When 70-year-old John Parish walks across the Albert Hall stage to collect his doctorate, it will be after years of working with Tasmanian devils, quolls, possums—and maggots.

John is not a biologist, although in some respects he is a scientist.

An artist who immerses himself in the bush in the foothills of Tasmania’s Western Tiers, he observes wildlife and tests his theories on the sentience and intelligence of the living creatures around him, then creates art.

At his Golden Valley property, Cloud 13, John has lived alongside pied currawongs and native hens, gathering evidence leading him to question the assumption that human beings have a monopoly on thought processes.

There he has built a foundry, where, following a technical career at UTAS solving the casting problems of noted sculptors such as David Hamilton, he creates his own bronzes of the animals and birds surrounding him—such as a devil sold at a Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal auction recently for $2500.

And there he used movement-sensing cameras to research just which animals lived on his land, to his disappointment there were few.

But a half-day’s walk from Cloud 13 are the ancient cliffs of the Western Tiers with their overhanging rocky ledges and mysterious caves, according to John’s diary “ideal for creatures to visit with its dry internal areas, fresh water and protection from the wind”.

He put down sheets covered with soot to gain evidence of which animals visited the spot at night. He gained that evidence; the work of devils, wallabies and snakes became the basis of John’s “mark-making by nature” art.

“The devils in particular didn’t just leave their footprints, they scratched over and over, seemingly enjoying themselves,” John said.

“Curiosity? Aggression? The intriguing marks seemed to embody intent, as if they were experiencing something they’d not done before. And the sheets were left in the places I’d put them.”

Wanting to use other artistic formats for the markings, John modified an old photocopier to create art; it evolves from his own curiosity about his environment and his concern at human destruction of the plants and animals around him.

And so he took roadkill from the Lake Highway near Cloud 13: “This carnage … represents a part of the overall decline of native species so I decided to utilise these animals as well as those still alive in my art-making process.”

John designed an experiment to see if maggots demonstrated any sign of sentience. “Having watched these creatures exit an animal corpse in single file like sheep walking around a hillside, I felt at the very least they recognised each other, or was it that the former-in-line merely created a track that made passage easier for those following?”

The main observation was that they were all leaving the carcass at once, in droves. What signal transmitted to the mob that it was time to go? He placed the carcasses of a devil, a wallaby, a possum and a quoll each in its own Parish-created contraption allowing the maggots to drop into a funnel, then into one of four dishes containing four different coloured paints.

From observation John knew the maggots would swim out of the paint then crawl across the paper away from the light, leaving behind the carcass at once, in droves. What signal transmitted to the mob that it was time to go?

The small Tasmanian devil in its jail-like rib-cage metaphorically asks the question: “Am I next for extinction?”

John’s bronze tiger sculpture focuses the message: “My tiger, its head and neck realistically formed, the rest an emaciated skeleton, attempts to rise, meeting the viewer face-to-face. Its eyes are searching for a hint of understanding and compassion, hoping for a sign, not of guilt but sadness in an acknowledgement of an injustice done.”

“…”

John’s maggots and marsupials make their mark
Our people

Richard Smart
Dr Smart, honorary fellow in the Australian Innovation Research Centre, was granted the iWCI Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to viticulture. In his citation Charles Metcalfe said… “he is far from an ivory-tower academic… a practical man at heart, happiest out in a vineyard.”

Brian Yates
Professor Yates has been appointed as an executive director of the Australian Research Council. Prof. Yates’ new role will see him advising the council on strategic research directions in Australia.

Martin Grimmer
Associate Professor Grimmer has been appointed as the UTAS Faculty of Business’ first deputy dean. Assoc. Prof. Grimmer was head of the School of Management from 2006–2008 and acting-dean of the Faculty of Business from 2009–2010. He is currently MBAs director and the graduate research coordinator.

Tessa Jakszewicz
Ms Jakszewicz has been appointed director on the board of Hydro Tasmania. Deputy chief executive officer at UTAS’ Antarctic Climate Ecology Research Centre, she is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Steven Campbell
Professor Campbell has been appointed head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery. Currently head of the School of Health at the University of New England he will take up the post early next year.

Jodi Clyde-Smith
Dr Clyde-Smith has been appointed as executive director (research operations). Currently deputy director (operations) for Queensland's largest biomedical translational research institute, the Diamantina Institute, she will take up her new role in January.

John Parry
After 12 years as head of IT Resources, John has accepted the newly created position of executive director (business transformation). He will oversee delivery of major institutional projects such as the Student Lifecycle Information Management and Services Project.

Bruce Gemmell
Professor Gemmell has been appointed head of UTAS’ ARC Centre for Excellence in One Deposits (CODES). He has been head of the UTAS School of Earth Sciences since 2004 and deputy director of CODES since 2005.

Improved service for UTAS library users

UTAS Library has changed to a new library management system giving better service to students and academics.

The new Millennium system is used in many Australian university libraries.

Library users will notice new system functionality including client-initiated recall of items on loan and the ability to renew items after they have become overdue. It will also be possible to choose to have the system keep track of your personal borrowing history.

The new system makes it easier to recall an item someone else has borrowed, so the library has been able to change its borrowing rules to increase the quantity and duration of loans until (and unless) items are recalled.

Loan allocations include:

• For coursework post-graduates, higher research students and staff – up to 50 items for up to 12 weeks for low-demand items, subject to recalls;
• For undergraduates and special borrowers – up to 25 items for up to four weeks.

According to Newnham's campus librarian, Wendy Hoyle, the changes directly support UTAS Library’s draft strategic plan for 2013–2015: “One objective of the plan is that client experience of the library’s physical and virtual spaces is enhanced by providing an online information environment that is distinguished by ease of use, equity and ubiquity of access, quality of content and technological innovation.”

New Millennium system for UTAS Library: Generous borrowing limits put more books in students’ hands.

“One objective of the plan is that client experience of the library’s physical and virtual spaces is enhanced by providing an online information environment that is distinguished by ease of use, equity and ubiquity of access, quality of content and technological innovation.”

For more information, please contact the Library, or see: www.utas.edu.au/library.

On campus

Facelift for the ref

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen officially launched the newly refurbished refectory on the Sandy Bay campus recently. As well as the Injurious UTAS chocolate cake, there was complimentary coffee, competitions, a lucky door prize and a demonstration on how to make the perfect coffee, presented by Natasha Fyfe, finalist in the Great Barista Award 2012. The refurbishment of the ref on the Sandy Bay campus is part of the catering contract between UTAS and master caterer Scolarest. The ref has been designed as a contemporary food court and cafe, with the emphasis on enhancing the student experience and providing a range of food choices at affordable prices.
We didn’t imagine we would have anything as stunning to house nursing — it is an outstanding refurbishment. The university is breathing new life into these buildings.

New nursing facilities at Hobart’s Domain campus

BY CHERIE COOPER

Nursing at UTAS now has a new home at the historical Domain site in Hobart.

The acting dean of the Faculty of Health Science, Professor Denise Fassett, said the facilities give students a permanent home and the opportunity to have all activities situated conveniently in one centre.

“The Domain is also close to Medicine, the M-cities Research Institute, the Royal Hobart Hospital and arts disciplines, giving our staff and students new opportunities to collaborate on ventures,” she said.

The refitted building has teaching spaces, a lecture theatre and facilities for low and high fidelity simulation teaching.

“The simulation centre at the Domain campus is an exciting addition to our suite of centres which also includes the Newnham and Sydney campuses,” Prof. Fassett said.

“Hobart students will now have the same opportunity to be taught in first-class facilities that the nursing curriculum is designed around professional clinical experience across the state, including rural areas, acute care, community practice and mental health nursing.”

“Everywhere nursing practice takes place in this state, students undertake their clinical education,” she explained.

“Simulation is now embedded in health care services and the nursing and health curricula, to improve quality and safety in health care through competency development. When students undertake clinical experience, they will be familiar with the equipment and expectations.”

Prof. Fassett explained that the nursing curriculum is designed around professional clinical experience across the state, including rural areas, acute care, community practice and mental health nursing.

“We didn’t imagine we would have anything as stunning to house nursing — it is an outstanding refurbishment. The university is breathing new life into these buildings.

“The medical sciences and Domain precincts, with their interconnection to the city, will be alive with students and staff from all of our health disciplines.”

“In the future a footbridge will connect the domain site and the two medical sciences buildings.

Green tinge to university

While our favourite colour will always be UTAS red, there has been a discernible green tinge to many recent initiatives.

In our strategic plan, Open to Talent, we assert that “future planning, design and management of our facilities will be guided by a vision of sustainability — seeking to reduce environmental impacts, achieve economic efficiency, demonstrate social responsibility and enhance the student experience”.

This commitment to environmental sustainability and awareness is increasingly attracting national recognition. In fact, the awards have been coming thick and fast.

At the annual 2012 Green Gown Awards, determined by a poll of universities across Australia and New Zealand, UTAS was announced national winner of the Australasian Campuses towards Sustainability Award of Excellence, honouring achievements in environmental sustainability in the tertiary education sector.

Our new medical science 2 building in Hobart has become the first educational building in Tasmania to achieve a five-star Green Star rating for environmental design, an outstanding accomplishment in a state where hydroelectricity is a major source of power. We have similar expectations for the IMAS development in Salamanca.

The latest recognition has come in the form of a Banksia Award, the pinnacle of environmental prizes in Australia, for the Bookend Trust, a not-for-profit initiative created by UTAS staff and alumni to promote environmental awareness in the state, where hydroelectricity is a major source of power. We have similar expectations for the IMAS development in Salamanca.

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The opening of our new bike hub in Sandy Bay by Minister Nick McKim provided an opportunity to reflect on how these values can be embedded into our institutional ethos in a more substantive manner. Research identifying UTAS transport needs was carried out and analysed by students from Geography and Environmental Studies, and the hub was designed and manufactured in part in the School of Architecture and Design.

Bike hubs across UTAS show how our teaching and research programs can be integrated with our organisational philosophy.

At the same ceremony Minister McKim launched the first UTAS Sustainable Transport Strategy 2012-2016. This supports the objectives of Open to Talent, in particular our ambitions to be grounded in the community and reflect community values, to participate — and lead, where appropriate — conversations of local significance, and to act as a catalyst for analysis and change.

These recent awards suggest we are on the right track.

Peter Rathjen
Vice-Chancellor

www.utas.edu.au/vc
The billion dollar question for Australian universities is: how can we compete with the world’s most prestigious institutions in the MOOC space? On a comprehensive scale, maybe we can’t.

But their popularity has shown one thing conclusively – there is a hunger for learning in the community not being met by normal avenues.

Australian universities should embrace this challenge and see it as an opportunity to cater to this market for learning, personal and professional development by engaging with our communities and local industry to see what skills and knowledge are needed.

What do we know so far?

Levels of interest are staggering: courses with 100,000+ registrations. Coursera, for example, reports that more than 1.3 million people have tried at least one of their MOOCs.

Despite the excitement around these big numbers, there is still much uncertainty. Drop-out rates run at around 85–90%, with lack of time, motivation, technical and cultural confusion cited as reasons for withdrawal. Sustainable business models have also not yet been developed while it is still unclear what value completion is in terms of credit for credentials, or how MOOCs align with regulatory requirements.

Universities with global reputations have been the first to establish themselves as big-name players in the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) market. Their ventures, including Coursera, Udacity and edX, are all dominating this space with large numbers of students enrolled.

The new program, designed to meet Australian and international best practice standards, will produce more highly skilled seafarer graduates with seafaring training across the vocational education and training (VET) sector and at bachelor level.

The higher education pathway will offer a Bachelor of Applied Science (Nautical Science) and a Bachelor of Applied Science (Maritime Engineering), which are achieved concurrently with Australian Maritime Safety Authority certificates of competency.

AMC will also offer a new shore-based degree, Bachelor of Applied Science (Maritime Operations), which is designed for those who wish to work in a range of ship/shore interface positions within government or ports and shipping companies.

The competence of seafarers is critical to the safe and effective operation of ships. Modern ships are technically complex so it is vital that modern officers possess a wide range of skills including a high level of decision making and problem solving,” Associate Professor Dev Ramnuthagala said. “Our new degree program will help to deliver such expertise.”

AMC acting principal, Professor Neil Boie, said the restructure took place after consultation with industry and government, and offered clearly defined training pathways for those wishing to enter the seafaring industry.

“Following a series of industry discussions and in consultation with key stakeholders, the AMC Board has agreed on the restructure that will help secure the future of the seafaring work force,” said AMC CEO David Lett.

The new program was designed with direct input from industry, including government and ports and shipping industry representatives. It was also developed in consultation with the Australian Maritime College of Tasmania.

“The new seafaring education program will align the AMC’s training qualifications with the Australian National Standards for Seafarers, developed by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority,” Professor Ramnuthagala said.

“The AMC is keen to work closely with industry to ensure that the new programs deliver the required skills and support a more skilled workforce,” Professor Lett said.

The new programs launch today with the first cohort of students joining the University of Tasmania (UTAS) in March 2013.
The art of John Parish

PhD student John Parish has been inspired by the wildlife on his land at Golden Valley to base some of his work on mark-making by animals and maggots. Mysteriously, the maggot patterns somehow “embody some aspect of the creatures consumed,” he says.

At Cloud 13: Artist John Parish gathers inspiration for his work at his property at Golden Valley in the foothills of the Western Tiers. It is also the location of his foundry where he creates his bronze sculptures.

Mark-making by Tasmanian devils: John Parish used surfaces covered in a thin layer of carbon dust to detect which animals visited the caves and overhangs of a bush cliff site—“My speculation is that the devils may not only be investigating an alien object in an aggressive manner evidenced by their claw scratches over the sheets, but from the twists and turns of the footprints it is almost as if they ‘wished’ to leave their marks.”

Maggot mark-making from Tasmanian devil roadkill: from the maggot art on the left, John Parish created his response on the right—a Tasmanian Tiger skeleton sheltering a devil—“The maggots seemed to choose a colour combination representative of the animal they’d consumed.”

Maggot mark-making from possum road-kill: John Parish’s playful possums response in juxtaposition to the maggot art—“What was strange was that there seemed to be some correlation between the animal the maggots ate and the pattern they made.”
Bouquets

Ben Hunn

UTAS student Ben Hunn is the 2013 Rhodes Scholar. He will spend three years at Oxford University on a doctoral project on the interrelationship between Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases. He aspires to becoming a neurologist researching degenerative diseases of the brain.

Kim Lee Chang

UTAS Plant Science student Kim Lee Chang is the Tasmanian winner for the Ausbiotech/GSK Award for his contributions to natural product chemistry in Victoria and Tasmania.

Noel Davies

Associate Professor Noel Davies from the UTAS Central Science Laboratory has been awarded the 2012 Morrison Medal for his contributions to natural product chemistry in Australia. The medal recognises internationally significant achievements in any area of mass spectrometry.

Edwina Hughes

UTAS School of Architecture and Design masters student Edwina Hughes has won the Australian Institute of Architects Graduate Prize in Architecture.

Laura Sykes

Arts student Laura Sykes was a Tasmanian finalist in the Australian of the Year Awards. Laura set up Go Fair, a volunteer team helping change the spending habits of businesses and schools. She runs the state’s branch of Vision Generation, World Vision’s youth movement.

Daniel Hoyle

UTAS fourth-year pharmacy student Daniel Hoyle won the Tasmanian heat of the Pharmacy Student of the Year (P5OTY) counselling competition, the national final of which will be held in Melbourne this month.

Building a bridge to the Asian world

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Peter Rathjen discusses the achievements of his recent journey to Asia with the Tasmanian Premier, Lara Giddings.

Travelling with the State Government through China and Vietnam provided an opportunity to develop shared understanding of opportunities, priorities and ambition for Tasmania in the Asian Century. Our visit confirmed that Tasmania has much to offer and is well positioned in the highly competitive market of attracting international students to Australia.

We are perceived as beautiful, safe, friendly and relatively free from distraction. Currently we have a little more than 3400 international students studying in Tasmania – nearly 13 per cent of our total. Conversations with embassy staff, recruitment agents and university partners in South-East Asia confirmed the potential to expand this cohort, and we have set ambitious targets to double the number of international students and academics working at UTAS within five years.

This could be transformational for Tasmania. Growth of this sector in Tasmania to around $400 million a year will deliver benefits across the community, with tourism and hospitality particularly advantaged by visiting relatives and friends.

Economic assessment of the impact of international education by Access Economics suggests that each student generates on average about $29,000 per year for the local economy, with each dollar spent by students on education resulting in another two dollars being spent at local businesses.

But international students transcend mere economics, bringing cultural and social diversity, energy and curiosity that enrich us all.

Erin and Alice follow desire to design

BY LANA BEST

THE FIRST swatch of interior design honours students from the UTAS School of Architecture and Design are about to graduate and two of its best are lighting the way in this exciting new field of study for Tasmania.

Alice Dwyer, 24, and Erin Lacy, 26, who gained undergraduate degrees in interior design last year, had their entries for the Design Institute of Australia’s Graduate of the Year Awards (GOTYA) exhibited at Inveresk last month alongside the highest-achieving graduate designers from Victoria and Tasmania.

beginning a career in interior design: UTAS School of Architecture and Design honours students Erin Lacy and Alice Dwyer with their successful Design Institute of Australia’s Graduate of the Year Awards entries exhibited at Inveresk recently.

Both Alice and Erin entered their graduation project, where they designed the lobby and three types of suites for Launceston’s Hotel Grand Chancellor.

The design brief was to use the artworks and philosophies of a Tasmanian artist of their choice, creating an art hotel for the Launceston area.

Alice was awarded runner-up and Erin made the top four for the interior design category of the GOTYA awards which was won by Frances Gaffney of Swinburne University of Technology.

That same important project was the catalyst for Alice securing her first job in the industry.

“At last year’s end-of-year exhibition I was approached by the principal of Hobart-based Liminal Studio who said there was a position for me when I completed honours,” she said.

“We’ve stayed in touch throughout the year and I’ll be starting full-time later this month in their Liminal Spaces division as their interior designer. “At the moment I’m just working one day a week so I can concentrate on exams. 

Coinciding with the GOTYA exhibition, the Design Institute of Australia (DIA) held its annual council meeting in Tasmania for the first time.
Natasha drills down into Tassie’s big issues

BY AARON SMITH

A ssociate Professor Natasha Cica believes we need more self-confident Tasmanian voices on national stages and beyond. As director of the Inglis Clark Centre for Civil Society at UTAS she aims to create a platform to make that a reality.

Encouraging the exchange of ideas and experience between academia and the wider community through various forms of dialogue is her work, she believes.

“It’s about building bridges and providing cultural mediation between different disciplines, domains and sectors. I’m interested in the evolving role universities play in society, in the economy and in the larger cultural space which makes up our identity,” she said.

During 2012 Natasha has appeared on ABC-TV’s Q&A, presented high-profile lectures in Melbourne and Darwin, anchored community events across Tasmania, and launched her book Pedder Dreaming in Europe.

The recipient of a 2012 Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship for her work as a thought leader, she believes Tasmania is at “a kind of tipping point”.

“National debates about public policy, politics and culture are mainly confined to the magic triangle of Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra,” she observed. “It’s a good time to correct that imbalance.”

“I believe there aren’t enough opportunities for people to drill down into the big issues facing us, to disagree without being personally attacked and to explore complexity in an accessible way.”

In response to that belief Natasha is collaborating with Professor Julliane Schultz AM as co-editor of the next issue of Griffith Review—a mix of non-fiction essays, reportage and new fiction about Tasmania. Contributors include UTAS academics, creatives, journalists, celebrities and emerging thinkers and writers on the subject Tasmania: The Tipping Point.

Another form of dialogue in Tasmania is the Denison Debate series, where Natasha facilitates a public discussion between an expert panel and audience members.

“Denison Debates aren’t the familiar ‘pro’ vs ‘anti’ debates. They’re more like Q&A—with a much smaller budget but we broadcast them on the UTAS website,” she said.

And 2013 will continue that theme.

“I’m interested in the evolving role universities play in society, in the economy and in the larger cultural space which makes up our identity.”
Art and events

The work

"None of us sees the sea as something scary or threatening, but rather somewhere to feel free and at home."

"I had my formative years on the sea; it became a very nurturing place to be," explained artist Michaye Boulter.

My parents built a boat in Queensland and we grew up sailing. They’re both Canadian and the long-term plan was to sail back to Canada; it was kind of a ten-year voyage. My sister and I were just babies when we left," Michaye’s work features in an exhibition titled sea stories, where four UTAS graduates with connections to the sea have joined to produce collaborative and individual pieces of art at Hobart’s Carnegie Gallery.

Michaye worked with furniture designer Linda Fredheim to create Passage, an elegant melding of object and image. The box-like structure, created by Linda, sits atop three tripod-like legs. The box opens to reveal Michaye’s seascape.

Intended to loosely reference a telescope, Passage makes a personal space for the viewer to see nature.

"With this piece, you are viewing the landscape inside the box, rather than outside."

"I didn’t want to dictate my own particular story but rather allude to the fact that seascapes and nature can actually be very personal things," Michaye said.

"None of us sees the sea as something scary or threatening, but rather somewhere to feel free and at home. That’s something we have in common."


What’s on

EXHIBITIONS

23-30 NOVEMBER

The Best of the 2012 School of Visual and Performing Arts Third Year, MCA, MFA and PhD artwork examination folios of 2012.

Venue: Academy Gallery, UTAS Inveresk campus

Info: Malcolm.Bywaters@utas.edu.au

28 NOVEMBER

The Hobart City Council Kids4Kids Conference 2012

Kids4Kids is an annual forum for the celebration of schools’ sustainability programs.

Times: 9:45am–2:20pm

Venue: University Centre, Churchill Ave, Sandy Bay campus

Info: jenny.Dudgeon@education.tas.gov.au

23 NOVEMBER

2012 UTAS Alumni 50+ Club Lunch

Times: 12:30–2:30pm

Venue: University Club, Dobson Road, Sandy Bay campus

Info: Alumni.Offices@utas.edu.au or (03) 6324 3052

01 DECEMBER–16 JANUARY

Local Landscapes

Artworks by Burnie-based artist Meg Colidge.

Times: 9am–5pm

Venue: Artium Gallery, UTAS Cradle Coast Campus, 16-20 Mooreville Rd, Burnie

Info: info@cradle-coast.utas.edu.au or (03) 6430 4949

04 DECEMBER

Teaching Matters Conference 2012

Teaching Matters is the major showcase for learning and teaching at UTAS.

Times: 10:30am–4:30pm

Venue: School of Architecture and Design, Inveresk

Info: teaching.matters@utas.edu.au or http://www.utas.edu.au/teaching-matters

LECTURES

28 NOVEMBER

Cosmic Ray and Solar Variability throughout the past 9,400 years and speculation regarding their origin

Presented by Ken McCracken AG, JellCore Technologies and University of Maryland.

Times: 3:30–6:30pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre 1, Physics Building, Sandy Bay campus

Info: (03) 6226 7388 or Kim.Ellis@utas.edu.au

03 DECEMBER

2012 Red Cross Oration

Presented by social and political commentator Waleed Aly.

Times: 6–7:30pm

Venue: Stanley Burbury Theatre, University Centre, Sandy Bay campus

RSVP: UTAS.Events@utas.edu.au or (03) 6324 2512

6 DECEMBER – 5 JANUARY

Masters and PhD examination presentations

Venue: Academy Gallery, University of Tasmania, Inveresk campus

Info: Malcolm.Bywaters@utas.edu.au

06 DECEMBER

The Economic Impact of Earthquakes in Modern Japan

Presented by Professor Janet Hunter, London School of Economics.

Times: 6–7:30pm

Venue: Stanley Burbury Theatre, University Centre, Sandy Bay campus

RSVP: UTAS.Events@utas.edu.au or (03) 6324 2512

CONCERTS

09 DECEMBER

ASO1 Concert 1

Times: 7:30pm

Venue: Hobart City Hall, Macquarie Street, Hobart

Info: http://www.utas.edu.au/music

03 DECEMBER

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Masters and PhD examination presentations

Venue: Academy Gallery, University of Tasmania, Inveresk campus

Info: Malcolm.Bywaters@utas.edu.au

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

UTAS students show our pharmacy skills are world-class

By LANA BEST

UTAS HAS strengthened its reputation for providing world’s best clinical knowledge with two of its pharmacy students earning respect at the International Pharmacy Students’ Federation Congress in Hurghada, Egypt.

Fourth-year pharmacy student and National Austral ian Pharmacy Students’ Association (NAPSA) secretary Bronwyn Jones took part in meetings and formal functions at the congress. UTAS graduate Jacqueline Martin won the individual clinical skills competition.

Bronwyn, who has been on the national council for two years, said the role has required commitment and at times been an added challenge on top of her studies.

“NAPSA represents the interests of around 3500 members – undergraduate and masters students or interns studying at seventeen universities across Australia,” she said.

“Congress is a unique way to gain more knowledge and perspective of the profession on a global basis.”

Bronwyn is about to head off to Mackay, Queensland, to start a year-long internship but hopes to return to find work in Tasmania in 2014.

Jacqueline is working at Shoreline Pharmacy in Hobart this year for her internship and is about to sit her final exams. She’s already planning to attend the Netherlands congress in 2013.

“The skills competition consisted of seven minutes at seven different work stations and each was a different test of pharmacy knowledge and applications,” she explained.

“I met people from around the world and learnt about the differences in education and the pharmaceutical industry – for example in Egypt you don’t need a prescription for anything at a pharmacy.”

While studying at UTAS both students have been members of TAPS, the Tasmanian Association of Pharmacy Students, which will next year host the Australian NAPSA congress in Hobart from 24–30 January.

Pharmacy congress in Egypt

Pharmacy students Bronwyn Jones and Jacqueline Martin at the International Pharmacy Students’ Federation Congress gala dinner and awards night in Hurghada, Egypt.