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From the Vice-Chancellor

UTAS is positioning itself to become the premier marine, maritime and oceans university in the nation.

SINCE OUR LAST edition of Alumni News we’ve had a Federal election in Australia and a new era in politics brings with it a new era in university policy. Adjusting to a new government is never easy, but while policy is being formulated it is a good time to have our voices heard. We hope that the two ministers, Julia Gillard (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations, Education and Social Inclusion) and Kim Carr (Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research) will work closely to provide an integrated overview that invigorates the whole sector.

While the Federal Budget included timely and very welcome recognition of the backlog maintenance bill for the university sector, it transformed the Higher Education Endowment Fund into the Education Investment Fund, and although the fund was increased, it has delayed the distribution of that money as well as spreading it more widely across not only universities, but Vocational Education and Training (VET) as well as major research facilities and institutions. There was extra support for undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships, but disappointingly no provision for student organisations and activities suffering in the aftermath of voluntary student unionism.

The government has commissioned a review before any decision is made on real increases in operating grants to universities. It will be a challenging couple of years!

The Allen report “Philanthropy in Australia’s higher education system” places development at the forefront of our aspiration to greater funding diversity. The report describes philanthropic funding as a third stream revenue source to promote excellence, innovation and participation. Our University Foundation and the University of Tasmania Foundation USA are already robust operations and demonstrating growing support through bequests, major gifts and a scholarship program that is the envy of many of our peers. We are running several fundraising appeals for particular projects, and the Annual Appeal to you, our alumni, has been our most successful so far. Thank you for the vote of confidence in UTAS.

Coming up in 2008 – 2009 we have some exciting developments and a strong commitment to our EDGE2 agenda focus on excellence and distinctiveness. The Australian Maritime College became an institute of the University on January 1, and brings with it a wonderful opportunity for UTAS to become the premier marine, maritime and oceans university in the country. We also welcome a whole new cohort of alumni from AMC to our family.

This issue of Alumni News also features something of the history of our capacity in astronomy, as well as the future we see in reaching for the stars. Martin George records the passing of the Fenton brothers whose work in cosmic ray research was a hallmark of the discipline and whose commitment spanned two campuses and several telescopes.

The opening of the Grote Reber Museum also speaks of our significant links and collaborations in the world of radio astronomy and highlights our two radio astronomy sites in Ceduna and Mt Pleasant. One of the most exciting programs at the moment is the international collaboration through PLANET and the optical observatory currently on Mt Canopus, but which we hope to resite on Bisdee Tier. Here is an opportunity for your support, as we will shortly be launching an Appeal to fund this facility.

What do these, and the many other interesting and informative stories, tell us about your UTAS? We are an international university working out of Tasmania – an island laboratory where we believe anything is possible. Help us to realise the vision.

Daryl Le Grew
Vice-Chancellor and President
IF THERE IS another planet like Earth spinning out in space, UTAS astronomers are determined to be among the first to find it.

Planet-hunters Dr John Greenhill and Dr Stefan Dieters, from the UTAS School of Mathematics and Physics, were recently part of an international breakthrough in our knowledge of space with the discovery of the first planetary system with similarities to our Solar System.

Drs Greenhill and Dieters were the only Australian contributors to a global collaboration, led by Dr Scott Gaudi of Ohio State University, which uncovered the system and last month reported its results in the prestigious journal, Science.
planetary system similar to Earth’s solar system.

The newly discovered system, which has the code-name OGLE-2006-BLG-109L, contains two planets orbiting a cooler star that is half the mass of our Sun and situated about 5000 light years from Earth, give or take a light year.

“While there have been 250 planets discovered outside of our Solar System, they are not like our Solar System – it is the first planetary system like this to be discovered,” Dr Greenhill said.

The collaboration used a technique known as gravitational microlensing with photometric data (or brightness measurements) from telescopes in Chile, USA, New Zealand, Israel, the Canary Islands and the UTAS Mt Canopus 1 metre telescope, based near Hobart.

In gravitational microlensing, the light of a background star is magnified by the effect of gravity from a foreground star as it passes. This causes the background star to brighten and fade smoothly as the alignment between the two stars changes as each move through space.

If the foreground star has a planet, it can cause distortions to this smooth process, which appear as very short brightenings and fadings. It is the analysis of these changes that can lead to the discovery of new planets.

While pinpointing a new planet may seem thrilling in itself, what excites astronomers in this discovery is the similarity of the planetary system to our Solar System.

“It resembles a scaled down version of our Solar System with the two planets having mass ratios - as compared with their star – orbital separations and surface temperatures similar to those of Jupiter and Saturn,” Dr Greenhill said.

The discovery is particularly significant because it demonstrates that, using microlensing, scientists could estimate how many planetary systems similar to ours there are in the Galaxy.

“The technique used does not necessarily detect all planets in the system, so it is possible that OGLE-2006-BLG-109L may contain other planets – even ones like Earth,” Dr Greenhill said.

A life of watching and analysing bright stars is never dull.

“Hunting for planets in this way is exciting. On each night, with each observation, there is the chance to discover a whole new world.”

Running for planets in this way is exciting. On each night, with each observation, there is the chance to discover a whole new world.”

Elizabeth Daly
Chair, University of Tasmania Alumni

Reprinted courtesy of UniTas
A pioneer’s life

A new museum honours the life and work of radio astronomer Grote Reber.

THE ORIGINAL BOTHWELL radio shack used by the late radio astronomer Grote Reber is featured in a new museum celebrating his life and achievements.

At the UTAS Mt Pleasant Observatory in Cambridge, astronomy students and scholars will be able to experience first-hand the environment in which Dr Reber controlled a 1.5 kilometre-wide radio telescope grid he built at his Bothwell home, along with his original radio equipment and telescopes.

The museum, established by the School of Maths and Physics with help from the Launceston Planetarium at the Queen Victoria Museum, was recently opened by Dr Ken Kellermann, a world-renowned radio astronomer from the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Dr Reber moved from the United States to Tasmania in the late 1950s. He is regarded as the father of radio astronomy and he was the first person to build a “big dish” antenna for the purpose of mapping the sky at radio frequencies.

The School of Maths and Physics’ Karen Bradford, who established the museum, said Dr Reber relocated to Tasmania because of its unique location at high magnetic latitude in the southern hemisphere. He discovered many discrete radio sources, and he mapped the band of bright radio emission from our Galaxy, the Milky Way.

“Dr Reber’s accomplishments in radio astronomy, electrical powered transport and in the carbon dating of Aboriginal settlements are remarkable,” she said.

“He spent 40 years studying low frequency emissions with telescopes he built himself, both alone and with the UTAS School of Physics.”

She said the museum includes exhibits of Dr
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Reber’s telescopes, his life’s work and his many other interests. A unique feature is Reber’s original radio shack, the control building for the radio telescope array at Bothwell, which is installed at the museum with Reber’s original radio equipment in place.

“There is also a virtual-reality theatre, provided by the Swinburne University of Technology, which will screen movies and demonstrations in 3D for school groups and other interested community groups.”

Grote Reber died of cancer at the age of 90 on December 20, 2002.

Reprinted courtesy of UniTas

The museum is open by appointment only. Contact Karen Bradford, School of Maths and Physics, on 6226 2439 for bookings and check the museum website at:

www.groterebermuseum.com.au
RECENT MONTHS HAVE seen the sad passing of two key University of Tasmania researchers whose dedication to their work over many decades sets an example to all. Brothers Arthur Geoffrey Fenton, better known as Geoff Fenton, and Keith Brian (“Peter”) Fenton were known nationally and internationally. They took a keen interest in several subject areas, and were particularly known for their work in cosmic ray astronomy.

During the war years, Geoff Fenton had been performing significant work in the University’s optical munitions annexe on the Queen’s Domain in Hobart. In 1945, however, Geoff began to prepare physics courses for the University. His keen interest in radioactivity, and nuclear physics in general, led to him commencing work on cosmic rays. Cosmic rays are mostly protons — hydrogen nuclei — which make up the most significant part of natural background radiation. They were discovered in 1912 by Victor Hess, who flew detection equipment aboard a high-altitude balloon. By the 1930s, it was clear that they arrived preferentially from a westerly direction, and this “east-west anisotropy”, as it was called, drew Geoff Fenton’s attention. Geoff, together with Peter Burbury, constructed a suitable detector and by 1948 had shown that the effect also occurs at the latitude of Tasmania.

This research marked the beginning of a long period of cosmic ray research in Tasmania, in which both Geoff and Peter Fenton played major roles. Indeed, much of their work was done together, and they co-authored a large number of papers.

An interesting feature of cosmic ray research is that the cosmic ray particles are not detected directly. As they slam into the Earth’s atmosphere they produce a “shower” of particles, which themselves reveal that cosmic ray particles have arrived. The significant particles that are actually detected are muons and neutrons, and both muon counters and neutron monitors contribute to our knowledge of cosmic rays.

In the early days of his cosmic ray research, Peter Fenton spent a year gathering data on Macquarie Island, following which he took up a position for several years in Ottawa, Canada. As part of his work there he made measurements of cosmic radiation at different latitudes between the Antarctic and the equator.

During the 1960s Geoff and Peter Fenton became involved in X-ray astronomy, which was conducted using both rocket-borne and balloon-
borne detectors developed by the Fentons in collaboration with other researchers. In 1966, a detector aboard a rocket captured data on the first known X-ray transient, which is a sudden increase in X-ray intensity from an X-ray source in the sky. Some of this equipment, together with cosmic ray equipment, is preserved today at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in Launceston, and will feature in a new exhibit to be opened in 2009.

The Fentons’ cosmic ray research spanned many decades, and resulted in a continuous set of data over more than 50 years. In the 1950s, Geoff Fenton set up detectors in a disused railway tunnel underneath Tunnel Hill, near Cambridge (until it closed in 1926, the railway that used the tunnel ran between Bellerive and Sorell). The idea of using this tunnel was to filter out lower-energy secondary radiation, and it worked well.

Over the years, other cosmic ray observatories were set up, with the Fentons being instrumental in their establishment and operation. Examples are the observatory set up on University grounds in Sandy Bay, and the observatory at Poatina, constructed in 1971.

The recognition of the Fentons’ research among the astronomical community resulted in the twelfth International Cosmic Ray Conference being held in Hobart in 1971, which was a first for the southern hemisphere.

Geoff and Peter served the astronomical community in other significant ways. Geoff was a member of the International Cosmic Ray Commission from 1979 to 1983, and for some time was closely involved with the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS). Peter served the Astronomical Society of Australia — Australia’s body of professional astronomers — as its President in 1985-86, spending the previous and following two years as Vice President and Past President. Earlier, he had served on its National Committee from 1971 to 1973. As a result of this work, Peter was made an honorary Fellow of the Society in 1992.

In 2003, Geoff Fenton was named as a Member of the Order of Australia for his services to science.

I first met Geoff and Peter Fenton in 1975, a time at which they were both intensively involved in their cosmic ray studies. However, it is as lecturers in the Physics Department that I first came to know them well. Both Geoff and Peter were highly respected by students and other Physics staff.

One of my most significant memories of both Geoff and Peter, and one that is shared by many other former students, is of their lecture notes. These were immaculately prepared and were of textbook quality, with the advantage of having such fine lecturers explaining all of the concepts well along the way. A colleague of mine, who was also a former student, once asked me if I had ever attended lectures that I simply didn’t want to end. It turned out that he was referring to one of Peter’s lectures that he had enjoyed immensely.

Their attention to individual students’ needs was also an outstanding quality. I once made an error in a third-year statistical physics examination and, despite my having passed the examination, Peter Fenton insisted that I attempt one of the questions again to improve my mark. This was because the question involved the physics of stellar interiors, and Peter was aware of my great interest in astronomy.

Although my area of research was outside the cosmic ray field, I was delighted with the willingness of both Geoff and Peter Fenton to show me the work they were doing, and on several occasions visited the observatory under Tunnel Hill.

Both Geoff and Peter remained keen, right up to the time of their passing, to ensure that cosmic ray research would continue, and never lost their enthusiasm for the University continuing this work. Although cosmic ray research at the University has wound down, this important work is continued by other researchers here and around the world. The contributions made by the Fentons have been extremely significant in the field of cosmic ray research, and therefore in astronomy in general.

Above all, both Geoff and Peter Fenton were true gentlemen of science. I am pleased and proud to have known them so well, and I am sure that I am joined by very many people who miss them greatly.
The Astronomy research group in the School of Maths and Physics will build a 1.27 metre reflecting telescope for use in a new optical astronomy observatory in the southern midlands of Tasmania.

Located on Bisdee Tier about five kilometres east of the Midlands highway near Constitution Hill, the new facility will replace the 30-year-old Mt Canopus Observatory on Mt Rumney, near Cambridge, which is threatened by light pollution from nearby residential and commercial development. The telescope will be used for astronomical research by honours and postgraduate students and UTAS scientists and their collaborators.

Under the direction of UTAS astrophysicist John Greenhill, a wide range of sites in the state had been explored, ranked according to elevation, average cloud cover, light pollution, and accessibility. The summit of Bisdee Tier was chosen because it had low rainfall and negligible light pollution, and was just an hour’s drive from Hobart. The site itself will be a tremendous upgrade over the Mt. Canopus site, owing to the decreased light pollution and absence of the turbulent air produced in the wake of Mt. Wellington.

The PLANET (Probing Lensing Anomalies NETwork) collaboration is an example of a major research effort with a distinctive Tasmanian contribution based on a local research-grade observatory. The project has resulted in the discovery of several planets beyond the solar system, and the associated publicity has brought international attention to UTAS. Without an observatory, Tasmanian involvement would be virtually impossible.

Top students will find a reinvigorated optical observatory a significant attraction and we could reasonably expect an increase in student numbers with a modern facility as a hands-on learning environment for astrophysical techniques or instrument development and electronics experience.

The University Foundation will launch a fundraising appeal for the project later this year. For further information or to be involved in our appeal, please contact Amanda.Wojtowicz@utas.edu.au.

Reprinted courtesy of UniTas
A FASCINATION WITH the hidden spaces of urban landscapes led Hobart artist Mish Meijers to create Henri Papin, a dark figure at the centre of her ongoing project, The Collector.

The joint project between Meijers and painter Tricky Walsh, examines “fetish, perversion, isolation and madness” through the eyes of Papin, with Meijers using sculpture and installation to express the art of the fictional French character.

A UTAS graduate, Meijers will spend four months in France this September after being awarded the Rosamund McCulloch studio residency at the Cite Internationale des Arts, located in the heart of Paris.

Meijers said the Paris residency was a fantastic opportunity to research and construct an accurate Parisian “history” of Papin, whose life shares similarities with French writer Jean Genet and those of several Genet characters.

“Papin is a direct reference to the creepy Papin sisters and Jean Genet wrote the play The Maids about the sisters,” Meijers said.

An active member of the Tasmanian art community, Meijers is co-chair of 6A, a non-profit artist-run initiative that encourages and supports local artists, both emerging and experienced. She is also involved in ARI (Artist Run Initiative).

“I decided to be an artist at about 11. It’s my first love and if I don’t make work, I don’t feel balanced,” Meijers said.

The McCulloch studio was purchased by UTAS in 1991, under the terms of a bequest from Hobart artist and teacher Rosamund McCulloch, for use by Tasmanian School of Arts graduates. The residency is supported by UTAS and Arts Tasmania and includes an Arts Tasmania grant to assist with expenses, airfares and a living allowance.

Reprinted courtesy UniTas.

A UTAS graduate will develop her art practice in Paris this year after being awarded the Rosamund McCulloch studio residency. By Cherie Cooper

A strange new world

Christine and Lea Papin, who worked as maids in Le Mans, brutally murdered their employer and her daughter. The crime influenced many writers and artists of the period.
The good fight

UTAS alumnus Tunku Abdul Aziz Ibrahim has dedicated his life to fighting corruption in business and government. By Penny Thow

SINCE STUDYING AT the University of Tasmania, alumnus Tunku Abdul Aziz Ibrahim has become one of Asia’s leading businessmen and has played a significant role in the fight against corruption both in his home country of Malaysia and internationally.

The highlight of his career to date was being appointed Special Adviser to the Secretary General of the United Nations in 2006 and setting up the UN Ethics Office. The office was established to stamp out corruption associated with UN peacekeeping operations and in reaction to the oil for food scandal, which included Australian wheat sales, after the invasion of Iraq.

“I had a phone call on Christmas morning asking me to drop everything and come to New York,” he said. “It was a great opportunity to set up the office and put in the declaration of assets regime and the whistleblower protection program.”

Tunku has held senior management positions in large private and public sector organisations in Malaysia, Hong Kong and the UK.

He was also responsible for establishing the Malaysian chapter of the worldwide anti-corruption organisation Transparency International and in 2004 published his book, Fighting Corruption: My Mission.

Tunku’s passion for integrity was instilled in him by his father who was a police officer.

“He was completely incorruptible,” Tunku said. “Police forces all over the world are very prone to corruption and it has become a universal culture. But he said to me it is better to be poor and keep your self respect than to drive a big car and have everyone point the finger and say you are on the take.”

Tunku undertook teacher training at the University of Liverpool and taught throughout rural areas in Malaysia for five years. “My first choice was teaching because that is where I thought I could help make a difference,” he said.

Tunku found his experience at UTAS studying political science and economic history between 1962-64 rewarding.

“I was actively involved in university life and was the first Asian to become editor of the university newspaper Togatus,” Tunku said.

“It became a highly respected student newspaper and was often quoted by mainland newspapers. There were some very good students on the Togatus staff, including Salleh Joned who was a fantastic writer and has since become one of Malaysia’s greatest poets.

“My stint at the University of Tasmania has done me an enormous amount of good. It allowed me to be free and independent and gave me many opportunities which have stood me in good stead in the international world.”

Tunku had initially intended to return to a teaching position in Borneo after completing his degree but was headhunted by one of Malaysia’s major companies, the Guthrie Corporation, which made him an employment offer “too good to refuse”.

He was then invited to become Assistant Governor of the Central Bank of Malaysia and later became a director of Dunlop Malaysia, then group director of one of Asia’s largest groups of companies, Sime Darby. From 1985-1992 he was a director at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.

Tunku has always been committed to integrity and anti-corruption in business and government. When he retired in 1992, he helped found the Malaysian chapter of the international anti-corruption organisation Transparency International, with whom he worked on a full-time voluntary basis until 2004.

He still continues to campaign against corruption on a daily basis and is a highly sought after speaker and advisor on the topic.

“I have always fought against corruption in one way or another through my work,” Tunku said.

“You cannot possibly fight corruption without getting the government on board,” Tunku said.

“But at the same time you have to make sure you are not in the government’s pocket, that you do not owe them anything.”
UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY ANTARCTICA AND THE SOUTHERN OCEANS AT UTAS

Passionate about the Antarctic and the cool waters of the Southern Ocean? Have you previously studied in the area of Science? Then the new Master of Antarctic Science (MAntSci) could be the next step in your career.

The Master of Antarctic Science is a specialised program in polar marine biology providing students with advanced instruction and training in emerging approaches and technologies in marine biology. The course was developed as part of the new International Antarctic Institute (IAI) and the UNESCO /Cousteau Ecotechnie Chair in Antarctic and Southern Ocean Environmental Sciences. The IAI is a multi-disciplinary consortium of international universities.

This UTAS Masters program allows you to develop an understanding of the roles the Southern Ocean and the Antarctic marine ecosystem play in the global climate system. The course is designed to produce expertly trained scientists with international experience and research skills in the area of Antarctic marine science.

“The proximity of the University of Tasmania to Antarctica, combined with renowned academic staff, provides a unique world-class learning experience. Adding to this experience students will have the opportunity to study core units from key universities around the world,” comments MAntSci course coordinator Professor Andrew McMinn, holder of the UNESCO /Cousteau Ecotechnie Chair. Professor McMinn recommends this course as ideal for anyone wishing to expand their knowledge and qualifications in this field. There are cross-credit study programs available within this Masters program providing students with the choice to take electives from one of 20 IAI partner universities, plus the opportunity to undertake a research project associated with expertise available through the IAI consortium.

New applicants can take up the opportunity to receive one of 10 Commonwealth Supported places exclusive to UTAS and this course. The remaining places are offered as full fee paying, with the option of the FEE-HELP deferral system for domestic students.

If you’re interested in a course that will allow you to work closely with world-class researchers involved in both national and international research programs, with the added flexibility of distance and cross credit study programs, the new Master of Antarctic Science is the program to suit you.
The Australian Maritime College’s merger with UTAS will help it become a better, bigger and stronger learning institution. By Penny Thow

THE Australian Maritime College’s merger with the University of Tasmania in January will have significant benefits for both facilities, according to AMC Principal, Professor Malek Pourzanjani.

“UTAS and the AMC have an exciting future together and we intend to ensure we make the most of the opportunities created by the integration of our organisations,” he said.

The combination of people and facilities will enhance Tasmania’s reputation and expertise in maritime related studies, including naval architecture, ocean engineering and maritime hydrodynamics, integrated transport logistics, marine science and technology, fisheries and sustainable management of ocean resources.

“Tasmania will also improve its position as an international leader in maritime education, training and research,” Professor Pourzanjani said.

The Launceston-based AMC will remain the national provider of maritime education and training.

“Our role is to support Australia’s strategic goals within the maritime domain, which have been given a clearer direction by the new government,” Professor Pourzanjani said.

“They include addressing critical skills shortages which are quite desperate at the moment, to the extent we even have difficulty recruiting instructors.

“The industry is booming and 99 per cent of trade to and from Australia is by ship. Unfortunately not many are Australian ships and one of the goals of the government is to improve the quality and increase the quantity of the Australian shipping industry.”

Professor Pourzanjani said the AMC also had an international role.

“We have obligations to provide maritime education and training within the region, including for countries such as New Zealand, Indonesia, PNG, and Pacific islands,” he said.

“Further afield we are ranked among the top five to 10 maritime institutions in the world. The AMC also provides leadership in maritime policy in Australia through the Maritime Transport Policy Centre, which is working very closely with government agencies.”

Professor Pourzanjani said the merger with UTAS provided the AMC with better access to expertise within the university.

“Faculties such as engineering, law and business are academic disciplines whereas maritime studies have been more profession based,” he said.

“Although we have offered degrees up to PhD level, with the integration we now have the opportunity to develop new and broader academically driven programs.

“We have already spoken to groups within the university about joint submissions to the government for research grants.

“There will also be efficiencies of scale in central services such as HR, finance and sharing facilities. And the savings made will be put back into our core business, which is teaching and research.”

Professor Pourzanjani said the merger would also benefit UTAS.

“UTAS has been very much State-based and State focused whereas AMC has always been a national institution and will bring a national perspective to the University,” he said. “It will also help raise the international profile.”

Since his appointment 18 months ago, Professor Purzanjani has overseen a restructure of the AMC that has strengthened and streamlined the facility, and better positioned the college for its merger with UTAS.

As well as the Transport Policy Centre, it now has three major centres: the National Centre for Engineering and Hydrodynamics; the National Centre for Ports and Shipping; and the National Centre for Marine Conservation and Resource Sustainability.

The Engineering and Hydrodynamics Centre offers engineering degrees in ocean engineering, naval architecture and marine and offshore systems that qualify graduates for careers in areas such as ship design and building, oil and gas, coastal engineering, underwater vehicles, and port and harbour design.

Ports and Shipping offers courses in maritime logistics and management and seafaring that will lead to opportunities in the areas of commercial shipping, ports and terminals management, logistics, transport policy, import and export, and ship, operations and project management.

The Conservation and Resource Sustainability
centre offers a Bachelor of Applied Science (Marine Environment) that will position graduates in professional, scientific and technical positions in wild fisheries, aquaculture and marine research and management positions in coastal and marine tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, government policy development and marine parks.

Professor Pourzanjani said the restructure had overcome a lack of focus at AMC.

“The AMC was going through fairly difficult times because of changes in the external environment and lack of a coherent national maritime policy,” he said. “The shape of the new structure was finalised by early 2007, and took about six months before it was embedded.

“The new structure focuses on the three main areas the AMC is really good at and provides direct points of contact for industry. It also works well for students and staff.”

Maritime safety has been an ongoing passion for Professor Pourzanjani and he sees it as an important part of the AMC’s role. “Maritime safety spans the whole range from ship design right through to the people who manage and operate these systems,” he said.

“Our programs are very much about sea and ocean uses and resources.

“My main area of interest at the moment is the human factor. We have just started a research program on that with the University of South Australia and I hope it will grow.”

A major aspect of training and research into human factors involves the AMC’s maritime training simulator, which is undergoing a $4 million upgrade which will include a 270-degree main bridge, six ship operating consoles, 160-degree bridges with re-configurable cockpit consoles and a 180-degree tug bridge. The bridges will interact to create real port situations in a range of weather conditions.

“Our facilities are world class and the upgrade will bring in the latest operational equipment which people at sea use,” Professor Pourzanjani said.

“I would like to see the AMC become a better, bigger and stronger learning institution both as a place to study and work,” he said.
In those days life at sea was very attractive. You could see the world and the remuneration was very good compared with what you could get ashore.

“I had been intending to get a proper job but instead stayed on at Exeter as an academic,” he said.

Professor Pourzanjani has a Bachelor of Science degree with honours in maritime technology from the University of Wales and a PhD from Exeter University.

Prior to his position at the AMC he was INMARSAT chair in Maritime Education and Training and resident professor at the World Maritime University in Sweden.

He was Professor and Dean of the Maritime Faculty, Southampton Institute (1996-2001); Principal Lecturer in Maritime Technology at Southampton Institute (1991); and lecturer in marine and systems dynamics at Exeter University.

He has also worked as a consultant to the Canadian Government and the International Maritime Organisation.

Professor Pourzanjani was asked to apply for the position of Principal of the AMC after attending a conference there.

“I fell in love with the place,” he said. “I thought not only the College but the city and people were wonderful.

“The AMC approached me and the timing was okay because I was just finishing off some major research projects for the European Union and the United Nations.

“So I came down for an interview, was offered the job and I’m very happy with the decision.”
AMC overcomes shortfalls

MARITIME EDUCATION AND training is finally a part of the national education system thanks to the AMC’s merger with UTAS, according to AMC Foundation Principal Danny Waters.

When the AMC was founded in 1978 it provided badly needed education and training for the maritime industries, including the fishing industry.

“The main objective was to incorporate maritime education and training into the national education system and the inclusion of the AMC in the UTAS structure in a way represents the final completion of this objective,” Mr Waters said.

“Prior to the establishment of the AMC, maritime training in Australia was rudimentary and was rapidly becoming inadequate by the then developing international standards.

“The major certificates of competency for masters, mates and engineers were, as now, administered by the Commonwealth but the coaching for the examinations was provided by a few State technical colleges.

“It was far from being an ideal situation and lack of funding was a constant problem. There were no courses for managerial or senior technical positions in the shipping, port and associated maritime industries and professions, and virtually nothing for the fishing industry. Australian mariners wishing to acquire prerequisite graduate level qualifications had to study in the UK as the courses were not available in Australia.”

The AMC was able to overcome these shortfalls and offer courses leading to diploma and degree qualifications, Mr Waters said.

“For mariners these incorporated the certificate of competency requirements within an educational framework, and importantly through practical training using training vessels and simulators,” he said.

“Research and post graduate courses were envisaged for professional and managerial positions in the industry, including developing offshore industries, and port authorities.”

Mr Waters said the universal scope of UTAS’s provisions would help to broaden the specialist curricula of the AMC.

“I am particularly in favour of the reintroduction of degree courses to replace diplomas for nautical and marine engineering cadets,” he said.

“However, it is also important to preserve the relevance to industry of AMC coursework and applied research in order to safeguard the national function and high international standing of the institution, which is illustrated by the demand for its graduates.”

Mr Waters, formerly Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Transport, said a positive approach to the merger with UTAS would result in benefits to both institutions.

“With goodwill on all sides and avoidance of internal ‘turf wars’ and the consequent battles for scarce financial resources, there is potential for benefits to both institutions.”

Ocean expert

UTAS IS SET to become a specialist oceans university as a result of its merger with the Australian Maritime College, according to second Principal of the AMC and managing director of the Australasian Maritime Education Services, Rod Short.

“Australia possesses comprehensive maritime expertise without equal in the Asia Pacific region,” Mr Short said.

“A number of universities, including the University of Tasmania, are already active in maritime research and the delivery of maritime courses.”

Mr Short said UTAS was well placed to take on the role of specialist oceans university for a number of reasons, including:

- Its research and education in the maritime area is well established and respected, particularly in relation to the Southern Ocean
- It has close links with the AMC, a world leader in maritime education, training and research
- Tasmania has possibly Australia’s greatest concentration of maritime expertise, which not only includes UTAS and AMC, but also the CSIRO Marine Research, National Oceans Office, Antarctic Division, Incat, Primary Industry Marine Resources, Asia Pacific Maritime Institute, Bureau of Meteorology, Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute, and Marine and Safety Tasmania

It is well placed to strengthen its position as a leading centre of knowledge about the Southern Ocean and Antarctic waters

“No Australian or New Zealand university has developed a comprehensive oceans approach,” Mr Short said. “The opportunity for a major initiative is reinforced by the need for effective implementation of Australia’s Oceans Policy. A realistic proposal to develop the academic services required for effective implementation of the AOP would receive support from many sectors of maritime activity.”
Research leader

The AMC’s new centre for Engineering and Hydrodynamics has research facilities better than those in any other university.

Professor Hardy said the Centre would better promote what it already does and enhance both the quality and quantity of its research.

“The engineering industry is growing fast and we will be working closely with Engineering at the Hobart campus to increase undergraduate student numbers, research students and research output.”

Professor Hardy has been Vice President, Academic and Research, at the AMC for three years. Previously he held the position of Associate Dean of Engineering at James Cook University for 19 years.

The National Centre for Engineering and Hydrodynamics offers undergraduate degrees in Naval Architecture (ship design); Ocean Engineering (for engineers in offshore industries such as oil and gas); and Marine and Offshore Systems (mechanical engineering off-shore).

“Australia’s offshore industries are booming and the naval architects and engineers trained by the AMC are being snapped up,” Professor Hardy said.

“So growth is an important issue for the AMC while we maintain and improve already good qualifications in those areas.”

Captaining a new ship

The director of the AMC’s National centre for Ports and Shipping will encourage staff in their research and development capabilities.

CAPTAIN JOHN LLOYD will draw on years of experience in the British merchant navy as director of the Australian Maritime College’s National Centre for Ports and Shipping.

He said the AMC was an international heavyweight in maritime training and education with valuable industry links and first class research and training facilities that would set it apart from similar international institutions.

“I believe the work we’re doing here in simulation especially is absolutely on the right track – and there’s more to do,” he said. “The upgrade of the integrated maritime simulator gives us a world-class simulation capability for all sectors of the maritime community.

“In this position I’ll be encouraging staff in their research and development capacities and the development of degree programs for professional mariners.”
Single minded

The National centre for Marine Conservation and Resource Sustainability has revitalised its undergraduate programs.

THE NATIONAL CENTRE for Marine Conservation and Resource Sustainability was created to form a single centre addressing the issues of conservation and resource use in the marine environment.

The former School of Aquaculture has been brought under the AMC banner to bring together the UTAS and AMC collective expertise on the Launceston campus in fisheries, aquaculture, conservation and marine biosecurity, the Centre’s Director, Professor Chad Hewitt said.

The Centre will focus on applied science and translational science – that is, translating scientific knowledge into a mode useable by both management and policy.

“During 2008 we plan to revitalise our four undergraduate degrees to create a single degree with specialist majors,” Professor Hewitt said.

“Our current undergraduate programs provide multi-disciplinary education to students, with approximately 40 per cent of the units natural science based and the balance covering social science, management, policy, law and economics.”

Research stays a focus, with Aquaculture’s already strong research base and strong relationship with the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute (TAFI) of prime importance.

“The AMC has focused on examining sustainable development and conservation practices needed to achieve pragmatic and balanced outcomes for Australia. We are looking at the increased stresses on the marine and coastal environments, and the competition for use of these environments, as a focal point for our activities.

“The former AMC Department of Fisheries and Marine Environment, previously located at Beauty Point, focused on developing better practices for the fishing industry and understanding the basic ecology of coastal systems. All higher education activities at Beauty Point have been moved to Newnham as of January 2008.”

Professor Hewitt has relocated from the AMC’s base on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria where the Marine and Coastal Conservation degree was initially offered; courses are being offered at Newnham and will finish in Victoria in two years.

Previously Professor Hewitt was the Chief Technical Officer (Marine Biosecurity) for New Zealand and was a Research Scientist for seven years at the CSIRO in marine research.

With his background in the British merchant navy, Captain Lloyd has worked in numerous places around the world; he is a master mariner with experience in lecturing in ship handling at the Warsash Maritime Centre in Southampton UK and he holds a masters degree in Business Administration.

He was a marine pilot in Namibia for 18 months and in 2003 he was mobilised in the British Naval Reserve and stationed in the Gulf for six months aboard a Dutch cargo vessel. He also worked for four years with Flagship Training Ltd, the commercial partner to the UK’s Royal Navy.

Captain Lloyd was most recently in Vanuatu, where he was chief executive officer of the Vanuatu Maritime College.

Responsible for port security and the delivery of all safety and professional training for the Vanuatu domestic shipping industry, he found the job highly rewarding.

“There was a sense of contributing to a developing country and the possibility of making a real difference to professional standards,” he said.

“Now I am looking forward to the challenges of a new location and relish the opportunity of helping the AMC flourish as part of the University of Tasmania.”

“I believe the work we are doing here in simulation especially is absolutely on the right track - and there’s more to do.”
A Tasmanian company is showing leadership by supporting research to save the Tasmanian devil.

VEOLIA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES Tasmania believe the funding of research to save the Tasmanian devil from the deadly facial tumour disease should not be left solely to governments. As a result, it has donated $10,000 to the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program and Appeal and called on other Tasmanian businesses to do the same.

Group General Manager Ron Ward said his company was keen to undertake an “industry champion role” to promote Tasmanian devil research.

“It’s an important and worthwhile project that warrants corporate Tasmania’s support, especially when you consider that the devil has just been upgraded to endangered status,” he said.

“As a significant corporate entity in Tasmania, we are not prepared to sit back and leave it to others.”

UTAS Foundation Chair Richard Watson said he was delighted by Veolia’s commitment.

“Veolia is demonstrating wonderful leadership in the corporate community by supporting this important program and encouraging others to come on board,” Mr Watson said.

“It is through the generosity of such corporations that researchers can continue to
Race against time

By Lisa Morisset

RESEARCHERS AT UTAS’ Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science (ACROSS) are developing a preclinical diagnostic test for Tasmanian devil facial tumour disease (DFTD), which can detect the disease in devils before they show any obvious symptoms.

“For all of us this is a pretty important project – I can’t imagine Tasmania without the devil,” says researcher Dr Michael Breadmore.

PhD student Jessica Gathercole left an industry job to join the team because she wanted challenging work that was cutting edge and would make a difference. Her honours at UTAS had already added to the scientific confirmation that cell-to-cell transfer spread DFTD.

Ms Gathercole’s research, which originally focused on proteins, has shifted to examining metabolites in devil serum, to gain a complete picture of the bio-processes of the devil, and give a snapshot of their metabolism and what may be wrong.

Dr Robert Shellie explains that while this project may help save the devil, “the implications for transplant science and tissue rejection are also enormous”.

The team hopes to build a more complete and reliable diagnostic, using mass spectrometry, to analyse the proteins and metabolites of wild devils without symptoms of DFTD to determine if they are infected with the disease, eventually creating a portable diagnostic centre for the field.

Dr Emily Hilder adds: “It’s exciting to apply this cutting edge research technology to a wild animal and create the possibility of applying it to other animals or humans.”

Over the next six months, the team is confident it will be able to confirm the presence of DFTD at a preclinical level.

“This research throws us in the deep end and our challenge is to identify differences between animals that are sick and well and continue to increase the sensitivity of our testing,” Ms Gathercole said.

By Lisa Morisset

Race against time

work on unlocking the mystery of this terrible disease and ultimately find a solution.”

UTAS, with support from Veolia, is planning to host a breakfast to update Tasmanian business people on research progress and to explain “where to from here”.

“We believe that the research program will benefit from the University engaging with industry in this way, and more importantly generate new funding streams to ensure this important work can continue,” Mr Ward said.

The money provided by Veolia will be applied to a suite of programs underway through the University and its research partners, including monitoring the spread of the disease in the wild, understanding the immune system of the devil and creating an insurance population.

To support the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal or for more information phone the University Foundation on 03 6226 2053 visit www.tassiedevil.com.au
Enemy of the State

A team of UTAS graduates is leading the way in Tasmania’s fight against the red fox. By Matt Marrison

IN THE TASMANIAN landscape of the past, a number of factors may have prevented foxes from establishing a foothold in the State, not the least of which may have been pressure from our largest remaining native carnivore, the Tasmanian devil. The two animals overlap in habitat preference and there is a real possibility that devils prey on fox cubs in the den.

But with devil populations being devastated by the fatal Devil Facial Tumor Disease, scientists are concerned this natural exclusion factor may no longer be in effect. Breeding foxes may no longer be placed under pressure, food is in greater abundance and potential habitat awaits new insidious tenants.

Until recently, Tasmania was thought to be fox free but a growing body of evidence has confirmed an unknown number of foxes are now present.

The State and Federal Governments have recognised the serious threat to Tasmania’s biodiversity, agricultural industry and economy posed by foxes, and established the Fox Eradication Program (DPIW) to coordinate eradication efforts.

“Experience from elsewhere has shown that foxes are an extremely adaptable animal which are difficult to eradicate once established,” says UTAS Alumnus Craig Bester (BNatEnvWildSt ’02), Fox Eradication Program Monitoring Coordinator.

It is easy to understand the difficulties the team face when searching for foxes, considering the size and wild geography of our island State (over 60,000 square kilometres). Add this to the foxes’ cunning and nocturnal nature and the likelihood of discovering evidence is not great. Even where high fox densities are apparent on the mainland, sightings of the species are not common.

“Foxes are elusive animals that are almost impossible to detect at low densities using traditional detection methods,” Mr Bester says.

Along with Bester, helping lead the fight are 11 UTAS graduates who work across the program. The team includes Nick Mooney (BSc Hons ’76) who is the Scientific Co-ordinator of the Research and Development Section, Robbie Gaffney who is a Project Officer for R and D and Mark Brown providing GIS mapping support.

Evidence and analysis indicates that foxes are currently at low densities in Tasmania. Under these conditions, an encounter or sighting would be rare. Ironically, if evidence or fox sightings becomes commonplace, it would mean that Tasmania has a well-established fox population, limiting any hope of eradication.

How foxes got here is uncertain; both deliberate and accidental introductions are possible. What is certain is the devastation that would result should foxes establish. On mainland Australia, the impact of foxes is estimated to cost over $225 million per annum and is implicated in the decline or extinction of at least 30 species of native animals. Without vigilance, the balance may finally tip against the Tassie devil, causing our ecosystems to change forever.

Report fox sightings and any possible evidence of fox activity to the 24 hour hotline 1300 FOX OUT (1300 369 688).

Matt Marrison (BSc(Hons) ’97 BTeach ’99) is Information & Education Officer, DPIW Fox Eradication Program.
Advancing nations

UTAS has honoured two South East Asian leaders with honorary doctorates.

By Ninna Millikin

UTAS PRESENTED HONORARY doctorates to two distinguished leaders of the South East Asian region in late April in recognition of their significant contributions to their professional fields and their ongoing relationship with UTAS.

Malaysian architect Jimmy Lim Cheok Siang received the degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa, from UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew at a ceremony at the Hotel Imperial, Kuala Lumpur. Professor Le Grew also presented Indonesian telecommunications leader and UTAS graduate, Jonathan L Parapak (UTAS BE, MEngSc 1969) with the Degree of Doctor of Engineering, honoris causa, during a ceremony on April 19 at the Grand Chapel of Pelita Harapan University, Jakarta, where Jonathan is currently Rector.

Both recipients have long-standing links with Australia, and have had distinguished careers, making them obvious choices for the honour.

Dr Lim is a highly respected architect who describes his design approach as “the architecture of humility towards nature, the built environment and mankind”. The honorary doctorate recognised his pioneering approach.

Dr Lim’s work is widely recognised for seeking to define a distinctive national character for Malaysian architecture by responding to climate and environment, at the same time maintaining balance between man and nature, and searching for solutions to tropical architecture that promote energy and heritage conservation.

When presenting the honorary degree to Dr Lim in Kuala Lumpur, Professor Le Grew said: “Jimmy Lim has been a fearless fighter for sustainability long before its importance was understood and, equally as important, he has produced work of the highest design quality. These are the values that we would hope our own students would have by the time they leave UTAS and, in that sense, there could be no better role model for our students, including our international students.”

Dr Lim has also held distinguished positions, serving as President of the Malaysian Institute of Architects and Vice-President of the Heritage Trust of Malaysia in the ‘80s and ‘90s. He is still active on both bodies, and has advised on the development of architecture programs internationally, being appointed Adjunct Professor of Architecture at Curtin University, Western Australia, in 2000.

Dr Parapak was a pioneering member of the first group of international students to come to Tasmania in 1962. He completed a Bachelor of Engineering degree and later entered a Master of Engineering Science program from which he graduated in 1969.

Professor Le Grew described Dr Parapak as “a proud ambassador of UTAS and his country”.

One of Dr Parapak’s first projects was his participation in the computerised design of radio systems and microwave links between Tasmania and mainland Australia, and the design of systems that would come to serve as the basis of broadband in Australia.

His career has also spanned both the public and private sectors, including leading roles in the Indonesian telecommunications industry and in education. He is a former elected member of the People’s Consultative Assembly of the Republic of Indonesia.

He was head of the Electronics and Communications Department at the University of Indonesia and, after almost 20 years in industry, returned to education leadership at Universitas Pelita Harapan.

Dr Lim and Dr Parapak have made significant contributions to the advancement of their nations and the international community.

They exemplify the importance of individuals in forging links between Australia and South East Asian nations, so that UTAS continues to attract the Drs Lims and Parapaks of the future.

Dr Lim’s work is recognised for seeking to define a distinctive national character for Malaysian architecture.
THE 2008 WINNER of the prestigious University Foundation Graduate Award has had an impressive career spanning business, academic and sporting achievements of the highest calibre.

Malcolm Wilson (B.Sc.Hons 1987, B.Com 1992) received the 2008 Foundation Graduate Award from the Foundation’s Chair, Richard Watson, at the annual Foundation Awards Dinner earlier this year.

The 42-year-old has risen to the heights of senior executive echelons in his role as the Financial Controller for BHP Billiton Marketing, based in The Hague. This centralised role within the world’s largest mining and resources company is responsible for the sale and delivery to customers of all group products, with an annual revenue exceeding US$45 billion.

Mr Wilson’s skills as a leader and pioneer in his sector, combined with his sporting prowess and community contributions, made him a clear choice for the Foundation Award.

A Hobart native, Mr Wilson is no stranger to commendation for excellence. His exceptional academic achievements began when he received first class honours in Chemistry in 1987. He went on to earn equally stellar results for a Bachelor of Commerce completed in 1992. During both degrees he was cited on the Dean’s Roll of Excellence, won a long list of prizes and was runner-up for the Rhodes scholarship in 1988.

All this he achieved as a part-time student, while working full-time as a cadet employee, and later Metallurgical Officer, Research Officer and Senior Business Metallurgist of Pasminco Limited at the Electrolytic Zinc works.

During these years he somehow also found the time and energy to play A Grade hockey and cricket as well as umpire, and contribute time to sports club’s administration and other community organisations.

It is not only Mr Wilson’s extensive expertise but also his exceptional leadership qualities of drive, passion and an inspirational approach to all he does that have brought him the recognition of the alumni community for his truly outstanding achievements.

All round excellence

The 2008 Foundation Graduate Award winner is a born leader. By Ninna Millikin

A word with . . .

Dr Rajayswar Bhowon (PhD ’91)

DR RAJAYSWAR BHOWON recently returned from Mauritius for a visit to UTAS.

He said UTAS had taught him there was greatness in simplicity, “particularly simplicity of language”, and opened his eyes to the world of politics.

Dr Bhowon took the recommendation of a lecturer at the University of Leeds to study in Tasmania.

On his return to Mauritius, he became the country’s Director of Education. His research at UTAS was critical “in relating what we were doing in the Ministry to what was happening at school level,” he said.

He has worked for the World Bank and was later elected State Minister for Rural Development in Mauritius.

Dr Bhowon represents Africa and Mauritius as consultant and board member for iNet, an initiative of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair to create excellence in education.
TEN YEARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA FOUNDATION GRADUATE AWARDS

We retrace the achievements of former award winners

THE PRESTIGIOUS FOUNDATION Graduate Awards recognise recent high-achieving UTAS graduates and in March this year nearly 600 guests gathered at the gala Foundation Graduate Awards Dinner in Hobart to celebrate the presentation of the 10th round of the awards.

The night of celebration also introduced new scholarship students and acknowledged the commitment of our scholarship sponsors. In 2008 more than 140 business and individual benefactors supported the largest number of Tasmanian University Scholars at UTAS since the Foundation’s inception.

The 2008 Award Winner Malcolm Wilson flew in from The Hague where he is currently based as Financial Controller for BHP Billiton Marketing, with responsibility for the centralised operations of the company’s products worldwide, with an annual value of some US$45 billion. (See article, page 24).

In addition to excellent academic performance, recipients of the Foundation Graduate Awards demonstrate the potential to shape the world through their vision, leadership and professionalism and to inspire the community at large. Ten previous award winners returned to Hobart to join the party with family, friends and the UTAS community.

2000 WINNERS

MR JOHN MCCANN (BA ‘85) is the inaugural CEO of the Tasmanian Electronic Commerce Centre which leads the development of communication and technology based innovation in the Tasmanian business community. He successfully brought TASCOLT, Tasmania’s optic fibre project, to a home and business trial.

“The contribution the Foundation generates is vital for a university that is central to the prosperity, culture and well-being of the Tasmanian community as a whole,” he said. “A link to former graduates who passionately understand the important role UTAS can play in setting the direction and aiding progress towards the future ‘clever and sustainable’ Tasmania.”

1999 WINNERS

DR JEREMY AUSTIN (PhD ‘95) completed one of the first “DNA-fingerprinting” studies in Australia. At London’s Natural History Museum he pioneered research on ancient DNA from extinct species. Dr Austin is currently Director of the newly formed Australian Centre for Ancient DNA at the University of Adelaide where he has been involved in DNA testing of “the Hobbit”, Homo floresiensis, from Indonesia. Dr Austin also collaborates with UTAS on Tasmanian devil facial tumour disease research.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MICHELE SALE (PhD ‘95) combines her skills in molecular genetics with the study of endocrine disorders. As Assistant Director of Molecular Genetics at the University of Virginia in the USA, Associate Professor Sale is leading research into diseases including diabetes, atherosclerosis and stroke.

“I still credit the solid grounding that I received at UTAS as essential to my success,” she said. “My award is a continuing inspiration to live up to the high standards and expectations UTAS.”

2000 WINNERS

DR FIONA STENNARD (PhD ‘95) is currently taking a break from research at the world renowned Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute in Sydney while a full-time mother of a young son. She completed her PhD in the molecular biology of gene structure and regulation and then studied at Cambridge University. On winning the Howard Florey Postdoctoral Fellowship of the Royal Society, Dr Stennard returned to Sydney to study heart development and disease.

“I am indebted to UTAS for the wonderful training it provided,” she said. “Thank you to the sponsors for helping future students realise similar benefits, and for encouraging the future success of this great University.”
2002 WINNERS

MR SAUL ESLAKE (BEC (Hons) ’79) is one of Australia’s pre-eminent economic analysts, with a national and international profile as Chief Economist of the ANZ. Mr Eslake currently supports the Tasmanian community as Chair of the Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board and as a member of the UTAS Foundation.

PROFESSOR ANNE-LOUISE PONSONBY (PhD ’93) led the team at UTAS’s Menzies Research Institute that made the world recognised break-through research on SIDS and on the sleeping positions of babies. Her current work at the Murdoch Children’s Institute in South Australia is investigating the increasing incidence of immune disorders in Australian children.

“I’m grateful to all those in the UTAS community for my undergraduate and postgraduate education, extensive collaborative work with UTAS researchers over time and my continued involvement with the Menzies Research Institute,” she said.

2003 WINNERS

PROFESSOR TIMOTHY MCCORMACK (LLB (Hons) ’82) acted as amicus curiae on international law matters to the judges at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. He is the Foundation Australian Red Cross Professor of International Humanitarian Law at the Melbourne Law School, the Foundation Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Military Law, and Adjunct Professor of Law at UTAS. Professor McCormack also travelled to Guantanamo Bay to provide expert advice for the defence of David Hicks.

MS ELIZABETH THOMAS (BA ’83) became the first female to hold the position of Public Trustee of Tasmania, only the second woman Public Trustee appointed in Australia and was one of the few non-lawyers to be appointed to such a role. Today she is a business consultant and director on a number of boards including the University of Tasmania Foundation.

The University of Tasmania will celebrate the golden anniversary on the Sandy Bay Campus of Engineering – GASBE – in 2009. Plans are in hand to mark the event with a number of functions and we are seeking the involvement of all alumni to help us celebrate this occasion. Engineering at UTAS commenced formally in the 1920s and the move to Sandy Bay in 1959 heralded a new era for Engineering. Many former graduates will recall the remarkable “Mechanical Brain” mural in the foyer of the Engineering Building painted by now renowned Tasmanian artist Tom Samek. For The Great GASBE celebrations a new engineering artefact by Tom Samek will be unveiled. The main reunion event will occur in the second half of 2009. For up-to-date information please watch the School of Engineering’s website, www.utas.edu.au/eng.
2006 WINNERS
DR ROBERT BANKS (BAgSc (Hons) ’79) oversaw the extension, research and technical development of LAMBPLAN at the Meat Research Corporation, enabled its national commercialisation and is currently Meat and Livestock Association’s Manager of On-Farm Research and Development for Southern Australia with a portfolio covering all aspects of sheep and beef cattle. Dr Banks’ work has been also recognised via a Clunies-Ross Award and a fellowship from the Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics.

DR ROBERT MENSAH (PhD ’91) successfully developed a fungal insecticide to control one of the major pests in the cotton industry. His research minimises the use of harmful, polluting insecticides, saves the Australian cotton industry over $100 million a year and has attracted international commercial partners. He is currently a Director, Research Leader and Principal Research Scientist of the Centre of Excellence for Cotton and Pulses and Oilseed Improvement at the Australian Cotton Research Institute in NSW.

2005 WINNERS
MR PATRICK HALL (BFA ’87) is one of Tasmania’s most respected designers, having established a significant national and international reputation. His art practice ranges from studio furniture to public commissions. He has exhibited internationally and is currently undertaking a teaching residency at the Jam Factory Centre for Craft and Design in Adelaide.

“I believe the ‘Arts School’ continues to provide fertile ground for the germination of new talent and is a forum where we can ask ourselves the hard questions and tell our own stories,” he said. “I acknowledge UTAS not only for their recognition of my work, but for sign-posting the way and setting me on the road.”

DR ROGER CHUNG (PhD ’03) has become synonymous with innovation, collaboration and breakthrough in Tasmanian neuroscience particularly in relation to brain injuries and repair, Alzheimer’s disease and motor neurone disease. His research work has identified a protein that helps the brain heal itself, with potential widespread clinical application, and is conducted within the NeuroRepair Group of UTAS’s Menzies Research Institute.

2004 WINNERS
DR SARAH PETHYBRIDGE (PhD ’00) is currently Senior Research Fellow at UTAS with the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research and her research into plant disease has had a significant impact on management of the multi-million dollar Tasmanian pyrethrum industry. Sarah co-edited the international publication, The Compendium of Hop Diseases.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to continue my research in a wonderful part of the world,” she said.

MS BRENDA RICHARDSON (BSc (Hons) ’87) was the first Australian woman to serve on the operating committee of Ford Australia. She is currently Vice President of Information Technology and Business Initiatives, with responsibility for all of Ford’s IT requirements across Australia and New Zealand and providing leadership across the Asia Pacific region. Ms Richardson also sits on the University of Tasmania Council.

Mr Patrick Hall
Sarah Pethybridge
Robert Banks
2004 WINNERS
2005 WINNERS
2006 WINNERS

Keith Pembleton... Fulbright winner

Fulbright winners
KEITH PEMBLETON, a postgraduate student in Agricultural Science at the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research (TIAR), and Natalia Galin, a PhD candidate from the Institute of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies (IASOS), have been awarded 2008 Fulbright Scholarships. Mr Pembleton will spend 12 months at Purdue University, Indiana, studying molecular biology and advanced crop physiology, as well as laboratory research. Ms Galin will study at the Centre for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets at the University of Kansas and NASA/Goddard Space Flight Centre in Maryland.
Standing tall

Winning the 2008 Alumni Annual Appeal scholarship has made the transition from college to university easier for engineering student Stuart Paul. By Lisa Morisset

IF STUART PAUL stands on the folders containing all the certificates he received during school for excellence and achievement in engineering and science, he becomes at least three inches taller. And he stands a little taller still after being named the 2008 UTAS Alumni Annual Appeal Scholar.

I ask him what the view is like from this new perspective. “University is challenging, really different to college, and I’m scared about how fast the semester is going,” he said. “(But) it’s much better being able to do the stuff I’m interested in and passionate about.”

Since the beginning of high school he has been passionate about engineering and the scholarship is supporting his first year of study at the Australian Maritime College in Launceston. Stuart wants to excel in mechatronic engineering and plans to move to Hobart in 2009 to continue his studies at the School of Engineering.

Stuart was guided by his dad who, while not a qualified engineer, has a passion for how things work.

“He got me started. He had Meccano (a model construction kit) as a kid and wanted it again, more than I did at first.” His dad’s passion was contagious and in primary school Stuart would pull things apart just to see how they worked.

Stuart owns more than 40 kilograms of Meccano with at least 5000 parts. He and his father built a lot of the Meccano themselves, based on vintage 1956 Meccano.

“My dad knows a lot of stuff but halfway through college he started learning more from me,” Stuart said.

Stuart is the first in his family to start a university degree and they continue to encourage him. “I couldn’t ask them what it would be like at uni but they think that it’s great that I’m doing this,” he said.

As the Alumni Scholar, Stuart will receive $3000 per year for four years to assist with his study. “This will help pay for my accommodation when I move to Hobart,” he said.

His scholarship is funded from donations made to the UTAS Alumni Annual Appeal. “(The alumni’s) generosity is greatly appreciated,” he said.

Stuart acknowledges it would have been a lot harder to come to university without their support. “This scholarship makes it a lot easier on me. I’ve been trying to figure out how to pay for things,” he said. “It’s nice to know that I can put all my efforts into my studies and continue my history of high achievement.”

Anniversary Celebration

THE INSTITUTE OF Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies was established in 1988 and enrolled its first honours students in 1989. To celebrate its 20th anniversary year, the Institute plans to hold a week of events, including a gala ball, from September 22 to 26 this year, to showcase the developments in scientific research over the two decades. All IASOS alumni are welcome to participate. Further details can be obtained from Dr Julia Jabour

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IASOS Class 1989
2007 Annual Appeal Thanks

The University of Tasmania Foundation wishes to thank everyone who generously supported our 2007 Alumni Annual Appeal. Your gifts make a real difference towards developing excellence at UTAS and provide real opportunities to students for educational and social growth.

Thank you to our 2007 Annual Appeal Donors

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Dr Kenneth Milton  Mr Neil Moore
Ms Sylvania Morgan  Ms Glenda Paton
Mr Leon Morrell  Mrs Glenda Paton
Mr David Murray  Mrs Cheryl Paton
Mr Patric O’Brien  Ms Erin O’Connor
Mrs Carolina Fernandez  Miss Melanie Oates
Mr Howie O h  Mrs Gladon Paton
Ms Dorothy Pearce  Ms Anna Kedgall
Mr Colin Peters  Mr Michael Kats
Mr Edwin Pitman  Mr Michael Kats
Dr Rajendra Prasad  Mrs Shirley Kehoe
Dr Andrew Prem  Mrs Karyn Kehoe
Miss Margaret Price  Mrs Anna Kedgall
Mr Robert Ibbott  Mr William Lannin
Mrs Chris Poulos  Mr William Lannin
Mr Peter Ramshaw  Mrs Anna Kedgall
Ms Kaye Ranson  Mr William Lannin
Mr Keith Reeve  Mrs Anna Kedgall
Mrs Kaye Ranson  Miss Anna Kedgall

The 2007 Annual Appeal will be launched in September and tax deductible donations can now be made to support this Annual Appeal. Phone the Development Office on 03 6226 2053 or visit www.utas.edu.au/foundation to donate or find out about how you can support UTAS.

For those alumni with a USA address wishing to receive USA tax deductibility for their gifts contact the UTAS Foundation USA PO Box 3995 Ithaca NY 14852-3995 USA; Fax + 1 607 2777 0078.

THANKS
The repatriation of our ancestors’ remains restores the broken spirits of the land and heals the people of today... We have achieved this because we are strong, proud and determined people... But we also remember those we were forced to leave behind."

AS A MATTER of religion and practice, all Tasmanian Aboriginal human remains must be returned to their original tribal lands and their people. In reclaiming such remains we are able, at last, to put to rest in a traditional ceremony the spirits of our ancestors. For 150 years the Tasmanian Aboriginal people have sought to protect their ancestors’ remains and pushed for their return where they have been stolen.

The bulk of Tasmanian Aboriginal human remains from around the world come from the private collection of George Augustus Robinson who had embraced the task of rounding up the Aboriginal people in Tasmania and trying to Europeanise them. As the Aboriginal people died in camps, Robinson who had been given the title Protector of the Aborigines, cut up their bodies as presents for his friends, military officers and representatives of the Crown.

In 2006, the trustees of the British Museum announced their decision to return two cremation bundles to the Aboriginal community. This event was the culmination of an ongoing campaign by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre waged from 1976 onwards to repatriate our ancestors.

Leah Brown (LLB ’06) was given the honour of returning these bundles to Australia and to lobby other institutions for the return of my ancestors from the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the Edinburgh Museum and the National History Museum.

The cremation bundles themselves were worn on the body as talismans against pain, sickness and ill fortune. Robinson was contemptuous of the people’s belief in the healing powers of the amulets and was not troubled by denying the people the few comforts they could cling to as they died from European diseases, as he once wrote:

“Today asked Caroline for the bundle of ashes she had about her, which she refused and said I had plenty and if she gave me that she had nothing left to put away the MANARTIC sickness. I said the doctor would do that. Her husband said that doctor was no good, he killed plenty of blackfellows.”

Although museums may present a hundred reasons why they should keep Aboriginal material, we have an even better reason because it belongs to us and they never acquired it properly. And although they might want to tell our story for the so-called betterment of mankind, we are perfectly capable of telling it for ourselves; and how could they tell it anyway, they don’t know the half of it.

To be a voyeur on the physical objects of other people’s cultures is not a way to understand them. We suggest that it is more enlightening to listen to indigenous people.

Reprinted courtesy of Law Alumni Magazine

Helping hands
UTAS graduates take their skills where they are most needed. By Annette Dean

HUMANITARIAN aid work is not everyone’s cup of tea, yet many Tasmanians are heading for disaster-struck or war-torn countries to help make a difference.

Their time overseas is often fraught with huge challenges and security risks, and makes any backpacking journey overseas seem like a stroll in the park.

Employed through RedR Australia, UTAS graduates Lindsay Smith (B’Tech ’97) and Joanne O’Brien (GradDipEnvSt (Hons ’01) have worked for the United Nations in countries affected by disaster.

Lindsay has just returned from a four-month assignment with UNICEF in Timor Leste. He had previously worked in the Northern Territory delivering infrastructure to remote Aboriginal communities, but he still found many new challenges in Dili.

“The lack of infrastructure was a big hurdle for us – it made operations difficult,” he says.

His work involved building toilets and providing washing and cooking water for displaced people in camps in Dili. “We were working to very tight timeframes because of the emergency nature of the situation, but all in all, I think we had a few wins.”
Honorary doctorate for esteemed constitutional lawyer

DR DENNIS ROSE, AM, LLB Tas, BA Oxf, AMusA, QC, PhD, one of the leading constitutional lawyers of his generation, received an honorary doctorate in law from the University of Tasmania in December 2007 in recognition of his esteemed career and outstanding public service.

Born in Launceston in 1936, Dr Rose graduated from UTAS with first class honours in law in 1958, receiving the Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford University in the UK.

On his return to Australia, Dr Rose served as a senior legal officer with the Federal Attorney-General’s Department (1962-1964). He was a Senior Lecturer in Law at the Australian National University from 1965 to 1967, and returned to Commonwealth service as a Principal Legal Officer in 1971.

In 1980, he was appointed First Assistant Secretary in the Attorney-General’s Department and from 1989 to 1995 was Chief General Counsel. In this position, he was senior legal adviser to the Government after the Attorney-and-Solicitor-General. Dr Rose was appointed a Commonwealth QC in 1991 and in 1992 was admitted a Member of the Order of Australia for his public service.

Dr Rose said he was delighted to learn of his honorary doctorate. “This is a very great honour and I’m very appreciative of it. I also owe the University a lot. I acknowledge my great debt to the University,” he said. Reprinted courtesy of Law Alumni Magazine

An artist’s impression

A tribute to Emeritus Professor William Joske 1928-2006

A PORTRAIT OF the late Emeritus Professor William Joske, donated to the University Fine Art Collection by Mrs Helen Joske, was unveiled by the Vice-Chancellor to a gathering of close family, friends and university colleagues, including the artist of the portrait, Patricia Giles.

Professor Joske was appointed to the Chair in Philosophy at UTAS in 1969. He played an important part in rebuilding the school after the Orr affair (Orr, a Professor of Philosophy at UTAS, sued the University for wrongful dismissal). His career at the University was an illustrious one, and he was a loved teacher and a respected figure within the wider philosophical community. He maintained a close relationship with UTAS until his death in 2006.

Joske’s great-uncle was artist Tom Roberts, with whom he was close. From an early age he took an interest in artists, their works and lives. He and his wife Helen supported local artists and he was a member of UTAS’ Fine Arts Committee.

His portrait will hang in the Morris Miller Library, as libraries were also very close to his heart. Joske represented UTAS on the State Library Board of Tasmania, which he chaired from 1977-82. The portrait will hang near a portrait of English Professor, James McAuley, with whom he was friends.

The University Fine Art Collection has acquired many fine pieces through the generous donation of art by individuals, and by bequest of artworks or funds to acquire artworks. For further information about Collection guidelines and the process of making donations/bequests, please contact the Curator-finearts.collection@utas.edu.au Ph 6226 2233
Class act

A new book illuminates the life and work of UTAS' first full-time Vice-Chancellor and his part in one of the university’s most turbulent periods. By Don Challen

Torleiv Hytten 1890-1980 by Dr A.J. Hagger

“ALF’S BOOKS REMIND me of fine old wines – each time we open one, we are pleasantly surprised how good they are – and they are getting better with (his) age.”

Dr Alf Hagger has been retired for about 25 years now – if you can call his prolific output “retirement”. For 30 years before that he provided intellectual leadership and delivered academic excellence in the Department of Economics at the University of Tasmania – a Department that during the time Dr Hagger served in it punched well above its weight in Australian academic economics – but mostly because Dr Hagger was among its members.

In so-called retirement, he has continued to provide exemplary professional leadership and his output has never flagged. In that he puts many younger academics to shame.

While keeping up his interest in contemporary applied economic issues, Dr Hagger has done us all a great service by focusing his energies in recent years on some of the great contributions made to Australia economics by economists with Tasmanian connections. I think this is a marvellous thing for him to have done and I applaud him for it. We all know what a great place Tasmania is and what exceptional talents it has spawned, nurtured and released to make wonderful contributions in Australia and internationally. But the reality is that most of the rest of the world doesn’t know that. They think of us as an island of fewer than half a million souls at the end of the world and are more interested in telling us what we can do with our beautiful backyard than contemplating what our community needs, and what our people have done and can do for the rest of the world.

Those like Dr Hagger who expose to the rest of the world the contributions of those with Tasmanian connections do us all a great service by helping open the eyes of the rest of the world to what we have done. Hopefully, that will help open their minds to what we can do.

Along with his collaborators William Coleman and Selwyn Cornish, Dr Hagger has already illuminated the work, lives and contributions of a wonderful group of economists with Tasmanian connections: Lyndhurst Falkiner Giblin, Douglas Copland, James Brigden, Herbert Heaton, Roland Wilson, Arthur Smithies, Gerald Firth, John Grant and a raft of others – though, so far, not too much about Dr Hagger himself.

Torleiv Hytten, 1890-1980, like fine wines, comes in a very nice package. It looks good, is nice to hold, and inside, its contents are appealing to the eye and the senses. I enjoyed just turning the pages when I first got it and found much pleasure in looking at the excellent collection of photographs it contains. We must applaud the production team who have done a wonderful job of the design, presentation and printing of the book.

But the real pleasure to be derived from this package – Torleiv Hytten, 1890-1980; Norwegian immigrant; Australian economist – comes from Alf’s prose. The book is a very sympathetic, warm and affectionate account of the working and personal life of a remarkable man who left his mark on Australian economics, UTAS and the Tasmanian community.

Those of us who were around this institution in the 1960s and ‘70s will remember Hytten Hall in its heyday. It was a hall of residence, the home to Wilson, one of the University’s great characters.

At the time, I had no appreciation of the significance of his name. This was to come later, as a staff member regularly visiting the first floor of the Administration building, I discovered through his portrait, that he was a Vice-Chancellor of this University. Indeed, as Dr Hagger explains, he was the first “proper” Vice-Chancellor in the sense that none of his predecessors had been a full-time occupant of the office. For many years, the Vice-Chancellor was a part-time position held by a member of the Council and subsequently by one of the Professoriate.

“The book is a very sympathetic, warm and affectionate account of the working and personal life of a remarkable man ...”
I described Hytten as a remarkable man and I think Dr Hagger does a more than fair job of establishing the case for this adjective to be attached to Hytten. Let me tell you a tiny bit about him to whet your appetite for Alf’s book. Barely out of his teens, this Norwegian boy, Torleiv Hytten, in a pact with a mate, migrated to Australia in 1910. Australia was his mate’s first preference but not Torleiv’s; he was inclined to go to South America. Life was initially pretty tough for him in Australia, but bit by bit, and with extraordinary tenacity, he overcame the difficulties of life in his new country and completed with some distinction a BA and later an MA in Economics with first class honours at UTAS. During his studies, he supported himself, and then his wife and child, working as a journalist. Later he took up a position on the university staff and, with his career as a professional economist launched, went on to become Chair in Economics at this university, and Economic Advisor to the Bank of New South Wales, and, as I have said, later in life our Vice-Chancellor.

Along the way, Hytten’s paths crossed with quite a few of the economists I mentioned earlier. Dr Hagger does a great job of drawing out their Tasmanian connections and to explain their significance to Hytten’s professional development and to the contributions made by Hytten and the likes of Giblin, Brigden and Copland.

Hytten made a considerable contribution as an administrator at this University, not the least of which was to get the funding for the major building developments on the Sandy Bay site and, with great zeal and stamina, to secure the development of the hall of residence that was to bear his name.

However, as we know, Hytten also held the office of Vice-Chancellor during one of the most turbulent periods in the university’s history, which included the Royal Commission of 1955 and the Orr Affair that began in 1956 and was to drift on as a weeping sore for many years.

When I first joined the staff of the Economics Department in 1972, the Orr affair was still an almost daily topic of conversation in the tearoom. It was kept alive by Gerald Firth, the Professor of Psychology Jim Cardno and historian Malcolm McRae, all tearoom regulars and fellow travellers of Sid Orr. In Cardno and McRae’s cases, they drank their tea in the Economics tearoom most likely because they either weren’t welcome in the Arts tearoom at the other end of the Arts Building, or weren’t prepared to drink tea there with people like Mick Townsley, the Professor of Political Science, who were on the other side of the rift.

Anyway, I was fascinated to see how Dr Hagger – who was here through that period – would deal with those difficult times in telling Hytten’s story. Needless to say, he does so with care and great dignity. Where the temptation might have been to provide a bit of hype, Dr Hagger adumbrates only the seamy events, while painting a clear picture of Hytten’s role and the impact it had on him.

I enjoyed reading this book immensely. I congratulate and thank Dr Hagger for a great piece of work that shows itself to have been a labour of love.

I commend the book to you.

Don W Challen is Secretary of the Department of Treasury and Finance.

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Master of art

UP IS DOWN: A LIFE OF VIOLINIST JAN SEDIVKA
Elinor Morrisby, PhD candidate, Conservatorium of Music, Faculty of Arts, (Lyrebird Press, 2008)

JAN SEDIVKA, VIOLINIST and teacher, has been a towering figure in string instrument playing for more than 45 years. Born in Czechoslovakia in 1917, Sedivka has a gift for the violin and studied with renowned Czechoslovak masters, Otakar Ševčík and Jaroslav Kocian. At 21, he accepted a scholarship to study in Paris but this was truncated by the outbreak of World War II. As a result of the invasion, he spent six months in a Paris prison in terrible conditions, before escaping to England to become a leading performer and highly sought-after teacher. 

Up is Down is available to order from www.lyrebirdpress.com.
ANYONE who gives his wife a parachute for a birthday present is making a bold statement about living and loving. Graeme Foster was indeed an extraordinary man who will leave an enduring legacy in Tasmanian education. He died of cancer last November 14. Two months previously he had characteristically celebrated his 80th birthday in full party mode at his Taroona home with family and friends from interstate and overseas.

His hometown was Ulverstone on the Northwest coast and he had a deep attachment to the area. He went to school there, excelled academically and in athletics and football, and later returned to become a senior staff member at Ulverstone High School. While at university he attained a full blue and played football for the State. He captained the University team in 1951. Subsequently he was a key member of the legendary Ulverstone Football Club premiership sides of the mid 1950s. Throughout his lifetime no summer was complete without a holiday pilgrimage to the Northwest coast.

Graeme Foster was an inspirational teacher and a brilliant educational innovator and entrepreneur. His contribution to education spanned 63 years of employment. From modest beginnings as a student teacher in 1945 he progressed rapidly through the Education Department’s schools and teacher training institutions to become the State Manager of the Tasmanian Media Centre in 1965. Inspired by his experiences as a Fulbright Scholar and subsequently a Ford Foundation grant recipient, he revolutionised the way in which educational media and technology was optimised in classrooms. His leadership in this area permanently transformed the education system. His energy was unbounded and his enthusiasm infected all those around him. The Tasmanian Media Centre became a national showpiece and he was sought as an educational advisor by many nations in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. He worked for the Australian Government and UNESCO in southern African nations, Maldives, Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan and China.

Realising his unique talent as a change agent he was recruited to UTAS in 1987. His primary mission was to increase Grade 12 retention in schools and improve University enrolments from more remote parts of the State. Utilising high profile community and sporting personalities as advocates he achieved immediate and substantial success. His energy, flair and creative communication skills soon found wider applications in university life. He became a key instigator in establishing the Tasmania 2010 Forums – a program where community and business leaders connected with UTAS to inform their policies and planning. He also gave impetus to the University Foundation, the fundraising arm of the University and created the highly successful UTAS Tasmania Scholarships program. He had a working relationship with the University until his death. He was awarded fellowships from both the Australian College of Education and UTAS for his outstanding contribution to education and for enhancing the educational profile of the university within the community.

Graeme gave generously to the community. He was a board member of the Australian Children’s Television Foundation for six years working alongside Janet Holmes a Court, Garth Boomer and Phillip Adams. He was a dedicated supporter of AFS Intercultural Programs for over five decades, touching the lives of many young Tasmanians selected as participants for student exchanges. As a national director he promoted programs with China and became a life member of AFS Australia.

The same passion for life and adventurous spirit were seen within his family. His wife, Judith (Timbs), also a prominent educator, his family of four children and their extended families are all inveterate travellers and share his joys of outdoors sports, music and collectable cars. Theirs was a lively household.

Appropriately, recognition of Graeme’s legacy to education in this State has been perpetuated from 2008 by a scholarship in early childhood education for students from the Northwest coast. Generously endowed by his friend, US businessman John Bowden, and UTAS, this scholarship will provide a lasting testament to a life of service and remarkable achievement.
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