

Thrive



**STORIES
WITH DIGNITY**
THE POWER OF JOURNALISM

NEW LAW DEGREE
CSU TACKLES LAWYER
SHORTAGES

**GIFT THAT
KEEPS GIVING**
\$3M BEQUEST
MADE TO CSU

NEW WAVE LENGTH: LINK TO GRAVITATIONAL WAVE DETECTION



12



20



10



30

6

ON THE COVER

An Australian artist and curator, James Farley is a Director of Philosophy (PhD) candidate exploring post-photographic practice, ecological aesthetics and the emergence of a culture of stewardship.

Having received his Bachelor of Visual and Performing Arts (Honours 1st Class) from CSU in 2013, James also teaches photographic practice and theory in the School of Communication and Creative Industries at CSU in Wagga Wagga. He also works as an installation technician and assistant at the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery.

Originally from Dubbo, James was the only Australian finalist in the 2015 Sony World Photography Awards Student Focus Program. He also won an Arts NSW Young Regional Artist Scholarship last year.

You can see some of James's work here:
www.jamesfarleyphotography.com

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CSU ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Special thanks to all those who contributed to this edition.

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Welcome



Welcome to the third edition of *Thrive*, CSU's Alumni magazine.

As a university committed to creating opportunities and outcomes for our students, it was great to see the recently released Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) scores for universities.

CSU has the highest graduate employment rate in the country, with 86.3 per cent of CSU graduates being in full-time employment within four months of graduation. This compares with the national average of 67.5 per cent.

"CSU has the highest graduate employment rate in the country, with 86.3 per cent of CSU graduates being in full-time employment within four months of graduation."

CSU graduates also have the second-highest starting salaries in the country, with an average starting salary of \$60,000 compared to the national average of \$52,800.

These results highlight the quality of our courses and the direct benefits to graduates of CSU's focus on workplace learning. It also reflects the high esteem in which employers hold our graduates and the education they receive with us.

While we are proud to be able to contribute to the success of our graduates, we know that this is only part of the story. The positive impact of higher education multiplies, with benefits extending to the industries and communities that our alumni go on to contribute to.

This edition of *Thrive* is filled with stories of graduates who are making valuable contributions to their communities, wherever they are around the world, like paramedic Simon Cowie, who has rolled up his sleeves in some of the world's most volatile situations, and physiotherapist Phebe Corey, whose range of compression wear is improving health outcomes for women of all ages.

You'll also read about the remarkable generosity of Carole and Stan Droder.

Advocates for higher education, the Drodgers chose to bequeath more than \$3 Million to CSU. Through the creation of a perpetual scholarship, this bequest will quite literally make tertiary education a reality for generations of regional students. We hope you enjoy reading their story.

As always, we welcome your feedback. Please drop us a line at; alumni@csu.edu.au

Sincerely,

Jennifer Galloway
Senior Manager, Strategic Development
Charles Sturt University



DRIVEN BY A BELIEF THAT HEALTH CARE IS A UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHT, PARAMEDIC SIMON COWIE HAS ROLLED UP HIS SLEEVES IN SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST VOLATILE SITUATIONS.

Humanitarian heart



Growing up in Canberra, Simon Cowie was interested in health care from a young age. He chose to study his Bachelor of Clinical Practice (Paramedic) at CSU's Bathurst Campus as it was geographically close to home and because of the hands-on nature of the course.

"The first time I went on prac was pretty eye opening," he explains.

"It was inspiring to work with some paramedics in Canberra. To see the work they were doing there really pushed me along. We also had some really great guest lecturers from the ambulance service who were still just really passionate about what they did after many years working in the field."

"It was good to be part of that team to help end the Ebola outbreak in Liberia."

After leaving CSU in 2010, Simon worked for the Ambulance Service of NSW for a few years before completing both a Master of International Public Health and a Master of Health Management at the University of NSW. He then volunteered in Cambodia for a year, first working to help build a medical centre in an area affected by HIV/AIDS, then assisting the Cambodia Diabetes Association, helping to establish mobile clinics in rural areas to give people better access to medical care.

It was when the Ebola outbreak in West Africa began in 2014 that Simon applied for a job with not-for-profit NGO International Medical Corps (IMC) as Rapid Response Coordinator.

"IMC responds to disasters and emergencies all around the world," Simon explains.

"I started with the IMC in December 2014 in Liberia and was there for six months coordinating the Rapid Response Teams, which were kind of like ambulances that went out into the rural villages and investigated patients who potentially met the case definition for Ebola. If they did, we would bring them to the Ebola treatment units. I did that in Liberia, which had an established program when I arrived, and then IMC decided to replicate that program in Guinea so I went there to set it up."

"With Ebola, the protocols are very, very strict and you have several people watching to make sure when you get dressed in your personal protective equipment you do it correctly and you take it off correctly. You have to undergo quite a considerable amount of training before you can go out close to suspected or confirmed Ebola patients."

Simon describes this work as one of the greatest achievements of his life.

"If you listened to the news in December 2014, there was expected to be hundreds of thousands of cases of Ebola and hundreds of thousands of deaths and the response from IMC and other organisations really, really brought that rate down. Liberia was declared Ebola-free in May 2015. That was a pretty special day, when just four or five months before we had case, after case, after case and people were dying in our treatment unit regularly. It was good to be part of that team to help end the Ebola outbreak in Liberia."

GOOD OUTWEIGHS THE BAD

Simon applied for a transfer to Iraq in January this year.

Working as Field Coordinator in Baghdad, Simon now oversees all IMC programming beneath the



Country Director. When he spoke to us by Skype, he was working from Duhok in Northern Iraq – about 65km east of the Syrian border and 65km south of the Turkish border.

"IMC runs a range of health and protection programs for those affected by the war," Simon explains. "We have a bit over 500 staff in Iraq, all nationals bar 12 ex-patriots.

"We provide primary health care to thousands and thousands of people in this area alone, everyday, who otherwise, especially in some of the areas we go to that are closer to the front lines, wouldn't have this care. There's no one else there at the moment. We see some pretty dark things quite regularly and we hear quite a few sad stories but the good things always far outweigh the bad. Quite often you get to do some actual good stuff and it sticks in your mind quite a bit more than the bad things that you might see."

When asked what drove his career decision, Simon points to his passion for helping others.

"I've always been very interested in health care in general and believe that health care is a human right and where you live and where you were born shouldn't affect your access to basic services. I guess that's just a principle I really believe in and I'm very happy and very lucky to be able to be a part of that system."

"When I was younger, I wanted to be a paramedic and my work in emergency medicine made me want to work in emergency and disaster settings.

"We regularly go to areas that were at one stage under ISIS control. This afternoon, I'm off to an area that six months ago was under ISIS control and the current hospital there was completely destroyed by air strikes and by ISIS. There are bullet holes in the houses, still, and windows are smashed. I never would have guessed when I was in Bathurst that I would one day be close to the Syrian border in something that was a war zone seven months ago."

TAKE THE RISK

While they are concerned for his wellbeing, Simon said his family was very supportive of his decision to work with the IMC.

"They obviously worry a bit but they understand this is something I'm very passionate about and really want to do and I don't take any unnecessary risks.

"Mum was pretty shocked when I first said I was going to Iraq and to countries with Ebola, but she understands that this is my passion, this is my dream and that I have a very strong interest in staying alive and staying safe as well!"

"Health care is a human right and where you live and where you were born shouldn't affect your access to basic services."

Simon believes that it was his upbringing that drove him to help others.

"I was pretty fortunate when I grew up – I lived in a middle income house, both my parents were tertiary educated, they were both teachers, so I was very fortunate. I was able to go to other countries when I was younger and being exposed at a young age to the developing world and how so many millions of people live, made me interested in trying to improve the lives and livelihoods of those that were less fortunate than I was.

"I guess I ummed and ahed about going to Cambodia and in the end it was just like, 'What have you got to lose?'. Just go for it!

"That's my advice for graduates, too: take the risk. If you don't try, you're going to fail, so just dive right in."



The gift that keeps giving

GENERATIONS OF REGIONAL STUDENTS WILL BENEFIT FROM THE KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY OF CAROLE AND STAN DRODER, WHO HAVE BEQUEATHED MORE THAN \$3 MILLION TO CSU. HERE WE GET TO KNOW A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT STAN AND CAROLE AND WHAT DROVE THEIR REMARKABLE GIFT.



In an act of incredible generosity, Carole and Stan Droder have bequeathed more than \$3 million to the Charles Sturt University Foundation Trust to provide scholarships to residential undergraduate students.

To the people who knew them best, this bequest — the largest donation ever to be made to CSU — is very much in keeping with who they were.

Long-standing friend and co-executor of Stan's estate, Richard Evans remembers Stan as a self-made businessman and keen supporter of higher education.

"Stan grew up in Sydney in the suburbs of Guildford and Chester Hill and went into business as a trainee accountant," he said.

"Working his way to becoming a Chartered Accountant, Stan worked with various organisations,

particularly CSR. He finished up as the Chief Financial Officer with CSR, and occupied many senior positions, including Divisional Director of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants responsible for 25,000 members of the Society in NSW."

It was Stan's distinguished career as an accountant and his contributions to the profession, particularly being a major driver in the establishment of accounting standards in Australia, which saw him recognised with Honorary Doctorates from both Charles Sturt University and the University of New England in 1999.

"Because they hadn't been able to achieve their own university aspirations, and because they didn't have any children of their own, Stan and Carole decided that whatever they left behind them, the vast majority

would be shared between the two universities, CSU and UNE," Richard explains.

"Stan and I played golf every week for the last 35 years, and he used to talk about visiting CSU. He really just wanted to provide the opportunity for country people who might not be in the position to afford a university education to get a flying start in their studies and in their career."

DEAR FRIENDS

Close friend Sandra Crow was there the day Stan first met Carole.

It was on the Manly Ferry and Sandra and Carole were travelling to work.

"We had definite ferry etiquette in those days," Sandra explains.

"Everyone sat in the same seats every day and no one encroached upon your space. The young people would eye each other off and Carole and Stan were making eyes at each other. They were introduced and started going out."

Sandra remembers Carole as a good hostess, a keen tennis player, a wonderful dressmaker and a very dear friend.

"I've got four kids and Carole and Stan watched how hard it was for us and their other friends to send kids to a private school and to give them the tools for their own higher education.

"I think because they hadn't been through that situation themselves not having kids, they observed that it's really quite tough and a long hard road to put your kids through to university. I think that may have sparked something for them."

SHARED PRIDE

Both Richard and Sandra expressed pride in their friends for giving so generously to higher education.

"I've very proud of them," Sandra said. "I think it's an absolutely wonderful thing to do. It gives people a chance they might not have had and I think that's all to the good. It's good for the country."

"Stan was someone who really worked hard, invested wisely, and then took the most generous decision to make a contribution to a lot of young people's lives," Richard added.

"We're looking potentially at awarding up to six scholarships each year, ongoing. Stan's wishes were that this would continue in perpetuity, particularly focusing on people whose parents may have been experiencing some financial difficulty – students who hail from small businesses, family farms or single-parent households – to offset the costs of their study and enjoy what Stan would love to have done, and that is to enjoy university life on campus."

CSU MATCHES DONATION

Inspired by the Drodgers' remarkable personal donation, CSU has committed its own \$3 million to the CSU Foundation, bringing the total amount available to be invested for new scholarships to more than \$6 million.

CSU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Andrew Vann said the University was extremely grateful for the generosity of the Droder family.

"Charles Sturt University is committed to expanding education opportunity in our communities and provide flexible access to education regardless of background or location."

"This gift from Carole and Stan Droder is the largest personal bequest Charles Sturt University has received and will ensure many future generations of students can not only attend university to receive their qualifications, but also enjoy the unique experience that is university life in our vibrant regional communities.

"Charles Sturt University is committed to expanding education opportunity in our communities and provide flexible access to education regardless of background or location. The generosity and vision of the Droder family allows us to pursue this vision and we are extremely grateful."

CAROLE AND STAN DRODER SCHOLARSHIPS

Carole and Stan Droder Scholarships will be awarded to continuing undergraduate students with scholarship funds to be directed towards the cost of the student's degree, accommodation costs or other study expenses such as textbooks and equipment.

Additional Carole and Stan Droder Scholarships will be available from 2017 for continuing undergraduate students studying any course on campus at Albury-Wodonga, Bathurst, Dubbo, Orange, Port Macquarie or Wagga Wagga.

Further new scholarships to commence in 2017 funded by CSU's \$3 million investment in CSU Foundation include:

- Charles Sturt University Foundation Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Vivacity Scholarships
- Charles Sturt University Foundation Work Placement Scholarships
- Charles Sturt University Foundation Refugee Persistence Scholarships and
- Charles Sturt University Foundation Gumption Scholarships

NINE TIMES A YEAR, GROUPS OF FINAL-YEAR DENTAL SCIENCE STUDENTS TRAVEL TO BREWARRINA, IN NORTH-WEST NSW, TO PROVIDE A FREE DENTAL CLINIC. THE PROGRAM HAS MADE A HUGE DIFFERENCE TO BOTH HEALTH OUTCOMES AND TO THE STUDENTS.

Dental service assists remote community

In the Orana region of NSW, you'll find the township of Brewarrina on the banks of the Barwon River.

Home to less than 2,000 people, the Brewarrina Local Government Area is about four hours' drive north of Dubbo, the nearest large regional city.

Due to their remote location, the people of Brewarrina had very limited access to dental services, as Director of Corporate and Community Services at Brewarrina Shire Council, Belinda Colless, explains.

"In 2008, Brewarrina Shire Council had been without a dentist for some time, so we created The Rural and Remote Dental Project. It was initially an agreement with Griffith University on the Gold Coast, Brewarrina Shire Council and, at the time, Greater Western Area Health.

"The idea was to provide really good learning experiences for dental students and for our community to have access to dental treatment that we hadn't had for quite some time."

"The idea was to provide really good learning experiences for dental students and for our community to have access to dental treatment that we hadn't had for quite some time."

Griffith University sent dental students to Brewarrina until 2013 when logistical issues meant they needed to find more convenient avenues for student placements.

"It was a natural progression that as Griffith University left, Charles Sturt University moved in. We were very, very lucky as a community to have that transition. It was one of those cases where the planets aligned."

EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS

Since 2014, small groups of final-year CSU Dental Science students have travelled to Brewarrina Shire Council's dental clinic to build their clinical and interpersonal skills.

As Dr Heather Cameron, Clinical Director at CSU's School of Dentistry and Health Sciences, explains students primarily see patients who are eligible for public dental care.

"But because the closest private dentist is in Nyngan, which is 200km away, we extend that to anybody because it's about access to dental care," Heather said.

"One of the reasons we were very keen to get involved is to give students exposure to treatment of patients in a remote area. There's no (dental) support around, so what they do needs to last. They need to be able to get people out of pain because we only go one week a month.

"In 2015, we saw 335 patients which involved 733 occasions of service. It's a fair amount of treatment in nine weeks of service for a group of students."

Due to limited access to services, patients in Brewarrina have a lower standard of dental health compared with other Australians.

"Students see very broken down mouths," Heather said.

"We have some students who volunteer for two weeks in Cambodia in fourth year and some of those students who've been to Brewarrina say it's an eye opener for them because they say what they're seeing in Brewarrina is the same as what they're seeing in Cambodia in terms of the level of dental health.

"Obviously, we want to try and change that. It's about education in terms of diet and oral hygiene, as well as providing treatment."



Final-year dentistry students Amit Balgi (left) and Daren Vujovic in the Brewarrina Dental Clinic.

NEW EQUIPMENT ANNOUNCED

Jenni Floyd, Director Oral Health Services with Western NSW Local Health District, said the program aimed to provide access and equity in services to the people of Brewarrina and surrounding areas.

"While we don't have specific data about oral health in Brewarrina, there is plenty of research that indicates that the more remotely you live, the poorer your oral health. If you don't have fluoride in your water, you'll have poorer oral health. If you're a member of the Aboriginal community, you're more likely to have poorer oral health. If you're socio-economically disadvantaged, you're also more likely to have poorer oral health."

"We have all of those four factors significantly coming into play in Brewarrina."

When the clinic was first established, students were using portable equipment, which was less than ideal for the patients and the students and dentists using it.

"Over time Western NSW Local Health District has donated surplus equipment so that the Brewarrina clinic could have fixed dental equipment. That has gotten the clinic by for a while but this year we reached the point where it was time to replace it."

"Between the NSW Centre for Oral Health Strategy and the Western NSW Local Health District, we've been able to come to an agreement to fund four new dental chairs and the associated equipment for Brewarrina at a cost of around \$145,000."

"We don't normally think about the social benefits of healthy teeth and a smile, but that's one of the benefits to our community. It's amazing."

BENEFITS FOR COMMUNITY

For Belinda Colless, having access to regular dental services has considerably improved outcomes for locals.

"When you have people who have unhealthy teeth and have lived for an extended period of time with no or few teeth, after a while their facial features start to become affected. Socially they don't want to display a smile. Sometimes they can become introverted," she said.

"By having a full set of teeth, I've seen people regain their ability to smile, which has improved their life considerably. That's probably one of the biggest drivers, because you see their confidence increase and instead of being the person in the corner who doesn't want to be noticed because they're self conscious, they're becoming more socially connected to the community and they feel much better about themselves."

"We don't normally think about the social benefits of healthy teeth and a smile, but that's one of the benefits to our community. It's amazing."



Eric Cullen

MAKING A DIFFERENCE GLOBALLY

Growing up on the Central Coast, Eric Cullen chose to study Dental Science at CSU's Orange Campus to get out into the country.

Eric took part in a CSU Global program and volunteered for two weeks with One-2-One Cambodia, providing dental services in a small rural province and in a city school.

"Cambodia was a great experience," Eric said.

"It was a highlight because we were able to get out there and help people. It was hard because of the long hours and the working conditions – imagine a school classroom and us working with mobile dental chairs, school desks, a mobile drill and mobile suction that broke down a lot. We made the best of what we had and it really pushed our skills."

Eric was in the first group of final-year students to attend the Brewarrina clinic in February this year.

"It kind of brought back feelings of Cambodia in that you were just going there to help as many people as you could. That's the whole point of it."

"We mostly treated patients for relief of pain, but we had some general check-ups, fillings, dentures, and some people had root canal done."

"One day after clinic we were out walking and it was 35 degrees. We really wanted to swim but didn't know where it was safe to go in the river. We met some kids and they showed us a safe spot to swim."

"Brewarrina was a good experience. I think I enjoyed it because it reminded me of Cambodia and brought back those feelings of what I experienced over there – just getting in there and helping people."



Stories with dignity

CSU JOURNALISM GRADUATE ANNA COREN IS A HOUSEHOLD NAME IN AUSTRALIAN CURRENT AFFAIRS. HAVING EARNED HER STRIPES IN REGIONAL NEWS, ANNA WENT ON TO ANCHOR *TODAY TONIGHT* AND NOW WORKS FOR CNN. HERE ANNA GIVES US AN INSIGHT INTO WHAT DRIVES HER.

On my second trip to Afghanistan, we somehow managed to secure 48 hours with a team of US Special Forces.

"They had intelligence that there was a bomb maker, so we were driven down to a village and they did a search of these houses and found some weapons. The next thing, there was gunfire. They were being shot at. We were being shot at. There were bullets whizzing past us and despite that they were still hunting these guys down. They'd run into oncoming fire.

"It lasted about an hour and a half but you don't really have time to think about it. It was exhilarating to be with these people, to watch them work, to be documenting it."

Meet award-winning international correspondent, Anna Coren.

Anna spoke to *Thrive* from her home in northern NSW where she was on maternity leave with her twin boys. It's a world away from reporting on war-torn Afghanistan, but for Anna, this was the reality of the job. And it's a job she loves.

"For that hour and a half, I felt safe with the people we were with. I never thought my life was in danger.

"We had probably run about five kilometres with the Special Forces and it was walking back across the farmlands that I suddenly became aware of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). I thought, 'Oh



"It was nice to see that our stories were making some sort of difference or at least they were being told, because it's the forgotten story of a forgotten people and a forgotten war."

my god, what if I step on a landmine?" That was a huge fear for me, even though we'd just been in this active gun fight. It was crazy. Everyone got away unscathed. We were lucky. There are plenty of stories where that hasn't been the result.

"There's something about being in those environments that is highly addictive and makes you feel very, very alive."

A FASCINATING START

Growing up in Kenthurst in Sydney's north western suburbs, Anna recalls being interested in other people's lives. Events playing out across the world fascinated her.

"You'd watch TV and you'd see famines, you'd see wars on the news and I thought it would one day be fascinating to go to some of those places and report on some of these events."

"For some reason that then became a bit of a driving force and I knew from then on that that's what I wanted to do: to go to these places and tell the world what was happening."

"I was looking to study journalism at a

number of universities. I'm not exactly sure how Bathurst came up, but I suddenly discovered that it had this incredible reputation, and there had been a lot of people before me who had gone through CSU and had had great careers and I thought, yep, clearly, that's the place to go.

"Moving away hadn't really crossed my mind, but as soon as I arrived, I thought, 'Yeah, this is where I'm meant to be', and it was the best experience ever. It was a place to discover yourself with a safety net and I forged lifelong friendships there."

POWERFUL MEDIUM

When asked about her passion for news, Anna believes it's all about telling stories with dignity.

"I have been to Afghanistan three times and every single time I go I find these incredible stories.

"I remember one of the local journalists thanking me for telling these stories, because other people weren't. It was nice to see that our stories were making some sort of difference or at least they were being told, because it's the forgotten story

of a forgotten people and a forgotten war.

"I think you feel a sense of responsibility to portray these people with dignity. Like Gul Meena, a young girl who was involved in an honour crime. She ran away from an arranged marriage, so she dishonoured her family, and her brother came after her and killed her lover and almost killed her. We followed her story and gave a profile to the organisations that are in these places helping, like Women for Afghan Women. What those organisations do is absolutely phenomenal, and they are making a difference.

"It's giving a voice to people who wouldn't otherwise have a voice. I think that's just the power of this medium of journalism.

"You want to give these people dignity, to give their stories dignity, because you want people to care. It's your responsibility, I think, to make sure that happens. And without that visual medium of television, how would we ever know?"

FAMILY FIRST

When asked how life has changed since the birth of her twin boys, Anna laughs.

"In the first couple of months, we'd be up feeding the boys and reading the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* and all I can say is, thank goodness there's a fascinating US election happening!"

"I had all this anxiety before the boys came about what my career would be post babies, just because it's defined me for such a long time. 'What will it be, how do I make it work, how do I still remain interested and be stimulated?' Because the stories that get me going are the stories in those far flung places."

"Those places are incredible, but now being a mother changes your outlook. I still definitely will want to return to these places in some capacity to be telling those people's stories, but I won't be reckless. You have responsibilities and you can't just think about yourself, you have two little people who rely on you."

"I think it's just a matter of coming up with some sort of balance and going to those places when the time is right. I want my boys to have a very involved mother in their lives, and I don't want to miss out on anything with them, but I also want them to be proud of me and proud of what I do."

CSU IS TACKLING LAWYER SHORTAGES IN REGIONAL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH ITS NEW BACHELOR OF LAWS. DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH INDUSTRY, THIS PROGRAM HAS ALL THE BELLS AND WHISTLES OF A TRADITIONAL LAW DEGREE WHILE HONING IN ON THE SPECIFIC ISSUES CONFRONTING REGIONAL PRACTITIONERS.



Regional focus to new law degree

Fracking, live animal exports, Indigenous rights. These are just some of the big issues being covered by students in one of CSU's newest degrees, the Bachelor of Laws.

Beginning in March, more than 65 students are undertaking the new degree online.

As Director for the Centre for Law at CSU, Associate Professor Alison Gerard explains, CSU introduced the degree to directly address recruitment and retention of lawyers in regional, rural and remote areas and to foster Indigenous cultural competence in law graduates.

"Charles Sturt University has a national reputation as being a leader in the field and our law program is emerging as a real shining light in Australia."

"To ensure the viability of our regional communities, CSU felt it important to introduce a law degree so students in regional areas have access to a legal qualification," she said.

"The CSU degree also ensures that regional and rural legal issues have some way of being addressed within law curriculum, meaning these issues get the attention they deserve, and we know that when you deliver a tertiary program in a regional area, people are more likely to stay in that area to practice.

"Recruitment and retention of lawyers in remote, regional and rural areas is an issue. We often hear about the shortage of lawyers in remote areas and I think that case is well made out, with research conducted by the Law Foundation of NSW for example. Retention is also about having a mix of legal

services in regional areas so that there are other legal services in that community, not just one form.

"This creates a network of legal professionals, which is extremely important, and enhances the ability for people to receive legal advice."

CSU's law program is also directly addressing recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody by embedding Indigenous cultural competence into student learning.

"Charles Sturt University has a national reputation as being a leader in the field and our law program is emerging as a real shining light in Australia," Alison explains.

"We work with Elders, Aboriginal academics, Aboriginal lawyers and community organisations to build our curriculum so that students can work effectively with people of different cultural backgrounds and understand the role of law and justice policy in its historical context and its contemporary legacy.

"We are very proud of our law program and CSU for working towards that aim."

CREATING A COMMUNITY

The Bachelor of Laws is a three-year full-time program that uses learning technologies such as online meetings, webinars and student forums. The course even has its own YouTube channel for sharing lectures.

Residential schools allow students to come to Bathurst to meet face-to-face with their lecturers and fellow students, to experience specialist presentations, and take part in advocacy scenarios and mock trials.

"We're all about creating an online peer community between students and their lecturers," Alison explains.

"We're leveraging CSU's success in providing distance education. A lot of the students we have in this first



Director for the Centre for Law at CSU,
Associate Professor Alison Gerard.

cohort have come back to CSU because they've studied via distance education before. They're CSU alumni working in various fields, and they've come back to us because they know what we do and they like our product, and they're keen to upskill in a law degree."

DIVERSE STUDENT MIX

This group of students hails from areas like Albury, Canberra, Dubbo and Sydney, proving that the degree has not only appealed to regional students but has managed to tap into metropolitan markets too.

"There's a blend of students, which I really think is our strength," Alison said.

"We've got people who've been out of the workforce, with family responsibilities, people doing it part-time because they're working full-time, police, real estate agents, teachers and a whole variety of different professions.

"When you study law and go out into the profession, you rely on the people you studied with to ask questions. That peer group is very valuable, so we're really trying to make sure our students are interacting online to build their networks."

John Murphy is one of these students.

Currently living and working in Narromine, John has undertaken previous Bachelor and Master level qualifications and was enrolled in a PhD when he decided that studying law was for him.

"I think law was always at the back of my mind. I'm not sure why I didn't just do it earlier," he said.

"I work in records management for a small regional council. The area I work in is Corporate and Community Services and I feel that community services is somewhat underrepresented, especially in rural NSW. I've got a strong interest in the way community services is delivered and I think it could be better. There are a lot of social problems and instead of policing these, I think it needs a more holistic approach. I think one step to do that is through different policies.

"Ways to deal with social problems is what I'd like to get to the heart of, especially in regional communities. That's where I live, so that's what I'm interested in."

HELPING COMMUNITIES

Claudia Gilbert's interest in social justice drew her to the law.

"I've always had an interest in social justice – gender and marriage equality – and there's really no one championing the LGBTI community and gender diversity yet in the court system, and thought how better to do it than from the inside.

"There's a blend of students, which I really think is our strength,"

"I've just started volunteer work with the Aboriginal Legal Service in Bathurst because, sadly, there's still prejudice against Indigenous Australians in regional areas.

"If I don't go into prosecution, I'd like to be helping disadvantaged and marginalised groups like the LGBTI community."

Having served in the Army, Claudia earned postgraduate qualifications in accountancy and still works as a part-time accountant in Oberon. She chose the CSU degree because of proximity and the high calibre of academics like Alison Gerard.

"I'd been lucky enough to see Alison (speak) around town and I did some research because I was looking at other unis, but when I found out Alison was the Director I thought this was the sort of progressive university I want to be in."

"Even though I've only been doing it for a few months, the degree has already exposed me to new ideas and perspectives. It has already opened my mind to look at the law in a different way, especially through the speakers we had at the recent residential school."

"I love reading all the cases. Some of the criminal law cases are pretty confronting but it is a fascinating degree and I think it does expand your mind to look at the world differently."



CEO / Founder of Indigiearth, Sharon Winsor, was one of the research participants.
BELOW: Professor Mark Morrison.

Research first: What drives Indigenous business success?

WHAT ARE THE FACTORS INFLUENCING THE SUCCESS OF INDIGENOUS BUSINESSES? IN THE LARGEST STUDY OF ITS KIND EVER CONDUCTED IN AUSTRALIA, CSU ACADEMICS HAVE LED RESEARCH EXPLORING THESE FACTORS, WITH SOME SURPRISING RESULTS.



More than 360 Indigenous businesses from across mainland Australia have taken part in the first large-scale study investigating at the factors influencing Indigenous business success.

The research, led by Professor of Economics Mark Morrison, looked at private and community owned Aboriginal businesses in urban, regional and remote Australia and sought to understand their characteristics, the

"There's an assumption that all Aboriginal businesses are about paintings and tourism and that's certainly far from the truth."

industries they were operating in, their business practices and their contributions to community.

Funded by a \$460,000 ARC Linkage grant, the study surveyed more than 320 Indigenous

businesses and conducted in-depth interviews with 38 entrepreneurs as well as government officials, Indigenous community representatives and leading academics.

Respondents spanned a range of industries, business types and were found at all stages of the business cycle.

"There's an assumption that all Aboriginal businesses are about paintings and tourism and that's certainly far from the truth," Professor Morrison said.

"Whatever you see in the community you're going to see as an Aboriginal business pretty much because they're right across the spectrum of the economy."

"In the past, Aboriginal businesses have been studied but generally only a qualitative sample or a small quantitative sample of up to about 50 businesses, and often only in one location, so this is the first comprehensive examination



of the nature of Aboriginal businesses, what drives them and helps them to succeed and what challenges they face, ever to be undertaken.

"We felt there was a pressing need to explore the potential of Indigenous entrepreneurship to significantly address the substantial and entrenched socio-economic disadvantage experienced by Indigenous people in Australia."

KEY FINDINGS

Researchers found that effective marketing, networking and adaptability to market changes, rather than financial backing, are the keys to success for Indigenous businesses.

"In the past, strategies to support Aboriginal businesses have tended to focus on making sure they've got access to finance. What our findings suggest is the model that's required is closer to business incubation or even acceleration, where you help businesses develop key skills around sales and marketing practices, business planning, solid accounting practices, good use of information and communication technologies and learning to adaptively manage their business in a changing market environment. They're the key practices that really drive success."

Key supports like business networks were found to be important, particularly for female entrepreneurs, while Aboriginal business networks were beneficial to Aboriginal businesses less than five years old. Beyond five years, businesses benefitted more from participating in mainstream business networks.

"Developing Aboriginal businesses is regarded as an important route for Aboriginal emancipation, including and particularly, perhaps, economic emancipation. The people who run Aboriginal businesses have the means for independence and Aboriginal businesses employ a very high proportion of Aboriginal people and that actually motivates a lot of people to start these businesses."

"The prospect of helping themselves and helping future generations was a very strong theme for the business owners and managers interviewed in the research."

RECOMMENDATIONS

In their report, researchers make a series of recommendations for improving outcomes for Indigenous businesses.

These include developing business incubators that draw on best practice, encouraging Indigenous entrepreneurs into business degrees, providing additional support for female entrepreneurs and improving information to match Indigenous employers with potential employees.

Professor Morrison says it's too early to say whether this study will one day lead to changes in policy.

"What I would say is that before we did this research, it was a blank slate in terms of quantitative information about the nature of Aboriginal businesses, their challenges, and what helps them to be successful.

"I think there's much greater clarity now around what matters.

"In terms of the required change to support the development of Aboriginal businesses, we've moved that process along so that there's a much better information base and when you have a better information base, you can start to make better policy.

"Whether it leads to policy change depends, I guess, on the traction the results have with policy makers."

NEW COURSES

MASTERS PROGRAM OFFERED IN CANBERRA

Since 1993, CSU's Australian Graduate School of Policing and Security (AGSPS) has been a leading provider of postgraduate research and education for professionals in law enforcement, emergency management and security.

From March next year, the School will offer its Master of Terrorism and Security Studies on campus in Canberra.

Taught by academics with significant experience and expertise, this course is designed to give students a comprehensive understanding the complex social, political, domestic and international contexts of terrorism and other contemporary security related issues.

CSU INTRODUCES NEW CLOUD COMPUTING MASTERS

The move into the cloud has become a stampede with spending on cloud infrastructure reaching US\$16.5 billion in 2015, an increase of 32.8 percent from 2014. To cater to the huge demand for cloud architects, cloud engineers and cloud systems administrators, CSU is introducing a Master of Cloud Computing and Virtualisation in 2017.

Development of the new Masters was driven by CSU's Information Technology (IT) Course Director, Jason Howarth.

"We have built our position as Australia's largest provider of University IT education by being first to market and keeping abreast of the development needs of IT professionals. We received a lot of industry input into design of the new Masters but in particular, I would like to thank our Alumni for their invaluable assistance," he said.





Newsroom

01

CSU IS AN ORGANISATION THAT MAKES NEWS.
HERE IS THE LATEST FROM CSU'S NEWSROOM.

01. VACCINE TRIAL FOR MELANOMA IN HORSES

A trial is underway at CSU to develop a therapeutic vaccine to treat melanoma in grey horses.

At the University's Veterinary Clinical Centre in the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences in Wagga Wagga, equine surgeon Associate Professor Bryan Hilbert is working with a biotech company in Sydney company to trial a therapeutic vaccination.

"While we are only in the very early stages of the trial, our aim is to develop a vaccine to trigger an immune response in horses, particularly grey horses," Professor Hilbert said.

"Current therapies including freezing the tumours, chemotherapy, and surgery have met with only limited success, and tumours usually re-appear.

"Owners of affected horses have responded positively to trying new forms of treatment and we are keen to hear from more horse owners who'd be interested in participating in the trial."

Staff at the CSU Veterinary Clinical Centre can be contacted by telephoning 02 6933 2604 or emailing vcc@csu.edu.au.

02. KATE NAMED FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

Striving for a world where deafness is not a disability for learners is the pursuit of CSU researcher Dr Kate Crowe, who has secured a prestigious 2016 Fulbright Scholarship.

The highly competitive, internationally recognised award will enable the speech pathologist and Australian Sign Language (Auslan) interpreter to spend six months in the USA pursuing her postdoctoral research at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT).



02

"I look forward to a world where being deaf is a difference in ability, not a disability for deaf and hard of hearing learners and I believe that this Fulbright Scholarship will be a leap, rather than a step, towards making that world a reality," Kate said.

Her project will investigate deaf and hard of hearing learners' semantic networks in order to improve the effectiveness of teaching language and literacy learning in the early intervention, at home, and in the classroom.

"Without this understanding of the learners' semantic networks and the strategies they use to access words and other semantic information, it's impossible to shape teaching to meet the learning needs of deaf and hard of hearing learners," she said.

03. FLOWER POWER PRUNES PESTS

An international scientific collaboration led by CSU Professor Geoff Gurr has found flowers around rice crops can have a dramatic impact on pest control.

Professor Gurr said that nectar-producing plants like sunflower and sesame grown around rice crops in parts of Asia promoted spiders and beneficial insects that controlled serious rice pests such as leafhoppers.

"The levels of pest suppression from 'flower power' are so dramatic that the farmers hosting our field experiments applied fewer sprays while rice yields increased by five per cent," Professor Gurr said.

"This work is exciting because we need to double food production in coming decades to meet escalating human needs but we cannot keep clearing forest for farmlands, or boosting yields by increasing inputs such as fertilisers and pesticides.

"Agronomists have recognised for years that ecological approaches can be more sustainable and less damaging to the environment, but this extensive study is the first to convincingly show that approaches like 'flower power' can work."

04. HOW IMPORTANT IS HANDWRITING IN THE DIGITAL AGE?

New research at Charles Sturt University (CSU) will examine the importance of teaching handwriting and computer keyboard skills to Australian primary school children.

Dr Noella Mackenzie, a senior lecturer in literacy studies, is calling for parents of school-age children being educated at home or in a classroom, as well as current



04

or retired primary school teachers, to participate in the study called *Handwriting, keyboarding or both? That is the question.*

Dr Mackenzie said research from the UK suggests that when handwriting is automatic and efficient it frees up the short-term memory to focus on the message that is under construction.

"There is recent research to indicate that even adults have better recall of words written by hand than words written on a tablet or keyboard," she said. "Other research suggests that efficient letter writing is the single best predictor of length and quality of written composition in the primary years."

Research results will be reported on Dr Mackenzie's website (<https://noellamackenzie.com>) by the end of 2016. They will be used to inform Australian parents, schools and policymakers.

03



05

CSU is further embracing a sustainable future with the arrival of its first electric cart vehicles at Bathurst and Wagga Wagga.

05. ELECTRIC CARTS AT CSU

Two EMC electric vehicles will be used on both campuses instead of traditional vehicles, including during emergencies. They join the growing number of bicycles available for staff to move around the regional campuses.

Cutting noise pollution and carbon emissions, the vehicles are also cheaper to maintain and run on electricity with batteries that plug into standard power points

"Our aim is to provide transport options that contribute to the reduction of Charles Sturt University's overall environmental footprint," CSU Division of Facilities Management Director of Operations Mr Wayne Millar said.

"These carts will mean that there are very few trips on Bathurst and Wagga Wagga campuses using vehicles with conventional fuels."



Research takes Kelsey to international conference

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE IS A KNOWN KILLER. CSU PODIATRY GRADUATE KELSEY COOK'S RESEARCH IS HELPING FELLOW PODIATRISTS DETECT THIS DEADLY DISEASE.

At high school, Kelsey Cook was interested in subjects that taught her about health and the human body. It was no surprise then, when she chose to pursue a career in podiatry.

During her Podiatry degree at CSU's Albury-Wodonga Campus, Kelsey began seeing the impacts of cardiovascular disease on patients.

"Cardiovascular disease, or heart disease, is a known killer particularly rural Australia.

"This disease also includes disease of the leg vessels, known as peripheral vascular disease. Risk factors are the same for these two diseases and yet podiatrists do not commonly talk about cardiovascular disease with their clients, instead focusing on disease in the legs.

"During my degree, I used a tool commonly used by General Practitioners – the Australian Cardiovascular Risk Assessment Calculator – which gives clients a risk score for their likelihood of an adverse cardiovascular event such as a stroke or heart attack. This tool looks at risk factors such as blood pressure, cholesterol, age, gender, smoking status and diabetes status. I also used a toe cuff to take a measurement called a toe brachial pressure index to look at vascular disease within the feet.

"Results from the cardiovascular risk score and the toe brachial pressure index were compared in a sample size of 111 people and a strong relationship was established.

"This means the relationship which exists between these two tools has a relevance for clinical practice,



SHARING FINDINGS

Kelsey was asked to present her findings to the 2016 International Diabetic Limb Salvage Conference held in Washington DC earlier this year, which she describes as a tremendous experience.

"It was so fantastic to meet researchers such as Andrew Boulton and Benjamin Lipsky, who publish some of the highest quality research in the world, and have the opportunity to show them my own research."

"There were more than 900 delegates at the conference from across the United States and Europe, so it was interesting to discuss the different health systems with professionals from around the globe and compare it to the Australian system."

"The standard of research being published and the scope of podiatry is becoming more advanced, and this was so evident in the United States. It is an exciting time to be in the profession and I was really proud to be a part of the conference."

"I am lucky to have successfully gained a tertiary qualification and acquired a set of skills which enables me to work with the community providing accessible high quality foot care."

which is why I wanted to go on to do Honours."

Kelsey looked at these two tools because she was interested in clinic podiatry practice beyond just looking at the feet.

"My research highlights the importance of health promotion at an early stage to delay, or even prevent, advanced vascular disease in the legs and centrally at the heart.

"Podiatrists have the opportunity to incorporate a cardiovascular screen into their yearly assessment and report back to General Practitioners if anything abnormal is discovered.

"This is particularly important in rural and remote areas where access to doctors is often limited."

Kelsey has seen this first-hand, having worked with Queensland Health in Rockhampton providing high risk foot care to people who were considered at risk of limb loss through conditions such as diabetes or vascular disease.

Travelling to remote communities including Indigenous community Woorabinda, resources were not always readily available and clinicians like Kelsey had to do their best with what they had.

"This tool could be employed to triage higher-risk clients in rural podiatry care centres, such as the one I worked at in Queensland.

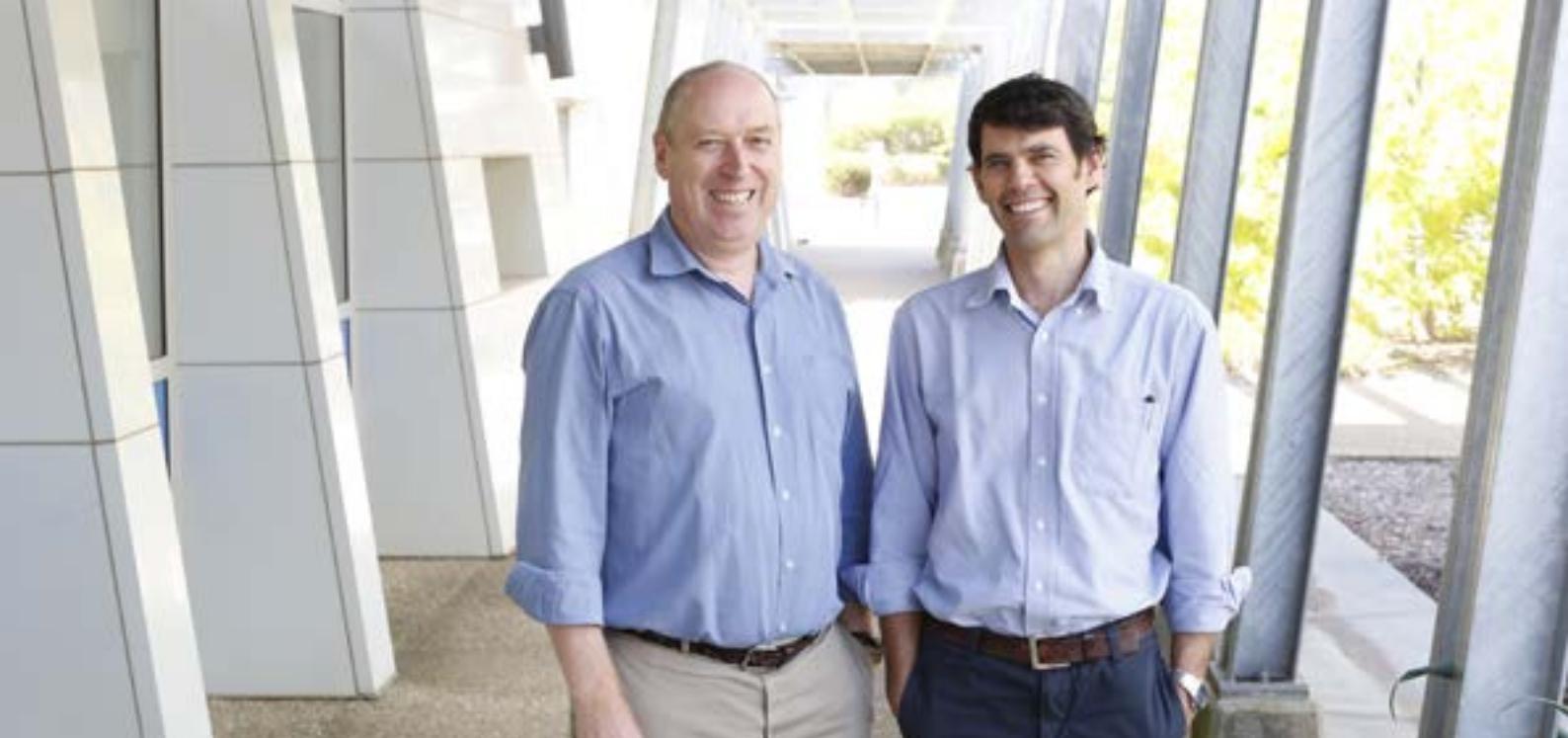
"I want my research to be utilised by both public and private clinicians to help their clients."

Kelsey, who now works in a small podiatry practice in Taree on the NSW Mid North Coast, says she is most passionate about helping people.

"I am lucky to have successfully gained a tertiary qualification and acquired a set of skills that enables me to work with the community providing accessible high quality foot care."

"At university I was inspired by a clinical educator, Amy, who had more energy and passion for podiatry than anyone I had met, and the encouragement of my Honours supervisors who kept me working on the project even when I thought I was out of my depth. I will always be grateful to those who encouraged me and who are still doing so today."





Clinic helps prepare vets for practice

SINCE THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS IN 2010, CSU'S VETERINARY SCIENCE PROGRAM HAS FILLED A GAP IN THE AVAILABILITY OF VETERINARIANS IN RURAL AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA. THE DEGREE GIVES STUDENTS HANDS-ON LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING AT ITS ON CAMPUS VETERINARY CLINICAL CENTRE.

In the final year of their six-year degree, CSU's veterinary science students complete 10 clinical rotations where they are exposed to veterinary practice in a range of settings.

One of those clinical rotations takes place at CSU's own Veterinary Clinical Centre (VCC) located on the Wagga Wagga Campus.

As Clinical Director, Associate Professor Kris Hughes explains, the VCC provides students with exposure to equine medicine, equine surgery and animal reproduction.

"Students see a varied caseload, including racehorses, pleasure horses and foals during breeding season," Assoc Prof Hughes said.

"We offer primary accession, so any horse owner can make an appointment for us to examine their horse at the VCC.

"We're also a referral centre and receive referrals from northern Victoria, Sydney, the ACT, the Central West, the Central Coast, and the South Coast of NSW. With reference to our CT facility, we've received horses that have travelled in excess of seven hours.

"We feel that the primary accession portion of our caseload, whilst we're competing with other veterinarians in the area, represents a valuable experience for our students, while the referral work makes students aware of what can be done in the more complex cases."

STATE-OF-THE-ART IMAGING

Radiographer Mark Murray said one of the strengths of the VCC is its imaging capabilities, which include computed radiography, ultrasound, fluoroscopy (like continuous x-ray) and a human grade CT – the only one between Brisbane and Melbourne with the capacity to examine horses.

"We're fortunate in our access to state-of-the-art equipment and also the expertise on staff to use and interpret those results across all disciplines in both small and large animals," Mark said.

"What also sets us apart is our high end image distribution and storage system as we use a lot of clinical photography and videos for student teaching and professional presentations.



FACING PAGE: Head of the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, Professor Glenn Edwards (left) with Clinical Director, Associate Professor Kris Hughes says CSU's Veterinary Clinical Centre provides valuable hands-on experience for students. THIS PAGE: Tom Draper



"Our CT is used as a diagnostic tool for small and large animal cases as well as for research. There's some quite unique research happening at the moment with bone healing trials on live animals and just yesterday a CT scan was performed on 240,000 bees to look at the effect of pesticides on the internal structure of beehives."

As Head of the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, Professor Glenn Edwards explains, students are taught to work their way through the imaging technology on hand at the VCC.

"We don't immediately go to the high end of imaging. When we get a case in, we will look at simple radiographs and that would be the majority of imaging we do. The high end imaging is for the more complex cases, so students are exposed to the basic methods that they have to use in practice right through to determining if ultrasound, fluoroscopy or CT is an option. We don't leap to the high end modalities but they're available when appropriate," he said.

"As a surgeon, the CT gives me essentially a three-dimensional image of what I'm dealing with before I actually go into surgery and that limits surgical times and surgical trauma. As a diagnostic tool, it's much better than plain radiographs for a lot of conditions and, given their understanding of CTs, the students can then provide more options for their clients."

ALL PART OF THE EXPERIENCE

CSU's Veterinary Science students have considerable hands-on experience from their first year, commencing with animal handling and building up to internal rotations in years four and five of the course.

"In those early rotations, there is some hands-on exposure, but it's designed for students to really start putting concepts into a clinical setting and to utilise an important part of our problem-based learning curriculum," Kris explains.

"In those clinical rotations, particularly the final-year rotations, we want students to get as much practical exposure as possible and to develop their cognitive skills and apply that problem based ethos."

Final-year student Tom Draper (pictured above) describes the VCC as a fantastic learning experience. Originally from Narrandera in the NSW Riverina, Tom chose to study at CSU due to the course's focus on large animals.

"Being on rotation and applying the practical skills you've learned is definitely a confidence boost, because you realise you have been given the best possible opportunity to have these practical skills needed when you graduate."

"Since I've been here I have seen a fair bit in the small animal realm and the other fields which has broadened my interests a fair bit," he said.

"In fourth and fifth year, we do a week in the VCC to get an introduction to it, follow the vets around and see what gets done. Now that we're in our final year, we're in what they call external rotations and essentially we work as intern vets for a three-week block to throw us into it head first.

"It's very hands-on here, which can be a little overwhelming at times, keeping up with records and juggling multiple cases. It's good because we get to be very hands-on but also step back and be analytical, which is what a vet would do. Being on rotation and applying the practical skills you've learned is definitely a confidence boost, because you realise you have been given the best possible opportunity to have these practical skills needed when you graduate."

Tom, like 85 per cent of CSU veterinary science graduates, hopes to go on to work in regional Australia.

"To begin with I'd like to work in a country mixed practice," he said.

"I definitely want to work regionally as I think I'd go crazy in a city. I need space!"

CSU academic's link to gravitational wave detection



When scientists first observed gravitational waves – tiny ripples in the fabric of space-time, predicted by Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity more than 100 years ago – CSU's own Dr Philip Charlton was among those celebrating the discovery.

Senior Lecturer in Mathematics at CSU, Philip has been a part of the Laser Interferometric Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) Scientific Collaboration since 2000, spending five years at the LIGO lab as a postdoctoral fellow before taking up his position at CSU.

As he explains, thousands of scientists put years of work into the detection of gravitational waves.

"Established in 1994, LIGO was designed to look for gravitational waves from different sources," Dr Charlton said.

"In principle, if you look long enough with a sensitive enough instrument, you should be able to see something."

"The four main ones are the stochastic background (from the Big Bang), supernova explosions, gravitational waves emanating from compact objects (such as pulsars) and the one actually detected this time is the merger of compact objects, like having two neutron stars or two black holes merge."

"The discovery of the Hulse-Taylor binary pulsar system in 1974 was basically confirmation of the existence of gravitational waves, and earned its discoverers a Nobel Prize in 1993, but this is the first time gravitational waves have actually been detected directly."

Responsible for designing and testing data analysis software, Philip's work has centred on the stochastic background signal.

"The stochastic background group looks for gravitational waves left over from the Big Bang. When the Big Bang happened, it caused the universe to ring like a giant bell and all of those waves, all of that ringing, are still around but very, very faint because as the universe expands, that becomes fainter and fainter and fainter."

"In principle, if you look long enough with a sensitive enough instrument, you should be able to see something."

Philip says he's still fascinated by the project 16 years on.

"It is interesting work because there are a lot of problems that need to be solved. Some of it was using the existing knowledge but we also had to work out and implement new detection techniques and work out how to put it all together."

"There are a lot of tasks in LIGO that need to be done, and there are hundreds of people working on the project. The rules of the collaboration are that if you're a member of the collaboration at the time the paper's published, then your name goes on the paper. As such there are more than 1,000 people on the paper published in the Physical Review Letters."

PAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

While the detection of gravitational waves was made on 14 September last year, the announcement did not come until February, once the refereed paper had been accepted.

Philip was at the Australian press conference at Parliament House and travelled to the United States in March for the first LIGO meeting since the announcement.



"We had quite a big celebration in Pasadena, with most people involved in the collaboration, which was fun. It was a working meeting, but we had a conference dinner and there was a big cake and we raised our glasses to the people who had started the project and worked on it all that time."

And while the detection of gravitational waves 100 years after Einstein's prediction was cause for celebration, scientists are again focused on what comes next.

"The real significance of the discovery is that we are now in the age of gravitational wave astronomy, which means instead of worrying if gravitational waves exist, we can now start saying what can we see with our instrument that is new and interesting and that we didn't expect," Philip explains.

"Every time a new spectrum has been opened up to astronomers, unexpected discoveries are made. When radio astronomy began, the first radio astronomers noticed weird background noise that they thought was some kind of interference until they realised it was actually interference coming from the universe and that it was the background radiation left over from the Big Bang.

"So what we hope with LIGO is that we will see many things in the data that we expect to see, like signals

from neutron stars and supernovae, but we'll also see things we don't expect and then we'll have to think of reasons behind these unexpected signals.

"I've been with LIGO for 16 years and we were not expecting to see something quite this soon. The fact that we saw an event of this 'loudness' so early in the process is a very good omen because even though it's only one event (the merging of two black holes), it tells us things about how likely these events are to happen.

"The real significance of the discovery is that we are now in the age of gravitational wave astronomy, which means instead of worrying if gravitational waves exist, we can now start saying what can we see with our instrument."

"This is hugely significant because it starts to give us some observational input into the models people use to estimate event rates. Once you see a few of them you can really start to build a picture of how likely and how often these events will be seen and that feeds back into how people design models for the evolution of galaxies."



Coming full circle

CSU FINANCE GRADUATE CHRIS INZITARI ACHIEVED HIS DREAM OF AN EXCITING CORPORATE BANKING CAREER BEFORE HE WAS DRAWN BACK TO RUNNING THE FAMILY MOTEL BUSINESS. NOW, HE AND HIS SISTER GENNA ARE SUPPORTING OTHER STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS.

Growing up in Lithgow, at the foot of the Blue Mountains, Chris Inzitari knew all about the inner workings of a family business.

Chris dreamt of moving away for a metropolitan university experience, but instead chose to complete his Bachelor of Business (Finance) with CSU.

An exciting career in banking followed, but soon Chris felt the pull of family ties and is now Director of the INZ Group, running operations across his family's two motels in Albury and Lithgow.

Chris explains how CSU shaped his career, and why he and sister Genna (a fellow CSU Alum) now choose to give back to the University.

Here is Chris's story:

I was the first in my family to go to university. At the time it was a really big thing for our family and for

our mum, especially, who grew up in that era where you just went to school at an early age, got a job, got married and had kids.

She wanted different for us, so from an early age there was always encouragement to go to university. When I ultimately did, it was a really proud moment.

At the time, I had in my mind I wanted to get into a university in Sydney. Having grown up in the country, I thought it would be nice to move to the city.

It didn't work out that way, so I started looking closer to home.

I took a really good look at CSU and I was just really impressed by the course and the support that was offered. I talked to someone who was a year above me in school doing the same course, and it just sounded like a really great place to learn.

"It was a really exciting time, but I reached a turning point in that I realised all the things I'd learned in the family business, at university and in corporate life, I could bring all of that together and be self-employed."

Bathurst was also nice and close to home, so I still had the support of my family which was really important and I could fulfil my commitments with the family business.

At university, I really wanted to join the big, exciting world of business and finance. I was really interested in what was going on in an economic sense and what was going on overseas.

Something sparked for me with this one lecturer, Hazbo (Skoko), who was remarkable. He spoke with worldly experience and I'd often have chats with him after class. I think it was Hazbo who inspired me to really get out there into that world. It's one thing to learn what's in the textbooks, but to have people who help take it that one step further and relate it to real world experiences was great.

I'm in a same-sex relationship, and it was a tough scenario growing up in a country town. I was quite a strong and resilient person growing up, but I made the decision at the beginning of uni that I was going to announce myself. I had

great support from my family and friends, but the University was amazing as well.

I didn't know what to expect but my peers, and even the other people I dealt with, be they lecturers or other support people, were really supportive. It was just a supportive place and grew a lot from that.

I've come full circle in a way. I got out there and did exactly as I pledged to do and joined the big wide world of finance. I was successful in getting into a graduate program in financial planning with the Commonwealth Bank and I was with them for four years, which moved me to Sydney where I'd always wanted to go. Experiencing a large corporate enterprise position was amazing and I learned so much.

It was a really exciting time, but I reached a turning point in that I realised all the things I'd learned in the family business, at university and in corporate life, I could bring all of that together and be self-employed. What gives me the most satisfaction is knowing that I am my own boss and everything I do can make a

difference. That's what gets me out of bed every day.

My sister and I have chosen to give back to our university through a student scholarship. Genna is seven years younger, and seeing me complete my degree inspired her to do so, too.

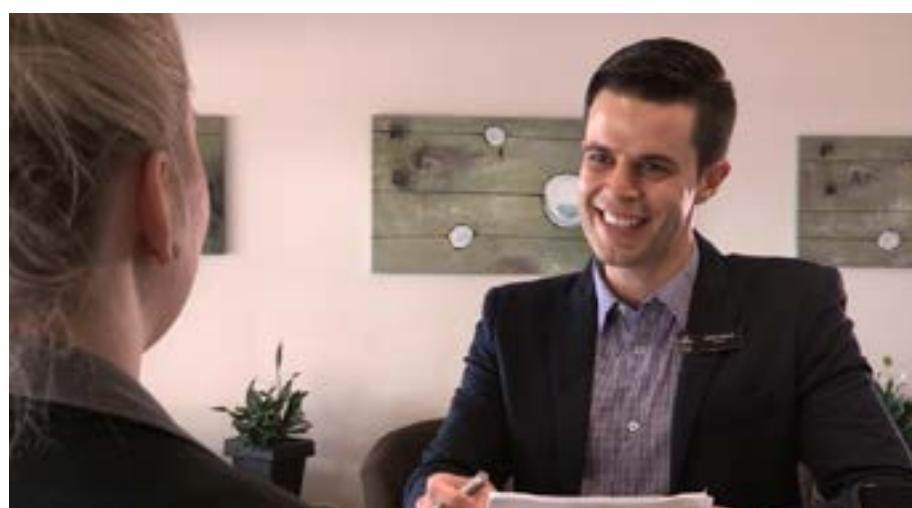
As CSU graduates, we were invited to an alumni dinner and just sitting there listening to the stories of what CSU is doing, how it's getting involved in its communities, we knew we wanted to be involved in some way. After a few more events, we decided a scholarship is how we'd like to give back to the uni but also help somebody out there who might not have the resources or support to take the next step.

Genna and I got involved in the scholarship selection process. It was like the old saying goes, you can never judge a book by its cover. When we initially read the profile of the student we ended up choosing I thought, on the surface, she doesn't need this scholarship. It wasn't until we read further into the profile and had the interview with her that we realised there were a series of reasons she was applying for this scholarship and it was quite touching and I thought, 'That's the sort of person we want to help'.

There's always something else to achieve. On a family level, for the last two years my partner Sean and I have been working on starting a family of our own. There have been a lot of hurdles to overcome, but we're now almost there and we're expecting the birth of our twin babies in July, which is really exciting. While running a successful business is extremely important, my number one priority was and always will be my family.

In a business sense, I'd like to continue to expand our business by taking on a third property over the next 12-18 months and personally, I would like to look at a Masters-level qualification over the next 12-24 months. Without a doubt I want to study with CSU, no question.

It's been 10 years since I graduated from university and in that time the University has changed a lot, particularly in the way it integrates workplace learning and connects students with employers. I think I'd like to be a part of that again.



Watch Chris Inzitari's video testimonial.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWmULtpNBmc



Compression obsession

WHEN CSU PHYSIOTHERAPY GRADUATE PHEBE COREY SAW HER MUM BATTLED PAIN ASSOCIATED WITH EXERCISE, SHE THREW HERSELF INTO FINDING A SOLUTION. HER RANGE OF COMPRESSION WEAR IS NOW SUPPORTING WOMEN OF ALL AGES BACK INTO PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.

A desire to relieve her mother's pain led physiotherapist Phebe Corey to create targeted compression support for women.

Growing up in Albury, Phebe graduated from her Bachelor of Physiotherapy in 2012 and went into private practice. When her mother Meg took up exercise after major weight loss, she was plagued by aches and pains particularly in her knees and lower back. Phebe worked alongside her partner, graphic designer Scott Liston, to research and develop articfit pro-active tights.

"When we were young, Mum was diagnosed with cervical cancer which prompted her to reflect on her current lifestyle and overall health choices," Phebe explains.

"She tried to adopt a healthy lifestyle, but being a single mum with three kids she really struggled with that, and yo-yo dieted for years.

"Then about four years ago when I was at uni, she joined Weight Watchers and lost more than 20kg. She was in a really good headspace and wanted to start exercising again so she joined the local gym but then she gradually started jogging again and experienced aches in her knees and lower back.

"I was still a student and I really wanted to come up with something that could help Mum and other women who just need a little bit of support to get back into exercise."

What followed was more than 12 months of research and development.

"I started looking up evidence for compression and joint support and looking into the technology that might be able to create the compression we needed.

"We discovered that a circular knitting machine



Phebe Corey (left) pictured with cyclist and athlete ambassador Sarah Riley.
INSET: Phebe with her Mum, Meg.

could create the compression but the technology to make it fine enough wasn't available in Australia. So we started contacting factories in China to get prototypes. We had five different factories trying to create what we wanted and we got some crazy different samples because they didn't get what we meant from the flat images. It was hilarious.

"We finally found one factory that got what we were trying to do. We went over to Zhejiang and met with them. We did about eight prototypes trying to get them just right and received our first order in February last year. We went live on our website on Mother's Day 2015, because it was all to do with Mum."

From this one product has grown a range of compression wear that Phebe hopes will empower women to be pro-active about their health and wellbeing. Phebe's efforts were recognised when she reached the top 15 of the *Australian Women's Weekly* Women of the Future contest in 2015, which celebrates young women with inspirational ideas.

PASSION TO HELP OTHERS

Now living in Bright, Victoria, Phebe says she loves working as a physiotherapist two days a week but that launching her company 'Articfit' has really allowed her to deepen her passion for helping people.

"I have received so many emails from women thanking me for developing the tights. They are doing activities they previously couldn't or that their pain is significantly reduced when wearing them."

"My favourite story is a 72-year-old lady whose friend recommended our tights. She's got osteoporosis and broke her knee a couple of years ago and was still having chronic issues. She said she now wears our tights when she goes dancing and she doesn't have swelling and aching after dance class anymore!"

"When I got her email I was so excited. Knowing I have improved someone's life either through our tights or by my



"Knowing I have improved someone's life either through our tights or by my work as a physio in the clinic is why I am so passionate. It's just so rewarding!"

work as a physio in the clinic is why I am so passionate. It's just so rewarding!"

Phebe is keen to keep evolving her business.

"Our next challenge is to develop a garment that can assist with posture, in particular while working at the desk. We are in the prototype phase, however still quite a way off from finalising anything just yet."

"The best piece of advice I ever received was to be the dumbest person in the room and surround yourself with people who specialise in their field. My advice for young graduates just starting out is to think outside the square. Your degree is just the start — there are so many opportunities that can stem from one degree."

"No idea is too big or small, you just have to have a go and when you are faced with something you aren't sure about, source the right people to help you!"

Rising to the challenge

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HER FATHER, CARLENE MAHONEY ENTERED THE NSW POLICE FORCE AT AGE 20. CARLENE NOW HAS FIVE QUALIFICATIONS FROM CSU, INCLUDING THE DOCTORATE SHE CALLS THE GREATEST CHALLENGE OF HER LIFE.

There is no doubt Detective Inspector Carlene Mahoney is driven.

To face the greatest challenges of her 20-year policing career, completing her Doctor of Policing and Security, Carlene drew on every scrap of her determination and a deep desire to protect her fellow officers from the growing dangers of social media.

"My goal was to start a national conversation about the use of social media by government and law enforcement agencies, using the NSW Police Force experience and policy foundation as best practice."

Over the past five years, Carlene has explored the use of social media by organised crime and terrorist organisations to target law enforcement officers, and the ways in which policy can be used to protect both agencies and individual employees.

"My goal was to start a national conversation about the use of social media by government and law



PHOTOS: Police Monthly

enforcement agencies, using the NSW Police Force experience and policy foundation as best practice," Carlene explains.

"At the time, I was working in professional standards and I found there was a real problem with the blurring of boundaries between a professional social media presence and a personal presence.

"While doing the research, I met CSU academics Professor Nick O'Brien and former AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty who were looking at the dangers of facial recognition for law enforcement officers, which got me interested in looking at how we actually protect our police.

"We tend to look at the bad things officers do online but we weren't actually looking at how we can protect them, guide them, train them and write policy to help them, while also protecting the reputation of the organisation."

IMMERSION IN RESEARCH

Carlene started researching criminal cases where a police officer's personal social media profile was used to discredit them in court.



"To think that we can go in there and actually help them by preparing their organisation to protect their staff from being attacked or stalked in the future, I suppose my passion comes from that."

"I started looking at those court cases and developing case studies. We put those case studies into policies and then spoke to new recruits and other police officers about what was required to stay safe online."

She also threw herself into her research by setting up profiles on various social media and dating sites.

"I needed to get amongst it and find out what was happening," she explains.

"I even went out with people and set up my own website. I did all that so I could say, practically, I knew what I was talking about."

Part of her research looked at how other agencies in Australia and abroad were using social media policy, including examining how the Taliban targeted defence force personnel through fake Facebook accounts.

"I was looking at how technology advances so rapidly that policy changes are left lagging.

"We needed to look at the rules and

regulations of how we could govern officer behaviour without stifling what they did in their own personal lives.

"It's a very fine line. That's why we looked at what was happening in London and the United States and how they were trying to balance behaviour, because we didn't want to use policies just to breach police. It was about giving them the tools to understand why we were doing it."

TOUGH ASSIGNMENT

Carlene describes her doctoral research as the biggest challenge of her life.

"It was hard juggling family and work commitments and I exhausted every study break I could.

"The lowlight came about a year ago when my supervisor suggested I should drop it back to a Masters because he didn't think I was at a Doctoral level.

"That was a real shock to me. You put so much time and money into a Doctorate, and I was thinking I was never going to be able to get to the required level.

"That probably made me more determined to get it. I applied for special leave from the Department of Premier and Cabinet and was given 45 days study leave, which really helped.

"I was lucky to meet Cassily Charles, who's the coordinator of the academic literature section at CSU in Wagga Wagga. She was fantastic and got me into research bootcamp. I also reached out to other people I knew, including my supervisor Hank Prunckun and other supervisors who were always willing to help me."

Without support, Carlene doubts she would have been able to complete her studies.

"I was really lucky to have Mum and Dad close. I'm a single mum with two kids, so I had to make sure I had everyone planned.

"I also have a very supportive Commander, who gave me the time off to do it."

SHARING A PASSION

Completing her Doctorate at the end of 2015, Carlene has enjoyed sharing her research with agencies in Australia and universities across the United States.

"Every agency is the same, and I have worked with other agencies to look at their social media presence, write their policies and train their staff, because we all face the same issues.

"Recently, after my research was released, we were contacted by Fairfax Media looking at women journalists being targeted online. To think that we can go in there and actually help them by preparing their organisation to protect their staff from being attacked or stalked in the future, I suppose my passion comes from that.

"And having two young boys of my own, I think they were my drive to get the research finished. I put them through a couple of years of being distracted trying to study all the time, so I don't think I would have been able to accept going back to a Masters."



Planned 2016 Alumni Experience Calendar

Thursday 28 July, Wagga Wagga

MEDITERRANEAN BANQUET COOKING CLASS WITH FOOD I AM

Food I Am cooking classes delight the senses and feed the mind. Learn to understand, complement and balance exotic flavours, working alongside the chef presenter to master each recipe.

Monday 1 August, Explorations Series, Bathurst

THE BIGGEST ESTATE ON EARTH - BILL GAMMAGE

In this Explorations Series public lecture author Bill Gammage will outline how Aboriginal people, including Wiradjuri, managed land at the time Europeans arrived.

Tuesday 2 August, Explorations Series, Dubbo

THE BIGGEST ESTATE ON EARTH - BILL GAMMAGE

Monday 15 August, Explorations Series, Albury-Wodonga

BEYOND BELIEF – HUGH MACKAY

In this Explorations Series free public lecture, social researcher Hugh Mackay will explore the ways we try to find our sense of meaning and purpose — and even our ‘spiritual direction’ — in a society where traditional religious faith and practice are in sharp decline.

Tuesday 16 August, Explorations Series, Wagga Wagga

BEYOND BELIEF – HUGH MACKAY

Thursday 18 August, Manly

GHOSTLY ENCOUNTER AT THE NORTH HEAD QUARANTINE STATION

Join us on this lantern-lit Adult Ghost Tour of a site that is reputed to be one of the most haunted in Australia. Explore buildings such as the hospital, morgue and showerblock, hearing stories of paranormal activity and ghostly encounters.

Monday 10 October, Orange

SCIENCE FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM - DR ALAN FINKEL AO, AUSTRALIA'S CHIEF SCIENTIST

(Further details for this lecture TBC)

Saturday 22 October, Bathurst

MAYFIELD GARDEN GALA CONCERT

Delight in the gala music performance at the magnificent Mayfield Gardens during their Spring Open Days and Festival of Music.

Saturday 19 November, Blue Mountains

RHYTHM UNDERGROUND AT JENOLAN CAVES

Enjoy a unique concert experience inside the Jenolan Caves with the Rhythm Hunters, who blend sounds from Indonesia, Japan, Africa and modern-day Australia to provide cutting edge physical percussion, didgeridoo, deep grooves and ethereal soundscapes that mesmerise and captivate.

alumni.csu.edu.au/home/events

Our Alumni enjoyed CSU's first-ever international Alumni Experience event held in May.

A toast to new friends

CSU Alumni living and working in Hong Kong joined together to prepare a Spanish feast at CSU's first international Alumni Experience event held in May.

This event was an expansion of CSU's highly successful national event series.

“Event attendees cooked up a storm together, learning about Spanish cuisine, kitchen tips and tricks in a lively atmosphere, with lots of friendly banter and laughs,” said Alumni and Foundation Trust Relations Manager, Gael Evans-Barr.

“As the group sat down to enjoy their meal, our Senior Manager, Strategic Development, Jennifer Galloway made a toast to new friends. This is exactly what the CSU Alumni Experience event series encapsulates. Course, campus, year or mode of study — none of that matters at CSU. When we get together, even for the first time, we leave as friends.”

CSU’s Hong Kong alumni chapter was represented at the event by members who have remained connected with the University for more than 20 years. Alumni who have recently moved to Hong Kong from Australia due to work commitments were also in attendance.

“CSU plans to deliver more international Alumni Experience events and welcomes suggestions (email alumni@csu.edu.au).

“If you are looking to attend an Alumni event later this year, book early to avoid disappointment.”

CSU Alumni are represented in all corners of the globe. Discover how many alumni are in your country of residence here: www.csu.edu.au/alumni/alumni-spotlight



IF YOU HAVE SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN, YOU HAVE LIKELY BENEFITED FROM THE WORK OF EDUCATIONAL TRANSITION RESEARCHER, BOB PERRY. BOB HAS DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO EDUCATING TEACHERS AND CONDUCTING RESEARCH THAT HAS INFLUENCED EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND IMPROVED OUTCOMES FOR GENERATIONS OF CHILDREN.

Making a positive difference

PHOTO: Erwin Strobel

What's your background?

Since Year 3, I wanted to be a school teacher. I won a Teachers College Scholarship to prepare as a Secondary Mathematics / Science teacher at Wollongong and did reasonably well during my first three years. I was invited to go to Kensington (UNSW) to complete Honours year, then onto a PhD in Pure Mathematics.

I taught at university and in high school until I won a position at Mitchell College of Advanced Education (a predecessor institution of CSU) as a mathematics lecturer in 1972. I stayed at Mitchell until 1979. It was a vibrant atmosphere because I was part of an active and growing mathematics education group.

I went on to work at the Sydney College of Advanced Education, followed by the Macarthur Institute of Higher Education, which became the University of Western Sydney (UWS). I became Associate Professor of Education at UWS with substantial periods as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Associate Dean, Head of Primary Teacher Education and Associate Head of School.

How did you come to work at CSU again?

I 'retired' in 2007 and our family moved to Albury because my partner, Sue Dockett, won a professorship. I was asked to apply for an Associate Professor position in 2007 and was promoted to Professor in 2009. I am now Adjunct Research Professor with the Research Institute for Professional Practice, Learning and Education (RIPPLE).

What is your best CSU experience?

Working with the wonderful team of researchers Professor Sue Dockett and I have established – The Educational Transitions: Continuity and Change (ETC2) Research Group.

Were there any times things didn't go to plan?

As part of a mathematics education subject at Mitchell CAE, I asked my group to find, as accurately as possible, the height of the flagpole on the Bathurst Campus. I had thought they might use shadows or trigonometry. However, they decided that the easiest way to do this was lower the flagpole. When the students were confronted by the College Secretary – an ex-Air Commodore – they simply said that I had asked them to do this exercise. That led to some heated arguments with the Secretary who could not see that my defence, based on amazement at the students' ingenuity, was particularly valid. It was not good to be offside with the College Secretary!

What have your students taught you over the years?

Humility, not to take yourself too seriously, gratitude and respect.

Why are you passionate about what you do?

I have seen pieces of research that I have completed with members of our research team make a difference – at a policy and practical level. I enjoy pushing the boundaries. I like to do good, strong, ethical research and I want to do more of it, even after 'retirement'.

What would you like your students to remember you for?

I would hope that they would remember me for my intelligence, knowledge, and determination. I would hope that they continue to value hard work, compassion and a socially just outlook. I hope they have seen the value of supported challenge in all educational endeavours.

One last thing ... I think that the most important things for academics to do are to ensure that they are excellent teachers and excellent researchers. But both of these need to be underpinned with a social justice perspective aiming to make a positive difference to everyone with whom they make contact.



First among equals

BRUCE SARGENT WAS THE FIRST STUDENT TO ARRIVE AT THE NEWLY FORMED BATHURST TEACHERS COLLEGE. NOW 65 YEARS DOWN THE TRACK, BRUCE RECALLS HIS FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THE COLLEGE AND THE JOURNEY HIS LIFE HAS TAKEN SINCE.

When he stepped off the morning train from Broken Hill, Bruce Sargent faced a long walk from the station to the newly opened Bathurst Teachers College, now CSU's Bathurst Campus.

The year was 1951, and Bruce's world was about to open.

"I was the first to arrive on campus and was quite surprised to see the nature of the men's dormitory, which was a big corrugated iron Army shed converted into rooms," Bruce said.

"Broken Hill is arid, so to walk out and see all this lovely green and trees that change colour in autumn in large masses was quite different."

"That winter was the first experience for many of us with snow. We walked up onto the top of Mount Panorama first thing in the morning to make a snowman."

"The best part was growing up, making friends and learning how to get along with people. Living in close proximity of three other people in a room, you've got to learn to be fairly tolerant and accepting of people's differences."

CAREER LONGEVITY

On leaving Bathurst Teachers College, Bruce went into National Service for three months before taking up his first teaching appointment at Broken Hill North Public School.

After three years, Bruce was appointed as the first assistant teacher at the School of the Air, under the tutelage of founding Principal Mrs Phyllis Gibb.

"This was extremely interesting and a wonderful experience," Bruce said.

"The school expanded rather rapidly because it was providing a service to children in three states on



the Flying Doctor Network. The school is now quite independent and has its own transmitters and all the necessary equipment, but in 1956 we had time on the Flying Doctor Network from Broken Hill.

"I felt very lucky to be involved in that experience because it gave me a different insight into how children could be educated. When the children came to town, they would visit the School of the Air and we would be able to sample their reading, watch them write and test their vision — things that are possible to do face-to-face that you couldn't do by mail or over the air."

"I felt very lucky to be involved in that experience because it gave me a different insight into how children could be educated."

Following three years at School of the Air, Bruce went on to teach in demonstration schools in North Newtown, Woollahra and Armidale before becoming Principal of Martin's Gully Demonstration School, which was then a three teacher school on the edge of Armidale in northern NSW.



Bruce Sargent pictured with Head of Campus at CSU in Bathurst, Associate Professor Chika Anyanwu.

He then became Principal of Riverwood and Mortdale public schools and spent time as Professional Assistant to the Regional Director in St George and three-and-a-half years as Relieving District Inspector.

"I was then Principal of Ramsgate, Principal of Menai and Principal of Harcourt, near Campsie, from where I retired in 1994. This was a truly multicultural school of over 700 children and when I retired 92 per cent of them were from a non-English speaking background."

GIVING BACK

Upon retirement, as well as enjoying time with their three children and eight grandchildren, Bruce and wife Margaret joined a volunteer art and craft program for children in the Villawood Detention Centre.

"After we had established the children's confidence and enjoyment in what we were doing, a lot of the mothers used to come down to watch and we got into some very interesting talks with them. Their English was limited but we heard a little bit about their backgrounds. Stories like theirs touch your heart."

"We were involved for about four years, from early 2000 until some of the members of parliament protested about the children's treatment and they were all released into the community."

"That was a heart-wrenching but also very rewarding experience. We're glad we

did it, because we met some wonderful people and it was lovely to see the joy on these children's faces."

Bruce also spent 21 years as an honorary director of Disability Services Australia, an organisation providing services for people with intellectual disabilities, a position he recently retired from.

"I felt that I could perhaps give something back to a community that has been pretty good to me."

"That was very stimulating and very rewarding. It made me very attuned to how lucky I've been in my life that I haven't had to personally experience some of these things."

PIONEERING SPIRIT

Throughout his long and prestigious teaching career, which included being made a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators for his work teaching English to children from non-English speaking backgrounds, Bruce has stayed in touch with his fellow Bathurst Teachers College cohort.

"There's a group of us who still meet in Sydney for lunch about four times a year and we have great fun. I think it's amazing that 65 years since we met one another, we still meet regularly."

When asked if he felt like a pioneer, Bruce is quick to point out that the group didn't feel like pioneers at the time.

"I don't think it really hit home that we were pioneers until we left the place," he said, simply, "but since we left College it's become quite a feature of our reunions that we were the pioneers."



Gathering of the clan

MORE THAN 300 CSU GRADUATES GATHERED TO MARK 30+ YEARS OF CSU'S THEATRE MEDIA COURSE IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR. EVENT ORGANISERS SHARE INSIGHTS INTO THE INCREDIBLE BONDS THESE GRADUATES SHARE.

For the past three decades, CSU's Theatre Media course has produced some of Australia's top directors, script writers, drama educators, event facilitators, technicians, venue managers, producers, actors and physical theatre performers.

Alumni from every graduating year since 1985 gathered at the Roslyn Packer Theatre in Sydney earlier this year to mark this momentous milestone.

"I really enjoyed meeting graduates who did the course before me. It was wonderful to connect with them to see where their career had taken them."

Former Artistic Director of Circus Oz, Mike Finch was one of the driving forces behind the 'Gathering of the Clan' event.

"Theatre Media is a really intimate course, where students are incredibly bonded together by all of the productions and the integrated work they do, so it

ends up having very much an extended family sort of feeling.

"There's a lot of really close relationships built during the three years that people spend on campus in Bathurst, so it seemed really natural that after 30 years we'd all want to get back together and gather as one big extended clan.

"Originally, we thought we were going to have to work hard to track people down and convince them to come, but as soon as it went up on Facebook there was this massive upsurge of interest."

As so many graduates had gravitated to Sydney following university, organisers felt it would provide the ideal setting for the gathering.

CSU graduate Phoebe Meredith was quick to volunteer her services.

"By day, I'm the Venue Manager at the Roslyn Packer Theatre, and in my spare time I produce cabaret, comedy and events with my business partner and fellow CSU graduate, Maeve Marsden, as Blackcat Productions," Phoebe explains.



<https://youtu.be/Qx9Lxh64gTM>

"Maeve and I took on the nuts and bolts organisation of the day; looking after the venue, catering, technical requirements, registration and run sheet, among other things."

Phoebe describes the event as electric.

"I had totally forgotten what it was like to be in a room full of TMs!" she said.

"I really enjoyed meeting graduates who did the course before me. It was wonderful to connect with them to see where their career had taken them. It's amazing how diverse the industries and roles that graduates have undertaken are."

"It was also great to connect with recent graduates and to reconnect with old friends that I hadn't seen since I'd left Bathurst — it was wonderful."

Along with arranging people into one 'long snake' of graduates from 1985 through to present day, the clan also moved into geographical area by imaging the foyer as one big map of Australia, and had the chance to network in discipline groups.

"The idea was to create these cross-sectional bridges and networks," Mike said.

"It was great to see the people down the 1985 end really quite hungry to find ways to pass on their knowledge and their wisdom and their contacts, and to take on interns and secondments and emerging pre-professionals as they start their careers."

"There are so many elements from the course that everyone had in common. Literally everyone in the room had been taught by Jerry (Boland). Everyone had done a lip sync. They've all done shows in the Ponton Theatre. Eighty per cent of them had been taught by Bill Blaikie. There was a real thread that ran right through the entire room across the whole 30 years, it was extraordinary."

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

Midway through proceedings, the group paused to remember the graduates and key members of the course who had died.

"We had a memorial moment where people said a few words for each of the people who had passed away," Mike said.

"There is nothing like coming together in a space and sharing that moment in time.'

"It was sombre but it was also very celebratory and there were a lot of big laughs remembering the energy of people who'd gone, including absolutely key people like John Carroll, who was one of the key brains behind the current form of the course.

"The event was a chance to launch the Professor John Carroll Scholarship, which is a brand new scholarship to support a student coming through the course. We had a fundraising push on the day to kick it off, but it will go up alongside the Blair Milan Scholarship and the Tim Durick Scholarship and will start to grow."

STAYING CONNECTED

For Phoebe, events of this nature are important for groups of graduates to stay in touch.

"There is nothing like coming together in a space and sharing that moment in time," she said.

Event organisers are in the throes of building an online platform to allow Theatre Media graduates to continue to stay in touch more readily.

"There's a collegiate connection between people who have shared this extraordinary course, and we're looking to maximise the impact of that," Mike said.

"We want any graduate to be able talk to any other graduate so advice and opportunities can be shared. It is very much magnifying the collective knowledge and wisdom of the group."

Wear red for
Foundation Day
20 July 2016

#celebratecsu



YINDYAMARRA WINHANGANHA

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