20 YEARS OF SHOPFRONT
2 decades, 1000 projects, 800 community organisations

THE SILENT REVOLUTION
Investigative journalism in the Arab world

CHIROPRACTIC UNCOVERED
Understanding the how and why of chiropractic care
ASK THE EXEC

ATILIA BRUNGS

VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT

What`s it like being the eldest of seven children?

Being part of a large family is the best thing ever – of course I don’t know what it would be like not to be. Having six people who are as close as the closest friends support you, challenge you and accept you unconditionally all the way through one’s life from earliest childhood is, I think, a real gift. My parents must have had an interesting time, however, as we all have very energetic personalities and a love of intellectual (or other) debates. But the way they brought us up was incredible; they also tried to instil in us a sense of public duty.

Being the eldest I perhaps had the privilege of observing them all as they grew so I am in constant awe of them and their achievements. You can perhaps glimpse a small part of them through their chosen careers. One is an oncologist who chose to work where there is particular need in regional Australia, another brother is at NSW Emergency Services working around the clock during disasters, my youngest sister is the most amazing paediatrician, another is a phenomenal teacher who’s taught at high schools all over Sydney, another sister led and worked at NGOs around the globe including one dealing with the scourge of child brides (working in some of Africa’s more dangerous regions) and my last sister’s passion for the environment created real change in national sustainability through her government roles.

What would people be surprised to learn about you?

I think most of my interests have already been discussed in this column. I wish I had some deep and mysterious side to my personality or hidden talent – but no such luck. I love music, enjoy sport, love spending time with my family, wife and awesome kids, Eleanor and William, and think I am one of the luckiest people alive to have a job in an organisation I care about and which is such an important institution for the community.

Actually, maybe it would surprise people to know during my university days I was a caricature of a surfer dude – patrolling as a surf life saver most weekends, going to the beach between classes at UNSW, having shoulder length hair and walking around barefoot as often as possible (though never in chemistry labs).

In your time at UTS, who have you met that you found truly inspiring?

The fortunate truth is that I meet truly inspiring people all the time. That is one of the real delights of the job. As VC of course I have had the opportunity to meet national or international leaders who certainly inspire me. Two who spring immediately to mind are Aung San Suu Kyi and Marie Bashir.

But, more importantly, almost every week I hear the stories of and meet people who are doing truly inspirational things, but mostly quietly or unheralded. A couple of the most recent examples include an early career academic whose dedication to her students’ learning experience and commitment to a particular student community blew me away. A professional staff member from AV whose quiet innovations and passion for AV has made a huge difference at UTS and at the same time he is heavily involved in a variety of charities. A student I met at the last ActivateUTS dinner whose ability to overcome adversity and hardship to get to Australia, then to get to university, then to spend his time here helping others literally brought a tear to my eye.

ISSUE 8

U: is published by the Marketing and Communication Unit and provides a voice for the university community. As such, the views in U: are not necessarily the views of the university or the editorial team. U: reserves the right to edit as it sees fit any material submitted for publication.

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Cover image: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 16, 17, 18 – supplied by UTS Shopfront; 5, 8, 9, 15 – Rosalia Catalano; 11 – Claudia Fok; 12 – Doug Millen; 13 – Claire Pettigrew

Printer: Lindsay Yates Group
Page 19 images: Ella Barclay, Summoning the Nereid Nerdz, Looped video projected onto mist in a suspended acrylic tank with sound by Nick Wilson, 2015; Thinkstock; UTS
Features

Chiropractic uncovered
The research project set to better understand chiropractic care in Australia and how it could fit within an effective, coordinated healthcare system

The silent revolution
How Arab investigative journalists are increasingly uncovering and publishing stories about the issues causing upheaval in the Arab world

20 years of Shopfront
In 1996, it began as a project to match UTS students with community-based organisations; two decades on and UTS Shopfront has completed more than 1000 projects with 800 community organisations

Next issue
This is the last issue of U: magazine for 2016. The next issue will be released on Monday 6 March 2017.

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Regulars

ASK THE EXEC: ATTILA BRUNGS

NEWS: UTS WELCOMES...

AROUND U: FOOD FLIGHT

STAFF PROFILE: THE IDEAS MAN

ALUMNI PROFILE: CRASHING THROUGH THE GLASS CEILING

TWO OF U: READING, *RITING AND RELATIONSHIPS

STUDENT PROFILE: SMALL SCREENS & BIG DREAMS

U: READ IT: UTS IN PRINT

FEATURED EVENT: HEALTHY, WEALTHY AND WISE

WHAT'S ON: NOVEMBER

ART & U: UTS ART COLLECTION
Andrew Parfitt has been a telecommunications engineer, space scientist, research leader and academic. Today, though, he’s preparing to take on the role of Provost and Senior Vice-President at UTS.

From December, Parfitt will begin a two-month handover with current UTS Provost Peter Booth. (Booth, who is preparing for retirement, will be staying on at the university until May next year to complete a few strategic initiatives already underway.)

Of course, December won’t mark the first time Parfitt has stepped onto the UTS campus. He has visited the university before in his current role as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Newcastle and in former roles with CSIRO and UniSA.

“I’ve been to UTS quite a few times and I’ve noticed the remarkable change in the environment over the past few years,” he says.

“I really admire what UTS has been able to achieve in a relatively short period of time, and dynamic leadership and a clear vision are part of that, so I’m really looking forward to being a part of the executive team.”

Parfitt says UTS is also an organisation that “really fits with the values I hold closely”.

“Social justice and equity, as well as being critical values in UTS’s mission, will be critical for education in the decades to come and will make one of the biggest impacts on our community.

“UTS supports a range of fields that are nationally and internationally important and it’s got a student and staff body that is quite diverse and who are looking at making a real impact in their communities.”

Among those are a handful of senior staff who have also recently taken up positions at UTS, including Professor Charles Walker, founding Co-director of Colab – Auckland University of Technology’s transdisciplinary institute for creative and emerging technologies. Walker has signed on as the Director of UTS’s Innovation and Creative Intelligence Unit.

Also recently arrived is Elizabeth Mossop, a Professor of Landscape Architecture and former Director of the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture at Louisiana State University in the United States, who has taken on the role of Dean of the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building.

Judith Smith, a Professor of Parasitology and former Dean of the School of Environment and Life Sciences at the University of Salford, UK has also recently started in the role of Dean of the Faculty of Science.

Another is Professor of Education and former Head of the School of Education at Macquarie University, Lori Lockyer who recently began as the new Dean of the Graduate Research School at UTS.

“While it’s a bit of a cliché in some ways,” says Parfitt, “I think universities and the university sector generally are going through a massive period of change.

“And I don’t see that slowing down in the near future.

“Obviously it’s good to have some stability and it’s good to have some people who provide experience, but I think that refresh in leadership is a healthy thing.”

Also healthy, is knowing how to unwind. For Parfitt, that means picking up his lute – a hobby he says he discovered almost by accident.

“I’m a pretty avid musician. I trained as a classical guitarist right back in school, but these days I play mostly Renaissance lute, which is music from the 16th century.

“It’s beautiful music, it’s relaxing music, it’s quite challenging to play and it’s a different diversion.”

Fiona Livy
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photograph (A Parfitt) supplied by: University of Newcastle
Photographer (E Mossop): Jom Photography
Photographer (J Smith): Anna Zhu
Photographer (L Lockyer): Sean Maguire
Photographer (C Walker): Jane Ussher
“Every day it’s busy with a constant stream of problems,” says UTS Supervisor for Public Spaces, Services and Systems Ian McInnes. “But for every problem there is a solution and it’s my job to come up with solutions and implement them.”

One of the solutions McInnes is proud to be a part of is the new food waste system implemented in office areas and cafes across campus with approximately 90 per cent of food waste at UTS now processed on-campus.

It all started when the university introduced separate green bins for food waste.

“Removing food from the general waste stream helped reduce contamination and improved the quality of recycling for all the standard recyclable items like plastic, glass and aluminium, and especially for paper and cardboard,” explains McInnes. “Our paper recycling alone increased by nearly 25 per cent!”

Earlier this year, McInnes and his team took waste management one step further. They installed a green waste dehydrator so the 300 kilograms of food waste collected at UTS each day could be processed on campus.

Each morning, the green bins are collected and loaded into the dehydrator located in the basement of building 10. The machine heats to about 85 degrees and dehydrates the food scraps, reducing their volume and weight by around 80 per cent.

The machine takes about nine hours to turn the waste into a clean dry, soil-like material. Once a week, the material is collected and taken to a company, called EarthPower, in Western Sydney which uses it as a fuel to generate renewable energy.

In the future, McInnes says there’s potential for the material to be used as mulch and soil conditioner on gardens in and around the UTS precinct. And the university is currently working to install two new units to further increase processing capacity.

But for now, says McInnes, “We still face the challenge of lowering contamination of the green bins in office areas”. He says people occasionally toss in coffee cups, plastic bags, food containers, tuna tins and even forks, which the cleaners then need to pick out. But apart from that, the system is improving and operating pretty well.

In fact, it has already been used as a working case study by a group of UTS design students who were looking at ways to design new systems for organisational change. The students’ final designs were ultimately presented to the NSW Environmental Protection Authority, UTS Facilities Management Operations and industry partners. McInnes says it’s just one example of how the university has integrated its own operational facilities with teaching and learning to give students real-world understanding of systems thinking.

Says McInnes, “I graduated from a degree in law and economics in 2007 with a whole different career in mind. I was lucky to work with some great people, and my three-month temporary position at UTS somehow turned into eight years.

“One of the most rewarding aspects of my multi-faceted job is assisting with the roll out and management of the various UTS environmental initiatives, the most ambitious being the treatment of organics.

“It’s a great feeling working for such a large institution that is willing to put so much effort into minimising its environmental impact and encouraging others to follow suit.”

Seb Crawford
Program Management Office
Photographer: Hannah Jenkins
While the majority of Australians use complementary therapies, there is limited research into how and why they use them. New research by the Australian Research Centre in Complementary and Integrative Medicine is paving the way to change that. The centre’s most recent project is set to better understand daily chiropractic care in Australia and how it could fit within an effective, coordinated healthcare system.

Chiropractic is undoubtedly popular but which treatment methods utilised by chiropractors work for which complaints? While a growing body of research reports some of the manual therapy methods commonly used by chiropractors offer benefits for some common musculoskeletal health conditions, more research needs to be done.

That, says Director of the Australian Research Centre in Complementary and Integrative Medicine (ARCCIM) Jon Adams, “is one of the reasons why ARCCIM has developed the world’s largest voluntary practice-based research network (PBRN) in chiropractic. Essentially, a PBRN is a database of member chiropractors that will enable researchers to quickly and easily obtain enormous amounts of information on chiropractic care.”

The project is titled ACORN (The Australian Chiropractic Research Network). It has been funded by the Chiropractors’ Association of Australia and is independently designed and conducted by senior methodologists at ARCCIM – the only research centre in the world dedicated to subjecting complementary healthcare to critical, rigorous public health and health services research investigation.

Already, says Adams, an impressive 36 per cent of all chiropractors in Australia have joined the network (most other PBRNs only achieve a five to 10 per cent participation rate).

Not only is the size of ACORN’s membership impressive, but so is the fact that the network is nationally representative on most major indicators – age, gender and location. In researcher terms, it’s exactly the type of dataset you want to work with.

According to Adams, “PBRNs are very much about connecting with practitioners and researchers, and about closing the gap between research and practice.

“The ACORN PBRN is new in what it focuses on – that is chiropractic – and the rigor, the caliber and the credibility of the ACORN project is world-beating; it’s world-first.”

PhD candidate and chiropractor Craig Moore is one of the first researchers to make use of the PBRN for his PhD research on the role of manual therapy treatment in the management of headaches.

Moore explains, “Headaches are the third most common reason people seek a chiropractor for treatment, after back pain and neck pain.

“My research is exploring how chiropractors diagnose headache, what treatment they provide, what are the circumstances by which they collaborate with other healthcare professionals as well as answering questions about the frequency, cost and duration of chiropractic care in this area.”
“I've recently distributed a nationwide headache survey to chiropractors via the ACORN PBRN with over 330 participants recruited to date.”

It's research that both Adams and Moore agree couldn't have been possible without ACORN's credible, representative dataset.

Says Moore, "As a chiropractor, I'm delighted my profession has access to this PBRN research platform, and excited a number of researchers are beginning to use it."

Adams elaborates: "What ACORN is doing is finally mapping the territory of what daily routine chiropractic care looks like. Only when you've done that properly – and in this case because it's nationally representative it's very rigorous – can you put the building blocks in place to ask more complex and interesting questions later."

Adams says his background as a Professor of Public Health is helping to ensure the research produced will be used to create an effective, coordinated healthcare system. "With the disciplinary background of public health comes methodological rigor and a critical eye that helps cut through the emotive perspective we unfortunately see far too often around this area of healthcare."

"Public health, as a discipline, is about utilising established methods and designs to identify insights that help communities, and individuals, stay healthy," he adds.

Adams says ACORN is a case-in-point of the way in which scientific investigation of complementary and integrative medicine can address contemporary health systems and global health challenges.

"The transparency ACORN can deliver could allow people to plan and manage healthcare in a more informed way, and extrapolating from that, it could allow for people to deliver more effective healthcare systems."

Ultimately, Adams says, "ACORN is not just about facilitating more PhDs into chiropractic, and helping connect practitioners and researchers, it's also about letting other people in health research, and other people in government and policy, know there is now good infrastructure and baseline data on chiropractic that they can draw upon to help make informed health care decisions."

Eleanor Harrison-Dengate
Master of Journalism
Photographer (C Moore and J Adams): Hannah Jenkins
Chiropractic image: Thinkstock
This research is funded by: Chiropractors' Association of Australia

"THE TRANSPARENCY ACORN CAN DELIVER COULD ALLOW PEOPLE TO PLAN AND MANAGE HEALTHCARE IN A MORE INFORMED WAY"
Our vision of journalism in the Arab world is that of imprisoned correspondents and beheaded reporters. Images in the media, like those of Australian journalist Peter Greste sitting behind bars in an Egyptian court, have played a central role in the formation of this vision.

In short, the world sees journalism practice as being restricted in Arab countries, and investigative journalism non-existent. Yet few people around the world are aware of a silent revolution that Arab investigative journalists are undertaking in the Arab world. A wave of investigative journalism practice is slowly growing in the region. This has been made possible by the establishment of the Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ) in Jordan. It’s the first institutionalised investigative journalism training on offer in the Arab world, and is provided through a Danish-Arab partnership program.

Today, ARIJ trains investigative journalists across nine Arab countries – Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, Bahrain, Palestine, Yemen and Tunisia.

But investigative reporting in the Arab world is not new. In the 1950s and 1960s, a few reporters, such as Ihsan Abdul Quddoos, syndicated columns for government newspapers and magazines. Quddoos’ column, entitled ‘At a Cafe on Politics Street’, addressed current issues circulating in cafes in Cairo at the time, thus extending discourses from the physical public sphere to that of the mediated public sphere.

It’s unclear why institutionalised investigative reporting has not been established earlier, but it can be attributed to political constraints which continue to exist and impede the work of investigative journalists. The range of topics that can therefore be reported on within the Arab public sphere are limited to social, environmental and economic issues rather than political corruption, for example.

Yet, as I argue in my recent book, *Investigative Journalism in the Arab World: Issues and challenges*, investigative stories at a grassroots level play a vital role. Not only do these stories address the concerns of Arab societies – the rise of prices, cost of living, and the widening gap between rich and poor – but they have a direct impact on peoples’ daily lives and wellbeing. For these reasons, it’s important not to disregard the impact of current practices of Arab investigative journalism, even if they don’t always tackle major stories of political significance.

Of course, some investigations do. What is particularly notable in this silent revolution is the practice of investigative journalism in conflict zones in the Arab region, such as Syria, Iraq and Yemen, which continue to uncover issues relating to the conflict.

One Yemeni journalist told me about how he continues to write in Yemen, which is currently experiencing war. He does so by publishing under a pseudonym and sending...
his stories to news websites operating outside of Yemen. He continues to practice journalism, and has not given up, risking his life and that of his family.

In Syria, two journalists, Mokhtar Al-Ibrahim and Ahmad Haj Hamdo, worked on a story that uncovered how thousands of displaced Syrian refugees had fallen prey to war merchants exploiting their absence to sell their properties through fraud.

Overall, the investigation took six months, with the two journalists conducting their investigations by repeatedly visiting notary departments and tracking down the steps needed to issue forged power of attorney documents. These kinds of documents, created by civil servants and lawyers, enabled war merchants to sell the homes of civilians who fled the Syrian conflict in 2011 and only uncovered the crime when they returned years later.

During their investigation, Al-Ibrahim and Haj Hamdo faced mobility challenges, especially in Aleppo province where they were trying to reach the courts under a barrage of artillery shells and explosive gas cylinders. But this constant political instability didn’t stop them.

Nor did the reporters’ lack of training. Only one of the reporters, Al-Ibrahim, had the opportunity to participate in a training course on the basics of investigative journalism with ARIJ in Jordan.

Haj Hamdo, on the other hand, was unable to attend the training due to restrictions on his travel. However, he was quick-witted and eager to learn. He began teaching himself investigative reporting in the heart of Damascus, surrounded by war and mortars, by taking notes from his colleague who had attended the training, reading the ARIJ training manual and studying published investigations of other Arab journalists.

In fact, it’s not uncommon for journalists in conflict areas to report on issues that require immediate attention, but who themselves lack the know-how to go about it. The training of investigative reporting therefore continues to face many challenges, however Arab journalists are increasingly becoming aware of the power they hold in potentially achieving change.

Mention Syria, Yemen or Palestine and most westerners think death, destruction and civil war. But Saba Bebawi sees a different kind of uprising – a “silent revolution” where investigative journalists are increasingly uncovering and publishing stories about the social, environmental and economic issues causing upheaval in the Arab world.
Shopfront began in 1996 as a project to match UTS students with small community-based organisations, and, says former Academic Director Paul Ashton, “that same community engagement and social justice work continues to this day”.

From running just six coursework projects in their first semester, to now celebrating more than 1000 completed projects in partnership with 800 community organisations, it’s clear the Shopfront team haven’t been resting on their laurels.

Community Engagement Coordinator Lisa Andersen believes the success comes down to a few key factors. “We’re the oldest cross-faculty program in Australia, so not only did we learn from all our mistakes in the early days, but we now have a deep knowledge of ongoing social justice and community development issues.

“All the projects and research we undertake are free, community-initiated, and based on real community needs,” she says. “Our longevity comes from listening to the community sector and continuously adapting our program to respond to their needs.”

From humble beginnings in the 90s, where the program had to demonstrate its worth with just two years of funding, today, Shopfront is one of UTS’s key programs championing social justice and the scholarship of community engagement.

“The university has always had a core value around social justice, which really aligns closely with the values of the team, our approach, and the outcomes of the work we do,” says Program Manager Pauline O’Loughlin.

The very first Shopfront projects saw the creation of an anti-homophobia video and students in the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building (DAB) working with non-government organisations. Some of these relationships between community groups and Shopfront continue today.

Says Ashton, “We have always prioritised small, community-based organisations and have been guided by a rule that we’ll only work with organisations that are open to working with staff and the students in their disciplines on academically rigorous projects.”

This philosophy is still a central element of Shopfront. And it is the reason why the program has received national and international acclaim for its community engagement model and for specific community projects.

In 2000, Shopfront was awarded a $100,000 grant for three community fellowships by the NSW Department for Women. They won the National Award for Community Engagement and Teaching in 2005, and came second for the International MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship in 2015.

They’ve also recently been shortlisted for the AFR Higher Education Awards 2016 Community Engagement Award (the winner will be announced on 16 November).

Expanding on their community work, Shopfront has demonstrated how an ethos of community engagement can be valuable to strategic partnerships and research fellowships.

In 2007, Shopfront established the Research Fellowship Program, and secured a major five-year ARC grant for Cultural Asset Mapping in Regional Australia. It also established the Gateways e-journal in partnership with Loyola University Chicago in 2008, and went on to form a Gateways
OF SHOPFRONT

Partnership with the University of Cape Town in 2009.

One of Shopfront’s most remarkable successes though, has been its ability to grow and change with community needs. In 2013, in response to a sector-wide need for skilled volunteers, Shopfront developed the UTS SOUL Award – the university’s social leadership and volunteering program. Students in the SOUL Award have since completed over 51,000 volunteer hours for its community-based organisations.

Bachelor of Design (Visual Communication) student Thomas Ricciardiello undertook a group project through Shopfront in 2015 as part of the Socially Responsive Design subject in DAB.

He recounts his team had the “pleasure of working with the not-for-profit group Sailors with disAbilities on a project to document their 21-year history in the form of an online interactive archive.”

The success of the project won his team a UTS Creative Media Social Justice Award at the 2016 UTS Human Rights Awards – just one of the many Shopfront projects that has been recognised through this biennial UTS event. Says Ricciardiello, “It was a really confirming experience to have our efforts recognised.

“Capturing the aspirations of Sailors with disAbilities isn’t an easy task as there is a lot more behind their work than what you can tell from their website. They are a terrific group and deserve any attention they get, so it was a lovely moment to be simultaneously rewarded for our work within the project and to give them a much-needed spotlight as well.”

O’Loughlin elaborates: “The students who are working in the community are like consultants. The organisations often don’t have the skill sets that the students have so it’s a great benefit to everyone when postgrad or work-ready final-year students can be involved.”

Shopfront has supported many high-profile community projects and organisations over the last 20 years, and alumni have become part of the rich fabric of the community sector. Though, Andersen says, “our history is full of amazing partnerships, it’s the projects that would never have happened without Shopfront being a gateway to UTS that are closest to my heart.”

Twenty years is a long time, giving Ashton, Andersen and O’Loughlin the chance to reflect and think about what’s next. All three have been involved with Shopfront since the beginning in 1996, and with O’Loughlin saying goodbye to UTS at the end of this year, Shopfront’s 20th anniversary is a chance to celebrate the achievements of the program, staff and students involved.

Says O’Louglin, “It has been an honour to work with all of our partners, and to be part of the social justice agenda of UTS for such a long time. We’re looking forward to celebrating with everyone who has been involved in making this work possible.”

Adds Ashton, “Shopfront has been great fun!”

Vice-Chancellor Attila Brungs will be hosting a 20 years celebration of Shopfront at the Design, Architecture and Building Sculpture Garden on Wednesday 16 November from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. For more information, email shopfront@uts.edu.au

Hannah Jenkins
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Shane Lo
Simon Buckingham Shum is a thinker. He likes reading books that are "critical about technology" and was once a university darts champion who threw more than a few 180s (the maximum per round). But Buckingham Shum says it was his first degree in psychology (in 1987), that really inspired his research into how people learn.

Three degrees and nearly 30 years later, and Buckingham Shum is working to change the way we learn.

The learning analytics expert, and UK ex-pat is now the Director of UTS’s Connected Intelligence Centre (CIC). It’s a role that sees Buckingham Shum work across faculties to help students and educators interpret data.

“CIC is full of people who are really interested in how we can analyse data, visualise it in useful ways, and the ethics that surround that kind of data – so if I have a lot of data about a student, then who should see it, and what kinds of decisions might I take on the basis of that?”

Buckingham Shum says that it’s at the intersection of problem solving, creativity and computers “that the interesting stuff happens”.

Currently, CIC are conducting trials that could change the UTS student experience: from using Kinect for Xbox and microphones to track how nurses work together around a patient bed (it’s called ‘collaboration analytics’), to a web app called CLARA that has given students deep insights into how they approach their learning (‘dispositional analytics’).

“There’s a lot of innovation that goes on in this place,” says Buckingham Shum. “But we’re always trying to create practical tools for students and staff.”

Shum is particularly interested in how students reflect.

“Often we don’t get taught how to write about what we don’t understand, or about our feelings, like how an internship is going, or even in the first person,” says Buckingham Shum. “So we’re very interested in that kind of writing too — teaching students how to write in a deeply reflective way, rather than just a superficial way.”

In order to track how well students are reflecting, Shum and his team are developing “writing analytics” software that can give students instant feedback.

“The idea is that 24/7 you could paste in the text you’re working on and get feedback as to how it could be improved. So that’s an example of using artificial intelligence to trigger deeper reflection. There’s no way that you’re going to get your human tutor to give you feedback at 1am! So this is a niche where machines seem to have a role to play.”

Behind all of the futuristic technology, though, Buckingham Shum says there’s a simple goal.

“You only get better when you’ve got good feedback. We want to give you feedback in a way that’s motivating. If it’s going to work, it’s going to give you better feedback, and give you a better picture of what you’re doing and what you can work on next.”

Lucy Tassell
Bachelor of Communication (Journalism)
Photographer: Jamie Williams
Amy Burrows was just 10-years-old when she began her first construction job on a piece of land in Goulburn, NSW. It was under the protective eyes of her father that Burrows took part in building the home in which her family still lives.

“I remember oiling bits of the roof – the beams and rafters – and digging out trenches after it had rained and they’d filled with dirt,” recalls Burrows. “I learned a lot there because I was really involved and I could ask questions. I’m a very big ‘why?’ person. I’m always asking it. I want to know how things work.”

It’s perhaps unsurprising then that, as a young adult, Burrows chose to study engineering. And that she chose to share her enthusiasm with other young women through UTS’s Women in Engineering and IT (WEIT) program, which this year celebrates its 35th anniversary.

As part of WEIT, Burrows signed up for the Sydney Women in Engineering and IT (SWIEIT) Speakers Program, visiting high schools across NSW and talking with students about her experiences as a female in engineering.

“It was through telling my story to younger women that I kind of realised I never really had another choice – I was born to come in this direction. I love the problem solving, the challenges, the solutions, and seeing all the stuff in the middle,” enthuses Burrows.

“The Women in Engineering program was so good because there are almost no women in mechanical engineering, so I made female friendships in other areas and I still keep in contact with them. They still send me crazy Snapchats!”

But, Burrows says, it wasn’t until she began an 18-month placement at Transport for NSW’s Centre for Road Safety that she struck gold. As part of the role, the young engineer was assigned to coordinate a research project evaluating the performance of motorcycle safety barrier systems.

“We looked at a piece of motorcycle under-run – a barrier to stop motorcyclists sliding under the guard rail. It was a massive research project, and the guys at the Centre for Road Safety asked me if wanted to crash test it. I was like, ‘Hell yes I do!’”

For the project, the centre purchased a crash dummy that Burrows says, was “different to any other crash dummy used at Crashlab.

“He didn’t need to be connected to any external equipment to record data – he has batteries and storage located inside him along with all the sensors.

“The dummy was clothed in full motorcycle gear, we put him on his back, and fired him head-first into different installations of barrier to assess how he’d react. It gave us a representation of how a person would end up after they hit it,” she explains.

“All undergraduate engineering students at UTS write a thesis – UTS calls it a capstone project – which other universities offer as part of an honours program. As part of the research work, I also produced a non-technical report for internal use within the Centre for Road Safety. This report has since been turned into a conference paper and presented at this year’s Australasian Road Safety Conference in Canberra.”

These days, Burrows is working in Parkes, NSW. As a Graduate Engineer with the Roads and Maritime Services, she is assisting the Western Region Program Manager to manage traffic and safety road works in western NSW.

“At the moment I’m working in what they call program delivery, it’s more of a financial, admin-type role rather than a hands-on one. I’m trying to build a well-rounded background before I get out into the world post grad,” says Burrows.

“As I get older and life changes, what I want from the job will change. I like how engineering is adaptable that way.”

Isabella Stevens
Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism and Creative Writing)
Photograph: Self-supplied
Ying Wang and Cam Van Hunyh are both international students. Bernie Sheehan is the Manager of Digital Skills Development at the ABC. They’re all part of the Higher Education Language and Presentation Support (HELPs) Buddy Program which matches English-speaking volunteers with international students. Its aim is to help students build their confidence and language skills and to make new friendships in Australia.

**YING WANG**

I’m studying a Master of Architecture and I have many local classmates but, because we work more individually, I don’t really have the chance to make friends with them. When I came here I couldn’t understand many simple words, even though I had been learning English for a long time – I think because I learned English in Mandarin. I didn’t have any confidence to speak with any native speaker at the beginning. I couldn’t understand many of the local slang and Australian people tend to speak very quickly – they run their sentences together without pausing. I’m from north-west China – Lanzhou, it’s the capital of Gansu province. It’s beautiful, but the landscape is entirely different to Australia and it is in the middle of the continent. In the beginning, my parents didn’t understand why I wanted to go abroad and study. Sometimes, when it was hard, I thought, “Oh, my parents are right!” But they are getting to know that I am enjoying new experiences in my life rather than following the expected pathway.

**CAM VAN HUYNH**

I’m doing a Master of IT major in software development; this is my second semester. Actually I am a mature student because I already have worked eight years in Vietnam. At the age of 30 I’m thinking because I’m still single, I don’t have to take responsibility for everyone rather than myself, so I want to discover more about myself and go overseas to see the world. Because my major is information technology, and of course UTS have good reputation for that field, I decide to come to UTS.

When I first came here I don’t have any friends so HELPS Buddy Program actually give me a friend. Bernie and Ying and I we actually chat online on Messenger, we have each others phone number so we really are friends. Because we are at the same age it’s easy for us to talk. Bernie’s a very good person and very nice woman. Bernie likes to hear stories about me and Ying, our home countries, about our culture, background story and sometime we talk about books, and then our ‘game plan’ for the weekend.
Before I came here I quite confident with my English in my home country, but when I come here on the first week I really struggling. I am even talking to myself, “Are they speaking English?” because it’s totally different; we study American English in Vietnam. I don’t know why we say “no worries” when I say “you’re welcome” and “fair enough”. But day-by-day it feels a bit easier.

I live in Ho Chi Minh City, in the south of Vietnam and I have two younger brothers, so I’m the oldest child of my parents. I call my parents once a week, one or two hours, and with my younger brother we chat on WhatsApp. Because he’s a first-year student now, he study information technology like me, and after he’s graduate we are thinking that maybe he will come here and study a masters.

If I can give advice to any new international student who is struggling, you need to really step out and attend a HELPS conversation class or join the Buddy Program. The more you do it, the more it will be easier for you. And you will surprise yourself when you can talk to people and really build your confidence. You will have friends there. Don’t be shy, take the first step and everything will be easier.

BERNIE SHEEHAN

For years I was part of a mentoring program where I worked with a refugee from Rwanda – she was doing her midwifery degree at UTS and when she graduated I wanted to find someone else to work with. I heard about the Buddy Program from my boss’s wife – Joanne Gray – she works at UTS. And Joanne put me in contact with MaryAnn McDonald at HELPS.

I first met Van in a cafe at UTS and I thought she was the most gorgeous young woman and so bright, but finding it so difficult. In the first session, her English was a little rudimentary but pretty good. She told me a story about her work place in Vietnam, where they have a Monday morning where everyone has to speak English, but she would often be the only person who would speak because they were all too scared. A few weeks later Ying joined us, so the three of us started talking about all sorts of things from food to politics to culture to film – everything.

They’re just delightful; really considerate, beautiful people and I feel really lucky. For me, it has just been a real eye-opener. It’s great to see women, both of them, leaving their home countries and doing something so out of the ordinary. It’s extraordinary risk taking for both of them.

Van’s working here, at the ABC, now – she’s a software engineer and did some work experience for a couple of weeks and they offered her casual work in the digital network team. She’s just on the floor above me. Being part of the Buddy Program fits in really well with the strong diversity program we have at the ABC. We’ve just started promoting the Buddy Program at the ABC, so hopefully more people here will get involved.

Recently Ying and Van came for a weekend at my house – I live at Killcare Beach, an hour-and-a-half north on the train. We went bushwalking and my friends cooked dinner. Van and Ying wanted to go to an Australian home because they haven’t been invited to many Australian homes. I’m actually a New Zealander, but I guess it’s the same thing! They ate Australian foods, foods they hadn’t had before like lots of kinds of cheeses, hummus, things like that. Next time they come up Ying is going to cook Chinese food.

I feel like they are my friends now, but they make me feel very old because they send emojis and all sorts of things and I’m trying to keep up! Each week they are so much more confident and so much more articulate. It’s a perfect match for me because it’s two women on their own, doing something pretty adventurous and unusual and creating a new life somewhere. How could you not admire that?!

To access the UTS HELPS Buddy Program over summer or next teaching session, go to tinyurl.com/ocb3pzp

Fiona Livy
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Hannah Jenkins
"If you want to be stronger in front of the camera, and a better person as part of a team, you need to know what’s going on behind the camera and what everyone needs from you."

So says first-year Bachelor of Communication (Media Arts and Production), Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation (BCII) student Brenna Harding. Harding is perhaps best known for her roles in Puberty Blues and A Place to Call Home. She won the 2013 Logie Award for Most Popular New Female Talent and was an AACTA Best Young Actor nominee, all before finishing high school in 2014.

Harding, who has had to balance her career with study from the age of 15, wasn’t sure if university was for her. Until she learned about the BCII – a transdisciplinary course offered in summer and winter schools that encourages students to explore new possibilities, employ design thinking and prepare for the jobs of tomorrow.

“I’ve always felt things like difference and extra-curricular pursuits weren’t valued in the education system,” reveals Harding. “But BCII is the first degree that I think allows you to operate in your mediums and in your way of learning and respects the diversity of that, rather than trying to quash it.”

“One of the coolest things is that you’re working with all these other kids who want to do this degree and who are from all these different disciplines,” enthuses Harding. “They’re all really into it and have all these diverse skills.”

However, before accepting the offer to undertake her degree, Harding says she was determined to find the same balance between work and study she had experienced in high school.

“I think it’s mutually beneficial if you have open lines of communication,” she explains, “so I got in contact with the Elite Athlete Program, and I said, ‘Hey, I know students can get in as an elite athlete, but is there any chance I could have access to the same support that athletes do?’ And they were like, ‘Yeah, totally!’”

On top of full-time study and acting, Harding has recently founded a feminist collective, Moonlight Feminists, and devotes much of her time to the community in writing and creating podcasts.

She’s also worked as a producer for a third-year MAP student film, produced the stage play The Zoo Story for UTS Backstage, and is working on her own documentary project for the subject Composing the Real.

“There’s this whole career element to uni which is a big emphasis at UTS, and so while I’m doing my study, there’s also this career building idea – so if I’m going to produce or if I’m going to direct in the future, that involves me doing projects, having mentors, doing internships, and having those professional contacts.”

The BCII in particular “is not designed for one particular occupation or career path, its designed to be applicable to any. So you take that unique way of thinking and you implement it in different places.”

Harding acknowledges finishing a double degree alongside acting will be a big achievement, but she’s confident the people she’s met at UTS will keep her going.

“The people I’ve met here, I’m going to work with for the rest of my life, and that’s a really cool feeling.”

Hannah Jenkins
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Liz Ham

View this article at UTS:NEWSROOM
or share it @utsnewsroom
If you teach English as a non-native English speaker, then this book may make you feel like someone finally understands your world. Forman’s observations at a Thai university, albeit now well over 10 years old, challenge the still dominant pedagogical model that English is best delivered by native speakers. His teacher-student dialogue examples illustrate the many benefits that professional, bilingual teachers bring, such as ensuring accuracy, time saving and the cultural translation of Western textbooks. For the majority of the world’s English language learners, English is taught as a foreign language (EFL), like Spanish, and is delivered by teachers who share a common first language with their students. Forman’s detailed analysis of classroom interactions and subsequent interviews with the Thai university English teachers also illustrates how personal identity can be affected when communicating in a different language – how one can feel less (or more) restricted because of the different cultural norms inherent in another language use. Forman challenges our stereotypes and our use of globalised teaching methods based on the assumption that English plays a much greater role in learners’ lives than it actually does in many Asian countries. His review of the relevant literature is particularly comprehensive and current, making it ideal for TESOL students at UTS.

Carol Charman
Student Services Unit

Ross Forman is a Senior Lecturer in UTS’s Language Studies Group. He has been involved in applied linguistics and teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) for the past 25 years and worked as a teacher and trainer in Australia, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand.

Crime is no laughing matter, but when it comes to crime fiction you can take some liberties. Crime Scenes is an anthology of Australian-based crime stories where each author takes you through an interesting web of criminal activities – cheating, arson, revenge and adultery. Andrew Nette’s ‘Postcard From Cambodia’ will have you cheering for the femme fatale. But PM Newton will see you shed a tear for the main character in ‘The Mango Tree’. If you like witty crime stories that leave your mouth open in shock or have you questioning whether some crimes are justifiable or not, then Tony Birch’s ‘Death Star’ is a must-read. Other stories might introduce doubts in your mind about the safety of public spaces – is it a crime if karma decides to punish someone for being dishonest? Well, Peter Corris’ ‘Three-Pan Creek Gift’ had me asking that very question. Sometimes, there are no answers for why crime happens but when it is crime fiction, you can enjoy a few laughs. Take Crime Scenes on your next train or bus journey. It is worth the read.

Daren Maynard
PhD candidate, Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building

PM Newton is a Master of Arts in Writing (Research) graduate. She spent 15 years in the NSW Police Force, with over a decade as a Sydney detective. Her published work includes short stories, critical essays and novels.

The diversity of women’s experiences in Stories in Midwifery: Reflection, inquiry, action present many perspectives of birth services in contemporary Australia. The stories, in the words of women and care providers, are far ranging. They include accounts of homebirth with a privately practicing midwife, births in private and public hospitals, elective caesarean section with a private obstetrician, vaginal birth after caesarean section, vaginal breech birth, emergency caesarean section and services provided in remote communities. The variety demonstrates the complexity of woman-centred care. The choices women make are not simply due to different personalities and personal influences; they are within a framework of services available and advice received. One story describes a woman having twins who chose an elective caesarean section based on advice, from a doctor; that wasn’t evidence-based. The strength of Stories in Midwifery is that it guides readers to evidence-based practice while having respect for women’s stories and their choices. The structure of ‘reflection, inquiry, action’ in relation to each story encourages readers to think critically about the care provided to women making it an excellent learning resource. The book embodies the fundamentals of woman-centred care in midwifery practice.

Patricia Corcoran
Bachelor of Midwifery (Honours) graduate

Christine Catling, Allison Cummins and Rosemarie Hogan are all midwifery academics at UTS. Hogan is the Director of Midwifery Studies and Course Coordinator for the Bachelor of Midwifery, Cummins coordinates the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery and Catling is a widely published researcher whose PhD investigated publicly funded home birth in Australia.

During November, the Co-op Bookshop on Broadway is offering Co-op members a 20 per cent discount on Crime Scenes and Stories in Midwifery: Reflection, inquiry and action reviewed in this issue. Mention U: magazine when you purchase these books in store.
On Tuesday 29 November, the Human Resources Unit is bringing free health checks, massages and smoothies to UTS as part of its Health Expo. The expo aims to educate staff on the link between staying healthy and boosting productivity in the workplace.

"On a normal day, most people might get 10 tasks done, but someone who is not mentally or physically well might end up just doing one," says Health and Wellbeing Partner Anna Dawson.

"It's not just your physical health, it's your psychological health, your emotional health and your financial health too," adds fellow Health and Wellbeing Partner Rhonda O'Sullivan.

She says, “The expo is there to motivate and stimulate you to look at the things that are already happening in your department that you can expand on or to give you an idea of what you can do differently.

“We want to get you to think about what you could be doing to improve your life.”

To do this, the expo will include information stalls, competitions and free, 10-minute, one-on-one consultations with qualified health practitioners. The appointments will offer staff the chance to have their blood pressure, skin and eyes checked, or to have a massage.

It’s a way, say Dawson and O’Sullivan, for individuals, faculties and units to start a conversation about long-term healthy living.

“It’s about awareness and education,” explains Dawson.

“It’s about finishing the year off on a good note but also reminding us, when we do come back to work, that these are some of the things we need to consider and be mindful of.”

For Dawson, personally, the most appealing part of the expo is set to be the smoothie stand which she hopes will not only be a tasty treat on the day but something she can bring back to her office after the event.

“It'll be fun! Maybe it will encourage people in HRU to chip-in to buy fruit and yogurt and we could have a weekly smoothie stand.”

The benefits of healthy living, say Dawson and O’Sullivan, can even extend into home life. “If people are healthy at the workplace then they’re more likely to be healthy at home and in their interactions with their family and partners,” explains Dawson.

“And if you’re in a good state of mind you’re more likely to do your job well and that’s what we’re looking to promote. We want everyone to be fit and positive at work so you’re providing more positive vibes in the workplace.”

To find out more or to register for consultations and health checks, visit uts.ac/2e1ZDR0

Alice Gordon
Bachelor of 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](http://art.uts.edu.au)

**FROM 1**

**PUBLIC LECTURE**

In this age of ‘big data’ the need to better understand how to use digital data has never been greater. Join UTS Science mathematicians Tony Dooley and Stephen Woodcock at the next UTS Science in Focus public lecture as they help us to understand how big data can be better analysed and used to solve real-world problems.

- **6pm**
- **University Hall, building 4, level 3, room 623**
- [scienceinfocus.uts.edu.au](http://scienceinfocus.uts.edu.au)

**SHOPFRONT ANNIVERSARY**

Join Vice-Chancellor Attila Brungs to celebrate Shopfront’s 20th anniversary.

- **Design, Architecture and Building Sculpture Garden, building 6, level 4**
- **5.30pm-7.30pm**
- [shopfront@uts.edu.au](mailto:shopfront@uts.edu.au)

**HEALTH EXPO**

Fancy a massage? Or do you need your skin, eyes or blood pressure checked? Then head online today and book in for a free consultation at the UTS Health Expo for staff. While you’re at the expo, you can even grab a free smoothie, giveaways and tips to help you stay healthy and productive.

- **Building 1, level 22**
- **9am-4pm**
- [uts.ac/2e1ZDR0](http://uts.ac/2e1ZDR0)

Arguably one of Australia’s best-known Aboriginal artists of the 20th century is Albert Namatjira (1902-1959). Namatjira’s distinctive landscape paintings gained him international celebrity in the 1930s and 40s. His fame led to an offer of citizenship for himself and his wife at a time when Aboriginal people had few rights or legal recognition.

More than 50 years after his death, Namatjira’s artistic legacy continues. His children and grandchildren, and those of the other artists associated with the Hermannsburg School (an art movement that began on the Hermannsburg Mission in the 1930s) continue to express their connection to their land through finely painted watercolour landscapes.

Namatjira’s grandniece Vanessa Inkamala is part of this new generation of painters, and took part in a recent project with artists Tony Albert and Timoteus Anggawan Kusno – this year’s recipients of the Kerjasama artists in residency program through Asialink and Artback NT. The paintings produced through this collaboration feature landscapes rendered in the Hermannsburg tradition, but with the addition of text painted in clear varnish. Each artist has chosen powerful words that address issues of health, housing, mining, and copyright – reflecting the extreme social and political issues affecting their community.

In this most recent addition to the UTS Art Collection, the artist (Inkamala) has written the words dialysis, homeless, and diabetes – all issues that have had direct impact on her life and those around her, and all potentially preventable or mitigated through appropriate action. Just as her great-uncle’s artworks contributed to the wider recognition of Aboriginal people, so these most recent works tell the story of the journey made by Indigenous Australians since Namatjira’s time, and how much further we all have to go.

For more information, visit [art.uts.edu.au](http://art.uts.edu.au)

Janet Ollevou
UTS Art

Art & U profiles a piece of work from the UTS Art Collection every issue.
I HAD TO DO IT

In her first solo institutional exhibition, PhD candidate Ella Barclay explores messy network architectures, the power of text as technology, myth making and the internet. *I Had To Do It* is on display in the UTS Gallery until 25 November.