Jockey danger research

BY FIONA HORWOOD & SHARON WEBB

Situations such as a recent race meet in Scone, NSW, where four horses and jockeys fell may come to an end through research released by UTAS Menzies Research Institute.

The study aims to reduce the risk attached to being a professional thoroughbred racing jockey, one of the most dangerous occupations in the world.

Conducted in Australia between 2002 and 2006, the study analysed 75,000 races at more than 10,000 race meetings with the purpose of identifying factors associated with falls.

It revealed licensed jockeys falling on average in one race in 240 – and 27 per cent of falls resulted in an injury.

One in 620 falls resulted in death.

To date there has not been a study anywhere in the world of factors contributing to falls by thoroughbred racing jockeys riding in flat races.

Principal research fellow, Associate Professor Leigh Blizzard, said that finding solutions to the falls requires an understanding of the numerous risk factors associated with falls.

The study revealed common factors across the race falls, which could be addressed with targeted training for jockeys or with tougher requirements for horse preparation.

Falls were more common in a jockey’s first race of the day, which Assoc. Prof. Blizzard said could indicate a problem with jockeys “not being properly warmed up”.

The president of the Tasmanian Jockeys Association, Kevin Ring, said the research findings were valid and important.

“Some falls are just bad luck but if you get an experienced jockey on an inexperienced horse for example, he’ll handle the horse and keep out of trouble,” he said.

Races early in the day often involved inexperienced riders on lesser-chance horses, he said.

“Also, in those races, after dieting and saunas, jockeys’ reflexes are not as sharp as later in the day with the adrenaline pumping.

“Some states have jockey education programs in place – Victoria, NSW and WA do it best. But we need a national program like the UK.

“Currently there’s so much racing in Australia that apprentices are thrown in and they adapt – or they don’t. They all need a mentor such as a retired rider or a trainer with only a few horses.”

First author of the paper, Menzies PhD student Peta Hirchens, said the findings suggest that the experience of both the jockey and horse will be important factors to include in a fall and injury prevention strategy.

“This is only the beginning, It is vital to safety in the thoroughbred racing industry in Australia that risk factors for falls and injuries are further investigated,” she said.

This research is published in the international journal, Occupational and Environmental Medicine.
UTAS graduates have been awarded four of the five 2010 Churchill Fellowships awarded to Tasmanians. With an average cost of $25,000 per fellowship, recipients have the opportunity to travel overseas to further their passion and return with benefits to Australia. The 2010 Fellowships are valued at more than $2.3 million and cover the broadest range of topics as applicants design their own fellowships in their field of expertise.

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, established after the death of Sir Winston Churchill in accordance with his final wishes, has now funded more than 3,400 Fellowships for Australians.

**2010 Tasmanian Churchill Fellows**

**Mr Dion Lester**  
Bachelor of Applied Science 1995, Masters of Environmental Planning 2005  
Mr Lester’s fellowship will allow him to investigate land use planning approaches for the establishment and facilitation of urban agriculture. He will travel to the UK, Cuba and Canada.

**Mr Travis Tiddy**  
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Honours 2005  
Mr Tiddy was awarded the Galbraith Bequest Churchill Fellowship to conduct research into post-industrial sites for community development and geo-tourism opportunities. He will travel to Italy, Germany, the UK and Ireland.

**Dr Rebecca Jones**  
Bachelor of Science, Honours 2000, PhD 2009  
Dr Jones’ fellowship will enable her to visit centres of Eucalyptus research to learn techniques for the analysis of the Eucalyptus genome sequence. She will travel to Germany, France and the USA. Dr Jones currently works in the UTAS School of Plant Science.

**Mr Geoffrey Law**  
Bachelor of Medical Science 2005, Bachelor of Surgery, honours 2006 (pictured bottom right)  
Dr Downie was awarded the Bob and June Pockett Churchill Fellowship to study eye banking retrieval systems for the purposes of corneal transplantation. She will travel to the UK and the USA.

**Dr Alice Downie**  
Bachelor of Medical Science 2005, Bachelor of Surgery, honours 2006 (pictured bottom right)  
Dr Downie was awarded the Bob and June Pockett Churchill Fellowship to study eye banking retrieval systems for the purposes of corneal transplantation. She will travel to the UK and the USA.

**Four Churchill fellowships for UTAS grads**

David Sadler  
Mr Sadler has accepted an appointment as the new Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students and Education) at UTAS. He will begin in the role towards the end of 2010.

For the past four years he has been a director of the UK Higher Education Academy with a lead role in technology-enhanced learning, enhancement of the student experience and institutional learning and teaching strategies. Mr Sadler’s earlier roles include Dean of Social Sciences at the University of Northampton, director of the National Subject Centre for Sociology, Anthropology and Politics at the University of Birmingham and head of the School of Historical and International Studies at De Montfort University in Leicester, UK.

He was awarded a UK National Teaching Fellowship in 2005 for his work on role play in crisis simulation.

John Tisdell  
Professor John Tisdell from the School of Economics and Finance has been invited onto the editorial boards of the International Journal of Agricultural Resources, Governance and Ecology and the International Journal of Water. Prof. Tisdell started at UTAS earlier this year. Recently his work ‘Impact on environmental traders on water markets: An experimental analysis’ was published in Water Resources Research. He is also currently putting together a special issue on environmental flow management for the International Journal of Water. For more details visit http://www.inderscience.com/browse/callpaper.php?callID=1385

Jane Watson  
Professor Jane Watson from the Faculty of Education has been awarded the Outstanding Career Research Award at the recent conference of the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia. As this is a new award for a mathematical researcher who has made a significant contribution to mathematical education, Prof. Watson is the first researcher to win it. The Dean of Education, Professor Ian Hay, said the award was a great honour and recognition of Prof. Watson’s national and international contribution to knowledge.

Do you have a tidbit for ‘Our people’? Email news snippets on UTAS people to: Media.Office@utas.edu.au

and mark your email subject: ‘Our people’.

**UTAS community**

**On campus**

Fabulous Fabio on Environment Day  
Hot food, hot music and hot topics marked this year’s celebrations for World Environment Day on the UTAS Sandy Bay campus. World Environment Day is marked each year on 5 June. Internationally themed food and drink was served by Peppers Café Restaurant, including vegetable korma, spiced paella and a hot spiced apple drink while global music was provided by Fabio Chivhanda and the Jive Masters. Fabio is a master composer and dancer in the African Shona tradition. His songs are accompanied by the mbira, a 22-key thumb piano played inside a halved calabash gourd. The event was organised by Asset Management Services Sustainability Team’s Corey Peterson and Kamal Singh, who suggested some easy ‘take home’ ideas, and actions towards a healthier environment.
Nurses find the heart of the matter with augmented reality

BY CECILIA CHIU

Being able to recognising patients’ abnormal signs is key to good clinical nursing skills but often these signs cannot be seen visually.

Carey Mather, a teaching fellow in emerging technologies in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, and Dr Winyu Chinthammit of HITLab AU are working in collaboration to develop an augmented reality tool to allow Bachelor of Nursing students to visualise what is happening underneath the skin.

An innovative prototype of the tool recently won the best commendation in the UniQuest Trailblazer innovation competition 2010.

“As part of patient assessment, students need to become competent at locating the heart and the apex of the heart in the chest and listening for different heart sounds that can assist with monitoring and evaluating the health care needs of a patient,” said Ms Mather.

“Augmented reality is a technology that overlays computer-generated images onto the physical environment, giving us a ‘superman vision’ to see what we normally cannot see. The student practises on a manikin to find the location of the apex of the heart. Once the apex is located, the augmented reality application will exhibit a visual display of a beating heart chamber. There will also be a corresponding ECG rhythm strip display and heart sounds, all overlaid in real time. This greatly enhances the learning experiences of nursing students.

The simulated laboratory environment resembles as closely as possible a real-life clinical situation. The augmented reality application helps the students relate information acquired via different mediums, such as pulse taking, stethoscope and ECG diagram, to a patient’s condition. There are all fundamental clinical nursing skills.

Dr Chinthammit said: “The prototype tool we developed can be applied in a wide range of simulated clinical environments. The UniQuest Trailblazer award recognises the commercialisation potential of this tool.”

The School of Nursing and Midwifery and HITLab AU are investigating opportunities to enhance the undergraduate student simulation experience to include augmented reality technology in the curriculum.

UniQuest is widely regarded as one of Australia’s leading technology transfer companies which fosters links between emerging technologies developed by university researchers and the financial and entrepreneurial resources of industry and business.

For more information, please contact Carey Mather, ph. 61324 3149, email Carey.Mather@utas.edu.au.

Abdominal fat may explain diabetic depression

BY FIONA HORWOOD

A recent publication by UTAS Menzies Research Institute research fellow Dr Sue Pearson has shed new light on the link between diabetes and depression.

Dr Pearson says her research results suggest abdominal fat may be far more important in explaining the association between depression and insulin resistance than behavioural factors such as diet and physical inactivity.

It is well known that depression is more common in people with diabetes than in people who don’t suffer from diabetes. While depression may be a consequence of having and managing diabetes, there is clear evidence that depressed adults are up to 37 per cent more likely to develop type 2 diabetes than those who are not depressed.

What has been less clear until now is the underlying biological mechanism explaining this relationship.

Dr Pearson’s study involved data from more than 1700 healthy young adults, aged between 26 and 36 years of age. It is the first study to look at this association using a “gold standard” measure of depression and to be undertaken on a younger population.

More importantly, it sheds new information on the possible causal mechanism linking depression to diabetes.

“We examined how insulin depression is more common in people with diabetes: Dr Sue Pearson believes hyperactivation of the stress pathway in depression promotes increased abdominal fat, and insulin resistance may be a possible explanation for this association.

resistance, which is strongly associated with type 2 diabetes, and depression were associated in young adults,” Dr Pearson said.

“We then went further to identify mechanisms that might explain this relationship.”

One mechanism that Dr Pearson and her team explored was whether lifestyle factors may explain the relationship between depression and type 2 diabetes. They included behaviours such as physical inactivity and poor dietary habits which increase the risk of developing insulin resistance and are also more common in people with depression.

“Insulin resistance was found to be significantly increased in both men and women with depressive disorder even after adjustment for behavioural and dietary factors,” said Dr Pearson.

A further mechanism that the study explored was obesity, a common factor in depression and insulin resistance. While obesity can result from poor dietary habits and physical inactivity, it is also suggested that hyperactivation of the stress pathway in depression promotes abdominal fat accumulation.

“Approximately 40 – 60 per cent of people who suffer from major depression exhibit hyperactivity of this stress pathway,” Dr Pearson said.

“Unlike when we adjusted for lifestyle factors, when we adjusted for waist circumference the association was greatly reduced.”

“While this study suggests increased abdominal fat may explain the relationship between depression and insulin resistance, we were not able to directly assess whether this was due to hyperactivation of the stress pathway but it remains a plausible hypothesis for further examination,” she added.

Big picture

Professor Daryl Le Grew
Vice Chancellor

Encouraging a student voice

Students are central to improving the performance of universities, in both terms of teaching and learning outcomes as well as the student experience. Students have a role in contributing to debate about higher education policy, and universities have a reciprocal role to ensure their students and the student body are supported to empower them to do this effectively.

At the University of Tasmania this past month we have been privileged to host two important national conferences for students, both of which were supported by this university. Conferences such as these illustrate the critical role students have in initiating and influencing policy agenda at a national and indeed international level.

It has been a good reminder that it is important for our students, from a small to a grand scale, to have a voice and to have a presence in their connections with their university, their community and beyond.

The National Union of Students held its Natural Environment Conference at UTAS for students from around Australia, giving students the opportunity to be part of policy debates impacting on the sector and to gain experience and understanding of being student representatives.

One of the outcomes of the conference has been the establishment of a new peak representative organisation for international students – the Council of International Students Australia. With the issues impacting on international students in Australia at the moment, this is a fundamental step forward for student representation in the debate.

Almost back-to-back with the National Union of Students Conference was the Sixth Annual Australian Medical Students’ Association Global Health Conference, which was again a fantastic forum for hundreds of students.

The role of students as clients and consumers gives students both rights as well as responsibilities. Students need to be empowered as part of the process, giving well-informed critique on learning and teaching technologies as well as their own experiences.

Universities across Australia encourage a strong relationship with students because of the undoubted benefits that flow from that dynamic intergenerational relationship. UTAS is not alone in having strong student representation from its student body on its Council – the decision-making body that governs the University. The Tasmania University Union is also represented on working groups and forums throughout UTAS.

We need to do all we can to keep encouraging that strong student voice, and the sector will look with interest to the outcome of the impending federal election in terms of the status of support for our students.

Warm regards,

Daryl Le Grew
Vice Chancellor

www.utas.edu.au/vc
Getting straight the Bass Strait Bridge

BY JANETTE BRENNAN

A vision of a bridge linking Tasmania to the mainland, created in part by UTAS Environmental Design graduates, has been selected for the 2010 Venice Architecture Biennale.

Aaron Roberts, from the Hobart and Melbourne-based architecture firm Room 11, said Island Proposition 2100 is a highly speculative idea. The concept of a 600-km bridge spanning Bass Strait via King Island sets out to encourage discussion about future urban conditions.

“We really wanted to explore hybrid infrastructure—harmonising different infrastructures into one central point,” he said.

Future cities: A vision of a bridge linking Tasmania to the mainland, created in part by UTAS environmental design graduates, has been selected for the 2010 Venice Architecture Biennale.

“It would be a bridge that changes functions as it moves through different regions. In an agricultural area it could treat waste water or produce energy. In an urban centre, the bridge could support a rail system or incorporate housing. “But at the core of the idea is an attempt to restrict the ever expanding, unsustainable urban sprawl. Rather than cities spreading out in a web-like manner, we could have interconnected development along a central spine.”

Island Proposition 2100 was a collaboration between Room 11, UTAS Environmental Design graduate Scott Lloyd (now in Switzerland) and a lecturer at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, Karina Stoll.

The design was selected as one of 17 projects to be included in the Australian pavilion at the prestigious Italian cultural exhibition. The brief challenged entrants to create a vision of Australian cities in 2050 and beyond.

While no projects to date have been completed on this scale, Mr Roberts said the technology was already available. The 32.5-km Donghai Bridge in China connects mainland Shanghai with an offshore deep-water port; the Hangzhou Bay Bridge (35.7km) connects several Chinese provinces and is the longest trans-oceanic bridge in the world.

For more information on Island Proposition 2100 see www.ip2100.info

Next edition: The submission deadline for the September issue of Unitas is 13 August
Eleven emerging Tasmanian designers are exhibiting their work at the NEW Gallery at the Newnham campus until the end of August.

The exhibition, Objects of Design, showcases work from creative disciplines ranging from millinery to light fixtures and jewellery through to production of creative paper works.

Opening the exhibition the head of the UTAS School of Architecture and Design, Professor Roger Fay, welcomed the opportunity to gather together some of the best work by the state’s young designers.

“This is an exciting and vibrant exhibition and I hope that many Tasmanians will see the exhibition and celebrate the work as I do,” he said.

“I often feel there is ample opportunity to see the work of more established designers but this sort of collection is rare. It’s important that UTAS can create this opportunity for emerging designers.”

The featured young designers from all over the state are:

**Benjamin Cook and Liisa Peisto**

creators of hand-printed personal accessories, homewares, and artworks through their company, Kiswa.

**Maya McDonell and Sam Beckman**

paper object designers who create folded paper origami structures inspired by the versatility of folded paper.

**Loz Abberton**

a lighting designer who creates ‘grandaliers’ and ‘standaliers’ from lightweight ply and recyclable polypropylene.

**Emily Snadden**

who designs jewellery made of precious metals and is heavily influenced by the human-like traits of flora.

**Anna Weber**

a lighting designer whose works are made of MDF and specialty Tasmanian veneer timbers.

**Jemima and David Boyer**

lighting and jewellery designers whose ply work is hand-cut, sanded, polished, painted and glossed with care and attention.

**Joanna Pinkiewicz**

an artist and designer producing works on paper and textiles which are inspired by the environment, art and paint colour charts.

**Tanya Trotter**

a milliner whose IsabelAudrey label hats are inspired by the 1920s and 1930s and are made using the traditional method of blocking.
Other key areas covered in the conference ranged from climate change and fire ecology to themes of place and displacement. There was also a two-hour performance workshop for postgraduates.

Head of the School of Geography and Environmental Studies, Associate Professor Elaine Stratford, said the annual conference was a wonderful chance for the staff and students of the school to share their research and review and discuss their work.

"Geography and Environmental Studies is a field that covers much more than people realise, which is shown in the diverse range of topics our students and researchers work on," she said.

Early career researcher Dr Stewart Williams presented For a Big Australia: Sizing up our geography, past, present and future. Science journalist Peter Boyer also spoke at the conference.

Assoc. Prof. Stratford gave a presentation on Fresh! A map of a dream place and displacement. There was also a two-hour performance workshop which examined her project Fresh!, a joint project with Tasmanian Regional Arts funded by Arts Tasmania, which explores young islanders’ sense of resilience in the face of climate change.

She said the choice to hold a school conference was influenced by the desire to give postgraduate candidates the chance to present their work in a comfortable environment. This environment was similar to what they would experience at external conferences in the future.

Conference research diverse: Associate Professor Elaine Stratford, head of the School of Geography and Environmental Studies.

medical students join minds to think global health

The enthusiasm and inspiration of over 450 medical students from Australia and the Asia-Pacific region intersected in Hobart from 1–4 July, for the Sixth Annual Australian Medical Students’ Association Global Health Conference.

The theme was “Small Steps, Big Picture” and co-organiser Alexandra Frain said the focus was on empowering students with knowledge about issues that impact on health around the world, whilst equipping them with practical skills to get involved in advocacy and activism at a grassroots level.

More than 30 local medical students attended the recent Global Health Conference in Hobart. (Photo: Carli Armstrong)

Firm focus 40° and below…

Delegates from far-flung places converged on Hobart this winter for a series of literary imaginings about the far south.

More than 60 people from the humanities, social sciences and visual arts came together to talk about the different ways that the Antarctic is culturally significant. Dean of the UTAS Faculty of Arts Sue Dodds said the strategic role of this region is important, politically and socially.

“One of the questions we can ask is whether Antarctica is the last of the commons of the world we now live in,” she said.

“This conference signals the existence of an exciting new interdisciplinary field,” said co-organiser and Senior Lecturer in English at UTAS, Dr Elle Leane. "Contributions came from a diverse range of perspectives including visual arts; literary, cultural and media studies; history; geography; tourism; music; psychology; heritage, conservation and archaeology.”

Talks also covered visualisations, tourism, animals, creative responses to the far south, policy and politics, and exploration of the archives.

Participants were challenged to consider if society has changed its attitude towards the heroes of the past.

"Participants were challenged to consider if society has changed its attitude towards the heroes of the past." (From left) UTAS Vice-Chancellor Daryl Le Grew, His Excellency Peter Underwood Governor of Tasmania, Dr Kate Brooks, Vice-President of the Astronomical Society of Australia, and Head of the UTAS School of Mathematics and Physics Professor John Dickey.

Students take the floor to look at the big picture

"Ten students from developing nations joined us through the AusAID International Seminar Support Scheme.”

Some of the most well-respected figures in global health in Australia addressed delegates, including Dr Helen Caldicott on the medical implications of nuclear power; the Rev. Tim Costello on child and maternal health; and Professors Tony McMichael and Colin Butler on climate change and health,” Alex said.

She believes some of the most profound learning came from student peers.

“Ten students from developing nations joined us through the AusAID International Seminar Support Scheme and we were enlightened by what they could share about health in their countries,” she said.

Workshops were also run by students, for students, through the AMSA Training New Trainers and Think Global initiatives. These programs allowed delegates to develop skills in leadership, advocacy and project management.

Local action on global issues: More than 30 local medical students helped organise and run the recent Global Health Conference in Hobart.

“Ten students from developing nations joined us through the AusAID International Seminar Support Scheme.” (From left) UTAS Vice-Chancellor Daryl Le Grew, His Excellency Peter Underwood Governor of Tasmania, Dr Kate Brooks, Vice-President of the Astronomical Society of Australia, and Head of the UTAS School of Mathematics and Physics Professor John Dickey.

“Usually at conferences the more senior participants speak because spaces are limited. So the organising committee made it a priority to give younger speakers first go,” he said.

“The meeting was about looking at the big picture. Many talks centred on the discovery of planets around other stars.”

Astronomy leader Dr Elaine Sadler from the University of Sydney spoke about the potential of new wide-field telescopes which are thousands of times more powerful than traditional telescopes.

"Ten students from developing nations joined us through the AusAID International Seminar Support Scheme.” (From left) UTAS Vice-Chancellor Daryl Le Grew, His Excellency Peter Underwood Governor of Tasmania, Dr Kate Brooks, Vice-President of the Astronomical Society of Australia, and Head of the UTAS School of Mathematics and Physics Professor John Dickey.
BY SHARON WEBB

In July UTAS held its fifth Chinese graduation ceremonies in Shanghai and Hangzhou—a significant occasion in Chinese number symbolism and indicative of the maturing in Chinese number symbolism. Many students started the course keen to improve their English through being taught in the language but the experience with most impact for these students appeared to be the projects where students were required to work in teams—real-world projects considered as a transition between university and work. Even though this way of learning was new to the students they fully understood in relevance in today’s business world.

Proudly UTAS: Mao Zhenni, who gave the valedictory address at the Shanghai graduation ceremony, with Greg Parkinson, Deputy Director of Events and Protocol at UTAS.

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Bachelor of Information Systems—Shanghai

Equal top Bachelor of Information Systems student

I wanted to do this course with the University of Tasmania in Shanghai because UTAS has a good reputation and high-quality facilities, especially in computer science.

The most important thing I learnt during my studies related to team spirit—my experience of group work was unforgettable. I was a team leader and required to break down the project into small tasks, which wasn’t always easy.

Now that I’ve graduated I’m planning on studying for a masters degree, then I’d like to work in database administration for a company.

I found the traditional Chinese course in this area did not fit my needs perfectly and thought: Why not try something different?

The course was very good, especially because we learnt about different systems and how Australian students work and think. It also gave me the opportunity to work on my English. There was a lot of teamwork which was good for my communication and leadership skills.

Now I want to apply to do a masters degree in Australia, then work in an Australian company for two years before I come home to China to set up my own IT business.

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Bachelor of Business—Shanghai

Top Bachelor of Business student

I chose this course for several reasons. It is a unique undergraduate course run jointly by UTAS and Shanghai Ocean University. The courses are taught by Chinese and Australian professors and the texts are in English. And I have a great interest in marketing so I am thrilled to have been successful. Through my studies I’ve reached a high level of proficiency in English and academic knowledge of the marketplace. The communication skills and teamwork have also been of great benefit; in high school we used teamwork but not that much.

I have majored in marketing and international business. The University of Tasmania has a good reputation in the West but is not so well known among the Chinese people.

The most important things about the course for me were that we were expected to have our own ideas and cooperate with others in our teamwork.

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Bachelor of Computer Science—Hangzhou

My father is a businessman and he made the decision for me to study this course because education in Australia is better than in China. I was at a loss as to know what to study, thinking maybe economics. He told me to do computer science; I am good at maths.

The areas that interested me most in the course were computer graphics and animation.

I will do some postgraduate studies next; I have been offered a place at a university in Shanghai. After that I’m not sure—a job doing something with computers!

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BY SHARON WEBB

In July UTAS held its fifth Chinese graduation ceremonies in Shanghai and Hangzhou—a significant occasion in Chinese number symbolism and indicative of the maturing relationship between UTAS and Shanghai Ocean University and the Zhejiang University of Technology in Hangzhou.

UTAS teaches in partnership with these two universities and 375 graduands were admitted in Shanghai and indicative of the maturing relationship between UTAS and Shanghai Ocean University and the Zhejiang University of Technology in Hangzhou.

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Fifth UTAS graduation ceremonies significant in China

Graduations
2010 Vice-Chancellor’s Awards

TAS staff celebrated outstanding contributions to teaching and learning at UTAS with the presentation of the 2010 Vice-Chancellor’s Awards citations for outstanding contributions to teaching and learning in July. The awards recognise the contributions of a broad range of staff and programs, facilitating the process of staff applications for the national Australian Learning and Teaching Council awards. This year there were 13 citation winners (pictured right), made up of seven individual winners and two teams of three members each.

For sustained commitment to inspiring, motivating and challenging students to engage with their teaching and learning through the Graduate Certificate of University Learning and Teaching. Since 2006, Sharon has been coordinating, planning, teaching and assessing in the Graduate Certificate for University Learning and Teaching which prepares teaching staff for effective roles in higher education.

Dr Sharon Thomas CALT

For taking a leadership role in the area of assessment, driving the move towards criterion-referenced assessment in the School of Medicine and implementing a range of new assessment practices. Since 2001, Derek has designed and delivered the gross anatomy teaching program for years one to three of the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at UTAS. He is passionate and enthusiastic about his teaching and the subject of human anatomy.

Dr Derek Chiu Ho Ljubljug School of Medicine

For unique and engaging teaching and assessment pedagogy, inspiring hundreds of pre-service teachers in art and drama education, and her leadership in the field. Maureen lectures in the areas of visual and performing arts. As an educator she has many years of experience as a leader in the field of drama and art. Her authenticity, commitment, creativity and innovative approach inspire students to discover and interrogate their own creativity.

Ms Maureen Innes School of Education

For developing and implementing a range of teaching and learning reforms in the areas of curriculum design, assessment and student support that have had a major impact on student learning. As director of the Medical Education Unit in the School of Medicine, Craig’s primary responsibilities relate to the development and management of the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery curriculum.

Assoc. Prof. Craig Zimiat Medical Education Unit

For encouraging a focus on student learning through promoting, modelling and working with colleagues to advance scholarship of teaching and learning through a ‘value-adding’ approach. As co-head of the Centre for the Advancement of Learning and Teaching (CALT), Natalie supports staff in developing innovative practice, leads the institution-wide change to criterion-referenced assessment and builds staff expertise in scholarship of teaching and learning.

Dr Natalie Brown CALT

For commitment to development and delivery of science programs on the Newnham campus and tailoring course advice and guidance to individual needs. Dr Seen has worked in the School of Chemistry since 1998 and has been committed to the development and delivery of science education across all levels, including school children, teachers and the general community as well as at tertiary level.

Dr Andrew Seen School of Chemistry

The awards recognise the contributions of a broad range of staff and programs, facilitating the process of staff applications for the national Australian Learning and Teaching Council awards.

Scholarships help students reach for their dreams

The 2010 Jim Bacon Foundation Scholarship winners: With Mrs Honey Bacon, Nathan Bessell, Katherine Bowditch and Peter Mattilla with his son Skye.

2010 Jim Bacon Foundation Scholarship winners: With Mrs Honey Bacon, Nathan Bessell, Katherine Bowditch and Peter Mattilla with his son Skye.

The Jim Bacon Foundation provides practical support and financial assistance to cancer patients and organisations that support them during their treatment. The Foundation was formed after Jim Bacon’s death in June 2004.

Nathan Bessell School of Government

Nathan has a strong and passionate interest in the study of political science and hopes that after completing the prescribed research he will be within reach of his career goals. In 2007 Nathan completed work experience with the Devonport City Council and later he gained a parliamentary internship, which further consolidated his desire to become involved with government procedures at local or federal levels.

The scholarship gives him the opportunity to complete the academic requirements to lead to the fulfillment of his career ambitions.

Katherine Bowditch Menzies Research Institute

After a trip to Bangladesh in 2007 visiting a number of public health initiatives, Katherine realised the importance of investigating and understanding diseases. She believes it is imperative to keep a global perspective when studying complex biological systems and hopes to complete her honours year at the Menzies Research Institute in the field of gene regulation.

Many cancers are caused by mistakes in gene regulations that cause cells to act abnormally and become tumours. Katherine will work with a research group to investigate mechanisms of regulation of leukaemia and differentiation of immune cells that are important in the fight against cancer.

Peter Mattilla Tasmanian School of Art

Peter’s artistic practice takes inspiration from traditional blacksmithing. He said he engages with the material while it is in a plastic and malleable state, heated to forging temperature. Rather than engaging with steel as factory-formed sections, Peter concentrates on the material that can be moulded, much as a potter moulds clay. He believes the tradition of blacksmithing allows this kind of interaction.

Peter has a strong sense of community and through his artistic skills hopes to reflect a particularly Tasmanian way of life.
Inspirational leader remembered by UTAS

The University community has been saddened by the death of former Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert, who died last month in the United Kingdom.

Prof. Gilbert was Vice-Chancellor of UTAS from 1994 to 1995. UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said Prof. Gilbert's excellent leadership set the University on a progressive and successful path.

"Prof. Gilbert made an outstanding contribution to both UTAS and higher education in Australia," Prof. Le Grew said. "We are deeply in his debt."

Prof. Gilbert had an illustrious academic career. After graduating from the Australian National University, he went on to lecture at the University of Papua New Guinea before completing his doctorate at Oxford University in the UK. He also lectured at the University of New South Wales before moving from teaching into administration.

Prof. Gilbert oversaw the melding of UTAS and the Tasmanian State Institute of Technology into a single unified institution. His strategic vision laid the foundation for its future and his commitment to Tasmania was exemplified by his vision to establish the new campus at Burnie.

He insisted that teaching at the University was recognised alongside research and it was his vision that first implemented the School, Faculty and Divisional structure in the University. He also introduced the Teaching Excellence Awards, and helped revise promotion procedures to acknowledge excellence in teaching as a criterion for promotion.

Prof. Gilbert inaugurated University Scholarships and established the University Foundation and the University Alumni, recognising UTAS as one of the founding universities of Australia.

As Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Gilbert led the University to an enhanced role in the Tasmanian community as it sought to plan its future development – in particular his role in chairing the Tasmania 2010 forum, a University-initiated venture which succeeded in bringing together key decision-makers regardless of their place in the political spectrum. He also made a significant contribution in increasing the University's profile in the national and international communities. As part of the planning process which he introduced, the University's strategic plan, "Planning For a New Century", identified the University's aspiration to be a university of first rank in Australia. This focused the minds of staff and students alike on the challenge of consolidating the University's position as a leading university in the country and to secure an international reputation for academic excellence and research quality.

Prof. Gilbert was awarded an honorary doctorate by UTAS in 1995. He then went on to be Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne and then Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester.

He had just stepped down from that position after a period of ill-health.

"Our heartfelt thoughts and condolences to his wife, Ingrid and daughters, Michelle and Fiona," Prof. Le Grew said.

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Riawunna reunion: a celebration of education and community

The community at Riawunna has been saddened by the death of former Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert set UTAS on a progressive and successful path.

"It helps adult students to get back into the swing of studying again. We teach them skills such as how to write essays and how to manage their time. We want to prepare them for mainstream university."

Education and community: The Pakana Kanapilla dancers were one of the highlights of the Riawunna Reunion last month.

BY JANETTE BRENNAN

On her mother's side, Tasmanian-born Nekiel Stuart belongs to the Yolngu people of East Arnhem Land. No one in her immediate family has ever gained a university degree.

"There was one person in my family who did try university," Ms Stuart said, "but she didn't finish the course."

"That's part of what motivates me."

Hoping to make a change in her community, and to provide a positive example for her son Ashra, Ms Stuart is currently in the second year of a Bachelor of Arts. It's a tough road for a young mother. Riawunna has been established for that very reason.

"Riawunna helps with accommodation, books, computer facilities and study space," Ms Stuart said. "But mostly, it provides people. The community at Riawunna has become my home away from home."

To celebrate the Riawunna community, more than 50 past and present students and friends gathered at the Newnham campus facility for a reunion in July.

A feature of the evening was the Pakana Kanapilla dancers, who braved the cold to perform on the night. The Riawunna Centre offers Aboriginal Studies at the University of Tasmania. The program aims to develop a wide understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and societies as they have continued and adapted, from ancient times until the present day.

Megan Davey, the Indigenous Higher Education Officer with Riawunna, said the centre is also committed to the support of Aboriginal students.

"We offer a bridging program that runs for Aboriginal students," Miss Davey said. "It helps adult students to get back into the swing of studying again. We teach them skills such as how to write essays and how to manage their time. We want to prepare them for mainstream university."

"The third aspect of our work is cultural. We host NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week, for instance, to promote cross-cultural understanding, and to provide a prominent place within UTAS for Indigenous Australian values, traditions and discourses."
**By Michelle Nichols**

Design principles from the 1950s including better use of light and voids are being used to create vibrant learning spaces as part of the Morris Miller Library facelift.

The revival of the library's Level Two should be completed in the next few months.

University librarian Linda Luther said the improvements are long overdue.

“The work will go a long way to redefining issues that have been raised in successive surveys – access to computers, adequacy of group and quiet study facilities, adequacy of indirecting issues that have been raised over due. The library currently serves close to 12,000 students but in the late 1950s it was designed for just 2000. As the University moved from the old site at the Domain in Hobart, well-known Melbourne architect John Scarborough was commissioned to design the new library building at the Sandy Bay campus. It was named after E. Morris Miller (1881–1964), scholar and academic, who, from 1913 to 1945, was honorary UTAS librarian.

“Correspondence and notes held at the Archives Offices indicate there was a clear intention to plan the library ‘from the inside out’ and that it should not be a matter of style or ‘fad’,” said Morris Miller librarian Karmen Pemberton. “Scarborough says staff would include typists and ‘persons engaged to keep order on the various floors’, not to mention the ‘Academic Staff Reading’ room where smoking was to be permitted!”

The current revamp is being carried out by architectural firms Thomson Rossi and Philip Lighton. Mrs Pemberton says the second stage of the works follows on from the introduction of enhanced videoconferencing facilities and staff areas on Level One, and there are more stages to come.

“The present stage of development will provide some return to Scarborough’s vision but future work on Levels Three and Four will reinforce those original intentions toward providing quality learning spaces.”


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**Tree loss in landscaping project**

**By Michelle Nichols**

The Sandy Bay Campus Central Mall Landscaping Project will provide a substantial upgrade of courtyard space and pedestrian links with the Sandy Bay campus.

The work is happening between the Arts/Humanities building and the Morris Miller Library and between Lazenby’s Bistro and the steps below the fountain sculpture.

In the process a large Eucalyptus pulchella growing next to the library breezeway was removed.

Project manager Craig Pridmore said: “We investigated saving the tree but it was a large specimen for its species and had been planted quite close to the Morris Miller Library.”

“A combination of planting close to a multistorey building causing phototropism (growing towards available light) and previous excavation close to its base (for a former path) meant the tree was growing at a considerable angle over both the existing entry ramp and the proposed ramp to the administration building.

“We looked at some design modifications in an effort to save the tree and an expert arborist from the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens inspected the site. Given the lack of large roots found during the excavation and recent exploratory digging, there were concerns about the capacity of the root system to offer adequate anchorage in strong winds. The arborist recommended the tree be removed prior to further excavation to eliminate the risk of it falling during post-construction works.”

An inspection of the tree stump afterwards found 80 per cent of its stem was dead and only the outer skin was viable and supporting the growth of the tree.

A combination of ground covers, small trees and vegetation will be planted as part of the landscaping project.

More information about the Sandy Bay Campus central mall landscaping project can be found by visiting: http://www.utas.edu.au/ams/central_mall_landscaping.htm
A UTAS research project investigating ‘galactic cannibalism’ has been awarded $260,000 in funding from the Australian Government. Project leader Dr Andrew Cole from the UTAS School of Physics said the project will be undertaken in partnership with the Indian Institute of Astrophysics.

Titled From the Magellanic Clouds to the Milky Way: A new understanding of galaxy structures and interactions based on kinematics of 5000 stars, the project investigates the Magellanic Clouds – the visually brightest nearby galaxies to our own galaxy.

“They are so nearby that they may be caught in the gravitational grip of our galaxy, slowly falling into the Milky Way where they will eventually lose their distinct identity and become a part of the Milky Way,” Dr Cole said.

“This is an exciting prospect because theories of galaxy formation predict that this sort of ‘galactic cannibalism’ is a critical feature in the formation of all galaxies.

“To understand the interactions and history of the Magellanic Clouds, especially as they relate to our own galaxy, it is necessary to understand the orbits and distribution of their stars,” Dr Cole said.

“Our proposal seeks to do this by measuring the orbital speeds of 3000 stars in the Large Cloud and 2000 stars in the Small Cloud.” Dr Cole said the number of stars is set by the requirement to statistically distinguish between competing scenarios for the origin of the bar-like and irregular features in their appearance.

“Using a terrestrial analogy, our current view of the Magellanic Clouds resembles a snapshot of a collision between two trains.

“We can get a rough idea of what happened from the snapshot, but in order to learn the exact instant of the collision, and the relative sizes and speeds of the two trains, we need to measure the trajectories of all of the pieces of wreckage as they fly away from the scene of the impact.

“The work we do here will capture that information and allow us to deduce the nature of the interaction in this triplet of galaxies (the two clouds and the Milky Way),” Dr Cole said.

Innovation Minister Senator Kim Carr recently announced nine projects awarded $2.7 million from round four of the Indo-Australian Science and Technology Fund.

Looking to the stars: Dr Andrew Cole’s research project was awarded $260,000 to investigate galactic cannibalism in the Milky Way.

By CHERIE COOPER

Funding to examine the stars

Features

UTASbooks

Edited by Marc Bekoff, entries by Dr Yvette Watt, Tasmanian School of Art, and Dr Carol Freeman, School of Geography and Environmental Studies (Greenwood, 2009)
The Encyclopaedia of Animal Rights and Animal Welfare: second edition is a collection of more than 200 essays concerning the role of animals in our world. The collection covers areas such as activism, animal–human interaction, genetic engineering, experimentation and zoos. Dr Watt’s entry concerns the ways animals are used for and featured in art, including the use of animals as a serious subject matter for artists. Her entry considers the number of exhibitions taking animals and/or human-animal relationships as the key curatorial theme.

Youth Work and Youth Issues
Edited by Rob White, School of Sociology (ACYS Publishing, 2010)
This book is the second volume in a series entitled Doing Youth Work in Australia. This volume looks at the place of young people in the youth work enterprise. It reveals that empowerment often stems from young people’s active engagement – doing something for themselves, with suitable guidance and encouragement. This volume also covers the many issues, and the interconnections between the issues, faced by young people as they negotiate social institutions and cultural processes including participation, youth research, youth, health and wellbeing, mental health, sex and sexuality, homelessness, and alcohol and drugs. Copies are available at www.acys.info.

Algae of Australia: Phytoplankton of Temperate Coastal Waters
This monograph, the product of more than 30 years of research, provides descriptions, photographs and illustrations of 541 species known from the estuarine, coastal and offshore waters of southern Australia. It represents the first comprehensive guide for the identification of these fundamentally important microscopic alga in the temperate Australian region. The book, incorporating bibliographies and a glossary, will become an indispensable resource for oceanographers, fisheries biologists, aquaculture managers, as well as inquiring non-specialists.

Managing Small Business in Australia
By John English, Australian Innovation Research Centre, and Babette Moats (Allen and Unwin, 2010)
This is the companion book to Discovering New Business Opportunities. A guide for anyone wanting to build a future in their own small business. The authors have a unique blend of professional training and practical experience combined with skill in making information clear and understandable. Associate Professor English’s role at the A IRC is to encourage the development of an enterprising culture in Tasmania and he is the author or co-author of 25 books. Babette Moats is a UTAS Commerce/Law graduate and has worked in a variety of policy roles for the Tasmanian Government.

My PhD

Stephen McGowan
National Centre for Marine Conservation and Resource Sustainability, Australian Maritime College

Response of plankton communities to changes in land-use in Tasmanian estuaries

Catchments in many regions of Australia have been subject to changes in type and intensity of land-use and it’s important to understand how these changes may affect estuarine ecosystems, particularly because estuaries provide key habitats for many high-value commercial and recreational marine species. Being intrinsically coupled to the land via the catchment, estuaries are susceptible to degradation triggered by changes in land-use and freshwater inflows.

By comparing phytoplankton and zooplankton communities among estuaries with different levels of land-use by people, I examined the impact of such changes.

In spring 2008 and autumn 2009, I sampled 14 Tasmanian estuaries for water quality and plankton. There are three main types of estuaries found in Tasmania. These are river dominated estuaries, marine inlets and intermittent open closed lagoons and I hypothesised that chemical and biological differences between estuary types are driven by the flushing or residence time in the estuary, a function of tidal exchange and freshwater inflows.

I observed significant differences in both water chemistry and phytoplankton abundance and diversity among estuary types. Land-use proxies such as annual nutrient loads were used to compare estuaries of the same type looking for alterations in plankton community dynamics.

My analysis of the survey results confirmed that nutrient loads are highly correlated to changes in water quality and phytoplankton community structure. This suggests that changes in phytoplankton communities are driven by human influences in the catchment such as, urbanisation, agriculture and land-clearing. Anything we do to change the way we use the land will eventually end up impacting on estuaries which is something not many people think about.

Particular changes such as shifts towards communities dominated by dinoflagellates or benthic diatoms can reduce food availability for zooplankton which in turn impacts on organisms higher up the food-chain such as fish and birds. Typically dinoflagellates are seen as less desirable phytoplankton in that they are often associated with poor water quality.

These findings were recently presented at the Australian Marine Science Associations annual conference and received the Australian Fisheries Management Award for best student oral presentation.
CONCERTs of Festivals and runs from 9–29 august tourism tasmania’s new Lumina Winter program, encompassing play, opera, of shakespeare-infused arts will music and the Government of tasmania presents the Australian Conservatorium of Music 9–29 August

What’s on

Artist-in-residence program for Cradle Coast campus

Artists and writers are being encouraged to explore and create in North-West Tasmania as part of the inaugural UTAS Cradle Coast campus artist-in-residency program. The Cradle Coast campus is inviting writers and visual artists to apply for an artist-in-residence program to be offered for the first time in 2011.

“We’re keen to explore different perspectives on North-West Tasmania and to see an artist’s take on our distinctive regional culture.”

Community engagement officer Nicki Fletcher said the residency provided an opportunity for creative practitioners to base themselves in the region for up to 28 days and to respond to the experience, through their art form.

“We’re keen to explore different perspectives on North-West Tasmania and to see an artist’s take on our distinctive regional culture, our relationship with the landscape or even our changing industrial profile,” she said.

Ms Fletcher said the residency would form part of the campus’ cultural program and artists would be encouraged to link their project to the broader community. Funding of up to $5000 is available to local, interstate and international artists. “The guidelines for the residency are deliberately broad to encourage really diverse ideas and projects that will resonate with the campus, the community and the region as a whole.”

Applications close on 1 August this year for a residency between February and October 2011.

For more information see www.cradle-coast.utas.edu.au or contact Nicki Fletcher ph. 6430 4949.

Affirmation of a life lived well

BY CHERIE COOPER

Affirmation by Marie Edwards is a boldly coloured and richly textured abstract work. During the 1970s, Edwards became recognised as one of the few women artists in Tasmania working seriously in the area of abstraction. Her work ranks amongst Tasmania’s finest art.

While striking and highly coloured in deep reds, murky greens, black and shades of grey, Affirmation somehow radiates a certain softness. The brushwork consists of confident, thick strokes like a series of “X” shapes. There is also the suggestion of letters strewn between the angular shapes but no coherent word is spelled out. The modest size of the square of canvas is an odd contrast to the large brushstrokes and strong colours contained within it. This piece currently hangs in the reception area of the UTAS Administration building on the Sandy Bay campus.

In 2003, Edwards generously donated her personal collection of paintings and drawings to UTAS to raise money for a Travelling Scholarship in Visual Arts, Craft and Design. She endowed this scholarship to enable postgraduate visual arts students to gain experience overseas while studying at UTAS. The scholarship can support a broad range of international projects and also assist self-funded residencies at the Rosa- mont McCallin studio in Paris. A selection of Edwards’ vibrant artwork is on display around the UTAS campus.

Marie Edwards

Born in 1925 in Stanley, Tasmania, Marie Edwards lived in Sydney after she married but returned to Hobart to live with her family. She studied fashion drawing and design at the Hobart Technical College.

In 1937, Edwards was awarded a Diploma of Fine Art from the School of Art at the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education.

Edwards’ career as a painter spanned four decades, establishing a significant body of paintings and drawings and profiling Edwards as a notable Tasmanian abstract artist. Her work has been widely held in solo and group exhibitions.

After being diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease in 1981, Edwards continued to create and exhibit art until her death in 2005.

Affirmation by Marie Edwards, acrylic on canvas, 1991, 110 x 110 cm