



COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION

Supporting The University of Melbourne since 1867

(An Alumni Body of the University of Melbourne)

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November 2020

The guest speaker was **Professor Anthony Scott**, leader of the Health Economics Research Program at the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research at the University of Melbourne, and jointly co-ordinator of the University of Melbourne Health Economics Group.

Professor Scott spoke on the public-private mix in health care and his slide presentation, attached to these minutes, illustrates his research. He made the points that follow.

- a. The Health Care System constitutes 10 % of the GDP and costs \$196 billion.
- b. The Private Health Care Sector costs \$84bn. The Private sector provides 40% of all hospital activity.
- c. The Private Health Insurance is facing an ongoing decline in membership driven by younger people withdrawing from (or not taking up) membership.
- d. The decline in membership is driven by low wage growth, relative increases in "out of pocket costs", doctors' fees, health insurance premiums and poorer value from private health insurance.
- e. Reform of the Private Health Care industry is to be desired. Professor Scott suggested there was a need to improve the Health Care System by allowing for greater transparency, especially in relation to both fees of general practitioners and consultants (specialists) and the correlated success of their endeavours. There is no system of data collection that enables health services consumers to ascertain the competitive value of fees charged by medical practitioners. Thus, if details of fees for practitioners were available, concerning various procedures, that would enable consumers to be much better informed as to their health costs for consultations and procedures and thus able to make more informed decisions in relation to health care costs.

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October 2020

The guest speaker was **Professor Mark Considine**, Provost of the University of Melbourne.

Professor Considine explained that the role of the Provost is to act as the Chief Academic Officer and to be the Ranking Deputy to the Vice-Chancellor. He has been in his current position since 2017 and he was Dean of Arts for ten years, before that.

Professor Considine dealt with a range of matters, as follows.

- An investigation of the student experience indicated a need to rebuild the connected notion of that student experience and, as a result, the Student Life initiative was developed and implemented. 2020 is obviously a difficult year to implement this program.
- There was a sudden need to convert all courses to the online format because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Much has been learnt but there remains some distance to go. The huge workload on staff is appreciated as is the challenging situation for students both in Australia and those undertaking U of

M courses from overseas.

- Student welfare has been a pressing matter, many international students having been stranded overseas and many here, without support. Even so, most students have been retained. Whether future enrolment rates will match those of the past remains to be seen.
- \$70 million has been spent thus far on student support programs.
- Budget modelling is on-going and expenditure savings programs are being deployed.
- Involuntary redundancies have been avoided so far. It will not be until next year's rate of enrolment is known that the possible need for redundancies can be resolved.
- The Federal Government funding adjustments introduced by the Minister for Education and known as "Job Ready Graduates" or "Tehan Reforms", are possibly not yielding the results being aimed for. In particular, the Arts group of faculties expects to receive increased funding whereas the groups of faculties that include engineering, health and science will receive reduced funding. There is no evidence that schemes that aim to financially incentivise students have a strong influence on student choice of course. It is the current year 9 and 10 students who may be influenced in their subject choice.

In response to a question from David Bellair, Professor Considine suggested that Graduates have a role as mentors, within the student community, and as promoters of the concepts and values of higher education within the community, at large.

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September 2020

The guest speaker was **Dr Gemma McKibbin**, Research Fellow, Department of Social Work, School of Health Sciences, and she was accompanied and supported by **Cathy Humphreys**, Professor of Social Work and Co-Director of MAEVE, the Melbourne Alliance to End Violence Against women and their children.

After acknowledging country, Dr McKibbin presented the findings of the research undertaken during her PhD studies. Her talk was entitled "Enhancing the child sexual abuse prevention agenda".

She commenced with a warning for the audience to "take care of yourself" should the discussion trigger uncomfortable memories. Gemma reported that about half of the abuse of children is perpetrated by other young people. Her

research focused on ways of understanding why some young people offend and about developing effective interventions. Peak abuse age for the perpetrator is 14 years.

She found that there were 3 opportunities for prevention:

- Reform the sexuality education in schools - this education was introduced too late and the content was often too biologically focused rather than addressing issues such as the age of consent;
- Recognize and redress the victimization experiences that perpetrators have, themselves, experienced - such as neglect, maltreatment, bullying or domestic violence;
- Help the management of pornography.

Some 45,000 young people are in out-of-home care and 2700 of these are in residential care. The action program Gemma described was focussed on building the capacity of the carers in residential care to assist the young perpetrators to realign their behaviour.

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October 2019

Our first speaker was **Dr John Stone** who spoke about autonomous transport and investigations into how various cities look at the ways in which developing technologies may be applied to transportation. Autonomous vehicles, having no drivers, are operated by technology and they have the potential to make traffic safer by eliminating human error. However, it would be both expensive and complex for cities to implement autonomous vehicles.

Autonomous vehicles could be used for car fleets and car sharing but whether or not there would be

sufficient demand is unclear.

Autonomous technology is a combination of features both inside and outside vehicles (including sensors and 5G communications). This would require state investment and come at great cost. This may lead to a conflict between public good and private profit.

Autonomous vehicles would require the support of the mass transit system. There is a question as to what regulations would be needed for new technologies to make sure that they truly serve the community good. Dr Stone also addressed the issue of level crossing removal. He stated a belief that elevated rail is a better option than going underground. Level crossing removal by elevated rail facilitates the flow of traffic. Consideration needs to be given to connectivity between trains and buses.

Academics have an important role to play in the development of public policy. (This could be considered when discussing Strategy 2030.)

Our second speaker was **Mr Peter Kronborg** who spoke about the work of the Alumni Council, in general. This includes representing the interests of the University and its alumni around the world, working to enhance the student experience and guiding alumni programs that promote the University and help it to raise philanthropic support.

The focus of Alumni Council members has been to act as ambassadors for the University and to constitute a primary alumni advisory body. Insights and advice are provided to the University administration on operational challenges and opportunities. The Alumni Council has also taken an active stance on promoting mentoring programs.

In 2019 the Alumni Council has been considering how the university should frame its goals and ambitions for the next 10 years as part of the Strategy 2030 project.

Mr Kronborg believes alumni do not have enough presence in the university. An 'alumni house' — a centre for alumni and visitors where all aspects of alumni involvement are on display — would help to give alumni a greater presence. Many guests visit the University and an alumni house would be a place to showcase the University.

Discussion followed about ways of strengthening links between the Alumni Council and the Committee of Convocation. Questions included:

- How can the Committee of Convocation work more closely with the Alumni Council;
- How much power do alumni have in influencing the University administration; and
- How could the Committee of Convocation be more involved with alumni?

It was observed that the Committee of Convocation feels able to speak freely to the University administration, given the position of independence of the Committee. The Alumni Council is within the structure of the University. Perhaps the Committee of Convocation sees the University from a broader perspective.

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September 2019

The Guest Speaker was Professor John Langmore of the Melbourne School of Government.

Professor Langmore spoke on whether immigration is in the Australian national interest. He leads the research of the Melbourne School of Government into security and political engagement. He discussed foreign policy independence and referred to the causes of international conflict.

Professor Langmore referred to the underfunding of Australian diplomacy and the lack of adequate training and personnel for the Diplomatic Corps. Professor Langmore suggested that Australian diplomacy should see us thinking more for ourselves and being involved in mediation between nations. He also indicated that Australia should be less involved in areas such as the Straits of Hormuz, near Iran, and more in areas to our North, especially those near China.

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August 2019

The Guest Speaker was **Professor Udaya Parampalli, (PUP) Computing and Information Systems,**

Melbourne School of Engineering, an expert in the area of cryptography, sequences and coding theory. Professor Parampalli explained reciprocal communication has taken place for millennia from person A to person B. Codes of various types were developed in case a 3rd party wanted to listen in to the message. With the huge boom in communication through development of computers there was a need for more sophisticated security systems. Diffie-Hellman (DH) key exchange is a way of generating a shared secret between two people in such a way that the secret can't be seen by observing the communication. Complex mathematics underlie cryptography. The DH method allows two parties that have no prior knowledge of each other to jointly establish a shared secret key over an insecure channel. This key can then be used to encrypt subsequent communications using a symmetric key cipher.

DH is used to secure a variety of internet services. Recent research suggests that the parameters in use for some DH internet applications may not be strong enough to prevent compromise by very well-funded attackers.

Quantum computing presents a challenge to established cryptography. Hence “quantum safe cryptography” is an active area of research. Teaching at University of Melbourne is cognizant of recent developments of internet services. Recent research suggests that the parameters in use for some DH internet applications may not be strong enough to prevent compromise by very well-funded attackers.

Professor Parampalli’s research interests are:

- Steganography – the practice of concealing a message within non secret text or data.
- Medical systems are rapidly shifting into the cloud and mobile environments for data security. A doctor can test the medical image along with patient information, which is sent from a remote location that helps in diagnosis and treatment. Security parameters such as authentication, integrity, confidentiality and availability have to be considered for secure transmission.
- Trust and privacy in networks
- Cryptography
- Sequences for communication and security
- Coding theory
- Theory of error correcting codes.

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June 2019

The Guest Speaker was **Ms Gwenda Thomas, Director, Scholarly Services and University Librarian**. She has been in the position since 2018, her previous appointment having been at the University of Capetown.

Ms Thomas used her document UoM & Scholarly Services Overview as the basis of her presentation to the Committee. The first area of her presentation was “Leading global university” where the University’s ranking among the top universities in the world was stated. She detailed aspects of the University, such as having a student population of almost 70 000 of whom some 40% are from overseas and having a diverse and extensive footprint over multiple campuses that include state-of-art precincts. Her comments regarding The Melbourne Model included emphasising the interconnectedness of academic excellence, professional expertise, and agenda and direction setting. The point she made was that these areas must interconnect and they should not be silos.

Ms Thomas detailed the Scholarly Services Organisational chart, which showed that there were, below the Director Scholarly Services and University Librarian, four associate directors: Associate Director Library

Liaison and Learning; Associate Director Information Services and Library Spaces; Associate Director Learning Environments; and Associate Director Research and Collections. Ms Thomas indicated that, by 2021, there would be a “highly adaptive team enabling academic study and research”. With an emphasis on diversity, inclusion and open access the University would be able to “provide a complete experience for our students, academics, researchers and partners in advancing knowledge and inquiry.”

Also included in her document was information on an operational plan for 2019 – 2021, a plan for the library spaces, explanations of Learning and Teaching cluster and Research Service clusters. Ms Thomas concluded with an extensive outline of services.

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May 2019

The Guest Speaker was **Professor Mike Morgan of the Melbourne Dental School.**

Professor Morgan gave a very interesting account of his background and career in dentistry, from his training in New Zealand to the present, tracing the changes he has seen in techniques and methods used. These have led to the current emphasis on prevention of dental problems through an emphasis upon oral health, a pursuit in which he is now a leader. He also drew attention to changes in the composition of the student population, and to the problems of a falling budget and rising debts incurred by students in taking their courses.

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April 2019

The Guest Speaker was **Professor Nikos Papastergiadis, Director of the Research Unit in Public Cultures and Professor in the School of Culture and Communication within the University.**

Professor Papastergiadis began by discussing the path to his current research which focuses on the connections between multiculturalism, migration, the arts and culture. He postulated that migration should not be seen as a

‘problem’ but rather as an integral part of the lives of everyone. Over time he developed a journal based on the contribution of visual artists who were neither American nor British, a journal that documented the work and lives of contemporary artists who have become the ‘*Who’s Who*’ of the art world.

Professor Papastergiadis discussed how migration has shaped the world, noting that the publication of his book ‘*The Turbulence of Migration*’ (2000) focuses, particularly, on how Australian migration is linked with both politics and visual art. Since then he has continued his research into the role of artists who use world politics to create responses to various situations through their art work. He noted that there are now multiple artists throughout the world who connect with society in this way.

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March 2019

The Guest speaker was **Professor Alexander Babanin, Professor of Ocean Engineering in the University.**

He spoke about his work which revolves principally around ocean waves, as caused by wind, and the areas of engineering related to man’s sea structures and usages of the oceans. He has previously worked at the Australian Defence Force Academy and Swinburne University. He noted that the ocean is a complex environment and can be very aggressive and that two to three metres of ocean have a heat capacity equivalent to that of the entire atmosphere. The redistribution of heat energy via wind and waves is a vital factor in climate modelling with Australia being responsible for approximately 14% of the world’s oceans. Understanding the nature of waves as generated by wind is vital to engineers in designing offshore oil rigs, exploitation of Arctic resources, designing shipping and ports and dredging operations. Future areas of interest and research are floating oil and gas facilities and storage given that mining is happening further and further into the oceans, off-shore wind farms, oil rigs in Arctic environments and power stations on sea floors to support distant facilities.

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September 2018

The Guest Speaker was **Professor Denise Varney, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor of Theatre Studies and Co-Director of the Australian Centre in the School of Culture and Communication at the University of Melbourne.**

Professor Varney was a most approachable, knowledgeable and accommodating speaker who gave the Committee background on her own career and the current situation in the Faculty of Arts.

Denise Varney was appointed to the School of Creative Arts more than twenty years ago. This was part of the State College for training teachers. The College was taken over by the University. At this point there was a move to a more academic, theoretical curriculum with a greater emphasis on research. This was the 6th school of the VCA. There was a big student demand to enter the Bachelor of Creative Arts.

In 2000 the school of Creative Arts was moved into the Faculty of Arts. Professor Varney was pleased to move into this broader faculty and was welcomed to the English and Theatre Studies Department.

Denise is currently working on an ARC-funded research project on the theatre writings of Patrick White. Following the move of Mark Considine to the position of Provost, Professor Varney was appointed Dean for 2018. Recently, Professor Russell Goulbourne has been appointed to be the new Dean of the faculty. He is currently the Professor of French Literature at King's College, London where he is also Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. It is a time of change at the University with a new Vice-Chancellor and three new Heads of School in the Faculty of Arts.

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August 2018

The Guest Speaker was **Mr Matt van der Peet, Project Coordinator, Metro Tunnel Parkville Precinct, Rail Projects Victoria.**

Mr van der Peet spoke of his work and his involvement with the University of Melbourne. He graduated from the University with degrees in Engineering and Arts. Mr van der Peet initially worked as an environmental and surface engineer particularly in relation to water. His professional work led him to New Zealand and Christchurch after the disastrous earthquake.

Mr van der Peet returned to Australia to take up a position with Rail Projects Victoria. He was assigned to the Parkville Station development which is one of five new underground railway stations to be built by the State government. The main entrance to the Parkville Station will be outside the Medical School with other entrance routes beneath Royal Parade opening to the hospital complexes. The aim of the railway project is not only to build the five new stations and connect them to the existing rail network but to increase network capacity. The new tunnel will divert trains on some routes from the Underground Loop, so permitting the provision of increased service intensity on the remaining routes. The total cost of the Metro Tunnel project has been estimated at \$11 billion. The new rail routes, to include the Parkville Station, are scheduled to be open for passengers in 2025.

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June 2018

The Guest Speaker was **Mr Neville Chiavaroli, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Medical Education, The University of Melbourne.**

Mr Chiavaroli spoke of his work within a team of educationalists, and of his time on sabbatical leave, taken in Devon at the University of Plymouth, where there was an input of Humanities into the Medical degree. He emphasised the need for doctors to exercise professional judgement that combines clinical and humanistic considerations, making them better doctors. He argued that students who undertake studies in medicine need to pursue broader studies - to maintain an interest in humanities in order to assist their cognitive skills. His main point was that to reason clinically the doctor needs both scientific and humanistic studies, given that the practice of medicine is an art.

Mr Chiavaroli argued that medicine is a science of uncertainty and an art of probability. He was able to provide a number of examples to show how the humanities could be part of the curriculum. These included the use of photographs of doctors exhibiting care, diligence and concern; discussion of the

manner in which doctors are viewed in film and TV; the use of the humanities as a means of critique; and the use of cartoons for the same purpose.

Mr Chiavaroli emphasised the development of phronesis, a type of wisdom relevant to practical action, implying both good judgement and excellence of character and habits, or practical virtue. This involves making appropriate decisions based on narrative skills together with observation and empathy. It was acknowledged that the inclusion of humanities in the medical curriculum does not occur without negotiation, given the time pressure that exists.

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May 2018

The guest speaker **A/Professor Furler** spent 15 years as a General Practitioner before working in the UK in paediatrics and obstetrics. After an appointment as District Health Officer in Alice Springs he returned to London where he began specialising in General Practice, first working as a locum for the National Health Service. In London he began his academic career working at King's Hospital studying Primary Care patients. There, he proved that when these patients were managed by specialist General Practitioners there was a better outcome than when managed by non-primary care specialists. A/Professor Furler then spent four years in the Northern Territory working in government-funded indigenous health programs before accepting a position at the University of Melbourne as a tutor in the Department of General Practice. A/Professor Furler's work at the University is a combination of teaching and research, the latter focusing on health services using primary care innovation, clinical data analytics and linkage, and co-design with consumers and practitioners. In this third area he and his colleagues are working on the development of an electronic tool to draw on patients' medical data in order to recognise trends in general health. There is a recognition in Australia today that General Practice is one of the most important branches of medicine and that it is particularly strong in the provision of health care for those aged over 65 with multiple medical problems.

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April 2018

The guest speaker was Professor David Jamieson, Professor of Physics, School of Physics, University of Melbourne.

Professor Jamieson graduated from the University of Melbourne and also studied at Caltech and Oxford. He has received awards for his teaching at the University and he has published more than 300 papers. He enjoys teaching in the Advanced Physics course at first year level as well as undertaking many other responsibilities. Whilst at Oxford, he was recruited back to Melbourne and became Head of School for several years. He played a major role in establishing the Melbourne Model program of a three-year Bachelor of Science (in Physics) followed by a two-year Masters' degree. This program has attracted outstanding scholars from all over Australia and overseas and its introduction has led to a considerable increase in academic research output in Physics. His own research is heavily centred upon developing the quantum computer using silicon chips to study wave patterns. This will ultimately produce more secure communication platforms, which are vital for greatly increased renewable energy sources upon which depends our future survival. The Professor places considerable emphasis on his role as part of the triple helix and gives public lectures. One major topic has been to make people more aware of the contribution and genius of Galileo who is remembered for drawing attention to the operation of the Universe and Solar System in the 16th century. He has researched, at first hand, the notes and anagrams of Galileo, in Florence, and is particularly interested in Galileo's discovery of the planet Neptune, a continuing research program for him.

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March 2018

The guest speaker was Ms Claudia Hooper of the Media Unit of the University.

A graduate of the University of Melbourne, firstly in Arts, and having experience in a number of internships

at the University, including one in the Student Union, Ms Hooper described her present work in the Media Unit.

From early morning, Media Unit staff deal with enquiries from journalists for academic experts to provide comment and to be interviewed on matters of media interest. Where possible, staff members try to anticipate such enquiries by keeping abreast of current events that are likely to engender them.

A Media Studio is available, and everything possible is done to ensure the smooth running of interviews held there, or in the field. The Media Unit also conducts training to assist academics to communicate with journalists and their public.

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October 2017

The Guest Speaker was Professor Paul Mulvaney, Professor of Chemistry in the School of Chemistry and Bio21 Institute at the University of Melbourne.

Professor Mulvaney is a pioneer in the field of nanoscience and has developed a technique known as surface plasmon spectroscopy. This allows measurement of the rates of electron transfer at the nanoparticle level.

This 'Exciton Science' is a possible answer to the ever-increasing need for cheap sustainable energy.

Professor Mulvaney talked about the ever increasing population and the decreasing availability of fossil fuels. Quoting figures from the Coal Institute, at the current rate of consumption of fossil fuel reserves the number of years of available coal is 130 years, natural gas 60 years and oil 40 years. Life as it is known will change, with energy for transport, food, water, desalination and heating severely affected.

Exciton science is looking for a sustainable supply of energy from the interaction of the energy from the sun with photons to provide an energy source with reduced 'pay back time'. Hopefully, with funding, time and ongoing investigation, Exciton Science will prove to be an exciting way forward for energy production.

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September 2017

The Guest Speaker was Professor Charles Zika, cultural historian of late mediaeval and early modern Europe, Professorial Fellow in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies and Chief Investigator, Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, University of Melbourne.

European history of emotions over the period 1300 to 1850 is the focus of research being undertaken, with emphasis on the plasticity of the brain. Emotions are not fixed, nor are they uniform – they change with time. Centre of Excellence projects include: the effects of natural disasters on communities, contemporary cultural influences and their effects and the effects of pilgrimages on the formation of new communities and cultures. Mention was made of the "*social ice age*" of the 1650s. Ideas change history and they are always connected with emotions. No human emotion exists without objects. Emotions are at the intersection of the body and the mind. Peace, empathy and music are central to the relationship between cognition and emotion.

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August 2017

The Guest Speaker was Professor Gregor Kennedy, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) at the University of Melbourne and Director of the Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education.

Professor Kennedy briefly examined current developments in University Education, especially the changes since the Dawkins Report of 1989 and the transition from elite to mass education at university level.

One of the developments referred to by Professor Kennedy was the growth of 'micro- credential' programs. These have arisen following pressure from employers and competition from elements of the non-university sector, such as professional associations.

Classic credentials consisted of a simple Certificate of Graduation ("testamur"), perhaps supplemented by a statement of results ("transcript"). Micro-credentials involve the provision of more evidence of specific

attainment. In contrast with past practice, courses now taught at universities comprise skill-based programs that are more attractive to employers and professional associations. Further, the micro-credentials approach facilitates course delivery via the internet, including the provision of MOOCs

that incorporate “stackable credits”. Novel techniques include the development of on-line peer group support.

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June 2017

Speaker **Professor Stephen Harrap, Professor of Physiology in the Department of Physiology** at the University of Melbourne. . Professor Harrap acknowledged the importance of mentoring programs – both in his early career as a mentee and now as a mentor to students and fellow researchers. His career has been most satisfying with a balance of research, teaching and clinical work.

Professor Harrap has long standing interests in the genetics of hypertension and related cardiovascular conditions. He discussed two aspects of his research, first conducted 30 years ago, which are now being re-examined for their relevance and commercial possibilities.

- To understand the genetic basis of heart size (which, after age, is the single most important cardiovascular risk factor) he initiated a series of breeding studies in rats in 1989 that resulted in the first identification by genome wide scanning of a gene that controls heart size independent of blood pressure. Studies are being done attempting to understand the pathophysiology of large hearts and heart failure from the molecular, cellular and whole organ perspective.
- Why does brief treatment of the Spontaneously Hypertensive Rat with a specific antihypertensive treatment result in a lifelong reduction in blood pressure? Advances in technology and bioinformatics have developed to a stage where this question can be answered.

Professor Harrap was instrumental in establishing the Victorian Family Heart Study in the 1990s. This study involving approximately 3000 healthy adults, including twins, has yielded valuable data for studying many traits including blood pressure. Modern technology and skilled molecular biologists and genetic biostatisticians facilitate data analysis.

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May 2017

Speaker **Professor Julie Willis**, recently appointed Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning. She gave an interesting account of her research and teaching. Her work has been in the field of institutional and civic (chiefly hospital and school) architecture rather than domestic. Her research interests encompass women architects and, more recently, nineteenth century architects who travelled to and practised in Asian countries as well as in Australia. Professor Willis spoke of the success of the Architecture building in becoming a hub of student and academic activity, visited by a wide range of outside groups. She mentioned the establishment of a new degree (Bachelor of Design) and engagement with other faculties, such as the V.C.A. and Engineering.

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April 2017

Speaker **Professor Leslyanne Hawthorne** multi-disciplinary social scientist and global field migration expert, Professor - International Workforce in the Centre for Health Policy at The University of Melbourne within the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences.

The Professor indicated that her career had been a varied one. She began as a freelance journalist, wrote a book and then moved into research (skilled migration and regulation policy formation processes, role of Government versus private employers) before her present career as an academic. She has been in the Faculty for 20 years, chairing the University’s Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee and acting as Assistant Dean International, for a period. She is largely involved in research in her present position but teaches PhD students in her field.

The Professor has researched the different approaches to obtaining skilled migrants – Government, employers and via international students at universities. She has undertaken comparative studies of other nations especially Canada and Germany and provided advice to the governments of those countries. She

has traced employment patterns for the successful and unsuccessful and is undertaking “powerful” research presently for the Australian Government. She states that great issues for today’s world are defence, energy, regional containment and migration. She provided members with most interesting statistics about numbers, issues and types of migrants in Australia, Canada and Germany.

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March 2017

Speaker **Professor David Shallcross**, Director of the Engineering Learning Unit in the University of Melbourne School of Engineering.

He outlined his career, starting as a BEng undergraduate, here, in 1978, then a PhD at the University of California, Davis working on mathematical modelling of ion exchange to purify the Los Angeles water supply, then post-doctoral work at Stanford on enhancing the extraction of oil from oil fields, then CSIRO before returning to the University of Melbourne in 1990.

His research work on ion exchange was applied by NASA to the recycling of water during planning for manned spaceflights to Mars, and his teaching interest in Concept Maps was applied by NASA to the possibility of growing crops in the Martian atmosphere which is almost all carbon dioxide.

He served in a senior role in a World Chemical Engineering Conference in Melbourne and, later, spent some time as Head of the Chemical Engineering Department. While Vice President of the UK-based Institution of Chemical Engineers he helped to greatly expand its non-UK membership.

He described how teaching nowadays is so different from former times.

The Committee members found by this talk very interesting and asked a number of questions, afterwards. Professor Shallcross was warmly thanked by the President.

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October 2016

Speaker **Professor Katrina Skewes McFerran**, Professor of Music Therapy, Faculty of VCA and the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. She outlined the scope of this area of study at the University of Melbourne in terms of the use of Music for health and healing. The approach to Music Therapy varies from country to country but, progressively, the area has moved from a musically intuitive approach to the development of professional standards with accepted competencies, skills and levels of training. She spoke of the work of a previous Dean of Music, Professor Max Cooke and of Professor Denise Grocke who, together, used their energy and foresight to drive the establishment of the study at Melbourne, as a degree course at the Bachelor level. It is now a Master’s degree course and there are several PhD research students. Melbourne University has the highest research output in the World in this field. There is now a Music Therapy Association that provides registration for music therapists.

The discipline uses multidisciplinary medical, psychological and social approaches to working with clients. The aims are to improve social skills, to help develop creativity, to relieve pain, to improve verbalization and to assist patients to analyse their own problems.

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September 2016

Speaker **Professor Colin Nettelbeck**, Emeritus Professor (Honorary) of French Studies in the Faculty of Arts. Professor Nettelbeck has been studying a unique set of letters written by French soldiers to Australians during the First World War. He spoke of his twin projects : to write an historical overview of Australian/French relations from 1788 to the present and to write of the relations between the two countries during World War One.

He has studied French from his school days in Adelaide. He was much influenced, while reading the Count of Monte Cristo in French in senior school, to find that he was able to understand without translating into English. Professor Nettelbeck’s first project recognises that the French were very interested in the Great South Land from very early times and they arrived in Botany Bay soon after Captain Arthur Phillip. His study also includes French communities that were here from the first days of European settlement and

early trade with France in wool. There were Frenchmen who participated in the Gold Rushes.

In relation to the second project of Professor Nettelbeck, he mentioned that notable French people were here and they worked hard to rally support for the French people and army. \$25 million was raised for the French Red Cross. Madame Crivelli approached the Melbourne biscuit makers Swallow and Ariell and she succeeded in having female workers correspond with French soldiers, particularly those who were isolated from family members.

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August 2016

Speaker **Dr Eric Trembl**, Lecturer in Marine Biology in the School of BioSciences at the University spoke of his “academic journey”, interests and work. Dr Trembl was educated in the USA, initially, and subsequently worked at the University of Queensland. He now works at the University of Melbourne. His field of study is Marine and Spatial Ecology and he has studied both tropical and temperate marine ecological systems. His pillars of research are concerned with population connectivity, how that affects biodiversity and how the findings may assist the creation of improved systems of ecology management.

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June 2016

Speaker **Dr Haripriya Rangan** from the Australia India Institute, the newly appointed Director of Research and Academic Programmes.

Dr Rangan spoke of her broad-ranging experience at the intersection of the social sciences and technology. She has gained significant experience in the United States of America and in South Africa, amongst other countries.

At the University of Melbourne, Dr Rangan has responsibility for the development of meaningful and lasting academic relationships, links and programs with institutions and individuals in India.

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May 2016

Speaker **Professor Tony Coady**, from the Faculty of Arts, began his presentation with amusing anecdotes from the non-academic side of his career. While undertaking a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Sydney he worked as a journalist at the Sydney Sun newspaper. He started as a copy boy, then moved to court reports, crime, steward’s inquiries, fish markets and stock markets. Later he was a film reviewer for Pix magazine then moved to news reporting on the ABC. He became interested in philosophy because of its connection with religion. After completing his BA in Sydney, Professor Coady came to the University of Melbourne on a scholarship to study for a Master of Arts degree. This was followed by some time at the University of Oxford, studying for a Bachelor of Philosophy. It was during his time at Oxford that he met many influential academics. In 1966 Professor Coady returned to the University of Melbourne, as a philosophy lecturer.

Professor Coady spoke about his time as director of the Centre for Philosophy and Public issues at the University of Melbourne and, later, as deputy director for the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Political Ethics. During this time he wrote *Testimony - A Philosophical Study*. The book was widely praised for its impact on developments in contemporary epistemology. Currently, key interests of Professor Coady are epistemology, political philosophy and practical ethics. He pointed out that changes have occurred in the public perception of philosophy since the 1970s.

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April 2016

Speaker **Dr Kathleen Gray**, from the Melbourne Medical School, is working together with the School of Mathematics and the Graduate School of Education. She has a background in librarianship and information management plus overseas experience, especially in hospitals. She obtained her PhD in 2001, from the Graduate School of Education of the University. Her thesis dealt with the way in which the World Wide

Web was changing university teaching.

Since 2005 Dr Gray has been a senior researcher in the Health and Biomedical Informatics Centre of the University, with a joint appointment in the Melbourne Medical School and the Department of Computing and Information Systems. She has worked in accordance with a mandate to build up a service unit which would conduct research and teach informatics. The purpose is to improve health systems through the better dissemination of the most up-to-date data. The mobilization of fast-changing technology is essential to this. Courses and lectures in health systems and technology are run for MD students and for post-graduate degree students.

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March 2016

Speaker **Dr Winkel** described his career, and how he had worked in fields which interested him rather than accepting well-intentioned advice from senior people, and had moved into the area of tropical medicine. He continued the work of Struan Sutherland and succeeded in attracting support from the state and federal governments and private donors so that the development of antivenoms could continue after the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories was privatised. He has worked in Brazil, is now working with Papua New Guinea, and is currently involved in two-way learning with indigenous people in Arnhem Land regarding the box jellyfish. He is also involved in a smart phone app to predict the likelihood of encountering snakes, bees, wasps and other venomous creatures depending on the location, weather, and other factors.

He described the history of antivenoms, starting in Indo China in the 1890s. The first tiger snake antivenom was developed in Melbourne in 1898 but not utilised because there was no national support.

Members' questions led to an animated discussion, and the President thanked Dr Winkel warmly for his most interesting address.

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February 2016

Speaker **Dr James Allan** was a lecturer in Media Studies before entering the field of Alumni Relations, ten years ago. At Melbourne, his plan is to create a greater role for alumni relations, working with what is a largely untapped resource, in order to enhance the student experience. There are over 370,000 alumni of the University at present, and the aim is to inspire the engagement of 100,000 alumni, as active participants, volunteers, mentors and donors, by the end of 2021.

Dr Allan answered questions from members of the Committee in relation to mentoring and volunteering. He agreed to consider a role for the Committee of Convocation in achieving his stated goals.

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October 2015

Speaker **Professor Fiona Haines, Professor of Criminology, Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne**

Professor Haines first began her studies in Criminology at University of Melbourne in the 1980s when the subject concentrated on youth crime. It has now broadened in focus. Professor Haines is interested particularly that many grievous crimes in our community, including white collar crimes and crimes by professionals, receive slighter punishments than do some crimes which are less serious in the "scale of things". This is the area of her teaching and research at present. Others in the Department are concentrating on issues of genocide and reconciliation, the trauma of people surviving atrocities, the effects on emotions of legal actions which change the status of the "victim" and the disproportionate punishment of Aboriginal people coming before the Courts. One PhD candidate has written a play about issues in criminology using a background in history, relating to an actual Australian Aboriginal Mission issue, which is being performed to various audiences. Issues related to the aftermath of industrial disasters, effects of globalization and abuses of human rights in developing countries by multinational companies are other areas of interest.

There are large enrolments in the area by students from a wide range of faculties. Over 500 first year

students and graduates are working in the Australian Institute of Criminology, teaching and lecturing, local government in crime prevention, police and their research and in juvenile justice and corrections fields.

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September 2015

Speaker **Assoc. Professor Helen Goldsworthy, Department of Infrastructure Engineering**

A. Prof. Goldsworthy's special interest is designing buildings to withstand earthquakes, and she described her career from her graduation from Adelaide University, through consulting work in San Francisco, to a Ph.D. here at Melbourne leading to part-time academic work, along with raising a family. She mentioned the advances in structural materials from the Roman use of concrete to today's use of geopolymers which require far less energy to produce than cement, and recent New Zealand building designs which confine earthquake damage to a few easily-replaced materials.

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August 2015

Speaker **Professor Joseph Lo Bianco, Graduate School of Education**

Professor Lo Bianco described his collaboration with UNESCO and UNICEF, and our group listened with increasing understanding and awe at the power of language policy to reduce conflict in areas where Professor Lo Bianco travels, such as Burma and Thailand. He spoke of the need to develop fluency in two or more languages, which would of necessity be during the early childhood years. He lauded the Finnish system, where all children were expected to speak four languages. He expressed his belief that without the ability to read and to live for a short time in an imagined world, it can be difficult for illiterate people to imagine the perspective of others. Conflict resolution then can become more difficult as the use of language to help people to see the points of view of others is central to successful conflict resolution.

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June 2015

Speaker **Dr Bina Fernandez , Lecturer in Development Studies, School of Social and Political Sciences**

Dr Fernandez described two research projects she has under way. The first focuses on the migration of Ethiopian women as domestic workers to countries in the Middle East. Fieldwork for this research was supported by a competitively awarded British Academy Small Grant. The second project is investigating rural poor women's collective livelihoods initiatives in India and is supported by an Early Career Researcher Grant from the University of Melbourne.

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May 2015

Speaker **Professor Roger Cousens, School of BioScience**

Professor Cousens spoke about his research on invasive weeds in agriculture and on shorelines, and about a project in which an inter-disciplinary team assessed, inter alia, the effects of introduced species on native fauna, including the fairy penguins on Phillip Island

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March 2015

Speaker **Dr Vincent Alessi, Curatorial Manager, Potter Museum of Art**

Dr Alessi described his plans to bring in an audience over summer (usually a period of low attendance). His strategies have already proved successful this year. He spoke of his plans to experiment with ways of using the various floors of the building; to present thematic exhibitions; to create exhibitions around single objects; to encourage people to engage with works in different ways by providing minimum text to accompany objects, and to display art in public places.

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February 2015

Speaker Associate Professor Louisa Remedios, Director of Teaching and Learning, School of Physiotherapy

Associate Professor Remedios spoke about the events which led to the establishment of the Physiotherapy course at the University, and also with changes in the course to accommodate the "Melbourne Model".

The present three year course, taken after a first bachelor-level degree, allows entrants with a wide range of first degrees to specialise in particular areas of practice

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November 2014

Speaker Associate Professor Margaret Simons, Director, Centre for Advanced Journalism

Associate Professor Simons spoke of the highlights of her career and of the changes in the profession. She outlined the progress of the Master of Journalism degree which has 120 students (many part-time) and was very enthusiastic about the future of journalism. Research in the Centre focuses on the civic impacts of journalism on society to inform Government policy, the role of journalism in the issues of domestic violence against women and social media impacts on Government in China. She emphasised the changing nature of journalism from big news rooms to a variety of electronic forms.

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October 2014

Speaker Professor Donald Bates, Inaugural Chair of Architectural Design, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Professor Bates outlined his varied and experience and training, eventually leading to he and a colleague tendering successfully for the Federation Square project in Melbourne. After relocating to Melbourne he recently assumed the Chair in Design at the University, and has continued a practice with an international clientele. He spoke of his philosophy to teach for approximately five years and then return to active practice.

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September 2014

Speaker Ass. Prof. Michelle Kermode, Nossal Institute of Global Health

Ass. Prof. Kermode outlined the work of the Nossal Institute of Global Health, a not-for-profit company formed in conjunction with the University of Melbourne as an academic centre that aims to partner with locals within overseas countries such as India, Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, Mozambique and Kenya, in order to deliver research, education and practice through both local government and non-government agencies. Funding for their very important work is sourced from outside benefactors, such as the Gates Foundation, World Bank and Asia Development Bank.

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August 2014

Speaker Mr Stuart Hibberd, Manager, Education Abroad Student Programs

Mr Hibberd outlined the work of the Melbourne Global Mobility international student exchange program that is operated by the University. He described the processes of selection and the advantages for the students and he recounted some particularly successful individual outcomes.

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June 2014

Speaker Ms Rebekah Davis, acting Senior Graduate Advisor, Faculty of Arts

Ms Davis outlined her role in support of Research Higher Degree students, in the Faculty of Arts, and the wide range of activities involved. She described ways in which the Arts faculty seeks to enrich the

university experience of its students and some of the issues that they face both internal and external.

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May 2014

Speaker **Assoc Prof Jan de Gier, Department of Mathematics and Statistics**

Recently, the department received a government grant to develop a centre of excellence, which has greatly facilitated its work, especially in the area of applied data management, and the progression of research in astronomy. The department has a consulting association with VicRoads. Prof de Gier commented that Melbourne, with its grid layout, lends itself to traffic studies more than some other great cities of the world. Many street intersections can be linked together and vehicles can be treated as particles. Statistical analysis can be applied, relating density and rate of flow. Modelling can be validated from real data, provided by VicRoads. GPS technology is also employed.

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April 2014

Speaker **Hilary Blackman, Strategic Manager - External Relations, Melbourne School of Government**

The MSOG was established in 2013 and has an interdisciplinary foundation drawing expertise from Law, Business and Economics and Arts/Politics. Teaching and research in the School recognises that each of these disciplines is necessary for the development of public policy. There is an imperative of working with senior practitioners in government and corporate sectors. Research must be transferred to practice. There will be six Master's degree courses within the MSOG, including Master of Public Policy, Master of International Relations, Master of Development Studies and Master of Public Administration. Research at MSOG focuses on four themes Governance and Performance, Knowledge and Expertise, Security and Political Engagement and Governing Markets.

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March 2014

Speaker **Ms Ellen Day, Murrup Barak Melbourne Institute of Indigenous Development**

Ms Day gave a very interesting talk on the work of this body, which promotes indigenous projects and has seen a growth in the number of academics concerned with such projects, and in the number of indigenous students completing courses at the University.

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October 2013

Speaker **Professor Jeff Borland, Department of Economics**

Professor Borland has been with the faculty for 25 years teaching Microeconomics, Australian and World Economic History and, more recently, Sports Accounting. He provided an update of the Faculty of Economics and Commerce (FBE), which included discussion about the transition of the faculty off campus to "The Spot" over the past 5 years, the evolution of the FBE curriculum over recent years, The Melbourne Model which really has not affected the faculty, as commerce students have always been able to undertake a 1/3 of "breadth" subjects outside of the faculty and the recent cooperation between the Melbourne Business School (MBS) so that the FBE provides all undergraduate and honours teaching and the MBS provides all graduate education. One of the biggest changes evident in the faculty has been the growth in the numbers and depth of Student Clubs and Societies such as the Melbourne Micro-finance initiative which has 250 members assisting communities here and overseas, The Keynes Society which publishes a newsletter every couple of weeks on various topics and other clubs, such as the Actuarial Society which runs regular case study competitions moderated by various Professors and staff.

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September 2013

Speaker **Professor Margaret Sheil, Provost, Provost of the University of Melbourne.**

Her address covered the promotion of the University of Melbourne, and the need for media coverage. She said that the "brand" was strong in NSW and Victoria, especially for the top four or five faculties including Law, Medicine, Education and Music. There was also concentration on Asia and other areas, and on those who are mentoring students, to emphasise our high world ranking which gives us an advantage over shorter and cheaper courses at lower ranked universities. She also explained the scope and status of the involvement of the University in MOOCs (Massive Open On-line Courses), with five or six additional courses ready to be added to the current University on-line offering.

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June 2013

Speaker **Dr Jason Coonan, General Manager, Contracts and Asset Management division of University of Melbourne Commercial Ltd**

The overall activities of the division include : a. Assisting in the capitalisation of Research by finding business partners to bring ideas into reality, produce and commercialise inventions and develop and proving new drugs, which is a major concern for the University in light of its expenditure of \$700 million by 4000 researchers. b. Assisting in contractual aspects of Intellectual Portfolios, such as obtaining patents and undertaking literature reviews for such patent applications, starting new companies, obtaining government funding and assessing the culture into which such businesses are venturing, and to find the balance between legally controlling intellectual property and ensuring intellectual freedom in a very competitive world. c. Involvement in the teaching and learning roles of the university, developing strategies and obtaining resources in all faculties, and relating these aspects of the university to business partners.

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May 2013

Speaker **Ms Amy Jean Little, Marketing Manager at the Melbourne University Law School**

Ms Little outlined the three graduate programs of the Law School, the JD program (Juris Doctor) which is for graduates in some other field who wish to practise law, the research higher degrees program and the Masters program. The LLB has been phased out and the JD program is now well established, resulting in good employment outcomes. The program accepts 350 students per year. The Masters program is very extensive with 168 subjects provided, and attracts students from around the world as well as from all parts of Australia. Teachers and lecturers also come from all parts of the world, so it is a very vibrant area, including public lectures by the Chief Justice of the United States. There are two intakes of students per year and approximately 1200 to 1300 students per year, many of whom are part-time.

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April 2013

Speaker **Dr James Waghorne, Fellow in the School of Historical Studies at the University of Melbourne**

Dr Waghorne described his research into the history of philanthropy in the University as comprising three phases. The first phase was civilising the colony, from 1853 until the University reached 1000 students in 1901. The second phase was building and extending the work of the university, from 1901 into the 1930s. The third phase was building a nation, from the 1930s and accelerating after WW2 to the present day. He identified major acts of philanthropy and bequests, and also major appeals conducted in 1904, 1920 and 1955. His research will also provide a focus for the appeal in 2013. Universities have changed since the 1960s and there is a need to redefine their role in terms of modern realities.

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March 2013

Speaker **Professor Gary McPherson, Ormond Chair of Music and Director of the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music**

Professor McPherson spoke on developments in Music courses and the rising standards now achieved following some difficult years for the Music Faculty. The Melbourne Model, with its requirements for study in breadth subjects, has favoured Music but the greatest impediment to further progress has been the need for better facilities. It is planned to consolidate the Conservatorium, currently divided between Parkville and South Bank, into a new building situated behind the Melbourne Recital Centre.

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February 2013

Speaker **Professor Eric Reynolds AO, Head, Melbourne Dental School**

Professor Reynolds described the development of the new Melbourne Dental School, which had clearly required very detailed planning, budgeting and the acquisition of equipment on very favourable terms. It is one of the best-equipped dental teaching facilities world-wide.

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August 2012

Speaker **Dr Luan Ismahil, External Relations Manager, National Information and Communications Technology Australia**

Combining Electronic Engineering and what was formerly Computer Science, the laboratory is funded chiefly by the Australian and Victorian Governments and draws on the expertise of other University of Melbourne departments and of other Universities and institutions. It has an extensive PhD programme with candidates from Australia and overseas, many of whom remain to work in academia or industry after graduation. Because Melbourne has a great neighbouring medical research precinct, half of the NICTA laboratory is committed to using its software expertise to assist in the interpretation of a large volume of life science data (from the Peter MacCallum Institute, in particular). Advanced research into the bionic eye is proceeding at the laboratory, and at the University of N.S.W., assisted by wireless expertise in the laboratory and the further development of microchips. The purpose is to restore vision in cases of macular degeneration, etc. Government support is very important in promoting the work of the laboratory. To reduce road accidents, the laboratory is researching radar capable of being used in the average car. Other projects include better management of water resources, especially for farming.

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July 2012

Speaker **Professor Dick Strugnell, ProVice-Chancellor, Graduate Research, University of Melbourne**

His major task is to oversee the progress of PhD candidates. This involves active candidature supervision to avoid students progressing too far along in their Ph.D. activity without correction, should that be needed. For this reason, efforts are made throughout the candidates' studies to correct any deficiency at the earliest stage possible. The candidates come from various disciplines : there has been a recent increase in the number of engineering students applying for a Ph.D. The age of candidates ranges from 24 or 25 all the way to a candidate being 85 on completion of his PhD. More than 80% of the candidates have been Australian nationals but, at present, only 72% are local people. In part, this is related to the development of the Melbourne Model in which many more students are progressing to a postgraduate degree. Research is playing an increasingly significant role in the University with the development and significance of rankings, in which there is a heavy loading towards research, rather than to teaching. He pointed out that there are 47,000 students at Melbourne University but only 4,700 of these are pursuing research degrees.

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June 2012

Speaker **Professor David Young, Director Tiegs Museum, Department of Zoology**

Professor Young has been at the university for 35 years and his interest in zoology was triggered by his interest in earthworms in his youth. there are only two stand alone zoology departments left in the world (including the University of Melbourne) as most faculties have been rolled into the schools of life sciences.

Zoology departments, therefore, could be deemed to be a threatened species. There is a healthy enrolment of graduates and undergraduates in Zoology at the University of Melbourne. Zoology courses are subject matter based courses and taken for interest, rather than for specific career purposes. Professor Young provided examples of successful Zoology graduates ranging from the Head of the Insect Collection at the Museum of Australia through to a senior bureaucrat managing the water supply of Victoria and an executive who manages computer systems at one of our major banks. Professor Young advised that the Tiags Museum was established by Baldwin Spencer in 1890 to collect animals for research and training. It received donations from all over the world including 30 specimens from Oxford University. Today, it hosts a world wide collection.

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April 2012

Speaker **Sue Cunningham, Vice Principal of Advancement, Advancement, University of Melbourne**

Sue noted that interaction with alumni is often perceived as solely in relation to fund raising. There is, however, a raft of ways of involving alumni. Prior to taking up her appointment full time, last July, she took three familiarisation trips to Melbourne. Present planning in Alumni Relations is focussing on the aims of a campaign considering where we want the University to be in the future. Further work is needed to develop what the University will be doing with the Alumni Council and the Alumni. Funds allocation for initiatives will be based on needs and may be general or focussed. There is closer similarity between the UK and Australia than between Australia and the USA vis-a-vis benefactor support of universities by alumni. In the USA some 60% of alumni are involved in donations and other support.

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March 2012

Speaker **Mr Chris Harvey, Development Officer, Melbourne Graduate School of Education**

The work of the MGSE was covered, including a description of the Master of Teaching degree program. The rate of conversions from offer to enrolment is increasing. The MGSE would be receptive to C of C suggestions as to how it might assist MGSE to reach its goals. Mr Harvey took questions and provided opinions on teaching methods and related concerns, present and past.

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