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-services
Greetings Alumni

If you have been past the Murdoch campus lately you will have noticed the imposing adjacent precinct that is now Fiona Stanley Hospital. The hospital, which has just begun operations, is WA’s flagship health facility. The establishment of a Health Precinct, supporting the hospitals within the Murdoch Activity Centre will provide a range of productive research and training synergies, especially in the broadly defined areas of health, biomedicine, and bioinformatics.

Our expertise in health education, communication and health sector management and policy will also add to our contribution to this health precinct. It’s an exciting time for Murdoch. In addition to our successful nursing offerings at our Peel Campus, a nursing degree will also be offered at South Street next year, further consolidating our range of health related degrees at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

The concentration of specialised medical practices and leading-edge medical technologies in the precinct is expected to generate some exciting research opportunities. Already joint appointments to Murdoch have made with the Fiona Stanley Hospital and the University of Notre Dame Australia, signal a collaborative precinct that will be locally and internationally connected in nature. University collaboration across borders on research problems has long been understood as transnational in character.

Universities exist and act in a highly connected world. They need to adopt a global perspective and foster international linkages - I am sure many of you will also experience this is in your own areas of employment. The world has become a smaller place, as they say. Murdoch employs global recruitment strategies for students, faculty and professional staff, who are far more mobile than they have been in the past.

Our expertise in health education, communication and health sector management and policy will also add to our contribution to this health precinct. It’s an exciting time for Murdoch. In addition to our successful nursing offerings at our Peel Campus, a nursing degree will also be offered at South Street next year, further consolidating our range of health related degrees at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Academic communication and networking has mushroomed internationally and international connectedness, benchmarking and ranking systems now provide a proxy for reputation and status. The Times Higher Education (THE) has ranked Murdoch as the 26th most international university in the world. This internationalisation is critically important for the developing skill sets of our graduates. They need to be flexible in the global labour market – future careers will be unique.

In preparation for our 40th anniversary next year, Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton - our renowned historian – has been helping with the collation of oral histories from some of our former staff and students. It is interesting to note how the outlook of the University has changed greatly over 40 years, from a more local view to the global one. We have been reminded of the importance of the collection of these memories with the recent deaths of two important Murdoch identities. Emeritus Professor Ian Ritchie died in August and in September Professor Glenn Wilson, Murdoch’s second Vice Chancellor also sadly passed away. We will include more about Professor Wilson in our 40th Anniversary edition next year.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Intouch; there are plenty of stories to keep you up to date with a range of the stimulating research and teaching, that is, Murdoch.

Professor Andrew Taggart
Interim Vice Chancellor

From the Manager – Alumni Relations

Welcome to the 2014 Spring edition of Intouch. In this edition, we celebrate Murdoch University’s rising reputation as one of the most international universities in the world. Having recently been rated as the 26th most international university by Times Higher Education, it is clear that Murdoch attracts some of the world’s best academic talent and produces globally collaborative and innovative research. The stories featured in this edition highlight how exciting it is to be part of such a dynamic teaching and research environment, and the difference our alumni are making on the international stage.

The presentation of our Distinguished Alumni Awards is an important event in the Alumni Relations calendar, and this year’s ceremony took place at a formal dinner on the South Street campus. We were delighted that all of the 2014 finalists based in Australia were able to join us for the occasion. The full story of this year’s finalists and winners is on page 18-19.

Our Alumni Annual Appeal took place in the middle of the year, and once again the Murdoch alumni community has shown their great generosity and support by donating.

This year’s appeal featured Nadia Dalecki, who was chosen to receive the 2014 Alumni Annual Appeal Scholarship. Nadia kindly agreed to share her personal story of how receiving the Scholarship has enabled her to complete her Bachelor of Education. You can read Nadia’s story on page 23.

To help commemorate Murdoch University’s 40th birthday in 2015, we asked you to tell us your favourite memories for our Murdoch Memory competition. We have been thrilled by the response we received and look forward to announcing the winner and featuring some of your wonderful stories and anecdotes in the 2015 Intouch special bumper memento edition.

Finally, I’d like to extend my warm congratulations to all of our new alumni graduating this year. Welcome to Murdoch’s alumni family. I hope that 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.

Jo-Ann Whalley
Manager – Alumni Relations
The Professor of common sense

PROFESSOR WENDY CARLIN’S FACE LIGHTS UP WHEN SHE DESCRIBES WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE ONE OF ONLY A FEW HUNDRED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE FIRST YEAR OF A THEN-BRAND SPANKING NEW MURDOCH UNIVERSITY IN 1975.

In its foundation year, only 510 students were accepted at Murdoch University from 2000 applications, with 8000 students in total listing it as one of their preferences. The young Wendy Carlin thought she wanted to study comparative literature but took a decided change of tack in her first week of study. She eventually graduated in 1979 with a BA and a Diploma in Education, before heading to the UK’s University of Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship.

Fast forward a few decades and Wendy Carlin is now a world-renowned economist, Professor of Economics at University College London, visiting Professor at the University of Oxford, a research fellow at the UK Centre for Economic Policy Research, and a member of the Expert Advisory Panel of the Office for Budget Responsibility in the UK.

With colleague David Soskice she has co-authored tomes on macroeconomics - *Macroeconomics and the Wage Bargain* and the textbook *Macroeconomics: Imperfections, Institutions and Policies* and has a new book soon set for release on meeting global financial crisis challenges.

For many years she was also co-managing editor of the influential publication *Economics of Transition*.

She has, in the most complimentary of senses, recently been dubbed in the international financial press as “the professor of common sense” for her somewhat novel but increasingly popular push to teach ‘real-world economics’.

Moving from a brand new Australian university with a decided penchant for academic experimentation, to the hallowed halls of a very traditional Oxford University was an experience Wendy still recalls vividly.

“I arrived in the English autumn and going from Western Australia and a small, new university to Oxford was certainly a dramatic cultural shock,” she laughed.

“When I started at Murdoch it was really very exciting with only 500 or so students and a new campus sort of in the middle of the sand hills.”

Wendy said that in 1975 the University was quite deliberately different from the well-established University of WA and the then-Western Australian Institute of Technology.

“There was a sense that Murdoch University took students who wanted to take a bit of a leap in the direction of their education,” Professor Wendy Carlin said.

“Many were mature students who had had a go at university earlier on and didn’t really like it and now wanted something different and there were people not just from Perth but interstate and internationally.

“That diversity was not just in the students but was true also of the faculty teaching there.”

Wendy rapidly built on her Murdoch University start, earning at University of Oxford a M.Phil and later a D.Phil in Economics, in 1987.

She lectured in economics at Christ Church College, Oxford from 1983 to 1986, and then went on to work at University College London, where she was first appointed to a post in Economics in 1987.

Today her research focuses on macroeconomics, institutions and economic performance and the economics of transition, but she’s recently been kept busy leading the CORE Project – an international initiative set to reform the undergraduate economics curriculum.

Both she and her late husband ensured that the family maintained close links with family and friends in Australia and both her children have worked here.

Wendy was presented with an Honorary Doctorate in Economics by Murdoch University in September 2014.

For more information on Professor Carlin and the CORE Project please visit: www.core-econ.org
On the medical battlelines

JOANNA KEENAN IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF HELPING INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CRISIS – INCLUDING THE WEST AFRICAN EBOLA OUTBREAK – THROUGH HER WORK WITH MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES/DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS.

As a press officer, Ms Keenan (BA Mass Communication, 2005) said she is proud and humbled to work in Geneva for the organisation, which provides medical care in almost 70 countries across the globe, including conflict and emergency zones.

“Our doctors, nurses and field staff work in projects as diverse as providing HIV and tuberculosis treatment on an outpatient basis to local communities in Malawi, to performing surgery on victims of conflict in Syria, basic medical care in the wake of typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, and counselling services to migrants in Italy,” she said.

Ms Keenan works on the organisation’s Access Campaign, an advocacy unit of MSF that lobbies for better tools and access to medication for the developing world.

The Access Campaign was set up in 1999 after MSF received a Nobel Peace Prize for highlighting that unsuitable, inadequate and cost-prohibitive medical implements and drugs were being used to treat patients in remote and resource-limited areas.

It now addresses harmful pharmaceutical industry practices and advocates law reform to allow affordable access to vital medication.

“At the moment, a big issue we’re working on is new drugs to treat Hepatitis C,” Ms Keenan said.

“There are 185 million people worldwide infected with this fatal disease and these new oral drugs will revolutionise treatment and cure people, but the pharmaceutical companies have priced them beyond reach of all but the richest people.

“It’s fascinating as it’s a repeat of what happened with drugs to treat HIV 15 years ago. Back then, the pharma companies priced the drugs at US$10,000 per person per year and millions in Africa died as they simply couldn’t afford treatment.”

Ms Keenan said she had won the job in Geneva over 400 other applicants in 2011 after working with the Australian Red Cross and the National Native Title Tribunal.

She praised her tertiary education at Murdoch University, saying the course afforded her lots of practical experience which was crucial to kick-starting her career.

“It’s such a privilege to work for MSF,” she said. “I’m really passionate about what I do.”

Standing up for women’s rights in India

RACHEL KILNER HAS SEEN THE CONFRONTING REALITY OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA AND HAS LENT A HAND TO HELPING VICTIMS OF INSIDIOUS BRUTALITY.

Fresh from a three-month stint working as a volunteer lawyer with the Lawyers Collective in Delhi, Rachel (BA/B Laws, 2014) was part of a team charged with educating Indian women about recent law changes to improve women’s rights.

“The laws have been changed and improved remarkably but there are still areas of law that put women at a disadvantage,” she said.

“A lot of them are victims of domestic violence, but also dowry violence. Women who have not been able to provide an adequate dowry are often subjected to abuse by in-laws and family members so a lot of the cases involved women trying to escape that type of abuse.

“A lot of our day-to-day business was researching different cases and tracking cases that were coming through the courts with these new laws and identifying where women were still at a disadvantage.”

Rachel, who returned to Australia in July, said the experience has had a lasting effect on her, piquing her interest in human rights law.

“It prepared me in terms of the degree in which bureaucracy can affect the provision of aid and assistance to these women. A lot of the time our efforts were stymied in that regard,” she said.
Helping people through policy

IT WAS A FITTING COINCIDENCE THAT JAY MARTIN LEARNED ABOUT MURDOCH UNIVERSITY’S ASIAN STUDIES UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE WHILE TRAVELLING ASIA AS A TEENAGER.

Jay (BA (Hons) 1998) had not completed Year 12 and was pleased to hear that tertiary education was not beyond her reach, with Murdoch offering an alternative entry program.

“I found out about Murdoch University when I was travelling in South East Asia when I was 19 and came across a guy who was doing his PhD research on travellers in South East Asia,” she said.

“Before that I had never even thought about going to university.”

After graduating, Jay worked in Canberra for 13 years as well as several overseas posts including Tajikistan in Central Asia, Azerbaijan (part of the former USSR), East Timor (now Timor Leste) and Papua New Guinea advising governments and the private sector on the effectiveness of social programs.

Now employed by global professional services company KPMG in Perth, Jay said her expertise as a policy analyst extended to the realms of health and human services, more specifically housing and child welfare.

“My vision at uni had been to do something with international development but I went into domestic social policy so I worked for governments and not-for-profits. I worked with Ministers in Canberra and all kinds of social justice programs,” she said.

“What happened over the years is that I had the opportunities to apply that experience overseas so although I went into a domestic policy environment, I ended up working for international governments advising them on how to do social policy better.

“My Asian Studies background was really useful then. You don’t usually know where an arts degree is going to take you but mine has taken me down some pretty interesting paths.”

Murdoch Commission Co-chair appointed WA Governor

THE CO-CHAIR OF THE FIRST MURDOCH COMMISSION, MRS KERRY SANDERSON AO, HAS BEEN APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND WILL BE THE FIRST WOMAN TO OCCUPY THE POST.

The appointment was a fitting recognition of Mrs Sanderson’s great contribution to Western Australian commercial and public life including 17 years as CEO of the Fremantle Port Authority and several years as WA’s Agent General in London.

As Co-chair of the Murdoch Commission she helped steer its groundbreaking inquiry by a distinguished group of international experts from academia and industry into the key issues and challenges confronting WA and the Asian region.

The Commission produced an outstanding report on Western Australia’s place in the evolving regional order with 19 recommendations addressing issues around regional stability and prosperity, resources, trade, engagement, and wider economic trends.

Besides Mrs Sanderson’s distinguished public sector career which was firmly based in trade and commerce, she is also noted for her commitment to science and learning and her active involvement in charitable work.

Her abilities and achievements have been recognised in a number of ways including the award of Telstra Businesswoman of the Year for Western Australia, as inaugural inductee to the Lloyds List Shipping and Transport Hall of Fame and Fremantle Ports winning the Australian Business Excellence Medal.

Mrs Sanderson’s appointments have included service as a Director of Austrade, the Australian Wheat Board, Rio Tinto WA Future Fund and the Western Australian Lands Authority (Landcorp).

Currently, Mrs Sanderson is the Independent Chair of the State Emergency Management Committee, and is on the boards of Atlas Iron, Downer EDI Limited and St John of God Healthcare.

Interim Vice Chancellor Professor Andrew Taggart said he believed Mrs Sanderson would make an unparalleled contribution to Western Australian public life in her new role as Governor.
**Alumnus weathers remote challenges**

WORKING ON REMOTE WEATHER STATIONS IN THE ANTARCTIC OR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SIMPSON DESERT, METEOROLOGIST BARRY BECKER HAS HAD AN AMAZING AND VARIED CAREER.

Starting with the Bureau of Meteorology as a meteorological observer in 1982, Barry commenced external studies with Murdoch University in 1989 – with the goal of becoming a forecaster.

With a love of science ingrained in him by a passionate year 6 teacher, Barry obtained a Bachelor of Science (Atmospheric Physics) in 1994. He then undertook further studies through the Bureau of Meteorology, completing a postgraduate diploma in Meteorology.

As a qualified forecaster, Barry’s postings have included Darwin, Hobart and two postings to Antarctica – first to remote Davis station and then to Casey station.

These Antarctic postings involved in forecasting for aviation, shipping and deep field science programs including the Amery Ice Shelf drilling project and the Loose Tooth project – where monitoring conditions was vital for the safety of project personnel.

Barry’s last remote posting was at Macquarie Island in the sub-Antarctic as the officer in charge of the weather station from February 2013 to April 2014.

Barry said it was amazing what can be done with a maths or physics degree.

“The opportunity to travel and experience new things have been opened to me because I have a Bachelor of Science degree,” Barry said.

Barry has been keeping a blog of his postings and the amazing conditions he has encountered. The blog can be accessed at http://bazintaz.blogspot.com.au

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**Postgraduate learning leads to specialised career**

JUGGLING WORK AND PARENTHOOD, MURDOCH ALUMNUS TANIA HUGHES HAS MANAGED TO PROGRESS IN HER NURSING CAREER AS WELL AS CARE FOR HER FAMILY.

Tania (PostGrad Cert. Community Neurological Nursing, 2014) works as a community neurological nurse in Albany.

Employed by the Neurological Council of WA, Tania provides assessment, education, counselling, information, support and advocacy to clients and carers living with a neurological condition in the community.

Following Tania’s postgraduate certificate, she received a promotion and is now working as an advanced community neurological nurse.

With her new knowledge on treatments, medications and different ways of interacting with clients to get positive results, Tania also gained the skills and knowledge necessary to assist Great Southern health professionals in treating neurological conditions – in the absence of a visiting neurologist service.

“My most rewarding moment was when, after my persistence and advocacy, I had a misdiagnosed patient admitted to hospital. In a critical condition she was flown to Perth and seen by a neurologist who gave her the appropriate treatment.”

“Had it not been for her symptoms investigated she would have died in her home. My training helped to save her life.”

Looking towards the future, Tania is mindful that while her young family comes first, her postgraduate studies will continue to assist her in helping people living with a neurological condition.
Phytoplankton in Antarctica
a key to climate change

FEW PEOPLE CAN LAY CLAIM TO EXPERIENCING THE DRIEST, COLDEST AND MOST REMOTE CONTINENT ON EARTH IN THEIR LIFETIME – LET ALONE HAVING IT AS AN “OFFICE”.

But for Jodi Young, a research expedition to the untouched wilderness of Antarctica has meant rare access to some of the world’s most unique ecosystems for her study into phytoplankton – microscopic algae organisms.

Jodi (BSc (Hons), 2002) said it was during her undergraduate study in marine science, biotechnology and molecular biology at Murdoch University that she became interested in links between biology and the environment.

“The environment is such a complicated system and small perturbations can have large impacts that you wouldn’t necessarily expect,” she said.

“Over geological timescales you can see a very clear correlation between phytoplankton productivity and climate which demonstrates the necessity to understand this complex interaction to help interpret future change.”

Jodi took up a postdoctoral research position at Princeton University in the United States two years ago after completing a PhD at University of Oxford in the United Kingdom.

She said highlights of her study had been field work including a seven-week research cruise from the UK to Punta Arenas in Chile and a two-month research expedition to the US Antarctic Base, Palmer Station, to study polar phytoplankton.

She described the Antarctic trip as an “amazing” experience, detailing how she had come face-to-face with local wildlife and used zodiac boats to collect phytoplankton samples each day.

“It was absolutely beautiful. There was an Adelie penguin colony nearby and elephant seals. We saw a huge phytoplankton bloom, followed by the arrival of krill and then the whales. We also had a glacier we could hike up in our spare time, or go camping, or just chill in the hot tub.”

At Princeton, Jodi is now working closely with climate modellers to understand how phytoplankton adapts in polar temperatures so experts can better predict future climate change.

Jodi said her passion for the ocean started at a young age growing up in Perth.

“My family had a boat that we took out almost every weekend,” she said. “I grew up swimming, diving and fishing and it became an important part of my life.

Jodi said she considered herself extremely fortunate to have had opportunities to travel the world while pursuing her research.

She is currently in the process of publishing five research papers from her field season in Antarctica.

Remembering Conor Murphy

A MAN WITH UNWAVERING DETERMINATION IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY, CONOR MURPHY PROVIDED INSPIRATION TO MANY IN HIS SHORT LIFE.

Conor who completed a double degree in History and Politics at Murdoch University (in 2013) had a staunch interest in politics and also helping others around him.

Diagnosed with hereditary genetic disease at a young age, Conor did not let going into a wheelchair slow him down.

Conor was president of the Western Electric Wheelchair Society, played wheelchair sports and was an avid Dockers supporter – as well as working in the office of Fremantle Labor MP Melissa Parke.

Conor’s mum Lesley Murphy said that in his spare time Conor worked for social justice for people with disabilities and made himself available to support research into muscular dystrophy; regularly speaking at fundraising events.

“Even though Conor knew finding a treatment would not benefit him, he worked tirelessly in the effort that a treatment may benefit young boys who are diagnosed today,” she said.

Conor Murphy passed away at 25 years of age, along with his friend Kyle Scolari, when the respirators they relied on failed during a major storm in July 2014.

New moves

Stephen Carre (MBA, 1993) has taken up the role of Commissioner to the Lotterywest Board.


In January 2014, Melissa Chapman (B Commerce, 2000) began the role of Company Secretary for resource and investment company Cape Lambert Resources.

Domine Cheong Wing Ko (MBA, 1998) has stepped into the positions of Chief Finance Officer, Company Secretary and Authorised Representative of Leoch International Technology Limited.
Murdoch community says farewell to distinguished scientist

THE MURDOCH UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY IS MOURNING THE LOSS OF PROFESSOR IAN RITCHIE WHO PASSED AWAY ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 2014.

Ian had a long and distinguished career and made major contributions to the mining, research and tertiary sectors.

Staff members in the School of Engineering and Information Technology remember him fondly as a wise and considerate person. Adjunct Professor Jim Avraamides who worked alongside Ian at Murdoch said he was a fine scientist both as an educator and researcher.

“It was a privilege to have had the opportunity to work with him for over 20 years and be part of the extensive “Ritchie Mafia”, Jim said.

“His leadership approach at Murdoch was always one of direct engagement with each member of staff. He asked for and, most importantly, valued our suggestions on how we were to function as a team of teachers and researchers.”

Professor Peter May said Ian was passionate about chemistry research, education and industrial and other practical applications of chemistry and was well known for his wit.

“Some advice to many a young member of staff learning about smooth-talking in the academic jungle was remember that ‘everything before the but in a sentence is rubbish!’. This dictum was often used to devastating effect in committee debates and the like,” Peter said.

Ian joined Murdoch in 1984 as a Professor of Chemistry and was Pro Vice Chancellor (Research) between 1986 and 1988. He was instrumental in introducing Industrial Chemistry courses at both Murdoch and UWA. In 1992 he became the Foundation Director and Chief Executive Office of the AJ Parker Cooperative Research Centre for Hydrometallurgy.

Nick Norris tribute

A COMMITTED, COMPASSIONATE FAMILY MAN, AVID YACHTSMAN AND DEDICATED ADVOCATE FOR EDUCATION IS HOW THOSE CLOSEST TO FORMER MURDOCH UNIVERSITY LECTURER NICK NORRIS REMEMBER HIM.

Mr Norris, 68, was aboard the ill-fated Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 with his three grandchildren – Mo, Evie and Otis Maslin – returning from a family holiday in Amsterdam when the plane was shot down over the Ukraine on July 17.

His wife Lindy, a senior lecturer in education at Murdoch University, said her grief at losing such an amazing man and bright mind was still very raw, but she had taken comfort in the many beautiful memories and life adventures they had shared.

“The fact that we were able to share so much together – academic interests and work, educational experiences and research, and lifestyle choices and interests, particularly around sailing and boats, has been wonderful,” Dr Norris said.

“We have lost a life but the strength of our relationship remains.”

The father-of-four was a highly respected Perth businessman who had worked in diverse fields, including as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserves, a school headmaster and consultant with indigenous communities.

Mr Norris was the fourth Murdoch University student to complete a Masters in Education when he graduated in 1979. But his association with the university continued for many years, holding positions as a liaison officer and tutor in the School of Education for 15 years from 1991-2006.

In the late 1990s, Mr Norris oversaw a significant collaboration between Simpson Norris International, a company of which he was director, and the School of Education’s Centre for Learning Change and Development.

But it was early in his education career that he became interested in how to change organisations to become more responsive to the needs of their workers and those they intended to serve.

That passion was borne out in his work as principal of a conservative government school where he was able to effect change.

As a result of that work, Mr Norris decided to leave education after eight years as a school principal and forge a career in consultancy in 1991. This included establishing Collaborative Systemic Change, an organisation he formed with close friend and colleague David Goddard, which was committed to working with people who wanted change in regional WA.

Mr Norris held bachelor degrees in arts and education and an associateship of the Institute of Education at London University. His Master’s thesis (1981) was on the participation of parents in school decision making.

He was awarded the National Medal and the Reserve Forces Decoration for military service and held a love of yachts and boating, being part of the South of Perth Yacht Club for 18 years.
**Conservation and heritage inspire art**

MOST PEOPLE WOULD NOT EXPECT A SCIENCE DEGREE TO LEAD TO A CAREER AS A VISUAL ARTIST, BUT FLEUR MARRON’S WORK IN ENERGY SCIENCE SERVED AS A SURPRISING SOURCE OF INSPIRATION.

Fleur, who completed her Bachelor of Science with Honours (Energy) in 2004, says her unique experience at Murdoch and subsequent work in Energy Science inspired her to start painting and create sculptures that promote messages of conservation, heritage and sustainability.

While working as an energy consultant, Fleur visited remote places and mining communities Australia-wide, often via light aircraft.

The aerial views of Western Australia in particular significantly influenced her work, inspiring her Vast Country of Mine series which depicts the contrast between the red dirt of the outback, crystal blue waters and white sandy coastlines.

“It was the view from above across those vast, isolated lands that captured my imagination and I felt compelled to paint,” she explains.

In addition to painting, Fleur is also renowned for her sculptures. Currently Sculptor in Residence on Rottnest Island, Fleur first had the idea of combining her passion for art and interest in conservation during a stay on the island.

“I was over there going for an early morning walk with one of my early-to-rise children and I came across a pile of old jetty timbers. I asked around and was told the timbers were left out for collection to be taken to the waste site. I had already booked in an exhibition on the Island and so I got talking to the lady who administers the exhibition space about the potential to use the jetty timbers and other waste materials from the Island for sculptural installations that tied in with messages of conservation and heritage. It all just rolled on from there.”

Kimberley roots a career boost for film maker

DOCUMENTARY MAKER VICKY BIORAC COUNTS WORKING ON BAZ LUHRMANN’S FILM AUSTRALIA AND TELEVISION DRAMA HOME & AWAY AMONG HER CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS.

But it was her strong desire to tell indigenous stories through documentary that led her to return to her remote hometown of Kununurra after several years chasing the big time in Sydney.

“My move back home to Kununurra was about supporting the region and economic development in the town as well as being able to support Aboriginal people with positive stories,” Vicky said.

After graduating, Vicky (BA (Hons) 1997) worked in television production in Darwin and Sydney.

Ten years ago she returned to Kununurra to set up her own production company, B Visual Media.

These days, Vicky produces documentary-style corporate videos on a raft of subjects including Kimberley tourism, the Ord River Expansion Project and the Argyle Diamond Mine, with clients as far afield as China, India and Belgium.

Her latest ventures include a music video for a New Zealand country singer and a Film and Television Institute of WA project documenting the language and culture of Kununurra’s Mirriwoong people, a language less than 20 people now speak.

“I get to do a lot of variety – scriptwriting, as well as producing, filming, photography and editing,” she said. “The world is a big place still even though you live in a small town.”

Working with Luhrmann’s company Bazmark as a location scout was a career highlight.

“We ended up working with Baz and his producer introducing them to people in town, Aboriginal elders, teaching them about the country and they actually ended up including some of these people in their filming and some of their stories in the script,” she said.

Her documentary Across The Silent Land, which she wrote while an Honours student at Murdoch University, won her a writing award and was nominated best documentary in the 1997 WA Screen Awards.
Vale Christopher Rowland Hill

18 June 1944 - 15 August 2014

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS THAT MURDOCH UNIVERSITY ACKNOWLEDGES AND MOURNS THE PASSING OF ALUMNUS, FORMER STAFF MEMBER AND SIGNIFICANT ART DONOR, CHRISTOPHER ROWLAND HILL (MPHIL ASIAN STUDIES 2002).

Chris was also known to many as an incredibly kind, generous and elegant man who actively and passionately connected with and contributed to local and overseas visual arts communities.

Passionate and enduring are two fitting words to describe Chris’ multifaceted relationship with Murdoch University.

Like many of our alumni, Chris’ connection with Murdoch continued to grow after completing his studies.

Chris first joined the Murdoch community as a staff member in the Library in the mid-1980s. During this time he also served as a volunteer on the University’s Art Acquisitions Committee and was responsible for purchasing and caring for the Art Collection before an Art Curator was employed.

After retiring from librarianship, Chris launched a small business in Fremantle importing Balinese handicrafts.

On his frequent visits to Bali he became good friends with several traditional painters and started collecting their work. He decided to further pursue this passion of Balinese art by researching Balinese village painters in a Masters of Philosophy under Associate Professor Carol Warren. Subsequent to his research, Chris’ book, Survival and Change: Three Generations of Balinese Painters, was published by ANU in 2006.

Chris was also a passionate collector of contemporary Australian art and, because of this and his previous links to Murdoch, he was invited to join Murdoch University’s Art Board in 1993.

Chris was a member of the Art Board until 2010 and also served as Chair from 2007 to 2010.

During this time Chris dedicated considerable time to assisting in building the Murdoch University Art Collection into a culturally significant holding of contemporary art to be enjoyed by future generations of students, staff and the broader community.

Additionally, Chris and his wife Mary generously donated artworks and made financial contributions to the Art Collection for the acquisition of artworks.

Recently, Chris was involved in various curatorial activities. In 2010 he co-curated Fremantle Arts Centre’s hugely successful exhibition titled, Home Open - Fremantle Artists and their Collections.

In early 2014 he co-curated another exhibition at the Arts Centre titled Bali - Return Economy.

This exhibition drew on his in-depth knowledge of both Balinese and contemporary Australian art to create an exciting and expansive exhibition that showcases contemporary Balinese art and Australian artists with a Balinese connection.

Chris will be sorely missed by many; however his legacy will live on.
The bright future of research

Murdoch University’s reputation as one of the top international universities in the world has led to a flood of bright young academics joining the team.

In this edition of Intouch we introduce you to a few of Murdoch’s new researchers who are making their mark on the international stage.

WA ideal spot for trade expert

Australia's economic links with the Asia-Pacific and how politics impacts on resource relationships is the subject of Dr Jeff Wilson’s research.

As a Fellow of Murdoch University’s Asia Research Centre and lecturer in International Political Economy, Jeff has investigated international resource politics in the Asia-Pacific, including during Australia’s recent global resources boom.

“It is clear that Australia’s economic future is with Asia,” Jeff said.

“But the choice facing Australia is what economic role it will play in the region - will we remain primarily Asia’s quarry and food bowl or can we develop a broader and deeper set of partnerships with Asian countries?”

“Understanding how the Asia-Pacific region is becoming economically integrated can help inform Australian policies and choices regarding our role in the world’s fastest growing region.”

Jeff said his current research sought to understand how resource-rich countries, like Australia, and resource-poor countries, such as China and Japan, politically negotiate relationships to promote resource interdependence between their economies.

In particular, he looks at developments in regional minerals and energy markets, like iron ore, coal and natural gas, the role of foreign direct investment and free trade agreements, which Australia is currently negotiating with Japan, Korea, India and China.

“The aim of my research is to identify the political dynamics that help promote resource cooperation between Asian countries, but also understand those which hinder and weaken it.”

In 2012, he was awarded the inaugural Australian Institute of International Affairs’ Boyer Prize for research into the controversial Sino-Australia mining investment.

Jeff, who has lived in Perth for two years, said Murdoch University’s strengths in Asian politics and public policy made WA an ideal location for him to be based.

Tapping into algae power

Using micro-algae for industrial biofuel production in Western Australia has become a passion for Dr Navid Moheimani.

As a senior algae technical specialist and manager of the Algae Research and Development Centre at Murdoch University, Navid is in the unique position of being at the forefront of cutting-edge research but also has links to industries seeking to use the fruits of his study.

Navid said there had been success in producing algae biofuel in a laboratory environment and small outdoor cultures, but the challenge was to make production sustainable and cost-effective for industry.

“The biomass algae can produce both carbohydrates and oil so we can convert the oil to a diesel-type fuel and we can convert the sugar to bioethanol,” he said.

“We have pilot plans that show it is feasible and our industry partners are trying to take that to production. However, there are lots of challenges including trying to reduce the cost and ensuring it is sustainable.”

Navid said the groups most interested in algae biofuel were airlines and the heavy trucking industry.

He said the environmental advantage was that it could be produced in seawater and there was no requirement to use fresh water stores.

“It is challenging but at the same time very exciting. You always want to make sure that someone is using the end product of your research but there are lots of challenges convincing industry that what we are doing is useful for them.”
Protecting the oceans

PROVIDING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO FORM THE BASIS OF WHALE AND DOLPHIN CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PROFESSOR LARS BEJDER IS ONE OF THE WORLD’S LEADING CETACEAN ACADEMICS.

After studying abroad in Denmark, New Zealand and Canada, Lars came to Murdoch University in 2007.

A recipient of Murdoch’s Research Leadership Fellow, he has received a number of accolades and academic degrees, progressing to Professor in 2014 in the School of Veterinary and Life Sciences where he is the Head of Murdoch University’s Cetacean Research Unit.

Currently monitoring and tagging whales off the Exmouth coast, he guest lectures within the Marine Conservation and Fisheries and Wildlife Management courses – when not undertaking research trips and supervising graduate students.

Focused on marine conservation around the world, Lars and his team collaborate with research partners both nationally and internationally to ensure research outcomes can contribute to global cetacean management.

“I work closely with wildlife management agencies to optimise the conservation and management outcomes of my research,” Lars said.

Lars’ core research interests focus on evaluating animal social structures, evaluating impacts of human activity and the biology and ecology of cetaceans. His work is critical to the ongoing conservation of whales, dolphins and porpoises worldwide.

Romantic era inspires research

ALTHOUGH JANE AUSTEN IS THE CENTRE OF HER RESEARCH INTEREST, DR OLIVIA MURPHY TEACHES EVERYTHING FROM POPULAR LITERATURE TO SCIENCE FICTION AT MURDOCH.

With a Bachelor Arts (Honours) and Master of Philosophy from the University of Sydney, Olivia also has a Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Oxford.

A specialist in 18th and 19th century fiction, Olivia is currently investigating ways in which Romantic writers respond to scientific developments in their era.

Olivia has had her research published internationally, with her monograph, Jane Austen the Reader published by Palgrave soon after commencing at Murdoch.

Olivia has also recently co-edited, with William McCarthy, a collection of essays on the romantic-era writer Anna Letitia Barbauld, a writer whose importance was neglected for nearly two centuries.

“I am also in the process of translating, with a Japanese colleague, Machiko – a retelling of Pride and Prejudice set in early twentieth-century Japan,” Olivia said.
Hollywood hits for animator

AN INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED ANIMATOR, SIMON ALLEN HAS WORKED ON A NUMBER OF BLOCKBUSTER FILMS INCLUDING HAPPY FEET, RATATOUILLE, WALL-E, UP AND TOY STORY 3.

A lecturer at Murdoch University in Computer Animation, Drawing, Conceptual Design and 3D modelling, Simon is also a supervisor of postgraduates and honours students creating films, games and art.

Simon studied at Perth School of Art and Design, gaining an Associate Diploma in Media. He has also taught animation at an international level, as well as giving presentations in Moscow and France.

Beginning his animation career as a compositor/technical director in 1995, Simon has since been employed by international game and film studios – working on more than 20 Hollywood animated and science fiction films. For five consecutive years, projects Simon worked on won Academy Awards.

In addition to researching animation production techniques, Simon is currently focused on developing the curriculum for Murdoch’s Games Arts and Design Course and consulting with local industry.

A foremost expert in his field, Simon Allen is an asset to the Murdoch design and animation lecturing team.

“My greatest joy is receiving a call from a former student thanking me as they’ve just landed their dream job somewhere in the world. It is a great feeling to know that I’ve helped someone to achieve their dreams,” he said.

Firing up nature

ONE OF MURDOCH’S LEADING LECTURERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, JOE FONTAINE STRIVES TO ADDRESS PRESSING ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND PROVIDE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS.

Joe arrived in Perth six years ago from the United States to do postdoctoral work with Professor in Plant Ecology Neal Enright. Working together and with others, they examined the impacts of fire and drought on the mega-diverse shrublands north of Perth.

Joe’s main interests lie in the ecology of disturbance. Primarily he has worked on bushfire impacts and management studying both flora and fauna in forests and shrublands of Western Australia as well as the western United States.

“My interests lie in doing ecologically grounded work that has strong connections with natural resource management – such as how bushfires impact on animals and plants,” Joe said.

More recently, Joe has extended his studies of disturbance to urban settings and restoration ecology. Studying the use of topsoil transfer for plant restoration of degraded reserves offers important insights for local managers. With his students he also is studying the dynamics of birds in urban settings and whether private gardens offer critical habitat.
On the forefront of HIV battle

IT WAS BY PURE LUCK THAT DR MINA JOHN STARTED CLINICAL RESEARCH AS A TRAINEE AT ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL WHEN NEW DRUG TOXICITIES WERE EMERGING IN HIV PATIENTS IN THE LATE 1990S.

That timing has borne out a unique research career with interests in HIV immunology and vaccine design to help in the future management of patients with the disease.

HIV is a global humanitarian tragedy with more than 42 million adults and children infected and no overall decline in the number of new infections each year.

“This was on the one hand an exciting time in HIV medicine as new antiretroviral drugs had become available for patients with HIV infection and had greatly reduced the morbidity and mortality associated with AIDS,” Mina said.

“The psychologists had to manage this across an entire squad to ensure the strengths and vulnerabilities of team members were not only understood but functioned together to give a combined positive result.

Their hard work was rewarded this year with the Kookaburras winning the World Cup and a gold medal at the Commonwealth games in Glasgow.

To ensure the athletes had a balance between work (sport) and family life, Corinne, Vance and Catherine established the team’s family-friendly culture, with an onus on supporting families to support the athletes.

“On the other hand, entirely new and poorly understood problems such as immune restoration disease and lipodystrophy syndrome (abnormal fat changes in HIV-positive patients) were emerging for the first time, creating barriers to uptake and adherence to drug regimens for many patients.”

She now realises that being involved in research of novel clinical issues was a rare opportunity.

“The drugs have changed considerably since that time and are now very tolerable and effective.

“HIV science has also progressed incredibly since that time and there is now research into the future possibility of a cure or long-term control without continuous life long-drugs.”

Mina’s research now focusses on contemporary clinical issues associated with HIV infection and other immune system diseases, including designing possible immunogens to be used in vaccines.

That study has taken her to Oxford University in the United Kingdom where she worked on their vaccine development program for East Africa and visited trial sites in Kenya.

As well as working as a clinical immunologist and immunopathologist, Dr John conducts research through the Institute for Immunology and Infectious Diseases – a collaboration between Murdoch University and the WA Health Department set up in 2006.

Mina is also involved in research into celiac disease and other autoimmune diseases which have common scientific principles.
Investing in our health

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY IS GEARING UP FOR A ‘HEALTH SCIENCES RENAISSANCE’ – EXPECTED TO SHAPE THE UNIVERSITY’S STRATEGIC VISION AND THE FORTUNES OF ITS GRADUATES AND RESEARCHERS FOR DECADES TO COME.

Murdoch’s outstanding facilities and burgeoning areas of research innovation are uniquely placed to build a future directly linked to health sciences excellence.

Murdoch University Acting Chief Operations Officer Steven Dickson says that the 44 hectare Eastern Precinct development site, which forms part of the university campus, sits adjacent to Australia’s newest and most prestigious health precinct which includes Fiona Stanley Hospital and St John of God Hospital Murdoch.

The Eastern Precinct is capable of supporting 500,000m²/$3b of mixed use development which will support the diversification of the WA economy.

The University has worked closely with various stakeholders in developing a strategic plan for the ‘Eastern Precinct’, which forms part of broader Murdoch Specialised Activity Centre.

Mr Dickson said the Eastern Precinct site, bounded by South Street and Murdoch Drive, was the largest single prime development site within 15 minutes travel radius of the CBD benefiting from proximity to one of the greatest concentrations of acute health facilities anywhere in the world.

It is anticipated that the first phase of development will attract a $400 million investment, which is expected to result in the establishment of health and allied health services, large scale biomedical research facilities, medical engineering and pharmaceutical production.

“Medical and Health Sciences are planned to grow significantly at Murdoch and we are planning for large growth in student numbers and research income for the University in these areas. Given this, it is critical for us to continue to engage, to collaborate and to build our profile and strategic partnerships for the benefit of the next generation of health professionals,” he said.

“Our strengths in Human Medical Science and Veterinary Medicine, coupled with our research on Healthy Environments and Food Production, gives Murdoch University a point of difference in relation to tackling the future health challenges facing the world.”

Mr Dickson said that while the university had no plans to establish a medical school, its future focus would definitely revolve around life sciences and health.

NEWLY APPOINTED ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR FRANCESCO PAOLUCCI HAS FOUND HIMSELF RIGHT AT HOME IN MURDOCH UNIVERSITY’S NEW ERA OF HEALTHCARE FOCUS.

Dr Paolucci, an expert in international healthcare systems’ governance, and healthcare financing and insurance design, heads the Health Policy Program at the Sir Walter Murdoch School of Public Policy and International Affairs.

More than a decade of research, fieldwork, consulting and publications in health economics, policy and management have taken him as far afield as Cambodia, Colombia, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, South Africa, Spain, and the UK.

Now in Perth, Dr Paolucci is looking forward to applying his national and international expertise to his new role leading the Health Policy Program at Murdoch. It’s an area he says is pivotal to responding to the growing demand for health service professionals, locally, nationally and internationally, equipping them with new skills in strategic health leadership and management, healthcare policy and governance, economics and finance.

“The Graduate Certificate in Health Policy and Leadership provides a multidisciplinary toolkit for professionals already working in the healthcare sector and also helps those who are not yet professionals but want to get into healthcare operations and management in future,” he said.

“The Program makes use of case-based learning and applied international comparative analyses approaches and ensures that all graduates understand the economic, political and managerial context of healthcare policies and healthcare organisations.”

Dr Paolucci believes that acquiring these new skills will benefit not only individuals and their career advancement, but the overall performance and quality of the healthcare system.

For more information please see: www.murdoch.edu.au/SirWalterschool/Degrees-and-coursework/Health-policy/
MURDOCH UNIVERSITY CONTINUES TO ATTRACT LEADING SCIENTISTS WITH RENOWNED MOLECULAR GENETICISTS PROFESSOR STEVE WILTON AND PROFESSOR SUE FLETCHER NOW A PROUD PART OF THE UNIVERSITY’S CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE GENOMICS (CCG).

Bringing with them membership of and a close working relationship with the Western Australian Neuroscience Research Institute (WANRI), the pair joined the CCG early last year to continue their research into therapies for rare diseases.

In September 2013 they took out the coveted NSW Health Jamie Callchor Eureka Prize for Medical Research Translation, for a breakthrough therapy developed for children living with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD).

DMD is caused by mutations in the dystrophin gene on the X chromosome, mostly affecting boys, with progressive degeneration of muscle usually leading to wheelchair dependency by age 12 and a life expectancy only to the mid-20s.

Despite winning the equivalent of an Australian science ‘Oscar’, both researchers are remarkably modest but excited by the attention the award – and others – have drawn to DMD, and by the positive changes to young lives resulting from their work.

Two year clinical trials of a drug therapy they developed yielded remarkable results, with the boys involved continuing to be mobile beyond normal expectations and enjoying typical childhood play.

The drug works by ‘skipping over’ the faulty part of the gene message, so that it can produce a functional version of the protein dystrophin, which stabilises muscle fibre during muscle contraction and avoids damage and build-up of scar tissue.

CCG Director Professor Matthew Bellgard said that 6,000 known rare diseases affected around one in 12 Australians – some afflicting only a handful of people.

He said the CCG would continue its work with local, national and international collaborators, both to raise awareness and to find treatments for rare diseases.

THE EVER INCREASING THREAT TO GLOBAL HEALTH FROM ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR) AND ITS GROWING IMPORTANCE ON POLITICAL AND POLICY AGENDAS WILL BE SPOTLIGHTED AT A GATHERING OF WORLD EXPERTS IN DECEMBER, HOSTED BY MURDOCH UNIVERSITY.

The symposium, presented by Murdoch University in partnership with the UK’s Centre on Global Health Security at Chatham House.

The invitational symposium will feature distinguished international and Australian experts on antimicrobial resistance including keynote speakers:

• Professor Dame Sally Davies: Chief Medical Officer of England - the UK government’s principal medical advisor and professional head of all directors of public health in local government;

• Professor David Heymann CBE: Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; head of the Centre on Global Health Security at Chatham House, London; and chairman of Public Health England; and

• Professor Ramanan Laxminarayan - economist and epidemiologist and Vice President Research and Policy, Public Health Foundation of India.
2014 Distinguished Alumni Awards

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY ALUMNI RELATIONS SHOWCASED A NUMBER OF EXCEPTIONAL ALUMNI AT THE 2014 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS IN JULY, WITH OLIVIA ROUSSET AND JULIE SHUTTLEWORTH TAKING OUT THE TOP HONOURS.

The 2014 Murdoch University Distinguished Alumni Awards category winners were:

**Science**

**Julie Shuttleworth**

BSc (1995)

Julie has 20 years experience in the mining industry in Australia, China and Tanzania. She has held General Manager positions at Barrick’s Buzwagi Mine in Tanzania, Barrick’s Granny Smith Mine (Western Australia), and is currently General Manager at Fortescue’s Cloudbreak Mine in Western Australia.

Julie’s achievements include being awarded 2013 CME Women in Resource Champion, 2012 Telstra WA Business Woman of the Year, and the 2011 Australian Mining Mine Manager of the Year. She is listed in the Women in Mining (UK) 100 Global Inspiration Women in Mining.

Ms Shuttleworth contributes actively to the broader community through her work and personal endeavour. She brings a strong personal commitment to social change and community development at all her worksites, instigating programs to improve water and power infrastructures, educational and health facilities and works tirelessly to engage the local community through work and educational programs.

**Arts & Business**

**Olivia Rousset**

BComm (1994)

Olivia is a successful, independent, internationally and commercially recognised documentary film director. With a strong interest in social justice, Olivia has travelled the globe investigating and exposing stories such as *State of Despair* (SBS TV Dateline), *Abu Ghraib Trilogy* (SBS TV Dateline) and *Iraq, Sweet Iraq* (SBS TV Dateline).

In recognition of her dedication to excellence in journalism, Ms Rousset won two Walkley Awards in 2005 and 2006 and was nominated for another in 2007. She won a UN Media Peace Award in 2005 and 2006, and in 2006 also won the George Munster Award for Independent Journalism. Her stories have also screened in competition at FIPA in France in 2005 and 2006.

Olivia takes her role as a committed and engaged global citizen extremely seriously. Her passion for social justice is deeply embedded in her work and the dedication with which she pursues and exposes serious rights transgressions is evident in her body of work and the awards and accolades she has received.

The 2014 Distinguished Alumni Awards Finalists were:

**Science**

- Glen Kelly BEnvSc, 1993
- Dr Jeremy Prince BSc(Hons), 1980

**Arts & Business**

- Isabelle Adams BEd, 1982/Med 1987
- Dr Chi Man Cartier Lam BCom, 1993

Each of the winners of the 2014 Murdoch University Distinguished Alumni Awards received a framed photograph and personally autographed book by internationally renowned, Perth based photographer, Brad Rimmer.

Murdoch alumnus and 2013 award winner Josh Byrne compered the evening.

Alumni Relations was also delighted to announce the recipient of the Murdoch University Alumni Annual Appeal Scholarship, final year Education student Nadia Dalecki.

Manager of Murdoch University Alumni Relations Jo-Ann Whalley said the recipients were a shining example to current students and to the community in Australia and abroad.

“This year’s recipients have earned their recognition. Their achievements, both as professionals and in contributing to the betterment of society, exemplify the core values of Murdoch University,” she said.

“All of the finalists in the 2014 Awards have demonstrated outstanding qualities, making significant contributions in their profession and to the community.”

Full biographies of the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award winners and finalists can be found at www.murdoch.edu.au/Distinguished-Alumni-Awards/

For further information regarding the Awards please contact alumni@murdoch.edu.au
L-R: Associate Professor Bruce Walker, Jo-Ann Whalley, Professor Paul Morrison;

Interim Vice Chancellor Professor Andrew Taggart.

L-R: Associate Professor Helena Grehan, Maurice and Gerry Rousset.

L-R: Julie Shuttleworth, Olivia Rousset, artist Brad Rimmer.

Josh Byrne.

L-R: Chancellor David Flanagan, Professor Jurgen Brohmer, Glen McLeod.
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Inprint & Onscreen

Documentary highlights Rottnest’s tragic past

GLEN STASIUK’S DIVERSE CULTURAL BACKGROUND HAS FORMED THE INSPIRATION FOR HIS FILM NARRATIVES, INCLUDING HIS LATEST AWARD-WINNING DOCU-Drama ABOUT THE DISTRESSING PENAL HISTORY OF ROTTNEST ISLAND.

The lecturer and senior indigenous researcher at Murdoch University said his rich ancestry – a maternal descendent of the Minang-Wadjari Nyungars in south-west WA and paternal heritage from Russia-Ukraine – had allowed him to explore significant historical storylines.

“Those are the diverse narratives that I try to deal with. I’ve done a little bit on the Russian side, but the niche that I have is Nyungar – nobody really does what I do from a film point-of-view,” said Glen (BBus 1995, BA (Hons) 2000).

His latest documentary, Wadjemup: Black Prison White Playground, which he co-wrote with Jeff Asselin, won the Outstanding Achievement in the Feature Film – Factual category at the WA Screen Awards in July. The film had been nominated for six awards.

The film, which was four years in the making and forms research for Glen’s PhD, centres around the plight of 3700 Aboriginal men and boys who were sent to Rottnest Island between 1838 and 1931, many for petty crimes. About 370 died there, making Rottnest the site of the largest number of deaths in custody in Australia – largely in unmarked graves.

During the first screening of the film on Rottnest in June, Stasiuk said he was sitting in the cinema when he overheard a couple talking behind him about the former prison which is now used as tourist accommodation, the Rottnest Lodge.

“The woman said to her husband: ‘Where are we going to sleep tonight, we can’t go back there’. And I thought that was brilliant – that’s exactly the reaction I wanted from this film,” he said.

Glen hoped the film would educate and inspire debate.

“Many people may not know that before becoming a well-known tourist destination, Rottnest Island was an Aboriginal prison beset by appalling conditions, brutality, disease and death,” he said.

“Our hope is that the film will bring to light the history, suffering and conditions experienced by those incarcerated for mostly minor offences.”

The film premiered at CinefestOZ in WA’s south-west in late August and has been entered in several international film festivals.

Glen’s award-winning first documentary The Forgotten, which formed part of his Honours study, examined the Aboriginal community’s contribution to the Australian Armed Forces, including during World Wars I and II.
**Alumni tell their stories**

**Walaya Jariyadham (Vicky)**  
(MAScTech, 2000)  
After graduation from Murdoch in 2000 (Master of Arts in Public Policy), I got a scholarship from the Royal Thai Government to do a PhD. So I went to the Australian National University and graduated with a PhD in Public Policy in 2004. Afterwards I returned to Thailand to join the Foreign Service and have since been working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok.  
I did a short stint as a delegate covering the United Nations during the 62nd United Nations General Assembly in 2007 and later joined the American Political Science Association’s Congressional Fellowship program as an Asia Foundation fellow working for Congressman Keith Ellison (D-MN) from October 2008 to October 2009. Upon my return to Bangkok, I was seconded to the Prime Minister’s Office covering press relations until the change of administration in August 2011. I have since resumed my work at the Ministry and later posted to the Royal Thai Embassy as a First Secretary. I have been working in Singapore since December 2011 and still miss Murdoch University and Perth.

**Wayne Field**  
(BTheology, 1998)  
These days I reside in the UK and I’m employed as the International Training Coordinator with Operation Mobilisation. OM is a Christian charity and aid agency with 3200 people working in 110 different nations and on board one ship.  
Our people serve in some of the poorest nations in the world in areas such as AIDS education, combating human trafficking, disaster relief, health care, agriculture, business and employment development, addiction rehab, disability services, advocacy and in many, many other similar programs.  
My role in OM is to lead a global team of cross-cultural training professionals to equip our people for their work wherever they are serving. My professional passion is to help people who want to increase the value of their contribution to the world. While my vocation has given me experience working in Asia, Africa, Europe and Australia, I also oversee OM’s online learning environment, where our people can access training remotely from anywhere in the world.  
I studied as a mature age student at Murdoch, graduating at the age of 30. I’ve been married to Jodie for twenty-two years (so I was studying at MU for much of our early married life), and we have three children.

**Michelle Stanley**  
(BComm, 2012)  
Upon graduation I was invited to take a 6-month marketing/events internship in Wolfsburg at the Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences (Germany). I then moved to Dublin to work for Volkswagen Group and last August I moved back to Braunschweig, Germany with Volkswagen Group Fleet International as an International Tender Coordinator (working with massive fleet customers like Pfizer and Coca-Cola to arrange international contracts for fleet vehicles) - nothing like what I studied!  
Throughout my working I have been blessed to travel more than my fair share of Europe and begin to master the difficult German language. I am now about to undergo training to become an English language teacher which is again, very far from my degree and where I ever thought I’d end up!

**Tanya Watson**  
(BLaw, 2007)  
I am now a Senior Associate with Julian Johnson Lawyers, specialising in professional negligence, in particular medical and health negligence claims, fatal accidents and coronial matters. My previous work history was a registered nurse and midwife, so I am lucky in being able to combine those skills with my legal work.

**Jocasta Collier**  
(PhD, 2007)  
Since graduating I have worked in education and front-end web design but mainly in the field of online learning. I have worked for FESA, UWA and Murdoch University in that capacity. I am currently working as a course coordinator/instructional designer for ADAPT by Design, a company that provides tools strategies for sustainable entrepreneurship.
Tasha Campbell
(BComm, 2012)
Majoring in Journalism, I completed my Bachelor degree in Communications at Murdoch in 2012. I have since gained invaluable experience in a wide range of print, digital, radio and television newsrooms. I now consider myself a highly motivated and dedicated cadet journalist with a passion for crime reporting working for Fairfax regional community newspaper The Busselton-Dunsborough Mail in the beautiful South West region of Western Australia.

Lawrence Peh
(MBA, 1992)
I completed my MBA at Murdoch University under the Australian Government Equity and Merit Scholarship. Since then, I have worked in Singapore, Jakarta and Banjamasi in Indonesia, Manila in the Philippines, Bangkok in Thailand, Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam and am presently based in Hanoi, Vietnam working in real estate development business.

Asim Rai
(BComm, 2012)
I graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing and Management from Murdoch University Dubai in May 2012. I am grateful to Murdoch for providing me the scholarship in my Bachelor degree, which helped me to achieve my dream in education, and for also providing a great learning environment. Currently I am working as a full time graphic designer and market researcher at Murdoch University Dubai itself, which has helped me to understand the relationship between art and branding.

Kate Ferguson
(BA Media Studies, 2004)
After graduating, I worked as a radio journalist while dabbling in video production in my spare time. Someone mentioned “video journalism” to me, which combined my two loves and I haven’t looked back. Ten years later, the job has taken me all over Australia. From hanging out of helicopters in the Kimberley, to being stuck in floodwaters in North Queensland, covering the federal budget in Canberra, fashion shows in Sydney, abseiling down a skyscraper in Perth, I even accidentally made national news when Liberal Party Senator Bill Heffernan threatened to throw my camera down the stairs. It has been a crazy ride. These days, I’m working as a journalist and video producer for Seven West Media. No day is the same and the job is far from glamorous. There’s a lot of hard work and long hours but I love the adventure.

Education student wins scholarship

Alumni Relations is delighted to announce the annual recipient of the Murdoch University Alumni Annual Appeal Scholarship – final year Education student Nadia Dalecki.

The establishment of the Alumni Annual Appeal Scholarship has been made possible from the generous donations received from new and repeat alumni donors to the Appeal over the last four years.

The scholarship, valued at $2000, was awarded to Nadia at the Distinguished Alumni Awards annual dinner in July.

Nadia spoke of her gratitude at receiving the scholarship:

“I am so grateful to have received the scholarship as it has allowed me to excel in my final year studies and complete my internship. Without this help, I may not have had the opportunity to gain the additional practical experience needed to pursue my goals and dreams.”

Alumni Relations would also like to thank the generous alumni donors who made the scholarship possible, and look forward to helping more students in need in the years to come.

Find out more about the scholarship on the website:
http://our.murdoch.edu.au/Student-life/Finances/Undergraduate-scholarships/Alumni/
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