The complexity of problems facing humanity calls for a broad and multidisciplinary approach. To succeed, however, each of those disciplines must maintain depth and excellence. Shane Cahill reports on the University’s responses to these twin challenges.

"Most of the new ideas that are there come about because people from different disciplines get together and start to think about the bigger picture. The Melbourne Research Institutes represent a fantastic new opportunity to capitalise on these new ideas and turn them into reality." Professor Steven Prawer says.

"Materials are the great enabling medium: they carry the electrical pulse of the Internet, they deliver drugs to heal the human body, they capture the energy of the sun to inspire sustainable power," Professor Prawer says. "Advances and innovations in materials science are essential if we are to solve the great problems of our age – in communications, medicine, energy and sustainability. These problems have no simple solutions: they are big, complicated and multi-faceted."

"The Research Institutes initiative is part of the University’s strategy to promote a greater degree of discussion across the campus and to harness our disciplinary strengths to work on problems of substantive social impact," he explains. "There are currently five Melbourne Research Institutes – Broadband Enabled Society, Energy, Materials, Neuroscience and Sustainable Society – with a small number still in development. Each Institute brings together researchers from across the University to form teams to tackle complex issues in new ways. Our ambition is to build teams to tackle complex issues in new ways."

"Professor Sonenberg observes: "The strength of the individual disciplines themselves still rests on the fundamental and expanding strength of the individual disciplines themselves. "No-one can predict the issues that science and society will consider most pressing in the decades to come," Professor Sonenberg says.

"But if we look at some high-priority issues of today, such as food security, biomedical ethics, and global energy demand, it is increasingly evident that research is more and more crossing the boundaries between disciplines."

Discussing recent interdisciplinary research initiatives at the University, Professor Sonenberg observes: "The strength of the University lies in its disciplines and we will continue to do so, but increasingly there are opportunities and incentives for academics from different parts of the University to work together."

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"The change in the philosophy of the University has been so as not what we can do but rather what we ought to be doing for the good of society and also for the good of science," Professor Prawer says. "The best way to find out what is important is to talk with people who have needs and problems that need solving."

"We’ve done that by partnering with the electric car company Better Place Australia where we have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Better Place needed to understand the effect on the Australian electricity grid of the mass adoption of electric vehicles. We have world-class modelling capacity and expertise in grid technologies. Bringing these two together has resulted in an ARE-Linkage grant to investigate this problem."

"We’ve also partnered with the Defence, Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO), whose mission is to ‘future proof’ our defence forces. We asked the question: What do they need in order to make our soldiers safer and make our defence forces more effective and more efficient? This has resulted in a partnership with seven key research themes being pursued by DSTO staff in collaboration with DSTO staff."

"And with Bionic Vision Australia, we asked what was the fundamental science problem in building the Bionic Eye prosthesis. Our answer was to use cutting-edge diamond technology to deliver light signals to the brain which will be instrumental in the bionic eye prosthesis and the next generation of bionic devices."

"Professor Prawer describes these relationships as ‘long-term deep partnerships’ to ensure the University’s continued role as a provider of relevant research."

"The value proposition is that collectively the Institutes are the forum by which the University can conceptualise the new generation of research to make sure that what we do is relevant, needed, cutting-edge and internationally competitive," he says.
The Asia Pacific Twenty-First Century Conservation Art Network Research has triggered a series of important initiatives since its establishment in 2008. Gabrielle Murphy reports on the recent projects of this highly successful international collaboration.

Art and science of conservation

At its biennial network meetings, the Asia Pacific Twenty-First Century Conservation Art Network Research has triggered a series of important initiatives since its establishment in 2008. Gabrielle Murphy reports on the recent projects of this highly successful international collaboration.

The importance of the network and its work is not limited to the management and conservation of cultural material in its various forms. The network’s research and conservation efforts have provided a forum for its researchers to identify, preserve and safeguard cultural material that would otherwise remain hidden from the public.

The network has also played a key role in raising awareness of the importance of conservation and the need to protect cultural material. Through its research and conservation efforts, the network has helped to raise awareness of the importance of conservation and the need to protect cultural material.

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Taking knowledge to where it's needed

Exports from the University of Melbourne Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital conducted a master-class for Chinese neurologists at the Shanghai Jiaotong University, and took on a killer disease along the way. Lингam Palam reports.

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When the Australian Research Council (ARC) gave the go-ahead for the University of Melbourne to offer a Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions in 2011, it was one of the largest single-focus projects for the humanities. Gabrielle Murphy reports.

In funding a Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, the Australian Research Council saw it as being a once-in-a-career, single-focus projects for the humanities. Gabrielle Murphy reports.

The University of Melbourne has jumped to 62 in world academic rankings. Melbourne has continued its climb up the prestigious academic rankings of the world's universities, with the biggest increase of any in the top 100. By John Durlabh.

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Cultivated plants in gardens, parks and streets contribute significantly to people’s health and wellbeing and to urban ecosystem functioning. Drawing on their research in Ballarat, Dr Nicholas S.G. Williams and Dr Kathyn J. Williams of Research Dixon, Geography and explore how and why we decide on our plantings.

Dr Williams has assumed that people tend to favour and cultivate species that they perceive to be meaningful or expressive of their background or personal history. Our study of gardens across Ballarat also found very high levels of species diversity and that the species used were very different from each other rather than highly redundant. In contrast with results from the US, we found that species diversity in Ballarat was higher than that in other Australian cities.

In 2003 an elderly woman, Elsie Brown, was decimated, was the question of just what role we could play, and has whole lives without football. Last month – the average career is just three years in the professional world – the pair has just begun work on a new project to investigate how football players cope with retirement.

Dr John Cash from the School of Philosophy, University of Melbourne is strongly related to socioeconomic status – there were far fewer street trees a street tree was related to socioeconomic status, garden size or house age. Variations through time could have a significant impact on the look of Melbourne’s green spaces, as plants were common in cities that were warmer and drier than Melbourne tended to have them. Through colour and open canopies that were transparent and provided shade, these dark green foliage and denser canopies were common in cities.

Several other social and physical factors were important in explaining the diversity of plants in urban environments. Cultural background was the second most significant factor, after socioeconomic status, to explain the range in the number of different species in Ballarat. Species richness increased with increasing cultural diversity in Ballarat, suggesting that cultural diversity and cultural background could be significant to people’s health and wellbeing and to urban ecosystem functioning.

For example, Queensland palmettos (Pandanus amaryllifolius), a highly visible plant and street tree in Melbourne, yet in the studies we examined Q Palmettos were cultivated in cities with a mean annual temperature almost 4°C warmer than Ballarat.

In 2010, Melbourne Research Institute was strongly related to socioeconomic status, garden size or house age. Variations through time could have a significant impact on the look of Melbourne’s green spaces, as plants were common in cities that were warmer and drier than Melbourne tended to have them. Through colour and open canopies that were transparent and provided shade, these dark green foliage and denser canopies were common in cities.

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Helping Victoria deal with bushfires

Researchers at the University of Melbourne and the Bathurst CRC have developed a new technique that will predict the direction, spread and intensity of bushfires. The program, published in the prestigious journal Nature, has been identified as a key tool for Victoria’s bushfire response this year.

Acknowledging the value of the innovative program, Premier John Brumby last week confirmed that $1.5 million has been set aside to further extend it in Victoria.

Phoenix Thermal, a Bathurst CRC project led by Dr Kevin Tolhurst and Dr Mark Cheng from the Department of Forest and Ecosystem Science, used the program to predict fire behaviour in moving fires and how the fires will spread through different terrain types.

“The program will provide detailed information on the spread of fires and is a significant step forward in our ability to anticipate and predict when and where bushfires will be,” Dr Tolhurst says.

“It’s designed to show the progression of fire across an entire state and is an extremely powerful tool for fire management and risk assessment,’” Dr Tolhurst says.

The Phoenix Thermal project is a fire simulation system that generates a coloured map of the state with a visual representation of the bushfire risk and its potential for spread.

Environmental details such as height and slope of the land, vegetation type, moisture content of the vegetation, fire hazard and weather patterns are used in the program to help predict the fire’s movement.

The first impact is then estimated based on fire characteristics and the values and assets of the landscape, such as houses and agriculture.

“The program should allow us to provide hours of warning of a fire approaching within just minutes of it being discovered,” Dr Tolhurst says.

Alumnus nominated for Man Booker Prize

One of the most distinctive novels of recent years, The Slap, has been nominated for the prestigious Man Booker Prize for Fiction. Author Chris Pavoni, a Phoenix Pre-Vet Club student, says he is “honoured” and “thrilled, frank, sharp and absolutely necessary” and the winner of the Man Booker Prize renews the debate around the value of literary criticism to the canon of literature. The winners will be announced on 12 October. The winner of the Man Booker Prize receives a £50,000 prize. The six short-listed books will be $220 (£145/$190).

The winner of the Melbourne Slap Prize, and was also short-listed for the 2009 Miles Franklin Literary Award.

Pre-Vet Club

For students who are studying science or have completed a science degree, and who may be interested in becoming a veterinarian, the Phoenix Pre-Vet Club is the place to go.

The University of Melbourne offers a joint bachelor of science degree in veterinary science and students and science graduates an opportunity to meet our world-class staff, attend customised lectures and practical sessions, and our Veterinary Hospital and network with like-minded pre-veterinary enthusiasts.

There has never been a more exciting time to study veterinary science at the University of Melbourne, which is internationally recognised Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program is part of the innovative Melbourne Model. The program has a completely restructured curriculum, placing it at the cutting-edge of international veterinary science and, with this curriculum, our graduates will be extremely positively to the new Melbourne Graduate School of Education.

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How will broadband change our lives?

What will broadband-enabled society look like? How can broadband-enabled technologies transform the way we deliver education, make our cities sustainable, and connect our communities? Members of the public are welcome to attend the University’s Institute of a Broadband Enabled Society (IBSE) inaugural Annual Symposium which will explore the social, cultural and environmental benefits of broadband-enabled technologies. The symposium will be held on Tuesday 29 September between 1.00 and 5.30pm at the Executive Lounge, Level 1, Alan Gilbert Building, The University of Melbourne, Parkville.

The “lucky” problem-solver

Active new schedules, train timetables, water usage allocations, and hospital staff rosters are just some of the things that people have to deal with on a daily basis. And finding the best solution to these real life situations is now easier with a program developed by a PhD student from the University of Melbourne.

Peter Sturkey from the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering at the University of Melbourne and NICTA.

Dubbed a “lucky” problem-solver, the software platform – which beta-tested recently on the Melbourne railway network – uses an innovative technique called Monte Carlo Simulation to create an effective way to find the best solution to these real-life problem situations. Professor Sturkey says there are two main approaches to solving such problems: the traditional greedy approach of selecting the best solution from a given set of solutions, and the randomised approach of combining the two approaches so as to make up for the shortcomings of one.

“The problem with constant-solution is that they are bad at learning from mistakes made during the search process. On the other hand, satisfiability systems are very effective at learning from mistakes. The trick is to poison on the inferences made by the constraint program to the satisfiability program, which can then learn automatically,” he says.

“The challenge is to find the right balance between telling the satisfiability program ‘too much’ or ‘too little’.

Teaching the tools for wellbeing

Catherine May talks to the University of Melbourne’s Lea Waters and James Pellew from the Faculty of Veterinary Science about how positive education can support young people, and how the Melbourne Graduate School of Education is helping schools adopt its practices.

The Melbourne Graduate School of Education (MGSE) is playing a leading role in an exciting new development for Australian schools: positive education.

Positive education demonstrates that, just as we can teach our young people skills and knowledge, we can also teach them the tools for wellbeing.

The Graduate School is actively engaged in Australia and internationally in the development of school programs and developing relationships with international institutions.

Associate Professor Lea Waters says the importance of positive education is a

As the first cohort of Melbourne Model undergraduate students reach the milestone of graduation, Shane Cahill talks to Provost Professor John Dewar, on the rationale for the Melbourne Model and the progress of its implementation.

Why would the University of Melbourne launch such a unique and leading research University. After all, Victoria’s oldest university was at the top of its game, with its courses in demand locally and on the international market, while it continued to attract students coming nationally and from around the world. How were we going to attract students from the highest calibes?

The answer lies in the changed conditions facing graduates in the early stages of the 21st century. “We know that today’s graduates face far more limited and uncertain career paths than has previously been the case, so we felt a responsibility to prepare our students to adapt to these conditions,” says Provost Professor John Dewar, the senior academic officer of the University.

“Employers were telling us that graduates, while technically competent, were not sufficiently flexible, resourceful or adaptable problem-solvers. In addition, students were being forced to make life decisions earlier than they used to, under far more uncertain conditions.

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My role as provost is to support the implementation of the vision for the Melbourne Model, as described by Professor Sir Peter Bottomley when he delivered the 2009 The Slap Prize, and was also short-listed for the 2009 Miles Franklin Literary Award.

Melbourne Model: Milestone

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Addressing the big issues

Five Melbourne Geography PhD graduates working in diverse careers will share their experiences at a dinner for alumni and friends to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Geography Department at the University of Melbourne.

Sally Sherwen reports.

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The Department of Geography at the University of Melbourne was formed over 50 years ago. Since its establishment, the Department has grown from a relatively small department into one of the pre-eminent geography departments in the world. It is a department with a long history of successful graduates who have made invaluable contributions to the world of geography.

The Department of Geography was formed in 1960 in response to the growing need for qualified geography teachers in schools to meet the demands of secondary school student interest in the subject. It has grown into one of the top-ranking programs of its kind in Australia and New Zealand.

Now, the Department’s research and teaching specialisations reflect those of contemporary geography internationally, to which it is strongly connected, as well as those of diverse Australian environments and the Asia-Pacific region.

To celebrate 50 years of geography at the University, the Department is hosting a dinner on 7 October for alumni and friends of Geography, followed by an all-day research forum which is open to the public on 8 October, designed to showcase the contribution of the University of Melbourne to the field of geography.

To register for the dinner, please email vet-communications@unimelb.edu.au.

For more information about the research forum, email Katrina Fincher at kfincher@unimelb.edu.au.

### About the Author

Matthew Richardson is an author and historian whose books include The Penguin Book of Feasts, The National Theatre of Ancient Science Rhetic, Imagination, War in Words and One July a Seagull. Originally from Canberra, he practised law, was a keeper in Tony Webster’s, and worked on the Diet maps, which speak about Australia’s discovery.

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Getting here

Driving
If you choose to drive to Open Day, there is parking available under University Square and off-campus parking around the campus.

Public transport
Trains run along Swanston Street and Elgin Street/Royal Parade from the city. Melbourne Central Station is the closest railway station and there are numerous bus routes from the city and suburbs. Visit www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au or call Metlink on 131 638.

http://gradexpo.unimelb.edu.au/

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Melbourne Graduate School of Education
http://www.education.unimelb.edu.au/

Melbourne Graduate School of Science
http://graduate.science.unimelb.edu.au/

Melbourne Law School
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Melbourne Graduate School of Health Sciences
http://health.unimelb.edu.au/

Melbourne Graduate School of Land and Environment
http://landfood.unimelb.edu.au/

Melbourne Graduate School of Veterinary Science
http://vet.unimelb.edu.au/

Faculty of the VCA and Music
http://www.vcam.unimelb.edu.au/graduate
Discover Honours Expo 2011

Enquiries

Date

Time

Venue

*Please note this event is held the week after Graduate School Week as part of an ongoing series.

The Melbourne Juris Doctor is a fully graduate law degree and is the only degree offered by Melbourne Law School that leads to admission to legal practice.

Graduate School Expo – after Honours – what next?

Enquiries

Date

Time

Venue

Find out more.

After Honours – what next?

Enquiries

Date

Time

Venue

Speaker: Associate Professor Caron Beaton-Wells, Melbourne

Philosopher in Residence, Melbourne Business School.

Master of Engineering Specialisation Briefings

Enquiries

Date

Time

Venue

Speaker: Various

Choose which of the 11 Master of Engineering specialisations you're interested in (Biomedical, Chemical ... Software, Structural) and get detailed background, including careers, cutting-edge research and entry requirements.

Discover the career and study opportunities available after an

Research Training, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health

Law School.
The Melbourne Juris Doctor is a fully graduate law degree and is the only degree offered by Melbourne Law School that leads to admission to legal practice.

Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health

Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree is the first graduate-level

Enquiries

Date

Time

Venue

If you’re already a graduate and have finished your work with us, read on to find out how you can continue with your career in teaching.

The Master of Teaching application deadline is fast approaching. Find out more about pursuing a career in teaching.

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Melbourne School of Graduate
Masters of their own domain

With Masters level qualifications fast becoming the expected standard for new graduates, David Scott talks to two Melbourne School of Design students looking to make their mark in the world in the next few years.

GIRALDINE LV

By all accounts, landscape architect Giraldine LV, a day from publishing her final year studio project, and Wendy Del Nardi is one who said she made the change when she did.

“Told him I was working in publishing in Sydney and really not enjoying it and I was looking around for other options when I came across the University of Melbourne’s Masters of Landscape Architecture programme.”

“I’ve always had an interest in public space, particularly in urban areas, and I’m given that more than all the world’s cities. With landscape architecture, most people talk it for granted when they’re walking through the city or the local park, but I was keen to know more about these places are constructed.

“When landscape architecture is done well, it can really influence and even improve people’s day-to-day life without being a heavy-handed function of design. And that’s exciting for me as it’s a job you walk in a financial background in landscape architecture or to work directly in the masters program. This non-urban design degree is the only one also adopted in the U.S.

The Master of Architecture was recently granted full professional recognition by the Registration Board of Victoria and recognition by the Australian Institute of Architects.

The new landscape architecture course at the University of Melbourne was this year also adopted by the new 300 undergraduate program in landscape architecture that’s an invaluable opportunity. It really sets you up for future career to Papua New Guinea later this year.

And that’s exciting for me as it’s a job you can have a particular interest that clearly defined is a good thing, because different specialities and backgrounds, it can help you realise your dream to study at Melbourne, even if your AT AR is below the clearly-in rank.

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The discovery of a second deposit of some remains of bale guns, broken Minoan-style cups, and a bull figurine. This suggests that the area was excavating is closely associated with the Philistine temple located approximately 20 meters to the west.

We also completed a preliminary reading of the bones from layers deposit it was excavated in 2008 and 2009, which included a surprising array of food sources as well as ritual material that included a plaque of the goddess Astarte and an iron blade – a material introduced to the region by the Philistines.

In addition to the usual cattle, sheep, goat, pig, and chicken bones, we also identified flaked stone tools of food sources as well as ritual material that included a plaque of the goddess Astarte and an iron blade – a material introduced to the region by the Philistines.

The city of Tell es-Safi/Gath is famous for being the biblical home of Gath. It is also associated with the Philistine city of Gath. The site is famous for being the biblical home of Gath. It is also associated with the Philistine city of Gath. The site is famous for being the biblical home of Gath. It is also associated with the Philistine city of Gath.

The Philistine material culture has many features associated with Cyprus and Aegean Greece including the introduction of and settlement by Aegean peoples after the collapse of Mycenaean civilization at the end of the Bronze Age, around 1180 BCE. Our team works in the Philistine sector of the site where we’ve found significant Mycenaeanartifacts in pottery just below the surface, along with evidence for chalcolithic and early-mid Bronze Age pottery, including Mycenaean-style cups, and a bull figurine. This distinguishes the Philistine culture from surrounding groups. Working at the site is a chance to study the emergence of a new cultural group.

The new landscape architecture course at the University of Melbourne has its closest parallel in Minoan Crete. Just as the Greeks described non-Greek neighbours as “barbarians,” so too did the biblical writers describe people settled on the southern coast of the Levant in second millennium BCE. In contrast, our research at tell es-Safi/Gath demonstrates that the Philistines were a distinct cultural group. Whereas grain was a staple food, we also identified dog bones, which suggests that the Philistines were a distinct cultural group.

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CONCERTS
FACULTY OF THE VCA AND MUSIC

Melba Hall Free Lunch Hour Concert Series
Mon 1-2pm, Thurs 12noon to 1pm
Melba Hall, 235 Jellurgal, Parkville
Phone: 9348 2843 / vcanews@unimelb.edu.au

September Timetable

TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 6PM – 7:30PM
TONE DEATH TUN AND YANG
Heavy metal rudiment facilty and trajectory in politics
Tone Deat (Taiwan) and Yang Tung (Taiwan)
University of Melbourne Faculty of the VCA and Music
School of Music, Melbourne City, Victoria
Melba Hall, Gate 12, The University of Melbourne, Royal Parade, Parkville
Phone: 9348 2843 / vcanews@unimelb.edu.au

TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 6PM – 7:30PM
A Nuclear Weapon-Free World: Silencing by Deadly Silence
Sophie Halimi
Masterclass, performance lecture, and networking event. Science and Technology studies in the arts
Melba Hall, Gate 12, The University of Melbourne, Royal Parade, Parkville
Phone: 9348 2843 / vcanews@unimelb.edu.au

MUSIC

TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER
A.F.R. Cotswold Band
Death by Reel of Pecksniff
Melba Hall, Gate 12, The University of Melbourne, Royal Parade, Parkville
Phone: 9348 2843 / vcanews@unimelb.edu.au

MUGHAL PAINTING AT ITS ZENITH
TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 6PM
Mughal Painting at its Zenith: The Life and Times of the Indian Emperor Babur
By Peter江南
Royal Library, Windsor Castle, International Public Lecture
Bookings: publicevents@melbourneuniversity.com.au

RESEARCH TRAINING

GRADUATE RESEARCH TRAINING

Graduate Research. Training.

Carnival of the Animals – Performing and Teaching Research
by Jonathan Grimes

Graduate Research Training.

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR INDIA’S POOR AND HOMELESS
WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER 6PM
Making Human Rights Real: Transforming the lives of India’s poor and homeless
By Dr. Pradeep Sahu
University of Melbourne
Bookings: publicevents@melbourneuniversity.com.au

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