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From the Vice-Chancellor

About the time this magazine goes to press I will be overseas visiting several of our partner institutions in the International Antarctic Institute. The Institute has sixteen partner institutions including the Scott Polar Research Institute at the University of Cambridge, the Byrd Polar Research Center at Ohio State University, the University of Bremen, and the University of Siena.

The fact that UTAS has played a pivotal role in bringing together this prestigious international consortium is a tribute to the regard in which our teaching and research in the area of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies is held. Indeed, UTAS’s growing reputation as one of the world’s leading Antarctic research study centres was confirmed recently with our designation as a prestigious UNESCO-Cousteau Ecotechnie Chair in Antarctic and Southern Ocean Environmental Sciences. We hold the only Cousteau endorsed Chair in Australia, and the only UNESCO Chair in Antarctic Studies anywhere in the world. You will read about this elsewhere in this Alumni News.

Increasingly, UTAS will join international consortia with common research and teaching strengths so that we can pool our research and teaching endeavours to build unrivalled benchmarks. Already, we draw students from all parts of the world who are attracted by our world-class teaching and research in our theme areas. As we enter a truly globalised higher education environment we will exchange students actively with our consortia partners. While many of our partners’ best scholars will come to Tasmania to study, we will also be well placed to provide specialised study opportunities for many young Australians in first-class research and teaching facilities in other parts of the world.

Already, UTAS alumni can be found in all parts of the globe occupying key positions in academia, government and business. I look forward to seeing them joined by many more in the years to come saying, with pride, UTAS is my alma mater.

Daryl Le Grew, Vice Chancellor

From the Alumni Chair

You will find in this edition of Alumni News a graduation address by Professor David Adams on the topic of communities. David points out the important role that universities play as both communities in their own right and as components of other communities. They help define both who we are and the type of community in which we live. They provide richness to our lives and add value to the communities in which they reside.

I hope you feel this way about UTAS – through the richness UTAS has provided to your life and the value it adds to Tasmania. We plan to build on this engagement by providing you with access to our UTAS Alumni web community – to be launched early in 2008. This software suite will enable you to re-engage with old friends, to discuss topics of mutual interest, and to keep in touch with the University. Watch this space!

Elizabeth Daly,
Chair, University of Tasmania Alumni

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Cover: Alex Kreiss, Qantas Tasmanian Devil Research Scholar at UTAS who is researching the immune response of the Tasmanian devil to the facial tumour disease, in a team led by Associate Professor Greg Woods. Alex comes from Brazil where he worked as a veterinarian.
The University of Tasmania recently hosted a series of public lectures that asked the unnerving question of whether our wonderful and unique Tasmanian devil is doomed as a result of the facial tumour disease spreading so quickly through wild populations.

Professor Hamish McCallum, from the UTAS School of Zoology and Senior Scientist with the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program, went straight to the point with the bad news: if we do nothing, research suggests that the devil will be soon be extinct.

Since the mid-1990s populations of the Tasmanian devil, the world’s largest marsupial carnivore, have been devastated by the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD). A unique contagious cancer, it is spread by biting and is consistently fatal.

“There is a continuing decline in the devil population as a result of this disease. In the north-east, the population has declined by 90% since 1996 and the disease is now moving steadily across the State,” Professor McCallum says. The north-west corner of Tasmania is still disease-free, but predictions suggest DFTD will be statewide by 2010.

The University of Tasmania, in partnership with the Federal and Tasmanian State Governments, launched the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program and Appeal to oversee the response to the disease and raise funds for vital research. The aim of the program is “to maintain the Tasmanian devil as an ecologically functional species in the wild”.

Professor McCallum said the dramatic effect of the disease demanded an urgent response. The good news is that cutting-edge research is now under way and management programs are being developed to give the devil the very best chance of survival. UTAS is assisting with research programs into all areas of the disease including transmission, immune responses and population modelling.

A contagious cancer?

DFTD has a very rare feature - it is one of only three cancers that can spread like a contagious disease.

Usually, cancer cannot be “caught” as the cancer cells from one individual are totally different from another individual, and when transferred they are rejected by the immune system. The fact that DFTD breaks this rule raises many questions about the immune system of the Tasmanian devil, which is being investigated by a team.
of researchers, led by UTAS Associate Professor Greg Woods.

As part of this research, PhD student Alex Kreiss has used blood samples to confirm that Tasmanian devils have a fully functional immune system, so the pressing question is how can the tumours develop? Why aren’t the devil facial tumour cells recognised and rejected by the immune system?

The devil-to-devil transmission suggests that this cancer is similar to a transplant, but in this case the transplant is not a life-saving organ, but a life-threatening cancer. Further tests have since been done to investigate whether the Tasmanian devil has the correct genes to allow recognition of foreign cells. The results showed that Tasmanian devils failed to recognise cells from other devils as different.

This strongly suggests that a lack of genetic diversity among the devils helps to make the cancer infectious. In other words, when a healthy devil is infected with DFTD from another animal, the infected devil’s immune system assumes the cancerous cells are part of its own body and does not reject them. The daunting task ahead is to teach the devil’s immune system to recognise the cancer cells as infectious, which will then alert the devil’s immune system to destroy these cancer cells.

Detecting a devil of a disease

The Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science (ACROSS) at UTAS has embarked on a 12 month research project to develop a preclinical diagnostic test, which can detect the disease in the devils before they show any obvious symptoms.

Scientists are slowly building up a picture of the proteins contained in the blood serum of healthy Tasmanian devils and comparing this with the proteins in the serum of devils with the disease.

As only minor changes in the protein profile may be found, the research must use state-of-the-art, sensitive analytical instrumentation and ultra-sensitive chemistry that is being developed within ACROSS. This will enable scientists to map the entire pattern of proteins with the devil serum and to detect even the smallest of changes.
How you can help Save the Tasmanian Devil

The Tasmanian Devil Appeal raises funds to accelerate research and to concentrate practical management actions to protect this extraordinary species.

Visit www.tassiedevil.com.au to donate online and to learn more about the research.

Mail donations to the:
University of Tasmania Foundation Tasmanian Devil Appeal
Private Bag 40 Hobart Australia 7001
Phone: 03 6226 2053

Donations from Australia over $2 are tax deductible
If you are in the USA you make a gift and claim tax deductability by sending donations to the University of Tasmania Foundation USA
PO Box 3995 Ithaca, NY 14852 – 3995 USA
Fax: +1 607 277 0078

For major sponsorship enquiries contact the Development Officer at the University Foundation
Phone: 03 6226 2053

Using your noodle to help save the Tassie devil

The Tasmanian devil is loved around the world, with support for the unique animal coming from all corners of the globe.

A little international help in their adopted home of Tasmania came from the Tasmanian University Union Singapore Students Society in August.

They presented a cheque for $1000 to the Tasmanian Devil Appeal at their annual dinner in celebration of Singapore’s National Day. Members of the Society had dug deep for the devil at a fundraising dinner earlier in the year.

Their president Saleh Omar BinTalib, in making the presentation, explained that one of the key aims of the society, which was formed in 2006, is to give back to the Tasmanian community that has been so kind and welcoming.

Helping save the Tasmanian devil from extinction was their unanimous choice. Members of the society will be running the Singapore Marathon late in 2007 to raise more funds and awareness for the Tasmanian Devil Appeal.

Update your address and personal details on-line at:

Visit the Alumni e-store at:
https://www.utas.edu.au/alumni/eComm/

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Donations from Australia over $2 are tax deductible
If you are in the USA you make a gift and claim tax deductability by sending donations to the University of Tasmania Foundation USA
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Courses are flexible and can be undertaken on a part time basis - some with weekend classes. Many are open to people with an undergraduate degree in a different field of study, opening up increased career opportunities for you. Discover the doors that postgraduate study can unlock for your career. Apply now for 2008.

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Choose postgrad at [www.utas.edu.au](http://www.utas.edu.au)
I congratulate you all and your families on reaching this graduation day, and whilst the focus today is on your current achievements, my brief address is about community and what it means to us and what your roles could be as potential community leaders. What your future achievements could be.

So when I talk about community, I am referring to many differing types: place-based communities, communities of interest, virtual communities, professional communities, temporary communities, and many others.

The text of an address given by Professor David Adams at a Hobart graduation ceremony in December, 2006.

David Adams joined UTAS as Professor of Management and Innovation in 2006 and is based on the Launceston campus of the University. He was previously Executive Director, Strategic Policy and Research Division, Department for Victorian Communities. In addition to holding that appointment, he was also Adjunct Professor of Management at UTAS, and Visiting Fellow, National Centre for Development Studies, Asia Pacific School of Economics and Governance, Australian National University.

David is a UTAS graduate, taking out a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in 1974, a Bachelor of Social Work degree in 1979, and his PhD in 1996. He is also a Master of Arts graduate of the University of Sheffield.

From 1995 to 1997, David was Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania, and from 1998 to 2002, Executive Director of Strategy, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victoria.

I am pleased to be able to deliver this graduation address. As a recipient of many such addresses I often wondered how long they would take and whether I actually needed to listen. The answers today are nine minutes - considerably less than some of the lectures you had to sit through, and ‘yes please.’

I congratulate you all and your families on reaching this graduation day, and whilst the focus today is on your current achievements, my brief address is about community and what it means to us and what your roles could be as potential community leaders. What your future achievements could be.
It might seem a bit remote from where your heads are at today, but my message to you is to consider the vocation of community leadership alongside your professional vocation.

Today most of us are a part of many communities - some where we have close ties, others loose ties. So when I talk about community, I am referring to many differing types: place-based communities, communities of interest, virtual communities, professional communities, temporary communities, and many others.

How we identify our communities changes with time. A hundred years ago, if you asked people in Tasmania where they came from, the answer would often be the parish or the local government ward. Today, very few of us could even name the wards or parishes let alone identify with them.

Until quite recently, people primarily identified with very local place communities such as the street or the town. I know growing up in Glengarry on the West Tamar, that my community was just the local village and that Exeter was a town a long way away, and Launceston a distant and largely unknown entity.

There are many ways of defining community boundaries. For example, one sophisticated academic phrase for defining community boundaries is called 'pram walking distance'. Most neighbourly relations are within the distance you would normally push a pram, preferably with a baby in it, otherwise you could look really silly.

The traditional family and place-based communities are still relatively strong but are being overlain and sometimes replaced by a raft of new types of communities. What is important about community is not the definition or the type, but what we value in them.

We tend to value four features:

Firstly, community can be a place or space to form friendships and have others to turn to for support - somewhere to meet and greet others, and a refuge of security and comfort in a sometimes scary world - a place to have fun and relax.

To work well, communities need many things including ‘agoras’, a Greek word meaning a common place to meet and discuss issues separate from home and work and official institutions. We are in an agora now - a place where people can come and express ideas.

Secondly, we value community as a place or space where identity is forged and people sort out values and views about themselves, others and the world. It is a sort of sense-making machine.

Creating a common identity whilst retaining individuality is part of the nuance of community life. Common identity is expressed in many ways such as the correct pronunciation of the northern capital as ‘Launceston’ as distinct from ‘Lawncston’ or, as it is in England, ‘Lanston’. Or, as is the case here today, membership of the University community denoted by our common and somewhat quaint historical attire. Our common bonds give us comfort in a world of increasing individuality and uncertainty.

Thirdly, community can be a place or space where creativity, diversity and innovation emerges - which is why the idea is as important to business and science as it is to anyone else. For example, internationally, the idea of liveability has become an important factor for businesses making choices about where to invest. Many regions and cities around the world invest in liveability strategies knowing they will have spin offs in terms of
Many young people today spend as much time sorting out their identity and making judgments within their virtual web and SMS texting communities as they do within traditional place-based communities.

Innovation and attraction and retention of skilled labour. It is community and not the workplace that is more often than not the wellspring of creativity and innovation. For example, there is a strong correlation between business patents and the density of local cultural and recreational networks. Communities have agency when it comes to economic growth and productivity.

Fourthly, community can be a place or space where we can create and access resources for living, for working, for playing. Communities can make us feel proud and willing to put back in ... for example, through volunteering. Community participation can make us feel proud which is why we often donate to community causes ... much the same way that your families are extremely proud of you today. You cannot imagine the sense of relief they are experiencing at the moment. Now would be a good time to ask them for money!

These four features - a space of friendship and fun, a space for identity formation, a space for creativity, and a space for resources, are the features that attract us to community and increasingly and especially for young people they are not traditional place-based communities.

Many young people today spend as much time sorting out their identity and making judgments within their virtual web and SMS texting communities as they do within traditional place-based communities. These spaces are communities because they can have the four valued features. YouTube and My Space are the virtual communities of tomorrow and our children will want to spend more time in them ... because they are communities.

Universities can be communities too as well as being part of other communities.

I was in Stockholm recently - a delightful city except in winter when it gets dark at 2.30 pm in the afternoon. However what struck me talking to students at Stockholm University was the way they referred to it as ‘our university’ and how they felt they owned it and treated it as a valued part of their local community – a place where they spend time at weekends and where their families also felt a close connection. In Australia and even here in Tasmania, where I spend much of my time working in local communities, people greet one by saying ‘You are from the University’. I always correct them to say ‘Our University - it’s yours as well as mine’. We all need to work harder at making it ‘our University’.

Our University here in Tasmania is a resource for many and we all have something to learn from looking more closely at the successful international university community alliances. Indeed, the one common international feature of high productivity regions is a focus on knowledge which, as I understand it, is still the core business of universities. This focus on knowledge though is not just up to universities, it is something that governments, businesses and communities need to engage in more directly. It is a two-way street.
But communities don’t just happen, they are created by people like us and they have to be sustained by us all. As new graduates, you too can play a role in this by maintaining links with your University through, for example, our Alumni activities. Many of the most innovative ‘ideas’ have emerged from bonds created in university life, and more often than not, from bonds between people from diverse social backgrounds.

Generally we don’t really understand our communities and their assets that well. As any of the commerce graduates here could tell you, if you don’t understand your assets, your business is very vulnerable. For example, I often ask people who the biggest employer is in Tasmania, who puts the most money into Tasmanian pockets each week. The answer, believe it or not, is Centrelink - the pensions, benefits and allowances from the Commonwealth. Not many people would think of the Centrelink system as a regional community asset that we can influence. Volunteers are another example of community assets - just as important to the future of communities as businesses and jobs.

Whilst we understand young people are our most valuable future community assets, we spend too much time asking the question how can we stop them from leaving the countryside for the city, and leaving Tasmania for the north island and beyond. It is the wrong question. They will continue to leave. The right question is what can we do to encourage them to return to visit, to work, to invest, to live.

One of the reasons we don’t actually understand community that well, is that we struggle to measure our social capital when compared to our economic, human and environmental capital. For example, each night on television we see measures of our economic capital through the stock market report. We see measures of our human capital through workforce participation rates, or the number of people completing post-compulsory education and training. Increasingly, we are beginning to see measures of our natural or environmental capital through, for example, the weather report and more worrying indicators such as the air pollution indexes.

What we still lack is any sensible measure of our social or community capital - how happy or sad we are as communities, how safe we feel at night, how valued we feel, how many of us there are to respond to floods and bushfires, or how quickly a community is likely to bounce back after a disaster. In my view, these are as important to our future as our other capitals and we need to put more effort into understanding our community assets and promoting and measuring those features we value.

Of course, community is not intrinsically a good thing. Many communities have been, and are, places of oppression and despair. Low investment in community is returned in higher levels of conflict, family violence, child protection notifications, lower educational, participation, retention and completion rates, and in lower levels of economic growth and innovation. Some of these risks are much higher than they should be in many of our Tasmanian communities.

So amongst all your personal ambitions for the future that flow from today, I ask you as future leaders of business and science, to reflect on what roles you might play in community leadership rather than thinking you can leave all that soft community stuff to others. You are the future stewards of community, you are the ‘others.’ Community will always be with us in one form or another, but whether or not it is a good community depends on the kind of ‘us’ that create it. It is in your hands.
UTAS leading the world in Antarctic and Southern Ocean environmental science

Cherie Cooper

Tasmania’s reputation as one of the leading Antarctic research study centres is rapidly growing, with UTAS this year being designated a prestigious UNESCO-Cousteau Ecotechnie Chair in Antarctic and Southern Ocean Environmental Sciences.

This is the only Cousteau endorsed Chair in Australia and the only UNESCO Chair in Antarctic Studies in the world.

The Chair was launched in Hobart aboard the ship Aurora Australis by Diane Cousteau, daughter of the late Jacques Cousteau, who has established a number of Chairs (or worldwide network of fellows) to address future ocean and Antarctic environmental issues.

UNESCO addresses many serious environmental and social issues around the globe, such as poverty, literacy, environmentally sustainable research and renewable energy.

The UNESCO-Cousteau Ecotechnie program is designed particularly to promote education, research and policy making in the field of environment and development.

The inclusion of UTAS into this program follows the establishment by the University of the world’s only International Antarctic Institute, which will soon which will soon offer a Master degree in Antarctic Studies.

The inaugural Cousteau Chair will be headed by Professor Andrew McMinn, who has a wealth of experience in environmental research, Antarctic environmental research and the impacts of climate change.

According to Professor McMinn the Chair will facilitate the bringing together of nations, including countries with strong Antarctic research programs and non-traditional Antarctic research countries, through graduate student training and global research programs.

"By establishing this Chair in conjunction with the International Antarctic Institute, we can pass on the knowledge and information needed by the next generation of researchers and policy makers to address sustainable resource management, climate impacts and other global environmental and social issues, as well as biotechnical opportunities associated with Antarctica and the Southern Ocean" he said. ☭
Helen Bassett

Music and engineering may seem an unlikely partnership, but combined with a talented husband/wife team, it has led to one of Tasmania's most successful businesses which is now putting its success to work by supporting the local arts industry.

Led by the 2005 Tasmanian Business Woman of the Year, Diane Tompson, the Powercom group now employs 50 people in Tasmania and two of its companies export to over 17 countries.

From humble beginnings in their garage, when Diane's husband, Philip, a talented and visionary electrical engineer, was asked to design a power protection product, the company has grown, and diversified.

A former music teacher who graduated from the UTAS Conservatorium of Music, as well as obtaining her teaching degree from UTAS before going on to teach at Geilston Bay High School, Diane attributes much of her business success to the skills learnt as a musician – the ability to think creatively and provide creative solutions, taking risks, being process driven, creating the groundwork and technique.

It's her ongoing commitment to music and awareness of how it has influenced her life that has brought Diane to her latest project – heading a committee to establish an Alumni branch for the Conservatorium.

“The Conservatorium has been teaching students for more than 40 years and there are hundreds of graduates. While many of these have kept in touch with selected friends, a fire some years ago meant records were lost, so we are asking former students to contact us.”

(contact: Diana.Carter@utas.edu.au)

Launched at the end of November, the branch committee already has plans to hold a number of events and concerts throughout the years ahead, and has a long-term vision of being able to offer financial support for struggling students at the Conservatorium.

Speaking at a recent UTAS graduation ceremony, Diane's passion for education showed clearly as she urged students to keep an open mind, think laterally and be willing to work hard.

“A university encourages its graduates to think with an open mind and to always question decisions in a positive manner to maximize the best possible outcomes,” she said.

“You have been given the strategies to find solutions and to work out problems without having to rely on others for help, and you can thank your university education for enabling you to do that.

“Now you know you will be able to figure out any problem thrown at you and, from this day forward, you have an enormous opportunity provided by the university.

“On your life's journey, I would like you all to promise to hold your head high, particularly when you venture further afield than Tasmania.

“So often, we Tasmanians and graduates of UTAS think we are second best, and in my experience that is far from the truth. We should be compared with the best of the best and the only thing holding us back is giving credence to comments made about Tasmanians by people from elsewhere.”

These are not just words, but experience, talking. Diane recently became the first National President of a select group called Women Chiefs of Australia, is a member of the APEC Women Leaders Network, and is currently visiting Germany to address a conference of electrical engineers.

Like a good symphony itself, life has transported Diane to heights she never dreamt of. She has shown others you truly can achieve whatever you want in life, as long as you keep an open mind, be flexible and never let yourself be “put in a box”.

“My father also taught me that listening is probably the greatest skill you can ever have – you don't always have to agree with what is said, but if you listen you will always learn something!”

For more information on the Conservatorium Alumni Branch contact: Diana.Carter@utas.edu.au
When the activists gathered together on 25 May 2007 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Referendum Campaign for Aboriginal Rights, UTAS graduate, Lorraine Ovington, was one of the proud speakers who recalled the courage of people such as the late Harry Penrith, better known as Burnum Burnum, who encouraged her to become involved in the YES campaign.

Lorraine Ovington knew Harry Penrith when she worked as a Graduate Clerk in Canberra where she met him at Lawley House. Penrith later went on to study Law at UTAS. She fondly remembers him as a “very impressive, friendly and charismatic person who spoke quietly but with great conviction about his people”.

Penrith was taken from his family as a young boy, then lived in a mission orphanage and was raised by foster parents, after a stint at the notoriously harsh Kinchela Boys’ Home in Kempsey, northern New South Wales.

Lorraine said Penrith was “immensely proud to be a ‘full blood’ Aborigine, who played first-grade Rugby Union and League in Sydney and worked in the NSW State Department of Agriculture before moving to the Public Service in Canberra.”

Penrith also became involved in the campaign for the removal and reburial of Aboriginal remains from the Tasmanian Museum.

In the 1970s Penrith adopted the name Burnum Burnum, in honour of his great-great grandfather Burnum Burnum McRae.

Cherie Cooper

It was an event that redefined Australian society and started a movement for massive social change. For those involved, it was a defining moment they have never forgotten.

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In February 1967, after 10 years of campaigning by FCAATSI, the Holt Cabinet finally agreed to hold the referendum in May of that year.

Penrith invited Lorraine to meetings of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders (FCAATSI), of which he was the convenor of the Housing Committee.

FCAATSI organised the “Yes” campaign over two months through a national campaign committee with campaign directors in every State. The campaign encouraged voters to agree to an alteration of the Constitution which would allow the government to make laws specifically for the benefit of the Aboriginal people. Existing provisions meant that Aboriginals were not counted as citizens with the rest of the people of Australia.

In February 1967, after 10 years of campaigning by FCAATSI, the Holt Cabinet finally agreed to hold the referendum in May of that year.

“In Australia, my generation of students was conscious of human rights issues and was pushing for social change, so it seemed natural for me to join the YES campaign,” Lorraine said.

“His role in Canberra was to contact national organisations and this is the campaign I became involved in.”

One of Penrith’s most notable acts was to plant an Aboriginal flag in 1988 in Dover, England. It was Australia Day and by doing this, he symbolically claimed England for the Aboriginal people. He died in 18 August 1997 but his achievements will live on in the memory of those he helped and inspired.

“All me, Harry embodies the spirit of lost generations of Australian Aborigines who, in searching for their identity, have given other Australians like me an insight into their sense of loss of community, of family and traditional culture,” Ms Ovington said.

“The Joint Campaign Directors were Joe McGinness, an Aboriginal from Victoria and Gordon Bryant, MP, whose office at Parliament House was used for many FCAATSI campaign meetings.

“Harry also gave me the gift of knowledge, of trust and respect.”
Greg Parkinson

A further 457 graduates joined the ranks of the University of Tasmania Alumni after graduating at ceremonies held in Shanghai and Hangzhou in July. This is the second year that UTAS has run ceremonies in China – the ceremony in Shanghai once again being a joint one with partner university, Shanghai Fisheries University (SFU).

Graduates were admitted to degrees in Information Systems, Commerce, and Management in Shanghai and to the Bachelor of Computing degree in Hangzhou. Deputy Chancellor Mr Rod Roberts conferred degrees on behalf of UTAS, and President of SFU, Professor Pan Jing Yie, conferred the degree of Bachelor of Management at the Shanghai ceremony on behalf of SFU.

The joint UTAS/SFU ceremony in Shanghai is, we believe, a first for an Australian university. The ceremony has been crafted carefully to take into account the protocol and usages of both universities. The result is an interesting blend of both Australian and Chinese tradition and an extremely colourful and busy ceremony. Additional colour was given to the 2007 ceremony by the outstanding performances of students from the program who sang selections from European light opera and played jazz.

A highlight of the ceremony in Shanghai was the admission of Peter Li Xiang Chen, a staff member of the International Education Network, under whose auspices the program in Shanghai has been offered, to the degree of Master of Information Systems. Peter had undertaken his coursework for the degree on UTAS’ Sandy Bay campus but had chosen to have his degree conferred in his home town in front of friends and colleagues.

Following the Shanghai ceremony the UTAS party headed south to Hangzhou where the UTAS graduation ceremony for candidates for the Bachelor of Computing was hosted by partner university, Zhejiang University of Technology (ZUT) on its beautiful new campus in the suburbs of the city. 

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2007 graduates in Hangzhou from the UTAS/ZUT program

Prof. John Williamson, Chair of Academic Senate, and Prof. Gary O’Donovan, Dean of Business, in Shanghai with 2007 UTAS/SFU graduates

Peter Li Xiang Chen being congratulated by Deputy Chancellor, Mr Rod Roberts
Greg Parkinson

The visit of the UTAS team to Shanghai in July to conduct the second round of graduation ceremonies held in China provided a perfect opportunity to catch up with UTAS/SFU graduates from the class of 2006. Fifty-two alumni attended the reception held at the Sofitel, hosted jointly by the Alumni and the Faculty of Business. The Vice-Chancellor, Daryl Le Grew, expressed his pleasure in catching up with them and in finding that those present had gone on to interesting and rewarding careers with a broad variety of both local and international organisations where their English language competence stood them in good stead.

The reception provided a rare opportunity for young people leading busy lives in different parts of China to meet again. Of course, being the first cohort of graduates from the joint program run by UTAS and Shanghai Fisheries University, a strong bond exists amongst the group. They were pleased to be able to catch up with one another and to renew acquaintances with UTAS staff members who had played an important part in their lives during their university studies.

Dean of the Faculty of Business, Gary O’Donovan, presented alumni with UTAS lapel pins, while Associate Dean (International), Merry Joyce, friend and mentor to so many international students, conducted the lucky door prize draw with great gusto distributing chocolate maps of Tasmania and similar goodies. The Chair of the Alumni was represented by Alumni Committee member, Professor John Williamson, Chair of the Academic Senate. 🎁
Nigel S. Roberts

The capitol building – or state house – in Helena, Montana, resembles the capitol buildings in many of the American states, as well as in Washington, DC. It’s an impressive building with traditional ionic columns and a large dome.

In front of the Montana capitol building, there is also a traditional man-on-horseback statue. However, the dramatic statue of a cavalry officer brandishing a drawn cutlass in front of the Montana legislature is unique in America, because it’s of a man who spent time in Tasmania.

The statue is of Thomas Francis Meagher, who was born in Waterford, Ireland, in 1823. Meagher was found guilty in 1848 of participating in the Irish insurrectionary movement against English rule and sentenced to death, later commuted to transportation to Van Diemen’s Land. Three years later, Meagher escaped and made his way to America, where he was highly successful as a soldier on the Union side during the Civil War.

The battles in which Meagher fought were some of the main clashes between the northern and southern states: Manassas, Fredericksburg, Antietam, and Chancellorsville.

After exceptional Civil War service, Meagher was appointed Acting Governor of the Montana territory, where he died in mysterious circumstances in 1867.

But Thomas Francis Meagher isn’t the Montana capitol building’s sole link with Tasmania. When I was an undergraduate at the University of Tasmania in the mid-1960s, I was taught American government and politics by Dr Myron Tripp.

At times it seemed as though he began every second sentence of his lectures with the words, “When I was a member of the Montana state legislature”.

As a result, when I had the chance to visit Montana earlier this year and see the state legislature in session, I took advantage of the opportunity to research Myron Tripp’s career as a legislator in Montana.

Myron Tripp was born in Michigan in January 1917. After obtaining graduate degrees from Ohio State and Zurich, he completed a doctorate of jurisprudence at the University of Chicago prior to his appointment in June...
1948 to an assistant professorship (i.e., to the equivalent of a University of Tasmania lectureship) at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana. In November that year, the 31-year-old Dr Myron Tripp was elected as a Democrat to represent Yellowstone County in the Montana House of Representatives.

Prior to the 1970s, the Montana legislature met for only two months every second year, and Myron Tripp thus attended Montana’s 31st legislative assembly session in Helena from 3 January until 3 March 1949.

Following the 1948 elections (in which “Give-'em-hell” Harry S Truman had won the presidency somewhat against the odds for the Democrats), the Democratic Party also had a comfortable majority in the Montana House of Representatives, and Tripp was appointed Chairman of the House Committee on Constitutional Amendments.

Myron Tripp was an active legislator. He introduced, promoted, and supported a wide range of bills in the Montana legislature. Even in a Democratic-controlled House, however, Tripp was often unsuccessful.

Myron Tripp’s interest in constitutional affairs and government structures saw him sponsor a bill to turn the Montana legislature into “a unicameral assembly of not less than forty nor more than sixty members”. It failed, and – as Myron Tripp told his students in Tasmania – Nebraska is still the only American state with a single-chamber legislature.

Bills introduced by Tripp to prohibit discrimination by employers, to increase taxes on mining licences, and to stop “any person under eighteen years from entering or remaining in places where beer, wine or intoxicating liquor is sold” all failed to garner enough support.

On the other hand, Tripp’s support for including “disfigurement awards under the workmen’s compensation act”, and for establishing hours for the sale and consumption of liquor were successful.

When the 1949 Montana legislative session was over, however, Tripp was in for a major shock. His contract at Rocky Mountain College was terminated.

For years afterwards, Tripp contested this, claiming he had been discriminated against as a result of his beliefs. A political opponent of Tripp’s lent inadvertent weight to this when he “denied calling Tripp a Communist” but nevertheless said that Tripp was “too fanatical in working for prohibition and moral reforms”.

Seven years later – in mid-1956 – the American Association of University Professors concluded that “the termination of Professor Tripp’s services without due notice, in punishment for proper and well-conducted political activity, … was in violation of the principles of academic freedom and tenure”. It is, of course, somewhat ironic that three-and-a-half years after the AAUP published its opinions stemming from Tripp’s complaint, Tripp left the United States to teach at the University of Tasmania – where the Orr case was still an open controversy of considerable proportions (and remained so until the 1966 settlement between Sydney Sparkes Orr and the University).

After losing his college post in Billings, Tripp was appointed Superintendent of Schools in Neihart, Montana, in March 1950, and in November of that year he was re-elected to the Montana House of Representatives – again as a Democrat, but representing Cascade County instead of Yellowstone.

The Montana legislature’s 32nd session was held over 58 days from 1 January to 1 March 1951. The Republicans were now in a majority in the House, and Myron Tripp lost his position as chairman of the Constitutional Amendments Committee.

Although he was appointed to the House Privileges and Elections Committee, it was an unimportant committee; and despite Dr Tripp’s expertise in the field of workers’ compensation and his success in this field during the 31st session of the Montana state legislature, he could not even win a seat on the House Committee on Workmen’s Compensation during the legislature’s 32nd session.

Over and over again in the 1951 legislative session, bills supported by Myron Tripp failed to get back onto the floor of the House. He supported legislation to “discharge pauper prisoners”; to increase the “amount of old age assistance”; to ensure that “eight hours shall constitute a day’s work”; to regulate the activities of lobbyists; to license people making loans; and to control liquor licensing. None of these bills passed.

Myron Tripp’s career as member of the Montana state legislature finished at the end of the state’s 32nd legislative session on 1 March 1951. A short while later, he left his post in Neihart and moved to Ohio, where his mother was seriously ill. Always a deeply religious man, Tripp taught himself a host of examples to draw on as a lecturer in Political Science at the University of Tasmania. During the six years he spent in Tasmania, he would always illustrate what he was talking about in class with colourful and pertinent examples.

More than 40 years after I first met Myron Tripp, I’m currently teaching an American government and politics course at the Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. I know that if I’d had practical experiences of politics like those that Myron Tripp had, they would undoubtedly inform my teaching too.

Professor Nigel Roberts graduated in 1967 with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Tasmania, where he majored in Political Science and English. After graduate studies at the University of Essex in England, he moved to New Zealand in January 1970 to teach at the University of Canterbury, and since 1981 has taught at the Victoria University of Wellington.

Professor Nigel Roberts graduated in 1967 with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Tasmania, where he majored in Political Science and English. After graduate studies at the University of Essex in England, he moved to New Zealand in January 1970 to teach at the University of Canterbury, and since 1981 has taught at the Victoria University of Wellington.
Cherie Copper

Former UTAS student, Dr Bryony Coleman, was recently awarded a Victoria Fellowship, which is a Victorian State Government prize given to emerging leaders in engineering, science or technology.

Dr Coleman completed a BSc [Biochemistry 1997-1999] and BSc(Hons) [Neuroscience, under Prof James Vickers, 2000] at the University of Tasmania, before moving to Victoria to complete her PhD in Auditory Neuroscience and Stem Cell Biology at the University of Melbourne (2003-2007).

She will use her Fellowship to develop techniques to restore the function of the auditory nerve which transmits sound information to the brain – by replacing the specialised cells that comprise the auditory neurons.

The Fellowship will see her complete an advanced training course at the Burnham Institute, La Jolla, before spending two months at Harvard University, Boston.

Dr Coleman also received a supplementary Fellowship from the Australian French Association for Science and Technology (Vic) and the Embassy of France, to facilitate science and technology to mutually benefit Victoria and France.

Her research offers hope for the 120,000 people worldwide using cochlear implants who, it is hoped, will be able to hear people speak more clearly and listen to music with more enjoyment.

Dr Coleman is conducting world-first research into improving cochlear implant function by rescuing auditory nerve cells from dying through stem cell therapy.

Her research has shown that stem cells placed in the inner ear have the potential to replace the nerve cells which are crucial for the cochlear implant to function.

Her work is extending two Melbourne research firsts: the cochlear implant (or bionic ear) which was invented in Melbourne by a team at Melbourne University led by Victoria Prize winner Professor Graeme Clark in 1978, and Monash University’s Alan Trounson and Martin Pera who were instrumental in developing the stem cell research field in Australia.

Dr Coleman, a Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne’s Department of Otolaryngology and Wagstaff Fellow at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, is one of six winners of the prestigious 2007 Victoria Fellowships. She received the award from the Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Kretser, AC, at a gala function at Government House.

UTAS graduate awarded Victoria Fellowship for research into auditory neuroscience
Cherie Copper

It’s been a long road from the rubble of Poland after World War II, to Tasmania and a distinguished career, but for Professor Richard Wielebinski, life turned a full circle when he was recently awarded one of his birth country’s highest honours for his work and research into a subject which had its beginnings on Mount Wellington.

After fleeing the horrors of the Second World War and spending 10 years seeking sanctuary in numerous countries, the Wielebinski family found themselves in a displaced persons camp in Germany, which led to migration to Australia.

The young Richard Wielebinski not only found stability and security with life in Tasmania, as he struggled with a new language and way of life, but excelled in his education and passed the Matriculation examination in 1953 with a University of Tasmania Entrance Scholarship.

He studied Electrical Engineering, completing the Bachelor of Engineering degree with First Class Honours in 1957, and was also awarded the Alan Burn Prize for the best examination result of the whole Faculty of Engineering.

However, it was a chance encounter while Professor Wielebinski was engaged as an engineer to work out the effects of electromagnetism on the about-to-be-built Mount Wellington television tower that set the course of his extraordinary life.

He met Grote Reber, the pioneer of radio astronomy, who happened to be visiting Tasmania at the time, who recommended Professor Wielebinski join the radio astronomy group of Prof. Martin Ryle (Nobel Prize 1974) in the Cavendish Laboratory.

The rest, as they say, is history. Professor Wielebinski has enjoyed a long and very distinguished career in both Europe and Australia, and has been presented with numerous awards, namely the Foreign Membership of the Polish Academy of Science (1991), Doctor of Science honoris causa degree of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Poland (1993), the Max-Planck-Research prize (1992) as well as the Copernicus award of the Polska Akademja Umiejentnosci in Kraków (1995).

Professor Wielebinski was a Guest Professor in Buenos Aires (1981) and is at present Guest Research Professor at the National Astronomical Observatory of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing (2004). The Academia de Ciencias de Granada elected him as Académico Correspondiente (2006).

Perhaps though, the most fitting accolade for such an outstanding career was the most recently awarded degree of Doctor honoris causa of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland (2007).
Professor Allan Clark, an expert in physics and Director of the Department of Particle Physics at the University of Geneva in Switzerland, has come an extremely long way for someone who never really liked physics at school.

In fact, Professor Clark, who currently works in the second largest Physics Department in Switzerland, has been involved with Nobel Prize winning research and is currently heading a massive project aimed at observing a previously unseen particle called the Higgs boson.

His courteous, relaxed and friendly manner hides a steely resolve and determination to succeed, so it was hardly surprising that when physics presented itself as a challenging subject in his student days, Professor Clark simply worked harder to master the subject.

“Physics is a very challenging subject and I actually performed better in the other areas of study,” he said.

“But I liked physics and realised that it had a fundamental basis, which appealed to me and I persevered, which, of course, one has to do to succeed in such a challenging field.”

Born in Launceston, Tasmania, Professor Clark graduated in 1968 from the University of Tasmania with a Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours in Physics. He then went on to gain his PhD at the University of Oxford, England, in 1972.

Professor Clark works at CERN, the Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire, or European Council for Nuclear Research. Founded in 1954, CERN is the world’s largest particle physics centre of study and is situated close to Geneva, where Professor Clark holds the Chair of Nuclear and Particle Physics at the university. It has the distinction of being the centre where researchers created what is now known as the World Wide Web, and even featured in Dan Brown’s novel Angels and Demons.
There is a strong focus on sciences at the University of Geneva and Professor Clarke said the institution has excellent departments of Chemistry, Physics and Medicine.

Physics might seem to be filled with concepts too complicated or lofty to be grasped by the layman but Professor Clark's expertise is such that he can readily elucidate the essential basis of physics to those around him.

He explains the difference in the fundamental particles of the standard model of physics by alluding to things to which the layman can relate such as electro-magnetism, electricity and light, sharing his enthusiasm for grasping the complexities of the physical world by first understanding the simple interactions between the most fundamental particles of matter. It is clear, however, that to Professor Clark, an understanding of these simple interactions is the key to understanding the bigger picture.

“It is important to study these things as they are the fundamental interactions which govern our lives and, given the complexities of life, we try to simplify it as much as possible.

“It is also important to grasp the rules which exist concerning the evolution of the universe.

“At the other end of the spectrum, away from everyday things like electricity and light, is the idea of the study of what the universe looked like when it began.”

From the most basic and obvious elements of our everyday lives to the mind-bending idea that scientists are able to see how the universe looked seconds after it began, physics is undoubtedly an area for the highly skilled intellect.

Professor Clark certainly fits this mould. In the current research he is conducting at CERN, he heads a team of around 65 researchers, who are working on a nuclear accelerator aimed at observing the Higgs Boson.

The Higgs Boson is a hypothetical massive scalar elementary particle predicted to exist by the standard model of particle physics. But the Higgs Boson has never actually been seen.

If Professor Clark and his team at CERN succeed in observing the previously unseen Higgs particle (which he predicts will occur in the coming months) then the team's research will have a profound impact on our knowledge of how the universe has cohesion.

“The mechanism is called the Higgs Mechanism, named after Peter Higgs from the University of Edinburgh who developed the model, and in its simplest form it involves the existence of a single Higgs particle,” he said.

This has become the Holy Grail, if you like, of particle physics! It is a major reason for developing the new collider (the Large Hadron Collider, a new particle accelerator and collider) which is being built at CERN, and the ATLAS experiment.

The ATLAS experiment is one of two experiments that will be constructed around the new accelerator, which will have the capacity of seeing the previously unseen Higgs particle.

Professor Clark and his team started work on the ATLAS experiment and on the Large Hadron Collider in the early 1990s. To begin, they needed first to design the ATLAS experiment, which led to a period of research and development before the experiment was finally approved.

'It has been a very large, long, and complex program, but we are almost at the point of collecting and analysing our first data, reviewing the experiment, and then going on to find the Higgs, if it exists,' Professor Clark said.

Professor Clark remembers his student days at UTAS in the late 1960s with great affection and attributes his love of physics and success to the great teachers and a great department which gave him the tools to continue his studies.

“I remember very much my teachers in the Department of Physics and I appreciate that time enormously - the University of Tasmania has grown and changed so much, I'm very impressed by it,” he said.

Professor Clark recalled the inspirational quality of the teaching he received and said he tries to teach in a similar manner.

When he isn't working, Professor Clark enjoys exploring the wilderness of Switzerland.

“It's very pleasant, although these days one doesn't have too much time - one of my favourite pastimes is walking in the mountains and the other favourite pastime is sailing.

“We have very good conditions in Geneva for sailing; of course the Atlantic Ocean is not too far away from Geneva so they are my two main passions at present,” he said.

Allan has three valuable points of advice for young aspiring scientists, which he imparted at one of the August graduation ceremonies at UTAS. Firstly, he believes that
the developments in communication technology make it easier for people in a place such as Tasmania to become world leaders ... or to become fully knowledgeable about their chosen areas of study without moving away.

“Travel is so much easier now than it was in my day and this must be an advantage for any aspiring young scientist - you can do really good things wherever you are," he said.

The second thing is perseverance.

“If you're going to be good at something you're going to have lots of ups and downs and you've got to be flexible; so when things are down and you're trying to go through a problem, keep smiling and keep at it.”

The third part of Allan’s sound advice is that no matter what stage of your career you are at, human relations play an important role. Allan stresses the importance of maintaining a collaborative attitude in this complex age of technology, whether it is engineering or science.

“Learn from others and respect the abilities of others - there are a lot of very smart people in this world and one must respect them," he said.

Allan said his career highlight so far has been when he worked within the UA2 Collaboration, under the leadership of a French physicist called Darriulat.

The group’s research led to the Nobel Prize for Carlo

Rubbia and Simon Van der Meer, and was according to Allan "an extremely exciting period, a very tough period and a very enjoyable period".

No doubt his relaxed, yet hardworking and gregarious attitude has helped Professor Allan Clark get where he is today, as a major player of one of physics' most exciting projects.
The UTAS School of History & Classics Dr Kate Brittlebank made a startling discovery when she went on the hunt for the collector of an album of 19th century Indian Kalighat-style paintings.

"I was researching this album that’s in the Berndt Museum of Anthropology [at the University of Western Australia], and they have these 19th century paintings called Kalighat paintings," she said.

Kalighat paintings are watercolours and are all roughly 26 x 45 cm in size. Kalighat, as well as being a style of painting, is a Hindu religious site in Calcutta in India. The paintings were produced quickly on thin paper and sold to eager tourists and pilgrims as bright, attractive souvenirs.

As their name implies, they were produced in Calcutta, capital of British India and in the late 19th century a booming metropolis.

"I was trying to find out the history of the album prior to its coming into the Museum," Dr Brittlebank explained.

She then began to think about their origins and how she might deduce more information.

"I had a feeling that these paintings had probably originally been collected by missionaries in India in the 19th century. "I then tried to identify the handwriting on the paintings which was all written by the same person - so it seemed that whoever had collected these paintings decided to write the inscriptions on them."

Dr Brittlebank identified the handwriting and was astonished by the unexpected Hobart connection she uncovered.

"I made contact with the person in charge of the Baptist archives in the Morris Miller library - I said to him, I would like to check to see if you have a sample of the handwriting of Lily Soundy."

Lily Soundy was one of the first Baptist missionaries to be sent from Hobart to India.

“He told me he had her bible, and she’d written in the front of it - when I looked at the annotations in the bible I realised it was actually the same handwriting.

“We were both really amazed … all the other bits of information sort of fitted together - the album itself had actually ended up in Adelaide, it was just an astonishing coincidence," she said.

Dr Brittlebank was led to think the mystery inscriber may have been a Baptist because the first missionaries were sent from South Australia and Adelaide where the album was found.

“Lily Soundy was from a Baptist family and was one of the first missionaries from Hobart.

"She was the sister of one of the early Lord Mayors of Hobart, I believe, and they were a significant family."

The Baptist lady missionaries worked with the women in India because the men could not go into the women's quarters. These ladies went specifically to work with Hindu and Muslim women, with the aim of converting them to Christianity but without much success. They trained in Melbourne and then sailed to India.

Tragically, when Lily travelled to Darjeeling there was a landslide and she witnessed the devastation that followed.

“There were children killed and she was very distressed by this - it appears she had some kind of nervous breakdown and came back to Hobart to recover," Dr Brittlebank said.

As well as being a lecturer in Asian History, with training in 18th century Indian history, Dr Brittlebank has also completed a degree in art curatorship, which no doubt helped with her fact-finding mission.

“As a historian, you are of course a detective too," Dr Brittlebank said.

In this case Dr Brittlebank’s skilful detective work has certainly paid off, as her findings have been published in the JAASA Review: The Journal of the Asian Arts Society of Australia, and in The Journal of the History of Collections, published by the Ashmolean Museum in Britain. 🌺
On her birthday in May 2007 Fiona Lee set out on a journey to Paris as the second Marie Edwards Travelling Scholar in Visual Arts, Craft and Design. The trip was well overdue. After ten years of studying at the UTAS School of Art Lee felt she needed to broaden her experience and venture out to other places. Previous travel opportunities were always thwarted, she laments, with “financial constraints, family and finishing studies always seeming to get in the way”.

Eighteen months earlier Yvette Watt was sitting in a Hobart studio in a state of near total despair at how completely lost she felt with her PhD, wondering how she was going to get herself out of the deep, dark hole she had been in for months with her research and her work in general. It was the offer of a Marie Edwards Travelling Scholarship that liberated and inspired them both. Watt describes the scholarship as “an offering from the Gods”, knowing two months in Paris would be a fantastic opportunity and a great way to help break the back of the terrible creative drought she had been experiencing.

The Marie Edwards Travelling Scholarship honours Tasmanian painter Marie Edwards, and is funded from an endowment of her personal collection of paintings and drawings donated by Edwards to UTAS. Professor Noel Frankham from the Tasmanian School of Art says “astute collectors of Tasmanian art already appreciate Marie Edwards’ work and her contribution to fine arts. This generous gift further demonstrates Marie’s commitment to Tasmania’s creative community, well beyond her own life”.

Edwards’ career as a painter spanned four decades, resulting in a significant body of paintings and drawings, and establishing her as a notable Tasmanian artist. During this period she travelled widely, including undertaking a number of focused study tours to Europe, the Americas and the Pacific. She considered travel critical for widening the experience and development of any artist.
While her scholarship supports travel for postgraduate students to any international destination, the first two recipients both chose to spend the majority of their trip at the Rosamond McCulloch studio in Paris. This UTAS-owned studio is part of the Cité Internationale des Arts, a complex of over 300 artists’ studios, housing visual artists, writers, musicians, film makers and architects from around the world. The McCulloch studio is on the first floor of a charming 17th century apartment building, located in the Marais district, and central to all the major galleries and museums, as well as Notre Dame and Place de la Bastille and the majestic Seine.

When Watt arrived in Paris it was just after 8am on a cold, winter’s morning and the sun would not come up for another half hour. In true Parisian romance she bundled herself and her bags into the first open café she could find, keeping warm until the Cité opened. Over the next couple of weeks she read, pondered, made notes and sketches as well as braving the cold of Paris in winter as she walked to galleries and museums, getting a feel for the place.

For Lee the trip was a fantastic opportunity to see modernist pioneers like Matisse and Picasso as well as those in the modern collections such as Bourgious and Matta-Clarke. Lee made the main aim of her trip a devotion to more contemporary art experiences. She also involved herself in Cité life by going to concerts on Tuesday evenings, attending receptions, taking French lessons and exhibiting at the Cité Gallery. Artists at the Cité are invited on a regular basis to show in the Cité Internationale des Arts collective exhibition. Watt described the invitation as “a great opportunity to show my work to a new audience and having such a pressing deadline motivated me to start a series of new works for this exhibition”. She produced a total of 16 new works on paper, and believes “the process of making these works was instrumental in ending a long and unproductive period”.

Lee knew accepting the invitation to exhibit would require a short response work and something outside her field (small wall-based works), but she explained “the exhibition would be a once in a lifetime opportunity so I decided to make a quick work of daily diaristic thoughts I had already started the day I arrived in Paris. Called a’jourdoui … today - with wrought iron, part of the pattern of the city, drawn at the top of the work”.

Lee was also fortunate enough to accompany Australian curator Bryony Nainby to the Venice Biennale as well as accepting an invitation to visit the huge War Memorial at Villers Bretonneux that commemorates the Australian troops of World War I. Since this visit Lee has received an informal offer to participate in an art project at the new visitors’ centre that will be attached to the memorial.

Watt had two very special appointments while in Paris, which she organised on the ground. The first involved taking photographs of the displays of taxidermied animals at the Museum of Natural History. Normally it is not possible to use a tripod or a flash to take photographs at the Museum and the low light used in the Museum makes taking sharp, detailed photographs extremely difficult. However she secured special permission to take photographs using her tripod on the one day of the week when the public isn’t allowed into the Museum. These photographs will be used as the basis of a series of artworks to be produced at a later date.

**Marie Edwards** showed in solo and group exhibitions across Australia. She was born in 1925 in Stanley, Tasmania. In 1973 Edwards was awarded a Diploma of Fine Art from the School of Art at the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education.

In 1995 a major retrospective of Edwards’ work took place in the Long Gallery, Hobart. Her works are held by the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, the University of Tasmania Fine Arts Collection and numerous private collections throughout Australia and overseas.

**Fiona Lee**’s current practice explores identity and its association with ornamentation. She is an MFA graduate of the UTAS School of Art having specialised in architectural history and theory, printmaking and art theory. Lee is currently the Touring Officer for Contemporary Art Services Tasmania (CAST).

**Yvette Watt** is a Hobart based artist whose practice spans more than 20 years. Her work is held in many important public and private collections including Parliament House, Canberra; Artbank; Art Gallery of WA and the Kerry Stokes Collection.

She holds a Master of Fine Art and Design completed in 2003 and is currently studying toward a PhD in Fine Art at the Tasmanian School of Art, University of Tasmania.
Her second appointment was at the Department of Graphic Arts at the Louvre, where she was able to secure permission to study a number of drawings by the 17th century French painter, Charles le Brun, in which he compared human physiognomy with that of a variety of animals.

This was an extraordinary experience, explains Watt. “I was taken into a large, ornate, high-ceilinged study room in the Louvre, where I joined another three scholars, all of us seated at one of a number of reading tables. Here I was delivered two enormous volumes, bound in 1803 for Napoleon.”

“It was an extraordinary experience to be able to turn the sketchbook pages, which were glued down one side only, to see other sketches on the backs of the pages. I was there four hours, carefully turning the old pages to reveal more and more of this amazing body of work”, she said.

Watt spent the last five days in Berlin at the Museum of Natural History exploring “some wonderful dioramas depicting animals in their ‘natural’ settings” and making the most of the Berlin Biennial for Contemporary Art.

She said “this was quite an adventure, with one exhibition taking place on a part of the old East Berlin Wall”. To view the exhibition, Watt explained, one bought a ticket and map at the first venue and made one’s way to each venue, including private apartments (some rather run-down), an old decaying ballroom, old postal stables, an abandoned Jewish girls school and a cemetery.

The final gallery Watt went into in Berlin before leaving for home brought her full circle. The gallery was showing the work of Sarah Ryan, a colleague who had completed her PhD at the Tasmanian School of Art in 2002. And there, to her astonishment Watt saw a lenticular photograph of the Rosamond McCulloch studio in Paris.

“With this fitting conclusion to a fantastic 9 weeks away I headed back to Tasmania, filled with a new-found enthusiasm for my work and my PhD”, she said.

The most positive outcomes from this scholarship for Lee were the confidence she gained as a result of seeing other international artists’ work and the valuable contacts she made which, as a result, have led to future collaborations.

Watt reflects “the opportunity to focus exclusively on one’s work in such a stimulating environment and without many of the prosaic distractions of day-to-day life cannot be underestimated in its importance. Without any doubt, the time I spent in Paris and Berlin will continue to filter down into my work for years to come”.

At the opening of the second Marie Edwards Travelling Art Exhibition in October 2007 Lee told invited guests this scholarship firmly bridges the geographical distance imposed on Australia. “It’s invaluable in giving Tasmanian artists exposure to international art and experience”, she said. Lee explained how the scholarship-funded trip provided a special time when she could think alone about her practice and decipher in her mind where it should go, as well as helping locate her work in some sort of international context. “My stay in Paris not only became a process of investigation but of self-reflection”, said Lee.

The Marie Edwards Art Gift Online Exhibition raises funds to grow the Marie Edwards Travelling Scholarship endowment. Work in the exhibition can be viewed and purchased online at www.utas.edu.au/foundation/marieedwards or phoning 03 6226 2053.
The University of Tasmania Foundation wishes to thank everyone who generously supported our 2006 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.

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| Mrs Jennifer Byrne           | Dr Anthea Hill                |
| Mr Roger Campbell            | Mr Anthony Hogg               |
| Mr John Carey                | Mr Ian Howie                  |
| Professor David Caro         | Dr Robinson Jacklyn           |
| Mr Roger Carrington          | Mrs Aileen Jenkins            |
| Miss Lucy Carter             | Emeritus Professor Bruce Johnson |
| Prof Wah Soon Chow           | Mr Anthony Jones              |
| Dr Philip Clarke             | Mr Ian Jones                  |
| Dr Peter Clezy               | Mr Kee Yew Kan                |
| Ms Penny Cocker              | Mr Michael Kats               |
| Ms Ingrid Colman             | Mr Nigel Kidd                 |
| Mr Philip Crisp              | Dr Geoffrey Lancaster         |
| Mrs Zara Darling             | Professor Francis Larkins     |
| Dr Peter Davis               | Professor Alec Lazenby        |
| Mrs Andrea Dean              | Mrs Ann Lazenby               |
| Mrs Anne Dicker              | Mr Anthony Le Clerc           |
| Ms Michelle Dixon            | Mr John Lennard               |
| Mrs Gladys Dodson            | Mr Donald Lennox              |
| Dr Janet Dunbabin            | Dr Donald Martin              |
| Mrs Helen Dunford            | Mr John Matthews              |
| Mrs Thu Nga Duong            | Dr Christobel Mattingley     |
| Mr John Evans                | Ms Judith McKernan            |
| Dr Roderick Ewings           | Mr Barry McNeill              |
| Reverend Dr Robert Faser     | Ms Mary McNeill               |
| Mr Michael Fenton            | Mrs Bronwen Meredith          |
| Mrs Margaret Fitze           | Dr Kenneth Milton             |
| Dr William Flux              | Mr Neil Moore                 |
| Ms Carol Fuller              | Ms Sylvanie Morgan            |
| Mrs Alison Gaden             | Mr Leon Morell                |
| Mr Donald Gaffney            | Dr John Morris                |
| Mr Richard Gardner           | Anonymous                     |
| Dr Dennis Gibbings           | Mr Patrick O’Brien            |
| Mr Peter Gorman              | Miss Margaret Price           |
| Mr Richard Gould             | Mr Peter Ramshaw              |
| Mrs Anne Rand                | Dr Keith Reeve                |
| Mrs Kaye Rickwood            | Mrs Helen Rolton              |
| Dr Timothy Rowlands          | Anonymous                     |
| Anonymous                    | Miss Kaye Saunders            |
| Dr Martin Scurrab            | Anonymous                     |
| Dr David Seymour             | Miss Elizabeth Smith          |
| Dr Barrie Thistethwayte      | Mr Lindsay Whitham            |
| Ms Clare Thompson            | Mr Anthony Wilson             |
| Miss Margaret Thwaites       | Mr John Wilson                |
| Dr Craig Timms               | Dr Tania Winzenberg           |
| Mr Jeffrey Townsend          | Mrs Dennis Wood               |
| Mr Peter Tucker              | Miss Norma Youd               |
| Miss Edith Varga             | Mr Gregory Webster            |
| Anonymous                    | Mrs Barbara Weisslog          |
| Dr Barrie Thistethwayte      | Mrs Kathryn Westwood          |
| Ms Clare Thompson            | Mr Lindsay Whitham            |
| Miss Margaret Thwaites       | Mr Anthony Wilson             |
| Anonymous                    | Mr John Wilson                |
| Dr Craig Timms               | Dr Tania Winzenberg           |
| Mr Jeffrey Townsend          | Mrs Dennis Wood               |
| Mr Peter Tucker              | Miss Norma Youd               |

Tax deductible donations can now be made to support our 2007 Annual Appeal. Phone the Development Officer 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).
Commercialisation of research outcomes is a highly specialised field involving finance, spin-off company establishment, product development, market research, sales/marketing and most importantly intellectual property management and development.

Richard Gerathy

Like many universities, the University of Tasmania has a world-class research and development program, stretching across all schools and faculties. It comes as no surprise then that much of this great work has the potential to be taken to global markets, significantly adding to the economic wealth of Australia and Tasmania in particular.

Commercialisation of research outcomes is a highly specialised field involving finance, spin-off company establishment, product development, market research, sales/marketing and most importantly intellectual property management and development. Enter UTAS Innovation, the University’s commercial company, founded in January 2005 to assist researchers with taking potentially lucrative research outcomes to market.

To fulfill this demanding role, UTAS Innovation has a range of services backed by a commercial board and experienced management team.

The UTAS Innovation Board, most of whom are UTAS Alumni members include Val Smith (Chairman), Michael Kent, Ewan Hills, Dr Julian Amos and Bob Gozzi.

The management team of UTAS Innovation consists entirely of University of Tasmania graduates headed by CEO, Tony Baker, with Phillipa Ormandy holding the position of General Manager IP, Richard Atkins, Legal Council and Company Secretary and Rex Dwyer, Chief Financial Officer.

UTAS Innovation has been very successful during its short life, with 94, local, national and international consulting and contract research projects under management, valued at $4.25 million. In addition there have been two spin-off companies launched and two commercial licences granted.

In March this year, an international licence was granted to UK based on-line medical delivery company, Multi-ed-Medical, for the commercial use of “Medsafety”, a revolutionary on-line medication safety application developed by the School of Pharmacy’s clinical research group, UMORE.
Want to keep your career moving ahead? Consider postgraduate study at UTAS

Part-time MBA student Nick Proud is currently working in Branch Management at the Housing Industry Association and is in his final semester of the MBA. “Over the past six years the MBA has consistently provided structured learnings which complemented my career goals,” he said.

“As a postgraduate UTAS alumnus with a Commerce degree, the MBA course came at a discount which certainly was an incentive to continue with further education, which for me has been a thoroughly rewarding experience.”

Whether you need to update your qualifications to climb the corporate ladder, extend your area of expertise to move into a new field or would simply like to study for pleasure, the University of Tasmania’s extensive postgraduate coursework program provides the impetus to keep your career moving in the right direction.

Not only will you develop new skills and knowledge, postgraduate study can also open up new social and professional networks, giving you the opportunity to learn from fellow classmates from a wide range of industries.

At UTAS, postgraduate coursework programs are available across all faculties, with the majority following a standard three-step structure: Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Master Qualifications. This structure allows students to undertake the full Master program, or to opt for a shorter program while still achieving a postgraduate qualification. In most cases students can also choose to study full-time or part-time, allowing a balance with work and family commitments.

While many people embarking on a course of postgraduate study choose to upgrade their existing qualification in the same discipline as their bachelor degree, there is also a growing number of people undertaking study to diversify and open up new opportunities.

Courses available at UTAS without a discipline specific pre-requisite include Master of Business Administration, Criminology and Corrections, International Politics, Journalism, Information Management, Professional Accounting, Antarctic and Southern Oceans Studies, Computing, Environmental Planning and Environmental Management.

Semester 1 starts on 25th February 2008, or new students may wish to take advantage of the range of units available in summer school and get their qualification under way as soon as possible. UTAS applications are now able to be completed online at www.utas.edu.au/apply. Prospective students wishing to find out more about the range of coursework programs can contact the UTAS Graduate School on 1300 366 575.

Whether you were with us a year ago or 20, UTAS welcomes the opportunity to work with you to fulfil your next learning goals.
Commerce graduate Tiina-Liisa Sexton, has been flying high in the corporate world since she left UTAS. Tiina-Liisa is currently the national Professional Standards Adviser for accounting body CPA (Certified Practising Accountant) Australia, a position she has held for the past seven years. Prior to that, Tiina-Liisa was Technical Adviser to CPA Australia’s Ethics and Corporate Governance Centre of Excellence from 1996. She is also a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, a Fellow of the Taxation Institute of Australia and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Tiina-Liisa is a current member of the Board of Hobart Water and she recently retired as a Director of Aurora Energy and Connect Financial.

In 2007 she was appointed as one of two representatives of CPA Australia on the ASX Corporate Governance Council. Her achievements in the area of corporate ethics over the past 11 years have been recognised through her appointments to important national and international ethics and governance boards and through her regular feature articles “Ethical Dilemma” published in CPA Australia’s national journal, In the Black.

Katrina Higgins

UTAS graduate Katrina M. Higgins was recently named director of the Academic Services Center in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) at the University of Connecticut in the USA.

Katrina oversees a staff that advises more than 12,000 undergraduate students majoring in the liberal arts and sciences at the University of Connecticut. She and her staff work with CLAS students to make sure they fulfil their degree requirements in one of the College’s 40-plus majors or in an individualised program.

Katrina currently lives in Hampton, Connecticut. She has a PhD in History from UTAS and was previously an international student adviser at Northfield Mount Hermon School in Northfield, Mass. She was a residence hall director at the University of Connecticut and an academic adviser in the Academic Services Center prior to being named director.

Shaun Bleathman – Tasmania’s top young accountant for 2007

Shaun Bleathman receives a buzz from helping others and knows that the skills bag he has gained from being a UTAS Commerce graduate and CPA gives him much to offer within the community.

‘It’s amazing the wide range of areas that one becomes expert in working in my field’, said Shaun. ‘All sorts of issues arise that you have to deal with’.

The 29 year-old from Launceston was recently awarded the inaugural Synateq-CPA Australia Young Accountant Award. The award acknowledges and recognises the outstanding achievements of those working in the accounting and finance professions who are under 35 years of age.

The judges were not only impressed with Shaun’s business and professional achievements but also by his willingness to volunteer his expertise to assist community-based organisations. Shaun, for instance, has now provided accountancy services to South Launceston’s Pedder Patter Child Care Centre for five years.

‘Child care centres are obliged to comply with the obligations imposed by the regulatory and legislative framework and face the same commercial and business challenges as the private sector, but do not have the capital or resources to employ professional staff’, said Shaun. ‘Pedder Patter had been referred to me as a client and this was the perfect opportunity for me to give something back to the community’, he said.

Shaun is also on the Board of Directors of the Self Help Workshop at Youngtown in Launceston’s southern suburbs. The Self Help Workshop provides employment for people with disabilities. Shaun is keen to assist in the development of the business and in fund-raising activities.

Shaun is a partner and director of Newman & Associates Pty Ltd. He gained his Bachelor of Commerce degree, majoring in Accounting and Management, in 2000 and last year attained his public practice certificate after completing a residential training program. He has also completed a Diploma of Financial Services (Financial Planning).

Shaun completed the last year of his degree part-time whilst working in an accountancy practice. He feels that this gave him a head start in his career. He pays tribute to his business partner Phillip Newman, and external consultant Peter Bushby, who mentored him, assisted him with his studies, and gave him tremendous support. He also pays tribute to some of the fantastic lecturers he had at UTAS.
Allan Taylor 1941-2007

Tributes have poured in from the highest echelons of politics, the diplomatic corps and academia for the late Alan Taylor, AM, an outstanding UTAS student who went on to carve out a highly distinguished career.

The Prime Minister, Mr John Howard, and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Alexander Downer, both publicly expressed their sadness at the loss of the much respected public servant and diplomat who recently lost his battle with cancer.

Born in Wynyard, and raised in Launceston, Mr Taylor was educated at Launceston Church Grammar, before continuing on to the University of Tasmania. Whilst a student at UTAS Mr Taylor was an academic high achiever and was awarded the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship in 1963, which allowed him to study modern history at Oxford University.

On his return to Australia in 1966 he took up a position at the Department of External Affairs. He was a highly respected member of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for more than 30 years, being known for his discretion, intelligence and skilled work practices.

Mr Taylor’s first series of diplomatic postings included Islamabad in Pakistan, Bangkok and Jakarta. He then went on to lead the Australian investigation team in Jakarta when a crisis arose in Balibo, in which Indonesian troops killed five Australian journalists. Described as an intelligent, wise and discrete public servant, Mr Taylor went on to serve as Australian High Commissioner to Nigeria. He also served as Australian High Commissioner in Papua New Guinea and became Australian ambassador to Indonesia.

From 1998 to 2003 he was Director-General of the Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS). His valuable involvement with ASIS included contributing to the official documentation which lays out the role of the Service. He also made the Service more accountable and its power to execute covert paramilitary activity was abolished under his leadership.

From 2004 until his illness forced him to step down, Mr Taylor was Chairman of the Australia-Indonesia Institute where he worked to promote acceptance and tolerance between Muslims and Australians. He was also a member of the National Archives of Australia Advisory Council.

His sound judgement and particular brand of charm and tact will be sorely missed, but his insightful decisions and work in the service of the nation and its people will live on.

Mr Taylor is survived by his wife Carol and their three sons Duncan, Chris and Richard.

Denistoun Henry Foster 1924-2007

Denis Foster was a man of many varied skills. Attending Saint Virgil’s College as a lad he showed signs of the greatness he would achieve consistently during his life. He matriculated in 1940 as dux of the school as well as senior athletics champion.

Mr Foster went on the University of Tasmania where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in 1943. He was later awarded a Commonwealth research grant, with which he completed his Master of Science degree thesis on the topic of acid hydrolysis in Tasmanian timber.

Mr Foster joined the RAAF for air crew training in 1945 and was categorised as a pilot. He married Helen Mitchell in March of 1947 and in April of the same year joined the CSIRO Forest Products Division in Melbourne. Mr Foster was also one of the founding members of the Australian Pulp and Paper Industry Association.

In 1952 he became the chief research chemist, and later the chief chemist of the Sugar Research Institute going on to become Deputy Director of the Institute. His significant work at the Institute helped to improve and refine the methods used by the sugar industry. A prolific writer of journal articles and conference presentations, his influence stretched to sugar industry forums internationally where he made valuable contributions to research and knowledge in the field.

He retired in 1985 but remained active and influential in the sugar industry and took on the role of honorary secretary of the Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists. He was later made a life member of the organisation.

Among his other numerous achievements, Mr Foster was President of Mackay Society of Sugar Mills Chemists, a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (as well as chairman for two years of the north Queensland section) and a member of the Mackay Agricultural Show Society, of which he was also a trustee for many years. He had many hobbies that made use of his keen intellect. He loved golf, sailed competitively, and was a craftsman who constructed four boats and built his first home, furnishing it with pieces he built himself.

Mr Foster is survived by his wife Helen and his five daughters, three sons and 25 grandchildren.

John Albert Taylor 1933-2007

John Taylor was a leading lawyer and tax planner, as well as an outstanding sportsman, but his fascination with Aboriginal culture and language is his lasting legacy. Born in Hobart, Mr Taylor completed his Bachelor of Laws (Hons)
VALE

at the University of Tasmania in 1956 before beginning work as a solicitor with the Hydro.

He then established a career in private practice as a partner with the firm Bushby, Taylor and Griffiths and Archer Bushby in Launceston until his retirement in 1999. He was President of the Tasmanian Bar Association, Chairman of the Tasmanian Division of the Taxation Institute of Australia and a Fellow and National Councillor of the Taxation Institute of Australia. He also lived in, and advised, the Lesotho government on legal matters.

A keen sportsman, Mr Taylor represented Tasmania in senior men’s hockey as a player and vice captain. He went on to be selected in the Australian Universities hockey team. In later life he played bowls with the East Launceston Bowls Club and chess and became a keen bridge player. He was also an avid painter, gardener and outdoors person.

He was a foundation member of the Launceston Historical Society, secretary from 1997 to 2001 and a committee member from 2004 to 2005, as well as a member of the Tasmanian Working Committee of the Australian Dictionary of Biography from 2002 onwards.

From his father Albert Taylor, a New Zealand Rhodes Scholar and a Professor of English at the University of Tasmania, Mr Taylor received his introduction to the field of historical linguistics. In retirement, he dedicated much of his life to studying the history and languages of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people and pioneered research into Palawa (Tasmanian Aboriginal) place-names and Palawa languages. He had a significant number of publications to his credit including a contribution on Palawa languages to The Companion to Tasmanian History.

He was awarded a Master of Arts by UTAS in 2006 for his research on the Palawa languages. At the time of his death he was researching cultural evolution in Palawa societies for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Mr Taylor brought to his academic work a fierce, interrogative intelligence and a commitment to analytical rigour, but was not in any way precious about his research. Rather, he was a most generous and helpful scholar who contributed significantly to the academic and research culture of the University, and Riawunna in particular.

He is survived by his partner Margaret Duncan, and children Curtis, Johnny, Christine, Rebecca, Roscoe, Melanie and Penny.

Hytten biography now available at the e-store <https://www.utas.edu.au/alumni/eComm>

For the best part of 30 years, the author, Alf Hagger provided the intellectual leadership and delivered academic excellence in the Department of Economics at the University of Tasmania, where for most of that time he was a Reader in Economics. In his subsequent 25 years of “retirement”, Alf has been a prolific researcher and writer, continuing to provide exemplary professional leadership.

This book makes accessible the working and personal life of another remarkable economist who left his mark on Australian economics, the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian community. Barely out of his teens, Torleiv Hytten, a Norwegian, migrated to Australia in 1910. With extraordinary tenacity he overcame seemingly insuperable difficulties of life in his new country and went on to become Professor of Economics at the University of Tasmania, the economic advisor to the Bank of New South Wales and later Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania.

Don Challen - Secretary, Department of Treasury and Finance, Tasmania. August 2007
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