Proudly producing newsprint since 1941
From the Vice-Chancellor

In previous Alumni News I have mentioned the UTAS agenda - Excellence, Distinctiveness, Growth and Engagement – which will give UTAS the EDGE in its teaching, research and community service.

EDGE was developed as a three-year strategic plan 2005-2007 with growth in student load as a major focus. I can report good progress in student numbers (measured as equivalent full time student load) from 10,931 in 2002 to 13,300 in 2006.

We are heading for top 12 of Australian universities in Teaching and Learning and maintained a 2.5% share of national research income. UTAS is ranked 7th in competitive grants and 9th in Research Higher Degree load.

The Higher Education landscape is continuing to change in terms of funding, policies and regulation, competition and student and community expectations, and will do so regardless of which party wins the next Federal election in Australia.

For EDGE 2 we will maintain the rage, but increase our focus on distinctiveness and excellence. We want to lift our place in international rankings and build on the excellence and reputation of our students and staff. In this Alumni News you will read about many of our interesting staff and alumni.

What will drive the EDGE agenda? Our new star recruits, our distinguished and internationally recognised researchers, our nationally recognised teachers and our high potential students. All working in new, flexible and streamlined facilities which we will report in the next issue.

Warm regards,
Daryl Le Grew

From the Alumni Chair

The term ‘alumnus’ or ‘alumna’ meaning a former pupil, is derived from the Latin verb alere – ‘to nourish’. All of us who attended university have been nourished by the experience of study and university life, and have developed and grown as a result of that experience. Our shared experience has also drawn us into a large family, a family we will be part of for life and that is now represented in all parts of the world. The University of Tasmania Alumni represents that family. We aim to help you to network with other graduates, to enjoy the fellowship of being part of the UTAS family, and to provide you with opportunities to continue your personal and professional growth. It is also our privilege to assist you to have an ongoing relationship with your university. Just as you have been nourished by UTAS, you can help nurture a new generation of students and nourish the University through your advice, advocacy, and material assistance.

Elizabeth Daly,
Chair, University of Tasmania Alumni

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Cover photo: Bolt Sculpture at Inveresk Academy of the Arts
New sculpture for Academy of Arts

What better way to adorn a place of innovation and artistic flair than a sculpture by a talented local artist?

A huge bolt of lightning recently hit Launceston, in the form of the largest sculpture ever commissioned in the area. It touched down outside the UTAS Academy of the Arts at Inveresk on Wednesday 7 March.

David Hamilton’s 48-metre long sculpture, Bolt, had to be lowered into place by a crane.

Bolt is nearly as long as an Olympic swimming pool, bright yellow and weighs about three tons. The sculpture pierces the corner of the Stone Building and zigzags across the site towards the Powerhouse Building.

A well-known local artist, David said the project would not have been possible without the generous support of many sponsors.

“This artwork is the culmination of a longstanding collaboration between the primary sponsors, Onesteel Metaland, Crisp Bros and Haywards, Fairbros Pty Ltd and SEMF Pty Ltd and the University of Tasmania,” he said.

Professor Vincent McGrath, Head of the School of Visual and Performing Arts, said the sculpture commission was a part of the ‘It’s About Us’ celebration in 2006.

“The Inveresk sculpture project has been in the making for 12 months. It commemorates how far Launceston has come as a city – socially, economically and culturally.”

On Tuesday 3 April the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, Professor Daryl Le Grew, officially unveiled the sculpture. 🌈
Everything
that makes us so proud of
this State
New UTAS position filled in Launceston

Swapping the cold climes of northern NSW for Launceston, the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost of the University of Tasmania, Professor David Rich, has already found that while the weather may be similar, the welcome from his new community has been nothing but warm!

“I am looking forward to living in Launceston and working within a community that we have already found to be warm and inviting,” he said.

Professor Rich takes up his appointment in July 2007.

In his role as Provost, Professor Rich will manage the operations of the University, in the context of the strategic leadership provided by the Vice-Chancellor.

Announcing his appointment, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daryl Le Grew, said Professor Rich was a great team player who would quickly engage the whole University community in an exciting future.

With a PhD from Cambridge in Geography, Professor Rich is currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the University of New England.

He has been a leader in flexible teaching and active nationally in Teaching and Learning through the Carrick Institute.

“It’s wonderful to be able to attract a candidate of such calibre to UTAS,” Professor Le Grew said.

“He has a great reputation as a senior manager, particularly in the areas of academic planning and innovation in Teaching and Learning.

“All of these qualities make David Rich an ideal appointment as Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost,” Professor Le Grew said.

Professor David Rich said he was genuinely delighted to accept the position.

“Clearly, UTAS is a forward-thinking institution with an exciting future, and I am looking forward to being a part of that future.

Professor Rich said that he was also eager to put his experience in flexible education to good use across the University’s three campuses.
The thrust and parry of research

With a strong academic portfolio behind her, Professor Johanna Laybourn-Parry brings formidable skills to her new position as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of Tasmania.

Professor Laybourn-Parry, who is currently Executive Dean of Natural Sciences at Keele University in the United Kingdom, will take up her position in August.

Her extensive leadership roles in the management of research will put UTAS on a strong path through the challenging research environment Australian universities are now facing.

Announcing her appointment, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daryl Le Grew, said her extensive background in the administration of research grants and development programs would help UTAS charter a strategic course into the future as one of the top ten research universities in Australia.

Professor Laybourn-Parry’s experience in implementing government research strategies in the United Kingdom will be invaluable as UTAS heads into a research period dominated by the Australian Government’s Research Quality Framework.

“She has also shown a strong commitment to increasing the number of women in senior scientific and administrative positions through the UK’s ATHENA project,” Professor Le Grew said.

Professor Laybourn-Parry has herself held senior academic and research positions at Stirling University, Lancaster and Nottingham universities, and also at Melbourne’s La Trobe University where she was Chair of Zoology.

She studied honours in Zoology at Reading University in the UK, gained a master’s degree in Animal Parasitology at the University of Wales, and a PhD in Protozoan Ecological Energetics at Stirling University in Scotland.

Professor Laybourn-Parry’s research background is as a polar scientist working on carbon cycling in lakes and glaciers.

Her Antarctic research has been conducted with the Australian Antarctic program at Davis Station in the Vestfold Hills and with the United States Long Term Ecosystem Research Program in the McMurdo Dry Valleys.
By Cherie Cooper

Many labels could be applied to Christobel Mattingley. Award-winning writer, editor, researcher, cancer survivor, graduate of the University of Tasmania are just a few. She was even the author of the first Student Representative Council handbook!

Awarded the Sir Richard Dry Scholarship, Christobel, aged sixteen, entered the University in 1948, and met her future husband during Orientation Week.

David Mattingley was a Commonwealth Rehabilitation Training Scheme student, an RAAF pilot who flew Lancasters in RAF Bomber Command during WW2. Both were studying Arts and David, a natural teacher, became Christobel’s mentor. They married five years later.

David followed his passion for English, especially poetry, and Modern European History. Christobel studied English, French, German and Economics. “There were always books in our home and when I was seven I began to teach myself Latin and German from my father’s old textbooks, and French from my sister’s.”

German had been dropped from the University syllabus during WW2, but because of her love for German poetry, she became the first student of German for ten years. She remembers with gratitude opportunities for learning she had as the only student with lecturers Dr Derek Van Abbe, Dr Erika Wolff and Professor L.A. Triebel, whose interest was the early French explorers of Tasmania.

In English she was one of two students studying Old High English with Bill Harwood, husband of acclaimed poet Gwen Harwood. She remembers him as “the archetypal scholar immersed in the literature, oblivious of the present”. Visiting the tomb of the Venerable Bede in Durham Cathedral’s crypt several years later, Christobel appreciated Harwood’s tutelage.

Studying the French writer Andre Maurois aroused Mattingley’s interest in biography and planted in her the ambition to become a biographer.

Her love of writing had begun at eight, when she began to realise the power of words. “Then I found that by making those little black marks on a page I could actually say what I was thinking and feeling.” It was the beginning of her career as an author, although she did not know it.
Published at ten, her first pieces appeared in the children’s pages of the Sydney Morning Herald and nature magazine Wild Life, which also published her first adult writing at 21.

She trained at the Library Training School in the Public Library of Victoria, "a grand institution with a splendid tradition of scholarship and a fabulous collection of manuscripts and incunabula". Her career in Canberra, Victoria and Adelaide encompassed special, public, school and tertiary libraries.

Working with books and seeing the world through the eyes of children, both her own and 300 others in her school library, inspired Christobel. Her first book, The Picnic Dog, was published in 1970. Since 1974 she has been a self-employed writer, and has now written 46 books. Many have been shortlisted, won awards or been translated.

They include four major non-fiction works: the groundbreaking Aboriginal history of South Australia, Survival in Our Own Land, (1988, now in its fourth edition, Australian Scholarly Publishing); the acclaimed biography of legendary Tasmanian Deny King, King of the Wilderness, (2001, now in its seventh printing, Text); Ruby of Trowutta (2003, one reprint, Montpelier Press).

Christobel feels it is important to help others tell their stories. "I see writing as my vocation, a gift to be used for other people."

Her popular No Gun for Asmir trilogy triggered a new wave of care and concern for refugees, and all royalties go to Asmir and his brother for their education. Christobel and David met Asmir’s family in Vienna while visiting their son Christopher, who helped the family escape the war in Bosnia. Asmir, now completing his third year at the University of Virginia, studying International Politics, has just been awarded a UN internship at the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague.

Christobel’s latest biography has just topped the bestseller list in Adelaide and went into reprint immediately on publication. Battle Order 204 is the account of David’s wartime experiences as a pilot. The book describes the rigorous, physically and mentally demanding training young pilots underwent, as well as their horrific experiences on operations. Christobel hopes it will help raise awareness of what David’s generation endured and the courage of the men of Bomber Command. Royalties go to Lincoln Cathedral, important landmark to aircrew. It will be launched at the cathedral in September.

The complete confidence David’s crew had in their skipper was justified on Battle Order 204, a daylight raid on Dortmund in Germany’s Ruhr Valley. Their plane was shot up three times, but despite wounds including a fractured skull and severed tendons and an artery in his right hand, David brought plane and crew home, and received an immediate award of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

“David has been a wonderful support to me in my writing. I am so grateful I can give something back to him with this book.”

With her generous spirit and talent, there is no doubt Christobel will continue to help people and bring them together with her books. As well as researching and writing biographical articles for National Library News, her current project is helping Aboriginal people, displaced from their traditional country by British nuclear testing at Maralinga, to tell their story.

[Christobel (nee Shepley) graduated with First Class Honours in German in 1951. David Mattingley graduated BA (Hons) in 1951 and has had a distinguished career teaching Modern European History.]
But this raid had a difference, with the theme of Community, Place and Change derived from the University of Tasmania. The event was supported by many staff, students and graduates from UTAS.

The inspiration behind the boating adventure was to highlight the cultural diversity of human experience in the D’Entrecasteaux region through a common theme of a maritime environment.

For most of its history, the waterways of southern Tasmania have been the links between communities rather than their boundaries, so travelling in small boats was the best way to relive our history. Crews of a replica 1860 Tasmanian whaleboat and six small open craft equipped with only oars and sails began their adventure at Cockle Creek. There were around 40 men, women and children involved, aged between 10 and 74.

Local historian Gregg Hogg, who attended the expedition, explained the voyage in terms of the French expedition of 1792-93 in context to its cultural significance in the contact history of Tasmania.

With the whaleboat as the flagship of the expedition the group joined the 500 vessels coming into Sullivans Cove for the start of the Australian Wooden Boat Festival.

Planning for the next educational adventure has now begun.
Deloitte staff called to account

Staff from Deloitte, Tasmania’s largest professional services firm and employer of many UTAS alumni, voted unanimously to make the Tassie devil the object of their charitable giving for 2007.

Like the majority of Tasmanians, staff members in the Hobart and Launceston offices of Deloitte are vitally concerned about the future of our Tasmanian icon, and voted to allocate $5,000.00 from the Deloitte Foundation to support research into the deadly facial tumour disease. Money for the foundation is raised by staff and is matched by the partners and constituent practices.

Deloitte partner Craig Barling (BCom 1997) said: “Our staff were given several charities to vote on this year and it was a unanimous decision to donate money to help protect our endangered mascot. Deloitte is enthusiastic about providing further ongoing support to the Tasmanian Devil Research Appeal fund in the future.”

The fight to save the Tasmanian devil is a collaboration between the Tasmanian Government, the University of Tasmania, other research institutions, the corporate community, and schools and individuals. UTAS alumni have been prominent in their giving and have provided much needed support for this critical project. For this, UTAS gives its grateful thanks.

UTAS nominates and allocates scholarships and research grants biannually through the Tasmanian Wildlife Research Advisory Committee (TWRAC) for research into the facial tumour disease currently devastating Tasmanian devil populations.

Those interested in the impact of research to date will have an opportunity of hearing reports from UTAS researchers and State Government officers at a lecture series that commenced in May. Further lectures in the series, which is being advertised widely in the media, will be held in July and September.

Alumni who wish to support the appeal may do so by making their donation through the Alumni e-store at https://www.utas.edu.au/alumni/eComm/

Above: UTAS Bachelor of Business graduate and Deloitte employee, Georgia Dawes, with the $5,000.00 cheque from the Deloitte Foundation, on her graduation day (December 2006).

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Varne Plateau on Macquarie Island named for former geology professor

By Pat Quilty

In a fitting tribute to a person who recognised the unique values of Macquarie Island and put a great deal of effort into having it inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1997, Varne Plateau has been named in honour of Professor Ric Varne, late of the Geology Department (School of Earth Sciences) at the University of Tasmania.

Varne Plateau is the surface of the southern part of the island and includes about 60 per cent of the surface expression of the island. The northern end of the Varne Plateau is a transform fault – the Finch-Langdon Fault System – one of the major elements of our modern understanding of tectonics (the study of the large-scale movements of the earth), and a major feature of the functioning of the growth of the ocean floor.

Ric Varne (born Riccardo Paravarni) was English-born but his father was Italian, on Mussolini’s proscribed list, and thus emigrated to the UK where Ric was born. His father anglicised the family name after Ric’s birth.

He was appointed Lecturer in Geology in September 1967, and rose through the ranks to be Reader before being appointed Professor on 1 January 1994. He also acted as Head of School for several years. He retired on 12 December 1997 but retained an honorary position until his untimely death in 2001.

Ric was a petrologist; interested in the role of rocks that crystallised from a molten parent, especially basalt, the dark grey rock that covers some 70-75% of the earth’s surface, particularly the ocean floors, but also is widespread in Tasmania and responsible for the fine soils along Tasmania’s north coast.

His arrival in Tasmania coincided with the time of general acceptance of the concept of continental drift and the recognition of the vast difference in composition, structure and age between continental and oceanic crust.

At the time of his appointment, continental drift had become generally accepted and the special role of the oceans was under intense international investigation. Specialists in this field endeavoured to find an island to study and make their mark. This reflected the recognition that oceans had a totally different history.
from continents, and islands are the most readily accessible parts of the oceans. After a year or so trying to identify an island to call his own, Ric chose Macquarie Island and it was an inspired choice.

He read the work of Douglas Mawson and saw anomalies in it. Mawson, following the studies of the surveyor Blake and others, had noted the occurrence of rocks called granodiorite, and other rocks that occurred in linear fashion across the island. This led to the suggestion that there had been a continent to the west, and that the presence of these rocks on Macquarie Island was the result of glacial action, transporting and depositing the rocks.

Ric applied successfully to the Australian Antarctic Division for permission to visit the island as leader of a party of three, and as a result Ric, Dennis Gee and Pat Quilty went to Melbourne to sail on Nella Dan late in 1968 with the object of spending a few days on the island checking out some ideas.

The importance of Macquarie Island lies in its uniqueness as an example of a piece of the seafloor that has been raised above sea level in excellent condition and available for study. There is nothing exposed elsewhere on earth that shows the composition and structure of the upper part of the earth’s crust the way that Macquarie Island does.

Ric was a very good teacher who developed a good relationship with his students. He enjoyed their company, cared for them, and both interested and inspired them in his subject area.

Ric placed a series of students and co-workers on the island over several years – Michael Rubenach, Brendan Griffin, Josh Cocker – and many others recognising the value of the island, became interested – Garry Davidson, Peter Crohn, John Christadolou. There was also the international contingent, such as Mike Coffin, Bob Duncan and others who became involved in unravelling the offshore story. Tony Brown is an important member of the group as his contribution led to the detailed mapping of the island by John Everard and Ben Goscombe over two summers in the mid 1990s.

Ric was in the centre of the discussions for the successful Australian effort to get Macquarie Island accepted for World Heritage Listing. In the late 1990s, listing criteria were broadened to include geological features and Macquarie and Heard Islands were nominated justifiably because of their uniqueness. Ric became heavily involved through the World Heritage Unit of the federal Department of the Environment and Heritage, the home department of the Australian Antarctic Division.

The name was proposed jointly by Prof. Patrick Quilty of the University of Tasmania and Henk Brolsma of the Australian Antarctic Division. It is fitting this major feature on the island is named for the one who did so much to get Macquarie Island recognised internationally as one of the world’s great sources of scientific data, on an issue that was at the forefront of science. Through his efforts, it is now on the World Heritage List.
By Rochelle Galloway

Natalie Jackson describes herself as a baby boomer.

"I have always been aware that I was a baby boomer, she said.

"I think a teacher might have told us that when we were about five or six."

It is this little awareness stuck in Natalie’s head that eventually led her down the path of becoming a demographer and Associate Professor at UTAS.

Natalie did the typical things of a woman from her generation – she married young, raised a family and then went to university to be educated. She started off her degree in science, and went on to psychology and anthropology. It was only when a guest lecturer was invited to lecture one of her classes that the fire began to stir in her belly.

"A guest lecturer came to give a lecture on demography and what it might mean," said Natalie.

"I just thought what he said was amazing and I was fascinated. I went up to him like my past students and said can I do this and how do I get into this?"

Three degrees later, Natalie is now teaching her students the same things that made her buzz years ago. Educated in New Zealand, Natalie attended Waikato University where she obtained a Bachelor and Masters Degree in Social Science. She then went on to the Australian National University in Canberra where she did her PhD in demography.

It was only after working in the Department of Social Security, now called Family and Community Services in Canberra that Natalie was approached by UTAS Dean of Arts, Professor Jan Pakulski.

"He said Hello Natalie, we need a demographer," she said imitating the dean’s well-known Polish accent.

And so Natalie made her way down to Tassie – although she wasn’t planning on staying.

"I didn’t think I would stay because they kept my job open for me in Canberra for three years and it was right at the time that the
Department of Family and Community Services were starting to grapple with the issue of population ageing, and they just thought it was about old people,” said Natalie. “I remember pointing out several times that it had as much to do with declining birth rates as it did with increasing older people,” she said.

Soon after this, Natalie gave a seminar and wrote a paper for the department which she believes to be the catalyst for the madness that soon followed by demographers from around Australia

“They started to engage in [demography] madly,” she said.

Since then, Natalie has been intensely involved in demographics herself.

She has been a driving force in training nearly a whole department of Australia’s finest researchers who now work at the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in Canberra.

“The first time I realised the impact I had was when one of the students who is now doing her PhD emailed me to say that she was going to be in charge of publishing the fertility paper,” said Natalie.

Past students, Caroline Hartnett and Georgia Michell believe that Natalie was the biggest influence while they were at UTAS.

“In second year I chose to do a population and society unit on a whim and I was pretty much hooked after my first lecture,” Georgia said.

“The passion and enthusiasm Natalie had for the subject was so contagious that by the end of the unit I had changed my whole major from Sociology to Social Ecology. I just loved that demography was so applicable to the real world and covered such cutting-edge topics”.

Caroline, a new graduate, believes it is because of Natalie’s encouraging and practical teaching methods that her students are so highly sought after by the ABS.

“I managed to get a job at the ABS as the skills learnt were directly applicable to my job,” Caroline said.

“They call it the Natalie Jackson Production Line,” said Natalie with a grin on her face.

But Natalie believes that she cannot have all the credit for the success she has had in training her students.

“It works two ways. They occasionally email me for clarification about something and because there is a lot to know in teaching I might need them and so they are often helpful to me too,” said Natalie.

At present, Natalie is conducting her research on baby boomers and their retirement plans.

“We have managed to get a lovely $250,000 from the Federal Government for our research,” Natalie said.

So far the research has shown that there are changes, which Natalie is currently publishing.

“Up until five years ago, the age of retirement in developed countries had become really low. The average here in 1997 was something like 48,” Natalie said.

“What we have found in our background research is that baby boomers across the board hadn’t really wanted to retire, they were made redundant. It suggests they wanted to stay on.

“It is very hard for a 45 year old man to get a job or a woman of the same age who does not have the skills,” Natalie said.

Natalie puts this down to having no real retirement processes in place in institutions like the university. “There is no transition to retirement in place,” she said. Not that Natalie is worried about that just yet.

“I still have a good 18 years left in me yet,” she says with a laugh. 🧀
Marc Durdin

By Rochelle Galloway

Marc Durdin was just 14 years old and living in South-East Asia when he created the first version of his computer software, Keyman.

Now at 30, Marc has his own company, Tavultesoft, and has just released version seven of the same software he created all those years ago.

Marc has fond memories of his teenage years growing up in Thailand and Laos, which led him to create his software.

“My dad was a bit of a computer person so that’s where I started,” Marc said.

“My company started with our need for a better way to write Lao in Microsoft Windows. I told my father, ‘I can probably write something that will help’. So he said, ‘Why don’t you have a stab at it?’”

The Keyman software allows an English keyboard to be remapped to accommodate the characters of another language.

“What it allows you to do is type in another language, regardless of which hardware keyboard you have. For instance, if you go to France, the standard keyboard is French ‘AZERTY’ – so typing in French is easy. However, typing French in Australia is not straightforward as the standard keyboard is English ‘QWERTY’. Our software makes it easy to use any keyboard for any other language you could imagine.

“The whole concept was originally for languages that did not have a lot of support – minority and indigenous languages like Igbo in Nigeria, Yolngu in the Northern Territory or Hindi,” Marc said.

The company name Tavultesoft comes from a short but significant time when Marc lived in Papua New Guinea.

“Tavulte is a village in Papua New Guinea where I spent almost two months as a child. It was a period of time that my family spent on the beach living in a bamboo hut with no electricity, no phone, no running water – and of course, no computers!” he said.

“Life in Tavulte was a formative time for me, and I carried that over into the name and logo of the company. Papua New Guinea is a land of many cultures and hundreds of languages, so it is fitting that it figures prominently in the heritage of Tavultesoft.”

Marc moved to Tasmania to further his education at UTAS.

“I had to apply for special entry into the University of Tasmania as I was home-schooled in South-East Asia; that was quite different and made it more difficult to get into University,” he said. “I had to write an essay and do a small exam, and I submitted examples of my work including software I had written.

“UTAS stood out among the universities I applied to, because they responded personally to my unusual home-schooled background in the admissions process.”

During Marc’s four years studying computing at UTAS, developing Keyman went on the back-burner, though he did release version 4 in that time. He began working part-time for another software company in his last two years at the University.

“When I came to UTAS, I’d already written several versions of Keyman and knew how to write software, but my computing degree helped me professionalise my skills through good theory and software design practices.”

Up until June last year, Marc was still working for another business and working on Keyman only one day a week. However he found this too difficult and time constraining, especially with a young family to think of.

“The big push now is to transform the business from a hobby business into a professional business,” Marc said.

“We have just released a major new version of the software and that’s just starting to spread around the place and people are using it.

“Our software has been used all over the world – over 97 per cent of our users are outside Australia,” he said.

“It’s hard to keep track of how many languages Keyman supports, but it’s a very large number, over 500,” Marc said.

The software supports a broad variety of languages ranging from Australia’s indigenous languages to Korean, French, and Pashto, as well as Lao.
Two of the University of Tasmania’s most distinguished and popular identities were honoured in front of a crowd of more than 500 people at the Foundation Annual Awards Dinner held in March. The dinner also showcased the University’s 2007 scholarship winners.

Dr Michael Vertigan, who graduated from the University in 1964, then went on to establish a formidable international career before returning to UTAS as Chancellor in 1998, was recognised for his distinguished service to UTAS. Mike was presented with the University of Tasmania Alumni, Distinguished Alumni Award.

The 2007 Foundation Graduate Award was given to a world leader in sustainable water use, Professor Nicholas Ashbolt, who was recently appointed Senior Water Microbiologist for the US Environmental Protection Agency – the first non-US citizen to be appointed to such a senior post in the Environmental Protection Agency. Professor Ashbolt gained a Bachelor of Agricultural Science with Honours from UTAS in 1979 and his PhD in 1985.

In an address broadcast to the gathering, Professor Ashbolt paid tribute to the University of Tasmania and the opportunities he was given to pursue his passion for water management whilst a student at UTAS.

Chairman of the University Foundation, Mr David Rowell, said both award recipients had shown true leadership and reached the top of their respective academic fields of expertise, and had been recognised at an international level.

“In Michael Vertigan, in particular, can take great pride in the fact that UTAS, under his leadership, has sustained national and international recognition as a leading research and teaching institution,” he said.

“It is also gratifying to recognise that a graduate of UTAS, Professor Ashbolt, is taking a leading role in the world’s growing water crisis, not only in developed regions, but also in developing countries.”

More than 220 of the University’s 2007 Scholarship winners were showcased to the University and general community at the gala event.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS TO POPULAR IDENTITIES

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Alumni table at the Foundation dinner, above – (L – R)
Caryl McQuestin (Alumni Committee member); Leah Hodgkinson (WNW Scholar 2007); Jill Hodgkinson; Naomi Schultink (Alumni Appeal Scholar 2004); Derris Wood (Committee member); Greg Parkinson (Alumni Manager); Elinor Hortle (Alumni Appeal Scholar 2006)
Lifang (Julie) You, International Officer at Zhejiang University of Technology (ZUT) in Hangzhou, with which UTAS offers a joint course leading to the UTAS Bachelor of Computing degree, returned to ZUT in March after having completed a six-month secondment at UTAS. Julie very ably assisted the UTAS graduation team which went to Hangzhou in July 2006 to conduct our first off-shore graduation ceremony in that city. As a consequence, Julie was offered the secondment to a vacant position in the Public Relations and University Extension Unit to help improve her English language ability, and to better understand our organisational culture and gain a wider knowledge of UTAS and of key personnel.

‘In fact my benefit is not only the experience, but also the warm-hearted people I met who offered tremendous support and hospitality’ said Julie. ‘I realised that what I have learned from UTAS will enable me to make contributions to strengthen the relationship between ZUT and UTAS, and also promote UTAS’s reputation in China.’

While at UTAS, Julie was involved in the organisation of several Alumni functions and the organisation of fourteen graduation ceremonies.

‘By taking part in these events I became more confident to speak in public,’ said Julie. ‘What I learned is not only language proficiency but also your methodology.’

Julie very quickly established herself as a valued team member in the PR&UE Unit. She also helped staff in the unit understand the sensitivities of doing business in China, and conducted seminars in both Launceston and Hobart on engaging with colleagues in China, on a social and professional level. She will once again assist the UTAS team at a graduation ceremony to be held at ZUT on Sunday 8 July 2007.

Julie is pictured above holding Wizzard the wombat with Rosa Nielsen from Copenhagen Zoo. Rosa undertook a two-month secondment to Trowunna Wildlife Park at Mole Creek to learn about Australian native wildlife, especially the Tassie devil. Rosa, who has been at Copenhagen Zoo for nearly three years, expects to work with the devils that were presented by the State Government to the Copenhagen Zoo on the birth of Prince Christian.
Alumni lord it in London

Over 60 UK-based alumni attended a reception at the Media Centre, Lord's Cricket Ground, last October to coincide with a visit to London of Alumni Chair, Elizabeth Daly. The reception, also attended by Vice-Chancellor Daryl Le Grew, was hosted by the CEO of the Marylebone Cricket Club, Keith Bradshaw (BCom 1990).

Much work on the ground for the reception had been done by London-based Alumni Committee member John Perry.

John is confident there is sufficient interest amongst alumni in and around London to form a branch there. John already has a small group interested in holding office and advancing the initiative, and has plans afoot to get the branch up and running this year.

“A branch in London will provide a first point of contact for young graduates travelling to London for work or study, as well as a network for those who just want to link up with classmates and other alumni to talk about home,” he said.

Those interested in being involved should contact the Alumni Office in the first instance at Alumni.Office@utas.edu.au.

“A branch in London will provide a first point of contact for young graduates travelling to London for work or study…”
Dr Lancaster graduated with a Master of Music from the University of Tasmania in 1984, and in 1986 became the first Australian to win a major international keyboard competition – the 23rd Festival of Flanders International Fortepiano Competition in Belgium.

He maintains a stellar international career as concerto soloist, chamber musician and conductor with orchestras including the Leipzig Gewandhausorchester, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Gürzenich Orchestra Köln, Ensemble 415 of Geneva, Rotterdam Philharmonic, and the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra of Toronto.

He is chief conductor and artistic director of La Cita Barockorchester Basel, and artistic director and fortepianist with the Ensemble of the Classic Era.

His 30 CDs on major labels including Sony Classical, ABC Classics and Supraphon have won many accolades including the ARIA and Gramophone awards.

A distinguished public intellectual and expert in historically-informed performance practice of baroque and classical music, he holds a PhD from Sydney University and is both Associate Professor of Music at the Australian National University and Visiting Professor of fortepiano at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis Switzerland.

He has held numerous named Fellowships, including the HC Coombs Creative Arts Fellowship, and the Australian Artists Creative Fellowship for outstanding artistic contribution to the nation.

In 2006, he was named Australian of the Year for the Australian Capital Territory and was appointed a member in the General Division of the Order of Australia.

In his address Geoffrey said:

So, why are the arts important? The answer to this question is quite simple, and one that I would encourage you never to forget. The arts are important because, at best, they are pinnacles of human achievement.

We are often told in this country that the arts are elitist; this accusation is made with a good deal of disparagement. This disparagement is understandable because the arts have become associated with
intellectual snobbery, and are seen as being out of touch with the experience of a majority of Australians.

We are encouraged to think that the arts do not reach into our everyday lives. But in fact, they are ever-present, in the form of good design, music, painting, photography, literature etc.

I like to think of the word as elitist in another sense. I associate it with quality.

I associate elitism with pinnacles of human achievement.

If pinnacles of human achievement and elitism go hand in hand, then why in this country are we consistently invited to celebrate the achievements of elite athletes, but no elite artists? And by an elite artist, I do not mean Operatunity or Australian Idol.

As far as music is concerned, educationally speaking, Western civilisation finds itself in an interesting position. It all goes back to the French Revolution.

Prior to the French Revolution, music was a language that needed to be learnt if it was to be understood. This language purposely expressed the deepest metaphysical understandings of Western culture. To learn this musical language you would be apprenticed to a master for twelve years (and I might add, with no HECS debt).

Following the French Revolution, the language of music that had been available to the educated few became available to everyone. However, twelve years became too long a time for training, so changes had to be made.

A purely subjective response to music has become the criterion for evaluating the inherent worth of a piece of music, and music (as a language the needs to be learnt if it is to be understood) no longer exists.

After today, you will be alumni of this fine university. Do not be frightened to seek support from your fellow alumni when you need it.

The curricula of this university have been designed to teach you how to think, how to think critically, and how to exercise discernment. Keep doing this! With time, you will also come to encourage others to do this, whether as teachers, policy makers, philanthropists, arts patrons, or industry leaders.

So in the doom and gloom, you are the hope!

There are five things that you can personally do to help change things:

Firstly, if we look to the artists that we regard as great, they have never been limited by the boundaries of the status quo; let us allow these individuals to inspire us!

Never be constrained by fashion or political correctness. Always be brave and bold. Always use your art, and your reason, to speak against mediocrity, to address ignorance, and to ensure that anti-intellectualism never takes root.

So firstly, be courageous.

Secondly, always be passionate about your art. It really doesn’t matter what other people think, especially where art is involved. People look to the arts to show the way in this respect, always lead rather than follow. So find your point of artistic integrity, and reveal it with passion!

Thirdly, never allow doubt or disillusionment to become your companion. These are the great destroyers. Do not become bitter and twisted. The great antidote for the poison of doubt and disillusionment is a supportive community.

This starts here, today! After all, what are we doing here? We are all together in community, and a complex one at that. A community of scholars, classmates, family and friends. We already know how to cherish these communities.

So fourthly, create an artistic community. Find people who are empathetic to your need to use the arts to express you experience and beliefs. Then, when the turkeys get you down, you have someone who will pick you up, dust you off, and tell you “there, there, we know how difficult it is for you. We believe in you. Keep going’. Then you can be tenacious.

Fifthly, be generous. It has never been more important to think philanthropically. Philanthropy comes from a spirit of generosity. So I invite you to:

Be courageous, and unfashionably outspoken;
Be passionate;
Be confident;
Cherish your community;
Be generous. 🎤
After a career spanning 29 years with the Port of Launceston Authority and guiding the development of Bell Bay as the new port complex, it is fitting the University has acknowledged the outstanding contribution of Jack Edwards to the State through conferral of the degree of Doctor of Engineering, *honoris causa*.

Jack Edwards came to Launceston in 1951 to take up the position of engineer with the Port of Launceston Authority. Bill Hart, Master Warden of the day, had chosen an extraordinary young civil engineer who was only 26 to head the Port of Launceston team.

He retired in 1980 as chief engineer and general manager, having converted an inland port, which could have lapsed into second rate status, to a leading cargo handling complex.

His work involved the development of Bell Bay, from the construction of the first wharf to the removal of Garden Island and the improvement of the channel to allow access by ships of up to 90,000 tons. This was an enormous undertaking that required vision, dedication and the highest level of professional competence.

His responsibility for the planning and construction of port-related infrastructure throughout the Tamar Valley included, amongst other projects, the construction of the pilot boat harbour at Low Head and the Hebe Reef Beacon, held by Jack to be his most pleasing achievements, and the Charles Street and Tamar Street bridges to provide better vehicular access over the North Esk river.

As well as being an extremely capable civil engineer, Jack was recognised for his outstanding leadership abilities, his capacity to handle people, and his commercial acumen. Those who were fortunate to have served under his supervision, and others who were the recipients of his advice and counsel, pay tribute to him as a wise and caring mentor who assisted them greatly in their professional development.

His managerial and commercial skills, his high level of probity, and his ability to conceptualise ‘big picture’ opportunities, were recognised through his appointment in 1970 as a Director of the Gas Corporation of Tasmania, of which organisation he was chairman from 1981 to 1990; as President of the Launceston Bank for Savings from 1982 to 1990; as a Commissioner for the Hydro-Electric Corporation from 1980 to 1990; and, as a Director of the Tasmanian Development Authority from 1984 to 1993. His input was always positive and constructive, and the part he played in guiding the development of these organisations ensured that their operations were both sound and forward-thinking.

Jack’s interest in all things maritime began when he became a sea scout at the age of 13. Given this interest in the sea and his subsequent career in maritime-related engineering, it was to be expected that he would have an abiding interest in maritime education, embracing as it does the development of skills and practices that ensure the safety of ships and seafarers and the use and protection of the marine environment. This interest was recognised in 1976 by his appointment to the Interim Council of the Australian Maritime College – an Australian Government initiative to set new benchmarks for maritime education and training in Australia.

His strong and positive contribution was recognised through his appointment as Deputy Chairman of the College’s Council in 1978 – a position he held until 1995, and his appointment as Chairman of the College’s commercial arm – AMC Search Ltd. Under Jack’s leadership from 1984 to 1995 AMC Search became, arguably, one of the most successful commercial arms of any higher education institution in Australia, making a major contribution to maritime training throughout the Asia Pacific Region.

Jack’s strong advocacy for education was not solely confined to the maritime sector. He was appointed to membership of the Council of Advanced Education on its establishment in 1968, and from 1979 to 1982 was Chairman of the Tertiary Education Commission of Tasmania – the body which oversaw tertiary education in Tasmania. As a member of the Council for Advanced Education he chaired both the Planning and Development Committee, and the Building Committee of the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education, helping set the college on the path of becoming an institution with a highly significant role in lifting the education and skills base in Tasmania.

Jack was recognised for his outstanding contribution to the community through his admission as an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1981.
Strolling along the walking track of College Road, along the creek and through the fern glade to Hytten Hall, walkers can now pause and remember Thomas Crawford, an American citizen who became the largest single benefactor of the University.

The track has been upgraded and named after the American, who graduated from UTAS in 1963 and always planned to return to the place he called his “island of dreams”.

Mr Crawford died in 1996 before he could realise his dream, but his legacy was to ensure other students from around the world could enjoy the same pleasure he had in attending the University of Tasmania.

He provided a significant bequest to fund the Thomas Crawford Scholarship program at the University. This bequest now stands at around $1.4 million.

In remembering him, his friend Henry B Peck recalled Mr Crawford as a free-spirited and unconventional man with broad intellectual interests.

One of the central themes of his life was a belief in the lasting values of a good education, and he enjoyed opening new doors for people.

The University and those students who benefit from his scholarships will always remain grateful for his vision.

“This trail is a tribute to Tom’s generosity and his love of the tranquillity of the Tasmanian bush,” Mr Peck said.

There have now been 11 Crawford Scholars since the program was launched in 2000. Fittingly, the first recipient, Matthew Nelson, who was admitted PhD (Zoology) in 2003, flew from New Zealand to open the trail.
From his youth, Borer showed a great interest in the art of the legendary virtuoso Paganini, but at that time none of the European or American universities considered this theme as something serious.

By Dr Tatiana Berford

Dr Philippe Borer (Société Suisse de Pédagogie Musicale) who obtained his doctoral degree at the University of Tasmania, read a course of lectures on musical intonation at Novgorod State University “Yaroslav, the Wise” (Russia) from 22 February to 7 March this year.

From his youth, Borer showed a great interest in the art of the legendary virtuoso Paganini, but at that time none of the European or American universities considered this theme as something serious. So Borer, being a Swiss citizen, decided to go to Australia to study with the eminent Australian violinist and teacher Jan Sedivka at the University of Tasmania. Borer likes to remember - half-jokingly and half-nostalgically - that he “researched Paganini among kangaroos”. His doctoral thesis The Twenty-Four Caprices of Niccolò Paganini, their significance for the history of violin playing and the music of the Romantic era was edited in Zurich and received great acclaim. It is mentioned in such authoritative musical reference books as The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians (2001), Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart (2004) and Das Lexikon der Violine (2004).

Borer collaborates with the Institute for Paganinian Studies of Genoa (Italy). Several articles as well as the book Bibliografia violinistica storico-tecnica e studi effettuati su Niccolò Paganini have become results of this collaboration. In Russia Dr Borer is known by the papers he has read at international conferences in St Petersburg (where he also performed Bach’s Chaconne with the curved bow) and...
by some publications (the last appeared in Starinnaya Muzyka, 2006, n.1-2, p. 21-25).

As mentioned, another of Dr Borer’s scientific interests is musical intonation. It is known that modern musicology lacks a consistent, integrated theory of intonation. In Europe this topic has been investigated by three main researchers – the two representatives of the so-called ‘Bonn school’ i.e. Professor Martin Vogel and Dr Jutta Stüber and, in Switzerland, Dr Borer.

Dr Borer’s lectures at Novgorod State University have aroused considerable interest. One can mention in particular the musical slide-rule, invented by the researcher, and the resonator of difference tones – a device which evidences and amplifies the so-called ‘tartinian tones’ which were considered before by science not as an objective acoustical phenomenon but only as a psychophysiological one.

During Dr Borer’s final lecture, he was presented with a letter of thanks containing the comments of teachers and students, all writing their appreciation in unison. A teacher at the university, Julia Sheronova said “I am shaken! Thank you!” whilst others thanked him for what he is doing. The Department of Music and Director Mikhail Ranienko expressed hope that the fruitful contacts with Dr Borer will be continued.
The Ten Days on the Island festival gave alumni a chance to come together in Hobart to view the Better World exhibition at the Plimsoll Gallery, UTAS Art School. Following a welcome drink, Exhibition curator, Simon Cuthbert, gave those who attended a floor talk. The exhibition continued the landscape focus established in previous Ten Days exhibitions, but went beyond the Tasmanian horizon to provide a global perspective on landscape, the people who inhabit it and the impact this coexistence has wrought on the environment. The viewing of the exhibition was followed by an enjoyable lunch at Jam Packed in the renovated IXL jam factory complex.

Alumni present were able to sample Roman-inspired food, although delicacies such as stuffed dormouse and roast parrot were excluded from the offerings!

The museum has no dedicated funding for acquisitions and capital improvements, and alumni have been of great assistance in the past, donating artefacts and providing financial support.

It is hoped that interested alumni will assist the museum to secure funding for a suitable display case in which humidity can be controlled, so that the sword can be kept in a suitably controlled environment.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daryl Le Grew, gave an inspiring speech about the University’s recent successes in growth, distinctiveness and excellence to nearly 50 UTAS alumni and guests at a dinner in Canberra in April 2007. Arriving at the National Museum of Australia, guests were treated to a wonderful harp performance by alumna Diana Owen. Alumni Committee Chair, Elizabeth Daly welcomed the group and shared her vision for the UTAS alumni association, stressing the importance of fostering lifelong relationships between the University and its graduate community. “It was wonderful to see the camaraderie in the room and to realise what a valuable and vibrant community of UTAS alumni are now living and working in the nation’s capital”, remarked Elizabeth. It is hoped that another function will be organised in Canberra within a year, following the success of this extremely enjoyable event. If any alumni are interested in initiating such an event, wherever you are, the Alumni Office would be happy to assist.

L-R: Pui San and Fred Chow (BSc Hons 1972) and Patrick Gourley (MEc 1970) at Jam Packed.
Alumni Annual General Meeting Draws Threads Together

A viewing of the textile exhibition, Threads of Contention, at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in Launceston provided the centrepiece for the 2006 Alumni Annual General Meeting. Those present were given a floor talk by exhibition curator Glenda King, and textile artist and alumnus Greg Leong (BFA, MFA & D) spoke about his work in the exhibition – a quilt, *Weldborough Joss*, recalling the forgotten history of Chinese immigrants in north-east Tasmania.

Greg, known in Launceston as a talented amateur singer, also sang an evocative song, based on the colonial *South Esk Waltz*, recalling the experience of the Chinese immigrants. He was joined in this by the other Greg, Greg Parkinson, Alumni Manager at UTAS. As the quilt is an interactive piece, a recording of the song normally plays when viewers see the work.

The Chinese theme of the day was perfected by alumna Fen Zhou (BEd Hons) who gave a sparkling performance on the Chinese pipa or lute while alumni and guests enjoyed lunch in the forecourt of the museum.

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Nominations are sought for the 2007 Distinguished Alumni Awards. The awards are available in two categories – Support for the University and for Service to the Community. The awards were established by the Alumni to recognise and honour the outstanding achievements of our alumni.

Application forms for the award can be accessed via the Alumni website at <http://www.alumni.utas.edu.au/> or may be obtained from the Alumni Office, University of Tasmania, Locked Bag 1350, Launceston, TAS 7250: phone (03) 6324 3052.

The closing date for nominations is 31 August 2007.

2007 Alumni Annual Appeal Scholar

This year Amanda Grundy was able to start a science degree at the University of Tasmania with the generous help of all of our alumni who donated to the 2006 Annual Appeal. Awarded dux of Rosetta High School and Best Results in grade 11 at Claremont College, Amanda is now immersed in the first year world of psychology, zoology, geography and political science.

Alumni Committee Positions Available

Seven Alumni Committee positions fall vacant at the Annual General Meeting in November 2007. The positions are:

- General Representative (two positions available)
- Faculty of Business representative
- Faculty of Education representative
- Faculty of Health Science representative
- Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering representative (two positions available)

For further information and nomination forms please contact the Alumni Office, University of Tasmania, Locked Bag 1350, Launceston, TAS 7250: phone (03) 6324 3052. Nominations close at 5.00pm on Friday 31 August 2007. Current members are eligible for nomination.
Aussie Breaking Down Barriers in USA

By Rochelle Galloway

She describes herself as the “unlikely candidate” for the job but she is the Aussie battler who wants to make a difference.

Susan Kelly never imagined her role as President of Charles Drew University in Los Angeles would be as challenging as it has been.

She knew from the start that she would have something to prove, being the first white, non-medical female to run the Latino and African American medical institution.

“I saw the job advertised in a newspaper for higher education and rang up about it and they liked what I had,” she said.

“They wanted someone who could blend all areas within the university and someone who could raise a lot of money”. Susan didn’t think she was culturally appropriate for the job.

“I said to them, isn’t this position designed for Latino and African Americans and they said ‘no you’re a minority’. I asked them in what sense and they said ‘well you’re a woman and a foreigner’.”

While many people would find it strange and even funny to be told this, it has allowed Susan to explore areas her predecessors overlooked.

“It gives me a clean slate. They don’t understand women who aren’t white doctors. They aren’t used to it so I can break new ground,” she said.

And that is exactly what Susan has done although she admits the path has been bumpy along the way.

Susan’s credentials have previously been questioned and she has had to endure the criticism that comes with being different from the norm.

“Her spirit makes her the rarity she is”, according to vice chairman of Charles Drew’s board of trustees, Dr Henry Foster.

“This woman likes to win … She’s undaunted – and she didn’t go into this blindly,” he said.

“People seem to understand I am not in it for me,” Susan said.
As a former UTAS graduate, Susan believes her degree in Psychology and English Literature has been the foundation of her success.

"I was the first in my family since my great grandfather to get a degree," she said.

“It opened doors for me and once I had a degree I could go on to higher degrees or become an academic. I had choices,” Susan said.

“The psychology course at UTAS was right for me; it wasn’t all rats and stats, it was applied social psychology”.

Susan’s interest in psychology began at an early age.

“I had been interested in psychology since I was 11 or 12. My own family background made me interested in why people turn out the way they do,” she said.

Susan’s family life was a difficult one.

When she was at University a lecturer by the name of Bill Mollison came to her rescue.

“He reached out to help a kid who was about to fail.”

Bill was inspirational to Susan as he went to Canberra to help her and another student obtain independent living-away-from-home allowance when they were struggling to stay at University.

“If it had not been for him doing that very practical thing, I would not have been able to stay at university,” Susan said.

Susan describes this generosity as the Tasmanian spirit.

“This is what happens in a place that’s small enough. The individual stepped up and identified talent in an individual and backed it up in a very practical way that I think is something quite Tasmanian,” said Susan.

In 2002, Susan was fortunate enough to come back to UTAS as a graduation speaker.

She describes it as a “great honour and very moving”.

“It was an opportunity to thank people and also be the voice of the insider-outsider who sees the possibilities and potential of Tasmania.

Susan’s Tasmanian spirit has shone through in her role at Charles Drew University.

“The university was struggling and needed to be turned around in terms of programs, morale and public reputation,” she said.

Things were going smoothly until the Martin Luther King hospital next door, which was used for medical student training, lost its accreditation and was demolished.

“The hospital has trained 2500 specialists in the last 30 years and now that pipeline of doctors is going to be cut off.

“These doctors are from racial minorities and they serve people with bad health problems from very poor areas, so we have a responsibility to get the university back on its feet,” Susan said.

Charles Drew University plans to sue the county of Los Angeles for $US125 million for the damage caused by the loss of 30 years of hard work.

“We are getting there,” said Susan, the determination shining through her voice.

So what does Susan think of being labelled the underdog?

“I actually like being the unlikely candidate,” she said.

“It has been a fabulous mission.”
In January UTAS landed in the United States as part of G’Day USA, a promotion run by the Australian Government. All the Australian States were represented, and UTAS partnered with the Tasmanian State Government. Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew, Amanda Wojtowicz, Director of Public Relations and Lisa Morisset, University Foundation Development Officer, joined the coast-to-coast celebrations, which included a number of alumni functions in both LA and NYC.

UTAS alumni joined in the party at special functions in both cities. Nick Mooney from Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife, an expert on our threatened Tassie devils (Alumni News last issue) was guest speaker in New York and the events gave alumni the opportunity to meet members of the University of Tasmania Foundation USA.

Alumnus Nicholas Hope featured in LA at the East Asia and Investment Policy and Business Forum, which included a lunch where Foreign Minister Alexander Downer was the keynote speaker. Our alumni also featured at the Tasmania stall during the Australian Made Food and Wine Day, showcasing the best of Australian food and wine to distributors and buyers. The Foundation USA joined us for alumni cocktails at the classic Biltmore Hotel, and the following night at the Penfolds Gala Dinner.

Professor Daryl Le Grew hosted tables in New York at the Nature Conservancy Dinner, the New Asian Tiger Business Luncheon and the Penfold Black Tie Oncology Dinner. Greg Clark, another UTAS alumnus, was on the judging panel of the Innovation Shootout in New York, where six State finalists from Australia proved that their company’s cutting edge innovation has what it takes to make it in the US market.

UTAS also took the opportunity to profile the plight of the Tasmanian devil while in the States, in a bid to raise corporate support and research collaborations into the devastating facial tumour disease. UTAS held successful meetings with researchers at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and the Sloane Institute as well as with a number of key individuals.

At the Advance Wine Hour in New York we bumped into a number of alumni we didn’t even know lived in the States. If you are in the USA please let the Alumni Office know your details, as UTAS is keen whenever we visit to meet our alumni and friends and with the Foundation USA also active, now is the time to update your details and let us know where you are.
Members of the newly established board of the University of Tasmania Foundation USA were in Tasmania visiting UTAS from 19–22 February. The group, consisting of John Semmler, David Thun and his wife Barbara, John Bowden and Kim Wright used their time in the State to focus on UTAS’ areas of excellence. Although UTAS is a medium sized university (15,000 students) we rate highly at a national level and also internationally in many areas including Antarctic and marine studies, aquaculture, food safety, population health, environment and forestry research, separation science and earth sciences.

The directors took the opportunity to get their feet wet or muddy in the field. Included in their trip were visits to a Tassie devil trapping site at Epping Forest to assist with some of the critical monitoring work into Devil Facial Tumour Disease and to the Launceston campus where they were able to meet with our researchers at work who shared their marine expertise.

Tas Alkaloids hosted a tour of its facilities at Westbury led by UTAS Foundation Board member, Brian Hartnett and past Foundation Graduate Award Winner, researcher Dr Tony Fist. The American contingent gained a great insight into the collaborations between industry and UTAS and the corporate support of the Tasmania Scholarships Program.

During a tour of the Sandy Bay campus the Foundation USA Directors met the UTAS research team at the Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science which is leading the world in making crucial breakthroughs in the development of blast detection technologies and routine pre-blast screening for bombs.

The directors also gained ‘behind the scenes’ insight into climate change and rising sea levels, visiting the ACE Cooperative Research Centre where UTAS has over 100 research scientists working on these global issues.

While in Hobart the Board members held their inaugural annual meeting and met with the UTAS Foundation Board.

As a result of their visit, the Foundation USA decided to focus its first major fundraising activity on supporting research into the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease. “This is a significant issue that has implications for wildlife species worldwide and which we feel will resonate with our alumni and friends in the US” the Board’s Secretary, John Semmler, said. “We plan to start our fundraising program this year and hope to also get a couple of the major US corporations on board with their support” he said.

If you would like to find out more about the University of Tasmania Foundation USA and its activities you can contact John Semmler, Assistant Secretary via email at semmler@clarityconnect.com. The Foundation USA offers the capacity to make donations to support UTAS and gain tax deductibility in the United States. John can assist you with connecting with UTAS, add you to our mailing list and provide specific advice regarding support.
1980
Geoff Stanley graduated with an honours degree in Geology in 1982 and has recently been appointed as independent non-executive director of Crescent Gold Limited. Geoff has received a number of prestigious awards. He has been ranked by Wall Street Journal’s ‘Best on the Street in the Metals and Mining’ (first, third, and fifth rankings), and in the Australian BRW Survey, in which he achieved fourth ranking.

1990
Nopa Raki graduated as a Master of Education Studies in 1996 is now working at the Papua New Guinea Education Department headquarters in Port Moresby, where he is assisting with educating teachers in implementing outcome-based approaches in teaching.

Professor Paula Baron has been appointed Professor and Dean of Griffith University Law School. She was previously Professor and acting Dean of Law and Pro-Vice Chancellor of Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand. She graduated from UTAS with a BA/LLB in 1991 and an LLM in 1995.

Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women
Many UTAS graduates and staff have been honoured for their efforts by being named on the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women.

The award, established in 2005 by the former Minister for Women, The Hon Paula Wriedt MHA, pays tribute to Tasmanian women who have made a contribution to the community or individuals within the community.

Former staff and students who have received the honour include:

Clair Anderson
Awarded for service to education

Hon. Phyllis Jean Benjamin (AO, MBE)
Awarded for service to government

Mary Binks
Awarded for service to the community

Hon. Frances Bladel
Awarded for service to government, education and the community

Geraldine Mary Brown
Awarded for service to sport

Heather Rose Butler
Awarded for service to tourism and the community

Mary Cameron (AM)
Awarded for service to science

Enid Campbell (AC, OBE)
Awarded for service to education (law)

Mollie Campbell-Smith (MBE)
Awarded for service to education, training and the community

Eleanor Eileen (Nell) Carey (MBE)
Awarded for service to education and the community

Maida Coaldrake
Awarded for service to education

Winifred Mary Curtis (AM)
Awarded for service to science

Chantale Delrue
Awarded for service to the arts

Jacqueline Elizabeth Dermody
Awarded for service to the community

Gladys Dodson
Awarded for service to the community

Joyce Dulfer-Hyams
Awarded for service to human rights

Dorothy Edna Annie Edwards (OBE, CBE)
Awarded for service to government

Marie Edwards
Awarded for service to the arts (visual)

Mary Elizabeth Gertrude Fox (MBE)
Awarded for service to education and sport

Margaret Anne Giordana
Awarded for service to the arts (literature)

Eleanor (Betty) Grey (OAM)
Awarded for service to the community and human rights

Gwen Harwood (AO)
Awarded for service to the arts

Linda Mary Johnson
Awarded for service to the community

Faith Layton (AM)
Awarded for service to the community and education

Majorie Ann Luck (OAM)
Awarded for service to the arts and human rights

Bronwen Meredith
Awarded for service to human rights

Marion Elizabeth Myhill
Awarded for service to the community, heritage and women’s issues

June Olley (AM)
Awarded for service to science

Barbara Millie Sattler (MBE)
Awarded for service to the community

Margaret Daphne Scott
Awarded for service to arts and education
Obituary of Max Webberley by his son, Max.

You couldn’t walk along Liverpool Street to get a cup of coffee with Dad without having to stop every 30 metres or so when someone said “Hello, Mr Webberley” and then proceeded to tell him how they were getting on or how their kids had prospered or simply grown up.

My father, Maxwell Thomas Webberley, was a teacher – though “teacher” seems too small a word to describe his influence as an educator, mentor, lecturer, principal and guidance officer in a lifetime of helping others. Dad truly believed that the sum of your life is how you live it. The greatest reward for Dad’s labours came back to him every day from the thousands of lives and hearts he touched as a vigorous, wise and caring man, a friend, Masonic brother and inspiration to all who knew him. Helping others was paramount and a constant in his life. Just a few days before his death on Thursday 15 March, Dad, 81, was visited by an old friend and colleague who arrived at his hospital bedside bearing a photograph of his adult daughter (now a teacher), her husband (a uni lecturer) and their four children. With tears in his eyes, the man said that his daughter was “Mr Webberley’s greatest success”: Dad had turned her life around and helped her find self-esteem. That proud parent saw the world without “Mr Webberley” as a truly poorer place.

Dad was born in Ascot Vale, Melbourne, on 4 September, 1925, the second son of Asia and Leonora Webberley, both of Hamilton, Tasmania. He was educated at St Patrick’s College, in Wellington, New Zealand, and returned to Tasmania as a young man. To become a teacher, he held down three jobs including playing jazz and dance band music at night and teaching at the PMG’s technical school. He worked his way through university and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in psychology and philosophy. He taught at university level, teachers’ college, secondary school and primary school over some 35 years. He understood that what is good for you is almost never easily won, but that striving makes it even more precious. In all his endeavours, he strove to be the best he could be. Dad’s achievements were numerous. He was a District Commissioner of Scouts and a prominent Freemason; a Justice of the Peace from 1963; a founder member of Hobart-Macquarie Probus; president and life member of the Howrah Bowls Club and a nationally accredited umpire, as well as a life member of the Musicians’ Union.

Dad found reflection on spiritual matters very uplifting but he lived a better life by turning his insights into everyday actions. A couple of years ago he gave me a card on which he had written three lines.

It said –
Keep your Faith.
Live in Hope.
Love all Things.
We will Dad.

George Chesterton Wade

George Wade, Foundation Professor of Agricultural Science at the University of Tasmania passed away on 29 July at the age of 88.

A graduate of the University of Melbourne, George Wade was appointed Chief Plant Pathologist in the Tasmanian Department of Agriculture in 1947. He quickly built up a strong Division of Plant Pathology that addressed an increasing number of problems as agriculture flourished in the two decades following World War II. Notable amongst his achievements were studies that led to disease control programs for berry fruits, pome fruits, stone fruits and hops. Based on publications from his work, he was awarded a DSc from the University of Tasmania in 1957. His investigations on latent fungal fruit infections were pursued further at the University of California Berkeley as part of a Commonwealth Fund Harkness Fellowship.

Following appointment as inaugural Chair of Agricultural Science in 1962 he established an undergraduate course that was firmly founded on the basic sciences and included all the major agricultural disciplines, but with an emphasis on horticulture and allied subjects. At that time there was little horticulture taught in Australian universities. A feature of his time at the University was the encouragement of postgraduate study and the Faculty of Agricultural Science quickly developed a reputation for producing outstanding postgraduates, many of whom
later achieved worldwide recognition for excellence. He played an important role in the wider University, serving on all major committees and the University Council.

George Wade also served the professional and general community in many ways including terms as Senior Vice President of the Royal Society of Tasmania in 1963, and as State and Federal (1964) President of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science. He was elected a Fellow of the Institute in 1969.

He is survived by his wife Margaret, three sons Ian, Neil and Peter, and seven grandchildren, two of whom are Arts/Law undergraduates at the University.

Gradon Johnstone
Neville Mendham

Robert James Linford, OBE
1917-2007

Robert James Linford was born in May 1917 in Somerset in the north of Tasmania.

Robert attended the local primary school and then went to Devonport High School until 1934. Robert finished his secondary education at night school and then went on to study commerce at the University of Tasmania, also through night education.

He later won a scholarship to attend UTAS Christ College, where he completed his degree with great success.

As an avid sportsman, Robert enjoyed playing Australian football at University as well as tennis, cricket and table tennis. His dedication to team sports usually saw him volunteering to help on their committees.

In 1941 Robert moved to Canberra to head the Demography Section in the Commonwealth Statistician’s Office, where his research was based on post-war immigration policy. From this position, he moved to the Department of External Affairs as third secretary in the economics section.

In 1962 he was appointed private secretary to the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies and was then appointed as Acting Secretary to the Governor-General, Sir Richard Casey for some time during 1967 and 1968. In 1971 he was made First Assistant Secretary to the Prime Minister’s Department, sometimes acting in charge.

Robert was appointed as Administrator of the Cocos Islands from 1975 to 1977, during which time he initiated the successful move by the Whitlam government to break the nexus between the people of the Cocos Islands and the Clunies-Ross Estate.

He retired in 1979, was awarded the honour of Ordinary Officer of the Civil Division of the British Empire in 1979 and was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2002.

Robert is survived by his wife, Patricia and children, Margaret, Robert, Andrew and Glenda; and his six grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Dr John Dumaresq Gee, AM

Renowned weapons expert, diplomat, scientist and devoted family man Dr John Dumaresq Gee, AM, recently passed away in Canberra, aged 62, from cancer. Just days before his death, Dr Gee was honoured by being appointed a Member of the Order of Australia, as part of the Australia Day honours.

Dr Gee was well known as a man of strong principles who stood up and claimed that the search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq was essentially flawed and that he believed it was not an intellectually honest process.

Dr Gee was born in Launceston, and graduated from the University of Tasmania with a Bachelor of Science. He also won a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship for excellent academic results, which allowed him to study at Oxford University. He then gained a PhD in chemical crystallography from Oxford.

Dr Gee served with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for 20 years. He subsequently worked for the United Nations, establishing the Office for Prevention of Chemical Warfare for The Hague.

He also served as the deputy director-general of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in the Netherlands and as a consultant on weapons of mass destruction within the Office of National Assessments.

Dr Gee also worked with the Iraq Survey Group in Baghdad after the invasion of Iraq but resigned in 2004 after becoming concerned about the integrity of the search for weapons. Dr Gee had a successful and fruitful career working in these highly skilled areas, but was always modest about his achievements.

Dr Gee will be remembered fondly as a man who had the courage to stand up for what he believed in, and who strived in his work for a safer world. He is survived by his loving family, wife Liv, daughters Christina and Rebecca and son Nicholas.
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