The pursuit of identity
Landscape History Genetics

Melbourne’s second Festival of Ideas will be a gift to the people of Melbourne, that builds a bridge between the University and the city, as scholars, artists and writers consider the pursuit of identity through landscape, history and genetics. Shane Calhill reports.

"The Festival of Ideas is intended as a gift to the people of Melbourne," says Vice-Chancellor Professor Glyn Chandra Jayasuria.

"This is why attendance at every session is free. It is designed this way because this is about building a bridge between the exciting world of ideas that we know exists on a campus and the larger civic democracy of which the University forms a part.

Professor Dais says a highlight of the inaugural 2009 Festival was the level of participation by people who may not have spoken before at a public forum and who made important contributions to the conversation between the state and the city. Some hope that this is the experience of 2011, that the University and the city get to know each other a little better," he says.

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A few short months after winning the 2011 Indigenous Arts Awards, VCA Master of Visual Arts student Ben McKeown has supervised the installation of a stunning tapestry at the State Library of Victoria. Gabrielle Murphy reports.

Gabrielle Murphy

Chandra Jayasuriya, the University’s Cartographter, based in the Department of Research and Development, shares how Geographic, traces the path from pen and ink to computer imaging in her craft which she has practised for more than twenty years at the University.

As the only cartographer in the University and the first in Australia to train in a combined degree in cartography and graphic design, she says that the journey has been very diverse and ranges from using traditional drafting systems, diagram and graphics to production of detailed and specialized maps.

Each job is unique, being drawn according to customer specifications. Many of these maps include geodetic maps, hydrographic maps, thematic maps; ranging from maps of international boundaries, maps of commercial lands owned by indigenous communities in various countries, including Australia, maps showing distribution of various mental health services in Victoria, historical maps of some old Chinese城镇, maps of archaeological sites; and graphic and visual aids.

Some of the mapping work requires substantial research, including use of archival material from libraries and other sources while other maps are generated from field notes and sketches. I have produced maps and diagrams of various archaeological dig sites in North eastern Australia – Turkey, Syria and Georgia, utilizing detailed field level primary data. At the invitation of Professor Tony Tatarnikov, who was responsible for the site reconstruction of an archaeological site in Australia, Chandra was given first-hand knowledge of the location, which was used for the purposes of her final year project. The final report of which was subsequently published.

When I joined the University in 1988, all my work was done manually. It was basically pen and ink on drafting film. This has totally changed and now everything I do is done digitally. This change from conventional cartography to digital cartography was necessary to keep up with technology.

I currently use a range of computer software such as ArcGIS, Mapinfo and Excel which enables data to be converted into a number of forms – in both colour and black and white – for publication, these and presentations including maps, diagrams, web-based maps and interactive web maps. I keep in touch with developments in software and techniques and update the programmes as required.

I am currently the Cartographer for the Department of Research and Development, one of the central units in the University, which assists the University’s academics, students and staff to communicate their research in a variety of formats. I am responsible for the production of maps and related material, and a member of the University map users group.

PINOY

On his days off from university work, Chandra has also been active in various community activities, including: serving as a member of a local community group, which has covered a range of topics such as health, education and environment; and as a member of the local council, which is responsible for the local community activities.

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I am a member of the South Asian Institute of Australia – the professional body, and the Australian and New Zealand Map Society and regularly participate in their conferences and other professional activities. I am also a cartographer editor of the Journal of Maps, an international journal on the quality of submitted cartographic material, and a member of the University map users group.

This work was supported by the University of Melbourne, the Victorian Government and the Australian Research Council. The views expressed in this paper do not necessarily reflect the views of the University or the Victorian Government.
The secret lives of black swans

Black swans have long intrigued us with their seemingly random, often-frightening outbreaks of behavior, and zoologists from the University of Melbourne are continuing to reveal surprising aspects of their lives thanks to a new research strategy, Sally Sherwin reports.

The study of a wild population of around 250 Black swans at Albert Park Lake over the past six years has allowed a team of researchers, led by Associate Professor Raoul Mulder from the Department of Zoology, to unearth fascinating aspects of swan behavior. Such discoveries include the debunking of the notion that black swans are monogamous, as the team revealed that although swans tend to form long-term pair bonds, infidelity is rife, with around one in six elderly couples being the product of an illicit encounter.

The team also found that swans of both sexes courted with elaborate rituals of coiled wing feathers were more likely to form a relationship.

But one aspect of black swan behaviour which remains poorly understood is their movement patterns around Victoria. As Dr Mulder explains, black swans are nomadic and travel vast distances, but we don’t know exactly where they go.

"Keeping track of the movement of 250 wild animals is a challenge for a small research team," Dr Mulder says.

So the swan research group came up with a solution – enlisting the help of members of the public, adding millions of extra eyes available to look out for the swans rights across Victoria.

The team designed an interactive website - mySwan.org.au - that aims to encourage interest in research on wildlife, by allowing members of the public to report sightings of tagged black swans and in return receive information on the history of those birds.

"When members of the public help to spot a bird, it opens up this whole fascinating aspect of their lives," Dr Mulder says.

But the extent of public interest in black swans might work out, as well as discussing the moment of the founding may be done very subtly and with a degree of layer of complexity.

"Typically and not surprisingly, foreign advisers draw on their own past experiences, including knowledge of their own country. Some are less sensitive to the reality of local difference than others. The attitude that outsiders bring to such a process is extremely important. And a good knowledge of comparative constitutional law is extremely useful," Professor Saunders says.

By 2011, Professor Barry Conyngham was confident that the University of Melbourne was best placed to discuss these issues. She is well placed to discuss these issues. She teaches subjects on both Constitution and Foreign and International Law, and is well placed to discuss these issues. She teaches subjects on both Constitution and International Law, and is particularly knowledgeable about the features evident in Nepal, Professor Saunders says. 

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Pets with mental illness

As the mysteries of animal behaviour are unravelled, experts are gaining new insight into the minds of our furry friends. Sally Sheen reports to the veterinary behaviourist, Dr Gabrielle Carter.

Mental illness is not only a problem many humans battle with, but it is also growing increasingly recognized in our furry friends as well. As more animals share similar biological systems, for example, the nervous system and brains of different mammals, the reviews of both human and animal welfare societies, Dr Carter explains. “If you are dealing with an animal that has been experiencing mental illness based in altered brain function, then it is a much more complex process than formerly used to,” she says.

Problems in a range of species including cats, dogs, horses, birds and many more are being treated in increasing numbers. “We do not typically deal with mental illness patients, but veterinary behaviourists are being increasingly asked to do that,” Dr Carter explains.

It is an important welfare for the welfare of our animals, and something that should always be addressed,” Dr Carter explains.

We’re not exactly sure how we can define mental illness, but we are beginning to see some specifics related to that,” she says.

The owner would inadvertently encourage the bird by getting a bit, particularly down on the back, and around the wings. He would also kiss the bird, which is a similar behaviour to feeding beak to beak. This persistent state of breeding readiness leads to stress in birds. So we altered the public profile which was kept up on at the beginning of the breeding season. This led to a reduction in feather picking.

This is important because it means mental disorders aren’t always diagnosed. “If a caregiver says that many dogs show aggression issues, then they are not really ready to break down the barriers of difference,” she says.

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Four degrees or more? Australia in a hot world?

What might Australia look like if we fail to tackle climate change effectively? Four 'Degrees of Change', a program in a Hot World, a conference to be held on 12 to 14 of the University of Melbourne, will look at this question.

ConfERENCE ORGANISERS announce a Hot World conference that will be held on 12-14 September 2011 at the University of Melbourne. The conference will explore the impact of global warming on every aspect of life and society and will look at how we can change the course of climate change.

The conference aims to bring together leading experts, policy makers, business leaders, community activists and the general public to discuss the impacts of climate change and the urgent need for action.

The conference will feature keynote speakers from around the world, including leading climate change experts, government officials, business leaders and community activists.

The conference will cover a range of topics, including the impacts of climate change on health, agriculture, water, energy, and biodiversity, as well as the role of governments and businesses in addressing climate change.

The conference will also provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and the sharing of best practices, with the aim of informing and empowering people to take action on climate change.

Seats are limited, so early registration is recommended to secure your place at this important conference.

Conference registration is now open online at www.degreesofchange.com.au

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Child health front line

For a country with a population of 6 million people, having only 57 trained paediatricians in Laos is an alarming figure, but it also represents an invaluable network of child health professionals for the country.

“For Mr Montana, working on the Human Planet documentary in Laos has been ranked 135th out of 180 countries. Working in Vietnam (and the rest of South Asia) is very typical for the research, which is used to help paediatricians in Laos will be better prepared to respond to health challenges and improve the health of the country requesting the booklet and the relationship with the University has led to the University having the support of the University with resources than they ever have before. As a result, paediatricians in Laos will be better equipped and will have access to more resources than they ever have before.”

Dr Gray says. “There was a lot of work involved in translating the booklet written in Lao, the official language of Laos. The work she has put into the project has certainly paid off, with hospitals around the country requesting the booklet and other organisations now supporting in supporting the work she has done. The work she has done has now reached far outside my research, which is extremely helpful.”

“Armed with my degree and a desire to get a small taste of how rich these cultures and their interactions are, I spent four years working in South Asia. My dream is to be able to bring these passions to life.”

Professor Samson is Professor of Management at the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Melbourne. His consultancy, Asia Calling, works with government, business, and civil society to help resolve regional issues. His consultancy, Asia Calling, has worked with government, business, and civil society to help resolve regional issues.

Visions Vodcast

Visions Vodcast (also available through the iTunes store).

Up Close Podcast

The China-India relationship in context

Political scientist Dr Pradeep Taneja discusses how India and China view each other’s relations in the context of history and current events. Dr Taneja is Senior Lecturer at the School of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Melbourne.

Online: 3 June 2011

Shredding new light on Kashmir

The untold story of a decades-old dispute

Political-strategy analyst Dr Christopher Snedden reveals evidence that dozens of Indian suicide bombers killed more people in 1989 when they were trained in Pakistan than in Afghanistan. Dr Snedden’s analysis debunks the narrative that India has been a leading force in the Kashmiri conflict, with India and Pakistan’s role in the conflict and the impact of their actions on the ground.

Online: 3 June 2011

Out on the cutting edge

Innovation as a driver of corporate success

Professor Mark Grincevich, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Melbourne.

Online: 17 June 2011

Out of Africa: Diversifying human genomics

Geneticist Professor Vanessa M. Young reveals her African origins and how exploring genomewide data can help us understand human disease. With host Shane Huntington.

Online: 19 June 2011

Congratulations to Peter O’Keefe of Ascot Vale who was the first reader to win the prize. To email him to Peter O’Keefe at voice.unimelb.edu.au.
GETTING THERE

All events take place at the Parkville campus of the University of Melbourne in the Centre for the Study of Democracy, the Global Campus, the Australian Government Centre, the Australian Institute, and the Australian National Gallery.

**Train**
- Catch train from 3, 5, 6, 8, 16, 67, 72 from the Y2B to stop 1 (University of Melbourne).

**Bus**
- Comprehensive travel information for getting to the Festival of Ideas by train or bus can be found online at www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au

**Car/Parking**
- Parking is available beneath University Square in Grattan Street, and on-street parking spots around the campus.

The Festival of Ideas is proudly supported by

**TRINITY COLLEGE**
**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE**

**ADVERTISING FEATURE**
Chair: Mr Max Delany  Monash University
Speakers: Ms Siri Hayes, Visual Artist
Mr Ricky Maynard, Photographer
Ms Raquel Ormella, Artist

Critiques of the Landscape
2.00pm   Contemporary Visions and...
Mudfest fun

Danielle Asciak and Justin Nett, Arts Officer at The University of Melbourne, give the lowdown on Mudfest.

If you don’t know what Mudfest is, don’t try to find the answer through Google. You’ll be doing nothing but to do with the celebration of mud. But from its humble beginnings as a student drama festival in 1995, Mudfest has grown and evolved to become one of the biggest student arts and culture festivals in Australia.

99th: The festival theme The Kaleidoscope, Mudfest, Australia, is aiming to be a truly imaginative and irresistible day. It’s a welcome return to the festival that always leaves the skies as they search for signs of community and collaboration with the general readership.

Mudfest will showcase creative works in visual art, dance, music and sound installation, film, theatre, multimedia, creative writing, music, cabinet, comedy, fashion, photography, sculpture, spoken word, animation, physical performance, guerrilla gardening and all the inevitable collisions that occur between art forms.

From PhD thesis to book and beyond

The Writing Centre assists scholars in the successful transformation of their theses to successful books for a general readership. Cassandra Clews reports from the centre.

W hat do Melbourne theatre in the 60s, the complex world of microbes, and humour Ben-Barak have in common? For one thing, the answer is this: the university’s Centre for the Study of Literature and Researchers. For another: the centre’s new iPhone app.

Now, five years later, the Centre takes its place in the world of literature, with the publication of Microbes, Australian Humour and The Complex World of Microbes. But from its humble beginnings as a student drama festival, Mudfest has grown and evolved to become one of the biggest student arts and culture festivals in Australia.

In 1995, Mudfest was instigated by then Vice-Chancellor’s Fellow students to transform their research into word, animation, physical performance, fashion, photography, sculpture, spoken word, and researchers group applications. For more information, including application forms and terms and conditions, go to www.union.unimelb.edu.au/student-life/arts/events/mudfest/

Mudfest comes to the university on August 18 and runs until August 24. The festival is supported by the university’s students union.

Boat Club Extension Launch

The Melbourne University’s Boat House extension was officially opened by Vice Chancellor Professor Glynn Davis on Tuesday 10 May 2011. James Garland reports.

With the guest list including names such as the Governor of Victoria the Honourable Annabel Chenoweth, Provost Professor John Dawar, Senior Vice-Principal of the University, Bear Club President Cameron Holmes, and Bear Club President Colm Smith, the significance of the event was palpable.

The proposal to extend the Boat House had been considered by the Bear Club, MUBA and the University for some time, primarily because of the need to house an increasing fleet and the limited capacity to house it in the existing space. Boat Club President and former Olympic Gold medallist Peter Antion was a significant driver for the project. The opening of the Boat House extension is a significant day for sport at the University and another step towards achieving its vision of being the leading sporting university in the country. The University’s decision to provide much needed funding for sporting infrastructure projects including the Boat House extension was critical in bringing this project to fruition.

Built in 1924, the original Boat House is now heritage listed. In 1973, it received an additional wing to the west of the building followed by extensive internal renovation completed in 2001. Ten years on, the $2.9 million Boat House extension role boosts a two storey training centre with a mezzanine level. The ground floor provides significant level of additional boat launching space while the upper floor extends the Boat Club’s facilities. The extension harnesses the iconic historical building whilst creating a dynamic new logo that Bedford old and new in a creative and interesting way, crossing the city and Melbourne’s renovated sports precinct.

The extension means that MUBC now has the best facilities of any boat club on the Yarra, and reminds us for ambition for the club to be one of the best in the world,” says Provost Professor John Dawar.

Architects Ed Chan (the lead architect along with Mike Turnball) were engaged by Property and Projects Services and worked with Melbourne University Sport, various members of the Boat Club and Melbourne Council City to design and eventually secure approval for the extension.

The Melbourne University Boat Club is 152 years old and is arguably one of the leading boat clubs in the country and the only club on the Yarra that has a dedicated accommodation unit. The Club continues to develop numerous national and international representations, something that the University is justifiably proud of. www.mubc.asn.au/
June Timetable

For latest listings, visit www.events.unimelb.edu.au

Events

WINTER SHORT COURSES

June – July 2011

MELBOURNE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC SHORT COURSES

www.conservatorium.unimelb.edu.au

■ Guitar Workshops for Secondary Students
  Masterclasses, workshops and a concert for intermediate and advanced young guitarists.
  03 9685 9229
  Venue: Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, Parkville
  Enquiries: gseaverns@unimelb.edu.au

■ Winter Workshop for Music Teachers
  Selected schools can book a hands-on workshop to be held on-site and led by a music teacher.
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■ Early Music Winter School
  Workshops for intermediate and advanced musicians (VCE level 2 or above) – 3 days: workshops and ensemble practice, performance and related seminars with experts in the field.
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MELBOURNE CONSERVATORY OF ARTS SHORT COURSES

http://www.mca.unimelb.edu.au/arts

■ VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS SHORT COURSES
  Courses:
  – Weekend Art classes in:
    ★ Life Drawing
    ★ Drawing Workshop
    ★ Sculpture Workshop (Bronze Casting)
    ★ Contemporary Painting Techniques
    ★ Creative Woodwork
    ★ Printmaking Workshop
    ★ Upholstery
  – Weekday Art classes in:
    ★ Life Drawing
    ★ Drawing Workshop
    ★ Sculpture Workshop (Bronze Casting)
    ★ Contemporary Painting Techniques
    ★ Creative Woodwork
    ★ Printmaking Workshop
    ★ Upholstery

All classes are taught by leading practicing artists in an atmosphere that is both supportive and critical. The classes are perfect for both beginners and those wishing to extend and develop their skills. Enquiries: 03 9685 9229 or mct@unimelb.edu.au

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