

Karyn Avery BAppSc(SpeechPath) '07

Young Alumni Award for Achievement

Karyn epitomises the values that the Faculty of Health Sciences seeks to instil in its graduates. She is a strong, dynamic, industrious, and creative leader whose professional and community achievements have crossed borders to bring about meaningful change at the local and international level.

Karyn is a highly respected speech pathologist who has made substantial contributions to the organisations in which she has worked. She has applied her skills both in Australia and the United Kingdom, proceeding rapidly to more senior positions. However, it is Karyn's activities beyond her paid work, and her substantial contributions to community development at the international level that make her stand out from the crowd. Her achievements and contributions to the community to date have been extraordinary and are certain to continue well into the future.

Karyn has applied her skills and knowledge, gained through her undergraduate study at the Faculty of Health Sciences, courageously in her attempts to tackle poverty in developing countries in the Asia Pacific region. She has acted as an inspiration to countless others, including current students, in demonstrating the impact that a single person can have on the lives of so many. She is truly *'making a world of difference.'*

Throughout her schooling and undergraduate studies, Karyn volunteered at the Sir Eric Woodward Special School for children with lifelong disabilities. In 2005, Karyn spent a month of her University summer break volunteering at the Lovedale Foundation orphanage for children in Bangalore, India. Karyn says that she was touched by the children's stories and their passion for learning, and it was through this work that she saw firsthand the strong need to provide the orphanage with assistance so staff could better cater for the children's educational, health, and emotional needs in a sustainable way.

Karyn's solution was to establish the **'40K Home Foundation'** - a grass roots international development organisation aimed at changing the lives of thousands of children in India through carefully targeted, respectful and sustainable aid. Karyn says that it was her volunteer work that sowed the seed for her lifelong commitment to community service.

The key aim of the 40K Home Foundation is to raise money to build orphanages across the Asia Pacific. In this way, organisations in developing countries can focus their energy and resources on providing services and support to children.

Karyn is a fine ambassador of the Faculty of Health Sciences and fearless in her demonstration of the attributes of personal and intellectual autonomy; ethical, social, and professional understanding; and communication in her professional and community service. She has an ongoing relationship with the Faculty through her support of international cross cultural placements.