Student learning top priority for UTAS winners

The University of Tasmania has been awarded the most Australian Learning and Teaching Council Citations for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning in any one year in its history.

UTAS received seven citations. Across the 42 institutions awarded citations in 2011, UTAS ranked equal fourth for the number of citations received.

One of the awards went to the team of the Bluefin, the Australian Maritime College training ship. The team, which brings together academic, environmental science and Bluefin crew members, gives engineers practical at-sea skills.

AMC head of maritime engineering Associate Professor Giles Thomas said: “These team members have complementary skills – and it’s key for them to know when to let the students run things, when to stand back.”

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Education) Professor David Sadler acknowledged UTAS staff and peer review panel members who supported the nominees in drafting and refining their statements.

“These prestigious awards recognise significant contributions to the quality of student learning and are a testament to the passion and commitment the recipients bring to their work as UTAS educators,” he said.

Prof. Sadler congratulated:
• The Unistart Team: Dr Andrea Adam, Cathy Hartigan, Peta Statham, Stephen Newman, Sally Fuglsang, Jeremy O’Reilly (CALT) – for enhancing the first-year experience through a program nurturing confidence, critical thinking and independent study skills in commencing students;
• Dr Anna Carew (National Centre for Hydrodynamics and Maritime Engineering, Australian Maritime College) – for scholarship and leadership in the mapping and teaching of engineering-specific graduate attributes in undergraduate engineering;
• Dr Ashley Edwards (School of Zoology) – for innovative approaches to teaching and learning design, evaluation and student support, and scholarly contributions that have influenced the teaching of others;
• Dr Sharon Thomas (CALT) – for sustained empowerment of both undergraduate and postgraduate education students to enhance their own learning and teaching practices;
• Bluefin – Educating Engineers at Sea: Associate Professor Giles Thomas, Paul Furness, Dr Troy Gaston, Chris Lambert, Peter Schaeffer, John Vireux (Australian Maritime College) – for the design and implementation of an innovative multidisciplinary program to foster students’ complex problem-solving skills through practical activities at sea;
• John Vella (Tasmanian School of Art) – for the implementation of group-centred learning strategies across fine art studio contexts;
• Professor Craig Zimitat (School of Medicine) – recognising two decades of curriculum development and innovation in medical education.

THE UTAS CRADLE COAST campus has reached a significant milestone: 1000 enrolled students.

And the majority of students jumping at the chance to get a tertiary education in Burnie are women with part-time jobs, many of whom are the first in their family to study at university.

Business master student Aleisha Cross, a single mum with a young son, took a redundancy after working for 17 years at the McCaín’s vegetable processing company – and decided to go to uni. Now she also works part-time on the Cradle Coast campus.

“I went to McCaín’s after I left school, my family couldn’t afford for me to go to university in Hobart. I chose the redundancy because it was about time I tried something different, to make some progress in my life” she said.

“I hope doing this will make a difference to mine and my son’s lives.”

Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen says achieving the 1000 student mark is a cause for celebration.

“UTAS plays a leadership role in Tasmania, not only in the provision of tertiary education and as a major economic contributor, but also as an agent of innovation and cultural change.”

UTAS Cradle Coast campus director Professor Janelle Allison says one of the strengths of regional campuses is their commitment to supporting their communities’ needs.

“The Cradle Coast campus is here in the region where students live. For many this provides an opportunity for tertiary education that would not be possible if they had to travel to study.”

More than 62 per cent of Cradle Coast students are aged 25-plus, 71 per cent are women.

What’s it like to get a degree? Ask a busy woman

Women leading the way in the north west: Successful business student Aleisha Cross and Janelle Allison, director of UTAS Cradle Coast campus.

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Our people

Chris Johnson

Professor Chris Johnson from the UTAS School of Zoology has been chosen to chair the Tasmanian Devil Scientific Advisory Committee, created to provide advice and scientific support for the activities of the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program. The broad role of the committee is to assist the program with the development of science strategy and projects, evaluate the quality of science in the program and provide advice on the capability required to support the program. Prof. Johnson said the management of the devil is challenging because it crosses the boundaries of immunology, genetics, ecology and population management; top experts in these fields from Australia and New Zealand are involved. Dr Menna Jones, an ARC future fellow with the School of Zoology and expert in behavioural and evolutionary ecology with long-term research on the Tasmanian devil, has also been selected as a member of the 10-person committee.

Sonya Stanford

Dr Stanford, lecturer in the School of Sociology and Social Work, has been awarded Best Academic Educator in Social Work by the Australian Association of Social Workers and Welfare Educators. This award is highly competitive and follows a range of teaching and administrative roles at UTAS. Dr Stanford is regarded as a dedicated and highly skilled social work educator as well as being a strong, emerging early career researcher.

Timothy Skinner

Professor Timothy Skinner this month takes up his position as director of the Rural Clinical School based in Burnie. Prof. Skinner has a background in health psychology, with his initial training in the UK. He formerly ran masters and PhD professional development programs at the University of Southampton, most recently working at the Combined University Centre for Rural Health in Western Australia and as Director of Research in the Flinders University Rural Clinical School. Prof. Skinner has an outstanding research record in diabetes and the primary care management of chronic diseases. His diabetes work has included the development of self-management interventions for people with the disease.

UTAS Open Day 2011: something for everyone

At UTAS Open Day 2011 prospective students will find out for themselves what’s beyond the red door.

Open Day’s special guest speaker at the Launceston and Hobart events will be Walkley Award-winning journalist and founder of www.crikey.com Stephen Mayne. Visitors to the Launceston Open Day will also have the chance to see The Castle, a micro-housing display developed through a collaborative project between Architecture and Design and two local youth services organisations.

Also in Launceston, Hook, Line and Sinker hosts Nick and Andrew will be giving their model boat a run in the model test basin at the Australian Maritime College.

At the Hobart Open Day, local athletes will have the chance to find out whether they might be in the next generation of Aussie sports stars, with a national talent ID assessment centre for the Australian Sports Commission.

Other highlights in Hobart include master classes and performances at the Conservatorium of Music, and engaging and entertaining demonstrations at Sandy Bay from TUU clubs and societies including the Medieval Society, whitewater rafting, the University Soccer Club and many more. A Zumba demonstration from UnoGym will inspire visitors to get moving, while Edge Radio will be running a live broadcast from Lazenyb’s throughout the day.

“Feed your Mind: Feed the World” at Cradle Coast Open Day will provide practical activities for all ages. Presented by the School of Agricultural Science, this activity allows you to get up close with insects, measure sugars in fruit and be amazed by water-containing polymers. Cradle Coast will also feature roving circus performers and face painters to keep the kids entertained.

Stephen Mayne is presented by the School of Accounting and Corporate Governance in conjunction with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia.

The dates for UTAS Open Days are: 14 August, Burnie; 21 August, Launceston and 28 August, Hobart. For a full program, see www.utas.edu.au/openday or ph. 6226 6203.

“Get with the bins to cut landfill

“Our amazing volunteer UTAS staff sustainability representatives did waste assessments (separating the waste by hand!) last year to work out what kinds of waste recovery bins would be required in the trial buildings.

“A food waste collection trial is also under way at the four main food outlets at the Sandy Bay campus.”

This six-month trial will collect all food waste and deliver it to a hot composting facility, diverting methane-producing materials from landfill, instead creating fantastic gardening compost.

The UTAS Green IT Working Group also plans to provide an initial e-waste amnesty service for UTAS staff and students in the coming months, so staff and students are asked to keep UTAS e-waste (all old electrical appliances either in a state of disrepair or simply obsolescent - everything from kettles and microwaves to mobile phones and computers) for further announcements.

For more information contact Corey Peterson, email corey.peterson@utas.edu.au or ph. 6226 6203.

“Everything is recycled, even the water used to make the cheese.”

University of Tasmania

OUTLOOK

Open Day 2011

A free event

BEYOND THE RED DOOR

Intricate recycled sculpture of a Tasmanian devil, has also been selected as a member of the 10-person committee.

Choose your bin: The new bins carry the standard three-arrow recycling symbol along with the word ‘RECYCLE’ in the 11 languages most commonly spoken by students and staff at UTAS.

New recycling bins around the UTAS campuses are part of the UTAS resource recovery plan to recycle and reduce waste going to landfill.

Sussing the waste: Sustainability volunteer Dr Nick Towle was one of many volunteers who sorted waste to determine the types of bins needed.

• Rural Clinical School Burnie;
• School of Architecture and Design Inveresk;
• Newnham campus library, student centre, School of Human Life Sciences, Faculty of Arts, and Asset Management Services;
• Sandy Bay Unigym, Institute for Marine & Antarctic Science (IMAS), Research House, student administration building, Morris Miller Library, and the Corporate Services.

“These buildings all have sustainability representatives to actively oversee the program,” he said.

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For more information contact Corey Peterson, email corey.peterson@utas.edu.au or ph. 6226 6203.
UTAS shows off Tasmania's colonial history to nation’s historians

BY SHARON WEBB

TAS' postgraduate history students gave many of Australia's top historians an exclusive view of Tasmania's colonial history at the recent Australian Historical Association conference held in Launceston.

PhD students Eleanor Cave and Nick Clements revealed two newly-discovered documents shedding light on the 1830 Black Line, an 1830 attempt by the Van Diemen's Land government to round up all Aborigines by lining up people across the centre of Tasmania.

These documents give a brand new look at the 2200-man line from the perspective of civilians – in contrast to the more sanitised accounts from the military at the time – revealing an organisational shambles.

And fellow PhD student Andrew Gregg gave the historians a tantalising sneak peek at researching his botanical work.

“A section devoted to his role in charge of convicts on the Lake River still has cellar accommodation used in colonial times by convicts; historians stood in the winter sunshine of the home’s enclosed courtyard.

“The acres of parks and gardens feature stable yards, a water tower, a horse-operated pump house, the remains of a cider press, a gardener’s cottage, hawthorn hedges, oak, elms, laurels, lindens, maritime pines and sweeping lawns.

“Andrew, who is writing a biography of eccentric Irish landowner, Roderic O’Connor, came to Van Diemen's Land in his own ship, Ardent, enjoyed the patronage of Lieutenant-Governor George Arthur and gained huge power as inspector of roads and bridges. Andrew said: “He was an eccentric Irish landowner who became even wealthier when he was granted 1000 acres on the Lake River in Tasmania; even now Connnorville is one of the longest continuously-held family properties in Tasmania.

“Connorville was a large farming village from the perspective of civilians – in contrast to the more sanitised accounts from the military at the time – revealing an organisational shambles.

‘These documents give a brand new look at the 2200-man line from the perspective of civilians – in contrast to the more sanitised accounts from the military at the time – revealing an organisational shambles.’

Nick Clements uncovered another account of the Black Line in Tasmania’s Archives Office.

Henry James Emmett, a 21-year-old clerk in the Tasmanian Government’s Treasury Department, was also put in charge of convicts on the line; he wrote an account of his experiences many years later.

“Emmett’s account offers telling perspectives from inside the line and is significant for the way we understand this remarkable event,” Nick said.

Andrew Gregg arranged for the Mills family who own Panshanger to show 30 historians the grounds of the property.

Architecturally the finest Greek Revival home in Australia, Panshanger on the Lake River still has cellar accommodation used in colonial times by convicts; historians stood in the winter sunshine of the home’s enclosed courtyard.

“The acres of parks and gardens feature stable yards, a water tower, a horse-operated pump house, the remains of a cider press, a gardener’s cottage, hawthorn hedges, oak, elms, laurels, lindens, maritime pines and sweeping lawns.

“Andrew, who is writing a biography of eccentric Irish landowner, Roderic O’Connor, also conducted a tour of Connnorville.

“Even for Tasmanians the property is a mystery; the visiting historians considered themselves privileged to wander around distinctive black-timbered white barns and dovecotes, the largest shearing shed in Australia. More of a farming village than a country estate, Connnorville was established in 1824 by the fascinating, enigmatic Roderic O’Connor, great-great-great-grandfather of the current owner, also Roderic O’Connor.

“He came to Van Diemen’s Land in his own ship, Ardent, enjoyed the patronage of Lieutenant-Governor George Arthur and gained huge power as inspector of roads and bridges. Andrew said: “He was an eccentric Irish landowner who became even wealthier when he was granted 1000 acres on the Lake River in Tasmania; even now Connnorville is one of the longest continuously-held family properties in Tasmania.

“Connorville was a large farming village from the perspective of civilians – in contrast to the more sanitised accounts from the military at the time – revealing an organisational shambles.”

(Above) Panshanger, Longford: History PhD student Eleanor Cave, pictured visiting the Panshanger property, discovered the diary of Robert Lawrence, who described his role leading convicts in the Black Line.

(Left) Black Line discovery: History PhD student Nick Clements unearthed an archived account of the 1830 Black Line, written years after the event by Henry Emmett who was 21 at the time. (Photo: The Examiner)

(Below) Connnorville, Cressy: History PhD student Andrew Gregg, pictured at Connnorville’s shearing shed, is writing a biography of eccentric Irish landowner, Roderic O’Connor.

In conversation

A distinctly regional contribution

This past month has seen two important milestones for the University of Tasmania in the context of our association with regional areas of the state.

The first is the appointment of the inaugural Pro Vice-Chancellor (Regional Development), Professor Janet Allison, who will have responsibility for high-level leadership at the Launceston and Cradle Coast campuses of UTAS.

The establishment of this new position signals the university’s commitment to our regional campuses as equal partners, distinct, but not in isolation, from the Hobart campus.

It also reflects the university’s belief that opportunities across the regions rest with the relationships UTAS can forge with those regions – through government, business, industry and community – to develop investment and confidence and to open the pathways to tertiary education to many who have not had that chance before.

Appointment of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Regional Development) will create the right environment for conversations about opportunities for growth and development in the regions.

The potential benefits of campus-specific research and teaching objectives came to the fore at a jointly hosted event between the Launceston Chamber of Commerce and UTAS last month; there was widespread agreement that aligning the entrepreneurial business strengths of the northern region with the strengths of the university would improve our joint capacity to deliver social and economic returns.

In celebrating the appointment of Prof. Allison, who will be responsible for embedding that strategy across our northern campuses, it is also timely to reflect on current success at the Cradle Coast campus. During the Regional Campus Directors Conference, hosted by Cradle Coast in the presence of Federal Minister for Tertiary Education Chris Evans, we were able to announce that, for the first time, 1000 students were enrolled at the campus.

The achievement of this milestone is a coming of age for Cradle Coast. North-west Tasmania has historically had the lowest tertiary participation rates in Australia; the success of our regional campus helps us to change these historical education patterns and to provide opportunity for the workforce in the region.

There are many opportunities for our Launceston and Cradle Coast campuses that contribute to and build upon the successes of UTAS as a whole. Ensuring the strength of the parts respects the diversity and regional nature of the Tasmanian community and allows UTAS to plan a sustainable and prosperous future.

Peter Rathjen
Vice-Chancellor
www.utas.edu.au/vc
Why blogging should be everybody’s business

Running a small to medium enterprise is all that much harder if you lack a voice, argues Dr Polly McGee from the Australian Innovation Research Centre. Start a conversation online and you will create more customers.

I’m having a Seinfeld moment writing a blog about blogging, but I continue to be astounded by the number of start-up businesses I meet that don’t blog.

Some are blog deniers, some are scared of their own font, others simply believe they are “too busy.” More commonly, however, non-blog believers are unaware of the power of the blog and the multiple value propositions that this simple act can have on your brand and business.

So, at the risk of preaching to the converted, this is also an attempt to encourage ardent bloggers and readers of this blog to pass the wisdom across to their fellow “mumpreneurs” who are languishing in old technology market channels to convey their message.

If I had to choose one single reason for any home-based business to put fingers to keyboard, it would be to simply connect to customers.

What I hear from many mumpreneurs, far more often than the hardship of running a small business, is the isolation of being an SME (small to medium enterprise). For these same mumpreneurs (who are often also dealing with the isolation of bringing up a baby or toddler), the common phenomenon of post-baby career confidence erosion means the need for validation and finding community is paramount.

It’s ironic that Facebook and other micro-blogging tools pose far less threat to the individual than the singularly focused and non-distracted-by-status-updates “blog” – whether personal or business. This is a mere sample of the regular litany of excuses I hear about why you shouldn’t blog: “What would I say?”; “Who would want to read what I have to say?”; “I’m not an expert”; “What would my friends from high school 17 years ago think?” (no really, I’m not making this up!).

For those quietly resonating with these comments, the fear of personal exposure is overwhelming to some. Let me reassure you that I have found it life-changing on a personal level and exponential to their increase in sales conversions.

Blogging at its most basic is a discussion with your market, current and future. It is an interaction where you can introduce yourself to your people in a sales-free, conversational and almost confessional dialogue. Your customers love to know who you are – and what better way than to tell them!

Confide in them about your passion for the product or service, your brand journey, your struggles and triumphs, your growing business. More importantly, ask them to tell you about their aspirations for what it is you provide. Ask for their input on what you do, and when they give input and you make change, celebrate and acknowledge their part in your journey.

Blogs give you a voice, and inevitably as your SEO (search engine optimisation) kicks in, you will connect with a plethora of others in your industry, creating a community, a conversation and, ultimately, customers.

Dr Polly McGee is a co-founder of Startup Tasmania, which aids fast-growth start-ups in the state. She is also a senior lecturer in commercialisation and entrepreneurship at the University of Tasmania. This column is reproduced from the StartupSmart website, for which Dr McGee writes a fortnightly blog. Cartoon: Mark Menadue.

UTAS ART success

BY SARAH NICOL

THREE UTAS ARTISTS have won major awards in the 2011 City of Hobart Art Prize.

The head of the School of Art Professor Noel Franklin said he believed it was the first time all three prizes were awarded to Tasmanians.

“I also noted excellent work by a number of other art school staff members and graduates in the exhibition,” he said.

City of Hobart Art Prize: Dr Megan Kratting won the award for a work on paper with her Pulp and Smoke.

Pulp and Smoke.
Say cheese: snapping the seadragon

Camouflage gear: Weedy seadragons are named for the weed-like projections on their bodies that camouflage them as they move among the seaweed beds where they are usually found.

BY PETER COCHRANE

The weedy seadragon is not one to stand out in a crowd – or school of fish. With its long leaf-like protrusions and multitude of spots and blotches it is often mistaken for floating seaweed.

But not by Keith Martin-Smith. Dr Martin-Smith, formerly of the UTAS zoology department and, more recently, the Antarctic Division, has conducted the world's first photographic study of the weedy or common seadragon.

During the 18-month study at two similar and neighbouring sites in Kingston Beach and Blackmans Bay, he identified, from underwater images, 43 individual mature fish by their unique markings.

A juvenile seadragon is rather plain with dull red or brown pigmentation, but adults can have up to 1500 spots and blotches on each side of the abdomen. Then there are the patterns on the base of two dorsal fins and snout – also unique – to consider.

"If you think of it in terms of human fingerprint analysis, you’ve got the same levels of complexity – in fact, it’s probably more complex," Dr Martin-Smith explained.

Used in conjunction with optimised pattern-recognition software – adapted from that used by medical researchers to count blood cells – this technique of photographic study of this iconic species across its range.

Writing in a special issue of the Journal of Fish Biology, he noted that members of the family Syngnathidae, comprising seahorses, pipefishes, piperporses and seadragons, have proved difficult to mark in the past because of their morphology.

A number of recent studies have marked individuals using necklace tags or fluorescent elastomer injected just under the skin.

"However, tagging is invasive and you can never be sure that you haven’t altered the behaviour of the creature," he told Unitas. "Using natural markings for identification, you are not touching the creature, you’re just taking a photograph."

Dr Martin-Smith started out tagging seadragons with student Marlene Davey in 2002 in Kingston, Blackmans Bay and Bicheno. The fish were tagged with elastomer, which is a coloured polymer.

In late 2008 he was inspired to tackle seadragon identification afresh. "On a fun dive at Blackmans Bay I saw one of the dragon that we’d tagged five years ago. That was interesting because the seadragons we’d tagged were all adults and seemingly living much longer than seahorses.”

Dr Martin-Smith’s previous research into seahorses had indicated a maximum lifespan of four or five years.

"I am now thinking that 12–13 years is the maximum lifespan of a seadragon in the wild,” he said.

In the years since the original tagging project, digital cameras and their underwater housings have become cheaper, making it feasible for Dr Martin-Smith and a diving companion from the Antarctic Division to photograph seadragons in their spare time.

"It quickly became apparent that you would see the same creatures fairly regularly. In fact yesterday I photographed three, one of which I’d snapped on the first photography dive back in 2009."

Given the study’s success Dr Martin-Smith believes photo-identification could be a valuable tool in assessing population status and trends of other inshore species of fish in Australia and around the world.

He is about to undertake a pilot project involving the identification of seahorses by their head markings.

That may prove a challenge as some seahorses change colour to avoid predators or stalk prey.
**Antarctic Symposium**

**DECEMBER WILL MARK 100 years since Sir Douglas Mawson set sail from Hobart and began the first serious involvement of Australia in Antarctica, and the Royal Society of Tasmania is organising the Mawson Symposium to be held in November this year.**

While many events are being held in Tasmania to mark the Antarctic Centennial Year, the society’s symposium will include papers on the origin of Australia’s Antarctic interests.

The symposium will be held on 30 November and 1 December at the Dechaineux Theatre at the Tasmanian School of Art in Hunter Street. The Governor, His Excellency the Honorable Peter Underwood, AC, will open the meeting on 30 November at 9.15am and host a reception at Government House that evening for participants.

On 2 December 1911, Mawson set out to establish his headquarters at Commonwealth Bay in Antarctica in the Australasian Antarctic Expedition.

Since then, Australian and Tasmanian involvement in Antarctic research has flourished, not only at UTAS but also through the Australian Antarctic Division and CSIRO.

For more information see www.rst.org.au

**UTAS women speak up and out**

**BY SARAH NICOL**

UTAS WOMEN ARE finding their voices in workshops around the state. Coordinated by the Mentoring Program for Women, vocal performance and presence workshops aim to promote confidence, the use of imagination and improve techniques to speak up and out.

Mentoring Program for Women coordinator Edmay Jackson said she knew from personal experience that voice and performance confidence were often problems for women. "I needed this training for myself, and, when I saw the benefits, I made it available for others," she said.

At two workshops in Hobart, one in Launceston and one in Burnie, women attended sessions on ‘ice-breakers’ and how to start a conversation.

The Mentoring Program for Women has run since 2006. It started out matching women in a one-to-one mentoring partnership with male and female leaders from both UTAS and the wider Tasmanian community.

But in the past couple of years it has grown. Edmay began the Women’s Peer Mentoring Group at the Cradle Coast campus in 2008; the group is now thriving. Women from other organisations are requesting to be part of it.

In Launceston, Women in the North was formed, and in Hobart three groups were formed based around building and transforming an academic career; how to get from here to there, and building a support network for recognition and opportunity.

**Axing tree-cutting on a whim**

BY SARAH NICOL

Most urban households replace trees in the same way they would furniture, guests at the School of Geography and Environmental Studies’ recent annual conference heard.

Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick described his research into the demise of trees in Australian cities: he investigated whether people cut down trees because they disliked them, for fashion or as scapegoats.

He found few people really disliked trees. In a questionnaire of 732 people, only three had completely negative responses to trees. Others mentioned they didn’t like a particular tree in a particular place but did appreciate them elsewhere.

The reason most people removed trees was due to personal preference.

Prof. Kirkpatrick said it was common for people to move into a new house and remove all of the previous trees and replace them with their own, as they would with furniture.

“Tree death is the same as replacing a sofa,” he said.

“Tree killing and planting is a matter of personal taste.”

Prof. Kirkpatrick said because trees are replaced so often, there are few older or larger trees in urban settings.

“If we want to keep big trees in cities, we need to keep people in their houses longer or prevent them from cutting down trees for trivial reasons.”

**Tree lovers or haters: This woman loves trees but does everyone feel the same? A study at the School of Geography and Environmental Studies looked into the feelings people have towards trees. (Photo: istockphoto/mangostock)**

"He found few people really disliked trees. In a questionnaire of 732 people, only three had completely negative responses to trees."

“If you see a big tree in the suburbs, look at it and say ‘you’re a lucky tree’.”

Aidan Davison and Grant Daniels were co-researchers with Prof. Kirkpatrick and honours candidate Lillian Pearce also found a strong case for fashion in planting trees.

She surveyed five suburbs in both Melbourne and Hobart to understand the types of trees and the way they are planted in urban settings and conducted in-depth interviews with occupants of 10 houses in one suburb.

People described the trees in their own gardens and the trees’ significance to them, many saying fashion was important in selecting a tree; one participant said she planted a mature tree as an investment.

“People expected a lot from their trees and, if they didn’t perform, they chopped them,” Lillian said.

However, this did not mean they did not care about particular trees.

“The word ‘love’ was mentioned 150 times over all the interviews,” she said.

"If we want to keep big trees in cities, we need to keep people in their houses longer or prevent them from cutting down trees for trivial reasons.”
Student direction a great opportunity in theatre

BY LUKE SCOTT

Three up-and-coming directors from the School of Visual and Performing Arts have wowed audiences at the Best of the Student Directed Festival at the School of Visual and Performing Arts at Inveresk. The Student Directed Festival is held each year to allow third-year students to direct their own productions. Three plays from past festivals were chosen for the event in July, two from recent graduates and one from a current student.

While two of the plays were last performed in 2009, the original directors and cast came back from various locations across Australia to put the shows on again. CentrStage publicity officer Laura Bishop said the event had been an excellent opportunity for people to see new directorial talent.

“It’s great because it allows people to see three productions in one night as a showcase,” she said. “Because two of the shows were from 2009, the cast had some intensive rehearsals to get back into the swing of things. But it really just fell back into place because the cast started to remember their lines and the directors didn’t have any major dramas.”

Megan Jolly

When did you graduate and what are you doing now?
I graduated in 2009, and have just completed a Masters in Contemporary Arts and Theatre.

Why did you choose this play?
Tennessee Williams is an amazing writer. He writes about the depth of human passion and goes right to the core of what motivates people to do the things they do.

How do you feel about directing the play again?
I love it; it is a fantastic play and I had a great cast.

How has UTAS influenced you?
I have had a great experience coming back. I first studied here in 1986, took a big gap, and came back.

Sophie Wray-McCann

When did you graduate and what are you doing now?
I graduated in 2009, and I’m currently living in Adelaide, working as a production assistant for the Junction Arts Festival.

Why did you choose this play?
It is a great piece of writing. It was written in the 1950s; even so, it still resonates with audiences.

How will UTAS influence you?
I enjoyed UTAS a lot; I learned many things and made many friendships I think will last a long time.

Chris Vernon

When did you graduate and what are you doing now?
I’m a third-year Bachelor of Contemporary Arts student.

Why did you choose this play?
Bulletproof began life as a monologue, written in a 10-minute writing exercise in the UTAS scriptwriting course. It was a strange experience, it just came from nowhere.

How do you feel about directing the play again?
The SDF season was my directorial debut. I have tweaked the show slightly this time around.

How will UTAS influence you?
I came here purely for acting – directing was the last thing on my mind. This course adds more strings to your bow. It may draw out skills you never knew you had.

Supporting social enterprise

BY ANNA OSBORNE

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES have come into the spotlight with the launch of a new study, practitioner workshop and public forum.

The Tasmanian Social Enterprise Study is the first of its kind undertaken in the state, produced in a partnership between UTAS and the State Government.

UTAS Institute for Regional Development (IRD) senior researcher Dr Robyn Eversole and industry-based research associate Kylie Eastley worked with 111 social enterprises across Tasmania to complete the study. It included an online survey, social enterprise case studies and a social enterprise blog and database.

Spotlight on social enterprises: Associate Professor Jo Barraket (far left) from UTAS’s business school presented a workshop and forum at Cradle Coast campus with social enterprise practitioner Penelope Dodd, Dr Robyn Eversole from the UTAS Institute for Regional Development and Dr Belinda Luke (QUT).

“You will find social enterprises in every community; they are a vital link in providing jobs, services and social outlets,” Dr Eversole said.

Social enterprises, such as not-for-profit food outlets, community festivals, farmers markets and tourism ventures creating community benefit, participated in the study.

“One of the main points which came out of the study was that a majority of social enterprises are very innovative in their approach; they want to provide new solutions to social, economic and environmental concerns,” Dr Eversole said.

The institute followed up the study with a practitioner workshop at the Cradle Coast campus, exploring the question of social enterprise’s regional development impact. The workshop attracted practitioners from across the state, sharing ideas and looking to learn more from their sector.

The workshop was followed by a public forum, hosted by the IRD and presented by Associate Professor Jo Barraket from Queensland University of Technology’s Business School and the Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies.

For more information about the study see www.utas.edu.au/lr/whats-new/ird/irdnews-items/tasmanian-social-enterprise
Leon’s research lives on

BY SARAH NICOL

T
talented Tasmanian canoeist and researcher Dr Leon Wescombe died a year ago in a kayaking accident in California but his cystic fibrosis research continues and a fund in his memory will boost future research.

Leon finished his honours in science at Menzies Research Institute in 2005 looking at cystic fibrosis, a deadly inherited disease causing thick mucus to develop on the lungs and digestive tract.

His research was groundbreaking; he found that the bacterium Pseudomonas aeruginosa produces the toxin cyanide in the lungs of CF patients, the first researcher to describe this phenomenon.

"Until then the medical community didn’t believe there was bacteria in the lungs of cystic fibrosis sufferers; Leon proved them wrong," his proud father Kerry said.

Leon's supervisor, Dr David Reid, said this finding was significant, with implications for treatment and further research.

"These findings confirmed that the lung conditions where the bacteria reside are low in oxygen, which means we may need to re-think how we attack this bacterium as conventional antibiotics do not work well under these conditions," Dr Reid said.

Dr Reid was awarded a grant in 2009 to look at the way bacteria change over time to cause a deterioration in patient health, and the effects they have on antibiotic treatment. He said he would like to produce papers detailing Leon’s work, including his name as an author.

After completing his honours in 2005, Leon continued to make a name for himself in medical research, studying for his PhD at the University of Sydney.

His research was based on the thyroid glands of patients with Grave’s Disease. He discovered a protein that was found in the eyes of patients was also found in the thyroid glands.

His PhD was submitted in June 2009 but not fully accepted until after Leon was killed on the Condor River in June last year; it was awarded posthumously and given to his father at a memorial service.

Leon lived life to the full, according to his father.

"He was either in the lab working trying to come up with answers for cystic fibrosis or he was out kayaking," Kerry said.

In his memory, family, friends and the UTAS Foundation have set up the Dr Leon Wescombe Memorial Fund to support other undergraduate students continuing his work.

"It doesn’t bring Leon back but we can have something in his memory," Kerry said.

The money will provide $10,000 to a rural student or $5000 to a city student to study cystic fibrosis. Kerry hopes the student will be able to research the vaccine based on Leon’s previous research.

The fund is based on donations, which are matched dollar for dollar by UTAS.

The original fundraising target was $100,000 but the current total is already $107,000, so a new target of $150,000 has been set. If enough money is raised, the fund will support two honours scholarships or look at helping one of those recipients continue into a PhD after graduation.

Author’s bequest supports UTAS women

BY CHERIE COOPER

THE LEGACY of a great woman is living on through a generous bequest left to UTAS from the estate of the late Tasmanian educator and author Dr Joan Merle Woodberry AM.

The $450,000 from the Joan Woodberry estate bequeathed to the university will be allocated to the Joan Woodberry Fellowship Trust managed by the University Foundation to support the Joan Woodberry Postgraduate Fellowship for Women.

Several female students have already benefited from her generosity, using the fellowship to pursue their postgraduate studies in engineering or bioscience. Dr Woodberry had a major influence on the lives of young Australians in her writing, teaching and education of teachers.

Her lawyer and one of her estate executors, Jim Walker, said Dr Woodberry was always interested in history, women’s issues and education.

“She enjoyed helping women who found themselves in trouble, calling them her ‘damsels in distress’,” he said.

“Joan was an interesting person and a great conversationalist, discussing everything and everyone; she had an opinion on everything.”

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said the university is honoured to accept the bequest.

“Dr Woodberry’s legacy will continue by helping to nurture and support the best and brightest women reach their academic goals.”
Creator in the workshop thrives on variety

BY SARAH NICOL

In 1968 Peter Dove was hired as a laboratory assistant at UTAS and for 43 years, three boats, a plane and a racing car later he’s still at it, having created equipment for some of the university’s most significant research in the meantime.

Peter started out in the School of Geology mentored by laboratory manager David Le Souef and Professor Samuel Carey. Le Souef hired him he said because he’d built a few model aeroplanes, which showed he had the necessary skills.

Since his welding apprenticeship, work at Incat and then UTAS, Peter has settled into the UTAS central science laboratory where he has been for the past 12 years as a senior technical officer and has loved it.

“I get to research a job and see it through right to the end and usually contribute a bit because students have an idea but need some help making it work in practice,” he said.

Peter enjoys creating equipment for university research and making repairs mainly for postgraduate students and researchers. He works for all schools of science and rarely makes the same piece of equipment twice.

“Different projects you look at after a while and realise they just won’t work.”

“He loves his job: Peter Dove has been behind the scenes creating equipment for university research for 43 years.”

Some of his memorable experiences include projects in geophysics and making rock saws with the School of Geology, high vacuum work for the School of Chemistry and welding the chassis of a racing car for students from the School of Engineering.

After that, Dove built his own race car at home, which is fully registered.

“I thought if the students could do it, I could do it too,” he said.

He has also benefited in other ways by working at UTAS.

“The thing about working at a university is that you’re so fortunate to work with so many smart people and it rubs off,” he said.
Architecture award for ‘cutting edge’ Christ College

BY SARAH NICOL

UTAS’ Christ College is more than just a building – it’s a touchstone of modern architecture in Australia and a portrait of life in the 1960s, according to judges of a statewide competition.

Architect Dirk Bolt of Harley Wilson was recently awarded the Enduring Architecture Award at the Australian Institute of Architecture Tasmanian Architecture Awards for the student accommodation complex, which was originally designed for the Anglican Church.

Judge and state architect Peter Poulet said the building was cutting edge in 1960, when its construction was completed, and exemplified the type of architecture from that period. "It was groundbreaking, not just in Tasmania but Australia," he said.

Peter said the building reflected the optimism of its period, including the use of new materials, technology and processes.

The series of buildings that make up Christ College are made of concrete blocks and steel in a style known as pared back architecture, which became popular after the construction of Christ College.

“It really stood out as being important to nominate that building,” he said.

“It’s more than just good architecture, it’s influential.”

Peter said one of the assets of the design was that it was not just one monolithic building, but rather a “village of buildings” with emphasis on the space between them as well as the structures themselves. He said the construction had a human touch with its reference to courtyards and communal spaces.

When Christ College was constructed it included accommodation for 50 people, a chapel, library, common room, staff quarters and dining hall. It also used the natural play of light to its benefit. "It’s very sensitive with the way it fits with the landscape," Peter said.

"The style has been copied by many others.”

Fellow judge Professor Stephen Loo from the School of Architecture and Design said the building was an important asset to Tasmania and the award recognised the need to preserve it.

Architect Paul Johnston, convenor of the 20th Century Buildings Committee of the Australian Institute of Architects (Tasmania Chapter) and Doacomomo member, said Dirk Bolt designed many important buildings in Tasmania before he left to work in Canberra for the National Capital Development Authority and progressed into planning in Africa and India through the United Nations Centre for Housing, Building and Planning (later UN Habitat). He has also worked as a consultant and academic in New Zealand, Fiji and the Netherlands.

Bolt's most prominent building – 10 Murray Street – is currently the topic of great controversy with plans to replace it with another building. He was also the architect for the Long Beach Bathing Pavilion in Sandy Bay, Rosny Library, Calvin Christian School classrooms and Cadbury offices in Claremont.

Bolt now lives in Aberfeldy, Scotland, but sent through a video response to the awards as acceptance.

The Enduring Architecture Award was open to any buildings in Tasmania at least 25 years old. Last year’s winner was the Tasmanian Supreme Court, which then went on to win the national award in the same category.

Christ College is now in the running for the national award. Judges are currently deciding on winners.

Make a movie and see Fiji

BY SARAH NICOL

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION Jo Nas recently made a movie that won her a trip to Fiji in a nationwide annual competition.

Jo was finalist in the myOE competition, which also included an opportunity to win a trip to the United Kingdom after graduation.

myOE is a contractor management service that helps travelling professionals prepare to work overseas.

Jo sent through a 100-word submission on why she should be selected and, after being named as one of the top 10 at UTAS, was required to create a two-minute video with the same theme.

She downloaded Windows Movie Maker and taught herself how to use it overnight, reworking the song Firework by Katy Perry to explain why she should be chosen.

“I thought that would attract the judge’s eye,” she said.

It certainly did. Jo and represent

Fiji win for education student:
Jo Nas with 11-year-old Fijian Vika, with whose mother she is maintaining contact.

From Tango to Nature

BY SARAH NICOL

ADAM JAMES wears many hats – PhD candidate, assistant principal of Jane Franklin Hall, tango teacher, tutor, comedian and play director.

But his latest role as career writer for Nature magazine has him humbled.

“Tango was a great honour to be chosen,” he said.

James and five other winners were selected out of 300 postgraduate and PhD entrants in the competition. He was the only one from the southern hemisphere.

Each finalist will have at least two columns published in the world-renowned science journal and additional items will appear on the online blog.

Entrants were required to write a 600-word sample column. James’ was about the evolution of scientists into administrators, looking at how many scientists eventually stop being researchers. It will be published shortly. James submitted his PhD thesis in organometallic chemistry in June.

His work was primarily fundamental science, or as he describes it “exploring and finding problems rather than looking for specific answers”.

Through his research he created a chemical that was the first of its kind in a 30-year-old field of research.
UTAS makes waves

By Peter Cochrane

The University of Tasmania boasts one of the world’s leading oceanographic research institutes, according to a new report. New York-based Thomson Reuters’ ranking of the top 30 international institutions has CSIRO at 18, with UTAS hard on its heels at 19.

The institutions are ranked by citation impact for highly cited research papers. Highly cited papers are defined by Thomson Reuters as ranking in the top 1% by citations for their field and year of publication.

Oceanography includes the disciplines of marine biology, limnology, fisheries science, ecology, geochemistry and geophysics, meteorology and atmospheric sciences, ocean engineering, and environmental sciences.

UTAS – which is home to the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and the Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems CRC – produced 12 highly cited papers in the period 2006–2010. These papers were cited 1,077 times or nearly 90 cites per paper.

IMAS is a relatively new institution, having been established in December 2009 to bring together the Tasmanian Aquaculture and World-first for IMAS in 2010: A $1m weather buoy – called a flux station – is loaded onto the Southern Surveyor. It was deployed in the remote Southern Ocean for 13 months.

My PhD

My PhD from the University of Sydney. When my first article was finally accepted, after extensive editing, I was able to send the abstract with a cover letter to all the study subjects thanking them for their patience and perseverance. The study had shown a reduction in health care visits with the use of skin patch opioids resulted in fewer health visits, a marker possible is often limited.

The statistics of longitudinal data studies are complex as correlation rears its ugly head. To equip me with the tools to perform the analyses as an anaesthetist I like to measure things, especially chronic pain. Research is the art of the possible. For a single-handed researcher the possible is often limited.

What I could measure objectively was patients’ health care visits. I recruited chronic pain patients requiring opioid medication and recorded their health visits over 12 months. I would then analyse this data to see whether the use of skin patch opioids resulted in fewer health visits, a marker for contentment!

There is a slight problem here.

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The work

BY CHERIE COOPER

Paper and wood are ordinary materials but can be made extraordinary in the right artistic hands.

More than 75 Year 9 and 10 students collaborated to create artworks from paper and wood in the intensive four-day DREAMMACHINES workshop at the UTAS Tasmanian School of Art (TSA) recently.

The school’s expansive sculpture studio turned into a virtual snowfield, covered in scraps of white paper.

Students created an amazing variety of whimsical paper sculptures, some almost larger than their creators. Sculptures resembled robots, forts and huge lanterns — and some forms were known only to their creators.

Instructed by art school staff Lucy Bleach and Jack Robins and 10 undergraduate student volunteers, the goal was for students to approach art in an expansive and playful way.

“The focus is for the students to be creative, experimental and to collaborate with their peers,” Ms Bleach said.

“The process will hopefully open up their potential to have fun and feel confident about exploring their creative potential.”

Leah Kelly and her team mates created a huge paper orb hanging from the ceiling. “Work at a uni is different from your regular art class,” she said.

“There are different materials and you really get a chance to extend what you usually do.”

The works were exhibited at the Tasmanian School of Art and later installed at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery in tandem with the City of Hobart Art Prize exhibition.

This is the third initiative — after the hugely successful GREENMACHINES (2009) and SCREENMACHINES (2010) — run in cooperation with the Department of Education, Tasmanian Catholic Education Office, Hobart City Council, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, and the TSA.

‘Students created an amazing variety of whimsical paper sculptures, some almost larger than their creators. Sculptures resembled robots, forts and huge lanterns — and some forms were known only to their creators.’

AMC Search team honoured

BY NICOLE MAYNE

The Australian Maritime College’s business arm, AMC Search, has been recognised, with two prestigious international awards, for excellence in providing dynamic positioning simulator training.

AMC Search took out the title of DP Training Centre of the Year in the 2011 International Dynamic Positioning Excellence Awards in recognition of its excellent facilities, equipment, staff and student support.

In addition, AMC Search’s Matthew Barney was named dynamic positioning (DP) lecturer of the year for outstanding passion, knowledge, engagement and support in teaching.

AMC Search Acting CEO Cathy Wilson said the awards were a testament to the dedication and commitment of the team.

“We’re pleased the skills of our hard-working staff have been recognised at an international level,” she said.

“The AMC dynamic positioning unit has been operating in Launceston since 2009 and we have since expanded into Perth, Western Australia, with the opening of a training centre in November 2010. “A total of 395 students have been trained in the two centres and we hope to see these numbers continue to increase in the future.”

• Dynamic positioning is a computer-controlled system that maintains a vessel’s position and heading by using its propellers and thrusters, in conjunction with environmental data, to calculate the effect of wind, wave and currents. It is frequently used by offshore supply vessels to hold position without the use of an anchor, and by large cruise ships for mooring off beaches or inaccessible ports.

AMC Search operates two training centres and has a team of four DP lecturers.

Dreaming big: Leah Kelly from Sacred Heart College, New Town puts the finishing touches on her team’s creation at the DREAMMACHINES sculpture workshop.