Alumni – what’s in a name?

As you may know the traditional names for graduates can be quite confusing:

Alumna – one female graduate
Alumnus – one male graduate
Alumni – a group of graduates, male or male/female
Alumnae – a group of female graduates.

We believe that these terms no longer meet the needs of a modern institution and society and it is time to simplify the way we refer to our graduates.

As such we have decided to adopt the Macquarie Dictionary approved Australian terms in all our publications and communications:

Alumnus – one graduate
Alumni – a group of graduates

We hope you will approve of this change and quickly become used to these non-gendered and simplified terms. As always, we welcome your feedback at alumni@murdoch.edu.au

Keep InTouch!

Help us keep in touch with you by making sure your details are up to date. If you have changed your name, employer or contact details let us know by visiting www.murdoch.edu.au/Alumni/

Perhaps you’re still in touch with friends from your Murdoch days who’ve lost touch with us? If so you can visit the same address, scroll down and enter your friends’ details too.
Greetings Alumni

2014 marks two and a half years as Vice Chancellor and I feel exceptionally privileged to be in this role as we approach the University’s 40th anniversary next year. Anniversaries are milestones that encourage us to reflect on the past, plan for the future, and more importantly, to consider what it is that makes us unique. As a young, vibrant and research-led university, Murdoch has taken advantage of its location in the Indo-Pacific region to develop a great depth of regional expertise about Asia. Many of our graduates have now built exciting careers working in the region and we are delighted to share some of their stories with you in this edition of Intouch.

Indeed, Murdoch is now well-established as one of the central hubs of academic thought about the south-east Asian region. Through our teaching, research and alumni we engage with a broad range of significant scientific and social challenges facing the region, ranging from biosecurity, resources management and animal and human health, to politics and trade. We are home to the highly respected Asia Research Centre, which is now headed by alumnus Kevin Hewison. On page 8 Kevin shares his thoughts about why he chose to return to the University last year to take this role.

One of my major aims as Vice Chancellor was to create a commission of inquiry to analyse the major challenges facing our region over the coming decades, concluding with a set of applied policy recommendations. The purpose of the First Murdoch Commission was to examine how Western Australia might enhance its understanding of, and relationships with, its regional neighbours across a range of key policy areas in the first quarter of the 21st century. We were determined to conduct the inquiry as a regional enterprise and recruited our Commissioners from across the region and within Australia from government, business and civil society circles.

This Commission published its Final Report in late 2013 and we are pleased to share an overview of its findings with you from page 11.

Quality research and student education are at the heart of everything we do at Murdoch and we were honoured to recently receive a major bequest to help both aims.

Retired farmer Robert Hammond left nearly $1 million to fund both a scholarship and a grant to support research into human-animal interactions. We look forward to bringing you stories of research that has been supported by the bequest over the next few years.

Vanessa Fernandez-Kennedy
Manager – Alumni Relations

From the Manager – Alumni Relations

Welcome to the first edition of Intouch for 2014. This edition highlights Murdoch University’s commitment and support for Australia’s role in Asia and celebrates the range and diversity of our alumni, research and engagement in this important region.

We will host our fourth annual Distinguished Alumni Awards this year and we are excited to be working through all the nominations and look forward to announcing the recipients at our Awards Ceremony in July.

As well as our Awards dinner, we will be holding many alumni events here in Perth and overseas this year. In response to feedback, we will host a suite of School and discipline specific professional development and networking events, both domestically and internationally.

Last year we were pleased to realise a long term ambition for our Annual Appeal. Thanks to the generous support of many alumni, we established the Murdoch University Alumni Annual Appeal Scholarship. We are in the process of selecting this year’s recipient and look forward to sending you more information when we launch the 2014 Alumni Annual Appeal. I hope you will consider giving to this worthwhile appeal.

I’d like to extend a warm welcome to all our new alumni graduating this year. Welcome to the Murdoch alumni family. I hope you will play an active role in your alumni association and I look forward to corresponding with you and hopefully meeting you at our future events.

As we approach our 40th birthday in 2015 we are very keen to hear your Murdoch stories and find out how you would like to mark this important milestone. We are holding a competition to find the best Murdoch memory story. The winning story and others will be featured in the Autumn 2015 Intouch Special Anniversary edition. Find out more on page 9.

Every year has challenges and triumphs and we are sincerely grateful that many of you take the time to assist us to improve when you have experienced problems or issues and been generous in your praise when our hard work has paid off. I encourage you to stay in contact and keep providing your wonderful feedback and ideas.

I hope you enjoy this edition of InTouch. Best wishes for 2014.

Professor Richard Higgott
Vice Chancellor

Vanessa Fernandez-Kennedy
Manager – Alumni Relations
MBA network paved the way

IF AN EPIDEMIC SUCH AS AVIAN FLU WERE TO BREAK OUT IN HONG KONG, HESTON KWONG (MBA, 1998) WOULD BE ONE OF THE FIRST CALLED UPON FOR GUIDANCE.

For the past year, Heston has been responsible for emergency preparedness at the Hong Kong Government Centre for Health Protection.

“My past position was at the drug regulatory agency, where I was responsible for drug and pharmacy registration and monitoring their compliance,” he said.

“In my current position I am responsible for the preparedness for an epidemic.

“I have to liaise with various government departments and businesses to develop contingency plans and business continuity plans in case an epidemic or pandemic occurs in Hong Kong.”

Heston said his MBA at Murdoch was very much China-focused.

“Through the MBA class, I built up a strong network with the Chinese on the mainland and in Hong Kong, my home city,” he said.

“I had the opportunity to extend my network to industries other than healthcare, which was the field on which I had built my career. From time to time, I have used my networks in both places to assist my career development.”

Friendship and school life are his best memories of Murdoch, and he lauds the University for its role in creating a positive space for cultural connections.

“I have maintained my friendships even after having graduated more than 15 years ago,” he said.

“My classmates and I often come together for dinner and socialising, including occasional outdoor activities.

“Australians are very helpful. The Chinese are more reserved, but after you gain their trust and become good friends, the Chinese can be very helpful.”

As Asia rises in dominance in the world’s 21st Century economy, we find more and more Murdoch alumni are building their careers throughout the region.

In this edition of Intouch we focus on the work of a few Murdoch graduates who are making an impact in their chosen field.
Western education complements Eastern business

A MURDOCH EDUCATION GAVE CHEN XIAODONG (MBA, 2000) AN INVALUABLE STORE OF KNOWLEDGE FOR HIS CAREER IN THE HIGHLY COMPETITIVE RETAIL INDUSTRY IN CHINA.

Mr Chen is the owner and CEO of the Intime Department Store Company, one of the largest department stores in China.

His Western education has proved an excellent complement to the Eastern environment he works in.

“The knowledge I have gained through studying at Murdoch gives me a deeper insight into the world. Not only have I learned knowledge from textbooks, but also in the ability to analyse things more thoroughly with deeper understanding,” he said.

“In China there is a more exam-oriented education.

“As long as you get good grades, you will be rewarded. In the West, comprehensive qualities count a lot to judge a person: teamwork, ability to think differently, building up good leadership and so on.

“You must possess all these qualities in order to win over others in a competitive society, which helped me to attain my current position as a leader/CEO in a company.”

Though retail may appear to be a traditional industry with limited room for change and growth, an ever-changing technological society in a fast-growing country creates plenty of opportunities, according to Mr Chen.

Mr Chen said his company is aiming to become an omni-channel retail operator, which enables consumers to shop through a range of channels, including mobile devices, direct mail and bricks-and-mortar outlets.

“Mobile applications make retail fun,” he said.

“As long as you catch up with the latest trends, catering to consumer needs, you will win the game.”

Specialist energised by human rights

ELAINE PEARSON DESCRIBES RECEIVING A PHONE CALL FROM A POLITICAL PRISONER THE DAY AFTER HIS RELEASE AS A CAREER HIGHLIGHT.

The Executive Director of Human Rights Watch Australia believes people are mistaken in thinking that working on human rights violations is depressing.

“I like the energy of my work, the amazing people I work with, and it’s incredibly rewarding when you have a success,” Elaine said.

“I vividly remember when a Burmese political prisoner called me the day after he was released.

“I had been working on his case for months, but we had never met. It was an incredible moment.”

Following her study at Murdoch (BA and LLB, 1999), Elaine moved to Bangkok as part of an Australian youth ambassador program and worked for a non-governmental organisation to combat the trafficking of women.

She led the first anti-trafficking program at Anti-Slavery International in London before her humanitarian work took her to Hong Kong, back to Bangkok and then Kathmandu.

In 2007 she was made the Deputy Director of the Asia division of Human Rights Watch, where she supervised work across Asia and briefed journalists, government officials and United Nations staff.

After undertaking a Masters in Public Policy at Princeton University in 2012, Elaine returned to Australia to set up the Sydney-based office of Human Rights Watch to encourage the government to promote human rights internationally and domestically.

She has written articles for numerous publications, including the Wall Street Journal, Sydney Morning Herald and Human Rights Quarterly.
Music strengthens bonds between WA and Asia

SINGAPOREAN MUSICIAN, MUSIC PROMOTER, ENTREPRENEUR AND BLUES DEVOTEE DANNY LOONG (BA (HONS) 2000) APPRECIATES OPPORTUNITIES HE RECEIVED WHILE LIVING IN PERTH AND STUDYING AT MURDOCH UNIVERSITY.

In 1998, while promoting a film he produced on racism and blues music for his Honours project, the mostly self-taught guitarist and keyboardist met musician Trevor Jalla, and together they formed the Universal Blues Band (UBlues).

After performing at venues in Perth and Fremantle and at the Blues at Bridgetown festival, Danny relocated UBlues to Singapore in 2001, where it became one of the country’s most travelled and well regarded bands.

When the band became defunct in 2005, Danny co-founded and became Chief Creative Director of Timbre Group, a music and lifestyle company incorporating six live music restaurants, international festivals (Timbre Rock & Roots and Beerfest Asia), artist management, and two music academies.

Committed to improving musical and artistic connections between Western Australia and Asia, he showcased three Singaporean-based bands and artists at the West Australian Music (WAM) Festival and co-hosted the panel discussion ‘Gateway to Asia’ at the Festival Conference last November.

“I would like to see WA engage more with Asia, culturally, musically and artistically,” Danny said.

“Perhaps it is up to graduates like me to act as a bridge for cross-cultural exchange, however it also requires support from respective governments and the willingness of Australians and Singaporeans to engage.”

Danny said his career highlights included winning the Singapore Tourism Board’s Tourism Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2010 and hosting music legends Robert Plant, Paul Simon, Buddy Guy and Bob Dylan at Timbre Rock & Roots festivals.

Dedication to social justice opens new life chapter in Myanmar

AN UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY WORK AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IS WHAT PROMPTED DR MARK BROWN TO START THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITY DEVELOPED (DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION) IN SEPTEMBER 2012.

Mark, who holds the title Programmes Director, founded the organisation with a group of his like-minded friends, who shared a vision for providing quality education and training to people in rural areas of developing countries.

The charity’s pilot project is in Lashio, a town in Northern Shan State, Myanmar. It involves highly qualified and experienced foreign and local educators teaching English and Social Sciences to small classes of young adults.

“Working closely with the community, our teachers encourage students to be creative and apply the skills they have learnt in the program with a view to facilitating student-led social enterprises,” Mark said.

“The students not only improve their skills, they increase their earning capacities and are better able to contribute to community wellbeing.

“The DevelopEd team is working hard to generate sustainable, intergenerational, socio-economic and environmental values for the communities we work with.”

The Murdoch graduate (BA (Hons) 2004) and PhD (2009) also completed a Master of International and Community Development at Deakin University in 2013.

He has taught critical thinking, moral and political theory, human rights and other subjects at Murdoch, Notre Dame and Monash universities.
Career in publications goes from strength to strength

PUBLICATIONS INDUSTRY VETERAN
RENATO (RENE) REINOSO ATTRIBUTES MUCH OF HIS RECENT CAREER ADVANCEMENT TO THE FIRST-CLASS BUSINESS MANAGEMENT EDUCATION HE RECEIVED FROM MURDOCH UNIVERSITY.

Rene (MBA, 2002) studied from Manila, as part of the University’s offshore teaching program.

He started his career as a circulation assistant at the Philippine Daily Inquirer in working his way up through a variety of roles before becoming Chief Operating Officer for both the Inquirer newspaper and its sister company Inquirer Publications in November 2012.

Rene manages the strategic and financial operations for both companies and is President of Delivery Access Group (DAC) Xpress Courier, a logistics company within the Inquirer group.

“Earning an MBA from a prestigious university such as Murdoch opened the doors of opportunity for me,” Rene said.

“Since graduating, my career has seen consistent acceleration.

“Providing credible, balanced and thought-provoking news to more than 10 million people via our print, online, radio and advertising outlets gives us at the Inquirer group a sense of fulfilment.

“I am looking forward to pushing myself as far as I can go and creating more business growth opportunities for the companies.”

In 2011 Rene spearheaded the launch of the Inquirer’s online trading site Pinoy Best Deals and in 2003 his brainchild, the News Boy Kool Boy Promo, received an honourable mention in the Newspaper Association of America’s ACME (Advertising, Circulation and Marketing Excellence) Awards.

Dr Winston Shim is using stem cells to heal hearts.

Stem cell researcher gets to the heart of the matter

APPRECIATION FOR THE BEAUTY OF SCIENTIFIC PURSUIT AND EMPATHY FOR PATIENTS WITH LIFE-LIMITING HEART DISEASE ARE WHAT DRIVE DR WINSTON SHIM TO CONTINUE HIS GROUND-BREAKING STEM CELL RESEARCH.

Winston is the Scientific Director of the Research and Development Unit, an outfit comprising 35 research scientists, engineers and medical technologists at the National Heart Centre Singapore.

His career highlight came in 2004 when he was among the first researchers in the world to make cardiac myocytes (muscle cells) from human bone marrow stem cells. This led to his long-term passion for using stem cells for cardiovascular repair.

Winston said another significant milestone was being awarded funding from the National Research Foundation of Singapore in 2009 to address the ageing population needs of Singapore by exploring stem cells in regenerative medicine.

“It is such a privilege to work with a diverse group of talented colleagues in the pursuit of our dreams of bringing discovery science and translational medicine to patients,” he said.

The Murdoch alumnus (BSc (Hons) 1995) said almost 20 years after completing his Perth-based study he continues to savour memories of Murdoch, describing the university as “a magical place”.

After graduating, Winston spent a short stint working in the field of veterinary vaccine before completing a PhD in gene therapy at the National University of Singapore (2002) and a Graduate Diploma in Financial Management at the Singapore Institute of Management (2003).
Hewison heads home

PROFESSOR KEVIN HEWISON “RETURNED HOME” TO MURDOCH UNIVERSITY IN MAY 2013 AFTER NINE YEARS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL, WHERE HE WAS WELDON E. THORNTON DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF ASIAN STUDIES AND DIRECTOR OF THE CAROLINA ASIA CENTER.

Kevin’s association with the University began in 1978 and he completed his PhD in 1984.

He was also a lecturer and senior lecturer in Politics in the early 1990s, and a foundation member of the Asia Research Centre.

Almost two decades later, he has returned to Murdoch to the position of Professor of Politics and International Studies and Director of the now world-renowned Asia Research Centre.

“I was very happy in Chapel Hill, at a highly-ranked and well-funded research university, with great colleagues, fine students and plenty of opportunities for research,” Kevin said.

“However, as Murdoch’s new strategic positioning became clear I was increasingly enthused about the opportunity of leading the Asia Research Centre, an acknowledged centre of excellence.”

Now that he is back, Professor Hewison says he is proud to be working with world class researchers and 25 excellent PhD students.

“The Centre is thriving and the work being done has considerable international recognition,” he said.

“Murdoch is perfectly positioned to support Western Australia and Australia to engage in the region.”

The Asia Research Centre has long undertaken fundamental disciplinary and interdisciplinary research examining a range of social, political, historical, environmental and economic forces and developments within this dynamic region.

Professor Hewison said the Centre would continue to research and provide essential commentary on the developments in the region.

Murdoch gives Vince an Asian in

AN ASIAN STUDIES EDUCATION AT MURDOCH HELPED PUT VINCE UNGVARY (BA, 1988) “ON THE MAP” FOR A VARIED CAREER IN THE REGION.

“Having a thorough understanding of the cultures, history and one of the major languages of Asia, Malay/Indonesian, was a major factor in enabling me to get my foot in the door in 1991 to work in Jakarta,” Vince said.

“I was working alongside very bright fellow students and had lecturers and tutors who knew their subject matter in depth and had a passion for teaching.

“The fact that I knew quite a lot about the history of Indonesia and China later enabled me to have many very interesting conversations over business dinners with local customers.”

Vince Ungvary sells antique maps of China and Asia.

Vince was the National Sales and Marketing Director for TNT Indonesia and then moved to regional and global marketing and commercial roles in Shanghai with Dow Corning, a global chemical company.

“Recently, I decided to combine my passions and opened my own business selling antique maps of Asia and China around the globe,” the now-Sydney-based businessman said.

This new pursuit has left him well placed to observe trends in the region.

“The interesting thing for me is that within Asia, there are now a lot of cross-cultural influences, as many people from one country in Asia live and work in another Asian country,” Vince said.

“It’s a similar process to what has been happening in Australia, with Asian migration, especially over the past 30-plus years.”

Vince Ungvary sells antique maps of China and Asia.
Alumnus reflects on easy going Aussie life

STUDYING AT MURDOCH UNIVERSITY GAVE DR CHI MAN CARTIER LAM (MBA, 2000) AN APPRECIATION FOR CULTURAL DIFFERENCES.

For example, he points out that you would never hear a Chinese worker greet their boss with ‘G’day mate’. “Australian life is a lot more easy going and laid back, qualities which are treated as values of life; however Asians may see things as just the opposite,” Chi said.

“In Asian culture it is more important to respect everyone by expressing their title. Saying ‘G’day, mate’ to your boss is seen as disrespectful.”

In Hong Kong-born Chi’s case, his title and position are impressive.

He is the Deputy Chief Executive of the Bank of East Asia (BEA) (China) Ltd in charge of financial control, human resources, information technology and marketing and communications.

During his time with the bank, BEA has been awarded Best Foreign Retail Bank by Asian Banker (2007) and has expanded to nearly 100 outlets across China. It has also been recognised as the Mainland’s most profitable foreign bank for four consecutive years.

Beyond business he founded the Soong Ching Ling Foundation BEA Charity Fund in 2009 to support children’s education. To date, the Fund has raised RMB35 million ($6.5 million), with 31 Firefly Centres, a charity project aiming to modernise teaching equipment and library facilities in primary or secondary schools in rural China.

Chi said while an international background and foreign language ability were once a big competitive advantage for foreigners in China, things are changing.

“With the enhancement of China’s education level, foreigners face enormous competitive pressure from Chinese talent,” he said.

Murdoch Memory competition!

Murdoch University will celebrate its 40th anniversary next year and we need your help. Alumni Relations is busy planning the events and celebrations that will mark this very important milestone and we want to hear your Murdoch stories.

Win an Apple iPad
We are seeking 250 word anecdotes, stories, vignettes and reminiscences of your time at Murdoch. Who inspired and assisted you while you were studying? Who was the most memorable staff member and why? Stories of friends or lectures, gigs or sporting endeavours, funny or sad, romantic or scary - what’s your Murdoch Memory? All Murdoch University alumni, from any of our Australian or transnational campuses (past or present) are eligible to enter.

The Murdoch Memory judged to be the best will win an Apple iPad. As well, the winning story and selected others will be featured in the Autumn 2015 Intouch Special Anniversary edition.

To enter, write your 250 word Murdoch Memory starting with the sentence “When I was a student at Murdoch in (Year)…..”

And send your entry along with your name and contact details to:
Email: alumni@murdoch.edu.au
Or
Post: Alumni Relations
Murdoch Memory Competition
Alumni Careers & Employment Centre
Murdoch University
90 South Street
MURDOCH 6150
Western Australia
Or
Fax: +61 8 9310 2676

Competition closes on the Anniversary of Sir Walter Murdoch’s birth and the inauguration of the University, Tuesday 17 September 2014.

Enquiries to: Alumni Relations
Communications Officer: alumni@murdoch.edu.au or phone +61 8 9360 6268

Dr Chi Man Cartier Lim is the Deputy Chief Executive at the Bank of East Asia in China.
Research finds democracy a matter of location

NEW RESEARCH SUGGESTS UNDERSTANDING THE UNEVEN DISTRIBUTION OF DEMOCRACY IN ASIA MAY DEPEND MORE ON GEOGRAPHY THAN POLITICAL THEORY.

Professor Benjamin Reilly said traditional theories of democratic development have proven lacking for the Asian region.

“The vast political and economic advances in Southeast Asia in recent years should be a showcase displaying the positive link between development and democracy,” Professor Reilly said.

“Yet the long-standing belief that democracy is more likely to occur in well-off countries compared to poor ones has been turned on its head.

“Democracy is weak or absent in some of the region’s richest states, such as Brunei, Singapore and Malaysia, but present in poorer ones, such as Indonesia, the Philippines and Timor-Leste.

“Political scientists have been at a loss to explain this tendency using traditional analyses, such as the role of domestic elites, state structures or money.”

Surprisingly, Professor Reilly came up with an intriguing explanation by simply stepping back from the map.

He found that the distribution of civil liberties and political rights across Southeast Asia followed a striking spatial pattern: states become more democratic the further they are geographically located from mainland China.

To explain this, Professor Reilly considered the region’s history prior to European colonisation, during which China permitted trade relations with its neighbours to the south in exchange for a ‘tributary’ system.

“The tribute itself, usually consisting of local luxury goods, was less important than the symbolism of ritual submission to the Chinese empire. China very much had interest in asserting influence in its backyard.”

Professor Reilly said this active-passive engagement could be seen again under Mao, with buffer states such as Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam enjoying Chinese support, and is present in Beijing’s continued preference for familiar non-democratic regimes, particularly if they share China’s quasi-communist model of governance.

He noted that his geographical-historical theory is supported by the fact that all maritime states in south east Asia, aside from Brunei, are democratic, and that countries such as Indonesia and The Philippines have had no historical kingdom-to-empire legacy with China.

‘Southeast Asia: In the Shadow of China’ has been published in the Journal of Democracy.

Professor Ben Reilly is Dean of the Sir Walter Murdoch Graduate School of Public Policy and International Affairs.

Professor Ben Reilly is Dean of the Sir Walter Murdoch Graduate School of Public Policy and International Affairs. For more information about how to catapult your career by developing leadership and policymaking skills with the international experts in this School go to http://www.murdoch.edu.au/Sirwalterschool/

Tragic passing of PhD student


Jon was a talented geneticist who was completing his PhD at Murdoch, where he was making exciting discoveries of new cryptic freshwater fish species in south-western Australia.

His novel PhD work led him to receive an Australian Biological Resources Study Taxonomic Scholarship and he also received the Australian Society for Fish Biology’s Barry Jonassen Award in 2011.

Jon had recently completed chemotherapy treatment and was looking forward to a new beginning in 2014. He had a young family and was to be married in April.

Jon was killed in a tragic traffic accident after examining new species of fish at Murdoch.

In memory of Jon’s passion for the conservation of Western Australia’s unique freshwater fishes, an Honours scholarship for freshwater fish conservation will be developed in his name.

Murdoch University family and friends are invited to donate to a Memorial Fund for Jon’s family through:

IN NOVEMBER 2013, THE FIRST MURDOCH COMMISSION, AN INDEPENDENT INQUIRY ON WESTERN AUSTRALIA IN THE EVOLVING REGIONAL ORDER, TABLED ITS FINAL REPORT.

The final report was the culmination of more than a year of planning work and on-the-ground consultations throughout the Asian region.

Among its 12 international Commissioners – drawn from business, government and academia – were Murdoch Chancellor David Flanagan and Dr Jeffrey Wilson from Murdoch’s Asia Research Centre in the School of Management and Governance.

The report was officially launched on November 19 at a cocktail reception in Kings Park’s State Reception Centre by Commission Co-Chairs Professor Lee Chung Min and Kerry Sanderson AO to an audience of local stakeholders.

Murdoch University Vice Chancellor Professor Richard Higgott praised the Commission’s work and commended its recommendations to policy communities in Australia and in the region.

“One of my core goals when I was appointed Vice Chancellor was to create a commission of inquiry to analyse the major challenges facing our region over the coming decades, concluding with a set of applied policy recommendations,” Professor Higgott said.

“We wanted to move beyond the perception of Asia as simply a destination for exports and look at how we may engage actively in the region as it evolves and develops.

“We were determined to conduct the inquiry as a regional enterprise and recruited our Commissioners from across the region and within Australia. This connected the Commission into government, business and civil society circles around the region. Our aim was to combine evidence-based research with insider views and perspectives on the ground.”

The Commission schedule included meetings in Perth, Jakarta, Beijing, Shanghai, Seoul, Delhi, Tokyo and Canberra, consulting a wide range of agencies and policy leaders from government, business, academia, media, NGOs and community groups.

In many of the destinations, the Commission conducted roundtable sessions with emerging leaders, seeking their views about their nation’s development prospects and societal challenges, as well as how they viewed regional engagement and interdependency.

To learn more and read the full report, please go to the First Murdoch Commission website http://www.murdoch.edu.au/Murdoch-Commission/
Key findings:

• The future offers great opportunities in the Asian region but also presents major challenges including resource and food security issues, environmental pressures and shifting strategic tensions;

• Australia and Western Australia are already hard-wired into the region and Australia’s core interests are now closely intertwined with Asia’s continuing prosperity and stability;

• The Australian community needs to see itself more as part of the region and to appreciate the benefits of increasing interregional investment and partnerships;

• The Western Australian and Australian economies need to become more diversified to reduce exposure to external shocks and to develop areas of international competitiveness;

• Western Australia has the capacities and expertise to make significant contributions to efforts addressing some of the major social and environmental problems facing the region, and this should be pursued with vigour.

Co-chair brings heavyweight credentials

FIRST MURDOCH COMMISSION CO-CHAIR PROFESSOR CHUNG MIN LEE OF SOUTH KOREA COMBINES ACADEMIC ACUMEN WITH APPLIED GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE AND HEAVYWEIGHT CREDENTIALS IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

He is Professor of International Relations at Yonsei University’s Graduate School of International Studies in Seoul as well as the South Korean President’s Ambassador for National Security Affairs. He is also an advisor to the Prime Minister’s Office, the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Unification, the Foreign Policy and Unification Committee of the National Assembly and other governmental agencies.

While his schedule is hectic, Professor Lee said he jumped at the chance to help lead the Commission.

“When I was asked by Vice Chancellor Professor Richard Higgott to co-chair the First Murdoch Commission, I didn’t hesitate for a moment for a number of reasons,” he said.

“I knew that the proposed Commission was going to be intellectually challenging and worthwhile given the range of issues that were going to be covered by deliberations relating to the rise of Asia and ramifications for Western Australia.

“I was also impressed that it would be an inclusive, transparent and diverse endeavour, with a commitment to soliciting participation from key experts and leaders from throughout the region.

“Beyond this, the Commission was going to always have a “first mover” advantage over other universities in Australia and the region, since no other university had initiated such a major and unique undertaking.

“When other universities decide to pursue an investigation into the links between Australia and Asia and future issues, they will be second. Murdoch University has taken the initiative. It will always be the first.”

Professor Lee said the Commission’s unilateral and inclusive approach was very much appreciated by leaders in the region, who said they felt Commissioners were keen to truly listen to their points of view.

This open communication has helped formulate a set of tangible recommendations for the future which will benefit the entire region.

“The First Murdoch Commission places Murdoch University right at the centre of the on-going Asian debate, and even those who aren’t directly related with Murdoch will understand the unique role that the University has played.”
THE RECEPTION OF THE COMMISSION’S FINAL REPORT HAS BEEN POSITIVE BOTH IN AUSTRALIA AND IN THE REGION. FOLLOWING THE PERTH LAUNCH, THE COMMISSION HELD LAUNCH EVENTS IN SEOUL, SINGAPORE, JAKARTA, MELBOURNE AND CANBERRA.

The general consensus was that Murdoch University was to be commended for the Commission initiative and its innovative regional methodology.

The Commission has thus showcased Murdoch University as a serious player in public policy research and debate in Australia and in the region. In addition it has created new connections for Murdoch to government, business, community and academic leaders in the region, opening up a range of possibilities for the development of research and industry partnerships, and other forms of collaborations.

In sum, the Commission has promoted the research and public engagement profile of Murdoch in WA, Australia and in the region, and significantly advanced the internationalisation agenda of the University’s strategic plan. It has laid very solid ground for future projects that link Murdoch expertise with other societal actors to tackle major issues confronting us in the 21st century.

How Asia's young leaders see Australia

AS WELL AS ENGAGING WITH CURRENT LEADERS IN EDUCATION, MEDIA, NGOS, GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY, THE FIRST MURDOCH COMMISSION MADE TIME FOR A SERIES OF EMERGING LEADERS ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS.

The general sense at each of these events was that a real strength of the report was how it brought to the foreground common regional challenges and the potential for shared solutions against the background of regional diversity.

The idea was to tap into another perspective on the ‘Asian miracle’ and where the region is moving.

Associate Professor Michael Crozier, Commission Director of Studies, said the discussions held in China, Indonesia, South Korea, Japan and India generated a wealth of insights.

“Emerging leaders were extremely frank with the Commission, providing honest assessments of how their fellow citizens see Australia, problems that need to be addressed and their expectations for the future,” Professor Crozier said.

“The overwhelming sentiment in each of the countries we visited was that there is great potential to develop better understanding and mutual respect between Australia and its Asian neighbours.

“Leaders who had studied in Australia, including at Murdoch University, had an extremely positive view of the country, and showed a desire to share a more rounded idea of the country with their fellow citizens.”

Professor Crozier said there were issues to overcome, including Australian business people having a reputation of being too transaction-oriented in their business dealings at the expense of developing deeper, long-term relationships with regional partners.

This has led to a Commission recommendation for stronger cultural and education links, including exploring joint badging of degrees between Asian and Australian universities to produce ‘regional-global’ graduates.

“Broadening and deepening our engagement with the region in all areas will result in a wealth of benefits, both economically and culturally,” Professor Crozier said.

The meetings also provided great insights into how emerging leaders view their own countries.

What emerging leaders said

• South Korean emerging leaders are concerned about North Korea as well as the need to balance their economic relationship with China and their longstanding links with the United States – a situation similar to that of Australia.

• Chinese emerging leaders are concerned about environmental sustainability and problems associated with the urban-rural divide.

• Emerging leaders in Indonesia believe Australians generally hold out-dated perceptions of their country, including about its recent economic growth and the fact that it is a democracy. At the same time, they are concerned with corruption and rule of law in their country.

• In India, emerging leaders feel pessimistic about the political process, but optimistic about India’s continued economic growth. They are concerned about on-line freedom of speech as well as recent cases of sexual violence, which they feel are linked to deeper issues with human rights and equality.

• Emerging leaders in Japan see their ageing population as a major challenge and believe younger Japanese have a poor grasp of Australia and its culture, which is seen as indicative of a broader lack of curiosity about the wider world among this generation.
Hannah stands tall in medical research field

MURDOCH ALUMNUS DR HANNAH MOORE’S RESEARCH INTO CHILDHOOD INFECTIOUS DISEASE HAS BEEN RECOGNISED WITH A 2013 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN YOUNG TALL POPPY SCIENCE AWARD.

Hannah (BSc (Hons) 2003) said she was flattered by the award, which was established in 1989 to promote and recognise researchers in various science-related fields.

“Awards like these give me motivation to work harder and keep on researching in order to answer key questions and improve health,” she said.

“They help boost your profile and give you opportunities to spread the word of your research, which can hopefully encourage others to consider a career in medical research.”

MURDOCH SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCHER BRAD PETTITT HAS HAD THE CHANCE TO PUT THEORY INTO PRACTICE DURING HIS TERM AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FREMANTLE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

“I hope Fremantle will be in many ways a lighthouse community showing what you can do with sustainability,” Brad said.

Since finishing his studies (BA (Hons) 1996) (PhD, 2003) Brad has been based at Murdoch researching ways to integrate sustainable living into communities.

“I am interested in finding ways to help people to engage in developing their community into the sort of place they want to live in as well as exploring responses to climate change and creating low carbon cities,” Brad said.

“I think low carbon is going to be one of the key challenges of this century.”

During his term as Mayor, Brad has helped Fremantle move towards becoming a low carbon city by investing in renewable energies and reducing emissions.

“We have now installed solar panels at the swimming pool and converted its heating to geothermal and we have created bike lanes to encourage our almost 30,000 residents to ride around Fremantle,” he said.

Brad has served as a councillor at Fremantle since 2005 and was elected mayor in 2009.

He was re-elected to the position last year.

He expects to return to Murdoch once his term finishes in two years time where he plans to continue his research into how to create sustainable cities around density and the link between leadership and sustainability, both informed by his time in local government.
SCIENCE APP PRODUCER MELINDA’S NEW FOCUS

THEATRE PERFORMER, DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER MELINDA BURTON HAS RECENTLY CHANNELLED HER ARTISTIC FOCUS INTO CO-PRODUCING THE SCIENCE-BASED IPAD APP THE INCOMPLETE MAP OF THE COSMIC GENOME.

The app is an evolving video magazine series hosted by comedian Robin Ince that features content by leading scientists and scientifically minded contributors, including physicist Professor Brian Cox.

Melinda, the Human Resources Manager of The Old Vic theatre in London, has co-produced the app with her husband Trent through their company Trunkman Productions.

“Working on the project has been an incredible experience,” she said.

STOPPING TO TELL A STORY

PIERCE DAVISON (BA, 2000) IS A STORY TELLER WHO USES THE PAINSTAKING WORLD OF STOP MOTION ANIMATION TO TELL HIS TALES.

The medium requires him to move objects in small increments before photographing each frame, creating the illusion of movement when the film is complete.

The work is generally solitary, which the former ABC TV Young Filmmaker of the Year relishes.

“You have control over every element, from prop construction to character design,” he said.

“It’s a medium where I can output product without pestering too many people, and you don’t even have to deal with actors!”

Pierce initially enrolled in Commerce at Murdoch, but spent the vast chunk of his university time directing his first short animation, UFO Inferno, which he describes as a “coat-hanger and magnet classic”.

He then shifted to his true love, and with amazing success.

Over the past six years, Pierce, has made more than a dozen short films for both ABC and SBS and was a finalist in the prestigious Tropfest in 2003.

“We’ve had the opportunity to work alongside some of the biggest names in science and comedy from around the world.”

While studying at Murdoch (BA, 2002) and (GradDipEd, 2003), Melinda performed in five shows for Bedlam, the University’s then-amateur theatre company.

“I really enjoyed my performance units and particularly a unit on soap opera,” Melinda said.

“I met Trent while producing a show for that unit. We also worked together at Murdoch on The Game Show Girl, which was Trunkman Productions’ first short film.”

Melinda co-produced the Perth-based sitcom Love on the Box in 2003 and performed in No Refunds with Bud Tingwell at the Regal Theatre in Subiaco before moving to London in 2005.

Since then, she has performed in a touring Christmas pantomime of Cinderella and directed and co-produced three original plays and a short film for Trunkman. She is currently writing a puppetry script.

He said his ambition was to continue telling stories that interested him, but to make them bigger, better, longer and more refined. His current project is a stop motion film about inventor Thomas Edison.

You can view his work at http://www.youtube.com/davisonbros.
Liz’s career takes off

Liz Kearney has just started her career as a producer but the Murdoch University 2002 alumnus is having a big impact on the local film industry.

She has just wrapped up principle photography on a feature film she is co-producing called Paper Planes.

The children’s film about a young boy’s passion for flight and his challenge to compete in the World Paper Plane Championships in Japan stars well-known Australian actors Sam Worthington, Ed Oxenbould, David Wenham and Deborah Mailman.

Liz, (BA, 2002) majored in film and television before completing a postgraduate diploma in journalism, said her involvement in Paper Planes was a result of working with the film’s writer, director and producer Robert Connelly.

He served as executive producer on her previous film These Final Hours, an apocalyptic thriller about a self obsessed young man who makes his way to the party-to-end-all parties on the last day of earth before finding redemption.

She says that film - her first feature film as a producer - has been a highlight of her short but burgeoning career.

“The film premiered last year at the Melbourne International Film Festival and has since gone on to gain distribution through Village Roadshow,” she said.

It will be released in cinemas in June.

Liz said she enjoys the role of producer and being involved in the initial stages of a project and guiding the film, along with the director, through to its completion.

Want to help someone? Shut up and listen!

Sustainable expert Ernesto Sirolli (PhD 2004) gave a funny, impassioned speech at a TEDx conference in New Zealand, which has since been heard by more than 1.8 million people around the world.

Ernesto shared his hilarious experiences of working for an NGO in Africa, where he learned a big lesson about the shortcomings of international aid from Western countries from a bunch of hippos.

Ernesto went on to develop a person-centred approach to international aid called enterprise facilitation. This model has been adopted by more than 250 communities around the world.

You can listen to Ernesto’s TED talk at http://www.ted.com/talks/ernesto_sirolli_want_to_help_someone_shut_up_and_listen.html

Alumni can gain knowledge for less

Murdoch University Bookshop extends a special offer to all Murdoch graduates.

We are pleased to offer a 12 per cent discount on a range of items including textbooks, general books, stationery, multimedia, giftware and merchandise.

To take advantage of this offer, please present this advertisement to claim your discount.

Bookshop opening times
8.30am – 4.30pm
Monday to Friday

Please consult our website for further information:
http://our.murdoch.edu.au/bookshop
THE ART OF GIVING

SINCE ITS FOUNDATION IN 1975, MURDOCH UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTION HAS FLOURISHED WITH THE SUPPORT FROM ALUMNI, PRIVATE AND INDUSTRY BENEFACTORS.

Murdoch celebrated the generous spirit of our benefactors at the end of 2013 with a cocktail party hosted by Vice Chancellor, Professor Richard Higgott and the University’s Art Board.

There is a genuine sense of excitement and anticipation for the Art Collection and we believe the ongoing support and enthusiasm from our friends, donors and talented artists is vital to developing and maintaining the Art Collection’s excellent reputation.

The Art Board’s 2013 fundraising appeal was launched at the event, where we are aiming to raise $25,000.

These funds will be used to purchase a suite of 12 photographs by celebrated West Australian photographer Brad Rimmer for the Art Collection.

These works form part of Rimmer’s acclaimed photographic folio titled Silence which features Western Australian portraits and landscapes.

We are delighted to announce that the appeal has received an overwhelmingly positive response, with alumni and friends generously contributing $19,000 towards our goal of $25,000.

In particular, a very generous donation was received from Murdoch University alumnus Kevin Hewison, who was inspired to contribute to the art appeal after years of living in the United States where there is a stronger tradition of giving.

Kevin hopes his gift will inspire other alumni to also give, and for established donors to repeat their generosity.

Our heart-felt thanks to all our very generous friends that have supported this initiative so far.

A lasting contribution to Murdoch University Art Collection can be made through donating artwork or by making a financial tax-deductible bequest.

For enquiries please contact me on +61 8 9360 6602 or mark.stewart@murdoch.edu.au.

Mark Stewart
Murdoch University
Art Curator
Time travel with a twist


Dominica primarily writes speculative fiction with pirates and mermaids but prefers real-world settings with science fiction and fantasy elements, which is what can be found in Adrift. The story takes place in the 17th and 21st centuries, following pirate Jaclyn Rousseau as she tries to navigate her place in the world.

“I wanted to write something really unique, and the basic character premise of a bisexual female time-travelling pirate seemed to capture that,” said Dominica.

“Also it was important to me to write an interesting story with better sexuality representation than what is most common in mainstream fiction.”

Though born in Western Australia, Dominica currently lives in Malaysia with her husband and two children.

Adrift was published in September 2013 by Solarwyrm Press.

Understanding Nietzsche

ON NIETZSCHE: AN EXPLANATION OF HIS LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL ACTIVITY TAKES AN ORIGINAL AND CONCISE APPROACH TO THE WORKS OF ONE OF WESTERN CIVILISATION’S GREATEST THINKERS, FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE.

Its author, Murdoch alumnus Dušan Todorovic Zarac, explains that the intention of his book was to make the potentially onerous subject of Nietzsche ‘shockingly intelligible’.

Dušan (BA, 2010) was inspired to write the book after reading another interpretation Nietzsche which ‘furiously enraged’ him, namely that of Canadian philosopher and scholar Laurence Lampert. On Nietzsche consequently is partly a critique of Professor Lampert’s work.

Dušan is a Croatian-born Australian philosopher, poet, translator and linguist who came to Australia as a refugee in 2001.

“The book is currently being translated into Serbian and I hope the readers in both languages will be inspired to read Nietzsche thoroughly, especially my favourite work Thus Spoke Zarathustra” says Dušan.

Dušan’s academic achievements include a BA in Philosophy from Murdoch University in 2010.

On Nietzsche was published by Vivid Publishing in May 2013.
Urban Living – Perth Style

Chris Palazzolo (BA (HONS), 1992) bills himself as a novelist, poet and video store clerk.

Unhoused, a play on the German word Unheimlich meaning un-homed, unfamiliar or uncanny, is his first collection of poetry and has been described as ‘strange, beautiful and inventive’.

The 56 poems have been a work-in-progress for more than two decades and tear apart the concept of artistic alienation, in which the familiar streets and houses become extraordinary through the poet’s eyes.

“If I were to find a unifying thread to the collection, it would be Perth,” Chris said.

“Many of the poems were written with the intention of finding a language for Perth’s peculiar style of urbanism, which while different to that of Melbourne, Sydney, London or New York is an urban experience nonetheless. I hope that the poems are useful tools in developing an appreciation of this fact.”

The book was published in June 2013 by Regime Books.

A Story of Identity

Murdoch researcher Dr Audrey Fernandes-Satar (Med (Hons, 1999) PhD, 2011) has written a book from her PhD thesis about her and her family's experience of fleeing their native land of Goa, and the journey from there to Mozambique and finally Australia.

After the Last Ship is, according to Audrey, a ‘project about shedding light, making sense of the act of diaspora and the journey that is diaspora’.

“After the Last Ship embodies the critical incident that illustrates my own history, as well as its connection to the history of other women who, like myself, made the journey across the Kala Pani, the Indian Ocean, and lived as migrants in other lands,” she said.

In this book Audrey bears witness to the effects of displacement and exile and to how identity and culture can serve as a vehicle of empowerment, how experiences of belonging can germinate and take root, post-diaspora.

The book is published by Peter Lang Publishers.

Perth’s Dark Underbelly

Murdoch alumnus David Whish-Wilson’s new novel Zero at the Bone is the sequel to the acclaimed Line of Sight (2011).

The crime thriller, told through the eyes of ex-detective Frank Swann, lifts the lid on WA’s state capital at the start of the mining boom in the late 1970s, showing Perth to be a city of corruption and celebration as the grapple for mining leases leads to a new kind of lawlessness.

David said Perth’s seemingly idyllic setting was highly conducive to crime fiction.

“It’s that classic LA noir thing,” he said.

“The brighter the light, the deeper the shadows. My reading of Perth is that it’s always been a tough town, and still is.”

The Fremantle resident (BA, 1997)/(PhD, 2004) now teaches creative writing at Curtin University.

Zero at the Bone was released by Penguin Australia in August 2013.

Fans of the character will be pleased to know that a third Frank Swann book is forthcoming, this time set in the 1980s.
**iiNet founder shares his secrets**

Over the past 10 years, iiNet has grown from a one-man band in a suburban garage into Australia’s second largest DSL Internet Service provider.

The company has more than 2000 employees across three countries and is valued at around $1 billion.

Mr Malone spoke of his journey with iiNet’s success and outlined ways great organisational culture can be built upon people.

The talk was open to past participants from the EEC’s leadership and management programs, as a continued commitment to help professionals to network and learn from industry leaders.

Executive Education Director, Dr Christopher Vas, said that the programs are open to all Murdoch University alumni.

“The programs build on rigorous research and real-world cases influencing executive thinking which activates productivity in the workplace,” said Dr Vas.

“In 2014, the Centre will expand its offerings in Asia starting with Singapore. It’s a great channel by which Murdoch University alumni in the region can stay connected with their alma mater.”

To find out more about Murdoch’s Executive Education programs, contact us on +61 8 9360 1775 or via email at executive.education@murdoch.edu.au

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**Farewell from Parasitology**

Dr Kok Wei Yap (PhD, 1989), was known as ‘Yap’ by all his friends and colleagues. Yap joined the Murdoch community in 1985.

Supported by a prestigious scholarship from the Wool Research Trust, the title of his thesis was “The Establishment and Evaluation of Molecular Procedures for the Characterisation of Taeniid Cestodes”.

Yap will be sadly missed by all of us in the Parasitology section at Murdoch, and remembered as a friendly, generous and collaborative fellow, who from the early days of his studies demonstrated an entrepreneurial streak that subsequently served him exceptionally well in his successful career based in Singapore.

Yap established molecular biology as a core strength in parasitological research in the Veterinary School at Murdoch, and was awarded the Murdoch University Distinguished Alumni Award for Health Science in 2011.

Much of our subsequent success has resulted from the foundation Yap brought to the group.

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**Postgrad community thrives**

Postgraduate study can be a lonely business but Murdoch now has a thriving group to help students network with their peers.

When the Murdoch University Postgraduate Student Association (MUPSA) committee formed four years ago they never dreamed of the future scale of their annual conference at the South Street campus.

“Postgraduates from all around the university now gather for the MUPSA conference, which provides an opportunity for students to present their work in a formal but relaxed academic environment,” said conference convenor Vanessa Caparas.

“MUPSA is there to represent the interests of postgraduates and works to ensure that they have a satisfactory experience of studying at Murdoch University.

“We would love to hear from alumni who are interested in offering support and advice for postgraduate students about their future careers.”

In the future MUPSA will be increasing networking and professional development opportunities as well as providing additional scholarships and merit awards.

For more information about MUPSA or getting involved in the conference, contact Vanessa Caparas at V.Caparas@the-guild.com.au or on +61 8 9360 6585.


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**Alumni Contacts**

If you’re a graduate of any Murdoch University campus in any degree, diploma or certificate then you are one of our wonderful alumni! Chances are that wherever life has taken you, you’ll find fellow Murdochians somewhere nearby! Our groups and chapters would love to hear from you.

http://www.alumni-enews.murdoch.edu.au/2013/05/alumni-contacts/
The new facility cost $550,000 and was funded by generous donations to the Murdoch University Veterinary Trust.

Before the machine was installed, injured horses were sometimes assessed using tissue biopsy, X-ray or ultrasound. Horses previously had to be transported interstate for CT scans.

“By having a machine like this available locally, horse owners will save a lot of time and money,” said Hospital Director Dr Mark Lawrie.

“This machine also scans quickly, reducing the amount of time a horse has to be under anaesthesia and in turn, reducing some of the risks associated with that.”

In addition to being a diagnostic tool, the CT scanner will also be used for teaching and research.

“After the success of launching the CT scanner, we are working with the WA equine community to raise funds for other important veterinary equipment,” Dr Lawrie said.

“We hope to raise $250,000 in 2014 to re-commence scintigraphy services.”

If you would like further information about supporting fundraising efforts for scintigraphy services, please contact Ellaine Hislop on +61 8 9360 2699 or e.hislop@murdoch.edu.au.

For more information, visit http://www.murdoch.edu.au/Services/Veterinary-Hospital/
Alumni tell their stories

**Anne Fawcett**  
(MVS, 2013)  
I graduated with a Master in Veterinary Studies (small animal medicine and surgery) at the beginning of 2013 which was a fantastic program I recommend to any veterinarian. The content was high quality, the teaching fantastic and it gave me a lot of tools to use in everyday general veterinary practice.

Graduation - outdoors, on a summer evening, in Bush Court, was the most unique celebration. I brought a friend from Italy who couldn’t believe the graduands were surrounded by gum trees, with cockies flying over.

Since then I’ve continued to work full time in practice and teach in the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney.

Like most vets I know I undertake continued education regularly, but I don’t think anything beats the structure of a degree program which allows you to pursue a subject in depth.

**Joshua Burditt**  
(BComm, 2008)  
I finished my final exam and last day of work on a Friday and started in my accounting career the following Monday. I worked at Lawler McGillivray in Perth for four years on a variety of small to large clients. I worked my way up from graduate to senior accountant and learnt how to deal with different clients and colleagues. I was, and still consider myself to be, mentor to two other accountants, which really challenges you on a personal level. I also had some fantastic mentors who taught me a great deal.

I met my wife at Murdoch, she completed a Bachelor of Legal Studies (with honours) and went on to complete a Masters in Criminology at Griffith University through correspondence. We are also proud parents to two young boys.

In 2013 we all moved to Kalgoorlie to be closer to relatives and for a change of lifestyle. This has been very rewarding. I joined with RSM Bird Cameron and have had some rewarding experiences in dealing with small businesses in town.

I continue to develop my accounting and business skills through my everyday work and through professional development courses.

I completed my CPA in 2013 and have also studied and attended courses held by the Tax Institute.

I also have a keen interest in cars and motorsports and was a committee member for Perth car club All Fours and Rotaries. I am also a CAMS official and have been an official and service crew member at the Australasian Safari held in regional WA in September each year.

**Les Chandra**  
(MCityPolicy, 2006)  
I graduated in 2006 with a Master of City Policy having completed a research masters with training in sustainability and transport. I moved to Brisbane in 2007 and joined Parsons Brinckerhoff where I am now a Senior Transport Planner. In October of this year I took up the position of Transport Planning Chapter chair for the Queensland division of the Planning Institute of Australia. As such, I am looking forward to continuing to make a difference in transport planning in Queensland.

**Nalin Dias**  
(BSc, 2004)  
After graduating I worked for myself for two years as a programmer, then moved to Burswood Casino and worked in the IT Operations team. Since 2007 I have been working for the City of Nedlands (Local Government) as IT Coordinator. I have worked in major projects and have experience in ICT areas such as DR/VoIP/VDI/Cloud/systems and networking/software etc. I am currently studying for an MBA while working. I am looking forward to working in ICT management and strategy area in the future.

**Jasmine Low**  
(BA, 2011)  
I graduated in 2011 with BA in Psychology and Minors in Organisational Psychology and Minors in Marketing Management. Since Graduation, I have received a two year Erasmus Mundus Scholarship from the European Commission to further my studies. I am currently doing the European Masters in Work, Organisation and Personnel Psychology in University of Valencia in Spain. It is an international Masters Program and I am working with colleagues from all over the world and attending seminars from many famous professors in Europe and US.

**Brett Harvey**  
(BSc, 2012)  
I graduated in 2012 with a BSc in Environmental Technology and Sustainable Development. Since then I have traveled through India and Nepal, which included some volunteer work and I have moved to Melbourne, Victoria. I have had a very hard time finding employment in any related field since job searching the past five months, so I am still eagerly seeking opportunities. I am however considering enrolling in a certificate/diploma this year.
PETER CLAY  
(BA, 2012)  
I graduated in 2012 with a Bachelor of Tourism majoring in Ecotourism and am now in Melbourne completing my Masters of Tourism with Monash Uni. Currently I’m leading a team of volunteers working with the National Sports Museum (MCG) helping to identify opportunities to promote further awareness of their products. In February I’ll be meeting with the United Nations World Tourism Organisation in Berlin to discuss working with the organisation to develop my Master’s thesis on the topic of improved visa regulation in the Silk Road to support mobility and sustainable development.

ANNABELLE VITTI C. VALENZUELA  
(MA, 2000)  
I’m now with the SN Aboitz Power Group, as Business Development Manager and HSEC Director. HSEC stands for Health, Safety, Environment and Community (HSEC) concerns. Our work is in developing hydropower energy in the Philippines. My work allows me to help minimise social and environmental disturbance of our projects. It is very challenging but also insightful work because I get to see real political dynamics at work and the relationships of corporations and communities as they negotiate their own goals. I have been working in the company since August 2013.

PROFESSOR JOHN GRAINGER  
(DBA, 1999 / MBA, 1995 / BEd (Hons), 1992)  
Whilst I know that education broadens the mind, back in 1986 when I graduated with a joint BA degree in Teaching and Psychology, I was completely unaware of exciting international teaching career possibilities that a Murdoch degree offered to a would-be peripatetic educator from Perth.

I decided to continue my studies, earning a B.Ed (Hons) in 1992, an MBA in 1995, and finally my Doctor of Business Administration in 1999. All my degrees were related to education in some way and enabled me to walk the interesting path through the joy and tears of primary, secondary and tertiary teaching and administration.

Time flies when you are having fun, and even today I relish working with groups of young people in a classroom or lecture theatre, experiencing the buzz of teaching. Even today I have flashbacks of my teacher training classes back in the late 80’s, being instructed in the intricacies of pedagogy by Terry Church, or Renato Schibeci, operating from a technologically challenged caravan classroom parked in a school carpark. It matters not which continent or country I am in, teaching has proven to be a challenging but professionally rewarding career.

I have been fortunate to have had opportunities to teach in Australia (1986-2002) interspersed with stints in Singapore (1994-95), the United Arab Emirates (2002 – 2014), and now Ghana (2014-). I never imagined back in 1986 that I would be appointed as founding Pro Vice-Chancellor of Murdoch University in Dubai in December 2008, nor that I would move to Ghana in 2014 to establish the new Lancaster University Accra campus as Provost and President, but I do not regret one moment of my peripatetic teaching career.

Finally, I would like to say cheerio to the wonderful Murdoch folk in both Perth and Dubai, colleagues, students and alumni I have walked with along the road from Perth to Accra, where I am now. Drop in if you are in the area, we are highly visible on Jungle Road in East Legon.

We went back to St Helena in 1999 to get married and then we moved here permanently in 2003. I worked as a nurse manager in the health service before being elected to the island’s Legislative Council in July of this year. Though the island’s population is about 4000 politics is a full time job. St Helena is British Overseas Territory and my work is a curious mix of local and national politics. The island is about to change significantly in the next two years as an airport is being constructed and five day sea voyage to Cape Town will become a five hour flight.

Though it is many years since I left Murdoch, and I have completed other university studies since, Murdoch will always be my uni. Even today as I work to help secure a sustainable future for our island I am grateful for the time spent at Murdoch having the freedom to develop analytical skills that I use to this day.

My sister who lives in Perth sent me a Murdoch tie to celebrate my election which I will wear with pride. It only took two months to get here!

JOHANNES NORTON  
(BComm, 1993)  
Since graduating in 1993, I’ve done the following (amongst other things):

- Organised a student National Conference for 200 delegates,
- Spent a year in Mumbai on a traineeship with the Times of India,
- Moved to Melbourne,
- Caught the travel bug,
- Ended up in ICT working in WFM, ITIL & now process management & improvement over the past 15 years,
- Married a local & started a family in the Melbourne suburbs.

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Mastering policy: The key to career success

“Learning from such reputable academic staff from such a wide variety of subject areas makes it a very valuable experience”

After commencing work with the Department of Housing as a graduate, Cassie Houghton felt drawn towards the strategy and policy division. Inspired to progress her career, she decided to explore policy further. Cassie embarked on a Master of Public Policy and Management at the Sir Walter Murdoch School of Public Policy and International Affairs, a new exclusive venture in graduate education at Murdoch University.

“I was hesitant to return to study after having a break for five years, but I felt that getting a qualification directly related to policy would be really interesting and would help me to advance my career,” said Cassie. “So far it has paid off remarkably!”

“My work is about helping create more housing products and making them more accessible to those who need it, when they need it. I really enjoy my job, and learning more about it just makes both work and study more fulfilling. I literally put the theory into practice every day and I’m looking forward to exploring where my qualification will take me.”

The Sir Walter Murdoch School is a graduate policy school, the first of its kind in WA. The school offers Masters coursework degrees in Public Policy and Management, International Affairs and Development Studies, as well as shorter graduate certificates. All programs are designed to equip students with the skills, knowledge and experience top employers demand.

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