



Sara Spence with her "Love Bottle" PHOTO: PRUDENCE UPTON

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

If Sara Spence has her way, no one will throw out the plastic bottle she's designed – even though it's biodegradable. The bottle made from polylactic acid, a vegetable starch, will disintegrate after two years.

The COFA design graduate calls it the "Love Bottle" because, when lined up, her bottles fit together "like a couple who are spooning", she says. "It's about creating connectivity between the bottles. One bottle is part of every bottle created, so it's designed to make you think about the extent of the environmental problem when you pick one up."

Given the aesthetically pleasing design, Spence, 25, hopes the bottles will be re-used. "If we look after the products we use on a regular basis, and ensure they are used responsibly, we are showing signs of love for them," she suggests. She's now in talks with a New Zealand company about commercialising her design.

LIFESAVER WINS WORLD ACCLAIM

A potentially life-saving device has won industrial design graduate Sam Adeloju one of the world's highest-profile prizes for young designers. A graduate from the Faculty of Built Environment (FBE) in 2009, Adeloju won the James Dyson Award for his Longreach Buoyancy Deployment System – a handheld launcher powered by oxygen and butane that's capable of firing a self-inflating flotation device over long distances to people at risk of drowning. The prize secured Adeloju \$15,000 and a visit to the UK Dyson factory, plus a further \$15,000 for FBE.

Adeloju says exposure through the international prize will provide a major boost for Longreach, which he's seeking to develop for production.

Safe and smart ... Sam with his design at the Australian Dyson Awards earlier this year



Gabina Funegra in the Andes PHOTO: ERIKA BONIFAZ

ACCIDENTAL FILMMAKER

School of Language and Linguistics lecturer, Gabina Funegra, had no intention of becoming a filmmaker when she set out on a research trip to the Andes. But she received the Local Filmmaker Award at Sydney's Latin American Film Festival for her documentary *Quechua – the Fading Inca Language*, which investigates the decline of her parents' native language in Peru.

Funegra's parents never taught the Quechua language to their children. "My parents were born in the Andes but they hid their ability to speak their native language because Indigenous people were discriminated against," says Funegra, who was raised in Lima.

The lecturer was inspired to write a thesis when she heard that cultural pride in the language was being revived. "I planned to take a tape recorder so that I could record interviews for my qualitative research," she says. "But the staff at UNSW Learning and Teaching told me cameras record better audio, so I borrowed one ... when I got there the scenery was so beautiful I decided to turn the camera on."

Encouraged by friends and family to produce a video of the footage, the first-time filmmaker entered the Latin American Film Festival, competing against professional documentary makers. Funegra, who has made a Spanish version of the film to be used as an educational tool in Latin America, has been invited to screen her documentary at the United Nations in Geneva in 2011.

JUSTICE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE EFFORT

An international team led by UNSW climate change researchers has won the inaugural 2010 Future Justice Prize for synthesising and updating a massive volume of scientific research in the lead-up to the 2009 UN Copenhagen conference. *The Copenhagen Diagnosis* – a project initiated and led by Professor Matthew England with colleagues Dr Ben McNeil, Professor Andy Pitman and Professor Steve Sherwood from UNSW's Climate Change Research Centre – received the prize from Future Justice, a joint initiative of Future Leaders and the Institute of Legal Studies. The report had 27 authors in total and was an assessment of the most significant climate science to have emerged following the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessment Report of 2007.