Changing minds and lives
Teaching into the future
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:

Alumna – one graduate
Alumni – a group of graduates

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/
Greetings alumni

I am delighted to welcome you to this edition of Intouch, my first as Vice Chancellor of Murdoch.

Since beginning the role in April, I’ve been fortunate to speak with many alumni who have shared their memories of Murdoch and the influence our teachers and researchers have had on their lives. Your stories reflect what I already knew about this university before I started: that Murdoch cares about its students, ensuring they are supported throughout their learning journey and beyond.

As you know from your own experience, university education is about much more than acquiring specific career-based knowledge. It is also about equipping graduates with skills that will enable them to be life-long learners.

We are transforming Murdoch’s learning experience by delivering individual academic support, an enhanced campus and online experience, and strong employment outcomes through real-world learning and deeper industry linkages. This innovation and excellence, the people and programs that support and underpin our international learning and teaching reputation, are shared in this edition of Intouch.

The University is on the cusp of many exciting developments, and one of the current key projects is the new Student Hub which will be in and around the site of the Refectory, just off Bush Court. This will be the biggest investment into improving the student experience in the University’s 41 year history and will provide enriching spaces for students to study and socialise in, as well as a new home for the Guild and food and drink outlets.

The Student Hub development is scheduled to begin before the end of the year and we are looking forward to providing updates as it takes shape. It will transform Bush Court to be an even better place than we know it.

I am passionate about education. It is both individually uplifting and a strong contributor to our communities. Murdoch’s role in this is reflected in this edition of Intouch, with the inspiring stories of our graduates making a difference.

Professor Eeva Leinonen
Vice Chancellor

From the editor

Welcome to the first edition of Intouch for 2016. This edition highlights Murdoch University’s brave new forays in learning and teaching and celebrates some of our most innovative and engaging teaching superstars.

We will host our sixth annual Distinguished Alumni Awards this year and we are excited to be working through all the nominations and look forward to announcing the recipients at our awards ceremony in November. This edition features a report on last year’s gala award dinner and showcases our four outstanding winners from 2015.

Thanks to the generous support of many alumni donors, we have selected this year’s recipient of the Murdoch University Alumni Annual Appeal Scholarship. I look forward to sending you more information about this very hard working academically gifted student when we launch the 2016 Alumni Annual Appeal. I hope you will consider giving to this worthwhile cause.

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

Every year has challenges and triumphs and we are sincerely grateful that many of you take the time to assist us to improve our programs, events and communications. You have been generous in your praise when our hard work has paid off. I encourage you to stay in contact with the alumni relations team and keep providing your wonderful feedback and ideas.

Jo-Ann Whalley
Editor
A life less ordinary

Whilst at Murdoch, Jamie developed profound and ongoing interests in India and the esoteric. After a successful stint in the publishing industry, he was offered the opportunity to open the office of a sports and marketing agency in the country he had developed an affinity with. In 2008 Jamie returned to India and created Commune Sports and Entertainment, of which he is Commercial Director and Co-Creator. The agency has successfully worked with the International Cricket Council (ICC), the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and Mumbai Indians to name a few.

Jamie credits the Faculty of Arts and a few fondly remembered lecturers and professors for his positive experience and much of his inspiration.

“That faculty were for the most part terrific, and I still fondly remember some of them,” he said. Marion Campbell and the Literature Professor John Frodsham, who sparked my interest in India and the esoteric, and who I should probably thank here for having such a profound and positive impact on my life.”

Jamie’s career highlights include ‘pulling off’ the Hockey World Cup in 2010 and conceptualising and creating the Caribbean Premier League, an annual Twenty20 cricket tournament held in the Caribbean. With much success achieved, Jamie envisages that he will continue picking and choosing different projects based on interest levels and learning opportunities to continue what he calls his ‘life less ordinary’.

Murdoch remembers Foundation Professor John Frodsham (January 5 1930 – May 5 2016)

Professor Frodsham was the inspirational Foundation Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Murdoch University and served as Foundation Dean of the School of Human Communication from 1973 to 1976.

A renowned classical Chinese scholar and University of Cambridge alumnus, Emeritus Professor Frodsham was said to understand 17 languages and was described by fellow Foundation Professor, the late Geoffrey Bolton, as “the most eloquent of all the foundation professors.”

His impact on students at Murdoch was quite exceptional.

Alumnus Judy Banks said his lectures were “enthralling.”

“Each lecture was a lesson in geography, history and philosophy, in literature and mathematics, in the physical and social sciences, in past and present politics,” she said. “Students listened to Professor Frodsham’s recitations in Italian, Greek, French, German, Chinese and Welsh.”

Past colleague Professor Jenny de Reuck described him as an “extraordinarily inspirational teacher.”

“He is remembered with great respect, fondness and warmth for his erudition as a lecturer as well as his eccentricities and an ability to recall lengthy passages verbatim from the literature they studied. He was ‘one of a kind’ in the words of a colleague.”

Another former colleague, Professor Vijay Mishra, said the three broad areas of teaching and research he established in Murdoch School of Arts – Asian Studies, English and Comparative Literature (now Literary Studies) and Communication Studies “remain some of the stand out programs of the School”.

Professor Frodsham’s extraordinary academic career spanned 59 years and included stints at ANU, The University of Sydney and the University of Baghdad before his retirement in 2015.

Professor Frodsham’s memory lives on through his wife Beng Choo; brother Keith and sister Stella; children Simon, Stefan, Jonathan, Karen and Julia; eleven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.
A question of balance

Dr Alexandra Hynes’ (M Veterinary Science 2011) interest in animal emergency care was sparked after taking a position with Vets Now, a United Kingdom based franchise that provides emergency after hours pet care.

Belinda Giles: lawyer and human rights campaigner

University human rights program instils a passion for social justice

Gaining membership to the Chapter of Emergency and Critical Care (EMCC) was a long time ambition for Dr Hynes that led to her decision to choose Murdoch’s MVS course, which she completed via correspondence from Queensland. She says it was the perfect choice in terms of course content and external support, especially after giving birth to her daughter midway through completing the degree.

“It was challenging at times, but I loved that I could keep my mind challenged and keep moving forward with my career. The reputation of Murdoch’s Masters program was unrivalled with a very practical basis and the opportunity to study externally was ideal with my concurrent commitments. I really enjoyed having the access to world renowned veterinary specialists who were able to mentor me through the course despite being on the other side of the country,” Alexandra said.

Alexandra has recently entered the public speaking circuit to share her stories of balancing work, life and study and to inspire vets and aspiring vets about what is possible for them.

“I realised that there are not many vets in the media who have spent years living and breathing the kind of veterinary work that I have. I want to show other vets that you can have a tremendously full and gratifying work life while still enjoying a family, doing the things you love and furthering your education,” she said.

Now working for NOVA Legal in Perth, Belinda Giles (BLAWS (Hons), B Mass Communications 2011), brings her university experiences to her everyday work in commercial litigation as well as maintaining her personal passion for international human rights.

During her time at Murdoch, Belinda participated in the School of Law’s first overseas human rights program in 2010, travelling to Geneva for an intensive focus on international human rights organisations including the United Nations and Red Cross.

“It’s one thing to learn about these things in class and another to tour these organisations while they’re in session, to see the delegates and immerse yourself in understanding the processes,” Belinda said.

“I had a fairly sheltered view of the world after leaving high school and had no idea what a ‘displaced person’ was or what terrible, helpless situations they found themselves in. These experiences informed my desire for advocating for vulnerable people and led me to my current volunteer role, where I serve on the management committee for the Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees (CARAD), providing casework support to those in need.”

Belinda says she chose Murdoch because of its international recognition and combination of both practical and theoretical training, adding that she also valued the opportunity to study mass communications at the same time to improve her writing skills.

“Murdoch was the learning foundation for what I have done since, opening my eyes to different areas of law and the need to help those caught up in circumstances beyond their control,” she said.
IT WAS HIS CHILDHOOD LOVE OF SWORDS, STAR WARS AND ZORRO THAT SUTHERLAN SCUDDS (BLAWS 2014) SAYS PROMPTED HIS SUCCESSFUL FENCING CAREER.

“I started fencing when I was seven years of age,” Sutherlan recounted.

But his childhood pastime soon became a fully-fledged sporting interest in his youth. Sutherlan now juggles his career as a criminal defence lawyer with fencing – a passion that has led to him being crowned an Australian champion.

The 26-year-old boasts an impressive record including two national championships and a World Cup quarter finals appearance. This year saw him unsuccessfully vie for his Olympic dream in Rio.

But his greatest challenge came in 2013 when he was diagnosed with aggressive brain cancer during the final semester of his law degree at Murdoch.

After collapsing with a seizure during a training session, Sutherlan’s next year was beset by a gruelling regime of chemotherapy and radiation therapy that, at times, left him too sick to train.

“Personally, it was obviously very confronting,” Sutherlan said. “I believe it helped me mature and grow as a person. It made me step back, enjoy the smaller moments in life and not get frustrated by the small hiccups in life.”

Sutherlan said Murdoch’s Elite Athlete Program had been a great support that afforded him the opportunity to combine sporting success and his studies.

Under the program, athletes competing at a national or international level are helped to achieve their academic goals while meeting the demands of an often rigorous training and competition regime.

“The Elite Athlete Program was amazing,” Sutherlan said.

“When you’re an amateur athlete, you spend so much time practising, competing and travelling for your sport that it becomes like a job on its own.”

“Without the Elite Athlete Program I would not have been able to juggle university and sport. It allowed me the necessary freedoms with assignments and exams which clashed with competitions so that I could do them after returning and often meant studying on the plane.”

Samantha Smith has worked hard to gain a research fellowship in Belgium

MURDOCH WAS A VERY POSITIVE TIME FOR ME AS IT ALLOWED ME TO FOLLOW MY INTELLECTUAL CURiosity AND STUDY WITH EXPERTS IN MY FIELD.”

With interests including North Africa and the Middle East as well as having studied French, Arabic and Hebrew, Samantha worked throughout her degree for the Department of Immigration and then for the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Samantha says that to be competitive in international security it’s hugely beneficial, if not essential, to have a Masters degree as well as taking advantage of your time at university to learn a language, undertake exchange programs and establish a strong network.

“My advice to like-minded students is to put particular emphasis on applying for exchange programs as they enable you to experience life overseas, make professional connections and undertake internships. These are harder to get after you’ve graduated as they are often unpaid, so they’re easier to do while you’re already there,” Samantha said.
Distance no impediment to learning

SCOTT KING (BSC SUSTAINABLE ENERGY MANAGEMENT 2015) HAS HAD AN ACCOMPLISHED AND VARIED CAREER IN MINING, CONSTRUCTION AND MILITARY PROJECTS. HE IS CURRENTLY SENIOR INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL TECHNICIAN AT ERARING POWER STATION, A COAL FIRED ELECTRICITY POWER STATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES, WHERE HE HAS BEEN FOR ALMOST 10 YEARS.

During his time here, King realised that the rise of renewable energy sources was changing the fossil fuel industry. In order to stay ahead of the game, he decided to pursue further studies in this field, which led him choosing Murdoch. “The degree offered by Murdoch was exactly what I was looking for. I was also able to gain a better understanding of areas such as life cycle assessment and energy economics,” he said.

King studied via correspondence in order to be able to keep working full time in New South Wales and found the Murdoch online experience a positive one. “Balancing a full time job with full time study and spending time with my family was a bit of a juggling act. During my degree I had several occasions where I had to get clarification about some part of a subject or wanted feedback about an assignment and the support I was given by Murdoch was fantastic.”

As a result of King enjoying his time studying through Murdoch online, he decided to visit the campus with his family for his graduation ceremony and after a 12 month break from study he plans to continue to build on the knowledge and skills gained from studying at Murdoch.

Bringing science to the wheatbelt

IN THE COUNTRY TOWN OF NORTHAM, 80 KILOMETERS EAST OF PERTH, RHIANNON BRISTOW-STAGG (BSC SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2014) IS HELPING BRING THE WONDER OF SCIENCE TO PEOPLE OF THE WHEATBELT THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

Rhiannon researched the benefits of community engagement in science as part of her double major and has worked with Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management, the Department of Agriculture and Food, the Department of Education and the Wheatbelt Development Commission.

Currently the project manager for the Wheatbelt Science Hub, Rhiannon identified demographic gaps in the regions showing a higher proportion of very young and older people with fewer opportunities to engage with science in discovery centres like their city cousins. This prompted the need for a “hub” strategy in the bush.

“There are no buildings, but the hub works to engage the community in science education and experiences. Soon we’ll be enthusing rural children to learn the coding used in creating software, apps and websites,” Rhiannon said.

“Committee representatives set the direction and we receive federal seed funds from the Inspiring Australia Strategy if we can leverage other monies, such as from the local shire. It’s overseen by Scitech and we are required to present ten science events over 18 months.”

Rhiannon said as a mature age student with children, Murdoch’s flexible learning approach, external delivery and quality childcare was critical to her studies and successful graduation. “A formal exchange in Sweden in 2013 was also a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that sparked my interest in community engagement with science,” she said.
From vet to artist

EACH OF THIS YEAR’S MURDOCH UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH BY INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED, PERTH-BASED PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTIST AND MURDOCH ALUMNUS GRAHAM MILLER (BSC 1987/ BVMS 1988).

Graham’s association with Murdoch University began in the 1980s when he studied veterinary science. Reflecting on his time as a student, Graham fondly recalls “the camaraderie amongst students and staff at the vet school” and the lasting friendships he quickly made.

“Although the workload was pretty intense, regular social occasions - including happy hours, mud volleyball, Half Way Day, the Vet Revue - ensured that the Murdoch experience was also a lot of fun,” he said.

It was also during this time that Graham first met his long-term partner Nicole, a fellow vet student with whom he shared an interest in photography.

As a new graduate Graham returned to Hong Kong, where he grew up, to work as a small animal vet for a year - an experience he describes as “a real eye-opener”.

“There were no dedicated animal pathology labs in Hong Kong and we needed to use a human lab to analyse our blood tests. If an animal needed an x-ray, we had to smuggle it into the hospital,” said Graham.

Graham then moved to London, where he spent four years working as a locum and travelling through Europe, India, Nepal and Central and South America.

Although his enthusiasm for photography began as an adolescent in Hong Kong, it was only when Graham returned to Perth in his mid-twenties that he became interested in exploring a creative pursuit in the arts.

“I went back to uni and studied film and photography at Edith Cowan University. In 2002 I became involved with setting up and running FotoFreo, an international festival of photography based in Fremantle, which lasted 10 years. Through my involvement at FotoFreo I met many of the world’s significant photographers and curators. I learnt what it took to become an artist and gain success as a photographer,” he said.

Graham’s work now involves projects for gallery exhibitions and magazine assignments. He recently had a solo show at Art Gallery of Western Australia, and worked on assignments for The New York Times, Le Monde, and Monocle Magazine.

Graham Miller’s photographs are in demand all over the world.

Sharon, who is Principal Research Scientist, Manager of the Geochemistry and Applied Physics Group in Alcoa’s Global Refining Centre of Excellence and was recently a finalist in the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia’s 2016 Women in Resources Awards, recollects the positive impression Murdoch made on her.

“I was impressed with how friendly the Murdoch staff and students were, the natural beauty and openness of the Bush Court area and the relaxed, inclusive atmosphere. It was like a small country school,” she said.

Martin, who is General Manager at ICT company CDM Australia, says he had a “fantastic time” at Murdoch and kept himself very busy “with all the political activism, running various clubs like tennis club, ice skating club and pizza appreciation society plus being able to learn different disciplines. I have studied Physics, Law, Maths, Environment and even Womens Studies,” said Martin. “Physics and Murdoch University have given me confidence to succeed in anything I pursue.”

Remembering his favourite teaching and learning experiences, one academic in particular stands out in Martin’s memory.

“My inspiration was Professor Bruce Mainsbridge. Amazing individual who was always happy to hear about his Physics students’ adventures and always looking out for us and supporting us. It was very nice to personally receive my degree from him,” he said.

For Sharon, it was Professor Ian Ritchie who not only helped her into a career at Alcoa, but who also sparked her interest in studying at Murdoch in the first place when she met him at a career expo as a year 12 high school student intent on joining the Air Force and becoming a pilot.

“The Professor was manning the Murdoch stand and was overjoyed to hear that I liked chemistry (and physics – but he ignored that) at school. I was a hard sell, so he offered to show me around the uni. When I agreed, he went straight to his car and we followed him to Murdoch in ours. I can’t recall how the chemistry labs looked; what I remember perfectly is how wonderfully passionate and completely interested he was in what he was doing. His work was his hobby – and I thought YES! I want to be like that!” said Sharon.
2015 Distinguished Alumni Awards

IN ITS 40TH YEAR MURDOCH UNIVERSITY WAS VERY PROUD TO CELEBRATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF FOUR RECIPIENTS OF THE 2015 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS AT THE ANNUAL GALA DINNER. Professor Michael J Day (BSc 1980/BVMS 1982/PhD 1987), Dr Alison Gaines (MA 1993/DUniv 2011), Professor Colleen Hayward AM (BEd 1983) and John Hogan (BEd 1982), were all chosen for their demonstrated outstanding qualities and for making significant contributions to their professions and to the community.

For Professor Day, who is an academic at the University of Bristol in the UK, winning the award was an acknowledgement of his hard work and research in veterinary science, all beginning at Murdoch University.

"My academic career and roles in global veterinary professional development all have their foundation in the unique style of my Murdoch education," he said.

This sentiment is echoed by Dr Gaines, who has given back to Murdoch with her vast experience in the business sector.

"I completed the Masters of Arts (Public Policy) in the 1990s. Since then I have been involved as a volunteer as a display of my affection for Murdoch," she said.

She is currently the Chair of the University Foundation and Vet Trust and previously was a member of the University Senate and taught as an adjunct in the School of Law.

Two of the 2015 winners completed their degrees with the School of Education, and praised current and previous staff members for their support and tutelage.

"In speaking on how and why education is important, I often reflect that I have never met anyone who cannot recall, by name, a teacher who had a profound influence on them and their lives," Professor Colleen Hayward AM said.

"The same is true of higher education. For me, the two stand-outs were Don Smart and John Watts, both of whom challenged my thinking, encouraged my learning, rejoiced in my success and became friends along the way."

Professor Hayward is currently the Pro Vice Chancellor for Equity and Indigenous at Edith Cowan University and was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for her service to tertiary education in 2012.

For John Hogan, who completed a Bachelor of Education in the 1980s, the Award reminded him of how significant Murdoch University has been to his work and the influence a university can have in the world.

"I see the award as an affirmation of the work we are currently doing with Big Picture Education Australia and a motivation to keep going," he said.

The Murdoch University Alumni Relations night of nights was held in a beautiful marquee on Bush Court, emceed by 2012 award recipient Dr Stephen Van Mil, senior Murdoch leadership, academics and VIP guests.

Special guests included The Hon Chief Justice Wayne Martin AC, City of Melville councillor Nicole Foxton, City of Rockingham Deputy Mayor Deb Hamblin, then Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Andrew Taggart and members of the Murdoch University senior leadership.
Changing minds and lives

Professor Sara de Freitas Pro Vice Chancellor Learning and Teaching, with the help of the Associate Deans Learning and Teaching from Murdoch’s eight Schools and the Centre for University Teaching and Learning (CUTL), is driving an innovative program of transformation and renewal.

The Murdoch you know is being reimagined

THE CHANGING MINDS AND LIVES LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY IS SEEING OUR EDUCATIONAL APPROACHES, FACILITIES, ONLINE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS REENVIGORATED AND REIMAGINED FOR THE 21ST CENTURY LEARNER.

This includes renovations to all lecture theatres and teaching spaces, installation of advanced technologies to support dynamic teaching, adoption of online/traditional ‘blended learning’ and a commitment to activity-led, real-world educational approaches.

“We undertook in-depth consultations with staff, which has formed our learning and teaching strategy vision and plan, and together we are rolling it out over the next five years. Our goal is to ensure that Murdoch is a world leader in learning and teaching by 2020.” Pro Vice Chancellor Learning and Teaching Professor Sara de Freitas said.

Online environment gets supercharged for 2017

MURDOCH IS UPPING THE ANTE FOR AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES WITH A PROJECT THAT WILL SEE 102 ACADEMICS IN 178 UNITS WORK TO CREATE AN ASTONISHING 537 HOURS OF NEW ONLINE LEARNING CONTENT FOR 2017.

Working with international digital specialists Tata Interactive Systems and Open Universities Australia, the Transforming Transnational Education Delivery Project (TNE) looks to engage web-savvy students on their own terms, with high-quality videos, real-world interactive simulations and educational gaming.

“This is about working with students whose lives are interwoven with the ever-evolving online world,” Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Sara de Freitas said.

“It’s also about sound educational practice. Research shows traditional classroom-based and online learning produce similar student outcomes, yet when the two are blended together, learning is deeper and much more effective.”

This may be due in part to what maintains our attention, with blended learning appealing to different senses, thus increasing student enjoyment.

While engagement is paramount, the TNE project is also about ensuring that Murdoch transnational courses in Singapore, Dubai and Malaysia are in sync with those offered in Australia.

With an ambitious 2017 deadline, work is already underway on the rollout of campus ‘pods’ where lecturers can create course content, such as welcome videos, interviews with specialists and learning demonstrations.

“Unit coordinators are the subject experts and know what their students need, so we’re leaving content decisions in their capable and creative hands,” Professor de Freitas said.

Blended learning driving more effective teaching
WHILE WINNING ACHIEVEMENT BADGES AND UNLOCKING CONTENT IS MORE COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH APPS LIKE COOKIE CRUNCH, MURDOCH’S CENTRE FOR UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND LEARNING IS INVESTIGATING HOW THESE TECHNIQUES CAN INCREASE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN THE ONLINE ENVIRONMENT.

Games Art and Design lecturer and project organiser Brad Power said the School-led Teaching Effectiveness Program (STEP) project utilises serious game psychology.

“IT’S BEEN VERY SATISFYING GETTING RID OF EQUIPMENT LIKE OVERHEAD PROJECTORS,” said Manager Communications Services Jarren Beveridge.

“IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS, WE’VE DONE A PREMIUM FIT-OUT ON SIX LECTURE THEATRES AND TWENTY NINE TUTORIAL ROOMS, AND BY FIRST SEMESTER 2017 ALL OF OUR CENTRAL TEACHING SPACES WILL BE DONE.”

Ironically, one of the changes that worried Mr Beveridge was replacing the five-metre lecture theatre microphone cords with wireless radio mikes.

“We literally cut the cords, which is pretty symbolic,” Mr Beveridge said.

“LUCKILY, LECTURERS HAVE TRUSTED US AND HAVE BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC.”

The University is also working to ensure that visitors, staff and students never suffer the horror of a weak WiFi signal. With fibre nodes and plans for 10 gigabit Ethernet, the University has capacity covered – even as innovations such as immersive 3D-video lecture capture loom on the horizon, moving from the realms of science fiction into real-world education.

“We’ve got a company auditing every square foot of the campus, from teaching spaces to offices and common areas on Busch Court to make sure we have coverage without gaps. You never know what’s coming,” Mr Beveridge said.

In the past, you had to trust that students were accessing information like course objectives and assignment dates, but now you know and can monitor their progress – even giving them a nudge when they need to pick up the pace,” Mr Power said.

“It’s brilliant to see students so engaged.”

Gaming lessons keep students engaged

JOURNALISM LECTURER ANDREW PORTER IS GUIDING STUDENTS THROUGH THE PILOT PROGRAM IN HIS INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL MEDIA SKILLS UNIT AND HAS SEEN IMMEDIATE RESULTS.

“I CAN GO ONLINE AND SEE WHO HAS LOGGED IN AND HOW THEY’VE INTERACTED WITH THE LEARNING GUIDE AND COURSE MATERIALS,” he said.

High-tech now and for the future

WITH VIDEO BECOMING THE ‘NEW TEXTBOOK’ OF HIGHER EDUCATION, MURDOCH IS UNDERTAKING A MASSIVE UPGRADE OF CAMPUS TECHNOLOGY TO FUTURE-PROOF ITS POSITION AS A LEADING-EDGE GLOBAL UNIVERSITY.

The work involves installing all lecture theatres and learning spaces with Apple TV, laser projectors, high quality video and audio capture, HDMI inputs and modern control systems.

The belief is that this 21st century digital infrastructure will set the standard for immersive teaching and learning.

“IT’S BEEN VERY SATISFYING GETTING RID OF EQUIPMENT LIKE OVERHEAD PROJECTORS,” said Manager Communications Services Jarren Beveridge.

“In the last six months, we’ve done a premium fit-out on six lecture theatres and twenty nine tutorial rooms, and by first semester 2017 all of our central teaching spaces will be done.”

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Changing minds and lives

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“It’s brilliant to see students so engaged.”
Peers are key to success

A STRONG COMMITMENT TO HELPING OTHERS MADE CHRIS CUNNINGHAM A NATURAL CANDIDATE TO HEAD UP MURDOCH UNIVERSITY’S PEER ASSISTED STUDY SESSIONS (PASS) PROGRAM.

As a peer assisted study officer, Chris takes care of the day-to-day running of the program, which uses student leaders to facilitate study groups across various units.

“I became involved in PASS when the program was being piloted in 2014,” he said.

“I have always had a strong passion for helping others, evident in my studies in psychology. I realised as a mature-aged student that I wanted to do well, but at the time there were limited places to get assistance and it was hard to find someone that understood your situation. I believed that I could bring that to the PASS program.”

“The PASS program has undergone huge expansion since it was introduced and it now supports 20 units and has 26 students helping their peers at weekly study sessions.”

In the second week of semester one alone, more than 1000 individual students across several disciplines were helped through the program.

He said his biggest success had been changes that allowed students to complete independent study contracts and research at lower levels of their degrees, rather than be restricted to a set curriculum.

Chris was runner-up Australasian New Peer Leader of the Year in 2015.

New look for Education and Arts

THE EDUCATION AND HUMANITIES BUILDING ON THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SOUTH STREET CAMPUS IS GETTING ITS FIRST MAJOR FACELIFT SINCE FOUNDATION.

Home to thousands of alumni since 1975, the familiar U-shaped building is being renovated with new paint, carpets, signage and even glass-partitioned interior walls between classrooms and corridors.

“The glass and LED lighting has really opened up the building’s sense of space,” said Mark Lawrey, School Manager (Education).

And gone are the days of students sitting passively in uniform rows, as all furniture is now on wheels to support modern student-centred learning. Classroom configurations shift with ease to accommodate group work, discussions or poster presentations.

The project is halfway complete with ongoing work to include the conversion of the old Common Room into an undergraduate student hub.

A Postgraduate Lounge is also scheduled to replace the old School of Education Curriculum Resource Centre Library, with dedicated quiet study areas, Skype rooms and conference areas.

“It’s about meeting the needs of 21st century students,” Mr Lawrey said.

Innovation partnership

IN AN AUSTRALIAN FIRST, MURDOCH UNIVERSITY’S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ENGINEERING SERVICES COMPANY, SIMMONS GROUP, WILL BRING NEW INNOVATION, TRAINING AND ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES TO THE ROCKINGHAM REGION.

The first ever Australian Concept Centre (ACC), based at the Murdoch Rockingham campus, will be the first of 15 campuses to be established around Australia.

The School of Engineering and IT will collaborate on a range of research projects to combine innovation and entrepreneurship education with the commercialisation of products, services and ideas.

Murdoch University Vice Chancellor Professor Eeva Leinonen said the partnership was a perfect fit for the University’s focus on innovation and training in the region.

“The ACC will see Murdoch leading the Federal Government’s vision for innovation in universities; we are ahead of the pack.”

The ACC will be based at the National Centre of Excellence in Desalination Australia. Simmons Global engineers will also be working with NCEDA staff to bring to fruition concepts that have been developed in their research into desalination.

NCEDA staff will also be working with Murdoch University researchers to develop a proposal for a Future Water Cooperative Research Centre based in Rockingham that would further advance research into water technologies.

“The resulting establishment of start-up companies will provide opportunities to place the students into employment or where their skill set provides, continuing to work on other concepts,” said David Simmons, Chief Executive Officer of Simmons Group.
Meet some of our teaching superstars

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY HAS A LONG AND PROUD HISTORY OF DELIVERY HIGH QUALITY LEARNING AND TEACHING TO MEET THE CHANGING AND DIVERSIFIED NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS. OUR INSPIRING STAFF BRING INNOVATIVE, WORLD CLASS TEACHING PRACTICE TO A NEW GENERATION OF STUDENTS.

Enhancing student learning

FOR JAMES BOYD (PHD ASIAN STUDIES 2008), AN “ENDLESS CURIOSITY” HAS SERVED AS A KEY FACTOR IN HIS TRANSITION TO TEACHING AND WORK TO REFORM MURDOCH UNIVERSITY’S FIRST-YEAR FOUNDATION UNITS.

After living and working in Japan for 14 years, Dr Boyd joined Murdoch in 2002 to embark on his PhD study. Since then he has become an integral member of a specialist team charged with overhauling foundation units to enhance student learning and retention.

After completing his PhD, he was among a team of staff handpicked to work as first year advisers as part of a Higher Education Participation and Partnerships (HEPP) initiative to boost retention and help new students transition to university.

Dr Boyd said the experience gained from working in the ‘dual capacity’ had led to the realisation that more pastoral care was needed for first year units. He said Murdoch was thinking outside the square in the way content was delivered, including adapting traditional lectures and tutorials into more blended learning with pre-recorded lectures, video snapshots and online readings feeding into a two-hour face-to-face workshop.

“We’re trying to look at a more flexible style of learning so those students who do opt to be internal (students) are prepared. They get the content and then come in and apply that content in a more active manner rather than a lecture and the tutorial being just the tutor talking,” he said.

“We are trying to get them to learn more actively – and that comes back to the idea of being an independent learner.”

A DRIVE TO CONSTANTLY LEARN AND THE SATISFACTION OF SEEING STUDENTS SUCCEED HAS KEPT TANYA MCGILL ENTHRALLED IN TEACHING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

More than 25 years after first joining Murdoch University, Associate Professor McGill (PhD Information Technology 2002) said she still loved sharing knowledge and guiding tertiary students to learn.

“I enjoy teaching. I’ve always enjoyed teaching,” she said. “That’s the thing that keeps me going when the burdens of administration get too much, I go off and teach a class and I’m happy again. I like the sharing involved in teaching.”

It is that devotion to her students that earned her the Vice Chancellor’s Excellence in Teaching Award (Individual Category) in 2011, the 2015 Vice Chancellor’s Citation for Excellence in Enhancing Learning and a Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning from the Federal Government’s Office of Learning and Teaching, also in 2015.

One thread of Associate Professor McGill’s research has centred on how universities implement successful technology, including comparing successful e-learning innovations and those that have failed.

“It’s blended learning where you get the best of both worlds. You get the ‘anywhere, anytime’ flexibility for students but you also get the high quality interaction that makes them feel committed to their course.”

Associate Professor McGill said Murdoch’s move towards research-integrated learning and ‘real world learning in real-world settings’ had largely been embraced by students.

“Work integrated learning is a popular buzz word at the moment and it’s really valuable for students to do internships and other forms of work integrated learning to get that taste of what it is they are actually preparing themselves for,” she said.
Teaching under the microscope

AN INQUISITIVE CHILD, PHILIP NICHOLLS SPENT WEEKENDS OF HIS CHILDHOOD RUMMAGING THROUGH THE ENGLISH WOODLAND HEDGEROWS TRYING TO FIND ANIMAL FOOTPRINTS, HAIRS AND FEATHERS.

But when his parents gave him a microscope for Christmas one year, he was exposed to another layer of nature – one that would form the basis of his career.

Associate Professor Nicholls became inspired by the microscopic world and pursued six years of postgraduate study to become a member of the Royal College of Pathologists.

“I still have that microscope, and I still have the microscope slides that I made as a small child, carefully labelled in my best handwriting – ‘Leg of house fly: Musca domestica’.”

After working at universities in Bristol, London and Cambridge in the United Kingdom, Associate Professor Nicholls joined Murdoch in 2000 and is currently on secondment as the Deputy Dean of the School of Veterinary and Life Sciences.

As a veterinary anatomic pathologist, his roles have included teaching histology and pathology to undergraduates, performing surgical biopsy interpretation and post-mortem examinations and studying the pathology of animal diseases.

“Teaching is such a varied career, from lecturing ‘live’ to 400 students, through practical workshops and small group teaching, to online forums, and of course the unseen, non-contact work of developing unit websites, content, formative quizzes and new programs.”

He said he likes to remind students about ‘the joy of learning’ in higher education and believes the key ingredient to being a successful teacher is an unrelenting enthusiasm for the craft and absorbing new knowledge.

“It’s not just about getting a job, it’s understanding how the body works and health and disease, and this is a rare glimpse inside your own body,” he said.

Closing the knowledge gap

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION AND PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY TO FUTURE GENERATIONS OF ABORIGINAL STUDENTS IS A PASSION FOR RESEARCHER LIBBY JACKSON-BARRETT.

Ms Jackson-Barrett (BEd (Primary) & BA 2005/ MEd 2010) started at Murdoch University as a student in 2000 and completed her first two degrees in 2004, before being offered a job at Murdoch’s Kulbardi centre and School of Education.

As a Noongar Yorga, her research interests include exploring ways to promote positive educational outcomes for Aboriginal students and developing tertiary education pathways for indigenous workers.

“I love the context of my teaching work,” she said. “I am inspired to have the opportunity to assist initial teacher education students to ‘close their knowledge gap’ about Aboriginal Australia and more importantly Aboriginal students.”

“I am very fortunate to work with a group of outstanding educators and researchers not just in the School of Education but across the university. We have some fantastic Indigenous research taking place here.”

Ms Jackson-Barrett was a driving force behind the Bush Schools Project in which primary school students worked with Noongar Elders who relayed stories, taught songs and hunting and gathering and explored the local bush to deepen their understanding of Aboriginal culture.

She was also instrumental in an ambitious project to increase the number of early childhood and primary teachers in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions, allowing students to live and work in their communities while studying through Murdoch University to become teachers.

Libby Jackson-Barrett is developing pathways to tertiary education for indigenous students.
The anatomy of excellence

SHE SPENDS HER DAYS DEALING WITH HUMAN CADAVERS IN A LABORATORY, BUT IT’S THE ‘LIGHTBULB MOMENTS’ OF HER STUDENTS THAT AMANDA MEYER FINDS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF TEACHING.

The human anatomy lecturer trains students across the chiropractic discipline and teaches anatomy to medical, exercise physiology, sport science, biomedical and forensic students.

Dr Meyer’s enthusiasm and motivation to teach was sparked during her Honours studies at The University of Western Australia when she worked as an anatomy demonstrator.

She said work as a university academic afforded her the opportunity to indulge her two loves – research and teaching. Her methods have drawn praise from students, who put her in the top ten per cent of Murdoch teaching staff last year.

“I understand that most students find anatomy to be a daunting subject and I try my best to break it down into understandable concepts,” she said. “I use multi-modal teaching methods and always bring my enthusiasm and humour to try and engage my students.”

In addition, Dr Meyer conducts research to examine the impact of teaching interventions on student performance in anatomy units.

One of these projects compared the retention of carpal bone anatomy knowledge between second-year and fifth-year students. It found only a small number of second-year students knew all the small bones of the hand and wrist, while the majority of fifth-year students accurately recalled the carpal bone anatomy.

“Fifth-year students also told us that their experience in the Murdoch University Chiropractic Clinic, where they actively applied their anatomy knowledge to treating real patients, helped them to better retain anatomical information,” she said.

“This led me to then adapt the second year anatomy units in subsequent years to incorporate more clinical application in teaching and assessments.”

Flipping the classroom

KATE ROWEN HAS EMBRACED THE ‘FLIPPED CLASSROOM’ TEACHING PHILOSOPHY AT MURDOCH UNIVERSITY, SAYING IT OPENS DOORS FOR HER CHEMISTRY STUDENTS TO LEARN MORE ACTIVELY.

The ‘flipped classroom’ ideal centres on a reversal of traditional teaching methods.

“We like students to prepare before class and watch the lectures, but if they haven’t I tell them to come anyway,” Dr Rowen said.

“Students don’t need to stay away from the workshops if they haven’t watched the lecture because there will always be something they can learn by attending.”

As the coordinator of the Fundamentals of Chemistry bridging unit, she teaches hundreds of students who need chemistry backgrounds for their science degrees but did not take the subject at high school.

“We have done a lot of work to bring in online methods for learning,” Dr Rowen said.

“Traditionally, with the on-campus offering we would have four lectures each week and students would attend a tutorial. But what we found through tracking lecture attendance and usage of lecture recordings is that students weren’t attending or listening to lectures.

“This was the main vehicle for delivering content and students weren’t using that vehicle so what were they doing? We figured they must be using the textbook and workshop activities and other things we make available to them and muddling through.

“So we decided to stop doing what students weren’t using and initiate more appropriate things that they do use.”

Dr Rowen said that Fundamentals of Chemistry now offered pre-recorded lectures through the Learning Management System and last year introduced the online learning platform, Mastering Chemistry, which was akin to a one-on-one tutorial.

“There’s no way we could teach like that on a one-on-one basis with 1500 students a year so being able to evaluate and apply these kind of tools is very valuable,” she said.
BORN IN SOUTH AFRICA, ROB OLVER (BSC VET BIOLOGY 1990/BVMS 1991), DEVELOPED A LIFE-LONG LOVE OF WILDLIFE AND THE GREAT OUTDOORS SPENDING HIS FORMATIVE YEARS CLIMBING MOUNTAINS AND EXPLORING GAME PARKS. WITH HIS BROTHER HE OWNS A SMALL PUBLISHING HOUSE THAT SPECIALISES IN NATURAL HISTORY PHOTOGRAPHIC BOOKS WITH ROB OFTEN PERFORMING HIS MAGIC BEHIND THE CAMERA.

For three years Rob lived on a two acre property near Albany and produced his first photographic book, Dawn till Dusk in the Stirling and Porongurup Ranges in 1998. In 2011 he sold that property to fund a five month trek around Australia with three cameras and his old Toyota Camry.

The trip resulted in his fifth book, Australia Dawn till Dusk (2014), featuring 200 images of natural landscape, plants and animals as well as Rob’s memoirs recording his adventure.

“I use film cameras for softer images, it’s less harsh than digital photography. And as an author I like to add some social history, personal philosophy and subtle political commentary on environmental protection with my pictures,” Rob said.

Rob now lives in Murwillumbah and is working on a black and white photographic book featuring the people and landscape of this northern rivers region of New South Wales.

Dawn till Dusk is published by Dawn Till Dusk Publishing.
Murdoch's early history shared

In Murdoch Voices, University veterans share personal and insider accounts about the growth and transformation of Murdoch across four decades.

Since opening its doors to 510 undergraduate students in 1975, Murdoch University has grown into a multi-campus institution with over 24,000 students and 2,000 staff.

The book launch event began with a heartfelt address from then Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Andrew Taggart, who described the bittersweet feeling of celebrating Murdoch Voices without Professor Bolton.

“This book is about our people and our unique history,” Professor Taggart said.

“Thanks to the Murdoch University History Committee for producing this publication and continuing Geoffrey’s fantastic work. His memory sustains us and his contribution has delivered many wonderful stories and personal accounts.”

Special guest the Honourable Professor Fred Chaney AO spoke warmly of the University’s formative years and the legacy Murdoch Voices will provide for future generations.

“In its early years, Murdoch University was affectionately known as ‘the gentleman’s park’. The community was one of freedom for diverse scholars and a pioneering environment for gender, literary and international studies,” Professor Chaney said.

“While the stories in Murdoch Voices bring a longing for the past and lament for olden days, they’re also a reminder of the need to continually stimulate new thinking. We have not reached the end of history and we have not lost the need for fresh minds.”

Kim finds his social voice

SEEING AN OPPORTUNITY IN THE MARKETPLACE FOR ONLINE MARKETING, KIM BARRETT (B INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS 2010) PUT HIS SKILLS INTO ACTION BY SETTING UP HIS OWN FACEBOOK ADVERTISING AGENCY, YOUR SOCIAL VOICE.

As a by-product of setting up the company, Kim has written two books: Facebook Marketing: Using Facebook Advertising to Create World Class Facebook Ads and Get 5 New Clients Next Week Using Facebook.

“The books are about understanding how to create an online marketing strategy, and then the basis of how to tactically set this up. They help readers by giving them the understanding they need when it comes to the online world, specifically Facebook. As it is a platform that many people still don’t understand, the books give people insights into how they can create engagement, generate leads and ultimately profit from social media,” he said.

Serving clients in Australia and around world, Your Social Voice is an expanding company with an exciting future ahead.

“We are doing more and more trips overseas to train people this year and that doesn’t look like it will be slowing down! We are looking forward to expanding into more global markets and serving even more clients here in Australia,” Kim said.
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After finishing my PhD in parasitology at Murdoch in 1980, I returned to South Africa and rejoined the Medical Research Council in Durban. Here I continued the kind of epidemiological research into schistosomiasis (snail fever) that I had been doing before moving to Perth in 1977 and also had my first foray into entomology; chasing arbovirus-transmitting mosquitoes.

After five years, I joined the University of Natal on its Pietermaritzburg campus but moved to the Durban campus in 1996. Things were very different here and I soon discovered that not all students are interested in snails and parasites! Thus I found myself involved in research into the biology (even systematics in a few cases) of members of all the major invertebrate phyla; from the malaria parasites to echinoderms!

Over a period of 34 years, I successfully supervised or co-supervised 23 MSc and 16 PhD students. I enjoyed undergraduate teaching too and over the years taught many different courses from Freshwater Biology to Parasitology to science students and even some courses such as Histology and Medical Entomology to medical students.

At the end of 2009, I retired from what is now the University of KwaZulu-Natal but was appointed Professor Emeritus in the School of Life Sciences which allows me to finish unfinished projects and to write. Amongst the things keeping me occupied is a textbook of human parasitology for South Africa that is slowly taking shape. I serve on several panels concerned with parasitic diseases and on a working group organised by, I am pleased to say, two former students who are trying to persuade the Ministry of Health to set up South Africa’s first national control programme for schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted worms.

Highlights of my career have included invitations from the Egyptian and Brazilian Ministries of Health to see aspects of their successful anti-schistosomiasis programmes in 1994 and 1998 respectively, from Conservation International to join their Aqua RAP survey of the Okavango Delta, Botswana in 2000, and from IUCN to assist in reviewing their Red Data Book for African freshwater molluscs in 2006 and 2009.

In 2008, I was elected a member of the South African Academy of Science. I will always be grateful to the late Roger Lethbridge for offering me the opportunity to spend three years at Murdoch working on my PhD accompanied by my family, and for introducing me to parasitology. Lastly, I must add that I still have the copy of George Seddon’s Sense of Place presented to me when I left Murdoch to return to South Africa in 1980; a fine reminder of an enjoyable time in Western Australia.
Brandon Hetherington
BA/B LAWS 2012

I am currently employed as an Associate at Robertson Hayles Lawyers (RHL). I began working at RHL in 2013 as a work experience student following returning from an extended overseas trip after graduating from Murdoch. After completing College of Law and being admitted to the Supreme Court in December 2013, I was offered a permanent position with RHL as solicitor. I was then promoted to the position of Associate in January 2016.

Being promoted to an Associate was definitely a career highlight for me, as it showed that my employers were confident in my abilities as a lawyer. Throughout my time as a lawyer, I have had the opportunity to appear and represent clients in various courts and jurisdictions, including the Magistrates Court, Family Court of WA, District Court and Supreme Court: appearances which included being involved in Family, Civil and Criminal trials. Having these opportunities so early on in my career has been a great highlight so far.

Edmond Kwek Liwen
B COMMUNICATION 2012

I'm a manager (programmes & partnerships) in the National Youth Council, the national body for youth development under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth in Singapore. I love working with youths in the areas of youth engagement, and co-organising new programmes and events to help them in their personal and professional development through service-learning.

I originally studied PR and communications and, although I am not currently working directly in my area of study, the soft and hard skills I learnt from my PR and communication modules at Murdoch University, such as presentation skills, writing, campaign pitching, management skills etc have definitely stayed with me and helped me greatly in my professional career so far. I have never looked back ever since!

Lindsay Dorman
BA POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES 1998

In 1998, I graduated from Murdoch University with a Bachelor of Arts in Politics and International Studies, a time in which my life was so enriched. During those three years I had my 50th birthday and found that I had some brains after all, having previously been told that I was not that clever. I believed it but went on to become the first in my family to attend university.

In 1999, I was unemployed so I went to work at the United Native Association of Australia WA Division (UNAA-WA) as a volunteer, rising to become the Honorary Secretary, which included many duties beyond the call of duty. I left in November 2005 to commence a Graduate Diploma in International Relations in 2006, then a Master of International Relations degree in 2007 at Curtin University.

From 2008 to 2011, I lectured in International Relations at the South Perth Learning Centre, with a course I titled Understanding Foreign Affairs. I had 20 or more students in each weekly class. During that time I also conducted the same classes at other learning centres.

After taking a self-imposed sabbatical, I returned in 2015 to the South Perth Learning Centre to conduct a series on the political history of the five Afghan Wars from 1839 to 2013 (three Anglo-Afghan, Soviet-Afghan and Enduring Freedom), finishing early 2016.

In 2015, I re-joined the UNAA-WA and now find myself the Volunteer Coordinator and an Executive Committee member. In late 2015, the Association was made aware of a distinguished former and late member named Murray Giles Little. I was commissioned to research him for the UNAA-WA newsletter, UN Matters.

During my research I discovered a most interesting man, who was the WA Director of Education (1940-50). I have now commenced further research with the view of completing a biography. Permission from his family was warmly received and they are delighted that I’m attempting such a task. A labour of love is what it is!

At 69 years young and a Vietnam War veteran, I’m looking to continue being active in both mind and body, doing what I love; assisting the next generation of leaders through the UNAA-WA and making Murray Giles Little a name people will remember.

Evelyn Chew
B FORENSICS, POSTGRAD CERT BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION 2016

This February, I started first year of graduate medical school in the University of Sydney. It’s been both amazing and daunting. Amazing in that I am able to spend a full day in the hospital once a week interacting with patients and doctors; and daunting in that the workload has been nothing but huge – no surprises there.

I’ve never imagined that I would be studying medicine. It used to be a goal so unattainable that it was shoved to the back of my mind. I always thought I’d be working in a lab when I graduated, or go into teaching of some sort, but you never know where life takes you!

Leith Hopkins
BA POLITICS 1996

I graduated in 1996 with a double major in Politics but never entered the realm of politics. Instead I stayed in fashion design with my partner. After setting up a CMT factory in New Zealand (with a partner from Perth) we then mirrored that operation into China while closing in New Zealand.

After 16 years manufacturing for many designers and labels throughout New Zealand and Australia, 15 months ago we relaunched our 80s fashion label (Zuma Originals) into Australia and Guangzhou, China. I must say though, my Politics degree has helped us greatly with managing the many bureaucratic walls we’ve encountered along the way. I still class myself as a political activist and have become a Protect the Kimberley ambassador while fighting other political issues such as Outback WA and others. Thank you Murdoch University for helping me see the obstacles while giving me the tools to make our lives manageable and sustainable!
Dr Jono Dalla Pria  
BSc Chiropractic, B Chiropractic 2014

I knew opening my own clinic (Chirogenex Chiropractic Clinic, Currambine) after graduation would give me the opportunity to use the skills taught to me at Murdoch by treating people using evidence-based practice to help correct musculoskeletal dysfunctions. My clinic promotes the same health, wellness and rehabilitation principles I feel passionate about. Previously having studied Sports Science and becoming a personal trainer I continue to teach group fitness at my local gym and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

I opened the clinic in Currambine because I wanted to give something back to the community I have lived in for more than 20 years. My clinic is also now sponsoring a parenting program at the local primary school which I attended. The clinic provides access to all people including children, seniors, pregnant women and athletes. I pride myself on getting people out of pain by treating the person not just the symptoms.

Nadia Mansour  
B Laws/B Commerce 1999

I completed my LLB/BCom in 1999. I commenced my career at Freehills (now Herbert Smith Freehills) and thereafter spent a fair amount of time in-house as Head of Contracts & Retail Legal at a major financial institution. I then practised as the Head of Commercial Legal at a specialist IP firm.

I'm now a Legal Practice Director at a multi-disciplinary firm called Elisian, specialising in procurement, contracts and governance matters with a focus on legal matters and management consulting. When I finished my degree at Murdoch I was convinced I would pursue my career as a litigator but 17 years later I'm very much a corporate/commercial specialist.

Joanne Tomic  
BEd (Primary) 2006

I graduated from Murdoch in 2006. I hold a Bachelor of Education (Primary) and I have been working with the Department of Education since graduating, firstly in Primary Education for five years and the last ten years in Secondary Education. I have gone on to complete further professional development that included Senior Teacher, Aspirant Program and becoming a Classroom Level 3 Teacher.

I mainly work with students at educational risk (SAER). I have been the Learning Support Coordinator (LSC) at my school and also, apart from teaching Mathematics full time, my other role is Teacher Induction Coordinator.

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