HISTORY IN THE MAKING
How the Kuring-gai campus has helped shape the UTS of today

LAW FROM DISORDER
Using data mining to make courts more efficient

UTS:HATCHERY
The extra-curricular project educating future entrepreneurs
What projects are you focused on at the moment?
There are always a lot of projects happening across the international and advancement portfolio. At the moment I’m focused on establishing the UTS Corporate Relations Centre and beginning to roll out phase one of Connect and Engage – UTS’s new external engagement strategy. Developing our corporate engagement is a key component of the external engagement strategy. The new Corporate Relations Centre will act as the single portal for corporate relations at UTS. The centre will actively seek out major partnership opportunities for the university, assist account executives to manage our corporate relations, and work with faculties, through a hub and spoke model, to ensure we maximise the value of our corporate engagement for the university as a whole.

For phase one of the external engagement strategy rollout we are about to conduct an audit of our current activity and engagement strengths and we will be talking to staff about how we can better assist them to carry out their external engagement activities. We will also be asking staff to see if there are any impediments in our current policies and procedures that we need to re-examine.

What does ‘engage’ mean to you?
Engage, for me, means connecting our staff and students with industry and the professions, our alumni and the wider community. Engagement enables UTS to leverage the environment to create opportunities both locally and internationally for collaborative learning, innovative research and delivering on the university’s strong commitment to social justice and sustainability.

What is your morning ritual?
A bit boring I’m afraid. Every morning I get up at 5am and walk for an hour along the harbour in front of my apartment at Pyrmont. I have a shower and get to the office by 7am. I then answer some emails and after that I have a bowl of cereal and some yoghurt. It’s like clockwork and I perform the same routine every morning.

What was something you learned in the last week?
I’m into reading American history at the moment and I was reading a book on the 1812 war when the United States declared war on Great Britain. I had never really known the origins of the term ‘Uncle Sam’. According to the book I am reading, Empire of Liberty: A History of the Early Republic 1789-1815 by Gordon S Wood, Uncle Sam comes from Samuel Wilson – a New York meat packer who supplied rations for the soldiers during the 1812 war.

There was a requirement at the time for contractors to stamp their name and where the rations came from onto the food they were sending. Although the United States was not a widely used term at the time, Wilson’s packages were labelled “E.A – US.” When someone asked what that stood for, a co-worker is reported to have joked, “Elbert Anderson [the contractor] and Uncle Sam,” referring to Sam Wilson, though it actually stood for the United States. I’m not sure if it’s true, but nevertheless it’s a good story.
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All U: articles are available to read online via newsroom.uts.edu.au
Send your story ideas, opinions and events to u@uts.edu.au
For many years, UTS has excelled at "hiding our light under a bushel". So says Vice-Chancellor Attila Brungs. But now, thanks to the efforts of a range of staff – from researchers to professional staff, senior executive and right down the ranks – the lights are starting to shine.

Most recently, on Wednesday 26 August, UTS Professors Dacheng Tao (from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology) and Dayong Jin (from the Faculty of Science) took out two Australian Museum Eureka Prizes. They mark UTS’s fifth and sixth Eureka wins over the past 13 years.

Jin, leading an interdisciplinary team with colleagues from Macquarie University, the University of South Australia, University of Adelaide and Minonic International Ltd, was awarded the UNSW Eureka Prize for Excellence in Interdisciplinary Scientific Research. Their work involves the creation and use of a library of torch-like nanocrystals, known as Super Dots®, which can illuminate hidden diseased cells in a living body.

The technology was developed and patented at Macquarie University by Jin and his team, before he joined UTS this year to grow the multidisciplinary research Institute for Biomedical Materials and Devices.

Jin says they’re working "towards the ultimate goal where you find a needle in a haystack and get the early diagnostics. The bonus outcome is about generating a lot of optical barcodes for data storage, and as you know data science is one of the UTS research themes. So I think we can do something about data storage and using the technology for anti-counterfeiting applications."

Tao, who collaborates with a range of international researchers, security experts, software developers and other specialists, was awarded the Scopus Eureka Prize for Excellence in International Scientific Collaboration. He says, "My research is about artificial intelligence and, in particular, machine learning, computer vision, pattern recognition and image processing. I categorise my research into three levels. The first is the theoretical level where we want to explain why and when an algorithm works. The second level is algorithm development. For example, how can we explore data captured from different resources? "And then we are interested in applications. That means we integrate our theory or algorithms to specific applications, for example cartoon video synthesis by re-using the frames created by a cartoonist, and autonomous driving by exploring data from different sensors."

For Research Strategy Analyst Louise Wheeler and Research Development Strategist Lee Williamson these wins, and others like them, are emblematic of UTS’s success.

"The Eurekas are a bit like the Academy Awards," says Williamson. "This is not just one-off; one brilliant light amongst nothing."

Williamson adds, “This is all part of the growing research that’s happening here. We’re developing scale, capacity, we’re seriously investing and it’s working.”

Part of that investment includes the creation of a team of grant editors who help to write the research award nominations.

“What we’ve done,” explains Williamson, “is develop a strategic team approach where we support the researchers and help them write a prize-winning nomination.”

“The editors,” adds Wheeler, “help to make the research impact more apparent by writing in language the assessment panels will understand.”

And, as Tao explains, the benefits are felt university-wide. “I don’t think this award belongs to me only. It also belongs to my colleagues, my centre, my faculty, the university, a lot of collaborators, and my students, because we all together can make beautiful work. Without this friendly and positive environment, this collaborative research environment, I don’t think we could go this far.”

Fiona Livy and Rachael Quigley
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer (D Jin and D Tao): Shane Lo
Photographer (Prize acceptances): Daniel O’Doherty

Comment on this article at
UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2015/10/eureka
The end of the year is a stressful time. With deadlines and exam periods looming, feelings of isolation or anxiety can become overwhelming.

The UTS Psychology Clinic will be offering free assessment and cognitive and behavioural treatment to UTS staff and students until the end of the year to mark the opening of their new purpose-built clinic on campus.

Says Clinic Director Alice Shires, "We're offering this opportunity in order to get the clinic up and running and to make sure we have enough work for the students."

"It’s wonderful that the clinic is not only built to enable clients to feel comfortable and welcomed, but at the same time it's also set up so that the students and their work can be monitored and supervised intensely," explains Shires.

The UTS Psychology Clinic will give UTS staff, students and the wider community access to affordable mental health care on campus as well as ensuring that graduates of the Master of Clinical Psychology have the necessary experience to work across a diverse number of fields.

"The clinic is designed to meet the needs of the community and the needs of the students," says Shires. "It’s a learning environment where we can assess students’ work. But in terms of priorities, the clients always come first, then the learning needs of the students come second."

This commitment to clients is reflected in the free services offered until the end of the year, and the low cost of care beyond 2015. "Even when it's fee-paying," says Shires, "it's a very low-cost service that is offering evidence-based treatments with well-trained clinicians and supervised very intensely so at times clients get two or three heads thinking about any one case."

Masters candidates, or ‘provisional psychologists’, are in their fifth and sixth years of training when they take part in practical experience at the UTS Psychology Clinic. They are expected to complete a full semester of preparation before moving into the clinic, and then achieve a total of 1000 hours of clinical practice, at UTS and through external placements over two years, before graduating.

Shires, who is also responsible for skills-based learning, says, “Students get lots of input to their work, and they also provide a lot of output.

“We go through a whole semester of training workshops, lectures and problem-based learning, and we also use the clinic space to carry out simulation-based learning. Students have to have their work recorded and examined in order to achieve the prerequisites for going into the clinic and starting work.”

Further to this preparation, real sessions in the UTS Psychology Clinic can be filmed, with the client’s permission, to provide even more feedback to students and supervisors.

“There are perpetual feedback loops on whatever they are doing so students can always see where they can improve," says Shires. "It’s a very active learning process that makes sure students are career-ready, as well as providing a service to clients.”

Looking to the future, Shires says, "We will have a very busy clinic, with 15 therapists or clinical psychology trainees here at any one time.

“It’s a wonderful feeling to have a purpose-built facility where staff and students can provide a service to the community while closing the gap between theory and practice for the rapidly evolving field of clinical psychology.”

The UTS Psychology Clinic is located in building 7, level 2 and is offering free assessment and treatment to UTS staff and students until 18 December.

Contact the clinic on 9514 7339 or psychclinicadmin@uts.edu.au

Hannah Jenkins
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Fiona Livy
Imagine being invited by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) to change how they do business. That’s the task being set out for a group of UTS students with a thirst for entrepreneurship.

The Hatchery is a distinctive extra-curricular program offered to students in all faculties at UTS. It gives students the start-up skills and education they need to launch themselves as the entrepreneurs of the future.

This semester both the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and the CBA have jumped on board as case studies for the Hatchery participants.

Program Designer and Facilitator Nathan Baird oversees the program and guides the students through workshops and master classes over the 15-week course.

He says, “The students have to identify what a user problem is and also why it has been so hard to solve. They come up with opportunities to solve their problem space, then test it and re-iterate the idea. It’s amazing to see; the walls are covered with ideas.”

“This semester we’ve had the opportunity to work with the ABC and CBA,” adds the Hatchery Community Manager Tida Tippapart. “They both delivered a brief or a challenge that students can work on. The CBA and the ABC get to see how our students unpack a very large issue and the different steps, approaches and perspectives they can take on that.”

The Hatchery is housed in a collaborative workspace in the basement of building U in Ultimo. The purpose-built space reflects the Hatchery’s unique approach to teaching. Students are encouraged to brainstorm uninhibitedly on the whiteboard wall, move furniture for team discussions and construct the space to work both collaboratively and independently at different times.

The program also incorporates formal didactic teaching styles to introduce new concepts and debrief on groups’ experiences, as well as encouraging the students to undertake field research outside of program hours.

PhD candidate Catherine Raffaele participated in the Hatchery pilot program in the first semester of 2015. She has since helped plan the second iteration, which now incorporates innovation-focused workshops run by UTS academics from a range of faculties.

“People are standing rather than sitting down and actually work off the walls,” she says. “Most of it’s really interactive, or active, so you can see all the Post-it notes and the writing on the wall as the participants brainstorm new ideas.”

While the ‘digital natives’ who come through university this decade may be familiar with the rapid pace of change in the world, universities need to equip them with foundation skills to enable them to be agile and productive in the ‘disrupted’ economy.

A report by the Foundation for Young Australians found that 70 per cent of young Australians’ first jobs will either look very different or be completely lost in the next 10 to 15 years.

UTS Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Corporate Services) Anne Dwyer supports the need for entrepreneurial skills to be fostered at university.

“We know that our graduates aren’t going to follow the traditional career paths. Many UTS graduates will make their own jobs,” says Dwyer, pointing to one of the reasons for the creation of the Hatchery program. It is the next step in the UTS vision for meaningful, practical industry engagement.

Tippapart says approaching industry engagement in a new way was one of the fundamental elements to its development.

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program in their own time. “The students are here because they are passionate about entrepreneurship. There are no credit points for this.”

Says Tippapart, “I think the Hatchery speaks to that ground swell of cross-pollination and collaboration at UTS. We get to work with such a range of students from business through to commerce, communications, IT and engineering and having that neutral space and being that Switzerland is kind of to our advantage.”

Business student Sufeyan Sawal is participating in the Hatchery this semester. He says the program is looking beyond developing basic business skills.

“There were a few students that initially thought it was about how to start a business or how to get an ABN, but it’s actually not that. It’s about being able to develop an entrepreneurial mindset and develop those skills that are required to break into the market.”

First-year student and Hatchery graduate Fleur Combridge says the Hatchery exposed her to new ways of thinking. “As one of the younger members of the Hatchery, it was great to interact with a variety of people and gain not only greater inter-personal skills, but understand how people at different points in life viewed and attempted to solve problems.”

Tippapart agrees. She believes the Hatchery program exemplifies a distinctly UTS-approach to problem solving in the real world.

“What I think sets UTS apart is that it is about instilling a completely different way of thinking and stuff that you can do – you know lo-fi and on the fly – it’s not about having the machinery there to expand that. It’s about really thinking and changing the way that you think.”

The program is aiming to be agile in its delivery, and embody the design-thinking skills it aims to teach.

“It’s very experimental and very agile, we are learning as we are going,” says Raffaele. “It’s still in the process of developing and we are constantly taking student feedback to make this better. We want to make sure that the program is co-created by the students.”

To find out more about the Hatchery and how to participate, visit hatchery.uts.edu.au or email hatchery@uts.edu.au

Margot Kelly
Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism)
Photograph (students) supplied by: the Hatchery Photographe (T Tippapart); Avalon Dennis
Are you more likely to succeed if you appear before a judge in the morning? If you’re self-represented or hire a lawyer? Legal experts Anita Stuhmcke and Pam Stewart explain how their latest research project, which involves data mining High Court decisions, is set to uncover previously unknown trends in our legal system and help to make Australian courts more efficient.

Data analysis and the discipline of law have traditionally gone together like apples and oranges. In legal terms, data is usually only relevant in the protection of individual privacy or in terms of access to government information. More limited attention has been paid to the use of data to mine legal information – particularly decision-making by judges.

But what if we could use data analysis to improve the efficiency of the judicial process without compromising the delivery of justice? This is something we’re hoping to achieve through our latest research project – Data and the Administration of Justice: Applications for Special Leave to Appeal to the High Court of Australia.

It’s our belief that data may be able to answer any number of questions about the administration of justice. The questions may be off-beat – for example, will your legal case be more likely to succeed if you appear before a judge in the morning or the afternoon? Or the questions may be ones which we suspect we know the answer to – such as ‘are you more likely to succeed if you are self-represented or have legal representation in court?’ The answers to these questions, however, have the potential to alter the current Australian legal landscape.

How will we do this? Our current project links data analysis to the legal decisions of Australia’s highest court, the High Court.

Our research, which focuses on special leave applications to the High Court, is a significant area and would be useful to practitioners, judicial officers, litigants and the wider administrative machinery of government.

These special leave applications run the full gamut of legal matters – immigration, taxation, contracts, family law, personal injury and more (excepting constitutional issues). In terms of matters heard by the Court, applications for special leave to appeal represent the greatest volume of matters filed.

Appeals are usually heard by five or seven Justices. But, and it is a big but, the right to appeal is not automatic. Before an appeal is heard, the Court must have granted leave or special leave to appeal. Special leave applications, which are first examined by a panel of justices, can be decided without oral argument by members of the panel sitting in open court. Or they may be heard with oral argument with lawyers appearing usually in Canberra, Sydney or Melbourne, or sometimes by video-link between capital cities.

Our research is examining a snapshot, approximately 1200 cases, of these recent applications. Our aim is to identify administrative trends and to analyse success and failure rates. We are coding each of these cases for over 40 attributes such as success rates for litigants, time taken to resolve applications, gender and nature of applicants and respondents, self-representation, legal professionals involved and the use of technology such as video links.
From this we will be able to answer questions like ‘who is using the High Court?’, and ‘is it a court for all?’.

We will see whether taxation appeals are more often successful in special leave applications than immigration cases; whether female applicants are more likely to succeed than male; if success is more likely in cases originating in Western Australia; if there’s a combination of judges that grant leave more often than others? We may also be able to predict results having regard to category of case and types of litigant.

Importantly we have done this form of research before, but on a smaller scale. Our earlier, published, study examined negligence decisions in the High Court and we constructed a database by coding each of the 78 High Court negligence decisions over an 11 year period from 1 January 2000. Our research showed the most successful litigants were large corporations or government and that children were amongst the fewest litigants and the least successful. While there have been no changes to the legal system yet, this research has definitely helped to better inform lawyers and law students.

Ultimately, we want to know how we can make courts more efficient whilst retaining a just judicial system. While we do not see data providing the answer to this eternal conundrum, we do see it as an exciting and expanding area – one which has arrived very late and with too little consequence in the discipline of law. Simply put, we want to turn the apples and oranges into a fruit salad.

Anita Stuhmcke
Professor of Law, Faculty of Law
Pam Stewart
Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law
Photographer: Fiona Livy
On 1 December 1994, UTS purchased the 55-acre Kuring-gai campus for $1. Yes, $1. While the Crown’s sale price was low, Kuring-gai’s value to UTS has been priceless. The land, which originally belonged to the Guring-gai people, first made its way into the Commonwealth’s hands in 1915 when it was acquired for use as an army rifle range. In 1961, though the land continued to be owned by the Crown, the State Government decided to build a “public institution”. By 1973, the William Balmain Teachers College completed its move to the campus and changed its name to the Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education (KCAE). In 1990, KCAE merged with UTS.

“The Kuring-gai campus started, basically, as a teacher’s college,” explains historian Annette Salt, co-editor of UTS’s history, Stories from the Tower.

“It certainly was a long way from what they started with in Balmain, where the Principal actually occupied a cupboard under the stairwell, like Harry Potter, and the science teacher had to prepare his lessons in the corridor.”

The Kuring-gai building (which received the 1978 Sulman Medal, a RAIA Merit Award, Royal Australian Horticultural Society Award for Bush Landscape Design and an Enduring Architecture Award) could not have been more different. It is a neo-Brutalist concrete and steel structure, nestled amongst Lindfield’s bush, that spills down the hillside.

To soften the interior, architect David Turner included what would become the campus’s iconic fuchsia handrails and five kilometres of green carpet. So recognisable is the carpet, its Sydney suppliers labelled it ‘Kuring-gai green’. So important is it to staff that after the merger, the colour was added to the blue curtains UTS hung during City campus graduations. And in 1994, after the administration attempted to remove the carpet, staff launched a protest, and won.

Says Salt, “It was a place that had a strong sense of unity; a strong belief in itself.” In fact, when the Federal Government brought in the 1989 Unified National System – a mandate for CAEs and universities to amalgamate – KCAE Principal (and later UTS Vice-Chancellor) Tony Blake tried to convince the government to let the college go it alone. His bids, however, failed.

“Kuring-gai looked at Sydney University, the University of New South Wales, Macquarie University, but eventually chose UTS,” says Salt. “They thought it did not have tickets on itself, it was a new university, it was fresh, and it would be advantageous, to them, to unite.” The decision would irrevocably alter UTS.

“They brought with them a different sort of culture,” explains Salt. “UTS was very male-oriented; I think there was only one female toilet, if I recall correctly, in the whole Tower building.”

“The old UTS was very bleak,” adds Blake. “There were no signs, no art. The Duke of Edinburgh once visited and commented that it looked like a public railway station!”

“But it changed. I mean, I look at the place now. It’s extraordinary.”

Adjunct Professor Paul Ashton credits Blake with much of the merger’s success. “He’s one of the few people I’ve met who could actually walk through a university campus and say hello to everyone by first name and would know something of what was happening with them.”

Since the amalgamation, Kuring-gai has been the site of many landmark events, and not just for the 40 000 education, nursing, business and law students who have graduated at the campus. In 1994, Kuring-gai bore witness to the worst bushfires in Sydney’s recent history.

“FOR SIX YEARS WE’VE BEEN BUILDING UP TO WELCOMING THE KURING-GAI CAMPUS TO A CONSOLIDATED CITY CAMPUS.”
“The intensity of the fire is very hard to imagine,” explains Ashton. “It actually burnt up within a meter of parts of the building, it melted the large light fittings on the exterior of the building, glass was cracked because of the intensity of the heat and there was a fern garden that was destroyed.

“There were two staff members there – Paddy Parkhill and Trevor Simmonds – whose quick thinking and getting onto the fire brigade managed to save the building from what could have been devastation.”

“Given the speed the fire approached the campus, it was pretty amazing we got everyone out and the building shutdown so quickly,” adds Director of Facilities Management, Operations Glen Rabbitt.

Today, Rabbitt is overseeing Kuring-gai’s relocation to the City campus. “In some respects, closing Kuring-gai is like moving house, except it’s a big house with a big family!

“For six years we’ve been building up to welcoming the Kuring-gai campus to a consolidated City campus.”

In addition to new buildings like the Dr Chau Chak Wing building, those preparations have included building the Library’s new book retrieval system, developing additional learning spaces in the Blake Library, and in building 10, constructing new nursing labs and activity-based learning environments for higher degree research students.

Similarly, in a move that will allow outdoor sport science and education classes to continue, and further strengthen the university’s links with the Sydney Cricket & Sports Ground Trust, UTS has made arrangements to book playing fields on a seasonal basis through the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust.

Back at Eton Road, Rabbitt says, “There are a whole lot of activities that need to be de-commissioned, assets that need to be disposed of and assets we’ll transfer to the Department of Education and Communities, who plan to create an education precinct ranging from kindergarten to Year 12.

“Ideally we want to be able to hand the new owner the keys and turn off the lights by Christmas Eve.”

Before that happens, however, staff and the community will be invited to celebrate Kuring-gai’s 25 years with UTS. On Saturday 7 November an alumni community event will be held. On Friday 13 November, all staff from the City and Kuring-gai are welcome to attend a lunchtime barbecue. Next year, a public exhibition, revisiting Kuring-gai’s contribution to UTS’s rich history and culture, will welcome all staff onto the City campus.

And while the building will no longer belong to UTS, the collegial, academically rigorous culture Kuring-gai imparted upon the City will remain.

And, says Ashton, “I think that’s a very important legacy Kuring-gai has given UTS.”
Peter Scott is a man on a mission – to use data and technology to transform students’ learning experiences and to change their lives.

It sounds like a big ask, but for the Professor and knowledge media researcher, it’s really all in a day’s work. As the new Assistant Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), Scott works with staff and students to deploy innovative learning solutions to create and sustain positive change in the university’s learning and work spaces.

“Technology is a critical part of the learning mix for the 21st century university,” he says. “But it is only one part of that mix. I want to see a new vision of how we fit people, places and learning designs together with technology into UTS life.

“UTS is living its mission. Our new campus and our Learning Futures strategies bring together online learning and the ‘place’ of Sydney into a perfect learning locus. That is a vision I want to help deliver.”

Scott arrived in Australia from the UK with his family in July. He didn’t bat an eyelid at this jump, however, as he was born into a family of roving British civil servants and grew up hopping from country to country.

“Over the years, I’ve learned to speak with a plausible English accent, but I have never been ‘English’.

“My family are all Scots. I was born on a tour of Singapore and grew up in shorts and thongs in Hong Kong. For me the cosmopolitan mix of Sydney is what the world should be.”

Back in the UK, Scott studied Honours Psychology at the University of Warwick, followed by a PhD in Cognitive Science from the University of Sheffield.

“My undergraduate enthusiasm for cognitive psychology grew into a postgraduate enthusiasm for cognitive science – and computer models of the mind. My early research on intelligent tutoring led me to believe that before we could use the computer to ‘replicate’ the human mind, we must first use it to ‘augment’ what the human mind could do.”

After a stint teaching psychology at the University of Sheffield, he spent nearly 20 years at the Open University (OU) – the UK’s leading distance learning university, which has more than 200,000 students.

As the Director of the Knowledge Media Institute at the OU, Scott was at the forefront of research and development in disciplines that intersect to improve learning with technology.

He was also OU’s lead on its launch in iTunes U, he worked on the release of interactive research and teaching iBooks, established a university podcast infrastructure, and created an online student service for large-scale, live interaction in science.

“The OU has shown the world how to do learning in virtual spaces brilliantly, with over 70 million international downloads of innovative learning resources from its iTunes U channel alone,” he says.

His first project at UTS is to deliver a review of and new vision for postgraduate learning.

“Our postgraduate students are amongst the strongest cards in our deck. We do postgraduate well, but I want to find out how we can do it better. There are new ways to help students achieve the best possible mix of the digital and physical.”

For Scott, his move to Sydney has also brought another unexpected delight.

“I expected the food, the wine, and the people to be brilliant here. However, what I did not expect was to find Sydneysiders to be as passionate as I am about coffee. Perfection!”

Amy Ripley
Postgraduate Certificate in Journalism
Photographer: Shane Lo

Comment on this article at UTS NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2015/10/a-taste-of-things-to-come
They’re known as SOUL’s ‘dynamic duo’, and it’s easy to see why. Shopfront Acting Program Manager Claire Pettigrew and Student Engagement Officer Christopher Brew are the brains and brawn (not necessarily in that order) behind SOULstars – a new Shopfront program that enables student leadership and peer-facilitation.

Pettigrew and Brew first met 10 years ago as undergraduate students in UTS’s Students’ Association. Both were pursuing communication degrees, and their own passions for social justice, in a politically charged higher education environment.

“It was quite an intense period of transformation and growth,” says Pettigrew. “I think we were both initially attracted to UTS for its strong commitment to social justice, and student organising gave us a space to practice some of the ideas we were being exposed to in our degrees and develop theories of social change.”

“Student organising and engagement is dynamic and challenging, it not only exposes you to diverse perspectives and experiences, but allows you to work those perspectives into strategic action for change,” adds Brew.

For Pettigrew, this real-world negotiation of ideas and skills was solidified through her experience working on two Shopfront community coursework projects as part of her degree.

“I was hungry for practical and meaningful learning that took me beyond the classroom and into the community sector – those placements were pivotal in allowing me to develop networks, work opportunities and my own professional identity.”

After graduating, each pursued work experiences that closely aligned with their drive to work in social justice spaces. Brew worked as operations manager for online political advocacy body, GetUp!, and as a campaigns coordinator for ACON. Pettigrew took on an environmental education community development role in Auburn and became heavily involved in Camp Out – a collective-run camp for young LGBTIQ people.

In 2013, Pettigrew returned to UTS and Shopfront to spearhead the UTS SOUL Award – Shopfront’s leadership and volunteer initiative. SOUL was developed to complement Shopfront’s coursework community projects – where students are matched with community organisations to deliver real projects. Later that year, after completing his Master of Research at the London Consortium, and teaching for a number of years in the UTS Communication program, Brew joined the Shopfront team.

For the dynamic duo, it’s a “delight” to work together again, delivering lectures, co-facilitating workshops and launching SOULstars.

“We work incredibly well together,” says Brew. “We often find ourselves getting deep into an ideas-generation and design thinking process on the spur of the moment. We’re both really committed to continuous learning, adaptation and growth, and we thrive off developing those kinds of opportunities with every organisation and student we work with.”

“Our own experiences of being involved in community organisations as well as student engagement provide a unique insight into the dynamics and intricacies of successful university-community collaborations,” says Pettigrew. “You need empathy and commitment to civil society, professionalism, strong communication and clear project parameters.”

“I think we are both proud to be able to support new graduates to leave UTS with community awareness, volunteer experience and some skills to help harness their sense of social purpose, whilst having been able to support the capacity of our community partners in the process. It’s an awesome job.”

Hannah Jenkins
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Doug Millen

Comment on this article at
UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2015/10/shop-talk
Director of the Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation (CHERE) Rosalie Viney and Professor of Health Economics Marion Haas, have shared two decades of their lives together. In 1994, on the very same day, they both began their journeys at CHERE as research officers. Over the past 21 years their friendship has grown alongside the centre and their careers.

MARION HAAS

Coincidently, Rosalie and I started at CHERE on the same day – three years after the centre was first established. The first time I met Rosalie, she came into my office to say hello, and I remember thinking, ‘Wow, she must have a lot of experience, coming from NSW Health,’ whereas I was straight out of a training program – a Master in Public Health. Soon after that, Rosalie asked me if I would like to work with her on a project review of the cost effectiveness of a new test for cervical screening, and I knew then that this was going to be a lot of fun, and the beginning of something special. It was just one of those things that happen very rarely in life, where you meet someone and immediately there is a friendship.

For some reason, we clicked straight away; Rosalie and I have similar worldviews and attitudes towards how research should be undertaken. For example, the importance of economics research, understanding not just the costs of something, but also the outcomes, what incentives are operating and what trade-offs people are making. People also confuse us very often, and on two separate occasions we have been asked if we are sisters; although when you see us together we look nothing alike.

We do also know each other’s families, and have watched our children grow up. Unfortunately though, we are not as close as we used to be. We both used to live fairly close together – at one point we lived just down the road from each other – however, I have moved. You can never change how well you know someone though, and to me Rosalie is still the same person she was in 1994. One of the best memories I have was after an international health economics conference in San Francisco in 2003. We went on a bus trip around South West USA to the Grand Canyon. It was incredibly good fun, we had a lot of laughs and just a fantastic time.

I think some people used to think we were joined at the hip, although we don’t work together so much anymore. With Rosalie becoming the Director of CHERE, there was a big increase in her responsibilities that take her away from the hands-on research. But our friendship was very much reinforced through the growth of the centre, and through our roles as deputy directors – from 1995 to 2013 myself and 1995 to 2012, when she became Director, for Rosalie.

One of Rosalie’s biggest strengths is that she is a very inclusive person and she loves to have people contributing to ideas. Our friendship has been incredibly important in my life and I can’t imagine not having Rosalie as a friend.
then made the shift to working in universities. In fact, CHERE didn’t join UTS until 2002. Peter Booth, who was the Dean of the Faculty of Business at the time, had a vision to increase UTS’s level of research and research output – a goal he certainly achieved.

A funny memory that I have of the two of us, would be the time my husband helped a work collaborator change a tyre on her car. The next week, this person gave Marion a bottle of wine to pass on to ‘her’ husband. We know people get us mixed up sometimes but this was a new one!

I do have to say though, I feel very supported by Marion in taking on the role of Director of CHERE. We both started our PhDs as mature age students, and worked in policy and practice in various ways, and then came back to research. Marion started her PhD a little before me though, so I guess I always saw her as someone whose example I could look to.

I know there are things about the way I work that frustrate Marion but we know each other well enough to be comfortable with the different approaches we take to things. I see Marion as a mentor, and she is definitely the first person I would go to for advice about anything to do with work, and often anything to do with my personal life as well. I have a really deep level of trust in Marion’s judgment and her loyalty.

Lexy Akillas
Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism)

Photographs supplied by: Marion Haas and Rosalie Viney
Saimi Jeong never intended to be a journalist, but winning an award that recognises national excellence in journalism is certainly helping to change her mind.

Last July, Jeong was named Student Journalist of the Year at the 2015 Walkley Awards for her articles published in The Guardian Australia and Reportage – an online magazine by UTS’s Australian Centre for Independent Journalism.

“I didn’t expect to win and I was completely shocked when the finalists were announced,” recalls Jeong.

Two of the young writer’s award-winning articles exposed corruption in the fundraising industry with insight from her own experience; the other took an engaging look at female bodybuilding in Australia.

“The body building story stemmed from a photo I saw of my friend’s friend who participated in this sort of thing. I wanted to know why someone would be interested in shaping their body in that way because it looked like a lot of effort.”

All three stories, says Jeong, were first submitted as assignments. “Tom Morton, who taught me for Investigative Journalism, mentioned The Guardian when I was speaking to him about my second fundraising piece. I thought if he’s mentioning it, it’s worth having a go pitching it – so I did. I pitched the bodybuilding feature the following semester of my own accord.”

The award-winning journalism student, who finished an undergraduate degree in public relations at UTS in 2013, decided to take on journalism as an elective unit during the final semester of her undergraduate degree. The impetus came to Jeong during a public relations internship at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

“I really enjoyed the parts where we would have to make media alerts, go out and interview people and write a paragraph for the journalists.”

And her enjoyment of the elective inspired Jeong to continue her studies with a Master of Arts in Journalism.

“There are three reasons why I chose this course. UTS has a good reputation for journalism and the lecturers are all practicing journalists or have recently practiced which is helpful because they understand the industry.

“The course has a balance of practical and theory where you get the chance to make quality work that you can showcase, but also get the theory to build your critical ability.

“That really helps you develop your practical journalism skills because it gives your work context and also helps you to understand why you do the things you do on the job.”

Currently, Jeong is a contributor to The Guardian Australia and a casual producer at The Sydney Morning Herald. She also recently interned with ABC’s Lateline and SBS.

“It’s nice to be in the newsroom to see how it works. I definitely feel comfortable in that environment,” Jeong says.

And she’s always on the lookout for new stories. “Even if I’m having coffee with a friend and they mention something interesting it’s just a matter of research to see whether it’s a viable lead or not.”

With graduation mere months away, the young writer hopes to continue investigative journalism. “My main aim is to reveal more about areas that don’t get as much coverage and add new takes on old issues.

“It’s important for people to understand that those who are different from them are only human beings too.”

Sofie Wainwright
Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism)
Photographer: Shane Lo
In this collection of short stories, deliciously crafted prose takes readers on a journey into weird and wonderful places. Appropriately titled, this anthology of Sydney-born Bronwyn Rodden’s best work is unconventional in every sense of the word and an example of absurdist writing at its best. For this very reason it’s difficult to describe the collection in any finite terms. The series of 11 stories (although some are better described as ‘sequences’ rather than narratives) transcend time, place and genre. They revel in the weird and uncomfortable in what are otherwise normal settings – a circus, a cake shop, an office tower. It’s certainly a challenging read. In what is a common characteristic of short stories, they can leave one feeling a level of frustration akin to being woken suddenly from a deep sleep. And the same is true here. Rodden skilfully transcends readers into whimsical dreamlike states only to release them, without warning, back to reality. You’re often left scrambling for meaning, but that’s kind of the point. The absurdity and beauty of these stories resides as much in their delectable detail and descriptions – a real celebration of the English language – as the plot and characters themselves. Those who love to read for reading’s sake will adore this collection, as will those looking for something short but of substance for the morning commute.

Ransacking Paris is more than just a travelogue. Patti Miller, who spent a year living in Paris with her husband, takes the reader on a fascinating ramble through the city, weaving in memoir and writing of imagined encounters with great French minds such as Montaigne, Rousseau and de Beauvoir. Miller almost becomes a local during her time in Paris. She joins a choir, takes language classes, advertises for French conversation partners and makes new friends. She also experiences illness and loneliness and writes movingly as she reflects on her multiple roles as writer, wife and mother. Through her observant eye, the reader stumbles across the hidden secrets and delights of Paris including the Luxembourg Gardens which is reputed to collect the best honey in all of France. Ransacking Paris is a gentle ode to life, literature and philosophy, capturing all the grace, elegance, multiculturalism and history of the French capital. There are plenty of books about Paris but this stands out from the crowd and will appeal to any visitor who wants to take a lesser-worn path.

Amy Ripley
Postgraduate Certificate in Journalism

Ransacking Paris is Patti Miller’s seventh book and fourth memoir. Miller graduated from UTS in 1982 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and in 1994 with a Master of Arts in Writing.

Every year I look forward to cracking open the latest UTS Writers’ Anthology and 2015 did not disappoint. Strange Objects Covered with Fur provides us with familiar images in Australian writing – landscapes bathed in brassy light, salt water and expats abroad, however, there is an underlying intrigue beneath these familiar surfaces. My favourite pieces in the collection were those that broke away from standard tropes in Australian literature to push the boundaries of form and experimentation. Ella Skilbeck-Porter’s poem ‘Temporary Whim’ skilfully balances a sense of longing with playfulness in her language. The poem is intellectual yet undoubtedly joyful and tactile which can be seen when she writes ‘they’d have just faded away/ Like a temporary whim./ A bruise. A gap-toothed grin./ Until the circle was spun again’. Another favourite is Emma Rayward’s ‘You Cannot Comb a Hairy Ball’ which draws the reader into a Cronenberrigan world. Here senses, surfaces and genders are subverted as a woman, having been devoured, inserts herself into her devourer’s body ‘like the cold that enters when you are unprepared for snow’. The breadth and beauty of the writing in this anthology is impressive, as Ceridwen Dovey writes in her foreword, ‘here is literature, in all its furry, heartbreaking strangeness’.

Holly Isemonger
Marketing and Communication Unit

Strange Objects Covered With Fur is the 29th annual UTS Writers’ Anthology. The anthology is comprised of work by undergraduate, postgraduate and research students, each of which is edited by a student editorial committee.
How can university students promote sustainability? It’s a question that will make you stop and think.

And that’s the point. On 28 October, the UTS Business School will be hosting its fourth #think public lecture – Endless Prosperity.

Distinguished Professor in the School of Life Sciences Graham Pyke explains. “The audience can expect to learn about environmental issues that we all face, some of which are clearly running counter to sustainability for us all – about how science and business must work together to resolve these issues, about how this has been increasingly happening, and about things that UTS is doing to promote sustainability.”

Pyke will be one of a four member panel at the event. The others are UTS School of Business Professor of Sustainable Enterprise Suzanne Benn, President of Stanford University’s Center for Conservation Biology Professor Paul Ehrlich and economist and former Liberal Party Leader Dr John Hewson.

“Paul has been an Adjunct Professor at UTS since 2012 and a friend and colleague of mine since the late 1980s,” explains Pyke. “John has been a colleague of mine since 2012. I invited them both to participate in the lecture, and then presented the idea to Sue Benn and the School of Business.”

Since that initial meeting, Pyke and Benn have been collaboratively developing the lecture, which will be held in the level 2 Auditorium in the Frank Gehry-designed Dr Chau Chak Wing building.

For Benn the collaboration is a no-brainer, “We need business to work with science in order to develop our understanding of how to live within the earth’s limits.”

Far too often, she says, business interests like cost-cutting and profit margins overtake our need to care for the planet.

She and Pyke hope #think Endless Prosperity will ignite the public, staff and students’ passion for sustainability, and promote the idea that science and business can work together to make the world a better place.

Pyke says, there’s much that students can do. “Students could ‘set an example’ by making pro-sustainability decisions themselves, and use their powers of influence, no doubt also fostered by their student experiences, to affect others. Students should be well positioned to inform, inspire and motivate others, towards the sustainable world we all need.”

“Students will form the next generation of educated people, able and expected to make decisions that favour sustainability.” The same can be said for all attendees.

#think Endless Prosperity will be held on 28 October in the auditorium in building 8, level 2. All #think public lectures can be downloaded at soundcloud.com/uts-business-school

Kate Kemp
Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism)/Bachelor of Laws
Photographer (S Benn, G Pyke): Joanne Saad
Photograph (windfarm): Thinkstock

Comment on this article at UTS:NEWSROOM
newsroom.uts.edu.au/news/2015/10/think-sustainability
This month’s highlight from the UTS Art Collection is an iconic image by Victorian artist Rick Amor. It is one of a suite of 10 etchings honouring Stephen Murray-Smith, the founding editor of the quarterly literary journal Overland. It was first published in 1954 as a left-leaning literary and cultural journal. Sixty years on, it continues to be published in both print and electronic forms.

Rick Amor was born in Frankston, Victoria in 1948 and trained at the Caulfield Institute of Technology and National Art School, Melbourne, where he was encouraged by John Brack. From the mid-70s, Amor continued to paint and worked as the Victorian Trades Hall Arts Officer, drawing and publishing posters and cartoons for trade unions. He was a board member and regular contributor of illustrations to Overland for over 20 years.

From the early 1980s, Amor moved away from political drawings and into his mature style that draws more on symbolist and surreal landscapes. The sea and a solitary figure are regular motifs in Amor’s paintings and prints, including this anonymous running figure from the artist’s memories of Frankston pier. The scene has a dreamlike quality; the derelict structure and rough sea around it lend a sense of foreboding. The Runner first appeared in a woodcut in 1983, and has since been realised in a variety of media including a bronze sculpture commissioned by the Heide Museum in 1996.

Over his lengthy career, Rick Amor has established himself as one of Australia’s premier artists. Amor’s work is represented in the permanent collections of the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, the National Portrait Gallery, the Art Gallery of Ballarat, and numerous state, regional, and university collections throughout Australia. He has received several residencies and commissions, including an appointment, by the Australian War Memorial, as an official War Artist to East Timor in 1999.

The Overland portfolio of etchings is currently on display in the George Muir Library at the UTS Kuring-gai campus.

Janet Ollevou
UTS Art
MORE THAN WORDS

The panels in this image show computed electromagnetic resonances on a silver nano-triangle with a central hole. The calculations were performed by the UTS High Performance Cluster. Each image is the result of over 300 hours of detailed calculations. In this case, a picture is worth not just 'a thousand words' but a gigabyte or so of numbers!

The colour scheme used is also special. UTS PhD student Glen Fletcher came up with a new way of rendering electric fields using a 'phasor map' and the HSV colour wheel. This method enables us to produce much more detailed and useful images.

Images by: Michael Cortie, Matthew Arnold and Glen Fletcher

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