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**Change of Address:**
If you would like to be added to the Melbourne University Magazine mailing list, or report a change of address, please direct your enquiries to:

**Phone:** +61 3 8344 1751
**Fax:** +61 3 9348 0013
**Email:** alumni-office@unimelb.edu.au
**Web:** www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni

Cover: Cover image, courtesy of Reprieve Australia: www.reprieve.org.au

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily endorsed by the University

**ISSN:** 1442–1349
The University is strongly committed to life-long learning, a concept reflected in this inspirational issue of the Melbourne University Alumni Magazine. Whether it is through our public lecture program, exclusive alumni events, faculty reunions, the University’s Community Access Program or one of our Graduate Schools, I encourage you to re-connect with both your University and each other.

In a highlight for MUM 2009 and a first for the magazine, we have sourced established journalists, writers, photographers and artists from our alumni community as contributors to create a magazine that is both for and by alumni. This year the magazine will also be available online at (web address TBC) with links to podcasts and additional articles and images.

This year we take a look at some key events and issues of the past year and examine the diverse perspectives of our global alumni community. Among the articles in this issue we hear from new and established alumni voices in the international and local financial community on how the global financial crisis is changing attitudes and behaviours in the financial world.

In June this year the University’s Festival of Ideas put the spotlight on sustainability and climate change, both of which continue to be a high priority for governments around the world. We asked five young alumni with a professional interest in sustainability to join us for a robust discussion about how to create a sustainable future. Featured on the cover of this issue, Peter Ho, Dr Brendan Winkle, Tanya Ha, Arron Woods and Olivia Davis provide both a broad view of sustainable practice today and hope for a sustainable future tomorrow.

Global health is profiled in an article exploring how the World Health Organisation’s report on the social indicators for health is influencing programs to combat health issues in both developing and western nations. On the frontline of health research and clinical practice, our alumni are making a significant impact around the world.

MUM also considers the impact of the Black Saturday bushfires in February and how the desire to be part of a positive response to the tragedy is fuelling new research and technology in a range of professions. Bushfire Commissioner Bernard Teague shares his thoughts about how a Royal Commission can play a role in healing.

After more than three years driving major curriculum review and change and 18 months into the successful implementation of the Melbourne Model, recently-retired Provost Peter McPhee speaks frankly about the challenges of implementing change and the University’s vision for the future.

Over the past year, many alumni have made generous donations to the University and their valuable support helps fund the University’s research activity and scholarships for students in need. In September 2009 the University will launch its annual telephone appeal and we will be contacting you again - our alumni and friends of the University - to ask for your continued support in these important areas. If you are on our email list, you will have received an invitation to engage with our important review of the University’s Growing Esteem strategy. Thank you for your thoughtful responses.

I would also like to draw your attention to a very exciting and special alumni event on September 30 when we invite all alumni to a private viewing of the highly-anticipated Pompeii exhibition at Melbourne Museum. See our events calendar on page XX for booking details.

Please enjoy reading your 2009 edition of the Melbourne University Alumni Magazine. Should you have any thoughts, reflections or concerns, we welcome your feedback via the Alumni Relations Office at alumni-office@unimelb.edu.au

Glyn Davis
Vice-Chancellor
CONTRIBUTORS

As well as staff and student contributors, this year the Melbourne University Alumni Magazine asked many experienced alumni journalists, writers, photographers and artists to contribute to the magazine, creating a publication that is both for and by alumni.

CAROLINA BODIN
Carolina is a recent graduate of the University’s Publishing and Communications course. She assisted with MUAM during the final semester of her course.

ROD BROOKS (BACHELOR VET. SCI. 1980)
After graduating from Veterinary Science at Melbourne, Rod practiced as a vet in Australia and Zimbabwe before moving into marketing and working in the pharmaceutical and software sectors. He now works as a Senior Manager, Marketing and Business Development at RMIT.

SCOTT CAMERON
Scott Cameron is a professional photographer specialising in food, fashion and people. He has worked on award winning assignments for a range of clients across advertising, editorial and corporate areas.

OLIVIA DAVIS (BA 1991)
Olivia is the editor of Sprinkla magazine, a free, online magazine which strives to “diffuse information in a way that is as refreshing as the shower of droplets from the old garden sprinkler”. Each issue of Sprinkla explores ways that people can bring an ecoperspective on how to connect, grow, eat, explore and invest.

OSLO DAVIS
Oslo Davis’ pen and ink people have appeared in The New York Times, The Age, BusinessWeek, Diplomat Magazine. His work has also appeared in various journals including Meanjin, the Sleepers Almanac, Tango and Going Down Swinging.

He draws a weekly cartoon in The Sunday Age called Overheard. In 2007 he edited and produced Conceived on a Tram, which also featured the work of 15 other Melbourne-based artists and cartoonists.

LISA GORTON (BA 1995)
Lisa Gorton’s first poetry collection, Press Release, was shortlisted for the 2008 Mary Gilmore Award and won the 2008 Premier’s C. J. Dennis Prize for Poetry. A Rhodes Scholar, Lisa completed a Doctorate on John Donne at Oxford University. Lisa writes essays and reviews for newspapers and journals and her novel for children, Cloudland, was published in 2008. She won the inaugural Vincent Buckley Poetry Prize.

DAVE HOSKIN (BA, 1997, BACHELOR FILM AND TV 2002)
Dave Hoskin’s writing has appeared in Eureka Street, Metro and Pathway. His is passionate about film and as well as writing about it he has made several short films which have screened at festivals around the world.

DYLAN MARTORELL
Scottish born Dylan Martorell is an artist and musician, and has been working commercially as an illustrator for about four years. His music and art practice frequently intersect and he has been influenced by his travels in North Africa, South East Asia, Japan and Mexico. Among his clients include Tokion, Vitra, Nieves and the New York Times.

SAM MCMILLAN (BA MEDIA AND COMM., 2006)
Sam McMillan is more widely known by his professional name, Sammy J. A Melbourne-based comedian, actor and writer, since graduating from Melbourne University in 2006, he has built a reputation as one of the most original and inventive comedians on the international circuit, performing in Edinburgh, London's West End, and on the local television shows Spicks & Specks and Good News Week. To see more of Sammy J’s work visit www.sammy-j.com.

SONIA KRETSCHMAR (G.DIP. FILM AND TV, 2003)
Illustrator Sonia Kretschmar originally wanted to be a graphic designer but has instead focused on returning from a trip to Europe brimming full of ideas. Her work has appeared in The Australian, The Age Good Weekend, The Law Institute Journal, in books, cards and posters.

LISA MITCHELL (BA 1985)
Lisa Mitchell is a writer and editor with more than 16 years’ experience including regular feature writing for The Age, Sunday Age and Sydney Morning Herald.

DR BELINDA NEMEC (B.MUS 1990, PHD 2006)
Dr Belinda Nemec is the Cultural Collections Co-ordinator and is the editor of the University’s twice-yearly magazine, University of Melbourne Collections.

SELINA OU (BA FINE ART 1999, B FINE ART (HONS) 2002)
Photographer Selina Ou was born in Malaysia in 1977 and currently lives and works in Melbourne. In 2006, Ou was commissioned by the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, to create a body of work about sport. Ou has had several international residencies and her work has been included in many national and international group exhibitions.

NADINE RAYDAN
Nadine is a recent graduate of the University’s Publishing and Communications course. She assisted with MUAM during the final semester of her course.

BEN SANDERS
Bens’ father gave him a sketchbook for his eleventh birthday, and by age 12 had landed his first paid job creating 32 drawings for a sticker sheet. He spent every summer throughout his teenage years illustrating more stickers for the same publisher. He’s been drawing ever since. He’s been influenced by commercial illustration from the 20 years preceding the Second World War, appreciating the artists of the 1940s through to the 1960s.

DAVE TACON (BA (HONS) 2002)
Dave is a Melbourne based photographer and writer. His photographs have appeared in national and international magazines and newspapers and his photodocumentary work is held in a number of Australian permanent collections. His writing has appeared in The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald and Sun Herald and the British newspaper The Independent.

FIONA WILLAN
Fiona Willan is a communications officer in the University of Melbourne’s Alumni Relations department and the editor of e-news.
Hugh Taylor Wins Helen Keller Prize

Professor Hugh Taylor, Harold Mitchell Chair of Indigenous Eye Health, has been recognised for over 30 years commitment to eye health at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology award ceremony in the United States. He is the first Australian to be awarded the prestigious Helen Keller Prize for Vision Research and joins 17 previous winners including two Nobel Laureates and two Lasker Award winners.

Professor Taylor leads the Indigenous Eye Health Unit at the University of Melbourne where his research focuses on blindness prevention strategies, infectious causes of blindness and the intersection between medicine, public health and health. Throughout his career, he has been a passionate advocate for the eye health of Indigenous Australians and is committed to eliminating trachoma, a blinding and curable eye disease still prevalent in Australian Indigenous communities. He is currently undertaking the first comprehensive national study of eye health in Indigenous communities which will provide national data on the impact of eye diseases including trachoma, cataracts and glaucoma on Indigenous communities.

in Grattan Street, Parkville and will deliver excellence in cancer research, education and patient care.

Professor James Angus, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences points out that by creating a critical mass of intellectual and practical endeavour, the Parkville Comprehensive Cancer Centre will attract and retain world-class researchers and draw the best and the brightest to study and train in cancer at the University of Melbourne. He says the University is proud to be part of such an important collaboration that will lead to improvements in the prevention, detection and treatment of cancer for Victorians and their families.

Construction of the Centre will begin in the first half of 2011, with an expected completion by 2015.

New Graduate School Of Arts

The Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences will open at the University of Melbourne next year with a new ‘signature’ degree, the Executive Master of Arts (ema). This professionally focused program has been developed in consultation with the business, government and community sectors and combines subjects in professional skills such as financial and project management and professional communication, with further studies in the social sciences and humanities, and an internship or group project.

The graduate school will provide dedicated student support services, social spaces and purpose-built teaching spaces for Master’s students. These facilities will be located in the historic Old Arts building, in the heart of the Parkville campus. As well as a new Graduate School, the Faculty has also invested $1.1m in a range of initiatives to encourage and nurture new research in the humanities, social sciences and languages.

For more information about the ema visit http://blogs.unimelb.edu.au/graduatearts/

Three Steps To Sustainability

Under its Environmental Sustainability Strategic Plan, The University of Melbourne is committed to a 50 percent reduction in carbon emissions by the end of 2010.

Lighting accounts for nearly 20 percent of energy consumption on campus and by switching to more energy efficient lighting and systems to switch off lights not required from 6 pm to 6 am, the University has been quietly achieving significant energy savings.

The most visible sign of the University’s commitment to sustainability however, is the new Economics and Commerce Building on the corner of Berkeley Street, Carlton. Recently awarded a 5 Star Green Star Education Pilot rating by the Green Building Council of Australia, the ranking was achieved through an
Classical Gift To The Potter

An extensive antiquities collection has been donated to the University’s Ian Potter Museum of Art by Mr David Adams in memory of his late wife Marion, a former Dean of Arts and long-time lecturer in German Literature at Melbourne.

The antiquities from their personal collection will benefit students and visitors to the Museum for generations to come.

Included in the remarkable collection is a 14th century pottery water strainer from Iran, several coins from the Roman Empire and a 2nd century marble torso of the Roman god Sylvanus.

Professor Marion Adams played an important and far-reaching role within the university community. This role continues today, through the Marion Adams Fund, the Marion Adams Memorial Lecture and through the generous support given to the University of Melbourne by David Adams.

The gift to the Museum will be an invaluable resource for the University’s Centre for Classics and Archaeology. Andrew Jamieson, Spencer-Pappas Trust Curator and Lecturer says the Adams’ gift is a wonderful gesture to the Potter Museum and to the general public.

The Adams Collection will add a new dimension to the Ian Potter Museum and extend the depth and breadth of the Classics collection.

The Victorian College of the Arts and the Faculty of Music amalgamated in April this year to form the new Faculty of the VCA and Music (VCAM). For full details of recent VCAM achievements visit www.vcam.unimelb.edu.au

Haasz Family Supports Astrophysics

Earlier this year physics alumnus John Haasz (bsc 2006) generously donated $100,000 to the University of Melbourne’s Astrophysics group. The group is involved in observational and theoretical research in a range of areas including an observational program spanning radio to X-ray wavelengths, using the Australia Telescope Compact Array, the Gemini Telescopes, the Hubble Space Telescope, and the Chandra X-ray Observatory among other instruments. The Group’s theoretical programs currently extend from pen-and-paper calculations to the development of numerical codes. The donation to the Astrophysics group was made on behalf of the Haasz family to support the research and teaching of the School of Physics.

Go to http://www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni/giving/ to find out more information about how to donate to the University.

University Of Melbourne Scientists Discover Ancient Reef

Three University of Melbourne scientists have discovered a 650-million-year-old giant underwater reef in the Australian outback. School of Earth Sciences Associate Professor Malcolm Wallace and doctoral students Jonathan Giddings and Estee Woon believe the reef, which has an escarpment ten times
The University of Melbourne’s Faculty of Veterinary Science celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. The first school of its kind in Australia, more than 2,000 veterinarians have graduated from the school since it first opened, including Dr Warwick Bayly, recently appointed as the Provost and Executive Vice President of Washington State University.

Veterinarian education first began in Melbourne in 1888 at a private college in Fitzroy but moved in 1909 to the University campus in Parkville. The first Bachelor of Veterinary Science (bvsc) degrees were awarded the same year and in 1923, Dr Margaret Keats mbe became the first woman to graduate with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree in Australia.

Providing opportunities for students to study Veterinary Science has always been a priority for the school and recently a new scholarship was established to assist rural students. Retired vet Dr Bill Riches and his wife Jenny Riches have set up a fund to help Veterinary Science students from rural areas meet the high costs of studying in the city. Dr Riches, who worked as a vet in Wandaratta, Tatura and Hamilton and then with his own farm and equine hospital in Berwick, says he wants to “help country students overcome financial hardships they might face coming to live in the city so that they can focus on their training rather than having to work long hours to pay for their studies.”

For more information about the rural scholarship scheme and the Faculty’s 100th anniversary visit www.vet.unimelb.edu.au

higher than the Great Barrier Reef, may hold evidence of the earliest examples of primitive animal life.

The scientists have named their discovery the Oodnaminta Reef, because it is located near an old hut called the Oodnaminta Hut in the Flinders Ranges in South Australia. Mr Giddings said the reef is an internationally significant discovery because it provides a significant step forward in showing the extent of climate change in Earth’s past and the evolution of ancient reef complexes – and it also contains fossils which may be of the earliest known primitive animals. These fossils may prove that life took more complex forms much earlier in history than previously thought.

“A lot of people will be intrigued as to why this once underwater reef is now located in a very barren part of inland Australia,” said Mr Giddings. “At this stage in Earth’s history, the eastern coast of Australia extended north from where the Flinders Ranges now lie. The eastern part of the Australian continent, from the Flinders Ranges through to the current eastern seaboard, was still buried under the ocean.

The discovery is already attracting significant interest from leading scientists around the world.

Top Architects Compete For Faculty Of Architecture, Building And Planning Commission
Six finalists have been chosen from 133 submissions from top design firms and leading architects in 15 countries to compete for the commission to build the University of Melbourne’s new Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning (APB) landmark building.

The six finalists are: Denton Corker Marshall Pty Ltd; Diller Scofido + Renfro; Sauerbruch Hutton with NH Architecture; John Wardle Architects & Office dA; Koning Eizenberg Architects & Office dA; William J Mitchell and Gehry Technologies; and McBride Charles Ryan. All the finalists have University of Melbourne alumni as Directors and/or Principals.

The winner will create an educational environment designed to inspire architecture, building and planning students, researchers and academics.

The winning firm will be announced on September 30, 2009 and the winning submission will be available for viewing on the competition website at www.apb.unimelb.edu.au/competition after the announcement is made.

Selected competition entries will also be exhibited in the Wunderlich Gallery, ground floor of the Architecture Building, in December.

Annual Telephone Appeal
Wendy Zhao so enjoyed being part of last year’s telephone appeal she’s signed up to participate in this year’s campaign as well. The 19 year old Bachelor of Education student said the telephone campaign was a wonderful opportunity to speak with alumni. “I had some very interesting conversations,” she said, “and of course it’s for a very good cause.” The annual telephone appeal is part of the University Fund Appeal (UNIFUND), the oldest annual appeal at any university in Australia. As the University currently receives less than 50 per cent of its’ income from governments this philanthropic support is crucial. In 2009, the UNIFUND has two key priorities. The first is to provide immediate assistance for students in financial need and the second is to provide long term support for scholarships.

2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the appeal, the longest standing at any Australian University. The 2009 telephone appeal will start on Monday 31 August and end on Sunday 4 October. Your support really does make a difference, and 100 per cent of all donations go to UNIFUND and donors have the option of nominating the specific areas they would like to support. If you receive a call from Wendy or one of the other student callers, please consider supporting the Appeal.

Did You Know box will go in here
University of Melbourne alumni have made a significant contribution to Australia’s cultural and intellectual life in the past year. Here we feature just a small selection of some of the most recent and forthcoming books, music and performances from alumni in Australia and around the world.

**Books**

**HISTORY**

*Reframing Darwin, Evolution and Arts In Australia* by Jeanette Hoon (MUP 2009)

Jeanette Hoon explores the impact of the Darwinian revolution on Australian arts and sciences beginning with the voyage of HMS Beagle and concluding with contemporary artists exploring post-Darwinian themes. Reframing Darwin illuminates Darwin's place at the heart of two centuries of intellectual debate in Australia. Including stunning reproductions from Australia’s most important art collections.

*The Water Dreamers* by Michael Cathcart (Text Publishing 2009)

Michael Cathcart charts the story of the settlement of Australia. An environmental history, The Water Dreamers focuses on the way water, or a lack of it, has determined Australia’s history.

*The Myth of the Great Depression* by David Potts (Scribe 2nd edition 2009)

The myth referred to in the title of David Potts’ book isn’t supposed to suggest the Great Depression never happened. Instead, Potts discovers that for many people, life during the depression may have been hard but it was also rich with community, friendship and compassion.

*The Best of Times: The Story Of The Great Secondary Schooling Expansion* (Lexis 2009)

If you went to an Australian secondary school in the 1950s, ’60s and ’70s then your education was undoubtedly influenced by the people in this book. Teacher, author and historian Bill Hannan charts the history of education in Victoria.

**BIOGRAPHY**

*I am Melba* by Ann Blainey (Black Inc 2009)

Ann Blainey has written a remarkable account of the life of Dame Nellie Melba, the most famous singer of her era.


Acclaimed Australian poet Vincent Buckley died in 1988 aged 63. In this first biography of Vincent Buckley, John McLaren interprets the life of a complicated and brilliant man.

**POLITICS AND SOCIETY**


Led by Premier Jack Lang, Labor came to power in NSW at a time of unprecedented working-class radicalism forged by the experiences of World War I, the class struggles of the 1920s and the crisis of capitalism in the early 1930s.

**FICTION**

*Document 2* by Andrew Crome (Allen and Unwin 2009)

Winner of the 2008 The Australian/Yogel Literary Award. Andrew Crome’s first novel tells the story of the Petrov defection during the 1950s.

*The Slap* by Christos Tsiolkas (Allen and Unwin 2008)

Since its publication late last year, Christos Tsiolkas’ compelling book about marriage, family and suburban life has picked up several awards including the 2009 Commonwealth Writer’s Prize for Overall Best Book.

*The Boat* by Nam Le (Penguin 2009)

Nam Le’s collection of stories move from Vietnam to Iran and back to their own powerful, funny and intimate style. The winner of many awards, The Boat recently won the 2009 Dylan Thomas prize for fiction.

*Mostly Sunny With A Chance of Storms* by Marion Roberts (Allen and Unwin, 2009).

The second book featuring the character of Sunny Hathaway, children’s author Marion Roberts has created another instalment in the delightful series about a young girl and her funny, complicated family.

*Last of the Braves* by Archimede Fusillo (Penguin 2009)

A story of loss, longing and redemption written for young adults, Archimede Fusillo writes about what it’s like to be a teenage boy torn between Italian and Australian cultures.

*This is How* by M J Hyland (Text Publishing 2009)

The third novel by acclaimed writer M J Hyland, This Is How is a portrait of a man determined to build a better life but whose fate is destined to be tragic.

**SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT**

*Green Staff For Kids* by Tanya Ha (MUP, 2009)

Environmental campaigner Tanya Ha has written an eco-encyclopaedia for young readers jam-packed with fun facts, eco-activities, information and green tips all aimed at helping young people understand and appreciate our planet, making them better equipped to look after it.

*Spiders, Learning to Love Them* by Lynne Kelly (Allen and Unwin, 2009)

Afraid of spiders? Science educator Lynne Kelly was too, until she overcame her arachnophobia and learned to love these fascinating creatures, exploring their amazing natural history and studying them in depth.

**Stage**

*One Night The Moon*, a stage adaptation of the acclaimed film written by Mairead Hannan, Kev Carmody, Paul Kelly, Rachel Perkins and John Romeril. Mairead Hannan is the musical director of the stage adaptation opening on September 11, 2009.

**Film**

Sarah Watt’s film* My Year Without Sex* and Adam Elliot’s claymation feature* Max and Mary* are just two of the acclaimed films by VCAM graduates released this year.

**Music**

Ian Holtham from the University’s Faculty of Music is one of Australia’s foremost concert pianists. This recording on the stunning Steinway grand pianos from the Melba Hall at the University of Melbourne includes Beethoven’s final 3 sonatas. Beethoven, *The Late Piano Sonatas* by Ian Holtham (LIR Classics)

Acclaimed pianist and composer Penelope Thwaites’ new recording *Travelling Between Worlds* travels between worlds includes piano classics from France, Spain, America, Russia and Australia.

*Travelling Between Worlds* by Penelope Thwaites (LIR Classics)

The Melbourne University Alumni Magazine is always keen to hear about the achievements of alumni. To let us know about your recent book, exhibition, recording or performance email us at ???
EVENTS CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from the University’s diverse events calendar with lectures, tours, performances and exhibitions in Australia and around the world.

1970-1989 Higher degree History Alumni Reunion
TUESDAY X OCTOBER 2009
Graduate House, the University of Melbourne
Hosted by the School of Historical Studies, alumni will have a chance to reconnect over a two-course dinner and enjoy a joint presentation by fellow History graduates
Enquiries www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni/reunions/history

Key Thinkers – Foucault
THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER
Prince Philip Theatre – Parkville Campus
John Frow, Professor of English at the University of Melbourne, delivers a lecture on Michel Foucault – historian, philosopher, writer, and one of the definitive theorists of the second half of the twentieth century.

Director’s Tours of Charles Darwin in Australia: art and evolution.
THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER
Ian Potter Museum of Art, the University of Melbourne
Be guided around the exhibition by curator and art historian Professor Jeanette Hoorn from the University of Melbourne. The show traces Darwin’s impact from the voyage of HMS Beagle to contemporary engagements with ideas of the post-Darwinian body.

Melbourne Marathon
SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER
Starts from Batman Avenue
Join the 2008 Melbourne University team in one of Australia’s iconic sporting events -- participants can choose to take part in are the 5.5km, the new 10km distance, 21.1km or the 42.195km.

Melbourne Leadership Series
THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER
Hong Kong – CPA Australia
Hong Kong alumni have the opportunity to meet entrepreneurial alumni who will talk about their career and the successes they have had, as well as provide advice to alumni in the earlier stages of their professional journey.

VCAM School of Performing Arts theatre production
21 – 30 OCTOBER
Space 28, School of Performing Arts building
The graduating actors from Company 2009, in collaboration with Production students, perform a new work devised by Tanya Gentile. Experience the gritty and often confronting work of this renowned director, which is the result of thorough creative exploration with these talented graduating students.
Enquiries 03 9685 9225

Conversation at Masani with Dr Peter Symons
THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER
Masani Restaurant, Carlton
Join ‘Western Australia’s Most Inspiring Man of the Year’ for an evening of thought provoking and inspiring discussion and sample some find wine and delicious Italian antipasti.

VCMA Southbank Symphony Orchestra and St Petersburg Conservatory
MONDAY 5 OCTOBER, 7.30PM
Melbourne Town Hall, 90-120 Swanston St, Melbourne
An Australian and Russian program to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Melbourne and St Petersburg. Conducted by Marco van Pagee and St Petersburg Conservatory Guest.
Enquiries 03 9685 9423

Exclusive Alumni Viewing: Melbourne Museum’s A Day in Pompeii Exhibition
WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER
Entry anytime 5-9pm
Melbourne Museum, Nicholson Street, Carlton
FREE for ALUMNI ONLY
The University is subsidising a second FREE opportunity for alumni to enjoy an exclusive viewing of Melbourne Museum’s 2009 Winter Masterpiece exhibition A Day in Pompeii.
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
For more information and to register your booking visit www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni/pompeii
Phone enquiries Lisa Flower +61 3 8344 1750

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Phone enquiries Lisa Flower +61 3 8344 1750
For more alumni specific events please visit www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni/events

For all free to public events go to www.events.unimelb.edu.au/

**Janet Clarke Hall Anniversary Celebrations**
Governor General Quentin Bryce AC will honour women in education at a special lecture in Melbourne, to mark the contributions of one of Australia’s great philanthropists, Janet Lady Clarke.

Open to all alumni, the Governor General’s lecture on Tuesday, 13 October will form the pinnacle of a series of events organised by Janet Clarke Hall and the University of Melbourne this year. The events will celebrate the life and generosity of Lady Clarke (1851 – 1909), who is renowned for her efforts to advance women’s education in Victoria.

The second wife of Sir William Clarke, who was made Baronet by Queen Victoria for his work towards the 1880 Melbourne International Exhibition, Lady Clarke supported a wide range of charitable and educational institutions, including the Women’s Hospital Committee, the National Council of Women, Merton Hall (now Melbourne Girls’ Grammar), and Alliance Française.

Her largest single donation – and perhaps her greatest legacy – was a gift to Trinity College that enabled the establishment of Janet Clarke Hall, the oldest university college for women in Australia.

To find out more about events honouring Janet Lady Clarke, please visit www.jch.unimelb.edu.au.

**Conversations at Masani with Professor Andrea Hull**

**November XXXX**
Masani Restaurant, Carlton

Current Dean and Director of the Faculty of the VCA and Chair of the Advisory Board of the Centre for Cultural Partnerships, for an evening of thought provoking and inspiring discussion and sample some fine wine and delicious Italian antipasti.

**Dean’s Lecture – Improving Educational Outcomes in Victoria**

**Thursday 11 November**
Prince Philip Theatre – Parkville Campus

Professor Peter Dawkins, Secretary of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, outlines the Department’s strategy for pursuing the implementation of the Blueprint for Education and Early Childhood Development.

**Director’s Tours of the Yvonne Audette survey**

**Thursday 12 November**
Ian Potter Museum of Art, the University of Melbourne

Guided by curators Bala Starr and Joanna Bosse, the show includes more than 50 works of Yvonne Audette from 1950 to the present. Evocative and richly layered, these lyrical abstract works have been mostly drawn from the artist’s collection.

**VCAM School of Performing Arts dance production**

**18 – 21 November**
Gasworks

This third year Dance Graduation season, in collaboration with Production students, presents the outcome of sustained practical inquiry and promises to be a diverse and engaging collection of contemporary dance works.

Enquiries 03 9699 3253

**VCAM Graduate Exhibition – School of Art**

**24 – 29 November**
Margaret Lawrence Gallery, 40 Dodds St, Southbank

Graduating students from Drawing, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture and Spatial Practice present some of the highlights from their years of study. Enquiries 03 9685 9400

**VCMA Grad Show - Film and Television School**

**3 – 5 December and 10 – 12 December**
ACMI Cinemas, Federation Square, Flinders St, Melbourne

ACMI presents the 2009 premiere screenings of the work by the graduating students of Film and Television. Featuring short works in a variety of genres including animations, documentaries, visual effects projects and short drama.

Enquiries 03 9685 9000

**Masters Exhibition – School of Art**

**8 – 13 December**
Margaret Lawrence Gallery, 40 Dodds St, Southbank

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Investigating — THE — Melbourne Model

After more than three years of major curriculum review and 18 months into the implementation of the Melbourne Model, retired Provost Peter McPhee reflects that while the road may have had its bumps, moving so far towards to the final destination has been worth the journey. By Justine Costigan

When it comes to implementing radical change, retired University of Melbourne Provost Peter McPhee says that decisive action is the only way to proceed.

It’s a concept that doesn’t sit well with the stereotype. Aren’t universities supposed to be slow moving institutions intent on preserving the past?

“If we had dithered we were done,” says Professor McPhee about the design and implementation of the Melbourne Model. “We needed to be decisive and clear to the secondary schools about the program of change. We had a series of deadlines to meet and we had to stick to them. We were very aware that school students have to make subject choices several years ahead and they needed to know in advance exactly when the Melbourne Model would be implemented and how it would affect them.”

Tina Hosseini, 18, had been planning her course of study for years until the announcement of the change to the Melbourne Model made her think again. “It wasn’t in my plans for the future,” she says. “I wanted to go straight to medicine from VCE.” Now the ambitious science student is a convert to the new system. “There’s actually more opportunity for people. Now you’re not necessarily locked out of medicine if you get a lower ENTER. If you work very hard in your undergraduate degree you can apply to study medicine at the graduate level. Plus I’ve got three years to work out if it’s what I really want to do.” Ms Hosseini also acknowledges she’s learning skills in her breadth degree she wouldn’t have had otherwise. “It’s all about communication. I’m learning research and writing skills that will be useful later on.”
Aerial image of the Parkville campus by Clive Banfield from Corporate Video. The photograph highlights the new Economics and Commerce Building, University Square and Royal Parade.
Despite the seemingly quick turnaround at the University of Melbourne (a curriculum review in 2006 preceded 2008's implementation phase) curriculum reform has been on the agenda for universities around the world since the late 1990s. The Bologna Process, a discussion about curriculum reform centred around European universities that began in 1999, was one of the major catalysts for an international conversation about change. The realities of the globalisation of higher education and new expectations of graduates also drove a discussion that saw universities in Europe, the United States and South East Asia considering major changes to the curriculum by the mid 2000s.

The driving force behind implementation of the Melbourne Model, (he was appointed to chair the University's Curriculum Commission in 2006 and was responsible for working with faculties and education experts to design the New Generation undergraduate and graduate degrees) Professor McPhee was also one of the key University leaders responsible for garnering support for the new model from both within and without the University

Outside the University support for the Melbourne Model came from a variety of places. "Many secondary school principals were enthusiastic supporters on purely educational grounds," he says. "Professional bodies were also very supportive of the idea of graduates educated at a more advanced level and we had significant support from political leaders - allowing us the flexibility to move Commonwealth funding for students from undergraduate to graduate courses was crucial."

The Melbourne Model wasn't without its critics, however. Opponents were vocal and passionate. "It was understandable," says Professor McPhee. "The University is a high status institution with major cultural and educational influence. No-one wanted to put that at risk. And of course some people were concerned that the change implied previous degrees were suddenly less valuable."

Early criticism (the Melbourne Model was commonly referred to by media as the 'controversial Melbourne Model') has now largely disappeared as the predictions of a loss of quality of students and massively reduced subject choices for students simply haven't eventuated. Professor McPhee admits that some subjects have been cut, “but only where there was little interest in those subjects from students.” Despite the predictions, students themselves have had the final say - the University of Melbourne continues to be the first choice of university for VCE students across Victoria with first preference applications for 2009 up by 10 per cent.

Statistics aside, the University has made regular surveying of its students a top priority. Early feedback indicated areas for improvement in both services to students and some interdisciplinary subjects. The University has been quick to respond giving priority to student centres to help students navigate the new structure. Some subjects have been adjusted to take into account varying degrees of knowledge and skill among first year students. "This process of evaluation and evolution will continue," says Professor McPhee. "The whole atmosphere has settled down. Students now have a clearer idea of what we're doing and why."

With the Melbourne Model bedded down at the Parkville campus the prospect of change to the Victorian College of the Arts (now the Faculty of the Victorian College of the Arts and Music) is causing a similar mix of excitement and apprehension among students and staff. The faculty will move to a Melbourne Model structure by 2011 and founding Dean, Professor Sharman Pretty, says the apprehension is "understandable". From 2011, all students will complete a three-year degree, either in fine arts or music, with another two years required for specialisation to fit the university’s Melbourne Model.

VCA graduate Raimondo Cortese is outspoken about his support of the new model. In an opinion piece written for The Age in May this year he argued that students need more than just a narrow specialisation if they are going to succeed in their profession. In fact he sees interdisciplinary study as a great opportunity. "Acting students could study European Literature, or philosophy or fine arts, learn scriptwriting or develop mutually beneficial links with say, architecture students, to explore the relationship between body and space," he wrote.

The founder of Ranters Theatre with brother Adriano Cortese, Mr Cortese says many graduates are unable to create their own work as they have few practical skills. "If you can't

"The whole atmosphere has settled down. Students now have a clearer idea of what we're doing and why."
multi-skill you’re dependent on what other people think of you,” he says. “You need to have practical skills and the self confidence that comes from a broad education to create your own pathways. There are so many opportunities for dancers, singers, actors and artists to think about the potential the Melbourne Model offers.”

A persistent question from recent University of Melbourne graduates is: ‘How will their degrees compare to Melbourne Model graduates? Will they soon be competing with a better, more broadly educated workforce?’

As Professor McPhee confidently asserts, these worries stem from basic misconceptions about the Melbourne Model. While there are many new subjects and more collaboration across faculties the quality of teaching has remained high. It is the choices available to students that are different. “One of the most positive aspects of the University of Melbourne’s curriculum change is it directly addresses the fact that most 17 or 18 year old students aren’t always sure of the precise direction they’re heading in,” he says. “The six new generation undergraduate degrees allow them to explore a range of options before they need to focus in on one area.”

It makes sense that a curriculum giving students the opportunity to explore a range of interests is more likely to produce graduates with a better idea of which career they might pursue. Offering a range of options won’t deter those focused on a particular course of study, but it may open doors to students unsure where their interest lies. By the time they’re ready to apply for graduate study, students will be ready to make those focused choices.

It also means that students with broad interests can be accommodated within their undergraduate degree.

Associate Professor Michelle Livett, a Faculty of Science staff member since 1992, has long been a supporter of the new model. “The Faculty of Science has always provided opportunities to do contrasting subjects to the main science focus so right from the start the faculty was positive about the change.”

Having seen many previous students enrol in a combined degree only to change their mind half way through their studies and drop one speciality, Professor Livett is curious to see the paths new generation students will take.

“When it will be very interesting to see how many students find something in their breadth degree that becomes their passion,” she says. “I’ve seen a real surge of interest in languages with many science students taking up a language as one of their breadth subjects.”

Although the new generation degrees have been the subject of most attention, it’s the University’s new graduate schools that get many academics and staff excited. As well as research based graduate courses, the Schools offer a range of professional training options that simply weren’t available to this writer 15 years ago. Browsing through the online course guide the options for both new generation degree graduates and others returning to study are dazzling.

Professor McPhee says that he is leaving his University post with a sense of satisfaction and certainty about the Melbourne Model as it continues to roll out without him.

“When I need my spirits lifted I take a walk through the refurbished spaces in the Old Engineering building or Tate building,” he says. “Watching the next generation studying in a collaborative way in their new modern, open, flexible spaces is completely different from traditional classroom teaching. It’s fascinating to see how the students are using and enjoying them.”

Ancient Aberdeen’s 21st Century Curriculum

When Australian academic Dr Elizabeth Macknight (PhD, 2003), with Professor Peter McPhee as one of her supervisors, suggested the University of Aberdeen might like to replace the word ‘outwith’ with the more commonly recognised word ‘outside’ in its 2008 Curriculum Commission Report, her suggestion was met with horror. “I might as well have suggested relocating the University ‘south of the border’, such was the outrage of my Scottish colleagues,” she says.

If strong resistance to replacing a single word suggests the ancient university would be an unlikely candidate for change, think again. On the cusp of significant curriculum change, the University of Aberdeen is committed to creating a flexible, modern curriculum that will appeal to both local and international students. It’s just that in the process, it’s refusing to lose its essential character.

In September 2010 the University will begin implementing its new curriculum, a process that is scheduled to take 6 years. With the aim to develop graduates who are more academically excellent, more intellectually flexible, and more committed to personal development, the move is a radical change for a University steeped in more than five centuries of history.
Like the University of Melbourne, Aberdeen has been motivated by both the growing globalisation of higher education and the Bologna Process, a European reform agenda begun in 1999 and is aimed at creating a more widely compatible European higher education model to attract both staff and students from within Europe and abroad. Scottish Government policy supporting such change was another important factor.

Dr Macknight has been a keen participant in the University of Aberdeen’s curriculum reform since she took up a position in the University’s School of History in 2007. She found her experience going through the consultation process at the University of Melbourne two years earlier was invaluable, as was the ongoing dialogue between the two universities. Professor McPhee visited Aberdeen in 2008 and several delegations from Aberdeen have journeyed south to monitor developments.

“We learnt a number of important things from the University of Melbourne,” says Dr Macknight. “Particularly the need for decisiveness and senior management commitment. We also saw the importance of ‘one-stop shops’ for student services, student advisors and high quality social facilities. We also took note of student choices – the popularity of languages for breadth subjects and demarcation between subjects that required a prose response and those that required a quantitative response.”

Although the University of Aberdeen has taken on board many of the lessons and ideas provided by both the University of Melbourne and other international universities it is also determined to keep and nurture its own unique character. The University’s decision to preserve the four-year Scottish honours degree within its curriculum reform proposals is just one example.

Aberdeen’s response inspires an interesting question. Will universities remain distinctive despite the globalisation of higher education?

“Language is a key to that, I think,” says Dr Macknight. “As an Australian who lectures in French history to Scots, I find the ways in which language helps to inform cross-cultural learning and teaching really fascinating. The University’s location in the north-east also means its’ community has a strong sense of place. Although higher education is rapidly becoming more ‘global’, I suspect Aberdeen will not lose its distinctive Scottish character.”

To learn more about the Graduate Programs and Professional Entry Programs to extend specialist study, gain accreditation to a professional body, or to further refine and enhance transferable skills go to the Office of the Provost at www.provost.unimelb.edu.au/aboutus/melbmodel
Responding to Tragedy

The desire to be part of a positive response to the February 2009 Victorian Bushfires is inspiring new research, thinking and technologies by alumni in a range of faculties and professions. By Justine Costigan
A lumnus and staff member Kevin Tolhurst (B.F.Sci, 1979, PhD, 1996) is a reluctant fire expert. If it wasn't for his unplanned involvement in a 1984 fire ecology research project, the forestry graduate may never have become one of the country’s most respected authorities on bush fire behaviour.

Now a senior lecturer in fire ecology and management at the University of Melbourne after more than 20 years studying fire behaviour, including 22 years with the Forests Commission Victoria as a firefighter crew member, communications officer and fire controller, Dr Tolhurst’s expertise has made him both an accurate predictor and interpreter of fire behaviour.

On site at the Integrated Emergency Co-ordination Centre on February 7, the day of the Black Saturday fires, Dr Tolhurst used sophisticated fire modelling software to help determine where the fires might spread but, he admits, “the accuracy of the predictions depended on good information. You need good intelligence to make a good prediction and it was very hard to get good intelligence. We didn’t always know where the fires were and how they were behaving.”

Nevertheless, Dr Tolhurst and his team predicted the fires would sweep across Kinglake and Marysville as well as a number of other smaller towns and communities. Playing a key role in the 2009 Bushfires Royal Commission, his evidence will no doubt inform the Commission’s recommendations about ways to improve communication in fire emergencies.

“There are so few people with a good understanding of fire,” says Dr Tolhurst. “You really need experience and knowledge to go hand in hand. You only get real understanding when the two go together.”

Dr Tolhurst’s goal is to lose the title of Australia's only fire expert. Through ongoing education and training he hopes to bring a better understanding of fire to a greater number of people. Currently developing a Risk Management Model for Bushfires as part of the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre, and involved in the mentoring of bush fire analysis trainees, Dr Tolhurst is also developing a new course for University of Melbourne Land and Environment students interested in knowing more about fire behaviour. To be offered for the first time in 2010, the course has already attracted keen interest from students from a range of schools and faculties.

Captain of the Panton Hill Fire Brigade, Mike Nicholls (B.Arch.St, BA (Hons), PhD (Cantab) was also working on February 7. In a fire truck near St Andrews, Dr Nicholls spent a day and a night fighting fires with a group of other CFA volunteers. An experimental psychologist in the School of Behavioural Science, Dr Nicholls says the experience of fighting such an extreme bushfire has led to a new understanding of the effect of stress on memory.

“I remember at a briefing after the fire listening to the recollection of the order in which events occurred. Everyone had a different order. And one firefighter drove from Kinglake down to Panton Hill, but said that he couldn’t remember a thing about the drive.”

“Your adrenalin keeps you focused on the task at hand,” says Dr Nicholls, “and when you try to remember events later, there are big chunks missing.”

The impact of the kind of stress Dr Nicholls describes will be the focus of a University of Melbourne population health survey designed to assess the impact of bushfires and subsequent recovery programs on the physical and mental health and wellbeing of individuals and communities in affected areas. One of four research projects in development by the University’s Bushfire Recovery Initiative, Health, Wellbeing and Education working group, led by Professor Elizabeth Waters within McCaughey Centre, the long term impact of the fires is one of the areas of concern to University of Melbourne researchers.

While so many Victorians, including the University community, responded to the bushfires with immediate and practical help, such as donations of money, clothing, food and shelter, the University’s Bushfire Recovery Initiative is specifically focussed on providing longer-term assistance. Drawing on the expertise of more than 150 staff from a wide variety of disciplines with expertise in ecology, water quality, animal management, psychology, law, finance, building and forest recovery, the project aims to focus the University’s expertise on research, teaching and knowledge transfer.

Initiated by Vice-Chancellor Glyn Davis, a member of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Advisory Panel, the Bushfire Recovery Initiative has involved a whole of University approach coming together along four main themes. They include: health and wellbeing, policy and governance, environmental renewal and reconstructing the built environment.

Professor Rod Keenan, Head of the Department of Forest and Ecosystem Science is focused on environmental renewal and says the University’s expertise hasn't been fully utilised in the past. “One of the lessons of previous fire events has been the lack of post-fire monitoring,” he says. “It’s important to know the impact on rare and threatened species, the dynamics of carbon in forests and the rates of recovery of different types of vegetation.”

“If we can look at better land management approaches,” he adds, “we may be able to mitigate the impact of fire. We’re already seeing positive signals from government on this issue.”
Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning Professor Tom Kvan’s focus is reconstruction and he says the University has a long term focus when it comes to rebuilding. “We want to build an understanding of fire into the curriculum,” he says. “As a cultural curator we have a profound influence on the future of society. We need to think about how we can prepare future generations to prepare themselves.”

“It’s all about thinking about how we plan communities so they are resilient.”

Policy and governance working group Chair Associate Professor Jenny Lewis from the School of Social and Political Sciences acknowledges some people may wonder what the bushfires have to do with the University of Melbourne, but she is quick to respond. “The University community lost two members of staff and a student. Everyone here knows someone who has been directly affected by the fires. It was an immediate emotional response. We all wanted to use the skills we have to be part of a positive, useful response to the tragedy.”

Justice Teague hopes Commission has healing role

The small office of Bushfires Royal Commissioner The Hon. Bernard Teague AO’s (B. Arts 1969, B.Law 1962) small office is dominated by a desk, a table, and floor to ceiling shelves loaded with neatly stacked piles of white paper. While the shelves hold piles of Country Fire Authority maps as well as Royal Commission documents, the round table is set aside for the exclusive storage of the many hundreds of submissions sent in to the Commission so far. Five weeks into the Commission’s hearings (at the time of writing), Justice Teague has read several hundred of the documents and admits that it will take some time to get through them all. But he insists they will all be read and considered as part of the preparation for the Interim Report as well as informing the Commission’s future inquiries.

The submissions form a valuable background to the daily hearings and will eventually be published online. They are both an opportunity for the victims of the fires and the broader community to be heard and a way for them to contribute to the body of knowledge that may hopefully prevent such a large scale tragedy happening again.

The Commission’s ability to provide a space for people to tell their stories is one of the side benefits of its’ investigation. “It can be cathartic,” says Justice Teague. “Especially for those who have been victims one way or another.”

Media reports from the Royal Commission’s hearings record a daily changing mood. Strong emotion, including the occasional angry outburst is juxtaposed with cool, calm, rational analysis. For every testimony heard by the Commission there are another thousand to tell. “It’s a little like the SBS (television network) logo,” suggests Justice Teague. “Six billion stories and counting...”

Justice Teague’s ability to hear traumatic stories day after day without loss of compassion or loss of focus has been finely honed by more than 40 years of legal practice, including 20 years on the Supreme Court of Victoria. The University of Melbourne Law alumnus is probably one of the few people in the State who can read a map of Victoria according to where the prisons are located. Now of course, his geographical knowledge of the State is more finely honed. Names such as Kinglake, Marysville and Strathewen have significant meaning now.

The Royal Commission will present its interim report in August. It is Justice Teague’s profound hope that the Commission’s findings will go some way to preventing a tragedy on such a scale ever happening again. “The reason why we have a Royal Commission is because too many people died,” he says, “and it’s desirable that it doesn’t happen again. That’s why I and the other commissioners agreed to be part of the Royal Commission. We hope to look to the future by finding out why events occurred the way they did and what could have been done to prevent that.”


Dr Kevin Tolhurst recently gave a lecture as part of the Dean’s Lecture Series, entitled Bushfire behaviour under extreme climate, and can be listened to via a podcast at www.landfood.unimelb.edu.au/info/deanslecture.html

To learn more about The Master of Forest Ecosystem Science, a professional coursework degree designed for forest and environmental sector leaders and managers go to www.forests.unimelb.edu.au/
Business as (not so) usual

In the wake of last year's global financial crisis, Dave Hoskin asked a sample of University of Melbourne alumni how their experiences are shaping their views of accepted economic thinking.

Photograph by Selina Ou from a series of images addressing the theme of human displacement and isolation within the economic structures of urban life.
Ben Chan should have had the world at his feet. He'd graduated top of his class in Engineering and Commerce at the University of Melbourne and was just completing his MBA at Stanford. He'd already found a job at the prestigious Goldman Sachs investment bank in New York, and the only thing standing in his way was his series 7 exam. He knew there were problems in the finance industry; he read the papers and some of his MBA friends had struggled to find a job. However it wasn't until the day of his final exam that he heard the news he'll remember for the rest of his career. "Lehman declared bankruptcy," he says. "A person in the exam room with me said 'My company just went bankrupt, so why am I taking this exam?' Good question, I thought."

Ben started work on the trading floor during the worst financial crisis any of his new co-workers had ever seen - worse than the dot-com bubble, worse than the Asian meltdown in the 1990s. "I was seeing stuff in my first few weeks at work that people had never seen in their entire careers," says Ben. "Being on the FX trading floor, it was constant action. Currencies were moving 400 points easily in a day - much larger moves than ever before. All leave was essentially postponed from September 2008 until Christmas. I loved the trading floor action, but the stress was immense, and people's jobs were not secure. Many people lost huge sums of money, and many hedge funds essentially ceased to exist."

A hemisphere away, University of Melbourne Professor Nilss Olekalns had always prided himself on linking his macroeconomics lectures to real world events. Australia's economy had been in the middle of a long boom, and Nilss' students appreciated his illustration of how economic theory had helped to shape this. But now things had changed - the level of interest had spiked. In each lecture Nilss would walk in with a newspaper and the class would track the unfolding economic crisis, using the principles he'd taught them to make sense of the bigger picture. "When something's so dominant in people's lives and on the news and so on, to actually be in a classroom situation where you're trying to understand those issues is really quite powerful for students," says Nilss. "It was also powerful because, as I kept explaining to my students, it's a learning experience for me as well."

Of course financial crises have been happening for hundreds of years, and in many ways this was a textbook example. One major difference however, was the sheer scale. When asked about unexpected consequences of the crisis, Professor W. Max Corden, Emeritus Professor of International Economics of Johns Hopkins University and Professorial Fellow in the Department of Economics at the University of Melbourne, simply replied, "The most unexpected thing was that the financial system broke down." He points out that the first warning signs were reassuringly local: the collapse of the United States' sub-prime real estate market. Unfortunately it soon became apparent that this was simply the spark inside the Hindenburg: increasing market complexity and interconnectedness had opened the way for disaster. "There is now one world market—globalisation," says Corden. "Good things spread... and bad things spread."

Tom Elliott (B. Comm 1988), a regular media commentator on financial issues, has also noticed the broader populace taking a greater interest in the stock market. "It's gone from being business page news to front page news over the last, say, fifteen years," he explains. He feels this is partly due to a growing realisation that the average Australian will have to live off their superannuation balance in their old age. "They take [the recent damage] very personally," says Tom. "Whereas they wouldn't have done so in the past."

In Malaysia, Chi Oi Meng (B.Comm, 1978), director of the Hing Yiap Group, watched the fall of Lehman Brothers and AIG on the business news channels. Offsetting the news was the fact that September is the month of the Hari Raya festival, a traditional time of high spending among Malaysia's Muslims. "Hing Yiap retails lifestyle apparel in over 600 outlets in Malaysia," she says. "We had record high sales for that month, followed by further good sales from October 2008 to January 2009. As such, it was difficult to accept the fact that there was a financial meltdown in the world." Behind the scenes however, preparations were being made to weather the approaching storm. "We were planning for a worse off 2009," Chi confirms, and sure enough after Chinese New Year sales began to drop.

Interestingly, some businesses have found the crisis has an upside. Chi has noticed that cafes have inherited new customers who have chosen to cut back on fancy restaurants, and Brendan Willems (B. Sci (Hons) 1997), business manager in India and South East Asia for multinational PPG, nomi- nates breakfast cereal as another winner. "Cereal is seen as a cheap meal in many countries - less in Asia, but particularly in Western countries," he says. "Their global sales are booming and they are loving it."

The crisis has also enforced a change in the way people do business. Prior to the GFC, Brendan noted that he was traveling overseas a lot—sometimes clocking up five weeks away from home. "Personal contact is great to make things happen and to build work relationships, but it's very expensive," he says. "The fact is now that we have to look for different ways to get things accomplished. The travel is a minor fraction of..."
what it was, and we make much greater use of the phone and web meetings now.”

Similarly, Dean Paatsch (B. Comm, B. Law, 1991), director of RiskMetrics Australia has noticed a shift in generational attitudes. When he left university Australia was in the middle of a recession - most graduates were just happy to have a job. By contrast, the next generation entered the workforce during a period of continuous economic growth. For them, the only question was where they wanted to work, and they chased their ideal occupation far more aggressively. “There’s less room for Gen Y divas in the workforce,” says Dean. “People under thirty are now starting to value certainty more than they’d ever had to in the past. And that’s really been huge, as an employer.”

Another unexpected consequence of the GFC was the re-emergence of Keynesian economics. For some, the deployment of Keynesianism to ward off the worst of the crisis has been especially pleasing. “People of my generation didn’t have to have a rediscovery,” says Max Corden, who counts Maynard Keynes as a personal hero. “It’s not something that is a guiding principle for everything, but in this kind of crisis (which is rather like the Great Depression) it’s what you should have in your toolkit.” Max, like most economists, also dismisses the idea that we’re in for a sea change in economic theory. “Ordinary, straightforward economics pointing out the value of markets, contrary to a lot of confused remarks, hasn’t been fundamentally destroyed,” he says. “It’s still applicable to the economy. But there has been gross mismanagement in the financial sector. What has been discredited is the belief in minimum regulation.”

The discussions have already begun as to how business will have to change. Dean Paatsch feels that the failures in corporate leadership have shaken the faith of the average punter, and that reform is an inevitable by-product. Conversely, Tom Elliott says this new financial disaster ends the debate surrounding the concept of moral hazard. Basically, moral hazard argues that governments protecting agents from the consequences of poor decisions merely ensures that they will repeat them. Tom points to the bailout of the Savings and Loan industry in the 1980s, and feels that many 21st century banks did not learn their lesson. “This latest financial bailout is proof that moral hazard is real,” says Tom. “Because it’s the 1980s Savings and Loan bailout on steroids.”

One key area of reform is corporate pay. Dean Paatsch thinks that the crisis has helped to give the person on the street a much better understanding of risk. Consequently, the days of corporate high-fliers taking risks with other people’s money (and getting paid regardless) would appear to be numbered. “If paying the most gets you the best, well then the management teams of the failed US investment banks were the greatest management teams of all time,” he remarks. “Clearly history shows you that that’s not true. So, a reappraisal of executive incentives systems and the extent to which they are risk-weighted is long overdue and it’s an inevitable consequence.”

Tom Elliott also thinks that change is coming, but acknowledges that regulating problems away is easier said than done. “If there’s one good thing that’s come out of the financial crisis, it’s shown that there are times where you can make big changes because you’ve got a sense of authority,” he says. “But with that comes responsibility, because if it’s government that’s going to make changes, they can still make the wrong ones.” He notes that he’s seen three financial meltdowns in his working life, and is certain that regulation won’t stop him seeing another. Instead, in a world faced with major issues such as an ageing population and imminent climate change, he wants to ensure that the creativity of the business community isn’t stifled. “Business has always changed. Business is nothing if not adaptable,” he concludes. “Businesses reform, regroup, maybe different names, different ownership structures, but people still want stuff. And they’ll still want things to be done.”

Dean Paatsch:
Catching the Corporate Bad Guys

There’s a couple of things you should know about Dean Paatsch. He used to be a commercial lawyer, but realised pretty quickly that he was in the wrong job, and he once helped to build a church in the south of Chile. Most importantly though, since the late 1980s Mr Paatsch has been really interested in the social policy underpinning the emerging superannuation movement.

Now the director of RiskMetrics Australia, a company that measures financial and market risk and advises shareholders on whether they should block self-serving proposals made by management, exclude companies from their portfolio, or even force underperforming board members out completely, Mr Paatsch has become a vocal and passionate advocate of corporate governance reform and has no hesitation in shining a light on the corporate governance of some of Australia’s biggest companies,

“I’m interested in doing things that will drive away rent seekers and make markets more transparent and efficient so that the superannuation system can work for the people it was designed to benefit,” he says.
Classroom Revolution

An intensive program that’s transforming the classroom experience for both teachers and students, Lisa Mitchell finds out why graduates of the University of Melbourne’s Master of Teaching are set to revolutionise the profession.

Illustration by Sonia Kretschmar
This is the “difficult” group. A cluster of Year 10 schoolgirls with untidy hair and dishevelled uniforms saunter into the science lab at Presentation College. Chairs scrape noisily as friends plonk down next to friends, the teenagers a little unruly after recess.

How ever will genial student teacher Martin Jellinek regain their attention? His large, soft, blue eyes, and kind generous smile seem hardly a match for this audience and a gruelling 75-minute lesson on hard core genetics.

But mild-mannered Jellinek is one of the University of Melbourne’s most impressive decoys in the challenge to illuminate our youth - a new breed of super teacher - placed at Presentation College as part of the university’s Master of Teaching, which is now into its second intake of graduates.

Science teacher, Stephen Lacey, assists Jellinek to set up an overhead projection of a laptop screen, then stows himself in the back row to monitor Jellinek’s performance which, so far this first semester, has been top notch.

“Shhhhh, girls”, Jellinek begins.

Professor Field Rickards, the Masters’ chief architect and Dean of Education at the University of Melbourne, has taken a clinical, evidence-based approach that trains teachers to analyse and attend to the layered needs of the classroom.

“What education hasn’t been very good at is clearly defining [and putting into practice] the key underlying theories ... There are a variety of ways of setting up a teaching situation that will maximise a child’s opportunity to learn, and kids learn differently . . . it’s extraordinarily complex stuff,” he says.

“This new generation of teachers will be interventionist practitioners, that is, if the kids are not learning, they will know how to intervene to developmentally take the child to the next level,” says Professor Rickards.

“It’s an extremely reflective course,” notes Jellinek. “You need to give personal reflections after everything you do.”

Theresa Burlak’s (B Arts 2009) opportunity to intervene arrived quickly at St Albans Secondary College. A young Sudanese student welcomed her to class with: ‘I hate you Miss. I don’t want your help’. His surly, unwilling-to-work attitude turned during her three-week teaching block as she gently focussed attention on him.

“She walked into her classroom and all of a sudden, she started addressing the group as ‘girls’ rather than ‘you’,” says Burlak. “The whole atmosphere changed.”

When you walk in the classroom with the students behind you, you are not a student. You are a professional person and that’s what the kids expect.

Professor Rickards says high numbers of graduates leave teaching after just five years, yet overseas evidence shows that Master-level training helps to retain talent. And, with 45 per cent of Australia’s teachers already over the age of 45, re-form is essential to resupply the pool before the baby boomers retire.

The key difference between the new Master of Teaching and the traditional diploma of education (DipEd) is its thoroughly integrated practical component, coupled with specialist support of teacher candidates (TCs).

Rather than being “parachuted into” schools twice a year, TCs are in schools one to two days a week, providing a strong link between theory and practice. They also undertake two, three-week teaching blocks. Traditional training models offered students just two, four-week teaching blocks as their total practical experience.

Schools offering placements to TCs are linked. A lead school is appointed in a region and networked to about five neighbouring schools. A Clinical Specialist, appointed by the university, runs fortnightly seminars at the lead school where TCs from the region share, review and reflect on their experience, receiving expert feedback and tuition.

Other specialist support for TCs includes a supervising teacher (ST) who offers daily feedback, and a Teaching Fellow appointed by the university from within the lead school to facilitate TC and ST relationships across their designated region.

“Teachers, like other professions, need to work on problem solving as part of a team,” says Professor Rickards. “You might have a Year 9 level with 80 kids right on track, 20 who need acceleration, and another 20 who need to catch up.”

The 18-month (accelerated mode) and two-year (reduced mode) Master of Teaching seems to attract very determined and more mature candidates. (The average age of the first two intakes was 28.) Any nuance of social or family life quickly dissipates, and, understandably, a small percentage of students aren’t able to manage the intensive theory and training.

But it is precisely this intensive practical component that gives TCs such valuable insight into the commitment their new career requires. On average, a full-time teacher prepares 16, 50-minute lessons per week. On top of lesson planning are assessment and correction, special projects and catering to special student needs.

“I like the routine but there are lot of extracurricular activities to consider like sports days and parent-teacher meetings, key learning area meetings, yard duty and politics, policies
and protocols to familiarise yourself with,” notes Burlak.

Teaching Fellow at Presentation College, Jeannette Gregg, also recommends TCs attend curriculum and student management meetings, school festivals and excursions and that they visit school counsellors and other teachers’ classes.

“The growth in the professionalism of the TCs that takes place over a semester is impressive . . . they’re much busier [than DipEd counterparts she has experienced],” says Gregg.

St Alban’s Teaching Fellow Phil McMillan says the greatest hurdle for new TCs is leaping from a student mindset to that of ‘pretend professional’.

“When you walk in the classroom with the students behind you, you are not a student. You are a professional person and that’s what the kids expect,” says McMillan.

St Alban’s Secondary College clinical specialist, Ken Swan, is “absolutely convinced” that the accelerated course TCs are better equipped at the end of semester one than DipEd candidates after two teaching rounds.

Among Swan’s revelations in fortnightly seminars are how to avoid student ridicule by becoming aware of your mannerisms and how to handle floods of questions. He also aims to motivate them to delve into the broader issues that inform student behaviour.

In St Albans Secondary College, where 42 languages span a school community of 1000, that means developing an understanding of students’ religions and belief systems, from Burmese to Sudanese.

When confronted by so many English as Second Language (ESL) students, 21 year-old St Albans TC Paul Bombaci began to measure the size of the task ahead – how to ensure all students have equal opportunity to comprehend lesson content?

“It opened my eyes to how aware you need to be of the different learning efficiencies of students,” says Bombaci.

Presentation College principal Leonie Keaney suspects the mature-age candidates may have an edge in life experience and a higher level of existing qualifications.

Diversity among students is less likely to intimidate well-travelled, 34-year-old Jellinek who, after completing an honours degree in genetics and archaeology, worked in the field before becoming a travel agent and later working in Africa as a park ranger, safari guide and manager of a luxury safari lodge.

Jellinek’s class on genetics certainly carries the enthusiasm of a tour guide passionate about his territory. Sophie earns a Freddo Frog reward for asking a question that drills the class deeper into the topic: “If a baby is born with a heart disorder, what’s gone wrong?”

“Excellent Sophie! It’s all about mutant DNA,” Jellinek says excitedly, manipulating the genetic coding of a DNA string on the whiteboard. He runs his double helix DVD a second time.

“The biggest thing that still has to work is . . . some outreach from the university to work with the supervising teachers to further skill them about the demands of the course and of the profession,” says St Alban’s Ken Swan. Further Federal Government funding of $7.9m secured in late 2008 for the Master of Teaching will help provide additional support for the program in schools.

Rickards says interest in the new model is growing. One country, which he will not name, is showing “serious interest” in his approach, which draws from a Stanford University program. And 10 other United States universities are working on similar, but separate, masters programs.

“We’re re-conceptualising the nature of teaching practice,” he says.

Certainly Jellinek has pulled off the unthinkable today, keeping his “difficult” group occupied for 65 of the 75 minutes before having to “shhh” them three times a minute. His face glows with a light sheen of perspiration from the effort, but he receives two audible “oh noooos” when telling the girls it is their last class together.

“The thing that gives me such a buzz is taking kids (who are) quite disengaged and making them want to learn,” says Jellinek. “I get a real kick out of it.”

To learn more about the Master of Teaching, and to register for the Deans Lecture Series (including a line up of internationally renowned educationalists and key politicians to contribute to the ongoing debate about the future of education), go to www.education.unimelb.edu.au/MT/MTTeach/Lectures/MTTeachLectures.html

If you would like to keep up to date on Master of Teaching program developments go to www.education.unimelb.edu.au/mteach/keepintouch.html

E-News Strip Ad
Postcode for Health

When a recent World Health Organization report revealed that where you live may have a significant impact on your health, alumni and academics from the University of Melbourne were not surprised. As Rod Brooks discovered, they've already been making the link between health and home.
A baby girl born in Japan this year can expect to live twice as long as a girl born in Zimbabwe. Americans have one third more income than the Japanese, and yet they die nearly five years earlier. In all countries at all levels of income, health and illness follow a social gradient: the lower your socio-economic position, the worse your health.

Is there a common thread tying together all these differences in health between countries and within countries?

Typically, health has been considered a function of genetics, health care or lack thereof, and our own personal lifestyle and habits. However, increasingly it has become apparent that while these factors are important, the circumstances in which people live, work and age are intimately related to risk of illness and length of life. Variations in the conditions of early childhood and schooling, the nature of employment and working conditions, the built environment, how much control you have over your life and the opportunities you have for full social engagement and participation are crucial for health, well-being and longevity. These can be described as the social factors or determinants of health.

Professor Rob Moodie from the Nossal Institute of Global Health has worked on HIV prevention in India. “It is not enough to focus on the immediate health issues of increasing use of condoms and clean needles. The best results come when these measures are combined with empowering communities and giving them more control over their income and their lives.”

The World Health Organization’s (WHO) report focuses on what can be done to reduce health inequities in all countries, concentrating on the social determinants of health and reducing social injustice. The report calls for closing the health gap in a generation as “social injustice is killing people on a grand scale”. Three principles of action are recommended: improve daily living conditions, tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money and resources, and measure and understand the problem and assess the impact of action.

Across the University of Melbourne community, epidemiologists, health researchers, economists, IT engineers, architects and early childhood development specialists, individually and in teams, are working on projects in this area.

Professor Elizabeth Waters, the Jack Brockhoff Chair of Child Public Health*, says that significant differences can arise in children’s health depending on where they live in Victoria. Children in rural areas are five times more likely to need hospitalisation for dental care than children from metropolitan areas while children from poorer areas have obesity rates of up to a third higher than those from wealthier areas. Also one in five children in low income families experience serious emotional and behavioural problems, compared with one in seven from higher income families.

To address some of these issues, the University’s McCaughey Centre**, in partnership with the Moreland Community Health Service, is conducting a child health promotion and obesity prevention research and intervention study called fun ‘n healthy in Moreland! It involves 23 primary schools in a culturally and economically diverse inner urban area of Melbourne. Intervention strategies are driven and customised by each school and the schools are supported in the implementation of a range of whole-of-school initiatives designed to address healthy eating, increased physical activity and self esteem. One of the principals recently reported that, “Being involved with fun ‘n healthy in Moreland! has been invaluable for our school. When we started our involvement we had an idea of where we wanted to go, but the support and guidance we have received has been the driving force behind us actually making changes and making a positive difference to the children in our school.”

Investigating the impact of social standing and status on health, Associate Professor Tony LaMontagne from the McCaughey Centre has conducted research into the impact of working conditions on mental health. He found an increasing proportion of depression attributable to job strain (low control and high demand jobs) with decreasing occupational skill level. This finding is consistent with other studies that have found a clear relationship between inequalities in social participation and autonomy (how much control you have over your life) playing a big part in producing the social gradient of health.
Inequalities in social participation have a huge role to play in indigenous health too. "While indigenous infant and child mortality rates have fallen significantly and Aboriginal life expectancy has risen, there is still a significant and unacceptable disparity in life expectancy and health outcome", says Professor Ian Anderson, Chair of Indigenous Health. "There is a gap which sees an indigenous person bear five times the burden of diabetes; four and a half times the burden of cardiovascular disease; and more than four times the burden of intentional injuries such as suicide or harm from violence. Closing the gap will require opening access so that Indigenous Australia can participate fully in the Australian economy. Universities will need to improve the way in which Indigenous students are recruited and supported, and to boost the quality of the learning experience for all students of Indigenous health."

Professor Anderson is also Director of the Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit at the University, which is conducting a number of research projects including a holistic approach to reducing smoking amongst pregnant Aboriginal women in Victoria, and working with the Rumbalara Football and Netball club in Shepparton to develop the health, education and personal development needs of their members.

Professor Sir Michael Marmot, Chair of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health has written about a framework for explaining the inequalities within and between countries. He uses the example of a low grade civil servant in the UK and a Kenyan slum dweller. The better material conditions and basic services in the UK explain why the civil servant has better health than the Kenyan slum dweller. In both cases, however, low social position means decreased opportunity, empowerment, and security, leading to poorer health than those higher up the social hierarchy. He argues that social conditions in every country put limits on people’s autonomy and their ability to participate fully in society, and hence lead a life they have reason to value. The greater the limitation, the worse the health.

However, while all societies have hierarchies because individuals are unequal in a variety of ways, not all societies have the same gradient in health. There is evidence that countries with large income gaps (where the richest fifth are more than seven times richer than the poorest fifth e.g. USA, Portugal, UK and Australia) have higher levels of mental illness, obesity, prison population and teenage pregnancies than countries with low income gaps (e.g. Japan, Finland and Norway). For example, over 25 per cent of the adult population in the (unequal) USA have suffered from some type of mental illness in the past year but less than 10 per cent have been affected in (equal) Japan.

As an example of place affecting health, researchers from the University’s Melbourne School of Population Health studied the food purchasing and exercise patterns of almost 5000 people around Melbourne. Findings indicate residents of lower socio-economic areas weigh more, walk less, buy more fast food and eat less fruit than people in more advantaged areas.

Principal researcher Professor Anne Kavanagh, of the University’s Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society, says these differences cannot just be put down to individual differences in income and education.

“It seems that whether you live in a richer or poorer neighbourhood could be a more important factor than your actual individual income,” she says.

“That’s why simple strategies such as improving and lengthening walking paths, increasing the number of pedestrian crossings and reducing the density of fast food outlets could make a difference,” she says.

If the health gap is to be closed in a generation, as Sir Michael Marmot hopes, projects which focus on social opportunity and equity as much as access to quality healthcare may well be the key to making it happen.

* The Jack Brockhoff Child Health and Wellbeing Program was established with the 2008 Jack Brockhoff Centenary Gift. The program will provide a fitting legacy to Sir Jack Brockhoff, who through his generosity in establishing The Jack Brockhoff Foundation, has provided significant benefit to the people of Victoria.

** The McCaughey Centre was established in 2006 with the support of the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) and the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne. It is named in honour of two outstanding Victorians, Davis and Jean McCaughey. Their commitment to ‘knowledge for common good’ is at the heart of all of the work of the McCaughey Centre. Jean McCaughey is the Centre’s Patron.

Learn more about the Nossal Institute for Global Health at www.ni.unimelb.edu.au/ - the Institute is committed to making a difference to global health practice, learning and research, and has a combined focus on development assistance, research and teaching.

To learn more about the faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences and the Dean’s Lecture’s series (click ‘events’) go to www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au/

The WHO report can also be found by visiting www.who.int/whr/en/index.html
Putting theory into practice in rural India

In a remote regional area of India, University of Melbourne alumnus Dr Santa Pasricha, spent a year researching anaemia, a condition which affects more than 80 per cent of children in rural India, leading to impaired physical and mental development.

“I decided to leave my formal training aside for a year and see if I could conduct a community study to find out more about this hugely prevalent and little understood problem,” says Dr Pasricha.

Combining two of his passions - international public health and haematology (the study of blood and blood diseases such as leukaemia, blood clots and bleeding disorders) - the year in India gave Dr Pasricha the opportunity to see the impact of social disadvantage first hand.

“I have learned so much more about life in a developing country than you could ever watch on TV or read about,” he says. “My fiancé and I were based in the villages for our project, and lived in a village home. We ate the local foods, slept on the floor with the local villagers, fetched water from the pump and went through the same chores. These insights taught me that I must always consider interventions from the villagers’ perspective - anything we offer must be acceptable and affordable to the women in the village.”

Since his return from India, Dr Pasricha, now based at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, is more determined than ever to learn more about the disease.

“I have become very passionate about learning more about anaemia and how to tackle it from all angles: the scientific aspects, policy, research in the field and community engagement,” he says.

“I am interested in how public health measures can put medicine on the front foot, being proactive, preventative, and formulating policy which can improve the health of many rather than just the patients in front of you. This has been an incredible year - the solution will not be simple but something has to be done.”

— POEM —

A Description of the Storm Glass and Brief Guide to its Use in Forecasting Weather

An invention of alchemists, the first recorded Storm Glass sold ‘at the sign of the Looking Glass’ on old London Bridge -

In its sealed glass, the clear liquid holding all this week unshadowed light this morning raises out of its empty dream this more precise hallucination, repeating branches, finer than pins.

It makes a heraldry of weather: these the uncoloured emblems of tomorrow’s rain. Only its double-curved glass, keeping each thing apart from itself - closed in parallax, like self-regard - makes it an instrument of hauntings

As if to say He gave his whole life to become his idea of himself. So, tireless and without the extravagance of waves, a Storm Glass amasses its precarious adornments, its needlepoint in quartz, mistakeable for regret.

- Lisa Gorton

The Storm Glass, sometimes called a Camphor Glass, is an outdated instrument that foretells weather. A sealed glass containing chemicals, dissolved in alcohol and water, the crystalline forms in it vary with electric change in air. FitzRoy, who carried a Storm Glass on The Beagle, described its workings in 'The Weather Book' (London, 1863).
THREE COLLECTIONS AND A RARE BOOK

50 years after the Baillieu Library first opened, Dr Belinda Nemec (BMus 1990, PhD 2006) reviews some of the extraordinary items in its’ collection.

2009 marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Baillieu Library building, the University’s first purpose-built library. The anniversary celebrations have given alumni, students and staff past and present an opportunity to reflect on their own time in the Library, whether it had been spent studying, working, flirting or snoozing. The milestone also draws attention to the richness of the Library’s collections and the generosity of the many donors who have contributed books, prints, maps, manuscripts, musical scores, archives, artefacts and money over more than 150 years.

George McArthur
Although founded in the 1850s, the University did not receive its first major gift of rare books until 1903. This was the bequest of George McArthur (born in Scotland in 1842), a retired baker from the Victorian town of Maldon. Although McArthur never attended this or any other university, he came from a bookish family living in a highly literate society. Despite limited formal education he knew Latin, was a keen reader, a knowledgeable collector of books, objects and colonial documents, and an enthusiastic international traveller, publishing travel writings under the pseudonym ‘The Rambler’. Both his journeys overseas and his life in a goldfields town informed his collecting. As well as acquiring books about travel and exploration, Bibles in obscure languages, and incunabula (books printed before 1500), McArthur was a pioneer in collecting early Australian documents such as colonial newspapers, convict records and miner’s licenses.

Why did this bookish baker from Maldon leave his collection of more than 2,500 publications and documents to the University of Melbourne? The connection might seem a tenuous one to us today but demonstrates the importance of always making a good first impression. In 1903 John Walter Gregory, professor of geology at the University, visited McArthur in Maldon. The two men found they shared many interests, and McArthur was impressed by the younger professor, writing to his bank manager, ‘If that was the sort of men the university professors were, they should have [my] books’. Tragically, a few months later McArthur took his own life, suffering from unbearable depression. His books and documents came to the University Library, while his coins, weapons and other artefacts went to the Museum of Victoria.

J. Orde Poynton

The opening of the Baillieu Library building served as the catalyst to another of the Library’s great benefactions. In 1959 Dr J. Orde Poynton (1906–2001) donated his collection of some 3,700 old master prints and 15,000 rare books. Poynton has been described as ‘a virtuoso book collector’; his books transformed the Library’s holdings in fields such as the Greek and Roman classics and modern private presses, while his prints form the core of one of Australia’s most significant collections of prints. In subsequent years Dr Poynton made further donations, and was later a major benefactor of the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra.

Poynton was an English-born medical practitioner, who served in Malaya in World War II and was imprisoned in Changi. He had inherited his love for rare books and prints from his father. He arrived in Adelaide in 1947 and moved to Melbourne in 1962, serving as an honorary consultant bibliographer in the Baillieu for twelve years. In 1977 the University recognised his services by conferring an honorary Doctor of Laws.

Russell Grimwade

The collections of Sir Russell Grimwade (1879–1955) reflect his wide sphere of interests and activities as an industrialist, conservator, naturalist, woodworker, philanthropist and author. Not only are 1,000 of his rare books now located in the Baillieu Library, but his art collection is in the Ian Potter Museum of Art (indeed William Strutt’s 1887 painting, Bushrangers, Victoria, Australia 1852, is arguably the icon of the University of Melbourne Art Collection) and his papers are held in the University of Melbourne Archives. Grimwade was a Melbourne alumnus, having completed a Bachelor of Science degree in 1901 while living at Ormond College, which he recalled as a time of ‘happy satisfaction’. Sir Russell and Lady (Mab) Grimwade’s generosity to the University extended beyond the collections, to a major gift of money for the construction of a biochemistry building and later the bequest of their Toorak home Miegunyah, proceeds from the sale of which created the Russell and Mab Grimwade Miegunyah Fund. At the time of its receipt (upon Lady Grimwade’s death in 1973), the Grimwades’ was the largest private bequest the University had ever received. This substantial trust fund continues to support activities that were of interest to Sir Russell, including the care and development of the Museum of Art, 5 September 2009 to 17 January 2010.
Dr Nicholas Hamilton

As well as donations and bequests of large collections, the Library continues to receive gifts of individual volumes. Recently DR Nicholas Hamilton donated a rare anatomy book printed in London in 1694. This family heirloom was originally brought to Australia by DR Hamilton’s Scottish born great-great-grandfather, Dr Alexander Thomson (1798-1866), also a medical practitioner, who has been commemorated as a pioneer of Melbourne and founder of Geelong. It passed down through the family and was presented to DR Hamilton when he graduated MBBS from the University of Melbourne in 1946. DR Hamilton not only donated the book but generously funded its conservation, so that it would be in a fit condition for use by library patrons for many years to come.

Donations to fund the cataloguing and conservation of its cultural collections are always welcomed by the Library. Visit https://alumni.unimelb.edu.au/iw/MakeAGift.aspx and nominate ‘Library and cultural collections’ for your gift purpose to make a donation or contact the Advancement Office on (03) 8344 1751.

Image: Title page of Ysbrand can Diemerbroek, *The anatomy of human bodies; Comprehending the most modern discoveries and curiosities in that art…*, London: printed for W. Whitwood, 1694, Medical Rare Books Collection, University of Melbourne, Gift of Dr Nicholas Hamilton, 2008.

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**Did you know?**


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**THEN AND NOW**

by Fiona Willan

In A League of Her Own

It may not have been the most practical attire for sliding on the baseball diamond, but Judy Scarrott’s (BA 1951) old woolen sports tunic brings back memories of much more than just grazed legs. A star player for the University of Melbourne women’s baseball team in the immediate post-war era, Mrs Scarrott – then Judy Hudson – says the uniform reminds her of “a very enjoyable time of life.”

The 79-year-old arts alumna recently donated her baseball tunic to Melbourne University Sports’ memorabilia collection, to ensure her team holds a place in the University’s history for decades to come. On the team of young women that dominated the Victorian Women’s Baseball Association competition in the late 1940s, Judy Scarrott helped her team win four consecutive A grade premierships from 1947 – 1950 and played in three winning grand finals. “We had an absolutely magnificent team,” she says.

This was openly acknowledged even by the competition. After winning an intervarsity game against Sydney in 1948, the Melbourne team was asked to play for Sydney in a softball competition the following weekend. “When we got to Sydney, we found we were much too good for them...and they said ‘We don’t suppose you’d play for us this weekend?’” she says. “We won 43-2. There was uproar from the opposition, of course, because we were ring-ins.”

The women’s team also challenged the University of Melbourne men’s baseball team to a game on one occasion – and won. “But they said it was because we’d played on our silly little diamond,” she says. “There had been some discussion as to whether we should play on our size diamond or theirs.”

Judy Scarrott won a prestigious University Blue for her achievements in the sport, and was well-known for her catching prowess as a first-base fielder. She still has the battle scars to show for it - an arthritic finger that hardly bends caused by numerous dislocations. Nevertheless, she can still catch as well as she ever did.

“I wouldn’t bat all that well these days, but I can still catch well – there’s no question about it,” she says.

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Do you have University of Melbourne sports memorabilia that you’d like to donate to the University’s collection? If so, please contact Rod Warnecke from Melbourne University Sport on +61 3 8344 8891 or email rod.warnecke@unimelb.edu.au.

In 2004, the facilities at Melbourne University Sport received a $5.3 million architecturally designed refurbishment. Alumni can now access the state-of-the-art gym and pool at the heritage-listed Beaurepaire Centre, hire a squash or tennis court, or join one of the many group fitness classes on offer. Go to www.sports.unimelb.edu.au or call +61 3 8344 5404.
Alumni in conversation
—CAMPAIGNERS FOR CHANGE—

Drought, floods, heatwaves, bushfires – is climate change unstoppable? University of Melbourne alumna Olivia Davis, editor of sustainable living magazine Sprinkla, brought four alumni experts from diverse professions together to ask them how to create a sustainable future. Over lunch in the University’s 5 star Green Star rated Economics building, Olivia asked author Tanya Ha, botanist Dr Brendan Winkle, architect Peter Ho and environmental consultant Arron Woods, how we can create a world where making sustainable choices is as normal as wearing your seatbelt in the car.
Olivia Davis: Let’s start with introductions.

Tania Ha: I joke that I should have a business card that says ‘freelance mad greenie’. My interest has been not so much the science of sustainability, but that human end of it, what happens after we’ve discovered something. I try to mainstream sustainability and to reach those people who wouldn’t describe themselves as green.

Brendan Wintle: I run a small research group in the faculty of science, which is basically the integration of ecology, economics and the mathematics of decision theory. So it’s a funny blend of disciplines. But in practical terms we run projects relating to endangered species conservation. What should we do to get the best outcome for a limited budget in managing endangered species?

Aaron Wood: I started out in the scientific area, as an environmental scientist and then realised fairly early on that it was more about people for me. My focus particularly has been on young people, how to grab student attention. Our company runs a program called Kids Teaching Kids and we’ve had 13,000 kids through the program in every state and territory.

Peter Ho: Our primary interest as an architectural practice is how we engage in the idea of a cultural identity of a sustainable future, as well as how we aim to create zero waste. We’re also interested in how we can develop a level of resilience in that future.

Olivia Davis: I’m a freelance writer, and the editor of a sustainable living magazine called Sprinkla. Sprinkla’s aim is to inspire people to make more sustainable choices where they can. We come from the layperson’s perspective.

AW: The problem with climate change is it’s sold as a singular issue and people are looking for an emissions trading scheme or something to come in and solve it for them, when the fundamental question is ‘how do we live more sustainably within our means?’ There’s a real shift needed from seeing ourselves as managers of a system where climate change is yet another thing for us to solve, to seeing ourselves as living within that living system. Environmentalism as something that’s not ‘being green’ but just who we are.

Consumerism comes under fire from a number of people in the group. We should be examining the true benefits and costs of each product we buy. Do we need it? What is the service that this product is providing?

BW: One of the things that I always ask is, ‘what’s the disservice it brings me by buying that thing?’ It’s a very ugly conversation. No one really wants to have it. But if you are going to do true costing you have to face the disservice that each product is bringing you and the community in the long run.

OD: People are learning to look behind the product, at the chain of events and resources that went into producing it.

PH: In the work that we do we’re very interested in understanding the embodied energy in the life cycle of all the things that we consume. How we transform the waste that we produce in our own practice and make it become part of the final design.

AW: The short term kick you get from buying something new drops away very quickly. Whereas getting in touch with nature, a sense of belonging, a sense of place; all these things are shown to have long term effects on our psyche. I think we’ve been sold a dream that’s starting to fall apart and is coming back to ask us to pay for it.

TH: One thing that stands out to me as blatantly lacking is that right now our economic systems don’t reflect the true costs of different technologies. Climate change is going to produce health consequences, such as respiratory illnesses from car emissions, which will be a burden on our health care system. So is that paid for by fossil fuel power generators? Some of those externalities we’re not costing are getting a free ride.

AW: We have not internalised all the costs because otherwise a bag of carrots would be $110.

Consumer choice can be a powerful driver of change, but can also be complex. Faced with daily shopping decisions, for individuals it can be overwhelming.

TW: For instance, do you say I won’t wear leather because it’s an animal product or do you say, as long as the world is not vegetarian there’s a lot of slaughter house by-product which could be wasted land fill. Do we make better use of the resource? We are in the early days of green consumerism. But things like standards which certify products from a lifecycle perspective will help. Then people can make choices which
align with their values, whether it be fair trade, human rights or the environment.

Is there hope for our planet? What is being done?

**AW:** The solutions are already there. But you have to laugh sometimes. Richard Branson put out a $50 million reward for someone who could design a thing that would take carbon out of the air and recycle it. I thought, hang on, haven’t we already got that? It’s called a tree. The alternative energy industry is a huge economic opportunity. You look at my hometown Mildura and it’s on its knees agriculturally, with drought. But a $400 million solar plant has just been approved, which is going to employ some 800 people. Then look at the German example where they’ve actually got far more solar power than Australia but far fewer daylight hours. Yet in Australia you’ve got both sides of politics saying it’s impossible to power Australia through solar and wind energy, which is just plain wrong.

**PH:** I’ve always believed that a sustainable future is created when these technologies become more accessible to the common person. It’s all about making it economically viable. But also we have to adapt in a positive way to the changes. In our built environment, maybe we need to employ comfort and durability strategies that are already incorporated in warmer climates.

It’s clear that renewable energies can play a huge part in reducing Australia’s carbon emissions, but it will only happen with government support. We have seen huge take-up of solar and wind power in Europe and China. The group agrees that in Australia, minimum renewable energy targets are vital so renewables can compete economically with fossil fuel.

**BW:** Yes, economics is the thing that drives change. But by the same token the micro economics of some big companies are perverting the process by having these large interests in Canberra negatively influencing decisions. To what extent should we be subsidising the existing fossil fuel industry to secure existing jobs, versus encouraging investment in other technologies? I think Germany is a wonderful example where you have a huge public investment in solar. That wasn’t private enterprise that drove that change. That was regulation and policy.

**AW:** In these countries, which are go-ahead countries, the decisions seem to be based on science and good policy comes from science. Whereas our decision making process is based on which lobby group can scream the loudest.

**BW:** My fear with the current batch of politicians is that they are not leading with visions about what the world could be like, both socially and environmentally. They’re reacting to people’s desire to consume things. Maybe it’s the complexity of the problem, this interconnectedness of everything. But I do think we are suffering a lack of clear vision which probably stems from a lack of clear objectives.

**AW:** If you look at both sides of politics for the last 100 years, they haven’t seen lack of water, lack of energy and all these sorts of things as fundamental issues to address, and yet they’ve had a terrorism plan enacted straight away when that was seen to be a threat. Hans Blix and Mick Keelty said we’ve got far more to fear from climate change than we do from terrorism. But there is hope. Ninety percent of scientists have said if we hit peak emissions by 2015 and we’re on our way down, that we will lock in some degree of mitigation of the rate of climate change.

**TH:** The interesting thing is that on the whole, we are consumers, we like being consumers, some more than others. I think part of what we’re trying to do is find a difference between wasteful consumption and meaningful consumption. Like I consumed a sandwich which is great because then I have energy and nutritional value and there’s a health benefit. But, I’ve got a little saying because my generation, my girlfriend, are the Sex in the City watching kind of girls. My little saying to them is, ‘yes I know you love your handbag but does your handbag love you back?’

**OD:** Thank you everyone for a great conversation.

*To read a full transcript of this conversation visit [link to be inserted]*

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**Authors:**

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Sam McMillan considers whether it's time to ditch email, Facebook and Twitter and (scary thought) catch up with friends in person.

My father recently attended a high school reunion for the Class of 1964. He was apprehensive at first. Why stand around awkwardly with people he hadn't seen in 45 years, he argued, when there was a perfectly good episode of The Bill on ABC? Upon arriving, however, he was amazed to hear somebody yell his nickname out from across the room. Sure, it was his former school bully - and sure, he was promptly wedgied - but the evening turned out to be a great success. Half a century is quite a lot to catch up on, and this lot of Baby Boomers caught up well into the night.

These days, of course, you needn't wait that long to hear news of your former classmates. A recent invention called the Internet has put people in touch with each other like never before. If somebody you once had a vague connection to is married, has a baby, or gets done for armed robbery in the morning, chances are you'll have heard about it by lunchtime - and forwarded the news on to everyone you know by early afternoon.

This isn't such a bad thing. People like to stay connected, and thanks to social networking we can do so at the click of a button. Ever wondered what happened to Bianca Neville who rejected your romantic advances for seven years straight? She got married last year; you can see the photos on Facebook. Along with a detailed blog describing what she ate for lunch on Wednesday and what she thought of the new Terminator movie. And while you're there, why not look up her new husband? Seriously, it'll be fun. Sit back, grab some Cheezels, and spend the night trawling through the lives of others all from the privacy of your bedroom.

The problem is, real reunions aren't like Facebook. To start with, they're not held in a bedroom (and if you're invited to one which is, best alert police). Unlike Facebook, you can't walk over to somebody and 'poke' them, then walk away. You can't select the best photo of yourself and stick it over your real face for the duration of the evening. And if someone starts chatting to you, it's impolite to leave them hanging for seventeen minutes before silently leaving the room. In short, real reunions pull the rug of convenience out from under our feet, forcing us to - let's all take a deep breath - interact with people in real-time.

So, naturally, we get nervous. Never mind the fact that we're supposedly 'friends' with these people online; we suddenly feel the pressure of having to meet them face-to-face, summarise and justify all of our major life choices, and - sorry, did I hear correctly? - wear a name tag while we're at it. To the list of truths we hold to be self-evident, add this: You can never look cool in a name tag.

Why then have reunions at all? Hasn't Cyberspace won this round? Aren't reunions stressful and awkward?

Well, yes, they are - at first. But then again, so was your first kiss. So was high school. And so was Uni. In fact, just about every major life event starts a little uncomfortably. As for name tags, most maternity wards gave us one when we were a few minutes old. But from awkward beginnings, humans grow. I spent my first university lecture desperately scanning the faces of other students, trying to determine who else liked Disney films and whether I should join the Free Beer club even though I hated the stuff.

I didn't realise at the time, but those faces would become incredibly familiar to me over the following years. They say you can't choose your family; well, you can't choose your classmates, either. But like family, you're stuck with each other, and over many semesters we blundered our way through deadlines, exams, tuna sandwiches, Zone 1 Metcards, South Lawn barbecues, John Medley Staircases, Union House admin, and Swanston Street trams. It wasn't Vietnam, but it was close. Together, we survived.

Some go on to achieve great things. Others give up completely and become musical comedians. But wherever we end up, it's a curious thought to know that scattered far and wide across this planet are a select handful of people with whom we once shared a classroom, making fun of the tutor's lisp and covering for each other's attendance levels. Were it not for reunions, we'd probably never share these memories in person again.

And the best thing? If it all goes swimmingly, you can continue the party on Facebook ...
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