ALL THE SMALL THINGS
Antarctica could reveal how climate change affects the food chain

JUMPING ON THE BANDWIDTH WAGON
What the new Federal Government means for the NBN

LIFE AND DEATH FINANCE
Hypothetical questions teaching students ethics in finance
What aspect of your work do you feel most passionate about?

Students. I am inspired every day by the calibre and passion of our students. I am proud that we are encouraging them to strive for excellence and to make a difference to their local, and global, communities.

A great example is Law student Loki Ball. During his time at UTS, he has volunteered thousands of hours and helped raise over $150,000 in funds and services to support important social justice initiatives. In 2012, in recognition of his work to advance the legal rights and interests of children and young people in Australia, he received a Youth Award as part of the National Children's Law Awards. Recently, our former Chancellor, Sir Gerard Brennan AC KBE, presented Loki with the Brennan Justice and Leadership Award, and our current Chancellor, Professor Vicki Sara AO, has invited Loki to serve on the Social Justice Committee of UTS Council. All this while he has a paid job as an Adviser to Australia's National Children's Commissioner!

Of course, Loki is just one example. We are all surrounded by outstanding students – our elite athletes, Peer Networkers and BU1LD students – who do great work in underprivileged communities overseas. It’s meeting these students, and hearing their stories, that puts a spring in my step every day.

Where do you see UTS heading in the next 25 years?

Performance data shows universities tend to reach their maturity at about 50 years of age; that is, their relative performance ranking does not really improve beyond that point. So we certainly need to be a world-leading university by then!

Thankfully, you don’t need to be a fortune teller to predict that UTS will continue its upward trajectory. We are already recognised as leaders in areas such as data analytics and quantum software, assistive robotics, and plant functionality and climate change. One hundred per cent of our broad areas of research are rated as world-class (we are one of only eight universities in Australia to boast this achievement!).

In international rankings, we are rated in the top one per cent of universities in the world, and in the QS rankings we are rated fourth in the world for universities aged 25 years or less. The challenge is to raise our performance even higher, and I have no doubt that we can do it.

It is impossible to predict what technologies or even jobs will exist in 2038. But I have no doubt that our model of learning will be world’s best, combining the best of technology-delivered content with face-to-face emphasis on analytic skills and graduate attributes valued by employers. Equally, our high-impact research will be world-leading in a large number of areas; we will enjoy major partnerships with domestic and international industries and universities; and we will lead our precinct to be Australia’s creativity hub.

Tony Abbott recently announced only one female minister, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, will be appointed to Cabinet. How will this impact the gender equity debate and Australia as a whole?

Watching the presentation of the new Cabinet on TV with my two daughters, and having talked about the importance of this group of leaders we elected beforehand, I struggled to explain to them why there were almost no women there. I wanted to present this outcome in a non-controversial way, but just couldn’t find any explanations that might seem plausible to the mind of a bright child. Just ended up saying that some politicians think women can’t make good leaders ... didn’t know whether to laugh or cry, as it seemed ludicrous even to my nine-year-olds.

Marco Angelini

Abbott’s choice of Cabinet is not based on gender, but rather on qualifications for the job. To use the statement there are no women in politics would then have to be used across all professions. No one questions the Spielbergs, Bays, Scotts or Camerons of the movie world because they are the best at what they do. Gillard’s performance as PM shows why there needs to be more men in federal politics and not vice versa.

Luke Portelli

I thought Annabel Crabb made a good point about this in a recent editorial. It’s not just a problem with political parties, it’s a cultural and social issue. The onus of baby minding and child rearing still falls largely on women, so it’s difficult for women to hold senior political positions where they are away much of the year and have a family.

Kate D
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NEXT ISSUE:
This is the last issue for 2013. The next issue will be released on 3 March 2014.

Send your story ideas, opinions, events to u@uts.edu.au.
Deadline for submissions for the March issue is Friday 31 January 2014.

All U: articles are available to read online via newsroom.uts.edu.au.
Seven faculties, 18 combined bachelor’s degrees. The UTS Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation (BCII) has arrived. It’s just one of a few new UTS degrees on offer from 2014, though it’s one with a difference.

“This isn’t just another new course; this is a massive university push in a whole new direction that stretches across seven faculties,” explains Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) in the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building (DAB) Louise McWhinnie.

“We don’t expect students to master 18 fields, but we expect them to understand how to communicate and work with people across them.”

McWhinnie and Director of the Designing Out Crime Research Centre Kees Dorst are just two in the cross-faculty team launching the distinct new course. They say it is a deliberate attempt to create a wave of curious and agile-thinking graduates who can combine patterns of thinking across different fields. “We call these people T-shaped professionals,” says Dorst. “Having depth in one field of their core degree, and a wide range of innovative practices from all UTS disciplines at their disposal.”

Dorst says both students and staff will be required to think outside the box and step out of their normal practices to approach the coursework. “It’s going to be quite a roller coaster ride for the students; they’re going to get so much thrown at them.”

The accelerated combined degree won’t suit everybody. Winter and summer school sessions will allow students to acquire two degrees in only one year more than their core degree.

The BCII degree has also caught the attention of industry partners. “They’ve said they need these kinds of innovative-thinking graduates within their organisations,” says McWhinnie. “It’s amazing how many national and international companies, some quite global, are actually setting up innovation departments.”

Another new degree meeting industry demand is the Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Digital and Social Media).

“Organisations need to respond to changes in the communications landscape,” says Associate Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Elaine Lally. “We’re seeing rapid growth in roles for digital communications specialists who understand this changing landscape and how to operate to create communications strategies across multiple channels and platforms, especially mobile and social media.”

The digital and social media major will suit those who want to work as professional communicators and those excited by the fast-changing communications and multi-media landscape.

“The new major will have a strong focus on professional readiness and engagement with current issues within communications and cultural industries,” says Lally. “The future is digital, multi-platform and fundamentally social.”

Students motivated by sustainability and those who want to make a positive impact on our future built environment will benefit from DAB’s new Bachelor of Design in Landscape degree. It will cross knowledge of plants, ecology, hydrology and spatial design with that of urban environments.

“There is a distinctive market for an urban-focused landscape degree,” says Dean of DAB Desley Luscombe. “One that looks at the rehabilitation of previously built-on sites, new forms of urban landscape such as green walls, and landscapes that mix exterior spaces with interior ones. These issues are not addressed currently in the Sydney region.

“This new degree will take advantage of its connections with the bachelor of architecture and other degrees in DAB to broaden our students’ thinking, so they can really determine new directions for spaces within urban environments.”

Katia Sanfilippo
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Joshua Morgan

Comment on this article at UTS:NEWSROOM newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/11/new-frontiers
Nearly 25 years ago, the distinguished graphic designer Harry Williamson was commissioned to develop a new UTS logo.

Williamson – also known for designing the provocative $10 Bicentennial note with an anonymous Aboriginal man on one side, and images of the First Fleet and scenes from modern history on the other – created a logo with the acronym ‘UTS’ and a shield emblem. It was officially endorsed by Council in 1992.

Along with the presence of the iconic Tower, this logo for Sydney’s newest city university was one where three letters alone distinguished it from its more traditional counterparts.

However, 1999 saw the birth of a comprehensive brand design strategy following extensive market research on the position of the young and coming-of-age university in the tertiary sector. As part of this strategy, a new logo was developed for publications and promotional material with the university’s full name embedded next to the original shield emblem.

Now, with the UTS acronym more recognisable than ever, the logo is evolving once again; this time in an ode to its original form.

“People refer to the university as ‘UTS’ now – we’re at the stage where the acronym is recognisable on its own. The Vice-Chancellor wanted to bring the logo in line with that,” explains Lead Designer in the Marketing and Communication Unit (MCU) Shahnam Roshan.

Roshan, who is leading the rollout of the new logo across all university collateral and branding, says the process has been more of an evolution than a complete redesign.

“We’re keeping in with the brand that we have but evolving it and making it more fresh. The shield emblem has been carried over and the acronym designed using the house typeface DIN, the university’s official promotional font and an extension of the UTS visual identity.”

The history of the Williamson-designed emblem, which incorporates three components, is significant in itself. The anchor – drawn from the City of Sydney’s coat of arms – reinforces UTS’s close links with government, commerce and industry. The base of the anchor forms one of the spirals of the double helix in a representation of a DNA molecule, a reflection of the innovative and technological character of UTS. Finally, the wave motif at the base of the emblem symbolises the maritime position of Sydney city.

Roshan says the update of the UTS logo reflects the evolution of the university as it strengthens its position in the tertiary sector as an innovative and forward-thinking institution.

“The logo is clean and has quite a dynamic feel about it while still being minimal. UTS has always been edgy and it’s always had a contemporary, modern feel about it in general. This new logo will actually push that attitude and branding even further.”

MCU have already started upgrading materials such as Word and PowerPoint templates, which can be downloaded from the MCU website. Stationery and advertising campaigns have also taken on the new logo, with the rollout due to be finished by June 2014.

“All our postgraduate material has the new logo on it and our undergraduate material will be rolled out next year. We don’t want existing printed collateral to go to waste so we’ll keep using it. But for anything that needs to be reprinted, we’ll use the new logo,” says Roshan, adding that while it’s been a large task, the process has been smooth. “People have been very receptive.”

Katia Sanfilippo
Marketing and Communication Unit
JUMPING ON THE BAND(WIDTH) WAGON
The Coalition campaigned on developing a national broadband network (NBN) that is ‘fast’, ‘affordable’ and rolled out ‘sooner’ than the Labor Party’s. But, with the Coalition recently taking power, what does that actually mean? Professor of Telecommunications Engineering Robin Braun explains how our politicians’ choice will impact Australia.

The change in government means a fundamental shift in attitude to broadband. You would be probably a political neophyte for this to have passed you by. On the one hand, we have a Labor policy that sees symmetrical high bandwidth coming to each home, while on the other; we have the Coalition’s asymmetrical lower bandwidth being delivered to each home.

Symmetrical bandwidth means approximately equal upload and download data rates, while asymmetrical would see much lower upload data rates than download data rates.

Why is this important, and why should we bother to debate it? We need to start with the fundamentals of what this bandwidth does for us.

It’s all about how we move information. Before the age of electronic communications we moved information by moving a physical object. This may have been a person who relayed the information, or perhaps a letter with the information encoded onto it. Electronics enables us to move information without needing a physical carrier. This is perhaps the most profound change of our age.

It all started with the era of the telephone. Since then, the history has been one of a swinging pendulum, or changing bandwidths. Early systems were low bandwidth; individual to individual. These were exemplified by the telephone and the telegraph where the rate of information flow was symmetrical back and forth between the users.

Next was the broadcasting era. This was characterised by information flow from a server to many individuals. There was no return link from the individuals back to the server, and hence zero upload bandwidth. User equipment was simple; it had no computing power, and could be mass produced. Users simply accepted what information was delivered to them.

This was followed by the internet era. It was enabled by freely available computing power for the individual. This allowed the individual to communicate back to the server.

The Internet is a misnomer that relentlessly cascades through our politics. It is actually a set of services that is enabled by a communications infrastructure and the computing power available freely to us. It is not that communications infrastructure itself, although it is often thought of as such in our political discourse.

That infrastructure is characterised by high bandwidth delivering content to the individual and low bandwidth delivering requests for that content from the individual to the server. These services are largely a kind of interactive broadcasting.

The next era will be that of rich interactivity. The pendulum is rapidly swinging back to more symmetrical information flow. It is moving away from the broadcasting paradigm to one where individual users will deliver as much content as they receive. The post-internet era is rapidly approaching.

What does all this have to do with a change of government? In essence, the symmetrical bandwidth NBN of the previous government addresses the post-internet era, while the fibre-to-the-node solution of the current government only addresses the current internet era. The new government has shown little evidence that it understands this distinction.

Having said this, it’s my feeling that what eventually transpires will not be quite so black and white. In the long term, I believe the reality that fibre-to-the-home is the best and cheapest solution, will enter the thinking of the Coalition Government. If only they will find the political courage to admit it.

Just as building a fibre-to-the-premises solution has proven to be challenging, so too will making a fibre-to-the-node solution work. For example, it has been estimated there will be 60,000 or more ‘nodes’ scattered around our streets and suburbs. Each of these will have active and complex electronic devices in them, drawing power. These devices would need maintenance and care.

Tongue-in-cheek, we may need to build a new power station just to power these devices. On the other hand, a fibre-to-the-premises solution would only use passive electronic devices in its hubs and switches requiring no additional power and minimal maintenance.

Already it seems the Coalition is ‘changing its tune’ on the NBN. In a recent statement the Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull indicated the rollout of fibre-to-the-premises will continue until a review of the NBN is completed. Informed opinion would suggest that such a review will be negative about how NBN Co has operated, as opposed to what NBN Co is building. No doubt there will be some ‘tinkering’ on what is actually rolled out. Perhaps some changes to the number and use of the ports in the premises, with very inexpensive upgrade paths in the future.

In another ‘softening’ Turnbull said, “For example, this will allow NBN Co to trial the latest VDSL technology to deliver superfast broadband to homes and businesses in multi-dwelling units, such as apartment and office blocks’. This is certainly a more appropriate use of VDSL, or very high bit-rate digital subscriber line, than applying it to weather-exposed copper access systems in the street. However, it is still not symmetrical bandwidth.

It seems clear to me that we will ultimately get fibre-to-the-premises. However, the political dust needs to settle and the Coalition needs to find a way to backtrack on some of its rhetoric without losing political face. This cannot come soon enough, as many countries around the world are ahead of us, and still more are snapping at our heels.

Robin Braun
Professor of Telecommunications Engineering
Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology
Photographer (R Braun): Katia Sanfilippo
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UTS:NEWSROOM
It’s not often you hear about torture helping achieve good student outcomes. However, when it comes to ethics in finance, hypothetical questions about controversial issues are forcing students to uncover their own ethical boundaries and understand how their beliefs and biases will impact their workplace performance.

Is it okay to torture someone if it’s the only way to save the lives of others? What if that person is your mother?

These aren’t the questions you’d normally expect to encounter in a finance degree, but Gerhard Hambusch admits his teaching style is “a little bit non-traditional”. Since 2009, the former private equity analyst has been the subject coordinator of Ethics in Finance – a final-year elective taught in the UTS Business School.

“It’s all about conflicts of interest,” explains Hambusch. “It’s hands on, but it’s not rocket science.”

What it is, he says, is the application of “ancient – my students sometimes say ‘dusty’ – philosophy” (think Aristotle, Kantian ethics, Utilitarianism) to today’s financial markets. For Hambusch, it’s a chance to get students thinking about their decisions before they get into the workplace, or get into trouble like those accused investment managers and financial planners in the Trio Capital scandal – one of Australia’s biggest cases of superannuation fraud.

Hambusch says, “I don’t want to challenge beliefs, I want to disrupt beliefs. I want to make people really uncomfortable.”
Key to this intentional discomfort are case studies, the use of ‘clickers’ and what Hambusch calls his “ethics warm up” – a series of hypothetical questions that challenge students to consider their own, and their peers’, ethical boundaries.

From their first class, students are asked to anonymously answer somewhat-easy questions about whether they lie and cheat, as well as tougher questions about what conduct is tolerable to save lives.

What does that have to do with finance? “It’s the context of decision making,” explains Hambusch. “Everyone has a high-level opinion on what is right and wrong, but thinking about human lives being at stake brings it down to a very different level.

“It also makes students more aware when we then transfer it to finance – can you sell grandma a high-commission financial product that does not serve her best interest? What if grandma is dying?”

Earlier this year, in recognition of his work, Hambusch received an Australian Government’s Office for Learning and Teaching Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning.

According to former student, now Merger and Acquisition Analyst at JP Morgan, Alex Pickford, Ethics in Finance is unlike any other business subject. “It truly was a steep learning curve – you have to answer the question for yourself, as opposed to just listening to another student answer the lecturer’s question. It really made me engage my thoughts.

“Gerhard believes in what he is teaching and really wants us to learn for ourselves. He’s a facilitator, someone who guides you to the answer as opposed to just giving it to you.”

While Hambusch is the first to admit his class “doesn’t make better people”, it does “allow them to understand their own thinking – Am I a Kantian guy or am I a Utilitarian guy, or maybe both dependent on the context? What drives my decision making and does it comply with my own and my organisation’s ethical standards?”

“The long-term benefit seems to be that you can, hopefully, do financial business ethically and can therefore be trusted. Trust is the key issue.”

To make sure students’ learning goals and expectations are on track, Hambusch conducts two voluntary and anonymous surveys. The first, at the start of semester, aims to find out why students chose the subject, what they expect from it, what they have liked and disliked about other UTS subjects and where they want to work upon graduation.

Some students, says Hambusch, reveal they enrolled in the subject because they believe it’s an ‘easy pass’. The reality is, “It’s not an easy subject and many of these students learn this by not passing the mid-semester exam.”

To finetune the subject, and give students the best chance to improve their marks in the second assessment, Hambusch holds his second survey just after the mid-semester exam.

His reasoning is simple. “This cannot be a subject where people just enrol and get away with murder. They need to show they can handle ethical theory, frameworks and the application to real-world ethical dilemmas. ‘How do I identify conflicts of interest and how can I best manage these? How can I serve and protect my client’s best interests? What are my client obligations if I work in a financial firm’s support role? What are the implications of doing the right thing for my career?’”

Of course it’s not all serious. Hambusch says, “I try to make every seminar as fun as I can to start with so everybody warms up and the class becomes more of a friendly discussion.”

To do this, the academic channels his inner DJ, arriving early to play some of his favourite tunes or excerpts from the BBC’s documentary series about the global financial crisis, The City Uncovered.

“This makes it easier to start a seminar,” says Hambusch. “There’s always some kind of noise in the classroom, but when I stop the music or video everybody knows we are ready to start.”

He’ll also hit play during the class’s half-time break. Pickford says, “It always had me thinking about the topics in class, for example, even during a five-minute break I could be watching a documentary on the collapse of Lehman Brothers instead of talking to the person next to me or messaging on my phone.”

“Network, though, does have its place. Each semester, Hambusch – who is also the UTS Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Program Partner Director – holds the UTS Ethics in Finance Panel Discussion where he invites up to five senior financial professionals, who are also CFA charterholders and CFA Institute members, to talk about the relevance of ethics in finance.

“I DON’T WANT TO CHALLENGE BELIEFS, I WANT TO DISRUPT BELIEFS. I WANT TO MAKE PEOPLE REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE.”

“The CFA Program is probably the most highly regarded professional designation in investment management in the world. It’s a graduate-level, self-study program and to earn a CFA charter candidates must pass three exams and have four years of qualifying investment work experience. Very few people who ever start it will become CFA charterholders,” says Hambusch.

He should know; Hambusch is one of only a few academics who are members of the CFA Institute and CFA Society of Sydney.

“Being a CFA charterholder allows me to continue to be industry compatible and I think that’s important when teaching and researching in a world-leading business school like UTS.

“Every semester, my students are stepping out of my seminar and into a very competitive job market. I know how that feels.”

Fiona Livy
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Andrew Worssam

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UTS:NEWSROOM
“WITHOUT MARINE PHYTOPLANKTON, FISH, WHALES, DOLPHINS, SEABIRDS - AND JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE THAT MAKES A LIVING IN OR OFF THE OCEANS - COULD NOT SURVIVE.”

All the small things
For most people, Antarctica is the final frontier. Then there’s Katherina Petrou. The Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Fellow is preparing to embark on a nine-week journey that aims to better understand how climate change and rising carbon dioxide levels will affect our food chain.

It may come as a surprise, but 50 per cent of the Earth’s oxygen is generated by microscopic plants that live in the ocean. Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Plant Functional Biology and Climate Change Group (C3) Katherina Petrou is seeking to understand these tiny organisms, and the role they play in the health of our oceans.

Petrou’s main area of research is marine plant physiology, or as she likes to put it, “anything that photosynthesises in the ocean”. These small organisms, whilst small in size, play a colossal role in all life on Earth.

“Marine phytoplankton contribute half of the oxygen we breathe and form the basis of our marine food webs. Without marine phytoplankton, fish, whales, dolphins and seabirds—all about everything else that makes a living in or off the oceans—could not survive.”

Next month, Petrou will embark on nine weeks in Antarctica with UTS Honour student Cristin Sheehan. Together they will join researchers from the Australian Antarctic Division at Davis—Australia’s largest scientific research station in Antarctica. It is also one of the busiest—up to 120 people are expected there this summer.

In addition to their research, Petrou and Sheehan will be contributing to the day-to-day running of the facility. All scientists and expeditioners are rostered on for cooking, cleaning and other duties,” says Petrou. “While the focus is on our research, we will all be banding together to keep the place in check. It’s a genuine community environment.”

During their nine weeks on base, Petrou and Sheehan will investigate the impacts of ocean acidification on the Antarctic marine microbial communities. The research team will sample coastal Antarctic sea water, incubate the samples in large 650-litre containers, exposing them to varying levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂).

These large containers, known as minicosms, are designed to mimic an oceanic environment under controlled conditions. The aim of the research is to ascertain how the phytoplankton community will react to higher CO₂ levels.

“There is no doubt that carbon dioxide in our atmosphere is increasing,” says Petrou. “My experiment will seek to understand the effects this will have on the microbes that live in the Antarctic marine environment. We will test these with current CO₂ levels, and then with two, three and four times the current atmospheric levels to simulate the projected scenarios for the end of this century.

“How will they respond? What impact will this have on the ecosystem? These are all very important questions that affect life on our planet.”

When it comes to ocean acidification and Earth’s changing climate, Petrou says Antarctica’s marine ecosystem is among the most vulnerable. That’s why it’s the perfect location for conducting these types of experiments. She says, just a few degrees can profoundly affect the productivity of food webs, ocean chemistry, climate systems and life around the planet.

But that’s not the only reason why Antarctica is important. “In Antarctica, there is abundant wildlife living in an environment where most things cannot survive,” she says.

“This place has such an extreme seasonal environment—in winter, you have complete darkness for six months of the year, followed by this frantic summer, where everything flourishes and races to take advantage of the available light, supporting the entire food web for the rest of the year.

“The flexibility of these organisms to grow and change in such conditions makes them so fascinating to study.”

Petrou’s trip is part of a three-year, Australian Government-funded project into the effects of ocean acidification on the Antarctic marine ecosystem. The next stage of this research will take place in the summer of 2015, when Petrou will return to Antarctica to conduct another set of minicosm ocean acidification experiments on board the RV Aurora Australis—Australia’s only sea-ice adventuring research vessel.

Watching friends and family turn green with envy when they learn of Petrou’s travels are commonplace for the 34-year-old environmental scientist. After jokes of cuddling penguins and riding whales are put aside, Petrou reveals her real motivation to return to the coldest, driest and windiest continent on Earth.

“It all comes down to the importance of phytoplankton in this world. For me, phytoplankton are our linking organism between the physical, chemical and biological world. Small as they might be, these tiny creatures are the solar powered engines that drive our whole oceanic environment.”

Elizabeth Kuo
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographs supplied by: Katherina Petrou

Comment on this article at
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2013/11/all-the-small-things
Teraesa Ashworth is no stranger to moving. Since starting at the City campus in 1991, she has worked in a number of departments and buildings. In 2002, she was involved in moving the Faculty of Information Technology (as it was then called) from building 4 to building 10.

It’s no surprise then that Ashworth, School Administration Officer for the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology’s (FEIT) School of Software, has been nominated as one of 20 ‘move champions’ helping the faculty relocate into the new Broadway building early next year.

While the title ‘move champion’ conjures up images of cape-wearing super humans, Ashworth describes the role in more modest terms.

“I’m the relocation go-to person for the 32 people in my school. I’m responsible for passing information onto staff from faculty management and UTS’s relocation consultants MovePlan, as well as providing MovePlan with information from staff,” she says.

“I know this place inside out, which I didn’t when I first helped the faculty move into building 10, so it’s easier to coordinate and engage staff this time around. But this move is a lot bigger and will involve a lot more work as we get closer.”

2014 will see three new buildings open. FEIT will be the first cab off the rank, with the faculty’s 850 staff and research students moving between April and July. Following that, staff from the UTS Business School, Faculty of Science and Graduate School of Health will move into their respective new homes – the Dr Chau Chak Wing building and Thomas Street building – in time for teaching to start in 2015.

For FEIT, communication about the move officially kicked off with a faculty town hall meeting in July which Ashworth says, was “very beneficial”.

“Since then, I’ve also sent out a number of emails and put posters up about our clear-out drives.”

The biggest challenge has been getting people to start cleaning out their offices.

“People underestimate how many things they have and this tends to be at the bottom of the priority list, especially as the move still seems so far away. But we’re encouraging everyone to do a little bit each week to avoid the mad panic at the end.”

In an effort to reduce the number of books staff have in their offices, the School of Software has also launched a weekly book giveaway for students.

“This initiative is working well,” says Ashworth. “Students love it and academics like knowing their books are going to a good home.”

Ashworth is also happy to be working closely with MovePlan to minimise the impact of the move on staff.

“We know people are time poor and concerned about the disruption, particularly on teaching. We’re doing our best to accommodate everyone’s needs, including scheduling office clear-outs during the semester break,” says Ashworth. “Keeping staff regularly updated has meant we’ve alleviated a lot of anxiety.”

The next step though, “is letting everyone know where they are going to sit. Each school and department has been allocated an area and they will ultimately be in charge of who goes where. This is when the move will become real for a lot of people.

“Moving into the new building will also bring our whole faculty together under the one roof for the first time. It’s all very exciting.”

Celia Britton
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Andrew Worssam
Social inquiry/law graduate Reynato Reodica believes if you do something you love, you will never work a day in your life. If this is the case, he has found not only a career but a passion.

For Reodica, it all began in childhood. His working class upbringing in Doonside in Sydney’s western suburbs saw the youth advocate regularly witness young people’s disengagement with the education and employment systems. It’s an experience that would later become the cornerstone of his career.

“Seeing different people in the community, particularly young people, struggling to have their basic needs met was really something that started to get under my skin,” says Reodica.

Then, aged only 17, Reodica realised, “I was in a somewhat privileged position.”

A year later, he decided to take on a leadership role in the Blacktown Council Youth Advisory Sub-Committee. “The invitation came from the council’s youth development officer. I had worked with them as a member of the Public Space Youth Committee, developing a protocol for young people using the local shopping centre. They appreciated my contributions and invited me onto their committee.” It was Reodica’s first foray into youth advocacy.

Fast forward 12 years and Reodica has sat on the NSW Government Youth Advisory Council, the NSW Child Protection Advisory Group, and has been Chairperson, and later Chief Executive, of the Youth Action and Policy Association.

He says, it’s all about trying to find the best way to “make sure young people’s voices are heard in decision making processes”.

His current work as the Deputy Director of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) is centred on just that.

“One of the fundamental points of the organisation is around young people’s participation in decision making processes that they are interested in and affect their lives.

“It’s really interesting and important because so many decisions are made without that one key stakeholder – the people who it actually affects in the most real way.”

For example, says Reodica, “School education reforms are decided without hearing from students, licensing laws change without discussing impacts on young drivers and their families, and job services are reviewed without understanding the real challenges faced by young jobseekers.”

Reodica though, is making a difference; his research and recommendations have been used to guide the policy decisions of many ministers. At the last state election, he was able to secure bipartisan commitments for changes to young driver laws in NSW. Last year, he also supported a young jobseeker, who had disengaged from education, sit on a panel beside the Federal Minister for Youth and talk about her struggles and “getting lost in the system”.

It’s an astounding achievement for any 30-year-old and it’s one of the reasons why Reodica’s been selected as the Young Alumni Award winner in this year’s UTS Alumni Awards.

“My experiences within the university and during my extra curricular activities have really built this amazing career.

“It’s really fitting that I’m getting this award. It’s not about me doing some really cool stuff, it’s a true reflection of the opportunities a degree at UTS can bring.”

Siobhan Kenna
Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism)/International Studies
Photographer: Andrew Worssam

Comment on this article at
UTS:NEWSROOM
In 1982, Robbie Geyer gained a Graduate Diploma in Clinical Biochemistry from UTS’s antecedent body, the NSW Institute of Technology (NSWIT). Last year, his son Ben graduated from UTS with a Bachelor of Property Economics (Honours). They reveal why they chose each institution and what it’s meant for their careers.

ROBBIE GEYER
I gained my first degree in science with honours at Sydney University in 1976, and shortly after that I started working in the Health Department of NSW as an analytical chemist. Being married to a doctor, I became interested in the types of tests doctors would request from hospital laboratories particularly in the biochemistry area.

So, I decided to do a two-year Graduate Diploma in Clinical Biochemistry, which at that time was offered by NSWIT. I remember it being a similar time that Agnes, my wife, was studying to get her fellowship, so I was doing the course in sympathy with her! This graduate course wasn’t offered by any other university and was run after hours in the evening at Gore Hill. There’s a building there on the corner of the highway just opposite the cemetery, and they had all the practical stuff and the lectures there.

I gained a Graduate Diploma in Clinical Biochemistry from NSWIT in 1982 whilst I was working at the Health Department Scientific Laboratories at Lidcombe. I never got to use what I learnt at NSWIT until about 10 years later when I changed jobs; I was working in the occupational health and safety (OHS) area managing the Chemical Analysis Branch at WorkCover NSW. I used to liaise extensively with medical practitioners who were requesting tests from our laboratory.

The clinical biochemistry gave me a much better background to be able to have meaningful conversations with the doctors. It’s a little bit like being a tourist – you can have a good time in Italy and not know a word of Italian, but if you go to Italy and learn Italian, you’re going to learn a lot more. One of the strengths of UTS is that they’re strongly allied with industry and the workplace via a practical approach.

During my last three years of work – I retired in 2011 – I was Director of TestSafe, which is a part of WorkCover NSW. It’s where scientists and engineers perform a range of tests in the OHS area. In early 2013 I was awarded a Public Service Medal for my outstanding service in developing the Chemical Analysis Branch of TestSafe. I never dreamed that I could get something like that.
I enrolled in architecture at UTS after high school, but during the course of my gap year, I decided architecture wasn’t quite right for me. I’d heard good things from a couple of people about property economics at UTS. From what I understood at the time, it was a fairly unique degree with only a relatively small number of students enrolled and the course work being regarded as a bit of a niche area. Also, there was only one other university that was offering a similar course.

In 2008, I enrolled in the property economics degree. It took me four years to complete and I ended up being awarded a First Class Honours degree which gave me the opportunity to complete a research project and write a thesis. I also had the opportunity during my honours year to act out a full-on moot court case for our property law subject where we went to the land and environment court and played out the case with another university in front of three court judges.

UTS has a lot of mature age students which is a huge strength; to be able to mix with people who do have some sort of industry experience. Students are coming from all different walks of life as opposed to a pool of a few hundred kids who have all come straight from school.

At the end of 2011 I took half a year off to do some travelling overseas; through Asia and to Israel. I graduated the following year, and as of October 2012, I’ve been working as a graduate valuer with the international property organisation Jones Lang LaSalle. I do a lot of residential development valuations. I look at a lot of architectural plans, speak with many property developers and assist my organisation to come up with realistic valuations for many different types of properties.

I think both my father and I agree that UTS provides a very practical environment. UTS has always been a place where the lecturers and staff have lots of industry experience and excellent links to industry and the workplace, and this is something we have both benefitted from in our careers.

Are you a graduate of NSWIT or another of UTS’s antecedent institutions? Find out more about the UTS: Origins Project or register to join the UTS Alumni community at alumni.uts.edu.au/origins.
If you were going to shoot your very first documentary, would you self-fund a trip to the Middle East? What about entering a militarised conflict zone and risk being confronted by guns, protests and interrogations from Israeli police?

Chantell Basiacik, together with crew members Alastair Wharton and Jack McAvoy, did. The final-year media arts and production and international studies student was the director and producer of *Not My Place*, a 22-minute documentary exploring the lives of Israeli and Palestinian youths living amid the ongoing Middle East conflict.

Basiacik says, “As a young Australian, who has never had an attack on her civil liberties, I went over there to try and make sense of the conflict from the point of view of fellow young people. I wanted to understand what their lives as young men and women were like in comparison to my own. After all, being young is a universal experience with changes, urges, hopes and dreams. But, how is that experience shaped for someone who has grown up under constant chaos? What do they foresee for their futures? How do they see themselves? That’s what we were trying to get at, as well as trying to comprehend the extent of the issue.”

Originally filmed as a linear documentary, Basiacik – with fellow students and collaborators Jonathan Andrew, Alexandria Burnie and Jemma Nicoll – adapted the film for the online medium after undertaking the communication subject Online Documentary. The project integrated interactive mapping and social media tools with interview, biographies and historical information to create an online interactive media space that sheds light on the lives and thoughts of the youths embroiled in the machinations of the conflict.

It also won the team the 2013 UTS Golden Eye Award for Best Collaborative New Media Project. Now, the 22-minute linear version is in line for a nod of its own. *Not My Place* has been nominated as a finalist in the Best Tertiary Documentary category at this month’s ATOM Awards.

While Basiacik says the current acclaim is “a wonderful achievement” for her and her crew, it’s a far cry from the film’s development phase in 2010.

“The project arose out of political debates and discussions I had with various people in my life and from following the conflict over recent years, particularly after the atrocities of the Gaza War and Operation Cast Lead in early 2009,” says Basiacik.

“I had continually heard people say, 'There shall never be peace in the Middle East’ and I wanted to know why. Why, in particular, was the Israeli-Palestinian conflict so inextricably never-ending in the eyes of so many?”

After purchasing the equipment and pre-arranging several interviews through contacts she had cultivated in the region, Basiacik and her crew flew to Jordan in July 2011. From there, they crossed the border into Israel and began filming.

She describes the one-month process as “a fairly turbulent experience due to the nature of guerilla filmmaking”. One week into filming they were stopped at a Jerusalem military checkpoint, searched and taken to a local police station, where Basiacik was interrogated about her activity in the country. Weeks later, in the volatile city of Hebron, five soldiers pointed their guns at them after an interaction with an Israeli settler property.

However, it’s these experiences that have driven Basiacik, an avid film-lover since the age of five, towards the nitty-gritty of non-fiction documentary. “Those interests have really flourished since making *Not My Place*. I enjoy delving into the diverse realities of interviewees. That’s definitely where I want to head now,” she says.
Moving Among Strangers is a deeply personal account of twin quests sparked by the death of Carey’s mother: one to learn more about her parents and family history; the other delves into the life and literary work of Randolph Stow. Stow was a lifelong friend and correspondent of Carey’s mother, and a literary mentor to Carey. He died soon after Carey’s mother, extinguishing her hopes that through him she might better understand her “secretive” parent. Consequently, she set out to bridge some of the great gaps and silences in her family, and the public understanding of Stow. Carey writes with an unflinching gaze and unwavering insight about the personal – family, acceptance, mortality – as well as historical, intellectual and spiritual issues in relation to the Australian psyche. Her exquisite, spare prose conveys a tenderness and longing devoid of sentimentality. Much exquisite, spare prose conveys a tenderness

What exactly do historians do? If you thought they just wrote about the past, then you’re only half right. As the title to Australian History Now suggests, history is as much about the present as it is about the past. To this end, Anna Clark and Paul Ashton’s edited collection of essays provides a timely and revealing ‘state of play’. Australian History Now features 17 essays by Australia’s leading and pioneering historians. They traverse a broad field – from the local to the global – to underscore the dynamic ways history connects the past with the present. This is shown to be a challenging task – finding a commercially viable market for one’s research and the hostility faced by historians during ‘history wars’ of the Howard-era, for example, reveal the impact of contemporary issues and debates on historical practice. The essays also identify the new ways of looking at the past; and, while they generally focus on the theoretical and methodological advances that are enriching contemporary historical practice, they also reveal the exciting ways technology has offered new perspectives and opportunities to historians. As Alan Atkinson’s contribution succinctly concludes, this combination means history’s future “is wide open for even better things”.

Robert Crawford
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Sharp, yet subtle wit. Tragic humour. Comfortable familiarity. Beautiful, terrible, raw humanity. Debra Adelaide’s most recent collection of short stories, Letter to George Clooney, includes a balance of all of the above. For readers of short fiction who want to be hooked by the story immediately and irrevocably, this collection requires more patience. But, if intrigue is enough to hold your attention, readers will be rewarded. In Letter to George Clooney, characters maintain a certain amount of anonymity as the focus remains on the intricate and original settings and scenarios that, in a way, act as characters themselves. These settings are the scaffold to which Adelaide brings an authentic Australian-ism that makes these stories ever so real – there are the trials of dating and intimacy in ‘Chance’, the enticement of interacting with perfect strangers in ‘The Moon Will Do’, and the enduring idiosyncrasies of family in ‘The Form of Solemnisation of Matrimony’. Adelaide adds the ‘extra’ to the ordinary with poignant one-liners that force smiles onto readers’ faces and puts lumps in their throats. There is no question as to why the final story shares its title with the collection as a whole. It is the pinnacle, in which the meaning of the story truly exceeds the mundane.

Debra Adelaide is the author of several novels, including The Household Guide to Dying, which was sold around the world. She is also an Associate Professor in UTS’s Creative Practices Group.
November – the month of the year where the curse (or blessing) of upper lip hair is grown, groomed, styled and worn with pride and conviction.

Thanks to Movember, since 2003, moustaches and awareness of men’s health have been on the rise. Last year alone 1.1 million mos were registered, $141.5 million raised and 2.7 billion conversations circulated – all on a world stage.

These figures have largely been attributed to mass workplace participation. And, for the last six years, UTS has been actively involved in the movement.

Safety and Wellbeing Coordinator David Lloyd-Jones is one of the driving forces behind UTS’s involvement. “We’re encouraging all staff to get involved in Movember 2013,” says Lloyd-Jones.

“Anyone can register – staff, students, men and women. Money raised will fund education programs, mental health awareness, living with cancer, and prostate cancer research.”

Director of the Institute for Sustainable Futures Stuart White has been a long-serving supporter of Movember. This year he’s opted to forgo the mo and focus on getting others to sign up to the cause.

“When I was younger I used to smoke, but gave up after a few years,” says White. “I’m pleased that the risk of negative health impacts has now dropped to almost the same level as someone who has never smoked. It just reinforces the fact that it’s never too late to start looking after yourself.

“I cycle to work every day and feel better for it,” adds White. “Regular exercise, regular check-ups, eating well, reducing meat and dairy products in your diet, drinking only in moderation and finding some form of relaxation can really help to improve health outcomes for men.”

The hairy truth is Australian men have a shorter life expectancy than women, and a greater risk of obesity, depression, alcoholism, accidents and cancer.

While Movember is this month’s focus, healthy living is a cause the university is keen to support year-round through the UTS Wellbeing Program. Lloyd-Jones says, “We aim to help staff achieve improvements in physical and emotional health both at work and at home.”

During men’s health week in June the Human Resources Unit, which runs the Wellbeing Program, produced a brief video where male staff, wearing faux moustaches, advocated for men’s health.

“It was heartening to see some prominent, well-regarded UTS blokes encourage our men to see their doctor for a health check,” says Lloyd-Jones.

White was one of those featured. “I think UTS staff can provide a great example within the community by highlighting the issues of men’s health and the importance of taking a proactive approach to it. Education and awareness are really important and Movember contributes to this.”

Lloyd-Jones agrees. “Movember is a fun and engaging way of raising awareness of the health issues men normally find difficult to discuss – mental health, prostate cancer and testicular cancer. It’s also a decent excuse to grow a mo.”

To register for Movember or donate, visit http://au.movember.com and search for University of Technology, Sydney. To view the UTS men’s health week video, visit youtube.com/watch?v=TtRpdFt1U4

Sofie Wainwright
Bachelor of Arts in Communication | Journalism|
Image supplied by: Thinkstock

Comment on this article at UTS:NEWSROOM
**NOVEMBER**

1. **TRACE RECORDINGS**
The concept of public and private selves is shifting with the complexity of mass surveillance networks. What agency do we have as individuals within these pervasive systems and where does accountability lie?

   12 noon to 6pm Monday to Friday / UTS Gallery, building 6, level 4
   Until 22 November
   art.uts.edu.au

2. **MELBOURNE CUP SCREENINGS**
   Watch the race that stops the nation on one of two big screens across UTS
   Glasshouse Bar, City campus and Kuring-gai Cafeteria, Kuring-gai campus
   utsunion.com.au/social/events

3. **UTS BELL RINGING CEREMONY**
   4pm / Blake Library bell tower, Haymarket campus
   student.services@uts.edu.au

4. **LAST TEACHING DAY OF SPRING SEMESTER**

5. **CENTRALLY CONDUCTED EXAMINATIONS FOR SPRING SEMESTER**
   Until 29 November

6. **WOLVES AND DINGOES: TOP DOGS THAT DESERVE COMPASSION**
   In this public lecture, Suzanne Asha Stone from Defenders of Wildlife, USA and the University of Western Sydney’s Dr Brad Purcell will discuss the important role top predators play in ecosystems and how more compassionate solutions can protect human livelihoods and enable us to share territory with nature's top dogs
   5.30pm for a 6pm start / Guthrie Theatre, building 6, level 3
   alumni.uts.edu.au/wolves-and-dingoes

   **THE COMEDY LOFT**
   Stand up comedy's finest will be performing at The Loft on the second Tuesday of every month
   7pm to 10pm / The Loft, Broadway
   utsunion.com.au/social/events

7. **UTSPEAKS: DEFYING HUNGER, DISCORD, DISEASE**
   This special UTSpeaks documentary screening and talk outlines The Chikukwa Project – a community’s inspiring return from scarcity to plenty
   6pm / University Hall, building 4, level 2, room 23
   robert.button@uts.edu.au

8. **MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING**
   This program, run over two days, teaches you how to recognise the signs and symptoms of mental health illness, the early stages of psychological ill health and first aid strategies for dealing with mental health crises
   9.30am to 5pm / Building 10, level 6, room 440
   Until 19 November
   arif.ongu@uts.edu.au

9. **UTSPEAKS: PRICE ON PRIVACY**
   Are you a Facebook or Twitter fan? Do you know how such companies profit from your private information? This provocative public lecture reveals global complacency in protecting individual privacy
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Email your events for March 2014 to u@uts.edu.au by January 31.
FLYING HOME

This photo was taken by Master of Professional Accounting student and Executive Member of the UTS Exposure club Sarah Doan.

“I used to watch the sunset every day from the balcony where I lived. Some days the sunset would be purple and pink, some days they were amazingly orange, setting fire to the clouds and horizon. That became my spot. I took this photo on a rainy day right before the sunset. It is for everyone who is living or working far from home, and for the ones who always hold home in their heart.”

Photographer: Sarah Doan