SPECIALISTS IN QUALITY
CATERING. OUTSTANDING
SERVICE AND TRULY
MEMORABLE OCCASIONS

ENJOY YOUR SPECIAL
CELEBRATION AMIDST THE
GLORIOUS GARDENS
AND GRAND ARCHITECTURE
OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

University
Function
Caterers

FULLY LICENSED
NEW SEASONAL MENU

UNIVERSITY FUNCTION CATERERS
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
35 STIRLING HIGHWAY, CRAWLEY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6009
PHONE: 6488 2315  FACSIMILE: 6488 1115
EMAIL: catering@guild.uwa.edu.au
A DIVISION OF THE UWA GUILD OF UNDERGRADUATES
UNIVIEW

CONTENTS

FEATURES

In Focus: campus news and views 2
From the Vice-Chancellery 7
Graduate Profile: Shaun Tan 8
Academic Profile: Mark Cassidy 11
Bringing the world to our doorstep 13
Alliance benefits executives 17
Close to home 18
The rise and rise of private equity 21
Making science ‘sexy’ 23
UWA’s 2008 Rhodes Scholar 26
Newsmakers 28
GRAD NEWS 30
GRAD BRIEFS 35

COVER: UWA graduate Shaun Tan working on the Subiaco Library mural – see Graduate Profile (Photo: Frances Andrijich)

CONTENTS PAGE PHOTOGRAPHS:
Top: UWA student Freya Symons and Dr Paul Maginn, Course Coordinator of UWA’s Urban and Regional Planning program – see In Focus (Photo: Western Suburbs Weekly).
Centre: A jackup rig – see Securing the world’s largest movable objects.
Bottom: Ms Xu Li Ping, UWA’s first Australian Leadership Award Scholarship graduate, with members of her family and UWA Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson — see In Focus.

UNIVIEW is produced by UWA Public Affairs • Director: Doug Durack (doug.durack@uwa.edu.au) Editor: Trea Wiltshire (trea.wiltshire@uwa.edu.au) • Grad Briefs: Terry Larder (terry.larder@uwa.edu.au) • Production: UniPrint (www.uniprint.uwa.edu.au) • Advertising: Trea Wiltshire +61 8 6488 1914 • Editorial: Public Affairs, The University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, WA 6009, Telephone: +61 8 6488 1914, Fax: +61 8 6488 1192

UNIVIEW is published three times a year, in February, June and October and is sent free to all UWA graduates. Winter edition: June. Spring edition: October. UNIVIEW is printed on environmentally friendly oxygen-bleached paper. Material from UNIVIEW may be reproduced accompanied by an appropriate credit. UNIVIEW can be viewed at http://www.publishing.uwa.edu.au

UWA Internet: http://www.uwa.edu.au

Changing your address? Please contact Terry Larder:
Phone: +61 8 6488 2447, +61 8 6488 7992 and +61 8 6488 8000,
Fax: +61 8 6488 7996, Email: terry.larder@uwa.edu.au

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
“An era of unparalleled promise – fuelled by curiosity, powered by technology and driven by science” – that’s how former US President Bill Clinton described the new millennium, and its first decade is witnessing impressive scientific advances. However, making science an attractive career option for students and creating a more scientifically literate society remain challenges for Australia.

UWA is responding in several ways, including providing the role models that students need, from this University’s first Nobel laureate, Professor Barry Marshall, to Australia’s Physical Scientist of the Year, Professor Mark Cassidy.

Professor Cassidy, who heads UWA’s Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems, has been sharing his passion for oil rigs – “the world’s largest movable objects” – with students at National Science Week in Canberra and at the recent annual Siemens Science Experience at UWA.

As he fulfils the ‘role model’ commitments his award brings, the UWA researcher is frequently asked about the key elements that took a Queensland lad (with a penchant for building backyard dams) to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, and more recently, to Canberra to collect his $50,000 award.

Professor Cassidy cites his father – a maths teacher forever setting him problems – and school teachers who fired his interest in “how the world works”. There was also his own desire to “work out new solutions rather than accept the status quo,” he recalls. You can read more about Professor Cassidy in Securing the world’s largest movable objects on page 11.

The UWA Business School and Western Australia’s business community have a shared vision of the necessity of investing in human capital and research, and these twin aims are reflected in the December 2007 announcement of a $5 million partnership between BHP Billiton and UWA.

The funding underwriting the establishment of the BHP Billiton Chair in the Business of Resources will also support new research initiatives, scholarships and targeted training.

UWA Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, congratulated the energy leader on its commitment to education and said the partnership reflected the University’s quest for international excellence that would benefit the entire community.

Following the announcement, Mr Jimmy Wilson, President, BHP Billiton Stainless Steel Materials (and a member of the UWA Business School Board) joined Business School Dean Tracey Horton and others on a tour of the impressive new Business School building taking shape on our campus.

To meet the resources boom’s strong demand for engineers, another important partnership has been forged between the University’s Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics and a leading national engineering group, Monadelphous.

The Monadelphous Integrated Learning Centre will provide an environment for team-based learning, increased project-based learning and the collaborative use of laboratories across study disciplines.

Another award-winner passionate about communicating science was similarly inspired by his father, an amateur botanist, zoologist and geologist. UWA graduate Roger Harris, who recently won the Premier’s Prize for Excellence in Science Communication outside the Classroom, was one of several graduates who attended the launch of UWA’s new Masters in Science Communication and Education degree, the first such course offered by an Australian university.

Western Australia’s Chief Scientist (and UWA researcher) Professor Lyn Beazley launched the degree and applauded the support it provides for WA science teachers. You can read about the new course, and about graduate Roger Harris in this issue (see Making science ‘sexy’).

UWA graduate Roger Harris was by no means the only graduate to be acknowledged at the Premier’s Science Awards. The richest in Australia, these awards annually salute the State’s most outstanding scientists, and when Premier Alan Carpenter announced the 2007 winners, UWA researchers, teachers and graduates were in the spotlight.

The Western Australian Scientist of the Year was UWA’s Professor David Blair, a world leader in gravitational science. UWA’s Dr Kristien Nowak, a Research Fellow at the WA Institute for Medical Research, who has made world-first discoveries in the genetics of rare muscle disorders, was recognised with the award of WA Young Scientist of the Year. The 32-year-oldresearcher recently became the WA Director of Western Australia’s Medical Research.

The Premier’s Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching (Tertiary) went to Professor Paul McMenamin, Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, while Excellence in Science Teaching (Secondary) went to UWA graduate Warwick Mathews of Shenton College whose work has been...
critical to the success of the college’s science program.

To cap an evening of high achievement, UWA graduate and researcher Professor Barry Marshall and fellow Nobel laureate Dr Robin Warren became the inaugural inductees to the Western Australian Science Hall of Fame.

Researchers who have put this State on the map in terms of medical breakthroughs provided fascinating insights into the shaping of their careers, the importance of mentoring, teamwork and other aspects of training when they participated in an annual Research Showcase of the School of Medicine and Pharmacology. The showcase was one of several finale events marking last year’s 50th anniversary of the Medical School.

Dr Simon Towler, Executive Director of Health Policy and Clinical Reform in the WA Department of Health, stressed the importance and relevance of the School’s clinical research and teaching links to Health Department goals and priorities.

“Through the longstanding support of research and its reputation of research excellence, the School attracts high quality academic clinicians worldwide to teaching hospitals in Western Australia,” he said.

The School of Medicine and Pharmacology Research Showcase 2007 featured a Who’s Who in medical research and training in this State, including Professor Fiona Stanley, Director of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Associate Professor Phil Thompson, Director of the Lung Institute of WA, Associate Professor Ian Rogers, Director of Postgraduate Medical Education at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and Western Australia’s Chief Scientist, Professor Lyn Beazley.

Former State Labor premier, Federal shadow minister and National ALP President, Professor Carmen Lawrence, will establish an institute focusing on issues such as the origins of ethnic, religious and political conflict.

Professor Kim Beazley, former Australian Labor Party Leader and Deputy Prime Minister, has returned to the University as a Professorial Fellow. UWA Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, said that Professor Beazley would add tremendous intellectual value to the University, particularly in the area of politics, public policy and international relations.

Acknowledged as a ‘Renaissance man’, the UWA academic was described by Robyn Williams of the ABC Science Show as the “Professor of Everything”. If you would like to support this memorial bench, contact Judith Edwards of the Office of Development on +61 8 6488 8541 or email judith.edwards@uwa.edu.au.

With climate models predicting a significantly drier climate in south-western Australia, UWA is offering a timely new course of studies this year.

The Climate Studies program builds on the University’s extensive expertise in the area and its significant links with climate research bodies across the world.

The four-year Bachelor of Science course, the first of its kind in Australia, aims to give students an understanding of the processes and activities that influence climate; the
ability to analyse and interpret the risks and opportunities associated with climate change; and the ability to make recommendations on future strategies.

To find out more contact the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences on +61 8 6488 2565, or visit the website: http://admissions.uwa.edu.au/undergrad/newplaces2008/featured_courses/climate_studies.

THE FUTURE OF WESTERLY

Three years ago Westerly, one of Australia’s longest-established literary journals celebrated its 50th anniversary; however, while readers enjoy the 2007 edition, the editors are fighting a decision by the State Government’s ArtsWA not to provide funding in 2008.

Westerly is acknowledged as an important ‘stepping stone’ for writers who have gone on to achieve national and international reputations, including Tim Winton, Robert Drewe, John Kinsella and Dorothy Hewett. It is considered unique for its focus on the literature and culture of Western Australia and the South-East Asian region, and for its mix of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, reviews and interviews.

“There is something for every reader in every issue,” says Senior Honorary Research Fellow Delys Bird, “and the 2007 issue is of particular interest in commemorating the life and work of Elizabeth Jolley and George Seddon.”

Co-editors Associate Professor Bird and Professor Dennis Haskell, of the School of English and Cultural Studies, find the funding loss bewildering.

“This seems inconceivable given the quality and significance of the magazine,” they observed. “Literary journals play an increasingly important role in keeping alive genres of writing – poetry, essays and short fiction – not regarded as commercial by mainstream publishers.”

Well-known West Australian-born writer Robert Drewe is among those who have come out in support of Westerly.

“This is very disappointing news,” said the author of The Shark Net. “Westerly has played such a vital and unique role in the culture of the State and the nation for so long that it is impossible to imagine Australian literature without it. It is partly due to Westerly that West Australian writers enjoy the national and international prestige that they do. It represents the authentic Western Australian voice and that silenced.”

The editors argue that “now is the time to show funding authorities that Westerly is valued, and the best way to do so is through subscribing – for just $25.95 per year”.

For further information, contact Delys Bird at dbird@cyllene.uwa.edu.au or Dennis Haskell at dhaskell@cyllene.uwa.edu.au. Westerly is available at the UWA Co-op Bookshop, the Lane Bookshop, New Editions and other booksellers.

DETROIT, HERE THEY COME!

They’re highly employable, well-motivated, eager to learn – and hungry for success!

That’s the verdict on our UWA Motorsport team from satisfied sponsors delighted at the winning ways of the distinctive yellow UWA-built racer at the 2007 Australasian Formula SAE competition in Victoria during December.

Having taken top honours in Victoria, the next stop is Detroit in May, when the team competes against 130 student-designed autocross racers.

The Formula SAE contest offers engineering students all over the world the chance to conceive, design, fabricate and race an open-wheel race car. The team is run and managed by students with the help of academic supervisors and the support of the Faculty of Engineering Computing and Mathematics.

“Westerly is valued, and the best way to do so is through subscribing – for just $25.95 per year”

For further information, contact Delys Bird at dbird@cyllene.uwa.edu.au or Dennis Haskell at dhaskell@cyllene.uwa.edu.au. Westerly is available at the UWA Co-op Bookshop, the Lane Bookshop, New Editions and other booksellers.
the Dean, Professor Mark Bush. “Projects such as this ensure that our graduates are exceptionally well-prepared for employment as engineers and managers and they are highly sought after.”

The competition tests vehicles in a range of events including fuel economy and endurance racing, and rates teams on planning, financing and marketing.

Manager and student Gurkaran Bansal says the team is ready for the new challenge: “We aim to make our yellow car the best-known in the world!”

Detroit – here they come!

**CHARTING AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE**

UWA Law lecturer and UWA graduate Dr Antonio Buti first met the late High Court judge Sir Ronald Wilson when working with the Aboriginal Legal Service. He later completed a D.Phil. on the Wilson family, working with Judge Sir Ronald Wilson when he first met the late High Court judge Sir Ronald Wilson when working with the Aboriginal Legal Service. He later completed a D.Phil. on the Wilson family, working with Judge Sir Ronald Wilson when he was forceful rather than ruthless as a prosecutor,” says his biographer. “A deeply religious man, he never doubted that he should keep separate his personal faith and his obligations to apply the law in the manner his role demanded.

“He readily admitted that his involvement in the Stolen Generation inquiry and the Bringing Them Home report was a liberating experience. Perhaps it was also a religious one, compelling him to abandon technical legal reasoning in favour of unrestrained advocacy for those who had entrusted their stories to him.”

After graduating, Ronald Wilson commenced his articles with the Crown Law Department where he rose to become WA Solicitor General. His impressive performance gained him national recognition, and appointment as WA’s first High Court justice.

Sir Ronald Wilson – A Matter of Conscience is available at the UWA Co-op Bookshop and other major booksellers. To check out other recent UWA Press titles, go to www.uwapress.uwa.edu.au.

**SKINNER BEQUEST**

The current exhibition at UWA’s Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, Creating Taste: The Collection of Joe and Rose Skinner, stirs interest on several counts. The art works illustrate the evolution of some of Australia’s most outstanding painters – Fred Williams, Sidney Nolan, Arthur Boyd to name but a few – while highlighting the influence of the Skinners who ran a Malcolm Street gallery that became the artistic hub of Perth.

The gallery closed in the 1970s, and five years later the Skinner collection was bequested to the UWA Art Collection. The Director of the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, John Barrett-Lennard, says that Skinner Bequest works are regularly included in exhibitions. “This exhibition puts them in a fresh and important context,” he says.

The exhibition runs until March 30.
The inclusion in mainstream schools of children with special needs has thrown up new challenges for educators in recent decades. Teachers and support staff now work with students with a range of emotional and learning needs such as autistic spectrum disorders, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, language and literacy difficulties and behaviour problems.

To meet the needs of teachers, psychologists and other practitioners supporting the development of children who learn differently, UWA’s School of Psychology is now offering innovative professional development opportunities in educational and developmental psychology.

“We want to support practitioners who feel they need to acquire extra skills,” says Research Fellow Dr Steve Heath, who teaches in the School of Psychology Educational and Developmental Masters program.

“Many teachers we talk to are very creative and insightful in dealing with special needs children, but often they want reassurance that what they are doing is based on the best available research evidence.”

In 2008, the School will introduce a part-time Graduate Certificate and Diploma in Educational and Developmental Psychology based on a research-to-practice model which will assist professionals to keep ‘up-to-date’ in this field. This course will also offer a formal course structure which can assist professionals in building their promotional pathway.

Units have been developed through discussion with representatives from relevant fields and will run mostly in a workshop format after school hours. The topics offered in each unit will vary from year to year according to staff interests, student preferences, industry demands and access to visiting specialists in the area.

If you would like to know more, visit the School website at www.psychology.uwa.edu.au/for/prospective_postgraduates/Postgrad_Professional_Development or phone Steve Heath on +61 8 6488 1300.
Political change brings new opportunities

Your University enters 2008 looking forward to engaging with new challenges and opportunities as we ensure that our teaching and research remain relevant to new generations of students while fulfilling our primary mission of service to the State and the nation.

Key among these will be the opportunities presented by our major review of course structures and our engagement with the new Federal Government and its commitment to an ‘education revolution’.

The course studies review, which has been the subject of wide consultation for many months now, has provided the basis for considering significant change to ensure that in every field of study the quality of education provided by this University will meet international standards of excellence. It also provides us with the opportunity to design academic programs that match our aspiration to be among the world’s leading universities.

On the national scene, your University will be taking a leading role in working with the Federal Government across a range of areas, many of which are likely to present major challenges both for the university sector and those who set national policy.

There are three most important areas for action:
- the need to increase funding per student to reverse the disturbing increases in student to staff ratios;
- the need to increase considerably the infrastructure support for research to match the marked increases in competitive research grants;
- the need to address issues relating to financial support for students.

I believe the Australian higher education sector can look forward with hope given we have a Government committed to the primary role of education within the community and the economy, and new Ministers who are aware of the plight of Australian universities relative to their OECD competitors.

Significant policy change is not new to the higher education sector. Over many decades, if change has not been driven by the political persuasion of new governments, it has come from the direction of individual Ministers and the policy and structural changes they initiate.

We believe we can certainly help shape policy by engaging in State and national dialogues as we continue to review our own direction to ensure we make the most of new policy settings.”

We can have some confidence in our own State’s ability to continue to move forward positively – largely because of our on-going resources boom, and also because of the significant strength of our international relationships, both at State and university levels.

In this regard, we have continued to build significant corporate support for our mission. These substantial and rewarding partnerships emphasise the importance of our University in sustaining economic and social growth in Western Australia. They also mark the importance of corporate sector support which enable us to sustain our mission of developing knowledge at the highest international standards for the benefit of local national and international communities.

The past 12 months at the University have again been very successful at individual and institutional levels – encompassing our students, our teachers, our researchers and our administrators.

It is this continuing success which both energises us and provides us with the solid platform from which to move forward with confidence.

Alan Robson
Vice-Chancellor
Shaun Tan’s award-winning book *The Arrival* has more than a hundred pages of detailed illustrations but no words. The visual tale charts the journey of a young man leaving his homeland to make a new life in a strange country. He might be a refugee, migrant or displaced person, for he arrives with scant belongings, leaving behind a wife and child.

The metropolis he encounters has echoes of New York’s Ellis Island at the turn of the century, when the Statue of Liberty was already a potent symbol for those ‘huddled masses yearning to be free’ that arrived in human waves from Europe.

The experience of the migrant in *The Arrival* (published by Lothian Books) is universal. The judges of the New South Wales Premier’s Literary Awards responded to the book’s deeply personal concept, its emotional depth, its fine detailed illustrations, and its message of hope — qualities, they agreed, that “set this book apart as literature”.

“Images of past horrors give way to anticipation,” observed the judges. “In the final pages his daughter is shown welcoming a newcomer to her adopted land and pointing optimistically forward: the cycle of departure and arrival continues.”

*The Arrival* vied with works by celebrated novelist Peter Carey and art critic Robert Hughes for the New South Wales award. What was the reaction to a wordless book carrying off this and other prestigious prizes?

“I thought there might be some debate, but that was not the case – at least not publicly,” says the buoyant author. “I’m quite used to knee-jerk negative reactions to my works on the basis of their unfamiliar form, because I often end up working between genres and age groups, and my books aren’t easy to categorise.

“In the case of *The Arrival*, it’s great that the comments have been overwhelmingly positive and almost exclusively about the content and story-telling, rather than splitting hairs over form or definition. I think the theorising and teaching of visual literacy have gained greater appreciation over the years, and that has helped a book like this to be more readily accepted as literature.”
The Arrival has won a string of awards, including the Prime Minister’s Book of the Year for older children and the Western Australian Premier’s Prize.

Telling a story in a purely visual way has countless challenges, most of which Shaun says he failed to anticipate.

“The main challenge is the labour required to describe something happening – especially a sequence of actions – without the economy of language. Drafting ‘text’ becomes slower, and the final form has all the editorial duration of crafted writing, with the addition of hours spent physically rendering a ‘final draft’. Revisions are similarly time-consuming and technically difficult.”

However, among the unique advantages of visual story-telling is its strong appeal to the reader’s imagination.

“There is something fundamentally enigmatic about the silence that transports the story far away as well as bringing it intimately close … there is also some magic there that I find hard to explain, but it certainly works,” says Shaun.

At UWA Shaun studied Fine Arts and Literature, which he has found to be a good grounding for his career as an author/illustrator.

“My UWA studies gave me a deeper understanding of different kinds of visual and literary theory,” he says. “Through my Arts degree I came to be more interested in conceptual questions of form and representation, whereas previously I simply wrote and painted fairly uncritically. Now there is a combination of two things: that rather inexplicable creative intuition or ‘inspiration’ and a more intellectual reflection that gives it some direction, and considers its relationship to history, culture and other expressive forms, so I can frame what I am doing and better understand.

“Studying Fine Arts and English criticism and theory also gave me the research habits that I apply to my studio practice. I have a fairly disciplined research period at the beginning of any project, and this adds fuel to my initial ideas.”

In the dozen years since he graduated, Shaun has garnered an impressive reputation as an artist, illustrator and author whose works are now sold around the world. He has also created concept artwork for films, a children’s Art Trail for the Art Gallery of Western Australia, and two fantastic murals for Subiaco Library.

“All these things have been challenging and problematic in their own way, involving different questions of scale, audience and logistics,” he observes. “My approach has always been to ‘learn by doing’ so I’m always happy to try new things.”

The UWA graduate has also created the annual Shaun Tan Art Award for Young Artists to encourage those who love to draw and paint. As a high school student, such contests served as an outlet for his own creativity, and as a motivator.

When he was studying at UWA, Shaun was already an accomplished and professional artist with an impressive portfolio of illustrations – and in fact he had been sending illustrations to science fiction magazines since high school.

Shaun did several illustrations for UNIVIEW, and his work was well known on campus. “As a student, illustrating things was a way of making money – drawing for magazines, newspapers, book covers, music poster flyers and newsletters, mostly around campus,” he recalls. “I pretty much learned all my current illustration techniques through these small jobs.”

Winning a US science fiction illustration award at that time made him ponder the possibility of making a career out of doing what he loved. On graduating, he submitted work to different publishers, and admits to knowing little about picture books when first asked to illustrate one.

“I tended to share many people’s prejudice that picture books were exclusively the domain of young children, not an art form that lends itself to artistic or intellectual sophistication,” he recalls.

Today he works mainly on writing and illustrating ‘picture books for older readers’ dealing with themes such as colonial imperialism, social apathy and the nature of memory and depression. Some of his books have caught the interest of film and theatre producers. The Lost Thing is being turned into a short animated film and was presented by Jigsaw Theatre in 2004. The Red Tree was produced by The Queensland Performing Arts Centre, while Aquasapiens and The Arrival have been produced by Spare Parts Puppet Theatre.

Shaun sees humour as a bridge between child and adult audiences because it works on so many levels.
“I always think of The Simpsons as a great example of this,” he observes. “Something that is whimsical can actually be quite ‘serious’ in that it tests our understanding of the world, poking our brains in novel directions, and rupturing the passivity of our normal comprehension, particularly by introducing an absurd element into a familiar context. It’s a kind of intellectual inquiry that is fun and inviting.

“The other thing I like about humour is that it is non-didactic – we discover for ourselves what makes things funny or meaningful, rather than being told outright. Similarly, it can also prevent a story or painting from becoming too pretentious, and can sometimes allow quite profound ideas to be conveyed in a very unassuming way.”

The young artist says that research – reading, looking at pictures, playing with different media – are the spurs that free him from “the creative paralysis that comes with infinite possibility”.

“I need specific points of reference to develop ideas, and also a kind of resistance to my own stylistic ‘default settings’ so that I think outside the usual circles and actually learn something new. Painting and drawing for me is not about creation, but about transformation.”

He talks of casually coming across lines of thinking that lure him on, and of knowing he is on the right track when he moves into unfamiliar terrain and is “surprised by the way mixed drawings and words make their own novel sense”. His starting point can be a vague mental picture or a sketch – a fish floating down a street, a boy feeding a monster in a shed – that may be teased into a theme while the mystery of the image deepens.

“Often I end up writing and drawing a lot of material and then strip it back to its essential images and words; build on those and again strip it back – so it is kind of like modelling and carving ideas.”

Some projects reach fruition, others are abandoned, though elements often find their way into later projects. If a story takes a pleasing form, and interests a publisher, dummy versions of the book are made, with rough sketches in acrylic colours that may eventually be overlaid with richer oils.

“For me a successful picture book is one in which everything is presented to the reader as a speculative proposition, wrapped in invisible quotation marks, as if to say: what do you make of this?” says Shaun Tan.

Shaun grew up in the northern suburbs of Perth and at school became known as the ‘good drawer’ which, he says, partly compensated for always being “the shortest kid in every class”.

“My parents encouraged whatever interests my brother and I had as kids,” he recalls. “So, just as my brother (now a geologist) was obsessed with collecting rocks, I always wanted to be an artist, but I wasn’t sure that you could actually make a living as an artist. At high school I seriously considered a career in biotechnology, but my main hobbies were writing science fiction stories and painting landscapes.”

Currently Shaun is working on a book of illustrated stories inspired by his suburban childhood in Perth.

“I’m happy with the variety of work I’ve been doing for the past 10 years,” he says. “I’ve worked on several film and theatre projects and found these collaborations energising, with a kind of cross-pollination of ideas that carries its own momentum.

“At the moment I am working on an animated adaptation of a picture book as a short film, and have provided conceptual artwork for Pixar and Blue Sky Studios. The development towards final film or animation is quite rigorous and can test the strength of an artist’s original vision with a barrage of technical and logistical problems. To be honest, I prefer working alone and still find writing and illustration the most logical way of telling a story – and one that connects me directly with an audience.”

Shaun Tan has an attractive and informative website: www.shauntan.net. His books are published by Lothian Books. Shaun’s appearances at the Perth Writers Festival in the UWA Perth International Arts Festival are listed in the Festival Program at: www.perthfestival.com.au.
Along with collaborators across the globe, UWA researchers are tackling a range of issues challenging the energy industry – from operating platforms at ocean depths of more than a kilometre, to ensuring the safety of subsea pipelines used to carry oil or gas hundreds of kilometres.

It is estimated that more than 80 percent of Australia’s gas resources exist in remote offshore areas, perhaps as far as 300 kilometres offshore and at depths greater than one kilometre.

Exploiting these resources will require the development of safe, economically viable and environmentally-sound transportation technologies, including networks of pipelines that may well replace traditional oil and gas rigs with platform-free fields. Some pipes will convey oil from ocean floor depths of three kilometres or more to floating platforms far out to sea; others will be laid across hundreds of kilometres of seabed and must negotiate the continental shelf’s cliffs before arriving at land-based terminals.

Harnessing Australia-wide research expertise to meet this challenge is a recently-launched $11 million research collaboration – the CSIRO Flagship Collaboration Cluster on Subsea Pipelines. At the helm is UWA’s Professor Mark Cassidy, who won the $50,000 Malcolm McIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year at the Prime Minister’s annual Science Awards.

“In this collaboration we are focussing on pipelines because they are subjected to strong currents, a shifting and sloping seabed and potential geo-hazards such as submarine landslides, and their stability needs to be assured over decades,” explains Professor Cassidy. “Because of the multitude of challenges, the cluster’s research program spans the spectrum of pipeline design, seabed characterisation, structural integrity and monitoring and full-life reliability. It will cover everything from sophisticated computer modelling and sea-floor movement prediction to physical modelling of pipelines in Australia’s only geotechnical centrifuge facility.”

This research collaboration will help unlock stranded offshore oil and gas reserves and brings together the research capabilities of UWA, CSIRO, Curtin University of Technology, and Queensland, Monash, Sydney and Flinders Universities.

As the industry moves further off-shore, the multi-billion-dollar Gorgon gas project in the State’s North West – Australia’s largest known gas resource – is leading the way.

“When you are dealing with water depths between 1,000 and 3,000 metres, you require a completely different set of development scenarios and solutions,” explains Professor Cassidy. “The Gorgon development has two fields off the continental shelf being developed by tying back a pipeline to Barrow Island.”

The recently launched subsea pipeline research collaboration adds to UWA’s acknowledged strength in the field of offshore platforms, but deep water oil fields are by...
no means the only challenge. As oil prices rise, fields once considered marginal are inviting attention and the focus there is how to exploit such sites in a financially viable way.

Another challenge is posed by mobile platforms that are much in demand in relatively low-depth oceanic fields, if one considers 120m shallow! Dubbed ‘jackups’, the legs are lowered to anchor the platform that can then be jacked-up above the ocean. The trouble is that mobile platforms tend to fail at the rate of four or five a year worldwide, endangering lives and proving hugely costly to the industry. During Hurricane Katrina, several such platforms had their legs sheared off.

One of the spin-offs of the current accelerated levels of exploration and production is that there is now an unprecedented range of industry-related research happening at the three research institutions acknowledged as world leaders – one of which is UWA’s Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems. The University and its industry partners work closely on these operational challenges.

“The ideas flow both ways, so we know that our research is appropriate and relevant,” says Professor Cassidy. “In relation to installation problems of jackups, the fact that they are increasingly used means that industry is now in a position to fund research that involves a combination of their own monitoring with the latest research being done in universities around the world. In collaboration with the National University of Singapore and Oxford University, the Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems is currently working on a joint industry project with twelve international oil and gas companies on developing installation guidelines for jackups.”

Professor Cassidy’s own research strengths lie in the area of developing mathematical models to predict the stability of platforms. He works with scaled-down versions of platform legs and feet that are tested in UWA’s giant centrifuges housed in the laboratory of the Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems. Research outcomes are immediately picked up by designers and builders of platforms.

A Rhodes Scholar, Mark Cassidy graduated from the University of Queensland in 1994 and joined the consulting engineering firm Ove Arups in Brisbane where he was involved in the design of the central station in Hong Kong’s airport-rail link. But it was Norway’s giant concrete platforms (“up to 500 metres tall – the largest movable objects in the world…”) that excited his interest and directed his course of study as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford.

“Seeing these massive platforms being built for the North Sea fields was a real eye-opener,” he recalls. “I thought that, as a civil engineer, it would be very satisfying seeing what you designed being constructed and used.”

Professor Cassidy says of the Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems (which he joined in 2000): “We are in the right place at the right time, because Western Australia is becoming the epicentre of an industry moving from the North Sea and Gulf of Mexico to Asia and Australia.” The University’s research output in this field – from the Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems, the School of Civil and Resource Engineering, the Centre for Petroleum and Energy Research and the School of Environmental Systems Engineering – is of particular interest to countries within our region, because, as he points out, you can’t always apply Northern Hemisphere research to our region.

“The issues we face in Australia are very different from those in the North Sea or the Gulf of Mexico,” he explains. “For a start, we have predominantly carbonate soils formed by the breakdown of marine organisms, and they behave differently from the silica sands in the North Sea. Our seabed sediments are very crushable and caused initial problems with the installation of Woodside’s North Rankin ‘A’ and Goodwin platforms. We are also increasingly focussing on South-east Asia and India because oil companies in this area face similar problems – so the Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems is, in effect, the research hub of the region. We have a great team of researchers and technical staff all excited about tackling these challenges.”

Key partners in research include Woodside, BP, Shell, ExxonMobil, Chevron, Keppel Fels, Arup Energy, Advanced Geomechanics, JP Kenny and Vryhof Anchors. The Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems is supported by the State Government of Western Australia through the Centres of Excellence in Science and Innovation Program. It also participates in the Western Australia Energy Research Alliance (WA:ERA).

To find out more about studying at the Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems, visit their website: www.cofs.uwa.edu.au.
Shelagh Magadza, Artistic Director of the UWA Perth International Arts Festival, has seen her fair share of arts festivals across the world – from New Zealand to Edinburgh – and has spent most of her career working behind the scenes to make these mega events happen. So, if you ask what she hopes to take away from an arts festival, as a spectator, she readily responds.

“Something beautiful … some profound moment when you catch your breath at the extraordinary beauty of seeing artists who you know cannot be superseded – they’re the best!”

She also anticipates being challenged and surprised, and relishes going to performances about which she knows little – so the presentation of a work or the ideas it encompasses become a total revelation.

As she leafs through the brochure on the eve of the first Festival she has put together as Festival Director, Shelagh clearly hopes that artistry, challenge and revelation will mark this midsummer celebration of performing and visual arts, of music in all its forms, and of writing and street theatre.

Unlike high profile predecessors Sean Doran (who trained as a classical musician) and opera director Lindy Hume who mounted several Perth Festival opera productions, Shelagh has always been a behind-the-scenes player. She shuns the limelight and a high profile, and is quick to emphasise that team work is the most vital element in staging what has become one of the biggest festivals in Australia.

Born in New Zealand, Shelagh followed a BA at the University of Wellington with a Master’s degree that focussed on the role culture plays in international relations.

Above: The Children’s Cheering Carpet.
Inset: Artistic Director Shelagh Magadza.
At the same time, she worked with the New Zealand International Festival of Arts, a biennial festival that gave her insights into festivals happening across the world – from the Asia-Pacific region to Europe.

“I started as a slave and worked my way up,” she recalls. “Initially, it didn’t occur to me that I could turn such work into a profession, but as I gained festival experience in a variety of roles, what started as a passion evolved into a career.”

Gradually, her work and thesis melded, giving her an appreciation of the unique role art and culture can play, politically and diplomatically. As she made travel arrangements for artists living in ‘Iron Curtain’ countries and welcomed performers who relished meeting fellow practitioners in an atmosphere unfettered by politics, their moving personal stories became the subtext for her thesis.

“I can remember shouting down a dreadful phone line as we tried to arrange travel for a wonderful Georgian choir, at a time when the wider world didn’t hear much about such groups. There seemed to be countless hurdles, so when they arrived there was a real sense of achievement,” she recalls.

“Even today, when we have electronic global access to so much, there is still nothing to replace the exchange of ideas and emotion that comes with people-to-people contact in a festival setting.”

Bringing the stories of those who lead very different lives or who live in countries routinely providing grim headline news remains a personal commitment that is reflected in the Festival’s 2008 program.

A sampling of the Lotterywest Festival Films (at the Somerville Auditorium and Joondalup Pines) illustrates this. One of the major films is a documentary *War/Dance* that follows the fortunes of a group of refugee children travelling to the Ugandan capital to compete in a national contest. War, repression and hardship are put aside briefly as the young performers carry the hopes of an entire village with them.

Another film reflecting the healing power of music is *The Band’s Visit*, the story of a small Egyptian police band stranded in an Israeli town on the way to perform at the opening of an Arab arts centre.

From top: Scenes from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, the Lotterywest Festival Celebration (Water Fools – Ilotopie) and the Children’s Cheering Carpet.
Bringing together a company of actors, dancers, martial arts experts and musicians from India and Sri Lanka, and crossing many cultural boundaries – it is performed in English and six languages from the Indian subcontinent – is Tim Supple’s production of Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Two years in the making, the production caused a sensation in India and has had sell-out runs during the Royal Shakespeare Company’s Complete Works Festival.

Music and dance are well served in the 2008 program, and a drawcard will undoubtedly be choreographer Tero Saarinen’s Borrowed Light, inspired by the simplicity, passion and communal values of the American Shaker religious movement. The production marries the soaring voices of a world-renowned early music ensemble, The Boston Camerata, with the percussive quality of dance as performers stomp, whirl and leap to haunting melodies rarely heard outside Shaker communities.

Given the success of UWA’s academic authors and of its creative writing courses, it seems appropriate that the Perth Writers Festival returns to the campus this year. The program offers opportunities to meet writers of the calibre of Peter Godwin (When a Crocodile Eats the Sun), that most adventurous of travel writers, Colin Thubron, Vanity Fair editor Cullen Murphy and Naomi Wolf (The Beauty Myth). Also on hand will be The Chaser’s Dominic Knight and Julian Morrow to provide insights into the workings of the Chaser team.

The University’s landscaped grounds make it an ideal venue for the Perth Writers Festival’s Family Day (Sunday, 24 February) with its lively program of author readings, performances, workshops, games and competitions.

Also catering for children is the Children’s Cheering Carpet, which combines multimedia art with theatre, using touch sensors and digital installations. The magic interactive carpet responds to the pressure of feet and bodies and appeals to children aged between four and 11. Three very different experiences – the Kurdish, Japanese and Italian Gardens – will be on offer through February. The magic will happen in the Bradley Studio at UWA.

Having worked with the Festival since 2002, did Shelagh take on the top job with a list of things she intended to do?

“Of course I had that list,” she laughs, “but the last year has taught me that it is not always that simple when you’re meeting the needs of diverse groups. In a festival like this, it is important to recognise that we strive to be open to as many people as possible. Probably the most important thing I have learnt is to listen.”

—Artistic Director, Shelagh Magadza.

The 2008 Festival begins with a Noongar welcome on the banks of the Swan River on February 8, followed by a dazzling French spectacular on the river. The Lotterywest Festival Films run until April 13. For all queries call the Festival Information Centre on 6488 5555. For bookings phone BOCS on 9494 1133. Online booking: perthfestival.com.au.

Keep in touch with the best of writing and ideas from the West and around the world.

Westerly Volume 52, 2007 is now out, with special features on Elizabeth Jolley and George Seddon.

Published from your University since 1956

Why not subscribe now?

THE WESTERLY CENTRE
The University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, Western Australia 6009
Telephone: (08) 6488 3403
Facsimile: (08) 6488 1030
Email: westerly@cyllene.uwa.edu.au
Editors: Delys Bird & Dennis Haskell
Once is not enough for a screening mammogram.

1 in 8 Australian women develop breast cancer in their lifetime.

It is important for women 50 years and over to have a FREE screening mammogram at BreastScreen WA every two years.

For an appointment phone 13 20 50.

www.breastscreen.health.wa.gov.au

Helping Deliver a Healthy WA
Last year was a stellar one for the AIM•UWA Business School Alliance, which sees the University joining forces with the Australian Institute of Management WA to present senior executive development programs. One of the Alliance’s key executive programs is the Advanced Management Program which generates enthusiastic feedback from participants.

Participating in a recent Advanced Management Program (AMP) was the Business School’s Team Manager Tracy Taylor, who describes the probing focus on health and fitness as: “A much needed wake-up call!”

Tracy was among 35 senior managers from public and private sector organisations who attended the 2007 Advanced Management Program which featured senior UWA faculty and consultants, including facilitator, Dr Renu Burr, Professor Gary Stockport, Associate Professor Phil Hancock, Dr Sandy Kiffen-Petersen, Ms Barb Wood, Professor Geoff Soutar and Ms Jill Dare.

Alliance Associate Director, Larissa Taylor, said that being able to step outside work commitments to invest in or refresh leadership and management skills is just one aspect of the program.

“The program adopts a holistic approach to best practice in leadership skills, strategy, human resources, marketing, finance, negotiation, teamwork and personalised executive coaching,” she says.

“The AMP cohort is a diverse group of peers transitioning into first tier executive roles, so the capacity to network with interstate, international and other West Australian-based peers from diverse sectors is a key benefit.”

Alliance Director Suellen Tapsall said the annual program encapsulates all that the AIM-UWA Business School Alliance sets out to offer – namely senior executive level programs delivered by faculty and external consultants, who represent both the academic excellence of UWA and the applied focus of the Australian Institute of Management WA.

“Participants learn as much from each other as from the formal sessions; working in syndicates to develop, analyse and present case studies, and sharing experiences and stories during small group sessions,” she explained.

During six days, participants work in syndicates through a set of challenges and strategies for self, team and organisational leadership and management. Feedback indicates that the combination of academic depth, applied experiential learning and executive coaching is powerful and effective.

Participants also have the opportunity to engage in frank discussions with high-profile executives, including, in 2007, former Governor of Western Australia, Lt Gen John Sanderson AC, who is currently Special Adviser on Indigenous Affairs to the Premier of Western Australia, and UWA Business School and Reserve Bank board member, John Akehurst.

Tracy Taylor said while the program was mentally taxing, she appreciated the importance of the humour that infiltrated the sessions, and the value of the diverse cohort, including international participants from Malaysia, Brunei, the Netherlands and South Africa. “It was also a great refresher after my MBA studies at UWA,” Tracy observed.

Participant organisations included BHP Billiton Stainless Steel, Woodside, Alcoa, ANZ, West Australian Newspapers, Alinta, Hawaiian, Shell, Brunei LNG, Water Corporation, Western Power, RAC, HBF, Sarawak State Government, and two not-for-profit organisations – the Wunan Foundation from the Kimberley, and People Who Care from the Perth metropolitan region.

For more information about the Advanced Management Program, details about the Sir Frank Ledger scholarship available to participants from the not-for-profit sector, and details of the Alliance’s customised or open enrolment executive education programs, contact the AIM-UWA Business School Alliance on +61 8 9383 8090 or visit www.aimuwaalliance.com.

Above (top): Special Adviser on Indigenous Affairs, Lt Gen (ret) John Sanderson (right), and AIM WA Executive Director Patrick Cullen. (bottom): Renee Barker, Manager Human Resources at WA Newspapers, one of the participants in the Advanced Management Program.
We know that within the next five decades, Perth’s population will double and about 30 per cent of that population will be 65 and over. What we don’t know is how our capital city will meet the challenge of becoming smarter about the way it advances healthy lifestyles, sustainable transport solutions and cohesive, well-planned neighbourhoods.

Will we continue to embrace the ‘quarter-acre block’, choke our roads with single-occupant cars and make 240,000 daily car trips of less than a kilometre (a 10-minute walk)? Will mega-shopping complexes continue the eclipse of local stores that added character to our neighbourhoods and will new housing estates extend urban sprawl, creating suburbs far removed from the rail networks that planners agree should be the focus of future development?

UWA’s Professor Billie Giles-Corti and her research team are hoping for negative responses to all these queries – and with good reason. The UWA researcher and her team have spent more than a decade charting the health impacts of living in an urban environment. Recently she became one of only two Fulbright Senior Scholars in Australia and, later this year, will spend several months establishing a collaborative research project on active ageing at Stanford University in what is an emerging field of international research.

At UWA, Billie Giles-Corti heads a team of researchers at the new Centre for the Built Environment and Health, a unique multi-disciplinary research hub – the first of its kind in Australia to examine the impacts on city-dwellers of air quality, open space, social cohesion, mental health, sense of safety, physical activity and personal safety.

The UWA researcher says there is growing recognition of links between the built environment and health. She laments the urban sprawl of a city that now stretches 100km from Yanchep to Mandurah. “We are already Los Angeles,” she observes. “As one of the world’s least dense cities, we have some 2.8 million driver-only car trips a day in Perth. If the trend continues, this will rise to 4.7 million in two decades. We are developing an urban sprawl environment similar to that of the US – and, in terms of our environment and health, it is unsustainable.”

Professor Giles-Corti has a vision of new and retrofitted neighbourhoods that encourage us to be more active and that offer a mix of higher density housing and shops, well-connected streets and footpaths, and a strong sense of community. Her vision also encompasses the elderly living among people of all ages instead of being isolated in retirement villages.

“The Liveable Neighbourhood design guidelines drawn up by the WA Planning Commission in the 1990s aim to...”
create safe, walkable communities that ensure there are more ‘eyes’ watching the streets, better lighting, parks that invite physical activity and opportunities for locals to socialise. At the Centre we are evaluating the policy on local residents. We are measuring the health benefits of well-planned neighbourhoods so that our findings can be translated into policy and practice – and there is huge interest, from government agencies to local authorities.”

The Centre’s approach is multi-disciplinary: qualitative researchers are asking consumers what’s important to them in the design of neighbourhoods; GIS data is building up layers of information on specific streets within neighbourhoods, showing proximity to open spaces; one research team is examining the impact of neighbourhood design on children’s independent mobility and child development; another is examining the economics of creating more walkable neighbourhoods; biostatisticians are making optimal use of complex data; various projects are studying the impact of neighbourhood design on our sense of safety, and on transportation sustainability, dog walking and mental health; and experts on ageing will use Centre research to advocate the benefits of active ageing and good physical and mental health.

“Physical activity and social support are vital for elderly people,” says UWA’s Professor Osvaldo Almeida (a collaborator on the team), who points to substantial evidence that limited mobility can lead to depression, heart disease and stroke. “There is no doubt that certain neighbourhoods are more conducive to physical activity than others and we want to understand if this impacts the health of older residents,” he observes.

Professor Giles-Corti says studies in other parts of the world indicate that obesity rates are as much as 12 per cent lower in neighbourhoods with a mix of housing densities, public transport and shops.

“Never in our history have we been so sedentary,” she says. “Doing 30 minutes of exercise a day is not enough – that needs to be on top of being active in other ways. A key to this is a different attitude to planning and infrastructure: higher density housing, good public transport, few main roads separating houses from services and more pedestrian and bike paths.”

The Centre for the Built Environment and Health was established last year with a grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). That grant followed a string of grants to support research at UWA’s School of Population Health from Healthway, NHMRC and the Australian Research Council.

One of the Centre’s major longitudinal studies, the RESIDE project, is examining the impacts on residents of new housing estates designed according to Liveable Neighbourhood guidelines. Some 75 new suburbs are being studied, 18 of which were designed to reflect the guidelines.

The RESIDE team includes Kimberly van Niel from UWA’s School of Earth and Geographical Sciences working on a walkability index of 250 suburbs – and to date, North Perth and Subiaco rate highly, due to their mixed density and retail outlets.

One of the project’s findings – that dogs encourage people to exercise and help them make friends – generated national interest and a flurry of newspaper photos of locals exercising their dogs in parks from Subiaco to Townsville. Hayley Cutt’s PhD project ‘The Dogs and Physical Activity Study’ also revealed that more than 60 per cent of dog owners accumulated the recommended 150 minutes of physical exercise per week, winning a big tick from the Heart Foundation.

Professor Giles-Corti says the standard block size that defines our sprawling cities was initially mandated to separate dwellings in order to halt the spread of bubonic plague, and later, to accommodate septic tanks. By continuing to embrace it, we have launched a litany of problems, one of which is a generation of parents and children who think the only safe way to get to school is to be driven.

Research reveals that 60 per cent of WA’s primary school students live less than a 20-minute walk from school but most are still driven every day. Working with the Department of Education and Training, UWA researcher Karen Martin has undertaken a 2,000-strong survey of children attending 27 primary schools. Each wears an accelerometer – so researchers can assess how easy or difficult it would be to walk or cycle; whether a major road is encountered, and whether crossing attendants are present.

Another researcher, Sarah Foster, is assessing whether street lighting, rundown houses, graffiti, litter
or loitering teenagers are deterrents to walking. She is also examining whether the Liveable Neighbourhood design formula calling for fewer high boundary walls, better lighting and fewer garages dominating the front of houses – in other words more ‘eyes’ watching streets – makes people feel safer.

“Public health practitioners appreciate the need to build supportive environments that encourage people to be physically active,” she says. “We know that, for some, the safety of neighbourhoods constrains local activity.”

Centre researcher Dr Lisa Wood – still mourning the closure of her local deli and newsagency – says that local shops are much more than places for last minute purchases. Studies indicate that people are more likely to walk when shops are a short distance from their homes, she says, and people out walking have positive impacts not only on health, but on neighbourhood safety.

“For children, a walk or ride to a local store is a significant rite of passage – it is one of the first places they’re allowed to go without a grown-up, making them feel independent and responsible as they run a family errand. Along with the closure of schools, the demise of the local deli in Australian suburbs has a ripple effect on the social dimension of communities.”

The RESIDE project is conducted in collaboration with Murdoch and Deakin Universities, Britain’s Loughborough University, Canada’s Calgary University, the National Heart Foundation, the WA Department of Planning and Infrastructure, the WA Planning Commission and the Victorian-based Petcare Information Service.

Professor Giles-Corti and her team clearly relish working in the area of population health – “because we are always trying to change and improve people’s living conditions.” She is also delighted when witnessing positive change and cites the fact that WA recently overtook Victoria as Australia’s most active cycling state, with the highest participation rates among females.

The State Government’s investment in cycling infrastructure has created more than 184km of bike paths in the metro area and an overall network comprising more than 700km of cycling routes. Although well behind walking, cycling is now the fourth most popular exercise (after walking, aerobics and swimming).

Professor Giles-Corti’s enthusiasm for the Centre is echoed by Centre biostatistician Professor Matthew Knuiman. “You feel you are doing something real when you work in the field of health and biomedical research – and often there is a fairly immediate benefit to the community.”

The Centre for the Built Environment and Health includes researchers in behavioural science and marketing, planning and transport, child health and ageing. They include UWA Professor Ruth Durack, Director of the Urban Design Centre of WA; biostatistician Professor Matthew Knuiman of UWA’s School of Population Health; UWA Professor Osvaldo Almeida from the School of Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences; Dr Kimberly Van Niel of the School of Earth and Geographical Sciences, an expert on geographical information systems (GIS); behavioural scientist Professor Steve Zubrick of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Professor Greg Martin, Director of the Planning and Transport Research Centre at Curtin University of Technology, and behavioural scientist Professor Rob Donovan of Curtin. The team also works on projects with population health researchers Dr Elizabeth Geelhoed (health economist), Mr Max Bulsara (biostatistician) and Dr Terri Pikora (Injury research).

For information on the Centre, visit: www.meddent.uwa.edu.au/go/C_BEH.
Private equity’s detractors say that its managerial alchemy is characterised by leveraging up returns by incurring lots of debt, disregarding employee security and rewarding executives with extravagant managerial fees. In both the United States and the United Kingdom there is talk of a review of the extensive tax deductions that underpin private equity’s high levels of debt and there are complaints that research and innovation are being stifled by the hot pursuit of short-term gains.

On the other hand, supporters claim that the groups playing on the world’s financial stage generate wealth, create jobs and serve a useful function in salvaging the fortunes of malfunctioning corporations with built-in and long-ignored inefficiencies.

Should we be cautious of the plethora of private equity buy-outs that have become a dominant feature of financial markets in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia?

UWA Professor Raymond Da Silva Rosa of UWA’s Business School thinks their emergence in recent years in Australia has much to do with the current economic climate of strong economic growth, relatively low inflation and interest rates and high demand.

He draws an analogy for his students of a suburb of dilapidated houses:

“Along comes a developer with the skills to refurbish and then sell for a profit. Low interest rates make it feasible to borrow sufficient capital to buy the houses and high demand ensures the renovated houses will sell.”

Professor Da Silva Rosa says that companies such as Wesfarmers can hold private equity companies at bay because they have a very loyal band of small shareholders. Family companies, such as News Ltd, are also relatively immune, as are companies with high levels of debt.

“One of the interesting features of private equity firms is that they often run a large number of companies across a diverse range of industries and you have to ask how they can do so and perform better than management teams of public companies, who typically specialise in just one or two industries.

“Despite their frequent protestations about being better able to take a long-term view than public companies, private equity investors are mostly focused on implementing tried-and-tested turn-around strategies to lagging companies (the Qantas bid was an exception). Their high debt levels and desire to exit within a relatively short time horizon means they cannot afford to take the risks associated with true innovation in business methods.”

Is the growing dominance of private equity related to stricter corporate governance and disclosure regulations in the wake of the demise of major companies like Enron? Professor Da Silva Rosa, who is currently on sabbatical at the Stern School of Business at New York University, thinks not.

“After four or five years, most of the take-over companies aim to exit by selling the company back into the
public market – and the listings on the Australian Stock Exchange have never been higher,” he says.

The UWA researcher says that companies in the US, UK and Australia – where private equity buy-outs are increasing – tend to give primacy to shareholder value while discounting the importance of human capital in the build-up of companies.

“Japanese and German companies don’t just look at shareholder capital,” he says. “In Germany, unions have a role and employees have a stake in companies. Germany is the world’s major exporter because its high-quality goods are produced by a high-quality workforce that is well taken care of, and viewed as one of the company’s investments.”

The UWA researcher says that Australia has about the highest recorded level of per capita share market participation in the world – a majority (55 per cent) of adult Australians own shares either directly (44 per cent) or indirectly.

Last year his team of researchers at the UWA Business School looked at the behaviour of investors in 210 retail-managed funds in the BT Financial Group over a period of 30 years. The long time span allowed the team to track some of the effects of investors getting older and how wealth and gender impact on investor behaviour. Men, it seems, are less likely than women to listen to advice; young, single women are the most cautious investors; and older women take bigger risks than their male counterparts.

The UWA graduate, who completed his PhD thesis on takeovers and mergers, was a tutor at UWA before lecturing at the University of Sydney. He relished living on the side of Australia that is home to most of the nation’s financial institutions, but the lifestyle of the West and the UWA campus drew him back in 2001, and the resources sector has provided a fertile field for research ever since.

Professor Da Silva is currently involved in a study (with Professor H Y Izan) that aims to discover why WA is such a prolific incubator of ASX-listed companies.

“There are now more listed companies with headquarters in WA than in Sydney,” he says. “There is an incredible entrepreneurial spirit in WA. It probably has something to do with the isolation, the close networks and the fact that people are willing to take risks – because everyone knows someone who has done amazingly well in business, and they say, ‘I can do that too’…”

“Also, those who make big fortunes are very visible in a small community and today the rate of new market listings is higher than ever before. And when a sector like resources experiences sustained good times, a lot of otherwise marginal projects become more viable.

“People want to cash in on the boom and while a lot of the smaller companies don’t seem to be complying with governance provisions recommended by the ASX, it doesn’t seem to harm their prospects. For instance, one ASX recommendation is that all directors need to be independent, but a small company with a market capitalisation of a couple of million can’t afford an independent director who might charge a minimum of $50,000. However, as in Canada where a similar situation exists, this doesn’t seem to deter prospective investors.” This research is supported by the Australian Research Council.

Professor Da Silva Rosa lectures in Investment Analysis – a popular unit that attracts over 500 students.

“It’s a great course to teach,” he says, “because on most days the front pages of the business press carry a story relevant to the current week’s work. In addition to the technical material, I try to convey to the students the romance and adventure of business!”

If you want to know more about studying at the UWA Business School, access the website: www.biz.uwa.edu.au.
Australian science communicator Dr Rob Morrison of Flinders University says that 20 years ago university scientists were warned that dealing with the media could blight their careers. “These days, they are warned that not doing so might have the same effect,” he observes.

One of the results of this is that major research teams are now employing science graduates to tell their story and trumpet their triumphs – not only to the public, but to funding bodies and industry supporters. It’s the sort of job tailor-made for graduates of UWA’s Science Communication courses who rapidly find employment with a range of organizations – from Scitech to the Conservation Council of WA.

With a plethora of science-based issues – from stem cell research to climate change – being widely debated across the nation, it is acknowledged that science communication and creating a scientifically literate society are becoming increasingly important.

UWA has been offering Science Communication units since the 1970s, and as a major since 2002. In 2005 it introduced postgraduate degrees and in 2008 it becomes one of a handful of Australian universities to add Master’s degrees to this area of study – and in a unique format that adds Education to the Science Communications mix.

Dr Nancy Longnecker, Coordinator of UWA’s Science Communication program, says that the new UWA course prepares graduates for a spectrum of jobs – as secondary science teachers, communication officers in research centres or education officers at science centres, museums and zoos.

“Graduates of our Master of Science Communication and Education program will help to meet the urgent need for enthusiastic science graduates with a qualification for teaching secondary science and an ability to communicate clearly with diverse audiences. The aim is to improve student motivation and attitudes to science, so they are more likely to opt for science-based careers.”

Dr Longnecker warns that Australia’s science teacher shortage is likely to get more critical given the average age of teachers and the continuing resources boom. As a result, UWA’s new Master’s course is also being marketed in Asia and India, where it could appeal to international students keen to relocate to Western Australia.

Professor Grady Venville, UWA’s new professor of science education says that “in the past two decades, the number of students studying biology, physics and chemistry has almost halved. The grim outlook is that if enrolments in science continue to decline, we won’t have enough specialist engineers, geologists and medical scientists to maintain the economic, industrial, cultural and physical health of our nation.”

She quotes Queensland’s Chief Scientist Peter Andrews who recently observed: “Whatever way you stack it, we need somewhere around an extra 75,000 scientists by 2010.”

Research indicates that schools have difficulty recruiting qualified teaching staff: 43 per cent of senior school physics teachers lack a physics major; one in four chemistry teachers don’t have a chemistry major, and of the geology teachers surveyed more than half had not studied tertiary-level geology.

Dr Longnecker says UWA’s Science Communication program takes full advantage of on-campus researchers and

Above: Science Communication graduate Sarah Lau on the Van De Graaf generator at Scitech, where she performs science shows.
educators as well as casting the net wide in seeking external lecturers. The latter include specialists from Scitech, the CSIRO, Perth Zoo and other organizations, and UWA is organizing internships at the science magazine *Cosmos*. In fact one student, Liz Williams, has already completed a practicum with *Cosmos* in Sydney.

Dr Longnecker says that Science Communication graduates have the ability to communicate technical information to non-technical audiences.

“We teach them to strip away the jargon because all scientists have that – it’s almost like learning another language – and sometimes we hide behind that jargon. It’s the same in law or other specialist areas where jargon serves a purpose but can hamper communication beyond the discipline.

“Science students initially think it will be easy to strip away the jargon. It’s not, and what surprises them is that in the process, they clarify their own understanding of their area of study.”

Dr Longnecker says growth in the area of Science Communication lies in postgraduate study for students who already have a strong undergraduate science background, but who also have creative talents.

“They may want to work with the public rather than in a research laboratory and may be drawn to the Science Performance units (offered in collaboration with Scitech) where they get involved with script-writing and primary school tours,” says Dr Longnecker. “They may also like the challenge of developing communication strategies, preparing media releases or writing articles that make complex science accessible to readers who don’t have a science background.”

The University is currently seeking partners in its bid to encourage the training of BSc students for careers in science education, either inside or outside of the classroom. “Scholarships will greatly enhance the attractiveness of this course,” says Dr Longnecker.

At the launch of the Master’s degree program, Dean of Education, Professor Bill Louden hailed the partnership between Education and Science Communication as a way of injecting UWA excellence into the two vital areas. The winners, he said, would be secondary school students – and society in general – by gaining an understanding of the world through science.

Launching the degree, Western Australia’s Chief Scientist (and UWA researcher) Professor Lyn Beazley applauded the support the degree provided for WA science teachers “who work tirelessly to get the message out”. She also hailed two State Government-supported UWA initiatives, the SPICE and SEEK programs.

The university-wide SEEK peer mentoring program is supported by the Faculties of Life and Physical Sciences, Natural and Agricultural Sciences and Engineering, Computing and Mathematics and currently involves about 30 students. “This wonderful program involves some very idealistic young students who signed up because they are excited by science,” says Dr Longnecker who coordinates the program.

SEEK undergraduates devote 30 hours a year to tutoring school students, and, while fostering an interest in science, they invariably improve their own communication skills.

The SPICE program, a secondary schools enrichment program is a joint venture between UWA and the Department of Education and Training. Created and managed by UWA’s Centre for Learning Technology (CLT), the program brings teachers, scientists and multimedia professionals together to prepare new teaching and learning materials relevant to students.

Duncraig SHS physics and chemistry teacher Ms Jenny Gull, a SPICE teacher-in-residence last year, is enthusiastic about her time on campus exploring the biomechanics of movement in elite sportspeople in the context of Year 11 physics. “It was a fantastic professional development opportunity and wonderful to experience the latest scientific research, use cutting edge equipment and work with UWA researchers – while discovering what could be taken back and used in the classroom.”

The SPICE program will form a hub for increased interactions between teachers and UWA science. It is located in the CLT facility (officially opened this month) that houses high-tech training rooms, multimedia facilities such as 3-D visualisation technology, recording studios and computer labs.

If you would like to know more about the above-mentioned programs, visit the websites:

www.science.uwa.edu.au
www.science.uwa.edu.au/for/students/peer_tutoring
http://sponsored.uwa.edu.au/spice/home
While UWA’s recently launched Master’s in Science Communication and Education degree wasn’t even on the drawing board when he studied at UWA, Roger Harris has built a career as a passionate science communicator, initially in the classroom and currently as Manager of Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. His success in this latter role recently won him the Premier’s Prize for Excellence in Science Communication Outside the Classroom.

Roger joined Science Communication graduates and other guests at the November launch of the Master’s degree and welcomed its introduction. “It’s a timely initiative in response to the increasing demand for scientists in our booming economy,” he says. “There are exciting times ahead for those interested in a career in science, but we need to get the message out with some passionate science communicators.”

As his award suggests, Roger is just such a communicator. Since his appointment as Manager, the Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre has seen a threefold increase in school participation in the WA Gould League’s Sustainability Education program. Last year more than 13,000 students benefited from the environmental science and Indigenous learning experiences conducted at the centre.

“My three keys to success in environmental education are partnership, collaboration and passion,” he says. “As a youngster, I was inspired by my father, a farmer who had an intense curiosity about nature. He was an amateur botanist, zoologist and geologist, and would always take time to dissect a flower, describe a rock or track down an echidna in the midst of farming life. Following in his footsteps, I studied Agriculture at UWA, and then completed a DipEd to begin my career in science education.

“I believe educators are leaders and if we don’t lead our youth then the media, YouTube and ‘Rage’ will! Excellence in science communication/education comes from leadership with a values-centred approach. The WA Curriculum Framework recognises that values underpin and shape the curriculum and one of those values is environmental responsibility.”

“I believe educators are leaders and if we don’t lead our youth then the media, YouTube and ‘Rage’ will! Excellence in science communication/education comes from leadership with a values-centred approach. The WA Curriculum Framework recognises that values underpin and shape the curriculum and one of those values is environmental responsibility.”

UWA graduate Roger Harris, Manager of Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre and winner of the Premier’s Prize for Excellence in Science Communication Outside the Classroom.
UWA’s 2008 Rhodes Scholar

Rhodes Scholar for 2008, Daniel Vujcich, will never forget returning to his parents’ homeland, war-torn Yugoslavia, as a 10-year-old. The UWA graduate knows this experience, and his work with Aboriginal communities and highland villagers in Papua New Guinea, have helped to shape a determination to work in the field of development aid.

L.P. Hartley’s The Go-Between begins with the observation: “The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there”.

Daniel Vujcich, UWA graduate and 2008 Rhodes Scholar, doesn’t entirely agree. As a first-generation Australian, his own past begins in a foreign country. However, he says that his parents’ aspirations and the social cohesion that infused the Croatian villages he learnt about as a child remain very much a part of who he is and what he will become.

“I represent a confluence of my parents’ pre-migration values and post-settlement aspirations,” says the UWA graduate, whose parents arrived in Australia in the 1970s. “I was raised to respect and take full advantage of the potential for self-advancement in a country where ideas were allowed to flow freely. At the same time, I was constantly aware that my measure as an individual was not solely defined by personal success; rather, I had an obligation to use the benefits available to contribute to the lives of those around me.”

Both his parents had worked on village farms and had left school at a relatively early age. When Daniel commenced his education he quickly realized the dreams of his parents who had migrated to secure for their children educational and vocational opportunities not available in rural Yugoslavia. As a student of La Salle College in Middle Swan, Daniel excelled in academic studies, demonstrated an early commitment to human rights, and rose to be head boy.

When Daniel was 10, his mother took him back to Yugoslavia, at a time when her homeland was mired in civil war. The nightly flash of exploding bombs and the crumbling facades of devastated towns and villages made a deep impression.

“On our trips into town, the Caritas food trucks seemed ubiquitous, as did the references to human suffering and losses of life in the everyday conversations of those around me,” recalls the UWA graduate. “The contrast to my life in Australia was palpable and prompted an early and lasting interest in international development. The sheer number of inter-ethnic friendships lost and marriages ended, the re-emergence of European concentration camps and the discovery of mass graves, taught me that new nationhood could not be celebrated as an end in and of itself; instead, it came with solemn challenges and lofty responsibilities.”

At La Salle College, Daniel initiated fund-raising to support health and education in Africa and Asia. When he contemplated a vocation in the priesthood, the College chaplain (“a pierced and tattooed Franciscan friar with an astute passion for politics”) convinced him to delay his decision until he had pursued further studies. Another career path emerged when, as a Year 12 student, he was
State delegate to the National Schools’ Constitutional Convention in Canberra. There he met Sir William Deane who impressed upon him the role that law and politics could play in the creation of a more just society. “I also met like-minded students who shared a similar vision of the world – and almost all intended to study Arts/Law,” he recalls.

On leaving high school, he went to Port Moresby as a volunteer, helping to set up a library for highland villagers – and falling in love with the country. After enrolling in Arts/Law at UWA (majoring in Political Science and History) and winning the Patrick O’Brien Graduate Internship Scholarship for Political Science, he used his scholarship to fund an eight-week placement in Port Moresby with an organisation promoting dialogue between the government and civil society, and with Transparency International which promotes responsible government.

“On returning to UWA, I recruited volunteers within the Law School and coordinated research projects relating to the establishment of a Human Rights Commission, whistleblower protection legislation and access to public registers.”

He later secured funding for internships for UWA Law students with Transparency International and Australian Volunteers International.

Daniel, who is currently working at the Supreme Court of Appeal, hopes to study either in the area of Development or African Studies when his scholarship takes him to Oxford University later next year. On completion of his Master’s studies, he hopes to work in the field of aid to developing countries.

“In PNG I saw the positive effects of AusAID programs but I believe we need to start thinking seriously about the way we direct aid to the Pacific nations. I believe that aid must help to create a culture of public service in order to eliminate corruption.

“I also believe that we should be providing students from neighbouring countries with opportunities to study in Australia, so they can return and make a difference to the lives of their people and play a hand in influencing the future of their own nations.

“My involvement with Papua New Guinea and the time I spent working with Aboriginal organisations during my UWA studies, made me appreciate the importance of constructively working with businesses to effect positive socio-economic changes in poorer communities,” he says.

When British adventurer and entrepreneur Cecil John Rhodes created the scholarships that annually give international students the opportunity to study at Oxford, he insisted that recipients be all-rounders who prove their merit through study, sport and community involvement.

Daniel certainly scores on all fronts, having achieved a 99.35 TER and a Curriculum Council Award of Distinction at La Salle College and several UWA prizes, including the Lexis Nexis Prize in Law. During his time at UWA, he held leadership positions in the Blackstone and Progressive Law Students’ Association and was a member of a Western Australian Rowing Club crew.

He is also the author of several impressive papers that have been published in arts and law journals. Their subject matter reflects the range of his interests – from changing the world through corporate law to the effects of war and migration on WA’s Bosnian Muslims.

The latter paper, Faith, Flight and Foreign Policy, examines the impact of war and migration on those with a sustained faith and on more secular Muslims who turned to religion during the civil war.

When he takes up his scholarship at Oxford University next year, Daniel will follow in the footsteps of distinguished UWA graduates including former WA Premier Dr Geoff Gallop, former WA Chief Justice David Malcolm and former Federal Opposition Leader Kim Beazley.
The diverse worlds that investment banker Mark Barnaba inhabits are periodically racked by high drama. The UWA graduate observed the catastrophic 1987 Wall Street crash as a Harvard finance student but that did not deter him from returning home to found his own merchant bank. More recently, he became chairman of the West Coast Eagles at a time when the club’s culture and morale were in need of attention. Recipient of the 2002 WA Business News award for outstanding young business leader, Mark Barnaba relishes challenge. The father of two also has a firm belief in the value of education. He is Non-Executive Chairman of The University of Western Australia Business School and serves on the WA Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee. After graduating with First Class Honours in Commerce in 1985 and being awarded the JA Wood Memorial Prize, a Hackett studentship took him to Harvard Business School where, as a Baker Scholar, he graduated with high distinction. He went on to work interstate and overseas in finance and management consulting before returning to Perth.

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

Absolutely not! I wanted to study further at UWA and focus on my strengths (maths), but had little idea of where that would lead me. Not that I was concerned by my lack of direction. By the end of my first year I had changed faculties three times, completing the year in Science (maths and physics). I then entered Commerce in second year and discovered finance. I knew immediately that my career would at least begin in the field of finance, although I had not pieced together the plan which would take me from UWA into the field of finance itself. That happened post graduation.

What do you remember most about your time at UWA?

UWA was very good to me – it was a period of discovery, opportunity and personal growth. I made several friendships which remain very active today. And early on, I was fortunate to encounter two Professors (Izan and Philip Brown) who fundamentally altered how I thought about career management, especially in finance. They not only pushed me intellectually, but materially raised my aspirations. UWA and Harvard Business School set the foundations for my career, and Harvard Business School was only possible because of UWA. In that sense, I feel indebted to the University, in addition to which it was also a really fun period in my life. Between study, holding down two part-time jobs, sport (tennis), family (I come from a close-knit immigrant northern Italian family) and friends, I must admit that I had few spare hours left for anything of substance.

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

Others are better placed to answer this, but my response is that, firstly, I have been fortunate to spend the majority of my life working with or being taught by outstanding individuals and that, secondly, I continue to enjoy immensely my career in business. Making career decisions based around what you enjoy doing and around those with whom you enjoy working (and who you respect as individuals) is both a luxury but also a very explicit decision. I have been very fortunate in this regard.

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

The combination of my professional obligations (ie, Azure Capital) as well as the obligations associated with the other organisations with which I’m involved means that my days are long. I have been blessed with two young children, so mornings up until 9.00am and weekends are usually devoted to them and my wife Paige. I travel a material amount, especially for football (which is also a love, so I’m not complaining). I usually have two or three work-related dinners per week, with the remaining nights spent either enjoying the odd early night or out with Paige, family or friends. I exercise most mornings (I have a gym at home); otherwise I enjoy watching sports and news, as well as reading.
During my working day, I make sure I have at least two to three hours free from meetings to read and think. Today’s use of email means I require at least that time to read and respond to messages. Keeping it free is crucial to ensuring that I make considered decisions.

**Do you still have close ties with UWA or with any of the people you studied with at UWA?**

I’m still actively involved with UWA via the Business School, which has been a privilege as well as extremely satisfying. I still really enjoy walking around what is a truly breathtaking campus. And I still retain close contact with many of the people I studied with – I’m grateful that several enduring friendships arose from my days at UWA.

_Given your current involvement at the UWA Business School, do you think life as a student has changed much since you were here?_

It is always difficult to compare university life today with that of 20-25 years ago. However, whilst basically similar, there are a number of clear differences. Technology (eg, students can access lectures online) has meant less need for students to be physically on campus; double degrees have meant much more flexibility for students in their program of study; academic competition (notwithstanding the strength of the WA economy which means the large proportion of all graduating students find employment) appears materially more intense, especially in my profession; and students these days have much more mobility in terms of where they work and what they do compared to that enjoyed by my generation. One aspect of student life which I find compelling is the proportion of international students at UWA – which is much higher than the Australian average or the average at most other first world universities. This characteristic also existed in the 80’s and is often ignored in assessing the quality of the student experience.

**What does the future hold?**

I expect to be at Azure Capital for some time yet and indeed, at the other organisations with which I’m currently involved. And whilst Paige and I enjoy travel, we’re very committed to living in Western Australia long term. Other than that though, I have no preconceptions as to what I might be doing in five or ten years time. Whatever it ends up being, I’d be very surprised if it were anything that I have up to today considered or thought about. That’s what makes life so interesting!

---

**France apartments & cars**

Agents for Australian owned French holiday houses. Providing sound, practical car travel advice to European travellers for more than 12 years.

- 30 days car hire for 2 ________ $1300.00
- 28 days apartment for 2 ________ $2100.00

Contact Pauline Ollivier
Phone: (08) 9367 4074 Mobile: 0428 674 074
Email: PaulineO@bigpond.net.au
Web: www.franceapartmentsandcars.com.au
In association with Travel Success – T.A.L. No. 9TA 1234

---

**AUTHORS!**

**DO YOU HAVE A BOOK TO PUBLISH?**

INDEPENDENT UK PUBLISHER NOW SEEKING NEW MANUSCRIPTS IN ALL SUBJECTS.
FOR A FREE APPRAISAL PLEASE SEND YOUR WORK TO

**MELROSE BOOKS**

( REF: UV ) ST THOMAS’ PLACE, ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE. CB7 4GG. UNITED KINGDOM.
PHONE: +44 (0) 1353 646 608 FAX: +44 (0) 1353 646 602
EMAIL: info@melrosebooks.co.uk WEB: www.melrosebooks.co.uk
The Post Graduate Research Travel Awards were instigated by Convocation, the UWA Graduates’ Association, to enable postgraduate research students to enhance their work through travel in Australia or overseas. After being awarded a PGRTA, Susan Hayes of the School of Anatomy and Human Biology went to the University of Dundee to work with Dr Caroline Wilkinson, an international leader in forensic and paleontological facial reconstruction. The following is her report to Convocation about which she spoke at the 2007 PGRTA Awards’ night.

I would like to express my appreciation to the membership of Convocation for the award I received in 2006. This award enabled me to accept an invitation from Dr Caroline Wilkinson, an international leader in forensic and paleontological facial reconstruction, to attend the University of Dundee for six weeks and receive intensive training in the 2D facial reconstruction method (fig 1). Given the visual nature of my research I have chosen to illustrate this report with relevant images from my research.

My doctoral research is concerned with recognisability in portraiture and forensic art. Forensic art covers two main areas: police composites, which are computerised ‘identikit’ images based on witness descriptions, and facial reconstructions, where the appearance of a deceased person is approximated from their skull. Understandably, forensic art typically distances itself from fine art practice, as this could suggest the methods are associated with unsubstantiated creativity. My position, however, is that some of the techniques used in portrait drawing may be usefully applied to forensic reconstructions so as to enhance recognisability.

To date my research has involved drawing the portraits of 32 staff and postgraduate volunteers from the School of Anatomy and Human Biology (fig 2). These have been judged for their recognisability and likeness by a further group of volunteers from the School, and the portraits are being analysed for shape differences from photographs using Morphologika (fig 3). That is, identification of a set of common anatomical landmarks on each type of image has been made so as to enable comparison between the pose photograph of the volunteer sitter and their frontal and lateral portraits. A subset of the volunteers have also been described by another set of colleagues from the School to the WA Police Artist, Senior Constable Paul Allsop, to create a series of composite images (fig 4). These have also been judged for likeness by members of the School and measured for deviation from photo-reality.

Clearly, I could not draw on volunteers from the School to create 2D facial reconstructions from the skull, and furthermore it is a method which is not practised in Australia. I have been trained in 3D reconstruction (working in clay on a skull), but for consistency of media, and because working in 2D is a more efficient and nonintrusive method of working with a skull, I wanted to produce line drawings rather than clay sculptures.

During my time at Dundee I produced eight 2D facial reconstructions working on current and past forensic cases.
I found the method to be frustrating at times, because although it involves drawing, it is based on clues provided by the skull, and therefore effectively constitutes the translation of a verbal description into a pictorial one (unlike portraiture, where the modality is purely visual). For example, the first task in reconstruction is to analyse the skull, and the nasal aperture may suggest the deceased had a slightly upturned nose, with a relatively broad base, a wide, bifurcated tip, an approximate projection of 32.5mm and 43mm in height. An outline is relatively easy to achieve in profile, but the challenge is to then envisage and draw this nose as accurately as possible in a frontal view (figs 5–8). Success is typically gauged by comparing the approximate image with an ante-mortem photograph of the deceased (fig 9).

The work I did in Dundee means that not only do I have an appropriate sample of cases, I can now also apply my findings with a very thorough awareness of the practical challenges involved in the technique. Further, I picked up many technical and theoretical aspects of facial reconstruction that have not been covered in detail in the literature. Arrangements are in place to co-author a paper covering this method, which will be produced once I have submitted my doctorate later this year.

Another, unexpected, outcome of my time in Dundee was a visit to the Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh) on the advice of Emeritus Professor Charles Oxnard. As my training in Dundee also involved skull photography, I was able to collaborate with the Curator of the RCS and photograph skulls relevant to Professor Oxnard’s current research. This has evolved into a project where I will reconstruct the appearance of some of these skulls for use in a forthcoming exhibition at the College. As mentioned, the 2D method of reconstruction is non-intrusive and therefore very appropriate for work with historical collections.

Finally, in addition to the above, I met with Dr Bernard Tiddeman, School of Computer Science, an expert in computer morphing software, and Professor David Perrett, a leading researcher in face recognition, both of the University of St Andrews. I was also fortunate to meet with Janet Richardson, a freelance UK forensic artist, Greg Mahoney, a forensic artist from the Boston Police Department, and two UK detectives working on a current case.

Again, I would like to thank Convocation, but not just because the award enabled me to meet a large proportion of the costs associated with going to Dundee. Being a successful applicant meant that my research had been supported by the Convocation membership, and this gave me the confidence to rise to the many challenges of this research experience.

*Note: Susan Hayes will be guest speaker at the Second Ordinary Meeting of Convocation, the UWA Graduates’ Association on 19 September 2008. All graduates and their guests are welcome. Enquiries: +61 8 6488 1336.*
2008 Postgraduate research travel awards

Convocation, the UWA Graduates Association awarded seventeen Research Travel Awards to Postgraduate Students for 2008. Here are some of the recipients and guests on awards night, 18 October 2007.

UWAGA welcomes donations to the Postgraduate Research Travel Awards, Sports Bursaries, Matilda Award, or Faculty Prizes. If you would like to donate please contact +61 8 6488 3006, or Facsimile +61 8 6488 1110.
50th Reunion Luncheon

The annual 50th Reunion of UWA Graduates was held as usual in Winthrop Hall on 18 November 2007, where guests were treated to a display of memorabilia curated by Convocation Councillor Dr Val Casey.

Noel Fitzpatrick AM, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Royal Agricultural Society in 2006, gave the keynote address. Noel was made Director of the WA Department of Agriculture whilst barely into his forties, and remained in charge from 1971 to 1984 (see Grad News in Uniview, Spring 2007).

Below are photographs, courtesy Terry Larder, of some of the guests attending the luncheon.

The University of Western Australia invites all graduates and other members of Convocation to attend the

FIRST ORDINARY MEETING of Convocation, the UWA Graduates Association which will be held in

WINTHROP HALL on Friday, 28 March 2008 at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start

GUEST SPEAKER: SARA MACLIVER, SOPRANO

RSVP by the 14th March 2008 on 6488 3006 or via convocation@uwa.edu.au
Supper will follow the meeting
1930s

- Walter Armstrong (BSc 1935, BA 1938) worked for the State Electricity Commission after graduating, then transferred to the private sector, joining Mobil Oil. He was based in South Australia and had postings to England and the US. Walter was elected a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute in 1971. He retired in 1978 and, in his 94th year, enjoys gardening, cooking and reading chemical journals. Walter lives in a retirement village in Glengowrie, SA.

- Donald Sheldley (BSc(Agric) 1950) and his wife, Meg, have each been named as Non-Indigenous Person of the Year in the East Kimberley Aboriginal Achievement Awards 2007. The awards are a regional initiative of the Wunan Foundation. Don is seen holding a copy of their new book, a story of their lives and the Ministry they have with the Aboriginal people: Black and White Best Together, published by Hesperian Press.

- David Hutchison (BE(Hons) 1951, BA 1958; DipEd 1963) worked as a Physics teacher at Christ Church Grammar School as well as a part-time History tutor at UWA and a lecturer at WAT (Curtin University). In March 1970, he became the first Curator of History at the WA Museum and retired from this position in 1986. David has many publications to his credit, including poetry and short stories – his own and translations from Modern Greek. David’s most recent publication is a guide to Fremantle’s heritage, Fremantle Walks and a novel, Many Years a Thief (Wakefield Press). He and his wife Jane Hutchison (née Birt) (BA 1948; DipEd 1966) are very active in the Fremantle community.

1950s

- Geoffrey Graig (BSc 1955) went on to qualify and register as a State Government analyst while employed by the Western Australian Government Railways. He then moved to the Food Drug and Toxicology section of the WA Government Chemical Laboratory. After further studies, he went to Queensland in 1961 and was employed by the State Government Food and Drug section of the Queensland Government Chemical Laboratory. He rose to be a Chief Chemist of the Food and Drug Section. In his final years of employment he was Acting Assistant Director of the Minerals, Waters, Toxicology and Forensic Analysis Division for Queensland Government Coal Limited. Geoffrey has five children and 15 grandchildren.

- Kevin Morgan (BSc 1957) still works in his chosen career as a geologist and hydro geologist having done so since graduating from UWA in 1957. He is rarely home in Perth for more than a few weeks between visits to Africa, Indonesia and Laos, besides projects around Australia. He still enjoys going to new and remote places and meeting new people. Kevin has been married for 50 years, and has four children and four grandchildren.

- Lee Ranford (BSc(Hons) 1960) helped organise the 50th reunion of the 1957 UWA’s Men’s Basketball team. The anniversary event marked the only time a UWA team had won the A Grade Men’s Basketball competition in WA. The reunion was also the first time that the five members who attended had been together since their time at UWA. Those who attended were Bob Wade (BE 1958; MBA 1977), Tony Bowra (BSc(Hons) 1959), Joe Galvans (BE 1960), Don Taylor (BA 1960) and Lee Ranford. Ian Tweedie (BA 1952) and Peter Simper (BE 1961) were unable to attend but hopefully they can this year.

- Richard Cumper (BA 1967; MBA 1977) writes that he enjoys his retirement and divides his time between his home in Canberra and a coastal unit at Bateman’s Bay.

1960s

- Edward (Ted) Wilmot (BA(Hons) 1970) was recently awarded an Outstanding Professional Service Award from the Professional Teachers Council in recognition of his 30 year of service with the Australian Association for Religious Education. He is retired and lives in Busselton.

- John Cohen (BSc(Hons) 1959) is a retired root canal specialist and an Emeritus Adjunct Professor of Dentistry at the University of Detroit-Mercy School of Dentistry. John and his wife are very active in pursuing travel and fitness as well as having a strong interest in their art collection. Over the past few years they have frequently returned to Australia to spend time with friends. They live in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Former classmates can contact John at aussiejohn@comcast.net.

- Diana Warnock (née Robinson) (BA 1961), former journalist and MP, has been made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to French language and culture in Australia. She is also President of the Alliance Francaise in Perth. Diana serves on many boards and committees, including the WA Academy of Performing Arts, the UWA Press Club, the Urban Design Centre, and City Vision.

- Leeza Bell (née Turner) (BA 1961; DipEd 1963; BED 1966) is 84 and still active after being retired from the teaching profession for many years. Leeza lives in Augusta.

1970s

- Lee Ranford (BSc(Hons) 1960) helped organise the 50th reunion of the 1957 UWA’s Men’s Basketball team. The anniversary event marked the only time a UWA team had won the A Grade Men’s Basketball competition in WA. The reunion was also the first time that the five members who attended had been together since their time at UWA. Those who attended were Bob Wade (BE 1958; MBA 1977), Tony Bowra (BSc(Hons) 1959), Joe Galvans (BE 1960), Don Taylor (BA 1960) and Lee Ranford. Ian Tweedie (BA 1952) and Peter Simper (BE 1961) were unable to attend but hopefully they can this year.

1980s

- Brett Lucchesi (BE 1986) is Managing Director and co-founder of E-Tec Consultants. Formed in 1989, the company’s innovative designs can be seen around Perth, notably the Outram Street apartments, the Quest on Rheola apartments, Audi Centre Perth and the Town of Cambridge Library.

- Dejan Djurdjevic (BA 1989; LLB 1990) worked as a Government Barrister and Solicitor at the WA State Solicitor’s Office for five years. In 1995, he began working in the Parliamentary Counsel’s office and still is there today as their Assistant Parliamentary Counsel. Dejan lives in North Perth and is married with two daughters. Former classmates can contact him at danandmaureen@iprimus.com.au.

- Leeza Bell (née Turner) (BA 1961; DipEd 1963; BED 1966) is 84 and still active after being retired from the teaching profession for many years. Leeza lives in Augusta.

- Cecily Crepley (BSc 1976) is Physics and Chemistry teacher at Mercedes College, in Perth. She is married with two daughters and enjoys reading and writing poems, and activities with family and friends.

- Sandra Paterson (BA 1990) is the Executive Producer of 9am with David and Kim, a national two-hour morning program on Network Ten. She lives in Melbourne and is married with two children.

- Joanne Simpson (BA(Hons) 1990; MBA 1995) was seconded last year to work for Rio Tinto Iron Ore in London for 18 months in a project procurement role. She previously worked for the company in Perth, the Pilbara and the East Kimberley. Joanne writes that she is enjoying the experience of her first European winter.

- Susan Brockman (BA 1991) has returned to Perth after working as a journalist in London for the past 10 years. She writes that her husband and two children are also enjoying a return to the wonderful WA lifestyle.

- Raymond Piscopo (BE 1992) has spent 15 years working as a process control engineer, either as a consultant or as a site based engineer. His current role is with Nickel West, a subsidiary of BHP Billiton. Raymond lives in Cloverdale and former classmates can contact him at raypiscopo@hotmail.com.

- Wendy Chew (BA(Hons) 1993; PhD 2007) is working at UWA’s Centre for Muslim Studies and Activities. Former classmates can contact her at paradoxyium@gmail.com.

- David Heaton (BE 1994) is based in Saudi Arabia and is as an engineer for Baker-Hughes, an oil and gas service company. He previously worked for 10 years at an IT company. Former classmates can contact him at david.heaton@iinet.net.au.

- Katie Ellison (LLB 1997; BA 1997) writes that she has been on maternity leave from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. She had a baby boy last August, a brother for two...
year-old Ned. Katie and her family live in Clovelly, Sydney.

- Murray Giles (BSc 1997) has been working as a Staff Development Nurse in Cardiopulmonology at Fremantle Hospital for the past year.

- Khaledin Affendi Bin Mohamad (BSc 1998) works in the Insurance and Takaful sector of the Maybank Group, a leading financial institution in Malaysia. Last year he completed a Master’s degree in Human Resource Development at the Universiti Putra Malaysia. Former classmates can contact Khaledin at k.a.mohamad@gmail.com.

- Tracey Bowyer (MBA 1999) is Chief Operating Officer for ReachLocal, an on-line advertising for small to medium businesses.

- John Paul Collins (BSc(Hons) 2002) is a Research Officer for ReachLocal, an on-line advertising for small to medium businesses in both Australia and overseas. Tracey lives in Pyrmont, Sydney and former classmates can contact her at traceyb@sinet.net.au

- Gregory Ruthven (BE(Hons) 1999; BSc 1999) has worked with Schlumberger since graduating. He previously worked in the Pilbara, Gippsland and in Saudi Arabia. Gregory is now based in Perth with Schlumberger as one of their Technical Sales Engineers. Former classmates can contact him at gruthven@slb.com.

- Simon Marshall (BSc(Hons) 2002) has been working as a Project Geoscientist in West Africa, exploring for gold with Newmont Mining Corporation in Ghana and the Ivory Coast. He writes that while his UWA studies have served him well, he wishes he could have done a community relations unit because 90 per cent of his job is talking! He is pictured here with local villagers who attended one of his information sessions.

- Annamaria Arnall (BA 2003) is a cultural and linguistic consultant and an accredited translator in the Hungarian language. She is President of AUST, the national professional association of translators and interpreters. They held their first National Excellence Awards last year at the Shangri-La Hotel in Sydney. Pictured at this event is Annamaria with two award winners, Victor Xu and Marc Orlando.

- Vanessa Huang (BSc 2004) married Jonathan Tay last July. Vanessa is working for a recruitment firm and Jonathan works as an investment analyst. They live in Singapore. Former classmates can contact them at phlebas.phoenician@gmail.com.

- Chong King Lin Carolyn (BA 2006) is a full-time English teacher at a local Chinese Secondary School in Hong Kong. Carolyn is also completing a Diploma of Education degree part-time at the University of Hong Kong.

- Siew Hian Jim Sia (MBA 2004) has been working for Visa Inc as Manager, Network Infrastructure since February 2001. Previously, he worked for the Singapore Supreme Court as a Network Engineer and as part of his continuing education he completed the UWA MBA degree course part-time. He writes that that the degree has provided him with valuable knowledge on business management and industry best practice. Former classmates can contact him at jimsiaW@hotmail.com.

- George Kelsall (MB BS 2007) completed one year at UWA and furthered his studies at the University of Adelaide. George was awarded an MB BS degree (Ad Eundem Gradum) at last year’s graduation ceremony in March. He practised pathology in WA from 1958 to 1989 and moved to Hobart where he still lives today. He is a Forensic Pathologist and Senior Lecturer in Pathology at the University of Tasmania. Former classmates can contact George at rkelssl@netspace.net.au.

- Tamara Brownlie (BSc 2007) is a health and wellness consultant for Prime Health Group and is currently working at Cloudbreak Mine.

- Hakeem Khan (MBA 2007) is the Business Development Manager for Sensis Pty Ltd, a private mental health hospital based in West Perth. He is responsible for writing business proposals, contracts, partnership negotiations and is also Head of IT, research and drug trials.

- Shu Hui Cheryl Lim (BCom 2007) has returned to her home in Singapore and is now working as an auditor with KPMG.

2000s

- John Paul Collins (BSc(Hons) 2002) is a Research Officer for the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) and has been based in Katanning for the past six years. Former classmates can contact him at jpcollins@agr.wa.gov.au.

- Amy Gardiner (BDSc(Hons) 2002) has been working since 2001 at the John Moran’s Dental Surgery in Sorrento, Doubleview and Wembley Downs.

- Elysia Thornton-Benko (MB BS(Hons) 2003) writes that she and her husband are now proud parents to their first daughter, who was born last October. Elysia, Ivan and baby Lucca, live in Vaucluse, Sydney. Former classmates can contact her at thornestone@bigpond.com.

- Cheryl Lohr (née Hetherington) (BSc(Hons) 2005) married in the US last August and now lives in Newark, Delaware. She writes that she is unfortunately unable to attend her UWA March graduation ceremony for her Master’s degree in Natural Resource Management.

Where are you now?

Why not send in some information about yourself.

You could also send a good quality photo. Hardcopy photos need to be supplied on photographic paper. Digital images need to be supplied as .tif or .jpg files at 300dpi. When taking the photo, please set your camera on the medium to high setting to enable a good quality reproduction.

Send your details to Terry Larder at terry.larder@uwa.edu.au or by post to: The University of Western Australia, M427, 35 Stirling Hwy, CRAWLEY WA 6009.
Late last year, US-based neurosurgeon Dr Stephen Lewis (MBBS FRACS) returned to his hometown – and to UWA’s Clinical Training and Education Centre (CTEC) where he originally honed his own skills.

Dr Lewis had been invited to provide Australian neurosurgeons with a rare opportunity to gain hands-on experience in skull base surgery techniques. With him was Professor Albert Rhoton from the University of Florida, a world leader in neurosurgery. The intricate surgical techniques the pair demonstrated involve removing bone from the base of the skull to allow hard-to-reach tumours and aneurysms to be treated.

“The facilities at CTEC are fantastic,” said Dr Lewis. “I know them well and, as Perth is also my hometown, I love showing it off to colleagues from overseas.”

Nineteen Australian surgeons attended the course. They are among some 20,000 health professionals who have benefited from CTEC’s interactive simulated hospital environment since it opened in 2000.

Dr Lewis graduated from UWA in 1985 and completed his internship and junior residency rotations at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. After completing neurosurgery training, he benefited from some of the first CTEC courses organised by Professor Alan Crockard, who he later worked with at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in London. From there he moved to Florida intending to stay for a year.

“However, an opportunity arose for me to stay on at the University of Florida,” he recalls. “It was a case of being in the right place at the right time. I inherited one of the highest profile and busiest cerebrovascular and skull base practices in the US and am fortunate to work alongside Professor Rhoton, one of the most recognised names in world neurosurgery.

“Skull base surgery has seen incredible advances, with improvements in microscopy and better digital imaging helping us to get into difficult spaces in the brain,” he explains. “Future challenges include a greater focus on genetics and molecular biology in treating these cases”.

Neurosurgery attracted the UWA graduate because it remains a frontier area in which much is still unknown.

“Skull base surgery has seen incredible advances, with improvements in microscopy and better digital imaging helping us to get into difficult spaces in the brain,” he explains. “Future challenges include a greater focus on genetics and molecular biology in treating these cases”.

“Skull base surgery has seen incredible advances, with improvements in microscopy and better digital imaging helping us to get into difficult spaces in the brain,” he explains. “Future challenges include a greater focus on genetics and molecular biology in treating these cases”. Neurosurgery attracted the UWA graduate because it remains a frontier area in which much is still unknown.

“It’s also a fertile area for research,” says Dr Lewis. “I run a basic science laboratory that is exploring proteins in the brain fluid and blood and this may lead to simple diagnostic tests. Just as people can have a blood test to see if they have had a heart attack, we may one day have a blood test that can indicate the existence of a brain tumour.”

Dr Lewis says that his UWA and Perth training admirably equipped him for the high-calibre jobs he has held since leaving Perth seven years ago.

“As we expats set off overseas, we may entertain nagging doubts: ‘Are we as good as those guys up north with all the money, all the bells and whistles?’ Well I can tell you, in my experience, not only do we measure up but in some instances we’re better!” – UWA graduate and US-based neurosurgeon, Dr Stephen Lewis. (Photo: The West Australian)
Picture yourself with a new car!

New Car Rate 8.90% (9.24% p.a. comp.)*
No Early Repayment Penalty – No Ongoing Fees

Don’t get caught in the car yard by in-house credit contracts, fees and penalty clauses. Pre-approve your finance with a Unicredit new car rate of just 8.90% (9.24%pa comp.)* with no ongoing fees and no early repayment penalties. Call your Unicredit Lending Consultant before you go shopping on 9389 1011 or download an application form at: wwwunicreditcomau

Unicredit Lending Centre: 80 Broadway, Nedlands.

Loans that understand life.

* Rate of 8.90% (9.24% comp) applied to cars up to 1 year old. Rate for cars up to 5 years old is 9.90% (10.24%pa comparative). All loan applications are subject to Unicredit’s normal lending criteria. Fees and government charges apply, please refer to our Fees and Charges Schedule, available from any Unicredit branch or discuss with a Lending Consultant. Comparison rate is for a loan of $10,000 for a term of 3 years. WARNING: This comparison rate is true only for the examples given and may not include all fees and charges. Different terms, fees or other loan amounts might result in a different comparison rate.

wwwunicreditcomau
体验

一生

让西澳大学俱乐部帮助你创造一个终生难忘的婚礼

伊甸园般地坐落在马蒂达湾岸边，周围是流线型的花园，其中不乏珀斯最著名的大学。西澳大学俱乐部提供完美的场地供你特殊的日子使用。

用一杯杯的佳酿，一桌桌的美食，以及对特殊场合的完美服务，来尽情享受吧。

要了解更多信息，可访问我们的网站：
www.universityclubconferences.com.au

或联系会议与活动团队
+61 8 6488 4820