KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW

THE WELCOME DINNER PROJECT
Sharing food, friendship and stories in Sydney homes

MIDWIFERY’S RE-BIRTH IN PNG
Improving the health of mothers and babies

SHARK CULL OVERKILL
More valuable alive than dead
ROSS MILBOURNE
Vice-Chancellor and President

What has been the highlight of your job so far?
I can’t pick just one! It’s a privilege to be at the helm of a university that has, in 25 short years, catapulted itself into the top one per cent of universities worldwide. UTS’s rise in the rankings is a true highlight, and a testament to our world-class research and teaching and learning. Working with Frank Gehry and his amazing team on the new Dr Chau Chak Wing building is something I never expected. To see Frank’s vision expand from a very rough sketch, to a building that will be a Sydney icon for decades to come, has been awe-inspiring. Everyone involved in the project, from Frank to the builders, is equally passionate about it. A true highlight was seeing the tattoo of the brickwork that brickie Tony Hilton has on his arm as a lasting memory of the job of a lifetime. That’s what my job as VC is – the job of a lifetime – but don’t expect a tattoo of the Tower on my arm any time soon!

Describe a meeting with someone who changed your life.
This was undoubtedly meeting Daw Aung San Suu Kyi last November at the Sydney Opera House, when we confirmed the honorary award UTS presented to her in 1997 while she was under house arrest in Burma. It was an honour to meet Aung San Suu Kyi; she is a truly gracious person, and a passionate and fearless advocate of democracy and freedom. Standing with her on the same stage at the Opera House, listening to the audience’s thunderous applause, made the hair on the back of my neck stand up. It was a humbling experience I’ll never forget.

What do you love about the uni today?
To paraphrase a great Australian movie, it’s “the vibe” of the place. Many of you will have heard me say UTS is the friendliest university I have ever worked at. But that’s just part of it. We have never lost sight of the vision of our founding VC, Gus Guthrie, who said we have a tower, but it’s not an ivory one. We built our foundations on ideals of social justice, equality and social responsibility. Today we are a university of 36,000 students from 120 countries, and over 3000 staff, celebrating diversity every day. I’m continually inspired by the commitment of our students and staff to making a difference to this world. I’m pleased we’re building a wonderful campus, jam-packed with state-of-the-art facilities, to enable our staff and students to work and study in a 21st century environment. What’s not to love?

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

Changes are coming: Alumni Green East opens this month
The fact UTS has produced more Olympic rowers for Australia than any other rowing club is probably not common knowledge.

Yet the profile of our elite rowers – and the UTS-owned facility they train at along Sydney’s famous Bay Run – is about to change with the completion of the UTS Haberfield Rowing Club refurbishment at the end of March.

The $8.5 million upgrade, which kicked off in May last year, includes a ground-floor rowing club, the addition of a kiosk, and a new upstairs restaurant and bar complete with outdoor seating overlooking Iron Cove. The club’s exterior, including a timber weatherboard façade and decking, is inspired by a traditional boat shed and pays homage to its original design from 1925.

“It’s been a long time in the making but it’s certainly been worthwhile. We now have this world-class facility that we can be really proud of,” says CEO of ActivateUTS Liz Brett.

“UTS can now say it has the newest rowing club in Australia. It’s also the first NSW-licenced club to be completely redeveloped in 10 years.”

ActivateUTS (formerly the UTS Union) took over the running of the club in 1992. At the time the 67-year-old facility was struggling financially and UTS saw it as a unique opportunity to launch an elite rowing program.

“The club then went from strength to strength, with up to 23 elite-level athletes rowing at the club and studying at UTS at one point,” says Brett. “But during the 2000s, NSW-licenced clubs, including ours, took a hit. It didn’t help that our club was also looking very old and tired.

“We were faced with two options – let the facility and our rowing program go, or invest in it. We decided to invest. We’re fortunate to be part of a university that really values the Elite Athlete Program and clubs that support it.”

Brett says the new-look club will benefit the local community as well as UTS.

“At the end of the day it’s a members’ facility. We’re confident the new restaurant, with its focus on fresh, seasonal produce, and the bar with a fantastic outdoor area, will see membership grow from 1300 to 2000 by the year end.”

Building a strong link between staff and students and the UTS Haberfield Rowing Club will be a key focus for ActivateUTS over the coming years.

“In the past people haven’t necessarily associated the club with the university, so we’re making a big investment in marketing and communications to increase awareness. It’s really important we get staff and students thinking, ‘Yeah, that’s one of our facilities too’.

“We believe our new world-class rowing and training facilities will attract more athletes to the club. We’ll also be running a schools program; there’s strong evidence to suggest rowers’ association with the club influences their university preferences.”

With events for both UTS and local community taking place in the coming month to celebrate the club’s opening, Brett feels a sense of UTS pride – and thinks staff and students will feel the same.

“To be able to say, ‘That’s a UTS athlete competing at the Olympic Games in Rio’, or to sit in a world-class facility with your colleagues and a glass of wine, looking out over the most beautiful bay on the harbour, and say, ‘This is ours’; that’s pretty amazing.”

Celia Britton
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographs (artist’s impression and the former UTS Haberfield Rowing Club) supplied by: ActivateUTS

Comment on this article at
Newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2014/03/a-club-to-be-proud-of
In the earliest episodes of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, viewers were introduced to the holodeck – a room that could create worlds and objects out of thin air. Twenty seven years later, this sci-fi fantasy is closer to becoming a reality.

 Planned for prime position in the main entrance of the new Broadway building, the UTS Data Arena is a large cylindrical screen four metres high and 10 metres in diameter. Fitted with 360-degree imaging, even its door forms part of the wrap-around experience.

It’s impressive – but it’s the components that make for the real showstopper.

“The data arena will house a very high performance graphics system, floor to ceiling, complete with 12-channel surround sound,” says Lead Developer Ben Simons. “We’re also installing 3D stereo, just like in the movies.”

Most importantly, however, the software programmers behind the immersive data arena say it will revolutionise the way the university uses data in teaching and learning practices.

“A virtual reality environment means you’re not just viewing data anymore, you’re interacting with it,” says Software Developer Darren Lee. “It’s a powerful way to simplify complexity.”

Adds Simons, “By turning a mass of numbers into pictures, you’re able to look at vast quantities of data quickly and achieve better insight, even make new discoveries.”

In research, the benefits are even more apparent. In a pilot project with UTS’s three institutes, Simons and Lee worked with researchers to display microscopy data.

“We began with a small dataset; around 50 rows of data from a spreadsheet. Using high-end 3D animation software called Houdini, we created an animation of bacterial cells with colour-coded estimates of their velocity. Here we have a graphical representation extracted from over 10 000 numbers that’s easier for researchers to interpret, understand and explore.”

This same technique will also scale to enormous datasets. In another example recently presented at The University of Tasmania’s Big Data workshop, Simons located three astrophysical masers (microwave radiation from young stars) within a dataset of 36 million stars. This astronomy data, obtained from the California Institute of Technology, came directly from NASA’s earth-orbiting Spitzer Space Telescope.

But how does it all work for researchers and students?

“The data arena website will have examples for new users to download and modify with their own dataset,” explains Simons. “This provides a simple starting point.

“Our aim is to make the data arena simply accessible – that’s why we’ve decided to make the arena largely based on freely available and open-source software. In our opinion, it’s the best way to foster collaboration.”

Set to coincide with the opening of the new building in second semester, the UTS Data Arena might not yet have the full capabilities of the *Star Trek* holodeck, but it has the potential.

If you’re interested in finding out more about the UTS Data Arena for your research or teaching purposes, email Hugh.Cranswick@uts.edu.au

Elizabeth Kuo
Research and Innovation Office
Photographer (B Simons, D Lee): Joanne Saad
MIDWIFERY’S re-birth IN PNG
A $10 million maternal and child health initiative in Papua New Guinea (PNG), led by the UTS World Health Organization’s Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development (WHO CC) and funded by the Australian Government, is beginning a new phase this year. While proving highly successful in raising the quality of midwifery education in PNG, it still faces many challenges in helping end our neighbour’s high rates of maternal and child death.

In a crowded Port Moresby hospital ward, just one hour north of Australia, a midwife attends to a young woman giving birth. She prays for no complications. However, troubled birth or not, the midwife knows she won’t have time to stay until the end of the procedure. With only rudimentary supplies and equipment on hand, she will see over twenty mothers-to-be that day, many of them lined up in the corridor outside.

When Adjunct Professor Pat Brodie first visited PNG 15 years ago, she was shocked to say the least. “It was very confronting. Essential supplies such as water, gloves, electricity – as well as any degree of privacy – were all extremely deficient. It was the equivalent of many third-world situations.”

Returning in 2010 as an advisor for the World Health Organization (WHO), Brodie realised many of the same problems she encountered 15 years earlier had not changed.

“PNG is often compared to the rest of the world as only second to Afghanistan in terms of maternal health care and child mortality. It’s on par with many African countries.”

Maternal health services in PNG continue to be hard to access. Eighty seven per cent of the population live in rural or remote areas, amongst mountainous and rugged terrain. According to a 2011 report by the United Nations Population Fund, half of all births in PNG are not attended by any skilled health personnel, and there’s just one midwife for every 1000 births. Poverty, illiteracy and a lack of women’s autonomy compound the problem.

The facts seem overwhelming yet more midwives and higher quality midwifery education are a simple and very effective part of the solution. They are the focus of the UTS-led Maternal Child Health Initiative, closely partnered with PNG’s National Department of Health and funded by the Australian Government.

The initiative is a key program of the WHO CC in the Faculty of Health, part of a network of centres building health leadership around the world.

Since starting in 2012, the Maternal and Child Health Initiative in PNG has improved learning and collaboration opportunities for midwifery educators, as well as established a better clinical education experience for students. More midwives have graduated in the past two years than in the previous decade. This year, nine clinical midwifery facilitators will be employed by the initiative and supported by the team at UTS to work with course coordinators and educators in the four national midwifery schools, with a fifth school nearing completion in East New Britain.

Two international obstetricians have also been employed in high-need areas in the country’s remote highlands, adapting their expertise in culturally appropriate ways to fit with local skills and capabilities.

“MOTHERS AND BABIES DIE ON A DAILY BASIS. PROVIDING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT WITH A TEAM THEY TRUST MEANS THEIR EXPERIENCES AND FEELINGS CAN BE ACKNOWLEDGED.”

“That’s very important,” says Brodie. “We’re not trying to create an Australian midwifery system or imagine we can provide the same standards we’re used to; it’s simply not possible.”

Building a successful, effective PNG midwifery workforce requires a broad focus, says WHO CC Director Michele Rumsey.

“UTS plays a crucial role in mentoring and supporting midwives and educators on the ground by facilitating weekly teleconferences. Mothers and babies die on a daily basis, so providing a safe environment with a team they trust – even on the end of a phone line – means their experiences and feelings can be acknowledged.

“UTS has certainly built a very high level of trust in PNG. The initiative is well received, due in part to the collaborating centre’s strong relationships in PNG and surrounding countries. We’re very involved in the region, with 50 projects in 25 countries completed in the last five years, allowing us to work with other experts and share skills.”

The latest project for the centre shares many similarities with the PNG initiative. A new PhD scholarship program, announced in honour of Burmese freedom fighter Aung San Suu Kyi’s first official visit to Australia in November last year, will aim to improve Burma’s maternal and child health.

“The program allows researchers to work with Burmese midwives to further develop their expertise and improve their maternal care training, with a longer-term goal of developing in-country training within health faculties,” says Rumsey.

“In PNG we’re seeing the educational achievements of the team infiltrate the whole health system and strengthen the profession more broadly. Hopefully we can see the same result in Burma.”

Building midwifery capacity to improve the health of mothers and babies in PNG is a long-term project, acknowledges Director of the Maternal and Child Health Initiative Professor Caroline Homer.

“This is still early days in many ways,” says Homer. “Phase two is an exciting and important opportunity to build on the successes of the last two years and keep working towards improving care for the people of PNG.”

Though progress may appear small compared to the enormous challenges, midwifery is emerging as its own distinct identity within the PNG health system.

“We’re seeing a re-birth of midwifery in PNG,” insists Brodie. “Not to say it wasn’t there before, but it was lost and not a focus of health workforce planning. Midwives are now finding their feet and passion.”

For more information visit uts.edu.au/research-and-teaching/our-research/who-collaborating-centre

Xavier Mayes
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Michele Rumsey

Comment on this article at
UTS:NEWSROOM
When West Australian (WA) Premier Colin Barnett sanctioned the killing of sharks longer than three metres that come within a kilometre of the shoreline, the decision was met with fierce opposition. Professor of Marine Ecology David Booth from the UTS School of the Environment questions the effectiveness of shark culls and nets in ensuring public safety and the policy’s long-term consequences on our marine environment.

Jaws certainly has a lot to answer for. Since its release in 1975, the film has instilled fear in beach-goers – and, evidently – politicians alike.

A nation-wide poll in January found 82 per cent of Australians disagreed with the controversial shark cull policy, with mass protests across the country following the first kill – a female tiger shark, baited and shot by a contracted fisherman. Those opposed stated the policy is cruel and not based on science, and I have to agree.

There is no evidence that killing sharks will reduce attacks on swimmers. It’s clear the overall incidence of shark fatalities are not on the rise, especially given the large increase in swimmer numbers in the water over that time. While the south east corner of WA has been prominent in recent attacks (seven since 2010), only 20 fatal shark attacks occurred in WA waters since 1791. This is compared to 68 along the much-shorter NSW coastline. It’s barely one fatality per year Australia-wide over that time; in comparison, over 120 bathers drown each year.

While drum lines and shark nets have been effective in reducing shark numbers close to popular beaches, there is a misconception as to what their function actually is. Rather than act as a barrier or fence, the purpose of these nets is to kill dangerous sharks, thereby reducing shark numbers and the chance of an attack.

The 2012 McPhee report on the matter to WA Fisheries noted due to the environmental impacts of shark control activities, it was not recommended that either shark nets or drum lines...
be introduced. Apart from the sharks themselves, other marine organisms are at risk. Shark control programs result in the capture of a wide range of by-catch species including marine mammals, marine turtles, and sharks and rays not implicated in unprovoked attacks on humans.

Rather than shark sightings instilling fear, they should be viewed as a sign of a healthy ocean ecosystem. It’s now well established that as top predators, sharks are important in maintaining the resilience and integrity of ocean biological communities. For instance, large sharks have a key role in controlling smaller predators such as seals that may target commercial fish species.

Not only are sharks of priceless value to the oceans, they also bring in a huge amount of tourism revenue. Recreational diving and shark sighting expeditions feature heavily on many Australian tourism brochures. What message are we sending the world if we display such behaviour to one of Australia’s most iconic species?

Yet despite being essential to a healthy marine environment, the world’s shark populations are experiencing significant decline, with perhaps 100 million or more sharks being lost every year. The increased demand for shark meat and shark fin makes them especially vulnerable to overfishing.

According to The Australian Marine Conservation Society, the international trade in shark fin is widely believed to be responsible for causing the decline in so many shark populations around the world. They say Australia is complicit in driving our global shark populations closer to extinction by our role in the international shark fin trade (a single shark fin fetches $1000 in Sydney’s or Melbourne’s Chinatowns).

Compounding the problem is the fact that large sharks are long-living and have slow reproductive and growth rates, so they don’t bounce back quickly from such intensive harvesting. Basically they’re being caught faster than they can reproduce; most of our largest sharks have already been categorised as vulnerable or near-threatened by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

What are more humane alternatives to reduce risk of shark attacks, given these large sharks are of high conservation and ecotourism value? Marine science research has advanced rapidly in the areas of shark detection and warning, and we can now accurately follow tagged sharks or detect them passing monitoring stations. Common sense also goes a long way. Sharks feed during dawn, dusk, and night, so stay out of the waters during those times if possible. Also avoid swimming in areas where people are fishing or where shark prey live.

With respect to all the families of shark attack victims – the latest being the death of a 28-year-old diver in Adelaide by a suspected great white – a more sustainable plan of action is needed for the conservation, harvest and management of sharks in our waters. The unknown effectiveness of shark removals, the bad global press damaging Australia’s reputation as an ecotourism destination, and the risk to the ocean ecosystem of removing top predators prove local shark species are more valuable to our country alive than dead.

David Booth
Professor of Marine Ecology
Director, Centre for Environmental Sustainability
School of the Environment

Comment on this article at
UTS NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2014/03/shark-cull-overkill

Protester at Cottesloe Beach, WA
The Welcome Dinner Project

Coming together over a meal is an act we all enjoy; a universal ritual that translates across every culture. A new pot-luck-style dinner project is connecting newly-arrived people with established Australians to break down barriers and share food, friendship and stories in Sydney homes.

Free. Equal. Connected. Words used by people to explain how they felt during the course of an evening in a stranger’s home.

“My word is memorable,” says Minami Jin from Japan. “For me, this time has been really nice. I feel like I’m with family.”

“The Welcome Dinner Project came out from the stories I was hearing from newly-arrived people to our country,” explains founder and Director of joiningthedots Penny Elsley. “One person in particular said they’d been here for five years yet had never been invited into an Australian’s home, besides that of a person paid to work with them.

“I also kept hearing from colleagues that they wanted to meet newly-arrived people to Australia, but they had no idea how to and were worried about appearing tokenistic or culturally inappropriate. So there was this willingness from both groups in wanting to connect – they just weren’t finding the platform.”

joiningthedots was conceived during a two-year journey Elsley undertook in 2009 visiting refugee camps and isolated communities throughout the world. It wasn’t until she returned home to Australia and started meeting local refugees that the vision of joiningthedots became clear.

“It’s centered on the belief that we can all build connections that bring about the changes we want to see in the world,” says Elsley. “We want to create a safe space for people to meet, but to also encourage newly-arrived people and established Australians to think about their meeting in a way that helps create a more welcoming Australia.”

The dinner project, supported by Parramatta City Council, Amnesty and City of Sydney, is about to complete its initial trial year. While UTS Shopfront’s SOUL program, UTS Housing and ActivateUTS have all been keen to jump on board, it’s with UTS International’s Community Connections program that the project has really gelled.

Community Connections was borne out of feedback from international students (who make up one quarter of the university’s student population) struggling to feel at home in Sydney. The program aims to create a sense of belonging and community that will help shape students’ experience of both the university and Australia as a whole.
Leadership and Community Connections Officer Melissa Ronca works regularly with newly-arrived international students as they settle into UTS. She says the number one complaint she hears is their inability to make friends with local people.

“It’s the hardest thing for them to do for a number of different reasons. Local students don’t often have the time to invest in developing those friendships as they already have their established networks of friends, their work, their family, their study, their routines. International students don’t have those existing communities. We’d like to help international students tap into different ways of making connections and relationships outside of UTS; that’s what Community Connections is all about.”

Much of the Community Connections program involves volunteering on large-scale events like Clean Up Australia Day. Ronca says opportunities like The Welcome Dinner Project allow them to go along to somebody’s home and not just get but give something back.

“There are already plenty of student- and club-run activities happening on campus, but language and cultural barriers are a common challenge in making connections off campus. For us, it’s more about developing a two-way interaction. It adds a new layer of ‘I can contribute to this community as well.’ With the dinners they’re giving their time and sharing their stories and their food; it’s a rewarding experience for everybody involved.”

Those interested in the welcome dinners register on the joiningthedots website and select whether they want to host a dinner or participate. They’re then matched up with people and hosts who live in the same area.

In October and November last year, Ronca and Elsley worked together on two official welcome dinners with UTS international students – one hosted by Ronca herself.

“We had people from places like South America, Italy and Japan. It was a good mix of ethnicities and ages, as well as a good variety of how long people had been in the country. There was a really nice feeling to the night. We were learning about each other’s cultures and sharing food and doing something that we wouldn’t usually do or have time for.

“Part of the ritual at every dinner involves each person explaining what their dish is and what makes that recipe special to them,” says Elsley. “Once people start to eat and break off into their own conversations there is a lot of advice and experience sharing that happens. Lots of connections come out of that.

“At the end of the dinner we give out a little cardboard speech bubble and ask everybody to write on it how they feel and then share it. We’ve had refugees say it was the first time they’ve felt free. Another one said, ‘If we’re all people, we’re all equal.’ It gives you goosebumps.”

The second dinner was with a family in Annandale, with most of the students saying it was the first time they’d been in an Australian home. “One of the girls said she felt like it was her own father seeing her off as the male host waved goodbye from the door,” recalls Ronca.

And the food? Ronca and Elsley can’t speak highly enough. “We’ve had the most amazing traditional food cooked by the students; they really go to a lot of effort, often having cooked the meal as authentically as possible with their mum’s help over Skype,” says Elsley.

While the dinners have been a success, both Ronca and Elsley say it takes a lot of work in making the connections and working with the hosts and facilitators.

“We have two facilitators at every dinner who we train up to understand the philosophy of the project and ensure they understand what joiningthedots is all about,” says Elsley. “They learn the process of the dinners and the rituals, as well as play out different scenarios to learn how to deal with difficult situations should they arise.”

Joiningthedots have also teamed up with UTS Shopfront for an exhibition to take place during Harmony Week this month. The exhibition will use photography, story, video, music and art to showcase the project’s first year.

The Harmony Week celebrations will consist of a big dinner table set up in the middle of Martin Place for 150 people on Friday 21 March, with the Saturday 22 March evening focused on international students. As part of the national launch of The Welcome Dinner Project, joiningthedots will be crossing live throughout the evening to other welcome dinners happening in capital cities around the country.

“It may only be a dinner,” says Elsley, “but it’s an important first step. It’s creating a space where people can enjoy the spark of new friendships and realise again our common humanity, despite whatever trepidations we may have about our differences. The journey to that common language is quickly found when the willingness is there to connect.”

If you’d like to get involved with The Welcome Dinner Project, visit joiningthedots.org

ActivateUTS will be holding the first Welcome Lunch Project as part of Harmony Week in the Great Hall on Friday 21 March. Email Laura.Earl@uts.edu.au for more information or to participate.

For more information about UTS: Community Connections events, visit ssu.uts.edu.au/communityconnections or facebook.com/UTSCommunityConnections

Katia Sanfilippo
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Joanne Saad
Photographs (dinners) supplied by: joiningthedots

Comment on this article at

UTSNWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2014/03/the-welcome-dinner-project
It’s difficult to find Rod Hahn’s office. Tucked away at the top of a stairwell in Building 4, its remote location seems fitting for the UTS Building Manager who does a lot of work behind the scenes to keep several of our buildings running.

Though, well before Building 4’s Faculty of Science staff have settled in for the day, Hahn’s office is a hive of activity with tradesmen being briefed and jobs assigned. His phone, as if for comic relief, blares out a ‘Bad to the Bone’ ringtone, signalling yet another job for the day.

“There’s an issue with an anatomy lab’s air-conditioning and a water leak that needs to be fixed,” Hahn explains. “It’s like this all day but it’s what I love about the job. It’s challenging and no day is the same.”

Hahn, who has worked at UTS for 10 years, currently manages buildings 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9. When the new Faculty of Science and Graduate School of Health Building – the Thomas St Building or ‘Building 7’ – is completed at the end of the year, he will happily add it to the list. While he’s excited about the move, he knows firsthand the challenges that come with it.

“I started managing Building 4 shortly after the major refurbishment was completed in 2005, which also saw science faculty staff from Gore Hill relocate to the city,” Hahn says. “When we moved in we discovered some things didn’t work, or were left out entirely.

“To an extent, this is inevitable as buildings will often function differently to what is anticipated when people move in, or staff will use the building differently to what was planned. A lab might be set up for anatomy but it’s later decided it will be used for chemistry, which the room wasn’t designed for.”

Consultation and communication are key to ensuring a new building meets the needs of its occupants. “That’s the real difference between the previous move and the upcoming ones. Last time the building was handed over before we were able to gain access and check everything was operational.

“I hope to get on site soon to identify any potential problems. If I see an obvious fault, such as ductwork, pipework or cabling I know I’m going to need access to and can’t, I can get a hatch or door installed for future maintenance work.

“The new FEIT building will have a unique set of problems because all the services, including air-conditioning, are under the floor. So if a desk is placed on top of an area they need access to for maintenance, it will be difficult to carry out repairs during office hours. Knowing about potential issues early on will help us to avoid them.”

Other challenges will revolve around the scale of services in the new buildings, including learning how to operate new technology such as Energy Management Systems (EMS) that ensure the buildings operate more efficiently.

While there is plenty to look forward to about the upcoming moves, Hahn warns staff should expect some teething problems in the short term.

“Common problems will be things like air-conditioning temperatures, power failures, sinks leaking. My advice would be to approach the move like you would moving house,” he says. “Take a few days to settle in before asking, ‘What’s not working and why?’, and ‘Do I have everything I asked for and need? Then come to us and we’ll find a solution.”

Celia Britton
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Joanne Saad

Comment on this article at
UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2014/03/at-your-service
Vongsonephet's time at UTS included internships at the Art Gallery of NSW, a corporate PR agency and a more unique three-month stint at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, Italy. “The years I’d spent studying Italian language and culture at UTS helped me stand out amongst the many other young arts professionals in the program.” While her internship experiences proved advantageous in helping her secure the coveted marketing role for the bi-annual festival, Vongsonephet credits her year of in-country study in Italy for helping her develop an ability to think outside the box. “My international studies majored in Italian and my time in Catania, Italy really opened my eyes and cemented my love of arts and culture. It was from this that I knew my career path was never going to be an agency scenario.”

Vongsonephet’s days heading up the festival’s entire marketing and communication activities are varied; from monitoring digital activities, design production of print collateral and site inspections for outdoor advertising, to Skype meetings with international publicists. “I work in a festival environment that never seems to stay the same. For someone who thrives on having a challenge and working to tight deadlines, it’s a great way to stay focused. I’m constantly surprised with new challenges and new ways of solving tricky scenarios.”

The world has certainly been Vongsonephet’s oyster since she started a Bachelor of Communication (Public Communication)/Bachelor of Arts in International Studies in 2001 and graduated in 2005. “By combining two very practical skill sets – communication and cultural studies – I was able to develop a career in arts management, an area I find personally interesting. It requires strong project management skills, a high level of diplomacy and tact, and solid communication skills.”

While her internship experiences proved advantageous in helping her secure the coveted marketing role for the bi-annual festival, Vongsonephet credits her year of in-country study in Italy for helping her develop an ability to think outside the box.

“My international studies majored in Italian and my time in Catania, Italy really opened my eyes and cemented my love of arts and culture. It was from this that I knew my career path was never going to be an agency scenario.”

“I’m constantly in communication with people from different backgrounds around the world – artists, galleries, consultants and industry colleagues – so my experience of having lived in another culture has enabled me to move freely in this space.”

Working in such a creative role doesn’t come without its unique challenges. She recalls having to transport an underground nightclub in its entirety from Tokyo to Woolloomooloo for a special after-hours program during the 17th Biennale of Sydney (2010). “We worked together with the exhibitions and programming team to present 12 weeks of late night Japanese surf punk, experimental music and several very whacky performances. It was quite a challenge – marketing such a diverse underground program, with very different audience experiences, and getting them to come to Woolloomooloo!”

Having now worked on three biennale festivals since 2009, Vongsonephet says the use of non-museum venues to display art has evolved, along with the necessity for the organisation to adapt and grow with social and digital media trends. For Vongsonephet, it just means learning from experience and rolling with it. “I haven’t had a direct path in arriving at my current role, but I do believe my time at UTS really helped me understand where I wanted to go in my career and showed me how to adapt and grow.”

The 19th Biennale of Sydney runs from 21 March to 9 June 2014. Visit 19bos.com for more information.

Emily Rhodes
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Photographer: Anna Zhu

Comment on this article at UTS:NEWSROOM newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2014/03/for-arts-sake
GEAROID TOWEY

I competed at the Sydney Olympics in an Irish crew that was put together at the last minute; we didn’t get the results we hoped for. I went back to the UK a little bit despondent. After three weeks of training back in the UK in horrendous weather, I decided I couldn’t do it and knew that if I wanted to continue I needed to go somewhere else. I knew of Tim and knew he was good. UTS Rowing at the time was really big. I had raced the UTS team that year in Henley and they had gone on to the Olympics. I decided to come out to Sydney in January 2001 in the middle of a training camp and felt so unfit compared to the Aussies. I started working out at the old rowing club and just loved the atmosphere.

Tim’s a very intuitive coach. You feel like he’s in the boat with you in every sense; that’s a real skill. As rowers, we trusted Tim completely and I just kept getting better and better. I won three events rowing with UTS including the Australian National Championships in 2001. It was a brilliant moment for me, one that helped validate my own performances. I went back home to Ireland very strong, very fit, and with a really good attitude. I also cared more about myself as a human being rather than just an athlete; that was something Tim used to instill in the club. I teamed up with one of my old Irish rowing mates from the Sydney Olympics team and we ended up winning the World Championships that year.

Winning a gold medal is amazing. Incredible. A ‘pinch yourself’ kind of moment. What’s it like to lose? Rowing is a very training-intensive sport, and the difference between winning and losing is huge. I did the 2004 Athens Olympics and it felt like life or death because at the time I didn’t have much else happening in my life besides rowing. It’s important for athletes to maintain some kind of balance so the wins feel amazing and the losses don’t sting as much.

Where your comfort zone ends, the adventure begins. I started doing way-out stuff, like crossing the Atlantic in a rowing boat, and discovered so much about myself. It was once I got outside my comfort zone that I entered into a realm of change – and that’s the adventure. It was painful but the discovery element was massive. That’s what I’m trying to do for the UTS rowers at the moment. I tell them if you go too hard and struggle, that’s fine, but just go there and see. Don’t hold back.

There aren’t that many clubs in Australia steeped in so much history. It’s what makes UTS Rowing so special. When I was rowing here as a young man I felt part of a family, and I was just one of many international rowers who used to come here because of the reputation UTS Rowing had. The main goal for this new clubhouse is to put UTS Rowing back up there globally. We’ve really had some amazing rowers come through the club and some of them are still going. It would be good to get them back into the fold.

Between 1992 and 2007, under the coaching of Tim McLaren and Ellen Randell, 30 athletes from UTS Rowing competed in three Olympic Games. Ex-Irish Olympic rower Gearoid Towey trained at UTS under McLaren and is the current men’s coach. The pair talk about 4am wake-ups, pushing limits, and how a refurbishment of an iconic club will hopefully return UTS Rowing to its former glory.

CHASING THE GLORY DAYS
TIM MCLAREN

Rowing has most certainly changed; I think the kids have changed. Rowing is competing with a lot of other traditional Aussie sports for the talent. We have to ask if we’ve improved in identifying talent, looking after athletes, good coaching and infrastructure. Have we got good equipment, and have we got a team of people at the club which makes it a great place to come to every day? We’ve got to create an identity factor that makes people feel like they’re part of the fabric of the club.

Gearoid comes from a hard-working Irish background, so he fitted into the culture of UTS Rowing. He came as an athlete but he couldn’t swim very well. We took him to training camp, had him in the surf and his rowing improved. He was growing up himself; he was in his 20s and he found a home away from home. I think that’s one of the great things clubs can do. My advice to Gearoid in coaching was to be himself and bring some of his own experiences to his style of coaching; I think he does a great job at that. He’s a determined guy. He’s enthusiastic, he communicates well and he has a good mixture of compassion and intensity.

It’s a small world that we live in now, and good rowers are going to America, to Oxford and Cambridge on athletic scholarships. We need to look at what we can offer to keep our kids here and educated. It boils down to who are the people involved and supporting the infrastructure behind it; it takes a common mindset from all parties involved to push in that direction. If everyone’s on board then there’s no reason why UTS Rowing can’t again be one of the top clubs in the country and the world.

There was some sadness when the old club came down. We used to have barbecues on the pontoon, Saturday morning egg and bacon rolls and $10 pasta nights. The club was old but there was a good feeling to it; I used to virtually live there. It’s early hours and late nights, so you need people that have really got a passion for it. Between the coaching, the counselling the social activities, loading and unloading trailers, rigging boats, training and travelling, it’s a big commitment and people get attached.

UTS Rowing was regarded as a powerhouse, contributing more rowers to the Olympics than any other Aussie club. I don’t think about that too often. I see the old guys now and they’re married, they’ve got children, they’ve got good jobs and they look back fondly on their time with UTS Rowing, which is a great thing. Some are getting involved in the committee and putting back into the club. That’s a good sign – they’ll be passing on some traditions and some big expectations.

If you’re interested in getting involved with UTS Rowing, or would like to support the new club and its athletes as they work towards the 2016 Olympic Games, email Bronwyn.Neeson@uts.edu.au

Katia Sanfilippo
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Cal Baker

Comment on this article at
UTS: NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2014/03/chasing-the-glory-days
"When I started my own fashion label in 2001, I was determined it’d be 100 per cent Australian made. I wanted to support local industry and I thought that would appeal to customers," explains Master of Design (Research) student Julie Lantry. "I soon discovered it was an impossible dream. Australia has an ever-diminishing local industry and, at the time, only a few consumers seemed to care how and where their clothes were made."

Explaining her issue to a British designer, Niki Groom, the idea of sourcing offshore was suggested. Little did Lantry realise this quest for a solution would set her on the exotic path to India.

"On my first day there I met a local designer who took me to a small manufacturing unit. Within a few hours, I had my first hand-crafted embroidered sample. I’d found a supplier willing to do small quantities at a reasonable price and quality, something I’d been unable to achieve in Australia. I felt every emerging designer should be able to discover these global possibilities."

In 2010, Lantry decided to close her label and follow her interest in the development of sustainable relationships between Australian designers and Indian artisans. She’s seen first-hand the positive effect the garment industry can have on people’s lives.

"It allows them to gain a sustainable income and keep tradition alive by marrying it with contemporary design. I have, however, also witnessed the negative impacts the textile industry can cause; polluted air, water and crops, excessive unwanted waste, poor wage structures, and traditional artisans losing work due to faster production methods."

With ‘fast fashion’ a growing concept in an increasingly resource-scarce world, Lantry has spent the last three years investigating how the Australian fashion industry could become more environmentally sustainable, ethical and socially responsible.

"The Rhana Plaza incident in Bangladesh in April 2013 (an eight-story building collapse that killed more than 1100 garment workers and injured 2500) certainly demonstrates how Australia is lagging behind in fashion pollution and ethics. Australian brands Target, Kmart and Woolworths all have factories in Bangladesh, but they initially refused to sign the international agreement to improve working conditions and fire safety that most major European retailers signed immediately after the tragedy. After a lot of media attention, Target and Kmart signed a few months later."

Lantry has taken an active role in helping create sustainable solutions. Through her new business Artisan Culture, she conducts fashion and textile tours to India, connecting emerging designers with Indian artisans, and shares her knowledge of sustainable and ethical practices. This has created the basis of her action research methodology.

In 2013, a group of UTS fashion and textiles students worked with a fifth-generation artisan to create an embroidery workshop. The students learnt about technique, while the artisans explored contemporary possibilities through traditional methods. "One of the most significant outcomes of this tour was the relationship building through collaboration. The students gained a real sense of respect, not only for the craft but also the individual artisan talent."

Despite the many obstacles, Lantry is optimistic the fashion industry can develop a better model. "We’re in a finite world with an increasing population. The industry simply doesn’t have the luxury to ignore its corporate citizenship in the manner it’s been doing. There’s enormous potential for the relationship between the Australian and Indian fashion industries to build a cutting-edge and sustainable partnership."

Jacqueline Middleton
Faculty of Design, Architecture & Building
Photographer (Julie Lantry): Parikhit Pal
Photograph (artisan) supplied by: Julie Lantry

Comment on this article at UTS NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2014/03/a-return-to-tradition
This book tackles the sobering and often taboo subject of abandoning a loved one in a masterfully constructed first novel. With gripping prose and a plot that traverses multiple countries and generations, Limprecht creates a complex vision of a family legacy plagued with compromise and loss. Through the main character of Rachel, a woman who abandons her own newborn, Limprecht challenges the ideals of motherhood and paints a picture of what it means (and what one must sacrifice) to care for another. “How do you keep a sense of yourself when there is a person whose very purpose is to need you?” asks Rachel. Interludes from the lives of those closest to Rachel create a fast moving exploration of the stigma of selfishness and failure to embrace parenthood and family life. What Was Left shows through several manifestations the way we can become trapped by our duty to those we love. Limprecht’s direct style and unflinching examination of abandonment, helplessness and depression are superbly combined with an overwhelming sense of melancholy and catharsis, creating a novel that is at once pragmatic and boundless.

Hannah Jenkins
Marketing and Communication Unit

Eleanor Limprecht has a Graduate Diploma in Journalism and a Master of Arts in Creative Writing from UTS and is a UTS Doctor of Creative Arts candidate. What Was Left is her first novel.

In Social Media Law and Marketing: Fans, Followers and Online Infamy, authors Holland, Crossley and Yap have combined corporate social media marketing wisdom and a law introduction to the emerging legal issues that surround communication in the digital age. The book sets out to provide a how-to guide for setting up a corporate social media presence and policy for employee behaviour online, while answering any questions the reader might have about the reputational and legal risks involved. Supporting case studies explain pitfalls and benefits. Social media terms of use are profiled with a summary of the intellectual property, privacy and marketing implications of each site. The argument for a corporate social media policy is illustrated with cases between employers and ex-employees. An entire chapter is devoted to discussing laws relating to social media, who can sue and who can be sued. The appendices help the reader with marketing and law checklists, and provide a template to help them develop their own corporate social media policy. With constant change in the social media landscape, a book like this will have a limited shelf life, but its sound framework will befit an updated edition in the face of further legal precedents and new social networks.

David Phillips
Marketing and Communication Unit

Geoffry Holland is a lecturer in UTS’s Faculty of Law as well as a Research Associate of the Communications Law Centre. Kathryn Crossley graduated from UTS in 2010 with a Bachelor of Laws. Wenee Yap graduated from UTS in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Writing and Cultural Studies)/Bachelor of Laws and is a sessional academic in UTS’s Faculty of Law.

I’ve just finished reading The CAMRA Toolkit: All Culture is Local. It represents a very good example of an academic and policy maker/practitioner collaboration – in fact, it begins to whittle away at some of the divides between these two positions. Rather than one group providing ‘theory’ and the other ‘practice,’ we get a robust and committed exploration of the issues from different perspectives and different skill sets. The book includes a number of case studies of specific projects, followed by more detailed accounts of cultural policy interventions. It reads crisply and is produced to a high design standard. It would be read by academics in cultural planning, cultural studies, arts management and similar fields; but also by anybody involved in delivering community-based cultural projects. As befits a toolkit, the cases are written in a way that allows for transposition (suitably adapted) elsewhere. There are some nice consultation and mapping tools in there, with enough detail on how they were operationalised to benefit initiatives elsewhere. All in all, it works as an up-to-date, practical and academically informed account of where we’re with contemporary cultural policy interventions – and where we might be going. It deserves a wide distribution.

Justin O’Connor
Professor of Communications and Cultural Economy, Monash University

Lisa Andersen is Community Engagement Coordinator for UTS Shopfront.

U:BOOKWORMS

During March, the Co-op Bookshop on Broadway is offering Co-op members a 25 per cent discount on What Was Left and Social Media Law and Marketing, reviewed in this issue. For more details, email uts@coop-bookshop.com.au
SAVING THE PLANET,
ONE FLOOR AT A TIME

“People are becoming more mindful of our effect on the planet,” says Lab Manager in Mechanical Engineering Chris Chapman. And he should know.

Last year Chapman was awarded second place in the UTS Green Hero awards for his championing of sustainability at UTS and a series of environmentally friendly modifications he made to his suburban home. “Averaged over a whole year, my home exports more power than it imports,” he says proudly. He’s now promoting UTS: Green’s latest competition around Earth Hour.

From humble beginnings in Sydney in 2007, Earth Hour has expanded into a global movement that sees more than 7000 cities switch off their lights for one hour as a symbol of solidarity for the environment.

With Earth Hour now in its eighth year, UTS is going one step further to encourage a reduction of energy consumption on campus over the course of a full week. “There’s no point having lights on at 3am when there’s no one in a lab,” says Chapman.

The Earth Hour competition will see UTS staff endeavouring to reduce their energy consumption by turning off all non-essential lights between 24 and 30 March (incorporating Earth Hour on 29 March). Individual floors can register their interest and UTS: Green will record their electricity consumption for the week.

UTS: Green has set an ambitious goal of achieving a total reduction of 10 000 kWh, or 10.6 tonnes of CO2 emissions, during the competition week. With hopes for at least 15 floors participating, this target will provide the initial boost for a long-term shift towards environmentally friendly practices at UTS and in the community.

Great prizes for participating floors add a little incentive, with three categories to be won. The floor that reduces its power consumption by the greatest percentage will win $500 to donate to a charity or cause of their choice, while the floor that saves the most kWh of electricity overall will win $250 to donate. The floor with the most participants will win a fair-trade hamper.

UTS aims to achieve a 30 per cent reduction in greenhouse gasses by 2021, supported by recent upgrades on campus to improve energy efficiency. This includes the installation of more than 400 ‘smart meters’ that give better measurements of electricity, water and gas usage, as well as energy efficient lighting and air-conditioning.

The City Campus Master Plan upgrades are just one element of a broader shift in UTS and community attitudes to cutting greenhouse gas emissions and pollution.

“Whether it’s at home or work, we all, in our own small way, can do something towards reducing our collective environmental footprint,” says Chapman. “Some people dismiss it as being merely symbolic, but symbolic things can be important. If people do what they can locally, there is a global effect from that.”

If you’d like to register your floor for the UTS: Green Earth Hour competition, get promotional flyers, stickers and posters or have any questions, please email Seb.Crawford@uts.edu.au

Hannah Jenkins
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Joanne Saad
Art & U profiles a piece of work from the UTS Art Collection every issue.

Email your events for April to u@uts.edu.au by 14 March.

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EXHIBITION
He has been named by the influential journal Art Review as an artist to watch out for, and next month you can do just that when Australian artist Ian Burns exhibits at UTS Gallery. Based in New York City, Burns takes everyday objects and turns them into creative, kinetic contraptions. Until 12 April.

9AM TO 5PM DAILY UTS Gallery, building 6, level 4. art.uts.edu.au

Designer Aaron Seymour’s new exhibition Toward an Aesthetic of Contemplation uses contemporary and historical examples, such as the gothic Chartres Cathedral and New York’s 9/11 Memorial, to investigate how spaces affect our senses. Until 28 March.

10AM TO 5PM DAILY DAB LAB, building 6, level 4 courtyard

21
FOOD
Bring a plate of food and share it with others as part of ActivateUTS’s Welcome Lunch Project. Organised as part of Harmony Week and inspired by The Welcome Dinner Project (see our cover story), the concept encourages a sharing of stories and cultures over a meal.

12PM TO 2PM Great Hall, building 1, level 5
Register to attend: Laura.Earl@uts.edu.au

DANCE
Celebrating diversity at UTS is all part of the fun of Harmony Week, and Friday night’s Pride Party is no different. Celebrating all things queer, the Loft will showcase some great DJs (often seen at Stonewall), dancing, colour and fun. Including a celebrity guest drag queen and much more, this party will kick on into late night frivolity.

7.30PM Loft bar, UTS

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MUSIC
Featured on Triple J’s Unearthed, indie pop singer and songwriter Leeli’s influences include the likes of Laura Marling, Van Morrison and Missy Higgins. Check her out at this month’s Live at The Loft.

7.30PM Loft bar, UTS

At first glance, the most recent addition to the UTS Art Collection appears to be a quiet tonal study of a small collection of bowls and bottles. But as the work of Sydney-based artist Emma White, this photograph – still to be hung on campus – represents a rather more sophisticated investigation into the nature of representation and our understanding of the objects of art and everyday life.

White’s work is multi-disciplinary, taking in sculpture, installation, video and photography. She is probably best known for her meticulous replicas of commonplace objects and office supplies rendered in fimo clay, such as her Delaying Tactics for the Intuitive Researcher, which presented the contents of the artist’s desktop reproduced in fine detail. The photographs that accompany her sculptures are artworks in themselves, serving to focus our attention on the imperfections, lumps and wonky lines that our eyes and brain somehow gloss over when we ‘see’ the objects being represented.

In this particular photograph White has crafted a miniature still life tribute to the work of Italian painter Giorgio Morandi, and through photography has amplified the painterly quality of her craft.

Based in Canberra, White has exhibited widely across Australia and is held in a number of private and public collections including MCA Australia, Artbank, AGNSW, and the National Library, Canberra. In 2012 White’s work was included in the UTS Gallery exhibition ‘Swedish for Argument’, with a scale rendition of the ubiquitous IKEA allen key.

Check out art.uts.edu.au for more news and highlights from the UTS Art Collection.

Janet Ollevou
UTS Art Collection
Graphic designer in the Marketing and Communication Unit Hoc Ngo took this photo of Busselton Jetty during a recent trip to Western Australia. Situated at the northern gateway to the Margaret River wine region in the seaside resort town of Busselton, the heritage listed pier extends almost two kilometres over the protected waters of Geographe Bay and is the longest timber-piled jetty in the southern hemisphere.

“I was really attracted to the glowing blues and violets of the twilight; together with the tranquil water of the bay it created a very evocative mood. It really captures the quiet beauty of this fascinating jetty.”

Photographer: Hoc Ngo