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**Back Row** - Contractors (left to right): Charter Plumbing, Greenco, Metro Lintels, Scottform, Perth Metal Works, Integrity Carpets, BGC Concrete, Mechanical Project Management, AGI, Foothills Painting, Complete Scaffolding, Furntech, BGC Windows, Gregorys Plumbing, BGC Blokpave.

**Front Row** - Construction Staff (left to right): Douglas Browne, Chris De Costa, Martyn Goddard, Paul Smedley, Craig Amos, Mark Parish, Jonathan Back.
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UWA Internet: http://www.uwa.edu.au
OFFERING challenging jobs with career paths to people with disabilities has won the University the nation’s highest award for an employer. The Prime Minister’s Employer of the Year Award, recognising UWA’s commitment to diversity and, in particular, the employment of people with disabilities, was presented in Canberra to an elated UWA team last September.

Backing the University’s award was our Workforce Diversity Strategy which, as Beverley Hill, Manager of Equity and Diversity, points out is not about band aid solutions but “real jobs with real career paths for people with disabilities recruited for their merit and the contribution they can make.

The University now has 90 employees with disabilities, and its diversity strategy also promotes the recruitment of Indigenous Australians and those with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

UWA also won an accolade for being an Employer of Choice for Women from the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workforce Agency. Its success rested on the significant advancements towards gender equity made over the last 12 years and on a Leadership Development for Women program that has won national and international recognition.

THE FESTIVAL GOES ON…

THE Golden Anniversary Festival of the Perth International Arts Festival became a celebration that reached deep into this State’s history, landscape and cultural heritage. Those involved – as participants or audience – will not forget Director Sean Doran’s final festival, nor the generous sweep of a program that ranged from Wagner’s Meistersinger to the Bush Fleadh in the hills beyond the city.

The ambitious program saw PIAF entertainment extend for the first time to Broome, Kalgoorlie, Albany, Margaret River, Denmark and Mundaring – and the show is far from over. Anthony Gormley’s stark figures still haunt the silent wastelands of Lake Ballard, and, on balmy mid-summer nights, the Lotteries Film Season lures film-lovers to UWA’s Somerville Auditorium and the Joondalup Pines.

The film season has been exceptional in its content, opening with the gentle comedy of Greenfingers and then journeying through Africa, Finland, the Sicilian islands, the Arctic wilderness and Vienna. We have yet to accompany the world’s great film makers to Tunisia (Red Satin), suburban Copenhagen (Minor Mishaps), corporate America (The Conversation), Italy (My Mother’s Smile), Belgium (Pauline and Paulette), Iran (Baran), Germany (Taking Sides), Scandinavia (A Song for Martin).

The final film, an international documentary featuring 11 of the world’s great film makers, has at its core responses to the events of 11 September 2001. This runs from 31 March to 6 April. Check out program details on www.perthfestival.com.au

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE ACKNOWLEDGED

WHILE Australia now has an enviable disease prevention and treatment of heart attack, plus public health diagnosis, better management of both heart attack and stroke.

UWA researchers working in this area are therefore delighted that the Federal Government has boosted research funding by some $2 million over five years, broadening the scope of both research and training.

Professor Ian Puddy who heads the Centre for Training in Clinical Cardiovascular and Cerebrovascular Research at Royal Perth Hospital – designated a Centre of Clinical Excellence funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) – attributes the decline in heart attack deaths in Australia to better treatment, early diagnosis, better management of heart attack, plus public health factors.

“Changes in diet, cutting back on smoking, and earlier treatment of high blood pressure and cholesterol have all made their mark,” says the UWA professor. “Another factor is the increase in research expertise in this area – because this has translated into a better understanding of causes, prevention and treatment of heart disease.”

The UWA centre, which focuses on training clinical researchers in cardiovascular disease, was established with NHMRC funding in 1998. The recently announced $2m grant will enable it to expand its research base to include training opportunities in stroke research being done by Graeme Hankey of the Stroke Unit at Royal Perth Hospital and thrombosis research being conducted by Ross Baker and John Eikelboom of the Haematology Unit.

In total, medical research projects in Western Australia received $14 million in funding from the NHMRC, with UWA receiving funding for 35 of the 42 funded projects in this State (worth more than $12.5 million).

“The WA projects are wide ranging,” said Federal Minister for Health, Senator Kay Patterson, when congratulating the applicants. She particularly cited the widespread nature of research, headed by Professor Bruce Robinson, that is developing a simple blood screening test for mesothelioma, an aggressive form of asbestos-induced cancer.

Successful UWA projects ranged from developing Internet based health care systems for remote communities to genetic research related to childhood brain tumours.

VC JOINS COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL

THE election of Professor Schreuder to the governing council of the Association of Commonwealth Universities seemed timely. The association actively strengthens the exchange of...
Ideas and intelligence between some 500 universities in 35 countries and regions within the Commonwealth. Incoming Chair, Professor Sir George Bain, Vice-Chancellor of Queen’s University in Belfast, said that the need to focus on international links between universities had never been greater “in the unsettling circumstances of the new millennium.”

UWA recently forged links with another Queen’s University, one of Canada’s best. Based in Kingston, Ontario, the agreement between the universities mean that exchanges are already under way. Six students from each university will swap places in the first semester this year.

**After Bali...**

The terrorist bombs in Bali last October, coming little more than a year after the World Trade Centre tragedy, had a ripple effect that touched many within the University community.

The event that dominated the media also underscored a need that UWA's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deryck Schreuder, articulated within days of the tragedy: “Rarely in recent times has there been a greater need for an educated understanding of international politics – the dynamics of modern international history and a capacity to create intercultural understandings.” It was a sentiment echoed by many UWA academics working within the region.

In this issue, we talk to some of those who have made Indonesia their special field of research, to those within the university community who teach courses in Indonesia, and to others who shared their skills in a very different theatre of operation – the burns unit at RPH.

**UWA fills forensic void**

The Bali bombings highlighted the skills of those who had the unenviable task of hunting for forensic evidence in the debris that littered Kuta. UWA’s Robin Napper knows that scene all too well, having been involved in the devastation of bombs in Northern Ireland before coming to Australia, to promote a greater emphasis on DNA and forensic policing.

“Forensic analysis is a vital tool in working out the who, where and when in the making of the Bali bombs. A possible combination of basic ingredients with a rather more sophisticated electronic detonation device proved devastating. Combine this with the potential of a suicide bomber being the carri...”

Mr Napper worked in the UK under Peter Ryan, before being seconded to the NSW police following Ryan’s appointment as Police Commissioner. His work in Australia saw him giving presentations on forensic policing around the country, including Perth, where he talked to both UWA students and academics. When invited to join UWA’s new Centre for Forensic Science (officially opened by the Premier, Dr Geoff Gallop in December) he relished the opportunity to take up the challenge of ‘selling’ the centre’s extraordinary concentration of expertise within the region, and further afield.

“UWA has been very forward thinking and is now the only Australian university offering such courses in the region – and courses like this are very much in demand in a dangerous world. The US has withdrawn most of their forensic training in Europe and Southeast Asia, so more and more agencies in the region are looking to UWA to fill the void. Already we have given courses in Singapore and Hong Kong and have had discussions with law enforcement agencies in China, Thailand, Dubai and Oman. We are also on the lookout for promising international postgraduate students.

“The whole area of forensics is growing fast and is particularly relevant in places like Australia where, as a recent high profile abduction case indicated, you have a suspect who allegedly committed a crime in the Northern Territory, lived in Broome, was arrested in South Australia – and could possibly be convicted on a microscopic sample of blood...”

UWA’s new centre offers a diploma courses, plus Master’s and PhD, plus a core unit for undergraduates.

“The centre calls on a whole range of UWA skills in our training courses: psychologists, lawyers, molecular biologists, entomologists, chemists, botanists, palaeontologists, anthropologists, and geneticists,” says centre director Associate Professor Ian Dadour, Australia’s only accredited forensic entomologist. The centre collaborates with a range of government and private sector providers including the PathCentre, the Chemistry Centre, the WA Police Service, the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Public Prosecutions.

The centre currently has 70 postgraduate students representing a range of professions: police officers, lawyers, dentists, doctors, vets, pharmacologists, engineers and fisheries inspectors.

Dr Dadour says that while, in the past, police forces in Australia have been slow to make full use of forensics, they are now making up for lost time – and UWA is helping with that very necessary process.

**Lifestyles of the Rich and Roman**

Pieced together from brilliantly coloured stones or fired glass tesserae, Roman mosaics once decorated the floors of impressive public buildings and luxury baths, and were later used to ornament the walls and vaults of Christian churches.

Historian Brian Brennan, Research Associate at Macquarie University, will be taking UWA Extension participants on a “tour” of the mansions of the rich and famous of Roman times next month. His four UWA Extension lectures, which will explore magnificent examples of mosaic from Rome, Palestina, Tivoli, Pompeii and other sites, will undoubtedly have wide appeal, so you will need to book.

Another UWA Extension event likely to stir wide interest is the visit of His Holiness Sakya Trizin, one of Tibetan Buddhism’s spiritual leaders. As part of a national tour, His Holiness will give public talks and teachings. Following his escape from Tibet to India in 1959, Sakya Trizin has guided the establishment of over 30 monasteries in Nepal and Sakya centres around the world.

To check out details of these and other UWA’s Extension events, visit www.extension.uwa.edu.au
A very different UWA team was behind another international contest in which the University finished runner-up. The Formula SAE competition in Victoria in December saw the UWA Motorsport team engaged in a tight battle that ended with UWA finishing just behind the University of Wollongong. Third place went to the UWA Motorsport team engaged in a tight battle that ended with UWA finishing just behind the University of Wollongong. Third place went to another international team that has ensured its voice is heard in national research priorities, has been systematically benchmarking itself against the best, nationally and internationally, “Professor Barber told UNIVIEW before leaving the University, “UWA is always among the best performing Australian universities by many measures, and we constantly engage with the forces that shape the policies and environments in which we work.”

“The fact that we have had two Vice-Chancellors (Professor Fay Gale, and now Professor Deryck Schreuder) heading the Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee and people such as Professor Alan Robson and Professor Margaret Searles (Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Community and Development) and myself being involved in the Australian Research Council, and in setting national research priorities, has been very significant.”

Professor Barber leaves at a high point on the scale of UWA’s achievements in the competitive league of research funding – on a per capita basis, we are again among the top performers for Australian Research Council and government grants and funding from overseas, including the lucrative North American and Asian markets.”
National Health and Medical Research Council grants, and for funding from the Grain Research and Development Corporation, an agency that invests strategically in the best researchers in areas of national importance.

He believes areas of future challenge for UWA are increasing funding support for cooperative research centres and centres of excellence, and seeking the cooperative linkages that underpin these centres; and increasing postgraduate degrees based on research.

“We need to attract more high quality national and international research students, which means securing additional funds for scholarships.”

Professor Barber counts among his achievements a role in the successful commercialisation of UWA research – notably the nanopowder manufacturing technology developed by the Research Centre for Advanced Mineral and Materials Processing, whose Director, Professor Paul McCormick, is now CEO of Advanced Powder Technology which has formed a $12m joint venture with Korean electronics giant Samsung Corning Co.

He was also pleased to witness the early successes of UWA's Office of Industry and Innovation. “In the early part of 2000 we took a forward-looking decision to set up this office, and the process we went through and the way the office has become part of the fabric of the university have been phenomenal. There have been several start-up companies coming out of UWA in 2002 and the year ahead will undoubtedly see more (see next item).

“It has also been hugely satisfying to watch the Institute of Advanced Studies go from strength to strength, and to know that last year 5,800 people attended events that brought many distinguished visitors to UWA.”

Last year's program embraced topics as diverse as Genomics, Society and Human Health and Language in Time. A highlight of next year's program will be an international symposium in conjunction with UWA's Schools of Water Research, Social and Cultural Studies and Humanities (check out the institute's program on www.ias.uwa.edu.au).

Professor Barber looks forward to seeing a strengthening of the relationship between CSIRO and Australian universities. Like Geoff Garrett he sees our universities and research institutions as small players in a big world – “angels with one wing that will never fly well unless we hold hands.”

“Today there is a new climate at all levels of government and higher education that sees the CSIRO and universities as an important part of the Australian innovation system. If we work together, governments will find ways of assisting us – and that is the way we can make an impact globally,” he says.

When recounting the first disastrous attempts at ‘acclimatising’ primates in London's Regent's Park Zoo.

“A hundred African baboons were transported from Kenya and 33 females died within the first year – all as a result of males fighting over them,” said Professor Bradshaw. “Solly Zuckerman, a young zoologist studying the colony, subsequently wrote a very influential book, The Social Life of Apes and Monkeys, that confirmed suspicions that mankind was inherently violent, preoccupied with sex and in search of social status! This fitted nicely into Victorian preconceptions about the need for a tightly stratified society where everyone knew their place. It wasn’t until zoologists went into the field to study apes in their natural environment in the 1960s, that they discovered that violence and conflict are very rare, and hierarchy is maintained not by force, but through a variety of ritualistic behaviour patterns.”

Professor Bradshaw congratulated Perth Zoo on its new state-of-the-art orangutan enclosures which, he said, provided the behavioural enrichment needed in captivity. Author royalties from the UWA Press publication will support the Perth Zoo exhibit (see Saving the endangered orangutan).

**THE SHIFTING PATTERNS OF INTERNATIONAL ART**

THE shifting patterns of international art in the early and mid-20th century were reflected in the works of Australian artists, and some 60 paintings and works on paper drawn from The UWA Art Collection illustrate that influence. A New Outfit: Australian Artists Redress Modernism features works by artists who redefined and reshaped the tenets of post-impressionism, cubism, surrealism and abstract expressionism.

Exhibition curator Janice Baker selected works that challenged the art of the day. “Reshaping aspects of modern art led to the unique and significant art of Howard Taylor, Leonard French, John Olsen and Fred Williams,” she observes. The exhibition includes works by Frank Hinder, Grace Cossington Smith, Godfrey Miller, Dorrit Black, Roland Wakelin, Tony Tuckson, Dick Watkins, John Peart, Elise Blumann and Guy Grey-Smith.

Also running at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery is Picturing the Self: Portraiture in the Twentieth Century. This exhibition (also from the University's collection) investigates the function of portraiture in 20th century culture, with the selected works acting as illuminating social documents of a period of social and cultural change. Both exhibitions run to 26 March. You can check out the gallery’s forthcoming programs at www.arts.uwa.edu.au/LW/LWh.html

**PINK CHAMPAGNE AND GREENFINGERS**

On a fine December evening, some 265 people with an interest in UWA's beautiful National Estate registered grounds were attracted to the campus for the first of many events planned for 2003 by the UWA Friends of the Grounds – a group which aims to promote and support the UWA grounds by coordinating activities centred on the campus. There will be walks through the grounds; talks about the history, architecture, wildlife and flora; musical evenings and afternoon teas, and other social events. The Friends also aim to sponsor research and release publications about the campus.

If you are interested in joining the Friends of the Grounds, contact Dianne Valli in the Office of Development on (08) 9380 7955.

**ROYALTIES ENRICH ORANGUTANS**

WHEN he launched the UWA Press book on endangered orangutans (our cover story in this issue) Professor Don Bradshaw graphically illustrated the stripes made by the world's zoos in the Somerville Auditorium (see UWA Events).

The event was a foretaste of an enticing program planned by the group which aims to promote and support the UWA grounds by coordinating activities centred on the campus. There will be walks through the grounds; talks about the history, architecture, wildlife and flora; musical evenings and afternoon teas, and other social events. The Friends also aim to sponsor research and release publications about the campus.

If you are interested in joining the Friends of the Grounds, contact Dianne Valli in the Office of Development on (08) 9380 7955.
Notable Downs Estate, an exciting Rural Residential land release nestled in the weather protected eastern lee of the beautiful Cape Naturaliste Ridge offers one of the rarest selections of spectacular land features yet found in the Dunsborough/Yallingup region.

Unbeatable views of Geographe Bay encompass the coastline from Dunsborough to Bunbury with a foreground garnish of vineyards, lush pasture, tree plantations and homely coastal night lights that flicker along the curve of the Bay.

Along with previous quality developments of Marine Star Pty Ltd, including Meelup Hill, Yungarra Drive, Woodlands Green and the High Glee developments in Dunsborough to Country Road and Johnson Glades in Busselton, Notable Downs Estate will undoubtedly take its place in the cellar along with the very finest of the regions rich Cabernets.

Gary Cotterell of MarinaStar Pty Ltd. and Agents for the Developer Joe White of White McMullen Real Estate in Dunsborough consider it their privilege to be able to offer stage one on a pre-release basis now.

Visit Notable Downs Estate at www.whitemcmullen.com.au and discover for yourself the alluring attractions this estate has to offer or call agent for the developers Joe White on 0897 568 800 - you’ll be glad you did.
The intensity of activity within your University, coupled with last year’s comprehensive Federal review of higher education (the Crossroads Review), highlights the importance of UWA’s capacity to capitalise on change as a most vital ingredient of our University’s future development. Many of the key issues facing our sector are brought into focus in a World Bank Report published late last year – Constructing Knowledge Societies: New Challenges for Tertiary Education. Challenging us from the outset of that report, Professor Mamphela Ramphele (the remarkable South African educationalist and the World Bank’s Managing Director, Human Development) wrote: “Tertiary education is more than the capstone of the traditional education pyramid; it is a critical pillar of human development worldwide.”

Indeed, the report points out that tertiary education is facing unprecedented challenges arising from the convergent impacts of globalisation, the increasing importance of knowledge as a principal driver of growth, and the information and communication revolution. But opportunities are emerging from these challenges. The role of education in general, and of tertiary education in particular, is now more influential than ever in the construction of knowledge economies and democratic societies. The report also acknowledges that new forms of competition are appearing, inducing traditional institutions to change their modes of operation and delivery and take advantage of the opportunities offered by the new information and communication technologies.

At UWA, our response to change remains driven by an understanding of the importance of knowledge in the world economy and the need for us to ensure the traditions of our great institution remain relevant to new students in new global and technological eras.

Indeed, as the pace of change and innovation intensify, teaching and learning, research and innovation become all the more important. The World Bank report also emphasises a point which (as President of the Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee) I have made to government on numerous occasions during the Federal review process: tertiary education must be seen as critical to education as a whole – it must be flexible, diverse, efficient, and responsive. These are indeed all the elements we seek to address through a transforming academic structure that reaffirms the University’s commitment to the future while building confidently on our achievements. The restructure addresses the challenges of growth in new research and scholarship areas, which mostly occur across what were traditional departmental boundaries.

After a year ‘bedding down’ our new structure of nine Faculties and 33 Schools, many see this new year bringing an opportunity for consolidation.

In that perspective, it is pleasing to report that we finished 2002 on a high note, winning an Australian University Teaching Award for our innovative and practical approaches to delivering education into local and regional areas (notably Albany and Geraldton), through a combination of web-based ‘i.lectures’ and face-to-face teaching and learning.

Two other important community accolades were received during the second half of 2002 – UWA was named as a Prime Minister’s Employer of the Year for its commitment to diversity; and UWA was also awarded the status of National Employer of Choice for Women in recognition of its efforts in the area of equal opportunity for women.

Combining these with high performance in key academic, teaching and research areas – including graduate success in employment, major achievement in competitive research grant applications, and a continuing rise in international enrolments – UWA is clearly positioned as Western Australia’s flagship university and one of the best in our nation.

PHOTO: UWA receives the Prime Minister’s Employer of the Year Award (see also In Focus)
Orangutans have survived tumultuous global and climatic events in an evolutionary span reaching back over five million years, but can they survive the 21st century? That is a question addressed in *Orangutans and their battle for survival*, written by Perth Zoo’s Leif Cocks and published by UWA Press. The Curator of Exotic Mammals focuses on the zoo’s phenomenal captive breeding program—the world’s most successful—and ponders the fate of the remnant wild population that survives in a region where illegal harvesting of timber is brutally excising its habitat.

Trea Wiltshire talks to the author and to UWA student Libby Pollard who is studying the zoo population.

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**Saving the endangered orangutan**

Leif Cocks, Curator of Exotic Mammals at Perth Zoo, is totally honest about the daunting challenges facing critically endangered wild orangutans in Malaysia and Indonesia. He cites illegal logging as a critical factor in the battle to save this great ape’s wild population. “Orangutans are legally protected, the national parks are also legally protected, but park rangers still face an uphill battle against illegal logging activities,” says Leif who delivers occasional lectures to UWA’s Human Biology 101 students and spends time in both Malaysia and Indonesia every year.

While Leif paints a grim picture of illegal logging and poaching in the great apes’ last remaining habitats, he also works constructively to counter these daunting odds. Four years ago he founded the Australian Orangutan Project (www.orangutan.org.au) that raises funds for a range of initiatives: for anti-logging patrols, for medicines and darting equipment used in rehabilitation centres in Sumatra; for fire fighting personnel in Kalimantan where drought has increased the fire risk; and for education programs in Sabah that encourage locals to live in harmony with the elusive and shy forest giants.

“At Perth Zoo we are also training staff from Malaysia, who will return to work with orangutans,” says Leif, “and the Australian Orangutan Project has recently started a re'afforestation program in Tanjung Puting National Park in central Kalimantan.” Leif became primate keeper at the zoo in 1988 and is proud of its successful orangutan breeding program which has seen 24 births. He attributes the success of the program to several factors. “Key factors have been the zoo’s respect for the orangutan’s social system, our management strategies that keep them mentally active and healthy, and the close bonds between our orangutans and the keepers,” says Leif, who oversees and maintains the high standard of care established when orangutans first arrived at the Zoo from Malaysia in 1969. At that time the zoo adopted strategies ahead of their time that acknowledged the solitary and arboreal nature of these great apes that, in the wild, spend most of their time in the

PICTURED ABOVE: Puspa, one of the Perth Zoo orangutans featured in the UWA Press book. Photo: Neil Mears
canopy of the rainforest, foraging for food. When researcher Rosemary Markham (studying for a PhD at UWA) studied the zoo’s orangutans in the 1970s she observed that they looked and behaved like wild orangutans: they were active and slim-bodied, had long, thick shiny hair and were all successful breeders.

On the cover of the UWA Press publication is Neil Myers’ compelling image of Hsing Hsing, who has sired many of the zoo’s offspring. The zoo is now looking for a new male to sire the next generation.

“We use computer programs to work out small population genetics, so that we can maintain the maximum genetic diversity,” explains Leif.

The average male orangutan weighs around 95kg and reaches around 1.5m in height. They are exceptionally strong, using feet as hands as they swing through the rainforest foraging for a diet that includes fruits, leaves, shoots, flowers, fungi, vines, orchids, termites and birds eggs.

In his book, Leif points out that the orangutan is found only in South-East Asia, and is the only member of the great ape family outside of Africa. There are two quite distinct orangutan species, the Bornean Orangutan (Pongo pygmaeus) and the Sumatran Orangutan (Pongo abelii). There are genetic, behavioural and physical differences between the two species but both prefer a habitat of swampy rainforest, close to rivers, and mostly at lower altitudes where food supply is good.

While using all levels of the rainforest, orangutans predominantly inhabit the middle canopy, 20 metres above ground, where food is most abundant and the canopy is continuous. They cover great distances, eating as they move and, before sunset, build a nest where they remain until dawn. In the zoo, the orangutans continue ‘nesting’ using cardboard, wool and hessian bags for their night nests.

“This weaving, as with all behaviour, is learned rather than instinctive behaviour,” says Leif, “that is why Libby Pollard’s study on mother-infant behaviour is of great interest and will be an important contribution to our bank of knowledge.”

The Sumatran Orangutan is classified as critically endangered and Leif believes that to have any chance of survival, all the remaining populations of orangutans, both in the wild and in captivity, will probably need to be actively managed as one megapopulation.

“In addition to providing a back-up population (a virtual insurance policy against total extinction of the last two remaining orangutan species), the genetic pool of captive animals in zoos and institutions around the world is likely to be essential to help keep the remnant wild populations healthy,” he says.

All author royalties from the sale of Orangutans and their battle for survival will go to Perth Zoo’s Orangutan Appeal to help upgrade the orangutan exhibit and continue the successful breeding program. The book can be purchased at Perth Zoo, the University Co-op Bookshop and all good book stores.

“Key factors have been the zoo’s respect for the orangutan’s social system, our management strategies that keep them mentally active and healthy, and the close bonds between our orangutans and the keepers” – Leif Cocks, seen here with the affectionate Puteri

Check out UWA Press’s recent titles: www.uwapress.uwa.edu.au

Studying the mother-infant relationship

UWA graduate Libby Pollard is studying the mother-infant relationship in captive orangutans both in zoos in the United Kingdom and Perth. Her PhD studies have given her an appreciation of the lengthy nurturing (spanning between seven and ten years) that provides offspring with the skills to survive a solitary existence in the rainforest.

“My study is looking at infant behaviour through a wide range of age groups. The orangutan infant suckles for a long time – perhaps eight years – whereas gorillas may suckle for half that time,” says Libby. “The rainforest is a tough environment so the long suckling could be a way of getting that infant through to maturity.

“The mother invests a lot of time and effort in her offspring, and her first born will still be around to see the
nurturing behaviour that goes into rearing a second offspring, perhaps a decade after its own birth. All of the orangutan’s maternal behaviour is learnt rather than instinctive.

“When the female offspring is mature, at around 13, she will gradually move away from her mother. For orangutans, social structure/grouping is maintained through visual rather than physical contact. The female offspring usually establishes a home range near her mother. This means that all the established female home ranges in an area are occupied by related females. Males will wander far from their mothers and will generally establish a home range in unfamiliar areas.”

The orangutan’s long gestation (almost the same as humans) and the amount of time spent rearing an infant are factors that make the wild population extremely vulnerable when populations decline: most females will nurture only three infants in a lifetime.

The UWA student spends long hours observing the mother-infant relationship described by Birute Galdikas – who has made her study of the region’s remaining orangutans a lifetime’s work. Birute is one of three female scientists who, with the help of Louis Leakey, have studied the great apes: Dianne Fossey studied the mountain gorilla in Rwanda; Jane Goodall still studies East Africa’s chimps, while Birute braved the rainforests of Borneo for her orangutan research.

Libby is more than half way through a PhD through UWA’s School of Anatomy and Human Biology which is supervised by Emeritus Professor Charles Oxnard and Dr Rosemary Markham of Perth Zoo.
When Andrew Bovell enrolled at UWA in the early 1980s, he had no clear idea of what he wanted to do. He was studying arts and majoring in politics, and one of the essays he wrote at that time took the form of a conversation between two revolutionaries. His politics tutor, the late Paddy O’Brien was impressed, and Andrew (who was becoming increasingly interested in theatre and creative writing) began to see a career path emerging.

UWA Extension creative writing courses with WA author Elizabeth Jolley edged him further along this path. Lectures in anthropology by Ronald and Catherine Berndt awakened an abiding interest in Aboriginal history and culture. By the time he was studying for his finals, he was also writing two plays that would gain him entry to an undergraduate course in dramatic arts at the Victorian College of Arts. “It was very busy but exciting,” he recalls. “Suddenly I knew what I needed to do and how to move forward – and that is always exhilarating.”

Moving to Melbourne was equally exciting: “It was about leaving home, moving from Perth to a bigger city – and Melbourne in the mid-1980s was the home of new Australian drama. One of my tutors at the VCA was playwright John Romeril with whom I later worked, and he, along with Louis Nowra and Stephen Sewell, represented a new breed of playwrights who were doing things in a slightly more sophisticated way, and their influences were European and American.

“To be in Melbourne in the theatre scene at that time was to learn about life in every possible way. For me it brought together all the elements of youth: I discovered love, politics, ideology, and became very involved in a left-wing theatre company, the Melbourne Workers Theatre. When I graduated, I wrote my first play for them.”

State of Defence chronicled the stories of workers made redundant when the Jolimont Train Maintenance Depot closed. “It was a time of great industrial upheaval and the play asked where trade unions would fit within the new scheme of things. The project was a fantastic way to learn the practical skills of how to respond to people’s stories and turn them into theatre that meant something to audiences when performed at work sites.”

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Another play, The Ballad of Lois Ryan, followed and it too was a rejection of traditional proscenium arch theatre in favour of a more accessible genre.

Andrew’s association with the Melbourne Workers Theatre (now based at Trades Hall) continues, and when he spoke to UNIVIEW, rehearsals were underway on a new play Fever.

In 1988 his play After Dinner, a black comedy, opened at Melbourne’s La Mama, then moved to a succession of larger theatres where it was seen by Baz Luhrmann who was instantly impressed and asked Andrew to work with him on the script for a quirky new comedy, Strictly Ballroom.

“That was my break into the film industry,” recalls Andrew. “It was a very close and intensive collaboration. Baz – who is very energetic, inspiring, and fun to work with – was clear about his vision for the film, so my task became helping him to realise that vision.”

Other film and TV scripts followed, but Andrew continues to bring himself back to the theatre that he still sees as a main-spring of his work. “Film and theatre are such different worlds, but for me theatre writing is more tangible, and sometimes a play script leads to a film…” When he wrote the international box office hit Lantana, it was based on his play Speaking in Tongues, which has been performed in London and New York and is opening in Paris later this year.

“It’s amazing how suddenly you find yourself under the scrutiny of Hollywood and your work becomes familiar to a much wider audience, and it’s a little daunting,” says Andrew. Yet he appears to have achieved a remarkable balance. He lives with his wife (actor Eugenia Fragos) on a 60-acre farm in South Australia. The couple have three young children, and are ‘greening’ their scenic stretch of hilly coastline with 8,000 gum trees and an olive grove. When not travelling, Andrew writes through the morning, then works on all the other things associated with writing. “I used to write more obsessively, but you can’t do that with three children and a hobby farm…” he says.

“However, financially it is always a struggle and many people with great ideas and talent simply don’t get there.”

Andrew’s current projects include adapting for film Pat Barker’s novel Border Crossing which explores whether notorious child murderers can ever find a place back in society. Research took Andrew to England where he talked to young offenders in maximum security institutions. He was appalled by the lives they had led, and by their emotional and material poverty.

“One of the fascinating things about my work is that each project takes me into places and worlds I would not normally know about. I always try to do projects that open up new areas of knowledge for me. I try never to repeat myself or to stay in my comfort zone. If I rest on my laurels, I fear I will lose my edge. Every project is like a door opening to a whole new country.”

He believes strongly in the strengths of Australian theatre and film and hopes that we can maintain our distinctive, independent voice rather than resorting to works that are a pale imitation of Hollywood.

“Whenever our films succeed, it is because we are being true to our world,” he says. “It’s also important that we continue to nurture our young talent, and I think we are doing this quite effectively. We have some of the world’s best film schools in Australia. However, financially it is always a struggle and many people with great ideas and talent simply don’t get there.”

Living here – rather than in a city like Melbourne – allows me to be a little bit more focussed. Of course it is challenging because my wife and I are both so deeply involved in theatre and film, and with three children it can be difficult, but while they say relationships in the industry never last, we have been together for 20 years.”

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Bali was once described as “an island in a state of perpetual enchantment with its own mystique...” but the small, predominantly Hindu island, set in the complex template of Muslim Indonesia’s archipelago, was not destined to be left to its devout dreaming. Several landmark events shattered its tranquillity in the 20th century: a Dutch military expedition saw colonial cannon obliterate a small Balinese army; the island’s volcanoes erupted, burying villages and claiming hundreds of lives; and in 1965 – that year of living dangerously following the political fall of President Sukarno – the island witnessed an orgy of blood-letting that pitted villager against villager, non-communist against communist. Now the events of October 12, 2002 have again thrust the island – and Australia’s neighbour – into the spotlight. Trea Wiltshire reports on those involved in the aftermath of the terrorist bombing and those whose research takes them to the complex, culturally rich archipelago on our doorstep.

The ripple effect of the terrorist attacks on Bali inevitably touched UWA academics, students and graduates. When Australia’s largest peace-time airlift brought burns victims to Royal Perth Hospital, there were graduates – professional plastic surgeons and the trainees with whom they share their skills – who began the daunting task of treating the victims. There were also those forced to cut short fieldwork or studies and others who continued to teach the courses that Indonesians value.

In the immediate aftermath of the Bali bombings, several UWA graduates used their skills to repair the horrendous burns. The first to become involved were Vijith Vijayasekaran and Priya Thalayasingam who had just arrived on the island for a holiday. The graduates – a trainee plastic surgeon and a trainee anaesthetist – had skills that would be put to good use during a 24-hour stint at the Sanglah Hospital that neither will ever forget (see In the right place at the wrong time...)

When burns victims began arriving at the Royal Perth Hospital burns unit, the pressure was on for several UWA graduates who are trainee plastic surgeons working under Dr Fiona Wood, head of the teaching hospital’s burns unit. Dr Wood, a former UWA Senior Lecturer, has won accolades for her surgical skills and for the research that she and her colleagues advanced during her time at UWA, with the support of a Raine Foundation grant. She went on to form a research foundation and a start-up company to commercialise products from this and other research (see Graduates advance burns technology).

Within days of the terror attacks, UWA had issued travel warnings reflecting those put out by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Professor Paige Porter, Dean of International Relations, acknowledges that while the DFAT warnings will cause some to rethink their study or research plans, others – like lecturers from UWA’s Graduate School of Management – will adopt increased security measures, but will continue to fly into Jakarta and other capital cities deemed ‘risky’, to fulfil obligations to their students.
“The shock of what happened in Bali will spread ever outwards”... It will touch eventually every corner of an interdependent and mutually vulnerable world. Such inhumanity makes victims of us all.” The Guardian

“I think the reality is that we will have to be more security conscious than we were in the past and that sense of heightened awareness of a dangerous world may last for several years. But we may still go to places that have been deemed risky.

“We have to keep things in perspective. You don’t want to recreate the isolationism of people who live in a valley and don’t want to go over the mountain because it’s dangerous on the other side. Clearly, the forces of globalisation, economic and social, are going to continue and that means that what happens in one part of the world will be relevant in another – and that goes for personal security as well.

“I personally believe that the world has always been a dangerous place: think of the world wars, revolutions and the cold war that we witnessed in the 20th century alone. I do, however, think we have been jolted out of a false notion that we were secure and somehow immune from the things that happened elsewhere in the world.

“And let’s remember – keeping a sense of proportion – that while all these warnings were going out, there were Australian trade delegations visiting ‘hot spots’ such as the Middle East and Iran, trade negotiations were going on with Israel, and there was much Australian ‘business as usual’ throughout Southeast Asia.

“While some educational institutions may play it safe and opt for increased interaction with countries that are perceived to be more secure, WA has such a long history of contact with countries within the region that I can’t imagine our interaction will decrease – in fact, it is at times like these that engagement within the region becomes doubly important. We need to better understand our neighbours, not isolate ourselves from them.”

For Professor Roger Smith, Director of International Programs at UWA’s Graduate School of Management (GSM), it has certainly been ‘business as usual’ in terms of delivering lectures in International Management at the Universitas Tarumanagara in Jakarta – a fact much appreciated by UWA’s partners and students.

“After the Bali bombings we had quite a few queries as to whether the course would continue. When we assured students it would, they were understandably happy and relieved,” said Professor Smith. “At the time of the financial troubles of 1997, followed by the political demise of Suharto, many Australians left. Those that did not are now in a good position, because they were seen to be ‘stayers’. And that has been the case with the GSM; it sends a good message to our students and to our educational partners.”

Professor Smith acknowledges that Jakarta with its traffic jams, ubiquitous Mercedes and conspicuous consumption (“There are currently eight shopping malls being built and the existing ones are well patronised...”) seems a long way from the grinding poverty that is the lot of the majority of Indonesians in islands like Sumatra and Sulawesi. Despite the series of crises, the Indonesian economy continues to grow at just over three per cent, however with tourism accounting for a substantial proportion of foreign income, forecasts may yet be downgraded.

The UWA lecturer has some 20 years of experience in Indonesia, working on World Bank and International Labour Organisation projects before joining UWA in 1997. He is not easily fazed by the rowdy demonstrations that sometimes erupt in Jakarta (“When you are offering 20,000 rupiahs to participate, you can always drum up a crowd.”), nor the occasional exchange of missiles and stones between Chinese and Muslim university students.

His focus is to provide management skills to his students, who are ambitious, in their 30s, have a first degree and are enthusiastic about their studies.

“We feel confident that GSM lecturers in the region are in no danger even though there have been travel warnings in some of the places to which we travel – like Manila and Singapore. We are met at the airport, we generally stay in hotels patronised by locals, and we are careful. Our feeling is you can’t stop the world and get off. If you stop going, that is not a good message to our neighbours.”

While UWA students in Indonesia continued their studies, some Australian students studying Indonesian in Yogyakarta had to cut short their in-country studies. However, UWA students participating in a national language program were unaffected, having completed their studies in Java during the first semester.

Anthropologist Dr Lyn Parker, who heads UWA’s Centre for Contemporary Asia, is a member of a national consortium of Australian universities which sends students to Indonesia for language studies. Generally there are about 55 Australian students in Yogyakarta (central Java) at any one time.

Dr Parker believes that – particularly at this point in time – we need additional support for Asian Studies and the study of Asian languages.
“In the light of the attacks in Bali, the situation of sending language students to Indonesia is being reviewed, but we hope the program survives because we have students keen to participate. This language program has been of inestimable value, doing much to build a network of formal and informal relationships. The first blow to it came during the Asian financial crisis, followed by deteriorating security in 1998. Now there is a further threat – just when we need people with Indonesian expertise and strong person-to-person ties.” Dr Parker has built her own network of personal relationships with the residents of a Balinese village that she has been studying for 20 years (see *A village in Bali*).

The UWA researcher says that this University’s Asian Studies graduates are much in demand, and find jobs working in a variety of areas – from journalism and foreign affairs to private industry and teaching.

“Australia must do everything possible to help and encourage Indonesia during this period of political reform,” says Dr Parker. “There is so much at stake as the country moves from an authoritarian centralised system to one in which there is more openness, more opportunity to express opinion and dissent – but also more evidence of increased violence.”

She also hopes that Australia’s national strategy in regard to the teaching of Asian languages in secondary schools will be strengthened, reflecting the continued support for the teaching of Chinese, Indonesian and Japanese that the WA Government has put in place.

“Unless there is strong national leadership in regard to our engagement with Asia, unless there is the back-up of funding for language teaching, Asian Studies will not go from strength to strength in Australian universities, as it has done in the past – and as it must in the future,” she says.

When he spoke about the terrorist attacks last October, UWA’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deryck Schreuder, said that rarely had there been a greater need for understanding of international politics – the dynamics of modern international history and a capacity to create intercultural understandings.

The Vice-Chancellor cited the humanities and social sciences as the great ‘enabling’ disciplines that helped inform media, the public debate, the policy makers and analysts, all of whom are dependent on the knowledge – both historical and contemporary – embedded in the scholarship of humanists and social scientists.

At present there are several academics and PhD students adding to the bank of knowledge and understanding that we have of our nearest neighbour (see *UWA researchers in Indonesia*). “Universities are by their very nature international,” said Professor Schreuder. “They are about deep knowledge of our social and natural worlds, they are deeply engaged in the dialogue between cultures, and they are about developing the kind of new knowledge that can empower prosperous and compassionate societies.

“The very internationalisation of our Australian universities and their campuses over the past decade is a wonderful symbol of cultures living together, benefiting from each other’s traditions, and developing the kinds of networks – professional and personal – which unite rather than divide people.”

There is probably no better example of these networks than those forged by Professor Ian Constable, Director of UWA’s Centre of Ophthalmology and Visual Science. During the weekend prior to the Bali bombings, the Centre/Lions Eye Institute had a team on a teaching program in Surabaya which attracted almost 300 eye surgeons from all over Indonesia. The team actually visited Kuta on the way back, because several of the younger members had not visited Bali before.

“Indonesia has one of the highest blindness rates in the world with, for example, a backlog in cataract surgery of almost two million patients and a current surgical intervention rate of 100,000 per year,” says Professor Constable. “Children are still going blind from vitamin-A deficiency and injuries are being inadequately treated from lack of resources. Other blinding eye diseases, including diabetes, are not being treated at all, except in the main centres.

“Since the bombings we have received letters expressing sorrow at the number of Australian lives lost and saying how much the Indonesian medical profession values our long term commitment, which has spanned 20 years,” says Professor Constable.

“From our point of view we hope that both Indonesia and Australia come quickly to grips with the risk of terrorism so that we can get on with this important work.”

FOR UWA graduates Vijith Vijayasekaran, a trainee plastic surgeon, and his wife Priya Thalayasingam, a trainee anaesthetist, a planned holiday in Bali became a grim testing ground for skills being honed at WA’s teaching hospitals. The couple – who met in their first year of studies in Medicine at UWA – had seen the bomb blast light the horizon from their hotel near Denpasar airport, but it was not until the next morning that they learnt of the night’s tragedy and raced to Sanglah Hospital to offer help.

“Initially there was some resistance but that was quickly sorted out when, with the help of the Australian Consul, we got permission to help from the Governor of Bali.”

Vijith has already dealt with burns, and knew that early intervention was vital. “With burns, fluid resuscitation is so important – if there is no resuscitation organs begin to fail, if there is too much fluid resuscitation the edema can progress the burn – it is a fine balance. Tissue swells but the burn itself does
not expand, so it can act as a tourniquet that can result in the loss of limbs.

“We were required to resuscitate and stabilise the injured and coordinate the evacuations of the injured Australians and foreign nationals. As the day went on, we were joined by other Australian medical and nursing volunteers who all worked through the night until all the injured were evacuated from the island.

“You come away from something like that with emotions that are hard to put into words, but we both agreed that one thing we both shared was an enormous appreciation of the training we have received. It was that which enabled us to deal with the difficult situation we faced.”

Both graduates have been involved in emergency training – Priya was able to put into practice some of the skills learnt during mock emergencies staged at UWA’s Centre for Medical and Surgical Skills in which the Centre for Anaesthesia Skills and Medical Simulation is one of several collaborators. However, no amount of simulation could prepare her for the reality of the devastation at Sanglah Hospital.

Vijith feels that his work as a trainee helped him to stay focussed in the chaotic conditions: “In plastic surgery we deal with a lot of trauma every day. The training program is one of the most intensive surgical training programs and, as there are only six trainees in WA, the workload is tremendous.” He is now halfway through his advanced training and Priya has completed three of the five years training as an anaesthetist.

“Consultants put in a lot of their own time in training us, and that makes a big difference,” says Vijith. “In plastic surgery we rotate through all the teaching hospitals and some of the private hospitals. In advanced training we do a lot of operating, as well as assisting. It’s like an apprenticeship under the supervision of consultants working in areas such as burns or cranial-facial surgery. People often think of plastic surgery in relation to aesthetic or cosmetic work, but most of it is functionally reconstructive surgery that for example repairs limbs and digits, reconstructs faces shattered in car accidents or repairs a child’s cleft palate.”

One week after the Bali bombings, the two graduates had resumed their busy lives as trainees at WA’s teaching hospitals.

“We came away really appreciative of Australian medical care, very proud to be Australian, and feeling privileged to be training in such a good system. We are very grateful to those who train us…,” say the graduates.

On his return to Perth, Vijith joined other UWA graduates working with Dr Wood in the burns unit at RPH. They worked around the clock after the biggest peacetime medical airlift brought burns victims to the three operating theatres given over to handling burns victims. Operating conditions were difficult; because of the severity of full thickness burns, the theatre had to be kept at a temperature of 32 degrees, with those who worked on the victims being wrapped in heavy plastic suits to prevent the spread of infection.

Dr Wood says that the research challenge now is to develop more effective ways of regenerating the dermis. “In some of the worst burns cases from Bali both the epidermis and the dermis were destroyed,” she explains. “The technique of tissue guided regeneration we currently use is very much in its infancy, but we are constantly exploring.

“Everything we do is in some ways research. We try to make sure that every patient we treat is a step forward in the evolution of clinical care, so we don’t lose any lessons. Our clinical research is constantly trying to improve the quality of the outcome for patients, while the basic science is happening elsewhere.

“Plastic surgery is a creative specialty in which one is always trying to develop new techniques to advance the body of knowledge. The first burns patients I ever saw were horribly burnt World War II veterans in England, being treated when reconstructive surgery was in its infancy. I remember thinking at the time: if this is as good as it gets, there’s a lot of room for improvement.

“Despite all the advances, infection and resuscitation remain the two biggest problems. However, we are able to salvage people from much more massive injuries and the likelihood of severe scarring has been reduced.”

Watching Dr Wood’s considerable skill in salvaging the Bali wounded has proved inspirational for UWA graduates who are trainees in the burns unit. Anthony Williams (who graduated from Medicine in 1995) finds the diversity of plastic surgery – from microsurgery to major burns – appealing, along with the fact that the outcome of restoring function to injured limbs is hugely rewarding. In his second year as a trainee, he sees himself going to the UK or the US on a fellowship at the end of four years.

Brigid Corrigan, a service registrar at the teaching hospital, was another graduate who experienced the intensity of working on 25 burns patients in two days at Royal Perth Hospital. “It was difficult and very demanding,” she says, “but it was good to be part of a team that worked together so effectively.” Brigid has always been drawn to the technical, hands-on challenge of surgery and is considering specialising in plastic surgery.

According to Dr Wood, trainees in the burns unit must be prepared to work hard, but she admits that the round-the-clock hours put in by the graduates were exceptional.
Visualising the future

UWA’s School of Computer Science and Software Engineering is a partner in the Interactive Virtual Environments Centre that is focussing on the use of advanced technologies in visualisation. It aims to develop tools to assist in a range of applications – from the provision of remote health care support (telehealth) to the development of virtual models of deep shaft mines.

The data produced by CT or MRI scans is routinely used to reconstruct three-dimensional models of the organs being scanned, allowing specialists to close-focus on a medical problem. The hope is that at some point in the future, such models combined with biomedical visualisation tools will be able to show a plastic surgeon how tissue damaged by a burn will heal, or how a newborn’s repaired cleft palate will look when the child has become an adult.

“Researchers have gone some way to modelling tissue growth or the dynamics of organs, but such tools still remain a thing of the future,” cautions Dr Nick Spadaccini, head of UWA’s School of Computer Science and Software Engineering. However UWA is a partner in the Interactive Virtual Environments Centre (IVEC) that is focussing on the use of advanced technologies in visualisation. It aims to develop tools to assist in a range of applications – from the biomedical to the geophysical.

Dr Spadaccini’s interest in medical visualisation research coincided with the arrival in 1994 of a graduate student, Bruce Backman, with extensive experience in software engineering and in volunteer emergency triage. Those interests in computing and medical diagnoses quickly led to contact with Dr Fiona Wood and Royal Perth Hospital’s burns unit. “In the mid-90s, the research literature began reporting some outstanding advances in biomedical visualisation using various scanning modalities such as CT, MRI and ultrasound,” recalls Dr Spadaccini.

“Full three dimensional reconstruction was possible from data slices, provided one had access to expensive computing facilities. It was in that environment that a collaborative research project developed between our department and Dr Wood and biomedical researcher Marie Stoner.

“At the time, we were a small group with little access to the sort of equipment needed. However, we focussed on problems concerning the registration of three dimensional images over time, visualising changes in the anatomic morphology and also developing wavelet methods for data analysis and reconstruction.”

As a result of some early work, the collaborators received a Raine Foundation Grant in 1996. It was primarily for personnel for Dr Wood’s newly developed skin growth and burn trauma recovery research, however a small part of the grant was for wound visualisation and UWA was successful in obtaining a high precision 3D digitising arm to be used by PhD students for image registration techniques.

“Our research indicated there was significant power in the application of computing to medical diagnosis and analysis,” says Dr Spadaccini. “UWA is now a partner in IVEC with several other educational and research institutions. The School of Computer Science and Software Engineering is one group at UWA that has significant input into this program, through personnel, students and research contribution.”

Associate Professor Amitava Datta (IVEC Education Program Leader) and Dr Karen Haines (IVEC Lecturer) are leading the UWA research group within IVEC on the use of advanced technologies such as haptic devices, access grids and fully immersive VR environments for visualisation and knowledge discovery, as well as tools for educators.

With colleagues at the University of New Mexico the group is collaborating on the TOUCH (Telemedicine Outreach Community Health) system to support telehealth care to remote sites, and to present collaborative virtual environments for problem-based learning and training. The group is hoping to forge links with various groups at the University of Queensland where novel work is being done on artificially experiencing psychosis – enabling mental health workers to appreciate personally what their patients often hallucinate.

“This certainly gives meaning to the old Chinese proverb: ‘I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand’,“ says Dr Spadaccini.

“With such equipment and expertise now accessible to UWA, and with the events of Bali focussing the public eye on Fiona Wood’s incredibly successful techniques, we may now be able to move closer to developing those tools needed for burn trauma diagnosis, and even look at collaborative teaching environments for burn trauma education.”
Plastic surgeon and Director of Royal Perth Hospital’s Burns Unit, Dr Fiona Wood, and biomedical researcher Marie Stoner combined their considerable skills when pioneer says that the company’s laboratory has cultured spray-on skin for burns, scarring and chronic wounds.

The spray-on skin they developed is expected to optimise outcomes for Bali victims and their technology has become standard treatment for burns patients in WA – and is now stirring interest around the world. Biopsies of cells taken from a patient are cultured in a highly specialised laboratory using a process of natural division. They can be grown and harvested as preconfluent cell suspensions or as confluent cell sheets. Because the original cells come from the patient the body accepts them, the tissue continues growing and the healing process is enhanced.

A former Senior Lecturer in UWA’s Department of Surgery, Dr Fiona Wood helped to advance this research while at UWA and her association with the university continues through Perth’s teaching hospitals. The medical focus of Dr Wood’s and Ms Stoner’s UWA research was to improve the adhesion of cultured skin cells to the wound. The Raine Foundation project also involved researchers from UWA’s Department of Computer Science who worked on the enormous challenge of using computer technology to scan the patient, measure the extent of injury and the resulting scar.

Dr Wood and Ms Stoner went on to establish a research foundation and a biomedical start-up company. Several UWA graduates are currently working with her at Clinical Cell Culture (C3). Dr Wood is also assisting Royal Perth Hospital’s Medical Research Foundation to establish a dedicated outcomes clinic for clinical burns research via its Skin Reconstruction Research Fund which has been heavily funded by public donations following the Bali bombings.

C3 is the commercial arm of the McComb Foundation that Dr Woods and Marie Stoner (C3’s Chief Scientific Officer) established in 1999 as the Metropolitan Health Services Board could not fund further research by the skin culture laboratory they established at Princess Margaret Hospital in 1993. The McComb Foundation funds basic research to develop new cell regeneration technologies that C3 can develop into products for the treatment of burns.

UWA graduate Maree Pickens, C3’s Marketing Director, says that the company’s laboratory has cultured spray-on skin for surgeons in Sydney, Auckland and Birmingham. “The company has now reached an exciting stage with new products being rolled out and training of medical staff in other hospitals being undertaken. We are now ramping up our laboratory to be able to support overseas sales.”

Maree (BSc) worked in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries in Australia and the US before joining the company. In the aftermath of Bali, she found herself handling an avalanche of inquiries about the technology from media and patients. Her current role sees her coordinating all medical education programs for burn and plastic surgeons and dermatologists.

To Dr Wood, the interest in spray-on skin is just the beginning, and she and medical scientists like UWA graduate Jennifer Postma (BSc) are continuing to push the technology to new frontiers. “We are always striving to improve our clinical service to ensure the patient can be treated as quickly as possible which helps minimise the potential for scarring. To this end, we are currently developing techniques for rapid harvesting of large volumes of cells for immediate treatment.” Ms Postma was one of several C3 medical scientists who worked around the clock harvesting and culturing cells for the Bali victims at Royal Perth and Royal Adelaide Hospitals.

Another UWA science graduate, Helen Wray (BSc Hons), who graduated with Honours in pathology, heads up C3’s Operations Department. She is currently enrolled in the MBA program at UWA’s Graduate School of Management and believes that these studies, in addition to her science background, will give her a unique perspective on the operations side of the business.

The financial challenges of widening horizons, its November listing as a public company (ASX:CCE) and the possibility of satellite laboratories in other countries, are being handled by UWA graduate Philip Rees (BCom), the company’s Finance Manager. He believes that the company’s innovative technology and talented staff are a solid foundation to develop a company with a global perspective.

Dr Wood says that C3 is just one of many emerging biotechnology companies in Perth that have put Australian sciences in the spotlight. Another UWA graduate, Helen Wray (BSc Hons), who graduated with Honours in pathology, heads up C3’s Operations Department. She is currently enrolled in the MBA program at UWA’s Graduate School of Management and believes that these studies, in addition to her science background, will give her a unique perspective on the operations side of the business. The financial challenges of widening horizons, its November listing as a public company (ASX:CCE) and the possibility of satellite laboratories in other countries, are being handled by UWA graduate Philip Rees (BCom), the company’s Finance Manager. He believes that the company’s innovative technology and talented staff are a solid foundation to develop a company with a global perspective.

Dr Wood says that C3 is just one of many emerging biotechnology companies in Perth that have put Australian sciences and its successful commercialisation, in the spotlight: “Australian universities and research support bodies like the Raine Medical Research Foundation can play an important role in fostering the early stage research of clinicians and scientists like myself and my colleagues.”
Watching Megawati

Strong support from Balinese voters helped sweep Megawati Sukarnoputri’s political party to power in Indonesia in 1999. While perceived inaction over terrorism could erode the President’s support, UWA PhD student John McKinley believes her support base (particularly among urban and rural poor) remains strong – and is an indication of the country’s rejection of radical Islamism.

John McKinley has been studying the political landscape in Indonesia for several years and his 2000 Honours thesis, Symbol or Substance – The Political Leadership of Megawati Sukarnoputri, examined the appeal and the performance of Indonesia’s then Vice-President.

“Most analysts suggest that the President’s appeal has more to do with symbolism than substance because Megawati is famous for her silence. However, her father was a charismatic figure who led Indonesia to independence, and images of him are ever present in her party pamphlets and banners.

“When Sukarno was ousted and General Suharto seized power, establishing his New Order in the mid-1960s, the government was fearful that the ex-President’s children would enter politics – in fact, various inducements were provided and obstacles created to keep them out of the political arena. However, Megawati eventually became the somewhat unlikely leader of an opposition party that gained widespread support and finally challenged Suharto’s government.

“Megawati has always adhered to the tenets of the national ideology of *pancasila*, the five principles, established at independence in 1945. One of the key principles gave recognition to Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity – and later Confucianism – and support for those tenets is widespread, whereas support for radical Islamism is very limited.”

John has long been interested in all things Indonesian and is providing the sort of research that Australia is likely to need if it is to effectively engage with Indonesia and to understand the extraordinary challenges faced by our dynamic neighbour. The UWA Master’s student studied Indonesian at school, and Asian Studies at Monash University, completing his undergraduate studies at UWA in 1999. As part of those studies he spent time at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta in 1997.

Last year he began work on a Master’s thesis that continues to trace the fortunes of Indonesia’s leader, and her political party, the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P). He is supervised by UWA Asian Studies lecturer, Dr David Bourchier.

“My thesis covers Indonesia’s democratic transition and the sense of lost hope among many Indonesian observers,” says John. “After the fall of Suharto in 1998, hopes were high that Indonesia would evolve into a thriving democracy, with restrictions being lifted on political affiliations and the media, and progress being made towards reducing the armed forces’ political role. That optimism has turned, in some cases, to downright despair as the reformist zeal has tapered.

“My thesis traces the history of the PDI-P, its policy positions and the impact of its internal workings on the pace and nature of reform. My impression is that rather than being in the
vanguard of reform, as was hoped by many of its supporters, the government is taking a conservative posture.

“Disappointment with the party and its leader is felt by many voters still reeling from a prolonged economic trough. There is also the feeling, in some quarters, that Indonesia under Megawati is slipping back into the chaos of the 1950s. Nevertheless from lack of real alternatives, Megawati’s support should remain intact.”

The PDI-P emerged as the largest party contesting the 1999 elections, the first truly free elections in four decades. Its victory moved it centre stage and its status was further enhanced by the elevation of its chairperson, Megawati, to the presidency in July 2001.

The UWA researcher’s Master’s studies have taken him back to Indonesia, on a field trip that saw him interviewing PDI-P members, academics and media commentators. He also participated in a sometimes bizarre tour of disadvantaged urban and rural areas on five Indonesian islands, that teamed PDI-P representatives and members of a major pharmaceutical company – both distributing promotional paraphernalia (and, in the case of the pharmaceutical company) vitamins. The so-called medical tour (there was no doctor) was organised by the PDI-P central executive in Jakarta in conjunction with the company.

John also had an insight into the inner workings of the party, its structure and organisation, when he visited party headquarters in South Jakarta.

“An interesting feature of the party was its training program for party members, kaderisasi, which is designed to professionalise the party in preparation for the 2004 national elections,” he recalls. “The PDI-P is determined to maintain its edge, however this program resembles the type of indoctrination of its mass membership that was in place during the Suharto era. Party discipline is very much at the forefront of the leadership’s thinking and Jakarta is attempting to centralise control over regional branches – this policy is meeting resistance, and it sometimes backfires. During local mayoral elections in one of Bali’s nine regencies, the PDI-P candidate, endorsed by Jakarta and Megawati herself, was defeated.”

John believes that Australia needs to increase its engagement, and the depth of its knowledge of Indonesia. “It’s particularly important that we move on from the cynicism and negativism that have characterised a lot of media coverage of Indonesia since the bloody events in East Timor in 1975,” he says.

“There is also a tendency to assume that the stream of Islam found in Indonesia is similar to that of the Arab world. In fact Islam in Indonesia is by and large a hybrid faith, a mixture of spiritual beliefs that acknowledges prior belief systems, and is both polytheistic and monotheistic.

“While there are many religious schools in the archipelago, they are not like those in Pakistan that teach only the Qur’an and jihad. In Indonesia, the mullahs have always been involved in responding to the social welfare needs of the people, particularly in poor areas, and education is one of those needs.”

When John completes his Master’s thesis, he hopes to return to Indonesia to monitor the 2004 elections – for parliament and president. He hopes to continue his Indonesian research as a PhD student.
Labour conditions critical to a stable Indonesia

UWA’s Associate Professor Rob Lambert, who studied labour conditions in Indonesia through the 1990s, sees this issue as critical to the creation of a stable Indonesia. Multinational corporations chasing cheap labour have focussed worldwide attention on the ethical dimension of globalisation, and Professor Lambert welcomes the fact that campuses around the world – including America – are putting this aspect of the new global economy firmly on the agenda.

“...the issues of labour in Indonesia are critically important when taken in the broader context of the tragic events we are currently living through,” says Associate Professor Lambert, Chair of the Organisational and Labour Studies program group in the new UWA Business School. “Clearly, social stability and greater equity and security are among the best weapons we can use to fight the wave of fundamentalism the world is witnessing.

“Indonesia has experienced significant change over the last 30 years with rapid export-driven industrialisation drawing large numbers of people from the countryside into the cities. It’s important that these people feel they have a stake in society, that they are not simply being exploited and discarded. This is vital for the overall political stability of Indonesia,” says the UWA researcher.

“When he came to power in the 1960s, Suharto brushed aside the unions that existed in favour of an official government union that never really represented workers. During the next few decades, under his authoritarian regime, workers nevertheless began to organise independently, often through non-government organisations. And the union movement in Australia was quite active, through feeder organisations, in providing training that would promote a more advanced and developed labour movement.

“Today, in a more open and democratic Indonesia, these unions are fairly vigorous and dynamic, but they are a product of their own history in the repressive Suharto years, so they are very fragmented. The main challenge is whether they can unite and create a labour movement that can be effective at a national level.”

Professor Lambert says that while most people agree that investment by multinational corporations creates jobs, generates social wealth, and alleviates poverty, the fancy footwork displayed by some multinationals – in securing rock-bottom labour costs by subcontracting to competing Asian companies, always on short-term contracts— has kept labour standards and conditions low. He says that these cost-cutting strategies are increasingly being questioned by non-government organisations, church groups, and on university campuses.

“These groups are trying to raise awareness that we are living in an age where national economies have become increasingly integrated through deregulation, and where finance moves freely across borders. One of the key questions we need to ask of this new global economy is whether its ethical dimensions are being taken seriously,” he says.

Professor Lambert continues to research international labour issues in the region. His Indonesian research, which is ongoing, culminated in the publication of The State of Labour in New Order Indonesia (published by The University of Western Australia Press) in 1997.

Professor Lambert is currently working on an ARC industry linked grant analysing the impact of economic deregulation on the Australian whitegoods industry, and is coordinating a team of international researchers on the global whitegoods industry. He has recently been contracted by the international publishers Blackwells to write a book on globalisation and labour.

A village in Bali

UWA anthropologist Dr Lyn Parker has forged important networks in Indonesia during a study of a Balinese village that has spanned two decades.

Anthropologist Dr Lyn Parker, who heads Asian Studies at UWA, has witnessed the strengthening of academic links and a long-overdue increase in local expertise on the region following the growth of Asian Studies on campuses around Australia since the 1970s. And she has built her own network of personal relations in Indonesia as she has watched the economic and political changes sweeping the archipelago reflected in a Balinese village she has studied for more than two decades.

The village in eastern Bali is typical in that it has a strong sense of community cooperation; it is rather more distinctive in its feudal and introspective conservatism. The village comprises several loosely grouped hamlets or banjars. The banjar is involved in almost every aspect of village life – organising marriages and cremations; maintaining temples; overseeing the expenditure of communal funds on public works; promoting family planning; and organising festivals that honour the pantheon of Hindu gods. Membership of the banjar is compulsory on marriage.

Dr Parker has witnessed many positive changes over the past...
22 years: “There have been great physical improvements – there is now clean water, so people don’t get sick as much; everyone goes to school, so people are literate; there is access to reasonable health care, television and electricity, plus other examples of economic development.” But recent years have seen a rise in ethnic tension as predominantly Hindu Bali became an international tourist mecca. Many Javanese and migrants from more deprived areas in eastern Indonesia were drawn to the employment opportunities that Bali offered.

“Today, there is a heightened sense of ‘us’ and ‘them’ in the village,” she observes. “Notices have appeared saying that hawkers and non-residents are not welcome. There is a sense of opposition to migrants and non-Balinese, and semi-formal groups of local young men – pecalang – have begun patrolling the streets. There is a real feeling that the village must strengthen its cultural core against the incursions of both Westerners and Islam.”

Dr Parker says that many Balinese are ambivalent about tourism. “While they are aware of the great economic benefits, they are also extremely critical of the behaviour of some international tourists and of the insensitivity displayed towards Balinese culture. People in the village have little contact with tourists, but when they come back from town, villagers talk about the scantily dressed tourists, and are shocked by the behaviour they see. However, the Balinese would think it impolite to talk publicly about this.”

In the village she is studying, the Asian economic crisis was felt mainly by the women who did piece work for a suddenly contracting garment industry, and by the 50 per cent who are landless, and do not cultivate rice. Unemployment among educated young men remains a problem in the village, and while the increased democracy is welcomed, the unravelling of authority apparent in some areas is cause for concern.

When Dr Parker began her study, only 11 women in the village could speak the national language, Bahasa Indonesia (Balinese being a separate language).

“Well most of the women under 45 speak Indonesian and attitudes towards the education of women have changed dramatically. However, the kinship system still ensures that male heirs inherit, and, despite laws discouraging polygamy, the practice is still widespread, causing bitter disputes when men remarry without the consent of a first wife.”

Dr Parker’s study of the Balinese village, From subjects to citizens, a Balinese village in the Indonesian nation state will be published later this year by NIAS/Curzon/Routledge.

NOTE: If you would like to know more about Asian Studies at UWA visit the website: www.arts.uwa.edu.au/ASWWW/

Diversity in unity

UWA PhD student Kate Apted spent 18 months on the Indonesian island of Lombok recently, doing ethnographic research on the dynamics of Indonesian nationalism and the maintenance of local community identity.

Kate Apted, who won a Geoffrey Kennedy Postgraduate Research Travel Award in 1998, is studying the Sasak people of Lombok who, while embracing the sense of national unity fostered by successive Indonesian governments, nevertheless feel that theirs is a ‘forgotten island’ that has seen little infrastructure development, is blessed with few natural resources, and exists on subsistence farming and a few cash crops. The island, which fails to attract tourists at the rate of neighbouring Bali, is ambivalent in its attitude towards tourism, questioning whether the economic gains are worth the price.

“There has been a considerable resurgence of interest in Islam among young men. The attitude towards foreigners is complex – there is the realisation that tourist dollars are necessary, but there is a strong rejection of the behaviour of some foreign tourists,” says Kate.

She says that the spectre of the ‘Balkanisation’ of Indonesia – with separatist movements gathering strength in several provinces – is a source of concern to the island’s Muslims who have a strong sense of allegiance to the Indonesian nation, in contrast to Bali, where, she says, there is a growing desire among young Hindu Balinese, to move towards a nation state.

Kate studied anthropology at Monash University. Her current UWA research saw her trawling through libraries and archives to investigate the mechanisms by which successive governments have fostered the sense of ‘unity in diversity’ that is the nation’s motto. She believes that her focus on local perspectives will accurately reflect how ordinary people feel about identity and collective national development, and nation-wide policies that ignore regional difference. Her study is being supervised by Dr Greg Acciaioli of the Department of Anthropology.

Researcher studies Indonesian military

Dr David Bourchier, a specialist in Indonesian politics for more than 20 years, tracks the careers of top army officials in Indonesia and his material has proved to be of interest to the UN.

Human rights abuses are no bar to promotion within the Indonesian military according to Dr David Bourchier of

Continued on page 25
Apart from studies, what were your interests/involved at UWA?

As a part-time student, and a mature aged one at that, I did not have any other interests/involved at UWA apart from my studies and get-togethers with other mature aged students. Working full-time also made it difficult to participate.

Were there any UWA teachers that particularly impressed or influenced you?

My first Dean at the Law Faculty, John Phillips gave me the opportunity to study at UWA and always told me his door was open, and not to be afraid to see him if I had any problems. I had major difficulties adjusting in first year as it had been 35 years since I had been in a formal education system, and his guidance was invaluable. Peter Handford, Neville Crago and Neil Morgan were just a few of the many lecturers and tutors who impressed me, even though I was never a very bright student and they must have been frustrated with me at times.

What are the qualities that you acknowledge in yourself that are strengths in your present role?

Having a sense of humour is probably what gets me through most days. My upbringing at Sister Kate’s Children’s Home made me into the fiercely independent person I am today. Being told you are an orphan at a very early age, I believe, made me stand on my own two feet very quickly. My three years as a full-time soldier in the Women’s Royal Australian Army Corps, reaching the dizzy heights of a lance corporal, added to the discipline I gained at Sister Kate’s and made me appreciate that you have to work hard to better yourself.

In my present role I find that when repeat offenders come before me I keep saying to myself, ‘there but for the grace of God go my children’. I realise how easy it can be for children to go astray. I try and tell children before me that most children get into trouble once or twice in their lives and then

As a secondary school student did you have a clear idea of what you wanted to study?

I attended a brand new Armadale High School in 1956 (before it became a Senior High School) after attending Queen’s Park Primary School with other children from Sister Kate’s Children’s Home in Queen’s Park. I completed Year 10 and won a scholarship to go to the (then) Underwoods Business College to study shorthand, typewriting and book-keeping. Looking back to 1959 the only real opportunities for girls in semi-professional areas were office work or nursing. Aboriginal children at that time rarely went on to high school, yet alone completed it, and university was something that only children from wealthy families attended.

How did you come to study at UWA?

I was appointed a full-time magistrate at the Children’s Court in 1988 without formal qualifications as at that time the Children’s Court had limited jurisdiction and came under the umbrella of the (then) ‘Welfare Department’. In 1994, when I commenced my law degree it was to show those who appointed me that their faith in me was justified. During the eight years of part-time study I saw my career taking a different turn, closer to my retirement age. I felt the degree would benefit me should I be given opportunities to sit on councils, boards, or committees which I could do on a part-time basis leading into retirement, and of course it might advance my wish to be involved somehow with the United Nations.

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PHOTOS: Sue Gordon with the late Olive Anderson, a member of Toc H, who befriended her during her time at Sister Kate’s and took her on holidays; and on graduating from UWA with a Bachelor of Laws in 2001. Sue’s son, Michael Lundberg, also completed a Commerce/Law degree at UWA and is a senior associate in a major law firm.
never offend again, and have also been known to tell children before me that when I was growing up in the institution that I offended by stealing fruit from nearby orchards, but was soon shown that that was wrong.

**What is your working day like and how do you relax?**

Last year saw a complete change of working day for me when I was asked to Chair what became known as the Gordon Inquiry for the State Government from January to July. The inquiry travelled around Western Australia, visited various Aboriginal organisations and communities, and spoke to as many Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people as possible in connection with the terms of reference. It was a fairly gruelling and demanding period, but left me with a feeling of satisfaction that we had done as much work as possible in the time allocated. Sadly, there is much more work to be done in this specific area.

In the Children’s Court not only do we deal with criminal matters, but we also have our care and protection work, which to me is the most difficult in an emotional sense. I attribute this to the fact that I was taken from my mother, aged four, under government policies of the 1930s and 1940s and was eventually made a Ward of the State. And now I am, as part of the care and protection work, required to made decisions on removing children from their parent(s). The Children’s Court work in my opinion can be quite frustrating and on the other hand most satisfying and no two days are the same.

I relax after work with my two Jack Russell dogs who are very intelligent, loyal, funny and faithful. Another great love is reading, especially legal history which I find less and less time to do these days. I walk every day before work when I can, love gardening, grow as many of my own vegetables as I can, and spend as much time with them as I can.

I have been a supporter of the Western Bulldogs (Footscray) Football Club since the 1960s, haven’t changed to the local teams; and get into a lot of discussions about them, but remain loyal.

Having travelled overseas fairly extensively, I still have a few more countries to see where I can indulge my fascination for the ancient wonders of the world.

**What are your hopes for 2003?**

Apart from maintaining good health, my hopes for 2003 are that more Aboriginal people will consider university studies as an avenue to advance themselves, and that we can all work towards world peace.

**Do you have any unrealised ambitions or dreams?**

Yes, I would like to be involved with the United Nations in some form. After studying public international law, coupled with having a brilliant tutor (Mel Thomas), my interest remains high in all aspects of that field to the extent that I have spoken to Mel on whether I would be capable of undertaking Master’s studies.
The UWA Graduates Association Postgraduate Research Travel Awards are provided to assist full-time postgraduate research students of UWA in their research by providing an opportunity to travel interstate or overseas to augment their research. Donations to the Postgraduate Research Travel Awards may be made by contacting Juanita Peres, Graduates Coordinator on 9380 1336, fax 9380 1110; email: uwaga@admin.uwa.edu.au

UWAGA Travel Award winners

ABOVE LEFT (l-r): Rebecca Laird, Prerna Rajput, Helen Barbour, Song Zhang, David Robinson and James Doherty; TOP RIGHT: Winner of the Geoffrey Kennedy Postgraduate Travel Award James Doherty and Mr Geoffrey Kennedy; RIGHT BOTTOM: Winner of the inaugural Alex Cohen Postgraduate Travel Award Helen Barbour and Clinical Professor Alex Cohen.

UWAGA Travel Award winners for 2002:

Partners on the Periphery

Emeritus Professor Peter Boyce was guest speaker last October at the second reunion of UWA graduates living in Tasmania. Professor Boyce, a UWA graduate and a former Vice-Chancellor of Murdoch University (1985-1996), is Honorary Professor of Political Science at the University of Tasmania where the function was held. He spoke about the similarities and differences of Western Australia and Tasmania, and of the different circumstances that led to the birth of their universities. Following is an excerpt from this most entertaining address.

“As federations go, the Australian states are remarkably homogeneous. Rufus Davis, the foundation Professor of Politics at Monash and himself a UWA graduate, edited the first serious academic exploration of the six state systems of government, and in his introduction he lamented the scarcity of political curios for the keen collector. But we can still be tempted to stereotype Australians by their state identity, and have been assisted in this playful quest by a small amount of scholarly research and a not-so-scholarly cartoonist.

About 30 years ago a Canadian researcher surveyed the perceptions of first year undergraduate students about the inhabitants of Australian states other than their own. Western Australians were found to be “friendly, outdoor and casual”, while Tasmanians were thought to be “conservative, quiet, rustic and provincial”. A few years later the cartoonist, Patrick Cook, differentiated the states by the symbolisms of three persons gathered together. In South Australia (where reformist Premier Dunstan was riding high) three persons were deemed illegal; in Queensland, where Joh Bjelke-Petersen was trying to combat student protest marches, three persons were deemed illegal; in Western Australia, already enjoying a resources boom, three signified a

Emeritus Professor Peter Boyce was guest speaker last October at the second reunion of UWA graduates living in Tasmania.
departing delegation; while in Tasmania three persons together were ‘related’.

Geography highlights contrasts – the biggest and driest state against the smallest and best watered – but the Nullarbor Plain and Bass Strait both encourage a common sense of isolation and a sense of second class treatment from the main political and population axis connecting Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. But geography has yielded vast wealth to WA in the form of mineral resources during two boom periods in her 176-year history, and although the political establishment of that state (regardless of party affiliation) can still be relied upon to bemoan Canberra’s adverse discrimination or neglect, complaints these days are accompanied by strident reminders that WA earns this nation 25 per cent of its export income.

So what can we make of the historical experiences of our two states? The two principal factors in Tasmania’s history to explain the kind of society we now find ourselves in are, I believe, convictism and the absence of any period of spectacular economic boom. Convictism shaped society in two ways: it guaranteed early and steady economic development, but left a so-called stain on the island’s image and sense of self-worth for many decades. The absence of any development boom had the profound effect of offering continuity and stability to the islanders’ social institutions and physical landscape, generating a keen consciousness of family linkages and ensuring that its architectural heritage was safeguarded.

Perth and Hobart were as different as any two colonial capitals could be for most of the 19th century. By 1850 Hobart was an impressive little city, hosting a surprisingly rich cultural life, including a branch of the Royal Society (the first established outside Britain). Perth, on the other hand, was a struggling village of barely 2000 souls, containing no substantial public buildings. Even by 1870 there were only four – the Town Hall, the military barracks, St Mary’s Cathedral and Wesley Church. Moreover Tasmania could boast a second substantial urban community. Launceston was a handsome and prosperous town to the north, still proclaiming its right to be capital. Nor was this all. The emergence of several secure hamlets in the countryside and the re-creation of English landscapes between them added to the charms of travel within Tasmania, a cause so eloquently celebrated by the English novelist, Anthony Trollope, in his published accounts of travel within Australia in the early 1870s. Trollope announced that he would gladly pitch his tent in Tasmania, his favourite Australian destination, but a long tiring coach journey from Albany to Perth impressed him not at all.

WA’s development remained very slow until the 1890s – though it was helped along by convict transportation between 1849 and 1868 – and the granting of responsible government was delayed until 1890, by which time the colony was on the threshold of a spectacular gold rush, with a trebling of the population within a decade. WA’s architectural heritage dates largely from the gold rush period, especially the glorious heritage of St George’s Terrace, virtually destroyed by the governments of Sir David Brand and Sir Charles Court, which presided over the state’s second boom. The different rates of economic growth have also affected the demographic profiles of the two states. Although WA and Tasmania contain bigger proportions of citizens of Anglo-Celtic background than any other state, in WA they are largely UK born, whereas in Tasmania they are predominantly Australian born of British descent.

If we now turn to the experiences of the two sandstone universities, what parallels might we find? The circumstances of their births were very different. The University of Tasmania, founded in 1890, was treated miserably by government, the media and the general community for the first 30 years, but inherited an impressive Victorian Gothic building as its core. UWA contended with makeshift premises on Irwin Street for nearly 20 years but received enthusiastic support from enlightened state governments (especially that of Walter James) and was superbly husbanded by a band of energetic and sophisticated founding fathers, none more effective and generous than Sir John Winthrop Hackett. Three features helped the WA university prosper, especially from the mid-1920s: free tuition, the 1904 Endowments Act and, from 1926, the Hackett bequest.

The staff at both universities had to endure 20 per cent salary cuts during the Depression, and in later years financial concerns and staff discontent prompted the appointment of Royal Commissions in each state. The establishment of new universities in WA from the mid-1970s created new challenges and opportunities for UWA (competition in some spheres but leadership in most). There are obviously some advantages for a state university to be free of competition from other tertiary institutions, especially in a period of scarce resources, but University of Tasmania administrators are also painfully aware of the expectations thereby placed on that one institution to offer the full range of courses demanded by professions and the wider community. They would also be aware (though constrained by political sensitivity from saying so publicly) that regional rivalry within the state between north and south has cost Tasmania dearly in the allocation of resources to higher education, as in many other areas of public sector expenditures.

Those of us who have pitched our tents in Tasmania clearly have no wish to sever their links with our alma mater. Our presence here this evening is testimony to an ongoing interest, indeed pride, in the campus at Crawley, not merely the country’s most beautiful, but one of its most academically dynamic and distinguished.”

■

Professor Peter Boyce, Mrs Paddy Schreuder and Professor Deryck Schreuder at the Hobart reunion
Obituary writing is a special skill, and one that Patrick Cornish – who established the obituaries column in *The West Australian* two years ago – does very well. It requires sensitivity, a sense of history and a nice turn of phrase. The fact that Patrick studied undergraduate history at UWA for a BA degree, and later completed Honours in English Literature, has equipped him well to put together ‘the final words’ on a life well lived. He will address the First Ordinary Meeting of the UWA Graduates Association in March.

Patrick, who is Obituaries Editor of *The West Australian*, will give members of Convocation an insight into his working life when addressing the First Ordinary Meeting in March. No doubt he will also share with fellow graduates his fond memories of UWA, that extend well beyond his times as a student. In 1980 he was an English Literature tutor for a year, and a year later (when he was studying Japanese at UWA) he wrote, and performed in, a play about a philosophy tutorial that is taken over by a cleaning woman. *Rise and Shine* was given several lunchtime performances by the University Dramatic Society and was directed by Cliff Gillam.

British-born Patrick worked for newspapers in Singapore, South Africa and Britain before joining *The West Australian* in 1980. He has been a sub-editor, foreign editor and feature writer, and is the author of *Century* (a joint WA Newspapers/Fremantle Arts Centre Press 1999 publication) which grew out of a weekly history series he wrote. To illustrate life in the 20th century, he selected a mixture of household names such as UWA graduates Harold Clough and Shirley de la Hunty, and people not known much beyond their own households.

“History is an abiding interest,” says Patrick, “and knowledge of it has been useful in my present job. An obituary is almost like an epitaph – you have to get it right – so you talk to a range of people to build an accurate picture of the person you are writing about.”

Patrick will be talking about the additional sensitivities of writing obituaries about Aboriginal people when addressing a conference in New Mexico in June, organised by the International Association of Obituarians (based in Dallas, Texas).

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

invites all graduates and other members of Convocation to attend the

**FIRST ORDINARY MEETING**

of Convocation

The UWA Graduates Association

to be held on Friday 21 March at 6.30pm for 7pm start

at University House

Address: History not Hysteria

by Patrick Cornish

Obituaries Editor of

The West Australian
Matilda Award shared by students

Terry Larder talks to the joint winners of the Matilda Award.

Convocation, the UWA Graduates Association, in conjunction with the UWA Student Guild, makes an annual presentation of a cultural award, the Matilda Award, to recognise excellence and outstanding achievement in cultural pursuits. The joint winners of last year’s award were Australian Youth Ballroom Champion, Emily Reilly (a Commerce student) and UWA’s team in the Jessup Moot Competition, an international law advocacy competition.

The Jessup Moot team – coached by UWA graduate Jamie Edelman – worked together to research, write and prepare oral pleadings. After presenting their two 12,000 word written submissions and pleading their case orally in Canberra’s High Court in February 2002, UWA and runners-up, the University of Queensland, were chosen to represent Australia in the United States.

The 2002 Jessup Moot Competition involved 1,500 of the world’s best law students from more than 300 law schools. Their hypothetical problem related to terrorism, state responsibility and regulation of the Internet.

Competing in Washington against students from 50 other nations, UWA’s team was awarded second place in the grand final. The team from South Africa’s University of Witwatersrand was the winner and Harvard took out third place.

Emily Reilly, joint winner of the Matilda Award, has also enjoyed the international spotlight. A school friend introduced Emily to the world of dance at the age of seven. Her 12-year involvement culminated with Emily and dancing partner Richard Tonizzo winning the Australian Youth (under 19) Ballroom Champions for 2000 and 2001. They were also the Australian Junior Ballroom Champions in the under 16 category.

Dancesport, as it is known these days, commands a dedicated training regime (three to four hours per day, six days of the week) plus gym work. As well as continuing her UWA studies, Emily is aiming to take her participation to an international level. She will be competing in May at the prestigious British Open Ballroom Championships in Blackpool.

A wonderful reunion

The annual 50th Anniversary Reunion of Graduates of 1952 was held in Winthrop Hall last November. Mr David Fischer, former Agent General for Western Australia and former Chairman and Chief Executive of the R&I Bank, was principal speaker at the luncheon. It was a great success with many friendships being rekindled and wonderful stories exchanged.
Some 280 guests attended the highly successful inaugural lunch of The University of Western Australia’s Centenary Trust for Women in Winthrop Hall last October. For many the event marked a welcome return to the campus at which they had studied. The Trust was established as a vehicle by which women could express support for, and encouragement of, educational opportunities for present and future generations of women at UWA. The guest speakers, Dr Shirley de la Hunty, Professor Fiona Stanley and Ms Jenny Shaw (pictured) provided entertaining and insightful personal perspectives on change in the 21st Century.

TOP LEFT: (l–r) Ms Jenny Shaw, Dr Shirley de la Hunty; Professor Fiona Stanley

TOP CENTRE: (l–r) Ms Myra Robinson, Dr Erica Smyth, Dr Ken Michael, Mr Ryan Batchelor, Ms Anna West

TOP RIGHT: (l–r standing) Ms Linda Gibbs, Mrs Nicola Thomson, Ms Josephine Auerbach, Ms Stacey Cranwell (seated) Mrs Jelske Lauwers, Ms Mary Askey, Ms Sandra Thorp, Mrs Gerda Musikanth

Second Hobart reunion

Over 40 graduates and their guests attended the second gathering of graduates living in Tasmania, last October (see also Grad News for highlights of the speech by Emeritus Professor Peter Boyce). Hosted by UWA’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deryck Schreuder, guests commented that they were eagerly awaiting this year’s event.

LEFT (l–r): Professor John Williamson, Mrs Sheila Forte, Mr Stephen Forte, Mr Henry Court and Mrs Eva Court

RIGHT: Mr Renzo D’Orazio, Mrs Catriona D’Orazio

The Burgis Collection

The Peter Burgis Australian Performing Arts Archive was launched by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson in October. This large and historically significant collection concentrates on the work of Australian musicians and composers in all musical fields during the past 100 years. It was accumulated by Peter Burgis over 50 years and was acquired by the University through the generosity of Japanese philanthropist and World President of the Perth International Arts Festival, Mr Haruhisa Handa.

ABOVE: (l–r) Mr Peter Jones, Mr Haruhisa Handa, Professor Alan Robson, Dr Sam Leong

Enjoying the setting and the socialising at UWA Friends of the Grounds function hosted by Mrs Rose Chaney (see In Focus) were…

ABOVE: UWA Director of Development Peter Leunig with Mrs Rose Chaney and Dr Michael Chaney

ABOVE: (l–r) Marie Parker, Amanda Aimee, Angelo and Yvonne Pisano

ABOVE: Mrs Adrienne Marshall and Professor Barry Marshall, Ms Val Glover, Janet Rowe, Joan Surman, Mr Graham Glover and Dr Bill Carroll
1960s

- **Jack Gubbay** (BSc 1953) lives in Burnie, SA, and writes that he is planning an extended overseas holiday this year and expects to stop over in Perth (in April) to visit UWA and view new developments.

- **Jennifer Browne** (BED 1971, MED 1976) lives in a beach suburb of Perth and is director of two publishing businesses. In another life, she was an Associate Professor and Head of the School of Arts and Humanities at Edith Cowan University. Dr Browne has authored or co-authored 38 books in the area of education, small business management and physical education. She has now ventured into fiction with Surjan, an historical novel that spans 25 years and two cultures as it follows, the lives of three settler children and an Aboriginal boy brought together through tragic circumstances during the early years of the Swan River Colony. It is, says Dr Browne, the story of the clashes between settlers and Aboriginals, and of the bonding that can occur despite different backgrounds.

- **Bill Hawley** (BCom 1977) writes that after nearly 20 years with the Registrar’s Office at UWA, he left in the early 1990s and was ordained an Anglican priest in 1996. Shortly after his wife accepted a senior lecturship with Oxford Brooks University and they moved to a rural benefice on the Cotswold edge in North Wiltshire, where Bill was appointed the team vicar.

- **Amir K Abadi Ghadim** (BSc(Agric) (Hons) 1989; PhD 2000) is an economist and business analyst with the WA Department of Agriculture, in South Perth.

1990s

- **Derek Carruthers** (BA 1990) writes he is enjoying retirement and travelling to the Eastern States to see his children and grandchildren.

- **Rebecca Gower** (BSc(Hons) 1990) has lived in England for seven years and for the past three years has worked as a consultant analyst for Numbercraft. Last year she had an interesting project with a Dutch retailer, which involved visits to the Netherlands. She also went to the third Chinese study group of Mathematics in Industry.

- **Robert Graham** (BMA(BSc)(Hons) 1992) left Perth in 2001 and is now living on Wolfe Island, close to the city of Kingston, in Ontario. He is working as a musician and teacher and his wife is a potter who works from her gallery on the island. They were married in April 2000, and are eagerly awaiting the birth of their first child. Fellow classmate can contact Robert and Kerry at kerryrobert@hotmail.com

- **Wayne Martin** (MB BS 1993) and Tanuja Martin (née Simanduni) (MB BS 1995) moved to Nepal last January and are involved in the running of the outpatient clinic and emergency department at Tansen Hospital. Tansen is a prominent bazaar town located at 1350m in the Himalayan foothills of western Nepal. It is about a 10 hour drive from Katmandu. They will also be training local doctors in the general practice program and will be working with a Christian organisation called Iners. They plan to stay in Nepal for 10 years. Pictured here are the Martins with their daughters.

1980s

- **Fiona Johnson** (BA 1989) is living in Brighton, UK, where she did a creative writing course at the University of Sussex. She plans to return to Australia this year.

- **Michael Wegescanyi** (BSc 1983) worked for the Victorian Department of Agriculture for four years, researching insecticide resistance. He is currently the European Sales Manager for a division of the German chemical company, Merck KGA, in Hamburg. Former classmates can contact Michael at wegescanyi@online.de

- **Anne Syme** (née Hurst) (BA(Hons) 1989) completed a Graduate Diploma in Business Computing at Curtin University in 2000. She is employed as Information Systems Business Analyst at the Department of Housing and Works.

- **Philomena McGuigan** (BA 1981) writes that she spends her days in retirement happily reading, writing and doing lots of craft work, with occasional outings making the days pass very quickly. Sister Philomena has also done research on the life of Mary McKillop. She lives in the Mary McKillop Residence, at Hawthorn East, Victoria.

- **Amir K Abadi Ghadim** (BSc(Agric) (Hons) 1989; PhD 2000) is an economist and business analyst with the WA Department of Agriculture, in South Perth.

- **Rebecca Gower** (BSc(Hons) 1990) has lived in England for seven years and for the past three years has worked as a consultant analyst for Numbercraft. Last year she had an interesting project with a Dutch retailer, which involved visits to the Netherlands. She also went to the third Chinese study group of Mathematics in Industry.

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1970s

- **Lyn Atkinson** (BA(Hons) 1970; MSc 1975; DipEd 1980) has moved to Melbourne as Manager of the On-line Teaching and Learning Unit at RMIT’s Faculty of Business. Lyn previously lectured in Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Ballarat.

- **Jennifer Browne** (BED 1971, MED 1976) lives in a beach suburb of Perth and is director of two publishing businesses. In another life, she was an Associate Professor and Head of the School of Arts and Humanities at Edith Cowan University. Dr Browne has authored or co-authored 38 books in the area of education, small business management and physical education. She has now ventured into fiction with Surjan, an historical novel that spans 25 years and two cultures as it follows, the lives of three settler children and an Aboriginal boy brought together through tragic circumstances during the early years of the Swan River Colony. It is, says Dr Browne, the story of the clashes between settlers and Aboriginals, and of the bonding that can occur despite different backgrounds.

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- **Amir K Abadi Ghadim** (BSc(Agric) (Hons) 1989; PhD 2000) is an economist and business analyst with the WA Department of Agriculture, in South Perth.
John Green (MBA 1992) has recently been appointed Principal of the Friends' School, in North Hobart. The co-educational K-12 school is run under the auspices of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and is a long-established, highly successful institution. John writes that he would be delighted to welcome visitors to the school. He can also be contacted via email at john.green@friends.tas.edu.au.

Therese Dubs (née Ouwénydh) (BSc 1997) worked as a chemistry teacher for three years before starting her family. She has two children, the youngest born in January 2003.

Jane Wilson (BA 1997) moved with her husband to Singapore and then England. She combined professional interests (as a nurse), with academic interests, gaining a Graduate Diploma in medical ethics and law from Keele University. Jane writes that she has just received an Arts and Humanities Research Board award to fund her doctorate in philosophy.

Kamrul (Hisham) Omar (BE 1999) is a systems engineer for HIMA, a German company specialising in safety shutdown systems for the oil and gas industry. Scott has travelled widely and was last in Thailand where he commissioned an offshore platform. He is scheduled to travel to Pakistan next year to commission an onshore gas plant.

Linda Herkenhoff (PhD 2000) is a Director of Human Resources for Stanford University, in California. Linda has just released her new book, Using cultural values to untangle the web of global pay. This book is available via amazon.com.

Jane Hoy (née Ingram) (BSc(Hons) 1997) is the proud mum of Amy Jane, born last April. She continues with her husband to run a cut-flower business, Florence, in Albany.

Dean Huizinga (BE(Hons) 1998) spent time working in Newcastle, NSW, before returning to Perth to work as a project engineer for United KEG, in Kwinana.

Melissa Murner (BSc 1998) is a flying instructor at the Royal Aero Club, at Jandakot. Melissa has commenced studies for a Mechanical Engineering at Curtin University. 

Seonairay Ho (BSc(Hons) 1998) has been working in KL with the Standard Chartered Bank since graduating. She is Portfolio Manager and is responsible for the marketing activities in unsecured lending and consumer banking.

Peter Hughes (MED 1999) lives in Chula Vista, California, and has been a travelling American football coach since returning to the States. He has coached college football and football at high school level and is currently teaching physical education to disabled children. He is looking forward to opening his own sports enhancement business where he would offer personalised fitness training, independent coaching of different sports and mental training for sport plans to marry in June.

Scott MacKenzie (BE(Hons) 1999; BSc 1999) is a systems engineer for HIMA, a German company specialising in safety shutdown systems for the oil and gas industry. Scott has travelled widely and was last in Thailand where he commissioned an offshore platform. He is scheduled to travel to Pakistan next year to commission an onshore gas plant.

Brendon Ward (BSc 2000) was UWA's first marine science graduate and now works as a GIS analyst for the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, in East Perth. He is involved in facilitating the distribution of geoscience information via the Internet. He is also the proud father of a two-year-old son.

Sophie Ambrose (BSc(Hons) 2001) is engaged to fellow UWA graduate Cameron MacFarland, and is completing a PhD in Pure Mathematics at UWA.

Dean Huizinga (née Stockdale) (BSc(Agric)(Hons) 2001) is living in Geraldton and works as a plant pathologist for the Department of Agriculture.

Nicole Bradley (BSc(Hons) 2001) has moved from Katanning to Merredin where she is Landcare Communications Officer for the Shires of Merredin and Nagurang.

Robin Hart (PhD 2001) left UWA in 2000 and went to the University of Dundee to undertake a postdoctoral degree with Professor Sir Alfred Cuschieri in the Department of Surgery and Molecular Oncology. The project was to develop a new way to use ultrasound in the detection of breast cancer. Halfway through his studies, Robin was offered the position of Research Co-ordinator at the Department of Medical Imaging Science at Curtin University. This department has since received its first grant, which will support work on the applications of medical imaging techniques on the International Space Station and the Space Shuttle.

Lai Fun Margaret Ho (MBA 1992) has recently undertaken her first management position at Standard Chartered Bank, working on a project focussed on U.S. and European markets. She moved to Hong Kong in 1997 to 2001. She is now teaching accounting and taxation at the University of Warwick, where she is also researching tax history.

Marianne Smith (PhD 2002) is a PhD student at the University of Dundee. Her research is investigating the spatial implications for rural service provision and agricultural change, and the economic and social impacts of these changes.
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