Celebrating 35 years
Looking back at the history of Murdoch
Connecting
The latest news from alumni around the world.

Leadership directions
We take a look at senior leadership at the University.

Alumni Awards
We launch new awards to recognise achievements and contributions of our alumni.

Are you in the Zone?
The Murdoch University gymnasium has just undergone a facelift.

A warning for DIY renovators
Renovators could be the next casualties for asbestos-induced cancer mesothelioma.

The last 35 years
We capture the milestones of Murdoch’s history.

Inprint
We preview some of the books produced by our talented alumni.

Pledging their support
The O’Byrne family are proud supporters of Murdoch University.

Inject and forget
Murdoch scientists are developing a drug delivery method for the third world using nanotechnology.

Putting on a brave face
A Murdoch PhD candidate looks at ways to cope when you have to suppress your emotions at work.

Where are they now?
A snapshot of what your fellow alumni are doing now.

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 http://ace.murdoch.edu.au/forms/changeofdetails.html. 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.
From the Vice Chancellor

When I first came to Murdoch University as an undergraduate student more than 30 years ago around 1,900 students studied at the South Street campus and the University offered only three prizes.

Those were the very early years of the University and also a time of great change in society. The expansion of universities into contemporary programs was reflected in the early focus by the University on social issues and the environment, with staff and students joined together in seeking to make a difference in the world.

Establishment of the Murdoch University Foundation in 2002 was an important development given the declining relative value of government funding and the many worthy initiatives and scholarships to support. We have built the Foundation through donations, bequests or sponsorships from organisations and individuals, including many alumni. One offshoot of our success has been an explosion in the number of funded prizes, with a nearly 100-fold increase from our original three.

Murdoch University has had significant growth locally and internationally. We now have three local campuses and a growing number of offshore study centres with more students than ever - nearly 19,000. Our research income has continued to grow. Murdoch has been ranked as world standard or above in numerous research fields including immunology, medical microbiology, clinical sciences, resource engineering and extractive metallurgy, physical chemistry, animal production, crop and pasture production and fisheries science. Our infrastructure has greatly increased with some recent developments including the transformation of our main campus by new roads, the health research building, the Tavern, a new Small Animal Surgical building and the new Business School building. The endowment investment fund has been established to provide income for strategic use and the University recorded a healthy financial surplus again in 2010.

The successes and growth of the University will continue. However the financial pressures for many students to study and benefit from this are growing with a trend of increasing hours of employment needed to pay their way during study. As alumni, the University continues to add value to your qualification. I encourage everyone to consider ways to support students of today.

Professor John Yovich AM
Vice Chancellor

Welcome to the first Intouch of 2011.

Welcome to our new look Intouch! In response to your feedback we are proud to offer you a magazine that reflects the special nature of the Murdoch experience and showcases more amazing alumni stories. This edition focuses on the rich history of Murdoch University and we hope the stories help you reminisce about your time on campus. We hope you enjoy our new ‘Where are they now’ section - giving you a snapshot of what your fellow alumni are doing. We hope to see this section grow - so please send us your stories!

It is with sadness that we’ll say goodbye to our Vice Chancellor Professor John Yovich in 2011. Professor Yovich has been a keen advocate and supporter of alumni relations throughout his tenure and, as an alumnus himself, we know he will continue to be engaged and supportive of Murdoch. We would also like to warmly welcome Professor Gary Martin to his new role as interim Vice Chancellor while an extensive recruitment process for a new Vice Chancellor takes place.

2010 saw us hosting and sponsoring a wide range of events including the Postgraduate Student Conference, Moot Court Coffee Seminars and reunions for Theatre & Drama, Education, Vet and Physics students and alumni. International events included a high tea at the Raffles in Singapore and a 10-year anniversary celebration for our Malaysian alumni community. To view our list of 2011 alumni events visit www.murdoch.edu.au/Alumni and click on the Alumni Events Calendar.

We also received generous support for our inaugural Annual Alumni Appeal in 2010. The appeal provided support for a variety of University needs including school-based priorities and University-wide student scholarships. There’s a more detailed report on page eleven and I certainly hope you will consider supporting the appeal this year.

For the first time in 2011 we will present Alumni Awards to outstanding alumni who reflect the core values of Murdoch University in both a professional and personal capacity - equity and social justice; sustainability; global responsibility and a commitment to innovation and entrepreneurship in our community. See page nine to find out how to nominate someone.

Finally, congratulations to all our new alumni graduating this year. I look forward to welcoming you to our future events and to the Alumni Relations Office when you are next on campus.

Vanessa Fernandez-Kennedy
Manager – Alumni Relations
MAKING HISTORY

NEARLY 11 YEARS AGO JUNE KENNY GRADUATED WITH HONOURS IN LAW. NOW THE WOMAN WHO THOUGHT BEING A LAWYER WAS OUT OF REACH IS THE FIRST FEMALE TO RUN PERTH LAW FIRM DWYER DURACK IN ITS 97-YEAR HISTORY.

Ms Kenny, who practises largely in commercial litigation, is also one of the first Aboriginal women to lead a major law firm.

Entering as a mature-age student via the Koora Kudij Indigenous Pre-Law Programme, Ms Kenny said winning the John Koowarta scholarship and the Commercial Law prize were special memories.

“It proved that no matter what background you come from, if you work hard and seize opportunities, success can come your way,” she said. “The first year was quite difficult as I had not studied since high school which I had finished in 1979. I developed study habits and got into a routine which made studying a lot easier.”

Ms Kenny said she loved Dwyer Durack for the culture and work-life balance and the inspiring and rewarding work.

“The research skills I learnt at Murdoch during my law degree are invaluable and I continue to use these skills on a regular basis,” she said. “Murdoch helped me become a free thinker, a better leader and gave me the confidence to achieve my full potential.”

Ms Kenny is also convenor of the Aboriginal Lawyers Committee in Western Australia.

HELPING TO CURE A DEBILITATING DISEASE

DR KENDALL WALKER IS RESEARCHING CAUSES OF ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AT HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL.

In 2006, Dr Walker (Doctorate of Philosophy 2006 and Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology with First Class Honours in Veterinary Biology 1999) accepted a post-doctoral research fellowship in Harvard’s neurology department where she worked on therapeutic strategies for motor neurone disease.

In 2008 she accepted another post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard to study the role of an enzyme in the development of Alzheimer’s disease (AD) after traumatic brain injury.

AD is a devastating neurodegenerative disorder that results in loss of memory and cognitive function, eventually leading to dementia.

Traumatic brain injury is the strongest environmental risk factor for the development of Alzheimer’s, whether from a single severe trauma or multiple mild injuries over a lifetime.

The research is looking at a protein, GGA3, which binds to beta secretase, an enzyme responsible for limiting the production of plaques which are a feature in the brains of AD patients.

The research has revealed that people who have naturally occurring lower levels of GGA3 in their brains may be at greater risk of developing AD if they suffer a head trauma.

A WAY WITH WORDS

MULTI-AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR KEN SPILLMAN’S INTEREST IN HISTORY WAS SPARKED WHEN HE WORKED AS A RESEARCH ASSISTANT ON A HISTORY PROJECT IN QUEENSLAND STRAIGHT OUT OF SCHOOL.

After travelling through Europe he returned to Perth, his home town, to finish his Bachelor of Arts at Murdoch University.

He settled in quickly and recalls a “great group of lecturers, countless intense and stimulating discussions of ideas”.

“I enjoyed the mix of students – those who had come straight from school, others who had ‘bummed around’ a bit, people who had got bored in careers, and some retirees. Everyone brought something different,” he said.

Dr Spillman won the WA Premier’s Book Award in his early 20s for his work on the history of the City of Subiaco and after writing ‘half a dozen’ books returned to Murdoch to complete his PhD.

“History was the logical choice and Professor Brian de Garis supervised my PhD,” he said. “He has a brilliant mind and could read me very well.”

Dr Spillman has written ‘about 17’ books on WA history and since 2002 has forged a successful career writing children’s books with titles already released in India and planned releases in France and Vietnam this year.
Mentoring teachers in remote areas

KERRYLEE PIKE BEGAN A TEACHING DEGREE BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT THE VOCATION WOULD FIT WELL WITH BEING A MOTHER TO HER YOUNG SON. BUT THE GIRL WHO DROPPED OUT OF YEAR 12 TO BE A MOTHER NEVER IMAGINED SHE WOULD END UP TRAVELLING WA AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY AS A SENIOR TEACHER MENTORING AND COACHING EDUCATORS – SOME OF WHOM HAVE GONE ON TO WIN TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS – IN LITERACY AND NUMERACY.

Ms Pike, who started studying in 1992 as a full-time student at Murdoch, completed the then three-year degree over five years as a single parent, finishing many of the units externally. Her first teaching job was in Kalgoorlie.

“I always enjoyed the teaching practicums,” she said. “These were times when I did get to know the other students in my course and talk with lecturers as well as experience what teaching was going to be like.”

Based in Katherine, Ms Pike has been teaching for 14 years and provides support and mentorship to teachers working in remote areas including Victoria River, Ngukurr in eastern Katherine and Kalkarinkji. Of a 10-week term, about three weeks are spent in the office and the rest on the road.

“There are early starts, 6.30am at the airport for a 7am departure,” she said. “No big aeroplane for me – more likely a single engine five-seater.”

Accommodation sometimes means camping, or staying with other teachers in the community.

“I think the success stories get me through, especially as my job does have many negative aspects,” she said.

“When I go out to a community and work with a dynamic, fresh, enthusiastic teacher who transfers that drive into their classroom and the students are happy and learning, I feel successful. It is all about seeing the students happy, attending school and making improvements in their academic achievements.”
Young Gun says there's no typical day at work

Mia Davies always wanted to be a vet. But an unfortunate incident with a nasty cat derailed her ambitions, and in her second year at Murdoch she transferred from a degree in biological science to a Bachelor of Marketing and Media. Today she is one of Western Australia's youngest members of Parliament.

Even though she was exposed to politics from an early age (her father was State President of the National Party for 10 years) Ms Davies said she had no idea she would end up a politician.

“The degree has provided me with a sound skill base as my career has developed,” she said. “Politics is about communication. I use the skills learned at Murdoch on a daily basis, whether it be in communicating government initiatives to the public, dealing with constituent issues or running a State or Federal campaign.”

She has fond memories of her time living on campus in the Student Village.

“I had a fantastic time living with students from regional WA, interstate, the US, Sri Lanka, Singapore, China, Malaysia, everywhere,” she said. “Lunch sitting in Bush Court or a drink at the tavern weren’t altogether absent either!”

Previously Ms Davies acted as researcher and policy advisor in the office of the leader of the National Party as well as being involved with the Young Nationals and as Policy Director, State Director and Campaign Director on State and Federal campaigns.

“There is no typical day at work,” she said.

“If parliament is sitting then it will be a day of meeting and sitting in the Chamber. If it’s a non-sitting day then I’ll either be in my electorate office or in my electorate, which runs from Kalbarri to Bremer Bay and out to Westonia.”

Being involved in the WA Parliamentary inquiry into the proposed stop and search laws was one of the most challenging things she has done in her political career, and seeing the Royalties for Regions bill was “without doubt” the most exciting.

University opened doors to help others

Psychology and Communication and Cultural Studies Honours Graduate Lyn Mahboub drew on her own recovery from mental health issues to establish her career in the field of mental health before she was inspired to study as a mature age student at Murdoch.

“There were certain things I knew in my heart from my personal lived experience,” she said. “But my degree gave me the academic discourse, the language, power and courage to back myself professionally.”

Ms Mahboub, who graduated in 2005, looks back on her university days with great affection. “I loved it, it was like opening a magical door to the joys of learning,” she said. “It provided me with the tools to be authentic.”

Ms Mahboub now shares her passion for learning and tertiary study with her own children, who are both at university. She now works as the Manager of Training and Hearing Voices Network Australia for the Richmond Fellowship WA, and runs her own mental health training and consultancy business. She is also the Chairperson of Consumers of Mental Health in WA (Inc).

Having Faith

Reverend Rae Reinersten graduated with a Bachelor of Theology in March 2009. Her journey to ordination began when she was 12 and has led her to Chaplaincy positions at Fremantle (which includes KaleeYa and Rottnest Island) and Royal Perth Hospitals.

“I knew that God was calling me to be an ordained person in ministry,” she said. “Many years later I started formal training at Murdoch. The journey hasn’t been completed yet, but I have begun in chaplaincy where I am thoroughly enjoying serving the community in a hospital environment.”

The Reverend found studying on campus with other students “travelling the same journey” very energising.

“I remember well, when the study was full on, you knew that others were in the same situation, which was an encouragement for me,” she said. “The opportunity to study as a mature age student in a tertiary institution was also a help. This tertiary environment catered for all, without discrimination.”

The Reverend, who begins each day with morning prayer in the chapel, said her vision was to continue learning through the study of God’s word, and keep up with changes in theological issues.
Alumni join forces to give back

MURDOCH GRADUATES TEAGAN CRIDDLE AND NICOLE KIRWAN-WARD HAVE BOTH FORGED SUCCESSFUL CAREERS IN THE RESOURCES INDUSTRY, ONE IN DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING AND THE OTHER IN GENERAL AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT.

Now, they are giving back to the University as their employer, the Energy Resourcing Group (ERG), gears up to sponsor a bridging course for Aboriginal students who are wanting to study science. Run through the Kulbardi Centre, it will target areas like Geology, Metallurgy, Physics, Chemistry, the Environmental Sciences and Sustainability, which are especially relevant to the resources industry.

“It’s a very exciting time and we are really looking forward to being involved in such a creative and innovative project,” Ms Criddle said.

Ms Criddle, who studied a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) and a Postgraduate Diploma of Psychology, is now Manager of the Corporate Intelligence Consulting division at ERG.

“My role is diverse. In a nutshell I develop and deliver organisational development and training services to the resources industry,” she said.

“I loved going to Murdoch. It’s a really friendly environment. I remember being a very nervous first year student learning my way around the library; flash forward and I’m racing to campus trying to do the work-life-study juggle. I grew into an adult with Murdoch.”

Ms Criddle said the skills she learned at Murdoch have helped her throughout her career.

“I always try to strike a balance between the practical and the academic,” she said.

“I do keep my reference books handy, especially in regards to learning theories.”

Ms Kirwan-Ward is Group General Manager at ERG and studied at Murdoch from 1988 to 1990. She has nearly 20 years’ experience in agency and in-house recruitment management, human resources and project management in the resources sector.

Falling on his feet

WHEN ROB BYGOTT ENROLLED IN A BACHELOR OF ARTS (MEDIA STUDIES) IN 1991, HE CONFESSIONS HE WAS “JUST LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO”.

What he found was a career as a film and documentary maker that has taken him as far and wide as Papua New Guinea and Tahiti for his latest documentary, Kuru.

Mr Bygott took the better part of a decade to finish his degree as his career took off and study took a back seat.

Raised in Melbourne, he moved to Perth after studying industrial design.

“Media interested me and I could get stuck straight in to the practical units,” he said. “Eventually I set up my own production company and started doing corporate jobs and music videos. It opens up the door for you and you can make what you want of it.”

He merged his business with fellow filmmakers Siamese five years ago and is happily ensconced in Perth.

“It’s a lifestyle choice and here we have a business that is on the up and up,” he said.

Teagan Criddle (left) and Nicole Kirwan (right) have joined forces with their employer to help Aboriginal students.
Recruitment for new Vice Chancellor begins

MURDOCH'S VICE CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR JOHN YOVICH, IS HANDING OVER THE REINS TO A LONGSTANDING COLLEAGUE WHEN HE RETIRES FROM ACADEMIA.

Professor Gary Martin has been appointed interim Vice Chancellor while a new Vice Chancellor is recruited.

Professor Martin has worked at Murdoch for almost 20 years and has eight years’ experience in senior executive roles, most recently as Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor.

Before taking on that role he spent five years as Deputy Vice Chancellor (Faculty, Enterprise and International). He has also served as Executive Dean of the Division of Arts and Executive Dean of the Division of Social Sciences, Humanities and Education.

He is Chair of the Board of Perth Education City, which aims to raise the profile of Perth as a destination and provider of high quality educational services, and Chair of the Innovative Research Universities’ International Group.

Murdoch Chancellor Terry Budge said: “We are delighted that Professor Martin has accepted the position.

“Professor Yovich has been an outstanding academic and innovative leader who has contributed greatly to the success of Murdoch University. Professor Martin’s leadership will ensure that Murdoch continues to thrive while the search for the University’s next Vice Chancellor progresses.”

Former consul general joins Murdoch

THE FORMER UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CONSUL GENERAL TO PERTH, DR KENNETH CHERN, HAS JOINED MURDOCH AS PROFESSORIAL RESEARCH FELLOW.

Asian affairs expert Dr Chern will play a key role in supporting Murdoch’s world-leading research in that field and also work with Western Australian business and industry to boost relationships with the US and Asia.

He said he was looking forward to working with the University’s leaders and scholars to promote research in Asian affairs and build Murdoch’s ties in the Asia-Pacific region.

“In concert with colleagues at the University, I will seek to expand the role of Perth and Western Australia in discovering new areas of cooperation across the region to help solve 21st-century problems,” he said.

Vice Chancellor Professor John Yovich said the appointment, funded by the Murdoch University Foundation, would have significant benefits for the University and the State.

“I am delighted that we have been able to persuade Dr Chern to return to Perth to take up this new post. He has an outstanding international profile,” said Professor Yovich.

Dr Chern has had a long and distinguished career in diplomacy, having served in the White House during President Bill Clinton’s administration and completed assignments in Vietnam, the Philippines, Hong Kong, China and Taiwan.

Asia relations is in good hands with Dr Ken Chern at the helm.
Theatre and Drama Studies Degree Launched

Alumni Relations and the School of Social Sciences and Humanities combined forces last year to host a reunion for more than 70 past Theatre and Drama students, staff and VIPS.

The occasion also marked the launch of the new Murdoch University Theatre and Drama Studies bachelor degree.

The evening was a great success with drinks and canapés in the Nexus Theatre foyer with entertaining and heart warming speeches by past students Paul Tassone and Lisa McCready. Paul (Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and Drama Studies 1990), best known for his long-running role as Nurse Nelson Curtis in Australia’s number one drama All Saints, spoke warmly of his time as a drama student at Murdoch. Lisa (Bachelor of Arts in English and Creative Arts 2008), who is currently Technical and Production Officer with Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, explained how her study at Murdoch led her to discover her perfect career in stage management.

After the formalities everyone was treated to the opening night performance of A Wilde Night, an arrangement of the works of Oscar Wilde.

For more information on the new Theatre and Drama degree please visit www.murdoch.edu.au/Courses/Theatre-and-Drama/

Murdoch University Distinguished Alumni Awards

With a 35-year history behind it, Murdoch University has a wealth of incredible graduates.

From leaders in politics, business and research to alumni working for the environment or on the coalface of community development, our graduates are making a difference. We now have a wonderful way of acknowledging and celebrating these achievements and contributions, the Murdoch University Distinguished Alumni Awards.

The inaugural 2011 Alumni Awards have been established to recognise outstanding professional and community service and achievements by Murdoch University alumni. Four prestigious awards acknowledge the diversity and quality of the contributions our alumni make to the enrichment of our society.

Nominations – Opened March 2 2011

Nominations may be made by any members of the wider community who feel that a Murdoch graduate is deserving of this award in accordance with the selection criteria. Self-nominations are also strongly encouraged.

Award Categories

- Distinguished Alumni – Faculty of Arts, Education and Creative Media
- Distinguished Alumni – Faculty of Health Sciences
- Distinguished Alumni – Faculty of Law, Business and Information Technology
- Distinguished Alumni – Faculty of Science and Engineering

Eligibility

Nominees must be alumni of Murdoch. A Murdoch alumnus is a person who has been awarded by the University a degree, diploma or any other award prescribed by the statutes of the University.

Selection Criteria

Nominees must have

- given outstanding service to the community and/or Murdoch University and/or
- made an outstanding contribution to their chosen field.

All nominations will be assessed against the core values of Murdoch University:

- Equity and Social Justice
- Sustainability
- Global Responsibility
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Nominations must be made on the official nomination form, with any supporting materials attached. The nomination form is available online at www.murdoch.edu.au/Distinguished-Alumni-Awards

Nominations can be made online, be faxed to +61 8 9310 2676 or mailed to:

Distinguished Alumni Award Nominations
Alumni Relations Office
Murdoch University
South St.
Murdoch WA 6150

Closing Date for Receipt of Nominations: 5PM (AWST) Wednesday April 6 2011.

The distinguished alumni selected by the Awards Committee will be recognised at the Alumni Awards ceremony on July 21 2011.

For further information telephone +61 8 9360 6144 or email Jan Exeter on j.exeter@murdoch.edu.au
Are you in The Zone?

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY HAS A BRAND NEW FITNESS CENTRE CALLED THE ZONE, LOCATED IN THE SPORTS CENTRE AT THE BOTTOM OF BUSH COURT.

The Zone is fitted out with brand new state-of-the-art equipment from Maxim Fitness including multi angle pin loaded machines, Olympic weights and a variety of treadmills, crosstrainers and electronic bikes. Members can enjoy their cardio session while being entertained by the multi plasma screen cardio theatre system, including Fox Sports. New floor surfaces have been installed including a purpose-made rubber training area.

The Zone runs a full complement of group fitness sessions ranging from Yoga and Body Pump to Zumba and Indoor Cycling – with all sessions included in all memberships.

And The Zone Personal Training Team are available by appointment to help guide you to achieve your fitness goals and motivate you when needed.

As Murdoch alumni you have the opportunity to kick start your fitness with a special introductory offer. Join for 12 months during March or April 2011 and benefit from:

• NO JOINING FEE
• a FREE Murdoch University drink bottle
• a two-week complimentary membership for a friend

This offer is valid for Murdoch alumni only until April 30 2011.
LENDING A HELPING HAND

LOOKING BACK AT YOUR TIME AS A STUDENT YOU PROBABLY REMEMBER HOW HARD IT WAS TO JUGGLE YOUR STUDIES WITH THE DAY-TO-DAY BATTLE TO EAT, PAY YOUR BILLS AND KEEP A ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD.

For some of you these difficulties were overcome with the help of friends or family but for others it was a struggle faced alone.

Many of our current students face these sorts of problems and difficulties and we are committed to finding ways to assist. Discover how you can help a Murdoch student by giving a tax deductible donation to establish a prize or scholarship, which can be named in your honour or in memory of a loved one.

Student Prizes
Murdoch University runs an established prize program to reward the efforts and achievements of our talented students. Prizes are awarded on merit and can be awarded to students within any discipline and at any year level.

Student Scholarships
Our scholarships reward outstanding achievement whether academic or through personal commitment to the community. Importantly, they also provide assistance to students experiencing adversity and allow them to realise their academic and career goals.

Acknowledgment
Prizes and scholarships are listed on Murdoch’s website and in the annual handbook. They are awarded at a formal presentation ceremony at which donors can present their prize or scholarship to the recipient.

If you would like more information on how to support our students contact Heather Williams on +61 8 9360 7281 or visit www.murdoch.edu.au/Supporting-our-Uni/Becoming-a-donor/.

DIY RENOVATORS THE NEXT CASUALTIES OF ASBESTOS

A TEAM OF MURDOCH UNIVERSITY ACADEMICS HAVE BANDED TOGETHER TO DECREASE THE RISK OF AUSTRALIAN DIY ENTHUSIASTS DEVELOPING ASBESTOS-INDUCED CANCER, MESOTHELIOMA.

Experts say the general public, and in particular DIY renovators, will be the next group of people to be at risk of developing the disease. Cases are on the rise and are set to peak at around 18,000 by 2020.

The Murdoch academics have developed an online resource called the Australian Asbestos Network (www.australianasbestosnetwork.org.au). The resource aims to increase awareness of asbestos in our surroundings and reduce the number of people at risk of developing asbestos-related diseases.

Chief Investigator on the project, Associate Professor Gail Phillips, said the resource was developed to give comprehensive, authoritative and independently authenticated medical, public health and historical information about asbestos and its related diseases.

“While asbestos is dangerous, we want to assure the public that with the right knowledge and preparation, they can reduce their risk from potentially harmful exposure,” Prof Phillips said.

The website includes a DIY Renovators’ Guide which amongst other things, gives tips on how to recognise asbestos in your home, how to handle it and how to dispose of it safely.

The Australian Asbestos Network online resource has been made possible by a government grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council.

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS ALUMNI

LAST YEAR WE REACHED OUT TO YOU, OUR ALUMNI, FOR THE FIRST TIME, LAUNCHING OUR INAUGURAL ANNUAL ALUMNI APPEAL.

The Appeal was all about testing the waters, finding out what you want to support and how you want to be asked. We spoke to a small test group of alumni from four schools and asked them to consider donating to University-wide student scholarships or a school-chosen priority or to give an unrestricted gift to the University general fund. We now have a much clearer idea about the types of things you want to support and how you want to give, with school and University-wide scholarships receiving overwhelming support from our donors.

We were thrilled at the positive and generous response we received from our Murdoch alumni to this first small appeal. It is wonderful to know that you feel such pride and affection towards your University and are prepared to demonstrate this through philanthropy and giving back to the students of today. We are busily planning our next appeal and hope you will donate when you receive your invitation to do so.
Murdoch –
the last 35 years

1970

• Planning for WA’s second university
  1962, the state government earmarked a huge area of land in Bullcreek as the site of a future university. A 12-man board began planning for WA’s second university in 1970. The university was named after author and philosopher Sir Walter Murdoch.

1973

• Murdoch makes academic history
  Murdoch introduced a new, flexible admission system. It was the first university in the country to consider eligibility factors other than a student’s school leaving exam results.

1974

• Murdoch Uni opens

• Murdoch's Art Collection
  The Murdoch University Art Collection began in 1974. In the same year, the University bought its first artwork - a pen and wash drawing of Sir Walter Murdoch by Louis Kahan.

1975

• Lectures begin
  2,000 students applied for places and 510 undergraduates were enrolled in the first year of teaching.

1979

• Vet school opens
University Challenge was a popular quiz show broadcast by ABC television in the late 1980s. Murdoch was WA’s only representative in the national undergraduate knowledge challenge, and our team reached the semi-finals of the quiz.

To merge or not to merge? After heated debate and negotiations Murdoch University chose not to amalgamate with the University of Western Australia.

Kim Edward Beazley Snr awarded degree
Mr Beazley was awarded an honorary Doctor of University degree by Murdoch for his many years’ work serving on the University’s Senate.

Murdoch’s first law graduates
Staff qualifications top survey
In a survey from the Department of Employment, Education and Training, Murdoch topped a list of 36 Australian universities for having the most academically qualified staff.

Rockingham campus opens
Kulbardi Centre opens
The Kulbardi Aboriginal Centre encourages more Indigenous students to take part in tertiary education and has dedicated staff to assist, support and refer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with academic, cultural and personal concerns.
• Mhando film nominated for Oscar
  Associate Professor Martin Mhando’s feature film *Maangamizi* was nominated for an Oscar in the best foreign language category. Prof Martin is Chair of Media Studies at Murdoch University.

• Peel campus opens
  The Peel campus serves the needs of one of Australia’s fastest-growing regions. The campus offers courses in nursing and business.

• Geoffrey Bolton becomes WA Australian of the Year
  Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton was recognised as WA’s Australian of the Year for his contribution to the community as a professional academic and a communicator of ideas.

• Murdoch gets 11th five-star rating in 12 years
  In an independent, national survey of Australia’s public universities, Murdoch was the only Australian university to win a five-star rating for graduate satisfaction 11 times in 12 consecutive years.

• 2002

• 2004

• 2005
  • Murdoch’s 30th anniversary
  • Mallal awarded Premier’s Prize
    Professor Simon Mallal was awarded the WA Premier’s Prize for Achievement in Science. Professor Mallal and his team are pioneers in the world-wide fight against HIV-AIDS, customising vaccines for regions around the world.

• Murdoch University Chiropractic clinic opens to the public

• Freehills Moot Court
  The impressive, electronically-equipped Freehills Moot Court was opened in 2005. Students can argue hypothetical legal cases and gain valuable experience before they enter a real courtroom in our state-of-the-art Law School.

• 2006

• Geoffery Bolton becomes WA Australian of the Year
  Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton was recognised as WA’s Australian of the Year for his contribution to the community as a professional academic and a communicator of ideas.
• Murdoch goes green

During 2008, Murdoch University became the first Australian university to switch to 15 per cent GreenPower and received $2 million of Federal Government research funding to convert algae into biofuel.

• Murdoch opens in Dubai and Singapore

2008

• New Student Centre opened

• Upgrade to student village

To meet growing demand for campus accommodation, 298 new student rooms were unveiled. In line with Murdoch's 'green' focus, the rooms were fitted with low flow shower heads and power saving features.

2007

• New Chancellor for Murdoch

Terry Budge became Chancellor of Murdoch University on March 7, 2007.

2009

• Record research funding of $45m

• Murdoch awarded the National Centre of Excellence in Desalination

The University received $20 million in Federal Government funding and up to $5 million in State Government funding over five years.

2010

• Lotterywest gives $5 million donation

Lotterywest donated a record $5 million to the Institute for Immunology and Infectious Diseases which is housed within Murdoch’s health research building.

To read Murdoch's full history go to
www.murdoch.edu.au/About-us/Our-profile/History of Murdoch/
End of an era

PROFESSOR STUART BRADLEY RETIRED FROM MURDOCH UNIVERSITY AT THE END OF 2010 AFTER MORE THAN 30 YEARS AS A COMMITTED AND WELL-RESPECTED MEMBER OF THE MURDOCH COMMUNITY.

Prof Bradley joined Murdoch University in 1977 to teach ecology and genetics to the final year of Murdoch’s inaugural students. He is recognised as a powerhouse of research activity with 135 publications on the topic of population ecology and wildlife biology, and he is renowned for his collaborative style and dedication to task.

Over the past 20 years Prof Bradley increasingly proved his talents in administration with a variety of executive positions on councils and committees at the University. He served three terms on Murdoch Senate, two terms on Academic Council and Chaired Academic Council Committees and Working Parties.

Prof Bradley headed a number of Schools including Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Engineering Science and Environmental Science. His most recent position at the University was the Faculty Dean of Science, Engineering and Sustainability.

He will retain a connection to Murdoch through his appointment as an Emeritus Professor.

Keeping up with the Joneses

INCORPORATING SITE–SPECIFIC PUBLIC ART INTO THE EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE OF CAMPUS LIFE IS A PROUD TRADITION AT MURDOCH UNIVERSITY.

These types of artworks play an important role in enhancing our environment by giving each space a distinctive identity and providing visually stimulating and inspiring surrounds to further enhance student life. In 2010, this was perfectly demonstrated in the University’s commission of seven site-specific murals created for the Economics, Commerce and Law lecture theatre precinct by well known Perth street artist, Kyle Hughes-Odgers (AKA Creepy).

In November 2010, the University announced it would commission significant Western Australian sculptor Tony Jones OAM to create an exciting site-specific outdoor sculpture for the South Street campus. The commission is now completed after Mr Jones and his son Ben worked diligently to ensure its completion in early 2011.

Mr Jones has been an avid yachtsman for well over 40 years and this passion and a general fascination for Western Australia’s maritime culture has always been a significant inspiration and reference point in his art.

These themes are evident in the University’s commission with the sculpture’s title – Rounding the Weather Mark – a yachting term referring to a pivotal turning point or milestone in a yacht race. Metaphorically, the title also eloquently reflects the University learning experience where students strive to accomplish their own milestones and personal goals.

The sculpture has been wall mounted to a building facade at a major pedestrian intersection not far from the University’s hub of Bush Court.

This project builds upon an existing relationship between Tony and the University which has developed over several decades.

Mr Jones’ art is represented in the University’s Art Collection by many examples spanning the early 1980s to the present. Additionally, Mr Jones and his wife Pam have personally contributed to developing the Collection since 1995 through an impressive array of artwork generously donated from their personal art collection via the Federal Government’s Cultural Gifts Program.

We look forward to unveiling Mr Jones’ latest piece here at Murdoch and are sure our students will find it inspiring.

Mark Stewart
Murdoch University
Art Curator
FULBRIGHT FUTURE FOR KATHRYN

MURDOCH ALUMNA (MATHEMATICS AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE HONS 2007) AND CURRENT PHD STUDENT KATHRYN NAPIER HAS JETTED OFF TO THE UNITED STATES ON A PRESTIGIOUS FULBRIGHT WESTERN AUSTRALIA SCHOLARSHIP.

Ms Napier will spend 12 months at the University of Wyoming researching the relationship between birds and mistletoes. Mistletoes are an important source of food and shelter for a range of animals in Australian forests and woodlands, but little is known about the relationship between plants and birds.

“I aim to identify the bird species that eat mistletoe fruit, assess the nutritional importance of mistletoe to the bird community and improve our understanding of mistletoe biology,” Kathryn said.

Although this project concentrates on mistletoe dispersers in Western Australia, it also has national significance in increasing the knowledge base for the management of mistletoes as a keystone resource.

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

IN MANY ORGANISATIONS ACROSS THE GLOBE, THIS SCENE PLAYS OUT EVERY DAY. “CONGRATULATIONS, YOU’RE SUCH A GOOD ENGINEER/DOCTOR/TECHNICIAN THAT WE’RE PROMOTING YOU INTO A MANAGER’S ROLE. HERE’S YOUR OFFICE, YOUR 20 STAFF AND YOUR KPIs. GOOD LUCK!”

One such program, the five-day Transition to General Management, ran in October and received excellent feedback. As well as business and communication specialists, our facilitators included a philosopher and senior Murdoch psychologists. Participants came from government departments, retail, construction, oil and gas and mining industries.

Yossi Goldfarb from Victoria’s Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development said: “The Transition to General Management Program was outstanding. Having experienced a number of management courses, I was very impressed by the obvious planning and thought put into the course’s design and content, the capacity of the presenters to engage participants and present material of high relevance to everyone in the room.”

Further Transition programs will be held in May, August and November. Murdoch alumni are entitled to a 10 per cent discount on all Open Enrolment Programs and Workshops. A complete list is available at www.executiveeducation.murdoch.edu.au.

Sound familiar? Is this you or someone else in your organisation?

Murdoch University’s Executive Education Centre can help. The Centre was established in 2010 to develop management and leadership skills; improve organisational performance; and build effective and sustainable enterprises. Taking a holistic approach, our aim is to broaden the management mindset and leadership capability of new and emerging managers across public, private, not-for-profit and government sectors through specialist short courses, workshops, coaching and consulting services.
inprint

Here we preview some of the books produced by our talented alumni.

Exploring the Dark Side

A novel penned during his undergraduate years studying creative writing at Murdoch University has earned Robin Baker the honour of being Pantera Press’ very first published author.

Killing Richard Dawson was released in May 2010 and challenges the squeaky clean stereotypes of Gen Y. Appreciated by literary critics, it has also been selling well.

Its central character is an insufferable young man who has an unusual fascination with death – perhaps fuelled by Mr Baker’s day job as a funeral director!

“When I started the novel we were awash in TV series like Dawson’s Creek,” said Mr Baker. “I remember thinking that this was not what my friends and I were experiencing, so I chose to focus on the darker side of things.”

Mr Baker finished the book during his final year at Murdoch in 2004 and began shipping it out to prospective publishers.

“They said it was interesting but a little too weird,” he said.

The manuscript was then filed away until 2008, when Mr Baker saw an advertisement from publishing start-up Pantera Press searching for Australia’s next Tim Wintons and Kate Grenvilles.

“The challenge for me was to try and get the readers to care about someone who doesn’t care about anything,” Robin said.

Robin is now mid-way through his second novel and gathering ideas for a third.

Singing Pat’s praises

Graduate Lynn Roarty has co-authored a new book documenting the life story of ALP senator, trade unionist and international women’s activist Pat Giles.

Among the Chosen was released through Fremantle Press last year and was a joint effort between Ms Roarty and academic Lekkie Hopkins.

For the first time, it highlights the achievements of a woman who was dedicated to improving the lives of the disadvantaged.

Voted one of WA’s three most influential ALP senators, Ms Giles helped draft the National Women’s Health Strategy with Jenny Macklin and Susan Ryan. In 2010 she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for services to the community in the interests of women.

Always a supporter of women’s rights, Ms Roarty worked at Federal Hansard during Ms Giles’s later years in Federal Parliament.

She completed her PhD in Women’s Studies in 2009 and is now a Research Fellow at Curtin University’s National Drug Research Institute.
Cristy shares her love of adventure

Books have always provided immense joy for Murdoch graduate Cristy Burne. As a young girl she loved to immerse herself in the exploits of the Famous Five, Nancy Drew, Hardy Boys, Trixie Beldon and the Three Investigators and in 1993 she was a finalist in the Canon Young Writers of the Year Award.

Almost two decades later – after completing her Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology and living and working overseas – Cristy is celebrating the publication of her first book.

Children’s novel Takeshita Demons was released in August 2010. The first in an action-packed adventure series featuring demons from Japanese folklore, it follows the adventures of Miku Takeshita.

Miku is a young Japanese girl who has moved to the UK with her family, but the supernatural ‘yokai’ have followed them there to wreak havoc.

“I purposely set out to write an adventure story that starred a different cultural protagonist – Miku is a mix of all the students I taught in Japan,” says Ms Burne.

Takeshita Demons was the inaugural recipient of the Frances Lincoln Diverse Voices Children’s Book Award.

On the back of the book’s success, Ms Burne has also been selected to appear at All Saints Literature Festival in Perth in 2011 – a rare opportunity for a first-time author.

Best of both worlds

Murdoch graduate Rob Olver is enjoying the best of both worlds.

Having completed his degree in Veterinary Medicine (Surgery) at Murdoch in 1991, he is now working as a locum vet. This highly flexible vocation gives him plenty of time to pursue his other passion for landscape photography.

Mr Olver has been shooting landscapes for some 20 years and in 2008 celebrated the release of his third book.

Still available from all good book stores, *PERTH: from Dawn till Dusk* contains a mix of images capturing the natural and cultural heritage of Perth, from the bush to the beach.

Mr Olver is also a regular contributor to *Landscape* and *Australian Geographic*. 
Supporting our achievers

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND SHEER DETERMINATION SEEM TO RUN IN THE VEINS OF THE O’BURYNE WOMEN.

Rebecca and Rachael O’Byrne are both graduates of Murdoch University, with degrees in Accounting and Finance and Psychology respectively.

Rebecca O’Byrne, 40, is now making a name for herself in the world of corporate finance while Rachael O’Byrne, 38, is currently on maternity leave from her work as a psychologist at Niola Private Hospital and a casual lecturer at Murdoch. She is also undertaking her PhD.

Their younger sister Louisa has embarked on a degree in Counselling and their mother, Robyn, is part-way through a Law degree at the age of 60, clearly proving that age is no barrier to education.

Both Rebecca O’Byrne and Rachael O’Byrne entered Murdoch at the age of 28, as mature-age students, having enjoyed many years travelling and working both in Australia and overseas.

While they received some support from their mother during their studies, their years at university were made easier thanks to the generosity of Murdoch’s donors.

Both women were awarded several university awards and academic prizes for their achievements and Robyn O’Byrne believes these incentives helped keep them motivated and focused.

Recognising how much these prizes meant to her daughters, she has generously sponsored two ongoing prizes in the O’Byrne name.

The O’Byrne Prize in Finance is a $500 prize awarded annually for the best academic performance by a student completing the required part II core units in the Finance major.

The $250 annual O’Byrne Prize in Psychology and Social Justice is presented to a fourth-year student in an Honours, Bachelor or Postgraduate Diploma course for a thesis in the area of feminist social justice.

“I contribute to Murdoch because both of my daughters enjoyed the benefits from the generosity of previous award donors,” said Robyn O’Byrne.

“I truly believe that receiving these academic prizes inspired them to continue achieving. I was so proud of my daughters for being recognised for their commitment to their studies that I wanted to reward other students who were committed to their studies in the same way.”

Robyn O’Byrne’s spirit of generosity has also been passed down the generations. When the original donation from her mother runs out, Rebecca O’Byrne has undertaken to continue funding the O’Byrne Prize in Finance.

High tea a winner

HIGH TEA AT THE ICONIC RAFFLES HOTEL IN SINGAPORE WAS A DELICIOUS TREAT FOR A STRONG TURNOUT OF SINGAPORE BASED ALUMNI, STAFF AND VIPS.

The annual alumni event, timed to coincide with the October 2010 Singapore graduation ceremonies, has always proven popular but the 2010 event was a definite winner with everyone enjoying the delightful high tea buffet and friendly conversation. Alumni Relations Manager Vanessa Fernandez-Kennedy was pleased at the extremely positive response to her call for new Alumni Committee members as part of the plan to revitalise the Singapore Alumni Chapter. Keep an eye out for further details as this progresses.
DEVELOPING A CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICE FOR THIRD WORLD

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY’S ADVANCED NANOTECHNOLOGY GROUP, LED BY DR GÉRARD POINERN, HAS RECEIVED A US$100,000 GRAND CHALLENGES EXPLORATIONS GRANT FROM THE BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION.

The grant, the only one given in Western Australia, will support an innovative ‘inject and forget’ contraceptive drug delivery device for the third world.

The ‘inject and forget’ delivery system uses a novel biosynthetic bone-like material, which once injected under the skin, slowly releases a controlled dosage of drugs.

“The first application of this new biomedical device will be for the delivery of contraceptive drugs in many of the world’s least developed countries, which are the focus of the Gates Foundation’s Global Health program,” Dr Poinern said.

“However the device we will develop, which will be placed just under the outer layer of skin, will regulate the controlled release of therapeutic drugs into the body and could be used for a variety of clinical applications.”

The research capitalises on Murdoch’s extensive experience in developing new biosynthetic composite materials for biomedical devices and implants.

The grant will fund phase one, which will allow the team to spend 18 months developing a feasible technology. If successful, the group will then work with a third-party drug company on human trials for the new drug delivery method.

$2M TO HELP VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE CONNECT

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY IS TO INVESTIGATE HOW INTERNET-BASED TECHNOLOGIES CAN ENHANCE THE WELLBEING OF VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE.

The project will receive close to $2 million from the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and is one of several to come out of the newly formed Co-operative Research Centre for Young People, Technology and Wellbeing, led by Inspire Foundation.

Murdoch University alumna and Project Leader, Dr Ingrid Richardson, said marginalised young people were at a higher risk of developing serious and sustained mental health difficulties because they were among the most socially isolated members of Australian society.

“Our preliminary research has shown that creating and sharing content has a positive effect on young people’s sense of community, belonging and connection,” Dr Richardson said.

“The new media and technology landscape provides an unprecedented opportunity to reach and engage vulnerable young people, making them feel more socially included and enhancing their wellbeing.”

The research, which begins in July 2011 and will take place over five years, will focus on specific cohorts of vulnerable or at-risk young people. The research will be conducted in collaboration with industry and community partners.

Many vulnerable young people will be trained in media skills, literacy and creative content production as a direct result of the project. Outcomes of the project will be used to better promote wellbeing in young people, find ways to encourage them to seek help and improve the provision of mental health services to this group.

Murdoch University has also invested $500,000 in the CRC over five years.
Murdoch University PhD candidate Steve Brown has researched some of the ways in which health care providers cope with ‘emotional labour’ – the act of suppressing your emotions.

And he has identified which coping strategies work and which do not.

“Emotional labour has long been associated with poor outcomes for employees including emotional exhaustion, depression, detachment and low self-esteem,” Mr Brown said.

“Employers also suffer in terms of high staff turnover.”

As part of his study Mr Brown interviewed 21 nurses from three different nursing groups (emergency, renal dialysis and palliative care) as well as emergency clerical workers. He also surveyed 325 employees from the same groups.

His study revealed that employees use a variety of strategies to deal with emotional labour, including surface acting, managing natural emotion and deep acting.

“Surface acting is the suppression of felt emotions and the display of unfelt emotion, such as smiling while feeling angry or frustrated,” Mr Brown said.

“We found that this was the least effective response and resulted in poor well-being outcomes.”

The most successful methods were managing natural emotion and deep acting.

“Staff who were encouraged to express natural emotion without becoming overly emotional coped better with emotional labour,” he said.

“For example, a little bit of assertiveness used in the emergency wards against an angry patient is a good thing. Likewise, nurses in palliative care who were allowed to cry without losing control emotionally coped better.”

Deep acting is when employees get into the required emotional state prior to interactions. They prepare by calming themselves and thinking about what’s expected and functional.

“Emergency nurses tend to use deep acting to convey a calm persona while at work.”

Organisational sources of support were found to be the most crucial thing for the employees engaged in emotional labour.

“Co-worker support was found to be extremely important,” Mr Brown said.

“Nurses told me that they couldn’t do without sharing their experiences with other nurses.

“Colleagues are empathetic because they’ve been through these situations themselves.

“Having moment to moment support, where another co-worker would approach if a situation between a client and employee was becoming highly charged, was also very useful.”

Organisational support is not only important for the employee – it can reduce staff turnover.

“Organisations can provide support in a number of ways. They can make it clear to employees that they can protect themselves from harm and that abuse will not be tolerated, encourage employee interaction and support of one another, explain the types of strategies that help them cope and provide access to counselling if needed,” said Mr Brown.

The study also showed that emotional labour didn’t always have to be a bad thing.

Mr Brown said: “Interactions with clients often gave employees a great deal of satisfaction, particularly if they felt a sense of achievement, were supported in the organisation and had some autonomy over how they were able to express and constrain emotion.”
Michelle Kruse (née Irwin)
(Bachelor of Commerce Accounting and Asian Studies 1991)

It’s been a long and winding path, encompassing a variety of countries, industries and job titles. Suffice to say I have never worked as an accountant, nor did I ever utilise my Chinese language studies. Instead I moved to Japan immediately following graduation. On my return I moved to rural Victoria and worked primarily in personal assistant roles before moving to New Zealand. In New Zealand I ‘fell’ into a host responsibility role – developing and implementing policies related to management of responsible service of alcohol and gambling at SkyCity casino in Auckland. After four years there I moved into the HR field, starting in contract recruitment roles covering banking and professional service firms before moving to recruitment in New Zealand business and recently being internally promoted into a HR generalist role. To complement my new role I am currently doing a postgraduate qualification in HR Management. It’s been an interesting trip so far and whilst I’ve never directly worked in the field I studied, the discipline achieved has been at the background of every position I have held.

David Udy
(BSc Biological Science 1984)

I graduated in 1984 and have had a career involving performing dolphins, cars, petrol, suspensions, scientific consumables and recruitment since then. My current role is Manager, WA for a privately-owned, national scientific recruitment company. I have been involved with scientific recruitment for over seven years now, allowing me to combine my science training with additional studies in business (MBA), a perfect match. Recruitment is all about building relationships with people and specialising in scientific employment allows me to remain in touch with the scientific community while helping science graduates develop their careers in the industry. I will always be appreciative of the time I spent at Murdoch and my science degree has held me in good stead throughout my career.

Raymond Wells
(Bachelor of Literature and Communication 1986, Master of Arts Literature and Communication 1988)

I am in the final year of PhD at UWA and hope to present at Murdoch in the future. My research is concerned with carers and their plight when caring for the mentally ill within the community. I also write a little and have a book in the Murdoch library, “Uc Dai Loin No 1” Words and Images of the Vietnam War.

Jim Leavesley
(MPhil Social Sciences 1979)

On December 1 my eleventh book was published by Allen and Unwin. It is called Not Your Ordinary Doctor. Within about 86,000 words I look at 60 doctors who have gained fame in areas other than medicine, for example authors sportmen, explorers, doctors to royalty, pirates and, of course, criminals. Included in those looked at were W Somerset Maugham, John Keats, Conan Doyle, Anton Chekhov, Oliver Goldsmith, Peter Roget (of Thesaurus fame), Dr WG Grace, WA’s own hockey great Ric Charlesworth, Roger Bannister, David Livingstone, Alexander Borodin, Joseph Guillotine (of execution fame), Maria Montessori and murderer Dr Harley Crippen. I could go on, but you catch the drift.

Lindsay Dorman
(BA Politics and International Studies 1999)

My 2010 was filled with four terms of teaching foreign affairs as I have done for the past two years in a voluntary capacity. I call my course Understanding Foreign Affairs and it is taken over an eight week curriculum with a different topic each week with supplied readings. It is conducted in a tutorial style. Most of the 35 students (at two locations) are retired with a wealth of knowledge to share during the Q&A segments. The challenge always is to find new subjects for the next term to whet the appetite. This is done in moments of inspiration. Who said I was unemployed! Hope this gives some hope for others in their senior years.

Carl Gopalkrishnan
(BA History 1994, BA Sociology with Honours 2001)

I haven’t made the rich list exactly, as I am a visual artist and do pretty unusual work. I studied history, sociology at Uni and then went back and did an honours degree in ’99. I think my artwork has really benefited greatly from the intellectual rigour of the training I got at Murdoch. BAs are under-sold and valued. Anyway, I currently have an interview in a literary journal in the US which might be of interest. So thanks to all the teaching staff in the History and Sociology departments for helping me think critically, and know when to take a non-critical approach and to know the difference.

Talitha Schofield
(BA Politics and International Studies, Bachelor of Mass Communication 2010)

I graduated in March 2010 and I am currently living in Sweden. I study Swedish full time and will begin a graduate law degree with Deakin University via distance in March.
ALUMNI CONTACTS

If you’re a graduate of Murdoch University 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. If none of the groups below are close by, or suit your interests, you might like to consider starting one yourself – and we are here to help. Alumni Relations can assist with contacting alumni in your area or from an old sporting group, or even from the School or degree you studied in.

For more information see our website at http://ace.murdoch.edu.au/chapterswindow.html

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