A dynamic new shelving design by UTAS lecturer Matt Prince was launched for national sale this month – and it’s being made in Tasmania.

Matt, from the School of Architecture and Design, is a 2010 UTAS graduate in furniture design; his stackable shelving concept, Fit, has been bought by Brisbane-based designer Alexander Lottersztain for his Derlot Editions range, distributed by national suppliers Stylecraft.

The good news for Tasmania is that Fit shelving is being made in Launceston by two companies, Designs in Timber and Tasfab, giving the whole package a ‘Designed and made in Tasmania’ label.

“The idea is to represent Tasmanian design and manufacturing on the international stage,” Matt said.

Matt, who is currently teaching in furniture technology while maintaining his design practice; said he developed the initial design from a 2011 workshop: Flat, Stack, Design.

“The idea was to get Tasmanian designers to put together a range of products around that theme – to develop a piece into production.

“My concept driver was the idea of a flexible shelving system adaptable to the available space and the needs of the owner.”

Essentially the shelves fit together; the Tasmanian Oak legs are bolted to metal tops to create a module; each module can then stack on top of one another.

Matt engineered a meeting with Lottersztain when he was in Launceston for another purpose, showing him the second incarnation of the shelves.

“He drew up a contract and bought the rights to the design; they have been bought by Brisbane-based Derlot Editions for sale worldwide.”

Lottersztain says he developed the initial design, sent Tasmanian design and manufacturing on the international stage,” Matt said.

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Matt’s designs represent Derlot’s first venture into finding an outside designer whose work suits the range.

“Lottersztain describes Matt as “the most talented designer I’ve come across”.

His company’s 25 products are all designed in the studio and Matt’s designs represent Derlot’s first venture into finding an outside designer whose work suits the range. Matt’s work appealed because of its cleverness, practicality and commercial attributes,” Lottersztain said.

“The fact that it has a colour range and can be flat-packed is important from a design and marketing point of view. Matt has the ability to deliver originality as well as a commercial edge; he also understands the production techniques and that’s important.”

The commercialised designs are not the end of the story for the relationship between Matt Prince and Derlot Editions.

Lottersztain wants the shelving system to become part of a furniture range with tables and benches, where the shelving modules can become part of the bench seats and table.

And as Derlot Editions’ Australian-made furniture and lighting is distributed worldwide, the future seems rosy for Matt Prince’s designs.

Conservatorium students with Assoc Prof Andrew Legg; Premier Lara Giddings; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Education) Professor David Sadler and senior lecturer Dr Glen Hodges.

**BY SHARON WEBB**

**Commercial triumph for UTAS furniture designer**

A great Fit for furniture designs: Matt Prince with the first incarnation of his original shelving design in plywood, Mate. He has sold designs for the next version, Fit, to furniture design company Derlot Editions for sale worldwide.

**UTAS plays a lead role in proposed performing arts centre**

IT WAS STANDING room only when Premier Lara Giddings recently announced that the State Government would provide funding of $15.2 million for a UTAS-driven project, the proposed Academy of Creative Industries and Performing Arts (ACIPA).

Hobart’s historic Theatre Royal, another partner in the project, hosted the announcement in its tiny foyer. A car park abutting the theatre will be redeveloped as ACIPA, pending a decision by the Federal Government on its final-stage application for $37 million in funding for the project.

The academy is intended to leverage Tasmania’s artistic acumen and the advances in technology offered by the National Broadband Network. Included in the proposed signature building will be a new home for the UTAS Conservatorium of Music linked to additional facilities for the Theatre Royal, including a black box (or experimental) theatre. The high-tech education facilities will enable students to access programs across the state.

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said the proposal is an ambitious example of the university’s goal of “creating opportunities for Tasmanians, for students, for the population of Hobart and more broadly, across the island”.

It is intended that ACIPA will link directly to the School of Visual and Performing Arts and the School of Architecture and Design at Inveresk and to the Cradle Coast campus.
Thomas Marwick
Professor Marwick is the new director of the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania. Currently at the Centre for Cardiovascular Imaging at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, his expertise is cardiac imaging in heart failure and coronary disease and the detection of early stages of cardiac dysfunction. Prof. Marwick completed his PhD in cardiovascular imaging at the University of Louvain in Belgium in 1994 and a Masters of Public Health in 2011 at the Harvard School of Public Health. He will start work at UTAS later this year.

Richard Coleman
Professor Coleman has been appointed deputy director of the UTAS Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, beginning this month. Currently executive director of physical, mathematical and information sciences at the Australian Research Council, he was formerly Professor of Marine Science and director of the Centre for Marine Science at UTAS. Prof. Coleman has been a member of the ARC College of Experts for the Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences panel since 2008.

Rohan Nelson
Dr Rohan Nelson is to join the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) as Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics and Policy. His appointment is the result of an ongoing partnership between UTAS and CSIRO. Dr Nelson was previously with the Australian Government’s Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency and will take up his new post in early September.

Our people

Sticky & Sam, Duncan Kerr and the Gourmet Farmer: UTAS Open Day’s got it all

This year UTAS Open Day will be held across all Tasmanian campuses for the first time, on the same day: Sunday 26 August, from 10am–3pm.

In Hobart, Arron Wood, renowned presenter and Prime Minister’s Young Environmentalist of the Year 2007, will deliver a keynote presentation on how climate change may be Australia’s greatest opportunity to become a global leader. Justice Duncan Kerr will speak on ‘Seeing invisible life after politics’ Dr Menna Jones will discuss UTAS’ research to save the Tasmanian devil, and the Morris Miller Library will host abseilers on its exterior wall.

At Newnham, Amazing Race Australia’s Tassie team Sticky and Sam will share their experiences from taking part in the high-profile TV show that sees contestants race around the world, as well as talk about how this changed their outlook on life and what their goals and plans are for the future.

The Newnham campus will also feature multiple casualty demonstrations, complete with action, stirs and Sim Man 3G. Specialists from the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Ambulance Tasmania and St John’s Ambulance will showcase life-saving treatment.

And at the Cradle Coast campus SBS Television’s Gourmet Farmer Matthew Evans will deliver a keynote presentation focusing on the NW food bowl concept and the incredible potential of the region. The campus will feature a regional showcase with local producers including Red Cow Dairies and Mt Gnomon Farm, and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture’s researchers will share their expertise through talks and demonstrations.

Cradle Coast campus will also offer a workshop on programming your own Lego Robot with Robogals, plus performances from Burnie Talko, the Burnie Youth Choir and “Circus Anywhere”.

Open Day is an opportunity for prospective students, their family and friends, and members of the Tasmanian community to see all that the university has to offer.

Open Day caters for those interested in finding out more about studying at UTAS, those who want to learn about UTAS cutting edge research, or those who are simply curious to see what goes on at UTAS.

Interactive expos are held at each campus, where visitors can talk with staff and students as well as get up close with a range of hands-on displays. Entertainment and activities will cater for all ages, and include demonstrations and performances from TUU clubs and societies, tours of learning facilities not normally open to the public and visits to student accommodation.

On campus

Life’s too short to stuff it...

Taking a short cut from the Sandy Bay campus Corporate Services car park across Churchill Avenue I spied this mushroom under a bush near a gum tree close to the road.

Imagine my surprise when on closer inspection I found more than one. I alerted Tom Burtis from Property Services, who took this photograph.

Dr Genevieve Gates from the School of Plant Science tentatively identified the fungus as Leucaeaellula eucalyptorum, and commented: “And if anyone asks the question… the answer is always ‘No!’ ” – Chris Davey, IT Resources.
Barley breeders and beer brewers wait on Redd’s wort to make a mozza

BY PETER COCHRANE

Biochemist Kevin Redd’s published research papers include DNA analysis of the diets of the southern rock lobster, the broadnose sevengill shark and the octopus. Now it looks like these achievements will be eclipsed by the interest in his skills as a brewer.

Mr Redd, affiliated with both IMAS and the School of Plant Science, leads a team seeking to capitalise on a new way of making beer without having to first malt one of its key ingredients, barley.

The process, called enzyme brewing and developed in Denmark, promises to open lucrative new markets – particularly in Asia – for Australian barley growers and for local breweries. It uses less water and energy, therefore producing fewer carbon emissions than the traditional malting process; it has the bonus attraction of creating a new second-tier market for farmers producing barley that is not deemed to be mals-grade.

Mr Redd’s labs are home to hundreds of samples of different barley varieties, stored in small flour bags, sent to him by growers from around the country. His team tests them and identifies which varieties, in conjunction with enzyme technology, produce the best-quality wort for beer-making. The small-scale fermenta-


get a foot in the door.

Apart from his technical skills Mr Redd is a keen home brewer so would seem to be an obvious choice to work on this project. There’s a homely touch to the team’s labs in the form of two large refrigerators eye-catchingly emblazoned with a range of brewery labels from industry partners.

There’s also the equipment for what might be called a micro-micro brewery. Lest this revelation spark a Friday-afternoon stampede of UTAS staff to the School of Plant Science, Mr Redd quickly adds that his team can produce just 300 millilitres of beer at a time. If you’re lucky you will be offered a test tube of the wort, a caramel-coloured liquid that tastes like sweetened, watered-down Milo.

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“Barley is a starchy seed,” Mr Redd explains. “When it starts to germinate either in the ground or during the malting process, the enzymes locked in the grain become active and control the conversion of the starches into sugars so the plant can grow. We already know what the 40 or so enzymes are, so our industry partner, Novozymes, has successfully isolated and synthesised them and these clever Danes now sell them to a clients who can make beer without ever having to malt the barley.”

“When the Grains Research and Development Corporation became aware of this concept, it thought ‘We reckon this is going to be big. Someone is going to start using this enzyme technology on a large scale – that probably will occur first in Asia, with its price-conscious, industrial process-driven economies. What if we were one step ahead? If we identify which Australian varieties worked best with the enzyme technology, our growers would have a market advantage.’”

Before the year’s end Mr Redd hopes to be able to celebrate the success of the project with a glass or two of beer made with this process. The first commercially produced enzyme beer is expected to hit the Australian market at Christmas. He is currently negotiating with Tasmania’s boutique brewers for an initial batch of 1,000 litres, with barley sourced from the Tasmanian Midlands.

In the meantime, he is heading to the World Brewing Congress in Portland, Oregon, to present the results of this study.

In conversation

Professor Peter Rathjen

VICE-CHANCELLOR

Working in partnership

Recent months have seen a welcome flurry of visits from state and federal politicians as we have announced together a series of important projects for UTAS and Tasmania. Most recently, the Premier joined me at the Theatre Royal to announced a state contribution of $15.2 million towards the proposed Academy of Creative Industries and Performing Arts (ACIPA).

It was a positive moment for Tasmania – showing the government and the university aligned with their vision for the state. The fate of the ACIPA project now rests with the Australian Government and its evaluation under the Education Infrastructure Fund.

Our relationships with our representatives run deep. In Open to Talent we acknowledge as the only university on the island an opportunity, a responsibility to play a major part in shaping our state’s future – its economic viability and prosperity, its cultural and intellectual life and its environmental sustainability.

This spirit is embodied in a new three-year partnership agreement with the State Government which identifies priorities shared between state and university including increased tertiary participation, the establishment of internationally significant areas of research endeavour and enrichment of our state through international education.

The benefits of such alignment are convincing: more than $3 million in national funding for the Sessell broadband project, $2.5 million matched by substantial industry contribution to upgrade and expand facilities at the $2.5 million matched by industry to establish a national centre for future forestry industries, transfer of the former Princes Wharf 2 site to UTAS to provide a $45 million home for the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, and $90 million to construct the Medical Science 1 and 2 buildings within the revised Domain Precinct in Hobart’s CBD.

Expansion of our capacity to deliver education to Tasmanians and others has been facilitated by transfer of the Domain site and (beautiful) refurbishment of the Electrical Engineering Building to house Nursing and Midwifery students, provision of purpose-built teaching space at the Launceston General Hospital, financial support for construction of student residences at all three campuses, and a generous contribution to make possible the ACIPA project.

We have now agreed the creation of Tasmania’s first international education strategy. We want to increase the number of international students choosing to study here and also the duration of their study and the level of their satisfaction with Tasmania as a study destination.

To this end I have accepted an invitation from the Premier to join her on a trade mission to China and Vietnam next month, where we can draw the eyes of Asia to our accomplishments and ambitions. This sort of connection, cooperation and alignment of strategy can only bring good results.

Peter Rathjen

Vice-Chancellor

www.utas.edu.au/vc
Up close

David Nolan
Project Officer, Financial Services

My role at UTAS:
I am a PhD candidate in history and classics part-time, and I am also on a contract with Financial Services. I am studying Roman military history. Financial Services is highly supportive of my study, and there have been some useful skill crossovers, such as in the preparation of policy and guidelines.

My early career was in accounting but I have always had a passion for history...
I’m originally from Sydney and about 12 years ago we moved here so my partner and I could pursue other interests. I went back to uni, did an arts degree mainly in ancient history, and learnt some basic skills in Ancient Greek and Latin. I didn’t start out thinking I would do a PhD but everything fell into place.

My research focus...
Is on the purpose and construction of Caesar’s battle narratives in the Gallic Wars and what we can learn from him about ancient battle. Caesar is an interesting source because he witnessed the events he wrote about but had some literary objectives we need to consider when studying his accounts.

Studying as a mature-aged student: I think I wouldn’t have had the same drive or commitment to do this if I’d come straight from school. As a mature age student there is a particular pleasure from the learning process. I plan to keep writing in a postdoctoral capacity and my supervisor Dr Geoff Adams is supportive not only of what I am currently researching but also has introduced me to some other important people in this field. As a result, I have recently been asked to write a book chapter on ancient combat.

When I’m not working or studying: I enjoy playing the odd computer game. Historical simulations are a fun diversion, and a few computer games about Roman history are even being used as teaching tools. Apart from that I walk the dog and do the minimum required to stay fit.

Apocalypse not!

Professor Graham Harris from the UTAS Centre for Environment gives the heave-ho to non-constructive voices in the global warming debate...

I sometimes wonder what planet this country of ours is on. The environmental debate we are having seems to be in a parallel universe to the rest of the world. Having spent the last four years running one of the biggest environmental research laboratories in Europe I find Australia to be strangely out of kilter.

All I hear here is apocalyptic gloom and doom: either the planet is done for if we don’t act, or the economy is done for if we do! We have a highly polarised debate and even more polarised reporting; with too much handwringing and head bunting but no rational discussion or consultation about what actually to do. Doing nothing is an option.

Let me be quite clear: the atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration is rising and the Earth is warming. The risks and uncertainties are huge but while we argue about and deny the obvious, others are just getting on with the job and addressing the issue as best they can.

Out of my UK research centre we ran an enterprise and business partnerships program engaging with over 450 local small to medium-sized enterprises: not to convince them that there was a problem (we had no need), but to work with them to capture emerging opportunities in the low carbon economy.

For example, a small printing company in Liverpool has cut its energy consumption (and therefore its carbon emissions) by 50% through a combination of new processes and waste recycling, the installation of solar panels, more efficient lighting and heating. As a result it was more profitable.

While we argue amongst ourselves we are missing the boat. Where will this leave us in decades to come?

I suggest someone in the Leader of the Opposition’s office buys him a copy of Roger Scruton’s new book, Green philosophy: how to think seriously about the planet.

Yes, we face huge challenges, but we have done so before in history. Is climate change any more threatening to us with our knowledge than the Black Death was to a world that had no idea what caused it?

Australia is a rich country (go and live elsewhere for a while to fully realise that). We didn’t get here by chance; we got here because we worked at reform for decades. We were clever. What we now require is rapid eco-innovation: facilitating the development and adoption of new, environmentally friendly, products, processes and technologies which we can use at home and sell to the world. We need to be clever again.

Another example: our research laboratory had strong Chinese linkages through a Royal Society “China Bridge” program. Through these programs the UK is helping UK PLC to collaborate with China in R&D for the emerging global economy. Our China Bridge project took UK researchers and companies to visit Chinese research institutions and companies and organised reciprocal visits. Knowledge flowed both ways. China is investing huge sums in environmental management and actually leads the world in many areas. It won’t be long before we’ll be buying our new technologies from them. Smart and clever solutions create jobs and wealth. The mining boom won’t last forever.

I meet too many people who either are scared to death by the environmental threats (claiming the problem is too big for them to tackle) or they just deny the reality of it all. Business as usual is not possible: but then it never ever was! Change is the only constant. Prediction always was hard; especially about the future. The uncertainty is great; but when times are uncertain, just begin!

There are many things that individuals can do to make a difference. Individuals can find lots of “win – win” and no-regrets actions with present technologies. “Little platypus” can do a lot more. There are even more things that forward looking governments can do to stimulate innovation and prepare for the future. New ideas create new options.

One place to begin is to get some joined up thinking in the innovation system in this country. On the end of the building, my UK environmental research lab had a dedicated space for start up companies and others to come and co-locate with us on campus. That gave them access to knowledge, networks, innovation, research and new ideas. They could chat with people at the forefront of knowledge and with each other about new market opportunities. We ran a big knowledge exchange program, including “speed dating” meetings for them to meet and share ideas widely. They, in turn, funded university research projects and hosted students on work experience projects. They got ideas and contacts; we got funds and job-ready students. Together we created and safeguarded jobs.

Since when did we forget faith, hope and charity? Faith in our ability to thrive and rise to challenges; hope for a new and better world, and sufficient charity to get beyond the present polarised debate.

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I suggest someone in the Leader of the Opposition’s office buys him a copy of Roger Scruton’s new book, Green philosophy: how to think seriously about the planet.

One of the UK’s most respected right wing philosophers and commentators, he is taking the environment and climate change seriously and suggesting viable ways forward.

So philosophically, politically and practically the rest of the world is getting on with the future (UK, China, Mexico, South Korea….)) and investment patterns are changing rapidly. The UK has a carbon tax that has already stimulated much innovation and created new jobs. Coal is no longer king and electric vehicles are rapidly emerging as a viable alternative to petrol or diesel. The small, fuel efficient turbo-diesel car that I presently drive will probably be the last conventionally fuelled car I will ever need to buy.

Here we have Greens predicting the end of the world whilst retreating to rural small holdings while the top end of town and the Opposition denying the obvious and sage about the MRRT and carbon taxes. Whatever happened to the inclusive middle that provides hope and a constructive way forward for all? While Nero fiddles…..

Since when did we forget faith, hope and charity? Faith in our ability to thrive and rise to challenges; hope for a new and better world, and sufficient charity to get beyond the present polarised debate.

Since when did we forget faith, hope and charity?
Jewellery for the mind and the body

BY LANA BEST

The glittering creations of Tasmanian jewellery designers are set to shine in the coming Contemporary Wearables ’11 touring exhibition at the UTAS Academy Gallery at Inveresk in September.

Linda Van Niekerk from the Huon Valley, Tessa Milne (formerly of Tasmania but now NSW) and Shauna Mayben of Claremont are among 50 artisans whose work was chosen from the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery Biennial Jewellery Award and Exhibition to visit Inveresk as part of its Australian tour.

The first Contemporary Wearables exhibition in 1989 attracted entries from around Australia and was won by Phill Mason of Tasmania. The 2011 winner was Brenton Langsford of NSW with a blue and silver necklace made of anodised aluminium, nickel-plated brass, stainless steel cap screws and steel.

From its beginnings the importance, size, presentation, reputation and prestige of this national touring award exhibition has increased dramatically and it’s now established as an important event on the calendar of leading jewellers.

It’s a world of annealing, anodisation, oxidation and bricolage — terms that only begin to describe the array of fascinating techniques used to create stunning jewellery pieces unlike anything found in a chain store.

From brooches made from rubbish such as polystyrene food boxes, acrylic car brake light covers and cigarette filters to a necklace assembled from acrylic, aluminium and cubic zirconias and a series of three pieces of growing jewellery featuring living grass, this is jewellery ahead of its time — often more artistic than decorative.

Linda Van Niekerk, who focuses on simple, natural designs, said that thanks to the travelling exhibition her necklace made from sterling silver and tidal stones from Tasmania’s east coast has been seen around Australia.

“’Tis glad it’s made it to Tasmania and the exhibition will give people the opportunity to see something really unusual — even if it’s to look at it, love it and say it’s clever but ‘just not for me,’” she said.

“Australian contemporary jewellery stands out against any contemporary jewellery in the world and I think it will inspire young artists with the skill and imagination on display.”

This exhibition runs from 1 September until 14 September.

(Above) A Wing and a Prayer for Brother Eilmer: Brendan Adair-Smith’s object is hand-fabricated and carved from oxidised sterling silver, copper, brass, aluminium and 18ct yellow gold, paying tribute to the modestly successful flight of the 11th century Benedictine monk, Brother Eilmer of Malmesbury, who made a set of wings and took a leap of faith from the tower at Malmesbury Abbey.

(Below) Heavy Pondering: NSW jeweller Brenton Langsford won the 2011 Contemporary Wearables Jewellery Award with this choker made from anodised aluminium, nickel-plated brass, stainless steel cap screws, steel cable and rare earth magnets.

Photo by Miles Prangnel.

(Left) Pink Kunzea: Tessa Milne’s brooch is made from oxidised sterling silver with pink nylon gut and plastic using punching, drilling, annealing, daming, soldering and polishing.

(Above) Lover’s Eye: Shauna Mayben’s locket is made from 100 per cent recycled sterling silver, vintage photo, human hair and upcycled perspex.

Photo by Shauna Mayben.
$7.6 million for six projects

Six UTAS projects have been awarded $2.2 million by the Australian Research Council in its latest Linkage Projects round—the best UTAS result for many years. Add $1.8 million in cash and $3.6 million in in-kind support from partner organisations and the total value of the projects is $7.6 million. The projects to be range from an investigation of the declines in southern rock lobster fisheries across three Australian states to a study analysing why Hobart’s Museum of New and Old Art has captivated the nation, bringing an extra 80,000 visitors a year to the state.

Cool study

Selected Tasmanian vineyards have been invited to participate in the most comprehensive study made of vineyard climate in Australia. The two-year study, funded by the commonwealth and state government, is designed to assist investors find suitable sites for planting new cool-climate vineyards. Among the areas being targeted are Tasmania’s east coast, north-east and southern midlands, and the Derwent and Huon Valleys. It is being conducted by agricultural scientists Drs Richard Smart, an honorary fellow with the Australian Innovation Research Centre, and Reuben Wells, a PhD graduate from UTAS currently working as an agricultural consultant. The project is being managed by Dr Dugald Clee of the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture.

Seafood sustainability

The world’s largest full-service restaurant company, Florida-based Darden Restaurants, has invested US$100,000 in research being conducted into seafood sustainability by the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS). Darden owns and operates more than 2,000 eateries, including the Red Lobster chain. The funds will help establish an experimental aquaculture facility. “Tasmania has long been a leader in this field and this investment recognises IMAS’s key role in support of the seafood industry in our region, with its core research themes of fisheries and aquaculture, marine ecology and biodiversity, and ocean and climate,” Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Paddy Nixon, said at the official announcement.

Just Magic!

A major development in human interface technology by UTAS and CSIRO has been recognised by Australia’s ICT industry. The Magic Map project won the most outstanding ICT research and development category of the annual Tasmanian iAward (already this year and is now a strong contender for national honours. Magic Map has been jointly developed by UTAS’ Human Interface Technology Laboratory Australia (HiLab AU) at the Newnham campus and the CSIRO Intelligent Sensing and Systems Laboratory. Professor Paulo de Souza, who accepted the state award on behalf of the HiLab-CSIRO project team from the Premier, Lara Giddings, paid tribute to Project Leader Dr Winny Chintamihtra and to Bruce Andrews for their “outstanding” work.

Twitter – blog for preceptors

UTAS is trialling a new way of communicating with the doctors, nurses and pharmacists in hospitals who provide the job experience for students in those areas. Since April UTAS academics have communicated with preceptors (student supervisors) via Twitter and a blog—the first time this has been done in Australia. According to professional experience academic Carey Mather from the School of Nursing and Midwifery, letters and email simply weren’t doing the job of communicating vital information or professional development opportunities to 500 preceptors in Tasmania and NSW.

“Many are busy people who work away from their desks and computers, and who work shift-work,” she said. “They simply wouldn’t get to their computers for long periods of time or their inboxes would be full. “On the day a student was going to be away we may have a situation where the preceptor didn’t know they were arriving, and there was no one-stop-shop for them to get information and updates.”

Preceptors enjoying having students on clinical experience and often the exchange of information is mutually beneficial in gaining contemporary information and knowledge from the university’s students. “We decided we needed to communicate with preceptors directly, giving them a mobile option as their work was often mobile.”

Essentially, information is sent to the preceptors via Twitter, which in turn directs them to a blog containing professional development information on available media clips giving effective feedback to students, what students expect from clinical placements. There may also be short courses for preceptors from the UTAS School of Medicine or the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

It’s early days in the trial and evaluation of the new method but already 35 people have linked to the Twitter feed on the blog and are getting help from Australia, Iran, Canada, India and the UK.

The huge advantage of using the Twitter/blog technique is that it creates a community of learning, said Carey. “I can see who’s following on Twitter and people can communicate with each other via the blog.

The feedback is that once people are engaged they’re enthusiastic. In the past we’ve been a closed community but now we have the capacity to create a global community.”

Evaluation on the project will be complete late this year, when UTAS academics will know whether their major aim of improving the quality of placement for students is being achieved.

Anyone interested can view the blog at: http://blogs.utas.edu.au/twpep/ or link to the Twitter site at: https://twitter.com/search/%40PEPCommunity

Climate change knowledge buried in the mud

DR ZANNA Chase at the UTAS Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies is examining sediment or mud cores to measure the history of oxygen levels over thousands of years to measure possible links to climate change.

Dr Chase has just been awarded an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship, worth $706,046, to study Southern Ocean oxygen variability since the last ice age. She was one of six UTAS researchers to receive fellowships this year.

“Unfortunately we can’t use time travel to go back and measure the oxygen content of sea water 20,000 years ago,” Dr Chase said. “We need to use what’s called a proxy – something in the sediment that records what the oxygen concentration was at the time the sediment formed. In the case of my work the proxies we use are trace metals such as rhenium and manganese. These metals show us pretty accurately what the concentration of oxygen was on the sea floor.

“So by combining measurements of oxygen levels over the years with carbon-dating analysis we can build up a clear idea of how and why ocean oxygen has been changing since the end of the last ice age.”

Oxygen levels in oceans have been decreasing in recent decades. As ocean oxygen starts to decrease, biodiversity and fertility also falls and this does not bode well for healthy oceans.

Equally importantly, this decrease appears to have a direct link to increasing greenhouse gas emissions and a subsequent acceleration of climate change.

For her most recent research Dr Chase has been taking mud cores south-east of New Zealand. “The area of ocean that we are particularly interested in is called Antarctic Intermediate Water (AAIW) because it appears that waters with an intermediate depth of 800–1200m are key players in climate change,” she said. “Oxygen-laden AAIW forms in the Southern Ocean, extends north to the equator and even moves into parts of the northern hemisphere. We have also studied AAIW cores from off the Chilean coast, and found that from approximately 17,000 years ago, there was a downward trend in ocean oxygen coinciding with a rapid Antarctic warming.”

“So this is what I am expecting the mud cores might tell me from the New Zealand site too.

“Ultimately what is going to be of most use with this research is that with an increased understanding of the patterns of change in oxygen in the past we can better predict future changes, which of course in this case can include the valuable and crucial prediction of climate change.”

#536
New research facility going swimmingly

Fishy business: Dr Glenn Jacobson up close and personal with zebrafish, whose cardiovascular and neuromuscular development are remarkably similar to those of humans.

BY CHERIE COOPER

Some tiny new residents in the UTAS School of Pharmacy are set to make a big splash in research.

The freshwater zebrafish is an important and affordable lab model used in biomedical research around the world and now a small zebrafish facility has been established at the university.

The fish reside in a comfortable 25 degree room in a specially-designed tank heated to 28 degrees.

Dr Glenn Jacobson from the School of Pharmacy set up the facility after seeing the wide variety of research possibilities the zebrafish offered in the area of drug development.

“The important thing is the optical clarity of the embryo and larvae used for our experiments; you’re able to monitor various aspects of the animals’ development under a microscope which isn’t possible with mammals.”

“They are also remarkably similar to humans in their cardiovascular and neuromuscular development,” Dr Jacobson said.

“The good thing is from an ethics perspective the embryos are used and euthanised before they have any sensory perception of pain.”

“These fish level the research playing field, enabling us to do internationally competitive research as well as collaborate with researchers at other institutions.”

Dr Jacobson is already conducting experiments into the effects of a class of asthma drugs (beta2-agonists) on heart physiology and muscle function with a view to further investigations of other drug classes relating to cancer and blood vessel growth in tumours.

“The fish can regenerate their hearts after damage, so if you could work out how they did that and whether existing drugs have a positive effect on this process, you could potentially do the same for humans.”

Dr Jacobson is happy for other researchers to approach him about using the zebrafish facility.

The zebrafish facility is funded by the Faculty of Health Science, UTAS Research Enhancement Grants Scheme and the School of Pharmacy.
A trio of UTAS academics is contributing high-level expertise in climate change policy and action after being appointed to the Tasmanian Climate Action Council. Dr Anna Lyth, senior research fellow in the School of Geography and Environmental Studies, Dr Nick Towlie, Rural Clinical School, and Professor Jan McDonald from the Faculty of Law are three of the ten council members. Their appointments follow the pioneering role of Associate Professor Kate Crowley from the School of Government, who was the inaugural chair of council in its first term.

**U**TAS student Lydia Evangelou-Oost is well on her way to being an established artist. In 2010 she completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a graduate certificate in fine arts, specialising in electronic media, following with first-class honours in 2011. Her artwork *Soli-loquy*, 2011, is a multichannel video installation from her ongoing series, *Saccade*. Created from the animated stop-motion photography of mundane bodily movements and moments, *Soli-loquy* uses processes of repetition and dislocation to disrupt the everyday sense of visual, temporal and spatial continuity.

The piece was exhibited at the prestigious national graduation exhibition *Hatched*. “I felt privileged to have been selected to exhibit in such a prestigious institution,” Lydia said. “It was a valuable learning experience in terms of extending beyond the realms of the art school environment, and inspirational to meet other participating artists, who are similarly dedicated to pursuing their creative practices on a professional level.”

Lydia said working on her series *Saccade*, she was considering the innate human impulse to extract fragments of the world and construct them into a semblance of coherence. “By subverting and repositioning the body, *Soli-loquy* suspends the viewer on a verge that teeters between fascination and unease, coherence and incomprehensibility,” in one of her first experiences working with installation. What appeals to me, particularly, is installation’s potential to facilitate immersive experiences.”

“In *Soli-loquy*, my intent was to activate the viewer on an immediate, visceral rather than contemplative level. “Installation has the ability to directly activate and implicate the viewer in a work — to give the image a physical, almost tactile, relation to the viewer’s body,” she said.

“It was this specific type of engagement that I was trying to encourage, which made installation particularly apt mode of expression.”

**Implicating the viewer in the work:** Artist Lydia Evangelou-Oost with *Soli-loquy*, 2011, a multichannel video installation.

**What’s on**

**14 AUGUST – 7 September 2012**

**25 years of Excellence**

The result of two and half decades of creative research and investigation by this Tasmanian and national artist. Hindrum is represented in numerous private, national and international collections, including the Museum of Old and Modern Art (MOMA), Hobart. Dr Wayne E Hindrum received a PhD from the University of Tasmania in 2001.

Venue: NEW Gallery, UTAS Newfarm campus.

**17 AUGUST – 14 September 2012**

**Framing Conflict: Iraq and Afghanistan**

The Australian War Memorial’s travelling exhibition, *Framing Conflict: Iraq and Afghanistan* – presents the paintings and photographs Lyndell Brown and Charles Green created in response to their 2007 tour of the Middle east, Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf.

Venue: Gallery A, Academy Gallery, University of Tasmania, Inveresk campus.

**18 AUGUST**

**Contemporary Wearables ‘11**

A selection of artworks by Australia’s most creative jewellery designers, this year’s exhibition highlighted a series of exhibits by 110 Australian artists. Fifty artists, including 14 students, had works selected for the exhibition.

Venue: Gallery C, Academy Gallery, University of Tasmania, Inveresk campus.

**10:00am–3:00pm**

**OPEN DAYS**

**26 AUGUST**

**UTAS Open Day**

Do you want to know more about your study options? Looking to enhance or revive your career? Come to UTAS Open Day.

Time: 10–3pm

**venue:** All UTAS campuses

**Contact:** Uni Info Centre

**03** 363 8840

**26 AUGUST**

**Mt Pleasant Radio Telescope Observatory and Grote Reber Museum Open Day**

Discover the amazing world of radio astronomy.

Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm

Venue: Mt Pleasant Radio Telescope Observatory, Richmond Road, Cambridge

**LECTURES**

**23 AUGUST**

**Public Lecture: Paul Gilding, author of *The Great Disruption***

Paul will share his views on the economic transformation that must occur as a response to the now inevitable ‘disruption’ to our economic, ecological and social systems.

Time: 5:30pm for 6pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre 5, 135 Raymond Ferial Centre, UTAS New farm campus

**26 AUGUST**

**Conservation Science on the Edge: Saving the Tasmanian Devil from a Dastardly Disease***

Learn more about the Tasmanian devil and how we might save it from extinction.

Time: 10:30am – 11:30am

Venue: Lecture Theatre 1, Life Sciences Building, UTAS, Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay

**27 AUGUST**

**Public Lecture: John Ralston Saul**

Public intellectual and globalisation critic to talk on it’s A Hole How Can We Fix It?**

Time: 7:30pm – 8:30pm

Venue: Stanley Burbury Lecture Theatre, University Centre, Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay campus

**LAUNCH**

**30 AUGUST**

**Faculty of Education Book Launch**

2012 The Faculty is proud to celebrate the official launch of six books by Education faculty staff.

Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Venue: NEW Gallery, UTAS New Farm campus

**For a complete list of, or to contribute to, What’s on visit:** www.utas.edu.au. Contributions are free but may be edited.