

# UNSW<sup>World</sup>

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS • NOVEMBER 2008 • ISSUE 9

**Justice**

**Michael Kirby**

ON THE QUEST FOR A  
CURE FOR HIV/AIDS

**Discover  
the benefits**

OF STAYING  
CONNECTED

**Reinventing  
waste**

HOW UNSW  
INNOVATORS WORK  
WITH INDUSTRY TO  
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## Welcome from the Vice-Chancellor

I am pleased to welcome you to the latest issue of *UNSWorld*. The magazine aims to keep you in touch with what is happening at the University, and celebrates the achievements of some of our talented alumni.

We've had a number of notable wins this year, with our researchers claiming an unprecedented six prestigious Eureka awards for their achievements in water, climate and renewable energy research and their leadership in science and engineering. We also received the highest level of funding of any Australian university in this year's linkage grants, reflecting the strength of our research relationships with industry.

Another significant result was our top ranking in the 2009 *Good Universities Guide*, the annual handbook for anyone choosing a university course or campus. UNSW outscored every university in Australia, with a maximum five-star rating for 10 key performance indicators, including research intensity, graduate starting salary, student-staff ratio, teaching quality and student success in gaining employment.

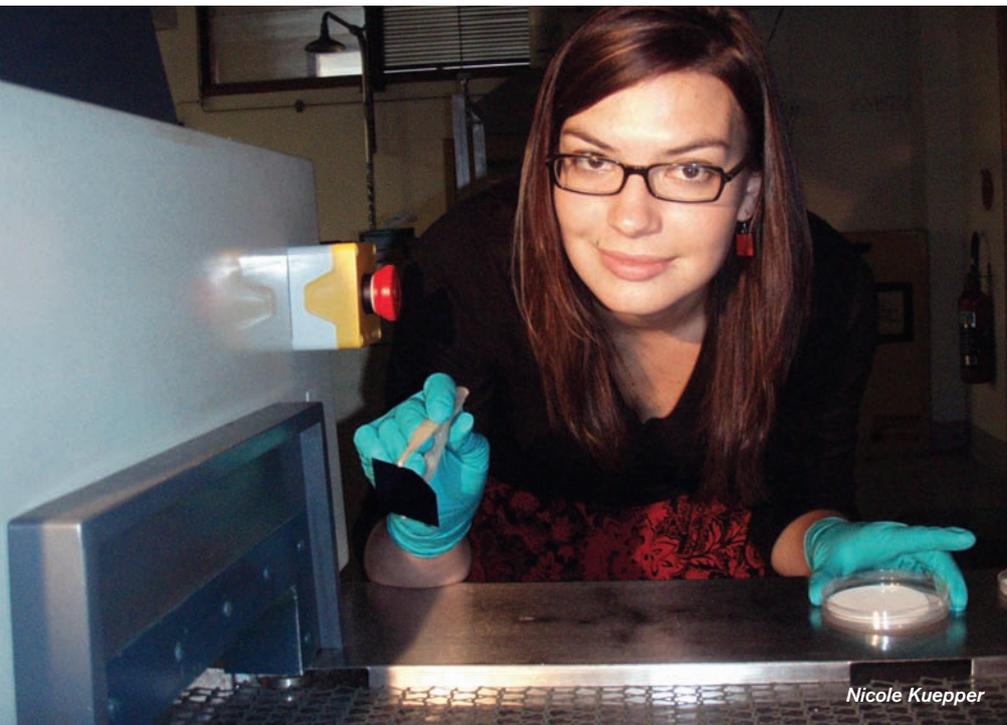
Alumni and teachers at our Faculty of the Built Environment made a major contribution to the design and smooth running of the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The cover story for this issue outlines some of their exceptional efforts, focusing particularly on the work of John Bilmon, the managing director of PTW, the architectural firm responsible for the remarkable aquatic centre known as the Water Cube. John, an architecture graduate who also holds a Masters in Commerce from UNSW, long ago showed his talents on campus as the designer of our Quadrangle building. We congratulate him on his achievements and wish him every success with his next Olympic project, in London in 2012.

This issue also sees a special contribution from one of Australia's most distinguished jurists, Justice Michael Kirby of the High Court, who has taken the time to reflect on the almost 30-year quest for a cure and effective vaccine for HIV. Through his early participation with United Nations' efforts to respond to the virus, Justice Kirby brings a unique perspective to this battle, which he also shared at a UNSW BrainFood event earlier this year.

Other feature stories in this issue examine the vital importance of industry links for research and the crucial role of fundraising through volunteer groups such as the U Committee. We also report on some of the important initiatives being undertaken by our fundraising arm, the UNSW Foundation, now celebrating its 20th anniversary.

The ongoing work of the University depends to a considerable extent on support from alumni and friends. I would like to thank those who contributed to the 2007 Vice-Chancellor's Appeal, which has enabled us to further our research efforts by funding four additional PhD scholarships. We are hoping to better this result with the donations to this year's appeal, and would be delighted to receive a contribution from you, regardless of the amount. I hope you enjoy the magazine and take advantage of the many opportunities to stay involved with the UNSW community.

Frederick G Hilmer AO  
Vice-Chancellor



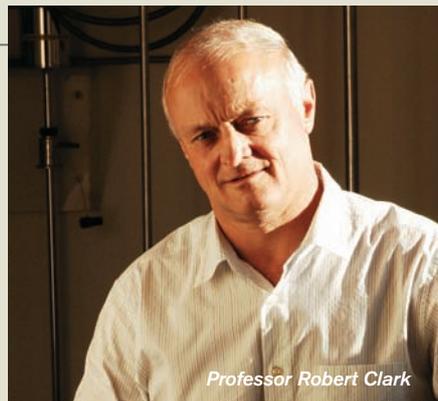
Nicole Kuepper

## EUREKA MOMENTS

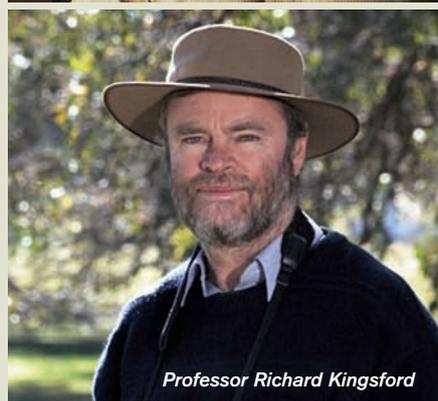
UNSW researchers dominated the 2008 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes, winning an unprecedented six awards – the highest tally for any institution in the 19-year history of the prizes, known as the Oscars of Science. Professor Robert Clark, a Federation Fellow and Director of UNSW's Centre for Quantum Computer Technology, was awarded the CSIRO Eureka Prize for Leadership in Science for his pioneering research which promises to fundamentally change computing science.

The entire School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering took out the IAG Eureka Prize for Innovative Solutions to Climate Change for its groundbreaking and consistently strong record in solar cell research, while one of the School's PhD students, 23-year-old Nicole Kuepper, received two major awards – the British Council Eureka Prize for Young Leaders in Environmental Issues and Climate Change, and the People's Choice Award. Kuepper has developed a simple, cheap way of producing solar cells in a pizza oven that may bring power and light to the two billion people in the world who lack electricity.

Environmental scientist Professor Richard Kingsford from the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences received the Australian Government Eureka Prize for Promoting Understanding of Science for his major role in lifting awareness of the threats to Australia's major rivers and wetland systems. And Federation Fellow Professor



Professor Robert Clark



Professor Richard Kingsford

Matthew England, and his team at the UNSW Climate Change Research Centre, won the Land & Water Australia Eureka Prize for Water Research and Innovation for extraordinary research enabling dramatic rainfall variations in Western Australia to be predicted through identifying variations in ocean temperature. Professor England has also been awarded the 2008 Mercedes-Benz Australian Research Award from the Banksia Environmental Foundation.

## LEADING HIV RESEARCH

The reputation of UNSW's HIV researchers as world leaders in their field continues to grow. Professor Andrew Carr, who is based at St Vincent's Hospital, is the only Australian to be listed in the world's top 10 HIV/AIDS researchers by *Science*, the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Best known for his work on the complications of antiretroviral therapy, Professor Carr was the first to describe a very common side effect of therapy: HIV lipodystrophy, which changes the way body fat is distributed, causing metabolic changes that increase the risk of heart disease.

*Justice Michael Kirby writes on the long quest for an HIV cure on page 18.*



Cheryl Kernot

## CSI SETTING SOCIAL AGENDA

The new UNSW-based Centre for Social Impact (CSI) is set for global recognition with developments including the endowment of a \$2 million Macquarie Group Foundation Chair to be held by the Centre's Chief Executive, Professor Peter Shergold. Further enhancing the CSI's reputation is the appointment of Cheryl Kernot as its first Director of Teaching and Learning. Associate Professor Kernot's experience in teaching social enterprise, pursuing social innovation and framing supportive public policy settings will help CSI, an initiative aimed at building the capacity of Australia's not-for-profit organisations, to meet its bold learning, research and advocacy goals, says Professor Shergold. Following her distinguished political career, Ms Kernot spent five years as Programme Director at the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurs at Oxford University, and as the Director of Learning at London's School for Social Entrepreneurs. By sharing the vision, Professor Shergold says, the Macquarie Group's long-term strategic investment will ensure CSI meets "its corporate commitment to building a socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable Australia and place our social innovations on a world stage."

**STEPPING UP**

Twenty of Australia's top companies are actively helping female students towards corporate success through the 2008 UNSW Lucy Mentoring Program. Forty-one students in business, finance, economics, accounting and law have been paired with high-profile female mentors who are in senior management roles at some of the country's leading employers, including Deloitte, the Reserve Bank of Australia, JP Morgan and the Attorney General's Department. The program aims to address the under-representation of Australian women in senior management by providing access to support and professional networks. Student "mentees" are offered work experience at their mentors' workplaces, and a number of the 26 students from last year's Lucy Program have secured longer-term employment through their mentors. At this year's program launch, UNSW Deputy Chancellor Gabrielle Upton explained the program not only shows UNSW's strong commitment to giving young women the best opportunity to find their calling, but it has also brought



*Commerce/Law student Yota Kaliaropoulos and her mentor Gabrielle Curtin, Group General Manager, Qantas.*

back senior UNSW alumni as mentors in the program. Coordinated by UNSW Careers and Employment, the program is a partnership

between the NSW Office for Women and Women Chiefs of Enterprises International. For more on women and leadership, see page 9.



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Photo: Water Research Laboratory, School of Civil & Environmental Engineering, UNSW

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Stephen Sewell

## HUMANOID INTERACTION

A pioneering script allowing audiences to enter a virtual environment and interact with 3D digital humanoid characters is the aim of the 2008-2009 UNSW Literary Fellowship. Playwright Stephen Sewell, recipient of the Fellowship, will work with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the College of Fine Arts to develop two scripts for the iCinema Centre, the world's first stereoscopic 360-degree cinematic theatre. Working alongside iCinema's Associate Professor Dennis Del Favaro and Professor Jeffrey Shaw, Sewell will develop a script titled *Scenario* for an Australian Research Council-funded project inspired by Samuel Beckett's approach to experimental television. The aim is to present *Scenario* for the Sydney Festival 2009/10. A second script, *Triage*, will be developed into a DVD short film on 20th-century poet Paul Celan and his relationships with philosophers Martin Heidegger and Hannah Arendt. The Fellowship, valued at \$12,000, is funded by the U Committee and awarded every two years to a writer whose work in progress would benefit from time at the University. Previous winners have included Oodgeroo Noonuccal (formerly Kath Walker), David Foster, Les Murray and Kate Grenville.

## HIGH-ENERGY CHALLENGE

Future supplies of cheap, abundant, clean energy cannot be taken for granted, and a new UNSW centre is tackling the energy crisis headlong. The Centre for Energy Research and Policy Analysis (CERPA) covers all aspects of energy research, from renewable technologies and sustainable fossil fuel use to markets policy. It aims to develop multiple solutions to the challenges of climate change and rising global energy demand. Backed by more than \$25 million in annual research funding, CERPA combines the capabilities of seven diverse faculties: Engineering, Science, Law, Arts and Social Science, Built Environment, the Australian Defence Force Academy and the Australian School of Business. The centre will bring technological understanding to real-world policies and solutions. At its opening, international expert on environmental and resource economics Professor Michael Hanemann, Director of the California Climate Change Centre, said CERPA gave UNSW "a tremendous strategic advantage" in energy research.



## HOW TO ... BE RESILIENT

Ingrid Poulson believes the steps to resilience are the same for all of us – "whether a person has experienced a life-shattering event or something relatively minor". The author of *Rise*, a memoir/manual on nurturing resilience, Poulson says we can't always control the events in our lives, but we do control the way we respond to them. Poulson's first qualification for offering guidance on resilience is as a survivor. In 2003, her estranged husband stabbed to death her two children and her father before killing himself. The months of nightmares and insurmountable pain that followed gave way to feeling guilty about feeling normal. She went on to explore the relationship between behaviour and emotions through a Master of Arts in cognitive science at UNSW. Resilience can be actively encouraged concludes Poulson who is now sharing her insights with police officers, the families of homicide victims and corporate workers through training programs and speaking engagements.

Key factors for resilience:

1. Resolve – Making a promise to yourself to survive and strive.
2. Identity – The important traits are flexibility, self-confidence and emotional intelligence.
3. Support – Giving as well as receiving it.
4. Everyday – Making an effort to eat and sleep well and to enjoy your life. Poulson appreciates the wisdom of the Dalai Lama who recommends nine hours' sleep with a peaceful mind.

## RESEARCHING CANNABIS

Cannabis continues to be the illicit drug of choice in Australia, with new figures showing that just over one-third of adults have tried it. More alarmingly, at least 200,000 adults are believed to be cannabis-dependent, with around one in 10 who tries the drug forming an addiction at some time in their lives. Three times as many people are now seeking help for problems with cannabis compared to 15 years ago.

Around half of the presentations to drug treatment among 10- to 19-year-olds are related to cannabis, compared to 25 percent for alcohol and 10 percent for amphetamines. In a bid to reverse these trends, UNSW has launched Australia's first National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre. With funding of \$12 million over three years from the Federal Government, the new Centre will operate with close links to the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, also based at UNSW.



# The journey so far

Two prominent alumni consider the mostly high points on their paths of extraordinary achievement.



## Warwick Negus

ALL IN THE GAME

When alumnus Warwick Negus looks back on his high-flying career, he attributes his Masters in Commerce from UNSW with giving him “the ticket to play”. “It got me into the game with the job I wanted, and I built my career from there,” reflects Negus who has held a series of senior executive roles with investment banks globally, including start-up operations in Asia. More recently he was Chief Executive of Colonial First State Global Asset Management. He is a true believer in the importance of building mutually beneficial connections between educators and the corporate world. “Growing the links allows business to tap into groundbreaking research and to meet the best and brightest students. At the same time, the University maintains its edge with real-world relevance,” says Negus who definitely walks the talk. For the past 10 years, he has been a member of the Advisory Council of the Australian School of Business (formerly the Faculty of Commerce and Economics) – and until recently co-chaired its Executive Committee. He also is a member of the University Council and is a director of the UNSW Foundation Board.

**My childhood was ...** extremely busy. With four kids there was never a dull moment.

**My parents always said ...** to do my homework.

**At school, I ...** lived for sport.

**My most significant memory of university is ...** the daunting enrolment day. Long lines of kids who were all scared of what was to come.

**Studying taught me to ...** think logically. Knowing how to think and construct a solution has been more valuable to me than understanding content.

**My greatest experiment while at UNSW ...** studying full time for a post grad degree and working full time simultaneously.

**My worst experience while at UNSW ...** not being hired for a tutor role that I really wanted.

**My most valuable lesson at UNSW was ...** researching and thinking for hours before pen even hits the paper.

**I made my career choice by ...** attending many, many campus interviews.

**If I had known then what I know now, I would have ...** studied full time, and not worked until I had finished studying. I tried to fit study, career and sport all into the same space and I think I did not enjoy campus life as a result.

**I remember ...** the lecturers and professors who took the trouble to go that extra step to make learning interesting.

**The greatest lesson in my career has been ...** to be flexible and embrace change. Change is often very good and avoiding it can cost you so much.

**My most exhilarating experience so far ...** was the 10 years I worked overseas. It added enormous perspective to my understanding of so many things.

**If I could do it again I ...** probably would have studied more overseas. I now think that both learning and careers are enhanced by the breadth of your experiences.

**My greatest achievement ...** apart from a happy family, is to be in a position now to be an active participant in my children's lives.

**Others say I ...** try to do too much!

**I most admire ...** some of the great pioneer investors around the world, such as Ben Graham and Warren Buffett. Their devotion to simple concepts has been the route of their success.

**I wish I'd never ...** returned to Australia so soon. As a family we wished we had stayed in Europe a little longer!

**The best piece of advice I have ever been given is ...** don't think of a career as being one job with one company for life. The richness of my experiences was heavily influenced by change.

**When I'm not at home, I ...** exercise as much as I can, and spend time with my family.

**I am happiest when ...** I am fit.

**My greatest unrealised wish is to ...** play sport, any sport, for Australia. Maybe one of my kids will.

**One last thing ...** I have a passion for education. I love being around the younger generation whilst they are learning. I hope, in a small way, I can help.



## Erin Cini

### WATER WISE

**E**rin Cini has packed a lot into a few years since completing her Bachelor of Environmental Engineering (Honours) in 2005. In her first post-uni job, she was immediately seconded to the then NSW Department of the Environment, Utilities and Sustainability to develop and author the state's single household grey-water reuse guidelines.

To be involved in such an important project at such an early career stage was a "very exciting and excellent experience", reflects the 25-year-old National President of the Australian Water Association's Young Water Professionals. The guidelines, published in early 2007, undoubtedly played a part in her listing for participation in the Population, Climate Change, Sustainability and Water stream at this year's 2020 Summit. And the idea she put forward at the Summit, about building the next generation of water industry careers, not only made it into the final report but also received support from Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong. Cini's role with engineering firm Kellogg, Brown and Root took her to live in Queensland last year "when the dams were at 20 percent". There she has been working on the design and construction of the Northern Pipeline Interconnector for the grid that will facilitate a flow of water between the Sunshine Coast and the rest of the state's south-east. With an interest in water nurtured during her degree, she enjoys inspiring everyone – from her grandmother to primary school students – about sustainability and alternative water supplies. "It's great people now realise we need to think about water all the time – and not just in a drought cycle," she says.

**My childhood was ...**  
an adventure in my mind and the backyard.

**My parents always said ...**  
do what makes you happy.

**At school, I ...** always wanted to learn more.

**My most significant memory of university is ...** great conversations on the library lawn, and walking up and down the Basser steps.

**Studying taught me to ...**  
prioritise/procrastinate

**My greatest experiment while at UNSW ...** dying my hair purple.

**My worst experience while at**

**UNSW ...** eight exams in six days!

**My most valuable lesson at UNSW was ...** that engineering isn't just about numbers – you need to engage people.

**I made my career choice by ...** combining my interest in practical maths and science with a passion for sustainability, and some great UNSW lecturers initially drew me to the water industry.

**If I had known then what I know now, I would have ...**  
passed mechanics of solids.

**I remember ...** Dr Bruce Cathers making me sit at the front of our water engineering lecturers for being disruptive.

**The greatest lesson in my career has been ...** grab your opportunities.

**My most exhilarating experience so far ...** watching the sun rise over Machu Picchu.

**If I could do it again I ...**  
would have gone on exchange while at university to a country like Sweden where they are best practice with sustainability.

**My greatest achievement ...**  
was seeing the NSW Greywater Guidelines (which I wrote) get published.

**Others say I ...** am always smiling.

**I most admire ...** people who put others before themselves.

**I wish I'd never ...** ask me in another 25 years.

**The best piece of advice I have ever been given is ...**  
get as much varied experience as you can.

**When I'm not at home, I ...**  
am travelling.

**I am happiest when ...** I am with my family and friends.

**My greatest unrealised wish is to ...** be involved in the design and construction of sustainable infrastructure in a developing country.

**One last thing... ALWAYS SMILE!!**

## Rebuilding the quake zone

UNSW continues its efforts to help Sichuan ...

**N**SW is providing \$300,000 worth of post-graduate scholarships to develop skills to rebuild China's earthquake-devastated Sichuan province.

Ten Chinese students will be selected from the worst hit provinces, expanding UNSW's assistance which began with satellite imagery to guide the rescue effort immediately after the May 12 earthquake.

From 2009, UNSW will provide 10 Masters by Coursework full-tuition scholarships for a range of one-year programs, including Urban Planning and Design, Engineering Science, Construction Management, Health Management and Master of Science and Technology in Environmental Science.

UNSW Global, which runs Foundation Studies for the University, will provide additional scholarships to any of the students who need pre-course intensive language tuition to meet the English entry standards. A campaign through the UNSW Foundation is also raising funds for a stipend of \$20,000 for each student.

There is a long history of academic collaboration between UNSW and Chinese universities, says UNSW Vice Chancellor Professor Fred Hilmer. "We currently have more than 2,300 students from mainland China, which represents about a quarter of all international students studying at UNSW. Hundreds more of our students are first generation Australian Chinese, many with family still in China."

A team of researchers from the Faculty of Engineering's Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information provided satellite images directly to the Chinese earthquake authorities, and has played a vital



role in assessing the damage from the earthquake and identifying possible aftershock danger areas.

"We now want to help with the rebuilding effort. These scholarships will develop expertise in the fields most vital to that effort," Professor Hilmer says.

Counsellor Bai Gang from the Sydney Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China says: "The Chinese people are grateful to the University for this far-sighted initiative."

The scholarships are important on three levels; as a humanitarian initiative, in building the relationship between China and Australia, and in fostering academic collaboration, says Counsellor Bai.

Scholarships will be awarded on academic merit to applicants from Sichuan Province, Shaanxi Province, Gansu Province and the Chongqing Municipality.

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**W**hy is television journalist Jana Wendt called the Perfumed Steamroller, while Westpac CEO Gail Kelly is said to head The Kelly Gang? Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher became widely known as the Iron Lady or Attila the Hen during her time in office and the German Chancellor Angela Merkel's moniker "the iron frau" is certainly not lost in translation. The nicknaming of women leaders signifies a broader discomfort with women in top jobs and shows society is grappling to reconcile femininity with the tough decision-making that inevitably goes with a leader's role, says Associate Professor Lucy Taksa, Director of the UNSW Industrial Relations Research Centre and staff member of UNSW's Australian School of Business. "Recent scholarly literature shows nicknaming is commonly used as a way of inferring social inclusion or exclusion. Nicknaming is designed to deter deviance – and many scholars have identified it with the struggle for masculine respect and recognition," Taksa reports. She raised the cases above as indicators of why women leaders are facing obstacles at two Lifelong Learning events, entitled "Do Women Do Leadership Differently?", in Sydney and Melbourne.

## What's in a name?

The labels put on women in top jobs reveal a deeper struggle over how we perceive leaders.

Statistics show women are making minimal, if any, headway in leadership roles and tell a salient story. That old glass ceiling has only a crack or two, according to the latest Australian studies which show just 80 out of the top 1036 earning positions are held by women. Typically, female CFOs, COOs and CEOs earn around half the wage of their male counterparts. Earlier this year the Equal Opportunity for Women Agency (EOWA) released figures showing the number of women in board roles had dropped between 2006-2007. In the previous three years the percentage of women in executive management roles had increased only marginally from 11.4 percent in 2004 to 12 percent in 2007 – and the number of women CEOs had not risen since 2003. One of the difficulties facing women's rise has been that the model of successful leadership remains male or associated with the characteristics of machismo, Taksa says. Men have embraced the "transactional", command-and-control style of leadership, which is also used by some women, particularly in traditional industries such as manufacturing and mining. Women, on the other hand, have tended to see themselves as doing leadership differently and over the past decade or so have identified themselves as "transformational" leaders, a style that's considered more feminine, communicative, participatory and motivational. A danger lurks in gender stereotyping of leaders, warns Taksa,

***"The nicknaming of women leaders signifies a broader discomfort with women in top jobs."***

because a double standard comes into play. "When men balance both transformational and transactional leadership styles, they get a pat on the back. Everyone says what wonderful leaders they are. By contrast, scholars have shown that the same behaviour by women is received differently, and generally more negatively. Either women leaders are criticised for being too

'participatory' and not strong enough or too 'hard-nosed'. "We need to find a more holistic approach that moves away from gender stereotypes and recognises that context is important for defining a good leadership style," Taksa argues. "Some situations demand a so-called masculine approach, while in others a so-called feminine approach is more appropriate – and men and women should be able to do both."

Taksa, whose recent research has focussed on the experiences of men and women in the masculine workplace cultures of the manufacturing sector, is gathering data on women's leadership experiences for future research.



# Creating the Cube

Instant Olympic icons definitely don't happen overnight, but take years of detailed and dedicated design and engineering – and plenty of cultural insight, as architect John Bilmon tells Deborah Tarrant.



After five years of planning, designing and cross-cultural collaboration, architect John Bilmon has difficulty naming a highlight of finally seeing the Beijing Aquatic Centre, better known as the Water Cube, in action at the 2008 Olympic Games. There were many.

Joining almost 17,000 spectators to witness some of the world's greatest athletes, including the US's Michael Phelps and Australia's Stephanie Rice, smash more than 20 world records in a purpose-built "fast water" facility was hugely exciting – as was being congratulated by retired Olympic swimming star Ian Thorpe on a truly exceptional achievement.

Bilmon, Managing Director of PTW Architects, the Australian firm contracted to work with China Construction Design International (CCDI) on the design of the aquatic centre, had gone to the Olympics with the knowledge that Chinese President Hu Jin Tao had

already publicly complimented his firm and the Sydney office of engineering firm, Arup, for an exceptional co-operative effort. "Awesome, stunning, memorable," are the words he uses to sum up his Beijing Olympic experience. The task for the architect of any Olympic facility is to produce an environment which enables the athletes to perform to their maximum ability, without distraction, and the Water Cube met expectations so successfully as a functional building "that some of the greatest swimmers in the world called it a masterpiece," notes Bilmon, with satisfaction, and perhaps a degree of relief. PTW was selected for the collaborative venture with CCDI and Sydney's Arup from a field of international contenders, and Bilmon is quick to admit that creating such an extraordinary building presented challenges, including a complete about-face in design direction about a quarter of

the way into the process when several design team members opted out. Initially the 15-plus Sydney architectural team had proposed designs in fluid shapes – one concept was for a wave-like roof, while another looked as though it was melting. After the circular design of the main stadium, "the Bird's Nest", was revealed, the Water Cube took its final shape from Chinese geometric architectural principles in which squares are synonymous with earth, while circles represent heaven. Despite 20 years' experience working in China, the project provided new learning in "how important it is to be aware of local culture – and, specifically, the significance of balanced relationships and geometry in Chinese architecture," Bilmon says. Indeed, the Water Cube became an instant Olympic icon. Beyond the compelling sporting action, the bright blue illuminated structure made of 4,000 irregular aluminium-framed



BEN MCMILLAN

Teflon-like bubbles – each just the thickness of a human hair – captured the attention of billions of people worldwide. Remarkable in appearance and for its reduced environmental footprint, the \$145 million building was lauded as an integrated feat of design and engineering. While Bilmon and team worked with their Chinese partners on the design, making those bubbles a reality was largely due to the dedication of Arup’s chief engineer Tristram Carfrae and his team whose exhaustive research into the structure of bubbles and how they intersect, produced the algorithms needed to create the building. Carfrae is currently a Visiting Professor in UNSW’s Faculty of the Built Environment. The project also pushed the limits of advanced computer modelling as the architects and engineers developed and rotated bubble formations. On completion, the Water Cube was very light on materials and had a much smaller

structural footprint than most buildings of similar dimensions. Ultimately, it will use around 30-50 percent less energy. Solar power is used for air-conditioning, heating the pool and inflating the bubbles. The more the bubbles inflate, the more light enters the building. Protected by a moat, it also captures, cleanses and recycles the water. PTW was responsible for the “overlay”, that is, the temporary works to permanent facilities, at the Athens 2004 Olympics where the performance of the world’s best swimmers in the outdoor pool was less impressive. In Beijing, many of the difficulties were factored out by creating “fast water” through a combination of performance-enhancing design factors, among them, special dividing ropes and a soft edge on the pool, along with a uniform three-metre depth, to reduce wave action. Diffused natural light inherent in the building’s design took care of the glare.

The Water Cube is the highpoint of Bilmon’s career to date, although the graduate of the School of Architecture in 1976, who also completed a Master of Commerce in 1980, recalls another as designing UNSW’s Quadrangle building in the mid-’90s. The project was awarded an RAI Urban Design Award. Creating a historic landmark in one of the world’s fastest growing cities is not an easy act to follow, Bilmon concedes. The Water Cube project has had spin-off benefits in enhancing the reputation of Australian architects globally. Many of the world’s best and brightest young architects are now seeking to work here, he notes. With no time to waste, Bilmon’s team at PTW is already creating new Olympic plans – for the design of the 2012 London Olympics handball facility, one of only four permanent facilities being built for the next Games – and further projects to be announced.



## MORE OLYMPIC ACHIEVERS

UNSW alumni and teachers from the Faculty of the Built Environment (FBE) were major contributors to the design of the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the smooth running of the Games. In the frontline were:

**Joe Agius** of Cox Richardson Architects & Planners, a 1992 Architecture graduate, who oversaw the design of the \$260 million Olympic sailing facilities at Qingdao. UNSW Visiting Professor **Lawrence Nield** of Bligh Voller Nield Architecture, and a member of the Dean’s Advisory Committee, who had an advisory role on overall planning of the Beijing Olympic Green, while his firm completed design work for the Olympic tennis centre, rowing, whitewater rafting, and the temporary archery and hockey venues. FBE Associate Dean Research, Professor **Martin Loosemore**, and Director of Research Students, Professor **Patrick Zou**, received the UK Chartered Institute of Building’s International Construction Project Management Association Award for their contribution to the Beijing Olympics’ Risk Management system. Alumnus **Fu Yuan Yuan (Peggy)**, a 2002 FBE graduate, worked on the Olympics overlay for the Beijing Organising Committee for the Olympic Games.

# Industry linkages provide real solutions

## Made from waste

UNSW's partnerships with corporate Australia are using innovation to solve contemporary problems, reports Louise Williams.

It's taken a decade in the lab, but a UNSW civil engineer has managed to turn polluting fly-ash waste from coal-fired power stations into an environmental solution for the world's carbon-hungry construction sector.

The 100 percent "made from waste" fly-ash bricks, pavers and aggregates are now coming off the production line at a pilot plant in a special Chinese zone for industrial recycling.

It's called "industrial ecology" and it's transforming one industry's waste into a valuable resource to feed another industry – and removing a global pollutant from our ecosystems along the way.

In another UNSW breakthrough, a "green" steel-making process uses waste plastic in the furnace, turning rubbish into a fuel and reducing the use of high-emission coke and coal.

Transforming theory into commercially viable solutions for real-world problems demonstrates the benefits of universities and industry working together.

The fly-ash building products are the culmination of a scientific dream for Dr Obada Kayali, a senior lecturer in Civil Engineering at UNSW@ADFA. Apart from the immediate environmental benefits of using fly-ash – hundreds of millions of tonnes of which contaminates the air and clogs the world's waterways – the new building products also offer significant cuts to greenhouse gas emissions for the construction sector.

The new lightweight fly-ash aggregate replaces quarried rocks such as blue metal and gravel, which are mixed with cement to make concrete. Concrete and cement accounts for about 10 percent of emissions worldwide. The fly-ash aggregate is lighter and bonds better with cement than conventional materials, reducing the amount of cement needed to make high-strength concrete for construction – and cutting emissions by at least 20 percent. The lighter fly-ash bricks also mean smaller foundations, less steel and reduced emissions.

"The amount of building going on in China – and the pollution – is unbelievable. If we can reduce the use of cement as much as possible there, that is a very big gain, not only for China, but for the global

environment," Obada says.

Following the successful commercial trials in China, with Vecor Global, UNSW's commercial arm, NewSouth Innovations (NSi) is negotiating to license the technology in Australia, Indonesia, India, the United States and the Middle Eastern construction hubs of Dubai and Kuwait. The quest to turn fly-ash into a useful resource has occupied scientists for decades, and a small percentage of the world's 800 billion tonnes a year is already used as an additive to cement and mixed into bricks. However, earlier fly-ash aggregates have needed more cement, not less, negating the environmental benefits. "My research was about finding a way to produce a lightweight aggregate from fly-ash which used less cement – this is the big difference. You can imagine how good this is for greenhouse gas emissions," says Obada.

UNSW materials scientist Professor Veena Sahajwalla has found similar environmental and economic benefits in her new green steel, which has now been commercialised by OneSteel. The Australian steel-maker has signed a global licensing deal with NSi giving it rights to sublicense the new green technology which boosts productivity, cuts power bills and reduces greenhouse gas emissions in electric arc furnace (EAF) steel-making.

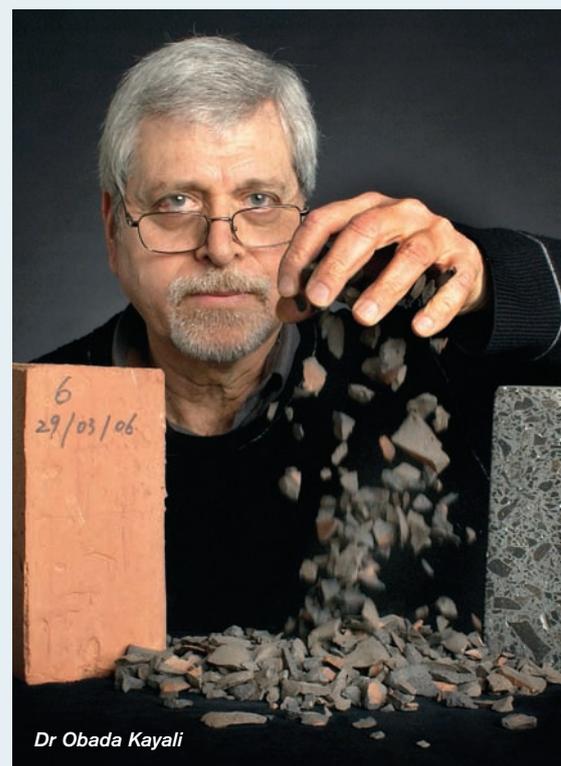
By reacting blends of waste plastic and coke/coal at intense temperatures in EAF steel-making, Veena produced an identical end product, but used less electricity. The process recycles waste which would otherwise accumulate in landfills.

This research is being conducted in the recently established Centre for Sustainable Materials Research & Technology (SMaRT@UNSW) which is focussed on finding ways to reduce the environmental impact of materials-related industries by developing innovative materials and processes through world-class research. "We have never really looked at waste with the respect it deserves. We shouldn't look at rubbish as waste, but as just another resource and we need to develop the recycling science to match," says Veena who was recently promoted to Associate Dean (Strategic Industry Relations).



*"We shouldn't look at rubbish as waste, but as just another resource and we need to develop the recycling science to match."*

Professor Veena Sahajwalla



Dr Obada Kayali



## Working together for real change BY VICTORIA BROWN

In the most recent round of Linkage Grants from the Australian Research Council (ARC), UNSW received the highest portion of funding of any Australian university – a success which further demonstrates UNSW's capacity to form fruitful working relationships with industry leaders. UNSW received just under \$11.5 million or 18 percent of the grants awarded nationwide. In addition, the grants bring with them contributions from industry partners of a further \$21 million. The largest grant, worth \$1.6 million over six years, goes to a team led by Professor Martin Green from the School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering, for a project targeting a new generation of low-cost silicon solar cells that will significantly reduce the cost of generating electricity from sunlight. The collaborating organisation is CSG Solar Pty Ltd. This funding is in addition to the School's

close relationship with UNSW alumnus Dr Zhengrong Shi and his company Suntech Power Holdings. The relationship includes a sponsorship program, which began this year, where the company pays for up to 30 Chinese students and employees to study a UNSW Masters program in photovoltaics. Other links established by the ARC funding include the Australian School of Business team, led by Professor Michael Sherris, in partnership with the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority, the World Bank and PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia; researchers led by Professor Rick Cavicchioli from the School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences working to improve the sustainability of Australia's water resources with Aeris Technologies Ltd. Legal firm Gilbert + Tobin is the primary sponsor of the Gilbert +Tobin Centre of Public Law, which plays an independent

role in public debate on vital issues, while the University Council is also a source of close industry ties. Members from the private sector such as Matthew Grounds, Australian head of investment bank UBS and Wal King, Chief Executive of Leighton Holdings, as well as UNSW Chancellor and Chairman of Investec Bank David Gonski, contribute expertise across finance, commerce, the law, governance and management, and planning and development. Business leaders also serve on advisory boards around the University. Industry partners also provide scholarships for selected undergraduate students in the disciplines of Business, Science and Engineering through the UNSW Co-op Program. Other industry leaders working with UNSW include: Mitsubishi Development, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Allens Arthur Robinson, Freehills, CSIRO, Cochlear, Weir Minerals, Bovis Lend Lease, Brookfield Multiplex, Hassell and Woodhead.



## Shift in the landscape

Sculptures bring a change of pace to a bustling place of learning, writes COFA's Amy Griffiths.

Dappled with opaqueness and transparency, the lofty pillars of landscape architect and artist Kate Cullity's installation, entitled *Seeing the Wood for the Trees*, signal a space with a more silent, contemplative feel in the middle of one of the busiest thoroughfares on UNSW's Kensington campus.

Prominently located just outside the Faculty of Law on the University Walk – and accessible from Anzac Parade – the recent work is constructed from 17 vertical panels of tapered rusted mild steel, along with concrete, granite and plants. The installation forms the new Sir Anthony Mason Garden. It combines structural design elements with natural colour, textured patterns and shapes to great effect, suggesting a tree-filled forest. "Like a forest that is closed to the eye but open to movement," Cullity explains in her rationale for the sculpture, it provides "the ability to 'see the wood for the trees', to be able to navigate through what appears at first to be dense and opaque".

Commissioned in recognition of the contribution made to UNSW by former Chancellor Sir Anthony Mason, *Seeing the Woods for the Trees* was the winning entry in the second UNSW Sculpture Commission Competition.

The competition was initiated in 2001 to acquire site-specific works for important zones of the campus. The first UNSW Sculpture Commission Competition resulted in *Globe* by Bronwyn Oliver being commissioned to enhance The Mall at International Square, located just below The John Niland Scientia building. Oliver's work encapsulates the vision of sculptural public art on the UNSW campus by "providing a point of contemplation and provoking dialogue and ideas", according to the Art Curator, Belinda Webb. The U Committee supports the UNSW Sculpture Commission Competition both financially and through member participation on the judging panel, as part of its enthusiastic and ongoing contribution to the artistic and cultural life of the campus.

The U Committee was the first sponsor of the UNSW Art Collection which now comprises more than 1100 quality Australian

works, including paintings, prints, drawings, ceramics, barks and sculptures.

The collection began in 1955 when the founding Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Philip Baxter, had the inspired idea to incorporate art into the built environment, to lift the spirit of the then bleak and industrial-looking campus. This began the tradition of commissioning and purchasing major sculptural works to enhance the campus and life at the University.

The U Committee has played a significant part in this tradition, providing funding for many of the Kensington campus's major works. It began with a group of remarkable women, wives of senior academics, wishing to volunteer their time to enhance campus and University life. It now consists of 60-plus members comprised of staff, spouses of staff, and friends. Since the U Committee's inception in 1963, this charity has raised over \$2,800,000 for UNSW campus activities and projects. Some of the sculptures purchased with funds donated by the U Committee include *North Down* by Ron Robertson-Swann (purchased in 1991), *Parousia* by John Clutterbuck (commissioned and completed in 1992) and James Rogers' *The Bath* (purchased in 1992). Sculptures are the most accessible works in the UNSW Art Collection and all are available for viewing on a self-guided walking tour of the public art at UNSW. Details of the walk and a map can be found at: [http://www.artcollection.unsw.edu.au/sculpture\\_walk](http://www.artcollection.unsw.edu.au/sculpture_walk).

*The sculpture provides "the ability to 'see the wood for the trees', to be able to navigate through what appears at first to be dense and opaque".*



# Staying connected

From free career advice to discount entertainment and travel, UNSW alumni enjoy a range of ongoing benefits ...

**T**he advantages of studying at UNSW don't end with graduation.

Beyond the opportunities of world-class education, alumni continue to be entitled to an exclusive range of benefits and services.

While we are always keen to stay in touch with alumni and welcome ideas, contributions and feedback from current and former students, we invite you to access these long-term benefits with no strings attached – there are no membership fees or registration forms.

## 2. Careers and Employment

The Careers and Employment department provides assistance and career advice for up to 18 months after completing your studies.

You are eligible to use the following free services:

- Careers education workshops
- Employer programs and events
- Jobs online
- Individual assistance.

Access these services at [www.careers.unsw.edu.au](http://www.careers.unsw.edu.au).

## 3. Learn4Life Courses

Learn4Life short courses are designed to help you develop your business and information technology skills and knowledge. The short course topics include marketing, occupational health and safety, negotiating skills, web design, e-commerce and many more. All courses are interactive and practical, and a number are nationally accredited. UNSW alumni are entitled to a 10 percent discount on all Learn4Life short courses. For more information or to enrol, go to [www.learn4life.unsw.edu.au](http://www.learn4life.unsw.edu.au) or phone 1300 727 640.

## 1. Free Lifelong Email

The UNSW alumni lifelong email is free and available to all graduates. It provides you with an email account that helps you to stay in contact with UNSW while also allowing you to have one email account. With 40 megabytes of capacity, excellent spam and filtering protection and the ability to stay in touch, this email is easy to set up and will stay with you for life. Activate your UNSW alumni lifelong email at [www.diy.unsw.edu.au](http://www.diy.unsw.edu.au).



## 4. UNSW Library

With an extensive range of books and one of Australia's best journal collections, the UNSW Library is a valuable resource. Half-price yearly membership is available to all alumni, and includes: • borrowing up to 20 items at one time. (Limited to only five items from COFA Library and five items from the Water Reference Library); • renewing items for up to 16 weeks – provided the item(s) has not been recalled; • requesting stack collection items in the basement for use in the Library; • accessing rare books for use in the Library; and, • using UNSW Library computers and photocopying services. To apply for membership please email [alumni@unsw.edu.au](mailto:alumni@unsw.edu.au) or phone 02 9385 3279. For more information visit [www.info.library.unsw.edu.au](http://www.info.library.unsw.edu.au).



## 5. The Australia Ensemble

The Australia Ensemble is a musical treat renowned both for the richness of its performance and the variety of its programming, combining new works and great masterpieces. The chamber music ensemble's seven outstanding instrumentalists will perform six concerts in the 2009 season. Alumni are offered a 15 percent discount on all tickets to the ensemble's performances and subscriptions. For tickets or more information call 02 9385 4874.



## 6. UNSW Bookshop

One of Sydney's leading academic specialist booksellers, this independent bookshop has a large range of specialist titles and offers UNSW alumni a 10 percent discount on the recommended retail price of all books. For more information go to [www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au](http://www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au).

## 7. Membership of The Graduate Union in Melbourne

The Victorian Chapter of the UNSW Alumni Association has been granted a corporate membership of the Graduate Union of the University of Melbourne.

This membership entitles all UNSW alumni to use the Graduate Union's facilities, including fully-equipped conference rooms, relaxing lounges, a bar, buffet meals, library and reading room. To access these facilities, you need to quote your UNSW Alumni Association membership number. Please contact the Alumni Relations Office on 02 9385 3279 or email [alumni@unsw.edu.au](mailto:alumni@unsw.edu.au) for the membership number.

The Graduate Union is affiliated with many similar bodies in Europe, Asia and North America where UNSW alumni may now visit and are entitled to use facilities. As an alumnus you can make use of overnight accommodation when available.



## 8. Going places

When booking a holiday, visiting family or friends overseas or taking a business trip, you are entitled to benefits offered by the preferred travel agents of UNSW, Anywhere Travel and Campus Travel. Both offer alumni a discount with the following vendors:

- United Airlines
- Singapore Airlines
- Malaysia Airlines
- Europcar.

To access great savings contact:  
Anywhere Travel on 1300 130 464  
or by email  
[anyweb@anywheretravel.com.au](mailto:anyweb@anywheretravel.com.au)  
Campus Travel on  
1300 882 021 or email  
[info@campustravel.com.au](mailto:info@campustravel.com.au)

The UNSW Alumni Relations Office is working hard to secure more benefits for you. To keep up to date with any new offers please visit [www.alumni.unsw.edu.au](http://www.alumni.unsw.edu.au).



## From the President of the UNSW Alumni Association

It is a privilege recently to have been re-elected as President of the Alumni Board for another period of two years and to welcome Ms Jenny Horder as Vice-President. Newcomers Dr Jennifer Alexander and Dr Winston Lo are also warmly welcomed to the Board, as well as Ms Belinda Liu, a recent Co-op Scholar and Information Technology graduate, who has been co-opted as a Governor. Our links with young alumni and current students have grown through our representation on the Board of *Arc@UNSW*, and with the affiliation of *ComSoc* and *MedSoc*. Sincere thanks to out-going members Dr Adrienne Thompson, Mr Darren Challis, Dr Carole Elvin and Dr Jessica Milner-Davis.

At the end of July, I attended UNSW graduations and alumni functions in Hong Kong and Singapore and was delighted by the enthusiasm in our Chapter committees in these places. In June, our Board approved the formation of a China Chapter of the Association, based in Beijing. Congratulations to Mr George Cheung and his team there. We wish the new China Chapter every success as it strengthens the University's relationships with China and builds connections with our mainland alumni.

The Alumni Board will soon hold another planning day when we will seek to determine priorities for our work, especially in the light of the growth of activity being funded and promoted by the University through the Foundation and the Alumni Office. The major part of the Association's funds will continue to be focussed on providing scholarships. From 2009, these will increase in value to \$5000 per annum over three years. This will be a more meaningful amount, but the number of scholarships we are able to offer will be limited to three annually. Of course, we look to increase the fund and I ask that you might consider supporting children and grandchildren of alumni. The Foundation/Alumni Office will welcome your call to discuss this and other important ways of supporting future generations at UNSW.

With best wishes,

**Dr Ian Walker**  
President

## Your global community

If you are not living in Australia or you travel regularly, remember you can keep in touch with UNSW and UNSW alumni through its international chapters and networks across the globe. Alumni chapters and networks can be found in Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, England and the United States. Visit <http://www.unsw.edu.au/alumni/pad/alcontacts.html> for contact details.

## The quest for a cure

Cross-disciplinary expertise is a vital weapon in the almost 30-year battle to combat HIV/AIDS, writes Justice Michael Kirby.

When Sir Phillip Baxter and his colleagues established UNSW a little more than 50 years ago, it was accepted that it would become a national leader in science and technology. The University had, after all, been first named the University of Technology.

Under its new title, UNSW quickly embraced the humanities and built a remarkable capacity to inter-relate the physical and social sciences. In the early 1980s, when HIV/AIDS came along, this multidisciplinary capacity proved critical to finding an effective response. Doubtless this is why UNSW has taken such a vitally important role in the medical and epidemiological response to the epidemic and also in the social science response that is essential to effective strategies.

Because of my involvement in the Australian Law Reform Commission, I caught the eye of Dr Jonathan Mann, the first Director of the Global Programme on AIDS (GPA) within the World Health Organization (WHO). He was one of the epidemiologists, working in the then Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) who noticed the early manifestations of the "slim" disease: a condition later identified by the acronym AIDS and caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Fortunately, Mann quickly drew his discoveries to the attention of

the Director-General of WHO on a visit to Brazzaville. WHO began to mobilise the world response. One initiative was the establishment of the Global Commission on AIDS. I was appointed to that body, along with the two great scientists who first isolated HIV, Luc Montagnier (France) and Robert Gallo (USA).

At the time, there was no therapy available to combat HIV. Indeed, the exact cause of AIDS was not known for a couple of years. Even when known, there were no drugs that could cure the disease. There was no vaccine. Vaccines against viruses are extremely tricky. I remember Robert Gallo predicting that the world would have an effective cure within 10 years and a vaccine within 20 years. Yet here we are, nearly 30 years on, and we have neither a cure nor safe, effective vaccines.

From the late 1990s, remarkable triple combination therapies of anti-retroviral drugs have provided a partial medical answer to infection with HIV. They usually slow the progress of the condition, but they do not rid the body of the virus. The patient remains capable of passing the virus to others. The long-term effectiveness of such therapies is unknown. The failure of a recent major vaccine trial, when it was discovered that some participants were actually becoming more exposed to sero-conversion [the development of antibodies], indicates a safe and effective vaccine is still a long way off.



***“Not only does it produce stigma and discrimination as well as fear. It demands intense cooperation between disciplines that usually have little to do with each other.”***

This predicament has demanded an unusual response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, calling forth remarkable cooperation between medical scientists and social scientists. For the time being, the only effective 'vaccine' against becoming infected with HIV is knowledge and self-protection. This is why HIV/AIDS is such a special condition. Not only does it produce stigma and discrimination as well as fear. It demands intense cooperation between disciplines that usually have little to do with each other.

And this is where UNSW comes in. In the one great university, we have the Australian National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (associated also with St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney) and also the National Centre in HIV Social Research. One is based in the Faculty of Medicine and the other in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Each is the Australian cutting-edge institution concerned with tracking the epidemic, developing new responses, and combining the talents of Australia's best medical and social scientists in a unique way. I pay a tribute to the leadership of Professor David Cooper in the Epidemiology Centre and Professor Susan Kippax, who retired in 2007 as Director of the Social Research Centre. Helping to bring the work of these two centres together in UNSW is Daniel Tarantola, Professor of Health and Human Rights in the Faculty of Medicine, who was there in the earliest days, working in Geneva with Jonathan

Mann and GPA. Like me, he is now closely involved in activities of UNAIDS, the inter-agency body established in 2000 to integrate the United Nations' responses to HIV/AIDS. He is a world leader with knowledge and experience at a global level.

A recent BrainFood forum brought together, in dialogue with the University community, the best in-house expertise – to peer into the future and to foresee the time when HIV/AIDS will be consigned to a tragic footnote in human history. That time is not close. But it is through the rare combination of inter-disciplinary skills of great intelligence and application that we will eventually find the cure and the vaccine for AIDS. Meanwhile, by responding to the condition, we discover important truths about human life, personal relationships, sexuality, criminal law, spirituality, stigma and help and kindness. There is nowhere else in Australia that all of the relevant disciplines could be combined with such potency. As a citizen and observer of this epidemic over its entire existence, I pay tribute to the UNSW researchers, investigators, medical practitioners, healthcare workers and patients who have formed a remarkable team in responding to this epidemic.

I also pay a tribute to past political leaders. When HIV/AIDS came along, it was Dr Neal Blewett (a social scientist from South Australia) and Professor Peter Baume (a public health scientist from NSW) who agreed in Federal Parliament upon the strategies that had such a beneficial impact in our national response. When he left Parliament and became a professor in the medical faculty at UNSW, Peter Baume continued his vital work. The Australian community has been fortunate to have had such an integrated, informed, scientific and intelligent response to an epidemic that, in most other countries, called forth only judgmentalism, stigma and counter-productive punitive responses.

When the story is written of how humanity addressed and ultimately conquered HIV/AIDS, the work of UNSW in Australia will be a shining example of inter-disciplinary excellence.

*Footnote: Australia's longest serving judge, the High Court's Justice Michael Kirby received UNSW's highest honour, an Honorary Doctorate of Laws, in September. On the occasion, Justice Kirby praised UNSW for its leadership in integrating science and technology with the social sciences, including law. To read Justice Kirby's Graduation Ceremony address, visit [www.unsw.edu.au/news/pad/articles/2008/sep/Kirby.html](http://www.unsw.edu.au/news/pad/articles/2008/sep/Kirby.html).*



The BrainFood forum on the topic, A Future Free of HIV: the Scientific and Social Implications of making it happen, was presented by the UNSW Alumni Association in April 2008. The forum was facilitated by the Hon. Justice Michael Kirby. The speakers were Daniel Tarantola, Professor of Health and Human Rights, Juliet Richters, Associate Professor of Public Health and Medicine and David Cooper, Director of the National Centre for HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research. For information on upcoming BrainFood Forums, visit <http://www.unsw.edu.au/alumni/pad/alumni.html>.

## Nurturing support

As the UNSW Foundation turns 20, *UNSWorld* examines its vital role through the eyes of Chief Executive Jennifer Bott.



***“The Foundation aims to reward its supporters for their generosity, providing opportunity for their involvement in the life of the University”***

**W**hen Jennifer Bott took up the role of Chief Executive of the UNSW Foundation, the tertiary education sector was already going through a critical shift towards greater self-sufficiency. She arrived in late 2006 with long experience of working in the arts. Previously she had held the roles of Chief Executive Officer of the Australia Council for the Arts, General Manager of Musica Viva Australia and Deputy General Manager Opera Australia, among others. Her latest role has broadened her scope and holds the compelling appeal of engaging with the nation's best and brightest, but she

assures us her job also presents plenty of challenges.

Ms Bott now heads a team of 22 and works with the Foundation's dedicated board of directors to create new ways to support new building development, ground-breaking research across disciplines and the educational excellence at Australia's top university. Established in 1988 as the University's main fundraising arm, the Foundation's mission is to enhance UNSW's financial and reputational capital. Its work results in scholarships, faculty projects, research, major capital works and a growing bequest program. Crucial to this is fostering relationships with

our 200,000 alumni and the wider community, which benefits not only from the talents and knowledge of UNSW graduates, but most significantly from its globally recognised research in fields as diverse and important as medicine, climate change, alternative energy sources and indigenous issues, to name just a few. The Foundation aims to reward its supporters for their generosity, providing opportunity for their involvement in the life of the University, and is growing its capacity to enhance the University experience for all.

### **How did you find the transition from the arts to the higher education sector?**

Challenging! Particularly after so many years working in the arts, although there are many strong parallels between working with artists and academics – not least that both are very passionate and committed to what they do!

There are some similarities in both fields. Certainly, in terms of attitudes to government funding, both are redefining their place as a part of the community and broadening their stakeholder network. Universities have great potential for enhanced engagements and support – particularly for equity and access programs, research and capital works. In the arts, however, there is a much clearer sense of what programs/products are available for support and who the key supporters are – often it's the subscribers.

In the university sector, there is a much greater challenge to research potential prospects – and to be creative and imaginative in developing a menu of projects for support.

### **What have been some of the highlights for you so far?**

We had some great wins that show how relationships work between the University and the wider community. An early one was [investment bank] UBS's gift of \$1 million to support our indigenous centre, Nura Gili, at UNSW.

Personally, I've enjoyed building a Foundation team of diverse, talented people with credibility, stability and professionalism.

Through all our efforts our cash income has grown from \$4 million to \$14 million in the space of two and a half years. The pledges are significantly more, of course – more than \$65 million!

Working with the leadership of the University to grow a distinctive UNSW brand – seeing this take hold and generate support from donors and in the market place – has been another high. And working with the Foundation Board, a group of engaged, clever and committed people, has been a gift in itself.

### **Is there one achievement that's a standout?**

Yes! Over the last year I've been working with our Chairman and Chancellor David Gonski, Vice-Chancellor Professor Fred Hilmer and Professor Peter Shergold to raise the \$12.5 million needed to match the Federal Government's investment in the Centre for Social Impact [based in the Australian School of Business]. This very special group of generous and enlightened donors includes David Gonski, Daniel Petre, Warwick Negus and Robin Crawford, Macquarie Group Foundation, PricewaterhouseCoopers, National Australia Bank, the Helen McPherson Trust and the Melbourne University.

### **Twenty years is a milestone, but where do you see the Foundation's future challenges?**

One of our biggest challenges is to engage with a much larger number of our alumni, staff and former staff in a seamless way, from student days to professional development, fostering personal engagement with the University including philanthropy. Along the way, the Foundation needs to demonstrate inspired, savvy, stable service to our donors and to the University. It's all about marriage brokerage of the highest order.



## Payback time

**W**hen he retired, Emeritus Professor Al Willis – a former Dean of Engineering and Pro-Vice-Chancellor – established the Al Willis/UNSW Endowment Scholarship. His philanthropy enables a student of high academic ability, whose economic circumstances may hinder academic success, to begin an undergraduate degree in the School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering.

Here he reflects on his evolution as a benefactor.

"It was some years after retirement before I settled down to life on a pension and was able to make donations to the University. Only small sums were possible, but I knew from experience that even these would be welcome.

While I was working I had often wished I had a fund with which to help students or staff through a difficult period.

So when I was able to make small grants, through the Vice-Chancellor, to my school or faculty, I recalled the witty words of Jacques Barzun in 'the American University': that next to unalloyed gold the most appreciated gift to a university is a donation with no label.

My humble gift was simply to be used at the discretion of the head of school or dean. I never asked what the money was spent on – but at a staff function a PhD student thanked me for making it possible for him to attend an important conference dealing with his research.

I have never forgotten that my own career was made possible by a scholarship which took me beyond technical college to university. When I was able to make a larger donation, I worked out that I could put one student through a four-year course and sought Foundation advice on the idea. Their officer came back with a proposal that, if I would increase the donation to a certain amount, he believed both the School and the Faculty would also contribute.

It was a bargain! The Foundation drew up the papers. The first holder, a young lady from a tropical city, has just completed four years of a double degree program. I have had the pleasure of meeting her twice when the Foundation has held receptions for donors to meet their beneficiaries.

I have made a bequest in my will to further increase the capital and so – occasionally – there will be two concurrent holders of the scholarship."

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## Ethics on animals

Winning better conditions for animals means harnessing the law, as Katrina Sharman tells Stephen Offner.

**G**rowing up in a country town in a family of animal lovers, Katrina Sharman always felt a strong kinship with animals. She became a vegetarian at the age of 15. "I wanted to be a vet because I loved animals but I was bad at science and I ended up doing law because I was more of a communicator. I wanted to be a lawyer for the RSPCA because it was the only way I could think of to help animals.

"But I promptly forgot all that after I started law school and just got caught up in everything else," recalls Sharman, a UNSW alumna. "Subliminally I think I was trying to find connections through studying environmental law and doing discrete projects on endangered species. But there wasn't anything called animal law so I went to work in corporate law for a large firm."

It was only when Sharman heard about a group called the NSW Young Lawyers Animal Rights Committee, which was part of the Law Society of NSW, that she remembered her reasons for studying the law. "I went along to a meeting and I was chairing it within six weeks. I just couldn't believe how much was out there that no one was talking about and the law was at the bottom of it all."

Passions re-fired, Sharman moved from her job at Sydney law firm Minter Ellison and is now corporate counsel for Voiceless, the not-for-profit animal protection group that boasts Nobel Prize for Literature laureate JM Coetzee as patron and actors Hugo Weaving and Abbie Cornish as ambassadors.

Operating from offices in Paddington in Sydney, Voiceless's main goal is to raise awareness about animal suffering, particularly the horrors inflicted by factory farming. Its other priority is to harness the law as an instrument of change.

"The law is the tool that has sanctioned everything that is happening to animals in society today," Sharman argues. "When I became a lawyer I didn't really have any understanding of the extent to which my profession was involved in the mistreatment of animals. If we are to create change on a fundamental basis, it has to come through the law."

Sharman says whether animals should be seen as property, as is the case now, or whether they have rights is the main issue. "That's the debate that we're revving up."

In 2005, UNSW was the first Australian university to offer an animal law subject and in 2007, in an agreement with Voiceless, UNSW established an international speakers' series, focussing on animal rights issues.

The first speaker in the Voiceless Animal Law Lecture Series was Professor Steven Wise, a legal expert from Harvard whose book *Rattling the Cage* was described by animal protection guru Jane Goodall as "the Magna Carta of animal rights".

In May, Voiceless brought to Australia Raj Panjwani, a leading Indian animal rights advocate who has practised animal law for almost a quarter century. Strong interest in his visit resulted in speaking engagements in four states, with Panjwani visiting about eight universities.

Sharman's alumna connections with UNSW helped with establishing the speakers' series. "It was a matter of good fortune and progressive vision that the Law Faculty could see the merits of this movement and the good public interest that would come with having an ethical perspective," she says.

# Upcoming events for UNSW Alumni & Friends

Please join UNSW at any of the following events. We look forward to seeing you there ...

## YOUNG ALUMNI DRINKS NSW

Meet other alumni and hear the latest from a special guest.

13 November 2008, from 6pm  
Attic Bar, Art House Hotel, Sydney  
RSVP essential.  
Email [alumni@unsw.edu.au](mailto:alumni@unsw.edu.au)  
or call 02 9385 3279

Please note: 2009 Young Alumni Drinks are planned for May and September – dates to be confirmed.

## 21ST AUSTRALASIAN FINANCE AND BANKING CONFERENCE NSW

The School of Banking and Finance at the Australian School of Business is pleased to host the most prestigious finance conference in the Asia-Pacific region, and bring together finance community thought leaders from around the world. Keynote speakers include Professor Florencio Lopez De-Silanes, EDHEC Business School, Professor Stephen A. Ross, MIT Sloan School of Management, Professor Anthony Saunders, Stern School of Business, and Professor Bruno Solnik, HEC School of Management.

16-18 November, 2008  
Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney  
To book, email [bankconf@unsw.edu.au](mailto:bankconf@unsw.edu.au).  
For more information email  
[www.banking.unsw.edu.au](http://www.banking.unsw.edu.au).

## MASTERS OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION SESSIONS ACT, WA, NSW

The Master of Business & Technology (MBT) is aimed at experienced managers and professionals who want to expand their career choices by broadening their business expertise. The unique design of MBT courses enables participants to acquire the intellectual tools to manage both business and technology. To find out more, register online at [www.mbt.unsw.edu.au](http://www.mbt.unsw.edu.au) to attend an information session:

**Canberra** – 17 November  
**Perth** – 1 December  
**Sydney** – 19 November  
**North Sydney** – 3 December

## FACULTY OF MEDICINE REUNIONS

### Graduating Class of 1978

30-Year Reunion  
29 November 2008  
The Hilton Hotel, Sydney  
If you are part of this class (completed 1977) and would like to attend the reunion, please email Andrew Field  
[afield@stvincents.com.au](mailto:afield@stvincents.com.au).

### Graduating Class of 1984

25-Year Reunion  
February 2009 – *date to be confirmed*

### Graduating Class of 1989

20-Year Reunion  
7 February 2009 – *date to be confirmed*  
To find out more, please contact the Faculty of Medicine on 02 9385 8765 or visit [www.med.unsw.edu.au](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au).

## NEW COLLEGE ALUMNI EVENTS

SINGAPORE, HONG KONG,  
MALAYSIA

New College would like to reconnect with its alumni and friends. Please join the Master, Professor Trevor H Cairney, and special guests at the reunions to be held in Asia in 2008.

### Singapore Reception

24 November, 2008  
Cocktails and Canapés  
*Venue and time: tbc*  
Special guest: High Commissioner  
Doug Chester

### Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Reception

26 November, 2008  
Dinner  
*Venue and time: to be confirmed*

### Hong Kong Reception

28 November, 2008  
Cocktails and Canapés  
Venue: Club Lusitano  
Time: 6.00-9.00pm

For more information on these reunions, upcoming events or to update your details, contact  
Mark Fairfull at  
[m.fairfull@newcollege.unsw.edu.au](mailto:m.fairfull@newcollege.unsw.edu.au)  
or phone (61 2) 9381 1999.

## JOIN THE CELEBRATIONS!

In 2009, UNSW will celebrate its 60th anniversary. This is an exciting and important milestone with so many achievements in the life of the University. And it presents an ideal occasion for you to reconnect with the people who have made it all happen. In this spirit, we are planning a series of

events in Australia and overseas for UNSW alumni and friends. We'll keep you posted on the plans, so stay in touch. To ensure we know how to find you, please take a moment to update your details at [www.alumni@unsw.edu.au](http://www.alumni@unsw.edu.au) or by phoning (61 2) 9385 3279.



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**&**

# **MEDIA**

RESEARCH CENTRE

## **OFFICIAL OPENING**

The Centre is an initiative of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of New South Wales. Led by Professor Catharine Lumby the Centre undertakes research of high quality and impact across the fields of journalism, communication and media, and makes a significant contribution to public debate, industry research and policy. The Centre will also offer rigorous education for postgraduate coursework and research students.

<http://jmrc.arts.unsw.edu.au>

## **MASTER OF JOURNALISM & COMMUNICATIONS**

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