Reflections on the Menzies Building

Monash Magazine is not only a wonderful way to keep in touch with those who are engaged in the University community but it is also an opportunity to showcase our individual success stories, highlight outstanding research and education activities and report on the positive impact the University has through its activities across the globe.

Its success is evidenced by the University’s continued advance in the prestigious Times Higher Education – QS World University Ranking, moving up two places to be ranked number 45 in the world in 2009. This is a tribute to the hard work of many talented, dedicated teachers and researchers across the University.

I am very proud of our recent achievements, but I am even more excited about the contribution Monash University will make in coming years. With a unique international presence and a commitment to delivering the solutions to pressing issues faced by societies across the globe, Monash University is poised to lead the higher education sector as a new kind of university for Australia and the world.

Monash Magazine is a reflection of the entire Monash University community, its wonderful academic and support staff, our students and our global network of alumni. Now in my ‘third semester’ as Vice-Chancellor and President, I am still amazed and in awe of the many success stories that have taken shape.

This edition takes us to Afghanistan, where a Monash graduate has come up with an exciting program to assist children in the war-torn region. We also visit South Africa where an IT specialist is enhancing the education of children in remote communities. Australia’s Life Scientist of the Year, Professor Michael Cowley, introduces us to his latest project – the Monash Obesity and Diabetes Institute, which aims to tackle one of the greatest health crises of our time. The evolution of the Monash Passport is introduced by Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington, and we salute this year’s recipients of distinguished alumni awards.

I do hope you enjoy this edition, which captures the depth and diversity of our success in delivering outstanding education, and research into the great challenges of our time.

Professor Edward Byrne, AO
Vice-Chancellor and President
## Contents

### 8

**A NOBLE CAUSE**
Australia’s first female Nobel Laureate returns to Monash.

### 9

**WATER WISE**
Making water sensitive cities a reality.

### 10

**ANIMATING EVIDENCE**
Investigating multimedia and policing.

### 12

**PASSPORT TO PARTICIPATION**
A fresh take on student engagement.

### 14

**CREATIVE FUSION**
Emerging partnerships in music.

### 15

**BRIGHT IDEA**
A burning candle sparks discovery.

### 16

**HOLDING COURT**
Shaping the family law landscape.

### 17

**RETAIL CLIMATE**
Greener corporations.

### 18

**THE MENZIES ERA**
A reflection on an iconic building.

### 20

**RESTAURANT RULES**
Dining out on business savvy.

### 21

**FORMULA FOR SUCCESS**
Schooling future scientists.

### 22

**RAMP IT UP**
On board with the Kabul community.

### 24

**BEYOND MEASURE**
Weighing up solutions to obesity.

### 27

**OPENING DOORS**
Breaking down the digital divide.

### 28

**INSPIRATIONAL LEADERS**
Distinguished Alumni Awards.

### 31

**ALUMNI IN PRINT**
The latest published works.

### 32

**CLASSNOTES**
Updates from Monash graduates.

### 35

**DATES TO BOOKMARK/STAY IN TOUCH**
Upcoming events and contact information.
**Diabetes all sorted?**

A postgraduate student from Monash University’s Sunway campus in Malaysia has made an important discovery that could revolutionise the treatment of type 2 diabetes. Adeline Chia from the School of Science found that a compound called glycyrrhizic acid – widely found in commercial licorice products – improved the lipid or fat profile of test subjects as well as lowered blood glucose.

Lipids are a related group of organic compounds, such as fatty acids and cholesterol, that are important for energy storage. Abnormality in serum lipid concentrations, termed dyslipidaemia, is a condition commonly seen in patients with diabetes and is associated with an increased risk of hardening of the arteries and heart attack.

The dedicated scientist, spurred by her positive findings, wants to take her discovery a step further and conduct a clinical trial.

“I see a future in this research even though my findings are in the preliminary stages,” she said.

www.sci.monash.edu.my

---

**Vision in sight**

A bionic eye that could transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of people around the world is being developed by a Monash University-based team of engineers, mathematicians and medical researchers, together with their partners MiniFAB, Grey Innovation and the Alfred Hospital.

Under the ambitious $15-million project, a device implanted into the visual cortex could be a reality within four years. Professor Arthur Lowery, Project Leader and Head of Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering at Monash University, said an $8-million Australian Research Council grant would allow the team to take their concept to the next level.

“The implant will not be overly intrusive – it will be a relatively simple and safe procedure,” Professor Lowery said.

“It will work by stimulating the vision region of the brain using hundreds of electrodes. This approach bypasses damaged or dead parts of the visual pathway, including the retina and optic nerve. This means that it will work for the majority of the causes of blindness.”

---

**Aspirational elders**

Monash University researchers are leading the way in Australia’s largest ever clinical trial to test the benefits of taking aspirin to maintain good health into old age. The ASPREE (Aspirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly) trial has been awarded US$50 million from the National Institutes of Health, the peak health funding body in the United States, and is a collaboration between researchers in Australia and the US.

The study will recruit 19,000 healthy men and women aged 70 years and over – 12,500 in Australia and 6500 in the US. Over a period of five years, half of the participants will take a daily tablet of low-dose aspirin and half will take a placebo.

Head of the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Professor John McNeil, who is the study’s principal investigator in Australia, said the health and wellbeing of older Australians was at the heart of the study.

“We want to look at the potential of aspirin to improve the health of older Australians, something that is increasingly important as the population ages,” Professor McNeil said.

“Doctors know that aspirin should help prevent heart attacks and some forms of stroke. Research indicates that aspirin may also prevent mental decline and some forms of cancer. However it is known to have side effects, such as increased bleeding, that may offset its benefits.”

Professor McNeil said the study will determine if aspirin could help older Australians remain productively involved with their families and wider communities, as well as having better cognitive and cardiovascular function and less physical decline.

“ASPREE is one of the largest clinical trials of its kind in the world,” Professor McNeil said. “The outcomes and conclusions from the study will help health practitioners determine whether to recommend low-dose aspirin for primary prevention in their patients.”

---

**Inbrief**
Innovation precinct
Monash University has partnered with the Victorian Government, CSIRO, Australian Synchrotron, Small Technologies Cluster and local councils to launch the South East Melbourne Innovation Precinct (SEMIP).

The precinct, which covers the local government areas of Greater Dandenong, Kingston, Knox and City of Monash, and takes in the University’s Clayton campus, will encompass 40 per cent of Victoria’s manufacturing activities and more than 56,000 businesses. It aims to position south-east Melbourne as the innovation, business and knowledge capital of the Asia-Pacific.

Monash University Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Edwina Cornish said the SEMIP would become a precinct of international importance.

“Monash University will work together with project partners and with business and industry to establish a dynamic, vibrant hub of manufacturing, science services, advanced materials, engineering, and medical/health knowledge intensive industries,” Professor Cornish said.

“The effectiveness of the collaboration is a testament to the commitment of all the parties involved and provides us with a fantastic opportunity to enhance our already strong capabilities in scientific research and technological innovation.

“It will also build on our state’s existing strengths and drive the economy, not only of Victoria, but of Australia.”

Barry L. Reed Lecture
The Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences will welcome back one of its most accomplished graduates for its flagship public event, the annual Emeritus Professor Barry L. Reed Distinguished Lecture.

Leading biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry entrepreneur Dr Rodney Pearlman will present this year’s lecture on human growth hormone.

Based in San Francisco, Dr Pearlman has more than 30 years experience in scientific and strategic leadership positions.

Most recently he was president and CEO of Nuon Therapeutics, a private company formed in Australia focused on developing novel agents for treating diseases of the immune system and inflammation. Within two years at Nuon, he had created a US parent corporation and raised US$31 million in venture funding.

Barry L. Reed is Emeritus Professor within the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Following his retirement in 2006, the faculty established an annual public lecture in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the faculty, Monash University and the pharmacy profession.

www.pharm.monash.edu/events

Empanelled power
Monash University has installed a large network of solar panels at the Clayton campus as part of a commitment to reduce its carbon footprint.

The photovoltaic array is believed to be the largest at any Australian university and is capable of generating about 100,000 kWh of electricity a year – enough to power 25 average-sized homes.

The 416 solar panels are installed on the roof of the Campus Centre, which houses food outlets, shops and student support services.

The power produced by the panels is fed back into the campus electricity grid.

A computer-controlled screen at the heart of the Campus Centre gives real-time statistics on the amount of energy being produced and provides examples of carbon emission savings.

Monash University Ecologically Sustainable Design Strategy Manager Brett Walters said the installation of the solar panels was part of an integrated strategy to reduce the University’s carbon footprint and would be the first of several significant renewable energy investments.

“This array is a visible demonstration of Monash University’s support for renewable energy,” he said.

“The provision of real-time information on energy savings is an excellent way of tracking our achievements and will demonstrate the University’s commitment to reducing its environmental impact.”
Four million dollar fellows
Two Monash researchers have been awarded prestigious Australia Fellowships from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and will receive $4 million each over a five-year period.

Professor Shaun Jackson from the Australian Centre for Blood Diseases and Professor Charles Mackay from the School of Biomedical Sciences, both in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, are recipients of the sought after fellowships.

Australia Fellowships recognise outstanding health and medical researchers and aim to attract and retain them to undertake research projects that will be of significant benefit to Australians.

Professor Jackson will use his fellowship to identify a new approach to the treatment of heart attacks and strokes that involves developing innovative blood clotting therapies that prevent the disease-causing effects of disturbed blood flow. As part of his project he will collaborate with other world-class researchers both in Australia and overseas.

Professor Mackay will utilise his fellowship to expand knowledge on immune responses by exploring radical new ideas on inflammation and the role of diet and gastrointestinal microflora. His work will also involve the development of new treatments for diseases such as asthma, autoimmune diseases and cancer by integrating new and powerful technologies and approaches of biotherapeutics.

High fibre
Optical fibre technology pioneered by Monash University researchers looks set to play a key role in boosting the capacity of strained broadband networks.

The ground-breaking innovation, which promises to increase data capacity tenfold and improve download times, was developed by Monash University Professors Arthur Lowery and Jean Armstrong from the Department of Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering.

Known as optical Orthogonal Frequency-Division Multiplexing (oOFDM), it applies ADSL principles – already used to expand the capacity of data transfer over traditional copper and wireless broadband – to optical fibre cables.

Patented by Monash University, oOFDM is being commercialised by Ofidium Pty Ltd, and has recently been demonstrated in the laboratories of a leading telecommunications equipment manufacturer.

Professor Lowery said the exponential growth in data-intensive internet applications posed a major challenge to existing optical fibre infrastructure.

“The appeal of oOFDM is that it offers an inexpensive means of dramatically increasing long-haul capacity from the current transmission rate of 10 Gigabits per second to more than 100 Gigabits per second over new and existing optical fibre,” Professor Lowery said.

Professor Lowery said the innovation would allow the world’s telecommunications carriers to meet a growing consumer demand for faster download speeds without major cost.

“Standard data transmission is equivalent to transmitting a series of short single notes that spread into one another as they travel along the fibre. oOFDM is like transmitting the notes grouped together in a musical chord. Since more data is packed into each chord, the chords can be transmitted infrequently with gaps, so they don’t get muddled. Slow chordal music always works best in cathedrals.”
Happy days
A small community health program developed by Monash University and trialled in an outer-Melbourne suburb has evolved to become one of China’s foremost health initiatives.

Monash University researchers are behind a health program, known as the Happy Life Club, which has attracted international media attention particularly in China.

The ‘club’ started life as a health program for the municipality of Whitehorse in Melbourne’s outer-eastern suburbs. It was designed and implemented by Monash researchers and implemented by the Whitehorse Division of General Practice, in conjunction with local health services, the Whitehorse City Council and health psychologists.

Receiving very positive responses from the local community, the program’s creators recognised that it had the potential for life beyond Whitehorse. Before they knew it, they were working in collaboration with colleagues in Beijing to introduce the program in China.

The Good Life Club, known in China as the Happy Life Club, uses clinical coaches trained in motivational interviewing to support patients with chronic illness to better manage their conditions.

Just last year, the Chinese Government named the Happy Life Club its number one showcase health initiative for its 60th anniversary celebrations.

Project leaders Professors Shane Thomas and Colette Browning from Monash University’s School of Primary Health Care said recognition would ensure the program’s longevity in China and help to maximise its potential reach.

“I was delighted when I found out – it was totally unexpected,” Dr Price said.

“Research gets you down at times – it can be hard work often with little reward, so it feels great when your work is recognised.”

Dr Wouter Schellart from the School of Geosciences received the award for his research into geodynamics, plate tectonics, subduction zones, mountain building and the evolution of the Earth and for the extensive media attention that his research has generated.

“Most of my scientific endeavours revolve around basic science questions so I’ve always felt the need to try to popularise my research findings,” Dr Schellart said.

The trio will participate in a comprehensive program of school visits, work experience programs, laboratory visits and themed community seminars as part of the Tall Poppy program.

Tall poppies grow
Three Monash researchers have won 2009 Young Tall Poppy Science Awards in recognition of their outstanding academic performance and efforts to promote an understanding of science in the wider community.

Dr Michelle Dunstone from the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the Department of Microbiology received the award for her work in the areas of biochemistry, immunology and microbiology and for her participation in the CSIRO Scientists in Schools program and other activities.

“I am honoured to receive this award and to be given the opportunity to present my scientific work to the Australian community,” Dr Dunstone said.

“It is fantastic that Australia is so supportive of its scientists.”

Dr Daniel Price from the School of Mathematical Sciences uses computer simulations to model the formation of stars. His outreach activities to celebrate the International Year of Astronomy made him a prime candidate for a Young Tall Poppy Science Award.

“I was delighted when I found out – it was totally unexpected,” Dr Price said.

“Research gets you down at times – it can be hard work often with little reward, so it feels great when your work is recognised.”

Dr Wouter Schellart from the School of Geosciences received the award for his research into geodynamics, plate tectonics, subduction zones, mountain building and the evolution of the Earth and for the extensive media attention that his research has generated.

“I was delighted when I found out – it was totally unexpected,” Dr Price said.

“Research gets you down at times – it can be hard work often with little reward, so it feels great when your work is recognised.”

Dr Wouter Schellart from the School of Geosciences received the award for his research into geodynamics, plate tectonics, subduction zones, mountain building and the evolution of the Earth and for the extensive media attention that his research has generated.

“Most of my scientific endeavours revolve around basic science questions so I’ve always felt the need to try to popularise my research findings,” Dr Schellart said.

The trio will participate in a comprehensive program of school visits, work experience programs, laboratory visits and themed community seminars as part of the Tall Poppy program.
One of the most distinguished molecular biologists in the world and Australia’s first female Nobel laureate, Professor Elizabeth Blackburn, paid a special visit to Monash University recently.

Professor Blackburn was awarded the 2009 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for her work on telomeres, the protective structures located on the ends of chromosomes. She is based at the University of California, San Francisco, and is the Sir Louis Matheson Distinguished Visiting Professor at Monash University’s School of Biomedical Sciences. During her time at Monash, Professor Blackburn presented the Dean’s Lecture, officially opened Australia’s largest biosciences precinct, based at the Clayton campus, and was the keynote speaker at the forum Women in research – Achieving it all.
A Monash University-led research centre has been established to help Australian cities better plan for the challenges of population growth and the effects of climate change on water supply.

The Monash University Centre for Water Sensitive Cities, consolidates Monash University’s research and development in advancing sustainable cities and will link 45 researchers and PhD students from the faculties of Engineering, Arts, Science, and Business and Economics.

Centre for Water Sensitive Cities co-director Professor Tony Wong said the centre would explore best practice methods of implementing water sensitive urban design at a government, industry and community level.

“Implementing water sensitive urban design, including building rain gardens, wetlands and ponds to capture and clean stormwater for reuse, will improve liveability and visual and recreational amenity, and improve the health of our urban waterways,” Professor Wong said.

The centre has also announced its first research project, the $18.8 million Cities as Water Supply Catchments research program, which will address key issues of water security, sustainable urban water management, governance and the liveability of urban environments by focusing on the harvesting of stormwater.

The program, established in collaboration with the University of Melbourne, University of Queensland, and engineering company AECOM, will develop world-first water sensitive guidelines and blueprints to support the wide-scale integration of new stormwater management practices into existing infrastructure, and into the planning of new urban developments.

Professor Wong said the capture and use of stormwater would deliver a suite of benefits not currently available in any other water supply management strategies, such as reduced demand on potable water sources, reduction in urban temperatures and reduced erosion and pollution of waterways.

“These benefits can be introduced progressively as part of the normal urban development and renewal process at a significantly lower cost than alternative water supply strategies,” Professor Wong said.

The research program has been developed with significant input from key investors including the National Water Commission, state agencies, local governments, and water utilities in Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland.

The centre is an initiative of the Monash Sustainability Institute and was launched by Victorian Minister for Water, Tim Holding.
Animate evidence

Monash graduate Cameron Tullberg has found a career path that taps into both his interests in policing and his visual multimedia expertise.

In the not too distant past police compiling posters of “people of interest” used exaggerated cut-out images of typical facial features to capture “identikit” images that were published in newspapers and shown on television.

Today, digital animation and computer graphics packages help police in Victoria and other parts of the world capture life-like images of suspects, process closed circuit television footage “CSI style” and present complex evidence in courts in interactive formats.

Cameron Tullberg heads up a group of five police and seven graphic artists in the Criminal Identification Squad of the Victoria Police. It’s a fast growing area and much in demand.

Cameron’s first degree was a Monash Bachelor of Industrial Design. He then joined the Victoria Police hoping to combine his interests of policing and graphic design. He was encouraged by senior police to pursue this career path and was soon back at Monash undertaking a Master of Multimedia. Within a year he joined the Criminal Identification Squad and is now head of this fast growing unit within Victoria Police.

“Our charter is to present evidence in a graphical form so it makes sense for lay people to understand. It allows people who weren’t part of the investigation, who weren’t at the scene, to understand the events that occurred and the events leading up to it,” Cameron says.

Police prosecutors called on the CIS to present animation evidence around the shootings of crime figures Andrew Venjamin and other gangland victims. Police have also presented evidence to the 2009 Bushfires Royal Commission in interactive form.

“It’s the whole brief of evidence that would normally be presented to a court in paper form, but it’s in an interactive format so that you are able to bring up witness statements, summaries, any animations; so it’s the whole brief in one package, on a USB or compact disc.”

The animation is commonly 2-D and minimalist. In the case of deaths in the February 2009 bushfires, the animation recreated peoples’ movements as the firestorm approached.

While 3-D is available, police have taken a cautious approach, particularly in criminal prosecutions.

“Because it’s new technology, it’s contested a little. It’s not new in particular but because it’s new to courtrooms defence barristers want to make sure their client is not viewed prejudicially because of the information that has been presented. So they look over it, in some cases they might want to change it; if it’s a point of contention they will often come back to us and say ‘we’re not happy with the way this has been portrayed’, so it’s a back and forward sort of approach.”

Cameron, now a Sergeant, says Monash staff were very accommodating.

“They knew that I had a career path in mind and that I wanted to develop prototypes for this sort of thing, to be used by the police, and as a result they were able to alter the course structure slightly to fit this sort of work into the course.”

The squad’s work with the Bushfires Royal Commission has been noted by police forces in other states. Cameron believes Victoria is leading the country in the application of graphics technology for police work.

A career highlight was being called in by the Australian Federal Police to help with imagery of the 2002 Bali bombing suspects.

“When I started I was a senior constable. Since then I’ve become the sergeant in charge of the area, purely because of the skills I got from the Master of Multimedia course and was able to do that work and that flowed through into gaining a promotion and now I’m in charge of 12 other people and responsible for pushing this sort of work further and getting it more accepted. I have achieved the goals I originally set for myself, and am now looking forward to bigger and better things.”

Cameron has high praise for the postgraduate staff in the Faculty of Art and Design.

“The staff has always been professional and keen to pass on their experiences and expertise, and treated the students as real colleagues. Also, as many of the other postgraduate students within Art and Design are working within the industry, it has been a great opportunity to meet like-minded people and develop useful networks.” M
Our charter is to present evidence in a graphical form so it makes sense for lay people to understand. It allows people who weren’t part of the investigation, who weren’t at the scene, to understand the events that occurred and the events leading up to it.
Passport to participation

The Monash Passport invites students to participate in overseas travel, volunteering and engage in university life. Passport Mark II embeds a participatory model of teaching and learning into the University curriculum.

Third-year Monash student Julie starts her day from home viewing a podcast of a lecture from the day before. She makes notes and files them with the podcast on her laptop before moving onto an online group project where she edits a contribution from another student using a Google product that tracks all members’ input.

After lunch she travels to campus where she has a regular meeting with a group of students who give each other feedback on assignments and supervisors’ assessments. They are formalising something that well-connected students have always done, but this formal arrangement is under the auspices of the University and is promoted as part of a leadership and team-building program called peer assisted learning (PAL).

Some of Julie’s friends attend lectures where students send questions to the lecturer via SMS during the class. This is empowering for students with lower English language skills. Other friends sit in a virtual classroom. Their avatars are part of a research project looking at alternatives to the traditional design of classrooms and lecture theatres.

These developments in curriculum reform and renewal are part of a major project within the Education portfolio, under the stewardship of Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington, which will differentiate Monash from other Australian universities from 2011. As the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching), Professor Hughes-Warrington is responsible for providing senior level leadership on the University’s strategic learning and teaching plans.

She came to Monash in 2009 after winning the Prime Minister’s Teacher of the Year award in 2008. Professor Hughes-Warrington trained in the fields of history, philosophy and education at the University of Tasmania, and at Oxford, and worked at the University of Washington, Seattle, and at Macquarie University before taking up the role at Monash.

A passionate teacher of history, she encourages students to see themselves as part of an ongoing narrative on global change.

The changes that Professor Hughes-Warrington will implement will have their public face in Passport Mark II, a makeover of the substantially extra-curricular Passport Mark I.

Professor Hughes-Warrington said Passport Mark II will embed the participatory model into Monash life.

“Passport speaks to the University’s value system – outgoing, challenging, adventurous, bold. The values find their form in overseas exchanges, leadership development, volunteering and community involvement.

“But there’s a bottleneck. For every one person who gets a spot on a program there are seven or eight who are turned away. It’s a victim of its own success. More and more people want to do leadership, volunteering, special programs, but we can only accommodate so many. It’s incredibly popular and that’s its problem.

“Passport II is identifying more ‘for credit’ activities, will allow more people to do it, but also signal it’s a real feature of the curriculum as well as the things we do outside the curriculum. It’s a great descriptor of the University’s values and vision.”

Changes that students such as Julie and her peers will start seeing as a result of curriculum reform and Passport II include:

- Up to 25 “depth” units aligned with the University’s key research themes, giving undergraduate students the chance to step out of their comfort zone and get in touch with research developments at Monash;
- The University’s research themes of Productivity and Innovation, Social Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing, Sustainability, and Heritage and Culture at the centre of curriculum review and reform;
- New online learning environments that break down barriers to the enjoyment of learning for students and the stimulation of teaching for staff;
- Teaching “soft” skills – encouraging students to not only develop a mastery of knowledge, but leadership skills, people skills and the skills to apply knowledge;
- The development of more units that cross campuses, with students collaborating electronically, giving them the chance to engage internationally without getting on a plane;
- Acknowledgement of Passport-related activities – volunteering, undergraduate research, leadership and teamwork programs for example – on student graduation statements.
Creative fusion

One of Australia’s most venerable arts patrons has put her support behind a new music award that fosters the creative fusion of classical and jazz genres.

When leading Melbourne musician and composer Dr Allan Zavod heard that Dame Elisabeth Murdoch was a fan of the classical-jazz form, he picked up the phone to ask her whether she would sponsor a new award for emerging performers of this musical melting pot.

No doubt inspired by her own passion for classical music of all shades, Dame Elisabeth was enthusiastic about the idea.

And so the two music lovers joined forces to launch the inaugural national Zavod Classical-Jazz Fusion Performers Award, which will be administered by Monash University through the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Foundation.

The award is open to tertiary music students around the country. Dr Zavod said entrants are required to submit a work, not necessarily by themselves, which demonstrates a true fusion of the classical and jazz genres.

Three finalists will be chosen to perform at Monash University’s Music in the Round event, and the winner will perform an encore in Robert Blackwood Hall.

As one of Australia’s pioneers in a compositional style that combines classical and jazz genres, where musicians from both worlds share the same concert platform equally, Dr Zavod is excited about the award.

“I am very enthusiastic about these awards for young tertiary students throughout Australia, who struggle without much financial assistance,” Dr Zavod said.

“And it creates added challenges to tertiary music students in their performing and composing experience at university.”

M
It was a light-bulb moment for Associate Professor Wei Shen of the Engineering Faculty – an instant that saw a simple observation of a burning candle stick spark into scientific discovery.

“I was staring at the candle stick and thinking how the wick carries the wax fluid along the thread fibres. The idea of using thread to guide fluid wicking then grabbed me,” Associate Professor Shen said.

In a world first, a team led by the chemical engineer used ordinary cotton thread and sewing needles to literally stitch together a stamp-sized microfluidic analytical device – transforming the humble material into a potentially life-saving instrument capable of detecting diseases such as kidney failure and diabetes.

“The concept was born from that initial idea, that it would be much easier to use thread to transport fluid than to make microfluidic tunnels through a solid material, which is how these devices are usually made,” Associate Professor Shen said.

“Thread transports liquid through capillary gaps between fibres, so there is no need for an external pump to pump the fluid. And because it is white, thread can display colour changes. So it was an ideal, inexpensive material for making lab-on-chip diagnostic devices.” Microfluidic analytical devices, which have been produced from a range of materials over the last couple of decades, allow scientists to carry out chemical analyses of minute fluid samples, such as blood and urine. They have generally been produced by carving channels into chips made of silicon, glass, ceramic or metal, or through a complicated and expensive photolithographic process.

The cotton-based device works by wicking fluid along the microscopic fibres of cotton thread sewn into a polymer film. The thread’s absorbent property ensures a defined flow for fluids, so complex channels and barriers do not need to be etched into the chip. The hope is that the cotton-based lab-on-chip concept will lead to the provision of low-cost disease screening in developing countries.

“There are emerging technologies in the area of paper-based microfluidic diagnostic devices, however the disadvantage is that it requires expensive equipment to fabricate the sensors. The benefit of cotton thread-based devices is that they can be made using simpler equipment, such as sewing machines, so they could be produced in developing regions. We are in the very early days of this research, but we are very excited about where it could lead.

“Communities in the developing world are vulnerable to disease, so early detection and screening systems can save many lives. However, many of the current commercial devices are not cheap enough for large-scale health-care projects involving disease detection, so an affordable alternative could make a huge difference,” he said.

Associate Professor Shen has been invited to present his thread research at the fourth annual Annual Enabling Point-of-Care Diagnostics Conference, being held in Washington DC, later this year, and will showcase his innovation to representatives from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
Holding court

Monash law graduates hold prominent positions in the Australian legal system. The head of the Family Court of Australia, Chief Justice Diana Bryant, is one of them.

Chief Justice Diana Bryant says one of the most important changes to the Family Court of Australia under her leadership has been greater transparency.

Chief Justice Bryant, who holds a Master of Laws from Monash, said all Family Court judgements are now published and many more are reported in the media as a result.

“We publish all of our judgements, and we give the cases names. Prior to that they were given initials. We found that giving them a pseudonym, a realistic name, the two things together have created more interest in the work of the courts and helped make the point that there isn’t secrecy inside the court,” Chief Justice Bryant says.

Chief Justice Bryant was appointed Chief Justice of the Family Court in 2004. Prior to that she was the inaugural Chief Federal Magistrate and oversaw the establishment of the Federal Magistrates Court in 2000.

Discussing the operation of the 2006 shared parenting amendments to the Family Law Act, Chief Justice Bryant said while there had been a trend for the Federal Parliament to prescribe factors in the Act that must be taken into account, judges and magistrates still retained discretion to make orders to serve the best interest of children.

“In the end there’s discretion … since 1975 the parliament has made it more prescriptive to consider certain factors in children’s cases, but in the end the discretion remains. I think that’s the right policy approach – the best interests of the child is the paramount consideration. You can’t have rules across the board that deal with all children – you have to deal with the child in that case,” she said.

Born in Perth, Chief Justice Bryant graduated in law from the University of Melbourne and practised in Melbourne before joining law firm Lavan and Walsh (which became Phillips Fox) in Perth where she specialised in family law.

She became a barrister in Victoria in 1990 and was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1997, the same year she completed a Master of Laws by coursework through the Monash University Law Chambers in Melbourne's legal precinct.

Chief Justice Bryant is impressed with contemporary law school graduates she meets in the course of her work.

“I’m very impressed. We see a lot of the young graduates coming through here as legal associates and I think they are terrific – a really good group of people and much more informed than when I did my undergraduate degree,” she says.

[Monash graduates also hold key positions in the Victorian legal system – Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Chief Judge of the County Court and Chief Magistrate of Victoria.] M
Big business is becoming increasingly aware of the benefits of adopting a greener approach to its operations. Retailers are moving towards more sustainable practices to gain a competitive advantage, and appeal to the growing number of environmentally-aware stakeholders.

“Companies that build sustainability into their operations — and do it well — gain an important marketing advantage, according to newly-appointed director of Monash University’s Australian Centre for Retail Studies Associate Professor Colin McLeod.

In the past 12 months Australian consumers spent more than $20 billion on ‘being green’, with sales growing at more than 20 per cent per year despite challenging economic conditions.

Associate Professor McLeod said any business that built green initiatives into its overall corporate strategy could reap fantastic benefits, provided it was genuine and there was organisational commitment.

“Investments that are made in the area of sustainability and actually examine all aspects of their product and how it is manufactured will be the real winners as consumers increasingly seek out goods and services that are produced in environmentally sustainable ways,” Associate Professor McLeod says.

“More and more companies are using sustainability as a focus for real innovation. UK supermarket chain Sainsbury’s has recently opened a green concept store that uses one million less litres of water, 50 per cent less electricity and produces 50 per cent less CO₂ emissions per year than standard stores.

“Australian companies like Woolworths and Bunnings are also hoping to achieve very challenging sustainability targets through a range of initiatives, from more energy efficient store design and extensive water recycling programs to training and incentive systems for suppliers.”

Associate Professor McLeod said being a “good corporate citizen” was also one of the new considerations for business in attracting and retaining staff.

“Young people coming out of university today have strong views about the level of social responsibility a company should have. Where they want to work will be directly in line with their value system. They’ll ask themselves whether the company is fulfilling their expectations or whether environmental initiatives are just window dressing. They want to be proud of the organisation they work for. If they’re not, they will move on.”

Associate Professor McLeod says being seen to be environmentally responsible would soon be a minimum competitive requirement for retailers.

“Climate change as an issue in our day to day lives has happened so quickly — consumers don’t know how to factor environmentalism into their thinking and consumer decision-making. As the market becomes better educated about the environment, consumers will simply expect retailers to demonstrate their sustainability and will have more knowledge to discriminate.

“Legitimate companies will be the winners and that poses a real challenge for marketers in communicating effectively and sincerely with consumers. Reputation in the business community and amongst consumers is key: the truth always comes out.”

Colin McLeod’s previous positions include General Manager, Marketing, Communications and Public Affairs, at the AFL; Executive Director, Marketing and Brand Management at Goldman Sachs JBWere; and Group Marketing Manager for Telstra’s Mobiles division.

He holds a BA, an MBA and a PhD and is a director of a number of private companies involved in technology development and investment in innovation. He also serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the Olivia Newton John Cancer Centre at the Austin Hospital in Melbourne.
2. After several design proposals, including an identical, parallel slab and a grand T-shaped design, the South Wing was built in 1973. The effect of the wind had a considerable influence on the final design.
3. The 1998 television mini-series 'All the Way' was filmed partly in the Menzies Building foyer.
4. In 1964, after viewing the Menzies Building, the Australian Financial Review predicted that Monash would have "the most beautiful campus in Australia".
5. At the time of construction, the building, at 125m long and more than 50m tall, was claimed to be the largest in Australia.
7. The building included advanced technology of the times, such as language laboratories (pictured) and projectors in lecture theatres.
8. Classes were first held in the building in Semester one, 1963. Prior to this, humanities subjects were taught in the Mathematics building.
9. During the design and construction of the Menzies Building, the Australian Universities Commission decreed that office size reflect academic status. Professors had the largest rooms and tutors the smallest, meaning tutorials were quite crowded.
10. The Menzies Building was originally serviced by 18 department store-style escalators and two lifts. Lobbies on all floors allowed a spectacular view of the landscape.
11. Prime Minister Robert Menzies performed the opening ceremony of his namesake building in its basement on Saturday 24 August, 1963. Founding Chancellor Robert Blackwood said: "The transformation was quite remarkable and the setting finally achieved was not in any way inappropriate to the ceremony."
12. The Menzies Building dominates the campus from most perspectives.
With the landmark Robert Menzies Building at Clayton campus undergoing a $75 million redevelopment, Monash Magazine takes a look back at the role of the building in the life of the University.

The eleven-story building opened in 1963 and was designed along Modernist lines.

Stage one of the refurbishment will include the installation of new lifts, stairs and services to the building, the removal of the building’s escalators and upgrade of the ground floor foyer space. Stage two of the development will include the development of state-of-the-art teaching spaces and contemporary office environments.

Campus director Professor Rob Willis said the redevelopment would improve the building’s environmental performance and functionality. “The Menzies Building plays a major role in the life of the University, in particular at the Clayton campus, where it accommodates some 900 staff and provides teaching space for 2600 students,” Professor Willis said.

The stage one works are scheduled for completion in September 2011.

Photo: Wolfgang Sievers
Photo: Louis Matheson
Photo: Herve Alleaume
Photo: Beaver Photographic
Photo: Wolfgang Sievers
A combination of computer and business savvy, plus a good dose of hard work, has helped Monash University graduate Annette Anhar develop a chain of successful fine-dining restaurants in Indonesia.

Annette, a 2003 Bachelor of Business Systems graduate from Monash University’s Clayton campus (now Bachelor of Business Information Systems), is a director of her family company, the Tugu Hotel Group.

She personally oversees the day-to-day operation of three restaurants in Indonesia’s thriving capital Jakarta. In what can often end up being 12-hour days, Annette regularly travels between the different locations, supervising staff, dealing with suppliers and welcoming customers late into the night.

Annette developed the concept for restaurant Lara Djonggrang, which specialises in imperial Indonesian cuisine. Teams of specialist cooks from across Indonesia provide diners with myriad high-quality Indonesian dishes from the one kitchen.

The busy restaurant is popular with Jakarta’s expatriate community and international diplomats keen to get a taste of high-cuisine.

Annette says her experience at Monash University helped make the venture a success.

The University’s business systems degree combines knowledge of information technology with business and management implementation, giving Annette the skills to tailor IT solutions to meet the challenges of a particular business.

Annette says she matured while studying at Monash. There was strong support from staff and other students who helped her with lessons, but also encouraged her to learn independently and not be afraid to think outside the square.

“What I learnt from Monash is the culture of the people and the campus and how they teach you to be open-minded people. It is just the feeling of Australia,” she says.

Annette says she keeps in touch with many students in the class who now have successful careers across the world.

“I have a lot of friends who have graduated from Monash University. They are working in Greece, they are working in America, in Silicon Valley, so it is pretty good how you keep contact with them.”

M
Almost 200 senior high school students from across Melbourne and country Victoria made the move to Monash University’s Clayton campus this year, with the newly established John Monash Science School (JMSS) welcoming its inaugural class.

The John Monash Science School is a collaborative initiative of Monash University and the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and is designed to advance students with an interest in the sciences, mathematics and associated technologies.

A school teacher for almost 30 years, Peter Corkill is passionate about education and his new role as the school’s principal is a perfect fit.

“I graduated with an honours degree in science and then specialised in maths teaching. Six years ago I became a principal of a large high school in Melbourne’s south-eastern suburbs and when this role presented itself it was an opportunity to combine experience with my love for science and mathematics,” Mr Corkill says.

“The school embraces students who have a keen interest in science and mathematics and it provides them with more opportunities to realise success in a variety of related fields.

“The school also offers wider-ranging subjects including an excellent sport program, music, languages, and both integrated and creative studies which interface the humanities and computer science with the sciences. The curriculum encourages independent, creative thinking and is designed to help students perform at their best.”

The University’s contribution to the development of the school extends beyond the land on which it was built. Monash University has committed significant resources and has dedicated staff in both the Faculties of Education and Science to support the students and staff at the school.

“The land provides us with unique access to the world’s best research scientists – they are literally next door. The laboratories, the facilities and even the synchrotron are within walking distance,” Mr Corkill said.

Monash scientists and educators have played a significant role in developing the curriculum, they allow access to their world-class laboratories and equipment and give their expertise and support to students.

“Students spend time with researchers in a scientific learning environment and it’s a fantastic opportunity for them that they wouldn’t usually get elsewhere.

“With such wonderful facilities and resources and a dedicated team of teaching staff, the school is really something very special and it provides students with every opportunity to shine. It is a unique learning experience for students and staff and it is a privilege for me to be involved in the journey from the beginning.”

www.jmss.vic.edu.au
As soon as Australian aid workers Sharna Nolan and Oliver Percovich set down their backpacks and skateboards in Kabul in 2006 they were surrounded by eager children begging to learn how to skate. Stretching the three boards they had, they developed a small school giving free skate lessons to street children. Their success with their first students prompted them to bring more boards into Kabul and seek funding to establish an indoor skateboarding venue so they could teach more young people and hold separate classes for girls and teenagers.

Three years later Kabul’s largest indoor sports facility and skate park was opened after an enormous effort by the Skateistan team and international supporters.

Sharna Nolan took up a position in Kabul with the Afghanistan Reconstruction and Evaluation Unit after completing a Master of International Development and Environmental Analysis at Monash in 2005. She went on to complete a Master in Environmental Science and Policy at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, as part of a reciprocal masters program.

“I was aware of the power of skateboarding to bring people together from my travels around the world after completing my masters.

No matter which country or what language people spoke, skateboarding transcended all social barriers and put me in touch with others who enjoyed the sport. From Hong Kong to Istanbul to Morocco, I found myself friends with other skating locals everywhere. So when I took up the position in Kabul I naturally took my board with me,” Sharna says.

“Skating is fun, empowering and non-competitive. In Kabul, it brings kids together from different cultural backgrounds whose parents might normally be enemies. Our goal is to create a positive and youth-owned space where children of all classes and ethnicities can get together, learn life skills and build relationships.

“Our message is ‘build ramps not bombs’ and we are teaching girls to skate too.”

Sharna decided to do postgraduate studies to be able to compete for interesting international development jobs. Since then, she has worked for several rural development projects funded by the World Bank, European Commission, CSIRO and the United Nations Development Programme.

She heard about the Master of International Development and Environmental Analysis while working as a Youth Ambassador in Gansu Province, China.
“I was impressed by the professors who ran the course. Their teaching seemed grounded in practical aid experience. Overall the course was dynamic and flexible, allowing me to pursue interests across multiple disciplines including environmental science, politics and economics.”

Sharna continues to be a major force in the Skateistan organisation in Kabul. She has just completed an assignment with CSIRO in Darwin where she developed community water planning tools for rural Darwin. She has now moved back to Kabul to work for Skateistan full-time while she contemplates her next role. Obviously it’s dangerous in Afghanistan but Sharna says most people in the country support NGO workers.

“It’s important to understand that the whole country has been devastated by 30 years of conflict. In the 70s Afghanistan was progressive, looked outward in terms of politics and had an excellent education system. In the north it cradles some of the world’s oldest and most beautiful sites of civilisation.

“Aid work is definitely not for everyone. You challenge yourself in so many ways and tend to go to these countries an idealist to come out a realist. But the greater the challenge, the greater the reward.

Through a lot of hard work, we have just opened our unique school that creates a truly youth-owned space that lets Afghan youth come together to skateboard. Here, they forge bonds that transcend social barriers. We use participatory education techniques and a lot of Afghan games to build their confidence to effect change on issues important to them.

“Skateboarding has opened cultural doors in Afghanistan. It’s a way we have found to break down barriers and help communities work together. Skateistan doesn’t just teach kids how to skate, it helps different cultural groups interact, learn about each other and develop life skills.

“We also strive to tell a positive story about Afghan youth, using global media platforms to send a message of hope, unity and peace. If we show Afghans as positive, talented and healthy people, others relate to them far more easily and can be motivated to effect change. There is much more to Afghanistan than the negative images posted by Western media.”

For more information go to www.skateistan.org
During conversation with Professor Michael Cowley, one of the world’s leading biomedical researchers in the field of obesity and related diseases, it becomes clear that the world’s weight crisis is as much about evolution as it is about exercise. “It isn’t as simple as telling someone who is overweight to ride their bike to work to lose weight. Our society has evolved, particularly in the last 100 years, to a point where it is more difficult to exercise than not. Exerting energy is now an option for most people,” says Professor Cowley.

“As a species, we have a strong instinctive drive to want to eat and that hasn’t changed – our lifestyles have. As a society, we need to increase our exercise and create environments that encourage us to move more and to want to be active.”

Professor Cowley says innovative solutions are needed to combat obesity, as lifestyle interventions are not enough and gastric banding and bypass surgery are “too expensive and too radical” in many cases.

“The only alternative is new therapies based on a rational understanding of how obesity causes diseases.”

To this end, Professor Cowley has assembled some of the world’s best researchers, scientists and surgeons to work towards real scientific solutions to the number-one health issue facing the western world.

“It is well established that obesity is a gateway disease to diabetes, heart disease and a host of other serious health problems,” Professor Cowley said. “If we can understand the basis for the links between these diseases, we can develop therapies that break these links.”

The pressures on healthcare systems to treat obesity-related illness are already significant. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, more than 70 per cent of Australians are overweight or obese, with healthcare costs associated with obesity in Australia estimated at $21 billion a year.

Key questions Professor Cowley and his network of scientists at modi will be focused on answering include: why food is addictive and why particular foods override the normal signals that tell us we should stop eating; why obesity increases the risk of heart disease; and how inflammation caused by fat cells stops the brain detecting signals from fat.

“As a species, we have a strong instinctive drive to want to eat and that hasn’t changed – our lifestyles have. As a society, we need to increase our exercise and create environments which encourage us to move more and to want to be active.”

“Modi draws on the expertise of a great team of people and as modi strengthens its capabilities and high-level collaborations across multiple departments within the University, we expect to achieve success across many disciplines,” Professor Cowley said. Professor Cowley is adamant that just as society has created its own health crisis, it is equally capable of treating it.

“We need to make a commitment to finding real solutions to this epidemic across the board: governments, institutions, researchers, philanthropists, community organisations, individuals – everybody can help.”
Professor Cowley, who was awarded the Science Minister’s Prize for Life Scientist of the Year in 2009, is internationally recognised for his work in understanding the brain’s role in weight gain. These discoveries have been fundamental to his research into new therapies to treat obesity.

In 2008, after a decade in the United States, he returned to Monash University as a recipient of a Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation Fellowship.
Choose to continue learning

Postgraduate study

• Over 400 postgraduate research and coursework programs
• On and off-campus options
• Part-time and full-time study
• Ten faculties
• Six Australian and two international campuses

Countless opportunities to keep learning.
Find out more at www.monash.edu/postgraduate
It is like a phone booth, but one for the cyber age: a robust, free-standing terminal that connects the user to the world no matter how remote the location.

With built-in terminals and computer screens, the open-access computer kiosk aims to lower the social and economic barriers to information technology, not only helping people build IT skills, but providing a place for the community to meet, share and learn.

Known as a Digital Doorway, the robust computer booth was originally developed by the Meraka Institute and the South African Department of Science and Technology. Monash University then joined the partnership, further developing the potential of the ‘doorway’ to break down the digital divide between those who have access to computers and the internet and those who do not.

Since the first Digital Doorway was installed in the rural, Eastern Cape community of Cwili in 2002, the program has grown dramatically. There are now 210 doorways deployed throughout South Africa including one that Monash University donated to the Zandspruit settlement on the fringes of Johannesburg, and 20 bought by UNICEF for deployment in Uganda and the Solomon Islands.

One of the key drivers of the initiative, Dr Larry Stillman from Monash University’s Faculty of Information Technology, said the units were highly-effective at breaking down the technological and communication divides existing in many countries, including Australia. “Just as the Digital Doorways are breaking down barriers in South Africa, I see great potential for the Digital Doorway to act as a public access-point in remote Indigenous communities. There is great promise for it to overcome the digital divide that is separating these communities from the rest of Australia,” Dr Stillman says.

“The primary objective of the initiative has been to develop computer literacy among school-age children and to facilitate individual and community learning in environments where limited technological infrastructure and access has held people back.”

As well as donating one to the Zandspruit settlement, the Faculty of Information Technology has purchased a three-seater Digital Doorway booth for Clayton campus, to assist with ongoing research and the development of applications for remote communities in Australia.
Inspirational leaders

One outstanding student and four exceptional alumnae will be the recipients of the 2010 Monash University Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Executive Chair, CEO and owner of the Sussan Group, Naomi Milgrom AO (BA 1973) is the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award. Trevor O’Hoy (BEc 1976), who nominated Ms Milgrom, describes her as “an iconic Australian business leader and a trailblazer for women in business”.

For more than 20 years Ms Milgrom has led the Sussan Group, which today comprises the Sussan, Suzanne Grae and Sportsgirl fashion chains and has more than 550 stores and more than 4500 employees in Australia and New Zealand.

“Naomi has led the promotion of Australia’s retail and fashion industries nationally and internationally. Under her leadership the L’Oréal Melbourne Fashion Festival became the world’s largest consumer and retail fashion event.

“She has mobilised her business and entrepreneurial skills to make outstanding contributions. She is a benefactor to the arts, health, welfare, the Jewish community, science and education,” Mr O’Hoy said.

The inaugural Distinguished Alumni Professional Achievement Award will be presented to actor, writer and producer Jane Turner (BA 1988) in recognition of her contribution to comedy and television production. Ms Turner began her career as a dramatic actress. She turned to comedy appearing on the ‘D Generation’, ‘Fast Forward’, ‘Full Frontal’ and ‘Big Girl’s Blouse’, cementing her position as one of Australia’s foremost comedienesses.

Jane Turner is best known as co-creator and co-star of the award winning comedy ‘Kath & Kim’. The series was the most successful ABC syndicated show in Australian television history. In 2008, Ms Turner was an executive producer of the US version of the show.

The 2010 Distinguished Alumni Service Award goes to medical practitioner and media commentator Dr Sally Cockburn (MBBS 1982). Dr Cockburn is a Melbourne GP and broadcaster (as “Dr Feelgood”) through her weekly program on radio 3AW. She volunteers extensively at Monash University.

Dr Cockburn was nominated by distinguished alumna Beth Wilson (BA 1975, LLB 1977) who said: “The stand out features of Dr Cockburn’s personality are her excellent communication skills, her terrific sense of humour, her commitment to the community and the individuals within it, the pride she takes in her work, and her attachment to Monash University. She has been an inspiration to many students and colleagues.”

Amanda McKenzie (LLB(Hons) 2007) will be the recipient of the Distinguished Young Alumni Award. Ms McKenzie is co-director of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, a youth-led and youth-run organisation that has linked 50,000 young Australians to influence action on climate change. Ms McKenzie led the Australian youth delegation to the United Nations Climate Conferences in Poznan in 2008 and Copenhagen in 2009.

Monash University Distinguished Alumni Awards 2010

Distinguished Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award: Ms Naomi Milgrom AO (BA 1973)
Distinguished Alumni Professional Achievement Award: Ms Jane Turner (BA 1988)
Distinguished Young Alumni Award: Ms Amanda McKenzie (LLB(Hons) 2007)
Distinguished Alumni Service Award: Dr Sally Cockburn (MBBS 1982)
Student Alumni Award: Mr William Moore

Distinguished Alumni Awards – Selection Panel
Dr Alan Finkel AM (BE 1976, PhD 1981), Chancellor
Professor Ed Byrne AO, Vice-Chancellor
Dr Margaret Jackson AC (BEc 1973, HonLLD 2002)
Mr Simon Molesworth AM QC (BA 1975, LLB 1977)
Dr Renea Taylor (BSc(Hons) 1998, PhD 2003)
Professor Mick Dodson AM (BJuris 1974, LLB 1978)
Mr Alan Ramadan (BSc 1984)
Dr Christine Nixon APM (HonLLD 2005)
In supporting her nomination Governor of Victoria Professor David de Kretser AC (MD 1969, HonLLD 2006) said: “Amanda has become an inspirational advocate for action on climate change and sustainability. Throughout her achievements, a theme emerges of a committed person who leads by example and motivates others, especially youth, to follow.”

The inaugural Student Alumni Award, which recognises student contributions to the University, will be awarded to William Moore who is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts (Global) at Monash South Africa. His nominator Allan Mahler (MDipl&Trade 2008) describes him as “an exceptional young man who has been tremendously involved in community engagement work in South Africa. His voluntary efforts have been outstanding. He was a founder of the Monash Saturday School for disadvantaged students from the Zandspruit settlement and is the outstanding leader of the Monash University Student Volunteering Program.”

The 2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony will take place later in 2010. M
Monash OPEN DAY

July 31, 10am – 4pm
Berwick, Gippsland and Peninsula

August 1, 10am – 4pm
Caulfield, Clayton and Parkville

The latest book from children's author George Ivanoff (MA 1994) is *Gamers' Quest* (Ford Street Press, 2009). The science fiction novel for young adults is about two teenage thieves who, in their quest to reach 'Designers Paradise', realise that their world of magic and science is not what it appears to be.

Cultural Commodities in Japanese Rural Revitalization (Brill, 2010) by Anthony Rausch (PhD 2007) examines the potential for rural Japan, specifically the Tsugaru District of the Aomori Prefecture, to capitalise on highly-specific local cultural resources.


The book takes the reader through unexplored landscape behind the French Riviera including pathways taken by Hannibal and Napoleon.

Teacher Ashley Capes (BA 2009, BEd 2009) has written a book of poetry, *Stepping Over Seasons* (Interactive Publications, 2009) captures the finer details of life including change within people and places as the seasons unfold.

Desert Diya (Ginninderra Press, 2010) by Adèle Ogiér Jones (BA 1979, BEd 1981, MEDst 1984, PhD 1989) is the poignant story of Hana, who finds herself trapped in a country where she is considered merely cheap labour.

Bouncing Back with Changes (Neway Phoenix Publications, 2009) is a new book from psychologist Tony Vickers-Willis (BA(Multi) 1979, MBA 2004). The publication advises people on how to bounce back from personal tragedies that threaten their happiness.

Former Monash University Vice-Chancellor Mal Logan AC (HonDLit 1997) and his wife Toni are the authors of a new title about south eastern France, *The Hidden Riviera* (Trafford Publishing, 2009). The book takes the reader through unexplored landscape behind the French Riviera including pathways taken by Hannibal and Napoleon.
1960s

Marlene Kingdon (BA 1968) retired from the South Australian Department of Education and Children’s Services in 2005 and has since commenced a fine arts degree at Adelaide Central School of Art.

1970s

Children’s author, Leigh Hobbs (GradDipArtDes 1974) writes and illustrates books featuring characters like Old Tom, Horrible Harriet, Fiona the Pig and Mr Chicken.

Playwright Kate Herbert (BA 1977) has written a new satirical play, Lawyers, Drugs and Money, which showed at the recent Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

Hazel Edwards (BA 1971, BEd 1974, MEd 1980) was awarded the 2009 Australian Society of Authors Medal, a biennial prize that recognises outstanding contributions to the Australian writing community. She was also nominated for the 2010 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, the world’s largest children’s literature award.

Peter Chaffeys (BA(Hons) 1977) has been appointed chair of the Melbourne East Regional Development Australia Committee, one of nine committees advising the Australian and Victorian governments on the economic, environmental and social development of regions across the state.

1980s

Chip Farmer (MBBS(Hons) 1981) was re-elected as president of the Colorectal Surgical Society of Australia and New Zealand, representing specialist colorectal surgeons.


John Miller AO (PhD 1984) is chair of the John Button Literary Foundation, which awards the John Button Prize for the best piece of non-fiction writing on politics or public policy.

Marilyn Lake (PhD 1984) is co-author of Drawing the Global Colour Line for which she received a 2009 Prime Minister’s Literary Award in the Non-Fiction category.

Gill Callister (BA 1981, BSocWk(Hons) 1982) was recently appointed secretary of the Department of Human Services in Victoria.

Alzheimer’s Australia has commissioned and published a discussion paper by Heather Birch (ADipWelfStud 1981) called ‘Dementia, Lesbians and Gay Men’, launched by The Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG.

Karen Atkins (BA 1984) was the winner of the 2009 North Sydney Art Prize for her work titled ‘A Change in the Batting Order’.

Ng Kah Ming (BE1986) recently received a Selangor state award, which carries the title Datuk, for his contribution to music.

Teacher Peter Farrer (BA 1986) is managing a project called Shared Stories. Inspired by the Cronulla riots in Sydney, the scheme creates an opportunity for dialogue between young people across distinct cultural, social and ethnic groups in Melbourne.

An associate with law firm Cadwalader, Alicia Clifford (BTe 1988) has been recognised at Sanctuary for Families’ Above and Beyond Awards for “providing outstanding pro bono representation and advocacy on behalf of victims of domestic violence”.

1990s

Sharyn Fitzgerald (BSc(Hons) 1994, PhD 1998, MPH 2010) is the ASPREE (Aspirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly) regional manager and coordinator in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine, Monash University. In December 2009 she became one of only nine women to complete the Antarctic Ice Marathon.

Elliot Kotek (BSc 1994, LLB 1996) recently returned to Melbourne from Los Angeles to open R.I.Polaroid, an exhibition of Polaroid and iPhone images and film.

Since graduating from Monash, artist Elizabeth Dobrilla (BA(FineArts)(Hons) 1996) has completed her masters and also taught in Japan for seven years. She currently works as a printmaker and painter and exhibits in Australia and abroad.

Jeremy Szwider (BCom 1997, LLB 1997, LLM(IntelProperty) 2001) has launched two new businesses: a virtual law firm Bespoke Law, and an online travel concierge service called Travel Hedonism.


David Kaylor (BTech(IndDes)(Hons) 1999) has returned to Melbourne after five years working in France and Germany as a digital sculptor for companies including Renault, Volkswagen and Honda.
Gregory Parkhurst (BA 1993) lives in Canberra where he is a lawyer with the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman.

Tom Griffiths (PhD 1994) won the 2009 Alfred Deakin Prize for An Essay Advancing Public Debate for a piece he wrote in the immediate aftermath of the 2009 Victorian fires.

Carolyn Harkness (BBus 1995) was appointed as an early childhood course coordinator and lecturer at Australian Catholic University in Canberra.

Karen Wylie (BA(Hons) 1996) recently showed her first solo exhibition of artworks on canvas, *Cynotopias: Cloudscapes of an Urban Dreamer* at Artspace 7 in Oakleigh South, Melbourne.

2000s

Elaine Miles (BAppA(Hons) 2000, MFA 2008, PhD 2009) is one of several artists whose work featured in *Fractured Again*, a performance and installation at the 2010 Sydney Festival.

Surgical trainee Mario Zotti (MBBS(Hons) 2007) has received two major medical prizes for his paper ‘Radiographic detection of periprosthetic osteolysis around total knee replacements’.

Danny Frigerio (BA 2000, LLB 2000) has been promoted to principal at Maurice Blackburn Lawyers.

Following a career at software firm Oracle, Paul Pambudi (BE(Che)(CI) 2000) has joined Indonesian insurer PT Asuransi Bintang Tbk as assistant vice-president of information technology.

With the serious sounding job title of Commissioner to the Americas for Victoria, Victor Perton (BEC 1981, LLB 1982) represents the interests of Victoria in North and South America.

Based in San Francisco, the focus of his work is promoting trade and investment.

“My emphasis is on inward investment to Victoria and supporting Victorian exporters and investors in the Americas,” Mr Perton says. “We also look after government relationships and institutional relationships.”

“Another important element of the job is to support and connect Victorians through Victorians Abroad. We work with the embassies, consulates, Austrade and the other State representatives to ensure we optimise the efforts of Team Australia in the Americas.”

The Commissioner position is Mr Perton’s fourth career following a period in the law, 18 years as a member of the Victorian Parliament, and time as a regulatory affairs consultant and board director with directorships including the Transport Accident Commission.

“My career highlight was being recommended to the Governor for this role [in 2009] by a Labor Premier after I had served 18 years as a Liberal MP. I remain deeply honoured to serve my Victorian community in this role.”

It’s an extremely varied job that involves travel to numerous expos and events across the huge continents.

“My favourite aspect of the role is selling Victoria’s attributes as a place to invest and visit. This varies from formal presentations and speeches to literal elevator pitches and conversations that arise from people hearing my accent.

“Australians and Australia are well-loved in the USA and have a very positive image in the rest of the Americas too. Victoria and its business and cultural successes are a great story.”
Classnotes

2000s

Swimmer Talbot Henry (BCom(BusStats) 2002, MMktg 2005) received three gold medals and one bronze medal at the 2009 World Masters Games in Sydney.

Blake Hutchison (BA 2002, MTour 2004) has launched a free email newsletter – The Agenda Daily – covering food, drink, travel, style and leisure.

Engineer James Hamond (BSc 2002, BE(Elec&Comp) 2005) has created an ultrafast control algorithm that will enable smaller, faster, cheaper and more efficient power control.

Ardi Sastrohartoyo (BE(Chem) 2005) was recently appointed senior technical superintendent for Orica Mining Services Asia, based in the Singapore head office. Previously at Orica, he has held HS&E sustainability advisor, process risk specialist and process engineer roles. He has Chartered status with IChemE, IEAust and RACI.

Katharine Tan-Sinha (BA 2007) has been crowned Miss Personality in the 2009 Miss Singapore International Beauty Pageant.

Debra Tsilfidis (MMktg 2003) has been re-appointed to the board of the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority. She is also a member of the Victorian Farmers Federation’s Young Agribusiness Professionals Committee and the Department of Human Services’ Priority for Access Panel.

Lena Condos (MMktg 2009) founded Eyes Wide Open, a non-profit travel organisation offering tours for people interested in the humanitarian side of travel. She is also the founder of bottled water company Hope Water.

Last year Paul Ulloa (BBusCom 2008) hosted a show called ‘Talking Business’ on Melbourne community radio station SYN 90.7 FM. The show featured interviews with local entrepreneurs who shared their success stories, knowledge and advice with the community.

Medical researcher Tu’uhevaha Kaitu’u-Lino (BBimedSc(Hons) 2003, PhD 2008) won two major prizes at the 2009 Cosmopolitan Fun Fearless Female Awards including ‘Fun, Fearless Female (Woman of the Year)’ and ‘Inspirational Role Model’.

Last year Natalie Seach (BBioMedSc(Hons) 2004, PhD 2008) volunteered as an immunology teacher at L ’Université de Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, Africa.

Syafique Shuib (BA 2007) was recently appointed project manager at 1Malaysia Foundation, a non-profit organisation promoting national unity. Prior to this, she worked as a journalist on ntv7’s ‘The Breakfast Show’ and as an editor with Expatriate Lifestyle magazine.

Secondary school teacher Felicity Williams (BA 2005, BEd 2005) accompanied 10 students to South Korea and Turkey as part of the 2009 Victorian Premier’s Spirit of ANZAC Prize Study Tour.

Laura Evans (BE(Civ)(Hons) 2004, BSc 2004) was recently appointed business development coordinator at engineering firm John Holland.

Michele Elliot (MFA 2007) was awarded an Australia Council for the Arts New Work Grant to develop a project for an exhibition in India that explores the theme of post-colonialism.

Australian Youth Ambassador Jenelle Whittaker (BA(Journ) 2008) is working in Beijing as a communications officer with Community Alliance, a non-government organisation advocating for elderly citizen’s rights in China.

Based in Singapore, Nur Husniyati Husin (BA(Psy&Hum) 2008) is a special education teacher for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Journalist Khairul Abidin Nuar (BSc(Biotech) 2009) is a political correspondent at the Parliament of Malaysia with newspaper group Utusan Malaysia.

Notes:
- The qualifications listed are the individual’s Monash degrees, not necessarily their full qualifications
- The year listed after the degree abbreviation is the year of graduation
July 2010

Saturday 31 July, 10 am to 4 pm
Monash Open Day 2010 - Berwick, Gippsland and Peninsula campuses.
More information: www.monash.edu/study/events/openday

August 2010

Sunday 1 August, 10 am to 4 pm
Monash Open Day 2010 - Caulfield, Clayton and Parkville campuses.
More information: www.monash.edu/study/events/openday

Sunday 1 August, 4 pm
Monash Academy Orchestra presents ‘Heroic’, a Monash Open Day concert featuring works by Brahms and Beethoven.

Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University Clayton campus.
More information: www.monash.edu/monart/whatson

October 2010

Sunday 10 October
TeamMONASH participation in the Melbourne Marathon.
More information: www.sport.monash.edu/events
Enquiries: participants@sport.monash.edu.au

Saturday 16 October
Enquiries: megan.keating@med.monash.edu.au

Sunday 17 October
TeamMONASH participation in Around the Bay in a Day bike ride.
More information: www.sport.monash.edu/events
Enquiries: participants@sport.monash.edu.au

Saturday 28 August
40-year reunion: MBBS graduates of 1970
RACV Club, 501 Bourke St, Melbourne.
Enquiries: megan.keating@med.monash.edu.au

September 2010

Sunday 19 September
Music in the Round at Monash.
The annual celebration of music at multiple venues around the Monash University Clayton campus.
More information: www.monash.edu/monart/whatson

View more alumni events at www.monash.edu/alumni/events

Stay in touch

Update your details online
Changed job or moved house? Continue receiving Monash Magazine, Monash Alumni eNews, and event notifications by updating your details online at www.monash.edu/alumni/update.

Change your Monash Magazine subscription
Monash Magazine is also available by email and online at www.monash.edu/pubs/monmag. If you would prefer to receive the email version, visit www.monash.edu/pubs/monmag/forms.

Subscribe to Monash Alumni eNews
eNews is a monthly email newsletter covering alumni profiles, news and research, events and opportunities. To subscribe visit www.monash.edu/alumni/subscribe.

Where has your Monash qualification taken you?
We welcome your news, including career changes and achievements, for potential inclusion in an alumni publication or on the website. Visit www.monash.edu/alumni/classnotes/ to read about your fellow alumni.

Contact the Alumni Relations office:
Email: monashalumni@adm.monash.edu.au
Tel: +61 3 9903 4602
Fax: +61 3 9903 4605
Website: www.monash.edu/alumni