THE FORGOTTEN HEALTH CRISIS
It’s the sex talk we have to have

LEARNING HOW TO FAIL
The benefits of failure and learning from your mistakes

SAYONARA SUPERBUGS?
How worms could help combat antibiotic resistance
What are your key priorities for the university in 2016 and what are you most excited about right now?

We have achieved so much in the past 12 months, including strengthened research outcomes, opening two new award-winning buildings, fantastic rankings, strong student demand and much more. I am very proud of what we have accomplished and it makes me excited to know we have the capability to further progress our ambitious plans.

Right now, people really want to be a part of UTS. They want to study, research and teach here; they want to be part of our community.

As our achievements and culture of excellence continue to grow, one of my key priorities is a real push to make sure UTS’s voice is being strongly heard – we need to let the world know who we are, that we are having impact and they should join us so we can have an even greater effect.

We will achieve this, of course, through further development of our brand and expanding our marketing capability, but most importantly through the voice of our staff and students and their achievements.

Staff are excited about working at UTS and the opportunities that are arising as a result of so much progress and growth. The Managing for Performance program and the Academic Growth strategy, which are another two priorities for this year, will enable us to continue to realise the ambitions of our community, just as we have been doing over the last few years.

When you were a child, what did you want to be?

When I was very young I wanted to drive tractors and then I wanted to be a teacher. I’m not sure when I decided tractors weren’t a viable option.

What is one of your pet peeves?

Bad pedestrianism – not walking on the correct side of the footpath. And, okay, I do have others, namely when people make speeches instead of asking a question in question time and when people assign blame to others without looking in the mirror first.

Where was your last holiday and where are you planning to go next?

My last holiday was in Bhutan and Sikkim in Northern India over the Christmas break. I will be having a little R&R in Lord Howe Island mid-year – at least I will be if my manager approves my leave! I’m also thinking about Estonia and Latvia, and a kayaking trip in Canada sometime soon.

Tell us about a person you really admire and why.

Robyn Kemmis – formerly the DVC (Administration) at UTS for over a decade until the early 2000s. She was my first manager here and a very important mentor to me and so many others. More recently, she served on the Sydney City Council with Clover Moore as Deputy Lord Mayor. Sadly, Robyn passed away at Christmas time.

She did a lot for the university and for her community and did it in a quiet and humble way, which I greatly admired. She had a long history of activism and leadership in the women’s movement and made very significant contributions to her local community in Glebe and certainly to the City of Sydney. She played a significant role in instilling social justice in the culture at UTS and she inspired me to stay in the sector when the corporate world was beckoning again.
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All U: articles are available to read online via newsroom.uts.edu.au or follow us @utsnewsroom

Send your story ideas, opinions and events to u@uts.edu.au
“How do we become an elite university, without being elitist?” This question was first posed by Provost and Senior Vice-President Peter Booth, but it’s one Director of the Equity & Diversity Unit (E&DU) Tracie Conroy has latched onto with gusto.

“I love quoting Peter – he and Attila both want UTS to be a world-leading university of technology and a sector leader in social justice, but how do we keep our feet on the ground? How do we keep our roots?”

The first step was taken in November last year, when former NSW Minister for Education and Training and Minister for Women Verity Firth was appointed to the role of Executive Director, Social Justice.

“My role has really been brought about in order to tell the very rich story that is UTS’s commitment to social justice, equity and access,” explains Firth.

“UTS has a really good record on innovation in this space – there’s the Women in Engineering and IT program and UTS Shopfront. All of that was really quite radical when UTS started it. Now everyone’s doing it.

“I’ll be looking at ways we can improve what we’re doing and how we can utilise the amazing research skills of our staff to tackle major social issues and form a big part of the national conversation.”

Already Firth has begun mapping UTS’s current and historical social justice achievements. Conroy, meanwhile, remains focused on heading up the university’s key equity strategies – the Wingara Indigenous Employment Strategy (for staff), and the Widening Participation Strategy and Access and Inclusion Plan (for students). The unit will also significantly contribute to the Athena Swan pilot project which Conroy says, “is probably the biggest gender equity program to occur across the sector in many, many years.”

Likewise, Conroy will continue overseeing E&DU’s programs, including Diversity Week (29 August to 2 September) which features their flagship biennial event, the UTS Human Rights Awards.

“We’re a young, dynamic university, we’re aspirational, we don’t want old-fashioned values attached to us; you know sexism, racism, homophobia,” she says.

“What we do want is to ensure UTS has a culture of safety and respect for both students and staff.”

Similarly, says Firth, “We want to make the student experience something unique. It’s not just about the traditional transition, but focusing on building and creating proper global citizens; a sense of social responsibility and values embedded in the way we teach and the qualities of our students.

“What we know from research is that the sorts of innovation and creative thinking employers are looking for is very closely linked to that sense of social innovation and social entrepreneurship, for want of a better word. We really want to be able to promote that as one of the core graduate attributes UTS students have.

“Universities have a role that’s both about allowing the individual to have equality of opportunity, but also contributing to society as a whole.

“It’s not about engaging in an ivory tower sort of way, it’s about actually working with people. And the thing is, UTS has always done that. We’ve always been open to industry and the community and taking a collaborative approach, rather than an elitist approach. And that’s all part of social justice too.”

Fiona Livy
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Shane Lo
Hold onto your hard hats, Bob the Builder is coming to Blackfriars. Well, sort of.

Construction of the new UTS Child Care (UTSCC) centre is set to start next month. The first step, building a pedestrian pathway off Buckland Street – the new entry and exit point for visitors – has already begun.

According to UTSCC CEO Debra Clarke, a lot has changed since the current centre was built 21 years ago. “This was a great design in its day, but thinking around childcare environments has moved on.”

So too has the demand for childcare places. “We have 500 children on our waiting list. While we do prioritise UTS staff and students, even they have to wait, at times depending on the age of the child, up to two years.”

For Clarke, and UTS, it just wasn’t good enough. The solution? A new state-of-the-art, purpose-built building that raises the centre’s capacity from 50 to 84 places. (UTSCC’s other centre, Magic Pudding, has already expanded from a 40- to 61-place centre.)

“It’s going to be beautiful,” enthuses Clarke. “During the concept phase of the project the design architect, Thierry Lacoste, talked a lot about the fact that children come from homes and that when you put many homes together you end up with something like a childcare centre. His design references the roof pitch of many homes coming together, and it really works nicely on this site because of the heritage buildings.”

Senior Project Manager in Facilities Management Operations (FMO) Angie Clements agrees. “The design of the centre within the heritage precinct is very clever. Whilst it’s playful, it still complements the heritage style. It’s a much more respectful treatment than copying the heritage style and putting in a building that’s fake; one that looks old when it’s actually not.”

Of course, the building (due to open mid-2017) will be functional too. The design will maximise natural ventilation and air flow, increase the number of playrooms from two to five and include a commercial-grade kitchen, dedicated servery and dining room.

Outside, a larger playground will enable children under two to play in a separate area from those aged two to five. Vegetable gardens and a visible rain tank will help children learn about the environment, as will Rosie and Sarah – the centre’s Bantam chickens – who are set to reap their own benefits with a brand new coop.

“Part of our philosophy is that children don’t need bright, plastic surroundings. They need nature-based environments. That’s one of the reasons, says Clarke, “We’ll be keeping some of the mature trees on the site and planting new mature trees. We’re hoping to get a lot of our shade in the playground through mature planting.”

The excavation and construction phases of the project will also include “a bit of quiet time” between 12 pm and 2 pm when highly intrusive noise will not be allowed.

“It doesn’t mean we’re stopping works completely,” explains Clements. “But it was important for the kids, the staff and the residents on the other side of the street to have a little bit of respite.”

“That’s been one of the real benefits of working with the UTS Facilities Management team,” adds Clarke, “they’ve always been really approachable and aware of our special clientele.”

Though the redevelopment will mean less on-site parking, Clarke says parents are “overwhelmingly” excited. So too are the children. “Children love diggers! They’re very interested in what’s going to happen and I think that’s a major opportunity for learning.”

It’s something FMO are keen to help foster, where they can. “We actually have some old hard hats here – because they do go out of date – so I’ll be taking them down and giving them to the kids,” enthuses Clements.

“I think the children are going to be the most excited clients we’ve had! Even though I can’t guarantee any of the builders will actually be named Bob.”

Fiona Livy
Marketing and Communication Unit
Architectural images by: Daryl Jackson Robin Dyke
“Scientists,” says Jana Soares, “are like children: curious, questioning, pouncing on possibilities and opportunities, thirsty for knowledge and discovery.”

These are certainly characteristics that define Soares herself, not only in her research but in the way she engages with the wider world.

As a visiting scholar in UTS’s ithree institute, under the supervision of Associate Professor Cynthia Whitchurch, Soares is investigating novel techniques for combating antibiotic resistance. She’s also taking the opportunity of her time in Sydney to explore, document and share her reflections on the culture, cuisine and landscape via her blog, *Discovery in the Land Down Under*.

“Working with Cynthia, Lynne Turnbull, James Lazenby and the rest of the group has been an amazing experience all around,” she says. “I enjoy getting to know my colleagues over morning and afternoon tea breaks, where our conversations vary from random pop-culture references to the intricacies of our research.

“I’m really excited by the clinical relevance and applications of our research. It has the potential to make a real international impact.”

Antibiotic resistance — when bacteria are no longer susceptible to commonly available antibiotics that previously provided effective treatment — is recognised by the World Health Organization as “an increasingly serious threat to global public health”.

*Staphylococcus aureus* (Golden staph), *Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* are some of the most well-known antibiotic-resistant ‘superbugs’ and leading causes of hospital-acquired infections.

Tackling antibiotic resistance is one of the key focuses of ithree institute researchers and Soares’ research is advancing a two-pronged approach to killing *P. aeruginosa*.

“*P. aeruginosa* can be highly tolerant of beta-lactams, which is one of the most commonly used antibiotic classes in the world,” explains Soares, “and once the bacteria become resistant to antibiotics, it can be very difficult to clear infection.”

Despite *P. aeruginosa’s* tolerance to beta-lactams, previous research from Whitchurch’s team has shown the antibiotic does weaken the bacteria, causing its cells to transition from their normal rod shape to a sphere. When it was in this fragile state, the researchers were able to destroy the bacteria by introducing an antimicrobial peptide.

Soares’ research builds on this finding. “They did this with a lab strain, and now I’m trying to see if it works using clinical isolates – strains that were taken either from patient samples or from different epidemic strains that occur more naturally in the population.”

The young scientist has already replicated the transition from rod-shape to round cell in some of these clinical strains. Her next step is to test if the addition of the antimicrobial peptide will be similarly effective in destroying these strains.

Soares plans to develop a working model system using a particular nematode (a small worm, about a millimetre in length), which survives on non-pathogenic bacteria in the soil.

“They’ll eat any bacteria,” says Soares, “so if you feed them *P. aeruginosa* they’ll develop an infection.”

Could worms hold the key to combating antibiotic resistance? New research by visiting US Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar Jana Soares and UTS’s ithree institute is combining infected worms, antibiotics and antimicrobial peptides to beat one of the leading causes of hospital-acquired infections.
“We’re trying to feed them the pathogen and cause them to become sick. Then we’ll see if we can clear the infection with the antibiotic and antimicrobial peptide combination before they die.”

Soares is keen to see the results of her research translated into practical applications, but with her scholarship at UTS coming to an end in June, the next move she has planned is an unorthodox one. Rather than continuing to a PhD program, as she initially intended, Soares now hopes to enrol in a master’s program in business or entrepreneurship. The reason? Soares wants to be able to answer the questions: “What happens when research is applied? And how do you get it to the public?”

She says, “I would like to join a graduate program that will give me the business background to see how science can be commercialised. I think the research outputs are really important and then I really want to work on how to get it to the public.”

Born and raised in New York, Soares completed her undergraduate degree in biology, graduating with a minor in chemistry and from the honours program at St. Edward’s University in Texas. “It’s a small campus, with only about 3500 undergraduates, so we had a very supportive environment.

"Within the major I chose in sciences, you had a lot of one-on-one time with faculty. I was also able to do an undergraduate research project from the end of first year.”

Soares conducted three research projects in her time at St. Edward’s, both on- and off-campus, focusing on the prevention of cardiovascular disease, food-borne illness and hospital-acquired infections. These research experiences stood her in good stead when she applied for the prestigious Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship that brought her to UTS.

“I didn’t know exactly how competitive I would be coming out of undergraduate,” says Soares. “Generally, I was told, for the postgraduate Fulbright they tend to take people who are already in their PhD. And so I felt like, ‘Okay maybe I don’t have enough background’.”

With the support and encouragement of one of her professors, however, she decided to apply and see what happened. Months after the initial application, and assuming she had been unsuccessful, Soares committed to a PhD but received an email from the Fulbright program the next day. She saw the scholarship as an “incredible opportunity” she couldn’t turn down.

Since arriving in Australia last July, Soares has seized every opportunity inside and outside the lab to expand her knowledge and share it with others.

In her first month, she joined Toastmasters International, entering a speech competition and progressing through to the area-level competition. She’s gone to numerous festivals, experienced Australia Day by following a checklist of ‘typical’ celebratory activities and recommendations from colleagues – including listening to Triple J’s Hottest 100, eating lamb and picnicking on the beach with friends – visited the Great Barrier Reef, Featherdale Wildlife Park, the Blue Mountains and more, blogging about her adventures. And she’s written articles for RIAus – Australia’s national science channel.

All-in-all, her time has been spent passionately pursuing the scientific exemplar she describes on her blog: “Fearless experimenters, scientists do not hesitate to test limits, constantly, all to advance the understanding of the world around them and share their findings with others.”

This research is supported by: a Postgraduate Scholarship through the Australian-American Fulbright Commission.

Rachael Quigley
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer (C Whitchurch, J Soares): Shane Lo
Photographer (J Soares travelling) supplied by: Jana Soares
Photographer (Harbour Bridge): Alvin T. John
Superbug image: Thinkstock
We don’t have to go very far to see a story about how the workforce is changing. As the economy shifts from the industrial age to the information age, the standardisation and security of work that characterised much of the 20th century is fast being replaced by fragmentation and risk.

While once permanent full-time employment was the norm, we are now becoming increasingly detached from organisations and institutions – by choice or by circumstance. More and more people are working independently as entrepreneurs, freelancers and contractors. And it has been estimated that by 2020, over half of the workforce in the United States will be independently employed. It’s a trend Australia looks to be following.

At the same time, the boundaries between employment and entrepreneurialism are blurring. One research firm estimates today’s school leavers will have an average of 17 employers and five different careers over the course of their life.

Similarly, in a 2015 global study, 65 per cent of young people expressed a desire to start their own business.

Put it all together, and it’s likely the working lives of future generations will include spells of both employment and self-employment.

Even for those who forgo self-employment the lines will still blur. Increasingly, employees are being required to take an entrepreneurial approach to developing their skills and managing their careers. We can no longer rely on organisations to help us to do so.

In addition, a number of large companies are encouraging employees to undertake entrepreneurial ventures in-house, in the hope of increasing their innovation and disrupting themselves before they are disrupted by others.

Despite the greater interest and uptake in entrepreneurialism, starting a new venture remains challenging. Many businesses struggle to get off the ground and being self-employed can also be an isolating experience.

If we need to become more entrepreneurial, how can we learn how? More so, how can we learn to be better entrepreneurs and thrive in the new economy?

I’m undertaking doctoral research in the School of Education to address these questions. I’m focusing my research on the role co-working spaces may play in supporting the development of entrepreneurial success.

Co-working is a practice where people occupy a desk on a casual or temporary basis in a workspace that is shared with others. It largely emerged in the mid-2000s in response to the increase in people working or starting businesses from home that needed more social interaction and the resources of a more professional workspace.

Over the past few years, the numbers of co-working spaces, in Australia and worldwide, has increased exponentially. As part of my research, I’m studying and participating in and observing the day-to-day practices of people starting and developing their businesses in co-working spaces.
As the old adage goes, ‘If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again’. So why then, do our schools so often penalise failure? PhD candidate Catherine Raffaele explains why more students need be taught how to fail, and how they can learn from their mistakes.

I’m also shadowing and undertaking case studies of individual new entrepreneurs’ trajectories to better understand the process of how people learn to be entrepreneurs and what can be done to support success.

Through my interest in entrepreneurship and co-working spaces, I found out about the Hatchery. It is run by UTS’s Innovation and Creative Intelligence Unit and aims to develop students’ entrepreneurial skills through experiential learning. Students learn and practice how to develop and test an idea using human-centered design.

The Hatchery isn’t based in any one faculty, instead, any student enrolled at UTS — from any discipline, year or stage — can apply to be part of the extra-curricular course. It consists of two boot camp-style workshops and a six-week implementation program, and participating students also get access to work on their own projects in the space.

In Autumn 2015, I volunteered to be involved with the Hatchery’s organising team and participated as a student in the first cohort, giving feedback of my experience to the team.

The following semester, I became a coach and now I am helping to design and teach the program.

What I am finding both from my research and my teaching at the Hatchery is the importance of learning how to fail and being able to learn from failure.

The more curious students are to test and find fault with their ideas, the more they are open to learning and understanding their users’ needs so they can better build the next version (or realise sooner that the idea is not worth the time and funds to pursue). Yet, so much of our schooling and assessment is geared around demonstrating that we are right and penalising failure.

Because we are not encouraged to fail when it should be to safe to do so, we don’t learn to recognise that not all failures bear the same risks. We don’t learn to differentiate between failure that we want to avoid and failure that can help us. When we attempt to avoid early failures when the stakes are low, we only increase the risk and cost of a later failure.

At the Hatchery, a student’s end goal is not to have the best idea, but to have learned the most. It’s only through seeking feedback and not being afraid to be wrong that the students do this.

If we want to better prepare our students for the workforce, we need to create more space for safe failure. We need to help students practise seeking failure when it helps, and to better avoid it when it doesn’t.

Catherine Raffaele
PhD candidate
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Photographer: Shane Lo
26 December, 2004: a wave, releasing the same amount of energy as 23,000 Hiroshima-sized bombs, smashed the coastlines of 13 South-East Asian countries. By day’s end, 150,000 people were dead or missing and millions were left homeless.

Across the world, images of flattened homes, flooded villages and tourists holed up in hotels filled the media. But what about the women, weeks away from giving birth, who were surrounded by dirt and debris and without access to care or clean water? How about the now-orphaned children who fled towards safety, but instead encountered displacement camps peppered with predators and lacking in good lighting?

“It’s hard to imagine the impact of not putting in place mechanisms to prevent sexual violence, or failing to provide assistance to survivors. The situations people in these settings face can be horrific.”

On top of this, adds Beek, “At any given time, it’s estimated that four per cent of people displaced by a disaster or conflict will be pregnant. Of these women and girls, 15 per cent will experience life-threatening complications.

“So any mechanism for protection and providing services for women and girls – and boys and men, of course, but more often than not it’s women and girls – in those situations is extremely important.”

That’s why, in 2007, the Australian Government funded the SPRINT (Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme in Crisis and Post-Crisis Situations) Initiative.

SPRINT, managed by the International Planned Parenthood Federation in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and various national and international partners, aims to increase access to SRH information and services for people who have survived crises in South-East Asia and the Pacific.

“Sexual and reproductive health problems remain the leading cause of death and disability among women, worldwide. In times of crisis, assault, violence and ill-health increase, yet all-too-often these issues are ignored. New research by PhD candidate Kristen Beek is set to improve how aid workers in crisis zones prevent sexual and gender-based violence and promote better maternal and newborn health.”

“Interventions that reduce vulnerability and increase the capacity of responders to provide services will reduce the impact of a hazard and the scale and nature of a disaster.”

One of the ways SPRINT aimed to do this was through five-day, regional-level ‘train the trainer’ programs in Kuala Lumpur, Suva and Sydney. Here United Nations representatives, local and international NGOs, and health department staff from participating countries came together to learn about the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) – a set of practices for humanitarian workers detailing implementation of SRH services during an emergency.

The MISP includes five objectives – identifying a coordinator or a coordinating body, preventing sexual and gender-based violence in emergencies and providing assistance for survivors, reducing the...
transmission of HIV and other STIs, preventing maternal and newborn death and disability, and integrating SRH services into primary health care.

In addition to initiatives like making condoms available in crisis situations and providing pregnant women with clean delivery kits, the MISP also includes non-health practices. "Things to protect women and girls, like separation of toilets in displacement camps, good lighting – really basic things which need to be in place."

Beek, with a background in education and two master’s – one in applied anthropology and development studies, the other in international public health – was a perfect fit for the PhD project.

The project, run through the UTS Centre for Midwifery, Child and Family Health, is being overseen by Beek’s supervisor Senior Lecturer Angela Dawson, and co-supervisor Adjunct Professor Anna Whelan.

Says Beek, "I was brought on board to understand why people who attended these trainings did or didn’t go on to use the training when they returned to their place of work.

"Through in-depth interviews with 20 SPRINT trainees, questionnaires, observation and a review of in-country-level reports, I discovered a system of factors which influenced whether they were willing and able to use the training."

She adds, "Sexual and reproductive health is a controversial topic."

"In some instances, there will be parts of the minimum package that will not be included. An example being in places where emergency contraception isn’t allowed."

"In other instances, it’s just not recognised by the authorities that sexual violence may occur or that women and girls need particular services."

"There are so many different reasons why people do and don’t use the training. Identifying those and trying to address them should lead to optimised training transfer, which in turn should lead to the availability of better services for survivors."

Already, Beek’s research has been used to revise the training curriculum for the second phase of SPRINT, and there’s potential for her findings to be applied to other training packages too.

"If training isn’t applied, already-scarce aid resources are wasted, and more importantly, we’ve lost the chance to prevent sexual and reproductive health-related disease, disability and death."

"My research can, I hope, help to make sure these services are provided to those women and girls, boys and men, who are surviving in these situations."

"We know that sexual and reproductive health is vital, not least because it’s an inherent human right, but it’s absolutely essential for people’s physical health, and for their social and mental health as well."

This research is funded by: AusAID/Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Fiona Livy
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer: Shane Lo
Before moving to ISF, Alexander’s experience in the energy sector was spread across policy, program management, governance and engagement. She also has a multi-disciplinary academic background, which has led to her specialised understanding of the game-changing technologies that offer hope for globally sustainable energy.

“My entire career has revolved around making great new ideas a reality in the energy sector. Right now – as we move towards more renewable and local generation championed by communities – we’re witnessing transition in action. “As the power starts to move into the hands of consumers, rather than traditional energy businesses, exciting new challenges and opportunities arise. Our team at ISF is busy tackling these to realise a truly sustainable energy future.”

Liz Kuo  
Marketing and Communication Unit  
Photographer (D Alexander): Shane Lo  
Photographer (Ultimate Frisbee matches) courtesy of: the World Flying Disc Federation

COMMUNITY SPIN

She calls it “a sport for nerds”; a high-intensity mix of soccer, basketball, American football and netball, played without a referee.

But, according to Research Principal at the Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) Dani Alexander, Ultimate Frisbee is also a game played by the open-minded, passionate and welcoming; those who embody the spirit of sportsmanship and integrity.

Alexander has been playing Ultimate since 2011, and this June will represent Australia at the World Ultimate Championships in London.

“Ultimate is the best sport in the world, there really is no other sport like it,” enthuses Alexander as she grins from ear to ear. “The self-refereeing aspect is fantastic, as it promotes a culture of mutual respect for your team and opponents in every game.

“Not only that, but they’ve taken the best bits from a whole lot of amazing sports. I mean, what other game lets you run, jump, dive and throw?”

As fun as it is to play, Alexander admits explaining the game to an outsider can often be difficult.

“When I’m chatting to someone who has never played there’s one question that almost always gets asked, and that is: ‘Don’t you play Frisbee with dogs?’

While Ultimate is now recognised by the International Olympic Committee, Alexander says more needs to be done to promote the sport. “If you don’t raise awareness, people will never have a chance to enjoy the game. Ultimate is a sport that upholds true sportsmanship and integrity – great values that also translate off the field and build a sense of community.

“Wherever I go, even to other countries, I can pick-up with a local Ultimate team and have 20 instant friends!”

It’s this same sense of community that drew Alexander to energy research at ISF at the beginning of this year.

“I love that the institute is full of like-minded, passionate people who are truly excellent in their fields.”

“Being part of a community working together towards an inspirational goal is very empowering, and something I really value both as a researcher at ISF and an Ultimate player”
How does a Sick Little Monkey become a taxi driver, film librarian and author? Just ask Jon Steiner.

The American-born writer graduated from New York State’s Vassar College in 1993 where he majored in film, before pursuing a music career in Texas with his college band, Sick Little Monkey. There, he drove taxis to earn extra money before the band moved back to New York nearly four years later.

In 2000, Steiner moved to Australia. Five years later, he enrolled in UTS’s Graduate Diploma of Creative Writing.

“I was working at the ABC while I completed the course,” recalls Steiner. “I’d have a three-hour class on Thursday nights so it took me right out of working with databases all day and into this creative outlet, which I loved.”

Over the next three years, Steiner completed the degree while also working full-time as a film preservation coordinator at the ABC. (He has since taken a step up the corporate ladder and now supervises the film preservation coordinator.)

“The great thing about the course was that all the lecturers had real-world experience. They were all writers and film-makers and creative producers.

“At the time I was living in Darlington, so essentially my whole world was in this little two-kilometre radius. I would just go to a pub after class and fill up pages and pages of a notebook writing down story ideas.”

He even formed a writing group within the first few months of the course. It’s a group that still meets regularly and fellow member, UTS design Lecturer Zoë Sadokierski, even designed the cover of his first book – *The Last Wilkie’s and Other Stories*.

*The Last Wilkie’s*, as Steiner affectionately refers to it, is a reflection of the author’s eclectic life and is loosely based around people looking for their place in the world.

“I agonised a bit over the running order of the book, but the unifying theme is about people discovering themselves and how they fit in with the rest of the world, which is an ongoing theme in my own life.”

When it comes to his writing, Steiner says he draws inspiration from historical explorers, like Christopher Columbus and Ferdinand Magellan, as well as writers including American novelist David Foster Wallace.

“For me it’s about seeing something interesting and wanting to preserve it. I think that ties into working in the archives at the ABC as well – I want the stories to be there forever and I want characters to be saved.”

With a job he loves at the ABC, a five-and-a-half-year-old daughter and family life, Steiner is realistic about the role writing plays in his life.

“I don’t really entertain the illusion that I will write full-time eventually, I’m just enjoying having my first book published. But I will continue to write scraps of short stories and maybe publish another book.”

Before then, Steiner has another creative project in the works – writing the film script for Reuben Field’s adaptation of the book *Strange Places*. As always for Steiner, it’s a case of ‘watch this space’!

Peta Gilbert
Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism)
Photographer: Shane Lo
MEDITATION

& HOW NOT TO HATE YOUR BOSS

UTS alumna Camille Woods is deeply interested in helping people, like her friend

UTS Master student Armando Azpe, reconcile their tech-heavy, frenetic outer lives with a touch of inner peace. Her new venture, Monday Mind, combines yoga with networking and sees her clients meditate on such modern themes as public transport, rap music and how not to hate your boss.

CAMILLE WOODS

I did my Bachelor of Accounting at UTS then worked in accounting for 10 years at Ernst & Young and Kimberly-Clark. But most recently I decided to do finance on the side while I start up Monday Mind, my yoga and meditation business.

I met Armando about a year ago through a mutual friend and really enjoy talking with him, especially about engineering. I’m currently a member of, and run a yoga-for-entrepreneurs class at, Fishburners – a co-working space for tech start-ups in Ultimo. I’m there to develop my meditation app and although I don’t have an engineering background, I work with a lot of engineers in the space and Armando helps me decipher a lot of their tech talk!

Monday Mind is modern and friendly; we learn each other’s names – it’s ok to chat in the middle of yoga poses – and each class has a different theme. I first became interested in meditation through the theory. I used to think that my thoughts were really important and what I thought was reality, but meditation has made me realise that I don’t have to hang onto things; that I can let things go, and it gives me more space. I also run alcohol-free yoga dance parties in Central Park opposite UTS. They are a great networking opportunity as well as being a lot of fun.

I develop a lot of modern meditations and involve the class in deciding what element of the experience we’re going to meditate on. We’ve done chocolate meditation – so eating chocolate and thinking deeply about the taste and texture; aromatherapy meditation; hip hop meditation; public transport meditation; and meditations on how not to hate your boss! I try to think of common problems in modern life, and develop a meditation that will help.

Armando regularly comes to my classes – he is a great sounding board for ideas and helps me with business decisions too. Because he is my friend I know I’m getting honest feedback, which is really helpful! Sometimes I think people aren’t going to like what I’ve got planned, and then sometimes I think, ‘Armando’s going to love this one,’ and then actually he’s like, ‘No, last week was better’. Sometimes you can’t predict who’s going to like which meditation, but we are the only meditation school where you can try all styles.

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ARMANDO AZPE

I’m from Mexico and came to UTS in 2014 to get my Master of Engineering Management and MBA. I met Camille about a year ago through a common friend and we started hanging out and have become really good friends. When she told me she was starting her yoga and meditation classes I was really interested because I had done some meditation before and found it really useful.

In Mexico, I used to work as an engineer in the automotive industries – it was a very fast-paced environment with lots of projects happening all the time and I found it very stressful. Sometimes I couldn’t even sleep. I remember having this terrible time where I spent almost two weeks only sleeping about three hours a night. I approached a yoga teacher and he recommended that I try meditation. I found it worked quite well and although I still find it very, very hard to do, it does help me feel clearer and more focused during my day.

To be honest, I’ve never experienced anything like Camille’s classes before. She likes to experiment and try new ways to meditate. Can you picture this: Would you meditate to an Eminem song? Well, she’s done it, and it works! After her classes I feel less stressed, more relaxed, and ... well ... happy. I just feel happy. I like the fact that I can just be there, sitting and smiling: that’s really something.

Camille is a very supportive person; she’s interesting and funny and we’re always laughing together. I really admire that she does both corporate work in accounting, but also trains people in yoga and meditation. I find that really inspiring. I want to be able to do that one day. Once I graduate from UTS I want to work first in a consulting job, but eventually I’d like to open my own consulting firm.

I chose UTS because it had a very good international ranking and because it was located right in the heart of the city. Because I’m an international student, making new friends is really important and I’m so pleased to have met so many great people here, like Camille.

To find out more about Monday Mind, visit www.mondaymind.com
At 21 years of age, communication student Linus Faustin has been on the Junior Council of the United Republic of Tanzania, he’s been camp leader at the UNESCO International Youth Summer Camp in China, he’s travelled to New York for the International Model United Nations with UTS’s UN Society (thanks to funding from UTS:INSEARCH) and, most recently, been selected as a NSW Multicultural Youth Ambassador.

With so many achievements under his belt, it’s hard to believe Faustin was orphaned at three years of age, and at seven was living on the streets in his home country, Tanzania. But it’s this personal story of survival that has fueled his passion for social justice on a global scale.

Faustin has already shared these amazing experiences with his 13 000 Twitter and 87 000 Instagram followers (@ljfaustin), and this year he’ll be sharing his UTS experiences too.

Since first visiting Australia in 2013, Faustin was set on studying at UTS. “I remember walking in for Open Day and I was like, ‘I’m going to go to this university!’”

Faustin says he has UTS:INSEARCH to thank for preparing him for the challenges of university.

“This is what I tell people,” he smiles, “if you make it into UTS that’s great, but if you don’t make it and you start at UTS:INSEARCH, that’s even better! They prepare you for university and give you opportunities to achieve so much – then you come to UTS and achieve even more!”

UTS:INSEARCH’s fast-tracked one-year diploma has, this year, allowed Faustin to step straight into the second year of a Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Public Communication).

His relationship with the communication industry goes back to when, as a 10-year-old, he held a position on a local radio show in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

“I was talking about human rights, just giving my view as a child on the radio. It was a great experience,” he says.

Having grown up in East Africa, it’s not hard to understand Faustin’s passion for human rights. A 2002 population census revealed nearly 10 per cent of all children in Tanzania were orphans. That’s close to 2 million children.

“When I went to school I remember I was the only kid that had no shoes, and instead of a school bag I just carried a plastic shopping bag.”

After Faustin, who had been living with his uncle, learned he was going to be returned to the remote village he came from, he decided to run away. Though originally forced to rely on the charity of churches, Faustin finally found permanent safety at an orphanage.

“I walked to a radio station and I told them my story. It was aired in Tanzania and published in newspapers and that’s when everything changed. From there I was taken to an orphanage,” he explains.

“The volunteers there were from Australia, so that’s where the connection between Australia and me starts.”

In 2003, after years of inconsistent and sparse schooling, Faustin was finally able to attend school regularly. In 2008, aged 13, he was invited to the Junior Council of the Republic of Tanzania as an ambassador for orphans and street kids, a role he would continue in for several years.

“We would travel all over the country talking about different government leaders, talking about action activities, and talking about our rights. To be honest, we made a lot of changes,” he enthuses proudly. “Then in 2010, we were even able to meet the president! That was the best.”

Now, in Australia, Faustin hopes to complete his tertiary education to further his goals of working in communication and politics to promote social change. “It’s going to be challenging, but I am really excited about what I will achieve this year,” he says.

“As young people we are so lucky to be getting an education in Australia. We live in a world of technology where we have knowledge and power. But how are we using it?”

Hannah Jenkins
Marketing and Communication Unit
Photographer (L Faustin in front of wall): Shane Lo
Other photographs supplied by: Linus Faustin

View an extended version of this article at UTS:NEWSROOM or share it @utsnewsroom
Private Lives, Public History explores how the conversations of ‘ordinary Australians’ intersect with broader discussions about Australia’s history. Author Anna Clark seeks to uncover how Australians respond to public narratives, like Australia Day and Anzac Day, and why these stories matter to individuals and communities. Snapshots from conversations Clark conducted with 100 people across five community groups, are woven throughout this book, along with her own thoughts and evidence from other historians’ research. The voices from participants, as they share their opinions and personal histories, echo conversations many would have with friends or family. The familiarity of these discussions encourages the reader to reflect on their own personal histories and how they relate to Australian history. Private Lives, Public History is an incredibly easy and insightful read, as Clark asks us to consider our national story and successfully uncovers the meaning of Australian history for Australians. It becomes clear that history plays a significant role in our lives. It exists in the places we visit, our traditions, celebrations and commemorations, and indeed through the stories we are told and the stories we continue to tell.

Rachael Brown
UTS International

Anna Clark is an Australian Research Council Fellow and Co-Director of the Australian Centre for Public History at UTS. In 2003, Clark and Stuart Mcintyre wrote The History Wars which was awarded the NSW Premier’s Prize for Australian History and the Queensland Premier’s Prize for Best Literary or Media Work Advancing Public Debate. Interviews pervade our culture. On TV, in newspapers and magazines, online and offline, live and pre-recorded, people are interviewing or being interviewed. With its power to capture the stories and voices of the individual, it is hardly surprising the interview has become a perennial feature of social science research. Though familiar, recognisable, and even commonplace, ‘doing’ interview research for the first time is both difficult and daunting. A Practical Introduction to In-Depth Interviewing offers a concise, nuts-and-bolts, start-to-finish guide for those going into the field for the first time. Each of the eight chapters tackles a different facet of the interview study, be it ethics, selecting interviewees or dealing with the unexpected. Immensely readable and highly accessible, Morris introduces each point with real-life examples and helpful activities. Though this book could easily be read from cover to cover, each chapter is self-contained, allowing you to dip into specific topics when needed or (for teachers) to use as part of a class. This clear and authoritative guide is a must-read for any student or researcher embarking on interview research and wanting practice-based guidance.

Jessica Frawley
PhD candidate
Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology

Professor Alan Morris is a leading urban sociologist and a Professor at UTS’s Institute for Public Policy and Governance. For me, a holiday read is all about getting away from the beach. There is nothing I love more than returning to the comforting sun and smell of sunblock after delving into darker territory. Needless to say, Nigel Bartlett’s King of the Road was my ideal escape. In many ways it is a classic tale; an everyman forced into the role of vigilante who, in discovering clues about an unsolved mystery, discovers hidden parts of himself. While this may sound familiar, Bartlett’s novel is far from cliché. King of the Road is gripping from beginning to end and Bartlett’s prose gives the novel a relentless momentum as the tension rises and the plot twists. The story focuses on David Kingsgrove who finds himself under suspicion from the police after his 11-year-old nephew disappears. We follow David as he sinks deeper into the unsettling world of paedophile rings, and while the subject matter is confronting, it is deftly handled by Bartlett. I felt like ‘the king of the road’ during my recent Easter holidays as I flew down the highway en route to a coastal campground. Nigel Bartlett’s King of the Road made my drive all the more enjoyable, because unlike David’s journey into the seamy criminal underworld, my drive ended in a barbeque.

Holly Isemonger
Marketing and Communication Unit

Nigel Bartlett is a freelance writer and editor, and the former deputy editor of GQ Australia and Inside Out magazines. In 2012 he completed a Master of Arts in Creative Writing at UTS.
For an exhibition about architecture, Fieldwork is strangely void of buildings. “I think people are going to find that a bit unusual,” admits Fieldwork curator and Lecturer in the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building Sarah Hearne.

“This exhibition will be challenging and will hopefully broaden people’s ideas of what architecture can be.”

In the exhibition, currently on display in the UTS Gallery, Hearne is presenting the works of six architectural practices who explore the evolving nature of collection, research, and display.

She hopes to spark a conversation about the changing nature of information gathering, storage and exhibition outside the studio, as well as the new ways architectural research is displayed and consumed in the gallery space.

“The platforms we now have to show architectural work are expanding,” Hearne explains.

“Fieldwork is a chance to start thinking about other ways of practising and displaying architecture, because we’re going to see a lot more of these types of platforms in the future.

“All of the works in Fieldwork have been displayed in either a biennale or triennale, and there are several of these more exhibitionary events now, for architecture, where you’re not necessarily presenting a built work.”

Back in the UTS Gallery, the audience can expect to see a range of inter-media installations, from Urtzi Grau’s 10-metre long diorama of Indo-Pacific cities to Cooking Sections’ interactive fountain that dispenses either rum or bio-ethanol depending on the fluctuating price of oil stocks.

Hearne says, “There are some people in the exhibition who want to talk about the content of their research, like Urtzi Grau who is looking at the politics of cities in the Indo-Pacific. So there’ll be a more rhetorical, narrative approach there.

“Then there are others, like First Office, where the conversation will be more about technique. It doesn’t necessarily matter what the content is, what is interesting for them is the way we communicate that information.”

Fieldwork will also feature installations from Tomorrow’s Thoughts Today, UCLA’s Besler & Sons and Archive of Affinities.

They, together with First Office, presented and discussed their works at a symposium, which kick-started the exhibition on 16 March. Also featured, was a keynote by internationally acclaimed architecture historian and curator Sylvia Lavin.

For Hearne, the aim of the exhibition is simple: “I want to open a conversation”.

“It’s a chance for the audience, especially students, to think about new ways of practising architecture.”

Fieldwork is on display in the UTS Gallery, Building 6, level 4 until 29 April. For more information, visit art.uts.edu.au

Alex McAlpin
Bachelor of Global Studies
Architectural Multiverse courtesy of: Andrew Kovacs
Indo-Pacific Atlas courtesy of: FAKE Industries Architecture Agonism
Today We Are Green courtesy of: Alon Schwabe and Daniel Fernández
Art & U profiles a piece of work from the UTS Art Collection every issue.

Michael Riley (1960-2004), cloud 2000, ink jet prints, on loan from Patrick Corrigan. Photo by Anna Zhu.

In his photographic series cloud, Michael Riley explores the intersection of the physical and spirit worlds. It was his final series before he died and his most acclaimed. This body of work speaks, through its beauty and subtlety, to the introduction of Christianity into Aboriginal society.

Riley himself said, “cloud was quite a resolved exhibition for me, in that it brought all elements together: my childhood, the Christianity from my childhood, the problems with that, and also histories of Aboriginal peoples … The feather, almost suspended in the sky, could also be quite a heavy thing. I see the feather, myself, as sort of a messenger, sending messages onto people and community and places.”

cloud was the first of Riley’s series to use digital manipulation, and as a result it takes on a surreal feel; the images of a cow, bible, boomerang, feather, marble angel, locust and the wings of a bird lay superimposed against the backdrop of the Australian sky. The work provides an insight into the artist’s perspective on the complex relationship between Christianity and the ancestral storytelling tradition of Indigenous cultures.

Tension resides in the symbolism of each image in the cloud series, as the photographed objects take on a variety of meanings for Indigenous and European cultures. For example, one image features locusts – a fact of life around Dubbo. For Europeans in the area, locusts are seen as a menace to agriculture, yet Indigenous Australians have long used them as a nutritious food source, a way to anticipate the change in seasons and as the embodiment of guardian spirits.

In another image, Riley uses the cow – a symbol of colonisation and pasteurisation which perhaps also symbolises environmental degradation through the impact of hooved animals.

This unique series, on loan to UTS from the collection of Patrick Corrigan AM, is on display on level 5 of the Tower building, near the Great Hall.

Alice McAuliffe
UTS Art
Introducing UTS’s interactive projection wall. The wall uses a combination of ceiling-mounted cameras and a Leap Motion Controller to map 3D movements in a new student lounge in Building 11.

Here, swirling colours change and ripple as students walk to class or belt out a tune on the giant interactive piano. The first of its kind in Australia, this high-tech wall (developed by experiential digital specialists The Monkey’s Cobbler and UTS’s Facilities Management Operations) has transformed an otherwise empty space into an engaging place of discovery.

Engineering and IT students have also begun to write their own interactive programs for the wall, some of which will be on display later in the year.

Photographer: Hannah Jenkins