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(Photo: CSIRO)

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During the Rhodes Trust centenary celebrations in 2003, the Chairman of De Beers said that Rhodes Scholarships that enable students to study at Oxford University were inextricably linked to South Africa’s history. “The diamonds extracted from South Africa’s soil have made it possible for Rhodes Scholars to become Rhodes Scholars,” he said.

The Rhodes Trust is an independent body run by trustees and governed by the terms of the will made by Cecil John Rhodes. The will stipulated that Rhodes Scholars should not be ‘merely bookworms’ but should possess many attributes, including success in ‘manly outdoor sports’. The pioneer entrepreneur was also convinced that ‘educational relations make the strongest ties’, and helped to foster international understanding.

UWA graduates have, almost on an annual basis, been awarded these sought-after scholarships that allow them to leave WA in spring and arrive in a leafy Oxford in autumn. This year will see UWA graduate David Knezevic, this State’s 2005 Rhodes Scholar, take up the scholarship to advance his computer science studies amongst Oxford’s ‘dreaming spires’. It will also see the keen rower doing his best for the sport that enjoys such a high profile in intervarsity contests.

As a member of the UWA Boat Club, David competed in the Australian University Games in 2002 and 2004, as well as at the National Rowing Championships in 2003. He also rowed competitively during a semester at the University of Texas in Austin that year.

“The University of Texas campus is the biggest in the US with 53,000 students,” says David. “The entire student body lives on or near campus, so it’s a tight-knit community with a very vibrant student culture. The rowing is college based and the competition intense!”

David completed a computer science/engineering double degree at UWA, and believes that pursuing a DPhil in the Oxford University Computer Laboratory will enhance his career flexibility. “I don’t want to confine myself to a single area,” he says. “The Rhodes Scholarship is a fantastic opportunity to focus on computer modelling which is relevant to so many areas of science and engineering because computer simulation is ubiquitous in most fields.”

The 2005 Rhodes Scholar is the son of UWA graduate Wally Knezevic. His brother Mark graduated in 2002 and his sister Brittany is a second year medical student at UWA. The 2005 Rhodes Scholar joins the ranks of many high profile Australians. His own personal hero is Nobel Prize winner Sir Howard Florey, who headed a team of scientists whose efforts led to the successful manufacture of penicillin. Florey’s 1924 Rhodes Scholarship took him to Oxford’s Magdalen College where today 1996 Rhodes Scholarship winner Byron...

UNIVIEW will slip into your mailbox as the UWA Perth International Arts Festival is about to be launched, so you’ll be busy seeing how much theatre, music, dance, film and art you can pack into the coming weeks.

Several Festival productions – including the opening event, The Magic Flute, featuring the WA Symphony Orchestra and the WA Opera – are being staged under the stars, taking advantage of the fine midsummer nights. Some are also making the most of the University’s scenic setting. The Lotterywest Festival Films are being screened nightly at the Somerville Auditorium and Winthrop Hall will be centre stage in at least one production – Black Swan Theatre’s Zastrozzi by George F. Walker. This grand scale production of an epic narrative features Marcus Graham.

Another performance in a peerless setting will be the WA Ballet’s Festival program at the Quarry Amphitheatre overlooking the city. Readers may wish to take advantage of a special 20 percent discount offer from the WA Ballet to all UWA graduates and staff. Acclaimed choreographer Jorma Uotinen and Adrian Burnett, Resident Choreographer for the Australian Ballet, have created new works for this Festival season.

To help you select your arts program for the coming weeks, read our Festival feature in this issue.
School of Music graduate Chris Tonkin began his musical studies on piano and violin, and went on to write instrumental and orchestral compositions at UWA, but the successful young composer is now jettisoning musical traditions as he explores the ever-widening horizons of electronic music.

Half-way through PhD studies at the University of California, San Diego, the talented graduate has put those studies on hold to take up an offer to spend 18 months at the prestigious Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique (founded by Pierre Boulez) based at the Pompidou Centre in Paris.

During his studies at the University of California, Chris’s teacher has been Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Roger Reynolds, and a high point of his US studies was winning the International New Music Composition Competition and flying to New York to hear his composition performed. Another landmark achievement was being commissioned by Montreal’s Nouvel Ensemble Moderne to compose a piece that was performed by the ensemble and was included in a CD. Now comes the prospect of further honing his compositional skills in Paris.

“Perhaps growing up in Australia, a relatively ‘young’ country in terms of musical traditions, I feel a greater sense of freedom than my peers from European countries. I have never felt restricted in terms of what I can do in composition, so I enjoy exploring uncharted musical territory with computers,” said the UWA graduate recently on a brief trip home.

“In the last 10 years the sheer power of processing – the speed at which sound can be processed – means that things once done in a studio can now happen live, in real time. I love the fact that the computer can analyse a particular sound, pull it apart and manipulate parts of that sound according to my specific needs. Composing electronically demands a different way of thinking from that involved in the creation of a pure acoustic composition written on a score.”

Chris was one of only 10 students selected. The institute in Paris focuses on computer music, but also conducts research into cognitive science aspects of music, music therapy, creative music and software design.

“Creative composition and programming are interlocking more and more,” he says “Programs are now extremely flexible so that within a program’s environment you can tailor the software to your particular needs.”

Catching up with family and friends, and doing a crash course in French, Chris (whose father John is Professor of History at UWA) had a busy few weeks in Perth recently before flying off to set in motion a new phase of his musical career.
NEW STUDENT NUMBERS

Following years of faithful service, the current UWA student record system will be replaced with the Callista Student Information Management System. Callista has many features that will enhance and streamline the process of student administration. A dedicated team has been working diligently to implement Callista which is expected to ‘go live’ on 8 April, 2005.

Of particular interest to graduates is the change to all past and current student numbers. A ‘1’ will be placed in front of all existing student numbers i.e. a student number beginning with 98 will become 198. Further, the ‘x’ which appears at the end of some student numbers will become a ‘1’. More information is available to interested graduates via the UWA Student Administration website http://www.studentadmin.uwa.edu.au

UWA PRESS CELEBRATES

Recent titles from UWA Press again illustrate the fact that this small publishing house – the second oldest University Press in Australia – illuminates many different perspectives of our State. In October UWA graduate Tara Brabazon provided a fascinating insight into Perth’s dynamic and diverse music scene – from the energy of hip hop and b-boys, electronica and post-rock, to music in pubs and clubs. Liverpool of the South Seas captures the rhythms of our music scene in a most readable way.

Launched before Christmas was Gone to Rottnest, an attractive small book that highlights the history and natural history of WA’s favourite holiday island. Written by UNIVIEW editor Trea Wiltshire, the book captures the essence of the island, and describes how it narrowly escaped being privatised. The book, described by The West Australian as “a gem”, is well illustrated with sepia images, contemporary photographs and paintings.

February sees the launch of another book that celebrates the State’s natural history. Rica Erickson, A Naturalist’s Life, is Rica’s own account of a lifelong interest in WA’s unique plants and animals, superbly illustrated by the accomplished artist’s drawings and watercolours.

As it celebrates its 70th anniversary year, UWA Press is buoyed by the recent NSW Premier’s History Award (for the Best Regional and Community History published in Australia) to Trish and Ian Crawford for their book Contested Country: a history of the Northcliffe area, Western Australia. Trish, a UWA graduate, recently retired as Professor of History.

UW A PRESS CELEBRATES

The award-winning Contested Country

IN FOCUS

FESTIVAL ART

The Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery presents Wolfgang Laib Passageway-Overgoing as part of the 2005 UWA Perth International Arts Festival. The German artist has been exhibiting internationally for twenty-five years, in Europe, North America and Asia, but this is his first major exhibition in Australia.

Eight works, produced between 1977 and 1999, will be on display. Most are displayed on the floor of the gallery. Wolfgang Laib collects every summer distils the light and growth of the natural world. Unable to be shown at the Gallery due to height constraints, Ziggurat (1999) is being shown at the Art Gallery of Western Australia, in conjunction with the Festival exhibition Seeking Transcendence.

The artist will install the exhibition himself, and will give a talk at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

SUZUKI ON SUSTAINABILITY

When he visits Western Australia, Dr David Suzuki invariably draws enthusiastic audiences. On 8 March the celebrated environmentalist will talk about his latest initiative: ‘Sustainability within a generation’.

“Throughout human history, people have felt embedded in and dependent on the natural world,” says Dr Suzuki. “In a world in which everything is connected to everything else, every deliberate act has repercussions and therefore responsibilities.”

“The past century a number of factors have intersected to shatter this sense of interconnectivity, so we now live in a world that is a mosaic of fragments. We have to reconnect.”

You can book for this and other UWA Extension programs by visiting http://www.extension.uwa.edu.au
Dr Kingley Dixon, and PhD student Gavin Flematti
(Photo: The Sunday Times)

At the height of summer – and the bushfire season – we take a look at current fire research within the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre in which UWA is an important player (see Battling bushfires on many fronts). UWA researchers are also making fire-related discoveries that will have far reaching impacts in areas such as horticulture.

When fire sweeps through a swathe of Western Australian bush, heat cracks seedpods and smoke triggers the germination of native plants that, in spring, will carpet the blackened landscape with wildflowers. The ingredient of smoke that spurs germination remained a mystery that research teams around the world were trying to unravel – until a UWA PhD student identified a chemical compound unknown to science.

It is not often that PhD research gets written up in the prestigious journal, Science, but UWA student Gavin Flematti’s recent identification of the chemical that stimulates germination has stirred interest worldwide and could reap royalties for the Western Australian research team.

Gavin was part of a team that has been advancing research begun 11 years ago by UWA graduate Dr Kingsley Dixon, Director of Science, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, who is an Adjunct Professor in UWA’s School of Plant Biology. At the same time, other teams – in South Africa, California and Germany – were also trying to identify which of the 4,000 or so chemicals in bushfire smoke was the crucial trigger.

In 1999, Gavin began Honours research that led into a PhD at this University. He was co-supervised by UWA Associate Professor Emilio Ghisalberti, Associate Professor Robert Trengove (now at Murdoch University) and Dr. Kingsley Dixon. Working with two native species – the Cottontail and the Queen Trigger Plant, he began laboratory tests that have spanned the last five years. What he discovered was a chemical that is a tiny component of smoke but packs a significant punch and this chemical can now be synthesised.

“The power of this chemical which exists in a very diluted form in smoke is equivalent to one-third of a teaspoon in a domestic-sized swimming pool,” explains Gavin. The chemical, belonging to a class of compounds known as butenolides, is new to science (thus the interest of the journal Science).

The good news is that the chemical also promotes germination in other plants and therefore has huge commercial potential. The research team has now tested it with vegetables such as celery, parsley and lettuce which have all shown improvement in germination.

While heat from fires helps germination of some species, smoke has been found to be a more universal cue and triggers seeds buried deep in the soil that are not affected by the surface heat of a fire. When rain falls, it dissolves the smoke compounds on the soil surface and filters down to the seedbank below.

Gavin sees wide applications for the compound in horticulture and agriculture, as well as in the rehabilitation of degraded land, particularly after mining. “At the end of operations, a mining company replaces removed top soil that already contains native seeds. Application of this chemical could then promote regeneration of the native species from five to eighty per cent in some species, offering significant savings to mining companies.”

He also sees applications in the area of weed control. “When farmers apply herbicides to weeds such as wild oats prior to planting (generally only about 10 per cent of weeds germinate with the first rains and can lie dormant for up to seven years) the use of this chemical will encourage a 40 per cent germination rate. So the subsequent application of herbicide will eradicate more weeds.”

The team is applying for Australian Research Council support to further this important research, and Gavin hopes to pursue postdoctoral research in this area.

Conostylis (Cottontail), one of the native plants used in the research.
(Photo: Russell Barrett, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority)

THE CLASS OF 47

When she enrolled at UWA in the 1940s, Lesley Greagg was conscious that she was the first person in her family to go to university. “The only people I knew with degrees were schoolteachers, clergymen and the doctor,” recalls the graduate. Looking over her shoulder at her neighbour’s application form, she noticed he had written ‘tool-sharpener’ for his father’s occupation.

“This is what a free university means,” she thought. Later she would read articles on nuclear physics by her companion.

Some have speculated that the availability of a free university education in WA may have contributed to the apparently disproportionate number of intellectual and political leaders produced by this State.

Working from a copy of the 1947 graduation ceremony, Lesley has interviewed graduates from that year, gaining insights into the impact of their studies. She has produced an absorbing manuscript and would appreciate feedback from fellow graduates regarding opportunities for publishing The Free University’s Class of ‘47. You can phone her on (03) 9531 9775.
IN FOCUS

A FIRST FOR NANO FACILITY

UWA science students have become the first in the world to use a nanoSIMS microprobe facility for undergraduate research. Associate Professor Brendan Griffin, Director of the Centre for Microscopy and Microanalysis (which houses the facility), says that students enrolled in the new Nanotechnology 109 unit had a unique opportunity to participate in lab sessions involving the facility.

“At Oxford University, only postgraduates have access to the facility, but UWA is willing to put this technology into its entry-level programs as part of our desire to produce the highest quality graduates with cutting edge experience.”

The nanoSIMS facility was recently centre stage at a workshop showcasing the State’s scientific success. Presentations were made by several leading UWA researchers using the facility, including Professor John Considine (wine research), Professor Peter Klinken (characterisation of novel cancer causing genes), Professor Assen Jablensky (the genetics of neuropsychiatric disorders), Professor Nigel Laing (genetic muscle diseases of the newborn) and Dr Fiona Wood (scarless healing of burns).

UWA HOSTS CARNIVAL

UWA’s James Oval is acknowledged as one of the best grounds in Australia, and it is preparing to host a lot of cricket in the coming weeks. The fifth annual John Inverarity Cup match, the climax of the annual Festival of Cricket, will see a clash of perennial protagonists – the Vice-Chancellor’s XI and the Premier’s XI. This year’s match will feature former international players including Pakistan’s Zaheer Abbas. UWA’s annual Festival of Cricket has now become a major fixture on WA’s cricket and social calendar.

The University Cricket Club also looks forward to hosting several visiting teams for the Vintage Cricket Carnival in March. Some 12 university teams from Australia and overseas, out of 45 visiting teams, have confirmed participation in the carnival, which is cricket’s equivalent of rugby union’s Golden Oldies.
FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLERY

The rise of ranking systems

We are in an age where nearly everything we do, either personally or professionally, is subject to intense scrutiny and measurement. In the higher education sector, this is not a new phenomenon. We have been subject to increasingly detailed and (at times) onerous reporting requirements of federal government regulators for many decades.

But in recent months we have seen this develop to new levels as new ranking exercises abound. Various centres, institutes and media organisations in Australia and around the world have been producing rankings of universities and colleges based on a range of both subjective and objective criteria. It is a clear sign of things to come.

Your University will not be driven by rankings. Our activities will continue to be underpinned by a set of values which include:

- a high performance culture designed to achieve international excellence;
- academic freedom to encourage staff and students to engage in the open exchange of ideas and thought;
- continuous improvement through self-examination and external review;
- fostering the values of openness, honesty, tolerance, fairness, trust and responsibility in social, moral and academic matters;
- equity and merit as the fundamental principles for the achievement of the full potential of all staff and students.

Importantly, your University continues to rate well on all major indicators of institutional performance.

Most notable has been the University’s ranking as first among Australian universities in terms of the quality of undergraduate programs based on staff-student ratios, progression rates, continuation into higher studies and student evaluations. This very important outcome for our University came from a comprehensive ranking of Australian institutions by the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research.

Your University also continues to rate extremely highly in areas of quality of teaching. We continue to enjoy considerable success in the annual Australian Awards for University Teaching with two finalists in 2004 – a team from the School of Anatomy and Human Biology in the category of teaching large first year classes; and Associate Professor Jane Long, Dean, Undergraduate Studies, in the category of Humanities and the Arts.

In research performance, the national ranking placed our University second, adjusted for the size of the institution. We also received news of considerable success in funding rounds of the Australian Research Council and The National Health and Medical Research Council with increases in both overall funding and our success rate. These outcomes provide a very solid foundation on which to build our case for funding in 2005 and beyond.

We are also on track for a second year of strong income growth. Our overall annual budget is predicted to increase by more than 14 per cent in the coming year to a total of more than $480 million.

On the international scene, there is some evidence from rankings that confirm our concerns that outside our nation and our region, our academic and research performance far outweighs our international reputation. In one such survey, our research score was equal to or higher than 12 of the top 50 universities in the world, but our reputation – measured by recognition internationally – was significantly lower.

While those of us in management roles at the University accept responsibility for guiding and enhancing our institutional performance, there can be no question that the best reflection of the University’s character and reputation for excellence resides with our staff, our students and you, our graduates.

We look to your continued support – as ambassadors of the University – to reach our longer-term ambitions and our international goals. All the rankings in the world pale into insignificance against the weight of the personal and professional success stories of our staff, students and graduates.

Professor Alan Robson, Vice-Chancellor
NEW FROM UWA PRESS

‘Gone to Rottnest... captures why the island holds a place in the hearts of those who visit it.’
The Sunday Times

‘Paints a comprehensive and important portrait of the island... tackling its chronological, human and environmental stories.’
... a little treasure.”
The West Australian

Gone to Rottnest
By Trea Wiltshire
$24.95 pb

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When Gningala Yarran-Clanton – a single mother with five daughters – graduated in Law in 2002, she felt it was a victory not only for her but for her extended family. “When the journey was tough and economic times were hard, I always had the sense that they were there,” says the UWA graduate. “My brother Antoinne, as well as others, would help financially, when needed, family and friends helped emotionally and practically, looking after the kids, cooking a meal, putting extra food in the cupboard. Whenever I struggled, my big brother would say: ‘Gning, we are all travelling the journey with you. When you arrive, we arrive!’ So technically speaking, when I graduated – we had all made it!” Also ‘in her corner’ during the journey were the staff of Shenton House, (home of UWA’s School of Indigenous Studies) and lecturers at UWA’s School of Law who helped her ‘through the maze’ of Law studies. Trea Wiltshire reports.

UWA Law graduate Gningala Yarran-Clanton, who today dons wig and gown for appearances in WA’s Supreme and District Courts, spent the first five years of her life in a very different world. The Aboriginal reserve at Mount Magnet was filled with shanties, common ablution blocks and the ever-present shadows of malnutrition and poverty. Early death, alcoholism and family breakdown were part of the fabric of daily life.

Gningala’s mother was a nurse, her father a miner, and she was one of six children. Her earliest recollections are bound in memories of family, extended family, and strong networks. She appreciated early how all three could work together to battle the issues that confronted the reserve community. “While reserves were intended to exclude and isolate Aborigines from white Australian society, the fact that we were cocooned by a living culture – by spirituality, language, traditional law and hunting practices that were woven into our lives – was a dynamic aspect of growing up in such a close community.

“My parents always stressed the importance of work, of making a contribution and being a worthwhile citizen. They also stressed our obligations to family, our culture and history. They were instrumental in moulding and shaping my thinking, with my mother being a particularly strong influence. Because of this I was able to straddle both worlds without losing sight of who I was.

“In our community everyone shared the good and the bad. No-one went without a feed or a roof, and the mothers communally assumed responsibility for the kids. In fact breast-feeding mothers often fed those whose mothers were away – and that created an amazing bond.”

When she started school, the family moved to Perth, finally settling in Armadale. “My parents believed that there would be better educational and employment opportunities in Perth and they were right, but in moving we lost that intimate contact with the old fellas and the old ways and cultural practices. Growing up, I could speak little bits of Wongi, Yamitji and Noongar. My dad was a Noongar man,
so in coming to Armadale we came to his country and were
again part of an extended family.

“There was a huge network of Aboriginal families in
Armadale, and we built those same supportive networks.
When someone went hunting kangaroo, there was meat for
everyone.

“Of course there were the social issues that come with
having institutionalised racism directed at you because of
your ethnic background. Life was difficult for some families
and few were untouched by domestic violence, alcohol
abuse, and relationship breakdown. You had to look on these
things as hurdles but not insurmountable, and adopt the
philosophy that things would only get better. You had to be
everally optimistic to survive.”

Gningala completed Year 11, went to business college and began
working. She was married at 19, had
five daughters in five years and when
the youngest started school she finally
began to re-examine an early ambition
to study law.

“When I was enquiring about the
pre-law program, I met my former
Grade Five teacher, Mrs Cook, who
said: ‘Are you a lawyer yet?’ She
remembered. It brought home to me
the fact that I was 31 and had been
telling myself: ‘Some day I’ll…’ for too
long. I knew it would be a struggle but I
knew that if I didn’t start I would never
forgive myself.”

Once enrolled in the UWA Pre-Law
program, Gningala quickly appreciated
that there were supports available not
only within the School of Law, but in
UWA’s School of Indigenous Studies.

“Shenton House became my ‘home
away from home’,” recalls Gningala. “I immediately had
a sense of belonging because there were other students facing
similar confronting life experiences. And the staff was
supportive and fully appreciated how significant it was that
we had set our own agendas and were getting there.

“The School of Indigenous Studies also made available
facilities I didn’t have at home – like computers and access
to the Internet. To them I wasn’t a mother of five, but a
student in need of support. Shenton House became my
haven.”

The School of Law at UWA also comes in for high
praise from Gningala. “They were always there to offer the
advice, assistance and information that guided me through
this huge maze of learning, and I was constantly reassured
to keep going no matter how long it took or how daunting
it appeared. And they had a passion for law! These are the
things that got me through.”

On graduating, Gningala participated in a program
offered by the Federal Court. It was specifically designed to
provide Indigenous Law graduates with the technical skills
that would lead to employment and encourage them to stay
in the legal profession. Gningala became Research Associate
in the Chambers of UWA graduate Justice Robert French,
becoming the first Aboriginal in WA to be appointed as
an Associate to a Judge. That experience accounted for six
months of her articles. The remainder was completed in the
office of the WA Director of Public Prosecutions, Robert
Cock (also a UWA graduate).

“It was fascinating to move from the Federal arena to
the very different world of the DPP which focuses on all
aspects of criminal law and the criminal justice system,”
says Gningala, the first Indigenous Law graduate to become
an articled clerk in the DPP’s office. She was admitted as
a barrister/solicitor in May last year, becoming the first
Aboriginal State Prosecutor.

“I am having great opportunities to
junior in trials and to make appearances
in both District and Supreme Courts,”
says Gningala. “It’s an exciting
learning curve. The DPP creates
excellent opportunities for people to
acquire knowledge and develop skills.
And we’re guided by some extremely
articulate legal practitioners.

“Now I am involved in the
Indigenous Law Students Mentoring
Program in conjunction with the Law
Society – and, having been there myself,
it’s great to give advice and assistance
or just be a sounding board. I have also
just been elected to Women Lawyers of
Western Australia.”

For Gningala, an abiding source of
inspiration was her own father David
Yarran and his cousin Ivan who had
been involved in the establishment of
the Aboriginal Legal Service.

“I thought that if my father, with
limited education, had become an
Aboriginal Court Officer – the public face of the organisation
that represented Aboriginal people in the legal system – I
would become the first lawyer in the family,” she recalls.

It is clear that she in turn is a source of inspiration
to her daughters, one of whom is already enrolled in
the science orientation program in the hope of enrolling in
the Pre-Medicine course. Another is considering following
her mother into law; the twins are planning careers in the
performing arts while her youngest is keen on veterinary
science.

Gningala is also considering further studies. “The quest
for knowledge is still there, so I will probably return to do a
Master’s degree when the time is right. I just love learning
and I intend to utilise all the resources and contacts at my
disposal to become a really good lawyer. I realise that it
will involve a lot more hard work – but I am open to all the
growth and experience that can get me to the next level.”

During her time at UWA, Gningala won one of the
highly-contested Gloria Brennan Scholarships for Aboriginal
students. Set up by ATSIC and the Department of Aboriginal
Affairs, the scholarship perpetuates the memory of one of the
first Aboriginal graduates from UWA who was instrumental
UWA’s School of Indigenous Studies

Gningala Yarran-Clanton with final year Social Work student Melissa May. Melissa participated in the Year 12 Seminar that is part of the School of Indigenous Studies’ high school program, and then completed the Aboriginal Orientation Program before beginning her Social Work studies.

UWA’s School of Indigenous Studies and the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health, located in Shenton House, offer three enabling programs that lead on to the full range of degree courses offered at the University.

The School’s Aboriginal Orientation Course develops generic study skills and offers units in physics, chemistry, mathematics, law, human biology and Aboriginal studies.

The Aboriginal Pre-Law Program is a highly successful five-week intensive course conducted with the School of Law and leading directly into Law studies.

The Aboriginal Pre-Medicine Summer School is also a five-week intensive course for students wanting to enter Medicine, Dentistry or a Health Science degree.

The School provides a range of resources and services for Indigenous students including academic advice, tutorial assistance, financial and accommodation information. Shenton House provides a computer lab and study rooms, as well as a place to meet socially. The West Australian Student Aboriginal Corporation organises many events on campus including cultural, social and sporting activities for all students to enjoy.

Members of staff teach in a number of degree courses including Aboriginal History and Aboriginal Education, and the School is responsible for Indigenous cultural protocols at UWA. It is also involved in Indigenous employment initiatives on campus and in the recruitment of Indigenous students.

Each year the School runs two high school camps: the Year 12 Seminar and the Year 10-12 Health Careers Workshop. The former provides students with the opportunity to visit all Perth universities and check out their options after high school. The Seminar, which UWA has been coordinating since 1993, celebrated its 25th anniversary last year and has seen around 200 students enrol in courses at UWA.

The Health Careers Workshop, established a decade ago, focuses on careers in Medicine, Dentistry and allied health areas. It provides students with an insight into university life, while staying at UWA residential colleges.

In addition to the camps, the School also runs Discovery Days for Year 8 students. Students are selected by their schools, and participate in hands-on activities on campus.

Shenton House, the ‘home’ of the School of Indigenous Studies, was built in 1846. The oldest heritage-listed building on campus, it is representative of the large family homes built on early settlement farms in WA. It originally housed the Faculty of Engineering when UWA moved to its Crawley site.

If you would like to know more about the School, phone +618 6488 3428.

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Bushfires have always been a feature of our landscape but today’s devastating wildfires are very different from the mosaic of seasonal burns once practised by Indigenous Australians as they moved across the landscape. Severe fire seasons that used to occur perhaps every seven or eight years now appear to be annual hazards in the hottest decade on record. While economic losses associated with bushfires are in the order of $77 million annually, there are human and landscape costs that are hard to quantify.

Recognising the need for research into the prevention and control of bushfires, in 2002 the Federal Government funded a Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre. A year later, the Canberra fires raised new research issues and forced a re-examination of the research timetable. The 2003 bushfires in the nation’s capital also dramatised a fact that researchers had already identified – that increasing numbers of Australians are living at the fringes of sprawling cities, next door to large expanses of tinder-dry bushland.

When the Federal Government provided an additional $4 million in funding last year in response to national bushfire inquiries, the CEO of the Bushfire CRC, Kevin O’Loughlin, said that the extraordinary behaviour and the vast area of the 2003 fires had underscored the need for CRC research.

“The Bushfire CRC has become a vital part of the national infrastructure aimed at helping to manage bushfires and the landscape better,” said Mr O’Loughlin. The CRC’s multi-disciplinary program is looking at bushfire behaviour including aerial suppression techniques, hazard reduction burning, improving partnerships with communities to make them more self-sufficient, and better ways to protect people and property.

Dean of UWA’s Graduate Research School, Professor Robyn Owens, is the only university academic on the CRC’s board, and UWA is one of only two university core participants involved in the five programs.

Professor Owens has been instrumental in ensuring a high level of support for postgraduate research within the CRC. “One of the aims is to train a whole new generation of bushfire researchers in a range of areas such as ecology, biodiversity, and land management. The CRC has a number of scholarships and it aims to have successfully trained 30 PhD students over the span of its life, which is seven years,” says Professor Owens.

Professor Mark Adams (Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences) leads the WA node of the CRC, and its education program. He has been studying prescribed burning – an issue that regularly divides the community into those calling for more hazard reduction burning in forests

Photo credits
Professor Adams says that having a node of the CRC at UWA means that research being done will benefit in diverse disciplines. Students will get first-hand knowledge of the latest research, and postgraduate students will benefit from having their research directly funded by the CRC.

Professor George Milne, School of Computer Science and Software Engineering:
Imagine the advantage to fire fighters of having a simulation tool which could predict how a bushfire would spread as the wind strengthens and swings around to the north west.

Professor George Milne of UWA’s School of Computer Science and Software Engineering was working on developing computer simulation tools that track the spread of bushfires well in advance of the establishment of the Bushfire CRC. He began this research at the University of South Australia prior to his arrival at UWA and it stirred immediate interest with those establishing the CRC.

“I have spent a lot of time modelling integrated circuits in the past, so I am using the same modelling techniques,” explains Professor Milne, whose research involves modelling and simulating highly complex systems, from the movement of people at major events such as the Olympics to the spread of plant and animal diseases in agriculture.

“A bushfire moves across a landscape driven by wind, and, together with other factors such as slope and fuel load, this determines how the fire spreads. You break the scenario into cells and each is mathematically represented by an automaton which captures specific spatial aspects of the corresponding part of the landscape – topography, fuel type, orientation of the slope.

“You then take the mathematical model and turn it into computer software. What you are essentially doing is using mathematics to mimic how a bushfire behaves in the real world.

“The advantage of doing this is that it allows us to run lots of ‘what if’ scenarios: ‘what if the temperature rises to 43 degrees, or the wind increases? What if we dropped water from an aircraft here, or if the fire had started here rather than there?’”

The early findings of this research were presented at the October Conference of the Australasian Fire Authorities Council. The research will eventually be published and presented to the appropriate government bodies. Major stakeholders are the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA), and the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM).
than there? By varying the parameters we learn a lot about the behaviour of fire. And when we are tracking a real fire, predictive simulations could tell us where the fire will be in half an hour.”

The project which Professor Milne leads is working to develop reliable bushfire spread modelling, simulation and animation technology that will underpin decision-making in a range of fire management activities: risk analysis, prescribed burning, wildfire suppression and incident control training. The simulations will be based on the latest fire behaviour prediction models and the data that will be fed into the technology will come from other researchers within the CRC. He anticipates producing a trial model within 18 months.

Professor Milne works closely with Dr Neil Burrows, CALM’s Director of Science and an acknowledged fire behaviour expert.

Dr Pauline Grierson, Ecosystems Research Group:

The mosaic of ecosystems that pattern Western Australia’s landscape demands a range of fire management regimes. Measuring fire’s impacts on the key processes that underpin how these ecosystems function will help us better manage the landscapes of Australia’s largest state.

Dr Pauline Grierson of UWA’s School of Plant Biology leads a major CRC-supported project examining the impacts of fire on ecosystems.

“Fire affects key ecological processes so we need to examine the impact of prescribed burning and wildfire on these processes at multiple scales – from a small forest plot that might be in metres in size to a landscape,” says Dr Grierson. “The tools we develop should help us manage our forests and ecosystems more effectively.”

The research team Dr Grierson leads comprises Research Fellow (and landscape ecologist and modeller) Dr Matthias Boer, PhD student Rohan Sadler and several PhD students who will begin working on the project this year.

“The challenge will be to integrate information we have from new and previous field studies and measurements in such a way that they are relevant to management and planning decisions taken by CALM and FESA. We work very closely with CALM and are using remote sensing imagery as well as on the ground measurements.

“Many of the ecological studies undertaken in relation to fire have focussed on impacts on dominant or rare plant species and animals. What we do is measure the processes that underpin the sustainability of an ecosystem – we calculate impacts of different fire regimes on water, carbon and nutrient cycles, and functional biodiversity – the sort of things that maintain the productivity and integrity of the system.”

PhD students will gather information on water and nutrient cycling processes of different landscapes and integrate the data into a model that takes into account how localised the measurements are and how they relate to the fire history of a particular landscape.

“Fires do not burn uniformly across a broad landscape, or even – at smaller scales – across slopes, or around individual trees,” explains Dr Grierson. “Some burns may consume most of the forest floor material while others consume little. Some will result in nutrient-rich patches of ash that promote regeneration, others won’t. By gathering data before and after a prescribed burn we can generate geostatistical spatial simulations that will help land managers adjust ignition patterns to protect particular areas.

“You might have a granite outcrop – a niche of high biodiversity – sitting within a jarrah forest. We really need to understand the ecology of such ecosystems within the larger mosaic of the landscape so that we can manage them effectively.”

Dr Grierson says that nearly all experimental data on the effects of fire on biodiversity and ecosystem processes are statistically weak. Studies to date have dealt largely with single fire events and have examined fire at localised scales without reference to the variability of fire in landscape.

The research team will use the process rates it has accumulated through studies across a range of WA landscapes, in addition to new data generated by PhD studies and information from databases built by CSIRO, mining companies and CALM, which Dr Grierson says has some of the best fire history records in Australia.

“Particularly in WA a lot of land management decisions have to be made on a large scale because of the size of the State and the isolation of many areas,” explains the UWA researcher. “And while the Ecosystems Research Group has accumulated much valuable data in previous studies, there is still a lot of data missing. We know little, for instance, about the productivity, growth rates and sustainability of ecosystems in the Kimberley, large tracts of which are burnt every year.”
Dr Angus Cook, Research Officer, UWA School of Population Health:
Researchers at UWA’s School of Population Health are investigating the impacts of bushfires on the long-term health of career fire fighters and on asthma sufferers in the community. The CRC-funded research has the backing of FESA, CALM, and the Fire Fighters’ Union.

Dr Angus Cook, based within the School of Population Health and the Asthma and Allergy Research Institute (AARI), is currently supervising research that aims to establish whether Western Australia’s 800 career fire fighters are at greater risk of adult-onset asthma – a condition that affects around 10 per cent of the adult population.

PhD student Melissa Fixter is currently conducting a detailed analysis of WA’s extensive population health records to gather data (from 1975 to the present) that will establish the occupational health risks of career fire fighting. Studies in the US suggest that fire fighters have an elevated risk of suffering from heart and respiratory problems.

Master’s student Yih Pyng Lee is looking at another aspect of asthma in relation to bushfires. Over the current and coming fire seasons, she will be collecting data on hospital admissions in areas that have experienced major fires.

“This time series analysis will monitor the atmosphere through satellite imaging and on-the-ground sampling and correlate it with data from areas where fires have occurred. We will be creating data maps for WA from both historical and current bushfire events using the extensive records kept by both CALM and FESA, and checking these against hospital admission records for breathing problems,” says Dr Cook.

“These CRC-supported studies, as well as a third study looking into the protection provided by fire fighters’ masks (see below), will all have practical outcomes. We would also hope that the community study could lead to interventions – such as alerting asthma sufferers about the location of bushfires and advising them to take preventative medication.”

PhD student Annemarie de Vos, UWA’s School of Population Health:
Although Australia’s career fire fighters and the volunteers that support them are clearly our local heroes during the long hot summers that witness Australia’s most devastating bushfires, little research has been done into the health hazards of their often dangerous work.

UWA’s School of Population Health is conducting CRC-funded research that specifically looks at the filters used in masks used by fire fighters and at the short term respiratory problems associated with being on the front line of fire fighting.

PhD student Annemarie de Vos is working on a study that involves 100 healthy FESA career fire fighters who have volunteered to participate. Currently they use a particulate filter mask, however fire fighters are increasingly concerned about symptoms such as coughs, sputum and shortness of breath especially after fighting bushfires.

In a specially equipped ‘smoke chamber’ (a converted sea container) set up at FESA’s Forrestfield training centre, Annemarie will be testing three masks to gauge the most effective. One is the current particulate filter, a second has a particulate and organic vapour filter, while a third additionally filters out formaldehyde, a component of smoke that causes irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, sneezing, coughing, shortness of breath, and decreased pulmonary function in the short term. In the long term formaldehyde is classified as ‘probably’ (Category 2) carcinogenic to humans.

US research on bushfire smoke identifies formaldehyde, acrolein (a respiratory tract and eye irritant), carbon monoxide and particulates as being the main hazardous components of smoke, however their findings may not be entirely applicable in Australia.

“We need to find out the components of smoke from the burning of WA vegetation and to measure the health effects, so that we can make recommendations to the FESA as to which filters are most effective in protecting the fire fighters’ respiratory health,” says the UWA researcher.

The study is set up as a randomised controlled trial. The participants (wearing masks) will be exposed to 15 minutes of light smoke created by burning a representative sample of native vegetation collected at Gingin. The volunteers (all career fire fighters) will complete a respiratory health questionnaire, thereby providing information about their respiratory health, smoking history, and their experience of respiratory symptoms after the exposure. Their lung capacity will be measured by spirometry testing before and after exposure to the smoke, as will the oxygen levels in their blood.

Annemarie previously completed a Master’s degree in the School of Public Health at Curtin University during which she studied environmental health assessment.
and management following the Bellevue chemical fire. Her current research is supervised by Professor Philip Weinstein and Dr Angus Cook of UWA’s School of Population Health.

Francesca Harris-Spence, PhD Student, School of Humanities:
Extensive oral history interviews with fire fighters, government agencies and others working in related fields will increase our understanding of the dynamics of communities and fire. The study aims to work towards the development of community action plans.

UWA PhD student Francesca Harris-Spence is investigating the efficacy of bushfire planning and management through the establishment of ‘Fire Catchment Management Groups’. The project will take on both an historical and geographical perspective in studying how the groups might be established and the potential effectiveness of their work.

Such groups would be built around local volunteer firefighting forces in both Western Australia and South Australia, and would seek representation from local governments, communities and land management agencies, with a view to working towards the development of community action plans.

It is anticipated that a comparative case study approach will be adopted, with work being conducted in the urban-rural boundary of the Adelaide Hills in South Australia, and a similar location in Perth. This work will be underpinned by extensive oral history interviews with volunteer fire fighters and others working in related fields, which will help to increase our understanding of the existing dynamics of communities and fire.

“By examining existing community groups operating in natural resource management at the catchment scale, the strengths and weaknesses of community volunteerism can be assessed,” says Francesca.

It is expected that the culmination of this work will be the development of a model for the use of Fire Catchment Management Groups in bushfire management. Francesca’s research is co-supervised by UWA environmental historian Dr Andrea Gaynor, and Dr Marcus Lane, from Geographical and Environmental Studies at the University of Adelaide, with substantial input from the South Australian Country Fire Service.

Importantly, the project seeks to ensure that the research is translated into improved fire management, supporting the Bushfire CRC in its aim to ‘deliver research outcomes that have economic and social benefit of national significance.’

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Opening March 12, 2005

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The University Club of Western Australia
Your Club
Situated in the centre of campus on Riley Oval and overlooking the beautiful Matilda Bay and the University Grounds, the University Club is the ideal place for you to relax, entertain or conduct a meeting. Completed to international standards and employing friendly and professional staff, this is a Club experience that is unique in Western Australia.

Experience the Difference
The University Club opens to members and guests on Saturday 12 March, 2005. We invite you to visit the Club and experience our ‘Friday’s on the Foreshore’ at the Café Bar. On Friday 18 March, Thursday 24 March, and Friday 1 April from 4.30pm-7.30pm, come and tour the Club building and enjoy a drink with friends (March 25th is Good Friday and the Club will be closed).

RSVP for these events is essential. To reserve your place please email membership@universityclub.uwa.edu.au, phone +61 8 6488 8770 or complete the RSVP details on the Registration of Interest for Membership enclosed with this edition of Unview.

Founder Membership
If you apply prior to 28 February 2005 you will be entitled to a privileged subscription throughout the life of your membership. This privilege will also entitle you to a place in the Club’s history on the Founder Members’ Honour Roll, a gold membership card and a special Founder Member membership certificate.

Membership Categories
UWA Alumni are eligible to apply for membership in the Individual or Corporate categories. Under a Corporate Membership you are entitled to nominate of multiple applicants for membership, allowing them to access the Club’s amenities and facilities for professional and personal use. As an individual Member you can choose to nominate your spouse or partner as an Associate Member so they can also enjoy the benefits of Club Membership.

Your Membership
You will receive access to all Club Amenities, a complimentary copy of the bi-monthly Club Newsletter and invitations to a range of member social events and professional development functions.

The Club is online at www.universityclub.uwa.edu.au.
The website contains up-to-the-minute Club News and Events information. You can also register your interest in becoming a member and will soon be able to book tickets to events or reserve a table at the Club Restaurant.

Entertain in Style
This is your Club. And as a privileged member of the University Club, you can entertain friends, family and professional associates and enjoy personalised service and outstanding attention to detail.

You will also enjoy signing privileges in the Club Café, Café Bar, Club Restaurant and Lounge Bar and the benefit of monthly statements of your food and beverage account.

Club Magazine and Communication
You will receive a complimentary subscription to the bi-monthly Club Magazine and fortnightly email updates detailing new menus, social events and promotions.

Partnerships
The Club is actively developing affiliated relationships with a number of organisations who share a passion for delivering exceptional value to members. Membership of The University Club will entitle you to non-resident club privileges in our reciprocal worldwide Club network.

Food and Beverage
In each edition of the Club Magazine as well as our fortnightly email updates you will receive details of special members’ offers throughout the year. The Club features a range of entertainment options – from fine dining in the Club Restaurant to the relaxed atmosphere in the Café Bar. The Club will be a vibrant, inclusive and appealing venue for entertaining and enjoying the company of friends and colleagues with amenities to accommodate all tastes.

Club Café and Café Bar
A relaxing and informal space, the Club Café and Café Bar offers a variety of value for money, tastefully presented meals and refreshments.

With an alfresco dining area overlooking the University Grounds and a professional barista to prepare those all-important coffees, the Club Café and Café Bar is the perfect choice for a quick, healthy meal or a relaxing break.
Club Restaurant and Lounge Bar
If you desire a more formal ambience, the Club Restaurant and Lounge Bar features a premium beer and wine list as well as a range of classic and contemporary cuisine, expertly prepared by the Club’s Executive Chef. Wines from the Club’s premier collection complement a list of special selections from Western Australia and other notable Australian wine regions.
Whether a formal dinner or quiet drink, you will enjoy personalised service and can entertain guests in comfort and style.

Entertainment and Events
The Club is developing a calendar of social and professional events that will reflect the diversity of Club members’ interests.

Club Series
With a focus on enjoying the Club’s excellent wine selection, premium beer menu and fine food, the Club Series is designed to get members together to enjoy the University Club atmosphere and relax with friends and colleagues.
The Club Series kicks off with the launch of the inaugural “Fridays on the Foreshore” Sundowners in the Café Bar. Between 4.30pm and 7.30pm on Friday 18 March, Thursday 24 March (before Good Friday) and Friday 1 April, the Café Bar will be buzzing with laid back live jazz, freshly shucked oysters and a great selection of summer refreshments and tapas from the bar.

Social Events
The social functions are aimed at bringing The University Club community together and making the most of the fantastic facilities. On the last Wednesday of each month, the Club’s Wine Series will showcase fine vintages from around Australia accompanied by complimentary canapés in the elegant Lounge Bar (starting Wednesday 30 March from 7.00pm).
In addition, there will be regular faculty-based events as well as other social functions drawing on the interests of particular member groups – for example, sporting association reunions, themed dinners in the Club Restaurant and premium beer showcases.

Professional Series
As a Club for UWA graduates, we are the perfect place for you to continue to develop your professional skills and interests. The Business Breakfast Series will be uniquely designed to give high profile graduates the opportunity to share their insights into business with the University community.
Held on the first Tuesday of each month (starting on Tuesday 5 April) the Business Breakfasts will focus on bringing together the professional and the academic with a series of unique and interesting topics.
Working closely with postgraduate faculty societies, the Graduate School of Management, Graduate Management Association, Graduate School of Education and other UWA groups these events will provide a forum for professional development and an opportunity to share ideas and keep up to date with your individual areas of interest.
More details will be available on the Club website – www.universityclub.uwa.edu.au – in early February.

Club Amenities and Facilities
Members receive full access to the beautifully appointed Club Café, Café Bar, Club Restaurant and Lounge Bar as well as being able to utilise Private Dining rooms and Members’ Lounges.

Private Dining and Members’ Lounges
The Club can cater for those who want a more intimate dining experience with private dining rooms available for you and your guests.
There are also several Members’ Lounges and the Business Centre suitable for conducting private meetings or catching up on televised news services as well as being equipped with modern commercial office facilities.

Functions, Conferencing, Meetings and Seminars
The Club’s elegant Banquet Hall is able to cater for 300 people for a seated function or up to 450 for a cocktail style event. This impressive space is complemented by access to the pre-function lobby which can be used as a reception area, or independently for smaller functions.
The Club is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to meet the requirements of the modern business and teaching world.
The Club features a theatre style 260 seat capacity tiered auditorium with high speed internet connectivity, advanced audio visual facilities and access to the local area network (LAN).

The Case Study Room is a tiered 60 seat lecture theatre, with high specification AV capabilities and access to the LAN.

The Club includes two gallery spaces which are ideal for exhibitions or smaller functions. Other function rooms throughout the Club have varying capacities to cater for a range of events dependent on the set-up required.

There are also three seminar rooms which can be adapted to a variety of uses and can accommodate up to 60 guests.

As a member you will enjoy signing privileges at the Club (e.g. expenditure in the Club Restaurant, Lounge Bar, Cafe Bar or Club Cafe). You will receive a monthly statement which is paid automatically from your nominated transaction or credit card account.

**Club Opening Hours**
- Monday to Tuesday: 7.30am-8.00pm
- Wednesday to Saturday: 7.30am-12 midnight
- Sunday: Closed

**How do I become a Member?**
Joining the Club is easy. A reply paid Registration of Interest in Membership is enclosed with this edition of UniveX. Please complete this and return it to the Club and an application form will be sent to you. You can also contact the Club's membership team by phone on +61 8 6488 8770 or email membership@universityclub.uwa.edu.au and an application form will be sent to you immediately.

**Contact Us**
As your Club, we are here to answer all of your questions regarding membership and we welcome any suggestions that will assist us in delivering you a personalised Club experience.

Telephone: +61 8 6488 8770
Facsimile: +61 8 6488 8771
Email: membership@universityclub.uwa.edu.au
Online: www.universityclub.uwa.edu.au

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**2005 Membership Subscriptions**

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Please note: All prices are inclusive of GST. Founder Membership only applies to membership applications received at the Club by February 28, 2005.

**Easy Payment Options**
You can choose to pay for your membership monthly or annually. Your Joining Fee is payable concurrently with your first membership subscription payment.

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We look forward to welcoming you as a Member.
A tale of two graduates

While our 2005 Rhodes Scholar David Knezevic heads for Oxford, UWA graduates and Rhodes scholarship winners Kate Luxford and Byron Byrne have completed their studies at Oxford and are launched into careers that are taking them into very different domains. Kate is in Tunisia, honing her skills as a foreign correspondent and Middle East expert whilst Byron lectures at the prestigious British university, conducts research on harvesting wind power – and enjoys the mellow beauty of Magdalen College.

You could say that Kate Luxford has an instinct for being in the right place at the right time. Five years ago, as WA’s youngest Rhodes Scholar, she embarked on Middle Eastern Studies at Oxford, honing her Arabic language skills, and studying the history and politics of that volatile region.

Nurturing an ambition to be a foreign correspondent, Kate found that the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, had spurred media interest in the Middle East and in political analysts with Arabic language skills. Already, the UWA graduate has been featured on the BBC, CNN and Sky News. She is now based in Tunisia, learning Arabic, teaching and working as a freelance writer.

When Kate Luxford left Western Australia in 2000 she was only 20 and one of seven WA women – all but one from UWA – to have won the prestigious award established 96 years ago to enable Commonwealth students to study at Oxford University. Kate began her schooling in a small Western Australian country school and battled kidney cancer and chemotherapy as a seven-year-old. She admits to being “strong and stubborn” – and that streak remains as she embarks on a career as a foreign correspondent in a troubled corner of the globe.

Kate completed her MPhil degree in Modern Middle Eastern Studies involving an intensive Arabic language course as well as studies of the region’s history and politics.

“The course that I took is always oversubscribed, although tertiary institutions have struggled to attract British students to Middle East studies courses, particularly those involving Arabic language components. This is a serious problem for the government’s intelligence services and I imagine that the Australian government has also suffered from a lack of citizens with strong Arabic skills and detailed knowledge of the Middle East.

“The British Middle East Studies Association had serious concerns about the lack of money being devoted to the teaching of Middle Eastern languages. Universities that do offer such courses struggle to find and retain decent language teachers. This is happening despite the fact that the government is looking to recruit larger numbers of Arabic, Persian and Pashtun speakers. I’ll be interested to see if interest has grown in this area in Australian universities. Certainly when I was looking at graduate programs, very few universities had Middle East Studies departments, or taught Arabic to a good standard.

“While a fair amount of Australia’s exports go to the Middle East – cars, wheat and sheep – foreign policy is naturally more focussed on Asia. However it’s important that Australia has a good understanding of regional issues in the Middle East because the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, for instance, has broader implications for foreign policy within the Islamic world. However it’s sensible that Asia is the dominant focus for Australia’s foreign policy and intelligence gathering and I think it’s good that more people are specialising in Asian Studies and languages.”

By the time she had completed her degree, Kate had decided against academia, being more interested in journalism that specialised in the Middle East. While studying she had secured a summer internship in Beirut and later spent three months as the foreign department intern at The Economist magazine.

She went on to work as a Senior Middle East Research Analyst with a ‘country intelligence’ firm called World Markets Research Centre that provides daily news and analysis services, as well as online risk and background information covering more than 190 countries.
That provided great experience, improved my writing and analytical skills and gave me a chance to build a media profile. I have appeared on CNN, the BBC, Sky News and CNBC as a Middle East analyst and have been freelancing for UK and Middle Eastern publications.

Kate has based herself in Tunisia, working as a teaching assistant with the British Council while improving her Arabic and writing articles. Since this is a former French colony, her French language skills will be useful. Eventually she hopes to return to Australia.

UNIVIEW last featured Byron Byrne on the eve of his departure for Oxford as the 1996 Rhodes Scholar. With 1st Class Honours in Civil Engineering and a degree in Commerce from UWA he went to Oxford to complete a doctorate in Engineering.

Since completing his studies as a Rhodes Scholar in 1999, Byron Byrne went on to win two prestigious research Fellowships that have kept him at Oxford where he currently holds research grants (with two colleagues) totalling well over $1.5m from the UK Government and industry. His team is conducting research into the engineering of offshore wind turbines and in 2003 his research was published by the Royal Society of London in a special edition on Visions of the Future by Young Scientists.

“One of the most vital engineering challenges for the future is to develop and harvest alternative sources of energy,” says Byron. “It’s a firm priority in the UK, with the government setting a target of 10 percent of electricity from renewable sources by 2010.

“Central to this commitment will be the harvesting of electrical power through wind turbines or current or wave power generators. The most mature of these technologies is that of wind, as much technology transfer can be gained from onshore experience. Onshore wind farms, while supplying ‘green energy’, can involve objections on aesthetic grounds. These can be countered by locating the turbines offshore, where larger capacity turbines can be installed, thus maximizing the potential of each wind farm and allowing greater power output. Offshore winds are also usually more consistent.”

Byron says that wind farms may be located five to twenty kilometres offshore where the water can be as deep as 20 metres. The development of such turbines requires a multi-disciplinary approach encompassing civil, mechanical, electrical and control engineering. “My research focuses on the civil engineering problems, principally how the structure can be connected to the sea-floor,” he says. “I am looking at new foundation designs aimed at reducing the uncertainties and assisting the development of cost-effective offshore wind farms.”

Byron’s Oxford research group has strong links with UWA’s Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems (COFS) run by Professor Mark Randolph, his former Honours project supervisor. Dr Mark Cassidy, a Senior Lecturer at COFS was a fellow Rhodes Scholar at Oxford while Professor Randolph’s former colleague from Cambridge, Guy Houlsby, who is the current Professor of Civil Engineering at Oxford, recently spent several weeks at COFS. It is hoped that a recent ARC grant application will facilitate further exchanges between Oxford and Perth. Byron himself spent time...
at COFS during 2001 and 2002 as part of a previous ARC International Researcher Exchange award.

Clearly this graduate relishes life in Oxford. “Magdalen is one of the larger Oxford colleges and certainly one of the most beautiful so we tend to attract a lot of bright students from all over the world, particularly from Australia,” he says. “Being a Fellow of the college means you are on the governing body, that you get involved with running what is essentially a large business – there are 100 academic staff members, over 600 students with accommodation for 500 of them and 100 members of support staff. It also means free meals and accommodation in addition to a salary!”

Byron takes his college life seriously and currently holds a number of college offices including being the Senior Dean of Arts, responsible for welfare and disciplinary aspects of students.

“I tend to be first port of call for students with problems whether academic, financial or personal; in fact anything at all,” he says. He is also the Assistant Bursar and is responsible for the management and development of the joint venture Oxford Science Park, part of the college’s property investment portfolio. This involves building and leasing office and laboratory buildings to scientific companies of all sizes and stages of development.

“Over time, the successful companies will move into other buildings on the Park where the size of the office or laboratory area is greater and the lease terms are longer. Eventually, they grow to a size where they will take a building on their own, and probably are successful enough to be publicly listed on the stock market. The Park, occupying about 75 acres of land on the edge of Oxford, is currently two-thirds developed accommodating some 50 companies, in varying stages of maturity, and with about 1,250 employees.”

A keen cricketer, Byron played for Oxford against a number of English County teams (as well as Cambridge) whilst a student and he still plays now when he can – and in a variety of settings.

“Last weekend I played for Lady Getty at the Getty Estate in Buckinghamshire against the MCC,” he said. “These matches are always enjoyable as they are very social; among the crowd I bumped into Richie Benaud and Roger Bannister, but unfortunately we lost the match! Next week I am playing for a Rhodes Scholars’ XI against the sacked Zimbabwe players currently touring the UK and then I will be playing for the MCC against Scotland in a three-day match.”

Cecil John Rhodes did specify in his will that his scholarship winners should not be ‘merely bookworms’ but should possess many attributes, including the great appetite for life that both Kate and Byron possess!
The mountainous Indonesian province of Irian Jaya – which is also variously called West Papua or Papua – has simmered with unrest since the controversial Act of Free Choice (under the auspices of the United Nations) made the resource-rich territory part of Indonesia in 1969. Comprising just one percent of Indonesia’s 215 million people, the Melanesian and largely Christian Papuans were never going to be easily absorbed as Indonesia’s 26th province, Irian Jaya.

Indonesian researcher Ganewati Wuryandari has recently completed field studies for her PhD at UWA. Her research revealed that the Soeharto administration’s policy of transmigration made Papuans feel like ‘second-class citizens’ in their own homeland and that the central government’s attempts to ‘divide and rule’ the province could backfire.

Ganewati Wuryandari (known to fellow students and staff as Ndari) completed a Master’s degree in International Relations at Monash University before enrolling in PhD studies at UWA. She is currently on secondment from her position as a researcher at the Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI), a government-funded research body in Jakarta.

Reflecting on the history of Irian Jaya, Ndari points out that in the mid-1940s the Dutch (previous colonial masters of West New Guinea) were reluctant to see the territory become part of Indonesia and began laying the groundwork for it to become an independent state by 1971. Some historians have suggested that they nurtured the seed of Papuan nationalism and contributed to the growth of a strong sense of cultural identity. However, having won independence in 1945, President Soekarno claimed all former Dutch territory, including Papua. This led to significant tensions and occasional clashes between Indonesia and the Dutch. In 1962, encouraged by the US, the Netherlands and Indonesia agreed to a transfer of authority to the United Nations and then to Indonesia in advance of the so-called Act of Free Choice in 1969.

“In a population of more than 800,000 in which 600,000 were theoretically eligible to vote, the Indonesian government selected only 1,022 Papuans as representatives entitled to participate in the Act of Free Choice,” says Ndari. “This so-called act of self-determination was widely criticised, but...
the United Nations legitimised Indonesian sovereignty and there has been tension and resistance among the Papuans ever since. Many Papuans regard the Act of Free Choice as invalid – and their lack of participation in it was symbolised by the total absence of Papuans when the agreement was signed in 1962,” says Ndari.

“Policies that make Papuans feel marginalised from the political and socio-economic development of their homeland are a further source of resistance.”

The American Freeport gold mine is one of the largest gold mines in the world, yet Papuans derive only 12 per cent of revenues from it. Though Freeport Indonesia is also the largest single taxpayer (contributing US$180 million a year in the 1990s) Papua remains the second poorest province in Indonesia. Almost half of the population has never been to school or graduated from primary school, infant mortality rates are high, and lack of transport and telecommunications hinder trade and development.

“Another problem relates to the arrival in the territory of large numbers of newcomers as part of the transmigration program. This has caused great resentment amongst the indigenous population as the settlers occupy ancestral land, dominate the economy and widen the gap between themselves and indigenous Papuans.

“When Papuans demand ownership of ancestral land used for transmigration or by foreign resource and logging companies, the Indonesian government accuses them of being anti-government, anti-development ‘separatists’. Such labels are used to justify the use of military force in the name of national development and security.”

Although Ndari stresses that cultural differences in themselves pose no obstacle to Papua’s integration with Indonesia – the country, after all, is made up of over 300 ethnic groups – the intimidation, detention, torture and murder of Papuans have made them feel that they are inherently different from Indonesians. This sense of separate identity has been exacerbated by the extent of migration to the territory. Settlers now comprise 42 per cent of the population of Irian Jaya.

Ndari travelled to Irian Jaya to assess the current political climate particularly in relation to the passage of two laws. The first, in 2003, divided Papua into three provinces (West, Central and East Irian Jaya) without, as is legally required, the approval of the provincial House of Representatives. The second, in 2001, granted a greater share of authority and revenue to Papuans and gave more recognition to their customary law. While the promise of the regional autonomy law has not been fully realised, it has led to a dramatic increase in revenue for the territory. In 2003 its revenue was three trillion rupiahs (or around Aus$4.5 million) compared to only Rp700 billion (around Aus$1 million) in 2001.

Ndari says that the 2003 law is seen by Papuans as a way to ‘divide and rule’ in a territory already riven by geographical, tribal and language divisions. She says that by setting one province against another, the sense of Papuan unity is weakened. “The process of partition has caused competition among the elites in Papua, and diminished the solidarity among leaders. Papuan politicians and officials who support greater independence must also cooperate with Indonesian authorities or jeopardise their career advancement and family security. This division in leadership tends to paralyse the effectiveness of the workings of the provincial government.”

Irian Jaya, says Ndari, is rife with rumour and fear. There is fear about continuing Indonesian military operations, and about the formation of groups of paramilitary Jihad fighters and the Red and White Organization led by Eurico Gutteres, who was responsible for much violence in East Timor in 1999. In addition, freedom of speech is becoming more and more limited. All foreign researchers have been prohibited from doing research in Papua, and a recent publication on the murder of an independence leader killed by the military has been banned.

“I believe that the newly-elected Indonesian government will need to find solutions to this problem, because protracted unrest in the province could be costly both domestically and internationally,” says the UWA researcher. “As in the case of East Timor, the more repressive the government is, the more attention it will get from those forced to flee, who are now campaigning and lobbying internationally, particularly in Europe.”

Ndari is also researching the Australian government’s foreign policy in relation to human rights in Papua and in East Timor.

“I would like to compare and contrast the responses of the Keating and Howard governments in relation to these territories,” says Ndari. “When I did my field research, almost all the people I talked to in Jakarta ‘blamed’ Australia for its role in East Timor and expressed worries about Australia in relation to Papua. But in Australia, the government seems focused on reviving the relationship with Indonesia, and the Howard government is apparently very careful not to say anything on Papua that will offend Indonesia.”

Ndari is currently living in Perth with her three children while she completes her studies. Her husband, who is working in the private sector, spent some time in WA but has returned to work in Indonesia. Ndari is supported by AusAID. Her PhD study is supervised by Dr David Bourchier, Chair of Asian Studies in UWAs School of Social and Cultural Studies.
The 2005 UWA Perth International Arts Festival reflects Lindy Hume’s vision of the Festival as an extraordinary time, one that engenders “big feelings, big thoughts and coming together as a community”.

Every year for three action-packed weeks in mid-summer Perth becomes a city of extraordinary colour, sound and sight as the UWA Perth International Arts Festival takes to the stage, concert hall, auditorium, gallery and public spaces for a sustained celebration of the arts.

The current Festival is the second from Artistic Director Lindy Hume, and the program looks set to rival last year’s success. This year Lindy is determined that every member of the Perth community will, at some point during the Festival, be inspired to explore the intangible – the spirit, the subconscious, the soul.

On Friday 11 February at Government House, traditional Noongar dancers and musicians will welcome the 2005 Festival with the burning of a Balga tree while 500 volunteer drummers lead the crowd to Supreme Court Gardens. In that outdoor setting, the West Australian Symphony Orchestra and a 1000 voice choir, will bring Mozart’s Magic Flute to life.

The centrepiece of the Festival’s “seeking transcendence” theme is another free event: an exhibition of art from five diverse artists at the Art Gallery of Western Australia. Passing through the doors be prepared to transcend into a world of imagination and a paint box of colour from Mark Rothko, Edvard Munch artist of “The Scream”, Ann Hamilton, Robert Irwin and Wolfgang Laib.

This significant exhibition is designed to evoke quiet contemplation and attempts to draw us back time and again by offering more than just a visual arts exhibition. Inspired by the philosophers’ cafés of Europe, Caffissimo café at the gallery has been turned into a tranquil hub for contemplation where you can join in discussions with artists from across the Festival program – including conductors, choreographers, cast members and directors.

The Festival program brings together an array of international talent – some 500 artists – and an abundance of choice. Theatrical highlights include theatre from Ireland, The Playboy of the Western World, a century-old Irish classic, and (following sell-out seasons in London and Edinburgh) South Africa’s Amajuba: Like Doves We Rise, an intimate portrayal of growing up in apartheid South Africa.

As part of the 2005 Perth Festival, the Indian Ocean is celebrated through music, images and dance inspired
THE UWA PERTH INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

by the culturally rich regions of Africa, Asia and India. Dancer and choreographer Akram Khan, winner of the 2003 Critics Circle Award for Best Choreography, draws on his Bangladeshi heritage and London upbringing in a contemporary dance piece *Ma* telling the stories of trees and children – things that grow and give strength to the world. His pieces reach out to audiences beyond traditional dance lovers.

The essence of the Indian Ocean spreads from dance to music and if one instrument could possibly represent the region it would be the pure resonating tone of the sitar. In the magical setting of UWA’s Sunken Garden, the acclaimed Gaurav Mazumdar will shares his skills with a gathering more intimate than for his performance at the Athens Olympics.

For lovers of language, *Words and Ideas* is a celebration of more than 40 authors and writers, people who’ve inspired us through their knowledge, imagination and spirit. If you’ve wished you could understand the process behind a great novel or delve into the mind of the writer then this is your chance. The Festival’s Literary Lunches, discussions, talks, workshops and readings bring you face to face with some familiar names like Bill Bryson, Salley Vickers, David Mitchell and Helen Garner.

As Perth’s appetite for diverse international and local music talent grows, so does the Festival’s contemporary music program which includes names like the USA’s Shins, the Kiwi group Salmonella Dub, talented UK singer/songwriter Holly Golightly, the Australian group Brains and the dynamic duo The Black Keys. The Verandah in St George’s Terrace is designed as the place to socialise and party during the Festival. Set up under the stars and with its own noodle bar it’s a celebration every night that peaks with the 2005 WAMi Awards for contemporary music.

At the centre of the Festival is the quintessential Perth experience: the Lotterywest Festival Films at UWA’s Somerville Auditorium and ECU’s Joondalup Pines. For more than 50 years Festival Films has projected first release world cinema to an enthusiastic audience. Over our four summer months more than 22 films from around the world will be screened, with winners from the Cannes, Berlin and Sundance Film Festivals.

During one week of the Festival the auditorium becomes ‘Somerville Live’ an experience of film and live music. Opening with *The Widower* an evocative tale of love and loss the film is accompanied live by virtuoso guitarist Slava Grigoryan and baritone Lyndon Terracini performing the haunting soundtrack to the film. Then turning the tables back to before the Somerville existed Jen Anderson and The Larrikins play the soundtrack to the 1919 film *The Sentimental Bloke* giving new musical life to a classic Australian silent film.

From 11 February to 6 March the 2005 UWA Perth International Arts Festival invites the whole community to pause for three weeks in the realm of Transcendence and Transformation. For more information: www.perthfestival.com.au
Kerry Sanderson has been at the helm of Western Australia’s principal general cargo port for the past 13 years and is one of only a few women worldwide to hold such a port leadership role. Since taking up her appointment as Fremantle Ports’ Chief Executive Officer in late 1991 she has steered the organisation through major changes designed to transform an under-performing agency. The outcome has been a return to profitability, strong trade growth and other significant improvements in performance. Fremantle Ports has become one of only a handful of WA organisations to achieve award level under the Australian Business Excellence Framework, and has also achieved triple accreditation in safety, the environment and quality. Kerry Sanderson contributes as a member of a number of boards and committees, both in Western Australia and nationally. In 2004, she was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia.

As a secondary student, did you have a clear idea of what you wanted to study?
As a student I really enjoyed science and mathematics. I was keen to study science, and in particular, pharmacology. However, fairly early on in the first year of my science degree I discovered that I didn’t really enjoy the practical side of either biology or chemistry and that a double degree in mathematics was what I wanted.

When you were studying at UWA, how did you view your future career? Did you have a game plan?
The mathematics course I undertook was orientated towards computing, and at that stage cardboard cards were used for programming and data entry and hexadecimal memory dumps were the only aid in diagnosing problems. When I had finished the course, I decided I needed a more outward looking career, working with people rather than machines, and I was offered a position in the State Treasury, where I began as a Trainee Graduate Assistant and rose to head one of Treasury’s major Divisions, the Economic and Financial Policy Division. I could see that I would understand the issues more, and be in a position to seek promotion, if I understood economics, which is why I undertook part-time study and completed an economics degree after I started work. My goals changed as I learned more about myself, what interested me and the opportunities in my environment, but having goals was important in helping me to keep a focus and sense of purpose.

Apart from studies, what were your interests/involvements at UWA?
While studying at UWA with the aim of achieving good grades, I enjoyed the opportunity to regularly go to the beach for a swim and to have wider discussions with a circle of friends. I liked meeting regularly with friends in the coffee shop under the library or going to Northbridge for a meal after our early evening economics lecture. In many ways, the days at UWA as I see it were a great privilege because one only had oneself to worry about and could choose to study subjects you enjoyed.

What are the qualities you acknowledge in yourself that are strengths in your present role?
Planning ahead and maintaining a high level of motivation and determination are essentials. For me, this has meant regularly refocusing with the Fremantle Ports team on where we want to be and how to get there. Successful organisations and individuals are undoubtedly the ones that are forward looking, and have the flexibility to embrace change and use it in a positive way. The essence of strategy is also to be discerning about the things you choose to do and to be strongly focused on success without being distracted. Strategy is about choices. For anyone working in a demanding job, one of the big challenges is achieving a balance, which is essential if we are to succeed in our careers, preserve our health, foster our personal relationships, meet our various obligations and still have some time to call our own. Maintaining this balance requires constant work, and I don’t pretend that I
have it right but I do constantly try to re-balance. I’m also a great believer in the team approach and an inclusive, consultative management style. Cross-divisional teams can break down barriers, maximise the input of ideas and expertise, and help achieve a sense of shared responsibility and achievement. There is abundant evidence that good teamwork and involvement not only achieves the best possible outcomes for the organisation but at the same time adds dignity and meaning to working lives.

What is your working day like and how do you relax?
Early mornings in our household tend to be fairly typical of any family. I normally exercise in the morning and have a quick breakfast while reading the paper. One of our two sons is still at high school and whenever possible I drop him off at school, giving us some time together, although I often have early morning breakfast meetings. Early starts can make for a lengthy day if I also have an evening work commitment, which is quite often, and especially as I generally need to work for several hours at home most nights to keep on top of paperwork. None of this would be possible for me without the understanding and patience of my wonderful husband, Lance and our sons, Jarrad and Jason. Regular exercise is an important part of my life, with pilates sessions once or twice a week for general fitness now having given way to doing pilates at home. I have a home gym also for weight training. Walking is a favourite relaxation and is always part of our holidays whether at Rottnest or hiking in Europe. My relaxation includes walking, bike-riding, picnics or just coffee at Matilda Bay and meals with friends. While I do a lot of reading, most is work related and is part of on-going development of skills and knowledge.

Do you have close ties with any of the people you have studied with at UWA?
I am fortunate to still have contact with a number of people I was with at university, although my circle of friends and contacts has widened over the years.

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**Chancellor’s Medal presentation ceremony**

On Sunday 19 September last year Emeritus Professor Rex Prider was guest of honour at a morning tea to celebrate both his 94th birthday and his latest award, the UWA Chancellor’s Medal. Professor Prider was the subject of an article in the last issue of UNIVIEW. He and his family played a major role in making overseas students feel at home on UWA’s campus.

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Above: Emeritus Professor Prider pictured surrounded by graduates and friends who had travelled to Perth especially for this presentation.

Right: Mrs Dorothy Ransom OAM, the inaugural recipient of the Chancellor’s Medal, with Professor Prider, Dr John Glover and Dr Basil Balme.
Busking in Covent Garden?

The Sartory String Quartet, winners of the 2004 UWAGA Matilda Award for Cultural Excellence talks to Rita Clarke about future possibilities.

Perhaps because they are all the youngest in their families, Katherine Potter, Sophie Walker, Emily Thompson and Pascale Whiting seem very comfortable with each other. They’ve been playing together as the Sartory String Quartet since 2003 – a relatively short time – but have accrued awards, praise and encouragement and the 2004 UWA Graduates Association’s Matilda Award for Cultural Excellence.

The name Sartory came about because they needed to find one in a hurry. Since Emily’s bow had been made by a student of the famous French bow maker Eugene Sartory, Sartory seemed definitively suitable.

Bows and instruments should, of course, also be as compatible as their owners. As Kathy points out, “When Sophie got her new cello there was a distinct difference – it’s better – but we just noticed a different sound coming from that corner.”

Sophie’s brand new cello cost $30,000 – that’s before buying the case and the bow: $30,000! – that’s a deposit on a house! “Yes, I looked on the internet for months and months for grants and things – but all the awards you could get were for travel and study, not for instruments.” So with help from her mother and father, her own savings, and a loan from the Music Department, she raised the $30,000. This cello obviously means more to Sophie than a house. “It’s beautiful – honey coloured, reddish, made of Canadian maple and it’s got a lovely flame pattern on the back.” Constructed in Switzerland, it flew home to Perth with friends. “No I couldn’t afford a seat for it. It came in the hold,” says Sophie, with a grimace, “but it arrived okay.”

Kathy’s viola is a mystery. “There’s no label inside and the previous owner doesn’t know where it was from. “We think it was made in France about 1920. They call these kinds of instruments ‘Unlabelled European trade instruments’ but I just love it.” At 39cm, it’s smaller than those used by most professional players (about 41cm), and the sound, according to Kathy is beautiful and very mellow. “It needs a bit of hard work to get any guts out of it though.”

Like Sophie’s cello, it’s honey coloured, with tiger stripes at the back. She’s hiring a bow at the moment because she’s still working on her bowing technique. Bows, which costs about $4,500 - and should be worth about a third of the cost of the instrument - differ in weight and flexibility. “You need good techniques to know if they are right for you – so we have to get advice from our teachers.”

Their UWA string teachers Paul Wright and Dr Suzie Wijsman have been exceedingly helpful with advice and tuition for these second and third year students; none of whom are quite sure what they want to end up doing. Mostly they’d like to perform in chamber orchestras, travel overseas and find teachers to help them continue to master their technique. CVs, they explain, are judged by the teachers under whom applicants have studied. Kathy knows of an American/Armenian, who teaches viola in Boston. “But I expect studying there would be rather expensive.” Sophie would like to travel around Europe trying different teachers. All expect to do some teaching or other work to make ends meet and to Sophie, London seems a good bet in this regard. “You can make quite a bit of money busking there. It’s so competitive though – in Covent Garden you even have to audition to busk.”

Emily, who plays violin, and loves Baroque music, wants eventually to study in The Hague. Her grandmother was a piano teacher. When one of her four brothers started violin she started also, and then tried flute and piano. Her treasured violin is owned by Dr Vincent Moleta (former Professor of Italian Studies at UWA). “He invited us to the Blackwood River Chamber Festival which he runs each year. It’s such a good festival – there are several performers from overseas. Vincent is a benefactor for us really.”

The violin, circa 1800, is a Chiocci, and has been in Vincent’s family for a long time. Sophie says it’s made of old dark wood and has a sweet sound. “The girl who was using it had finished with it and Vincent asked if I would like it. It was so lucky because I thought my own violin was fine, but when I go back to mine now, it’s awful. I was a bit scared about having it at first and used to keep it under my bed.”

Pascale’s violin is Australian. “It’s made by Richard Panting and when I’m in Melbourne he fixes it up for me. (Things like a change in the weather can alter the sound.) I love it – it’s a light brown colour with two panels in the back and horizontal stripes.” Pascale too, is undecided about her long term aims but, as with the others, definitely wants to continue with the Sartory Quartet. “We’re such good friends and get on so well.”

All of which has obviously contributed to their successes, such as winning last year – as well as the UWAGA Matilda...
– the UWA Flora Bunning Memorial Prize for Chamber Music; the Open section of the Fremantle Eisteddfod Chamber Ensemble, and the Graham Wood Award for Chamber Music. They have been invited to play at UWA lunchtime concerts and graduation ceremonies; for the PIAF Friends of the Festival, and at various ceremonies and concerts.

A highlight for Pascale has also been the Blackwood River Chamber Music Festival. “The four of us stayed in a cabin and performed with international artists in St Paul’s Church in Bridgetown and an old converted shearing shed in Winnejup.” If Blackwood made an impression on them, they made an impression on both Vincent Moleta who invited them back this year, and called them “fresh and graceful” and fellow performer Alessandro Mingrone, from Italy, who sent an email to Paul Wright about their “wonderful” playing. He commented, “such sensitive playing and such a wide range of colours is so rare to hear in a group which I learnt was just at its beginnings… I’m sure they’ll make a name.”

(If you want to catch them before they wing it to Covent Garden, email them at: sartorystringquartet@hotmail.com)

UWAGA Travel Award winners

The UWA Graduates Association Postgraduate Research Travel Awards are provided to assist postgraduate research students of UWA in their research by providing an opportunity to travel interstate or overseas. Donations to the Postgraduate Research Travel Awards may be made by contacting Juanita Perez Scott, Graduates Coordinator on (618) 6488 1336, fax (618) 6488 1110; email: uwaga@admin.uwa.edu.au
A Wonderful Reunion

The annual 50th Anniversary Reunion of Graduates of 1954 was held in Winthrop Hall last November. Emeritus Professor John De Laeter AO CitWA was principal speaker at the luncheon. It was a great success with many friendships being rekindled and wonderful stories exchanged.

Donations to Awards

Each year the UWA Graduates Association presents awards to some students for their extraordinary achievements. These awards assist the students financially. If you would like to contribute to these awards, please complete the form below.

Waterpolo Athlete/Human Movement student Amity Campbell, winner of 2003 Sports Bursary.

Ballroom dancer / Architectural student Emily Reilly, winner of the 2002 Matilda Award for Cultural Excellence, with partner Richard Tonizzo.

Donations to Awards

Convocation UWA Graduates Association

Donations for excellence

All donations over $2 are tax deductable, provided they are made out as set out below

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The University of Western Australia
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Telephone +61 8 6488 3006 Facsimile +61 8 6488 1110
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

invites all graduates and members of Convocation
to attend the

FIRST ORDINARY MEETING

of

Convocation, the UWA Graduates Association

on Friday, 18 March 2005

at 6.30pm for 7.00pm start at The University Club

The address will be given by
Dr Fiona Wood, Head of the Burns Unit of Royal Perth Hospital
and Director of The McComb Foundation

If, at the time of the Ordinary Meeting, the number of valid nominations received for the vacant positions on Council of Convocation is less than the number of vacancies, the Chair Person will call for nominations for election to the remaining positions at the meeting.
Alexander Kerr (BA 1948; MA 1950; PhD 1957), third from the right, was a journalist with The West Australian before enlisting in the Royal Australian Air Force, in April 1940. He completed basic flying training in Australia before going to Canada for intermediate and advanced training. Alex then went to Scotland to train in bombers and was posted to 115 Squadron RAF in Bomber Command. In May 1941, on his fourth mission, he was shot down by Luftwaffe fighter ace, Eckart-Wilhelm von Bonin. He suffered seven wounds and lost consciousness as his rear gunner parachuted him out of the burning aircraft over Hamburg. Hospitalised for six months, he was then taken to a prison camp from which he escaped three times. His first and best-planned escape was from Stalag 3A near Berlin, in May 1942. Alex and 53 other prisoners-of-war took several months to build a 45 metre tunnel out of the camp. After escaping, he spent 10 days jumping trains at night before being recaptured near the Yugoslav border. In early 1945, he escaped again but was recaptured after two days. In March 1945, he escaped a third time and was rescued by the advancing Allied forces. During his time as a prisoner of war, Alex completed a certificate in Social Sciences from the University of Oxford and a certificate with the International Sales Managers’ Association, and commenced his Economics studies through the University of London. Alex, a Warrant Officer, was one of only 12 survivors from the 40 Australian pilots in his training course. After the war, he completed a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of London and went on to complete his Master’s and PhD at UWA. He spent 25 years teaching at UWA and eight years at Murdoch University, where he was Foundation Professor of Economics before becoming Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Since retiring in 1983, he has pursued a busy business career. In 2001, he was awarded Western Australian Senior Achiever of the Year by the Australian Day Foundation Professor of Economics before becoming Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Since retiring in 1983, he has pursued a busy business career. In 2001, he was awarded Western Australian Senior Achiever of the Year by the Australian Day Council. In 2003, he was chosen in a group to represent Australian ex-servicemen and women at the unveiling of the Australian War Memorial in London. In 2004, he was a Member of the Order of the Australia for “service to industry, to the development of the study of urban and regional economics and to the community”.

Take a bow David Hough

UWA graduate, author and theatre historian David Hough has been associated with His Majesty’s Theatre since the 1960s so he was the ideal person to raise the curtain on the theatre’s history, its favourite anecdotes and memorable moments.

A Dream of Passion, the Centennial History of His Majesty’ s Theatre presents readers with a cavalcade of legendary characters – Katherine Hepburn, Anna Pavlova and Dame Nellie Melba to mention but a few – who performed at the theatre. It also establishes that this landmark building was always more than a theatre.

“His Majesty’s has been the venue for almost as many non-theatrical as theatrical events – product launches, boxing and wrestling matches, coronations, graduations and rallies,” writes David. A century ago the theatre with a seating capacity of 2,500 (today it accommodates 1,200) was also showing silent films. In 1920 some 3,000 soldiers, sailors and nurses from the Western Front and other theatres of war gathered at the Maj to be addressed by Edward, Prince of Wales. A Dream of Passion, published by His Majesty’s Theatre and distributed by UWA Press, is available at the UWA Visitors Centre and all good book stores.

1940s

• Alexander Kerr (BA 1948; MA 1950; PhD 1957), third from the right, was a journalist with The West Australian before enlisting in the Royal Australian Air Force, in April 1940. He completed basic flying training in Australia before going to Canada for intermediate and advanced training. Alex then went to Scotland to train in bombers and was posted to 115 Squadron RAF in Bomber Command. In May 1941, on his fourth mission, he was shot down by Luftwaffe fighter ace, Eckart-Wilhelm von Bonin. He suffered seven wounds and lost consciousness as his rear gunner parachuted him out of the burning aircraft over Hamburg. Hospitalised for six months, he was then taken to a prison camp from which he escaped three times. His first and best-planned escape was from Stalag 3A near Berlin, in May 1942. Alex and 53 other prisoners-of-war took several months to build a 45 metre tunnel out of the camp. After escaping, he spent 10 days jumping trains at night before being recaptured near the Yugoslav border. In early 1945, he escaped again but was recaptured after two days. In March 1945, he escaped a third time and was rescued by the advancing Allied forces. During his time as a prisoner of war, Alex completed a certificate in Social Sciences from the University of Oxford and a certificate with the International Sales Managers’ Association, and commenced his Economics studies through the University of London. Alex, a Warrant Officer, was one of only 12 survivors from the 40 Australian pilots in his training course. After the war, he completed a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of London and went on to complete his Master’s and PhD at UWA. He spent 25 years teaching at UWA and eight years at Murdoch University, where he was Foundation Professor of Economics before becoming Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Since retiring in 1983, he has pursued a busy business career. In 2001, he was awarded Western Australian Senior Achiever of the Year by the Australian Day Council. In 2003, he was chosen in a group to represent Australian ex-servicemen and women at the unveiling of the Australian War Memorial in London. In 2004, he was a Member of the Order of the Australia for “service to industry, to the development of the study of urban and regional economics and to the community”.

1950s

• Clarence Gooding (BSc(Agric) 1952) Last March, Clarence retired from farming at Lake Grace and after two weeks of retirement purchased another smaller farm at Beverley. He writes that once in the blood, farming is hard to give up!

1960s

• Peter Marks (LLB 1966) writes that after 5 years with Robinson, Cox and Company (now Clayton Utz) he purchased a sole practice and 30 years later, in 2001, when it reached a staff of 60 (Marks & Sands), he left again and became a sole practitioner. He has maintained an office in Wagin and has travelled there every Friday for 34 years. Peter was a Commissioner of Homewest (1996-2001).

• Barry Chossen (BSc(Hons) 1968) was presented with the Royal Australian Chemical Institute’s (WA) highest accolade, the 2004 Alton McAllen Batty Medal in recognition of his contribution to the field of occupational hygiene.

His 33-year career, his major contributions have been in reforming areas such as hearing conservation, asbestos removal, dealing with hazardous materials, thermal stress and occupational health management. He holds a doctorate in management of hazardous materials from Edith Cowan University and was recently recognised with an honorary appointment as an Adjunct Professor at Curtin University’s School of Public Health.

1970s

• John Blake (BSc(Agric) 1970) writes that he has had a ‘sea change’ and moved to Rainbows End, in Albany. John is agricultural adviser and manager for the Department of Agriculture.

• Stephen Trenear (BSc(Agric) 1970) retired from the Department of Agriculture in March 2004, after 35 years of service.

• Delves Edwards (BSc 1971; DipEd 1976) is the proprietor of the gift shop, Precious Treasures, in Applecross. The shop specialises in Australian handicrafts and includes a tiny gallery where emerging artists can exhibit.

• Arthur Saxton (BA 1978) has worked in general management and human resources in eight countries. Since January 2000, he has been on the main board of Arriva plc, as Director responsible for Human Resources. Arthur is married with two son and last visited UWA in 1998. He enjoyed seeing the interesting developments on campus.

• Julian Cribb (BA 1971) is principal of Julian Cribb and Associates, specialists in science communication and Adjunct Professor of Science Communication at the University of Technology Sydney. From 1996-2002, he was Director, National Awareness, for CSIRO. A journalist since 1969, he was editor of the National Farmer and Sunday Independent newspapers, editor-in-chief of the Australian Rural Times and chief of the Australian Agricultural News Bureau. For ten year, he was agriculture correspondent, science and technology correspondent and scientific editor for The Australian. He has received 32 awards for journalism including the Order of Australia Association Media Prize, the inaugural Eureka Prize.
for environmental journalism, the inaugural student was a recipient of the STUADIAE award for international business journalism, the Dalgety Award for award-winning journalist, and the Michael Dalley Awards for science journalist.

**Derek Russell** (BEC 1972) has a Master of Engineering Science in transportation and traffic from the University of New South Wales. He left Perth in 1972 for Canberra spending more than half his subsequent career with the Department of Finance and Administration. He is currently enjoying long service leave, but will continue working in the field of public sector evaluation and performance reporting.

### 1980s

- **Craig McIntosh** (BBlurs 1981; LLB 1982) practices as a barrister in commercial, civil and criminal litigation at Sir Lawrence Jackson Chambers, in Perth.
- **Geoffrey Chambers** (BCorn 1984; MBA 2000) coached Australia’s three man Paralympics sailing crew at last year’s Paralympics in Athens. They finished a creditable fifth place, which is higher than any placing achieved by the Australian Olympic sailing team. Geoff writes that there was barely a moment in coaching, leading and managing the campaign that did not involve something he had learned in his MBA. He is joining fellow MBA graduates to form a strategy development consultancy.
- **Ray With** (BS(Hons) 1984; PhD 1990) joined the WA Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) last July, after 20 years working on a range of applied research and natural resource management projects at UWA as an industry consultant. He is an Industry Development Adviser for the resource, board, extractive and chemical industry sectors. Ray is also an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow with UWA’s School of Earth and Geological Sciences. In the previous seven years, he worked as a Principal Research Officer for parliamentary committees on public sector accountability, regional development, energy and sustainability. In 2003, he worked as a volunteer researcher and adviser on a project based in Kabul to improve land mine detection. In 2003, he completed a four-year term as Vice-President of the Ecological Society of Australia. Ray is married with two daughters.
- **Kathryn Smith** (nee Devenish) (BS(Hons) 1989) writes that geography has taken her into diverse career paths from teaching to marketing, but she is now enjoying her return to campus 12 years after graduating. Kathryn is currently working as an administrative assistant with the Department of Physics.
- **Tomas Mijatovic** (LLB 1992) has been the principal of TRM Legal Services for the past four years. His legal practice focuses on debt recovery litigation and representative actions for the Bank of England. Tomas was half way through his postgraduate degree in ecocardiography. Katrina married his Irish husband in 2000 and they both enjoy travelling and sailing.
- **Maria So** (BSc 1997) completed her Bachelor of Pharmacy at Curtin University, in 2001. She now runs her own pharmacy, Newburn Pharmacy, in High Wycombe. Maria writes that she married last year and enjoyed a honeymoon in Las Vegas and Hollywood.
- **Georgia Carragher** (MSpecEd 1999) is the program coordinator for the Perth and Hills Division of GP’s, Georgia writes that she attended her Edith Cowan University graduation ceremony last October, where she was conferred with a PhD in Education.
- **Andrew Mack** (BE 1996) worked for seven years with the WA Department of Environment. In 2003, he took up a position as a senior environmental consultant with BSD Consultants Pty Ltd (now known as Cardno BSD) and is working on a wide range of projects including mining, contaminated sites and canal developments. Former classmates can contact him at andrew.mack@BSD.com.au
- **Melissa Drew** (BE 2002) is currently working as an environmental scientist at ATA Environmental. Melissa works as a project manager with a focus on environmental consultancy and project management work. 

### 1990s

- **Graham Hay** (BEC 1991) has returned from being Guest Artist at the 1st International Paperclay Symposium at the International Ceramics Studio, in Hungary. He recently completed workshops in Singapore and Melbourne.
- **Paul Hemsley** (BE 1991) is a consulting instrument and control engineer and is currently working for Western Mining Corporation Resources on related resource development projects.
- **Kathryn Teale** (BSc(Hons) 1993) spent six years in Cambridge, UK, and has recently moved back to Perth following her husband’s appointment at UWA’s School of Biomedical and Chemical Sciences. Kathryn has taken a marketing and administration position in the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences and writes that she is enjoying her return to campus 12 years after graduating.
- **Thomas Greenwell** (MEd 1993) is senior master at St Peter’s College, Adelaide, and is still active in hockey as a coach and administrator with the college and St Peter’s Hockey Club. He writes that he is always keen to catch up with friends and former colleagues passing through Adelaide. Thomas can be contacted at bgreenwell@students.adelaide.edu.au.
- **Evan Crute** (BSc 1993; DiplEd 1994) taught in Mt Magnet for one year and in Merredin from 1995-98. He joined the WA Firebrigade in 1998 and now works from Malaga Firestation. Evan is married with four children.
- **Roslyn Martin** (nee Butcher) (BA 1995) moved north with her husband and son to open Neptun’s of Broome, a nautical giftware store. They previously lived in East Fremantle and Sydney. Roslyn writes that this lifestyle change comes after working in corporate communications, writing newsletters and brochures and liaising with the media. Former classmates can contact her at roslynmartin28@hotmail.com
- **Kathryn Joyce** (BPHE 1994) is an echocardiographer at Perth Cardiovascular Institute, Hollywood Private Hospital. She works in echocardiography is half way through her postgraduate degree in echocardiography. Katrina married her Irish husband in 2000 and they both enjoy travelling and sailing.
- **Beverley Claffey** (nee Bain) (BA 1994; DiplEd 1997) is an ESL teacher at the Lincoln Community School (American International School), in Accra, Ghana. Beverly married her Irish husband in 2000 and they both enjoy travelling and sailing.
- **Rebecca Craggsley** (BMus(Hons) 2002) moved to Melbourne after graduating and completed the Graduate Diploma in Music Therapy, University of Melbourne, last year. She recently took up a full-time music therapy position at Calvary Health Care Bethlehem, specialising in palliative care. Rebecca writes that her aim is to establish a music and speech therapy centre in Perth within the next ten years.
- **Katherine Hogg** (MB BS 2000) is working part-time in general practice in Sydney. She is married with two infant daughters.
- **David Burton** (MBA 2003) is the Technical Director at Conquest Mining, a company that specialises in diamond and gold exploration projects.

### 2000s

- **Katherine Hogg** (MB BS 2000) is working part-time in general practice in Sydney. She is married with two infant daughters.
- **Rebecca Craggsley** (BMus(Hons) 2002) moved to Melbourne after graduating and completed the Graduate Diploma in Music Therapy, University of Melbourne, last year. She recently took up a full-time music therapy position at Calvary Health Care Bethlehem, specialising in palliative care. Rebecca writes that her aim is to establish a music and speech therapy centre in Perth within the next ten years.
- **Johnis Plowman** (BSc(Hons) 2002) is currently working as an environmental scientist at ATA Environmental. Melissa works as a project manager with a focus on environmental consultancy and project management work. 

### Hong Kong Alumni gathering

Eighty Albany region alumni attended a lecture followed by refreshments at the Albany Centre as part of the Skywest Sustainability Lecture Series on Friday 5 November. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Lewung and Associate Director Development, Mrs Cheryl Mariner also presented a new workshop on Fundraising for the Patron of the Albany Foundation to coincide with this event.
The science of art

When Charm Phillips (Saunders, née Green) graduated in 1948, she was one of only four female Science graduates. She went on to teach maths and physics. “Then I got married and in those days you stopped work!” recalls Charm. She did however begin studying art at Perth Technical College and the then W AIT, and she found that her Science studies were relevant to the oil and acrylic landscape and abstract paintings she produced. “I found that the science of colour, light and mathematical theories were all applicable to my work,” says Charm who has had ten solo exhibitions, and recently participated in the River and Parks – A Personal Perspective exhibition at the Constitutional Centre of W A. The exhibition marked the States’ 175th anniversary. Charm’s family has long connections with UWA, her father and brothers having studied at this University and her son, obstetrician Cliff Saunders (Clinical Lecturer for Obstetrics and Gynaecology at UWA) is a graduate. Another son Ian Saunders (who won a scholarship to ANU) is an Associate Professor in UWA’s School of Social and Cultural Studies.

Two of Charm’s grandchildren are graduates, and two are currently studying at the University.

UWA graduate honoured

UWA graduate and Rhodes Scholar Professor Bruce Bennett was awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters at the University of New South Wales recently. The former Associate Professor of English at UWA (also Director of the Centre for Studies in Australian Literature and co-editor of Westerly magazine) is the author and editor of some 25 books. He was described as having played a pioneering role in Australian studies and was commended for his ongoing leadership of the electronic database project AustLit: The Australian Literature Gateway, which has commanded national and international recognition.

Professor Bennett joined the University of New South Wales in 1993 as Professor and Head of the School of English at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra. He is an Adjunct Professor at the Humanities Research Centre of the Australian National University. The UNSW’s citation read: “There is a clear trajectory in Bruce Bennett’s career of increasing distinction, scholarly authority and generous service – to his discipline, to his students, to government enquiries, and to the wider community … In helping to define what we understand by our national literature, Bruce Bennett has few peers in the country today.”

In accepting the higher doctorate, Professor Bennett said that his interest in words began in early childhood in WA. “Neither of my parents was educated beyond primary school level, but they both enjoyed words,” he recalled. He also remembered his long campaign, on joining the University of WA, to give Australian literary studies a significant place in Australian university studies.

“In this I was driven by the thought that Australian writers could be as good as any in the world, and often were: and that, as Australians we should take pride and pleasure in this fact. Australian authors such as Patrick White, who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1973, David Malouf, Peter Carey, Helen Garner, Kate Grenville, Tim Winton and many others have made national and international reputations. In the literary arts, as in the sciences, Australians are working at the very highest levels in their field.”

Professor Bennett sees the huge success of recent books in defence of language – such as Don Watson’s Death Sentence – as a hopeful sign. “Am I kidding myself to think that there may be a new hunger for our language, the English language, to be used more actively, thoughtfully, imaginatively and correctly?” he asked. “I hope I’m not, for more is at stake here than our GDP – though that, too, may be affected if our expertise in English is diminished. What is at stake is the quality of our cultural life as Australians and the opportunity to prove ourselves as outstanding exponents of the world language we are fortunate to share.”

Professor Bennett is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and the Australian College of Education, and has been awarded an Order of Australia.

Lester Yee Shiong Seow (BE 2001; BCom 2001) returned to Malaysia to work as a structural engineer with a civil and engineering consulting firm. He is now a site engineer on a 1,000,000PE sewage treatment plant, which will serve the population of Kuala Lumpur. But the best thing to happen to him in Malaysia was meeting his wife, Alice. They married in 2004 and are looking forward to starting a family soon.

Joyce Burton (née Chen)(MBA 2003) is Branch Manager with Home Building Society in St George’s Terrace, and specialises in Asian clients’ relationship development. Joyce is bilingual in English and Chinese.

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