

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

DATE: FRIDAY 7 AUGUST 2009

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **UTAS students travel half-way around the world for graduations**

Among the 786 University of Tasmania students graduating at ceremonies in Hobart this weekend are three international students who have flown back to Tasmania to have their degrees officially conferred.

Claire Maraldi, of France, is the first student to study under a cotutelle PhD partnership program between UTAS and a university in France.

Miss Maraldi studied at the UTAS Institute of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies and at the Universite Toulouse III - Paul Sabatier, France. Cotutelle arrangements with French institutions are a category of dual-awarded programs where successful candidates receive two degrees, one from each of the partner institutions.

Miss Maraldi used a high resolution ocean model to study the Southern Indian Ocean for her research thesis. Her results showed new mechanisms controlling ocean mixing and tidal energy dissipation, which are important for climate change and marine ecosystems.

Phetla Thanthavongsa and Pakeonexay Sithirajvongsa, of Laos, both received scholarships from the United Nations Development Program to study at UTAS. They flew back to Hobart to graduate with a Masters degree in Public Administration (International) at Saturday's ceremony.

The first UTAS graduation ceremony is at 7pm tonight, Friday, 7 August. Three ceremonies will be held on Saturday, 8 August 2009. There will be 328 students graduating at the Launceston ceremony at the Albert Hall on Saturday, 15 August.

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said graduations were one of the most spectacular and significant traditions at the University of Tasmania.

"Today is a special occasion for everyone, not only the graduates, but also academics, family and friends who have supported them," he said.

"UTAS graduates leave the university empowered to make a positive contribution to Tasmania and the rest of the world, having spent several years at an institution that pursues excellence, values intellectual freedom, social and cultural diversity, and promotes a strong commitment to local, national and global communities."

Professor Le Grew said the number and calibre of higher degrees to be conferred during the August ceremonies highlighted the excellence of research within the University.

**UTAS Graduation Ceremony dates, times and venues**

<b>Faculties</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Faculty of Education, Faculty of Health Science, Faculty of Law	Friday 7 August 2009	7.00 pm	University Centre, Hobart
Faculty of Business	Saturday 8 August 2009	11.00 am	University Centre, Hobart
Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology	Saturday 8 August 2009	2.00 pm	University Centre, Hobart
Faculty of Arts	Saturday 8 August 2009	5.00 pm	University Centre, Hobart
AMC, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Business, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Health Science, Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology	Saturday 15 August 2009	11.00 am	Albert Hall, Launceston

**Photo and interview opportunity**

**WHEN:** 3pm on Saturday, 8 August, 2009

**WHERE:** Front of Administration Building, UTAS Sandy Bay campus, Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay

**WHO:** International students, Claire Maraldi, of France, and Phetla Thanthavongsa and Pakonexay Sithirajvon, both of Laos, graduating from the University of Tasmania.

**Information Released by:**

The Media Office, University of Tasmania

Phone: 6226 8519 Mobile: 0418 510 121

Email: [Media.Office@utas.edu.au](mailto:Media.Office@utas.edu.au)