

# GradLife

  
University of  
Western Sydney  
Bringing knowledge to life



## Playing the Game

Warren Wilson explains how running a business and rugby are similar

### inside

#### **DOUBLE VISION**

The Ferrar twins talk about their individual passions

#### **MITCHELL'S THRILLING LIFE**

UWS Forensic Science graduate Mitchell Gibbs shares his exciting experiences

#### **WRITING HIS OWN STORY**

Kieran Darcy-Smith is living every aspiring film makers' dream

#### **KEEPING IT CLOSE TO HOME**

Why Elise Maehler chose to do her medical internship close to home

#### **GRADLIFE BENEFITS FOR ALUMNI**

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# GradLife

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Nurturing links with Greater Western Sydney is of key importance to the University of Western Sydney, and that's why it is so pleasing to see our graduates take on leadership roles in the region.

In this issue of *GradLife*, we hear from Panthers Chief Executive Officer, Warren Wilson, about his journey from St Marys Senior High School via UWS to a high-flying career in media and sport, working with corporate giants such as James Packer and Lachlan Murdoch. Now he has returned to Penrith to turn around the fortunes of the Panthers Leagues Club at what he sees as an exciting time in the region's development.

Fellow graduate Christa Anthony, 2012 winner of the Young Women of the West award, is a perfect example of how acting locally can change the lives of those around you. Having grown up in Blacktown, Christa now combines full-time work as a domestic violence case manager and counsellor with operating her own dance studio, providing opportunities for children from disadvantaged backgrounds to study dance.

We're always delighted to see our graduates taking their talents to the world. You'll be inspired by the story of UWS alumnus Kieran Darcy-Smith's 'big break' in Hollywood, and doctoral candidate Holly Harrison earning the chance to compose an original work for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

Looking to the future, social researcher James Arvanitakis has contributed an opinion piece for this issue in which he examines the challenges facing Australia after the resources boom.

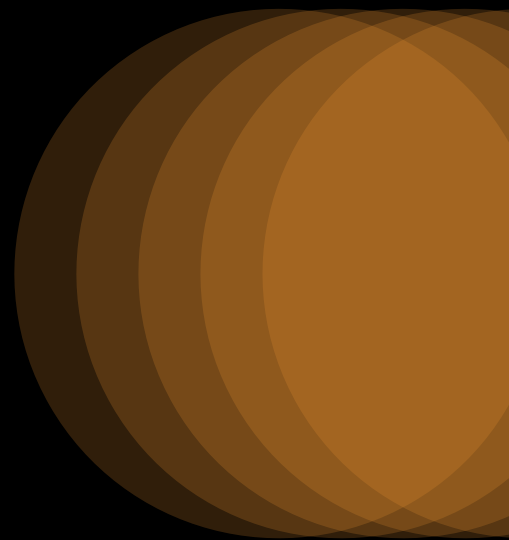
Now in its fourth year of publication, *GradLife* is your opportunity to stay in touch with other successful UWS alumni and keep up with events on campus and in alumni chapters. In this issue you will learn of the latest from the Sydney Graduate School of Management Chapter.

Stay connected. Stay in touch. Our alumni carry UWS into the community and into the future.

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Professor Janice Reid AM  
Vice-Chancellor  
University of Western Sydney





ANTHER GROUP



Warren Wilson  
Bachelor of Business - Accounting 1987

# Playing The Game

Panthers CEO Warren Wilson says running a business has many parallels with playing in a rugby team.

“You’ve got your coaches, which are your Board, you have your captain, your CEO, you have got the front rowers, the guys that do the hard yards, and your halves and five-eighths, the fellows that are nimble and swift and clever. So the rules and the way you have to apply yourself in team sport is an absolute parallel to business,” Warren says.

Ironically, it was the end of his football career that saw Warren pave the way for his huge success in business, working for some of the biggest names in media and sport in Australia.

Originally a St Marys High School boy, when an injury derailed his football ambitions, he decided to get a university education. Warren studied a Bachelor of Business with a major in accounting part-time at UWS while working in the public sector. After graduating in 1987, he made his foray into the corporate world, first in insurance and then for Westfield, which at the time owned Channel Ten.

“Westfield made several hundred people redundant and given that I was one of the last ones to join, I was one of the first to be let go. That turned out to be the best thing that could have happened to me,” Warren says.

He joined Sky Channel, which was then owned by Channel Nine, part of the Bond network.

“The Packers took it back over a little while after that and we turned that business around significantly. I went through as an accountant, then Chief Financial Officer, then Chief Operating Officer and ended up being the CEO of the company,” Warren says.

He describes the experience of working for the Packers as “tremendous”.

“We had taken this business from loss-making into a profitable business,

but we also were the pioneers of what is pay television today, and particularly pay per view,” Warren says, recalling the glory days of negotiating the rights to Mike Tyson fights with Don King.

During this time, Warren was also brushing shoulders with the Murdochs, as Lachlan Murdoch served as deputy chairman of the Sky Channel Board.

As is common in the corporate world, there were some twists and turns ahead: the NSW Government decided to privatise the NSW TAB, which then acquired Sky Channel. Warren was approached by NSW TAB chairman Gary Pemberton, a former Qantas, Billabong and Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games chairman, to stay on.

“It took me about 15 minutes in a conversation with Gary to decide to stay. We went through a billion-dollar float on the market,” Warren says.

He was then CEO of NSW TAB for five years until it was taken over by Tabcorp in a “pretty gruelling” nine-month takeover.

Warren then had some time off and worked on some private enterprises before deciding to re-enter the fray of the corporate world in 2011. A conversation with old football colleague Phil Gould led him to join Panthers as CEO earlier this year. As with Sky Channel, the task ahead to revive the struggling business is a considerable one. With a debt of around \$90 million, Panthers has been sustaining losses for the last 10 years.

“The initial plan with Penrith, which is well-documented, is to remove as much, if not all, the debt out of the organisation, streamline the business and get it back into a profitable state, and we are significantly through the first phase of that,” Warren says.

He believes that recent moves by business and political leaders should see the Western Sydney region ramping up more broadly.

“I honestly think that the light’s starting to come on. If we get the right business leaders out here all heading in the right direction over the next 10 years, I think the whole Greater

Western Sydney zone will start to realise things that everybody has been talking about for 30 or 40 years,” he says.

Having returned to the region where he was raised, Warren attributes his success to his background, for keeping him grounded, and having been a school and football team captain, which taught him valuable lessons in leadership at a young age.

“I was surrounded by people who had probably the best degrees that you can get and that’s a degree in life,” Warren says. “They were great mentors to me, they didn’t have degrees from universities but they were terrific people that just gave me good life skills.”

He says his accounting degree gave him a very practical approach, which has helped to make him a successful CEO.

“You need a skill set, whether it be from engineering or accounting or law, but you need a good dose of commonsense as well. If you can actually understand the fundamentals of the business you are in, you should be able to put together a good strategic plan for the organisation, and then it comes down to the skills to consistently execute this plan,” says Warren. “You have got to understand how to move and how to be flexible. You won’t get it all right, but the aim is to get most of it right.”

While he admits the business environment is currently very tough, his advice for those seeking a high-flying corporate career is to get your foundations right.

“Get yourself a good education through school and university, and a good education about what’s real in life, a good grounding, and that will stand you in pretty good stead,” Warren says.

Flexibility and an openness to opportunities certainly don’t hurt either – as Warren found, sometimes it’s a matter of being in the right place at the right time.

“I haven’t planned out my career, but I have had a brilliant career, and I have had the luxury of working for some of Australia’s best people. I wouldn’t change a thing.”

# Race across the red centre



Jay Manley, Albert Mahoney, Greg Hatten, Vince Mangion and Jithendra U Shnkar

Next year, a team of young engineers, designers and enthusiasts from UWS will attempt to race the 3,021 kilometres from Darwin to Adelaide through the harsh Australian outback in a solar car using just one kilowatt of power.

It's all part of the 2013 World Solar Challenge, an event which originated in 1987 to raise awareness of green technology and promote research into solar powered vehicles.

Entering the challenge was originally the brain-child of UWS Mechatronic Engineering student Jay Manley, who had the opportunity to design a solar car as part of a final year group project.

Greg Hatten, Business Liaison Officer for the UWS Solar Car Team, said Manley "saw it as an opportunity to create something real", which has grown into a student-driven project to build and race one.

One of the challenges is trying to engineer a solar car to race at highway speeds of around 100 kilometres an hour "on the power of a toaster", says Greg, who has now graduated but continues to lead the project. Another is gaining sponsorship for the project, which needs funding of around \$500,000 over four years.

A team of approximately 40 students and alumni, with supervision from an academic board led by Dr Ali Hellany from the UWS School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics, is now working hard to build the car they will race next year.

"We have a developed model and are in the process of building our prototype vehicle. We are developing new technologies to integrate into our design, and hopefully leaving a lasting legacy to have others build on our work, and expand the green transport knowledge base," Greg says.

## How you can help

At this crucial stage, the Solar Car Team is seeking support for the project to turn their vision into reality. Business Liaison Officer Greg Hatten says the car currently requires parts from the CSIRO, Tritium, AP Racing and Panasonic at a cost of around \$135,000, but any donations or assistance would be welcome.

"We need all the support we can get – technology, engineering, money and ideas; whatever can be given, we'll accept!"

**To find out more, make a donation or volunteer to be on the team, visit [www.uwssolarcar.com](http://www.uwssolarcar.com) or their facebook page [www.facebook.com/uwssolarcar](http://www.facebook.com/uwssolarcar)**

Below is a list of the parts needed and the cost involved:

Part Description	Supplier	QTY	Part Price	Total Cost
In Wheel Hub	CSIRO	2	\$11,900	\$23,800
Wave Sculptor Motor Controller	Tritium	1	\$6,000	\$6,000
EV Driver Controls	Tritium	1	\$250	\$250
Brake Master Cylinder (CP7855)	AP Racing	2	\$215	\$430
Disk Brakes, 7.1mm, 265 Dia, Drilled, Cp2866-195	AP Racing	3	\$385	\$1,155
Brake Calipers, Aluminium Lug Mount, GPO3696-6EO	AP Racing	4	\$435	\$1,740
Brake Pads, to suit callipers, CP2195D38	AP Racing	5	\$83	\$415
Lithium Ion Batteries Panasonic NCR018650A Pack	Panasonic	2	\$667	\$1,334
Solar Panel Budget			\$100,000	\$100,000





Jarad Ferrara  
Bachelor of Industrial Design 2012

Mark Ferrara  
Bachelor of Science (Honours) 2012  
Bachelor of Science (Advanced Science) 2011

# Double vision

Simply looking at recent UWS graduates Mark and Jarad Ferrara, it might be hard to distinguish the differences between the two. But once you enter a conversation with the twin brothers, it becomes quite clear they have very distinct identities and aspirations.

Although the twins grew up together, spent their entire schooling together and even went to the UWS course decision day together, their degree choices will see them pursuing different career directions.

For Mark, his decision to study a Bachelor of Science (Honours) stemmed from an inspirational chemistry teacher in high school, who imparted his “real love for the subject”. Mark decided to pursue his interest in physical and organic chemistries during his Bachelor of Science degree at UWS.

The research component of a science degree was also a significant drawcard for Mark.

“With research you can actually discover things that no one knows and expand the knowledge base of humanity,” he says.

Like Mark, Jarad was inspired by his classes in senior high school. He enjoyed the Environmental Science and Design and Technology classes he took, and so was drawn to the Bachelor of Industrial Design (Honours) at UWS. The course enabled him to combine his hobby of visual communication and design with his love of environmental sciences, giving him a “practical way of applying myself to being sustainable”. Knowing the course would give him the platform to be able to “create real things” was also very appealing.

For the first time, the twins went in separate directions to study – with Mark based at UWS Parramatta campus, and Jarad completing his degree at the Penrith campus. Both achieved exceptional academic results, appearing on the College of Health and Science Dean’s Merit List in 2010, and they went on to complete Honours in their respective fields last year.

On his Honours year, Jarad says, “That was the best year because you got to work one-on-one with a supervisor, building a project from the ground up. It was pretty stressful bringing something from paper to a final product, but my supervisor’s mentoring was invaluable.”

Having recently graduated, Jarad and Mark are seeking full-time roles in their chosen fields. In Jarad’s case, that will be in the area of human-computer interaction and user interface design, while Mark is seeking to become a scientist with a government organisation such as ANSTO or the CSIRO.

In the meantime, Jarad and Mark are working together in the family business, RhinoCo Technology, a manufacturer and supplier of security equipment based in Western Sydney.

“My father owns his own business. So it’s a natural thing, I am automatically part of that environment,” says Mark.

They bring separate skill sets to the business, but are both learning

about the realities of manufacturing and modern business.

Jarad has been able to make use of his design skills in the marketing aspects of the business, and get involved in some of the company’s research and development projects to gain “tangible” industrial design experience. Being able to work on projects such as LED and sustainable lighting designs has meant Jarad has seen some of his interests that started at UWS as “aspirations coming to fruition”.

In the real-world environment, he has found the steepest learning curve to be working at high speeds and to tight deadlines.

“You need to work fast and produce a result that is appropriate for the client or for your own business,” Jarad says. “You’ve got to get stuff out the door.”

And while these time pressures mean he is less invested in the outcomes than he perhaps was in his projects at university, “that isn’t necessarily a bad thing because you learn to bring things to realisation very quickly.”

Mark and Jarad both have ambitions to undertake further study – in Mark’s case, a PhD, and for Jarad, a Master of Design – but for the moment, they are excited to have graduated and be putting their knowledge into practice.

# A very personal career

Melissa Sponberg  
Bachelor of Laws 2011  
Bachelor of Social Science 2010



Few 21-year-olds can boast that they have completed a five-year law degree – but UWS graduate Melissa Sponberg is one of them.

Few 21-year-olds can boast that they have completed a five-year law degree – but UWS graduate Melissa Sponberg is one of them.

Having skipped a year ahead in primary school, Melissa finished high school at age 16, and started the Bachelor of Laws at UWS the following year in 2007.

She became interested in law as a future career option following a “very personal” family experience, where one of her step-cousins was hit and killed by a drunk driver.

“It made me want to see whether it was an option,” Melissa says, though she didn’t think she would be successful in gaining entry to Law. Fortunately her mother convinced her to apply anyway, and “I got lucky”, she says.

While she found the experience at UWS “fantastic”, starting university at such a young age meant that initially Melissa sometimes missed out on going out with her friends.

Following her graduation last year, Melissa has since completed the coursework component of the Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice at the College of Law, and is now undertaking 75 days of compulsory work experience with Rafton Family Lawyers.

This experience is an integral part of the process of becoming a solicitor, with Melissa now gaining grounding in the practical side of practising law. She is particularly thankful for the “headstart” she was given by the Professional Legal Skills unit in her degree at UWS.

With a long-standing ambition to work for the Department of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Melissa now has her sights set on the internship recruitment phase in October. She is excited to start practising law, and says, “It’s good to see how our justice system works and to actually get to play a role in it.”



# Keeping it close to home



Elise Maehler  
Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery 2011

While some of her fellow medical students have relocated to hospitals as far away as Alice Springs, UWS graduate Elise Maehler has begun her career with an internship at Campbelltown Hospital, just a stone's throw from where she completed her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS).

Having grown up in Western Sydney and with an interest in health and science, the MBBS at UWS was an obvious choice, and Elise was among one of the first intakes at the brand-new School of Medicine.

"I was very curious about how the body works. I also wanted a career that would be very interesting and require constant problem-solving skills, but would also help people," she says.

Being among the first to graduate from the UWS medicine program, Elise says was "very exciting".

"Everyone was very enthusiastic, both students and staff. It was always very interesting, with lots of support from very experienced people at the local hospital and at the University," she says. "It was a very tight knit, small group of students. We got to know all the academic staff and the admin staff really well; it was a bit like a little family."

Elise graduated last year, winning the Dean's Medal in recognition of her outstanding academic performance, and has since embarked on her first year as intern, which has seen her rotate through different departments of Campbelltown Hospital, including cardiology and oncology.

While Elise is yet to decide on her specialisation and is focused on learning as much as possible during each rotation, she has been most interested by oncology. She says the transition from studying medicine to practising in a busy hospital has been "pretty smooth".

"It wasn't as bad as we thought it might be," she admits. "UWS prepared us very well for the demands of the job, and we had a lot of practice learning how to be interns before we actually got thrown into the workforce."

But nothing could prepare Elise for the night shifts that are a crucial part of the job.

"Night shifts are very challenging, but it is good to put some different aspects of theory into practice," she says. "They are long, difficult, and a test of survival, really."

Though her classmates from UWS are now scattered in medical facilities around Australia, Elise says they still keep in touch.

"We've got a really supportive group and I think we'll be in contact for many years to come," she says.

The next step in Elise's medical career is to take up a residency, before making a decision on her area of specialisation and undertake further training to become a specialist.

"I'm only just beginning the next stage," she says. "There are some tough days. But I'm really glad that I'm heading this way in life."

# Mitchell's thrilling life

Put simply, Indigenous UWS Forensic Science graduate Mitchell Gibbs is living an exciting life. Not only has he gained real-life experience during a cadetship with the NSW Police at the Forensic Services Group (FSG) in Penrith, he has also been involved in a research project that could change the way forensic experts work.

Mitchell's project focuses on the use of the presumptive test reagent, fluorescein, for revealing bloodstains at a crime scene.

"Fluorescein is first sprayed onto a surface, and when you apply a certain light, it will fluoresce when it reacts with blood," says Mitchell. "So if you've got bloody hands, and you put your hands onto a surface, then I spray on there, I'd be able to see your fingerprints in blood on the surface."

The NSW Police initiated the project because they are interested in replacing luminol, the most commonly used chemical at the moment, with fluorescein.

Although fluorescein is not being used anywhere else in the world, Mitchell says the project has confirmed it is a more suitable chemical for forensic purposes.

"This project is groundbreaking because we've found that it's more sensitive than luminol, it lasts a lot longer and it doesn't react with so many substances," he says.

Mitchell's university studies prepared him well for this work – he recently graduated from UWS with a Bachelor of Science with majors in Chemistry and Forensic Science. Pursuing a contact made by his twin brother helped Mitchell score the cadetship with the NSW Police.

"I wanted to be a policeman ever since I was really young, but then,

when I was in Year 8, I found out about forensics, and I also really liked science," he says, admitting though that his only interaction with forensics until he started studying was watching TV crime shows. His lecturers were quick to put the stereotypes to bed.

"When I first came to uni I was told, don't pay attention to what is on TV", Mitchell says. "People who are at the crime scene don't actually follow up and find the killers, all they do is find evidence and give it to the detectives to find the killers."

Having been given the opportunity to work alongside the experts at the FSG, Mitchell says his "fantastic" experience as a cadet has "given me many skills that I've been able to use at university and in day-to-day life". Though his degree provided practical training, the cadetship has also been eye-opening in terms of the way techniques are applied in real-world environments and the level of care that must be taken when working with exhibits.

"Working in an actual forensic laboratory, the way exhibits are used and processed, and the procedures and techniques used in the field are very different," he says. "Everything to do with the actual exhibit requires more care – whenever you go into a laboratory you have to put on the gown, the hair net, the face mask, the gloves, just so you don't get any DNA in the laboratory."

It's also a different feeling, working with "a real substance, from a real exhibit, from a real place", he says.

Mitchell's research experience has now inspired him to apply to complete Honours in Forensic Science, with ultimate aspirations to complete a PhD. He hopes to pursue a career in which he can blend his passion for researching forensic techniques with the thrill of working on real crime scenes.

"My dream job is to be able to look at advancing techniques and apply them in the field. That would be my ultimate goal."



Mitchell Gibbs  
Bachelor of Science (Forensic Science)  
Currently enrolled in Honours



# Alumni Giving – an interview with Anthony Byrne

Anthony is 27, the youngest of seven and the first to attend university in his family. After graduating in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in Cultural and Social Analysis), Anthony took some time off to relax and enjoy a well deserved break before securing a job with the NSW Department of Attorney General and Justice. In 2012, Anthony returned to UWS to complete a Bachelor of Laws (Graduate Entry).

What do you remember most about your UWS experience?

The first week I started at UWS there was a great atmosphere and I knew I had made the right decision. I made good friends really easily and settled in quickly, and I'm pleased to say that I am still good friends with many of my fellow UWS graduates.

The open door policy with the lecturers at UWS was one of the best parts of my experience. As students we were always welcome to knock on their door and encouraged to ask questions. There was a strong community feel to the school and I liked that.

What motivated you to give to UWS?

I think it is important to help and support those who face disadvantage. I believe it is often the smallest act of kindness that can assist someone in reaching their goal and crossing that finish line.

I first read about the Alumni Scholarship Fund in the GradLife magazine. Attending university in Western Sydney for many years, I understood the difficulties students faced in getting to university and I felt it was important to give back and help others enjoy the same experience I had.

What does it feel like to be a supporter of scholarships for UWS students?

It's great! I believe you should treat people the same way you wish to be treated – and this is true of your university experience as well. If you have had a good experience at university then it is good to give something back, so someone else may also have that life changing experience. It is also a good way to keep in touch with the University and contribute to a worthwhile cause.



Anthony Byrne  
Bachelor of Arts 2010

Do you think it is important for alumni to give back?

Australia is well-known for its spirit of generosity and I believe that as Alumni we should carry that spirit of kindness and support those that need our assistance.

Over the next few years, the UWS student population will continue to grow, as will the prominence of the University. UWS will go from strength to strength and as graduates we will benefit from this.

With each alumni contribution large and small, the UWS Alumni Scholarship Fund will also grow, ensuring many more students can benefit. I encourage my fellow graduates to get involved and support those following in our footsteps.

To find out more visit  
[www.uws.edu.au/giving](http://www.uws.edu.au/giving)



"It has been so amazing to be able to use the scholarship money on my first day back at uni to buy my textbooks. I have no excuse now not to continue my studies and be able to help others in the future."

Scholarship Recipient Mereti Kaisuva,  
Social Work student

## Alumni Scholarship Fund gives students a boost

The first day back at university this semester has been a little easier for five students who are the first recipients of the UWS Community Scholarships.

Each scholarship, valued at \$5,000 per annum, has been funded by gifts from the Alumni Scholarship Fund as well as UWS staff and students. These scholarships are awarded to students who demonstrate determination, despite hardship, to further themselves through education.

The scholarships will go a long way in helping these students reach their full potential, by alleviating some of the everyday costs of attending university, such as buying textbooks, travel

expenses and printing of study materials. Even more significant than the financial assistance, is the encouragement and confidence that these scholarships provide for students doing it tough.

This year's recipients come from diverse backgrounds, but share the same aspiration of being able to give back to the community once they complete their studies.

On behalf of this year's recipients, thank you to all the UWS Alumni who have contributed to scholarships through the Alumni Scholarship Fund.

To donate to the Alumni Scholarship Fund visit [www.uws.edu.au/giving](http://www.uws.edu.au/giving)

# UWS Alumni GradLife benefits

The UWS GradLife Alumni Benefits program is back and better than ever. Members should now have received their new-look GradLife card and begun taking advantage of the great benefits on offer.

Being a member of the UWS GradLife program entitles you to a range of special alumni benefits, including discounted membership to the UWS Library and gym, discounts at the UWS bookshop, as well as invitations to special University events. Our new membership benefits are shown below for your information. A full list is available online via the GradLife website.

All graduates of UWS are eligible for a GradLife card, so visit [www.uws.edu.au/GradLife](http://www.uws.edu.au/GradLife) to apply for yours today.



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# Life after the boom: what next for Australia?

By Dr James Arvanitakis

Shortly before starting to write this article, the world's largest mining company, BHP Billiton, had just announced that it was shelving its planned Olympic Dam expansion.

The announcement created havoc with the financial markets and was accompanied by the Minister for Energy and Resources, Martin Ferguson, claiming that "anyone with half a brain" knows the resources boom is over.

A similar caution was sounded by one of Europe's biggest banks, Deutsche Bank, which warned that Australia could be headed for a recession in 2013. The argument was that Australia has been relying on record prices for its biggest exports – coal and gas in addition to iron ore – to insulate itself from the economic uncertainty. The forecaster predicted that Australia's terms of trade (which is the difference between what the country is paid for exports and what it pays for imports) could fall by as much as 15 percent in 2012, and possibly more the following year.

As with most economic forecasts, nothing was universally accepted. According to Trade Minister Craig Emerson, Australia is not even halfway through its mining investment pipeline. Dr Emerson, along with the Reserve Bank of Australia, took a more optimistic position and argued that there are still billions of dollars flowing into various projects.

Regardless of your position on the future of the mining boom, it is important that we move beyond forecasting how long this can all last and start thinking about what will life be like after. For one thing we can be certain, all booms eventually come to an end and we must consider how Australia is placed for the generations ahead.

When it comes to mining booms, there are two extreme models for us to consider.

The first comes from one of our nearest neighbours, which is at the centre of another of our domestic controversies – Nauru. Most of us know little about this remote island nation. Although only eight square miles with a population of 14,000, Nauru was per capita the wealthiest nation in the world when it gained independence in 1968. In contrast, today it is besieged with problems – both economic and social – and it is now among the poorest countries in the world. There is more obesity per capita than any other nation, and at least two out of every five people suffer from diabetes. How did this turn around occur so quickly?

Nauru had some of the world's richest sources of phosphate – an important ingredient for boosting agricultural production in places such as Australia. Exploitation of these deposits made the islanders exceedingly wealthy. At the height of phosphate mining, journalists visiting Nauru described people who did not need to work because of the royalty payments they received, and who spent their wealth with little consideration for the future.

But by the 1990s the luck of the islanders had all but evaporated. Available phosphate has been depleted, leaving an ecological wasteland made from decades of strip mining. With its vegetation and soil destroyed and agriculture therefore in ruin, Nauru's people were forced to import nearly all of their food. Mining had also deskilled the population, since with little incentive for people to work centuries-old survival skills were lost between generations. Not long after the phosphate ran out Nauru's central bank declared bankruptcy.



# Graduate Member on the UWS Board of Trustees

This process of mining wealth leading to eventual economic instability is known as Dutch Disease (from the experience of the Netherlands' initial economic boom from North Sea oil).

It occurs as the influx of income from resources creates wealth in certain parts of the economy, driving up the exchange rate and inflating the domestic economy. The result is that, while headline growth rates may look impressive, we see the emergence of a two-tiered economy: one based on booming resources (as we now witness in Queensland and Western Australia) and one that is much slower (as in NSW and Victoria).

The demand for resources drives up the exchange rate making certain industries vulnerable as they must compete with cheap imports or find their exports uncompetitive.

The paradox is that our very success in producing low value-added resource outputs makes the other sections of the economy less internationally competitive and has the potential to impede our long-term prosperity.

The ultimate risk is that a country can literally 'de-industrialise'. This occurs as it becomes far too expensive to export anything else, and imports become cheaper. This means that manufacturing and other value-added sectors begin to crumble. This all leads to a deskilling of the workforce.

Writing in the Australian Financial Review in 2010 with Senator Lee Rhiannon, this was a warning that we sounded. The same message was echoed only in late August this year by US advisory firm, Variant Perception, stating that Australia was facing a classic case of Dutch Disease.

This is not the only path a resource rich economy can follow however. The case of Norway offers the opposite example – an economy that used its resource riches to ensure long-term prosperity. Following its large oil reserves, Norway established a sovereign fund that manages the large (and often variable income) from the oil boom to ensure benefits to future generations. This fund is now worth over \$500 billion with about 5 percent of the income from this fund used for annual budgetary purposes, while most is held overseas to ensure the exchange rate does not become overvalued nor does the economy overheat.

The question is, how does Australia fit between these extremes? There are both causes for concern as well as optimism.

In his recent book, *Too Much Luck*, Paul Cleary describes an embedded attitude within Australian society that treats mining resources as if they are limitless and assumes the physical environment, no matter how fragile, is always available to meet economic needs.

Even if we assume the mining boom is only half over, we have little to show for the billions of dollars of income, most of which has been used to fund short-term election promises by both major political parties. In comparison to the income generated over the last 21 years, little was done to invest in Australia's infrastructure. Much of the income has gone into funding 'middle class welfare', tax concessions and bonuses that quickly dissipate.

Neither have we seen a long-term manufacturing strategy, planning for changes in the tourism market or adequate funding to other important international export sectors such as education. All this leaves Australia vulnerable to the threat of Dutch Disease.

But why the optimism?

This comes from massive investment in the NBN network and a move to ensuring greater secondary education funding through the Gonski Review. Both of these policies are about promoting the long-term productivity of our population. Accompanied with the Rent Resource Tax and a price on carbon that are both attempting to drive investment to more advanced low-carbon investments, an alternative growth path is possible.

While these strategies may not guarantee success, they do begin to reshape the Australian economy. What is missing from the policy equation is a detailed manufacturing strategy and a sovereign wealth fund.

We have to get it right, because future generations are relying on us. And as such, they will judge us harshly if we leave little behind.

**Dr James Arvanitakis is a Senior Lecturer at the UWS School of Humanities and Communication Arts and a researcher at the Institute for Culture and Society.**



Dr Ken Langford



Jennifer Brown

John Heath

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the University of Western Sydney. It is responsible for strategic planning and oversight, defining the University's educational profile, management of the University's resources, and monitoring performance and quality assurance. The Board has 18 members (appointed, official and elected), who bring to it a range of backgrounds, expertise and perspectives.

The current elected Graduate Member is Dr Ken Langford, and previous Graduate Members include Jennifer Brown and John Heath.

The next election for the Graduate Member of the Board of Trustees will take place in early 2013. It is a four year term from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2017.

In order to participate in this election – as a candidate or simply to vote – you must register beforehand. You can do this at: [www.uws.edu.au/graduate\\_roll](http://www.uws.edu.au/graduate_roll)

By registering you will automatically receive the call for nominations when the election opens and the opportunity to vote when the ballot is conducted.

Note that graduates who are also current staff or students of the University are not eligible.

For more information on the UWS Board of Trustees, please visit: [http://www.uws.edu.au/about\\_uws](http://www.uws.edu.au/about_uws)

If you have any questions about the election please email the [returningofficer@uws.edu.au](mailto:returningofficer@uws.edu.au)

# Writing his own story

From humble beginnings, shooting a short film one weekend using a Hi8 camera borrowed from the University AV department, to having his directorial feature debut open the Sundance Film Festival, UWS Theatre graduate Kieran Darcy-Smith is living every aspiring film makers' dream.

Kieran actually started out as a musician, having dropped out of school at 15. It wasn't until he was 26 that he decided to try acting and give studying another go at university.

He chose the Bachelor of Arts (Theatre) at UWS, taking to it "like a duck to water" and becoming a "voracious, enthusiastic learner". "It was my introduction to the arts, and it completely changed my life," Kieran says.

It was also at UWS that he began dabbling in writing, a skill that has proven crucial to his career success. For his final graduation pieces, he wrote a monologue, duologue, TV script and a song, and performed all his own material. "It really opened my eyes and made me realise that you can create work for yourself," he says.

Kieran had become good friends with Joel Edgerton and the two moved out together after uni. Kieran started writing screenplays, harbouring an ambition to make a movie one day.

"Joel and I both wanted to get our faces on the screen somehow. We wanted to do a showreel piece, because we hadn't had any screen work at that stage. At the same time, his brother Nash and another friend Tony Lynch had recently fallen into the stunt industry and they wanted to put a bunch of stunts down on film," Kieran says.

Keiran wrote a script, they borrowed a Hi8 camera from the UWS AV department at Penrith, and shot a "crazy little film".

"It just opened all these doors for us, and ended up winning a lot of competitions and festivals," he says. "Our original intention of making a short film so that we could get some acting work had paid off. So

Joel and I were working regularly as actors in television, and Tony and Nash were doing that for stunts."

In the background, the group formed Blue Tongue films and continued to make short films together, elevating their profiles.

Realising a screenplay was the best commodity he could have, Kieran turned his attention to learning more about this. For the next 10 years, he wrote (and wrote) while maintaining his day job as an actor.

His efforts paid off, with feature film *Wish You Were Here*, which was co-written with his wife Felicity Price, who also stars in the film, selected for opening night of the 2012 Sundance Film Festival.

"It was a really big moment for us," Kieran says. "We were standing in the snow at the Sundance Film Festival and our film had just opened the festival. We realised it was exactly five years to the day since we had first put pen to paper."

This five-year development process, from initial conception to the first official world premiere, is a pretty fast gestation in the filmmaking world, and reflects their conscious decision to create an "achievable" film on as low a budget as possible.

"We were determined to get a film made. Because I had been through the experience of trying to raise money on a bigger budget film, we knew that a low budget was the way to do it," he says.

With the cast already attached to the film and a local distributor organised, they took their script to market at the Cannes Film Festival to start the financing process. Kieran says they were lucky that a sales agent there loved it and provided

them with the minimum guarantee they needed to get the ball rolling.

Their strong team at Blue Tongue and the previous success of their producer Angie Fielder helped them secure federal and state funding from Screen Australia and Screen New South Wales. Following the great festival response, *Wish You Were Here* continues to exceed their expectations.

The film has received five star reviews, solid box office takings, and after three months it is still playing in Australia, which Kieran says is "almost unprecedented".

"I am so proud of it. It's exactly the way I wanted it to be. With all due modesty, I know for a lot of first-time filmmakers, most often than not, it's an exercise in compromise and you end up being quite disappointed by various elements of the film. I wouldn't change a frame of it."

*Wish You Were Here* has also recently been bought for distribution in the United States, with the film expected to open in January next year. On the back of the "world of opportunity" that came with the success of the film, and in particular its distribution in the US, Kieran, Felicity and their two children, now two and four, have made the move to the US and are living in Laurel Canyon in the Hollywood Hills.

"There is something very magical about the environment here. It's very beautiful and the weather is sublime. But the main thing we have always been really attracted to is LA is a sink or swim town, so the people who are working in production companies or studios or agencies are really bright, very interesting people," Kieran says.

As a family it has been a wild ride over the last few years.

“We had the two kids while we were writing the script. By the time we were shooting, we had a two-year-old boy and five month-old baby girl, and they both came over to Cambodia (where the film was shot) with us. Their whole life has been *Wish You Were Here*, so to them it's all completely normal,” he says.

Kieran now has two new films in development – one of which he wrote before *Wish You Were Here*. “I went to Sundance with that other script in my back pocket, and so immediately we got great producers attached and it has been in development ever since.”

While Kieran and Felicity are working on separate projects at the moment, he hopes one day they can work together again. “We would love to continue co-writing and continue working because it really worked,” he says. “We had a great time doing it, and it proved successful.”

And while his acting career is on ice at the moment as he pursues other opportunities, Kieran credits the craft with teaching him how to direct, and encourages other budding directors to take acting classes.

“Even just a part-time course to get your head around the art of acting and the language that you use and what actors need to hear is worthwhile. Really it's about the story and how it is carried by the actors, and you want those performances to be perfect.”

Those starting out should also make short films to “get a handle on the craft and the tools”, and keep budgets as low as possible when trying to get new projects up.

Kieran is also grateful that he realised very early in his career the importance of writing.

“This whole town here, and the whole industry all over the world, is built on the screenplay,” he says. “At the end of the day, what you really want to be putting your energy into is writing, and if you recognise that you can't write then you want to team up with writers. Every movie we go and see, the only reason we see it and get engaged by it is the storytelling.”



Kieran Darcy-Smith  
Bachelor of Arts - Theatre 1995





# The ultimate juggle

Exercise physiologist, Pilates instructor, rehab-based physical trainer, business owner, wife, mother, and now PhD candidate. UWS alumnus Suzanne Kennedy wears all these hats and more.

However, a shift in the personal training industry towards exercise physiology prompted Suzanne to seek additional qualifications.

"I employ exercise physiologists and I needed to upskill both for myself and for my staff, so that I am on an equal footing in terms of qualifications," Suzanne says.

So together with her husband, Suzanne made the decision to "bite the bullet" and go back to university at the age of 42 to study a Bachelor of Health Science (Honours).

As a business owner and mother of two, this was no small undertaking.

"It's certainly something that is a family decision, because it affects the business and the family, and obviously is a financial consideration as well, because when I wasn't working in my business, I had to employ staff to cover me. But we decided that we would have a go," Suzanne says.

Shifting her work in the business so she could go to uni during the day and work at night and on weekends, Suzanne also had to employ a manager and some additional staff to help share the workload. While it took some time for her staff to adjust to not having Suzanne available to make decisions on the spot for them, and for her private clients to transition to other staff members, the business continued to thrive.

"I had to actually put in new policies and procedures, and new meeting arrangements for the management structure. It was a slow process but it all ended up panning out," she says.

"I think the most positive thing was what I learnt about current evidence-based practice, which we implemented into our clinical practice straight away. We got started immediately transferring that knowledge into practice, and that's made a massive difference to the business because we have become better providers and our credibility within our industry has just continued to gain momentum, which has a flow-on effect for referral business and quicker outcomes for patients."

And though her peers at UWS were young enough to have been her children, as a student she felt very accepted.

"In this sports exercise field, we find we all have a commonality – some of us are sporty, some of us are more clinical. It's a fairly young field, so even the experienced practitioners and academics are quite young," Suzanne says.

With ongoing coaching and training commitments with elite rugby teams, Suzanne came under the Elite Athlete Friendly Scheme, and found the academic staff at UWS to be very supportive in helping her work around these, as well as providing some extra assistance in her weaker areas, such as IT.

"I honestly can't speak highly enough of my lecturers. They really were understanding that I had contract commitments in my work that especially in my first year, I couldn't walk away from. They helped me juggle my tutes to get into the best working scenario I could, and that was a massive

help," she says. "They have also been surprisingly respectful of the fact that I am actually a clinician."

Meeting the demands of family life was also a juggle, but Suzanne says given the unusual work hours of the fitness industry, her two children, now in high school, were quite accepting of the change in schedule.

All that hard work paid off for Suzanne, who received First Class Honours and the University Medal for outstanding academic scholarship when she graduated earlier this year. Aside from the personal satisfaction, the benefits for Suzanne's business have been significant – providing her with accreditation with the industry's professional body and a medical provider number.

With a research specialty in chronic lower back pain, Suzanne has now embarked on a PhD, and is glad to be continuing her educational journey at UWS.

"I love the mix of people and cultures, all different outlooks coming together with this common field. It's really lovely. I could have done my PhD somewhere else but I just had such a great time that I didn't want to leave UWS."



# Holly climbs new heights

If you asked UWS University Medal winner Holly Harrison five years ago what she would be doing today, she might have said teaching music in a high school. Now she is completing a doctorate and composing music for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

Holly's passion for music started at a young age, when she picked up the trumpet at age five. Flirtations with drums and flute followed. Studying a Bachelor of Music (Honours), she thought the natural progression was into teaching.

But Holly's plans shifted during her degree at UWS, when she became inspired by composition.

"Having inspiring lecturers and being taught by people who have actually accomplished something in the real world is really important and a great motivator," she says.

Holly began working on an orchestral composition, which she entered into a competition in March. That piece saw her accepted into the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) development program, The Cybec 21st Century Australian Composers' Program.

"It was the first orchestral piece I'd ever written so I was pretty surprised to learn that I was accepted into the program," she says.

Along with the three other young composers, Holly has been commissioned to compose a ten-minute orchestral piece with the help of established Australian composer and curator, Matthew Hindson, as her mentor. The piece will then be performed by the MSO during the annual Metropolis Concert Series early next year.

Holly admits the five months she has to compose her piece and consult with her mentor is a "pretty short period of time", but she realises the MSO needs enough time to rehearse her and the other three composers' pieces before next year's performance.

In the meantime, Holly has also embarked on a Doctor of Creative Arts, at her Honours supervisor's suggestion.

"I thought, 'Why not?' I'm really enjoying this so I'll just keep going'," she says.

For her doctoral work, Holly is using the works of Lewis Carroll as inspiration for musical composition – including the famous Alice series, the lesser-known poem *The Hunting of the Snark*, and the novel *Sylvie and Bruno*. With Holly citing her musical influences as composers Frank Zappa, John Zorn and Charles Ives, known for "some pretty wacky stuff", the results should be interesting.

Though she knew that writing a composition suitable for a large-scale ensemble was par for the course in her doctorate, her competition win has catapulted her into that reality a little sooner than expected.

"I always knew I'd be writing a piece for an orchestra, but there's a difference between thinking it will be performed in the future by people and writing a piece knowing it's going to be performed by the MSO," Holly says. "It's scary."

As for the future, Holly is not sure where her music will take her, but she hopes to be able to combine music composition with teaching at a university level.

"Obviously it would be wonderful to be a full-time composer, but I don't know how realistic that is," she says. "There seems to be a link that a lot of composers have with the academic world. Both these things go hand in hand and they interest me."



# Back home for shoot

Television director Jet Wilkinson returned to the University of Western Sydney recently to shoot some upcoming episodes of long-running Australian TV drama Home and Away.



Jet Wilkinson  
Bachelor of Arts - Communication Studies 1996

Photo courtesy of Channel Seven

The filming took place over several days at the UWS Campbelltown campus, and while it is quite a long way from Werrington, where Jet studied a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Communications, she enjoyed returning to where her "great creative journey" began.

"I'm proud to have gone to UWS. It's nice to feel part of a really fresh, evolving university," Jet says.

Returning to Home and Away is also always enjoyable for Jet, as it is where she started her career, approaching the show for work experience after graduating in 1995.

"It was what I knew, and it was what I loved. I've got such a special place in my heart for Home and Away," Jet says. "It's where I learnt so much and made so many great friends, and I've got such a strong connection to it."

A glimpse at the schedule shows just how much work is involved in producing a week's worth of episodes. For Home and Away, pre-production, including reading scripts, casting, preparation and blocking, starts two weeks before shooting. The crew then spends three days shooting on location and five days shooting in the studio, before editing for up to a week. The end result? Five half-hour episodes.

"It always take a lot longer than what people think," Jet says. "We shot around nine minutes worth of material today, but it took us 12 hours to shoot."

Producing television does mean working at a furious pace

though, and this is one of the drawcards for Jet: "I love that stimulus of going fast," she says.

Having forged her career in the Australian industry over 15 years, her resume includes many of our most popular shows, including Neighbours, All Saints, and City Homicide. Most recently she has directed Crownies, Packed to the Rafters and Winners & Losers.

The next project on Jet's agenda is a show produced by Fremantle Media called Mr & Mrs Murder. She will be working with Shaun Micallef and Kat Stewart and shooting in Melbourne.

"I am really excited to be working with those guys as I haven't worked with them before," she says.

Jet's ongoing success in the Australian television industry saw her nominated this year for an Australian Directors Guild Award for her work on Crownies. It was her second nomination, and though she didn't win, Jet was humbled to be nominated again.

"It's your peers who vote for you, so it means a lot coming from fellow directors because we are all very competitive. It's an opportunity to celebrate your work with people who appreciate it and know what goes into it."

As television and film viewing habits shift all over the world, the Australian television industry is also facing significant change.

"Ratings are changing, landscapes are changing, there are different ways viewers are watching television, and what's considered Australian content

is on the verge of changing as well," she says. "That has a big impact on what gets made and budgets."

And although Jet has a film up her sleeve that she hopes she'll be able to produce one day, she concedes competition in the Australian film industry is extremely tough.

"It's really hard to get Australian films up at the moment because people aren't going to see them. People seem to be going to American blockbusters. It's a hard market to compete with."

Although the film and TV industry is a tough one to succeed in, Jet says she is an example that it's possible if you have the passion and dedication.

**"Your skills need to be quite broad to set you apart from other people. A good director has a vision, has a creative style and is able to achieve that by working with key creative people to bring them on board to create that world," she says.**

**"I am also a fan of this industry. When I am at work, it doesn't feel like I am at work, so it's exciting."**



# A special woman

Settled into her career as a domestic violence case manager and counsellor, UWS graduate Christa Anthony felt it was time for her to give back to her local community.

With teaching qualifications and experience gained from a part-time job as a dance teacher throughout her university degree, Christa decided to open a dance studio, Studio Dance NSW, in Kings Park in 2009.

Now just 25, she says starting the business was not about making money, but rather being “able to give kids an opportunity they wouldn’t usually get”.

Growing up in the Blacktown area, Christa saw the amount of time and money her own parents put into her dance lessons. As a result, Christa decided to establish packages and “bonus” classes to make studying at her dance studio more accessible, especially for those families from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Her studio also welcomes children with special needs, considering it particularly important to encourage them and treat all children the same, regardless of their ability or skill level.

Her efforts to support the community have not gone unnoticed, with Christa recently winning the Young Woman of the West award for 2012. The award recognises the leadership of a young person in their field and their contribution to improving the lives of people living in Greater Western Sydney.

“I was extremely humbled, first to be nominated and then be a finalist, let alone to win it. I am grateful that they see the work that I am doing for the community and for their kids, and I like to be a role model for their children,” Christa says.

While running the dance studio, Christa also maintains her full-time role as a domestic violence case manager and counsellor. After a woman has left a domestic violence situation,

Christa is involved in ensuring the family has a safe environment.

“I like to empower the women – making sure they have control of their lives and their children’s lives again, to try hopefully to be less fearful of what happened,” she says.

Having completed a Bachelor of Social Science with a major in Psychology and a Graduate Diploma of Counselling at UWS, she says the two courses provided a great theoretical and practical grounding for her work, “definitely complementing each other”.

While Christa hopes in the future she will have the opportunity to complete further study, at the moment her two jobs keep her busy enough.

Christa says she is only able to balance full-time employment with running the dance studio because of the support she receives from both her employer, providing some flexibility in her hours, and her Mum, who handles the bookwork for the studio.

Though balancing her counselling role and her dance studio takes a lot of effort, she has a passion for both, and in some ways, they help her find balance.

“It takes a lot of practice with juggling it all, but I wouldn’t change it. My daytime job can be very emotionally draining. Then going in the afternoon, seeing the kids and seeing their development in their dancing and their social skills, that’s what makes me do what I do,” Christa says.

For now, Christa is looking forward to continuing to help the community through both her social work and her dance studio. She hopes by being a positive role model she will be able to instil in her students that “you can do whatever you put your mind to”.

# UWS news

## TRANSFORMING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The University of Western Sydney has welcomed the Australian Government's announcement of \$13.5 million for the Werrington Park Corporate Centre – the first step to establishing a multi-million dollar Health and Education Precinct for Penrith and Greater Western Sydney. The Precinct will have the capacity to generate 6,000 "knowledge jobs of the future" over the next 20 years, in areas such as health, engineering, digital communications and education.

Announced by The Hon. Tony Burke, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the \$29.5 million Werrington Park Corporate Centre is a major collaboration between the University of Western Sydney, Penrith Business Alliance and Penrith City Council.

The injection of funds from the Australian Government's Suburban Jobs Program will see the first stage of Werrington Park get underway,



with the development of a new 7,000 square metre office building on the UWS Werrington South campus, which is set to become an important business incubator for Greater Western Sydney – home to nearly 2 million people.

The building will seed the longer-term plans to create a 58-hectare business park, which it is hoped will deliver thousands more local jobs over the next decade in a broader range of knowledge-based industries,

all the while reducing valuable commuting time for residents.

UWS Acting Vice-Chancellor, Ms Rhonda Hawkins, said the Werrington Park project illustrates the strength of cooperation between Penrith Business Alliance and Penrith City Council to innovatively work together for the broader community's economic and social benefit.

## UNDERSTANDING CULTURAL AND SOCIAL LIFE



Professor Tony Bennett

UWS launched four new research institutes during 2012, including the Institute for Culture and Society (ICS).

Building on the work of its forerunners, the Centre for Cultural Research and the Centre for Intercommunal Studies, which historically have been the focus of Cultural Studies research at UWS, the ICS has an enlarged scope and brief.

Professor Tony Bennett, ICS Research Director, says, "Our overall aim is to make

a significant contribution to understanding the role of cultural institutions and activities in the organisation of social life within Australia, and to place this in a comparative international perspective.

"Our work is interdisciplinary cultural research, so we draw on work in Human Geography and work in Cultural Sociology alongside Cultural Studies. One of the objectives of the Institute is to strengthen the contributions that these disciplines in the University make to UWS research," Professor Bennett says.

The ICS's new status as an Institute means that it is now directly governed through the University's Academic and Research Division and has been allocated resources to support its growth. "We expect to be appointing more research staff over the first three years of the Institute's development," Professor Bennett says.

UWS is already highly regarded for the quality of its research in Cultural Studies. In the 2010 Excellence for Research in Australia (ERA) audit, UWS was one of only three universities to

be awarded a "5" rating, which is the highest ranking available and denotes research "well above world standard".

The ICS actively encourages UWS alumni to stay connected and get involved with its activities.

"There are many public events that we organise that alumni are very welcome to take part in. We also publish quite a lot of our research in an online occasional paper series, accessible via our website," says Professor Bennett. "And we are strongly committed to developing research partnerships with cultural and community organisations in western Sydney. So if any UWS alumni are involved in these, we'd like to hear from them."

**For more information about the UWS Institute for Culture and Society, visit <http://www.uws.edu.au/ics>**



## Chapter Spotlight

# SGSM

# Alumni Chapter



Mary Michael  
Currently enrolled in Master of Business Administration  
Bachelor of Business (E-business) 2005



Dragan Jancic  
Master of International Business 2012  
Master of Business Administration 2010

The Sydney Graduate School of Management (SGSM) Alumni has been established to ensure that graduates from SGSM can retain their links to the University of Western Sydney.

SGSM is a long-established business school and offers a wide suite of postgraduate Business programs that are of the highest, internationally recognised and respected, academic quality.

With over 2,000 members, the SGSM Alumni Chapter has been designed to provide graduates with various networking opportunities to keep in touch with the latest developments in the field, and each other.

### Chapter Membership

This chapter is most relevant to UWS Master of Business and other business postgraduate alumni.

Don't forget that every graduate of The University of Western Sydney is invited to join this chapter – membership is free!

### How do I join?

To become a member of this chapter visit the UWS Alumni website and complete the online form, and don't forget to tick SGSM Alumni in the Chapters section.

For more information or to join this chapter visit the [UWS Alumni Chapter Website](http://www.uws.edu.au/SGSMAlumni)  
[www.uws.edu.au/SGSMAlumni](http://www.uws.edu.au/SGSMAlumni)

# UWS graduate receives Star of Excellence



Dr Jawad Syed  
Master of International Business 2002

Dr Jawad Syed, academic, diversity management and organisational knowledge expert and graduate of UWS, has been presented with one of Pakistan's highest national honours, awarded to him by President Asif Zadari as part of Pakistan's 2012 Independence Day celebrations.

Jawad was awarded the Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Star of Excellence) in recognition of his contributions to the field of diversity management in Pakistan and other Muslim majority countries. He accepted the award on Pakistan Day earlier this year.

"For me, this is a matter of great honour that my humble work was recognised by the President of Pakistan," he says.

Together with colleague Mustafa Ozbilgin, Jawad edited two research volumes on gender and cultural diversity in Asia - *Managing Cultural Diversity in Asia: a research companion*, and *Managing Gender Diversity in Asia: a research companion*, and this work, along with Jawad's other studies on diversity related issues in Muslim majority countries and Muslim diaspora, were specifically mentioned in his formal citation for the award.

He was also acknowledged for co-founding the South Asian Academy of Management (SAAM), a professional association designed to aid the creation and distribution of knowledge about management and organisations in South Asia. Jawad is also currently serving as Program Chair of Gender, Race and Diversity in Organisations Group of the European Academy of Management.

Jawad's unique international perspective on diversity management

has been informed by his own international educational journey.

He first completed a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering in Pakistan, before moving to Australia to complete a Master of International Business at the Sydney Graduate School of Management at UWS, graduating in 2002.

"I chose that course due to its focus on international business and cross-cultural management," he says.

While Jawad returned to work in the textile sector in Pakistan for two years, his interest in international human resource management saw him relocate to Australia again to complete a PhD.

Jawad then joined the University of Kent in the United Kingdom in 2007 as a lecturer in Human Resource Management, and was recently promoted to the position of Reader in Employment Relations and Human Resource Management (the equivalent of associate professor in Australia).

Jawad is currently working on another research volume, this time on diversity management, with a particular focus on Europe. Into the future, he has a much larger goal as his focus.

"I want to expand the relevance and impact of my work from academic life to organisational and societal contexts in order to confront and eliminate discrimination at multiple levels in real life."

**Dr Jawad Syed receiving his award can be viewed here**

<http://youtu.be/QqbAGU4B6ZM>

<http://youtu.be/prOvCHbmdME>

# alumni online



## FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Our Facebook page continues to grow with over 1,900 likes!

We hope to continue to increase our page members, so help us spread the word by liking us and sharing the page with your friends and fellow alumni.



[www.facebook.com/UWSAlumni](http://www.facebook.com/UWSAlumni)



## FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

With more than 900 followers our Twitter network is expanding!

Follow @UWSAlumni and help us increase our reach further by re-tweeting our posts to your followers.

UWS Alumni  
[@www.twitter.com/UWSAlumni](https://www.twitter.com/UWSAlumni)



## CONNECT WITH US ON LINKEDIN

Did you know that we have a network of over 2,500 group members on LinkedIn?

Network with your fellow alumni in this professional online space via the UWS Alumni LinkedIn group page.

[www.uws.edu.au/alumniLinkedIn](http://www.uws.edu.au/alumniLinkedIn)

# alumni events 2012



Eric Sidoti, Director, The Whitlam Institute with former Federal Minister Tom Uren



UWS Alumna Dr Genevieve Nelson, Director, The Kokoda Track Foundation, and His Excellency Charles Lepani, High Commissioner for Papua New Guinea



## GRADUATION CEREMONIES HELD IN HONG KONG

On 2 June 2012, the University of Western Sydney and School of Continuing Education, Hong Kong Baptist University (SCE) held a graduation ceremony for 130 graduates of the Master of Nursing (Clinical Leadership) and the Master of Primary Health Care.

The ceremony was held in the Academic Community Hall on the Ho Sin Hang Campus of Hong Kong Baptist University, and was officiated by Professor Gary Smith, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Engagement and International), UWS. Dr Alice Tso, CEO of CHC International Hospital/ Senior Advisor of CHC, addressed the graduates, their family and friends during the ceremony.

The Master of Primary Health Care and the Master of Nursing (Clinical Leadership) have been offered jointly by UWS and SCE since 1996 and 2008 respectively, and to date have provided professional training to more than 500 graduates.



Hong Kong Graduation Ceremonies

## JOURNEYS INTO PAPUA

James Francis "Frank" Hurley was one of Australia's greatest 20th century photographers, renowned for producing iconic images for the Antarctic expeditions by Mawson and Shackleton and the First World War.

The Australian Museum is currently touring a unique collection of his photographs in an exhibition titled *Journeys into Papua*, which will be on display at the Margaret Whitlam Galleries at the Female Orphan School, UWS Parramatta campus from 13 August to 26 October 2012.

The exhibition features a selection of black and white photographs taken from one of Hurley's expeditions to Papua, between 1921 and 1923, providing a record of a time of great political, technological and social change for Papua.

The exhibition is open from 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday. Admission is free for UWS Alumni, students and staff. Public entry is \$5 per person.



## ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS GIVE OPEN DAY ATTENDEES THE INSIDE STORY

On Sunday 26 August 2012, UWS opened the gates of its Parramatta campus to welcome prospective students and their families to its annual Open Day.

This year, UWS alumni were invited to volunteer to provide advice for their area of study.

Working alongside the academic advisers from the various Schools within the University, who were providing information on available courses and academic requirements, the 18 alumni volunteers were able to give prospective students the inside story on what it is like to study at UWS.

“Our alumni volunteers were answering some really interesting questions, such as whether they found the course difficult, how they were using their degree, and what it is like working in the field after graduation,” says UWS Alumni Relations Manager, Robert Wendon.

The feedback on the participation of alumni in Open Day was positive, and UWS plans to continue this initiative in future. If you are interested in being involved, a call for volunteers will be sent by email ahead of next year’s Open Day in August 2013.



Alumni volunteers at Open Day



'Breaking of fast' dinner

## BREAKING THE FAST TOGETHER DURING RAMADAN

For the eighth consecutive year, the University of Western Sydney has hosted a “breaking of fast” dinner during the Islamic month of Ramadan.

Close to 300 community members, students and staff attended the event, held in the Sir Ian and Nancy Turbott Auditorium at the UWS Parramatta campus on Saturday 4 August 2012.

Special guests included the Hon. Paul Lynch MP, Member for Liverpool; the Hon. Barbara Perry MP, Member for Auburn; Dr Geoffrey Lee MP, Member for Parramatta; and the Hon. Laurie Ferguson MP, Member for Werriwa.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Senior Constable Danny Mikati from the Bankstown Local Area Command within the NSW Police Force.

Danny shared his experiences as a Muslim police officer in Bankstown and provided an insight into the ways to build cooperation and trust between Muslim communities and the NSW Police Force.

UWS student and member of the UWS Muslim Student Association, Laila Halwani, also shared her experiences as a student at UWS, and UWS Deputy Vice-Chancellor Rhonda Hawkins addressed the assembled guests to speak about the University’s Islamic Studies program and the Religion and Society Research Centre.

# upcoming events 2012

## 2012

<b>10 OCTOBER</b>	UWS Postgraduate Expo	<a href="http://www.uws.edu.au/pgexpo">www.uws.edu.au/pgexpo</a>
<b>2 NOVEMBER</b>	UWS Law Alumni Association 2012 Occasional Address	<a href="http://www.uws.edu.au/LawAlumni">www.uws.edu.au/LawAlumni</a>
<b>30 NOVEMBER</b>	UWS Music Alumni Event	<a href="http://www.uws.edu.au/MusicAlumni">www.uws.edu.au/MusicAlumni</a>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Summer Graduation Ceremonies	<a href="http://www.uws.edu.au/NewAlumni">www.uws.edu.au/NewAlumni</a>

## 2013

<b>MARCH</b>	Election of Board of Trustees Graduate Member
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For a list of all scheduled University and Alumni events visit  
[www.uws.edu.au/AlumniEvents](http://www.uws.edu.au/AlumniEvents)

# stay connected

The University of Western Sydney (UWS) holds our alumni in high esteem, taking pride in each graduate as they progress beyond their studies and into their chosen career. Assisting more than 140,000 graduates, the objective of the UWS Alumni Unit is to ensure all of our alumni 'keep in touch' with their university.

Immediately following your graduation or completion of studies at the University of Western Sydney, you become a valued member of the UWS alumni community. We encourage all of our graduates to update their details online and remain connected with UWS.

**UPDATE YOUR DETAILS, JOIN CHAPTERS AND STAY CONNECTED ONLINE AT**

**[WWW.UWS.EDU.AU/STAYCONNECTED](http://WWW.UWS.EDU.AU/STAYCONNECTED)**

## GRADLIFE MEMBERSHIP

We also invite you to join the GradLife Membership Program to gain access to benefits exclusive to UWS alumni.

**TO FIND OUT MORE OR TO JOIN VISIT**

**[WWW.UWS.EDU.AU/GRADLIFE](http://WWW.UWS.EDU.AU/GRADLIFE)**