RE-THINKING INSIDE THE BOX
Using design thinking in prisons to help reduce re-offending

WILDLIFE HEALTH FOR A BETTER WORLD
The new initiative improving wildlife welfare and human health

REFLECTING ON PRACTICE
Preparing students for the uncertainties of pharmaceutical practice
What is the UTS External Engagement Strategy and why is it so important?
One of my main priorities this year is the roll-out of the UTS External Engagement Strategy. This is the first time UTS has had a university-wide strategy covering all the elements of our engagement priorities. We want external engagement to be part of the DNA of every UTS employee. It’s important because it allows us to build the UTS brand, leverage our learning and research capabilities as well as provide internships or internship-like opportunities to UTS students.

External engagement also allows us to show leadership in the precinct and to progress our social justice agenda, which is at the heart of our core values. Very soon all UTS staff will receive a one-page document summarising the strategy.

This year, we are focusing on trying to create an environment inside UTS that will help to facilitate staff in their external engagement. To do this, we have a number of projects on the go. The first is an audit of what we currently do in the external engagement space (we are looking at the major impediments to staff doing external engagement and trying to resolve those). The second is a professional development program to assist staff in building their capabilities and confidence to engage. Thirdly, we are developing academic benchmarks around engagement to help guide staff and faculties.

What else are you working on?
I’m also working on the Corporate Relations Centre we have just established at UTS to help achieve a step change in our strategic corporate partnerships (and we are currently working on a large number of new partnerships).

Internationally, on 18 September, I travelled to Shenzhen in China to sign an MOU with a large Chinese tech company, called Bradalink, which will deliver $8 million in research scholarships for PhD students.

What is the most unusual thing you have ever eaten?
Well, as you can imagine, as the DVC (International and Advancement) I have eaten many strange things all over the world from insects to bulls testicles! But I suppose the first time I ate sea cucumber, which my Chinese hosts had flown in especially for me in Harbin in China, is the most memorable.

Although I didn’t want to eat it I knew the building of the relationship depended upon it. So, together with eating the sea cucumber and drinking 20 glasses of the distilled Chinese liquor, Moutai (I don’t normally drink spirits) we secured a deal for $1 million worth of funding.

Which sports team do you follow and why?
I am a passionate follower of the Sharks rugby league team and I have been following them for 50 years – since I was a small boy. My father was one of the founders of the club and one of my brothers played first grade. For many years I was the statistician for the club.
**FEATURES**

**Wildlife health for a better world**

How the new Wildlife One Health Initiative aims to improve the health and wellbeing of Australian wildlife, develop early warning systems for wildlife decline and prevent subsequent poor health impacts on humans.

**Reflecting on practice**

Find out how Pharmacy Course Coordinator Cherie Tsingos-Lucas is helping masters students think critically and learn from past experiences so they can avoid misdiagnoses, miscommunication and medication errors in the field.

**Re-thinking inside the box**

The collaboration between UTS’s Designing Out Crime Research Centre and the NSW Government that’s improving how inmates are educated and reducing the rate of re-offending.

**REGULARS**

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The next issue will be released on Monday 7 November 2016.

All U: articles are available to read online via newsroom.uts.edu.au or follow us @utsnewsroom

Send your story ideas, opinions and events to u@uts.edu.au
Beneath the road, under the hustle and bustle of Broadway, runs a network of pipes at the forefront of sustainable engineering. The thermal pipes connect UTS to the Brookfield Central Energy Plant at Central Park, and they form the bones of Australia’s first district energy-sharing project.

Quite simply, says UTS Green Infrastructure Project Manager Jonathan Prendergast, the collaboration is logical. “Installing new cooling infrastructure is expensive in terms of capital cost and space at the UTS campus is at a premium.

“Also, for the new buildings that make up UTS’s $1.3 billion Campus Master Plan, wouldn’t it be great if they didn’t have cooling towers on the roof and could have something else interesting, like a garden, up there instead?”

Currently heating, cooling and ventilation represent 62 per cent of the university’s total electricity use. District energy agreements work by tapping into the unused capacity of a large plant, like the Brookfield Central Energy Plant which has two highly efficient tri-generation engines powering their chilling supply. Central Park also has a water-recycling plant onsite reducing potable water use for toilet cisterns, irrigation and cooling towers.

At UTS, peak chilling demand is on weekdays during teaching sessions at around 3pm. At the residential Central Park, it’s summer holidays, evenings and weekends, making the buildings ideal energy-sharing candidates.

Prendergast began looking into the partnership five years ago as part of a research project with Central Park. (He’s not the only UTS staff member working with Central Park – the Institute for Sustainable Futures has also been involved in the development of Central Park’s sustainability strategy.)

This energy-sharing partnership, however, will see UTS’s greenhouse gas emissions reduce by around three per cent or 1111 tonnes per annum.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources) Patrick Woods says, “We are constantly looking at ways we can reduce waste and our environmental footprint and the district cooling project is just one example of our commitment in this area.”

Prendergast was an instrumental part of the first-ever precinct system in Dandenong, Melbourne, supplying over 20 proposed buildings with heating and electricity from one central plant. In North America and Europe, district systems are more common.

Chicago, for example, has four plants supplying chilling/thermal energy to over 100 buildings in the CBD.

UTS is the first customer in Australia to sign a truly district agreement though, which could service other buildings in Ultimo and Broadway in the future.

Prendergast says, “By seeing this through and making it happen, it means other organisations that are considering similar things may be more encouraged to do them as well. It also builds capability in the market – people can see how these things work, understand them and do them even better next time”.

And, he adds, the 15-year cooling contract is just the beginning of a relationship between the two precincts – UTS is also currently investigating a range of other possibilities like sourcing some of its water supply from Central Park’s water recycling facility.

Implementation of the energy-sharing project will roll out alongside the construction of Building 2 and be fully operational within two years.

Maddie Clarke
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Shane Lo
“It’s an opportunity for UTS staff, both professional and academic, to come along and get some food for thought around your career no matter what stage you are at or where you are in your career trajectory – you could be happy with what you’re doing or you could be wanting to be the next Attila!”

That, says Talent Specialist in the Human Resources Unit (HRU) Blair Cornwel-Smith, is the aim of My Career@UTS. The second expo for the year, My Career@UTS: Mind Your Career, will take place on Wednesday 12 October. It is being project managed by Cornwel-Smith.

The first expo for 2016, held last April (and project managed by fellow Talent Specialist Julie Wix) saw a number of sell-out sessions, like resume writing tips and how to create a professional LinkedIn profile. Many of these will be included in the October event, but, says Cornwel-Smith, “The difference with this one is that we’ve tried to theme it with Mental Health Month.

“So it will be tailored more to wellbeing and looking after yourself through your career. Our Health and Wellbeing Partner Anna Dawson has been working with a team in the Equity and Diversity Unit to tie the expo into their month-long calendar of events.”

One of the most-anticipated sessions at Mind Your Career is Using Neuroscience and Martial Arts to Overcome Overwhelm. This talk, run by General Manager of The Institute for Human Potential Paul Mracek, “Is about creating better mental clarity, improving your resilience and adaptability, and just becoming a bit calmer,” says Cornwel-Smith.

Other must-see events include Social Media and Academia, and Effective Career Conversations with Your Manager. The latter, explains Cornwel-Smith, is based on HRU’s own career toolkits (available on StaffConnect). The session is aimed at helping staff prepare for those tough conversations at work like promotion, secondment and further study.

“I think people sort of get a bit confused when they define career development because it doesn’t necessarily mean continual promotion and continual pay rises,” says Cornwel-Smith. “It’s lots of different things, even just attending a workshop is career development and small changes can have a huge impact on you in your career.”

To make sure as many staff as possible can attend Mind Your Career, Cornwel-Smith has increased the capacity for the workshops and made registration easier.

As an extra sweetener, says Wix, “we have a proper coffee cart coming again, with proper coffee, which is free for all attendees” and a professional photographer to take profile photos for use on LinkedIn, social media and StaffConnect.

While the October expo is the third My Career@UTS event, it won’t be the last. The expo, together with HRU’s Managing for Performance program and their People and Career Development Framework, is one of the reasons why Career Development Opportunities has increased 14 per cent since the 2012 biennial Staff Survey.

“We just got into the yellow in the Staff Survey,” says Wix. “It was red before, we’re now into yellow, which is great, but we’re aiming for green.”

For more information about MyCareer@UTS: Mind Your Career, or to view the presentations from the April 2016 expo, visit uts.ac/1YzxIJP

Fiona Livy
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Hannah Jenkins
Koalas, quolls and coral reefs – they’re just a few of the unique Australian plants and animals facing extinction. For more than 20 years, the government’s response has been ‘wait and see’. Unsurprisingly, it hasn’t worked. Enter the Wildlife One Health Initiative – a team of highly-skilled UTS scientists that, as Michael Wallach explains, aim to tackle the problems of wildlife health, loss and extinction.
Australia is facing a wildlife crisis. Unique species of flora and fauna are disappearing at an alarming rate and we are not doing nearly enough to save them. After decades of inaction, the problem has become critical.

That’s why, in the Faculty of Science’s School of Life Sciences, we’ve assembled a highly-skilled and dynamic cross-disciplinary team of scientists to tackle the problems of wildlife health, loss and extinction, and to develop a fundraising campaign to fund future research.

**It’s called the Wildlife One Health Initiative and it’s aimed at not only improving the health and wellbeing of our wildlife, but at developing early warning systems for detecting poor wildlife health and decline, and subsequent flow-on impacts to human health.**

It’s not an easy task, but our approach is a very powerful one. We have combined the tools of highly sophisticated genetics, immunology, and epidemiology with the expertise and strategies of wildlife ecologists and sustainability researchers to investigate current predicaments and find solutions.

**What kinds of solutions?**

Already our researchers have shown how green walls can improve human health indoors; that wildlife-friendly production practices reduce the need for pesticides that harm wildlife and humans; and that healthy populations of apex predators, like the dingo, provide better outcomes for wildlife as well as for farmers. But there is still much more to be done.

One of the problems we’re currently aiming to solve is the question of just how safe the kangaroo meat that is being marketed in Australia and internationally actually is. UTS researcher Michael Johnson has been working with colleagues at the National Institutes of Health in the USA to elucidate the potential threat to humans of the *Toxoplasma* parasite found in kangaroo meat.

This parasite causes severe eye infections, blindness and even death in marsupials and our recent work has indicated the same strains of *Toxoplasma* can be transmitted to pregnant women. Infection of expectant mothers with this parasite can be devastating for mother and baby and can result in stillbirth or mental retardation in the offspring. In addition, Professor of Molecular Biology John Ellis showed the closely related parasite, *Neospora caninum* (a cause of abortion in cattle), was lethal to native marsupials and questioned the role of the dingo in transmission of the parasite to both cattle and wildlife.

When it comes to koalas, we’re striving to solve the rising rate of infertility caused by the bacterial pathogen chlamydia (the same bacterium responsible for the most frequently reported sexually transmitted infection in humans).

Professor of Infectious Diseases in the ithree Institute Steven Djordjevic is, meanwhile, leading a team looking into how antibiotic resistance genes move between humans, food animals and the environment. These studies will help predict and characterise emerging bacterial pathogens that pose a threat to both animal and human health.

An example of this is the threat of the antibiotic-resistant bacteria, *E. coli*, which is often the cause of urinary tract infections in humans. If the bacteria aren’t stopped early on in the infection they can reach the kidneys and then the bloodstream causing systemic infection and even death.

Another bacteria, of the genus *Vibrio*, is also under the spotlight. Senior Lecturer Maurizio Labbate has been carrying out research on this group of bacteria, which includes the well-known and devastating human pathogen *Vibrio cholerae* (the cause of cholera), along with a variety of other disease-causing strains affecting aquaculture species like oysters, fish and coral.

Labbate’s team is focused on the genetics that lead to the emergence of *Vibrio* pathogens affecting humans and animals. In collaboration with Future Fellow and Associate Professor in the Plant Functional Biology and Climate Change Cluster (C3) Justin Seymour, Labbate is also untangling the complex web of physical and biological factors that lead to *Vibrio*-specific disease outbreaks.

In other research, we aim to better understand how humans and our culling programs impact the conservation and welfare of kangaroos; how we can prevent and reverse population declines of critically endangered northern quolls in northern Australia; and how climate warming is affecting the health of coral reefs and fish and the persistence of frogs in coastal NSW.

When it comes to Australia’s natural resources, the Ecosystem Security team is focused on the sustainable management of water; vegetation, fisheries and wildlife; the impacts of climate change on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems; and the role of vegetation in mitigating airborne pollutants.

**Simply put, the aim of the Wildlife One Health Initiative is to become a world-leading group that deals with wildlife health, human zoonoses (diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans) and food quality.**

The initiative, guided by principles that promote peaceful co-existence between humans and wildlife (as exemplified by the Centre for Compassionate Conservation headed by Daniel Ramp), is working to help restore the balance between our wildlife needs and the needs of the ever-expanding human population. This balance requires an understanding of the intricate relationships between humans, animals and the environment.

It is our hope, and belief, that one day Australia’s citizens and wildlife can co-exist in a state of positive health and wellbeing.

**Michael Wallach**
Associate Head of School (Strategic Development), School of Life Sciences

**Esty Yanco**
Visiting Research Student
Faculty of Science

**Photographer (M Wallach): Shane Lo**
**Photographer (S Djordjevic): Joanne Saad**
**Other profile photographs: self-supplied**
**Other photographs: Thinkstock**

**The Wildlife One Health Initiative research team includes:**
Michael Wallach, Michael Johnson, Wilhelmina Huston, Steven Djordjevic, Jonathan Webb, Maurizio Labbate, Justin Seymour, Daniel Ramp, Stuart White, Arian Wallach, Finbarr Horgan, David Booth, Rebecca Bathgate, Graham Pyke, Fraser Torpy, John Ellis

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“To be a good health professional you should be able to think critically, learn from past experiences and have excellent communication skills,” says Lecturer Cherie Tsingos-Lucas, “and the pharmacy profession is no exception to this.”

Tsingos-Lucas, a registered pharmacist for more than 24 years and clinical educator for more than 16, recently completed her PhD on the benefits of integrating reflective thinking activities into a pharmacy curriculum. Now the Course Coordinator and Clinical Placement Coordinator for the Pharmacy discipline in UTS’s Graduate School of Health, she explains, “Enhancing reflective thinking abilities helps students make better informed decisions and clinical judgments – which could reduce misdiagnoses, miscommunication and medication errors in the health industry.”

For UTS Master of Pharmacy students, this means keeping a weekly e-portfolio to record reflective statements about how they’re progressing in their clinical placements, what they’ve learned, what their thinking processes have been and whether they would do something differently if given the chance.

“It’s always interesting to read their statements and see how they develop,” says Tsingos-Lucas.

Final-year masters student Laura Hailstone agrees the e-portfolio has been essential for self-evaluation. “It was actually quite difficult in the beginning,” she admits, “but once you get into the habit of self-reflection it allows you to understand exactly what you’re taking away from each learning experience.”

With this kind of reflective thinking billed as a graduate attribute for postgraduate programs at UTS, it has been essential to develop a structure that allows lecturers and tutors to accurately and fairly assess a student’s reflective abilities.

But how do you assess a subjective statement about a student’s feelings towards their progress?

Tsingos-Lucas’s solution, developed from her body of research and experience, involves multiple elements. Firstly, a new assessment strategy to incorporate reflective learning practices into the curriculum; secondly, a marking rubric that gives a numerical value to the expression of conceptual ideas; and finally, the assurance that markers will be consistent in their grading of subjective statements.

In multiple studies to measure the rubric’s performance and the markers’ reliability, Tsingos-Lucas found her system to be robust and the consistency of grades to be very high.

She has since published this work and presented it at three international pharmacy conferences at Northeastern University, Boston, USA in 2014; Prato, Italy in 2015 and the University of Aberdeen, Scotland in 2016. In addition to this success, Tsingos-Lucas has also recently been appointed as the only Australian member serving the editorial board of Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning – overseeing reflective practice research manuscripts.

“The whole idea with reflective learning,” says Tsingos-Lucas, “is to prepare students for the fact that they might never get the same case twice in their whole careers. They may need to apply knowledge from
previous cases to new cases, but never for the exact same patient with the exact same history and background.”

This preparation for diverse cases and uncertainties in practice is something first-year masters student Nasiha Ahmed is grateful for. “The reflective skills have helped me make better informed decisions and judgements in clinical practice. I think they’ll have a great benefit later on, particularly by relating key examples of these skills to a selection criteria, which will hopefully make me more employable and desirable in the workplace.”

By embedding reflective activities in the 520 hours of clinical placements completed by Master of Pharmacy students, and with the newly integrated pharmacy career-related workshops initiated and run by Tsingos-Lucas in conjunction with UTS Careers Service, she believes UTS graduates will have an edge in employment outcomes and professional attributes.

“The students go on weekly placements and block placements over the holidays,” she explains. “It’s all about getting the students out of their comfort zone and realising that working in a community pharmacy or in a hospital is a multidisciplinary experience.”

Says Hailstone, “My placement experiences have taken me everywhere from Kings Cross to Kyogle – a tiny rural town in northern NSW! Seeing how vital a pharmacist is in the rural community was so rewarding.”

And now, in 2016, UTS has taken the idea of clinical placements global with the introduction of the Master of Pharmacy (International), which incorporates a year-long placement overseas. Tsingos-Lucas is coordinating the first 2017 international placements to include Canada, USA and Germany.

Germany-bound masters student Daniel Barnaby says, “Being placed in the pharmaceutical industry in Europe for a year is an opportunity incomparable to anything else offered in Australia – and Cherie has been crucial in organising this so far.

“I’ll have the chance to expand my skills, network globally and experience pharmacy in a unique location and way.”

With the introduction of international degrees, as well as the upcoming Master of Physiotherapy, the future of interdisciplinary health education in UTS’s Graduate School of Health is looking bright. “We have simulation spaces with a robotic pharmacy as well as rooms that look like real hospital wards,” explains Tsingos-Lucas. “It’s a very innovative, dynamic and interactive learning space shared by clinical psychology, orthoptics, physiotherapy and nursing students so it would be great to integrate a multidisciplinary approach to clinical simulation into the curriculum!

“There’s a young feel to UTS,” she says, “which inspires you to do things, explore new ideas and make progress.”

Hannah Jenkins
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Shane Lo
Educational attainment among the prison population arguably falls short of the minimum standard required for opportunity, self-determination and meaningful participation in society," asserts environmental psychologist and Research Fellow in the Designing Out Crime Research Centre (DOC) Rohan Lulham.

In fact, studies conducted in NSW prisons have found approximately 70 per cent of assessed inmates had reading skills below Year 10 level and 90 per cent had writing and numeracy skills below Year 10 level.

But, Lulham says, “Research has also shown the introduction of intensive, skills-based education is an effective way to reduce re-offending.”

That’s one of the reasons why, in 2012, Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) approached DOC to investigate how spaces within maximum security prisons could be re-designed to support transformative learning.

Keen to take on the challenge, Lulham established a multi-disciplinary team with his DOC colleagues – designers Tasman Munro, Douglas Tomkin and Lucy Klippan, architect Kevin Bradley and educator Fiona MacGregor. It’s the first time such a collaboration has taken place in Australia or overseas.

Using design thinking and other evidence-based innovation methodologies, Lulham’s team worked with prison staff, inmates and management to better understand their needs and make use of their expertise.

The result is the Intensive Learning Centre (ILC), which opened at Kempsey’s Mid North Coast Correctional Centre in April 2014.

“It’s a breath of fresh air,” says Lulham. “The environment surrounding inmates is incredibly important because it can have an effect on how the inmates relate to each other and the activity at hand.

“The Intensive Learning Centre has a residential feel to it. It has four classrooms filled with natural light, a library, amenity area, staff office and modern, landscaped grounds.”

In addition to the standard security features you’d expect to see in a maximum security prison, the ILC also includes flexible classrooms that can be made larger or smaller depending on the audience and activity; integrated technology like smartboards, laptops and audio visual equipment; interchangeable art panels enabling each cohort to build ownership and connection with their environment; interlinked indoor and outdoor spaces; and specially designed spaces that support Aboriginal learning pedagogies and cross-cultural discussions.

The centre’s aim is to improve the education of inmates so that, upon release, they are more employable and better prepared to complete the prison programs that treat the causes of their offending. (Currently, approximately 48 per cent of inmates in NSW prisons will re-offend within two years of their release.)

The development of the ILC, though, has been a learning experience in more ways than one.

“Not only were the staff included in the facility design process, but the inmates built the facilities and furniture from scratch,” explains Lulham.

In fact, the classroom modules and furniture were constructed by inmates in the
Separate, contain, restrict: those have, traditionally, been the aims of prison construction. But not anymore. Since 2012, the Designing Out Crime Research Centre has been collaborating with the NSW Government to re-think and re-design the state’s prisons. The partnership aims to not only decrease the rate of re-offending, but improve safety in the community too.

“The overarching objective of this collaboration is to reduce crime and create safer communities in NSW.”

And already, CSNSW and DOC have begun work on other projects, including the development of a modular, prefabricated housing system for Corrective Services Industries in remote Indigenous communities.

The work has also led to other opportunities for DOC. They have been working with teams across Australia and internationally developing an online resource to promote excellence and innovation in correctional facility design; writing a guide for prison administrators designing new correctional facilities; developing environmental standards and design guidelines for audio visual link suites used in juvenile and adult prisons in NSW; and experimenting, testing and documenting the application of design innovation methods used in the construction of the New Grafton Correctional Centre.

Lulham says research into the long-term impacts of the ILC will also continue. “The overarching objective of this collaboration is to reduce crime and create safer communities in NSW.

“My ultimate ambition is for all prisons to practice better design that creates opportunities for inmates to transform because in just a few years most of them will be part of our community. It seems counter-productive for a society to do otherwise.”

Chloe de Brito
Design Innovation Research Centre
Photographer [R Lulham]: Shane Lo
Photographer [S]: Tasman Munro
Photographer [2]: Kevin Bradley
Photographs [1, 3, 4] supplied by: Corrective Services NSW

The ILC project research is funded by: Corrective Services NSW. DOC is a partnership between the NSW Department of Justice and UTS
Walking in to Gillian Leahy’s office, you half expect to see Baxter, her best friend, brown Labrador and recent muse, wagging his tail. Leahy, who is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences’ Media Arts and Production and Sound and Music Design programs, has been working at UTS for over 30 years.

She began teaching here, as she puts it, during a more radical time when casual lecturers and students would sit-in on the fluffy floor in the Vice-Chancellor’s office, and when students put broken filming equipment down the middle of Broadway to make a political statement.

The excitement at the time was palpable. But, Leahy quickly adds, “I wouldn’t say it’s not exciting now. It’s exciting in different ways.” When Leahy started at UTS, the university had much smaller classes, and was still teaching film on 16mm. Now the technology is vastly different – digital and always changing.

Leahy fell into filmmaking through her involvement in women’s liberation, and that early exposure, she says, still informs the way she views filmmaking. “I always think filmmaking is ideological in some way. It’s either presenting a way to understand the world, a way we should change the world, or about something that is wrong with the world.”

As a young filmmaker, Leahy started out by working as a clapper loader and sometimes a focus puller in the feature film industry. She soon became adept at the art and from there went on to win an Australian Film Institute award for My Life Without Steve – an intimate portrait of a woman grieving and accepting the demise of a relationship.

Leahy’s latest film is Baxter and Me – a biopic that has recently enjoyed success at the Sydney Film Festival. It is equally a paean to the history and everyday life of Sydney, as well as a study of her relationships with her canine companions. Critics have lauded Baxter and Me as ‘impressive’, and it has been nominated for the Documentary Australia Foundation Award 2016 – a prestigious competition that acknowledges excellence in documentary production.

Leahy’s advice for young filmmakers is twofold. “Treasure the true connections you make here, because they will be the ones that help you when you leave.”

And, “Filmmaking is an industry where you do have to put yourself forward and be prepared to take knockbacks, but that’s another reason why you need the support of friends that you might make here, and later on in the industry. Remember everyone you work with is a potential supporter.”

And if you’re wondering about whether Baxter got to walk on the red carpet, the answer is yes. Several times in fact.
McDonnell began his four-year industrial design degree in 2012, straight out of high school. He landed on industrial design because it offers both the practicality of engineering and an artistic component as well.

"Throughout my degree, I tried to get involved in as many extra-curricular activities as I could, including entering a whole bunch of competitions. I've done competitions for designing furniture and packaging, with some pretty good success. I made a whole bunch of finals and was exhibited as part of Sydney Design Festival."

At the same time, McDonnell started using his design skills to make money online. "I came across this platform called 99designs, which is an online platform for graphic designers to design logos and websites. So, between semesters, I would jump on that website and make a little pocket money on the side. As I got more and more work out of that, it became more and more interesting to me – designing apps and websites."

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Gaining a reputation for his graphic design skills, a mutual friend introduced McDonnell to a student entrepreneur who, at the time, was developing the now-popular app Timeweave which allows you to view and share your university timetable from your smartphone.

"He spent a year coding this entire thing and it worked fantastic. Problem was, when he first showed it to me, it looked like junk! So I spent a couple of months working with him, and in the process of helping him design his app. I was introduced to the concept of entrepreneurship," says McDonnell.

"There’s a lot of similarities between entrepreneurship and design. Studying industrial design, you’re supposed to put yourself in the shoes of the people that are going to use the product, whether it’s a phone or a wallet or a chair or a car. You’ve got to put yourself in the mind of the end user. And that’s exactly what you’ve got to do as an entrepreneur."

McDonnell says, "Much of the team’s success can be attributed to their addiction to learning." The ethos at Construction Cloud, he adds, is to continually work on yourself and as you improve, so too will the business and the people around you.

"To-date we’ve received financial, educational, mentoring and other support from UTS BUILD, the UTS Business School, the faculties of Engineering and Information Technology and Design Architecture and Building and the Innovation and Creative Intelligence Unit."

"There are people out there who have a lot more experience than us and university is the perfect place to access all of that knowledge. Part of that has been actively seeking support from different faculties since it never hurts to ask!"

"In August, the Construction Cloud team won Best Intangible Product at the Virginia Tech KnowledgeWorks Global Student Entrepreneurship challenge, a contest that sees hundreds of entries from student start-ups all over the world. McDonnell believes making the most of the opportunities on offer at UTS has been critical to Construction Cloud’s success."

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"In the digital gold rush we’re living in, few manage to cut through the noise. But recent UTS graduate Sam McDonnell and his team at Construction Cloud are getting international acclaim as real start-up-and-comers. McDonnell, together with fellow UTS alumni Hartley Pike and Jan Schroeder, are the Co-Founders of Construction Cloud. "It’s a visual documentation tool for large construction projects,” explains McDonnell, “and it’s already being used by the team building Sydney’s NorthConnex tunnel.”"

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"He spent a year coding this entire thing and it worked fantastic. Problem was, when he first showed it to me, it looked like junk! So I spent a couple of months working with him, and in the process of helping him design his app. I was introduced to the concept of entrepreneurship,” says McDonnell.

"There’s a lot of similarities between entrepreneurship and design. Studying industrial design, you’re supposed to put yourself in the shoes of the people that are going to use the product, whether it’s a phone or a wallet or a chair or a car. You’ve got to put yourself in the mind of the end user. And that’s exactly what you’ve got to do as an entrepreneur."

McDonnell says, "Much of the team’s success can be attributed to their addiction to learning." The ethos at Construction Cloud, he adds, is to continually work on yourself and as you improve, so too will the business and the people around you.

It’s something McDonnell applies to his personal life too. Outside the office, the young entrepreneur is an avid reader who is also learning German and enjoys the occasional 100 kilometre trail run!
Salons have been overwhelmingly positive about BeautyListed – we’ve had 800 sign up. Getting into Hatchery+ was really great for us. We found out about it through a friend and got in when another team dropped out. The mentors helped us to solidify our plans and focus. What we’re working on now is getting more users on board to give reviews.

I’ve just finished studying and have accepted a graduate position in a law firm next year. In the meantime I’ll be working as hard as I can on BeautyListed. I like law and I’m interested in practicing it but I also want to have something that’s my own. I think the idea of creating a solution to a problem is the most satisfying thing. BeautyListed allows me to be a bit creative as well, so it’s not all law books.

DUNCAN McEWIN

I don’t know why Sharon said I’m interested in male beauty; I’ve gotten my haircut at the same place for the last six years – $18, same haircut. What interested me about a start-up for the beauty industry was the feasibility of it. When we looked at it we saw that the industry really hadn’t been touched by technology, as Sharon said. For the most part their booking systems haven’t changed for the last 30 to 40 years.

We saw that while the restaurant industry had Urbanspoon (now Zomato), there’s nothing for salons. I also liked the idea of having creative control. Having worked in a law firm, and felt like a little cog in the wheel, I wanted to do something that I had ownership over and where I could see direct impact.

Hatchery+ really helped us to focus – we’d been tinkering on things here and there but with no real momentum or plan. It sounds like such a cliché when people talk about the energy in the room pushing them forward but it really was the case. It wasn’t so much like there was an energy, as seeing everyone else working through the same sort of issues. That really spurs you on. We achieved so much in the three months, too. We set up our business plan and nailed down our value proposition. Our mentor, Andy Wright, from For The People really helped us move things along.

Even though Sharon and I have very different personalities, we have a similar approach to the business. While other teams had some pretty fundamental disagreements on their direction, we’ve seen eye-to-eye right throughout.

By next year we hope to have a lot more users on-board contributing to the site. Being lawyers we’re fairly cautious about making wild projections about revenue. Having said that, we’re pretty optimistic about the possibilities.

Frances Morgan
Innovation and Creative Intelligence Unit
Photographer: Leah Lucas
Icons: Thinkstock
Mitch Horrocks is a hands-on designer. So it comes as no surprise that for his final-year honours project, he spent months living in Uganda developing a stovetop extension to reduce water-borne illness in rural African communities.

“The idea of creating something for rural African regions is something that I’ve thought about for a while,” explains the Bachelor of Design (Honours) in Integrated Product Design student, who has volunteered in Uganda many times since high school.

But it was his degree’s focus on user-participatory and user-centred design that really inspired Horrocks to research how he could use these ideas to create products for the developing world. He found that products introduced into developing countries often fall short of their intended goal because of differences in cultural norms, overlooked skills gaps or any number of complex reasons that international organisations don’t take the time to consider.

“It’s important to listen and solve problems the community identifies,” affirms Horrocks, “rather than the problems that we see, because they live very, very different lives to us.”

The identification of a need for clean water in these villages stemmed from a 2015 trip to Uganda, where Horrocks travelled to a variety of tribes with different languages and cultural norms.

“It was really good,” he says. “Everyone was really helpful and I managed to do a lot of good research – through surveys, interviews and focus groups – just trying to understand their day-to-day lives.

“There’s no running water, no electricity and very little reception. But I didn’t limit my focus solely on aspects like sanitation or agriculture. I just sort of looked at the broader view of everything, just in case I missed something by being too narrow.”

Reflecting on his findings after this trip, Horrocks developed the idea of a “cycle of sickness”.

This cycle begins when children drink un-boiled water and fall sick with dysentery, typhoid or cholera. Mothers with sick children often need to take days away from work to visit the nearest hospital, which means the family can’t afford to buy additional charcoal or firewood to boil their water. And the cycle starts again.

Horrocks explains, “There’s a knock-on effect from this cycle because attendance for school drops when kids get sick, plus their parents can’t afford the school fees, so they don’t get a proper education and end up being farmers like their parents.”

While there are water stoves on the market, through his research Horrocks learned many women couldn’t afford them or the necessary fuel. So he began investigating the idea of a product that would boil water in a way that could be integrated into the already well-established routine of cooking.

The solution? A stovetop extension to sit over the family’s food pot that would hold an additional pot for boiling water using the same heat from the meal cooking underneath.

During a visit to Uganda this year, Horrocks spent several weeks in the Kinyantale Village observing the women’s daily cooking routine before developing his product. He then enlisted a metal working company in Kampala, Uganda to create a few prototypes before returning to the village to test out his design.

Now back in Sydney, Horrocks is perfecting the dimensions of his prototype in order to make production as cheap and easy as possible for rural African communities.

“I’ll never be able to have the opportunity to do something like this as a designer ever again,” says Horrocks.

“I definitely went into my final-year wanting to spend time in those areas and have the opportunity to create a product that wasn’t just from some guy who thought he knew what Africa needs, but someone who’s actually been there for a while and understands it. It’s been a really good opportunity to create something that I believe can actually make a difference.”

Hannah Jenkins
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographs supplied by: Mitch Horrocks
I can’t count the number of times I wished, as a child, that I would wake up and discover I was a long lost princess. Well, it turns out that Janna was the lucky one. By the time we get to the sixth, and last, book in The Janna Chronicles, the teenager has survived her mother’s suspicious death, watched her home burn to the ground and discovered she is the granddaughter of a King (just to be clear, as a child I didn’t wish for the preceding events in Janna’s life). In this book, we follow Janna as she solves mystery after mystery like a medieval Nancy Drew. This series, originally written for young adults has been rebranded for an adult audience. It’s not hard to see why.

Day of Judgment is set during the power struggle between Empress Matilda and King Stephen in the 12th century. In this book, Pulman weaves historical truth with fiction, most notably Empress Matilda’s escape from a castle under siege. For royalists and republicans alike, the intrigue and savvy protagonist is enough to keep you reading until the end. But, if you’re like me and still wish for the preceding events in Janna’s life. In this book, we follow Janna as she watches her home burn to the ground and survives her mother’s suspicious death, discovered she is the granddaughter of a King (just to be clear, as a child I didn’t wish for the preceding events in Janna’s life). In this book, we follow Janna as she solves mystery after mystery like a medieval Nancy Drew. This series, originally written for young adults has been rebranded for an adult audience. It’s not hard to see why.

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Anita Dawson
Marketing and Communication Unit

Day of Judgment is Felicity Pulman’s thirteenth book and the sixth in her medieval crime series The Janna Chronicles. Pulman graduated from UTS in 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Creative Writing).

In The Media and the Massacre, Sonya Voumard questions her role and that of journalists more broadly in reporting on trauma. In this instance, she specifically explores the stories surrounding the 1996 Port Arthur massacre. She uses Born or Bred? Martin Bryant – The Making of a Mass Murderer (2009) written by well-regarded journalists Robert Wainwright and Paola Totaro to delve into difficult questions of morality, ethics and responsibility in her profession. In The Media and the Massacre, Voumard reveals how Wainwright and Totaro used the personal memoirs of Martin Bryant’s mother to write a best-selling book. The information they obtained from Carleen Bryant was shared with them on the premise they would tell her side of the story, but the relationship between the subject and the authors broke down and, effectively, permission to use the material provided was withdrawn. However, Wainwright and Totaro published their book anyway, despite the risk of potentially re-traumatising those who were affected by the tragic events of that day. In this compelling read, Voumard effectively traverses the complex issues facing journalists – the relationship between the subject and the author and the instinctive pursuit of ‘the story’. She compiles interviews, public records and draws on her own experiences as she revisits Port Arthur and reflects on the trauma of the massacre that still exists.

Amelia Polaschek
Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Corporate Services)

Sonya Voumard is a journalist and author and a former lecturer in creative non-fiction and journalism at UTS. In 2015, Voumard graduated from UTS with a Doctorate of Creative Arts.

“Feeling understood is one of the deepest psychological needs of human beings.” And yet, listening – the very key to understanding – is alarmingly absent in academic literature and communication practices. In his ground-breaking book, Jim Macnamara includes a comprehensive literature review, real-life examples of organisational practices and pointers on instituting an “architecture of listening”. When organisations claim to be listening, he shows, it’s often not grounded in reality. Even when we listen, our focus is on what we’ll say next, and in an organisational context, this is amplified. In Organizational Listening, Macnamara shows how dangerous not listening is, and how, in the case of public hospitals, it has led to patient deaths. Social media, hailed as the ultimate democratiser, is another case in point. Here, success is measured by clicks and likes, but little dialogue is really happening. Listening, Macnamara reveals, is an act of courage that offers clear benefits – building genuine trust and real engagement from broader audiences than just ‘the usual suspects’. I would have liked to have seen more on ways to implement an “architecture of listening”, but as Macnamara himself concedes, more work needs to be done here. He hints at taking on the challenge. I certainly hope he does.

Frances Morgan
Innovation and Creative Intelligence Unit

Jim Macnamara is a journalist and author and a former lecturer in creative non-fiction and journalism at UTS. In 2015, Voumard graduated from UTS with a Doctorate of Creative Arts.

During October, the Co-op Bookshop on Broadway is offering Co-op members a 20 per cent discount on Organizational Listening and The Media and the Massacre reviewed in this issue. Mention U: magazine when you purchase these books in store.
“It’s a really exciting event and it’s also a huge part of the fashion and textiles community at UTS,” asserts Lecturer and Fashion and Textiles Program Director Todd Robinson.

For over 25 years, the UTS Fashion and Textiles Show has provided a platform for budding designers to showcase their work. This year, 34 honours students have worked hard to meticulously craft six outfits each that will grace the catwalk on Tuesday 25 October. In these collections, says Robinson, “There will be a focus on new textiles, colour and exploratory approaches to form and volume. Some of the emerging ideas are gender-neutral collections, with some students showing mixed men’s and women’s collections.

“A number of collections also address the relationships between the garment, body in movement, different materials and space. There are also quite a few sustainable fashion projects, where students work with upcycled and repurposed materials and fabrics.”

Robinson is the mastermind behind the project. He works for up to three months prior to the event to make sure everything runs smoothly.

“While the staff are helping the students, we work with a set designer to organise the choreography, lighting, music and overall production,” says Robinson. “There are certainly a lot of aspects to it.”

Every year a different theme is adopted and this year, ‘dialogue’ is the chosen concept. “The theme this year is very open but it helps to guide the show and the students,” says Robinson, “It’s really about speaking to audiences outside the university, engaging meaningfully with the public, with the industry and their discipline.”

Between two ticketed shows and one media preview, the Bachelor of Design in Fashion and Textiles students will entertain over 800 people including fashion editors, stylists and industry designers like Akira Isogawa, Carla Zampatti and Dion Lee. The students’ creations are also showcased in a press kit, a magazine and on their personal websites.

“The show is just one part, there are lots of other aspects that sit around the show to help broadcast the students’ work,” explains Robinson. The aim is to connect students with industry professionals and help them develop a portfolio they can take with them into their careers.

“When designers come to the show they can get in contact with us or with the students directly, they might want to put their work in a magazine, fashion shoot or do a designer profile,” explains Robinson. “I really enjoy witnessing the dialogue between designers in the industry and our students, it’s a joy to see and that’s really what the show is all about.”

Lucy Virgona is one lucky graduate who had the opportunity to work with iconic Australian fashion designer Akira Isogawa after he spotted Virgona’s work at last year’s fashion show.

“Akira saw my collection last year at the media day,” recalls Virgona. “I met him and we talked about my collection. A couple of months later I emailed my CV and portfolio to him, accompanied by a reference from the Australian Wool Fashion Awards (TAWFA) – I won the Supreme Award at the 2015 Australian Wool Fashion Awards – with the hope of gaining industry experience within his company. Because of our meeting at the UTS media day, and Akira’s involvement with TAWFA, he offered me a design internship position.

“I began interning at Akira Design Studio and helped in the lead up to this year’s Mercedes Benz Fashion Festival Australia doing some designing, pattern making and cutting. Recently, I have progressed into a part-time design/production assistant role. Each day is so exciting and thrilling – I’m gaining invaluable experience working with Akira Isogawa and a real insight into the industry!”

Other students, says Robinson, have worked for Alexander Wang, Josh Goot and Calvin Klein, to name just a few.

“They’re incredibly talented honours students who have completed a difficult four-year degree and this is the moment where they can showcase all of their hard work.”

The 2016 UTS Fashion and Textiles Show will be held on Tuesday 25 October. Tickets are available for purchase from moshtix.com.au

Peta Gilbert
Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism)
Photographer: Shane Lo
EXHIBITION
I Had To Do It is the first solo institutional exhibition by UTS PhD candidate Ella Barclay. The exhibition is a reflection on 20th century techno-utopianism, exploring the power of text as technology, messy network architectures and myth making and the internet.

UTS Gallery, building 6, level 4
Until 25 November
Mon-Fri 12pm-6pm,
Saturday 12pm-4pm
art.uts.edu.au

Judy Watson, a preponderance of aboriginal blood, 2005, artist book 16 etchings with Chine-collé, UTS Art Collection. Photograph by Shane Lo.

a preponderance of aboriginal blood, on display on level 6 of the Tower, is an artist’s book confronting the history of official and legal discrimination against Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islanders in Queensland.

Artist Judy Watson at first declined the State Library of Queensland’s commission to produce an artist’s book celebrating the Queensland Centenary of Women’s Suffrage and 40 Years of Aboriginal Suffrage. But then she listened to a lecture about Indigenous people and the right to vote in Queensland by Loris Williams and Margaret Reid.

Says Watson, “The matrilineal side of my family is Aboriginal; our country is in north-west Queensland. My father’s family have Scottish and English ancestry. I fit somewhere in between, I am Indigenous and non-Indigenous. I embody the notion of two cultural frameworks occupying the same cultural space.”

In the lecture, Watson says, “I heard Loris use the term ‘a preponderance of aboriginal blood’ and I knew what I was going to make the work about.”

Watson’s a preponderance of aboriginal blood is comprised of 16 sheets of electoral enrolment statutes from the Queensland State Archives. The statutes classified whether a person was a “full-blood Aborigine” (and therefore not entitled to vote) or a “half-caste” (entitled to vote).

“Because this material from the archives already has a latent power, I didn’t want to change this very much,” explains Watson. “It’s leakage onto the printed page is enough. My background is as a printmaker, so it was a natural progression to work with this medium for the artist’s book.”

For more information, visit art.uts.edu.au

Tania Creighton
UTS Art

Art & U profiles a piece of work from the UTS Art Collection every issue.
Four Minutes to Midnight is the stage name of third-year UTS Photography and Situated Media (PSM) student, and budding professional photographer, Maria Boyadgis. Thanks to initiatives like the degree’s compulsory supported supervised placement program, PSM students are securing relevant, paid employment well before they graduate. For Boyadgis, this has led to opportunities like travelling to New Zealand to work on Ridley Scott’s new film in the Alien franchise and photographing well-known musicians like Iron Maiden during their 2016 concert tour.