UTAS researchers survey driver aggro

University of Tasmania researchers want to talk to Tasmanian licensed drivers about their aggressive driving habits. Dr Allison Matthews and Dr Raimondo Bruno at the School of Psychology are gathering information on aggressive driving and how angry people get when they are driving.

The research is funded by Claremont Rotary Club in conjunction with the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund.

“We’re also interested in chief crash risk factors such as speeding, inattentiveness and driving under the influence,” Dr Matthews said.

“From the answers people give on our online survey we’ll be examining the role particular beliefs and experiences play in road safety on Tasmanian roads.

“Understanding this will help develop better road safety education campaigns and processes.” Research suggests aggressive driving behaviour is on the rise in some countries but there is little research on this subject in Australia.

“Aggressive driving may range from the experience of intense anger while driving to engaging in risky behaviours (e.g., running red lights, weaving in traffic, tailgating) in an attempt to save time or out of frustration,” Dr Matthews said.

“Aggressive behaviour may also extend to intentional acts of aggression (physical, verbal or gestured) towards other road users, commonly known as ‘road rage’.”

Vince Taskunas from RACT supports the survey and recommends RACT members volunteer to complete it.

To be involved in the survey
Licensed drivers (17 years or over) who live in Tasmania and who have driven a vehicle on the road in the past month can complete an anonymous and confidential 30-minute online survey.

Questions ask about driving experience, driving practices, road crashes, driving anger and views about how particular driving practices affect road safety.

To thank them for participation, volunteers can enter a prize draw to win one of three 32GB Apple iPads.

Volunteers should visit www.driving-attitudes.utas.edu.au to complete the survey online. Those who cannot complete the survey online can request a postal survey by phoning (03) 6226 8515.

For more ERA results information, see pages 6 and 7.
Our people

Jane Long

Jane Long recently began her appointment as university librarian. Jane previously worked at the CSIRO as the national library collections manager and major library centre manager for Western and South Australia. She has a strong background as a librarian in the higher education sector and has worked as an associate librarian (reader services) at the University of Western Australia. She has held other library positions with UWA, Curtin and James Cook universities. Jane has a Masters in information management and also holds qualifications in science, health and librarianship.

David Sadler

David Sadler joined UTAS as the new Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students and Education) in January. David was recently director of the Higher Education Academy in the UK (equivalent to the Australian Learning and Teaching Council). During his time with the academy he was also dean and director of the National Subject Centre for Politics, Anthropology and Politics, and has also worked in the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office. His areas of expertise include teaching and learning, technology-enhanced learning, social inclusion and international relations. In 2015 David became a UK National Teaching Fellow.

Mike Coffin

Professor Mike Coffin has begun his appointment as the new director of IMACS. Previously he developed research initiatives and international collaborative programmes as director of the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton. He was also professor and director of the Seismic Research Centre at the Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo. During his time in Tokyo he served as the inaugural chair of the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program’s Science Planning Committee. He has also held positions at Dartmouth College, Columbia University, Geoscience Australia, the University of Texas at Austin, and the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology. Prof. Coffin’s expertise is in marine geophysics and he has extensive experience in the Southern Ocean.

Holger Meinke

Professor Holger Meinke has taken up his appointment as director of the Tasmanian Institute for Agricultural Research. German-born Prof. Meinke took up the position in mid-January, after more than three years in head of the Centre for Crop Systems Analysis at Wageningen University in the Netherlands, and nearly 20 years as principal scientist for the Queensland Department of Primary Industries.

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

Hi-tech centre for health professionals

New health education centre: Ivor Cairns and Dean Lahaye of the Tasmanian Ambulance Service demonstrate a simulated medical emergency using the computerised SIM MAN 3G.

BY SHARON WEBB

UTAS’ multi-million dollar Simulation and Clinical Education Centre at the School of Nursing and Midwifery in Launceston was officially opened in December by the then Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daryl Le Grew.

Boasting state-of-the-art facilities not available in other Australian universities, the centre gives Tasmanian health science students and health profession- als access to the latest advance- ments in simulation technology for clinical education.

Featuring low- and high-fidelity simulation technologies, the centre is based on three levels, with facilities catering for undergraduate and postgraduate health science students, as well as training for external organisations.

Prof. Le Grew said stage one of the new Simulation and Clinical Education Centre was opened for use in 2007.

“Now that stage two is complete the university has a superb basis for becoming a centre of excellence in preparing the current and future health work- force and in inter-professional learning and research,” he said.

Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Professor Denise Fassett, said simulated experiences and envi- ronments increasingly are being recognised as an important factor in quality and patient safety, improving learning for health science students.

“The delivery of evidence- based quality health care is dependent upon relevant, con- temporary education training and competency assessment,” she said.

“The new centre provides an exciting opportunity for health professionals and health service providers to collaborate in the development of new and innovative methods of teaching. This will improve patient outcomes and care, as well as the competence of health science graduates and practi- tioners.”

The centre’s manager of simulation operation and development, Nigel Chong, said that already a number of other Aus- tralian universities had toured the new Launceston facilities.

“The success of our curricu- lum and innovative approach to simulation-based education, along with educating current healthcare professionals, has gained national and interna- tional recognition,” he said.

“This new facility will allow us to expand our current program to meet the growing needs of our partners, health workforce and health science students.”

On campus

“Scooping taddies for science”

Summer is the time when Tassie kids scoop tadpoles in one of the UTAS Zoology labs this summer in the name of serious science.

But Sarah Wikeley from Taranna High School and Brendan Holloway from MacKillop Catholic College investigated tadpoles in one of the UTAS Zoology labs this summer in the name of serious science. Sarah and Brendan were two of the 55 Year 9 and 10 students from 26 Tasmanian schools involved in the annual three-day Science Experience. The students experienced a wide range of science activities around UTAS campuses, gaining information about further studies in science, engineering and technology.

Now in its 21st year, the Science Experience has influenced more than 55,000 Australian high school students to enter further education courses. It is supported by the Science Schools Foundation, the Australian Science Teachers Association, Rotary and universities around the country.
Blanket approval for Langford’s exhibition

BY JILLIAN MUNDY

The signature piece of Ros Langford’s graduation exhibition, Skin to Blanket, was snapped up by the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery before it even opened.

The pre-Christmas exhibition’s largest piece features designs in ochre, collected from Tasmania and Yorta Yorta country (Victoria) on a queen-size woollen blanket.

During her four-year Bachelor of Fine Arts course at the University of Tasmania’s Art School, Ms Langford utilised a variety of mediums using ochre with block prints and screen-printing.

Skin to Blanket is a depiction of the essence of Ms Langford and her heritage.

“It’s a combination, about the essence of who I am, my mother and grandmother’s country, Yorta Yorta, but it’s also about my family of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community here and their history,” the 26-year-old said.

“There’s Yorta Yorta symbols, there’s Tasmanian Aboriginal symbols, basket weaves from Yorta Yorta and Tasmania, and simple things like hand prints of the future generation.”

Ms Langford is proud that her signature piece was bought by the local museum.

“I wanted it to stay in Tasmania,” she said.

Ms Langford was inspired by opossum skin cloaks made in 1999 by Yorta Yorta women Vicki and Debra Couzens, Lee Darroch and Tashma Harum – a traditional skill which had nearly disappeared by the mid-1990s.

“I just absolutely adored them,” she told the Koori Mail at the packed opening at Art Mob on Hobart’s waterfront.

“The blanket became a significant piece for me.

“By us being colonised, a lot of traditions were taken away or forcibly removed from us. Blanket today is a comfort for some people, but it was also the cause of some of our people getting influenza, and dying, because of the thinness of them, because the water didn’t flow off them.”

The actual blanket Ms Langford used for her artwork holds a personal significance to her but she prefers to keep it private.

Studying art has not only given Ms Langford the opportunity to think of herself as an artist and produce works with mediums new to her, but also the chance to enhance the university program.

They didn’t have good Aboriginal studies within the art curriculum,” she said.

“That has changed now. I was able to give some knowledge of the land.”

Ms Langford has also inspired her own family, with her daughter Ruth starting a university course studying community recovery.

“No one in my family has got a degree and I wanted to show them they could do that,” she said.

Story courtesy Koori Mail.

Great chemistry between women and science

BY CHERIE COOPER

She’s not a graduate of the Starfleet Academy but Margaret Britz was inspired to study chemistry through being a fan of Star Trek.

“I was a great science fiction reader so I was always inspired by the way people actually think and imagine a future which you then might want to create,” the UTAS dean of the Faculty of Science, Education and Technology recently told a celebratory breakfast to honour the achievements of women in science.

“I like the imagination in science and the idea that you can be party to creating or discovering something that you may have been contributing to.”

Australia’s leading women chemists held breakfasts linked by Skype to mark the Interna-

tional Year of Chemistry 2011 and the 100th anniversary of Marie Curie being awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry. In Tasmania the event was held at the University Club at the UTAS Sandy Bay campus with UTAS academics, local chemists and Royal Australian Chemical Institute members chartering with scientists from all over the world.

ABC Radio’s Ryk Goodard interviewed event attendees, including Prof. Britz and Professor Emily Hilder from the School of Chemistry.

Prof. Hilder said she was “captured by chemistry early on.”

Women Sharing a Chemical Moment in Time event: UTAS dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology Professor Margaret Britz (right); Professor Emily Hilder and Ryk Goodard from ABC Radio.

“As a student I was captured by chromatography – then I moved into separation science and it was just fascinating to me that you could take something really complex and separate it out into all its components and find out what they are.”

“There are so many opportunities and I think you’ll find chemists employed in an amazing array of fields,” she said.

“In my case, I was drawn into [science] simply because it gave me so much freedom to do what I wanted to do.”

Grass-roots campaign delivers better outcome

T he university sector is celebrating the decision to save the programs and awards of the Australian Teaching and Learning Council, though still disappointed about the loss of the council itself.

The decision to axe the ALTc was announced by the Gillard government as part of the budget belt-tightening needed to fund recovery from the recent natural disasters in Queensland and elsewhere.

It seemed at odds with the Federal Government’s own higher education agenda, emphasizing both high standards and improved access. It certainly belied the ALTc’s record of facilitating educational improvement across the sector.

Overseas experts were astounded that a real Australian success story was to be wound up.

What happened next was a grass-roots campaign from the sector that eventually demonstrated the power of lobbying and negotiation in a finely balanced Parliament.

As well as letters and media releases from universities and vice-chancellors, there was widespread lobbying from individual academics, professional groups, staff and student unions and deans. Rarely has an issue mobilised such consistent support from such diverse groups.

The issue attracted the interest of individual ALP members, the Greens and independent member of the House of Representatives, Andrew Wilkie. Andrew was particularly vocal and in the end he was able to secure a government commitment to provide $50 million to operate core ALTc programs and award schemes without cutbacks for at least the next three years.

This is an important decision for the sector. The ALTc has been a powerful force in higher education sector, supporting high teaching and learning standards. It has played an important role in improving the university experience and learning outcomes for students.

The ALTc has encouraged excellence and innovation. It has helped to cement the importance of teaching in staff appointment and promotion policies, to begin to balance the priority previously given to research. A key feature has been to support collaborative work, the identification, development and implementation of good practice between universities, a much more efficient and effective approach than individual universities trying to work alone.

The Government’s decision to abolish the ALTc, remains surprising: it was clearly (and wrongly) seen as a soft target. We can celebrate the survival of key programs (and the activism that secured this). But we need to work to ensure that those programs are not compromised by an overly bureaucratic approach from DEEWR that is to administer them from individual universities trying to work alone.

The ALTC’s own higher education agenda, emphasis on teaching in staff appointment and promotion, and learning outcomes for students.

The ALTC has encouraged excellence and innovation. It has helped to cement the importance of teaching in staff appointment and promotion policies, to begin to balance the priority previously given to research. A key feature has been to support collaborative work, the identification, development and implementation of good practice between universities, a much more efficient and effective approach than individual universities trying to work alone.

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Neill Daly
Project Manager (Architecture)
Planning and Development

What I like about my job
I am in the fortunate position of watching and being engaged in the evolution of the university’s campuses and buildings. The role allows me to consider the built environment, and space and place making, which is informed by the teaching, learning and research aspirations of the University.

Favourite travel destination
Barcelona. The urban form, diversity in architecture and architects in one place. The city has fantastic public transport and it is also very easy to walk around. My partner enjoys the clean beaches.

When I’m not working I like to …
Ride a bike. Drive a car (and then clean it). Go for a run. Coffee and cake.

I’m listening to …
Pink Floyd (thanks to Dr Legg) and Dvořák (thanks Jan).

I’m reading …
War and Peace. I am attempting to make my way through a series of literary classics. I get the feeling I should have read these a lot earlier in life. After Homer, Tolstoy and Dickens, the reading helps my writing (and it needs it).

Favourite time of day
I enjoy a run. As a break between work in the office during the day and various reading, writing and thinking at night, I run between the university and home. It’s a great way to clear my head – more thinking at night, I run between the university and home. It’s a great way to clear my head – more

Favourite building
The visual overload of Gaudi in Barcelona is balanced by the austere Barcelona Pavilion (1929) by Mies van der Rohe. Areas of retreat and reflection are created through placement of very fine machined and honed, yet natural, building elements.

My favourite Tasmanian building
I didn’t have one. Like Barcelona, Tasmania hosts a full complement of architectural styles. In fact, the university has played a role in producing some important Tasmanian buildings, such as the historically significant buildings on the Domain by the university architect Rudolph Koch.

Achieving life’s happy medium
The School of Management’s SIMON FISHWICK has been told that work–life balance is when work problems don’t keep you awake at night. After former Premier David Bartlett’s surprise resignation to spend more time with his family, Simon explores the tricky issue of WLB …

‘One young professional’s view of WLB was that it existed if work problems didn’t keep him awake at night.’

AMC welcomes record number of AusAID students
BY NICOLE MAyne
record number of 18 AusAID students have commenced study at the Australian Maritime College this year, with most of the group arrived on campus in early January to get their bearings before the academic year began.

Among the group participating in AMC’s introductory academic program were Mary-Rige Failing, of Papua New Guinea; Kathy Marianne Audroing, of Trinidad-Tobago.

Mary-Rige is doing a Master of Business Administration (Maritime and Logistics Management) and plans to apply her skills and knowledge to project managing a liquefied natural gas venture on her return to Papua New Guinea.

She was attracted to studying at the AMC after visiting the campus and being impressed with the curriculum and facilities.

Mary-Rige said that while she would miss her husband and four children, who will remain in PNG, she is looking forward to the challenge of new study and the benefit it would bring to her country.

AMC’s first AusAID student from Trinidad-Tobago, Kathy Marianne, is undertaking a Master of Applied Science (Marine Environment).

“We have a research gap in understanding our own environment, so I’m here to gain the knowledge to go back there and work on improving our industry,” Kathy said.

Both women will attend the Australian Leadership Conference to be held in Canberra this month, where they will have the chance to network with fellow AusAID scholarship recipients from other countries.

AusAID is a federal government initiative providing funding to international students to study in Australia in priority areas of development for their home countries.
Tasmanian Creative Arts Summer School 2011

A tram-terrific summer school

By Luke Scott

A two-week January whirlwind of creativity in January at Inveresk ended with a dance performance on a $2-million tram.

The 2011 UTAS Tasmanian Creative Arts Summer School attracted more than 350 students to 16 diverse courses, with Inveresk becoming a hive of activity in the lead-up to the school’s final exhibition.

Students took part in a range of creative endeavours, including woodwork, contemporary painting, sculpture and effective speaking.

Shortly before the close of the summer school, contemporary dance students made a stunning entrance to the lawns outside the Academy of Arts building at Inveresk, aboard a historic Launceston tram.

The Launceston Tramway Museum Society was happy for the No. 29 tram to be used in the performance, with society member Tim Kerkham saying it had been a pleasure to work with the dancers.

School of Visual and Performing Arts head Professor Marie Sierra said many people had worked to make the summer school such a success.

“Planning for the 2012 summer school will begin within weeks,” she said.

The final exhibition of work undertaken during the summer school was officially opened by Elizabeth Walsh, artistic director of Ten Days On The Island.

“(This exhibition) covers a rich range of territory,” Ms Walsh said.

“By simply reading the names of the courses that the students and tutors have explored you get a taste of what they have delved into.”

Students from the effective speaking and acting, singing and dancing courses also performed as part of the end-of-school celebrations.

Life’s a beach: Wilderness and Natural Environment students Joel de la Motte and Mary Penn enjoy the breeze in their hair at Baker’s Beach, along with Kirra Barnes and James Ballard.

Hair-spinning dance: Contemporary dance student Molly Spicer (in pink) gets into the groove with fellow performers.

At the Seaport: Student Nick Johnston and tutor Lauren Cross work on contemporary painting practices.

Milk bottle sculpture: Summer school artist-in-residence Richie Ares Dona prepares for the final exhibition.

Hammering up a storm: Paul Gerhard gets to work on the Furniture Assault course.

Jewels from the tip: Andrew Batson-Graham searches at the Longford Tip for materials for his Sculpture for the Skip course.
Horticultural science

BY SHARON WEBB

The success of an “intelli-
genius” state to partner UTAS and State Gov-
ernment research in horticultural science 11 years ago is the basis for the university’s ERA success in this area – and universities across Aus-
tralia are following Tasmania’s lead, says Professor Margaret Britz, dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineer-
ing and Technology.

Horticultural science scored a 5 in the Excellence in Research for Aus-
tralia gradings, along with analytical chemistry and oceanography, placing its research above world standard.

The placing augurs well for the state’s future wealth coming from its agriculture-based food bowl concept – and its reputation as being a high-
quality, natural food producer, Prof. Britz said.

“UTAS had the broadest range of agricultural categories being evalu-
ated in any area in Australia.

“We had sufficient volume of output in several categories, con-
sequently showing UTAS’ high standing across the agricultural dis-
ciplines compared with other universi-
ties.

“The partnership between UTAS and the Tasmanian Government has paid dividends; the model has worked in quality and depth. It was a leading decision in its time.

“Other states and their universities have collaborated on individual projects but to place Tasmanian pro-
jects in a structured environment enabling government and university researchers to combine their strength was a major leap forward.”

Solution-orientated research: TIAR Dairy Centre’s Dr Danny Donaghy (left) and Dr Richard Ransonley determine the harvest maturity of maize plots grown at the centre’s research facility.

“arrests options and makes it dif-
ficult to direct research to where it matters, creating in turn, solution-orientated research which is of very high quality,” an international climate and agricultural systems scientist, Prof. Merinke said another contributing factor towards the institute’s top ranking was knowing how the ERA process works.

“TIAR has made a considerable effort towards ensuring research is captured and published; this is essential to the international research arena,” he said.

“ERA it is an ongoing process. We are already preparing for the next round.”

Becker and Buxton (below, left):

Great chemistry at UTAS: Professor Paul Haddad, Director of ACROSS, and Professor Greg Diconoski from the School of Chemistry.

Analytical chemistry

Good science and good process underpin TIAR’s recent ERA scores according to institute director Professor Holger Meinke.

The horticultural sciences took the highest possible ranking of 5, rating at or above world standards across several of its research fields.

While the institute’s founding pillars of research, education, training, development and extension have paved the way, other factors have also contributed to its success.

Analytical chemistry at UTAS scored a 5 out of 5 in the recent ERA results.

The Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science (ACROSS) is situated within the UTAS School of Chemistry.

Established in 2001, it involves key researchers from UTAS, RMIT University and the University of Western Sydney working in separation science.

Collaboration, diverse research interests and hard work combined to see the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute score four out of five in fisheries science, according to TAFI director Professor Colin Buxton (pictured below).

“We did well because the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute is a model that has promoted excellence in fisheries and aquaculture at the University of Tasmania for a very long time,” Prof. Buxton said.

“We have been a national leader in aquaculture for a long time and we are not resting on our laurels.

“We still have work to do, but we are very pleased with these results.”

Prof. Buxton said there was a very strong research focus within TAFI, which was established as a joint research initiative between the State Government and UTAS.

Current research includes studies of estuarine dynamics, feeding activity in fish, marine biodiversity, and the effects of fishing.

“I think it certainly indicates the model and the foresight of our senior management when they chose to establish TAFI at UTAS and combine the strengths of state government research and university research,” Prof. Buxton said.

Prof. Buxton said TAFI often collaborated with other schools within UTAS and the wider world to further its research aims.

Horticultural science

Excellent in Research for Australia

World-leading research at UTAS

BY SHARON WEBB

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Solution-orientated research: TIAR Dairy Centre’s Dr Danny Donaghy (left) and Dr Richard Ransonley determine the harvest maturity of maize plots grown at the centre’s research facility.

“The relationships and partnerships TIAR has established are unique,” Prof. Merinke said.

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ficult to direct research to where it matters, creating in turn, solution-orientated research which is of very high quality,” an international climate and agricultural systems scientist, Prof. Merinke said another contributing factor towards the institute’s top ranking was knowing how the ERA process works.

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Fishing

Australian research in separation science has long enjoyed an excellent international reputation, earned by the individual activities of talented researchers.

ACROSS offers an organisational and resource base through which these individual researchers can work in a coordinated and synergetic way under a series of structured collaborative research programs.

Professor Paul Haddad, Director of ACROSS, is pleased with the ERA result.

Prof. Haddad said ACROSS has a strong level of performance in publications and the citations they attract.

“Another area which is taken into account with the ERA is the issue of grants income and we have a very strong record in that.

“Another indicator is peer esteem, which refers to ARC Fellowships and the like and we did outstandingly well in that area also. That was easily our strongest category,” Prof. Haddad said.

“In the whole of analytical chemistry across Australia there was a total of 21 counts for peer esteem and I believe we would have contributed more than half of those.”
Visual arts and crafts

UTAS scored a 4 out of 5 in the visual arts and crafts category in the ERA results. Professor Noel Frankham, Head of the UTAS Tasmanian School of Art in Hobart, welcomed the results. He said UTAS and the University of Wollongong were the only universities outside the Group of Eight to rate highly for visual arts and crafts, sharing a history of early commitment to postgraduate study in the discipline.

"No university scored 5; six of us got a score of 4 and of those six, four were Group of Eight institutions," he said.

"That’s a good position to be in."

Prof. Frankham said UTAS introduced PhDs in visual arts. "We now offer PhDs in art and design studio practice within the School of Art, Hobart, and the School of Visual and Performing Arts, Launceston, so the state is well served with research study opportunities."

Prof. Frankham said the School of Art has had great success with research PhDs, producing high-quality graduates, many of whom remain connected with the University.

"Our early success with ARC funding, linkage grants in particular, have been influential in building and enhancing a research culture in the school."

"The vision of people like Geoff Parr, Jonathon Holmes and Paul Zika in instigating our research strengths is wonderful and has clearly borne fruit."

Oceanography

Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies: Dr Helen Phillips, Professor Nathan Bindoff and student Amelie Meyer are researching changes in oceans caused by climate change.

Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies director Professor Mike Ceflin said he was pleased with the institute’s score of 5 out of 5 for oceanography.

The institute’s research strength lay in its collaboration and partnerships with other agencies, like the CSIRO and the Australian Antarctic Division Prof. Ceflin said. These partnerships had allowed IMAS to “punch above its weight” in research and become a “centre of international calibre”.

IMAS had become a leading player in research in the Southern Ocean, along with climate change, ocean processes, marine and Antarctic ecosystems, and aquaculture and fisheries.

"There is a concentration of mass here, a critical mass, that exists only in a few places on the globe," Prof. Ceflin said.

"We have people who feed off each other – from the CSIRO, Antarctic Division and UTAS combined."

"That set the stage for high-quality research and then success in the ERA."

"We’re regarded internationally as a centre of excellence, especially for Southern Ocean and Antarctic studies. We are definitely on the map."

Sociology

Sociology’s research-intensive academics: (clockwise from top left) Head of Sociology Professor Doug Ezzy, Professor Rob White; Professor Adrian Franklin and Professor Jan Pakulski.

Research culture: Head of the Tasmanian School of Art, Professor Noel Frankham, believes UTAS’ commitment to postgraduate research in the visual arts helped achieve its high ERA score.

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“The vision of people like Geoff Parr, Jonathon Holmes and Paul Zika in instigating our research strengths is wonderful and has clearly borne fruit.”

"This result is not from any one or two people contributing heavily to research."

“And sociology also made a strong contribution to the ERA outcome in criminology.”

Sociology’s subject matter covered in the ERA results include the sociology of elites, with a large number of publications from Professor Jan Pakulski and Associate Professor Bruce Trantler, and the sociology of health in Launceston by Dr Karen Willis. Dr Max Travers and Professor Rob White contributed to research on criminology and the sociology of law, and Associate Professor Maggie Walter, Professor Adrian Franklin and Assoc. Prof. Ezzy researched the sociology of culture.

“Assoc. Prof. Walter has published significantly on the sociology of indigenous issues,” Assoc. Prof. Ezzy said.

Sociology’s research-intensive academics: (clockwise from top left) Head of Sociology Professor Doug Ezzy, Professor Rob White; Professor Adrian Franklin and Professor Jan Pakulski.

A high-performance research culture contributed to by academics across the School of Sociology and Social Work was the major factor in the school’s high score in the recent ERA results.

Head of School Associate Professor Douglas Ezzy said this culture meant the school published in high-quality journals, regularly published books and has a history of getting good research grants from ARC and others.

“A large proportion of our staff would qualify as research-intensive academics,” he said.

The end of January saw a flurry of activity in the media with Australian universities ranking and reporting their results to highlight relative strengths.

The ERA was developed to assess research quality within Australia’s universities using both a combination of indicators (such as publications, research income, esteem/applied measures) and expert review by committees comprised of experienced, internationally-recognised experts.

In brief, disciplines were ranked on a 1–5 scale, a 1 being well below world standard and a 5 being well above world standard. Ranking was undertaken at both 2 and 4-digit Field of Research (FoR) discipline codes (not by individual or school).

UTAS met or exceeded world standard in 71% of those disciplines in which we were assessed. However, in comparison, the average for the Group of Eight was 92% and our benchmarking group 79%.

There is clearly significant scope for us to improve our results in future rounds of ERA and to further our aspiration to be in the top 10 Australian universities in terms of research performance.

The next round of ERA, to be held in 2012, will be based on outputs from 2005 to 2010. The staff census date for inclusion is 31 March this year and the coordination period for the review of ranked outlets is already under way.

The Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) will be seeking feedback from key research leaders across the university as part of our ongoing efforts to target our research strategically and better position ourselves into the future.

Paddy Nixon

Some exceptional areas but scope for improvement

The release of ERA 2010 results at the beginning of January saw a flurry of activity in the media with Australian universities ranking and reporting their results to highlight relative strengths.

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UTAS was assessed in 21 (84%) of the possible 25 2-digit FoR codes, and 54 (34%) of the possible 157 4-digit codes.

UTAS performed exceptionally well in some areas but ERA also highlighted emerging areas where there are opportunities for further development and improvement.

The university’s high standing was reinforced in analytical chemistry, oceanography, and horticultural production where we are rated well above world standard, receiving the top possible score of 5.

We were also awarded the highest score allocated in Australia in the fields of visual arts and crafts, animal production and inorganic chemistry, which were all rated above world standard (4). Additionally, astronomical and space sciences, geology, plant biology, animal production, fisheries sciences, clinical sciences and sociology notably achieved a rating of above world standard.

UTAS met or exceeded world standard in 71% of those disciplines in which we were assessed. However, in comparison, the average for the Group of Eight was 92% and our benchmarking group 79%.

There is clearly significant scope for us to improve our results in future rounds of ERA and to further our aspiration to be in the top 10 Australian universities in terms of research performance.

The next round of ERA, to be held in 2012, will be based on outputs from 2005 to 2010. The staff census date for inclusion is 31 March this year and the coordination period for the review of ranked outlets is already under way.

The Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) will be seeking feedback from key research leaders across the university as part of our ongoing efforts to target our research strategically and better position ourselves into the future.

Paddy Nixon
Students donned academic gowns and caps, and proud family and friends took photos to mark an important milestone—graduation. Almost 3,000 University of Tasmania students graduated at ceremonies held in Burnie, Hobart and Launceston in December.

UTAS then Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew congratulated all graduates on their achievements.

“Graduation not only marks a significant milestone in our students’ lives, but also recognises their achievements and hard work over the course of their study,” Prof. Le Grew said. “We hope our graduates continue to strive for excellence as they prepare for the next phase of their lives.”

“On behalf of the university, I would like to wish all our 2010 graduates the best for the future and a rewarding career ahead. We would like them to stay in touch with the university and keep us informed of further achievements.”

Graduation ceremonies also marked a special occasion for Prof. Le Grew who received an honorary Doctor of Letters for his outstanding leadership of UTAS during the past eight years.

The contribution of Elizabeth Daly, former UTAS council member and chair of the Alumni Committee, was also recognised. Mrs Daly was presented with admission as a Fellow of the University of Tasmania, joining a list of only 14 others to receive the honour.

Quotes From Professor Daryl Le Grew’s occasional address can be found below:

‘Balance persuasion with compliance. The world is as it is and you have to deal with it – and deal with it in the best possible way that you can.’

‘Never let assertiveness and confidence lead to arrogance. Never think that you are above anybody else. But if you have the common touch and the charm that goes with it, the world will roll at your feet.’

From photo lab to hospital: Graduate Dr Telena Eastley looks forward to her possible new career as a surgeon.

Graduation stroll: Launceston’s Town and Gown procession meandered along Brisbane Street. (Photo courtesy Examiner newspaper)

Departing honour: Former UTAS Council member and chair of the Alumni Committee Elizabeth Daly was admitted as a Fellow of the University of Tasmania.

Graduations: Hobart Town and Gown procession at the Domain.

Graduations: Professor Robert Menary from the School of Agricultural Science with graduate Daniel Deng.
On graduation

“You’re transformed from a situation where you’ve been supervised and mentored. From this point you are self-actualising scholars, you are self-determining scholars, no-one is going to tell you that you need to continue to learn, but the traditions that you are now part of will carry you through. You’ve gone from a position of dependence to a position of empowerment. The degree now empowers you to do some things in the world that you simply could not do before you received this degree just moments ago. You are different. You are transformed and there is a metamorphosis attached to that, and it is a metamorphosis that will produce a wonderful diversity of butterflies, if I could use that term metaphorically, because that’s what you will be from this point on.”

Professor Daryl Le Grew
former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania.

‘Respect orthodoxy but don’t be captured entirely by it. Your flair, your creativity, your imagination are important.’

Departing honour: UTAS’ former Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters.

‘Balance humility on the one hand and assertion and confidence on the other. You need to be assertive (but) humility will lead you to a very special quality that is basic to the professional – the common touch.’

Takin’ the graduation train: Arts graduates have a laugh on Launceston’s City Park train – Amanda Bendt, Sam Sturmer, Rokhsar Alneyidi, Naomi Gelston, Marg Flannery, Melissa Marshall and Kelly Sheehan. (Photo courtesy Examiner newspaper)

Graduation excitement: Michelle Yandell and David Ling were awarded Bachelor of Education degrees in Burnie.

TIAR researchers graduate: Suzie Towns and Keith Pembleton celebrate at the Cradle Coast campus after being awarded their PhDs.

Faculty colours: Students at one of the Hobart graduation ceremonies.
Education scholarships honour Sue Napier

Two young Tasmanian women will carry on the legacy of former Bass Liberal MHA Sue Napier through a new education scholarship program. Master of Teaching student Caitlin Viney, of Launceston, and Bachelor of Education Kellie Anderson, of Penguin, were awarded the scholarships from the Tasmanian Government Parliament by Education Minister Lin Thorp.

Ms Thorp said that the annual scholarships aimed to encourage and support talented and deserving Tasmanians to become teachers.

“The two scholarships are available to commencing students in Master of Teaching (up to two years and worth a total of $10,000) and Bachelor of Education (up to four years and worth a total of $16,000),” she said.

“The selection panel has ensured that successful applicants are students for whom financial assistance will make a difference in successful completion of their studies.”

Recipient Kellie Anderson has experience and qualifications in childcare, and has four young children.

Caitlin Viney is a former Brooks High student; her father and grandparents were teachers.

UTAS Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Rich, said the Sue Napier scholarships were a fitting way to honour a local educator who made a significant contribution to Tasmanian education and to the ongoing development of Tasmania.

“Not only will the students receiving the scholarships benefit from this bequest to support their studies but so will the community, once our students graduate and begin their teaching careers,” he said.

Prof. Rich said Mrs Napier, who died last year, had always been a prominent advocate of education and had enjoyed a strong relationship with UTAS. The scholarships would serve as a lasting tribute to Mrs Napier’s life and work.

Mrs Napier studied education and arts at UTAS and worked as a physical education teacher and then as a lecturer in the Faculty of Education before she entered politics in 1992.

Ms Thorp paid tribute to her, saying she was an inspiration to many Tasmanians, including teachers, education had always been close to her heart.

“An outstanding teacher has the ability to transform lives. They are at the coalesce of our education system, bringing learning to life for students,” she said.

Future bright for UTAS Fellows

Research investigating whether plant species will die or adapt to a future drier climate is part of six Australian Research Council (ARC) Future Fellowships awarded to researchers at the University of Tasmania.

The six-UTAS based ARC Future Fellowships totalling more than $4 million were among 200 Future Fellowships announced by the Federal Innovation Minister, Senator Kim Carr, at the end of 2010.

Former UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said the announcements reflect the university’s strong commitment to research.

“This is fantastic news and on behalf of the whole of UTAS I offer congratulations to the six Future Fellows announced today,” Prof. Le Grew said.

“The funding is indicative of the quality of research being undertaken by researchers at the university and augurs well for future research projects too.”

The successful 2010 ARC Future Fellowships at UTAS are:

Dr Timothy Brodribb
School of Plant Science
Drought and death: past, present and future survival limits in the Australian vegetation landscape ($812,512)

Dr Menna Jones
School of Zoology
Can Tasmanian Devils survive by adapting to drier, follicular tumour disease? ($760,535)

Dr Barbara Holland
School of Mathematics and Physics
Interpreting biological sequence information: untangling hybridisation ($523,376)

Dr Ingrid van der Mei
Memorial Research Institute
From risk factor analysis to translation: multiple sclerosis and vitamin D deficiency ($703,332)

Dr David McGuinness
School of Chemistry
Upgrading of light gas-to-liquid products to fuels and chemicals ($580,642)

Dr Joselito Quiirino
School of Chemistry
Green sample preparation techniques for analytical chemistry ($760,535)

Nursing prizes awarded

Three postgraduate nursing prizes have been awarded by former Tasmanian air traffic controller and WWII veteran Keith Hansen in memory of his late wife and daughter.

Peta Diehl was announced as the recipient of the Keith Hansen Prize in Children and Family Health; Amanda Davidson was awarded the Mildred Hansen Memorial Prize in Oncology Nursing. The prizes are worth $500 each.

Mr Hansen, 91, initially established a single midwifery prize in memory of his wife Mildred, who was a registered nurse and midwife, beginning her midwifery training at the Ballarat Base Hospital after the outbreak of WWII.

Later he added two more prizes – one in memory of his late daughter, Nadene, along with a third prize in child and family health.

Bursaries take career dreams to reality

The career aspirations of more than 15 students from the North-West are now a step closer to reality with the presentation of this year’s UTAS West North-West scholarships and bursaries.

This year’s recipients were announced in February at a special ceremony at the UTAS Cradle Coast campus in Burnie.

The West North-West Scholarship and Bursary Program, now entering its 14th year, is valued at over $160,000 and is designed to provide financial assistance to north-west students pursuing tertiary studies.

Scholarships awarded in memory of the late teacher and politician Sue Napier: Michael Ferguson, MHA, and Education Minister Lin Thorp (right) presented the scholarships to Caitlin Viney and Kellie Anderson.
Experience and Representation: Contemporary Perspectives on Migration in Australia

By Keith Jacobs, School of Sociology and Social Work (Ashgate, 2011)

Experience and Representation provides a critical overview of influential theoretical perspectives and recent empirical material in the fields of migration, race, culture and politics. With a primary focus on Australia, the book explores the complexities surrounding migration; sets out the most appropriate frameworks to understand ethnicity and racism; and assesses the utility of the concepts of globalisation, transnationalism and multiculturalism for interpreting contemporary society.

Incivility: The Rude Stranger in Everyday Life

By Timothy L. Phillips, School of Sociology and Social Work; Phillip Smith and Ryan D. King (Cambridge University Press, 2010)

This unique book provides the first ever systematic investigation of typical encounters with rudeness. Through a meticulous analysis of over 500 events, it maps out what people experience as rude, where and when this happens and what takes place in the exchange between the participants. The inquiry further charts the emotional and social consequences of rudeness and victimisation, with the results challenging the widespread assumption that bad behaviour is toxic to community life. In conclusion, the study draws upon its findings and surveys a range of strategies for reducing the level of incivility in everyday life, identifying some simple and innovative solutions. Incivility will appeal to criminologists, sociologists and scholars of urban studies.

International Financial Reporting Standards

By Victoria Wise, School of Accounting and Corporate Governance, Keith Alfredson, Ruth Pickes, Janice Lofus, Kerry Clark, Matt Dyki (John Wiley, 2010)

Applying International Financial Reporting Standards (2nd edition) has been updated to reflect numerous changes with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The expert knowledge and authoritative explanations of the author team has resulted in the textbook being extensively referenced by professionals and academics in countries that have either adopted or intend to adopt international accounting standards.

The continuing focus is on interpreting, analysing and illustrating the financial reporting requirements under IFRS. Each chapter contains numerous illustrative examples.

Vice- Chancellor’s Awards 2010

The Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for exceptional performance by professional staff and outstanding community engagement were awarded by Professor Daryl Le Grew at the end of 2010.

Professional Staff Awards

Members of UTAS who have made an outstanding contribution which exceeds the normal requirements of their position in meeting the university mission and objectives are:

- Mrs Beryl Binns
  Professional experience administrative officer, Faculty of Education
  For consistent and outstanding performance, dedication to supporting students with placements, support of fellow staff and commitment to continuous improvement of the professional experience program.

- Mr Murray Frith
  Cross-campus laboratory manager, School of Chemistry
  For outstanding commitment to continual functioning of key teaching and research activities, initiatives in occupational, health and safety, and dedication to promoting chemistry to the wider community.

- Ms Sally James
  Personal assistant to the Dean
  For outstanding commitment and dedication to the development of activities and programs aiming to engage north-west communities, students and organisations. Includes Professor Janelle Allison, Dr Robyn Eversole, Dr Fleur Fallos, Catherine Freeman, Clayton Hawkins, Sandra Knowles, Dr Tony McCall, Kay Reardon, Nicki Fletcher, Joanne Cox and Christine Angel.

Awards for Outstanding Community Engagement

Individuals and teams who have made an outstanding contribution as members of UTAS to community life over the previous 12 months are:

- The Institute for Regional Development Team
  For outstanding commitment and dedication to the development of activities and programs aiming to engage north-west communities, students and organisations.

- Professor Janelle Allison
  For outstanding commitment and dedication to the develop-ment of activities and programs seeking to connect and engage Tasmanian audiences with influential speakers, groups and organisations.

- Dr Rick Stuart-Smith
  Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies
  For outstanding commitment and dedication to marine research and conservation through the initiation and development of Reef Life Survey.

- Dr Natasha Cica
  Inglis Clark Centre
  For outstanding commitment and dedication to the development of Reef Life Survey.

- Joel Pedro
  Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies
  For outstanding commitment and dedication to the development of Reef Life Survey.

- Dr John Knowles, Dr Tony McCall, Kay Reardon, Nicki Fletcher, Joanne Cox and Christine Angel
  For outstanding commitment and dedication to the development of Reef Life Survey.

- Naveen Banerji
  Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies
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The outdoor scientist

Joel Pedro
Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies

No one knows better than Joel Pedro that science doesn’t mean spending your time in a laboratory. Growing up in the south of WA on beef and dairy farms, Joel was right into Aussie rules, riding motorbikes and fishing — the stuff he says most country boys are into.

“But right from the beginning I was also keen on science. I wanted to be a scientist since I was five or six years old,” he said.

Joel studied chemistry at the University of Western Australia and wanted to use his science to understand the natural world but had no interest in being stuck in an office or a laboratory.

“I started learning more about climate change, that some of the key information about climate change comes from deep within the Antarctic ice cap,” he said.

“Chemists are needed to interpret this information and people with some thrills for adventure are needed to go to Antarctica and get the ice.”

“So I decided I wanted to be an ice core chemist. That’s why I came to Tasmania — to study ice cores at the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies at UTAS.”

Joel’s project looks at using the properties of Antarctic ice to learn about past changes in the behaviour of the sun. The point of this is to get a better understanding of what caused climate changes in the distant past.

Joel said he has had some great opportunities from his PhD work. He has twice travelled to Antarctica, working in field camps out on the ice sheet for months at a time — living out of a tent with five or six other people at temperatures of -20 to -30 °C.

“I feel so fortunate to have had this Antarctic experience and I feel I have some truly unique experience,” he said.

Joel was selected as one of 14 Australian high-achieving early career scientists to attend the 60th meeting of Nobel Laureates in Lindau.

“I met the Nobel Laureate Paul Crutzen who won the prize for his work on ozone chemistry — work that led to the Madrid Protocol (1985) and the fact that the ozone hole is now repairing itself — probably the most successful environmental treaty ever,” Joel said.

“Crutzen is an idol of mine so this was a wonderful experience.”

In 2010 Joel set up a group called the Climate Conversations with colleagues from UTAS and the Australian Antarctic Division.

“The objective is to get into the public arena and tell people from the perspective of working climate scientists what they do and don’t know,” he said.

To find out more about The Climate Conversations, email jpedro@utas.edu.au.
Welsh family bonds in boats

The work

Rowii and y Ddraig Goch: Materialising the security derived from my family’s Welsh material and non-material culture, Welsh fabric, Rowena Tame.

BY LUKE SCOTT

Legends of dragons, wooden boats, Welsh culture and family inspired artist Rowena Tame to create a piece exhibited in last year’s School of Visual and Performing Arts graduate exhibition.

The Launceston-based Bachelor of Contemporary Arts with honours graduate said her work had been a labour of love – albeit one nearly ruined by the Icelandic volcano, Eyjafjallajökull.

Ms Tame said she wanted to honour her family in the artwork, entitled Rowii and y Ddraig Goch: materialising the security derived from my family’s Welsh material and non-material culture. The piece consists of 27 small colourful boats, created from authentic Welsh fabric.

“I wanted to communicate how close my family was and how much security I get from their Welsh culture,” Ms Tame explained.

“My family are all either based in Sydney or Canada, so the boats were pointing to where every individual family member was based. There were 27 boats, one for each of my close relatives,” Ms Tame began the project by sourcing traditional Welsh fabrics.

“I wanted to have that integrity in the fabric, that authenticity,” she said.

“Everything came from Wales. It was a bit scary at one point when the whole ash cloud thing was going on last year, after the volcano in Iceland erupted. ‘I’d ordered a big shipment of fabric and then the volcano erupted, which halted all mail in Europe.’

The project effectively ground to a halt for six weeks, until the new materials arrived. Ms Tame said she was pleased the final outcome adhered so closely to her initial goals.

“I’m pleased,” she said.

“It was hard work. There was a lot of waiting around for things to dry, a lot of late nights.”

With a laugh, she added: “Drying bondycrepe is not a quick process during winter in Tasmania.”

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With a laugh, she added: “Drying bondycrepe is not a quick process during winter in Tasmania.”

What's on

Black belt goal for pharmacy student

Karate champion: Pharmacy student Serena Loring has claimed the Australian GKR Women’s Karate Championship (brown belt).

BY JANETTE BRENNAN

Within days of achieving high distinctions in her exams last November, pharmacy student Serena Loring travelled to Victoria to claim the Australian GKR Women’s Karate Championship (brown belt).

It was the first experience of competing on the national stage for Serena, in the third year of her UTAS degree. In the past the Australian titles have clashed with uni exams.

“I wasn’t sure what to expect at my first national,” Serena said, “except that the other competitors were going to be good.”

The first section was kata, which has a set pattern of moves, and then we had sparring, which was held in a knock-out format. The boats were all fairly close.

“But after I’d won a few I realised that I’d at least be in the medals. I just thought ‘Wow! I was actually happy with whatever happened from then on.’

Serena and her family began karate when she was a Year 11 student in Burnie. The initial appeal was fitness and flexibility, although she soon became challenged by the sport’s grading system; participants are always working towards the next level.

Today, Serena’s goal is to be a black belt by the end of the year. To do that, she first needs to achieve a second band on her brown belt.

“I find that when I put effort into one area of my life, it’s easier to put effort into other areas as well,” she said.

“Last year I made a real effort to improve my karate, and everything started to flow on from there. I felt fitter and my marks started to pick up.

“I guess that’s what I’ve noticed: the positives from my sport have flow-on effects into the rest of my life.”

12 MARCH Singapore: Tapas and Drinks Meet old friends, make new friends and extend your business networks. You are warmly invited to join Singapore-based UTAS alumni for a tapas and drinks function. Register on the Alumni website.

Information: See full details on UTAS Events webpage.

AWARDS

MARCH 23 University Foundation Awards Dinner This premier black tie event celebrates excellence, innovation and participation at UTAS. It welcomes our new scholarship students and acknowledges the generous support of our scholarship donors and highlights outstanding achievements of a UTAS graduate and a distinguished alumnus.

Time: 7 for 7:30pm, Wednesday 23 March 2011 Venue: Tassman Room, Wrest Point, Hobart Information: Tel: (03) 6226 2521

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