

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE

AUTUMN 2018

Thrive

ENTREPRENEURS POP UP:
HUB SUPPORTS INDIGENOUS
BUSINESSPEOPLE

DIFFERENT VINTAGES:
ALUMNI POOL TALENTS
FOR NEW WINE RANGE

NEW LOOK FOR DUBBO CAMPUS

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**HIGHEST
GRADUATE
EMPLOYMENT RATE
IN THE COUNTRY.***

Welcome

Welcome to **Thrive**.

We are so pleased to deliver the Autumn 2018 edition of Thrive. There has been much happening in the alumni space and there are always so many wonderful stories to tell it is hard to know where to begin.

This edition of Thrive showcases some amazing CSU Alumni! Two articles in particular come to mind: Women of Influence and Opening our eyes to STEM, which highlight some of our female alum who are tearing down barriers and are at the forefront of their industries. A huge shout out to the girls!

On the homefront, there has been a lot of changes to the Advancement Office recently. While our role to facilitate mutually beneficial relationships between the university, alumni, friends and benefactors remains the same, CSU has restructured its operations to move the Advancement Office out of the Division of Marketing and Communication and into a standalone office led by Sarah Ansell, now the Director of Advancement. Having been CEO of the CSU Foundation since 2014, Sarah is proud and well experienced to take on this new role.

This move comes with a new look and feel for the Advancement Office and a new program of activities. One of our main areas of focus for 2018 and going forward is increasing our engagement with Alumni – so keep an eye out for new ways to connect. Of course the best way to keep in the know is to ensure your details are up to date on our website: csu.edu.au/alumni

In other news, we want to send a big thank you to all of you who participated in the last Barometer of Alumni Sentiment survey and urge you to participate again in this years survey which will be out soon. The information we gather helps us structure and implement our alumni relations programs.

In the previous Barometer, we discovered that 92 per cent of those surveyed are satisfied when they participate in university activities and 82 per cent believe studying at CSU made a positive contribution to their life.

Giving back was also important – 58 per cent indicated they would donate to assist students who would not otherwise be able to attend university and another 64 per cent said they would like to share their expertise or experience as a volunteer.

Just as important as the positive feedback are the areas for improvement, and we'll be incorporating all we've learned into alumni activities going forward. As always, if you have ideas please drop us a line at alumni@csu.edu.au.

On a personal note, I wanted to say how excited I am to be working in this role at CSU. Alumni is the epicentre of my role as Alumni Relations Coordinator, and we are striving to better connect, engage, celebrate and congratulate you, as well as offer the support that you require.

We hope you enjoy this edition.



Sheridan Ingold
Alumni Relations
Coordinator

'BEST JOB IN THE COUNTRY'

Working for Dreamworld, Al Mucci travels the world working on wildlife conservation initiatives and once shared a joke with Russian President, Vladimir Putin, while wrangling a koala at a photoshoot with world leaders at the G20 Summit.

If you ask Al Mucci, he'll tell you he's got the best job in the country. Al has worked at Dreamworld for more than a decade and is now General Manager, Life Sciences and Dreamworld Corroboree.

Growing up in the Western Suburbs of Sydney, the son of post-World War II immigrants from Italy and Croatia, Al developed a love of exotic animals early in life. As a young boy, Al would roam nearby bushland catching local fauna. "I always had an interest in animals and plants," he explained. "I used to hang out at the creek a lot and catch animals and bring them home – my mum didn't understand why I was doing this!"

But it was no surprise for Al's parents that he chose to study environmental science after high school. Seeking a country adventure, Al moved to Bathurst to commence an Associate Diploma in Environmental Control at Mitchell College in 1987.

"I started the first year at Mitchell College (CSU antecedent institution) and I finished at Charles Sturt University. I had so many great experiences, but the best was probably living on a property on the Blayney Road with the Lenahan family. I guess I wanted to experience the bush. There were four students living on this property and we had so much fun. It was an amazing three years and I wouldn't swap it for anything.

"We used to round up the sheep late at night or early in the morning and you'd cruise around on your ag bike and see a Tiger Quoll running by. I thought that was pretty cool that these animals still existed and I was doing a course that meant I could maybe help animals like this.

"I could see that the urban sprawl was spreading out to them and I wanted to protect them. When I think back, I should have done more. I did ask the farmer to fence areas off so his sheep wouldn't graze in the gullies, which helped, and it probably prolonged their existence, but once the urbanisation reached the border of his property the quolls pretty much disappeared. Now it's likely they are locally extinct in the Bathurst peri-urban area."



"ONE OF MY PASSIONS IS FIGURING OUT HOW PEOPLE AND ANIMALS CAN BETTER LIVE TOGETHER AND SURVIVE TOGETHER."

That desire to protect animals has been with him ever since. "What inspired me then still inspires me now, absolutely.

"On World Environment Day this year, I was guest speaker for the Queensland Tourism Industry Council discussing how tourism and the environment can live together. We don't want our kids growing up without koalas in trees."

Father's lesson

As General Manager, Life Sciences and Dreamworld Corroboree, Al manages the day-to-day activities associated with the care and upkeep of the 500+ animals on site and interactive programs exploring Australia's Indigenous heritage. Al also puts in one day a week with the Commonwealth Games as Indigenous Relationships Manager and helped launch the Commonwealth Games Reconciliation Action Plan in 2017.

When asked how the son of Italian and Croatian parents became aligned with Indigenous culture, Al said he was influenced by his father.

"Growing up, my father and two uncles worked for Transfield as riggers on the Snowy River Scheme. During that time Italians were treated much like new immigrants coming to Australia.

"While he was down there in the '60s, he noticed there was segregation of black Australia – they weren't getting the jobs and hardly had food – my father and his brothers didn't understand how a country like this could be doing that to its Indigenous people.

“MY DAD AND UNCLES WOULD SAY, ‘MAKE SURE YOU RESPECT THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’ AND THAT ALWAYS STUCK WITH ME.”

“My uncles and my dad used to go down to the creek and take their salami and breadsticks and eat with the local Indigenous people and show them some Italian culture while they were sharing generously some of their Aboriginal culture.”

Al took his father’s advice to heart when presented with an opportunity to incorporate Indigenous culture into the fabric of Dreamworld.

Al approached Reconciliation Australia and was instrumental in establishing a Reconciliation Action Plan for Dreamworld, the first leisure-based company in Australia to do so.

The company began engaging with the local people and other language groups and it was through this engagement, Dreamworld Corroboree – interactive experiences celebrating Indigenous Australian heritage, culture, wildlife and story – was born.

“It was the Elders’ project, I just facilitated it happening. They all came and started working with Dreamworld on this because of their relationship with me and together we made things happen. They were shocked that a little white Italian boy was doing this!

“The proof is in the pudding here at Dreamworld. We’re the largest private employer of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders on the Gold Coast and we’ve built the capability of local Indigenous businesses. They’ve grown both personally and professionally while Dreamworld has grown with them.”

Advice to live by

Al is quick to describe his job as the most privileged role in Australia.

“The best part of my job is all of it!

“Working for a private company that backs my judgement and my intent when it comes to wildlife conservation and working with Indigenous people is not something I take lightly. I’m humbled by their generosity to me, which then drives me to do more.”

Al said some of the best advice he ever received came while studying in Bathurst.

“As young students coming through, you always worry about where your career path is going to go.

“My first year I worried about where my career was going but Mr Lenehan sort of took me under his wing and he kept encouraging me, ‘You’ll be fine Al. A person like you will go far.’

“So, to all those students at Charles Sturt, I say to them, ‘If you’ve chosen a course at Charles Sturt, that’s great. A person like you will go far.’”



POP UP HUB MEANS BUSINESS

CSU is taking entrepreneurship to the streets to engage and inspire Indigenous businesspeople.

Associate Professor Michelle Evans is excited.

Her dream of taking business education to regional communities has become a reality with the creation of the Walan Mayinygu Indigenous Entrepreneurship Pop Up Hub.

Having co-founded the Melbourne Business School's MURRA Indigenous Business Master Class, a business leadership development program for established Indigenous entrepreneurs, Michelle saw a gap in the market.

"The MURRA program is focused on growing businesses, but there's not really any educational offerings for Indigenous businesses around start-up, and nothing really offered in regional towns where people are located.

I was interested in designing an offering we could take out into regional places like the Northern Rivers and Dubbo, where there is already momentum in the Indigenous business community, and to other spots like Albury, where we hope to ignite an appetite for thinking about entrepreneurship and Indigenous

economic development. The idea of the pop up hub is to overcome geographical isolation and provide productive spaces for individuals and communities to generate their own business ideas. Ultimately, we hope to build momentum for the Indigenous Australian entrepreneurial sector."

Walan Mayinygu, which means 'strong for people' in Wiradjuri, is about strengthening Indigenous entrepreneurship at a grassroots level.

Herself a CSU graduate, Michelle said the program is intentionally broad in its focus. To cater for each of these groups, the pop up hub includes business 101 sessions for those new to business, opportunities to present and pitch business ideas, trade shows and networking events, and masterclasses for people running established enterprises.

"There's different audiences, so the program hits at all those levels. We have a youth program that focuses on technology and innovation, and a program for Aboriginal community organisations that want to think more entrepreneurially and perhaps explore a framework for developing a social enterprise.

"We are bringing as many resources to the hub as possible that people may not get the opportunity to see first-hand, so banks and investors will be there along with established Indigenous entrepreneurs themselves."



In her work with the MURRA program, Michelle has seen the benefits of people building a strong Indigenous business network.

“For me, this is absolutely a priority. It’s important to encourage people to see they’re not alone, to meet each other, to have a chat and think about business opportunities together. We want people to be opportunity-thinking and to see how they might work together and build the business sector together.”

Building on strength

Michelle believes Walan Mayinygu closely aligns with CSU’s remit as both a regional university and a university committed to the education of Indigenous people.

“The idea of Walan Mayinygu, as named by Stan Grant Snr (honorary doctorate of CSU and Wiradjuri Elder), is about creating strong hubs for our people and really driving the strengths. We aim to amplify regional dialogues on Indigenous entrepreneurship and encourage strong, resilient businesses and business owners.

“I didn’t want this hub to just be about the transfer of knowledge. This is about driving strengths through the community, through capacity development, through networks, through resources and making it all available.

“I get phone calls nearly every week about different ideas for Indigenous pop up hub programs in the business sector and that’s exciting because it means things are catching fire.

“It makes sense to go out and work regionally with Indigenous communities where they are. It’s not all about urban centres and we know that a lot of great Indigenous businesses are regional and we want to help them grow because they are going to employ more Indigenous people, they are going to use their profits to build infrastructure and success and wealth in their communities. This is fantastic self-determination.

“And the talent out there is just extraordinary. We need to open up our eyes, and make space, and get out of the way!”

The Walan Mayinygu Indigenous Entrepreneurship Pop Up Hub is an initiative of Charles Sturt University, in conjunction with the NSW Department of Industry and is sponsored by Indigenous Business Australia.

To learn more, visit innovate.csu.edu.au/incubators/indigenouppop

Editors note

Michelle Evans is now Associate Professor of Leadership at University of Melbourne

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

As CSU realises 20 years of pharmacy education, we meet two graduates named on the pharmacy industry's prestigious 10 Women of Influence list.

When the *Australian Journal of Pharmacy* (AJP) set out to find pharmacy's 10 Women of Influence, they received nominations for 300 exemplary candidates and confirmation that there are a lot of female pharmacists at the heart of the profession.

CSU graduates Samantha Kourtis (2004) and Elise Apolloni (2009) were both named on the list.

For Samantha, 2014 Pharmacy of the Year winner and passionate spokesperson for pharmacy and professional service expansion, being named on the list was an honour.

"To be recognised as one of 10 women out of however many thousands of female pharmacists in our country, when there's so many excellent female pharmacists out there, was both a surprise and an honour. It makes me feel like I'm on track and doing the right thing."

Community pharmacist, pharmacy owner, asthma educator, credentialed diabetes educator, mental health advocate and Lifeline volunteer, Elise was also thrilled to be included on the list.

"It was an enormous honour! I felt incredibly grateful to be recognised by my pharmacy peers, and to be listed with many other women in our industry who I look up to."

Both Samantha and Elise are today inspired by community and connection in their work, something that took root while studying at CSU.

"Making a difference inspires me," explained Samantha. 'Our business strategy is to inspire, connect and make a difference through health care.

"My first degree was in biochemistry but by the end of my three years of science I thought, 'I can't deal with petri dishes. I need people'.

"I was working in a pharmacy at the time and my boss who happened to be an amazing female business owner in pharmacy suggested I go to Wagga to do pharmacy. I got down there and loved it.

"I loved living in Wagga and being at CSU because the sense of community and the connection with the people who lived there was huge. In Canberra, where I completed my first degree, that was lost. It was a really tightknit community at CSU and it reinforced why I wanted to study health care – because it was community that was important.

"I definitely try and implement that sense of community at our pharmacy today."



“I LIKE THINKING BIG, AND I LOVE THINKING ABOUT WHAT LEGACY I WANT TO LEAVE IN MY PROFESSION. I ALSO LOVE THE GRASS-ROOTS COMMUNITY CARE I AM ABLE TO PROVIDE EVERY DAY.”

Elise, also recently named 2017 Young Pharmacist of the Year, says that she’s inspired by the big picture changes happening beyond the four walls of her pharmacy.

“I like thinking big, and I love thinking about what legacy I want to leave in my profession. I also love the grass-roots community care I am able to provide every day. ”

High-calibre graduates

CSU’s Associate Professor in Pharmacy Practice Maree Simpson, said both Elise and Samantha exemplify the calibre of CSU’s pharmacy graduates.

“These two amazing young women epitomise what pharmacists can achieve to enhance health outcomes in their communities in an innovative, inclusive and inspired manner. They are active participants in their communities and in peak pharmacy bodies and so contribute to practice change.

“I believe they are exceptional young women. Our graduates overall are of a high calibre. We have many young pharmacists who are in an ownership or partnership situation leading to the sustainability of country communities and pharmacy industry.

“We have individuals who soon after graduation seek and gain positions of influence in pharmacy peak bodies. People such as Krysti-Lee Rigby on the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia committee, and Eleanna Ballis and Tim Mizzi who have both served as president of the National Australian Pharmacy Students’ Association

“We have had successes in Pharmacy Student of the Year at state and national level, such as Jamie Pisani, and successes with Intern of the Year over several years, including Kerry Watts in 2016 and Seema Khiani this year.

“THE COURSE ISN’T JUST TEACHING YOU THE BEST EVIDENCED-BASED MEDICINE, IT’S ALSO TEACHING YOU THE DIFFERENCE YOU CAN MAKE. GOOD ON CSU FOR TRYING TO MEET THE GAPS IN OUR COUNTRY AND GET THE GRADUATES OUT TO THOSE SMALLER COMMUNITIES THAT NEED REALLY GOOD HEALTH CARE.”

“We have also seen Pharmacy of the Year winners, such as Charnwood, and Young Pharmacist of the Year winners such as Amy Page.

“It does seem that for a modestly sized course cohort, we ‘punch above our weight’ in this regard.”

Celebrating 20 years

After two decades of pharmacy education at CSU, Maree had a simple message for course graduates.

“Thanks for the opportunity to contribute to the education of our future leaders and keep up the good work. We send out best wishes to all our graduates from all of us involved in the course.”

Elise and Samantha also had messages for CSU.

“My assumption is that when CSU decided to provide healthcare tertiary education, they did it because there was a need in our country to graduate quality graduates who would be committed to the communities in these areas,” Samantha said.

“the course isn’t just teaching you the best evidenced-based medicine, it’s also teaching you the difference you can make. Good on CSU for trying to meet the gaps in our country and get the graduates out to those smaller communities that need really good health care.”

Elise added, “I’m grateful for the career and the connections CSU has given me, including some great friends and my wonderful husband, Dean.

“I still remember Ross Kennedy explaining at the start of my degree that your degree is like a brick wall; if you have a gap in your pharmacy foundations, everything on top of it won’t be as stable.

“I am confident CSU provided me with a very good brick wall, a lot of life experience, and memories that I will think fondly of for the rest of my life. So, well done CSU – may there be many more milestones for the pharmacy school, and many more successful passionate pharmacists entering our workforce!”



CSU Alumni

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OPENING OUR EYES TO STEM

In late 2016, the Office of the Chief Scientist published Busting myths about Women in STEM.

The paper dispels four damaging myths facing women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and highlights the need for ongoing action to encourage and support women to pursue careers in these areas.

Statistics show that while women are just as talented and capable as men in STEM fields, the gender pay gap, workplace discrimination and a belief that STEM professions are 'male' roles discourage girls and women from pursuing these careers. **This is something CSU is trying to remedy.**



Meet Anne Geddis, School and Community Outreach Coordinator at CSU in Wangaratta.

In partnership with schools, TAFE and Local Learning and Employment Networks, it's Anne's job to help raise student aspirations for tertiary study. She does this by exposing students to new activities and making learning both interesting and fun.

While she started in her role with an open aspiration-raising agenda, she said it became evident that STEM was an area in need of specific attention.

"An estimated 75 per cent of jobs in the fastest-growing industries in the next five to 10 years will need STEM skills," Anne said. "STEM is something young people need to be aware of, and we need to improve our STEM education to increase the low uptake of students choosing STEM subjects at senior level and going into those careers."

Working in North East Victoria, where the transition rate to tertiary education is low, Anne has developed a series of events to get students excited about STEM.

"We run a Food and Fibre Careers Event at The University of Melbourne's Dookie Campus where students can choose from 12 workshops that all have a food and fibre focus, from entry-level through to university-level science. We also held a Health Forum covering a range of careers in health in June, hosted a Vex Robotics Competition last year and will again host a STEM expo in August.

"The 2016 expo had a theme of Drones, Droids and Robots and the 2017 theme was Future Earth. We deliberately run the event in Science Week and tie it to Science Week's theme. The exhibits are all very hands-on and the students come, play and learn through doing."

Growing aspirations

Anne believes these events help demystify STEM for both students and their parents.

"The whole idea is to open students' eyes to STEM careers. This region has a low number of diploma or above qualified parents, so we're trying to open their eyes, too, to what's around and what the future holds.

"A lot of research shows us that parents are the most influential people in making study decisions but many of them wouldn't feel that they have the knowledge to be that influential. If we can open their eyes to the importance of STEM, I think it creates an attitude of support and understanding that we really need."

"THE STUDENTS GET REAL HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES AND INFORMATION ON THE DIFFERENT PATHWAYS TO DIFFERENT CAREERS".

ANNE GEDDIS



“THE STEM EVENTS HAVE GIVEN ME A DEEPER **INSIGHT** INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE PROFESSIONS.”

MADALYN, YEAR 10

While all events target both male and female students, Anne is conscious of the role she plays in making STEM appealing to girls.

“We’re strongly aware that the data highlights the low number of girls taking up STEM subjects, so there’s thought that goes into how we can increase the benefit for girls.

“Sometimes it’s a matter of girls seeing other girls and women involved. For example, we encourage industry exhibitors at our events to bring their female employees along. It’s all about making girls and women visible in these fields so we ensure our industry representatives are aware of that.”

Along these lines, CSU took part in a Women in STEM breakfast in Wodonga hosted by Member for Indi, Cathy McGowan, and Assistant Minister for Vocational Education and Skills, Hon. Karen Andrews.

“Women in STEM aims to get industry mentors for women and brings together students, educators and industry to discuss common issues. We’re hopeful a Wangaratta branch will be established so we can help inspire STEM across the area.”

When asked about the best part of her job, Anne points to the success of the 2016 Vex Robotics Competition and the way students came together to embrace that experience.

“To see young people openly enjoying what they were doing and linking it to educational outcomes was great, and it all comes together so incidentally and naturally.

“Some of these kids were getting an experience they don’t get anywhere else, so it’s a good feeling to be able to give them that opportunity. They see that not only is it fun and interesting, they’re good at it.



“We want to broaden our program to ensure these are not one-off activities. While it’s great to have a good experience as a one-off, we need to keep going and keep growing their aspirations.”

The students attending STEM events can clearly see the benefits.

“They made me think about careers I had not even thought about before,” said Year 10 student Imogen.

For fellow Year 10 student Macey the creativity of science was a welcome surprise. “It was interesting that there is also a more creative side to science that I didn’t know about before.”

BUILDING COMMUNITY



As a civil engineer in Afghanistan, Romal Baluchzada built infrastructure. In Australia, he's building community.

Arriving in 2010, Romal (pictured) now supports refugees and people seeking asylum, and in 2016 received one of the not-for-profit sector's highest accolades, taking out top spot on Pro Bono Australia's Impact 25 list of influential figures.

A team leader in Settlement Services International's Humanitarian Settlement Services program, Romal advocates for refugee rights and supports new arrivals settling into Australia.

Outside work you'll find him fighting child marriages and, until recently, running his own community radio program *Khurasaan Zamin* focused on Australian law and human rights. Since arriving in Australia, he has been interviewed by both Australian and Afghani media organisations to provide commentary on human rights issues.

Romal said his experiences coming to Australia as a new migrant were confronting. "It was really challenging for me coming to a new country with new culture, new people and new language," Romal said.

"Back home, with my qualification and my experience, I was very settled. I worked for the Afghanistan Government's Ministry of Public Works, and was a project manager of key road and railway projects in charge of a budget of \$400 million.



“I HAD A PASSION FOR WORKING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AND WHEN I CAME TO AUSTRALIA AND I FACED THOSE CHALLENGES, I DECIDED TO FOLLOW MY RIGHT PASSION.

“When I came to Australia, unfortunately none of my qualifications were recognised so that presented huge challenges. That’s why I had to start again from scratch.”

While still in Afghanistan, Romal had started working in human rights with different community groups and decided to follow this path in Australia.

“I decided to leave the mathematical issues (of engineering) aside and to work solving community issues. I had a passion for working with human rights and when I came to Australia and I faced those challenges, I decided to follow my right passion.

“I established my community radio program, I started working as a human rights activist and tried to build a new career for myself in the social and community field.

“I think this work is harder because we work with the feelings of the people, but I know how important the community is now and that’s why I want to make sure I make a contribution and build a positive community for our kids.”

After doing his research, Romal enrolled in a Graduate Certificate in Human Services with CSU and following completion commenced his Master of Human Settlement.

“My Masters will help me to give more to the community. I really want to contribute more in community leadership in the future and my long-term goal is to get my PhD in the human services area as well. That’s my goal for 10 years from now. I always set goals for myself.”

Sharing experiences

Romal said he was surprised to be named at the top of Pro Bono Australia’s Impact 25 list.

“I was nominated in 2015 as well and I came number four among 25 winners. In 2016, I came on top of the list. It was quite surprising for me that I came at the top as there was a lot of good people, very well-known people, on the list [including Rosie Batty, Tim Costello, Penny Wong and Julian Burnside QC]. It was quite surprising and I really feel proud.

“I BELIEVE THAT WE ARE ALL HUMAN BEINGS AND PART OF THE SOCIAL NETWORK, SO EVERY ONE OF US HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTRIBUTE FOR BETTER CHANGES, AND TO BUILD A BETTER COMMUNITY.”

“People nominate you when they can see or feel your activities have contributed to positive changes in the community. Since I came to Australia, I’ve been involved in a lot of activities for the community. For example, my radio program and participating in different activities for human rights, refugee rights, asylum seeker rights and child rights.

“I’m also active on social media. I have a lot of followers and I’m writing different topics about the community and how we can contribute to positive change. I guess these activities all come together to help me to the top of that list.”

Romal attributes his community involvement to a feeling of social responsibility.

“If you’re part of the Australian community, using the free health care and using the good facilities within the community, you are also responsible to give something back.

“Part of that comes from growing up in Afghanistan. Unfortunately, since even my father was born, it was always war and no security. We had challenging lives. When I came to Australia I experienced a lot of disappointment because I had good qualifications and good knowledge and no one was there to help me, at least to look at my resumé and offer me a job.

“That gave me a sense of how hard and how challenging life can be as a new arrival. When I was a bit established in Australia, I thought that I would share my experience with the community, especially with new arrivals, to give them a sense that it doesn’t matter if you come to a new country, still you can achieve whatever you want to achieve.”



SCHOLARSHIP TO KEEP JACOB'S MEMORY ALIVE



Photo credit: Meraki Photography

PICTURED: Members of the Berry family have been the biggest supporters of fundraising efforts. Pictured at the Beach Ball are (from left) Lyndon Tapiolas, Candice Tapiolas, Julie Berry and Paul Berry. More than \$25,000 was raised at the ball and from community donations for a scholarship to honour the life of Jacob Berry. PICTURED INSET: Jacob Berry.

Port Macquarie students have banded together to raise funds for a new scholarship to remember CSU graduate Jacob Berry.

Jacob Berry was in the prime of his life.

Well known and well liked around CSU's Port Macquarie Campus, Jacob graduated from his Bachelor of Clinical Practice (Paramedic) degree in December 2015 and was on a surfing holiday with friends in the Cook Islands in April the following year when his life was tragically cut short.

Having fallen off the scooter he was riding, Jacob suffered serious head injuries. Despite being evacuated to Auckland for medical care, Jacob never recovered. His organs were donated to five people who are all doing well now thanks to this life-giving gift.

To those who remember him, this kind of generosity was just a part of Jacob's nature. CSU students are keeping his generous spirit alive through the Jacob Berry Memorial Scholarship.

Port Macquarie Student Representative Council (SRC) Treasurer Ashley Hendry said the driving forces behind the scholarship have been the SRC, Student Liaison Officer Clara Koch, Kate Wood-Foye from Rydges and Jacob's parents.

"We raised \$5000 in our Orientation Week and the Jacob Berry Memorial Beach Ball held in June last year was an overwhelming success, taking us to the \$25,000 mark.

"Jacob was on the bar staff at Rydges and they offered their function room for a night and a lot of help in organising the ball. They were so excited when they heard we were fundraising and they couldn't offer their support to the event quick enough."

Ashley said support for the scholarship has been amazing. "A lot of the second- and third-year students knew Jacob, so they are coming along to a lot of our events, which was just awesome. We had more than 150 people attend the ball – students and community members – dressed in their beach ball bling, all coming together to raise funds for the scholarship.

"His family have been so supportive and I think they are honestly our biggest cheerleaders. When I said to Jacob's mum Julie that we wanted to just raise as much money as we can for Jacob, she threw

her arms in the air and said, 'Yes! Thank you. I love it. I can't wait.' She's really on board and is helping fundraising for the scholarship."

Jacob's name will live on

Fellow SRC representative Grace Stevens is very happy to lend her time and energy to these fundraising efforts.

"Before I heard of the Jacob Berry Memorial Scholarship, I first heard about Jacob Berry and how much of a good person he was.

"It's really incredible not to have known someone but feel a sense that you know him through other people who share great stories about him and his generosity to his friends. That's why I personally wanted to support such a great scholarship.

"It's not just about the scholarship; it's about keeping his memory alive at Charles Sturt University. It's just one of those things – you never know when something like that is going to happen.

"I'm more than happy to give my time to raise money for a memorial scholarship in his name and it's a really cool experience to be able to do something like this with the uni – just to be able to give someone the memory that they deserve is such a special feeling."

Sarah Ansell, Director of Advancement, has praised Port Macquarie students for rallying to support CSUgive and Jacob's family.

"The students' support has really demonstrated the values of CSU in action. The CSU Foundation Trust is very proud to be able to assist in setting up this legacy scholarship in Jacob's memory and we are humbled by the fundraising achievements to date. We look forward to awarding the scholarship in 2018.

"The CSU Foundation Trust team will manage the funds and the scholarship application process to ensure that the students' wishes are met and Jacob's memory is honoured annually in a way that I'm sure would have made this community-minded young man proud."

You can contribute to the Jacob Berry Memorial Scholarship at: www.csu.edu.au/go/give

BRINGING LEARNING TO LIFE

CSU health students are gaining valuable clinic skills and experience via Riverina Shore, a new virtual community.

CSU has a reputation for developing innovative learning tools that help students relate theory to practice. 'Riverina Shore', a new virtual community, is doing just that by allowing health students to assess clients in real-world scenarios before they ever hit a clinical setting.

Dr Caroline Robinson, Course Director with CSU's School of Community Health, said Riverina Shore began as a way to present students with complex cases in a more engaging way.

"We give students complex cases to stimulate their clinical reasoning and extend their learning. When they are all paper-based cases, they are quite flat, so when we had the opportunity to collaborate with CSU's Media Services team it allowed us to create something far more interesting and really bring those cases to life."

This approach proved successful, with positive feedback from the Bachelor of Podiatric Medicine students involved in the initial trial.

Looking to take the idea to the next level, Caroline and the project team applied for a research project grant through ulmagine – CSU's learning and teaching innovation thinktank.

"The idea changed from having one or two animated stories to actually putting people into a virtual community. We always used real examples, but now they were real people who lived in a community called Riverina Shore, a rurally-based community.

"There are places and spaces in the community, so not all resources pertaining to one person are found in just in one place. You might have somebody at their home but then you would also have them in other locations like the community health centre."

CSU partnered with Albury Wodonga Health to find four real-life people to take part in developing resources for the pilot project.

"Our colleague at Albury Wodonga Health was key to the project because she was the conduit talking to these people. You need somebody who's got that trusting relationship with people. Our scenarios cover the lifespan from a 12-year-old child to an older lady."

"People in the virtual community have different issues which they face in their daily life. Complex issues could be related to medical history but it's much more than that because a person's age and

where they live, their social circumstances and their support networks also play a part.

“Riverina Shore provides students with the opportunity to grapple with complex issues and, in some respects, the video stories enable delivery of more extensive detail than you might get from a person in a typical clinical setting.”

Potential uses

Preliminary feedback from students, academics and health practitioners has been positive. “The feedback we’ve had is that the video clips enable the user to see the bigger picture. It’s a simulated online learning experience that enables the students to visualise the person in their environment, allowing for a more accurate assessment of their needs.”

Caroline said that there are many opportunities for extending Riverina Shore as an online learning resource.

“I think there’s lots of ways we can use it. It could be used as preparation for students’ workplace learning – to discuss issues with students before they see clients.

“It could be used in the classroom if there’s something relevant to the topic being explored. For example, a group of students in the Master of Nursing were asked to problem-solve how Dick – an older man living in the community – would manage at home alone, while his wife was in hospital. We provided a tiny trigger and then allowed the students to problem-solve.

“Resources in the virtual community could also be used to enable inter-professional collaboration, because you could have practitioners from different disciplines sitting down, working on a case together and exchanging their ideas and disciplinary perspectives, which is really enriching for the students. Physiotherapists working with speech pathologists; occupational therapists working with podiatrists.

“There’s a lot of evidence that you can engage students and develop their empathy using online scenarios, so I think there’s great potential to look at Riverina Shore from that sense as well, especially when students may have never spent much time with an older person or they may never have met a young person with Autism Spectrum Disorder. A virtual community enables time for reflection and learning, and the space for students to develop their skills in clinical reasoning.”

About the School of Community Health

The School of Community Health brings together five health courses with a common interest in developing health professionals who improve the lives of individuals so they can participate fully in their communities.

If you’re looking for a challenging and rewarding career in health, take a look at these courses.

- Bachelor of Health and Rehabilitation Science
- Bachelor of Speech and Language Pathology
- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy
- Bachelor of Physiotherapy
- Bachelor of Podiatric Medicine

Did you know you can arrange a campus tour any working day of the year.

For more information visit futurestudents.csu.edu.au/unilife/campuses

“WE ALWAYS USED REAL EXAMPLES, BUT NOW THEY WERE REAL PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN A COMMUNITY CALLED RIVERINA SHORE, A RURALLY-BASED COMMUNITY.

ALUMNI OF DIFFERENT VINTAGES

CSU graduates are renowned for their ability to work collaboratively and across disciplines on projects greater than the sum of their skills and experience.

Take CSU's 2016 vintage wines as a case in point.

This vintage was developed through a unique project designed to draw on the expertise of CSU's students and alumni at every step in the process – from growing the grapes and making the wine, to creating artwork that adorns the labels of each bottle.

As CSU graduate and Wagga Wagga Campus' resident winemaker Campbell Meeks explained, the idea of an alumni collaboration started taking shape in 2014.

"From the beginning we wanted to tie the wines back to the university and to work with alumni. From the growers right through to the labels, everyone involved in the process has some connection with CSU. They are either students, graduates or they have been supplying grapes to the uni for 20 years or more. We have two ranges. Our Alumni Chardonnay and Shiraz were sourced from the excellent Gundagai Vineyard, located just down the

road near Nangus. The vineyard is owned by the Bunn family, Olivia being a CSU viticulture graduate, and managed by another alumnus, Christian De Camps. The wine was then made by McWilliams, where a team of fantastic winemakers, led by the renowned Chief Winemaker Andrew Higgins, wove their magic. Other alumni involved in this range included Russell Cody, Stephanie Lucas, Kylie Wheeler and Kyra Boissery.

"The second boutique range that we make on campus is from fruit grown in regions around Wagga including Murrumbateman, Tumbarumba, Hilltops and Oura."

A taste for art

PhD graduate and finalist in the 2015 Archibald Prize, Dr Tony Curran was commissioned to create works of art for the labels of this special alumni project.

"I had a really good experience at Charles Sturt University and I wouldn't be making the kind of work that I make now had it not been for my time at CSU.

"I'd be working a little bit with the idea of synaesthesia [a neurological phenomenon in which stimulation of one sensory or cognitive pathway leads to automatic, involuntary experiences in a second sensory or cognitive pathway] and was particularly interested in the relationship between music and painting, and translating one sense into another. I believe there's an innate synaesthesia that

we all share as human beings. Like when something is cluttered, we think about it as noisy or busy. We think about it in terms that are beyond visual analogy. We talk about it in terms of embodied senses.”

Treating the project as an artistic exploration, Tony’s approach was to taste the wine and make an artistic translation allowing the taste to drive the colour and form of each artwork. “Once I tasted the wine I was off and running because the wine was sensational. I was surprised by the full-bodied nature of particularly the boutique wines. They had a strong complexity to them and immediately I thought, ‘Yep, I know exactly what this wine looks like’. I would drink the wine and I could think about it in terms of colours. A really full-bodied wine might convey a really dark colour, but a dark colour that’s also really vibrant, like a really deep red, or a deep blue or a rich green.

“There’s complexity in terms of colour. Sometimes in a complex but sweet wine, you would have several different kinds of sweet that come in that create a vibration of colour to signify that you’re sort of jumping from one sweet, to another sweet to another, and I think sweetness has relationships to higher intensity colours.”

Now based in Canberra, Tony said the project was a nice way to be able to maintain his connection with CSU. “After living in Sydney all my life, when we moved to Wagga following my wife’s job, I wasn’t exactly sure what I would do. When I looked at pursuing Higher Degree Research, it became very clear to me that there were some really great people that were going to be really generous with their time and their ideas.

“Within a year, I was researching at the university, teaching at the university and getting feedback from

my peers there that was turning me into a much better artist than I had been six months before. The rate of progress was just extraordinary and there’s just some really powerful social connections that come out of being in regional Australia.”

Making CSU proud

For Tony, like others collaborating on the range, doing the university proud was a driving force behind his decision to take on the project. “I’ll always have very fond memories of living in Wagga and working with the people there, so when this project came up, it felt like an opportunity to give back. Part of the motivation for really thinking through how I was going to tackle it was to make sure that something cool came out of it for the university.”

Campbell Meeks says Tony nailed the brief. “I love his artwork. I think the labels are fun and vibrant and, without giving him too much information about how the wine was developed, I think they are really bang-on in terms of the colours and the moods of the wine. He’s done a really good job.

“I’m really proud of these wines and I think they compete well in the market. I think everyone should give them a try – not because they have to or they think they should, but because these are legitimate wines and I think they’ll be really happy with the product. Hopefully all alumni will be proud to put this wine on the table for their friends to share as well. That was the aim.”

Editorial note: wine varieties include Shiraz, Chardonnay, Nebbiolo, Rosé and Tempranillo. The range can be purchased online or through the Cellar Door at CSU in Wagga Wagga.



THROUGH THE LENS:

CSU ALUMNI'S INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK

The view from the top of 432 Park Avenue, the tallest residential building in New York City, is dizzying as towers of concrete and glass rise up from the streets below.

Australian filmmaker and photographer, and CSU Alum, David Joshua Ford is there to capture an image of Lendlease CEO of America's Denis Hickey for The Australian newspaper. It's moments like these that David enjoys most about his work as a film, TV and commercial director based in New York.

"I've been able to sit behind the camera and experience a 'day in the life' of everyone from movie stars and CEOs, to a veteran in a hospice in the back of Queens. Every day is different. New York also has this sense of optimism that anything is possible, and that any day now you'll meet someone who will change your life forever."

The CSU connection

Born in Canberra, David completed a Bachelor of Arts (Television Production) at CSU in Wagga Wagga from 2003-2005.

"I remember the dry bush heat, wonderful open spaces and meeting people from around Australia who had come to forge a new path; fresh dreams and ambitions. The nature of Wagga Wagga being a college town means students relocated their lives from Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, and other regional centres to live and study there.

"That means forming entirely new friendship groups, and probably led us to bond together in a way that we wouldn't have at a metropolitan campus.

"I had some amazing lecturers such as Bill Fitzwater and Storry Walton who gave us the mandate to think. To create shows, imagine stories, and to question the world. I still keep in touch with them to this day and catch up when I'm back in Australia."

A study exchange program to the University of Regina in Canada inspired an international perspective that continues to shape David's outlook and career.

"The program helped me to experience a world beyond Australia. I was able to live overseas for six months and accommodation was organised.



"THE PROGRAM HELPED ME TO EXPERIENCE A WORLD BEYOND AUSTRALIA... HENCE STARTING A LIFE IN NEW YORK FROM SCRATCH YEARS LATER WASN'T SUCH A MENTAL LEAP."

"The student exchange program helped navigate the experience of moving overseas. Hence starting a life in New York from scratch years later wasn't such a mental leap."

Stepping into network TV production

"My first job was as a production assistant at Channel 7 in Martin Place and came through a referral by a classmate who had already started working there. I'd attribute most of my early jobs to people I knew from university. Even to this day I get referrals in New York City from CSU Alumni in Australia.

"Over the next six years I freelanced in production at Channel 7, 10, and Fox, hosted a music TV show for two years and tried my hand at modelling and acting. I shot documentaries overseas, took several world trips, and developed my photography particularly around travel and portraiture."

A realignment

In 2010 David studied a graduate diploma in directing at the Australian Film Television and Radio School. "This was a big realignment for me, from being a small player in big productions to being a big player in smaller productions. In essence, to originate ideas and leadership rather than executing someone else's production."

This paved the way for David to work in the United States with Refinery on Madison Ave in New York.

Clients include Newscorp (The Australian), Uber, Samsung, the UN, Telstra, Lendlease, and BBC.

"I love crafting films to an exceptional standard. I love happy clients who see the quality of our work and know that we are presenting their best side to the world."

It's a job full of diversity and has seen him on assignment capturing images of Australian fashion designers such as Zimmerman and Dion Lee for New York Fashion Week, the 2016 US presidential

“FILM IS A MEDIUM THAT CAN TRANSFORM THE WORLD FROM THE WAY YOU SEE IT TO THE WAY YOU IMAGINE IT”

election campaign and interviewing celebrities such as Nicole Kidman at Tribeca Film Festival.

“The photograph of Lendlease CEO Denis Hickey sticks with me because of the amazing location.

“Two years ago I also interviewed Hugh Jackman which was great because he’s someone that I really admire.”

Exploring the world through film

David’s passion for story-telling through film was cultivated in a high school media class.

“Film is a medium that can transform the world from the way you see it to the way you imagine it.

“I made a short film for a class project and found these tools opened up my imagination. I could look at a back yard, or a car, or a house, and imagine placing some actors in that environment, and what they would say and do.

“It’s a powerful way to communicate, because it feels like you’re participating in someone’s direct experience.

“Fast forward to years later when I was traveling solo around the world, photography and video became a way for me to capture what I was experiencing, and in sharing it with friends and family back home, still feel connected to my herd.”

Telling stories that help people connect and understand the world is still at the core of his work but David explains there’s also other forces at play.

“I want to know how much I can challenge myself in what I do, to work with the best people, brands, creatives, projects, and to assemble a team who can execute amazing productions.

“When you find yourself telling the same stories and making the same productions, it gets safe and boring, and it’s time to shift the goal posts.”

A career is a long term game, not just the next job

David’s message for new graduates: relax and enjoy the process of discovering life after university.

“Returning from my exchange program in third year, most of my classmates were already out the door and working or on internships.

“Even though the international experience had been life changing in other ways that I would later discover, I had a sense of needing to scramble to get ahead professionally in Sydney.

“A career is a long game, not just the next job. So think broadly about where you want to be 20 or 30 years from now and lay the foundations in your personal life that will help you navigate the highs and lows of your professional career.

“With a long term goal and daily actions, eventually you’ll get to where you want be, or something like it.”

You can check out David’s work on Instagram [@davidjoshuaford](#) and online [refilmery.com](#).

EVENTS CALENDAR

01



Escape Room – Lost HK & lunch
at 208 Duecento – Hong Kong
Saturday 14 April & Saturday 21 April

02



Wagga Gold Cup – Wagga
Friday 4 May

03



Graduation Ceremonies
August

04



Safari at Dubbo Zoo – Dubbo
September

05



Canberra Zoo
September

06



National Cool Climate Wine & Food
Festival – Mayfield Gardens
October

07



Brown Brothers historical tour
– Milawa
November

08



Coming soon!
Melbourne

09



Coming soon!
Sydney

SERVICES SUPPORT DECISION TO STUDY

Lee Shepherd knows what it's like to question the benefits of a tertiary qualification. In fact, he was dead against it. But fast-forward 20 years and he's halfway through an MBA majoring in public sector management. Here, Lee shares his advice for others teetering on a decision to tackle postgraduate study.

Lee Shepherd's advice to CSU alumni considering postgraduate study today is unequivocal: "Study opens up opportunities, both personally and professionally. Don't hesitate. The hardest part is starting."

Having completed Year 11, Lee entered the Australian Army and served for eight years before joining the Queensland Police Service (QPS). At various times

throughout his distinguished 23-year career, Lee was vocal in his opposition to formal training.

"I just couldn't see why I needed it. On reflection, now that I am a mature-aged student, I wish I had studied earlier."

Despite his initial reluctance, Lee was required to study as part of his role in the QPS.

"As a detective, I progressed through promotions to senior sergeant, often relieving as detective inspector. As you move through the ranks, your role changes from being operational to strategic, a transition that I found myself really enjoying.

"However, if I was to progress to commissioned officer management roles, I recognised that I needed to take responsibility for my own development. As I had completed a range of courses in the police, I was able to apply for credit for prior learning in addition to credit for current competencies, which meant I needed to do just five subjects to complete my undergraduate degree through CSU.

“I had acknowledged that my education was something of a weakness and decided that since I’d already done a lot of the work anyway, and it was only five subjects, I’d get my degree.”

Then with his Bachelor of Policing completed in 2015, Lee made the decision to leave the QPS. “It was actually because of my degree that I ended up getting opportunities outside the police in positions across government in senior roles.

“I had significant experience in management and leadership, where I had been involved in national committees directly involved in leading legislation reform in areas such as compliance, service delivery and public safety. Having that undergraduate degree gave me the opportunity to look at other positions and having an MBA will open even more doors. That’s something I’m really excited about.”

“I’m now halfway through my MBA. I suppose I now have the study bug. I often reflect and think that I should have completed my studies sooner. Having on-the-job experience is one thing, but to underpin that experience with what I am learning in my postgraduate studies is relevant to both my professional development and me as a person.”

Support available

One of the reasons Lee felt confident to pursue postgraduate study was the range of services available for CSU students.

“If I go back to when I did those five undergraduate subjects, I probably hovered on that decision for some years. You stall because you’re trying to balance work, it could be a financial decision, or it could be that you just don’t understand the university environment.

“But at CSU, there’s a whole range of services available to help you that can make that decision easier. They have Study Link [bridging programs] and provide you with careers advice. There’s more services there than you probably realise and study at CSU is very flexible. I just do one subject a session but I can change that at any time, or defer for a while if I need to.

“I rely on Library Services – they have absolutely everything you need online – and ALLaN [Academic Learning, Literacy and Numeracy] which is just so easy. You email them a copy of your assignment and they give you advice on things like referencing.

“The other thing I really like is that you can contact your lecturer at any time. In my undergrad degree and through my postgrad, I’ve never had a lecturer who hasn’t wanted to help – they’ve always made themselves available because they want you to gain knowledge and they want you to pass. They know that you’re investing a lot of time and money into completing the course.”

For former Dean of Students, Professor Julia Coyle, understanding postgraduate student needs is the key to service provision.

“Most of our postgraduate students are juggling full-time employment and families, life, the universe and everything as well as studying. So, we have a real focus on providing services in ways that mean they are accessible online and facilitate students’ sense of agency and control. We specialise in providing materials and resources online to help students to help themselves if and when they need it.

“When our postgraduate students do need a bit of assistance, the full suite of services from counselling to literacy and numeracy advice is available to them. We provide a range of these services online and via chat, skype and phone to aid flexibility. Some are also available after hours and at weekends. If you’re an online student but you happen to be near a campus, you can come onto campus, too.

“The majority of staff in the Office for Students are doing, or have done, what our postgrads are doing – people with a full-time job who are studying and juggling life. So CSU combines business knowledge with personal experience to really enable online students to tap into the services they need. We know it’s not easy and we bring that empathy to our work with students.”

As CSU’s postgraduate student representative on Academic Senate, Lee also gets to see the university from a different perspective and agrees with Professor Coyle; “From my observations on Academic Senate, student experience is one of the university’s top priorities. That’s one thing I know from my career – establishing strategic and collaborative relationships with your stakeholders is key to strengthening the organisation. For CSU, the stakeholder is the student.

NEW LOOK FOR DUBBO CAMPUS

If you studied at CSU's Dubbo Campus in the past two decades, you may no longer recognise the space.

The university recently completed a \$4.05 million refurbishment and upgrade of student learning facilities and campus amenities. Head of Campus, Cathy Maginnis, said the refurbishment has revitalised student spaces at the heart of the campus. "I've always enjoyed working on the Dubbo Campus, and now appreciate and enjoy the learning environment and atmosphere we experience as staff and provide to the students and community visiting our lovely rural campus.

"The colour scheme and contemporary furniture are amazing and really bring our campus and learning spaces into the future. The revitalised precinct incorporates open-plan staff and support offices, a 24/7 student kitchen, new courtyard and landscaped areas adjoining the café for mingling and learning. We encourage interested community groups to contact us to use our facilities for meetings, seminars, workshops or conferences based around room availability."

Cathy added that alumni living or working in the area are most welcome to utilise the campus. "Alumni are always welcome here! We encourage graduates to use the 24/7 spaces for quiet study or to browse the

extensive online resources required for further study or updating their knowledge. Borrowing, printing and copying services are available as part of our community membership scheme."

The revitalisation project was funded from the CSU 2015-2019 Capital Plan and represents the university's commitment to providing relevant and accessible higher education facilities in regional areas.

Carried out by local building contractors and trades, the upgrade includes:

- 24/7 access to the Learning Commons area (including security card access and CCTV)
- improved the Learning Commons with additional quiet study room, a new parent room, a multifaith room, and a staff kitchen, as well as two new flat-floor flexible teaching spaces fronting onto the courtyard
- relocation of learning spaces away from the entry to the Learning Commons and an open plan Student Central and Library Services 'welcome' point at the campus entrance
- a café in the main space adjacent to the Learning Commons, which incorporates a kitchenette for students to use 24/7
- relocation of the existing computer lab to become a shared space with the Learning Commons
- an improved courtyard with casual seating and learning environments.

“I’VE ALWAYS **ENJOYED** WORKING ON THE DUBBO CAMPUS, AND NOW APPRECIATE AND ENJOY THE LEARNING **ENVIRONMENT** AND **ATMOSPHERE** WE EXPERIENCE AS STAFF AND PROVIDE TO THE STUDENTS AND **COMMUNITY** VISITING OUR LOVELY RURAL CAMPUS.”



Photo credit: David Roma Photography

ZOË'S APPI OUTCOME



PICTURED: CSU alumna Zoë Hida and her husband Isao made the return to Bathurst, where Zoë studied communications and founded their own app development company.

Moving back to Bathurst to enjoy the family lifestyle, graduate Zoë Hida couldn't find her dream job... so she decided to create her own.

When Zoë Hida was completing her Bachelor of Communication (Public Relations and Organisational Communication) degree at CSU in Bathurst, she never dreamed she would eventually become an award-winning app designer. Following a successful career in public relations, public affairs and media roles across government and corporate sectors, Zoë now runs a successful Australian software company with her husband Isao, specialising in native mobile application development and web services. Here she talks about how that business journey began and shares with us her big dream for the future.

How did you come to be in your current role?

We returned to Bathurst during the global financial crisis. I was on maternity leave and my husband Isao was working for a Japanese bank. We found that there were lots of people in our situation – degree-qualified professionals who had returned to their hometown for the family lifestyle.

There simply weren't enough jobs that matched our skill sets and interests, so we created our own. We founded Appiwork, which combines my love of communication and marketing with Isao's love of software development. We are a great team. Last year Appiwork was recognised as the best small design studio in the 2016 World App Design Awards. Isao and I went to the awards in 2014 as finalists and watched longingly at everyone else winning. We vowed to each other that we'd be back... last year we won four trophies!

Can you give us an insight into what your role involves day-to-day?

Every day is interesting and I'm always learning and practising new skills. As the business development manager, I'm the public face of Appiwork and am the first person in our team to speak to budding app entrepreneurs about their ideas.

I often represent Appiwork at business events, networking meetings, app launches and tradeshow. Sometimes I MC events and other times I'm advising

our developers on the graphic design of the user interface for a new app. I also manage media campaigns for Appiwork, our apps and our clients' businesses.

What do you love about what you do?

I love meeting new people and working with them to develop apps and websites that will solve their problems and create new possibilities for their lives and businesses. We've created apps across a huge range of industries from pregnancy to unpacking shipping containers. I love learning about new industries and attending meetings onsite with our clients – from machinery sheds in industrial parks, the NSW State Records bunker or a glamorous rooftop bar in Sydney's CBD – new places inspire our creativity to come up with new solutions.

I love the freedom that comes from running my own business too – when we come across a great idea, we get stuck into it. In the future I'd like to run a unicorn app start-up [a private company valued at \$1 billion or more] right here in Bathurst!

Where did your drive and commitment come from?

I think I've inherited my drive and commitment from my parents. My mother, Roz Townsend, is a very ambitious and hardworking author and entrepreneur. Building on her teaching degree at CSU, my mum has gone on to be an internationally bestselling author with books published in seven languages. My father, Iain Townsend, was a lecturer at CSU for more than 30 years and we often welcomed overseas lecturers into our home. He is such an intelligent, thoughtful and loyal person – every entrepreneur needs someone like that to love and support them.

What was your best experience at CSU?

Working with the international broadcasters during the Sydney Olympic Games. I got to march on the field during the closing ceremony. That was amazing!

What advice would you give to young graduates just starting out?

It's okay to change. I started a business degree, changed to cultural studies and then finally completed a public relations degree, which was a fantastic combination of subjects for me. After my degree, I got a public relations role with St John Ambulance (NSW) which then led to my role at NSW Rural Fire Service as a media officer and then senior ministerial liaison officer. Being ambitious and adaptable allowed me to progress quickly.

LEARNING NEW THINGS ALL IN A DAY'S WORK



You could say Ian Manock is well prepared for any emergency. As Emergency Management Course Coordinator, Ian provides CSU's emergency management students with the skills and confidence they need to work on the frontlines of crises and disasters. A much-loved lecturer, Ian says he has learned a great deal from his students over the past two decades.

What's your background, and how did you come to work at CSU?

I spent four years in the Royal Air Force and 13 years as a police officer in the Royal Hong Kong Police before taking a role as a regional emergency management officer with the Tasmanian State Emergency Service (SES).

“THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DISCIPLINE IS CONSTANTLY GROWING AND OUR STUDENT BASE HAS EXPANDED ENORMOUSLY OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS. I LOVE INTERACTING WITH OUR STUDENTS AND MY OWN SCHOOL, THE AUSTRALIAN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF POLICING AND SECURITY, IS LIKE A LARGE FAMILY.”

I came to CSU in 1997 as a sessional academic in the Bachelor of Social Science (Emergency Management), which was developed from an associate diploma course I helped develop in Tasmania with the SES. In 1999, I became a permanent member of the emergency management course staff and took over as courses coordinator in 2005.

What has made you stay at CSU for such a long time?

I love the interaction I have with students in both programs. Our students are generally working within the emergency management industry, which provides me with ongoing exposure to current practice and enables our programs to be among the leading emergency management programs in the world.

Why are you passionate about what you do?

I love it. The emergency management discipline is constantly growing and our student base has expanded enormously over the past 20 years. I love interacting with our students and my own school, the Australian Graduate School of Policing and Security, is like a large family.

What is your best CSU experience?

I have been fortunate enough to have been part of a large contract between CSU and the Indian Police Service (IPS) delivering professional development education to superintendents within the IPS. Although my emergency management component was a small part of the educational program, it has been a very informative and educational experience for me.

How would you describe the calibre of CSU’s graduates?

I am proud to say that I believe our graduates are of the highest calibre and leave CSU with a wide range of graduate attributes that set them up for a very bright future in the emergency management industry.

Do you stay in touch with graduates of your course?

Yes, we maintain connections with our graduates through a Facebook page and use our graduates in sessional academic roles, both coordinating subjects and providing marking support to the subject coordinators. This gives our alumni a chance to enhance the students’ experiences by passing on their knowledge, skills and contemporary practices.

What have your students taught you over the years?

Far too much to list, but as I head towards 60, I am constantly reminded that one is never too old to learn new things, which I am fortunate enough to experience daily from interaction with my students.

What would you like your students to remember you for?

Just being me. Having completed both of my degrees at CSU part-time and by distance, while holding down full-time jobs in the emergency management industry and then education, I very much appreciate the stresses and pressures that being a mature-age, full-time employed, parent and student can have on a person. I try to use that experience to empathise and support our students in their own journeys through university study.

NO SIMULATION FOR BONDING

In 2017 CSU played host to three successful international alumni experience events in Singapore, Malaysia and China.

It's not every day you get to take command of a Boeing 737 with your spouse by your side. That was exactly the order of the day when CSU hosted an alumni experience in Singapore in April.

As Sarah Ansell, Director of Advancement, explained the immersive flight simulation allowed CSU graduates to experience what it's like to take off, cruise and land the world's most popular jet airliner.

"Our alumni had let us know that dinner and drinks events are sometimes a little intimidating, saying they prefer experience events. We discovered that some of our guests are born naturals in the cockpit while others, well, they crashed into the Hudson River.

"It was quite hilarious to see husbands and wives as co-pilots and discovering who the real captains were. And it's always wonderful to see people walk into the room as strangers but walk out as friends."

CSU alumnus Alagappan Perianan loved the experience. "My wife and I enjoyed the flight simulator event very much. It was very nice to meet everyone and I would love to set up a CSU alumni group in Singapore so we can host more interesting events and stay connected."

"The event was fabulous," said fellow alumnus Hyder Gulam. "I have degrees from four different universities, and this was the best of all the alumni events I attended from the Australian universities."

CSU alumni in Malaysia also experienced a unique bonding experience, this time over roti.

In early May, CSU grads were treated to a traditional Malaysian cooking class at LaZat Cooking School, nestled in the jungle just outside Kuala Lumpur city centre.

Those taking part learned to prepare Roti Canai, Nasi Lemak and Prawn Sambal, and then enjoyed eating their meal with new-found friends.

"The best part was just how much people enjoyed the whole experience," Sarah said.

"We helped each other through the challenges, like flipping the roti, and there was lots of laughs and banter along the way. It was great to see the CSU spirit in the room.

"Everyone in the group exchanged emails so they could stay in touch, and some grads are now looking to form a CSU alumni group in Malaysia, which is wonderful, and I'm sure CSU staff will be in the country to host another event in the near future.

"This is exactly what CSU alumni events are about – creating a friendly atmosphere with a unique experience that allows people to form meaningful connections with their fellow alumni."



Falling in love with Australia

On Saturday 20 May 2017, CSU Study Group hosted their inaugural China alumni event in Shanghai. Attended by 30 alumni from across China and as far afield as Malaysia, the luncheon was hosted at the renowned Fairmont Peace Hotel, overlooking the magnificent Shanghai skyline and the Bund.

The event included addresses from CSU Study Group Director, David Knight, who spoke of the rapid progress of the Chinese economy and the advantage CSU alumni have by accessing the dynamic China market.

Following lunch, Claudio Da, Study Group Marketing Manager, invited guests to speak about their experiences.

Online student Wendy Wei spoke of the positive impact her education had on her life and her decision to become an educator.

William Wong, who completed study with CSU and went on to be a highly successful sales and marketing director at Carlsberg before opening his own thriving consulting firm, entertained the room with his witty tales of studying with CSU in Kuala Lumpur.

Mofei Yuan, who graduated in 2015 and studied at CSU's Study Centre in Melbourne, spoke of the fond memories she created and expressed her desire to support CSU as a show of gratitude for the quality of education she received.

Attending the luncheon, Gael Evans-Barr, then Manager of Alumni and Foundation Relations, said of the 190,000 CSU alumni worldwide, more than 6600 are in China.

"I'm always truly delighted to see so many alumni at such events have studied at one of our regional campuses. It's wonderful to hear that everyone has such fond memories of their time on campus. Most reflect on their appreciation of the campus environments, the wide open spaces, the Australian wildlife and the supportive staff.

"One graduate remembers the Albury-Wodonga Campus well as that is where she met her now fiancé." Gael said the Alumni team was asked to arrange the couple's wedding ceremony and reception on campus in 2018. "It must be love!"

International events are planned for Hong Kong and China in 2018.

Visit alumni.csu.edu.au/home/events for details of upcoming CSU Alumni events.

CSU NEWS

CSU makes news. Here are some highlights from the past 12 months.



Golden farewell for Kurt

Alumnus Kurt Fearnley ended his career representing Australia with victory in the men's T54 marathon at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games on April 15.

CSU's Pro Chancellor for the Northern Region and three-time paralympic gold medallist, Kurt completed the 42.195km course in a time of one hour, 30 minutes and 25 seconds. This gold medal winning performance came just days after he won silver in the T54 1500m at Carrara Stadium.

CSU Vice-Chancellor Andrew Vann congratulated Kurt on his final appearance in Australian colours, and all those students and Alumni involved in the Games as athletes and officials. "Kurt is a great ambassador for CSU and a great human being. He is proof that if you set your mind to it, you can achieve anything."

NAIDOC Scholar of the Year

A CSU academic striving to improve the health of Indigenous Australian communities was named the 2017 National NAIDOC Scholar of the Year.

Dr James Charles, a podiatry lecturer Karna man from Adelaide, South Australia, has worked for many years educating health professionals on providing culturally appropriate health care. "In my research, I found that it was not just diabetes and smoking that caused poor foot health outcomes that results in the high rates of foot amputation among Aboriginal communities, but also the changing foot structure of Aboriginal people.

"I am proud and honoured to win such a prestigious award. I hope it will shine a light on the poor foot health in the Aboriginal community and help me continue my research."

CSU among top global engineering schools

A report commissioned by global leader in engineering education and research, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), has identified CSU as one of the top four emerging engineering courses in the world.

Released in March 2018, the report describes the CSU degree as 'completely rethinking what engineering educating should look like.

CSU Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrew Vann said being able to influence global practice in engineering education demonstrates that innovation is alive and well in regional Australia. "To be identified by as an engineering degree of the future and a global leader in engineering education is a major coup for CSU. It gives us the confidence to keep pushing the boundaries to meet the changing expectations and needs of students, employers and society into the future."



Solar helps power CSU

CSU's future has been made even brighter thanks to the power of the sun following the completion of Australia's largest single-site solar panel installation.

Officially switching on the installation in November 2017, CSU Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrew Vann (pictured above left) described the project as another significant milestone for the university, certified as carbon neutral in 2016. "The Solar PV project highlights and enhances our reputation as the leading higher education institution committed to sustainability," Professor Vann said.

Valued at more than \$3.2 million, the solar panel installation will provide approximately 20% of the power needs of CSU in Wagga Wagga.

Podium finish at Cannes Young Lions

CSU graduates Charlotte Berry and Grace Espinoza claimed second place at the annual 2017 Young Lions international advertising competition in Cannes, France.

Now strategy executives with UM Australia, the duo were Australia's representatives at the 2017 Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity. They had just 24 hours to devise a campaign to refresh Amnesty International's 'Write for Rights' campaign for a 'millennial' audience.

Their idea was to capitalise on the enthusiasm and idealism of university students at graduation to 'Write for Rights' and publicly declare their purpose and solidarity.

Advertising discipline leader Anne Llewellynn congratulated the pair. "Grace and Charlotte were part of CSU's Kajulu Blue team that won the 2015 International Advertising Association 'Big Idea', and now they are up there with the best in the world! You can't get much better than that."

Islamophobia report first of its kind

Australian Muslim women who venture out on their own are almost three times more likely to face harassment of an Islamophobic nature.

This was one of the key findings in a first-of-its-kind research report on Islamophobia in Australia, released in July 2017 as a joint study conducted by CSU's Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilisation, and the Islamophobia Register Australia. "The report offers a window into the types of religiously motivated Islamophobic incidents taking place out in suburban Australia," said Mariam Veiszadeh, lawyer and President, Islamophobia Register Australia.

Other findings included:

- 48% of offline attacks occurred in crowded spaces, with shopping centres, train stations and mosque surroundings most common
- 98% of perpetrators were identified as ethnically Anglo-Celtic by the reporter
- Non-Muslims constituted about 25% of the witness reporters
- Nobody intervened in 75% of the reported incidents.



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