



UNSW
AUSTRALIA

unsworld

Never Stand Still

The Magazine for Alumni and Friends

June 2014 • Issue 20

Cover story

MEANS FOR CHANGE

UNSW commerce alumnus Corrin Varady channels philanthropy into Ugandan and Tanzanian schools, empowering former child soldiers to forge their future

Page 12

CHARTING
BUDDHISM
BY SEA

Page 10

A VIVID
REFLECTION

Page 15

ALUMNI
AWARDS

Page 20

CARING
IN THE
COMMUNITY

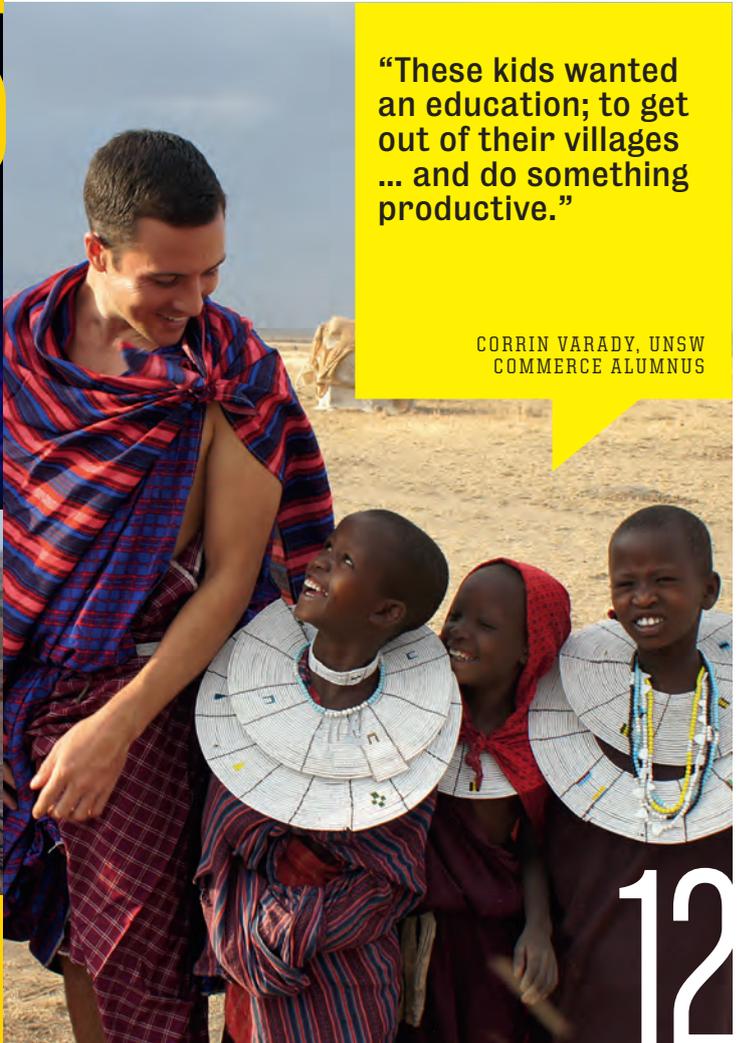
Page 23



CONTENTS



15



“These kids wanted an education; to get out of their villages ... and do something productive.”

CORRIN VARADY, UNSW COMMERCE ALUMNUS

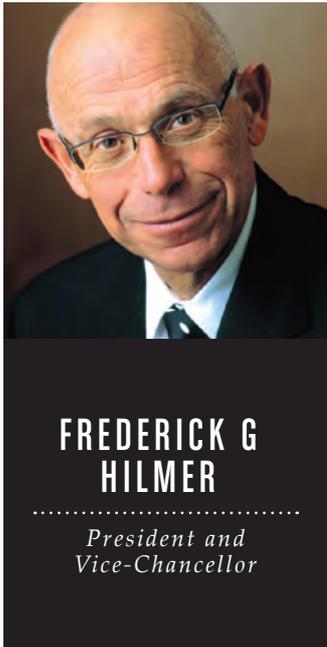


10

THIS ISSUE

- 4 **HIGHLIGHTS** // The latest on campus and beyond
- 6 **MESSAGE** // Jennie Lang, Vice-President Advancement
- 7 **THEN & NOW** // Campus memories
- 8 **REWIND** // Jonathan Barouch: Getting the measure of it all
- 10 **RESEARCH** // Professor Sarah Kenderdine: Charting Buddhism by sea; Scientia Professor Stuart Wenham: Solar eclipse
- 12 **COVER STORY** // Means for change: Corrin Varady, commerce alumnus, builds schools in Africa for former child soldiers

- 15 **IMPACT** // A Vivid reflection
- 17 **ALUMNI APPEAL** // Gift of study
- 18 **GLOBAL CONNECTIONS** // Alumni around the world
- 19 **IN MEMORY** // Vale Emeritus Professor Fred Ayscough
- 20 **ALUMNI AWARDS** // Applauding success
- 22 **PAGETURNERS** // Caring in the community
- 23 **MESSAGE** // Stergitsa Zamagias-Hill, Director Alumni and Community Engagement



Welcome to the first issue for 2014 of *UNSWWorld*, the bi-annual magazine that keeps our alumni and other friends up to date with news and developments on campus.

A particular highlight of the year so far has been the recognition awarded to some of our star researchers.

Scientia Professor of Physics Michelle Simmons, a world leader in quantum computing, joined the likes of Stephen Hawking, Albert Einstein and Alexander Graham Bell as an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Geneticist David Sinclair, who heads labs at Harvard and UNSW Medicine, was named by *Time* as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. Citing his work in identifying a potentially reversible cause of ageing, the magazine noted that it makes possible the idea of “living more years with a body that’s robust enough to make the most of them”.

Our photovoltaic engineers are the current world record holders in silicon solar cell efficiency, and it was pleasing to see Scientia Professor Stuart Wenham awarded a top international prize. Closer to home, the Australian Academy of Science selected marine ecologist Professor Emma Johnston as the inaugural winner of the Nancy Millis Medal for Women in Science.

We’ve also seen significant advances made by other

UNSW researchers, including the team that for the first time used electrical pulses delivered from a cochlear implant to deliver gene therapy. This heralds a possible new way of treating a range of neurological disorders, including Parkinson’s disease. A unique partnership between cancer researcher Professor Peter Gunning and a fundraising former bus driver is leading to a new treatment for childhood cancer – you may have seen this remarkable story on ABC TV’s *Australian Story*.

Geneticist David Sinclair, who heads labs at Harvard and UNSW Medicine, was named by *Time* as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Meanwhile we won \$22.8 million in the latest round of NHMRC grants, the second largest amount Australia-wide and far ahead of any other university in New South Wales. So a great year to date on the research front!

In other news, we successfully launched our first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in April and, despite funding cuts to the sector, we’ve been able to continue to improve the on-campus experience. When the Kensington Colleges reopen this year we will have close to 5000 student beds, more than any other NSW university. This thriving “city within a city” is

making a dramatic difference to campus life.

To update you on our decision to set a minimum Admission Rank of 80 from 2014 for all courses (except those with entry through portfolio): this was fairly radical in the Australian context, but it’s paid dividends. Far from suffering any decline in enrolments, we’ve had increased demand and our median ATAR has risen across the board. The move has important implications for the future, preserving

the quality of our student body and in the longer term, keeping our student numbers at a sustainable level. Bonus points have been retained for disadvantaged students.

As you may be aware, I informed staff at the beginning of the semester that I’ve decided to step down as Vice-Chancellor at the end of 2014, after more than eight wonderful years in the job. The Chancellor expects to be able to announce my replacement in the near future. Meanwhile I hope to be seeing many of you in the months remaining and I thank you once again for your support. I hope you enjoy this latest issue of *UNSWWorld*.

Alumni and Community Engagement Office
 UNSW AUSTRALIA, Sydney NSW 2052
Phone: 61 2 9385 3279
Fax: 61 2 9385 3278
Email: alumni@unsw.edu.au

Director Alumni and Community Engagement:
 Stergitsa Zamagias-Hill
Editors: Melinda Ham & Mike Hall
Design: Magnesium Media

On the cover:
 from left to right
 Jonathan Okwir and
 Corrin Varady

Australia Post Print Post Approved
 PP 255003/07978
 UNSW, Sydney NSW 2052
 CRICOS Provider No. 00098G



SUBTLE CUES CAN ALTER EVERYTHING

It's no coincidence that the logos of McDonald's and Hungry Jack's are bright yellow and red, says UNSW psychology graduate and university medallist Adam Alter (BSc'04); people tend to eat more and spend more when they're around those colours.

At TEDxSydney in April, held at the Sydney Opera House, Alter argued that while we hold particular opinions or points of view, colour, religious icons, guilt and other influences can change our behaviour radically.

"Although you might think you have a fixed personality, very subtle cues can change everything," says Alter, who is now Associate Professor of Marketing and Psychology at New York University's Stern School of Business. "They can make you more or less honest. They can make you more or less generous. They can make you more or less open-minded."

In his book *Drunk Tank Pink: And Other Unexpected Forces That Shape How We Think, Feel, and Behave* (Penguin 2013), which is on the *New York Times* bestseller list, Alter maintains that colour is just one of many strategies and ploys used to subliminally control people.

He draws on an example of researchers who discovered that on online dating sites, men and women wearing red T-shirts were much more likely to get responses. "People think red is the colour of love," Alter says.

As his book title suggests, pink is another important colour. Starting in the 1970s academics found that "very bright bubblegummy" pink calmed people down.

Naval prison wardens in Seattle in the United States painted the interior of holding cells – commonly referred to as "drunk tanks" – pink, in an attempt to control aggressive inmates. This unusual tactic actually worked, says Alter. "They swore the prisoners became calmer, well-behaved and more compliant."

In his TEDx talk, he also referred to an experiment done at the coffee machine in a staff room at the University of Newcastle in the UK, where people were encouraged to drop a few coins into an honesty jar when they took a cup of coffee.

When the researchers put a photo of a pair of eyes over the jar, staff members gave three times more money than when the researchers put a photo of flowers there.

"Although you might think you have a fixed personality, very subtle cues can change everything."

ADAM ALTER
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
MARKETING AND PSYCHOLOGY AT
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY'S STERN
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



Above: Professor Mike Archer of the UNSW School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences

World's oldest fossil sperm found

Preserved giant sperm from tiny shrimps that lived at least 17 million years ago have been discovered at Queensland's Riversleigh World Heritage Fossil Site by a team including UNSW researchers.

Scientists maintain that the giant sperm were longer than the male's entire body, but were tightly coiled up inside the sexual organs of the fossilised freshwater crustaceans, which are known as ostracods.

"These are the oldest fossilised sperm ever found in geological record," says Professor Mike Archer of

the UNSW School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, who has been excavating at Riversleigh for more than 35 years.

"The Riversleigh fossil deposits in remote north-western Queensland have been the site of the discovery of many extraordinary prehistoric Australian animals, such as giant, toothed platypuses and flesh-eating kangaroos. So we have become used to delightfully unexpected surprises in what turns up there."

The study is published in the Royal Society's *Proceedings B* journal.

Quantum physicist elected to American Academy

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences has elected Scientia Professor of Physics Michelle Simmons to join its ranks. Simmons, a world leader in the field of quantum computing, is the director of the Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Research for Quantum Computation & Communication Technology at UNSW.

There are only 10 Australian foreign honorary members of the Academy. For Simmons, the distinction of being elected to join more than 250 Nobel laureates and leaders from academia, business, the humanities and the arts came as a "complete surprise".

"I am incredibly honoured to be elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. This is such an exciting time for quantum computing internationally and our research here at UNSW is at the forefront of this global effort," she says.

TAKING UP THE QUILL

What do frogs, birds and a violent Irish childhood have in common? They were just some of the themes involving UNSW academics in May at the Sydney Writers' Festival (SWF), Australia's largest annual celebration of literature and ideas. UNSW Arts and Social Sciences has been a major sponsor of the event for the past three years.

UNSW hosted two international guest authors on campus at the Io Myers Studio. American investigative journalist Jeremy Scahill discussed his book *Dirty Wars: The World is a Battlefield* (Nation Books, 2013) with veteran Australian journalist Chris Masters.

Irish novelist Eimear McBride talked about her debut novel revealing an unnamed girl's violent past, *A Girl is a Half-Formed Thing* (Galley Beggar Press, 2013), with UNSW's

Professor of Irish studies Rónán McDonald.

McBride spent six months writing her novel, but it took her nine years to get it published. Her book was recently awarded the Goldsmith's Prize which celebrates "creative daring" in fiction.

Originally trained as an actor, McBride says her method-acting skills helped inform her writing. "Acting is all about examining characters to bring them to their fullest realisation. I used this to really breathe life into the novel and get it up on its feet."

In the Waves of Extinction panel event, environmental humanities lecturers Dr Thom Van Dooran and Dr Eben Kirksey spoke about our emotional attachment to species on the edge of extinction with UNSW adjunct professor Deborah Bird Rose.

Van Dooran's book, *Flight Ways: Life and Loss at the Edge*

of Extinction, is due out soon from the Columbia University Press. "I wanted to look at the cultural dimensions of extinction, and also the philosophical and ethical questions it poses," he says.

Kirksey is using an Australian Research Council grant to help research the "amphibian ark", an international network of bio-secure holding tanks and cryogenic banks of frozen tissue, attempting to conserve some of the world's disappearing species of frogs.

Professor Mary Zournazi from the School of Arts and Social Sciences discussed our loss of social time in the Curiosity Lecture Series, while UNSW adjunct professor, alumnus and former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Bob Carr, launched his tell-all book, *Diary of a Foreign Minister* (NewSouth Publishing, 2014).

"I wanted to look at the cultural dimensions of extinction, and also the philosophical and ethical questions it poses."

DR THOM VAN DOORAN
SENIOR LECTURER, UNSW SCHOOL OF
HUMANITIES AND LANGUAGES



DRINKING CULTURE

Fewer under-age Australian adolescents are drinking alcohol, say researchers, and it's part of a worldwide trend. The percentage of Australians aged 14-17 years old who say they do not drink alcohol has increased from almost a third in 2001 to over half in 2010, research from UNSW's National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) shows.

While analysing survey responses from more than 2500

young Australians from a wide range of regional, socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds, NDARC's Dr Michael Livingston spotted this trend and says there are several possible explanations.

"The Australian population is increasingly multicultural, with a steady rise in residents from typically lighter-drinking cultures," he says. "So the trend toward alcohol abstention among Australian

adolescents could have something to do with deep cultural beliefs, increased social concerns about young drinkers, and subtle changes in immigration."

This shift in drinking behaviour is good news in a country where 20 years ago one in five drinkers aged 16-17 reported alcohol-related injuries and one in 10 regretted sexual experiences that were linked to their drinking.

MESSAGE

What a positive and exciting first half of the year it has been for the UNSW community.

The University's momentum continues to build, with our students, staff and alumni receiving national and international recognition.

A number of our star researchers, including Professors Michelle Simmons, Stuart Wenham and David Sinclair, are making a global impact, as the Vice-Chancellor mentioned in his welcome message.

The University's strategy to further boost our research performance is clearly paying dividends. We were named the "rising star" of the Asia-Pacific region by *Nature* for our high-quality research publications. UNSW jumped four places to be ranked fourth in Australia, according to the 2013 *Nature* Publishing Index.

The *Nature* publishing group acknowledged the contributions made to UNSW's ranking by the winners of the 2013 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science awards, Associate Professor Andrea Morello and Associate Professor Angela Moles. You'll remember Angela was on the cover of our last issue of *UNSWorld*.

I was thrilled to celebrate with the winners of this year's Alumni Awards at the annual awards dinner in May. You can read in this issue about the outstanding contributions that these seven alumni are making



in the world. Let me extend my congratulations to Del Kathryn Barton, Margaret O'Neill, Deo-Karan Prasad, Daniel Petre, Jeremy Balkin, Aihua Wang and Jianhua Zhao.

It was pleasing to see some of our international alumni at the awards, including leading Singapore businessman Dr Jimmy Koh, an early Basser College resident, and Dato Elaine Teh, President of the UNSW Alumni Chapter in Singapore – both are foundation donors of the Alumni Park Appeal. Also joining us from Hong Kong was Emeritus Professor David Nunan, who is a generous donor to UNSW through the David Nunan Residential

Rural Scholarships program.

Like many alumni returning to UNSW after many years, Dr Koh was amazed at the campus transformation. Seeing the new Kensington Colleges and the creation of a "city within a city" was a highlight of his visit.

The UNSW campus transformation continues apace; we recently held a construction commencement ceremony for the School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering precinct following

This year has also seen a much deeper level of engagement with a number of our young alumni; what an impressive group they are.

a substantial philanthropic donation from businessman Len Ainsworth. The Ainsworth Building is expected to open in January 2015.

This year has also seen a much deeper level of engagement with a number of our young alumni; what an impressive group they are. Over the coming months you will see a number of our alumni profiled in a new marketing campaign for student recruitment.

In April, the Faculty of Engineering announced the appointment of technology entrepreneurs Mike Cannon-Brookes and Ori Allon as adjunct professors, to advise the School of Computer

Science and Engineering on student start-up programs.

Mike is one of UNSW's most high-profile graduates and is co-founder and CEO of software company Atlassian, with fellow UNSW graduate Scott Farquhar. New York-based Dr Allon is best known for selling technology he created to Google and Twitter, and is now founder and executive chairman of Urban Compass.

I am happy to report positive progress on our

exciting international alumni initiative, the establishment of the UNSW Australia Global Circle of Friends.

The Vice-Chancellor and I hosted the inaugural meeting of the board of the UK Friends in London in May, and we were grateful that Mr Peter Harrison has agreed to serve as Foundation Chair. I was delighted to meet a number of our alumni at the UNSW Alumni and Friends Reception and thank Macquarie Group's London office for hosting us.

In September, we will host similar events in Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Shanghai and Beijing. I look forward to meeting many of you at these events.

EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION...

The UNSW ASPIRE program aims to address the imbalance in NSW higher education, helping low socio-economic status students achieve greater access to university.

ASPIRE works with communities to overcome barriers facing disadvantaged students, inspiring them to look past today and consider what is possible with higher education.

ASPIRE believes we must ensure the next generation is equipped to compete on an even footing so that the gap between those with an education and those without is narrowed.

For more information or to give a gift to the ASPIRE program please contact the Program Director Dr Ann Jardine.



a.jardine@unsw.edu.au or 61 2 9385 4734



Memory lane

From humble beginnings in 1949, UNSW is today a vibrant, world-class university, offering first-class facilities and attracting talented students from across Australia and around the world. These pictures will bring back memories for many of our early graduates.

THEN
Main walk way from Anzac Parade
1964



NOW
Main Walkway (The Mall)
2014



THEN
Dormitory accommodation for students
1963



NOW
Stylish, affordable and safe student accommodation
Kensington Colleges
2014



THEN
Lectures
1964



NOW
State-of-the-art lectures
2014



THEN
The first students at UNSW's medical school
1961



NOW
Wallace Wurth Building officially opening
2014





GETTING THE MEASURE OF IT ALL

Jonathan Barouch (BCom'05 MA'06) founded his first start-up at the age of 17, and his business career has bloomed ever since.

Jonathan Barouch's career path – creating and developing businesses – seemed set from an early age. He founded his first start-up, Fast Flowers, at the tender age of 17. Fast Flowers was one of Australia's first e-commerce businesses, and Barouch ran it while studying at UNSW. He graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 2005 and completed his Masters the following year. He sold the company to Jack Singleton's 1300 Flowers in 2010.

A year later, Barouch launched a big data platform that intelligently curates and analyses geo-data gathered from

social media streams. The business has received Series A funding led by ASX-listed media and communications company Salmat, and support from the NSW government's Mobile Concierge Grant. He lives with his wife and their two boys in Sydney.

His company, Local Measure, has been extensively featured in media outlets throughout the United States and Australia, and Barouch regularly speaks on the convergence of mobile, social and local technologies at conferences including the prestigious Web 2.0 Summit in San Francisco.

CHARTING BUDDHISM BY SEA

Professor Sarah Kenderdine is bringing to life the story of Buddhism's spread through Asian sea routes in a new global exhibition based on pioneering international research by more than 30 scholars.

Armed with new evidence and state-of-the-art camera and projection technology to create 360-degree panoramic experiences in 3D, Professor Sarah Kenderdine of UNSW's National Institute for Experimental Arts is creating the *Atlas of Maritime Buddhism*.

Based on cutting-edge research, this interactive and immersive exhibition, a partnership with the Hong Kong Maritime Museum in collaboration with Emeritus Professor Lewis Lancaster of the University of California in Berkeley, is set to tour globally.

The *Atlas of Maritime Buddhism* brings together extensive archaeological evidence from academics throughout India and South-East Asia, using GIS mapping, archaeological imaging technologies and 3D panoramic photographs of numerous sites in more than 10 countries.

"It's a very exciting project to be involved in, supported by an enormous amount of archaeological evidence," says Kenderdine, who started off her career two decades ago as a maritime archaeologist

and curator, and now specialises in the design of advanced exhibition technologies and content creation.

"We are using a very specialised stereoscopic panoramic camera, one of only four in the world. This will be a seminal exhibition using interactive and fully immersive design. We will have to create new paradigms in data visualisation and interactive narrative," she says.

The exhibition will present the argument for the spread of Buddhism from India, across South-East Asia and into South China by sea routes. Maritime trade and Buddhism were closely interwoven and the evidence is found in historic seaports, along the rivers and even in the hinterlands.

This story provides the counterbalance to the already well-researched overland route along the Silk Road, and completes our knowledge of the 'Great Circle' of historic Buddhism.

Kenderdine says the centrepiece of the exhibition will be an interactive installation inside a 360-degree screen,



● Above: Professor Sarah Kenderdine
Below: Filming with a stereoscopic panoramic camera in Mt Nemrut, Turkey

integrating archaeological data and panoramic 3D imagery from sites in India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore, Korea, Japan, and South China sites in the Guangdong region and Hong Kong.

Up to 30 visitors at a time wearing 3D glasses will go inside the 10-by-10-metre panoramic screen, where they will use a world atlas to navigate along the maritime routes of these significant Buddhist sites.

The *Atlas* will incorporate panoramic 3D photographs of present-day locations, archaeological remains, temple complexes and port cities. Visitors will also encounter the writings of Chinese seafaring monks who travelled to India, and Indian monks who established monasteries in China.

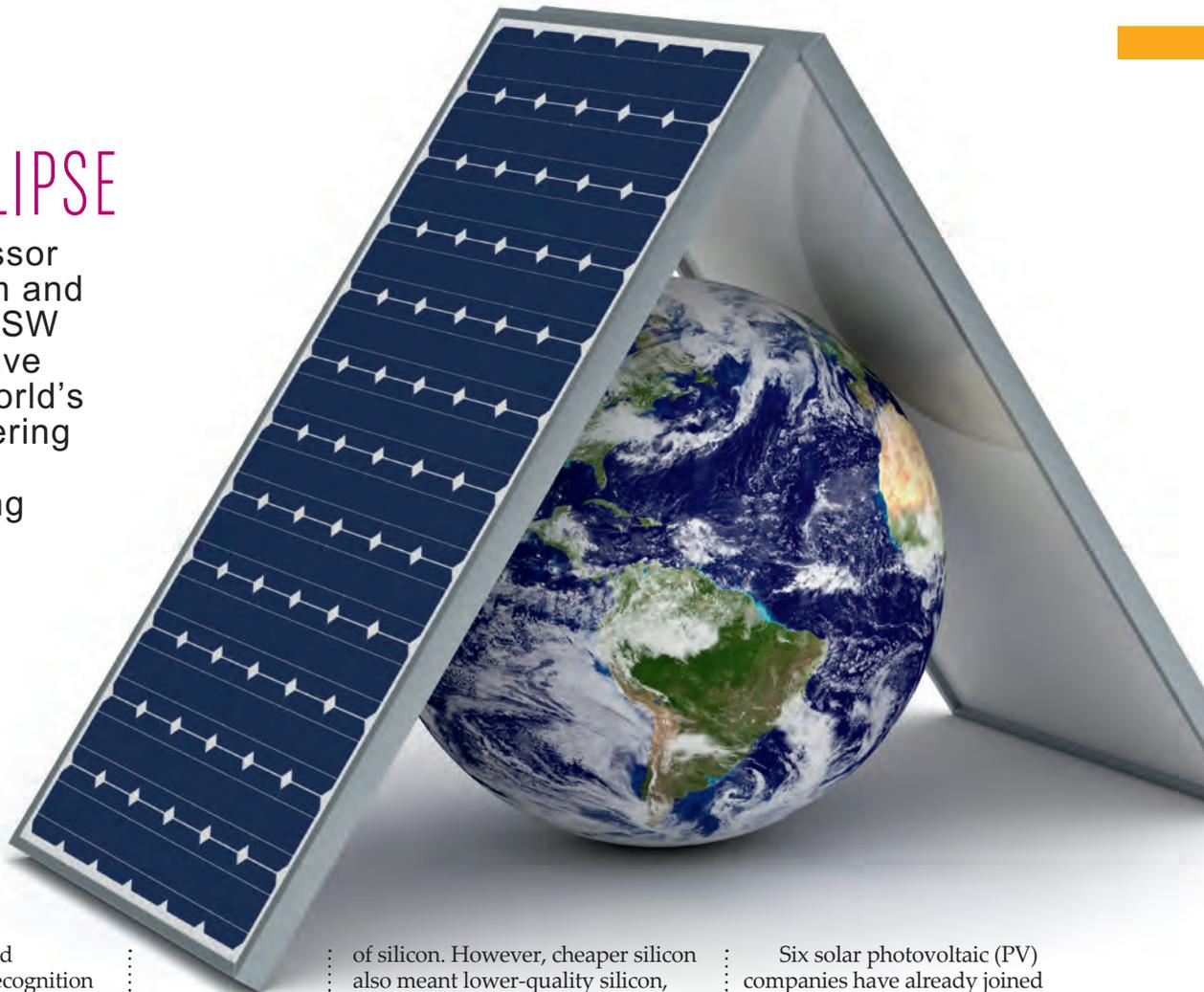
Kenderdine emphasises that the database of archaeological materials will also be geo-located and indexed around particular key words in the *Atlas*.

If all goes to plan, the *Atlas of Maritime Buddhism* exhibition will open in Hong Kong in 2016, Sydney in 2017, and then tour worldwide.



SOLAR ECLIPSE

Scientia Professor Stuart Wenham and his team of UNSW researchers have scooped the world's richest engineering award for their ground-breaking research into solar cells.



Australia received international recognition for leading the world in solar cell performance and reducing production costs after Scientia Professor Wenham and his UNSW team won the AF Harvey Engineering Research Prize from the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) in the UK, worth \$560,000, in January.

Wenham's team at the Australian Research Council (ARC) Photovoltaics Centre of Excellence has discovered ways to control hydrogen atoms and correct deficiencies in silicon, the most costly material used in solar photovoltaic cells, making them slightly more efficient than high-purity silicon cells.

Standard commercial silicon cells currently have a maximum efficiency of about 19 per cent. The new technique, patented by UNSW researchers last year, is expected to produce efficiencies between 21 and 23 per cent, says Wenham.

“Using lower-quality silicon to achieve higher efficiencies, we can enable significant cost reductions,” he says.

The solar industry has long been focused on bringing down the cost

of silicon. However, cheaper silicon also meant lower-quality silicon, with more defects and contaminants that reduced efficiency.

Researchers have known for several decades that they could introduce hydrogen atoms into the atomic structure of silicon to help correct these defects but, until now, they had limited success controlling the hydrogen to maximise its benefits or even understand why this happened.

Using the team's new hydrogenation process, manufacturers will now be able to produce lower quality silicon at half the cost with better performance than typical silicon cells.

When he received the IET award in London in January this year, Wenham said that he would plough the award money back into his team's research. “This generous prize will go a long way to helping us take this research to the next stage.

“Our UNSW team is now working with the world's biggest solar manufacturers through collaborative agreements with NewSouth Innovations to commercialise this low-cost technology,” he said.

Six solar photovoltaic (PV) companies have already joined forces with UNSW as industry partners, including China Sunergy. About 1.6 million Australian homes currently have rooftop PV with installations doubling over the past two years. As prices of solar cells come down, even more people are likely to install them.

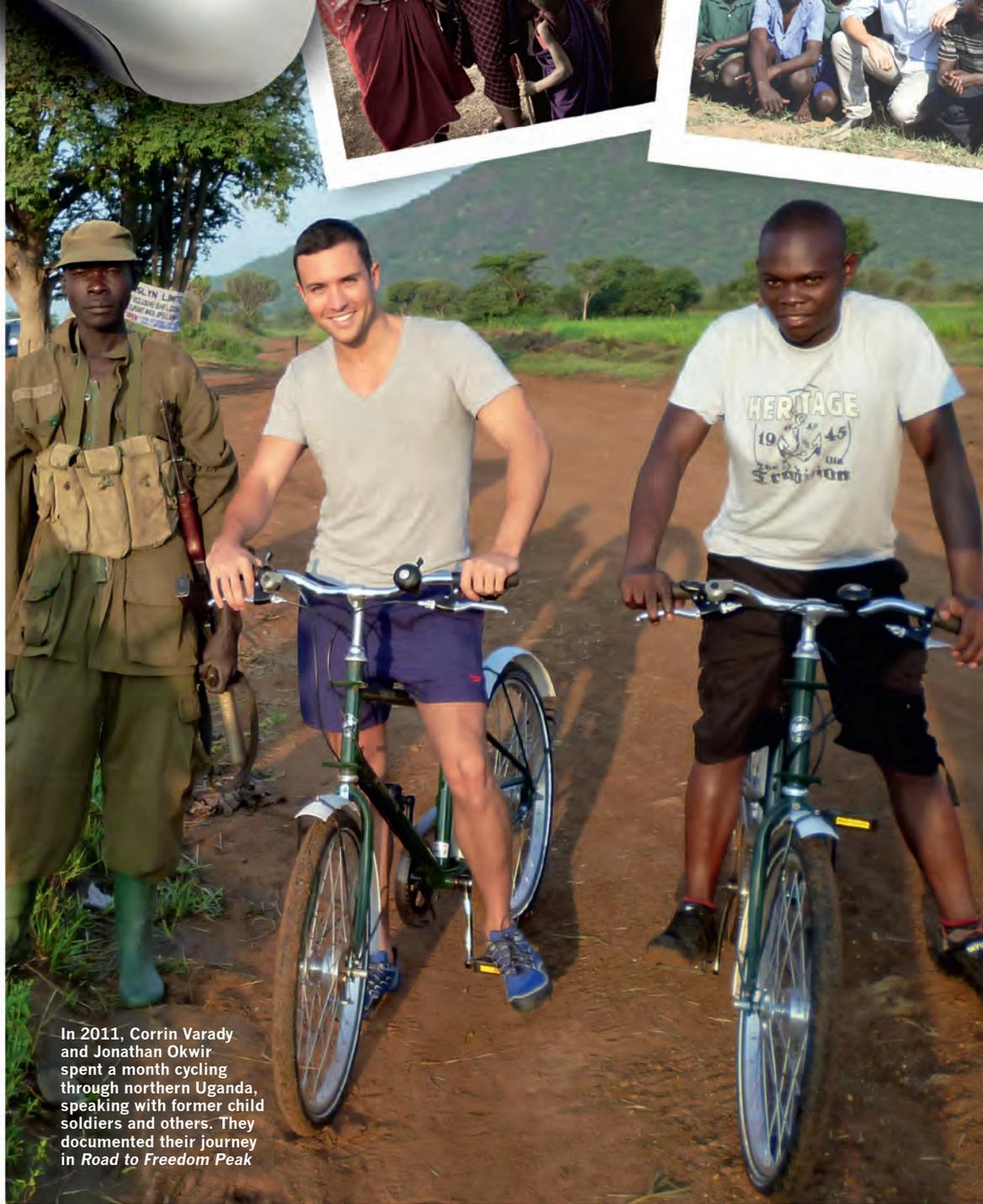
At the London awards ceremony, IET president Barry Brooks said that Wenham's pivotal role in solar cell research had implications not just for Australia but worldwide.

“His pioneering research and internationally recognised leadership in the field will enable commercial exploitation of the technology for the benefit of the global community seeking renewable energy solutions at affordable prices,” Brooks said. “He is a truly deserving recipient of the IET AF Harvey Engineering Prize and an inspiration to all engineers.”

Six years ago UNSW's labs set the global record for photovoltaic cells, achieving 25 per cent efficiency. Currently UNSW researchers are trying to reach 30 per cent by stacking cells from materials that use a wider range of the solar spectrum.



Above: Scientia Professor Stuart Wenham in his lab



In 2011, Corrin Varady and Jonathan Okwir spent a month cycling through northern Uganda, speaking with former child soldiers and others. They documented their journey in *Road to Freedom Peak*

“We are driven by what these young people want to do with their lives. Some go to university, some learn a trade...”

CORRIN VARADY
ON THE ROLE OF
HIS CHARITY

JONATHAN OKWIR WAS AGED 10 when the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) entered his village in northern Uganda, beat up his mother, captured him and other children, tied them together and marched them into the bush in darkness.

He was starved and terrorised, taught to use a machete and a gun and forced at gunpoint to become a child soldier. “I remember that boy, that boy that I killed, because it was my first time to kill and to cut,” Okwir recalls.

Over the last 28 years, the LRA – led by Joseph Kony – has abducted more than 20,000 children like Okwir to become frontline fighters in a brutal guerrilla war aiming to overthrow the Ugandan government. Okwir was selected to become a bodyguard to his brigade commander, but he managed to flee a year later when government troops assassinated the commander in an aerial attack.

As Okwir adjusted to life back in his village, on the other side of the world Corrin Varady, a former teen model, had just finished studying at UNSW (BCom ’06, MCom ’08). Varady wanted to become an investment banker. But his life changed dramatically when he spent three months in Tanzania as a volunteer English teacher.

“I went to this one school three hours outside of Arusha (in northern Tanzania) and met Mama Anna. She taught 10 kids in a shelter of bamboo and wood covered in a tarpaulin,” Varady says. “That experience just triggered something profound in me. She treated me as a son.”

Varady also travelled to northern Uganda and met former LRA child soldiers, including Okwir. “I asked them what was the number one thing they wanted. If you asked that question to teenagers in Australia they would say ‘Xbox’ or something like that. These kids wanted an education; to get out of their villages where people were abusing them and do something productive.”

When Okwir first met Varady, he says he knew that he was different. “I realised right away that he was a very good *mzungu* (white person) when he kept his promises,” he says.

And Varady did exactly that. Soon after returning home, he established World Youth Education Trust (WYET), now a registered charity in the UK and Australia which operates in northern Uganda and Tanzania. It has established two schools, enrolling

Means for change

Corrin Varady, an alumnus of UNSW’s business school, is helping to direct philanthropic investment in education in Uganda and Tanzania, to create a brighter future for former child soldiers and other local students, writes *Melinda Ham*.

more than 2500 students, many of them former child soldiers, with a third on full-boarding and academic scholarships. Mama Anna's school has now grown to 580 students.

"We are funded by ultra-high net worth individuals in the US, the UK and Australia," Varady says. "A lot of people now have charity fatigue but we show them that this is a good investment. All the schools make a small profit and then it is re-invested. The schools are sustainable, social enterprises."

WYET is in the process of building another school, which will be one of the first totally digital education institutions in Africa; the children will learn with tablets, computers, smart boards and other technology.

Varady's latest initiative is a for-profit social enterprise, the Institute of Digital Education Africa (IDEA), which creates education content on digital devices in line with the Ugandan and Tanzanian syllabuses. Students will access the internet, see virtual lab experiments, watch documentaries, participate in discussion forums and discover other multi-media learning.

"I have never understood the mentality of sending second-hand clothes and used textbooks to Africa," Varady says. "Why do these people deserve less than we do? Why



● **Corrin Varady, Jonathan Okwir and some of the school children that WYET supports**

should they be denied access to digital resources? It's actually more expensive to ship second-hand textbooks there than tablets." He emphasises that WYET doesn't give people handouts but the means to change themselves.

And an oft-forgotten fact is that half the LRA child soldiers were girls; fighting on the front line by day and being sex slaves by night. In 2010, WYET established a girls-only football team, with 85 per cent of the players being former child soldiers. They currently play in a WYET-sponsored Ugandan national women's league.

"People used to hurl abuse and stones at our girls and try to cut them," Varady says. "Now they turn out in crowds of over

5000 supporters to watch their games. They are becoming confident young women."

Recently, in a bid to bring the stories of Okwir – who has now become a WYET ambassador – and other former child soldiers to a global audience, Varady made a documentary, *Road to Freedom Peak*, which aired on Foxtel in March.

Filed in 2011, the documentary charts the journey of Varady and Okwir as they spent a month cycling through villages and refugee camps in northern Uganda, speaking with former child soldiers and villagers, encouraging them to face their shared pasts and find a future.

"When I met them it brought my memories back," Okwir explains. "It was a harsh connection and brought flashbacks to me of the bush."

The film also follows the pair to the UK where Okwir received his Duke of Edinburgh Award at a special ceremony at Buckingham Palace. The climax is when they make the arduous climb to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro, known as Uhuru (Freedom Peak) in Kiswahili.

But there are many confronting moments, too, including when a village chairman describes how some LRA soldiers attacked his village. "A boy of seven came up to me and started chopping my fingers off," he says, as the camera pans to his fingerless hand.

Okwir emphasises that even in the current situation, when a whole generation is damaged by their involvement with the LRA, there is still hope. "Our people in northern Uganda believe in forgiveness," he says. "If you do not forgive, it will not get you anywhere. You have to move on with life."

And as he reconciles his own past, Okwir – now aged 22 – is also forging his future, finishing his final exams at high school in Uganda. He's hoping, perhaps, to begin a Foundation Year at UNSW in Sydney in 2016. His nickname is "Obama" and Okwir's dream is to one day become a leader of his people.

Today, Varady still keeps in close touch with UNSW. Recently, he inspired an audience of 120 alumni at the Young Alumni Networking drinks in March, describing his journey to establish WYET and film his documentary.

"He manages to inspire and bring these like-minded people together to contribute to his schools... Corrin has such a passion for his projects you are compelled to be part of it, to buy into it."

JAMIE CAMIDGE
TELSTRA'S DIRECTOR
OF STRATEGY
/ WYET DONOR

Jamie Camidge, Telstra's director of strategy, is one of WYET's donors. He describes Corrin Varady as "one of those high-energy people who always has a constant ethical and moral compass."

Two and a half years ago, Camidge travelled to East Africa himself to do a fundraising climb of Mt Kilimanjaro for WYET over six days. He also spent a week visiting the WYET-funded schools.

Varady's charity and social enterprise model is also quite unique and attractive to donors, Camidge adds. "Corrin's vision to introduce these African children to modern technology is hugely exciting and he has the tenacity to see it through," he says. "I deal directly with him and when I give him a dollar I know how that dollar gets spent. I've actually seen how the dollar gets spent."

A Vivid reflection

Vin and Priyanka Rathod, two UNSW Built Environment graduates, celebrate light, rainbows and refraction at Vivid Sydney's winter festival of light, writes *Melinda Ham*.

The rainbow-coloured light dances and bends, depending on what angle you look at it and the time of day. If it's illuminated with either sunlight or LED light, this architectural installation reflects and refracts passing people's faces against the backdrop of the iconic sails of the Sydney Opera House, creating a unique mosaic each time.

"Kaleido-Wall 1.0", made out of mirror-finish acrylic panels, is one of more than 75 works of art in this year's Vivid festival. It was created by Priyanka and Vin Rathod, both practising architects and UNSW graduates (MArch'06 and MCPM'07 respectively).

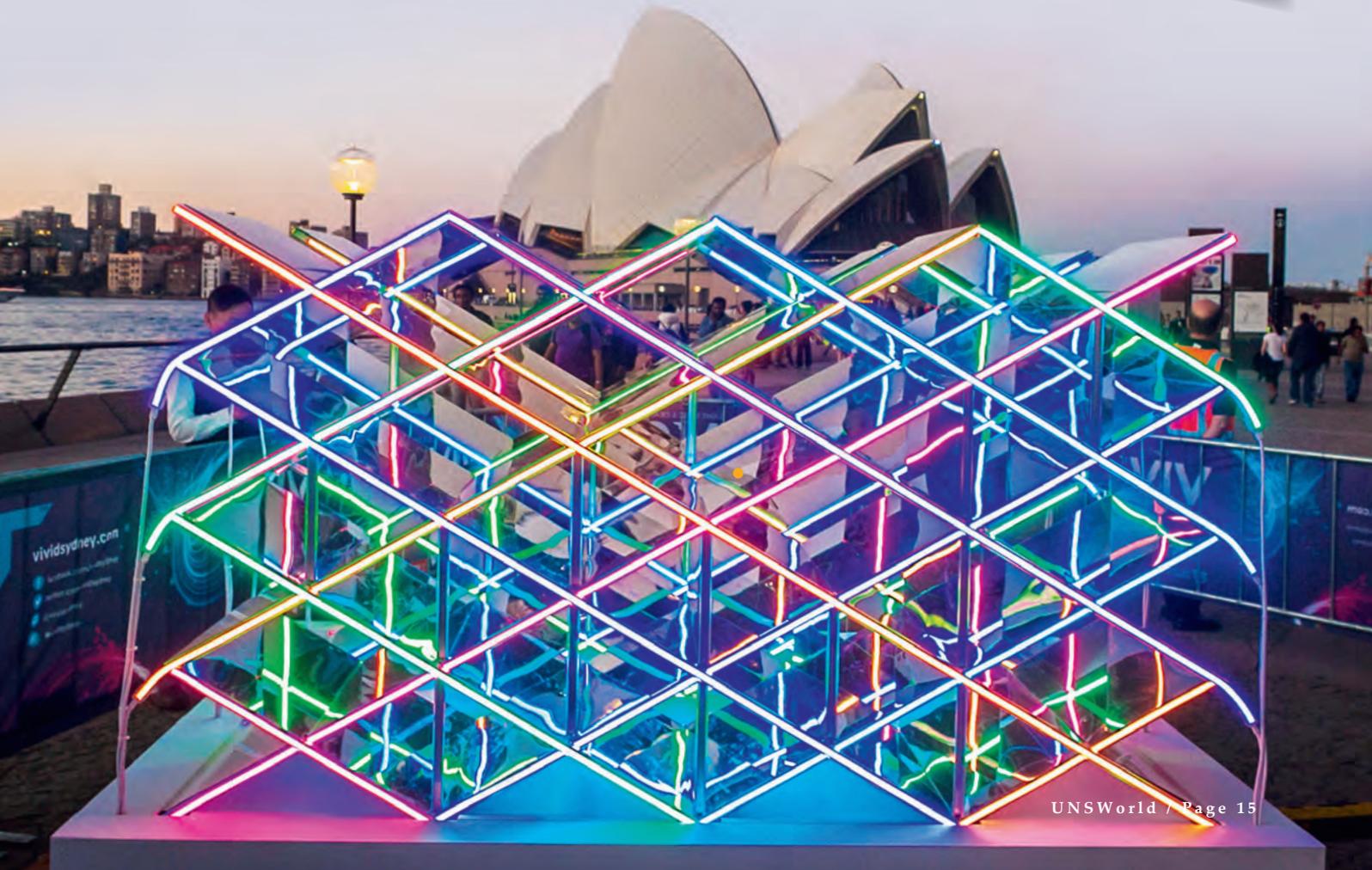
This is Vivid's eighth year. The dynamic festival of art, light, music

and ideas now embraces Sydney's Darling Harbour, Martin Place, Star Casino, Circular Quay and The Rocks for 18 days in winter. It also includes brilliantly coloured light projections on the sails of the Opera House, the MCA, the Customs House, Cadman's Cottage and other iconic buildings.

Vin Rathod says the inspiration for their Vivid artwork comes from his experience as a child, when he was intrigued with his toy kaleidoscope. "The endlessly shifting, glittering patterns of colour and intricate shapes always caught my eye and I wanted to make a large-scale art installation based on this concept," he says.

His partner, Priyanka Rathod, says that after coming from Mumbai

Right: Priyanka and Vin Rathod
Below: Their installation, "Kaleido-Wall 1.0" by day



to study postgraduate degrees at UNSW in Sydney in 2005, Vivid had always been the couple's favourite outdoor public art event, and this year they were determined to enter a design for the first time.

"After an initial shortlist, there was an interview where we presented a physical model," she says. "It was absolutely thrilling to see the [selection] panel as excited as us looking at the reflections through the model."

Once their work was selected for the festival, Priyanka and Vin set about creating the full-size installation. Priyanka was the project manager, procuring the materials and coordinating the different suppliers, contractors and a light specialist, who came to the pair's Manly studio.

"Working on the project during our holidays, through Anzac Day, the Easter holidays, was totally full-on, 24/7," Vin says. "But it was so creative that I loved it."

They used a laser cutter to transfer their Computer Aided Drawing onto the mirror-finished acrylic sheets and develop a 1.2m deep lattice. But the completed artwork packs completely flat, so is easy to transport, assemble and disassemble repeatedly

without damage, perfectly slotting into place with no glue or nails.

The artwork depends on three layers of reflection to create its illusion, Vin explains. "The first layer is a kaleidoscope of LED lights. Introduction of LED lights within the depth of the artwork was very critical for this layer to work," he says.

"The next layer is the reflection of people and their movements. The third reflects the Opera House with its colourful projection, specially designed for the event. For this, the location and placement are as important as the actual artwork."

On opening night the architect couple went down to Circular Quay to blend incognito with the other onlookers, to observe the reaction to their installation.

"It was a big high," Vin says. "It was so exciting to see that kids and people of all ages loved it and many posted it on Instagram. In architecture, you rarely get feedback, only criticism, and here it was instantaneous. It's the biggest plus."

This is the Rathods' first public exhibition of a purely artistic architectural installation, although

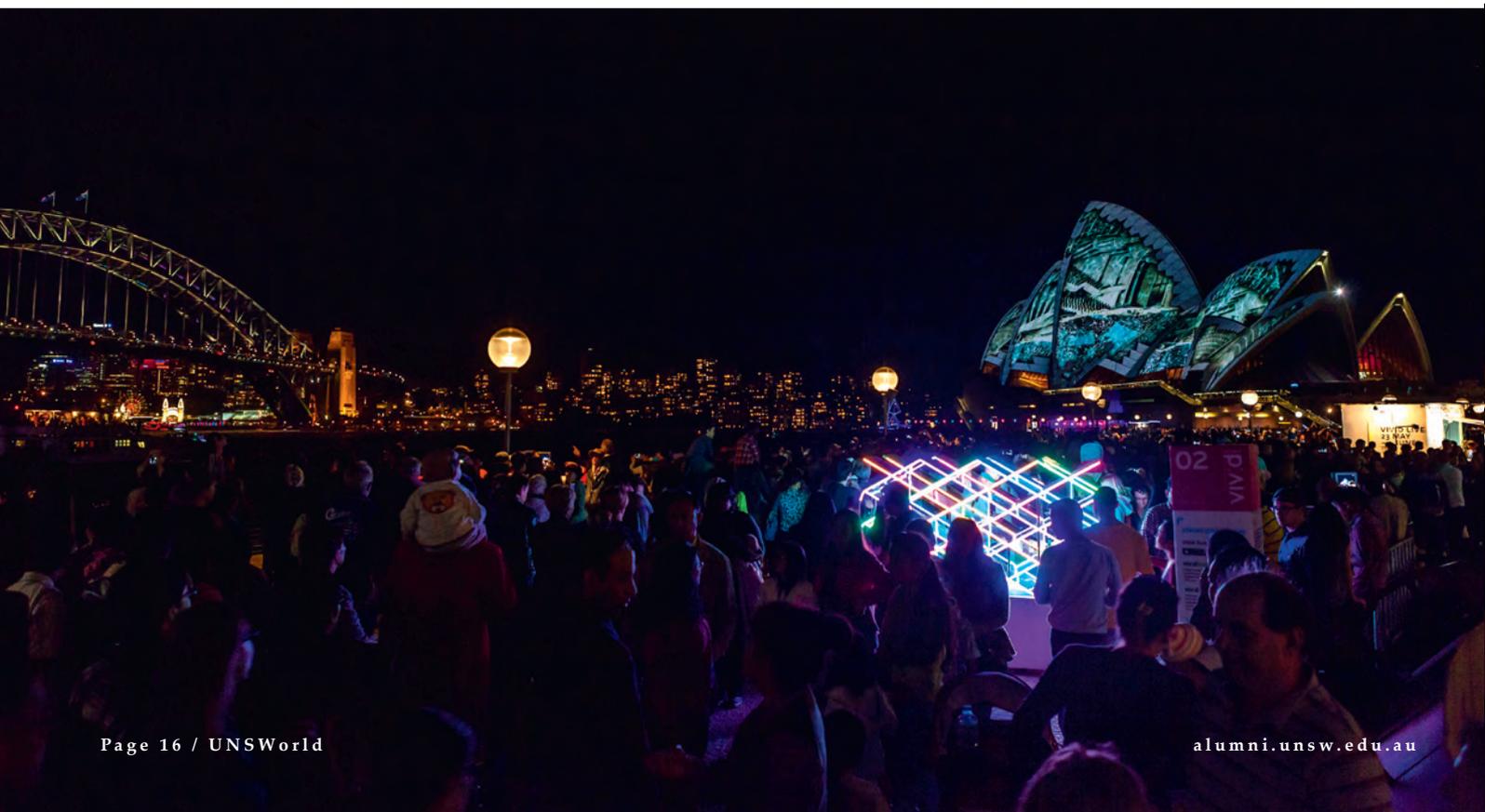


● Above: Children marvelling at "Kaleido-Wall 1.0"

Below: Against the backdrop of Sydney Harbour

Vin has "gifted" sculptures to friends and relatives for years. This experience motivated them to submit a proposal for next year's Vivid as well as Sculpture by the Sea, the spring sculpture festival on the coastline from Bondi to Tamarama. And they hope they'll make it through the selection process.

Both Vin and Priyanka work full-time for residential and commercial architectural practices in Sydney. Vin is also a professional photographer: last year he won two divisions of the International Photography Awards, based in Los Angeles.





Gift of study

Engineering student Jasmine Drayton is the inaugural recipient of a Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Appeal Scholarship donated by science alumnus Dr Christina Hart, reports *Melinda Ham*.

As a child growing up in Ballina on the northern NSW coast, Jasmine Drayton was always very passionate about Maths and also often built Lego structures until she was about 13 years old. "I love the satisfaction of working out a problem," she says.

Her dad's hobby is building and repairing wooden furniture and tables, and generally being a handyperson fixing things around the house. Drayton thinks she has inherited some of her fascination with creating things from him.

Now in the first semester of a Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical Engineering) at UNSW, Drayton is on her way to fulfilling her dream to work as an engineer in the developing world.

But the 18-year-old says she would not have been able to afford to study at UNSW without the support of the Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Appeal Scholarship and a Faculty of Engineering

Rural Scholarship.

"I wish I could meet the donors who gave me the scholarships," she says. "I hope I will at some point, and then I could thank them so, so much. I can't believe their generosity. I wouldn't be able to be at university without them. It's upsetting to think of that!"

Drayton is the inaugural recipient of a Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Appeal Scholarship donated by science alumnus Dr Christina Hart, in memory of her father, the late Emeritus Professor Antoni Karbowskiak (1923-2011). Karbowskiak was the Chair of Communications in the School of Electrical Engineering at UNSW for many years and an enthusiastic advocate for female university education.

Hart believes that this scholarship is a fitting tribute to her father.

Karbowskiak would also be encouraged that now more than a third of Drayton's chemical engineering class is made up of female students.

"Even though we have

massive lecture halls, everyone is really friendly. The lecturers and tutors are all very, very good. It's far exceeded my expectations," Drayton says.

Drayton lives on campus at Shalom College, an inter-denominational residential college.

"It definitely makes the uni experience a lot better living on campus,"

Third World, such as water treatment if possible," she says. "With engineering, it's really quite limitless; the application of your knowledge can solve an array of problems."

And what does Drayton miss about Ballina, now she's living away from home?

"I miss seeing the stars and the peace and quiet," she says. "And of course

"I also would like to work on projects in the Third World, such as water treatment, if possible. With engineering, it's really quite limitless; the application of your knowledge can solve an array of problems."

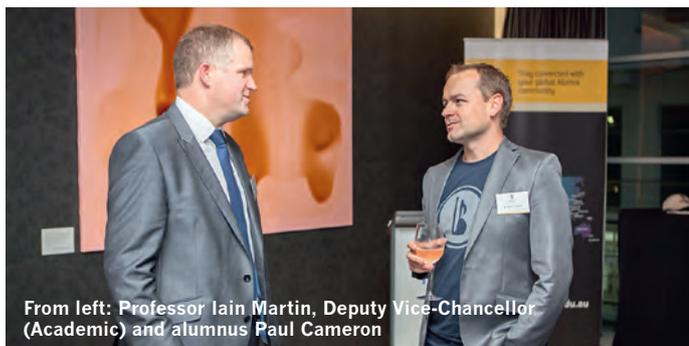
she comments. "The first week or two it was difficult, adjusting to living with so many people, but now I feel very comfortable."

During her four-year degree, Drayton hopes to do an industry internship and go on exchange overseas.

"I also would like to work on projects in the

my friends and family... but that's probably about it, because I really am so happy to be here."

It is not too late to give to this year's Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Scholarship Appeal. Please find the donation form in this magazine or complete a donation form online at giving.unsw.edu.au



From left: Professor Iain Martin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and alumnus Paul Cameron



Alumni attending the Alumni Reception in the UK

NEW ZEALAND RECEPTION

Professor Iain Martin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Jennie Lang, Vice-President Advancement, hosted an inaugural alumni reception in Auckland on 9 April 2014.

Paul Cameron, who attended the event, volunteered to work with the Alumni office to ensure we offer more regular networking events for New Zealand alumni.

For over a decade Cameron flew as an officer with the Royal New Zealand Air Force. He is a qualified aeronautical engineer

from UNSW (BTech'97) and a graduate of the Royal Canadian Air Force Aerospace Systems post-graduate course.

Cameron is the co-founder and CEO of Booktrack, which uses technology to synchronise audio with text, to create an immersive reading experience. Books published by Booktrack include a customised, hand-created soundtrack that matches the action in the text. As readers go through the text, the music, sound effects and ambient audio change to reflect the plot.



UNSW alumni at the reception in Auckland

UK RECEPTION

More than 60 graduates joined Professor Fred Hilmer, UNSW Vice-Chancellor, on 13 May 2014, at the Macquarie Group offices in London for the annual Alumni Reception. The Vice-Chancellor shared exciting developments at UNSW including research strengths, rankings, improvements in students' experience and campus transformation –

particularly the new college residences available to students in 2014.

Earlier in the day, he had addressed the inaugural UK Friends of UNSW Australia Board meeting. The initial membership of the board includes Peter Harrison (BCom'69) (Chair), Andrew Rubio (BCom'84), Melinda Wallman (BA'90, LLB'92) and Julian Liddy (BComLLB'03).



Alumnus and UK Board member Julian Liddy (second from left) with fellow alumni

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you reside in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia or China, or if you are travelling for work to any of these locations, please join us at the upcoming annual Alumni and Friends receptions hosted by the Vice-Chancellor.

- Hong Kong:** 17 September 2014
- Singapore:** 18 September 2014
- Kuala Lumpur:** 20 September 2014
- Shanghai:** 23 September 2014
- Beijing:** 24 September 2014

For more information, and to register for these events, please visit the alumni website alumni.unsw.edu.au. The Alumni and Community Engagement office welcomes ideas from all alumni about the events and engagement most relevant to your profession and location. Please email [Stergitsa Zamagias](mailto:stergitsa.zamagias@unsw.edu.au) with your ideas. s.zamagias@unsw.edu.au

And don't forget to share with us, if you haven't already, your UNSW Family Tree. myunswfamilytree.unsw.edu.au

VALE EMERITUS PROFESSOR FREDERICK AYSCOUGH

1920–2014



● Emeritus Professor Frederick Ayscough (right) with one of his students at UNSW, Dr Sastrosunarto Hartarto (BSc'59 HonDSc'93)

of School of Chemical Engineering, and became UNSW's first Vice-Chancellor. At the time, Baxter was very dependent on Ayscough to develop the school's academic programs and facilities, including the move to "the huts" at the Kensington site in 1952. Chemical Engineering was the first school to move east from Ultimo to the Kensington Campus.

In 1959, the School of Chemical Engineering was divided into two schools and Ayscough became the Foundation Professor and Head of School of Chemical Technology, a position he held until 1977 when he moved to Hong Kong to become Associate Director of Applied Science at the HK Polytechnic (now the HK Polytechnic University).

After his retirement in 1986, Ayscough returned to Australia where his life turned full circle when he took up cattle and sheep farming.

He had a huge influence on UNSW during his time there, serving as Chairman of the Faculty of Applied Science (1963–70), and spent several periods as Acting Dean of the faculty.

Ayscough was an outstanding academic leader, a great teacher and a very active applied researcher. **He had a great influence on the careers of students and staff and many of us valued his role as a mentor and friend.**

He was a truly wonderful man who sadly passed away in March this year after contributing so much to so many.

Written by Emeritus Professor Mark Wainwright

Frederick Ayscough was born to a farming family in Wagga Wagga in 1920. He achieved his ambition to become a teacher when he studied chemistry at the University of Sydney and graduated in 1942.

In 1944, after a brief period as chief chemist at W Hermon Slade & Co., he began his academic career as a chemistry teacher at the Sydney Technical

College, before moving officially to the then New South Wales University of Technology, as a chemistry lecturer, in 1951. A year later, he was appointed as a lecturer in chemical engineering and was quickly promoted to Senior Lecturer (1953) and Associate Professor (1957).

Philip (later Sir Philip) Baxter was the Foundation Professor, and the Head

Applauding Success

From optometry to fine art, from sustainability to entrepreneurship and philanthropy, our finest alumni receive recognition for their success.

UNSW's impact on the careers and lives of its students was on full display at this year's annual Alumni Awards dinner, as several former students acknowledged how their lives had changed as a result of their experience at university – and there was more than one occasion where eyes grew a little shiny with tears.

For many it was an emotional evening as bright minds, high achievers and philanthropists enjoyed a night out in a grand marquee on the site of the Alumni Park. Even Chancellor David Gonski admitted to having several lump-in-the-throat moments.

Del Kathryn Barton (BFA'94), winner of the Art Gallery of NSW's Archibald Prize in both 2008 and 2013 – and whose art features in numerous Australian and international collections – said that the university helps nourish “the life blood of our culture”, and in particular she praises the extensive spaces for graduates to exhibit.

“I can't stress enough how critical these early exhibiting experiences were for me, rigorously informing my studio practice and shaping an understanding of where my work might find a place within the broader arts community,” she said, accepting the Arts and Design award.

“It was, indeed, within one of these spaces that my work first came to the attention of a Sydney gallerist who offered to represent me,” she said. This was my dream moment... and in many ways where my art career began.”

Margaret O'Neill (BOptom'91 Hons) received the Community-At-Large award for her work in Aboriginal health, establishing Australia's most successful and sustainable eye-care service, the Northern Eye Care Program, in the Northern Territory.

Initially, she invested so much of her own money in the program that she couldn't afford accommodation and lived in her car for two years, until the state

and federal governments started funding the project. “The most common question I got asked at that time was how often I took a bath,” O'Neill said laughing.

As an optometry student at UNSW she never imagined that her career would take her all over Australia and the world. “The people I meet and the people I work with constantly remind me of my own humanity,” she said.

For his work in both philanthropy and global business, Daniel Petre (BSc'81 HonDBus'13) was awarded the Business award.

Petre described himself as “a complete nerd” during his student days, working into the early hours in the computer rooms or Maths department doing a double degree in half the time it was meant to take. He focused on computers after first missing out on getting into medicine and then narrowly failing selection to train as a fighter pilot.

“It's only in recent years that I've come to realise how fortunate I was to receive an outstanding education at this university,” he said. “Over the last few years I've attempted to rectify my early lack of recognition of the role UNSW played in my success.”

Petre has worked around the world in technology companies, including nine years at Microsoft. He was Vice-President of Microsoft's Workgroup Division, where he worked closely with Bill Gates and developed products such as Microsoft Exchange and Outlook.

UNSW Scientia Professor Deo-Karan Prasad (MArch'88, MSc'90, PhD'93) received the Science award. Prasad is an international authority on sustainable buildings and cities and has chaired the regional UN Global Civil Society Forum.

When he accepted the award, Prasad described how he'd left a village in Fiji, his homeland, to come to the university. He'd been working in resettlement and realised that the villagers didn't just need buildings, but a sustainable future.



“The people I meet and the people I work with constantly remind me of my own humanity.”

MARGARET O'NEILL
COMMUNITY-AT-LARGE
AWARD



“It was, indeed, within one of these spaces that my work first came to the attention of a Sydney gallerist who offered to represent me. This was my dream moment ... and in many ways where my art career began.”

**DEL KATHRYN BARTON
ARTS AND DESIGN AWARD**



“Over the last few years I’ve attempted to rectify my early lack of recognition of the role UNSW played in my success.”

**DANIEL PETRE
BUSINESS AWARD**



“Some of my PhD students are deans or advisers to energy ministers in Europe and other places ... these are the things that keep you excited.”

**SCIENTIA PROFESSOR
DEO-KARAN PRASAD
SCIENCE AWARD**



**DR JIANHUA ZHAO
INTERNATIONAL AWARD**

In 20 years as the director of the UNSW Centre for a Sustainable Built Environment, he has turned the organisation into a national centre for excellence in sustainability. Leading UNSW in a five-university consortium, Prasad recently won the largest-ever grant in the built environment from the Cooperative Research Centre for Low Carbon Living.

This year’s Young Alumni award went to Jeremy Balkin (BCom’05) for his work in banking, finance and philanthropy. In 2012, Balkin left his job at Macquarie Private Bank to set up Karma Capital, advising wealthy Australians how to become philanthropists.

He also established his own not-for-profit organisation, Give While You Live, and in the last three years has raised millions for the charity by running the Boston, Chicago, New York and London marathons and climbing Mt Everest.

Balkin has spoken at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland and at the UN in New York. The Huffington Post described him as “the Anti-Wolf of Wall Street”. He was unable to attend the Alumni Awards dinner in person.

Dr Jianhua Zhao (PhD’90) and his wife Dr Aihua Wang (PhD’93) won the International Alumni award for their work developing high-efficiency cSi PERL solar cells and setting the world record for energy conversion efficiency in 1999.

After finishing their doctorates, the couple stayed on at UNSW contributing to the university’s solar cell research until 2006. Then Zhao and Wang joined China Sunergy (Nanjing) Co, one of China’s largest solar companies. In 2013 they received the Advance Global Australian Award for their research.

Zhao had the audience in fits of laughter as he explained how he had carried out some of his initial research in less-than-ideal laboratory conditions, and yet nevertheless managed to secure and hold the record for the highest solar energy conversion cell for about 16 years.

CARING IN THE COMMUNITY

A new book by Associate Professors Xiaoyuan Shang and Karen Fisher (PhD '07) reveals significant improvements in the care of Chinese orphans, reports *Melinda Ham*.



Babies wail relentlessly while a row of toddlers sit, their legs splayed, tied over bamboo potties. In another room an emaciated girl with infected eyes is left to die. These are some of the harrowing scenes in the 1995 film *The Dying Rooms* – about the neglect and death of children in Chinese state-run orphanages.

This documentary, made by British filmmakers Brian Woods and Kate Blewett, stunned millions of viewers in 30 countries around the world at the time. And this included Xiaoyuan Shang, then a research officer at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. “I was deeply shocked. I had lived in China [for 37 years] and was studying civil society and never knew this was happening,” she says.

Now an Associate Professor at UNSW’s Social Policy Research Centre, where she has worked for the last 15 years, Xiaoyuan Shang has just had published *Caring for Orphaned Children in China* (Rowman, 2013), a book co-written with her colleague Associate Professor Karen Fisher.

The book charts the academics’ journey as they researched this topic

in depth, making recommendations and writing reports for international aid agencies. It is work that has dramatically affected Chinese government welfare policy.

“In our book, we argue that a mixed welfare system, in which state provision supplements family and community care, is an effective direction to improve support for orphaned children,” Xiaoyuan Shang explains.

“Government needs to take responsibility to guarantee orphans’ rights and support family networks to provide care, so that children can grow up in their own communities.”

Before the onset of communism in 1949, China had a long-standing tradition of care in the community for orphans. But from the mid-20th century onwards, state institutions progressively took over orphans’ care. After 1979, with the introduction of the one-child policy, an escalating number of children were abandoned – especially girls – creating a systemic crisis.

Soon after *The Dying Rooms’* release, Xiaoyuan Shang travelled to some orphanages in Lanzhou and Nanjing to investigate better

ways to care for Chinese orphans. **“At the orphanage I visited, in a peak year, more than 80 per cent of children died,”** she recalls.

Later in 2000 in Shanghai, Xiaoyuan Shang met a disabled girl in foster care who changed her whole outlook. “Without the foster care project, she would not have been living with a family, and possibly not even been alive. It convinced me that foster care was a good way to care for orphans. I also decided that child welfare reform would be the main focus of my research,” she says.

A year later, Xiaoyuan Shang led a research project funded by UNICEF and the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs, which charted the welfare of orphans from eight urban orphanages fostered with families in rural areas.

“After three months, their health had already greatly improved,” she says. “The families had more room than the orphanages, better food and, most importantly, they picked up the children and held them. Psychologically, the children were much happier.”

Then in 2005, funded by the Australian Research Council, Save the Children UK and the Chinese government, Xiaoyuan Shang’s team from UNSW conducted the first national census on orphans. “The result was condemning,” she says. The landmark census found most of the half a million orphans lived in poverty, without any state support.

So the second phase of their research calculated the cost of raising these orphans, and much to Xiaoyuan Shang’s delight, the following year Chinese President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao agreed to a basic living allowance for all Chinese orphans.

“The best thing is that the situation for orphans has really improved in China,” Xiaoyuan Shang says. “*The Dying Rooms* is now just a historical record of what it used to be like.”

Left to right:
Associate
Professor
Karen Fisher
and Associate
Professor
Xiaoyuan Shang



**STERGITSA
ZAMAGIAS-HILL**

*Director
Alumni and Community
Engagement*

One of the most enjoyable aspects of university life is the graduation ceremony when students and their families celebrate the successful culmination of years of hard work.

This June, the joy of graduation included one of our graduates (Chao Jiang) proposing marriage to his girlfriend on the Library Lawn (she said yes!).

We also saw the first outing of our UNSW Alumni Lion mascot. He wandered around happily having his photo taken with the occasional roar! We will be seeking your help shortly to give him a truly UNSW name.

Congratulations to all the



Chao Jiang proposing to his girlfriend, Chifang Ling

newest members of UNSW's alumni community. We look forward to you sharing the milestones of your professional and personal lives with us over coming years.

In the last issue, we launched our search for UNSW family stories, and the response we have had so far has been terrific. One of the

emails we received was titled "How I met your mother" by alumnus Pruni Mahdar. It made us laugh and we are sharing it with you here.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

Best wishes, Steps
Visit alumni.unsw.edu.au for more about our Lion mascot and marriage proposal on the Library Lawn.

How I met your mother

1983

Mum (Putiati Tino) and Dad (Dedi Mahdar Hamzah) haven't met yet. Both were awarded a scholarship to study a Masters in Food Science.

1984

Mum stayed at International House. Dad and Mum met for the first time at the Applied Science Building. I believe I was conceived at International House. They married in December 1984. The reception was at The Roundhouse.

1985

Mum and Dad graduated (MAppSc '85). I was born in July.

1988-89

I went to the House at Pooh Corner, one of UNSW's day care centres.

1989

Dad graduated (PhD '89). Then we all went back to Indonesia.

1997

Mum commenced her doctorate in Food Engineering. She also worked at the Union Café in the Quadrangle for a very long time.

2000

Harry Djuansah (my future husband) saw me for the first time at the Electrical Engineering lecture theatre.

2002

My future husband graduated (MTM '02).

2005

I transferred from UTS (University of Technology, Sydney) to COFA (College of Fine Arts) for a Bachelor of Design/Bachelor Art Education.

FAST FORWARD

Mum: Passed away from lung cancer in 2012 having been a lecturer at IPB, (Bogor Agricultural University), Indonesia.

Dad: Principal environmental consultant at ERM, having worked for a long time at Freeport (Rio Tinto Group).

Hubby: After graduating from UNSW, worked for Coats International, then moved to Sydney after we got married. Currently Finance Manager at Westpac.

Me: In my last year of a Bachelor of Art Education.



Above: Baby Pruni and her parents on her mother's graduation day

Below: Pruni Mahdar and her family at her graduation at UNSW



2007

I got married

2009

Audria (our daughter) went to the House at Pooh Corner.

2011

I graduated with a Bachelor of Design from COFA.

2013

I enrolled back at COFA for a Bachelor of Art Education.

2014

Still at UNSW ...



UNSW
AUSTRALIA

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



11 JULY

Scientia Lecture (Science) presented by Professor Iain Stewart – “50 Shades of Grey: communication rocks” – The John Niland Scientia Building 6.00pm

24 JULY

Young Alumni Network Drinks Speaker: Kristie Buchanan (BCom '02), CEO RedBalloon CBD Hotel 5.30pm – 7.30pm

13 AUGUST

The Jack Beale Lecture on the Global Environment delivered by Professor Ian Chubb, Chief Scientist. The John Niland Scientia Building, UNSW Kensington Campus 6.00pm

14 AUGUST

UNSW Foundation Studies 25th Anniversary reception, Leighton Hall, The John Niland Scientia Building 5.30pm – 8.00pm. **Let us know if you are a Foundation Studies alumnus**

SEPTEMBER 9

UNSW Vice-Chancellor's Golf Day, NSW Golf Club Price: TBA

SEPTEMBER 6

Visit UNSW Open Day 9.00am – 4.00pm Kensington Campus Your chance to see UNSW up close and personal Program: openday.unsw.edu.au

SEPTEMBER 3

Utzon Lecture Series presented by Professor John Tomaney, Bartlett School of Planning, London – “Governing London: progress & prospects” 6.30pm

AUGUST 28

USA Alumni & Friends Reception, New York City

ASIAN EVENTS

Professor Fred Hilmer is stepping down in December 2014 after eight years as President and Vice-Chancellor and we hope you can join us for a farewell drink at one of our Asian events to acknowledge his significant contribution to UNSW.

- 17 September – Hong Kong Alumni & Friends Reception
- 18 September – Singapore Alumni & Friends Reception
- 20 September – Regional Graduation Celebration Kuala Lumpur
- 20 September – Malaysia Alumni & Friends Reception
- 23 September – Shanghai Alumni & Friends Reception
- 24 September – Beijing Alumni & Friends Reception

For more information and to register for any of these events, please visit the UNSW Australia Alumni Events Calendar: alumni.unsw.edu.au or contact the Alumni & Community Engagement Office – alumni@unsw.edu.au or +61 2 9385 3279. Please note registrations to all events are essential.