Chris Lilley and his Aussie Heroes
Message from the Editor

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to Sirius since I became Editor in 2002. It has been rewarding to foster communication between alumni and their University.

As an undergraduate at another university in the 1960s, I wished I could have gone to Macquarie – the ‘new, flexible, open-minded’ one (a refrain I have heard often in my interviews with alumni). But I’d been born a bit too soon. I did finally enrol, 25 years later, as a postgraduate. I also worked for Professor Di Yerbury in the Vice-Chancellor’s Office for ten years. So I feel I know the University well. Sirius was established in 1987 in Di’s first year of office. In the 42 issues published since, alumni from all walks of life have been featured. They provide a ready indicator of the influence and global reach of Macquarie graduates. Many more memorable stories could be told about alumni who quietly contribute to their professions and to society, in Australia and overseas.

This year another era began at Macquarie with the arrival of its fourth Vice-Chancellor, Professor Steven Schwartz. Whatever the shape of future communications with alumni, I’m sure there will be a continued strong commitment to alumni relations. But only alumni themselves can truly bring life to this process.

It’s your University. Remember its founding, enduring values. Support what it stands for. In this edition, two opportunities to be more involved are advertised: an upcoming Graduate Member vacancy on University Council (p.3), and places on the Standing Committee of Convocation (p.22). Chapters and networks are expanding too.

More than ever, high quality education is vital to building prosperity and well being for all peoples. I believe the most powerful advocates are those like you and me who have benefited from it themselves.

Wishing you well,

Bronwyn Duncan
Grad Dip Editing & Publishing Macq. 1991
from the Chair
of the Standing Committee of Convocation

The Federal Budget: some implications for higher education

The recent Federal Budget may have brought a significant increase in funding for higher education, but it is mostly directed to medical research, a new health and medical fellowships scheme, and new capital works and facilities for engineering and medicine deemed strategic areas. Little was identified for other areas of higher education.

The Government also decided to increase the amount of FEE-HELP for full fee paying students enrolled in both undergraduate and postgraduate studies in public and private universities. While this will make it easier for universities to fill their allocation of full-fee places, it does not address the issue of helping those from lower socio-economic backgrounds to gain access to higher education.

Pathways for entry to undergraduate studies still remain difficult for many students. Currently a significant percentage of Macquarie’s undergraduates seek paid work to support their continued enrolment.

In his strategic directions report to the University Council, Macquarie@50 (see p. 14), the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Schwartz, identified ‘improving social justice’ as one of three major goals (after research, the primary goal), to be pursued under his vision for the University. He has identified a number of strategies for widening participation in higher education of those from non-traditional groups, one being through new scholarships. This is an area where Macquarie’s alumni has already played a role, supporting several scholarships at the undergraduate level and, in 2005, offering a new Indigenous scholarship for postgraduate study.

It is thanks to the generous support of alumni that financial assistance of this kind is possible. We look forward to continuing to support the University’s endeavour to achieve social justice for all.

Pamela Kenny
BA ANU, Dip Tertiary Ed NE, MA Macq.

Vale Tedi Paul

We are saddened to report that former Chairperson of Macquarie Convocation Tedi Paul passed away in January this year in Queensland. Tedi graduated in 1980 with a BA in education and psychology and was a Member of University Council for three separate terms between 1977 and 1990. She was Chair of the Standing Committee of Convocation from 1983 to 1990 and a committed advocate of alumni involvement in University affairs and life. In 1991 she moved from Sydney to Brisbane to a senior training position in residential aged care. Tedi’s career in nursing and nurse education included a period as Head of Nursing at NSW TAFE and aged care was a special interest.
ALUMNI PROFILES  Five alumni tell us about their Macquarie memories and career progress…

Adam Hills

it’s all in the timing

Billy Connolly was the young Adam Hills’ favourite comedian: perfect timing, self-deprecation, and more than a little naughtiness.

By the time Adam graduated from Macquarie in 1991 with a BA (Communications), he was doing regular gigs at Sydney’s Comedy Store, wooing audiences with his nice-guy, inclusive routines punctuated by the bawdy.

This year his appearances at the Melbourne Comedy Festival drew review comments such as ‘nicest man in comedy’ and ‘positively uplifting celebration of life’.

There were also references to his use of ‘adult themes’. While some fans of the ABC TV series, Spicks and Specks, might have gasped at some of his Festival material, most of his audiences were left wanting more.

He’s not been dubbed ‘the comedy equivalent of happy pills’ for nothing.

These days Adam spends six months of the year overseas. He appears regularly at the UK comedy festival Chortles (where he won the 2004 best compère award). He’s been on the bill at the Montreal Comedy Festival for the past three years, did a pilot for an American network last year, and returns to the US later this year.

One of his most memorable gigs, he says, was the Aspen Comedy Arts Festival, where he rubbed shoulders with Eddie Izzard, Jim Carrey, Cheech and Chong, and Spinal Tap.

Growing up in Sydney’s Sutherland Shire, Adam left high school keen to study journalism and communications. Despite the one-hour-45-minute commute by public transport he opted for Macquarie over UTS.

‘Of all the people I remember from Macquarie, communications lecturer Carolyn Craig was a standout: lovely and encouraging,’ he recalls. ‘At one stage she asked me to write a piece on whether “pickle” is a funnier word “cucumber”.’

Alongside English, linguistics and psychology, Adam studied film and film-making, a hugely popular elective that fascinated him.

‘We got great practical experience. I use the core of what we learned all the time – scriptwriting, editing, production and so on.’

Fellow students included David Smidt (now an established author), Miguel Ayessa (Australian rock vocalist who starred as Richie Valens in the Buddy Holly theatre production), Kirsten Galliott (deputy art editor on the Sunday Life magazine of The Sunday Herald) and Rob Johnson (author and editor).

As well as stand-up comedy, to help support himself through university Adam turned to tennis coaching – in itself not unusual, until you take into account his prosthetic foot.

Because Adam had not lost his right foot in an accident – it was just missing at birth – he takes his unusual difference as simply a fact of life. Indeed, he’s been working the foot – or lack of it – into his comedy routines for more than 11 years. His catalogue of foot-related jokes include ‘monopod’, ‘thinking on my foot’, and his favourite descriptor, ‘mutant’.

After graduation, Adam worked as a stagehand on Channel 9’s Midday Show.

‘I was shifting scenery while my friends were on camera,’ he recalls. ‘My main task was to make sure Ray Martin’s hair didn’t collapse and kill the guests.’

He subsequently landed an on-air job with the Today FM breakfast show and later was a program host on Adelaide SA FM.

Apart from his hugely popular solo performances, Adam has had guest spots on TV programs including Rove Live, The Fat and The Glass House.

Spicks and Specks, which premiered last year, brought him a larger, older and probably more conservative audience.

The show’s entertainment value doesn’t rest solely on an intimate knowledge of pop music history, but on the interplay and chemistry between ‘anchor’ panellists, comedian Alan Brough and Triple J broadcaster Myf Warhurst, celebrity panellists, and Adam as quipping quiz master.

The format pits two teams of music personalities and performers against each other. They attempt to identify records played by erratic bicycle-power, song titles from Pictionary-style drawings, and classic and hit tunes sung by panel guests with substitute lyrics from obscure publications.

Guest celebrities cross the whole musical spectrum, and have included Australian Idol winner Guy Sebastian, rock artists Jimmy Barnes and Frankie J Holden, jazz musician James Morrison, conductor Richard Gill, and classical pianist Simon Tedeschi.

The show thrives on the creative freedom offered by the ABC. But how does it achieve its apparently seamless ad-lib style? According to Adam it’s a mix of careful editing and hard work. ‘A lot goes into providing a safety net when you go off-script. We actually have to work really hard to make it all flow smoothly.’

Story: Janelle Murphy
Chris Lilley

finding the comedy of the year

Before *We Can Be Heroes – Finding the Australian of the Year* screened on the ABC last year, Chris Lilley was almost unknown. Today he’s recognised on the street.

A multi-talented writer-composer-performer, Chris, 30, is a bright new star of innovative television comedy whose sleeper hit series has won a raft of accolades and international audiences.

This year he won Best Male Comedy Performance in the international TV awards, the Rose d’Or. He’s also won two Logies – the Graham Kennedy Award for Most Outstanding New Talent and Most Outstanding Comedy Series – and the NSW State Premier’s Award for scriptwriting. Last year he was nominated for three AFI Awards.

The series (renamed *The Nominees*) has been sold to the US Sundance Channel, to Fox International Channels UK, TVNZ in New Zealand, and channels in Canada, Ireland and Finland.

It was great, and unexpected, Chris says, to get any awards, but he’s knocked out by the Rose d’Or, which attracts top international talent and is normally captured by British shows such as *Little Britain* and *The Office*.

Even more exciting for Chris, because it brings an enormous and discriminating audience, is the sale to the Sundance Channel. Sundance boasts 23 million US viewers and buys only the highest quality material.

The local audience for *WCBH* grew quickly over its run in July-August last year, largely by word of mouth. Before that, Chris was known mainly to a small stand-up and sketch comedy audience. His first TV break was on Channel 7’s *Big Bite* and *Hamish and Andy*, as the characters Extreme Darren and Mr G.

Not only a brilliant performer, Chris is also a true story teller, dramatising uncomfortable social and personal behaviour and controversial issues through the prisms of fantasy, parody and comedy. Each of his beautifully orchestrated *WCBH* characters are instantly recognisable: naïve, foul-mouthed private schoolgirl and charity queen Ja’mie King; disabled housewife-turned-elite-athlete Pat Mullins; deluded police ‘hero’ Phil Olivetti; Chinese PhD physics student and aspiring actor Ricky Wong; and twin farm boys Daniel and Nathan Sims. Behind them all is a huge amount of research on the mannerisms, language and motivations of real people.

Researching, writing, co-producing (with Laura Waters), co-directing (with Matt Saville) and performing all the main roles, Chris may even have invented a new genre. It’s parody, but directed and played as straight documentary. It’s an original take on mockumentary with the feel of a bizarre reality TV show. Viewers are drawn into the spell alongside the characters. Behind them lies a provocative but ultimately affectionate spirit. In the midst of savage comedy we feel uncomfortable for them, and at times compassionate. At another level we’re also pondering our own values. It’s a compelling brew.

‘With parody, the real test of whether you’ve got it right is when people from the original environment recognise it as real,’ says Chris.

*WCBH* must have passed that test, because characters from the show are now being quoted in schoolyards, coffee shops and on the street. Ricky Wong, for example, has been embraced by the Chinese community, many of whom volunteered as extras.

Chris’s love of improvisation has given *WCBH* much of its authenticity and edge. People who could improvise and come across as completely real were chosen for supporting roles.

So what makes this gifted *agent provocateur* of comedy tick creatively?

‘I’m really excited about inventing something and having lots of people experience the result. I want people to get into the fantasy, be entertained and inspired by it. I don’t want people to love me, I want them to love the material,’ says Chris, who’s no fan of the celebrity circuit.

Constant observation of people as characters and a desire to perform have marked Chris’s life since kindergarten. For years, he and a young friend were immersed in writing and performing their own fantasy TV soaps. At school, he impersonated teachers and did class talks in character.

Enrolling at Macquarie in 1993, he found a ‘whole new world, free and open-minded’, in contrast to his rather narrow private school experience.

‘I wanted to start afresh. It was a very exploratory stage of my life. Macquarie offered the subjects I wanted but also I just loved the whole uni experience. I constantly tell people how great Macquarie is – it’s the one to go to,’ he says.

Chris was there at the start of Macquarie’s new contemporary music programs. He studied education and teaching as well, but it was music he loved.
‘I’d done my own composing for years with no formal training. The music program was very experimental, and there was a great vibe, largely thanks to Richard Vella [founding lecturer and composer].’

Unsurprisingly, Chris became heavily involved in DRAMAC. ‘I did the comedy revues each year, and in 1995 wrote my own show – Heart Throbs – would you believe, about the Logies!’

After graduating BA Dip Ed in 1997, day jobs in retail and after school care kept him going while he started out in stand-up comedy. It was there that he developed memorable characters, eventually shooting a pilot with mates from Macquarie’s communications course. He sent it to Channel 7, who liked it, giving him his start in TV sketch comedy.

It may sound like a smooth path to success but the frustrations have been the same as for any, untested ideas.

‘It was pretty hard convincing the sceptics that something really different would work,’ says Chris. ‘I have a very clear vision of what I want. Mostly I’m allowed to get on with it, but sometimes people flip out, as with the Aboriginal content of Ricky’s story. I had to make some compromises to that.

‘I love the shoot itself, but also the editing process because you can get things just right. And I have great partners in Matt and Laura – they’re both involved creatively.’

WCBH is now the ABC’s top-selling DVD and in June the ABC launched the spin-off book, We Can be Heroes – The Journey, which reveals the characters’ backgrounds and their lives since the series went to air. Chris wrote the book essentially because, he admits, ‘I wasn’t ready to say goodbye to my characters.’

Like many artists who experience spectacular success with their first work, Chris is somewhat nervous about the new series he’s writing for the ABC. Once again he’ll perform multiple roles, but will also have a bigger directing role.

‘I didn’t want to rip off Heroes. I needed to do something completely new. It’s my own take on the mockumentary style, but set in one place – a school – and has lots of new characters,’ he says.

Story: Bronwyn Duncan

Gillian Levett

show biz entrepreneur, actor, teacher

Owner and director of the Australian Academy of Dramatic Art (AADA) in Surry Hills, Gillian Levett, has been in showbiz in one form or another for four decades.

Among Gillian’s Macquarie memorabilia is the wing window of the grey Mini Minor she drove to and from university. ‘Its 1967 parking sticker is still affixed. When it was time to sell the Mini my father actually bought a replacement window so I could keep the original as a reminder of those incredible times on campus.’

Having met with conflicting parental ambitions for her while growing up – father favoured acting, mother a more academic career – she hopes each might be satisfied today. At AADA, which she bought in 1999 and subsequently upgraded, she uses her teacher training, industry knowledge and acting background in what she calls ‘the hardest gig of my life.’

Modelled on the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, which trained actors such as Robert Redford and Spencer Tracy, AADA was the first NSW acting school to gain State vocational education accreditation. It offers courses to certificate and advanced diploma level, bringing the academy into line with major acting schools around the world.

After school and a year at NIDA, Gillian won a teaching scholarship to Sydney University but, she says, ‘Sydney was huge and Macquarie was just opening. I don’t often make perspicacious decisions but choosing Macquarie was a fabulous one.’

A student in the first undergraduate intake in 1967, Gillian was ‘one of 300 students on 300 acres of campus’. At that time most Schools boasted just one professor and one senior lecturer. The profs gave tutorials. ‘I remember my linguistics tutor, Professor Arthur Delbridge, talking about his early ideas for The Macquarie Dictionary,’ recalls Gillian.
‘It was the most extraordinary time to be at university. The credit point system Macquarie introduced was very flexible. You had to accumulate at least 18 points over two years, so, even if you passed none in one year you could catch up the next and still go on to graduate. When one of our friends reached 17 points in first year we put him in the fountain.’

Three mornings a week the Vice-Chancellor’s office was open to students. ‘We could knock on Professor Alex Mitchell’s door and ask for lights for the Drama Society. He kicked the first ball at the Rugby Club’s opening match. Round table conferences on issues were made up of equal numbers of academics, administrators and students. It was unique and revolutionary.’

Gillian set out to do a BA and Diploma in Teaching but there wasn’t much time for academic work in first year. She was foundation president of DRAMAC, a Film Society committee member, a Students’ Interim Council member and eventually Orientation Director and Cultural Affairs Officer.

‘We supported each other’s events. We arty types would go to football matches and the ‘rugger-buggers’ would come to films and plays. One of the highlights was the Lachlan Macquarie Hunt Club. I still have my $2 ticket to the first John Peel Ball in May 1967.’

It was also the time of red-wine-lubricated student debate, Woodstock, and heated discussions on drugs. ‘Drugs drove a wedge through student populations on most campuses. You were either for or against them. It was a defining time,’ she explains.

The Aquarius Board, the cultural arm of the national students’ union, had enormous clout in bringing top-line entertainers to Australia in the late 60s. National tours featured artists of the calibre of Dudley Moore and Peter Cook, and even Daddy Cool.

As Orientation Director in 1971 and 1972, it was literally ‘green field’ territory for Gillian. ‘We aimed to introduce every student to all aspects of campus life. I somehow persuaded a city restaurant, The Texas Tavern, into lending us a double decker bus they used to drop off late night customers. I found a student with a Class 3 licence to drive it. Every day we led a mystery tour of the campus with comic commentary and every night we returned the bus to the tavern.’

The amphitheatre and E7 courtyard were used for countless Orientation events. There were six packed tours a day of the new, small Library, to the amazement of Librarian Barry Scott. Schools organised barbecues where the professors cooked and students met them over sausages and onions.

As President of DRAMAC for five years Gillian co-wrote and directed the annual reviews, directed a production of Antigone, and acted in The Sport of My Mad Mother. She also trained at the Ensemble Theatre with Hayes Gordon, whom she describes as an extraordinary man, teacher and actor.

In 1971, a new graduate aged 23, Gillian became a partner in a major rock agency, whose bands included AC/DC, Dragon, Hush, Rose Tattoo, The Angels, Stevie Wright and Andy Gibb, among illustrious others. She later added a theatrical agency, signing actors such as AFI award winner Tony Martin and Lorrae Desmond. She sold the agency after the birth of her daughter, Sarah, and gave herself a year off ‘for good behaviour.’

In a career in which Gillian has always been her own boss, her next step was representing travelling ice shows. ‘I began skating as a child and was passionate about it. To me it’s more of an art than a sport and in the 1980s I was thrilled to write the program notes for Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean’s shows in Australia.’ She became an international judge and president of the National Ice Skating Association of Australia.

Her next big venture was founding The Comedy Agency, where she represented top comedians and became known as ‘The Queen of Comedy’. Her daughter Sarah now performs regularly as a stand-up comedian.

When purchasing AADA, Gillian also took over the old Pilgrim Theatre in Sydney, once used by the ABC for radio productions. ‘I like to think I might be treading the same boards as my father, who was an ABC radio actor in the 50s and 60s.’

The AADA curriculum includes business skills for the entertainment industry and stresses screen acting, which demands very different skills and discipline from theatre acting and provides over 80 percent of most actors’ professional income.

Gillian sends a strong message to her students. ‘Performers need much more than talent. They need drive, ambition, optimism, realism, hunger, mental toughness and above all, great self-discipline and a strong work ethic. We tell students this life isn’t a rehearsal and to treat every day as opening night.’

The message must be getting through. ‘Our most recent graduating class had 100 per cent take up by agents after their Showcase performances.’

Story: Janelle Murphy

Bridget can also claim a genetic predisposition for work on media topics. Her grandfather, James Griffen-Foley, was a founding member of the Australian Journalists Association, and her late father, John, was a journalist, subeditor, and film and theatre critic on *The Daily Telegraph*.

Now Bridget is deeply engaged with another sector of the media. For the past three years she has been researching the first full-scale, national history of Australian commercial radio, which will cover its economic, political and cultural history from its 1920s origins to the present.

Impeccably equipped for the task, Bridget holds a BA in English and Modern History (1991), First Class Honours and the University Medal in Modern History (1992) and a PhD in Modern History (1996), all from Macquarie.

Currently an Australian Research Council Queen Elizabeth II Research Fellow in Macquarie’s Department of Modern History, Bridget is using her five-year Discovery Grant to support research into archival, audio and print materials.

Radio is the most neglected sector in the academic literature on Australian media and communications. ‘I find this amazing,’ says Bridget. ‘Radio is the most popular, pervasive medium. It’s immediate, intimate, portable and inexpensive. There are 37 million radios in Australian bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens, offices, shops, gyms and cars.’

Australian broadcasting officially began in 1923 but it took years to achieve a sound regulatory regime and genuinely national system. A-class stations were maintained by listeners’ licence fees and limited advertising. They were eventually nationalised, becoming the ABC in 1932. B-class stations evolved into the commercial sector and followed the American pattern.

‘Many commercial stations were taken over by newspaper, religious and political interests in the 1930s,’ says Bridget. ‘Initially radio was seen and promoted as a force for family togetherness, but it also went out to the people.’

Radio clubs sprang up, particularly in the Depression. One of the biggest was the 2GB Happiness Club, founded in 1929 and growing to over 20,000 members. By 1937, two out of three Australian households had a radio set and there were more than 60 commercial stations. By the early 1960s they numbered 110. Today there are 260.

World War II brought increased monitoring and censoring of programs but even greater prosperity when newsprint rationing drew advertisers to broadcasting. Import restrictions on American programming helped the local production industry grow.

Up to this point, commercial stations had relied heavily on American transcription discs of music and drama episodes. Later, the Australian arms of American advertising agencies followed US marketing models. J Walter Thompson launched the *Lux Radio Theatre* and *Australia’s Amateur Hour* for Lever Brothers. George Patterson countered with the Colgate Palmolive radio production unit.

‘Radio technology had improved remarkably, but the introduction of TV in 1956 created competition for electronic advertising revenue,’ says Bridget. ‘The 50s also transformed radio into a highly individualised medium. Bob Rogers at 2UE introduced the first Australian “Top 40” music program and many other stations followed.’

However it was talkback radio that truly transformed the industry. In 1967 the Broadcasting Program Standards were changed to allow telephone calls to be recorded and rebroadcast. A new generation of talkback hosts emerged and the decline of news and current affairs reporting began. Politicians enthusiastically embraced talkback to speak directly with voters.

But if you want to learn about the emergence of FM stations, the creation of gigantic networks, the disappearance of drama programs, the ageing of the music that gets airplay, and powerful politicking across the industry, you’ll have to wait for Bridget’s next book!

*Story: Janelle Murphy*
Dr Richard Hodgson

Science partnerships generating practical benefits

Some of Dr Richard Hodgson’s best memories are of his postgraduate student days in Macquarie’s Department of Biology in the 1980s.

For seven years as a part-time student and tutor in the department Richard enjoyed what he describes as ‘a real sense of family and a wonderful vibe’.

The tone was set by the staff, he says. ‘We worked very hard but had a lot of fun. Dave Briscoe’s bush band lingers in my memory, as does the goodwill and academic leadership of people like Don and Heather Adamson and Snow Barlow. Don’s philosophy was to help people reach their potential, whatever it was. Jean Joss, with whom I’m still in contact through my work, has the same vibrancy she had back then. They were terrific role models. The Department set the bar high and gave very clear feedback. If you weren’t up to scratch you heard about it.’

Supervised by John Raison of CSIRO and Snow Barlow, Richard gained his PhD in plant physiology in 1987 after a first degree in science from the University of Newcastle. At both universities, he says he was fortunate to experience small group teaching in science, ‘by far the best way to produce trained graduates’.

Richard always wanted to be a scientist. He went on to spend 25 years as a teacher and researcher, focusing on applied projects with tangible results in a career that took him to the USA for postdoctoral work and to research positions at the University of Adelaide, CSIRO and QUT.

The achievements that still make him proud involved contributions to managing food problems in developing countries. Among his projects, he developed molecular techniques for managing diseases in equatorial crops such as coconuts in the Pacific and prawns in Vietnam. The management plans paid off in immediate benefits for subsistence farmers, for whom one three-month crop of prawns equaled a year’s supply of rice, but three crops equaled schooling for their kids.

It was a big leap of faith when in 2004 he joined the leading international biotechnology company QIAGEN. As Territory Manager for Queensland and National Specialist for Applied Testing and Molecular Diagnostics, he advises on technical issues and develops sales, marketing and customer service strategy. He loves the challenge, the variety and the science.

QIAGEN is known internationally as the leading provider of innovative technologies and products for applied molecular research and diagnostics. With headquarters in Germany, QIAGEN’s Australian operations are lean and modern.

‘I can work flexibly while meeting my targets,’ says Richard. ‘It’s important to me to keep applying my science and it’s very satisfying to work independently as a professional.’

His primary role is to help solve workflow problems in the lab – for example, advising a student or professor on overcoming technical problems. He also develops strategic partnerships with customers to improve lab products and processes.

‘It’s a virtuous circle. I enjoy bringing qualified people together to solve problems, applying innovation, and working smarter. In our communications we use a lot of conference calls and internet-based training as opposed to travel.’

Innovation is the watchword at QIAGEN and a major reason for its top reputation. A big part of its approach is to build strategic research partnerships, one of which is with Macquarie’s Australian Proteome Analysis Facility (APAF).

Richard sees Queensland as a dynamic state for this type of partnering. Research institutes, the Queensland Government and companies value solid interaction and are building the opportunities into achievements.

With work and family life his primary joys, in his recreation time Richard extends his lifelong interest in plant biology to experimenting with produce gardening, using his home garden as his field laboratory.

While he clearly treasures the camaraderie of his time at Macquarie, he confesses the best thing about it was much more personal. ‘I met my wife Angela there when we were fellow postgrads. If I hadn’t gone to Macquarie I would never have married her and had our wonderful son Matthew.’

Footnote: Richard’s wife is Dr Angela van Daal, PhD in molecular biology from Macquarie and now Associate Dean, Research at Bond University. Angela’s work and research have been in forensic science. She was the first person in Australia to have DNA evidence accepted by a court in a murder case.

Story: Bronwyn Duncan
Under his leadership, the concepts of innovation and the development of a knowledge-based economy will drive management and executive education.

National innovation capacity has become an increasingly important factor in global competitive success. The concept encompasses technological and innovative capabilities both in organisations and in business networks and clusters, through linkages with research and educational institutions and a public policy emphasis on the knowledge-based economy.

Innovation lies at the heart of Roy Green’s interests. Before he became MGSM Dean in January, he was Director of the Centre for Innovation & Structural Change in Galway, Ireland, and Dean of Commerce at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

He wants to see the same levels of understanding here as in Europe of innovation processes and the role of business leaders in developing innovative capabilities.

The Centre in Galway has attracted $7 million in support since its inception a few years ago. ‘Good ideas needed to be well funded if they are to be implemented,’ Professor Green says. ‘One way to achieve this is to develop a ‘triple helix’ of links between business, government and education.’

Management schools can and should teach innovation, he argues. ‘We can’t make managers adopt innovation, but we can teach the concepts and raise confidence in their ability to innovate. In countries like Finland and Ireland, foresight and ingenuity, not primary commodities, are at the core of economic prosperity. Instead of simply responding to an unfolding future, they shape it.’

A focus on the future is a key characteristic of a top business school in the 21st century. It also has to be global in outlook and offer both ‘relevance’ and ‘rigour’. These are all features of Roy Green’s declared approach.

‘Our students don’t want a program based on how things were done five years ago or even today. They want one that anticipates how they’ll be operating in five years time or longer. There’s a huge obligation on business schools to get to grips with that.’

‘Like all fields, management is getting more complex and its elements more fragmented – despite the emphasis on the whole organisation and attempts to break down boundaries and develop horizontal links. The trend towards fragmentation occurs in parallel to the tendency for centralisation and coordination. Business education attempts to synthesise all that.’

MGSM values its strong reputation in executive and corporate programs and is set to expand these further, especially in international markets. It enjoys the confidence of many major clients of customised programs, such as Woolworths, Qantas, Pfizer, Unisys and the International Commercial Bank of China.

But its ‘bedrock’ program remains the MBA. Some in recent years have predicted the MBA’s demise, but MGSM is benefiting from a ‘flight to quality’.

‘The demand for top quality MBAs is strong because of what they uniquely provide,’ says Professor Green. ‘Business leaders need a holistic education that provides understanding and skills in all key functional areas of management. Specialised management programs have their place – we offer many for managers who want to go in a particular direction – but they can’t emulate the MBA.’

‘Our mission is to ensure managers are fully prepared for the challenges of changing markets, changing technologies, new organisational strategies and structures, and changing relationships with their employees – whose skills and knowledge are the key to developing a new kind economy.’

The future for MGSM is as much global as national. It already teaches students from 42 countries in the full-time MBA, has campuses in Hong Kong and Singapore, alliances with management bodies in both, and links with several overseas business schools.
In line with a worldwide trend among leading business schools, MGSM plans to expand its alliances with top schools abroad and will offer MBA programs, including a global Executive MBA, internationally. It wants to be branded as the Asia-Pacific component of global programs.

A further ambition is to build up high quality research and research training. MGSM’s teaching emphasises the conceptual foundations of management, and as a university level educational institution, research is a proper part of its core activity.

Roy Green’s academic interests have evolved considerably since he took his BA LLB at the University of Adelaide and a PhD in economics at Cambridge.

Still interested in economics as a whole, he has long recognised the discipline’s difficulty coming to terms with the nature of organisations at the micro level. ‘That’s where the link between economics and management becomes interesting. It’s essential for business schools to place the development of organisations within their economic context. If they don’t, who will?’

‘The really interesting part about being in a business school is the interaction between a research program and observing students’ practical experience.’

Roy Green is fond of the late Peter Drucker’s message that ‘the best way to predict the future is to create it.’ Will he take his own stab at prediction for his new School?

‘I’d like MGSM to be among the first to occupy currently unimagined spaces, possibly in stand-alone ventures but also through global alliances. We’re also well positioned to maintain our high rankings and improve on them over the next few years.

‘We’re an MBA school, but we can’t prosper without research. I predict that, more and more, quality of research will be emphasised as much as quality of teaching in the perception of business schools. Even now, the citations index tells us that the same schools – Sloan at MIT, Harvard, Stanford, UK schools like LBS and Judge – are rated as highly for research as they are for teaching. That’s no coincidence.’

Story: Bronwyn Duncan

Structured as a limited public company, MGSM draws its leadership from both business and Macquarie academia. The new Board Chairman is mergers and acquisitions specialist Bill Beerworth, and incoming Chair of the Advisory Council is Woolworth’s CEO Roger Corbett.

The School’s research strategy will encourage greater commitment to research quality, as measured by contributions to learned international journals and publication of books and monographs, alongside the traditional commitment to consultancy research. ‘There’s nothing to stop the latter being translated into work of academic merit as well,’ says Professor Green.

Research concentrations are being developed in the areas of finance and innovation. Professor Rae Weston is leading a major proposal for a CRC in Risk Management Solutions for Financial Institutions (RimSol), in conjunction with AFMA, financial institutions and Macquarie partners. Innovation-related research, already substantial within the School, will become a coherent area and draw on the Macquarie Institute for Innovation and other University and external partners.

MGSM Rankings

- MGSM is the longest continuously operating business school in NSW (established 1969) and has a reputation for excellence in management education in Australasia.
- Rankings
  - #1 in the world for the quality of students (Economics Intelligence Unit, Which MBA? 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 global full-time MBA rankings)
  - #35 in the world for the quality of its executive education (UK Financial Times 2005)
  - #50 in the world for the quality of its customised corporate education (UK Financial Times 2006)
  - #74 in the world for its full-time MBA program (Economist Intelligence Unit, Which MBA? 2005)
  - in the top two business schools in Australia and NZ and named among Asia’s best 15 schools (Asia Inc, 2004)
- MGSM has EQUIS (European Quality Improvement System) international accreditation from the European Foundation for Management Development.
- MGSM is a member of the elite group UNICON (the International University Consortium for Executive Education)
- Its alumni association has over 10,000 members in 42 countries.
- Prominent graduates include NSW Police Commissioner Ken Moroney; Commissioner of NSW Fire Brigades Greg Mullins; and former Commonwealth Bank CEO and now head of the Federal Government’s Futures Fund, David Murray.
Until recently, health was rarely, if ever, defined as a national or international security issue. Now, in a world where globalisation and the information revolution have collapsed geographical space and seen the death of time and distance, health has been transformed from the national to the international, and infectious disease has been placed high on the security agenda.

Health has become borderless and international borders have lost their significance.

The contention that infectious disease is critical to Australia’s security rests on two propositions: that the health and wellbeing of all Australians, and their protection from foreseeable risks, is a prime responsibility of our Government; and that the maintenance of a healthy, risk-free population free from fear is necessary for productivity, innovation and growth.

Infectious disease has become of critical importance to policymakers and governments because of its staggering toll and its ability to threaten social and economic stability, erode public confidence, create environments of fear, and threaten the viability of whole regions and states.

In the last century, smallpox killed more than 300 million people, influenza at least 150 million, and plague 40 million. Over the last 35 years infectious disease has claimed the lives of more than one billion people. Today more than 2.5 billion people worldwide are seriously ill with some kind of infection. Every day, at least 38,000 children and adults die from infections. At least 40 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, with around 5 million new infections every year.

Even in Australia, infectious diseases remain poorly controlled, whether they be vector-borne infections like Ross River virus, or infections like pertussis, hepatitis C or chlamydia. In addition, there are probably more than 4 million cases of gastroenteritis every year in Australia, as well as 5 million episodes of respiratory infection.

Over the last few decades, infectious disease has returned to the international agenda: so-called ‘new’ infections have triggered global epidemics, while older infections, once thought under control, have reappeared, often in more virulent forms.

Many of these infections have originated as animal diseases. SARS was the first severe infection to emerge in the 21st century and the rapidity of its spread and its cross-border mobility called into question traditional nationally-based surveillance and response systems.

More recently, avian flu and the threat of a human flu pandemic have come as a wake-up call, and not only challenge international cooperation in confronting such threats, but also reveal how vulnerable all aspects of Australian society remain to epidemics of infectious disease.

When the next pandemic may only be a plane or bird flight away, and when viruses travel at the speed of the fastest aircraft, nowhere is safe. Time, distance and remoteness, long the bulwarks of Australia’s defence against infectious disease, have been rendered obsolete. From tourists and business travellers transporting infectious pathogens on international flights, to pathogenic microbes travelling with imported foodstuffs, and in the bilge water of ships, the global spread of infectious microbes has never been greater.

The gap between infections and our means of control is also widening rather than narrowing. In particular, antibiotic resistance is growing, to the extent that probably 10 percent of Australians entering hospital for a surgical procedure leave with a hospital-acquired infection.

Naturally-occurring infections are not the only ones that threaten our security; there is also the possibility of a deliberate release of a biological agent into the civilian population. The threat of bio-terrorism continues to concern many countries, including Australia. In terms of surveillance, planning and
response, it would seem clear that naturally-occurring infectious disease and biological terrorism are closely related and sit at different ends of a continuum of biological threats to our health and wellbeing.

We must now recognise that an outbreak of infectious disease anywhere in the world is a potential threat to Australia, and that it is impossible to protect Australians without global surveillance and international cooperation. It would also seem clear that notions of security and national stability defined in terms of territorial sovereignty and integrity are no longer relevant in today’s borderless world.

Infectious disease has transformed the way we look at national and international security by producing threats without visible enemies, and by threatening every aspect of our society.

What do we need to do? Well, six things would seem paramount. Firstly, we need to enhance our capacity for the surveillance of infectious disease, human and animal. We need a real-time comprehensive national and regional surveillance system that serves as a neighbourhood and regional watch system.

Secondly, we need to expand our public health capacity and crisis response systems. This will ensure not only that we react quickly and decisively to disease threats, but also that we have a body of interdisciplinary experts who fully appreciate that infectious disease impacts on all aspects of life and society.

Thirdly, we must accelerate our efforts to address the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Pacific-Asian region.

Fourthly, we need to fully appreciate the links between human and animal health, and the fact that human-animal encounters, particularly through agriculture, may lead to the emergence of new infections.

Fifthly, we need to construct risk communication strategies which take full account of how people perceive risk and manage risk and fear in their lives, and how they translate this into personal coping strategies.

Finally, we need to ensure that there is greater federal-state-local cooperation in dealing with disease outbreaks.

Peter Curson
To contact Professor Curson, email: pcurson@els.mq.edu.au

RESEARCH NEWS

Pilbara rocks reveal earliest life on Earth

Evidence of the earliest life on Earth has been discovered in the Pilbara region of WA by a Macquarie doctoral student.

In a paper in the journal *Nature* published in June 2006, Australian Centre for Astrobiology (ACA) PhD student and geologist Abigail Allwood described her discovery of a 10-kilometre section of an ancient microbial reef system in the Pilbara. The stromatolite shape associations and other evidence demonstrate that no purely physical or chemical processes alone could have produced the entire ecosystem.

The ancient stromatolites of the Pilbara were first described almost three decades ago, and have been studied and much debated. Some think they were formed by primitive microbes; others believe they were formed chemically near hydrothermal vents. Abby’s work concentrated on a stretch of stromatolite-rich rock, part of a rock formation known as the Strelley Pool Chert.

It was during a field season in 2004 that Abby and her field assistant, Ian Burch, had their Eureka moment.

‘What I saw at that moment blew me away,’ she recalls. ‘We had to read what the rocks were telling us. We were looking at an entire microbial reef system in fossil form with a classical biological response to the environment.’

The study suggests that life not only existed 3.5 billion years ago, but was already thriving. ‘These fossils provide critical insights into the origins of life and are irreplaceable. They are a key to the puzzle of our origins, and to looking for past life on Mars and other solar system bodies where water, essential to life, is known to have been, or still is, present,’ she says.

Abigail Allwood was lead author of the paper ‘Stromatolite reef from the Early Archaean Era of Australia’ published in the June 8 issue of *Nature* (co-authors: Professor Malcolm Walter and Ian Burch, Macquarie University; Professor Balz Kamber, Laurentian University, Canada; Dr Craig Marshall, University of Sydney).

The NASA-Macquarie University Pilbara Education Project, developed in collaboration with NASA under a Space Act Agreement, utilises a suite of hi-tech NASA Learning Technologies tools to enable students to experience a virtual field trip to the Pilbara of Western Australia.

You can be one of the 20,000-plus visitors to this hugely popular website at http://pilbara.mq.edu.au
My first 100 days at Macquarie have been the most enjoyable and fulfilling of my professional life. I have been overwhelmed by the warm reception from staff and Council. After consulting a wide range of stakeholders and seeing their enthusiasm, I am more convinced than ever that Macquarie has all the ingredients necessary to be a world leading university.

In eight years time, Macquarie will celebrate its 50th birthday. This is not old as universities go. Some universities trace their histories back 500 years; a few are even older. Still, reaching 50 is an important milestone and it is worthwhile thinking about what sort of institution we want to be when we reach our ’Golden Anniversary’.

The main goal

At age 50, Macquarie will be among the top eight research universities in Australia and among the top 200 in the world.

Research is the main determiner of a university’s reputation. All the world’s most famous universities are known for the scholarship of their academics. A reputation for excellent research attracts talented students, the best staff and financial support from private and public sources.

Research excellence is the right goal because education and research are inextricably linked in world-class universities. Academics doing scholarly work at the cutting edge of their disciplines generally make the best teachers because they convey the excitement of their fields to students and are less likely to become jaded than teachers who are not research-active. Instead of teaching from books written by others, research-active academics actually write those books. In a research university, both teachers and students are actively involved in the pursuit of knowledge. For this reason, a research university provides a special type of education. Its goal is not just to teach facts and skills but to open students’ minds to lifelong enquiry.

We know excellence is expensive. At Macquarie, most of the research budget comes from teaching students. So, to become a research leader, we will also have to excel in teaching. We will have to make substantial investments in teaching as well as research, to attract new staff, offer more scholarships and renew equipment and facilities.

We need to develop ways to retain, as well as attract, high quality staff. We also need a strategy for recruiting postgraduate and undergraduate students. Both staff and students will require improved teaching and research facilities.

Financing our strategies

The money to do these things will come from a variety of sources, including student fees; fundraising; and exploiting the commercial value of our land (while retaining ownership). Savings made by managing more efficiently will be reinvested in teaching and research. For a few years, we will have to dip into reserves to fund these strategies.

Enhancing research

No university can be excellent at everything, but we need to be world class at some things. Our strategy will emphasise our research strengths. We will invest in our strong areas and target some developing areas, particularly those that build on our history of interdisciplinary research. We will also provide continued strong support and pathways for areas that may develop into future world-class research strengths.

The following areas have been identified for investment initially: Ancient Cultures; Climate and Plant Ecology; Cognitive Science; Geochemistry and Mineralogy; Lasers and Photonics; and the up and coming areas Animal Behaviour; Computer and Network Security; Proteomics and Genomics; and Social and Cultural Studies.

We will refine these areas after further consultation to ensure that Macquarie has, or can develop, a niche that gives it a competitive advantage.

Our people

Ultimately, universities are places of people. To achieve our ambitions, we will have to recruit, support and retain world-class researchers in our identified priority areas. At present, Macquarie has between 400 and 450 research-active academics. To reach our goals, we will need to recruit at least 250 new researchers by the time Macquarie turns 50.

All our researchers will be supported by robust research policies (dealing with intellectual property, ethics, outside studies and work, and so on). We will also build sufficient depth in each research area to ensure we are international leaders, then move on to other areas, until Macquarie has a comprehensive portfolio of internationally competitive research.
We will build strategic alliances with other institutions in our region and abroad and will concentrate postgraduate scholarships on areas of research strength.

It is also vital to improve the infrastructure (equipment, space and library) necessary for research and graduate education. To attract more staff and students, we will run an international publicity campaign to raise awareness about Macquarie’s research. We will also be pro-active in recruiting – targeting specific researchers where possible. To support our research developments, we will increase our production of doctorates, with an emphasis on quality.

Other goals

Macquarie’s mission involves much more than research. As already noted, we must excel in teaching and learning as well as in technology transfer, and focus on social justice.

Teaching and learning

Macquarie University is a school. It is proper, therefore, that we strive for excellence in teaching and learning. We must provide an outstanding education which attracts the best undergraduate and postgraduate students. We will aim for leadership in the use of technology in education, in work-related teaching, and in providing students with international experience. We need to go beyond the classroom to provide opportunities for students to serve their communities and develop their leadership skills.

Our commitment to students must also include the renovation and, in some cases, replacement of dilapidated campus buildings. Among the new capital development projects will be a proposed new learning centre to replace the Library; new student housing; and upgraded sports and recreation facilities.

Macquarie needs to support students in all aspects of their education, providing first-rate academic advice, career counselling and financial aid. We must provide students with professional, competent, efficient and friendly service.

Today’s students are tomorrow’s beneficiaries. To tie students to Macquarie, we need to provide an environment that embraces students and supports their success. Cultivating students begins well before they set foot on campus. It also means supporting them through the application and admissions process and throughout their studies.

Technology transfer

The public, which supports our research with their tax dollars, deserves to see the benefits of the research they pay for. We must ensure that good ideas are translated into products and services, by encouraging scientific and technological entrepreneurship – including commercialising technology, creating new ventures, licensing, spin-out companies and consulting.

Macquarie’s expanded research activity will provide the raw material for technology transfer and innovation. We will cultivate a campus culture that motivates researchers to pursue commercialisation. We will expand our business incubator program to accommodate more start-ups and later-stage incubation.

At the same time, we will continue to exploit the commercial potential of our land (while retaining ownership), focusing new developments on businesses that have synergy with our research, teaching, or both.

Social justice

Universities are engines of social mobility. They give students from all backgrounds a chance to achieve their potential and contribute to society. But even today, with many more students at university than in the past, many are still left out. We will never achieve what we want for Australia until everyone with the ambition and ability has the opportunity to study.

An important way to reach this goal is to continue to encourage diversity. With respect to the student population, we will greatly expand our scholarship program and direct many of our new scholarships towards those with the greatest financial need. We will also work with TAFE and schools to identify and cultivate ‘hidden’ talent not normally expected to attend university, and with the NSW Department of Education by reaching out to potential students from all backgrounds.

The full version of this paper can be found on the Vice-Chancellor’s Office web page: www.vc.mq.edu.au
A healthy debate: Macquarie Chiropractic

If ‘snap, crackle and pop’ evokes the memory of spinal manipulation rather than a popular breakfast cereal, then you should visit the University Chiropractic Clinic on campus for a different experience.

There, you will discover that the chiropractic training and research practised at Macquarie are helping redefine the chiropractic profession and correct misconceptions about both procedures and efficacy. As the clinic’s patients are discovering, they are the winners.

Dr Henry Pollard, Director of Research in the Department of Chiropractic, explains the role of chiropractors as ‘primary contact practitioners who consult on conditions of the whole body with particular emphasis on the management of neuro-muscular-skeletal conditions, and a specialisation in the spine’.

The profession embraces a range of philosophies, reflecting an ongoing debate among practitioners on priorities, namely, rehabilitation versus health maintenance.

Macquarie didn’t baulk at controversy in becoming the first university in Australia to offer chiropractic education by merging with the independent Sydney College of Chiropractic in 1990. At the time, many argued that a university should not offer qualifications in a field with little tradition, as they saw it, of academic rigour or good science.

Sixteen years on, under Head of Department Dr Sharyn Eaton, Chiropractic Studies is making a significant contribution to the largest complementary health care specialisation in Australia, through both Master’s and Bachelor’s degrees and a commitment to research.

As Henry Pollard explains, ‘the tension between medical bodies and the profession of chiropractic is reducing. To achieve greater acceptance, not only are we building sound data to substantiate our claims, we’re also communicating productively with other health care professionals. We teach students they are part of the whole health care team.’

The Department hosts 20 postgraduate research students, whose areas of investigation include chiropractic applications to hamstring injuries; pain management; cardio-respiratory function; hypothyroidism; asthma; spinal health; radiography; and occupational health and safety issues. In addition, Macquarie Injury Management Group, founded in 2004 by Dr Pollard and Associate Professor Rod Bonello as a multidisciplinary centre of research excellence, has a special interest in sports injury management.

In 2005 a teleradiology service, Image Connections Australasia, was launched, winning the Macquarie Commercial Innovation Award for its founders, Dr Ray Hayek and Peter Bull. The cost-effective innovation speeds up diagnosis by enabling chiropractors and radiologists to send digitised images.

The teaching staff bring wide field expertise to their programs and strong links to industry. For example, Dr Pollard, a practising clinician who also consults for WorkCover NSW, has consulted with the state and national swim teams and takes care of his local rugby league team. ‘I enjoy the work from a diagnostic point of view. In my clinic, patients have presented with everything from cancer to broken bones.’

The degree programs attract students from as far away as Canada and Norway as well as Australia. They are encouraged to publish and present papers, and in the final Masters year undergo a supervised internship.

Josh Freedman, half-way through his internship, especially enjoys seeing improvements in patients. His first consultations were ‘pretty nerve-wracking, but after a couple of times you get more confidence.’ Like all interns he works 12 hours a week in the clinic. He is also collaborating in a study of chiropractic application to managing Bell’s Palsy.

Dr Henry says …

How to prevent neck and back strain when working at the computer:

• The monitor should be directly front on, the top at eye level.
• When working at the keyboard the angle of elbows should be about 90-100 degrees from the body.
• Avoid having to stretch away from the body while using the mouse.
• Place feet on the floor.
• Adjust the seat height so it doesn’t cut into hamstring muscles – keep hips above the level of knees.
• Use a document holder adjusted to eye level.
• Get up and move around every half hour.

Chiropractic education is well placed to be part of Macquarie’s future expansion in health care and medical fields. There remains a shortage of qualified chiropractors in Australia and strong demand overseas.
Graduations

April 2006 graduations

Five honorary doctorates, 4,400 degrees and diplomas, 7 Outstanding Teacher Awards and 15 University Medals were awarded at the April graduation ceremonies. The honorary doctorates were conferred on cosmologist Professor Paul Davies; Aboriginal activist Charles ‘Chicka’ Dixon; marketing and commercialisation expert Peter Jenkins; La Trobe University political scientist Emeritus Professor Ross Martin; and former Macquarie University Vice-Chancellor Emeritus Professor Di Yerbury.

Indigenous Health Workers ceremony

Aboriginal Elders and Macquarie academic staff joined the families of Indigenous health workers when they received their Postgraduate Certificates of Social Health at a campus ceremony in May.

The graduates were the second group to complete the Indigenous Health Worker strand established in 2004 under former Vice-Chancellor Emeritus Professor Di Yerbury.

The multidisciplinary part-time course is a collaboration between the Department of Psychology and Warawara, Department of Indigenous Studies. It provides a formal qualification for Indigenous health workers with relevant skills and experience in a health-related field and is open to students without undergraduate qualifications. Most students come from rural or regional areas where there is limited access to quality postgraduate education.

Focusing on health, development and social issues, the program trains students in culturally appropriate interventions, particularly in drug and alcohol counselling.

In presenting the certificates, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor John Loxton said the course was having a positive impact on the huge challenges confronting Indigenous health. He thanked communities and families for their crucial support of the students.

Julie Wilson, from Katoomba, whose workshops on Indigenous culture triggered the idea for the course, said the knowledge and counselling skills she had gained would be enormously helpful to her work in holistic case management at Lithgow Correctional Centre.

Troy Prender, of the south coast Yuin people, shared his achievement with his extended family and community. Having brought experience of traditional culture and social issues to the course, he wants to be a positive role model for Indigenous youth through his work at the Nowra Aboriginal Medical Service.

Ronnie Thomas, also a Yuin man, has worked extensively with Aboriginal drug and alcohol rehabilitation. ‘The narrative therapy part of the course was really good, mainly because it’s about yarning.’

Jaime Key praised the program’s flexibility. Being able to access the course partly in Nowra where she lived enabled her to juggle study, full-time work and childcare.

Other graduates were Debbie Doust, Narelle Holden and Rita Williams.

Appointments

Internationally acclaimed scientist, conservationist and science communicator, and 2005 Australian Humanist of the Year, Dr Tim Flannery, will take up an appointment in August as a Professor in the Division of Environmental and Life Sciences. He will build a research unit focusing on biodiversity, evolution and climate change.

Tim Flannery’s most recent book on climate change, The Weather Makers, is a best-seller in several countries and won the Book of the Year prize at the 2006 NSW Premier’s Literary Awards.

He won the Edgeworth David Medal for Outstanding Research aged 34, has published more than 100 peer-reviewed papers, and as a field zoologist has discovered and named more than 30 new species of mammals. His popular books include The Future Eaters, The Eternal Frontier, Throwim Way Leg, and A Gap in Nature.

New Dean of the Division of Linguistics and Psychology, Professor Sue Spence, joined Macquarie this year from the University of Queensland, where she was Deputy President of the Academic Board from 2002-05. A psychologist by training, she is a distinguished researcher in child and adolescent anxiety and depression.

Stephen Thurgate has been appointed Dean of the Division of Information and Communication Sciences. Professor Thurgate is a leading academic and researcher in surface science and was most recently Dean and Head of the School of Engineering Sciences at Murdoch University.
Awards

Professor Igor Shparlinski, ARC Professorial Fellow in the Department of Computing, and a world authority on analytic number theory, has been elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. The honour recognises a career that has significantly advanced the world’s scientific knowledge.

Dean of the Division of Economic and Financial Studies, Professor Ed Davis, was made a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2006 Australia Day awards, for his service to education, and to the community in the areas of equity in employment, industrial relations and human resource management.

The award of Doctor of Science honoris causa will be conferred on Adelaide-born astronaut Andy Thomas at a special ceremony at the University later this year. Andy Thomas first went into space in 1996 and was a leading member of the team on board the Discovery space shuttle in August last year, his fourth and final journey as an astronaut.

Vale

We are saddened to report that the inaugural Principal of Dunmore Lang College (1971-84), Dr Margaret Saville, passed away in November 2005. She served on the University Council from 1976-79 and on the Standing Committee of Convocation in the 1980s, where she contributed strong financial management and administrative experience and expertise. In June the College held a tree planting and memorial ceremony to commemorate Dr Saville’s contribution to the College, the University and the community.

Making headlines

Cate Blanchett launches cultural economics paper

It’s not every day that a world-famous Australian actor launches an academic work, but in February Cate Blanchett did just that, attracting wide media coverage for the new paper, Does Australia Need A Cultural Policy? by Professor David Throsby.

The paper traces public policy and patronage from 1818 through to Keating’s ‘Creative Nation’ and the Howard Government’s patronage by review. Professor Throsby is internationally known for his work in the economics of the arts and culture. He has been a consultant to the World Bank, the OECD, FAO and UNESCO, and chaired three Prime Minister’s Working Groups on sustainable development.

See p. 22 for details of David Throsby’s Alumni Lecture on 31 October.

Unique Lungfish under threat

Professor Jean Joss of the Department of Biological Sciences joined Greens Senator Bob Brown and demonstrators last May in more than 150 canoes to protest against plans by the Queensland Government to build a dam on the Mary River at Traveston Crossing near Gympie.

A world expert on the threatened Queensland lungfish, Jean Joss says the proposed dam would destroy one of only two sites where the species lives and mates in the wild, threatening its whole future.

The Queensland lungfish is a remarkable animal that has existed for 400 million years. It is a ‘living fossil’, neither fish nor amphibian, but a strange mixture of the two. The species is protected by the EPDC Act of 1999 and also listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Postgrad news

New Postgraduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship

Macquarie Institute for Innovation is offering a Postgraduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship to help aspiring entrepreneurs improve their prospects of success.

The Certificate provides an introduction to entrepreneurship in knowledge-based innovation – from idea, to start-up, to growth and success. It is offered both full-time and part-time on campus.

Topics: Intellectual Property Creation, Strategy and Management; Resourceing Entrepreneurial Activities; Technology-based Entrepreneurship; Life Science Entrepreneurship; Social Entrepreneurship; Foundations of Venture Creation.

Further information: Macquarie Institute for Innovation Phone: +61 (0)2 9850 4800 Web: www.mii.mq.edu.au

Information on postgraduate study at Macquarie, including details of the Postgraduate Education Loans Scheme (PELS), HECS-based programs, fees and scholarships: www.postgradandbeyond.mq.edu.au (general information) www.ro.mq.edu.au/hdru/ (research degrees) 1800 020 108 PELS/HECS enquiry line (toll free): www.international.mq.edu.au (international student enquiries)
The new $17 million Macquarie University Sports and Aquatic Centre, which began construction in March, is on track to open by early 2007. One of the most technologically advanced in Australia, the complex is designed to minimise water usage through recycling and waste reduction. It will house a 50 metre FINA-compliant outdoor pool, a 25 metre heated indoor pool, extensive weights and cardio areas, group fitness and cycling rooms, swim school, sports shop, martial arts dojo and a café.

Johanna Griggs was MC and Sydney Swans coach Paul Roos guest speaker at the annual Macquarie University Sports and Blues Awards in March. Over 400 Macquarie students, staff, alumni and business partners attended the evening to celebrate the achievements of Macquarie’s talented student-athletes, coaches and volunteers, including Chancellor’s Award winner, Tina Mackenzie. An education student, Tina is a member of the Australian Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team, which won a silver medal for Australia at the 2004 Athens Paralympics.

MUSR information:
Email: macsport@mq.edu.au
Web: www.musr.mq.edu.au

Macquarie Uni Cricket Club triumphs

Macquarie University Cricket Club (MUCC) won this year’s prestigious premiership of the Sydney Cricket Association Masters Competition, a keenly-fought competition for the over-40s. The team, almost all Macquarie graduates from the 1980s, recorded a brilliant undefeated season. Players Danny McVey and Steve O'Reilly received awards as the season’s leading wicket taker and run scorer respectively in the 18-team competition. MUCC has entered a team in the competition since 2000.

Captain Allan Mahoney has played more than 350 games for MUCC over 30 years and, collectively, members have played more than 3000 games for the Club.

What’s on at Macquarie
A selection of events in coming months

(See also p. 22 for events arranged by the Alumni Office)

Macquarie Trio Australia
The Trio’s 14th year of music making is called power, romance, passion.

Concerts Aug-Nov 2006
Where and when:
Macquarie Theatre
Sundays 2.30pm: 27 Aug, 29 Nov
Verbrugghen Hall (Sydney Conservatorium), Tuesdays 7.30pm:
29 Aug, 31 Nov

Also performing in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Canberra.

Information: (toll free) 1800 359 441
Web: www.macquarietrio.com.au
(see also p.21 for special offer to Macquarie alumni)

University Art Gallery
Exhibitions July-November 2006
Where: Building E11A ground floor
When: Mon-Fri 10-5 and selected Saturdays. Admission free.
Information: 02 9850 7437
Fax: 02 9850 7565
Email: rdavis@vc.mq.edu.au or khill@vc.mq.edu.au
Web: www.artgallery.mq.edu.au

26 June – 11 August
Aboriginal Art from the Macquarie University Art Collection
The exhibition shows the range and depth of Indigenous art practice in the context of contemporary Australia.

21 August – 6 October
The Chroma Collection
The first public viewing of the Chroma collection. Artists include Elizabeth Cummings, Emily Kngwarreye, Euan McLeod, Idris Murphy, John Peart, Rollin Schlicht, Louise Townsend, John Walker, Dick Watkins.

13 October – 24 November
Stephen Birch
Stephen Birch is one of Australia’s leading contemporary artists. He has created a new installation in response to the Macquarie gallery space.

Music on Winter Sundays – free concert series
Where: Macquarie Theatre
When: Sundays 2.30pm
Remaining dates 2006: 30 July, 6, 20 August, 3, 10, 24 September
Contact: Kerry Klujin Tel: 9850 7460
Email: kerry.klujin@mq.edu.au

Macquarie Singers
Visit www.mus.org.au for information on concert dates

Free movies at Macquarie
On campus Sundays 6 August, 3 September, 10 October. For details visit www.pr.mq.edu.au/mqmovies/

2006 National Big Draw Launch
Where: Macquarie campus
When: Saturday 2 September
Web: www.aces.mq.edu.au/ drawingaustralia

University Open Day
When: Saturday 9 September
10am-4pm
Web (live from 1 August): www.openday.mq.edu.au
Alumni news

Applied Finance functions
Melbourne and Sydney

Macquarie Applied Finance (MAF) alumni, students and staff attended a ceremony in Melbourne in March to celebrate the graduation of the Melbourne class and to award student prizes. Guests heard from alumna Alison Belot, senior executive at BHP Billiton, on how the MAF degree had assisted her career progress. Josh Koomen, who the next day left for a job in London advising European institutions on financial risk management, spoke on behalf of the graduates.

Also in Melbourne, in May MAF alumni and friends attended a presentation by Angus McKay, CFO of Fosters Australasia, on the multi-regional strategy Fosters has adopted for its brands. The wine tasting that followed provided an opportunity to appreciate the nature of Fosters’ business.

Sydney-based MAF alumni enjoyed a cocktail party and prize evening in April at the city premises. Speakers included MAF Director Professor Phil Dolan, Professor John Thom, Centre Chairman and former head of Citibank’s Australian business, Dr Steve Christie, recent PhD graduate in Applied Finance, and Michelle Wong, current student and prizewinner.

Further events are planned in both cities. If you’d like to be involved, please email alumni@mafc.mq.edu.au for more information.

Sydney wine tasting

Over 150 alumni attended the first alumni wine and food evening at the Yuga Café and Art Gallery, Glebe. The sold-out event attracted many younger and recently graduated alumni. Courtesy of Taylors Wines, premium wines were offered, accompanied by gourmet food with Japanese and Italian influences. A representative from Taylors explained wine varieties and flavours, providing a very informative evening.
Benefits Program for Macquarie Alumni

The Alumni Office is pleased to offer a range of benefits exclusively for alumni. For direct links to these benefits please visit our website.

National Australia Bank
The alliance with the National Australia Bank offers tangible benefits to Macquarie alumni, who will have access to a premium package of financial services including:
- Home/investment loans and line of credit facilities*
- Term deposits
- Share trading
- Margin lending
- Credit cards
- Insurance
- One to one service via a dedicated banker
- Financial advice via direct access to highly qualified, experienced and salaried financial planners

* For home loans greater than $150,000. Normal lending criteria apply.

Alumni should contact the National directly to discuss the concessional pricing included in this offer. Visit National’s website for more information.

Banking and Loans Hotline
1300 797 400
8am to 9pm EST seven days a week

Financial advice
Phone: 02 8220 5999
Email: workplaceadvice@national.com.au

New Benefits

National Car Search (NCS)
The Alumni Office is pleased to announce a FREE car buying service with National Car Search. For alumni, National Car Search has waived its standard $250 fee and will:
- Source your new car from anywhere in Australia
- Negotiate a discounted price (up to 12 percent on some makes and models)
- Arrange any trade-in
- Arrange cost-effective finance
- Deliver the new car to your door
- With over 12 years experience and an extensive network of dealers, NCS caters for single vehicle or fleet requirements. NCS also offer complete finance services at competitive rates. To find out more, contact NCS:
  Phone: 1300 367 778 or 02 9456 5500
  Email: alumni@carsearch.com.au
  Web: www.carsearch.com.au

Macquarie Graduate School of Management Hotel
MGSM offers alumni discounted hotel accommodation on campus in the MGSM Hotel. The hotel is conveniently located for alumni visiting companies in the Macquarie University Research Park and nearby.

Discounted rates:
- $130 for queen bedroom (excl breakfast)
- $145 for queen bedroom (incl full buffet breakfast at Lachlan’s Restaurant)

Bookings: +61 (0) 9850 9300
Quote reference MU-Alumni-06
Offer valid to 31 December 2006

International College of Management, Sydney
Affiliated with Macquarie University, the College offers a special alumni rate on all conference, function and wedding packages. For more information, or to organise a tour of this magnificent heritage estate, contact:
Email: functions@icms.edu.au
Phone: +61 (0) 9977 0333
Web: www.icms.edu.au

MUSR Alumni Offer
Gym membership at student prices (40 percent saving) will be offered to the first 20 alumni to join at Macquarie University Sport and Leisure Centre. To take advantage of the offer contact 02 9850 7636.

Existing Benefits

University Library
The Library provides alumni with free borrowing privileges ($55 savings) and free remote access to two EBSCO databases and the Business Monitor Online.

Career Development Office
Alumni are eligible for career consultations, advice on career change and review strategies, use of the Career Resource Centre, and training workshops and career seminars. The CDO charges a $50 fee for an initial consultation and two follow up meetings.

Centre for Open Education
The Centre for Open Education has agreed to waive the Non-Award application fee for alumni ($60 savings).

Chiropractic Services
The Department of Health and Chiropractic offers alumni a reduced rate for chiropractic consultations. For an appointment call:
Campus: 02 9850 1350
Eastwood: 02 9858 3723
Summer Hill: 02 9797 0960

Macquarie Trio Australia
Macquarie Trio Australia offers alumni one double ticket pass, worth over $100, to a 2007 concert of your choice. Subscribers will also receive a special limited edition MTA live in concert CD.
Contact: PO Box 18 Northbridge 2063
Phone: 1800 359 441
Email: info@macquarietrio.com.au
Web: www.macquarietrio.com.au

Dunmore Lang College
Dunmore Lang College offers alumni a discount of approximately 25 percent for accommodation and conference facilities hire.

Accor Hotels
Alumni have access to 5 percent discount off the Best Unrestricted Rate of the day at Accor hotels and resorts in Australia, NZ and Fiji. Accor brands include Sofitel, Novotel, Mercure, All Seasons and Ibis.

AVIS
Alumni are eligible for special rates in Australia and discounts worldwide with AVIS.

The Australian
Alumni are offered a special subscription rate of $3.95 per week for 6-day delivery of The Australian, or $1.50 per week for The Weekend Australian.

Tourist Attractions Association – NSW
Alumni are entitled to discount admission at a range of attractions in NSW.
Alumni events
August - December 2006

Bookings and information: Contact the Alumni Office (details this page) for event bookings, unless otherwise specified.
The following events were confirmed at the time of printing, but please check details closer to the dates.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 9 September 10am–4pm
Macquarie University Open Day
Venue: Macquarie campus
All alumni are invited to visit the Alumni tent during Open Day and attend the exciting Alumni Lecture Series throughout the day.
Speakers include Carol Oliver, Assistant Director, Management and Outreach, Australian Centre for Astrobiology. For details visit: http://aca.mq.edu.au
Other speakers to be confirmed.
Open Day website (live from 1 August): www.openday.mq.edu.au

OCTOBER

Tuesday 10 October 12.30pm
Annual Parliament House Luncheon
Venue: State Parliament, Macquarie Street, Sydney
Speaker: Professor Steven Schwartz, Vice-Chancellor, Macquarie University
Cost: $55 per head
RSVP: Monday 2 October

Tuesday 10 October 12pm
Convocation Annual General Meeting
Venue: State Parliament, Macquarie Street, Sydney
YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE A SAY IN ALUMNI AFFAIRS
Advertisements seeking candidates to join the Standing Committee of Convocation, the Committee that advises on alumni affairs at Macquarie, will appear in the press during August. All alumni are eligible to nominate and those interested should contact the Alumni Office.

Thursday 19 October 6:30pm
Humanities Alumni Lecture Ancient and Modern History
Topic: History: ancient with modern – from Melbourne to Sydney
Venue: Level 3 Function Room, SAM Building, Macquarie campus
Speakers: Introduction by Professor Edwin Judge (Ancient History at Sydney and Macquarie universities), Responses: Professor Bruce Mansfield (Modern History at Sydney and Macquarie universities) and Professor Ron Ridley (Ancient History at Sydney and Melbourne universities).

Thursday 26 October 6:30-7:30pm
Macquarie Institute for Innovation Lecture
Topic: An eco-system for nurturing startups – a Silicon Valley view
Speaker: Professor Craig Mudge, Director, Macquarie Institute for Innovation
Venue: MGS M city campus, Level 6, 51-55 Pitt St Sydney
A great opportunity to view the world differently: Practical – International – Connected. Craig Mudge spent 10 years in Silicon Valley where he focused on strategy development for both large companies and early stage firms.

RSVP: Friday September 1
Samantha Murray
smurray@scmp.mq.edu.au
No charge, but bookings essential.

Tuesday 31 October 6.30pm
Alumni Lecture
Topic: Does Australia need a cultural policy?
Speaker: Professor David Throsby, Department of Economics, Division of Economic and Financial Studies
Venue: Level 3 Function Room, SAM Building, Macquarie campus
Hear Australia’s foremost cultural economist speak about government policy on arts and culture over the past 20 years and future policy options.

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 1 November 6-9pm
Postgraduate Reunion
Venue: Level 3 Function Room, SAM Building, Macquarie campus
A follow-up to the successful first Science and Technology Postgraduate Reunion last year. Science and technology postgraduate alumni should look for notices on the web and in the mail.

Friday 27 October 6-9pm
Society, Culture, Media & Philosophy Cocktail Party
Venue: Function Room, Building E11A, Macquarie campus
Catch up with friends, enjoy the music of the Boneham Trio and view artworks in the Gallery at this inaugural SCMP alumni function.

RSVP: Friday September 1
Samantha Murray
smurray@scmp.mq.edu.au
No charge, but bookings essential.

DECEMBER

Thursday 7 December 7.30pm
Science and Technology College Cocktail Party
Venue: Level 3 Function Room, SAM Building, Macquarie campus
A follow-up to the successful first Science and Technology Postgraduate Reunion last year. Science and technology postgraduate alumni should look for notices on the web and in the mail.

RSVP: Thursday 12 October,
Luke Vanzino
Expressions of interest to: lightrefreshments@scmp.mq.edu.au
Venue: TBA
Katherine Cheng
RSVP: Friday September 1
Contact: katcheng@mblcpa.com.hk

Thursday 10 December 6-9pm
Ancient History Alumni Event – Champagne Supper
Topic: Preacher-audience interaction in early Christianity
Speaker: Professor Pauline Allen
Venue: Museum of Ancient Cultures, Level 3, Building X5B, Macquarie campus
Cost: $10 per person
Contact: Professor Alanna Nobbs
rsry@smur@y@nq.edu.au
Web: www.archaeology.mq.edu.au/
doccentre/SSEC/SSEC.htm

Advance notice

April 2007

Proposed 25th year reunion
Geology majors of 1980, 81 and 82
A reunion is planned around Easter 2007 in Sydney for geology majors who finished undergraduate studies in 1980, 81 or 82. Geology staff from the period welcome to attend.
Expressions of interest to: Luke Vanzino
PO Box 197, Woodbridge 7162
Tasmania Australia
Phone: +61 (0)3 62674983
Email: solu@netspace.net.au

Alumni events overseas

Sunday 12 November
Hong Kong Chapter Alumni Dinner
Venue: TBA
Contact: Katherine Cheng
RSVP: Friday September 1
Contact: katcheng@mblcpa.com.hk

Contact the Alumni Office
For chapter involvement, event information, bookings, campus maps, and general enquiries:
Alumni Office
Macquarie University 2109
Phone: +61 (0)2 9850 7310
Fax: +61 (0)2 9850 9478
Email: alumni@reg.mq.edu.au
Web: www.mq.edu.au/alumni
Macquarie University Alumni Office and Odyssey Travel have developed an exclusive 15-night Archaeological Travel Program to visit some of Egypt’s greatest sites of archaeological significance.

A highlight of the program is the opportunity to hear from Macquarie’s distinguished archaeologist, Professor Naguib Kanawati, Director of the Australian Centre for Egyptology, who made an amazing discovery last year of three superbly preserved and decorated mummies from the King Teti (6th dynasty) period.

Program highlights

**Cairo**
- City Tour with a visit to the Pyramids and Sphinx, the Egyptian Museum, Old Christian Cairo, the Citadel, Mohammed Ali Mosque and Bazaar, plus a full day to Saqqara

**Aswan**
- High Dam, Philaw Temple and Felucca ride

**Nile Cruise (three days)** — Kom Ombo and Edfu, Valley of Kings and Queens, Temple of Hatshepsut plus Memnon and Karnak at Luxor

Program includes
- International return economy class air travel with Singapore Airlines
- Internal airfares applicable to the standard itinerary
- Departure taxes applicable to the standard itinerary
- 11 nights hotel accommodation in ensuite twin share rooms
- 3 night cruise on the River Nile in twin berth or single cabins
- All meals during the cruise and breakfast and dinner daily in hotels
- Transport, lectures and field trips as indicated
- Touring by comfortable modern coach
- Applicable entry fees and services of local guides
- Services of a study/group leader

**Itinerary at a glance**

Day one: Australia/NZ departure  
Cairo: 4 nights  
Aswan: 3 nights  
Nile Cruise Aswan to Luxor: 3 nights  
Luxor: 2 nights  
Cairo: 2 nights  
Program ends with your return flight to Australia/NZ

**Price:** from AUD7850

**Booking deadline:** 29 September 2006

**Information/bookings:** Odyssey Travel  
Phone: 1300 888 225   Email: info@odysseytravel.com.au

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### Alumni news

#### Alumni lectures

An audience of 70 alumni and friends attended campus in March for compelling presentations by **Professor Peter Anderson**, Director of Macquarie’s new Policing, Intelligence and Counter-Terrorism Unit (PICT) and **Sandra Bilson**, the Unit’s Operations Manager. They covered the work of the Unit and gave an in-depth briefing on recent international disasters and intelligence ‘failures’. PICT has been established to promote human security and offers short courses in policing, intelligence and counter-terrorism. For more information visit [www.pict.mq.edu.au](http://www.pict.mq.edu.au)

**Dr Rosalinde Kearsley**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Ancient History, captivated an audience of 80 alumni with her lecture in May on the archaeological evidence for the cultural background of the New Testament, with particular reference to the historic cities of Perge and Pisidian Antioch.

#### Biology’s Grand Reunion

Well over 200 people found their way to the Frank Mercer Biology Garden on 21 April to mark the 40th anniversary of Frank Mercer’s appointment as Foundation Professor of the former School of Biological Sciences. The ‘grand reunion’ included former staff from 1966 onwards, current staff and postgraduate students.

If you are a biology postgraduate and missed out on this event, please inform Ron Oldfield in the Department of Biology of your present contact details. With a bit of luck, the next reunion will be sooner than another 40 years!

Email: ron.oldfield@mq.edu.au
Alumni chapter development

Macquarie University is committed to developing alumni chapters and informal networks in Australia and around the world, based on geographic, academic or professional interests. The objectives of alumni chapters and networks include:

- engaging alumni to benefit from a lifelong relationship with Macquarie
- organising professional and social networking opportunities for alumni
- encouraging alumni to stay in touch with fellow graduates
- providing a forum for alumni to give feedback to Macquarie
- reinforcing continuing education opportunities for alumni
- involving alumni in special projects

The Alumni Office encourages alumni to assist in developing chapters and networks. To get involved or receive further information, please email Alumni Director Mark Herndon: mark.herndon@mq.edu.au

News from Australia and overseas

**Actuarial Studies**
Actuarial Studies alumni are encouraged to log in and join the Chapter by visiting the newly launched website: www.mqactuary.org

**Postgraduate Accounting**
Following a successful inaugural cocktail reception at the Stamford Grand, North Ryde, postgraduate accounting alumni interested in forming an alumni chapter should contact the Alumni Office to express interest.

**Queensland**
The Chapter Executive is seeking alumni volunteers to assist with planning future events. Please contact Richard Hodgson or Bruce Aitken (addresses this page) for details and for information about a Christmas party in late November.

**South Australia**
The Alumni Office is assisting Feisar Joya (address this page) and other alumni to develop a chapter. Alumni living in SA are encouraged to contact Feisar or the Alumni Office to express interest.

**Western Australia**
Alumni in WA are encouraged to contact Geoff Berry (address this page) or the Alumni Office to express interest in joining a WA-based chapter.

**Hong Kong**
The Chapter Executive organised an alumni dinner, to be held on 15 July at the Club Lusitano, Central, to welcome the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Steven Schwartz. Other invited guests included the Chancellor, Mr Maurice Newman, MGSM Dean, Professor Roy Green, and senior University staff. For future events see Chapter website: www.macquarie.org.hk or contact Katherine Cheng (address this page).

**Malaysia**
The Chapter Executive is planning informal get-togethers for alumni in Malaysia. Contact Ben Thorpe (address this page) for information or to update your details.

**Shanghai**
The University Council formally approved the Shanghai Alumni Chapter in May 2006. A welcome and networking dinner was arranged for 14 July at the Shikumen Bistro in Xiantiandi, to welcome Macquarie’s new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Steven Schwartz. Other invited guests included the Chancellor, Mr Maurice Newman, the Registrar and Vice-Principal, Dr Brian Spencer, and Mr Mark Herndon, Director Alumni Office.

**Singapore**
Macquarie Alumni Association, Singapore, arranged a cocktail reception for 17 July at the Art House Complex to welcome the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Steven Schwartz. Other invited guests included the Chancellor, Mr Maurice Newman, the Registrar and Vice-Principal, Dr Brian Spencer, and MGSM Dean, Professor Roy Green. For future events see website www.macquarialeanumni.org.sg or contact Jake Lim Huck Wei, Steven Teo or Matthew Bull (addresses this page).

chapters & networks

For information on local alumni events or to stay in touch contact:

**Australia**

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**Academic Alumni (Chapter)**
Mark Gallagher cga@bigpond.net.au
Clare Bellis acst.alumni@efs.mq.edu.au

**South Australia (Network)**
Feisar Joya Feisar.Joya@didata.com.au

**Western Australia (Network)**
Geoff Berry geoffberry@aaai.com.au

**Queensland (Chapter)**
Richard Hodgson richard.hodgson@qiagen.com
Bruce Aitken Bruce.Aitken@eli.com.au

**Overseas**

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**Eastern Canada (Network)**
Kathleen Moran Kmoran@conestogac.on.ca

**China: Beijing (Network)**
Davis Cheng davischengcn@yahoo.com.cn

**China: Shanghai (Chapter)**
Clement Tsang cdtsang@hotmail.com

**Indonesia (Network)**
Richard Andries randries261@hotmail.com
Chris Septirymen chris.septirymen@anjfinance.com

**England (Network)**
Tom May Tom.May@sjberwin.com

**Hong Kong (Chapter)**
Katherine Cheng katcheng@mbicpa.com.hk

**Germany (Network)**
Jan Apking Jan.Apking@gmx.de

**Malaysia (Chapter)**
Ben Thorpe Benjamin.Thorpe@my.delarue.com

**Singapore (Chapter)**
Steven Teo steven@nglee-dfk.com

**Thailand (Network)**
porwelcome@hotmail.com

**Eastern USA (Network)**
Henny Rahardja hrahardja@gmail.com

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Francis Montil (BLegS 1994) writes:

While studying law at Macquarie I was with the Federal Attorney-General’s Department. I then took an LLM at the University of Sydney and in 1995 was offered a position with the UN in New York as Deputy Director of Investigations with the Office of Internal Oversight Services (in effect the UN Office of the Inspector General). My job was to help establish the first professional investigations entity in the UN system. It aims to combat internal fraud, corruption and all manner of malfeasances. I’m currently stationed in Vienna, where our office moved in 2003.

Without my BLegS, which led to my LLM, I could not have secured the position I’ve held now for ten years. The BLegS gave me the sound basis for contributing to the UN’s ideals of higher integrity in its endeavours.

Some of the cases I have led can be publicly accessed through General Assembly reports and may give an idea to other graduates of the interesting legal careers in UN Investigations. GA Report A/56/733 deals with fraud in refugee smuggling in East Africa, while GA Report A/57/465 concerns a task force I led in West Africa on the question of sexual exploitation by peace-keeping and other international staff of local and refugee communities. Hope this note is of interest and please keep Sirius going.

Contact: fkmontil@yahoo.com.au

Brian Heath (MBA 2003) writes:

I’m based in the Red Zone in Baghdad, working as an expatriate Director (Business Program Manager) on the executive committee for Iraqna GSM Telco, a subsidiary of Orascom Telcom, Egypt. It’s a huge cross-cultural challenge, living and working with Egyptians, Iraqis and other foreign expatriates. We face just about every abnormal management context you can imagine. Here’s a sample: the deteriorating security situation; the need to understand Islam; weapons at work; having your colleagues kidnapped, killed or threatened; knowing both criminals and insurgents would love to nab you; constant nearby bombings; military helicopters overhead; 24x7 bodyguards; armoured car convoys; temperatures over 55c in summer; red dust storms as on Mars; corruption; the politics of power and money; emergency evacuations.

But for all that, there have been rewarding moments, and the local staff appreciate the opportunity to learn modern management techniques. Implementing a Self Directed Work Team philosophy in a culture where staff have known nothing but command and control has been fascinating.

My advice to graduates is: stick to your career game plan no matter what. I had trouble getting a job I really wanted after my MBA. I spent a year in Latin America volunteering for street kids and orphans and working virtually unpaid for experience as a business development manager on professional immigration, to show I was prepared to go to dodgy locations. I spent another eight months in hospitality in London to survive. Finally, in desperation, I flew myself to Cairo and said to Orascom, I’m here, please interview me, I want a job in Iraq. And here I am. Ma’a salama.

Bronwyn Bancroft’s The Three Graces was one of the artworks discussed by Professor Di Yerbury in her Indigenous art lecture in June to a packed audience of alumni and friends.
Grapevine Online: new service for Alumni

Website: www.mq.edu.au/alumni/html/grapevine.html

Grapevine Online is a new electronic opportunity for alumni to share professional or personal news with fellow Macquarie graduates.

All grapevine news will be added to the search database. Naturally, the more alumni who contribute, the more the database will become interactive. If you’d like to search for a fellow graduate, go to the link Alumni Search.

Selected Grapevine stories are still being included in Sirius. However, in future Grapevine Online will be the main channel for alumni to communicate their news.

Remember to keep your contact details up to date to receive Sirius and news of current alumni events and benefits. Please spread the word about this new service so alumni can stay connected with one another. We want to hear from you.

Grapevine highlights

It’s all in the family

How many Macquarie degrees can one family have?

Manager of Macquarie’s Graduation Unit, Therese (Tess) Howes has ‘graduated’ herself, her husband, a son, a daughter, a niece, colleagues and friends, and their children.

In April this year she graduated Master of Educational Leadership (Higher Education) with the Vice-Chancellor’s Commendation for Academic Excellence. She also holds a BA (1996) and BA Honours (1998). She plans to begin a Doctor of Education in 2007.


Additionally, niece, Catherine White graduated BBA/BA (Psychology) in 2004 and plans postgraduate study from 2007.

The first on this list, however, came back in 1989, when Tess’s sister, Maggie Noble, received her BA.

There are even two more in the pipeline: daughter Mary Howes is in the third year of a BEd (Early Childhood Education) and son Thomas Howes is in the second year of a combined BAppFin/BCom (Accounting).

At the risk of stating the obvious, Tess has such confidence in her alma mater and employer that she recommends Macquarie to family and friends at every opportunity.

US honour for Australian teacher

Macquarie graduate Debbie Horsley was this year honoured for excellence in international education in the USA, where she was a cultural exchange teacher in an elementary school in Atlanta, Georgia, educating students about the history, culture and heritage of Australia. One of 66 Australian teachers in the Visiting International Faculty (VIF) Program, Debbie was chosen from more than 1700 cultural exchange teachers from 55 nations teaching in 10 states. A presentation was made at the annual VIF awards celebration in Atlanta, Georgia.
The VIF program is endorsed by the US Department of State and gives teachers from around the world the chance of living, teaching and travelling in the USA for up to three years.

Becoming ‘Absolutely Ancient’

After Dr Lesley Kinney was awarded her PhD last year for a thesis on Dance in Old Kingdom Egypt, she went out and formed a dance company with a difference. She writes:

What does one do with a doctorate in Egyptology? While undertaking a doctoral thesis it’s easy to think only of its completion as the destination. But in reality it’s only the start, or at least continuation, of the journey. Awaiting the result, I noticed an ad in the local paper inviting applications for grants for a program to reinstate the Blue Mountains as a cultural as well as tourist destination. I decided to have a shot at a grant to establish an Ancient Egyptian dance company – thus utilising my thesis topic.

As the application form didn’t open on my Mac, I literally had to cut and paste typewritten inserts. I handed my découpaged submission over the counter one minute before closing time and retreated exhausted.

I realised that the idea of ancient Egyptian dances performed alongside didgeridoo players at Echo Point was distinctly eccentric. Late one day in November, however, I received the call: the Blue Mountains City Council deemed my proposal of substantial merit and I was awarded one of the largest grants.

I now find myself at 52 the manager, choreographer and principal dancer of a regional dance company. It seems my research will reach the public domain in a way I had not predicted, in a living, kinaesthetic interpretation. Perhaps, like Carmen Miranda, I will die dancing. But I sincerely hope I also get the opportunity to complete and publish my academic research.

Outstanding career of Bhutanese graduate

Dasho Bap Kesang, an ex-Columbo Plan student from the Kingdom of Bhutan, spent four years at Macquarie in the 1970s, graduating with a BA in Accounting in 1979. From 1975-80 he lived at Robert Menzies College and in student housing. Bap returned a year or so later to Bhutan and has had an extraordinary career in the intervening years, including as an ambassador to the EU and the Bhutanese representative to the UN in Geneva. In 2004 he returned to Bhutan to become Secretary of the Royal Civil Service Commission of Bhutan. He is also a Member of the Council of the Royal University of Bhutan.

A number of Bhutanese in key government positions, like Bap Kesang, have studied in Australia under scholarship programs. Early this year Bap led a delegation to Australia to identify university courses for around 150 Bhutanese government sponsored students, and found time to visit Macquarie.

Outstanding career of Bhutanese graduate

Outstanding career of Bhutanese graduate

Outstanding career of Bhutanese graduate

Outstanding career of Bhutanese graduate

Acknowledgement: The original version of this article appears on the Australian Centre for Egyptology website: www.egyptology.mq.edu.au

The Absolutely Ancient dance company gives performances and holds classes in authentic ancient Egyptian dance.

For information visit: www.absolutelyancient.org

Dr Lesley Kinney
The Alumni Awards for Distinguished Service were awarded this year to Dr Judith Cashmore, Dr Jenny Harry and The Honourable Helen Sham Ho. All made inspiring speeches touching on leadership, core values and principles.

Dr Jenny Harry completed both her BSc DipEd with first class honours and her PhD at Macquarie. She has pioneered research on the molecular basis of environmental and sex determining mechanisms. Co-founder of the highly successful diagnostics company, Proteome Systems Ltd, and now Deputy CEO, she has a rare ability to communicate with both scientists and business managers.

Dr Judith Cashmore has a PhD in psychology from Macquarie and completed post-doctoral work there, focusing on children as witnesses. Her engagement in child-related social issues has led to legislation to allow children to give testimony in court by closed-circuit television, and to other recognitions of children’s rights and welfare, including the Children’s Care and Protection Act 2005.

The Hon Helen Sham-Ho completed an LLB at Macquarie and worked as a solicitor in Cabramatta. Two years later she became the first Chinese-born Member of Parliament in Australia. As a Liberal Member of the NSW Legislative Council, she was renowned for her advocacy of multiculturalism, social justice and equity. In 2000 she initiated the controversial Cabramatta Policing Inquiry and made a strong impact on the way policing is now conducted in NSW. From 1991-95 she served on Macquarie University Council.

The 2005 Kathryn Murphy Memorial Prize, awarded for academic merit in 300-level units taken by a female student proceeding to an honours degree, was awarded to Economics honours student Marian Mahoney.

The 2005 Raymond Powys Memorial Prize (supported by the University’s alumni), awarded for the most meritorious performance in the Master of Commerce in Accounting and Finance, went to Wan Qing Althea Seah.

The Macquarie University Science Prize, awarded to a science honours student whose work shows outstanding promise in a science discipline and potential for industrial, commercial or professional application, went to Wendy Quinn, who completed a BA Psychology (Honours) degree in 2005 and won the University Medal.

Alumni prizes were also awarded to first year students in each Division with the most meritorious academic record on entry to Macquarie.

Over 75 people attended the evening, including prize and award winners and their families, the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, Convocation Standing Committee members and University staff.

The Macquarie University Alumni Awards Ceremony on 24 May was an uplifting event recognising outstanding achievements by Macquarie students and alumni.