, the photographs need to be submitted.

For that, Crawford says, “There are no limits on your creativity. You can do whatever you want. “There are some technical requirements you need to meet in order for the images to be blown up to A3 size and a high enough resolution to look good when they’re mounted, but there are no limitations on artistic technique.”

All UTS and TAFE staff and students, as well as ABC staff are eligible to enter.

“We get a really broad spectrum of entries,” says Crawford. “That’s what’s really interesting about the competition, you get some very highly choreographed and constructed images, through to some people have just snapped with an iPhone.”

Each year an exhibition of the 25 shortlisted photos goes on display in the ABC’s foyer. It’s here that an expert panel of judges select the winner and runner up. But, that’s not the only prize up for grabs. A people’s choice award is also run on the UTS Green Facebook page.

“Last year,” says Crawford, “the winner was from the ABC and the runner up was from TAFE, but a UTS student – John Hanna – won the people’s choice award.

“He uses light in a really beautiful way. There’s the vertical green of the new engineering and IT building, but then it’s juxtaposed with the flashes of the horizontal lights of cars moving along Broadway at twilight.”

Hanna, who is now undertaking a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Environmental Science, says, “I found out about the competition by chance through the UTS Insider email.

“I’ve been studying at UTS for four years and never knew about the competition. All those lost opportunities made me want to get involved in 2014.

“There were a few concepts I initially had in mind, but I took a more literal approach and spent time reading into the quote to ensure I understood what it meant rather than just a casual interpretation. The self-confessed, “slightly above average photographer” says, “taking the photograph itself was probably one of the easiest parts of the competition. However there was a lot of post-production that went on behind the scenes.

“For example, I turned all the traffic lights green and the light trails along the bottom of the image from red – which has a negative connotation of destructive practices – to green – to symbolise positive conservation being embraced and acted upon.”

But, Hanna says, “It’s not all about post-production – a good composition which is staged can also go a long way. And you can never go wrong by entering work you are happy with and enjoyed doing.”

The UTS Green Week photo competition opens Monday 13 April and closes 9am Thursday 21 May. The exhibition is from Monday 1 to Friday 5 June.

For more information and to submit your entry, visit green.uts.edu.au or email seb.crawford@uts.edu.au

Fiona Livy
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer (S Crawford): Joanne Saad
Photographer (Broadway building): John Hanna
Background image: Tui Prichard

Comment on this article at UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2015/04/get-your-green-on
Imagine a subject where you select your assignment topics, how you present them and the questions on your final exam. For Contemporary Latin(o) Americas students, this dream is a reality. What’s more, subject coordinator Jeffrey Browitt is being applauded, and awarded, for his approach.

“The more students are interested in a topic, the more they’re going to learn, and the best topics for their self-development are often ones they choose themselves,” says Senior Lecturer in International Studies Jeffrey Browitt.

“The problem with exams is students get in a complete catatonic state. They swallow a couple of Red Bulls, go in to the exam, then come out wailing or smiling and two weeks later they’ve forgotten half of what they learned. We want to embed much deeper learning outcomes.”

To do so, the Latin American studies specialist ‘flipped’ his teaching and his students’ learning two years ago. “Basically you get the students to engage in the content out of the classroom and then come in to the classroom to workshop things.”

For the past year, Browitt has used a WordPress site to upload seminar readings, examples of past assignments and the blogs of former students currently on in-country study. Two weeks before each Contemporary Latin(o) Americas class he uploads short lectures, in PDF or video format, and invites students to email questions to him for discussion in the tutorial.

“The great thing about uploading lectures well before class is students can access them in their own sweet time – in their PJ’s late at night, on their laptop, or on the move. And they can go over and over it until they get it.”

It all began in 2012, explains Browitt. “I first heard about the ‘flipped’ concept from Shirley Alexander. She gave a chat on campus about the need to move in the direction of modern teaching and learning techniques, especially student-centred learning and flipped learning.

“One of the key things Shirley said was that it’s okay to try and do these things and fail, but at least you tried and you’ve probably learned from that process.”

For Browitt, who was already interested in some of these techniques, it was the green light he needed. After “haunting flipped learning sites found through Google”, Browitt decided to synthesis and apply the principles of flipped learning to Contemporary Latin(o) Americas.

“We’re studying 21 countries which make up the Latino Americas and 500 years of history in culture and politics.” Conventional testing, says Browitt, “is absolutely ludicrous.”

Instead, students are encouraged to complete informal surveys during semester and become hands-on with their assessments – a critical literature review, cultural case study and a one-hour, closed-book, in-class test.

For the test, says Browitt, “they co-design the questions with me. Last year we agreed on six. I chose four, I didn’t tell them which four, and out of those they answered the two they could give the best answer for, removing anxiety. They got a chance to demonstrate what had stuck rather than what remained abstract.”
“People think you can’t do that, but actually you can. Certainly in the humanities, anyway. The goal is to help them reach learning outcomes wider than subject-specific topics, such as self-assertion and self-direction, so they’re ready for whatever their lives are outside of the university, especially the job market.”

When it comes to the literature review and case study, “I say you choose whatever topic you want and deliver it to me in a format you feel comfortable with – SlideShare, Prezi, WordPress, Tumblr; a straight pdf or, if you’re really worried, put it in a Word doc and try to embed some images.”

Creative writing and international studies student Daisy D’Souza says, “One benefit of flipped learning is it encourages you to learn for the sake of learning, not for the sake of getting good grades.

“Jeff’s passion was obvious and I think that’s essential for a tutor because their mood permeates the class. He was much more relaxed, open and willing to discuss students’ ideas than most tutors I’ve had before.”

Social inquiry and international studies student Gabriela Sanchez agrees. “The way it was structured, and the way Jeff approached it, really eased the pressure and stress normally experienced with uni subjects.

“The goal is to help them reach learning outcomes ... so they’re ready for whatever their lives are outside of the university, especially the job market.”

“Having the liberty, and opportunity, to choose our topics for each assignment definitely made the subject all the more interesting and intriguing.”

And, because 20 per cent of the final mark for each assessment was based on a personal reflection on tutor feedback, Sanchez says, “I definitely learned to become self-critical, taking in the feedback and applying it accordingly.

It’s an approach Browitt’s taken with his teaching too. The academic has set up a separate blog, Testing ‘Flipped Learning’, to critique his work. “I not only upload what works, but what doesn’t – mistakes I’ve made, naivety; it’s all out there.

“I defy anyone to say everything they tried worked out fantastically. Most of what I try works out well but I wouldn’t claim it’s more than 80 per cent. Some things don’t work and you just have to suck it up and admit it. The question is why didn’t it work and what are you going to do now?”

In an effort to continue his own self-improvement, this year, Browitt plans to invite other academics into his class to critique his methods and undertake a Graduate Certificate in Teaching. “I’m constantly tinkering now, which I never did before.

“This year I’m going to do away with the final test and do mini quizzes each week. One Achilles heel of the flipped technique is how do you know the students are doing the pre-learning at home? So you need a bit of a carrot and stick.”

The Learning2014 Award recipient is hopeful more academics will make the switch too. “The biggest part of flipped learning is called ‘front loading’. It’s prepping the lectures so they’re ready to go online, getting the set-readings ready, working out how you’re going to manage the whole subject, how you’re going to marry the blog to UTSOnline and run your tutorial dynamic. You have to have that all in place. Then, after that, as far as I’m concerned it’s just fun.”

Fiona Livy
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer (J Browitt): Joanne Saad
Collage: Tui Prichard

Comment on this article at
UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2015/04/learning-la-vida-loca
TAKING THE LONG VIEW
The rate of short-sightedness – or myopia – is rising dramatically. The solution, says Professor of Orthoptics Kathryn Rose, is child’s play. So long as it’s outdoors.

You know how parents used to say, “Go outside and play”? It turns out they were right. Australian children used to spend literally hours a day outside playing in the sun.

But reports from the Australian Institute of Family Studies as well as widespread anecdotal evidence suggest pressures from living in more urban environments, in apartments rather than houses, from an increasing range of indoor activities and concerns about child safety have led to a steady decrease in the amount of time children spend outdoors.

In parallel, more children are becoming short-sighted (myopic) and need glasses by the time they leave school. In the US, myopia rates rose from 25 per cent of the population in 1971-72 to 41.6 per cent of the population in 1999-2004, according to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

While Australia does not have similar robust measures, it is estimated by the non-profit research organisation Brien Holden Vision Institute that myopia levels in Australia have doubled in the past 15 years to 31 per cent of the population.

But Australia is still, in many ways, the lucky country – at least for most kids. In parts of Asia, particularly Singapore, South Korea, and cities in China including Hong Kong, children get outside much less. This is, in part, because they spend so much more time studying, particularly at a young age.

In parallel, the levels of short-sightedness in these locations have reached record levels. Seoul, in South Korea, currently holds the world record with 96.5 per cent of 19-year-old males affected by myopia.

Myopia is the result of increases in the length of the eyeball during childhood, which makes distant objects appear fuzzy. Once the length increases, there’s no way to decrease it. For many years it was thought myopia was genetic, but the rate at which things have changed in the past few decades cannot be explained by genetics alone.

Recent studies of school-age children in Sydney have shown the link between differences in lifestyle and increasing myopia is direct. It depends, to a significant extent, on sunlight exposure as the eye develops in childhood.

The Sydney Myopia Study, on which I was Chief Investigator, performed comprehensive eye examinations and extensive questionnaires on over 4000 children from 55 schools. We then followed up with the same children five years later for the Sydney Adolescent Vascular and Eye Study, to see what changes had occurred and examine the possible causes.

The amount of time spent outdoors was clearly related to the development of myopia – those who spent more time outside were less likely to be short-sighted.

In fact, our follow-up study showed that children who spend little time outdoors and do high levels of near-work (reading, using handheld devices or doing needlepoint) at age six have 16 times greater odds of developing myopia by the time they are 12 years old than those who spend a high amount of time outdoors.

The effect of sunshine seems to be most beneficial for children of primary school age, where the difference of an hour or two a day outside in bright light can reduce the risk of developing myopia later in adolescence.

Previous research has pointed at too much near-work and higher levels of education as culprits in developing myopia. But the Sydney Myopia Study has found sufficient time outdoors can protect children from even intensive near-work.

In East and South-East Asia, the high rate of myopia is linked to the high pressure to do well academically, increasing study time and reducing outdoors activities. A possible solution, taken from the Australian experience, is to get children outside more. In Asia, this would require a range of strategies from building more time outdoors into the school curriculum, possibly by using outdoors as a learning environment, and other measures to involve children in outdoor leisure activities.

In Australia, with the strong concern over high skin cancer rates, the advice to get children outside to protect them from myopia may seem contradictory to skin-protection messages. However, the benefit of sunshine to the developing eye is not diminished by sunscreen, hats or shade. Thus children can still be protected from the effects of ultraviolet light, while they are being protected from the development of myopia.

Preventing myopia is important for more than just distance vision. The disease is a risk factor for a number of other potentially blinding eye conditions in adulthood, including cataract, glaucoma, myopic chorioretinal degeneration and retinal detachment.

In addition to the impact on individuals affected, this represents a huge cost to the health system. A 2006 report, The economic impact and cost of visual impairment in Australia, suggests the direct cost for these diseases and refractive error in Australia is in excess of $730 million.

So is there anything in it for adults? Unfortunately, there’s not much that can be done once the eye has finished developing, beyond corrective lenses (spectacles or contact lenses) and laser refractive surgery. But it is another great reason to get your kids outside and playing more.

Kathryn Rose
Head of Discipline (Orthoptics)
Graduate School of Health
Photographer (K Rose): Joanne Saad
Kite image: Thinkstock

Comment on this article at UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2015/04/taking-the-long-view
With its pressure-sensitive floor tiles and responsive feedback screen, the Interactivation Studio’s latest project sounds a lot like an arcade dance game. But rather than being a source of entertainment for the young and fit, it is in fact a physical rehabilitation tool designed to enhance and stimulate physiotherapy sessions in hospitals.

“One exercise patients do a lot is standing, balancing and stepping,” explains Associate Professor Bert Bongers. “Stepping is a way of training yourself and getting your coordination back – and it also helps with fall prevention.”

Bongers and his team have developed the system of Interactive Stepping Tiles and visual interface to address these rehabilitation needs in a more engaging format. As the patient steps from a central tile to a second module, their movement and weight distribution is recorded and fed to the screen, giving real-time feedback.

The technologies supporting this project are mostly readily available – it’s the way the team is using them to encourage human-computer interaction during physiotherapy that makes it so cutting-edge.

“There are four sensors in the central tile, so when you rock your feet back and forth you can see corresponding circles get bigger and smaller on the screens as the weight distribution changes,” says Research Assistant Albert Ong.

The visual interface is really important, explains Research Assistant Annie McKinnon. “We’re trying to encourage patients to keep their head up and eyes forward, because if they look at their feet, their centre of balance is wrong.”
“There’s also a motivational aspect,” adds Lecturer and PhD candidate Stefan Lie. “Patients can see their previous number of steps on screen so they can try to beat their record or they can place a second tile module further away than before, which makes people more engaged with the tool.”

By capturing even the smallest improvements during physiotherapy, patients can see progress that would normally be imperceptible to them. Health professionals can also focus on facilitating more complex improvements to balance and gait, leaving the tiles to do the counting.

“People learning to use their bodies again require accurate feedback about their attempts to perform a task such as standing and stepping,” explains Senior Physiotherapist at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital Karl Schurr. “This technology is important because it gives immediate feedback about a patient’s success in generating force with their legs – no matter how small.”

The Interactivation Studio has worked closely with physiotherapists like Schurr to test, develop and improve products like the Interactive Rehabilitation Tiles with real patients.

Using interactive technology to enhance rehabilitation practice is something Bongers has been investigating since 2009 with medical researcher Stuart Smith, currently Professor at the University of the Sunshine Coast, formerly of Neuroscience Research Australia. They have developed a number of interconnecting interactive modules, including wearables.

The Stepping Tiles are now in use at several hospitals around Australia and The Netherlands, and is part of a National Health and Medical Research Council-funded comparative study of interactive rehabilitation technologies by a team led by Professor Cathie Sherrington at The George Institute.

The first prototype of the product was developed in the studio by Rebecca Hall, for her industrial design undergraduate project in 2012. As a research assistant, Hall went on to redesign the tiles for 3D printing on demand, alongside Dutch intern Victor Donker who also developed the visual interface.

“We need a diverse range of people, with different backgrounds like industrial design, graphic design, sound design, engineering, and to continuously involve people from a medical background,” says Bongers. “The diversity of the team reflects the complexity of the problem space.”

Considerations need to be made not just for the development of the interface but also for the design of the physical tiles. Lie has worked on using new manufacturing technologies and techniques like 3D printing and laser cutting to make the tiles available to a wider audience whilst still being customisable.

“We’ve made the tile as lean as possible because you pay for the amount of material used and the time it takes with a process like 3D printing. The more economical we are, the cheaper it is.”

McKinnon, who redesigned the software, uses her background in sound design to look at how sound fits into the equation to help patients better understand the visual feedback.

“There are some really interesting things to consider with designing in a hospital,” says McKinnon. “With sound in particular, you have to realise that some patients are very sensitive to noises, so using sound effectively is difficult. And lots of sounds in hospitals are ‘beeps’.

“We don’t want everything to just be ‘beeps’ because at the moment your fridge sounds like your microwave, sounds like your toaster – it would be great to have sound mean a bit more!”

“This technology is important because it gives immediate feedback about a patient’s success in generating force with their legs – no matter how small.”

Says Ong, “If you make something, you can’t just expect for it to be used in the way you imagined. You don’t know how it’s going to go until you give the product to the end users and check it out.”

Visiting hospitals and seeing the tiles in action is essential for the whole team.

“The best part of our collaboration is when we all get to go out to the hospital – we all have different perspectives and look at different aspects of the tiles,” says PhD candidate Michelle Pickrell, who works with patients and health professionals to find out what parts of interactive rehabilitation technology work well for them.

“There are so many limitations to consider when designing a product like this,” she says. “Does it need to connect to Wi-Fi? Does the hospital have Wi-Fi? Is it easy to set up? Any of these things can mean the product is ultimately put in a cupboard and never used.”

The team brings their notes and observations back to the Interactivation Studio to work on implementing feedback, enhancing the design and repeating the process.

“The studio is such a living place,” says Bongers. “We do a lot of tests and trials here, and it can be very exciting when we try something new and discuss how things can be done differently.”

Ultimately, the technology developed through this collaboration for the tiles will have far-reaching applications in the realm of interactive physiotherapy and rehabilitation.

Schurr says, “I think this is just the beginning of an exciting era of research which will change the outcomes for thousands of people trying to regain control over their bodies and improve their rehabilitation outcomes.”

Hannah Jenkins
Marketing and Communication Unit

Photo: (B Bongers, M Pickrell, S Lie, A McKinnon, A Ong): Joanne Saad
Marketing and Communication Unit

Comment on this article at

The Stepping Tiles in use in the Brain Injury Unit at Liverpool Hospital

Photographer (B Bongers, M Pickrell, S Lie, A McKinnon, A Ong): Joanne Saad
Marketing and Communication Unit

Other images supplied by: Bert Bongers

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Wayne Thomas began working at the Towers Cafe in building 1 as a 27-year-old Scottish backpacking barista, pleased to have travelled as far from his homeland as possible. That was in 2003.

As soon as he got a taste of the warm weather and relaxed lifestyle down under, Thomas says, “I knew I had to stay”. Clearly UTS had a similar appeal. After leaving the university for a year, Thomas returned to take up the role of cafe manager in 2005, and has been at UTS ever since.

Today, he’s the manager of three UTS food outlets – Towers Cafe, Nourish in building 4 and Broadway Catering Bites at the Underground. Along the way he’s made a series of small but important changes to improve the sustainability of his workplace and make Towers the most sustainable cafe at UTS.

He says sustainability “has always been my thing. In primary school we had a TV show called The Wombles. It had to do with littering, and they called me the Head Womble because I was very much against littering!”

Thomas says, some of the biggest changes at his outlets have been to the menu. He began by introducing free range eggs in 2005, followed by organic free trade coffee in 2009, and shifted from fried foods to salads, which has grown every year. All his outlets have recycling systems and now use biodegradable coffee cups, takeaway boxes and wooden cutlery.

Since 2007, he has also been the driving force behind the service of Sustainable Seafood at UTS. The initiative, which was introduced in partnership with the Marine Stewardship Council and promoted during UTS Green Week has been well supported by the UTS community over the years.

“We showcase a lunch menu piecing together sustainable seafood to engage consumers and make them more knowledgeable about why these things are important to the future,” Thomas explains.

“You can’t keep telling people about the importance of sustainability, it doesn’t really sink in. So if you allow them to engage with sustainability without even thinking about it, that’s usually where it will pay off.”

Thomas has also had to keep pace with the rapid expansion of food on social media, where presentation is key. He says social media is a vital tool in following diet fads like paleo, which have made customers even more conscious of what foods they ‘should’ be eating.

“Since Facebook and Instagram, everyone’s a food photographer, and much more concerned with what’s on their plate.”

Although Thomas is on social media “all the time” to track food trends, he believes friendly and reliable customer service is the key ingredient for success.

“I’m a definite people person, I’m very hands-on. I’m quite happy to be cleaning the tables, sweeping the floors, making the coffees, working the registers, chatting to customers.”

And as Thomas approaches a decade working at UTS, he can’t imagine doing anything else. “Some of my friends are like, ‘You’ve been here for 10 years, why?’ Because I enjoy it. It’s as simple as that!”

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

Comment on this article at UTS:NEWSROOM newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2015/04/an-appetite-for-sustainability
Dolan finished his master’s degree in May 2014, and by September his graduate collection was showing on the runway as part of New York Fashion Week.

Despite his emerging success, the young designer is appreciative of where it all began. Dolan moved from Massachusetts, USA to Sydney with his family before starting primary school. But the traditions of American craft remained a prominent part of his childhood.

“My mother was always sewing, embroidering or quilting something,” he recalls.

Dolan’s collection focuses on the familiarity of wardrobe staples such as jeans, t-shirts and denim jackets, and plays with genderless ideas and exaggerated silhouettes. But old jeans and t-shirts are not the only things he deconstructs and reweaves – he also pulls apart the history of American fashion.

“I looked at and experimented a lot with the history of weaving in America, from rag rugs in colonial New England to the traditions of southwest textiles, especially the practices of the Navajo who traded for discarded army uniforms and deconstructed them to create rugs,” Dolan says.

“I always really enjoyed the theory side of the degree at UTS. Being technically sound is great, but understanding the history of fashion and its sociological and cultural aspects really opens up your eyes and allows you to challenge perspectives.

“I think that’s what makes design exciting.”

While designing in the Big Apple has brought “so much opportunity”, it’s also been hard work. “Any industry is competitive, especially with something creative. You are always going to be competitive – even with yourself.”

Dolan is determined to make his next New York collection even stronger, by keeping busy with a number of different projects and listening to the advice of industry figures. “I think being confident and having a strong point of view is really important. Having such a positive response to the collection straight out of school is a great foundation.”

So far, he’s enjoyed equal success, whether it was Lady Gaga or Rihanna wearing his designs.

Sofie Wainwright
Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism)
Images supplied by: Matthew Dolan

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newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2015/04/from-dab-to-nyc
CLARE SAINTY-COPE

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Mum’s area is to do with sustainability and how accountable businesses are, so there’s a bit of overlap with what I’m studying, when we look at environmental accounting and having social, as well as financial, objectives. When Mum was doing her research last year I had the opportunity to go to Melbourne with her. She ran an event with directors about their perspective on sustainability, and I got to meet the chairman of AMP, Simon McKeon. I was doing an internship at AMP Capital at the time, so it was good to be part of that, and to see Mum organise it.

I’m still living at home – I’ve only been at uni a year. I’m saving up a bit because I want to go on exchange at the end of next year. I was thinking of London or America, but I like the idea of going to a foreign-speaking country for the challenge of learning another language.

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Surprisingly I don’t really see much of Mum on campus, but I was lucky last year when I had night classes, she’d be studying later so I could get a lift home. Mum’s very focused and hardworking, but kind and supportive too. Her PhD is something she’s really into. Plus she’s great at networking – I don’t like that word, but she’s really good at pulling people together and introducing people – like with her research. Being able to pull together the chairmen and all those people sitting on boards is really impressive.

ROSEMARY SAINTY

When Clare was little, I worked as a Career Development Manager at Sydney Uni. Part of my role was to assist students and large graduate recruiters. There were a lot of corporate collapses during that time, including some of the graduate recruiters and this grew my interest in business ethics. I studied at the St James Ethics Centre and later completed my PhD on corporate ethics at New South Wales Uni.

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Index, rating some of our largest Australian Corporations. I also won a national grant to develop resources for students on choosing an ethical employer. To do that I needed to compile lists of companies and their performance across different corporate responsibility and sustainability rankings – which is the kind of thing you can’t get wrong or companies can get pretty upset.

Clare’s very good with detail, that’s the practical side of her – even at a really young age, she was like that. So I got her to help compile the lists of participating companies for the How to Choose an Ethical Employer documents. She was about 13 at the time. It became a resource that went to the careers services of all the universities in Australia and in the UK.

I have three children – Clare is the youngest. My eldest, Karina, studied at Charles Sturt University and my son Michael is at ANU. So it’s actually really nice still having Clare at home and knowing she’s around on campus. We don’t necessarily see each other a lot, but it’s nice knowing she’s there.

It’s really fascinating hearing about Clare’s experiences in the classroom. Depending on how classes time, I’ve tried to be there one night a week so I can give her a lift home. I’ll often have Clare and a number of her friends in the car and it’s very interesting listening to them download about the class they have just had, or the corporate internships they are involved in.

Between 2008 and 2011 I worked on a federally-funded project that saw me establish Australian networks for the United Nations Global Compact, the world’s largest corporate citizenship initiative, and the Global Reporting Initiative, the most widely used sustainability reporting framework. Working with senior management responsible for implementing corporate responsibility and sustainability operations in their organisations, I found that a change in CEO often led to a rapid shrinking back of these programs. That made me think: ‘How does the board interpret the environmental and social dimensions of business responsibility, does this influence their choice of CEO?’ This piqued my interest and led to my PhD.

I’ve been running ‘Directors’ Conversations’ to gather data for my PhD. The latest one was in Melbourne and I thought it was a good opportunity for Clare to attend and assist me. I had Simon McKeon as a participant – chairman of AMP and CSIRO, and a prominent and well-regarded Australian businessman. Clare got to hear his thoughts around some of these issues first-hand, as well as talk to him about her internship at AMP Capital, so that was a nice bit of synergy which I hope enriches her study.

Clare’s very clear-minded – her name, which means ‘clear’, suits her well. If there’s an issue I can’t sort out for myself and I run it past her, she always comes up with the best logical response. And I think it’s that clarity of thought that actually works well in those business-related disciplines. She’s also a loving child, and a very loyal friend.
Anzac Day 2015 marks 100 years since Australian and New Zealand soldiers fought at Gallipoli.

“If Australian communities today are going to find meaning in something that happened 100 years ago, then new stories have to be found and interpretations of those stories must be made,” says doctoral candidate Penny Stannard.

She explains that the idea of the ‘Anzac spirit’ and the anglicised traditions associated with military ceremonies and commemorations had their roots in the early 20th century, and she says this can make it difficult to engage Australians today.

Stannard has combined her professional and academic expertise to offer a solution – the commissioning of a new piece of music on behalf of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway.

The memorial was developed 20 years ago by transforming a significant part of the Parramatta River foreshore at Concord into an immersive rainforest walkway to honour veterans of Australia’s campaign in New Guinea during the Second World War.

As the Curator and Executive Producer of the Anzac Notes project, Stannard explains, “Music can engage with commemoration and remembrance in a way that has more resonance with what Australia is today.”

Working with one of Australia’s most prolific composers, Elena Kats-Chernin, Stannard spent six months researching the letters, poems and diaries of Australian soldiers from the first and second world wars to develop lyrics and inspiration for the music.

The new work, called Meeting the Sun, incorporates poetry written by ‘regular’ soldiers, as well as a tribute from Atatürk, the first president of the republic of Turkey. The result: a modern piece of music that speaks to multiple generations and cultures.

“We wanted to express concepts of war that weren’t rooted in a specific time or place, but more about the experiences of the people who had been in these military campaigns,” says Stannard. “Feelings of fear, apprehension and the longing for loved ones far away are emotive, and they provide a way to uncover the stories of Australians at war that go beyond official accounts.”

Educational materials will also be developed for the high school history and music curriculum to examine the work as a new literary and musical text.

And it’s a text that immortalises the poems of veterans Carl Baker and Robert Ball so their experiences, emotions and memories may have a new life.

Stannard was even able to contact the surviving family of Ball and explain his poem, ‘This lovely day’, was to be set to music.

“They could not believe a poem he wrote in 1943 as a young man in New Guinea is now turned into music,” says Stannard.

“It’s been an amazing journey finding out who these people were. They wrote such powerful words which will now be reinterpreted by a leading composer and performed by the Royal Australian Navy Band and the Sydney Children’s Choir.”

Through UTS Shopfront, Stannard enlisted the help of students in the Bachelor of Design in Visual Communication to create an official publication to both accompany the performance and document the process behind it.

“Most often a new project for a war memorial would be a bricks and mortar type of thing. This is much more intangible but the publication provides an opportunity to build upon the work and critically engage with what commemoration means today. It will be a keepsake.

“So many people have given so much to this project,” says Stannard. “When it’s performed as the sun rises on the Parramatta River, with the rainforest of the memorial as a backdrop, it will be stunning.”

Meeting the Sun will be performed in Concord at sunrise on Sunday 19 April as part of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway’s free Anzac Day memorial service. It will also be broadcast on ABC Classic FM on Saturday 25 April.

For more information visit kokodawalkway.com.au

Hannah Jenkins
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer (P Stannard): Joanne Saad
Composition: Jungle Birthday – This Lovely Day, initial sketches (detail), 2014, courtesy Elena Kats-Chernin

Comment on this article at UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2015/04/music-meets-the-sun
At first glance, *Elephants Have Wings* is a strikingly beautiful children’s book. The mixed media images (by award-winning illustrator Anna Pignataro) are captivating for young and old, and upon reading to my own children sparked a series of detail-driven questions. Yet, *Elephants Have Wings* is more than just a series of mystical images; it is a book with a profound message. Inspired by the ancient parable of the blind man and the elephant, *Elephants Have Wings* is a multi-faith journey of discovery. The two young protagonists are transported by their favourite story, their grandfather’s story, into a world of imagination and exploration. It’s a bedtime adventure that leads the siblings through an enchanting world that enables them to uncover their grandfather’s secret — “Everyone is different, but we’re all the same”. And in my book, that’s a lesson well worth teaching my children.

Fiona Livy  
Marketing and Communication Unit

Susanne Gervay is a UTS Master of Writing graduate and a recipient of the Order of Australia for children’s literature. Her book *Elephants Have Wings* is the first children’s book to be awarded the Blake Prize for art and poetry.

I enjoy a book of short stories as I do a buffet: a selection of offerings to savour, with some more digestible than others. The results of an annual international writing competition open to all published and unpublished writers, the *Bristol Short Story Prize Anthology Volume 7* is a diverse selection intended to unsettle, inspire, move and entertain. The second and third place awardees show why they’re most deserving: a concentration camp seen through the naïve eyes, drawings and games of a child in ‘Táta and Máma and Me’; and the loyalty between two brothers in ‘Debt’, their relationship bound by childhood brutalities. The disturbing end for a feathered prize and a runt-turned-beast left its unsettling mark in ‘A Peacock, a Pig’ as did UTS alumna Amaryllis Gacioppo’s descriptive ‘Days’, which draws us vividly and beautifully into the memories of a mother who couldn’t be tamed until her final hour: “Letting go is the hardest part, but once you do, the drowning is easy”. While I found some stories missed the mark, Gacioppo’s contribution is a poignant and worthy addition to an overall collection that left me satisfied and sated.

Katia Sanfilippo  
Equity and Diversity Unit

Amaryllis Gacioppo is a 2012 Bachelor of Arts in Writing Honours graduate. She was also a contributor to the 2009 UTS Writers’ Anthology.

For many of us, the idea of knowing with any certainty what lies ahead seems far-fetched. However, imagine you could predict and understand the course of your future by following a simple pattern of 12-year cycles throughout your life. In his award-winning book *The Life Cycles Revolution*, Neil Killion asks readers to open their minds, suggesting our lives are neither as complicated nor as hard to chart as we believe them to be. Killion theorises that our lives are made up of significant years, acting as markers of “revolution” and “broken pathways”. Using this progressive pattern, Killion examines the lives of notable figures such as J.K. Rowling, Henry VIII, Napoleon Bonaparte and Albert Einstein, to demonstrate his theory, using events such as the establishment of the Church of England and the conception of Harry Potter as evidence. At times a little esoteric, the book certainly leaves the reader wondering how much of Killion’s theory might be pure coincidence, and how much of it has a basis in scientific truth. As a whole, the book is a fascinating read that challenges the reader to think about their past, and the roles that fate and science have to play in our lives.

Avalon Dennis  
Bachelor of Arts in Communications (Writing and Cultural Studies)/International Studies

Neil Killion is a former psychologist and management consultant who completed his Graduate Diploma in Cultural Studies)/International Studies

*The Life Cycles Revolution* was a silver medal winner in the 2013 Readers’ Favorite International Awards.

**U:BOOKWORMS**  
During April, the Co-op Bookshop on Broadway is offering Co-op members a 20 per cent discount on *Elephants Have Wings* and *The Life Cycles Revolution* reviewed in this issue. Mention U: magazine when you purchase these books in store.
Building 7’s colourful doors may have opened in February, but the official launch is due to take place this month. To celebrate, and showcase the work being done within Sydney’s newest health and science precinct, UTS is hosting a week of events including an academic research symposium on Wednesday 29 April, open to UTS staff and research students.

“The symposium showcases how we work across the faculties in a partnership around health futures at UTS,” says Science Associate Dean (International and External Engagement) Graham Nicholson. “It’s all about preventative health, keeping people out of hospitals and longer-term health care approaches.”

The theme of the symposium is Bench to bedside and beyond.

“Bench’ is about the laboratory – basic research. ‘Bedside’ involves translating that research into clinical outcomes like a device, a therapy, an approach to health care. And ‘beyond’ is how we see that evolving in the future,” explains Nicholson.

“So we’re following the arc from laboratory-based researchers right through to people who work in the clinical health care system and how we’re going to view that in the future: What are the challenges? How are we going to approach them?”

The symposium will open with a plenary speech by Griffith University Professor Michael Good AO – a former National Health and Medical Research Council Chairperson and recipient of the Eureka Prize for Leadership. It will be followed by five sessions addressing different themes and featuring three to five individual speakers. A question and answer panel will be included at the end of each session.

The speakers offer “a broad spectrum within each session,” says Nicholson, “with experts from the faculties of Health and Science, FEIT, the Graduate School of Health and UTS Business School all contributing.”

The first session focuses on drugs and their future, looking at novel sources of therapeutic drugs and novel ways of producing them, medication management and safety, and ‘pharmacoeconomics’, or health economic impacts.

The second session examines natural products as novel therapies, including antibiotics derived from Manuka honey and complementary medicines.

The third session’s theme is healthy start to life. It will incorporate biofilms and their impact on medical devices used in childhood, and new approaches to child health care services.

The fourth discusses keeping healthy and well. “It’s about trying to keep people out of hospital in terms of fitness, focusing also on the prevention of pain and chronic diseases,” says Nicholson.

The final session comes full circle, with a focus on healthy ageing including detecting and managing chronic disease and palliative care.

The event will wrap with an overview by Jim Peacock AC of UTS’s three institutes. “He’s a distinguished professor, former Chief Scientist of Australia and President of the Australian Academy of Science,” says Nicholson. “He will provide us with an overview of what is in store for science and health into the future.”

The symposium will complement the health futures conversations taking place as part of a wider suite of launch events. This includes a public lecture dealing with issues in health and science research, to be held at UTS on Thursday 23 April.

To learn more about these events or to register to attend, visit science.uts.edu.au

Rachael Quigley
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Joanne Saad
Long have philosophers wondered about the path to happiness. Today, the wise tell us we’re too fat, too thin, too lazy, too busy, and if we seem too happy, it could signal something’s seriously wrong. This UTSpeaks public lecture, featuring leading health and lifestyle researchers, takes stock of our most important concerns and offers fresh insights for staying fit, healthy and happy.

6pm drinks for a 6.30pm start
University Hall
Building 4, level 2
Register to attend:
robert.button@uts.edu.au

Erica McGilchrist OAM, Thermal Staircase 1970, acrylic on canvas, UTS Art Collection

Erica McGilchrist’s early works were angular, expressive figures developing out of her experiences as an art therapist at the Kew Mental Hospital in Melbourne. In contrast, Thermal Staircase has a clean, graphic composition closer in style to her illustrations and designs for postage stamps during the 1960s. The gradation of colours and striking use of perspective create optical effects, giving this small canvas a jewel-like quality. It is evocative of both architectural drawing and traditional quilting blocks.

McGilchrist was born in Mount Gambier, South Australia in 1926. She worked as an educator, dancer, illustrator and designer and has held more than 40 solo exhibitions of her paintings. McGilchrist was inspired by the international women’s art movement of the mid-1970s to become one of the founding members and a coordinator of the Women’s Art Register in Melbourne. She held the role from 1978 to 1986 and in recognition of this and her contribution to contemporary art, she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1992.

Thermal Staircase will be on display from Wednesday 27 May at the UTS Gallery in Colour on the Concrete. The exhibition explores different approaches to colour and abstraction within the UTS Art Collection.

For more information and highlights from the UTS Art Collection, visit art.uts.edu.au
"I took this photo in my hometown of Surat to show the diversity of lifestyles in India. To me, the emotion is the most important aspect in the picture.

"In the foreground, we have a vehicle passing by in the typical city area of Surat, while in the background people rest in the scorching heat. The two women and the child have this striking emotion of relief on their faces as they sit by the road resting. That’s what I personally like about this picture."

Photographer: Chinmay Kapasiawala
UTS:INSEARCH Diploma of Business