

UTS NEWS

12

26 AUGUST - 8 SEPTEMBER 2002

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

SPECIAL EDITION: INFO DAY 2002

COVER STORY PAGE 3

UTS SPORTS

STARS IN ATHENS

PAGE 4

KIDNEY KIDS'

SNOW CAMP

PAGE 5

PLANTS TO THE

RESCUE

PAGE 7

SCIENCE AND

YOUR SMILE



UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

NEWS

SEEING THE STARS FROM BUILDING TEN

BY ANNE SARZIN



FROM LEFT: ARCHITECT LAWRENCE NIELD, NEIL HANSON'S WIDOW JO MCDONALD WITH THEIR CHILDREN ZOE, JESSIE AND OLIVER, CHANCELLOR SIR GERARD BRENNAN, NSW GOVERNOR PROFESSOR MARIE BASHIR, AND OUTGOING VICE-CHANCELLOR EMERITUS PROFESSOR TONY BLAKE

The opening of the reconstructed Building 10 in Jones Street — with its striking atrium that has dispelled the gloom of the former Fairfax headquarters — inspired praise and poetry, with architect Lawrence Nield quoting Dante's "and thence we emerged to see the stars again".

Although the opening focused on the transformation of the UTS city campus, there was also a shadow of sadness that Neil Hanson, the principal architect, died before he could see the completion of the project he had envisioned for UTS.

"It was Neil who propelled the idea that by major surgery the health of this building could be restored and it could be more than a decent place for members of the University," said his colleague Lawrence Nield.

"We are grateful that the University has recognised his contribution by way of a plaque — this space reflects both himself and his attitude to architecture.

"It was a dark and dismal building and had in its black inky environment and in its great throbbing printing presses working day and night a feeling of the

underworld, like Dante's Inferno. This atrium has let the light and stars into this previously dark building.

"This atrium-arcade, which is master planned to link across the UTS site, provides a new focus and binding for a dense inner-city university."

Governor of New South Wales, Professor Marie Bashir, said her delight at opening the former Fairfax Building went beyond the mere romantic symbolism of a university unfettered by historical demands already charting, as Fairfax did, pathways for enlightenment and innovation with integrity.

"The light-filled atrium provides a beautiful sense of transparency, of integration and a welcoming inclusiveness for its students and staff," she said

"As well as these critically important aesthetic qualities, the University can now proudly claim to have state-of-the-art learning spaces, computer laboratories, teaching spaces and essential flexibility."

Speaking on the eve of his retirement as

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tony Blake said that the more defined UTS campus would identify the edge of an educational and cultural precinct at the southern gateway to the CBD.

"This is a concept that we are developing in collaboration with our neighbours and precinct partners — the Sydney Institute, the ABC and the Powerhouse Museum, with support from our colleagues in the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, the Sydney City Council and the Darling Harbour Business Association," he said.

"This part of the city is undergoing a renaissance and Building 10 is now an important component of the revitalisation of the southern entrance to Sydney."

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Quality) Professor Richard Johnstone said it was appropriate that UTS, as a university with a particular pride in the emphasis it placed on its links with industry and the professions, should occupy a site that had played an important part in the development of Sydney.

UTS FIELDS A FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR



TONY WONG ... STUDYING IN NEW YORK

University Medallist Tony Wong has won a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship for Postgraduate Studies that allows him to study at Columbia University Law School in New York.

The Scholarship provides \$US22,000 for airfares, as well as living expenses for 12 months.

Tony, who graduated with a Bachelor of Business with First Class Honours and the University Medal, was also second in his class with a Bachelor of Laws with First Class Honours. While studying, Wong participated in other programs to enrich his experience of university life.

"In second year I was on the UTS debating team that went to the World University Debating Championships in South Africa," Wong said.

"After the competition I took five-and-a-half months off to backpack through eight African states and met a lot of other uni students from around the world in the process."

While completing his degrees he reined in his wanderlust but managed to squeeze in a one-month exchange program arranged by the Faculty with the China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing, where he studied Chinese Law. He then celebrated the end of his studies by volunteering to join an international development program to teach English and nature guiding skills in Mexico for six months.

"That was an amazing experience, living with students and their families in remote Mayan communities bordering Biosphere Reserves while teaching them skills that would help them administer its own travel service."

EDITORIAL

Editor

Dr Anne Sarzin (02) 9514 1971
anne.sarzin@uts.edu.au

Designer

Honor Morton (02) 9514 1973

Photographers

Sherran Evans (02) 9514 1601
Sarah Borsellino (02) 9514 5469

UTS News is produced with the assistance of Media & Public Relations staff.

ADVERTISING

Honor Morton (02) 9514 1973
honor.morton@uts.edu.au

Advertising is subject to conditions set out in the current rate card and the Advertising Code of Ethics of the Australian Association of National Advertisers. Next advertising deadline Wednesday 28 August at 9.30am.

CIRCULATION

5000 copies in Ultimo and Haymarket, and the UTS City (Broadway), Kuring-gai and St Leonards campuses. UTS has more than 24,000 students and 2183 staff.

Enquiries email: Suzanne.McInerney@uts.edu.au
The views expressed in UTS News are not necessarily the views of the University or the Editor.

Next issue to be published 9 September 2002.

CONTACT DETAILS

Marketing & Communication Unit
University of Technology Sydney
Suite 02, Level 3A, Building 1, No. 1 Broadway
PO Box 123 Broadway, NSW 2007 Australia
Telephone: +61 2 9514 1971
Facsimile: +61 2 9514 1616
Email: anne.sarzin@uts.edu.au

UTS News online: www.utsnews.uts.edu.au

UTS News is printed by R&M Graphics, 61 Harslett Crescent, Beverley Park NSW 2217.

UTS CRICOS Provider Code: 00099F

UTS News cover photo: UTS sports stars, including James Chapman (pictured), have Olympic goals. Story page 3.

COVER STORY

UTS SPORTS STARS IN ATHENS

BY SUZANNE MCINERNEY



UTS SAILOR AND ASIA PACIFIC LASER CHAMPION, NICK SCHOLANDER

While the University's sporting elite is competing in World Championships around the globe and pre-Olympic competitions in Athens, the UTS Union has launched UTS sport into an even bigger league.

This year the Union is providing financial and other assistance through its Sports Scholarship and Elite Athletes Program to 47 students. While most are in training for what they hope will be their first Olympics, others are planning their second or third.

UTS sailor and Asia Pacific Laser Champion, Nick Scholander is in serious training to make selection for the Athens Olympics, which he hopes will be his first. He recently competed in the pre-Olympic sailing regatta in Athens, and is now on his way to Hyannis, Cape Cod, Massachusetts to contest the World Laser Championships.

"We've gone outside the square to pursue strategic initiatives and alliances that have helped our students reach the elite level in several sports and we're now building on these relationships to expand our opportunities"

Scholander, who is studying part-time for a Bachelor of Building, is one of only five Australians to qualify for the Championships. Scholander says to win in this light-weight single-handed dingy requires great fitness and flexibility, and skill in reading the wind, trimming the boat and perfecting starts and turns. He's hoping one other skill will see him over the line first and more often – the ability to sail up wind quicker than others.

The Olympics in Athens in 2004 and in

Beijing in 2008 are the goals for UTS rower James Chapman, who features on the *UTS News* cover and who recently rowed in the Australian coxless pair competing at the World University Games in Nottingham, Northern England.

He chose to study at UTS because it supports sports people and allows them to arrange their study program to accommodate their competition schedule. Chapman works in the eCommerce Development section at Westpac and is studying for a Bachelor of Business in Accounting, although he's considering whether to take law as a sub-major or to do a double degree.

He trains seven days a week but allows himself Thursday morning and Sunday afternoon off. Chapman likes a healthy balance, so he makes sure he eats well, drinks lots of water, gets good-quality sleep, and has a social life, which includes making new friends with other sports people.

According to UTS Union Secretary Manager Michael Georgeson, new initiatives will ensure more students than ever before will have the opportunity to enjoy sport.

Assistant Secretary Manager Neill Robinson has been appointed Director of Sport to lead the charge into the new era. Robinson, who will focus on strengthening strategic relationships in this portfolio, will be assisted by Club Development Officers who will be appointed to further develop long-term relationships in important sports.

"We've gone outside the square to pursue strategic initiatives and alliances that have helped our students reach the elite level in several sports and we're now building on these relationships to expand our opportunities," Georgeson said.

"We were trailblazers – certainly in NSW

and quite likely Australia – in establishing a strategic alliance to form the UTS Haberfield Rowing Club for example, now one of the top two elite rowing centres in Australia. This strategy led to UTS rowers making up a quarter of the Australian team at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

"By increasing the pathways for our students to access sporting opportunities, providing stepping stones to progress in a sport, and offering more scholarships we anticipate significant growth in several sports.

"UTS Balmain Cricket, which is one of the top clubs in the country, and the home of the best Australian women's cricket team, is one of those earmarked for growth.

"This year UTS Balmain Cricket will enter teams at Metropolitan Cup level, and a year or two later in the Shires competitions. This will provide the breeding ground to prepare a growing number of UTS students for competition at Grade level and beyond," he said.

As well as sponsoring rowing, sailing and cricket, the UTS Union supports 26 other sports. Among its many clubs are the UTS Fencing Club, which includes several national champions and is generally regarded as the top Club in Australia; UTS North Athletics, one of the top clubs in Sydney; and the UTS Double Bay Sailing Club. Other shared facilities include UTS Ryde Waterpolo Centre and UTS Sydney Boys High Basketball Stadium.

DISADVANTAGED SCHOOLS' VISIT



ELIZABETH LO OF THE EQUITY AND DIVERSITY UNIT

Over 100 Year 10 students from disadvantaged schools visited UTS recently to get a taste of UTS student life.

The students came from nine schools across Sydney that are classified disadvantaged by the Department of Education and Training.

The participating schools were Alexandria Park Community School, Birrong Boys, Canly Vale High, Chester Hill High, Dulwich Hill High, Fairvale High, Marrickville High, Sydney Secondary

College (Glebe) and Wiley Park Girls.

UTS organiser Ms Elizabeth Lo, from the Equity and Diversity Unit, said the day was designed to encourage students from disadvantaged schools to aspire to tertiary study. "Many of these students do not have any role models in their family who have completed tertiary study and they are not encouraged to pursue further study," she said.

The program for the day included discussions about pathways to university

and the differences between school and university. Students divided into groups according to the specific faculty organised activities they were interested in.

After speaking to current students and staff over a sausage sizzle lunch, the visiting students were awarded certificates of participation by Professor Peter Booth. To complete the visit, photographs of the students were taken as a memento of their day at UTS.

COMMUNITY

NURSING STUDENTS HELP KIDNEY KIDS

BY SUZANNE MCINERNEY

Volunteering to help "keep an eye" on a group of children with kidney disease on a recent trip to the snowfields put a different slant on clinical experience for two Nursing students.

Second-year students Kelly Edwards and Hayley Domrow responded to a call for volunteer carers sent to their Faculty by the Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Kelly and Hayley both chose to study Nursing at UTS because the program incorporates many hours of clinical practice in a variety of settings. Neither could resist the opportunity to care for sick children while on a supervised adventure.

Three registered nurses accompanied the multicultural group of 17 boys and girls aged 8 to 17 years who are patients at Westmead or at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick. The party — including two other volunteers — travelled by bus to the Adventist Alpine Village near Jindabyne.

"Some of the children were on dialysis three times a week while waiting for a kidney transplant and one was on another type of treatment daily," Kelly said, "so it was great that those needing dialysis

didn't have to be taken to Canberra.

"Some who had met in the same clinic took advantage of their short holiday to really get to know one other.

"Age and cultural differences weren't issues for the children. It seemed they had more in common because of their health, in fact some of the older kids took care of the younger ones during activities," she said.

Nursing staff monitored the children's medical condition and provided treatment when necessary. Volunteer carers monitored their fluid intake, helped with their general needs and slept in the children's rooms each night just in case anyone needed help.

Three ski instructors ran beginners and advanced skiers classes for the group at Friday Flat during their three-day stay and, according to Hayley, she and Kelly enjoyed the program of activities as much as the children.

"We had dormitory style accommodation just off the dining and lounge area which was fantastic, and the days and evenings were packed with activities. In the evenings we played games like scrabble



HAYLEY DOMROW (LEFT) AND KELLY EDWARDS RECALL A NURSING ADVENTURE

and we skied every day, went swimming on two days and even managed to do some shopping," Hayley said.

"With two-hour ski lessons every day for

three days we both managed to improve our performance, and I even managed to squeeze in a couple of runs on the harder slopes."

ITS:VIDEO PRODUCTION SERVICES



video@uts.edu.au

The one stop shop for video production

Instructional Technology Services (ITS) has professional video production services on campus dedicated to staff. We:

- Videotape lectures
- Videotape special events (seminars, forums etc)
- Produce educational and promo videos from script to screen
- Edit video material, and add titles and graphics
- Prepare video material for the web, PowerPoint, CDs and DVDs
- Edit and archive old video materials to digital tape or DVD

Contact ITS Video Production Services at: video@uts.edu.au or phone us on 9514 1057.

ITS IS A DIVISION OF ITS

INDIGENOUS CULTURE



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: REBECCA CAMPISI, KAREN MACPHAIL, ARTHUR TOOTH AND JESS DUNDAS.

Third-year Bachelor of Education students met Aboriginal elders during a unique practicum program in the remote rural town of Walgett in preparation for teaching in schools with large numbers of Indigenous students.

The Country Area Program, funded by the Department of Education and Training, is a joint initiative between Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, the Faculty of Education and Walgett Community of Schools.

The Education students were introduced to remote Indigenous communities before they entered classrooms at Walgett Public School (Primary) in northern New South Wales. Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning Lecturer Christine Evans conducted the first orientation session on Indigenous culture, which was followed by Senior Officer Pat Cavanagh's community orientation session at Walgett Community of Schools.

The students met Aboriginal elders and key community members through visits to community organisations and participation in social events.

Participants in the program — Rebecca Campisi, Karen Macphail, Jess Dundas and Arthur Tooth — unanimously described the experience as "profound".

Faculty of Education Practicum Coordinator and Education Lecturer, Alan Scully said the orientation gave the students indispensable preparation. "By being introduced to Aboriginal elders in the community orientation, it raises the students status in the classroom.

"Through the community orientation they enter the classroom for the first time with a sense of humility, rather than with a paternalistic, arrogant attitude of enlightenment," Scully said.

"The students come out of it with a fairly rich experience of teaching in a rural and remote setting with a large Indigenous population. Their learning is not only about how children in that context learn, it's also about learning about a remote community. Teachers who haven't had previous experience in a remote area often suffer culture shock and bide their time until they can get out."

RESEARCH

GREENER IS HEALTHIER

BY ANNE SARZIN

If you work in a basement "dungeon" or a window-tight office and endure headaches, nausea and dizziness — symptoms associated with toxic chemical compounds in indoor air— your local nursery has the solution.

UTS researchers have investigated the capacity of commonly used indoor potted-plant species to reduce air-borne toxicity in basement and other "airless" areas, and have found that the pot plants can reduce air toxics by as much as 20 per cent.

Parallel studies in Europe have also shown that pot plants in the office environment can decrease sick leave by as much as 60 per cent.

Adjunct Professor Margaret Burchett and professional horticulturalist Ron Wood, in collaboration with their colleagues Dr Ralph Orwell, Dr Jane Tarran and Dr Fraser Topy in the Faculty of Science' Plants and Environmental Quality Group, presented their research findings at the International Symposium on Plant-People Relationships held recently in the Netherlands.

In what Professor Burchett terms a "dungeon" (basement) or window-tight situation, there is a toxic mixture of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) found in indoor air. Although these compounds are present indoors in low individual concentrations, they are capable of producing toxic symptoms in humans — and the cocktail can be addictive, or even synergistic in its effects.

New paint, carpets, furniture and fittings radiate these VOCs, and Professor Burchett and her colleagues caution that "if you smell that new office smell, you are scenting the toxic VOCs".

Dominant VOC toxicity symptoms are sore eyes, nose and throat; a feeling of dizziness; loss of concentration; headaches; mild nausea; faint disorientation; and mildly depersonalised feelings. These are the

same symptoms present in "sick building syndrome" or "building-related illness".

Professor Burchett's research group has shown that a mixture of plant species — including the *Spathiphyllum* (Peace Lily), *Howea forsteriana* (Kentia Palm), *Dracaena marginata* (Marginata) and *Dracaena deremensis* (Janet Craig), and *Epipremnum aureum* (Devil's Ivy) — can achieve a complete removal of VOCs in 24 hours in a closed chamber with no ventilation, and a 10 to 20 per cent reduction in flow-through conditions.

These removal rates rise with increasing VOC concentrations, which have been tested from five to 1000 parts per million in the case of benzene (where the occupational maximum indoor concentration in Australia is five ppm, averaged over an eight-hour day).

Professor Burchett emphasises that one does not need a "rain forest" to detoxify basement or sealed office areas, and states that plants strategically placed in the workplace can achieve significant results.

Several large, shoulder-high plants from the recommended species could be placed on the floor, and smaller plants could be sited near computers and on desk surfaces.

In a British experiment, scientists claim that rats died after being released into small tanks with edge-to-edge new carpets. And in a study conducted for the housing department in the United Kingdom, it was found that pot plants reduced by one third the build-up of nitrogen oxides in houses with gas fires and stoves, which produce these compounds.

A recent Swedish study to improve the indoor environment in an x-ray unit situated in a hospital "dungeon", demonstrated conclusively that pot plants not only achieved a substantial reduction in total VOCs in the indoor air but also reduced



PROFESSOR MARGARET BURCHETT AND RON WOOD IN THEIR GORE HILL LABORATORY

worker absenteeism by 60 per cent.

According to Professor Burchett, UTS research has confirmed the potential of potted plants as a portable, mass-marketable, integrated biofiltration system to improve indoor air quality.

"Urban dwellers often spend more than 80 per cent of their time indoors, so indoor air quality is a major health consideration. Potted plants will be increasingly used as a flexible indoor

biofiltration system, as well as for beautifying indoor spaces."

The World Health Organisation report, *The Right to Healthy Indoor Air*, published in 2000, highlights increasing recognition of a legal obligation on the part of owners and managers to supply healthy air for the occupants, and consequently the trend to using customised plant boxes as part of that solution has already commenced in some countries.

SAVING TIME ON INTERNET SEARCHES



TOBY ADAMS

Computer Systems Engineering student Toby Adams has won the Industry Advisory Network (IAN) prize for Engineering Innovation for his Capstone Project that has succeeded in reducing the amount of time spent on Internet searches.

Chair of the Faculty of Engineering's Industry Advisory Network, Dr John Nutt said that Toby had developed a mechanism that would save time searching for information on the Internet, and had applied both good analysis and creativity to add value to his project.

Although the Internet is a key information distribution medium, exponential growth over the last decade has made it increasingly difficult for users to locate the information they require efficiently and effectively. Numerous studies have shown that search results contain insufficient information to allow the user to identify all relevant Web sites.

"When we use a search engine like Yahoo to find information on the Internet, we get a list of links to Web pages with a very brief description about what each page offers," Adams said.

"To find out how to make it easier to locate the relevant information I did a search on the Web, then searched through each linked page and discovered other links to that linked page. I then followed those links and found pages that referred to the original linked page.

"It turns out that pages that refer to the original linked page provide comments about the original linked page, which if available to the searcher as well as the original search results would reduce the time wasted in identifying what is relevant to the search," he said.

EXCELLENCE

LAW STUDENT BEST ORALIST



TOP ORALIST PETER MUNRO

For the first time in the history of the UTS Law Faculty, a UTS student has been named "Best Oralist" at this year's Australasian Law Students' Association Conference held in Adelaide recently.

Peter Munro won this top award having gained the highest cumulative point score over the three preliminary rounds of the Mooting Championship, which attracted more than 60 speakers.

Peter first began mooting in 2000 and has since competed at both a national and an international level. His dedication to mooting has involved much hard work and sacrifice. Consequently, this award holds much personal significance for him.

"It means a great deal because mooting, for better or worse, has become a priority over many things in the past two years or so, and I now feel that it has been worth it.

"In some ways the Best Oralist award is more important than the winner of the competition, so I was thrilled to be the recipient of it. This award will certainly be remembered long after I complete my studies and compete in my final moot."

While the award recognises individual achievement, Peter is mindful that mooting is a team activity. "I was also surprised because my moot partner, Olivia Maloney, was certainly equal to me in the competition, and has provided the benchmark for me in recent months. I consider that I share the award with her."

Peter also acknowledges the contribution of the Faculty to his success. "I was also happy to have placed the UTS Law Faculty in the spotlight, since the Dean, Professor David Barker and staff have always been so supportive of mooting."

STUDENT DONATES TO STARLIGHT



LAUREN GOULDEN

Third-year Bachelor of Accounting student Lauren Goulden is donating close to \$4,000 — her winnings from a Channel Nine competition — to the Starlight Children's Foundation, a charity dedicated to bringing happiness to seriously ill children.

Lauren won Channel Nine's competition that pitted four young people against each other to see who could make the most money in a fortnight — starting out with \$100.

This challenged Lauren's entrepreneurial resourcefulness and her time-management skills, as she took this on despite her work load as an Accounting student and her full-time position as an accounting intern at Caltex.

"It was great to be able to do something for the community, it was a fun challenge. I haven't had a chance to do anything for charity since high school, as I've been so busy fast-tracking my degree by taking extra subjects," Lauren said.

When Lauren was approached to participate she was inspired by the challenge. "They told me I couldn't put in any of my own money, sell to friends or family, gamble or do anything illegal with the \$100.

"I wasn't allowed to get anything for free that I couldn't get in the regular course of business. That really set me thinking how I was going to make money out of such a small investment."

So how did Lauren create a 4000 per cent return in just a fortnight? She offered discount vouchers to a chain of Applique clothing alterations stores, which reaped \$2,450 in profit for Lauren's project.

Spurred on by the challenge and enlisting the help of family and friends she made a further \$1,540 by making and selling lolly bags, bath salts, shower gels and soaps, and turning 42 kilos of rice and 900 balloons into 300 stress balls.

REBECCA'S MEDIA SAVVY



REBECCA HENSCHKE AND A FRIEND AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GADJAH MADA

Carr-Brown Memorial Scholarship for 2002 by ABC New England.

The award honours the contributions of Don Carr-Brown, who was one of the most highly regarded journalists and broadcasters in the State's north. The scholarship, which is valued at \$3000, was established to assist young people from the region to achieve their ambition to become a journalist.

Rebecca first became involved with radio at 2ARM-FM as a schoolgirl at Duval High School in Armidale. She presented a breakfast program when she was 15-years-old, and later the afternoon program 'School's Out', which included requests and talk back. The experience was so enjoyable she decided to aim for a career in journalism.

"I realised when I was at school that radio is a very accessible medium that can bind a community together. It's more starkly obvious in Indonesia where I'm studying

this year," Rebecca said.

"My in-country project includes studying Indonesian language and culture at the University of Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta and working with local communities, which has really honed my language skills and extended my experience while setting up and broadcasting in Indonesian on several community radio stations in the region.

"I've also examined a broader perspective in a major research project on the role of community radio across Indonesia, particularly where the poorest groups are involved.

"Radio is an important source of information and means of sharing it. It's very exciting being in Indonesia when the people are just realising the power of radio as a tool in the quest for democratic rights."

A passion for radio that began in high school has led to undreamt of career developments for fourth-year Journalism and International Studies student Rebecca Henschke.

Rebecca, who is halfway through a 12-month in-country study program in Indonesia, was recently awarded the Don

Looking for a Venue

The UTS: North Shore Conference Centre at the University's Kuring-gai Campus offers a unique venue for business and social meetings, workshops, seminars, conferences and discussion groups.

- Sit down meals/buffets
- Cocktail parties
- Themeing and decorations
- Bus transfers between campuses

Let our Functions Coordinator take all the hard work out of organising your important function.

For more information, please contact Rochelle Krason on 9514 5719 or email Rochelle.Krason@uts.edu.au.

UTS CLASSIFIEDS

TO LET: Blue Mtns: cosy new timber holiday cottage in Mt Victoria. Sleeps 4-6. TV, wood & gas heating, 5 mins walk to bush trails and Kanimbla Valley, 10 min to village. Ph 9949 5382.

WHITSUNDAY YACHT CHARTER : Luxury yacht avble for 7-night charter in Whitsundays. 43ft Hunter "Sainty". Sleeps 6/8, 3 dble cabins, 2 bathrooms. 40% disc, \$550 per night incl GST. Ph owner 9460 3684.

FOR SALE: two black leather Chesterfield couches in good condition, \$150 each. One long modern low-set black leather 3 seater, \$150. Ph 0425 213 073.

RESEARCH

BY ANNE SARZIN

EDUARDO HAS GOOD REASON TO SMILE

If you smile at Eduardo Chavez, he might be tempted to time your smile's duration, assess the expression in your eyes and analyse your facial behaviour — all in the name of serious scientific research.

Eduardo's analysis of smile footage captured on video reveals for the first time that the expressive behaviour of smiling mouths is not always mirrored in eye expressions.

A Master of Design student in the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building who recently completed a research project into the mechanics of a smile, Eduardo is especially interested in the interplay between the smiling mouth and eyes, as well as the stages within a smile which are defined as the onset, apex and offset periods.

Eduardo can easily detect a "fake" smile, the grimace that results merely from using only mouth muscles without engaging the muscles around the eyes; whereas a genuine smile is co-ordinated with expressive behaviour of the eyes.

His project was designed to enhance the expressive capabilities of computer-generated characters that until now have smiled artificially. These characters include both the cartoons with which generations of moviegoers are familiar as well as the animation agents that interact instructively with software users.

Animated agents serve as the vital interface between humans and computer

software, enacting a broad range of roles such as tutors of speech-impaired children, guides for mothers of paediatric cancer patients or even as instructors of US Army personnel.

As a human computer interaction researcher, Eduardo endorses the view of MIT affective computing specialist Rosalind Picard, who believes that providing computers with the ability to communicate and interact in ways that come naturally to humans is a real step forward in human-centred computing. "The viewer responds more strongly to a computer-generated character that has lifelike characteristics," Eduardo says.

"Since communication not only takes place through verbal but also non-verbal methods, agents should generate non-verbal communication and no other area is better suited to performing these communicative functions than the face. And a smile is the most significant facial expression. It can express a state of happiness, approval and enjoyment."

According to Eduardo, many animated agents attempt to smile naturally but lack authentic expressions, which impacts negatively on effective interaction with software users.

Given that the intricacies and true essence of a natural smile have eluded researchers, Eduardo set out to analyse this complex action so that this knowledge could be used to humanise animated agents.

"I selected the smile from a wealth of potential emotions because of its positive characteristics," Eduardo says. "Selecting stimuli to induce smiles is much simpler than finding triggers for fear, disgust, sadness or anger. It was easier to convince the University's Ethics Committee to approve a study that set out to make participants smile rather than to frighten or distress them."

Eduardo selected a private office in the Faculty of Information Technology where student volunteers would feel comfortable both physically and psychologically. "Humour is subjective and there are no clear-cut rules but I had to find stimuli that would succeed regardless of the participants' cultural background."

Eduardo, who works in the Faculty of Information Technology as a Web designer and developer, conducted his research under the joint supervision of Dr Simeon Simoff of the Faculty of Information Technology and Dr John Broadbent of the Faculty of Design Architecture and Building.

Eduardo, who is also an Associate Lecturer in the Faculty of Information Technology, teaches "Human Computer Interactions" to IT and Engineering undergraduates, "Virtual Communities" to IT and Business undergraduates, and "Networking Communities" to Business and IT postgraduates.



EDUARDO CHAVEZ SMILES AFTER RECEIVING A HIGH DISTINCTION FOR HIS MASTER'S RESEARCH...INTO SMILING

COMPUTER ART WINS TOP AWARD



A DETAIL FROM "LIGHTHOUSE", THE PRIZE-WINNING COMPUTER ARTWORK

Computer graphics expert Dr Kevin Suffern from the Faculty of Information Technology has won the CompuGraph 2002 Bronze award for computer art at the largest and most important IT industry conference in South-east Asia recently.

As well as winning the Bronze for "Lighthouse", Dr Suffern's work "Creation" was also one of only 40 works short-listed from 200 submissions.

More recently Dr Suffern was invited to discuss his ray-tracing software and other techniques at SIGGRAPH 2002 in San Antonio, Texas. This important computer graphics conference, which showcases some of the most beautiful and technically exciting work in the world, this year attracted 17,274 professionals from 70 countries.

Dr Suffern, who has taught computer graphics at UTS since 1982, counts among his graduates several with the best animator jobs in the world. *Ice Age* animator Andre Mazzone explores the cutting edge in the Research and Development Division at *Star Wars* Producer/Director George Lucas' company Industrial Light and Magic. *Matrix* animators Justen Marshall and

Naomi Hatchman, are now working on the sequel, and Rangi Sutton worked on the BBC's productions *Walking with Dinosaurs*, and *Walking with Beast*.

Meanwhile Dr Suffern has his eye on the next generation, and particularly Information Technology students Steve Agland and Emily Boyd. Steve Agland's creation *Bin Can Can* was exhibited at SIGGRAPH 2002 and used to promote the conference. Web whiz and creator of *MatMice*, Emily Boyd has won several International and Australian awards for her web software, which has been used by 170,000 children around the world to build their own websites.

NEWS

A SERIOUS LOOK AT COMICS

BY ANNE SARZIN



MICHAEL HILL CRESTS THE GLOBAL ANIMATION WAVE

Comic books have grown up into "graphic novels", students clamour to study comics and animation — and suddenly those who considered comics a low form of literary life now concede it's a creative art form.

The Director of Interdisciplinary Studies in the Faculty of Design Architecture and Building (DAB), Michael Hill, who is completing a doctoral thesis on Australian comics, is fuelling the frenzied interest with his contribution to courses on Japanese comics known as Manga, and their filmic equivalent called Animé.

So great is student and industry enthusiasm that plans are underway for an innovative Master of Animation degree that will draw on design skills in the DAB Faculty, programming expertise in the Information Technology Faculty and writing and production techniques in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

"Although digital animation is available at some universities, UTS has a chance to corner the market in the critical and contextual area," says Hill, who this semester launches a new subject called Visual Culture, which embraces this area.

Despite this emergence of visual culture at UTS and Hill's own teaching and research — he has produced an experimental form of art animation using printmaking techniques, which he exhibited at a Sydney gallery — he often has to defend this field against accusations of lightweight scholarship.

"There's a stigma," he says. "When I tell people I research comics, cartoons and

animation, it's ironic that they have a perception that it's an area of lightweight scholarship and therefore not in the same league as finding a cure for AIDS or solving a huge sewerage problem somewhere."

But out there in the real world, the crowds are flocking to cinemas to see box office blockbusters such as *Shrek* and *Metropolis*, the latter based on a post-war comic book by Osamu Tezuka that featured an endearing cyborg as its androgynous hero/ine.

This animation wave that has engulfed cinemas around the world has its spiritual home in Japan. The Japanese are comfortable with artefacts of a robotic world — their children have bonded with electronic tamagotchi, their seniors have robotic pets, and Shinto priests are summoned to factories to bless robotic machines.

"In Japan you see adults reading comic books in public, the soaps on Japanese television are animated and serious text books are presented in comic-book style," Hill says.

"It's a sophisticated industry with specialised genres, there are comic books for every age-group from children and teenagers to retirees."

Unintentionally, one of Japan's most successful exports is its peculiar brand of Manga and Animé storytelling, which has found a thriving market in the West and, reciprocally, Web sites that rely on sequential digital images have provided fertile ground for Manga and Animé traditions.

INFO DAY DRAWS CROWDS



HIGH JINKS ON INFO DAY AT UTS

More than 10,000 school leavers and their families are expected to attend the UTS Information Day 2002 on Saturday 31 August on the city campus.

Info Day provides information about courses and will give visitors a taste of the energy that powers student life.

Setting the mood for a day of fun at Broadway, the UTS Tower Building will feature the Dare Devils on stilts, the Fashion Police, street performers and DJs from Radio 2SER.

Info Day organiser Frances Morgan said information on more than 100 undergraduate courses would be available and short lectures would be held for all study areas.

"Lecturers from all faculties, staff and students will be on hand to answer questions about courses and student life," Ms Morgan said.

"Visitors will also find out why UTS graduates are so highly sought after by business and industry and are among the most employable in Australia.

"Course entry requirements and information about careers, housing, health and counselling services, overseas study and career opportunities, short courses, scholarships and support services will be available.

"Parent information sessions will explain our student support services, which help students make a smooth transition from high school to university and we can answer parents' questions."

School leavers visiting UTS Info Day can enter a competition to win student "Smart Start" packages, with prizes including computers and software.

Free food, coffee/tea, drinks and fun giveaways will be available on the day. For a full program of lectures and further information, visit www.infoday.uts.edu.au

UTS will hold its Kuring-gai Campus Info Day on 7 September 10am- 4pm.

TORONTO TRAINING



MELANIE MORSON STUDIED CLUB MANAGEMENT IN TORONTO

UTS graduate and Lecturer Melanie Morson recently attended one of the best club management programs in the world — funded by a scholarship.

Melanie received one of three Department of Sport and Recreation Women's International Travel Scholarships worth \$3,000.

The scholarships encourage NSW women to further their knowledge of international best practice in sports administration and management. They aim to increase their numbers in leadership and decision-making positions in sport and recreation.

Melanie used the scholarship to attend the 2002 International Health, Racquet and Sports Association's Institute for Professional Club Management Program at Ryerson Polytechnic University in

Toronto, Canada.

She also spent five days with the Toronto City Council's Recreation Departments, touring facilities and meeting staff to discuss issues including marketing, facility development, funding and programming for high priority groups.

Melanie is the Operations Facilitator for the new Parklea Leisure Centre being developed by Blacktown City Council. She manages the Sports Stadium, the health and fitness program, and sales and marketing.

Melanie — a BA in Human Movement Studies (Sport Management) and Master of Management in Leisure Management — finds it rewarding to be able to give students a perspective on industry developments.