Hidden treasures on campus
Take a stroll with us

The Hearing Hub
A place for unimaginable discoveries

Calling all alumni
Join our expanding health club!

Sir Christopher Ondaatje:
‘You’re on the threshold of greatness’

Sound practice
Where the Aussie accent comes from

Old versus new media – what’s changed?
High-profile graduates discuss the future of journalism
Should there be a compulsory “canon of classics”?

Recently on my blog I asked these questions: is there a “canon of classics” we should expect our students to be familiar with, ranging from fiction to works of science and philosophy? In a perfect (academic) world how many books – and of what nature – should a typical undergraduate have read by the third year of university education?

Transmitted widely through Twitter and the blogosphere, these questions sparked a stirring debate including interviews with me on two separate ABC radio shows and a lead editorial in The Australian Literary Review. Interestingly, few people questioned the concept. Yes, they said or implied, there should be such a compulsory reading list. But there agreement stalled. Everyone had a different view of which books should be featured.

Compiling such a list is much easier said than done and doubtless there will be many who think it a waste of time and/or an irrelevant folly.

So I am most interested in the views of our alumni. For those in the world of work, would exposure to wider reading have been helpful in your chosen career? If you agree that there should be such a canon, which books would you recommend? Macquarie Matters readers can let me know their views by emailing macquarie.matters@mq.edu.au or by writing to me at the Office of Institutional Advancement, Macquarie University.

So, what are some of the books I would prescribe? I will name a few in the spirit of encouraging debate:

William Shakespeare’s Macbeth
Chinua Achebe’s Things Fall Apart
Homer’s The Iliad and The Odyssey
Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice
Joseph Conrad’s Heart of Darkness
Leo Tolstoy’s War and Peace
Pearl Buck’s The Good Earth
Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird
Dante’s Divine Comedy
Herman Melville’s Moby Dick
Marcel Proust’s Swann’s Way
Tom Paine’s The Rights of Man
Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s The Social Contract
John Locke’s On Liberty
Charles Darwin’s On the Origin of Species
Thomas Grey’s Elegy in a Country Churchyard
Adam Smith’s The Wealth of Nations

Whether you agree or disagree, I look forward to reading your views.

Professor Steven Schwartz
Vice-Chancellor
Macquarie University
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Veteran reporter Hugh Riminton of the Ten Network is one of the Macquarie University graduates interviewed in our special media feature. What does the digital revolution mean for broadcast and print journalists?
An unforgettable lecture

Last year, one Sunday afternoon, I was sitting in the Macquarie Theatre with a friend waiting to hear a performance by the Police Band. Looking at the bare stage where the band was setting up, a strange sensation came over me . . . a solidified memory began to take shape and there I was standing in that very space with nothing more than a bench desk and a microphone and the theatre filling up with the chatter of 200 students settling into the tiered seats. They were waiting for me to start the lecture.

Then as this scene began to take on a visual image it was followed by a more powerful recollection. Not only was I standing there waiting for the class to settle but I was standing there . . . without my glasses. Not that I knew this at the time.

It was in the early years of Macquarie when buildings were still going up and a leavening of older students had gained entrance and joined the newly matriculated students coming out of the first years of the Higher School Certificate. I had come into the University to set up and teach the Australian History Course.

It was a lively time to start a course. In the political environment of the Vietnam War, the Whitlam government and the liberation movements there was an awakening interest in Australian history and new books were coming through the bookshop. Russell Ward The Australian Legend, Donald Home The Lucky Country, Germaine Greer The Female Eunuch, Geoffrey Blainey The Tyranny of Distance, and then in my bag, a cold fear began to come over me. An expectant silence hung over the theatre as I made a scramble through my bag contents. They weren't there.

What to do? Only one thing. An appeal to the audience.

“I wonder is there anybody in the theatre who might have a spare pair of reading glasses I might borrow?”

A little silence and then, to applause, a lady came down from the rear of the theatre to offer me a glasses case. It was a very colourful case. Thanking her, I waited till she returned to her seat and then opened it. An uneasy sense began to come over me. At this time Barry Humphries was doing a Gold Coast satire with Dame Edna and the White Shoe Brigade and had Edna regaled in large, extravagant blue glasses with yellow butterflies mounted on the frames. Something like this greeted my eyes as I opened the case.

So far the audience hadn't seen them. But I had to go on.

When I opened the book reading page and put on the glasses, I had no idea what vision greeted the students but whatever it was, it drew forth a loud and spontaneous burst of laughter and applause. I waited for a little time and tried again once or twice but the vision was evidently too much for decorum and the merriment continued each time. I did not read a word. So Manning Clark was put aside and I anticipated the response her gesture would receive.

Years later after I had retired from Macquarie I was at a concert in the Opera House and at interval a lady came up to me to say hello. She said she had been at my Australian History Course at Macquarie.

“When were you there?”

“The day of the glasses.”

Shaken out of my reverie as the band started up, I wondered if there were any others in the audience that afternoon who were reliving a past experience at Macquarie Theatre.

Perhaps this one.

John Ryan, West Pymble

Keep up the good work

Hi, and thanks for everything so far. My wife Lynette and I are both Macquarie graduates. We met at Macquarie, in Robert Menzies College, where we both lived. Our eldest son Riley is now studying business and marketing there, as his first choice! He appears to be doing very well. I saw a news article that Macquarie’s research is well regarded too. Keep up the good work.

Rex Hoare, Chatswood

Worthwhile program

Many thanks for this interesting invitation to the new Macquarie Colloquium series. Why has it taken so many years to discover this type of reach-out program? I am very interested in very early Egyptian or early South American (Mayan) History. Should there be a lecture on these areas of study I would appreciate the opportunity to attend.

Wayne Moynham, Seaford
FREE PUBLIC LECTURES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

The Macquarie Colloquium Series is a series of free public lectures for alumni and the community, showcasing a selection of the University’s academic talent. Mark your diaries and register early as space is limited. Register online at www.mq.edu.au/alumni/colloquium or call 02 9850 7310. We welcome your suggestions on future lecture topics. Send them to us at macquarie.matters@mq.edu.au.

VICE-CHANCELLOR’S EVENTS IN 2011

ANNUAL LECTURE
In this year’s Macquarie University Vice-Chancellor’s free Annual Lecture, Professor Steven Schwartz will continue to analyse the nature of modern higher education. Have universities abandoned their historic mission of educating the whole student in exchange for a skills-driven utilitarian agenda?

After Professor Schwartz examines these and related issues, his ideas will be discussed by an expert panel comprising Professor Peter Shergold AC, former Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and Chancellor of the University of Western Sydney; Julie Hare, Editor of The Australian newspaper’s higher education section; and Allison Doorbar, head of JWT Education, part of JWT Specialized Communications.

The discussion will be moderated by ABC Radio National’s Life Matters host Richard Aedy.

POETRY SLAM
Imagine: just you, your words and a microphone for two minutes in the spotlight. Yes, it’s time to polish your metaphors and tighten your prose for the Macquarie University Poetry Slam. Entry is free and performers get two minutes to impress the judges (selected randomly from the audience) with their spoken word, poetry, hip hop, monologues and stories.

Directed by Slam expert Miles Merrill, the event will include guest performances from leading US slammers and a top DJ. In the words of Miles Merrill, the Macquarie Slam is open to everyone with a story to share. “Writers are encouraged to try whatever they can with words – speak, scream, howl, whisper, even sing,” he says.

VICE-CHANCELLOR’S ANNUAL DEBATE
Where: Building E7B, Macquarie University
When: Wednesday 26 October

For more information contact Bronwyn Forster on +612 9850 7440.

Join Professor O’Reilly as she offers you an intriguing window into the earth’s inner workings.

Where: MGSM City Campus, Level 7, 37-49 Pitt Street, Sydney
When: Thursday 7 July, 6pm–7.30pm

Join Professor Throsby as he discusses some surprising aspects about the economics of the arts, and how governments can help through enlightened cultural policy.

Where: MGSM City Campus, Level 7, 37–49 Pitt Street, Sydney
When: Thursday 7 July, 6pm–7.30pm

Join Professor Rapee as he describes some of the risk factors and attempts to change the life course and prevent the development of anxiety disorders in vulnerable young children.

Where: Level 3, Campus Hub, Building C10A, Macquarie University
When: Thursday 21 July, 6pm–7.30pm

Join Professor Kanawati as he examines possible reasons for this phenomenon and shows three cases of filial affection recently discovered by Macquarie University in Upper Egypt.

When: MGSM City Campus, Level 7, 37–49 Pitt Street, Sydney
When: Thursday 18 August, 6pm–7.30pm
NO ROOM TO HIDE – MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

No Room to Hide examines the studio practice of six contemporary artists, exploring their processes and responses. Students from various disciplines are matched with an artist to record those processes using a range of devices. In the No Room to Hide exhibition, the secrets, labour and highs and lows of art production will be revealed. Admission is free.

Artists: Sarah Contos, Christopher Hanrahan, Lou Hubbard, Caroline Rothwell, Charlie Sofo and Justine Varga
Collaborators: Iain Brew, Ally Halliwell, Alison Leeson and Jacqueline McDonald.
Curator: Peter Fay
Where: Macquarie University Art Gallery, Building E11A
When: 15 June–29 July, Monday to Friday 10am–5pm

Parking fees apply. Tickets can be purchased from vending machines in car parks (they accept coins and credit cards). W4, X3 and X4 car parks are designated for casual parking.

SCULPTURE PARK WALK

Discover the natural beauty of Macquarie University’s Sculpture Park.
The free tour, led by Macquarie’s Art Gallery curator, Mr Leonard Janiszewski, will conclude at the Macquarie University Art Gallery where walkers will enjoy a guided tour of the artworks on show.

Where: Building E11A, front entrance
When: Thursday 23 June, 9.45am–12.30pm

For registrations email community@mq.edu.au or call 9850 1380. Numbers are limited so please register early.

Parking fees apply. Tickets can be purchased from car park vending machines (they accept coins and credit cards). Alternatively, visit www.mq.edu.au/transport for sustainable transport options to the campus.

MASTER OF APPLIED FINANCE ALUMNI NETWORKING EVENT, SINGAPORE

Graduates from Macquarie’s Master of Applied Finance are invited to the event below.

Where: La Viva, Chijmes
When: Friday 29 July, 6pm–9pm
RSVP: leonie.bringolf@mafc.mq.edu.au
Cost: Free

The real measure of winning in business, and in life, is a balance between work, fulfilment and relationships, according to one young Macquarie University alumnus.

Joo Kim Tiah, 31, is deputy CEO and heir apparent to the giant property and investment conglomerate TA Enterprise, listed on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange.

Tiah completed his Master of International Business at Macquarie University in 2003, and has since embarked on an eventful career. He has helped to expand the family company’s assets and in 2009 was awarded a ‘Most Promising’ young executive title by Malaysia’s Prestige magazine.

Modestly asserting he “hasn’t had much success yet,” Tiah, a devout Christian, believes the real measure of a rewarding life is neither fame nor material wealth, but being fulfilled in every aspect of it. “It’s no point having a great career and wealth, but being fulfilled in every aspect of it. “It’s no point having a great career if it’s at the expense of a broken down marriage, a dysfunctional family life or damaged friendships,” he says. “Some of us can lose ourselves in the race, and I’ve personally been guilty of it.”

TA Enterprise’s interests span a vast range of financial and property services, including property investment, development and construction. In Australia, TA Global owns the Westin Melbourne and the Radisson Plaza Hotel Sydney. The company is also involved in an alliance to develop Sydney’s Little Bay Cove in a $600-million residential development.

Tiah is determined to do more – to diversify and build the TA brand into a worldwide household name. This will involve maintaining a reputation for winning, because it will help bring greater brand recognition, he says. “Then the business principles and keys to success you’ve learned can be implemented in other businesses to brighten your chances of success.”

What are the hallmarks of a successful CEO? It’s affected by many factors, Tiah says. A CEO must – among other things – be humble, teachable, a good listener, hold a high level of integrity, be fair, honest, inspiring, recognise talent and loyalty, give opportunities to others to excel and be quick to admit fault or mistakes.

Macquarie University is a great environment in which to learn, he adds, not just academically but culturally because the student population is “a melting pot of races and cultures”.

One of his happiest memories of campus life is his involvement with the basketball club. He misses the games, the competition and the camaraderie at Macquarie University. “I don’t particularly miss the exams or the all-nighters to get assignments done because I waited till the last minute to do them.”

Tiah urges current students to make the most of their youth and university experience which will seem to pass too quickly. “Study hard, play hard but go out there and network and meet new people because you’ll never know where it will lead you.”

Another key to winning is to make the right decisions. Tiah points to advice his father once gave him: we are the sum of our decisions. Make too many wrong ones or for too long and it will be harder for you to succeed. “The sooner and longer we continue to make and uphold the right decisions the sooner success will find us.”
A will to win and daily deals equal astonishing success

Justus Hammer, co-founder of Australia’s leading group purchasing site Spreets (www.spreets.com.au), recalls his time at Macquarie University with great affection. Not simply because his Master of Commerce in IT, completed in 2008, set him up with the technical knowledge he needed to make Spreets a success, but because it allowed him to “make the connection with theory and bring it back to real business.”

This is the most important lesson Hammer learned at University. You can have great ideas in IT, but if you don’t know how to integrate them in practice, you may never realise them to their full potential.

Hammer, at the age of 32, has certainly done that – at a speed that’s astonishing even in the rapidly evolving digital world. With partner Dean McEvoy, Hammer founded Spreets in February 2010. Less than a year later, in early 2011, Yahoo!7 acquired the business for close to $40 million.

Now the leading group-buying website in Australia and New Zealand, Spreets features a daily deal on the best things to do, see, eat and buy in cities across Australia, offering members’ savings of between 50% and 90%, according to their interests. Hammer strongly believed in the idea from the outset, refusing a job offer with Google to launch the company with McEvoy.

When Yahoo!7 signed the deal to acquire Spreets, the site had already collected more than 500,000 members and delivered more than 270,000 vouchers.

Before coming to Australia from Germany in 2007 to complete his Masters, Hammer held the role of marketing manager for GoYellow, Germany’s biggest yellow pages company, in Munich. After studying at Macquarie University, he worked as Marketing Manager for Getprice, now Australia’s number-one price comparison website.

Like most young entrepreneurs, Hammer admits to being hugely competitive, a trait he links to his days as a professional basketball player in Germany; he simply transferred his competitiveness to business. “I never had a desire to get rich,” he explains. “The drive to succeed, in practical terms, just means having a desire to win, wanting to win every game.”

However this desire doesn’t happen at the expense of ethics, he says. “I believe I’m an ethical person and I believe in good karma. What goes around comes around. That applies to sport as well, being competitive but fair.”

It was Macquarie University and its teachers that gave him “the building blocks, the foundation,” on which he grew his skills, he says. Enrolling at the University, expanding his horizons, meeting new people and getting a different view of life were vital for Hammer’s development.

Asked about advice for today’s Macquarie University students, Justus Hammer has this to offer: “Team up with people and businesses you’re interested in. Work with those who are involved in the areas you want to get into, and stick close by their side.

“That’s what I did, and I’ve never regretted it.”
NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT

Every issue of Macquarie Matters is a learning experience for me; learning more about the accomplishments of our alumni. Macquarie alumni now number over 110,000, spread across the globe, and our editorial team have, in my view, done a terrific job of tracking down what I hope you find to be some interesting stories on alumni, faculty and developments at the University.

The highlight for me since our last edition was the reunion of our first group of students who joined Macquarie University in 1967. Our first graduates in 1970 numbered only 150, and we were able to advertise the name of every graduate in the local paper. In 2010, we had 9,620 graduates, and our graduation booklets in April and September ran to 60 pages. Needless to say advertising is not an option these days. The 1967 reunion is the first of a series; our aim is to cover every graduation year between now and our 50th anniversary, so look out for the timing of your reunion.

Another highlight is an outstandingly generous donation to the University of $1 million to establish a Soft Power Advocacy and Research Centre, in our Faculty of Arts. The donor has requested anonymity, so no identity can be revealed. The field of soft power and public diplomacy has been of interest to the faculty for some time, and this donation will enable the centre to be established later this year and further funds to be raised to support its ongoing operation. We are all extremely grateful for this generous gift.

On the subject of giving, we have launched our graduate gift program, in which future graduates will raise funds in their final year of study, to be presented to the University on their graduation. The graduates of 2012 will be running a giving campaign between August and December 2011, with the aim of raising funds to support disadvantaged students. This aligns directly with the University’s mission of providing educational opportunities to every student with ability, regardless of circumstances, and we look forward to being able to provide more of these opportunities through the generosity of our graduates.

Caroline Trotman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, International and Development

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS SHOWCASE UNIVERSITY’S TALENT

Experts in literacy, medicine and the military are among the Macquarie University academics and graduates recognised in the 2011 Australia Day honours. The honours list showcases the diversity and depth of talent, past and present, at the University. Several current academics and more than a dozen high-profile alumni are on it this year.

Professor Kevin Wheldall AM, literacy reformer
One serving staff member recognised is literacy researcher and reformer Professor Kevin Wheldall, who has been Professor of Education and Director of the Macquarie University Special Education Centre since 1990. Professor Wheldall was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for service to education, particularly for the design and implementation of literacy programs.

With his wife and research partner Dr Robyn Beaman, he established the “Multilit” (Making Up Lost Time In Literacy) initiative in 1995 to boost literacy for low-progress readers. Their program has attracted over $12 million in research and consultancy income since then, and made an incalculable difference to the lives of thousands of Australians who would otherwise have struggled to continue their education – including Indigenous students in Cape York.

“I’ve been privileged to work with outstanding, stimulating and supportive colleagues,” says Wheldall. “I’m grateful to them all, but especially to my wife.”

Professor Valerie Pratt AO, EEO leadership
Valerie Pratt, Visiting Professor with the Macquarie Graduate School of Management and a Fellow of the Labour Management Studies Foundation at Macquarie University, became an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO). Her award is for distinguished service to higher education and the community, particularly as a leader in equal employment opportunity and industrial relations policy.
Professor Michael Patkin AM, surgical pioneer
Michael Patkin, a Clinical Professor at the Australian School of Advanced Medicine at Macquarie, became a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for service to medicine as a surgeon, and to the study and practice of ergonomics and instrument design. Patkin is renowned for having published the first paper applying ergonomics to operative surgery, in 1965, and for pioneering ergonomics in microsurgery in the 1970s.

‘[The award] has been hugely important for me,’ says Patkin, who pays tribute to his Macquarie University colleague and close friend John Cartmill, professor of surgery, who was an early supporter.

Captain Steven O’Keefe CSC, Royal Australian Navy
Among alumni recognised in the list is Steve O’Keefe, a Royal Australian Navy captain who graduated from MGSM with a Postgraduate Diploma in Operations Management in 1999 and a Master of Management in 2002.

Currently posted to Williamtown as Commanding Officer of the Joint Warfare Doctrine and Training Centre, O’Keefe was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross for outstanding commitment to duty, skills, judgement and dedication.

‘I look back at my studies with great fondness,’ he says. ‘The subjects I studied, both foundation and elective, provided me with a balanced grounding. It’s almost a decade since I graduated but I still rely on some of the concepts I explored at MGSM to inform the decisions I make today.’

Graeme Field ASM, Air Ambulance Service
Another alumnus delighted to be recognised is Graeme Field, who received the Australian Service Medal for his work managing the air wing of the Ambulance Service of New South Wales. Field joined the service as a paramedic in 1979 while still studying for his Bachelor of Arts Degree at Macquarie. His studies were, and still are, ‘very beneficial,’ he says, particularly in helping equip him for management positions. He hopes the award will help raise the profile internationally for the clinical and safety advances the NSW Air Ambulance has made in its 40-year history.

Maree O’Halloran AM, for teaching
Distance education and hard, cooperative work are behind the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) award received by alumna Maree O’Halloran, recognised for a range of representative roles in education and industrial relations.

‘It recognises my effort but also the collective work of the members of the Teachers Federation,’ she says. ‘I was very fortunate as a teacher in western NSW to be able to enrol in Macquarie University’s distance education Bachelor of Legal Studies. I put the knowledge and skills acquired into practice while I worked for the union.’

Margaret Moore AM, for music education
‘I’ve been fortunate enough to work with exceptional musicians at the Sydney Symphony and extraordinary educators as part of the Orff Schulwerk approach to music education, among others,’ says alumna Margaret Moore, who has been made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to arts through music education.

‘The award has given me a deep sense of pride and gratitude and the impetus to work even harder to achieve access to arts for young people across Australia, particularly those in rural and remote areas.’

Other Macquarie graduates who received awards were:
Merron Howard OAM, Robert Salt OAM, Geoffrey Kells AM, Lieutenant-Colonel Matthew Vertzonis CSM, Russell Hannah OAM, Dr June Heinrich AM, Sister Myree Harris OAM, and Roger Butler AM.
A glittering function at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in Shanghai has proved to be a perfect networking opportunity for Macquarie University alumni in China’s most populous city.

The recent dinner, hosted by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development) Caroline Trotman, was attended by over 120 alumni and guests who enjoyed reconnecting with each other and learning about exciting developments on campus.

Guests heard presentations from Caroline Trotman as well as Macquarie’s Shanghai Chapter Representative Clement Tsang, while caterers at the stunning Waldorf Astoria (so new it had not even held its official opening) treated guests to a sumptuous banquet.

One alumnus who especially enjoyed the evening is Ray Zhou, Executive Vice President at Shanghai-based Cardinfo, a market leader in China’s rapidly growing payment industry.

Zhou is proud of the Master of Applied Finance he received from Macquarie University in 2003, but says the degree itself isn’t the most valuable asset he gained. “Macquarie has equipped me with a better understanding of the complexities of our world, with enlightening ideas of how to treat ourselves and others, and positive values of how to live a noble life.”

Meeting up with fellow alumni and University staff at the dinner was a great opportunity, Zhou adds, not just for networking, but for swapping ideas with people who have a shared history. “It tells us that no matter how good or bad the world is, we’re not alone.”

Another alumnus who attended, Edward Zhou (no relation), is Regional Head, Treasury Sales and Marketing, of The Bank of East Asia in Shanghai.

“University life extends beyond the time spent obtaining the degree,” Edward says. “The strong friendships made will always remain, the problem solving skills learned will always apply, and the network of knowledge-sharing will never cease. Macquarie University is not just a university of four walls, it sets foundations for life.”
ANI APCARIAN’S MEMORY LIVES ON IN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The 2011 winners of the five Macquarie University scholarships funded by the alumni community have been announced.

Though academic achievement is a consideration in the selection process, the scholarships focus on supporting students in need or those facing hardship.

The winners:

THE ANI APCARIAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Caleb Wilson
This enables the holder to pursue a full-time program of study leading to a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education) at the Institute for Early Childhood at Macquarie. It was offered for the first time this year to honour the memory of an outstanding student, Ani Apcarian, who had been studying Early Childhood Education when she was killed tragically with her brother in a plane crash. It was established by the University in collaboration with Ani’s parents.

“My goal is to achieve highly enough in the Bachelor of Education to study honours,” says Caleb Wilson, “so I may one day become a professor in education or early childhood. I’m interested in the issues that boys face in education and that men face in early childhood and primary teaching.”

THE FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP
Olivia Whenman
To encourage alumni family members to study at Macquarie.

“My future career plans focus on written or print journalism in the areas of science, film or music,” says Olivia Whenman, who intends to become a successful journalist.

Consequently this is reflected in my university preferences and a Bachelor of Media is my first preference.”

THE HONOURS SCHOLARSHIP
Ruth Cortejos and Caleb Winch (shared)
Awarded to students embarking on Honours studies.

“My performance in Honours will define the future learning and career opportunities available,” says Caleb Winch. “I plan to work in the field, then begin a PhD and/or Clinical Masters in Psychology.”

Ruth Cortejos: “I enjoy teaching and working with children, and by studying a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) I’m able to build on this interest.”

THE ALEX MITCHELL SCHOLARSHIP
Jennika Woerde
Awarded to a talented student in the Faculty of Arts.

“I see the combined Arts/Law degree as particularly appealing,” says Jennika Woerde. “I’ll be well equipped to enter the workforce as a capable and educated person with a comprehensive range of skills and knowledge.”

THE GARRAWI SCHOLARSHIP
Joshua Boland
Awarded to an outstanding student of Indigenous descent.

“I wish to translate my academic achievements into positive outcomes for Indigenous Australians,” says Joshua Boland. “This is shown through my year-long Honours research into Indigenous welfare. On completing my Master of Arts in History, I hope to enrol in a professional teaching qualification to enable me to help educate vulnerable members of society.”

For more information about the University’s alumni scholarships please visit our website www.mq.edu.au/alumni or to set up a scholarship yourself, please call Mark Williams, Director, Institutional Advancement on +612 9850 4268.
CLEANING THE LAND, ONE SITE AT A TIME

Twenty-eight-year-old Alice Plioplis is putting her Macquarie University geology degree to effective use in a traditionally male-dominated profession. She’s making a difference and proud of it.

Plioplis, who graduated in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science majoring in geology, has been employed by contaminated land consultancy company Environmental Earth Sciences for the past five years. She has risen fast in the organisation while playing a specialised role – identifying contaminated land and then devising ways to remediate it.

Her expertise is gaining recognition, as her recent Young Achiever Award from the Australian Contaminated Land Consultants Association demonstrates.

Soil analysis

“I’ve been lucky,” says Plioplis. “Some graduates spend years in the field collecting data before they’re allowed to do the higher-level work. I do bore-sampling as well as soil and groundwater analysis and interpretation but I also liaise with clients and write detailed reports; I help design solutions and manage them.”

It’s a job that combines skill with detective work, comes with high pressure and involves high stakes, not just for the land owners who may have tens of millions of dollars riding on remediation projects, but also for communities concerned about their safety. “The contaminants we identify and remove are potentially extremely dangerous,” Plioplis says.

Indeed, some of the chemicals are so volatile and poisonous that Plioplis and her crew at times must wear Tyvek suits – of the type used by asbestos removal people – and special organic-vapour breathing masks. Some sites are covered with enclosed tents to stop exposed soil releasing poisonous vapours into the air. And the end of a day’s work can involve a wash down in a decontamination tent.

Typical contamination involves chemicals, oil and petroleum products on sites including existing or old service-stations, factories or industrial land. Alice and her colleagues drill into the earth to take samples from various strata, then send the soil to laboratories for analysis.

Obvious clues

Some clues are obvious, she says: visual staining or odour. Meanwhile screening tools on site, like a photo ionisation detector that can pick up volatile compounds, can provide valuable clues straight away.

“Once we’ve determined it’s contaminated, we arrange the remediation and earthworks to clean it up,” Plioplis explains. “Getting the contamination out of the soil and being able to sign off on a clean piece of land is a very satisfying feeling.”

Alice Plioplis recommends a career in environmental consultancy to anyone who likes using science to solve problems. Just don’t expect to talk about what you do. “If you want to talk in detail about your job, this is not a good one,” she says. “Our projects are mostly confidential. We don’t talk about our clients or where we’re working.”

Though university obviously can’t prepare graduates for everything they encounter in the workforce, the geology degree at Macquarie University, and especially Alice’s honours year, helped her to adopt a scientific approach to what she does at work.

“When I first started working at Environmental Earth Sciences I realised the approach was much the same as it was at uni – prepare a hypothesis and a plan to test it, test the hypothesis by collecting data in the field, analyse the field data in the laboratory and by creating maps and drawings, interpret the analytical results.”

Helping others

Recently, as well, her geological interpretation skills have come in handy in resolving issues in relation to contaminants moving through the ground, and helping others in the company who have questions or problems connected with geology.

No ‘science geek’ when she attended Hunters Hill High School in Sydney, she laughs at suggestions she may become a role model for getting more women into the profession. “I was into drama and art at high school.”

There are no downsides to the job she loves, she says. But one minor drawback is being the only female on site which means that male colleagues have to wait while she uses the decontamination tent.
AN INSTITUTION ‘ON THE THRESHOLD OF GREATNESS,’ SAYS SIR CHRISTOPHER

As a young institution, Macquarie University is “on the threshold of greatness,” a respected seat of learning in a country that's young and has a brilliant future, according to Sir Christopher Ondaatje, OC, OBE, the internationally renowned businessman, philanthropist, explorer, writer and Olympian.

“You can use that power to influence the people you educate and who are almost certainly going to be leaders of this country,” said Sir Christopher, who gave lectures, addressed a graduation ceremony and received an Honorary Doctorate of Letters during his recent visit, his first to the University and to Australia.

“What young people learn here will shape Australia’s future,” he said in an interview with Macquarie Matters. “They never have to look backwards or to America or the UK, whose cycle of power has ended. The future of the world lies in countries like Australia and Canada. You’re very lucky to be here.”

In addition to accepting an invitation to be Macquarie University’s writer in residence, Sir Christopher, 78, travelled to Uluru and Alice Springs with members of the Indigenous Studies Department and the Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies in April, having given several lectures, including a well-attended discussion of his book Hemingway in Africa: The Last Safari. The book examines Ernest Hemingway’s lifelong fascination with Africa, following the trail of his two major African safaris and exploring the influence of the continent on his life and work.

Celebrated author
Born in Sri Lanka, Sir Christopher is the brother of Michael, also a celebrated author. He was schooled in the UK and, after his father lost the family fortune, had to leave school a year from graduation. In 1956, he migrated to Canada, arriving in Toronto with virtually no money. He quickly rebuilt the family fortune, becoming a stockbroker and a multi-millionaire in the publishing industry by founding the Pagurian Press.

He is author of many books including the best-selling Richard Burton biographies, Sindhi Revisisted and Journey to the Source of the Nile. He was a member of Canada’s 1964 Olympic bobsled team, is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a Trustee of the National Portrait Gallery in London.

Compelling interest
One of Sir Christopher’s most compelling interests has long been Hemingway. He has followed in the American author’s footsteps, literally, and has learned from him that most good fiction should be based on fact and “the art and strength of the simple statement.”

Hemingway’s prose is easy to read and powerful. It’s never over-exaggerated, flowery, full of adjectives or onomatopoeic, Sir Christopher said. “I discovered that he wasn’t a natural writer. He honed and honed his words until he got to the simple statement. Creating that kind of writing is hard work but it’s helped to teach me to write properly.”

Macquarie’s influence
Sir Christopher has an affinity and fascination, too, with Lachlan Macquarie, who also lived in Canada (in Nova Scotia) before being appointed Governor of New South Wales late in his career, a position he held until 1821.

“Macquarie’s influence is still felt in Australia, yet it’s not very well known that when he retired he never got a pension. When he went back to Scotland with his wife he had no money. He had terrible health problems and died in 1824.”

Macquarie University’s Professor of International Communication Naren Chitty, whose family has links with Sir Christopher’s, was among the many who enjoyed his visit and lectures. “He’s an amazing person, so full of knowledge about literature and art, as well as being a collector,” says Chitty. “I’ve suggested to him that he considers writing a bio about Lachlan Macquarie.”

STELLAR RESULT FOR ROBOT ‘OLYMPICS’ TEAM

The Macquarie University team which took part in the FIRST Robotics Championships in St Louis in April came third out of the top 400 teams from around the world.

The team, made up of high school students and members of the Macquarie University “FIRST Alumni” student club, won the bronze medal.

“They were recognised for the broad scope of their community outreach for the purpose of raising awareness about the role and importance of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and encouraging students to take up STEM careers at uni, says Professor Mike Heimlich from Macquarie’s Department of Physics and Engineering who accompanied them.”

“The award recognised the tremendous impact the team has had on Australia in general in an amazingly short period of time. The result represents a magnificent achievement,” he says.

“I imagine if someone with absolutely no Olympic experience announced today they’d compete in the Decathlon in the 2012 London Olympics and then won the bronze medal in the most comprehensive event of the premiere athletic competition in the world. The equivalent is what the team has accomplished!”

The first competition, broadcast on America’s ABC network, is “the Olympics” of this type of program, one of the world’s leading tournaments for engineering and technology students. President Obama hosts the champions at the White House, and the CEOs of companies like Boeing, United Technologies, BAE Systems, Underwriters Laboratories, Johnson & Johnson, and many others are present.

“The judges simply could not believe a second-year team from a country with no prior FIRST robotics competition experience would be receiving the award,” says Heimlich.

“We’ve subsequently been approached by CEOs of several global companies with Australian operations who want to help us, and by judges who have contacts at other universities in Australia who are going to get them to start teams.”
The digital world has changed the media landscape. Along with readers who write and viewers with cameras, digital technology has given us audiences who produce and distribute media themselves. So where does this leave journalists – and journalism? To find out, *Macquarie Matters* canvassed the opinions of a columnist, political reporter, television presenter, and documentary film maker – all Macquarie graduates and representatives of “old media”.

SO WHAT’S CHANGED?
When an 18-year-old air force cadet, dubbed Kate by Channel Ten, decided there was no prospect of getting a fair go from the Australian Defence Force Academy after she was secretly filmed having sex, she went to the media.

“She didn’t tweet it, she didn’t put it up on Facebook, she went to old media,” says Ten’s political reporter Hugh Riminton.

For him, that not only reflects the perception that old media’s power still exists, its response is proof that its power absolutely does exit.

“We were able to put some fairly searching questions to Defence and to the Defence Minister with the result that within a week there were six enquiries ordered into what had taken place,” he says.

Far from being threatened by the new media landscape, Riminton, like Nine Network presenter Peter Overton and Daily Telegraph columnist Miranda Devine, is excited by the potential it provides.

Witness, says Overton, the natural disasters that have unfolded before our eyes, thanks to a small army of citizen journalists. The Japanese tsunami was the first disaster of that scale to be captured on iPhones, Blackberrys, Facebook and Twitter, and allowed newsrooms around the globe to go to air immediately with images, videos, commentaries and eyewitness accounts.

“It was breathtaking in its enormity,” he says.

Despite the input from the public, audiences still go to television to see a record of the day or of a big event, says Overton. “I still think they are, by and large, using networks as a primary source of daily information.”

Changing relationships

Recently the German parliamentary press corp was angered when a government agency chose to bypass the traditional press conference and tweeted an important announcement. In Australia the Queensland police used Twitter with great effectiveness during the floods and cyclone to communicate with the public.

So is social media changing journalists’ relationships with their audiences and sources?

“It is curious isn’t it?” says Riminton, citing the example of Kevin Rudd going to ground after his final news conference when he was toppled as prime minister, but still providing clues as to what he was thinking and doing through the tweets he and his wife released.

Yet Riminton doesn’t believe his own relationship with his audience has fundamentally changed. A core value for all journalists is respect for their audience – and their intelligence, interest, curiosity and concerns. Social media simply provide more ways to understand what is happening in the community, he says.

Miranda Devine agrees and says she’s particularly enjoying Twitter and its ability to provide journalists with instant and real-time feedback on what’s going on.

Website commentary she has found to be less edifying, since the people writing are more interested in using her column as a platform to posture and make a name for themselves than to give feedback, she says.

Unlike her first interactive relationship – email – which improved her journalism because it opened her up to more points of view and gave her access to stories she might not have found, Devine says websites build a community of commentators that clusters around particular columnists – “some because they like you and some because they hate you. It becomes very polarising.”

It also means much time has to be spent moderating comments to ensure they aren’t abusive. Then there’s the quality of commentary: poor compared with that she received in the past by email. Often that’s because the writers are from a younger demographic who are not newspaper readers but directed to the column via social media.

“If I write a column complaining about cyclists, the biking community will put the link up on Twitter and then they’ll encourage their members to slam the comments. So a lot of it is very political.”

Websites build a community of commentators that clusters around particular columnists

Twitter, she says, is a fantastic tool, not as yet wholly understood because it is so new. “Twitter is also a dangerous medium because you’ve got 140 characters with no nuance, so irony or hyperbole or any kind of tone is lost,” she says.

Politicians and people in power are aware that Twitter’s viral nature means it’s difficult for them to control the message, says Riminton. “Often something will come out which builds a huge reaction which may not have been the intention of the person who sent it out in the first place. There’s an understanding of its power and a wariness of its randomness among people in powerful positions.”
Shattering the matrix
Social media's potential for more intimate, direct and uncensored relationships with audiences depends on the value system in which the journalist operates, says former 60 Minutes reporter and documentary film maker Jeff McMullen.

McMullen believes journalists in large multinational media companies are under pressure to conform to the company's culture, and this dominates their ethical response in many ways.

"So they want to be first. They're essentially attention-seekers trying to capture a front page or a dominant part of a website or to make their video the one that leads the evening bulletin."

And the competition for attention comes because media companies are in fact in the business of selling information.

While the technology of the digital age gives individuals a media voice – as in Egypt and Tunisia recently where hand-held phones gave a say to people who'd been traditionally silenced – information is, he says, still dominated by multinationals with an agenda.

McMullen cites the Iraq war and Northern Territory intervention.

"There were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. And yet we were led by a prime minister and a government to accept this information; and Australia went into an illegal war unsanctioned by the United Nations on the basis of what was manipulated information, to serve a particular agenda," he says.

The takeover of 73 Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory, allegedly because of paedophile rings, is another example, he says. "The Australian Crime Commission today says there were no paedophile rings in these communities but we've forgotten the big lie and the matrix has in fact reinforced in our view that that lie was true."

For McMullen, the challenge of this new age of journalism, in which individuals now have the chance to change the information agenda, is to shatter this traditional 'matrix'.

He doesn't believe social media is primarily interested in accurate, truthful information – it's more akin to neighbours having a yarn across that backyard fence – but the intimacy of the connection is unprecedented, he says.

Moreover, we can now search the world for an alternative presentation of a story and find a variety of sources, which means we're no longer passive readers or viewers, nor captive to the narrow agendas of the information controllers. "That's an extraordinary change from the world the Chomskys and Marshall McLuhans were trying to understand."

Hugh Riminton concedes that to an extent old media may reflect the prejudices of the employer or people on the editorial staff. "But the notion that there was a kind of old media that basically lived in a little box somewhere up in the sky and pronounced for the world how things were going to be, is not a sustainable one. In a commercial environment it has its survival in mind and knows that if it ignores its audience it won't last long."

"Overall though, social media has changed the way in which people converse with each other, and with that comes positives and tremendous negatives," he adds.

One negative is that it provides a "megaphone" – particularly when voices are combined – for vindictive viewpoints to develop a head of steam. And that's because old media's mitigating role has been diminished. The positives are that it is much more democratic. It's hard for power structures to exist divorced from feedback from the population.

"So personally I love living in this current age. I love the potentiality of social media, I love the way in which journalism is about giving a voice to the voiceless and there are few people who are utterly voiceless with social media. On balance, that's a great asset."

Who sets the agenda?
If we accept that, traditionally, the news agenda has been set by newspaper columnists, editorials and the nightly news, is their power waning in this new media landscape? "I think it is," says Riminton.

Devine disagrees, claiming that little of what's on Twitter, Facebook, blogs and radio is original reporting. "Newspaper journalists are the ones who go out and gather the information that everyone else talks about and has opinions about. Everyone else follows on."

Radio stations read the papers and pull out stories that run until the six o'clock news, she adds.

An important part of an effective democracy is the ability of the media to clarify the economic agenda for people

Overton agrees, though he thinks television and even radio can set the news agenda. "You only need a Neil Mitchell [a talkback host] to get one comment out of a person on a serious issue and it can absolutely take over."

Unlike many colleagues, McMullen disputes that news media have ever set the agenda and sees it as vanity and conceit on their part to think they have. Neither is government fully in control of the agenda; rather it's the industrial, economic power that is. An important part of an effective democracy therefore is the ability of media to clarify the economic agenda for people.

Whatever the perspective, there's no doubt that social media is throwing new ingredients into the mix.

As added evidence Riminton and Devine quote Lachlan Harris, Kevin Rudd's former press secretary who says we are no longer dealing with a news, but an opinion, cycle.

According to Harris the old game in politics used to be "winning the fight on the six o'clock news." Now it's the pamphleteers of the digital age, with the ability to articulate vigorous, sometimes biased opinions that resonate with an audience, who have the greatest power.

"Politicians have to find a way to deal with that, either to butter them up or alternatively to go head on and attack them," says Riminton. "And that makes, as Harris says, a much more brutal environment to play in."
Challenges ahead
As to the challenges ahead for old media, there is consensus that the fundamental challenge for journalism is how to make it pay and allow journalists to do the kind of expensive journalism that keeps democracy ticking over and holds governments to account.

As the rivers of gold that advertising once represented dry up, the fact-checking, legal input, and resources put into war zones and investigative journalism have shrunk. While acknowledging the newspapers are still trying to figure out how to make money out of the Internet, Devine doesn’t subscribe to the view that journalism standards – and therefore the value of mastheads and brands – will necessarily fall. “This is the catastrophist view.”

While people will always go to mastheads they trust, they don’t enjoy the automatic loyalty of readers that they might have had in the past, Devine says, which means it’s more important than ever to produce accurate journalism.

Moreover, accuracy and trust remain vital ingredients because if people lose their trust in mainstream journalism, it has ramifications for democracy, says Devine. So trusted brands like The New York Times, for example, must maintain their quality and not fall for the panic that newspapers are dying out.

Rupert Murdoch, she says, is the only major media owner investing in quality journalism. And he is big enough to risk putting newspapers behind a paywall.

“It will take some time for the public to get over the fact that they’ve had free content for so long and they’re sort of outraged that they now have to pay for it. But they paid for it in the past – why should journalism be free? If you want free journalism it is not journalism, it’s opinion,” she says.

For McMullen, the challenge for Australian journalists is still to uncover the truth and “to be serious.”

“It was Edward R Murrow who said if television is used only for entertainment it is not much more than a box of lights and wires. We’re still largely using television as an entertainment medium to sell things. We have not yet taken the role of journalists and information nearly seriously enough.”

So, he says, here’s what’s needed from journalists in the new media age: expose the big lies and take your role responsibly and far more seriously to meet the incredible challenges of our time.

Hugh Riminton has been a reporter for more than 30 years. For 16 years he was a foreign correspondent, roving reporter and news reader for the Nine Network, before becoming an international news anchor and correspondent for CNN. Now back in Australia, he is currently a political editor for the Ten Network. Riminton gained a Master of Arts at Macquarie University in 2001.

Peter Overton became the chief newsreader for Sydney’s 6pm edition of Nine News in 2009 after eight years as a reporter for 60 Minutes and 10 years as a news reporter and regular presenter. He received his first break in the media while completing a Bachelor of Economics degree at Macquarie University. Doing work experience at Sydney radio station 2UE, he found himself reading weekend sports reports after the regular presenter became ill. Overton continued in this role until 1987 when he moved to Australia’s first satellite television channel, Sky Channel, where he spent four years reporting and presenting before joining Channel Nine as a sports reporter.

During his 45 years as a journalist, author and film-maker, Dr Jeff McMullen AM has worked as an ABC foreign correspondent, Four Corners and 60 Minutes reporter, and the host of the 33 part series on ABC Television Difference of Opinion. Throughout his professional life he has written, filmed and campaigned to improve the health, education and human rights of Indigenous people. In 2006 McMullen was awarded an Order of Australia (AM) for service to journalism and efforts to raise awareness of economic, social and human rights issues in Australia and overseas, as well as service to charity. He has a Bachelor of Arts from Macquarie University, an Honorary Doctorate of Journalism from Central Queensland University, an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Newcastle University and an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Macquarie University.

Miranda Devine is a columnist with The Daily Telegraph and Herald Sun. Before joining News Limited, she was a journalist with The Sydney Morning Herald, a feature writer for the Boston Herald, and an assistant editor and police reporter for The Daily Telegraph. She also had a stint on exchange with The Sun and Sunday Times in London. Devine has a Masters in Journalism from Chicago’s Northwestern University, and a BSc in Mathematics from Macquarie University. She worked at the CSIRO’s Division of Textile Physics before leaving science for journalism.

Other Macquarie graduates who have high profiles in the media and entertainment worlds are: Seven CEO David Leckie, SBS Insight presenter Jenny Brockie, Murray Cook, Anthony Field, Paul Field and Gregory Page from The Wiggles, television presenter Sophie Falkiner, comedian and Spicks and Specks host Adam Hills, AFR Boss Editor Narelle Hooper, comedian, actor and writer Chris Lilley, Catharine Lumby, Director of the Journalism and Media Research Centre at the University of NSW, ABC Movie Show host Margaret Pomeranz and film director Peter Weir.
Some of the scientific breakthroughs that will be made at Macquarie University’s new, $120-million “Australian Hearing Hub,” currently being built, may be literally unimaginable.
That’s because the 1,500 researchers and practitioners who occupy the 20,000-square-metre building will work together to seek revolutionary new ways to tackle hearing and speech problems.

“The hub will make Macquarie University a genuine global leader for research and education on hearing and related disorders,” explains Professor Janet Greeley, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences.

To be completed by late 2012, the facility will bring together the University’s research and clinical education in speech and hearing sciences with the government agency Australian Hearing Services and its research arm the National Acoustic Laboratories.

Researchers from a leading Australian hearing technology company and Macquarie University’s “node” of the Hearing Cooperative Research Centre will also be located here.

“One in six people have hearing loss, and that percentage is likely to rise as the population ages, Greeley points out, so the hub has enormous potential to advance research for the benefit of the entire Australian community.

It will enable advances in mapping brain and hearing function, in understanding auditory processing, assessing auditory system disorders, developing hearing aid and implant technologies and improving strategies for rehabilitation and learning to hear with assistive technologies, she adds. It will also provide clinical services to people of all ages.”

Micro components

Of particular interest will be the involvement in the new centre of the Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF) which manufactures tiny components and devices to be used in medical procedures through a process known as laser microfabrication.

The Macquarie “node” of the ANFF will make these miniature parts, many of which are smaller in diameter than the width of a human hair, for new-generation hearing aids and implants.

Many electronic devices that serve our day-to-day needs, like mobile phones, include parts that can only be made by microfabrication, says Associate Professor Mick Withford, a Node director of ANFF.

And like mobile phones, which get smaller and smaller while incorporating new features, specialised medical devices are becoming tinier, especially as keyhole surgery is the preferred approach these days, he says.

“We make these parts for medical implants for a range of companies, and many of these are directed towards one of the prominent companies proposing to join with the University in the hub. Like all such companies, it’s looking to use units that are smaller with increased performance. Such advances will undoubtedly accelerate.”

‘Hotbed of innovation’

Mick Withford is excited about the Hearing Hub. “It’ll be a hotbed of innovation,” he says. “It’s going to be particularly beneficial that our group will rub shoulders with our peers from the private and government sectors; some of their labs will directly adjoin the new centre.”

The collaboration in the hub will allow researchers with common interests to develop answers to complex problems, like using wireless technology for sophisticated solutions for hearing loss, while clinics on site will help people adapt to using new technologies like cochlear implants, says Greeley.

Ground-breaking research using brain-imaging devices such as magnetoencephalography and Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (FMRI) will advance understanding of how the brain adapts to these new technologies.

On the clinical side, people who come into the hub seeking help with hearing and speech problems can be evaluated and tested, get involved in research projects and road-test new technologies, she adds. Audiology and speech pathology training will happen here, as will training for students doing postgraduate research.

“When everybody’s co-located it will increase our opportunities for cross-disciplinary engagement through informal discussions, research seminars and workshops in the 150-seat lecture theatre,” says Greeley.

“The key message? This will be one of the best places in the world to study all aspects of hearing impairment and related language disorders.”

Flannery to lead climate commission

Macquarie University’s Professor Tim Flannery, the Panasonic Chair in Environmental Science, has been appointed to head the Federal Government’s newly created independent commission on climate change.

Flannery will be Chief Commissioner and leads a panel of six experts including Professor Lesley Hughes, Head of the Department of Biological Sciences at the University. The purpose of the commission is to raise awareness about climate change and the status of international climate change negotiations, as well as lead a discussion on options for dealing with it.

The appointment reinforces Macquarie’s reputation in environmental studies. In the Government’s Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative, Environmental Sciences recently received the maximum possible rating of 5, representing “outstanding performance well above world standard” (See story on page 26)
OPENING UP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG REFUGEES

Muhammad Bangura knows how hard it can be to find a pathway to higher education. When he came to Australia as a 17-year-old refugee from Sierra Leone in 2004, civil war had ended his schooling in the country of his birth.

In Australia, Bangura attended Marrickville Intensive English Centre and went on to complete Years 10-12 at Ashfield Boys’ High. He found finishing high school tough and was fortunate to have an especially committed teacher. However, he felt he could have had more support. This is why, as a Macquarie University student, he has joined LEAP.

LEAP (Learning, Education, Aspiration and Participation) is a suite of Macquarie University outreach programs organised in partnership with schools. Bangura, now in the third year of his Bachelor of Economics and Finance degree and founder of the Macquarie University African Students Association, has been involved in the development of the LEAP Refugee Mentoring Program.

This new Macquarie University mentoring project, in partnership with the NSW Department of Education and Communities, provides student mentors for Year 10, 11 and 12 school pupils from refugee backgrounds. Starting this year, the mentors, many of whom are from refugee backgrounds themselves, have been spending time at five Western Sydney schools to help students engage in school life and plan their transition to further education by developing their research skills and all-round confidence.

Great need

The need for such a service is strong, and growing. In some schools in Western Sydney, up to 35% of pupils have refugee backgrounds, according to Professor Gail Whiteford, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Social Inclusion).

“English may be an issue for their parents which can in turn generate cultural tensions,” says Whiteford. “Additionally, they may lack the social capital at home that allows them to optimise higher education opportunities.”

In many of these families, parents and children are unsure of how the education system works, which is why the mentors’ focus, firstly, is on raising awareness of higher education as a possibility, says Whiteford.

Practical help

Their second priority is to actually assist refugee students to negotiate a pathway to higher education – helping them search websites for the best options, comparing courses, understanding universities’ requirements, showing them how to network and generally helping them understand what they need to do.

“Providing positive, look-at-me role models in schools is what it’s all about,” explains Whiteford. “They talk to kids on a one-to-two basis, with one Macquarie University mentor to two mentees.”

Despite its fledgling status, the mentoring program is already well supported at Macquarie, with 75 mentors applying and about 40 accepted into the program so far. The mentors themselves come from countries as diverse as Sierra Leone, Burma, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Tonga and Sri Lanka.

They volunteer their time for three hours each week during terms to visit partner schools, and get comprehensive training from the University’s “mentors@macquarie” program before they start. They then take part in supervision and feedback sessions throughout the year.

“It’s heartwarming for me and my team to see their generosity and enthusiasm,” says Whiteford, who wants to expand and accelerate the program in years ahead. “They see it as an opportunity to give back to refugee communities, to support young people in a way that they themselves would like to have been supported.”

Under the program, two University on-campus sessions will be held each year, to which the high school students’ families are also invited.

LEAP also support programs generally pitched at low-socioeconomic-status potential students, including those in the community, in rural and regional areas (in partnership with the Country Education Foundation) and Indigenous students.

CHANCE REACTION HERALDS LIBRARY OPENING

Students and staff lined up, literally, as the University’s new library opened its doors for the first time in March.

A copy of the aptly chosen book Moving Library Materials by Peter Spyers-Duran was passed hand-to-hand from the old library to the new in a ceremony that sought to symbolise the link between the past and present.

As the book reached its new $97 million home, University Librarian Maxine Brodie was waiting to add it to the collection of over 460,000 that had already been moved to the new building.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Steven Schwartz introduced the library to a crowd of onlookers who were keen to get their first look inside the state-of-the-art complex, in which the new Automated Storage and Retrieval System was unveiled. The Vice-Chancellor then demonstrated how the new technology works – the system can retrieve items on demand in less than a minute.

This first stage of the opening allows access to 572 seats on levels 3 and 4, and students have been quick to take advantage of the extra space.

When the new library opens to its full capacity in August it will have nearly three times the old one’s seating capacity with 2,500 seats, and over double the collection space.

A range of naming opportunities in the new library will be promoted to Macquarie alumni later this year.

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LEAP also support programs generally pitched at low-socioeconomic-status potential students, including those in the community, in rural and regional areas (in partnership with the Country Education Foundation) and Indigenous students.
For a while as a child, Matilda-Jane Oke experimented at home making environmentally friendly cockroach traps from her mother’s old Tupperware, mostly unsuccessfully.

She’s come a fair way since then. Almost two hundred Eureka Ambassadors – supporters of the Australian Museum’s Eureka Prize program – gathered at the museum recently to listen to 23-year-old Oke deliver her Eureka Moments address.

Presented annually, the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes reward excellence in research and innovation, leadership and commercialisation, school science and science journalism and communication. Each year the museum’s Director invites a winner to deliver the Eureka Moments address to an audience of Eureka Ambassadors.

Oke won her Eureka Prize, sponsored by Macquarie University, in Subiaco when she was just 13. In her speech, she reflected on the challenges and rewards of science and the impact winning the prize can have.

When she was a Year Eight student, she told the audience, an inspirational science teacher enabled her to start a research project at the CSIRO demonstrating the effects of iron oxide dust on the growth of young marri trees. It concluded that dusted trees were just as healthy as undusted ones – and led to her receiving the prize.

“Coming to Sydney for the Eureka Prizes would still have to be one of the most exciting nights of my life and probably the most overwhelming,” she said. “For me the best part was learning about all the great things happening in science, and also getting to meet some of my science heroes.”

Now a PhD student at the University of Western Australia, Oke shared the frustrations and joys associated with being a young scientist and the importance of support and recognition.

“No matter how clever you are, if you don’t put the hard work in [you] won’t succeed,” she said.

Two museum studies postgraduates have presented papers at the International Council of Museums (ICOM) conference in Shanghai, demonstrating, again, the global engagement of Macquarie University students in international forums.

The participants were Teresa Li Rong – currently doing a Masters in Museum Studies, who presented a paper on the impact of the 2010 World Expo on Shanghai University museums – and recently graduated Master of Museum Studies student Yingyod Lapwong, who presented a paper on the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Natural History Museum in southern Thailand.

Li Rong was supported by a Macquarie travel grant, and both students will have a peer-reviewed publication as an outcome.

The ICOM meeting was a major event, attended by over 3,600 museum professionals from over 100 nations, says Macquarie’s Director of Museum Studies Dr Andrew Simpson, who also attended.

“Connecting with a global community of museum people through an organisation as large and diverse as ICOM is invaluable for both new graduates and current students,” Simpson says. “It broadens horizons, introduces cross-cultural perspectives and helps them build networks of colleagues who’ll support their professional development.”

Teresa Li Rong agrees, adding it was a great chance to discuss concerns, good practice and new ideas. In addition she and Andrew Simpson met executive members and professors from ICOM China and explored possibilities for establishing closer connections between Australia and China in museum education and research.

“One of the highlights of the conference was the site itself,” she says. “It was held at the fabulous World Expo 2010 venue”.

The event was by far the largest ICOM meeting ever, writes Simpson on his blog. “Things happen on a different human scale . . . I was told that in China a new museum opens about once every three days. This is possible because museums are not passive keepers of the past, but active ‘shapers’ of the future . . . they have become theatres in which we are all participants seeking engagement, inclusion, understanding and a better world.”
MACQUARIE’S HIDDEN TREASURES

There’s much to see and do on campus. Take a stroll with us to discover some of the University’s secrets.

The Arboretum

Macquarie’s green campus, which incorporates the Arboretum, is listed by many students as a top reason for attending Macquarie University. And it’s more – much more – than a static display of trees and plants, as Arboretum Project Coordinator Samantha Newton enthusiastically points out.

Unique among campuses in Sydney, the Arboretum combines teaching opportunities in subjects ranging from science and history to botany and bush tucker with the simple pleasures of wandering through woodland, lawns and gardens in an urban college setting. It also provides a habitat for a huge variety of native birds and animals.

“Our campus is one of the few in Australia with extensive grounds and lots of beautiful trees,” says Newton. “Most were planted as part of the original campus design in the 1960s, and we use them and our plants for undergraduate teaching and research. It provides us with fantastic opportunities.”

Recognising the value of the Arboretum, which encompasses all plants on campus, the University continues to add trees and to develop gardens for the benefit of future generations. For example, work recently started on a bush tucker garden located between building F7B and Wally’s Walk that links the campus from east to west.

This garden will be home to plants native to the greater Sydney area, some of which were used in traditional food and medicine by the Darug people, the traditional owners of the grounds on which the campus is set. Their representatives have shown great interest in the University, says Newton.

“In future we hope to work with the Darug people to create a space they can use as a meeting place and which can also be used for practical education by students and staff.”

More gardens are planned that connect with the museums on campus, like the biological sciences and earth science museums, Newton says. Indeed the plants in existing gardens are already widely used as examples in teaching, and their plantings have been planned in conjunction with curricula.

For more information about the Arboretum and campus walks, please email samantha.newton@mq.edu.au.
Museum of Ancient Cultures
This ancient history/archaeology museum, located in X5B, Level 3, has a collection of over 7,000 artefacts from the Egyptian, Greek, Roman and Near Eastern cultures, including 640 papyri – the largest papyrus collection in the southern hemisphere.

Curator’s pick: This is a fourth-century Greek ritual vessel, a rhyton, used for drinking wine. It’s a plain, moulded ceramic in the shape of a bull’s head. The bull was a symbol of power, strength and fertility and it’s easy to see how the drinker might think that drinking wine from such a vessel would imbue him with the same characteristics. It also reminds us that real bull’s blood was once used as an agent to clarify wine. Called “fining”, this process used blood to remove suspended particles and resin in the red wine to change it from cloudy to clear. – Karl van Dyke

For more information, visit www.mac.mq.edu.au.

Australian History Museum
The museum’s collection of over 3,500 objects, on view at W6A, Ground Floor, covers five key themes: Indigenous Australia, immigration, war and society, women’s studies and domestic and working life.

Curator’s pick: The most recent addition to the collection is this quilt, created and donated by Rachel Graham. It’s made of patches from seminal political and cultural t-shirts from the 1970s and ’80s. One aspect of the significance of this object is that it demonstrates the integration of our histories into our everyday lives. The past surrounds us in many of the objects we interact with on a daily basis, often overlooked or unrecognised. – Tracy Sullivan

For more information, visit www.austhistmuseum.mq.edu.au.
University Art Gallery

The University Art Collection’s significant holdings of modernist and contemporary works form a basis from which inhouse curated exhibitions are developed. These exhibitions, on view in E11A, reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the gallery’s mission to forge links with learning, teaching and research at Macquarie. Indigenous themes and issues are a strong focus.

Curator’s pick: Fred Williams expressed a unique vision of the Australian bush analogous to the Indigenous view of the environment as all-encompassing. A work of luminous beauty and shrouded in an air of silence, Trees was part of Williams’ Forest series which challenged and redirected our view of the Australian landscape. A number of influences and approaches are evident in Trees: cubism and the technique of etching, combined with Indigenous elements. The painting will feature in the exhibition Arboreal at the University Art Gallery later this year.

– Rhonda Davis

For more information, visit www.artgallery.mq.edu.au.

Biological Sciences Museum

The museum, in the Biology Department building at E88, 110, preserves and curates the impressive collection of some 10,000 zoological and other specimens and objects the Department of Biological Sciences has used for teaching over the past three decades.

Curator’s pick: The taxidermied water bird display is one of my favourites as the birds are so beautifully done and there’s a variety of shape and form. Some species such as the moorhen are seen alive on campus from time to time. Another favourite is “Frank” who greets visitors at the entrance of the Biology Department building. Frank was a kodiak bear who died at Taronga Zoo in 1978. His body was donated to the Biology Department for preservation and his skin was prepared by staff here.

– Libby Eyre

For more information, visit www.campuslife.mq.edu.au/sport/hall-of-fame.

Sporting Hall of Fame

This museum, located in the Macquarie University Sport and Aquatic Centre, celebrates the triumphs and sacrifices of the individuals who persevered to ensure sport at Macquarie University could achieve the highest levels of excellence.

Curator’s pick: One of my favourite objects in our collection is this pair of leather rugby boots. They’re significant for our heritage as they represent one of our first great sporting achievements. They were worn by Michael Parker, a Macquarie University alumnus and rugby union club member from 1967 to 1971, who kicked the winning field goal in extra time against Cammeray-Northbridge at the Judd Cup in 1967, the club’s inaugural year.

– Ashleigh Thomson

For more information, visit www.campuslife.mq.edu.au/sport/hall-of-fame.
Sculpture Park

Established in the University’s Silver Jubilee Year in 1992, the Sculpture Park shares the campus’s 125-hectare parkland with flora and fauna reserves, heritage sites and an earth sciences garden. Set among these natural features are 130 original sculptures in sandstone, limestone, concrete, steel, stainless steel, painted steel, bronze, copper and ceramics by Australian and international sculptors.

Curator’s pick: Andrew Rogers’ Coil (2003), a monumental bronze sculpture by the university lake, excels in demonstrating the sculptor’s unique ability to transform metal into suggestions of forms that possess non-metal-like properties. So fluid are Coil’s bends and twists that a sense of unbridled movement and energy of form swiftly impose themselves upon the viewer. The work’s simplicity of form underpins the sculptor’s clarity of vision. This piece is certainly one of the finest sculptures on campus.

– Leonard Janiszewski

For more information, visit www.artgallery.mq.edu.au/about/sculpturepark.

Herbarium

The Herbarium, located in Room 148 in Building E8C, is a collection of dried plant specimens, including marine algae, mosses and liverworts, lichens, ferns, conifers and flowering plants that’s been established for staff and students but is also available to the community by prior arrangement with the curators.

Curator’s pick: We’re fortunate to have a hand-pulled print of Banksia coccinea taken from a watercolour original by Ferdinand Bauer who accompanied Matthew Flinders on his 1801-1805 voyage. Bauer painted 236 watercolours of Australian plants and animals and this collection, known as the “Australian Drawings of Ferdinand Bauer,” is housed in the British Museum (Natural History) in London. The reproduction of Banksia coccinea was presented to the Herbarium by Ron Oldfield in 1998.

– Alison Downing

For more information, visit www.bio.mq.edu.au/dept/centresglasshouse/herb.html.
Why do Australians have such a distinctive accent? What are the forces and factors that have shaped it? Can you tell an Australian’s age by the way he or she speaks?

These are among the intriguing questions for which Dr Felicity Cox, a senior lecturer at the Macquarie University Department of Linguistics, has been seeking answers.

A key current research interest of Dr Cox is the Australian Ancestors Project, which she is undertaking with colleague Dr Sallyanne Palethorpe. It involves an acoustic analysis of historical recordings dating back to before the turn of the 20th century, and it’s providing interesting information about the history of Australian English.

What has the study shown so far? One revelation is that significant events have shaped the way Australians speak, Cox says. The First World War, for example, appears to have played a significant role, with reports that Australian soldiers deliberately broadened their speech so they wouldn’t be confused with English soldiers.

Cultural shifts

Other events, like the dismissal of the Whitlam government, also saw a cultural shift away from Britain and impacted on Australians’ speech. While the event had no linguistic effect in itself, it was an important episode that had an impact on Australian culture. “Cultural change is often reflected in our speech,” she says.

Great changes in the accent have taken place in the past 30 to 40 years as a result of multiculturalism, which has seen a big shift away from the British orientation that was once common. Think of old newsreader footage, Cox says.

“Modern Australia is very different to the 1950s and 60s; today we only hear remnants of that cultivated British type of Australian accent in the speech of older people and mainly older women. This accent seems to have been lost because there’s no social advantage to Australians sounding British.”

In fact Australian English is a powerful symbol of national identity, says Cox. Though the accent is fairly homogenous when compared with British accents, it can differ depending on the speaker’s age, cultural background and where they grew up.
Regional markers
While most "native speakers" speak the same variety of Australian English, there are various distinctive markers of regional identity. Many young people who attended school in Victoria have a tendency to pronounce the short "e" sound in celery for example as a short "a", so Melbourne becomes Malbourne, helicopter becomes halicopter, and celery salary.

People from Adelaide pronounce other words slightly differently, while those from some parts of Sydney also have distinct pronunciation of certain words.

To reflect the evolving Australian accent, Cox and her colleagues have identified three dialect sub-groups: standard Australian English, Aboriginal Australian English and various ethno-cultural varieties.

All Australian English dialect types, she says, significantly reflect Australian identity as well as revealing the cultural affiliation of the speakers, whether Australian, Lebanese, Greek, Indigenous, Vietnamese or the myriad other cultural choices available to Australians in the 21st century.

“The label ‘Australian English’ should embrace all these dialectal types,” says Cox. “Such a modification to the traditional concept of Australian English will help capture the linguistic landscape of the changing Australian culture.”

The Australian accent as we know it has only existed in its present form for a relatively short time, explains Cox, and it’s still changing.

“Accents are very important because they are a snapshot of time and place,” she says. “They form in childhood and adolescence, and usually change little after reaching adulthood.”

This means we can often tell someone’s age by listening to their speech because their accent reflects their formative years. “When we’re analysing the speech of our ancestors, this is very telling because it means those speech patterns are a reflection of the time in history when that person was young.”

Listen and learn
Changing accents collected during the Australian Ancestors Project can be heard on the University’s interactive Australian Voices website. It allows visitors to the site to listen to audio files and compare accents and dialects belonging to different cultural, social and regional groups. Visit the Australian Voices website at http://clas.mq.edu.au/voices/

To create a living record of Australian speech, Cox, along with colleagues from around the country, is also working on a project to record the regional and social variation in speech from more than a thousand Australians. They are calling for volunteers who will be invited to have their speech recorded. Volunteers can register at https://austalk.edu.au/.
The Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative, which assesses research quality in Australia’s higher education institutions, has “rated more than 20% of our research at the highest level – outstanding, well above world standard” with more than half our research areas assessed as being above the Australian standard. Forty-four, or 80% of the University’s research areas were assessed as being at or above world standard.

Since the release of the national ERA results, analysis across the sector and in newspapers has produced slightly different rankings for Australia’s universities. But no matter how the figures are analysed, Macquarie is consistently ranked within the top nine in Australia based on the quality and depth of its research. One recently reported analysis ranks it fourth.

In specific research disciplines we’re a world leader, and on our way to achieving our vision of being in the top ten universities nationally and top 200 internationally. We’ve already seen our ERA ratings are significant in attracting new research students and international research partners.”

ERA makes its assessment using a combination of indicators and reviews by committees made up of internationally recognised experts. It identifies areas in institutions and disciplines that are globally competitive, and points to emerging areas of research where there are opportunities for development and further investment.

Among the results:
- Five fields of research at Macquarie – Earth Sciences, Physical Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Biological Sciences, and Psychology and Cognitive Sciences – received the maximum possible rating of 5, representing ‘outstanding performance well above world standard’. History and Archaeology received 4 out of 5, classed as being “above world standard”.

Macquarie University’s national and international status as a research institution has been confirmed by a comprehensive Australian Government assessment.

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In the top echelon
By any estimation these results place Macquarie firmly in the top echelon of research-intensive universities in Australia, says Professor Jim Piper, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

“Macquarie is an institution on the move. The University’s budget, now exceeding $800 million, is focused on boosting its research effort, ensuring its learning and teaching is of the highest class and providing the best facilities possible for students and staff,” says Professor Jim Piper.

The University’s forward-looking research strategies are aimed at attracting world-leading research academics and supporting their collaboration with other leading institutions, he says.

“We’ve been recruiting some of the world’s top researchers for our core research areas which range from ancient history through animal behaviour study and photonics to lasers and proteomics. Our teaching is designed not only to prepare graduates for a lifetime of learning but to turn out leaders the world will need in the future.”

AN ENTERPRISE ON THE MOVE

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A further nine fields of research received a rating of 3, representing performance “at world standard.” These are Chemical Sciences, Engineering, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Medical and Health Sciences (Public and Allied Health Sciences), Studies in Creative Arts and Writing, Language Communication and Culture, Information and Computing Sciences, Law and Legal Studies, and Education.

**More success stories**

The data highlight many more success stories. For example, with a rating of 5, Macquarie’s researchers working in the area of Psychology and Cognitive Sciences scored double the Australian average in this assessment of research quality.

“I’m extraordinarily pleased with this acknowledgement of our research strength, not just within these fields, but more broadly across the University,” says Piper. “I’d like to congratulate every researcher who’s contributed to this great result, along with every professional staff member who supported the research effort.”

The Australian Government will run a second ERA exercise in 2012. Given that the quality ratings recently released were based on research that took place between 2003 and 2008 or earlier, the University is looking forward to achieving more outstanding scores in the next round, says Piper.

**Mapping the Nation’s Research Infrastructure**

In another boost to the University’s research credentials, two Macquarie academics have been appointed to a key government body that will develop the Strategic Roadmap for Australian Research Infrastructure.

Dr Colin Wastell, Associate Professor at the Centre for Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism, and Distinguished Professor Stephen Crain, Head of Cognitive Science, have been appointed to the National Research Infrastructure Council’s expert working groups that will formulate the roadmap.

Wastell will work in the area of Safeguarding Australia while Crain will work on Understanding Cultures and Communities.

“Congratulations to them both,” says Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Jim Piper. “It’s a very important role.”

Indeed the roadmap, to be developed during 2011, is widely seen as vital to Australia’s future because it will inform decisions on where we should make strategic infrastructure investments to further develop our research capacity and improve research results over the next five to ten years.

The roadmap process is critical to the government for the development of long-term Australian research that’s of international best-practice standard, says Wastell. Members of the working groups bring diverse experience to the task, so they can inform the government about research infrastructure priorities in “a unique way.”

“My inclusion is an example of the diversity of experience that’s essential for the success of the working groups’ input,” he says. “My work in security and intelligence exemplifies multi-disciplinary research across social sciences and computer simulation. Combining disciplines like these is a big theme of infrastructure planning. I’m honoured to have been invited to contribute.”

Professor Crain is likewise pleased to be on the panel. “I’ve a long history of leadership in health-related research projects spanning 19 years in Australia and the US,” he says. “As a leading research institution in Australia it’s important for us to contribute to the development of a roadmap to guide national research infrastructure spending.”
CALLING ALUMNI
JOIN OUR EXPANDING HEALTH CLUB

A $2-million, 500-square-metre expansion of the Health Club at Macquarie University’s Sport and Aquatic Centre this year will offer alumni, students, faculty staff and visitors access to new, state-of-the-art equipment, more program areas and more classes.

The expansion, due to be completed in September, will allow up to 1,500 additional members to make use of the venue. It will add 400 square metres of health club space as well as a 100-square-metre group fitness studio. The extra club space will be used to increase the weights zone, and the current group exercise program will be expanded to include more classes.

While the expansion itself is significant for the University and the people who’ll benefit from it, it’s not just about bricks and mortar, observes Cindy Hoad, General Manager Sport & Recreation.

Ultimately, it’s about creating new opportunities for engagement and participation in sport and encouraging people to take a holistic approach to their fitness and health.

“So in addition to the expanded health club we’ll create a new social space in the courtyard with access to WiFi,” she says. “We’ll be expanding our retail range and we’ll employ more specialist staff to offer guidance and support.”

The Sport and Aquatic Centre is on the western side of the main campus along Gymnasium Road. It features a 50-metre FINA-compliant outdoor pool; a 25-metre indoor pool; squash, badminton, basketball, volleyball and netball courts; the club cardio machines and the “Crunch Cafe”. There are dedicated areas for a range of lifestyle classes – from the popular Zumba dance fitness program to Fit4Life, a program for seniors and those returning to the fitness scene.

Great membership rates for past students

The University currently offers a variety of sport and health club membership options and attractive rates for alumni ($62.50 a month instead of $88.50), and urges past students to try the facilities with a one-day free trial. Membership gives you access to the health club, the pools, squash and badminton, as well as the fitness, lifestyle, dance, cycle and martial arts classes.

Many current members are alumni. “We fully support graduates who want to maintain a lifelong connection with Macquarie University Sport,” says Cindy Hoad. “The centre is the campus’s one-stop sport and fitness hub that can fulfil every active need, regardless of age or fitness levels.”

To find out more please visit www.campuslife.mq.edu.au/musac or phone +612 9850 7636.
PM AWARDS A SPRINGBOARD FOR CAREER SUCCESS

Two Macquarie University students – a postgraduate and an undergraduate – who have won prestigious Prime Minister’s Australia Asia Endeavour Awards, have used the accolades to set ambitious plans for their careers.

Merriden Varrell, an anthropology graduate, has won a scholarship to undertake research in the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations in the People’s Republic of China. Being a recipient of the Prime Minister’s Endeavour Asia Award will give her the opportunity to do the fieldwork she needs for her PhD in anthropology, Varrell says. “Building the relationships needed to study Chinese foreign policy through an anthropological lens takes a lot of time, so the chance to go into Beijing to improve my language skills, do more interviews and archival research at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ‘hang out’ with research participants will be invaluable,” she says.

Varrell will also undertake an internship with the UN Development Program, in its South-South Cooperation Division. “It’ll not only be great for my CV in future, but will help with my research. I’m looking forward to the opportunities the award will allow me to explore, and recommend others to check it out.”

Maggie Lee, who’s enrolled in the Bachelor of Commerce (Actuarial Studies) and Bachelor of Science (Mathematics), will use her award to enrol at the Chinese University of Hong Kong to gain a deeper understanding of risk management and actuarial studies in Asia. She plans to undertake her internship with two banking organisations in Hong Kong.

The Prime Minister’s Australia Asia Endeavour Awards provide scholarships for the best and brightest university students to study further and gain experience through internships and work placements in Asia. The program’s aim is to build deep, enduring education and professional ties between Australia and Asia.

Macquarie University

Sport & Aquatic Centre

Stay connected, stay healthy, achieve your fitness goals at Macquarie University Sport & Aquatic Centre.

Alumni are entitled to a special rate of $62.50 per month and NO JOINING FEE, so dive in for a swim, feel the burn in our Health Club, or motivate and energise with our group fitness classes. Whatever your goal, the benefits continue long after graduation.

To find out more visit www.campuslife.mq.edu.au/musac or phone (02) 9850 7636.
CLASS OF ’67
REUNITES

Some of our first students along with staff from our first year of operation attended a recent Joan and John Lincoln Society function on campus to commemorate the Class of ’67’s involvement in the life of the University.

The Joan and John Lincoln Society, a body established to honour our elder statesmen and women who have confirmed bequests to the University in their wills, hosts several such events each year.

About 100 people attended the Class of ’67 reunion, at which presentations were made by Caroline Trotman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development), and Professor John Croucher, one of the 1967 students and currently Professor at MGSM. Samantha Newton, Coordinator of the Macquarie Arboretum project, spoke and conducted short tours of the Arboretum (See story on page 21).

Guests were delighted that 94-year-old Dr John Lincoln AM, for whom with his late wife Joan the Society is named, was also present. Judge Lincoln has set up a scholarship fund for Indigenous students and left his own bequest to augment the fund.

Judge Lincoln is a key figure in the establishment of Macquarie University. He was on the committee that established the University, which he chaired from 1958 to 1964, a member of University Council from 1964 to 2009, Deputy Chancellor from 1976 to 2000 and Emeritus Deputy Chancellor since 2000.

“A good number of students and staff from our first year, which was also the first year of the Higher School Certificate in New South Wales, were at the function,” says Anne Peedom, Manager Planned Giving.

Linking past and present
Linking the past with the present, a group of current students from the first-year Academic Cultures course was able to make contact with the earliest students at Macquarie. They were working on an assignment as part of their studies to interview early students – on how the University has promoted itself, then and now.

Interestingly one Macquarie academic, Dr Kate Rossmanith who’s associated with the course today, is the daughter of two of the first students, Dr Gunther Rossmanith and Mrs Angela Rossmanith (nee Samperi), says Bruce Davis, Senior Development Officer who assisted with the organisation of the event.

And Professor Bruce Mansfield, an inaugural professor who was also at the event, was head of the School of Historical, Philosophical and Political Studies.

“He was author of the history of the University, Liberality of Opportunity, has three sons who graduated from Macquarie and a granddaughter Emma who’s graduating from Macquarie this year,” says Davis.
A bequest can help secure the future

The Joan and John Lincoln Society, which arranges activities for bequest-givers and our elder statesmen and women, is “gaining traction” as more people opt to support the University’s future, according to Anne Peedom, Manager Planned Giving.

“We have such respect for our bequestors’ commitment to Macquarie and getting to know them is such a pleasure. Really, they embody the spirit of philanthropy,” she says.

The gift of a bequest to the University is one that doesn’t require an immediate financial outlay, but can be taken into consideration – along with gifts for family and other causes – when people make their estate plans.

To see photos and video footage of the Class of ’67 event, and for more information on the Society or to download its charter or the bequest booklet, please visit www.mq.edu.au/jjls.

If you’d like to have a confidential discussion about a bequest, please contact Anne Peedom, on +612 9850 1392 or via email at anne.peedom@mq.edu.au.
books

in print

A selection of recently published books by Macquarie staff and alumni

Circus: The Australian Story
Mark St Leon

In Circus: The Australian Story, author Mark St Leon presents a comprehensive, entertaining and visually engaging history of circus in Australia. His interest was sparked by curiosity about his own family’s celebrated past in Australian circus which, as this 300-page work demonstrates, is the outcome of a continuum that extends over 175 years of Australian history and back to its ancient roots.

Mark St Leon is a Macquarie alumnus and sessional lecturer in the Faculty of Business. He graduated MA (Hons) from Macquarie in 2002, then in 2007 graduated with a PhD from the University of Sydney.

Melbourne Books

In and Out of Step
Christine Knight

A novel set in the idyllic coastal town of Keimera, In and Out of Step follows the life of new school teacher Cassie Sleight, who grows from idealistic teenager to world-wise adult as she’s forced to deal with gender politics, family influence, and the harsh realities of life.

Christine Knight majored in English and history at Macquarie University. She supplemented her university scholarship through teaching private students and work in a rock band.

Sid Harta

Australian Master Environment Guide
Paul Vergotis

This practical handbook is designed to provide management in industry and government with a comprehensive briefing on environmental issues. It explains key aspects of environmental management, gives practical guidance to companies on best practice and regulatory issues, and offers resources for more information. Topics include environmental law, risk management, “green” marketing, corporate social responsibility and key management and compliance issues.

Paul Vergotis is a Macquarie University law graduate, now practising at DLA Phillips Fox and specialising in environmental law.

CCH

(De)Constructing ADHD
Critical Guidance for Teachers and Teacher Educators
Linda J. Graham

Despite efforts to prove its existence as a genuine malady, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) suffers from a crisis of legitimacy. Diagnosis and prescription of medication has grown since the late 1980s, yet diagnoses are often wrong or unhelpful. This book seeks to provide teachers with useful knowledge and to improve educational experiences for kids who might otherwise receive a diagnosis of ADHD.

Linda J. Graham is an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Postdoctoral Fellow in the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion at Macquarie University.

Peter Lang

Human Rights and the Environment: Philosophical, Theoretical and Legal Perspectives
Linda Hajjar Leib

This book explores the philosophical, theoretical and legal links between human rights and the environment. It argues that a new set of environmental rights is gradually forcing its way into international law and suggests a re-configuration of the human rights system.

Linda H. Leib, a Fulbright Scholar, holds a PhD (2009) in Law from Macquarie University. She is an expert in environmental philosophy, human rights and environmental law, international relations and Middle East politics.

Brill

Have you published a book recently? If you would like to be considered for inclusion in this publication, please send your information to the Editor at macquarie.matters@mq.edu.au.
Advance with us

Macquarie University is always interested to hear from and about our alumni, many of whom have had remarkable success in their professional lives. We would like all our alumni to be reachable and connected to Macquarie and each other.

Alumni are by far the largest group in the Macquarie community and the more interaction with and between our alumni, the greater is our strength as a University.

Our Alumni Relations team is working hard to provide useful and interesting opportunities for you to stay connected with fellow graduates and the University through developing programs focused on lifelong learning, lifelong support and lifelong connection.

I would like to highlight some recent new initiatives and encourage you to participate as much in the life of the Macquarie community as you are able.

We are launching a new program this year featuring our top academics, the Macquarie University Colloquium Series, and I hope you will be able to attend some of these lectures in the future. Information on the 2011 program is on page 3.

Our new Backpack to Briefcase event supports the transition from student to successful professional. Industry experts will discuss how business networking can help recent graduates move to the next level in their careers. This session will be videoed and available on our website for those unable to attend at www.alumni.mq.edu.au/Alumni.

We are also planning a series of events in the lead up to Macquarie’s 50th birthday in 2014 and we want to make sure that every graduate is invited to participate in our celebrations. If you know fellow Macquarie graduates who may have lost touch with us, please encourage them to join the Alumni Web Community (www.alumni.mq.edu.au) or ask them to contact us so we can ensure they are on the invitation list for our 50th birthday celebrations.

And finally, we will be running our annual alumni appeal again this year. The focus will continue to be on supporting students in need with equity scholarships, and there will also be opportunities to show support for our new Macquarie University Library. Please give as generously as you are able when contacted.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Williams
Director
Institutional Advancement