Sir John Winthrop Hackett, the great benefactor and visionary behind our University, is also remembered as a loving grandfather.

Two of his grandchildren, Dr Matthew Kendall, from Devon in England, and Jacintha Chapman, from Zimbabwe, recently joined University senators, staff and stalwarts at a memorial ceremony at Sir John’s newly restored grave.

Dr Kendall, his wife Ann, his cousin Mrs Chapman and her daughter, Kim Goss, had all travelled to Western Australia for a huge Bussell family reunion in Busselton. (Grace Bussell was Sir John’s mother-in-law.)

Their trip coincided with the restoration of the granite monolith at Karrakatta cemetery, honouring Sir John and his family. So the University seized the opportunity of a remembrance ceremony and celebration, emailing the families over many months to make the arrangements.

Although they are closely related, the Kendalls of Devon had never met the Chapmans of Harare until they all arrived in WA.

They all agreed that their grandfather’s (and great-grandfather’s) legacy, The University of WA, was awe-inspiring.

Only one of them, Jacintha Chapman, had been here before, but she has no memory of the first occasion, as it was her christening! *Campus at Crawley* documents the celebrations in Winthrop Hall following Jacintha Winthrop MacPherson Knox’s christening as being wreathed in cigarette smoke and cocktails.

She is the daughter of Deborah Winthrop Hackett, one of Sir John’s four daughters. Mrs Chapman’s daughter, Kim Goss, is now the mother of Sir John’s great-great-grandchildren (two sons) with a third child expected in March next year.

Professor Alan Robson welcomed the Hackett descendants at the graveside and made a moving speech about Sir John’s dream of accessible higher education. Cellist and singer Taryn Fiebig and flautists Emily Jones and Simon Fisenden accompanied the ceremony. Christ Church Grammar School chaplain Rev. Canon Frank Sheehan invoked a blessing for the memorial.

Ann Kendall, Jacintha Chapman, Kim Goss and Matthew Kendall place roses on the Hackett memorial.

IN THIS ISSUE …

Relax with a massage - page 4

More bouquets for Olympians - page 5

Lionel Lindsay at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery - page 13

Continued on page 4
Is Australia dumbing down the Humanities?

The Australian Academy of the Humanities has recently held its 31st Annual Symposium on our campus — the first such occasion in WA.

The presence of so many distinguished academicians from ‘arts’ — coupled with a national meeting of the Australian Deans of Arts — gave pause to reflect more deeply on the state of the scholars of humanities. Are they an endangered species?

A recent lead article in the prestigious Chronicle of Higher Education (6 October 2000, vl. XLVII, no. 6) has also posed a similar issue for American society. The article was prompted by criticism of the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities, which is accused of not using a sufficient proportion of its budget on fundamental research projects.

What joins these voices of concern is, in fact, not merely the declining levels of research dollars, but a more general issue of how the humanities are valued in a technocratic and utilitarian age.

Indeed, as I prepared to welcome the Academy (of which I had been the President a few years ago) I recalled the number of occasions on which I have felt it necessary to speak out in defence of the humanities ... and how disappointing it is that we have to defend — rather than celebrate — these key ‘enabling disciplines’.

For there can be no question that the arts and the humanities have a vital role in contributing significantly to that complex partnership of politics, economics and technology, and which is at the heart of our liberal, free-enterprise society.

In fact, the arts and humanities can underpin the improvement of economic performance through the realisation of human potential, helping to maintain social cohesion, enhancing effective management, strengthening national and global security, and improving the processes of government itself.

They also represent empowering influences in shaping the way we see our society — helping define who we are collectively, how other nations perceive us, and developing ‘frames of understanding’ about the human potential of science and technology, and the impact of social change in everyday lives.

In other words, the humanities are intimately involved, on an everyday basis, in the increase of public access to public culture and to the shaping and nurturing of public values themselves.

Despite all this, study and research within the arts and the humanities still suffers from an outdated general perception: as marginal to economic and social life, a view which also persists in parts of the community at large.

The effect of reduced national investment in the humanities has led to a weakening of humanities research and research training in this country — not to mention the flow-on effects to Australian public life and the economy.

There is, however, one clear and ongoing change of a very positive nature. It is the fact that employers are beginning to look, more and more, for graduates with a broad educational background.

We must take advantage of this positive trend and encourage government, business and young Australians to realise the importance of this aspect of a humanities education in the globalised era.

This has been reflected — certainly on our own campus — by the growing demand for double degrees, in which students use aspects of the Bachelor of Arts degree to give breadth to the study of more specific professional disciplines, in areas such as science, commerce and economics, and engineering.

And, there is no question that a strong humanities research culture will be a major factor in shaping the future work of Australia, playing a vital role in re-training and lifelong learning; as well as producing a more qualified population, with creative and intellectual skills, and giving individuals a capacity to live with the world of change in their own lifetime.

More broadly still, the humanities can play a vital role in shaping public cultures in an era of transformative change.

This is particularly so at a time when conflicted relations between nation-states continue, and even accelerate, in many regions; when peaceful solutions often appear beyond reach, and societal problems seem intractable; and when global forces grow beyond the control of individual nations to threaten social cohesion.

While there are occasions when despair dominates our newspapers, radios and televisions, we need to recall the sense of hope that exists within our humanities tradition of scholarly reflection.

It is against this backdrop that the humanities disciplines have an increasingly important part to play in societal development. And the recent Academy symposium’s theme, Cultures of Peace, provided an excellent opportunity to review the importance of understanding Australia’s role within a world of plural cultures.

Just as the “Batterham Report” has rightly stressed the importance to Australia of investing in a ‘SET’ strategy (science/engineering/technology), so too we need a strategy to enhance the humanities as complimentary to the shaping of national well-being.

Professor Deryck Schreuder
Vice-Chancellor and President
 vc@acs.uwa.edu.au
Governor inspires humanitarian research

When the Governor of Western Australia visited the University last month, he saw the fruits of a project the seeds of which he had sown five years earlier.

In 1995, Lieutenant General John Sanderson was about to take command of Australian Land Forces. He met UWA engineer Professor James Trevelyan at a United Nations conference in Melbourne.

They talked about the problem of mines littering countries in Europe, Asia and Africa, acknowledging that there was no “high-tech” solution.

“General Sanderson was one of the key people who inspired me to start the demining research program. He said he would provide any support we needed, apart from direct financial assistance,” Professor Trevelyan said.

And he has been a great help to the program, arranging an initial visit for Professor Trevelyan and a student to the School of Military Engineering in NSW for briefing on mine countermeasures and clearance methods, and later helping to secure permission to test magnets as a means of removing metal fragments from the ground at Bindoon Military Range.

But financial assistance is still something that the demining program needs. They have been unsuccessful in applying for AusAID and ARC grants but highly successful with the US government, being awarded about Aus$700,000 over the past few years.

Professor Trevelyan and his team invited the Governor to visit the University department to show him how the project had progressed since his initial encouragement and to seek his advice and assistance in encouraging the Australian government to join the US government in supporting the research. (The project also has private funding of about $50,000 a year.)

The program’s major activity is broad-based research on mine and UXO clearance problems in several countries. Early work resulted in major improvements to protective equipment worn by Afghanistan deminers.

New research this year has included research on performance problems observed with mine detection dogs, looking into micro-credit and alternative financing schemes to see if donor funds for demining can be used more effectively and research on risk analysis methods to help decision makers analyse the costs and benefits of mine clearance in certain regions.

Protective clothing for deminers, some of their tools and techniques were demonstrated for the Governor as well as the demonstration of a new metal detector, which was done in private, because of intellectual property constraints.

Professor Barry Brady, the Executive Dean of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, and Professor Mark Bush, Head of the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, joined the Governor and the demining research team for morning tea.

LEFT: Abdul Hadi Popal demonstrates simple demining techniques while Professor Trevelyan shows the Governor a training mine that the deminer has just “discovered”. 

Professor James Trevelyan explains the benefits of protective clothing for deminers, developed by his team, and modelled by research assistant Abdul Hadi Popal.

... highly successful ... being awarded about $700,000
Newly planted kangaroo paws were complemented by cut roses laid by the guests during the remembrance ceremony at Sir John’s grave.

Later, in the Senate Room, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deryck Schreuder, presented the families with copies of *The Irish in Western Australia*, which includes a chapter on Sir John – “A Trinity Man Abroad”). David Hewson, a former senior executive member of the University staff, was thanked for his efforts over the past three years to get the grave restored. Professor Mel Sargent and Margaret Edwards, from the Postgraduate Research School, supported the project. The Vice-Chancellor provided the funds for the restoration, the Office of Facilities Management arranged the work and Unigrounds planted new groundcover at the gravesite.

You can do something about those aching neck and shoulders — without even getting out of the chair.

But it has to be the right kind of chair.

Subiaco Sports Massage Clinic brings its massage chair to Student Services every fortnight as part of the department’s stress management activity program.

It’s a back-to-front chair, which can be adjusted for people of different heights, to support you comfortably while your back, shoulders and neck are massaged.

Student Services counsellor, Avonia Donnellan, recommended her colleagues try the “corporate chair massage” after she had gone to the clinic with neck and shoulder tension. “It has evolved into part of a stress management program for the whole department,” Ms Donnellan said.

Staff who wish to be involved are given 45 minutes each week to add to a lunch hour. They can participate in walks, information talks, massage, swimming, and tennis each Thursday. They are even hoping to use a climbing wall one week.

“This week staff chose between a 90 minute swim or a 10 to 15 minute massage. Last week we had a talk on back care from the Sport and Recreation Association’s Physiotherapist, Gerard Hurst, and we went for a walk,” Ms Donnellan said.

“Melanie Baker from the Safety and Health Office has helped us design the program and she will be coming to talk to us about setting up our work stations next week.

“The program has raised everybody’s awareness of how to improve their work stations, their fitness, and their health. It is one way to respond to stress in the workplace, and we are doing it as a trial until the end of the year,” she said.

The chair massages cost $1 a minute. All the activities are paid for by individual staff members.
More bouquets for Olympians

The spirit of the Olympic Games was still burning bright when UWA honoured its Olympians last month.

Graduates who represented Australia at the Sydney Olympics and all previous Olympics were invited to a reception in the Vice-Chancellery.

It was a much quieter affair than any street parade but it provided an opportunity for Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deryck Schreuder and Head of the School of Human Movement and Exercise Science, Professor Bruce Elliot, to convey to the athletes the pride all those connected with the University feel in their achievements.

“I don’t think you know how much we all appreciate what you do and how much of a difference you make to our lives,” Professor Elliot said, repeating what others involved with or simply attending the Olympics all said: “It was the best two weeks of my life.”

Things go better at Currie Hall

While the Olympics opened the eyes of the world to Australia, they also introduced Currie Hall to the rest of the country.

The residential college and some of its students featured in a television advertisement during the Games and posters from the ad are now adorning buses and bus shelters in Perth, Melbourne and Sydney.

The ad is for Coke and was shot in the games room at Currie Hall, just before the Olympics began, with videotape of Kieran Perkins winning the 1500m at Atlanta used to inspire the students and get them cheering.

It was shown several times during the Olympics, and the star of the ad and the poster is first-year science student Mark Sorensen, who has been elected president of Currie Hall for next year.

The ten-second commercial took four hours to make, during which time they all drank a lot of warm Coke.

But perhaps it will have taught him patience for all the committee meetings he will have to attend next year as spokesman for the Hall residents!

Past Olympians the Hon. Alan Barbiett (hockey) and Berry Durstan (rowing) reminisce with DVC Alan Robson.

Richard McWilliam, Chief of Staff of the Vice-Chancellery, enjoys hearing about the gold medal win from the women’s hockey team’s psychologist, Corrine Reid.

Marathon runner Susan Hobson shares her experience with Professor Bruce Elliot.

Bruce Meakins and water polo player Timothy Neesham relive the Games.
Science, and perhaps chemistry most of all, is a bit of a mystery to “ordinary” people, who have vague ideas about fizzing experiments in laboratories.

The Department of Chemistry has changed all that with the launch of its web site, with high school help, information for parents, ideas for teachers and answers for students.

The high school help site is an extension of last year’s inaugural TEE Chemistry Hotline.

“It was such a success that I’m getting a bit nervous about being swamped this year,” said Dr Khim Harris, one of the driving forces behind getting science, and particularly, chemistry, out there to the people.

As one of the TEE examiners, Dr Harris can’t personally answer any of the queries that will come in through the web site this week, prior to the TEE Chemistry exam. He has a team of ten chemists, specialists in different areas, who will be forwarded the questions and will send replies to the students.

“We’ve put last year’s most frequently asked questions on our new site, which might save everybody some time, but we still expect the hotline to be very popular,” he said.

The new web site was launched at a Chemistry Teachers’ Expo and sundowner at UWA last month, to which the department had a fantastic response. Dr Harris said the teachers were very enthusiastic about the department’s learning links with high schools, providing extension opportunities for their better students.

He said the Faculty of Science was seen as a good destination for post-secondary students because of its reputation, quality facilities and teaching and research record.

The web site has sections for parents, explaining just what chemistry is and what chemists do. Teachers can pick up ideas for experiments and students will find help and a lot of fascinating information. The site has links to chemistry sites all over Australia and around the world, providing a wide range of options and information with many of them specifically designed for the high school perspective.

The address is simply: www.chem.uwa.edu.au

(See The Last Word by Khim Harris on p 16 )

High school science teachers swarmed to the Chemistry expo and sundowner.
“You have a great idea and you find yourself in an elevator with a venture capitalist. You have two minutes until that potential financier walks out of the elevator. Go for it!”

With encouragement like this, Dr Murphy’s e-commerce students set about creating an “elevator pitch”, a two-minute presentation of an Internet marketing idea.

While they worked on their pitches, Dr Murphy rounded up judges and prizes from the who’s who of IT, culminating in a highly entertaining and lucrative evening in Winthrop Hall late last month.

The finalists were not the only speakers restricted to two-minute presentations. MPs Julie Bishop and Mark Bishop also had to endure the 90-second warning sign and the clanging of the cowbell at two minutes, to keep proceedings brisk.

Students won prizes, including paid internships with IT companies, totalling $25,000. A jobs fair was held on the same evening and Dr Murphy says many of his students came away with jobs and job interviews.

The four winners of what was billed as The World Championships of E-Commerce are Kate Dinon, Angela Merker, Matthew Budge and Mark Palmer.

Kate’s idea, movingrightalong.com, was to provide online everything needed for moving house. Angela presented a quick and easy way to find gifts for friends and family by accessing what’s available in local gift shops through Fast&Present.com.

Matthew Budge created a virtual Mum with his Online Undies: a site where you can buy all those boring essentials that your mother provides when you live at home.

Mark Palmer won the $1000 IBC award for Excellence and was the overall winner with his confidential porn site.

The championships were part of Dr Murphy’s course, Foundations of E-Commerce, which his entrepreneurial skills and enthusiasm have made into a unit that is enjoyed by all its students. “And hey, I get a kick out of it too!” he said.

As well as software packages, paid work experience and internships, the prize list included a year’s free Guild membership for the 16 finalists.

Motorbikes and the study of classics have already proved a successful combination at UWA.

Postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Classics and Ancient History, Dr Pat Wheatley, commutes to University on his Triumph motorbike each day, sporting black leathers to complement his long hair and beard.

And Associate Professor John Melville-Jones, Head of the Department, has recently extended the association.

During the recent visit to WA of bikies from the eastern states, the squad which the Police Service had formed to monitor their activities received inspiration from a Latin motto provided free of charge by the department.

“The motto, Audacibus Imponere Leges, may be literally translated as To impose laws on the audacious, or more freely, with alliteration and a jingle, Bringing law to the lawless,” Associate Professor Melville-Jones said. The motto appeared on the flashes which members of the squad wore for two months.

Dr Pat Wheatley ... started something in Classics?
Tuesday 14 to Wednesday 15 November

NEUROLOGICAL EXPO 2000
A Neurological Expo will be held at SCGH and the Australian Neuromuscular Research Institute on 14 and 15 November from 9am to 5pm each day. Thirty-eight research, medical and care organisations will feature an exhibition and a lecture program of 28 speakers, and ten keynote addresses will be held. There is no charge and everyone is welcome. For more details please ring Linda on 9380 4495.

Tuesday 14 November

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY FLOORTALK
“Philippa O’Brien: Posters from the UWA Collection”, Perth artist, designer and art writer, Philippa O’Brien, discusses her posters promoting aspects of The University of Western Australia’s intellectual and cultural life from the 1960s to the early 1980s. 1pm, LWAG.

Wednesday 15 November

CENTRE FOR WATER RESEARCH/ENVIRONMENTAL DYNAMICS SEMINAR
“Mixing in flows down gentle slopes into stratified environments”, Dr Peter G. Baines, CSIRO Atmospheric Research, Victoria. 4pm, Blakers Lecture Theatre, Mathematics Building.

HUMAN MOVEMENT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE—HONOURS RESEARCH CONFERENCE
9am to 3pm, Lecture Theatre, Department of Human Movement and Exercise Science, Parkway Entrance No. 3.

Tuesday 21 November

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY FLOORTALK
“Pippa Lightfoot on the art of printmaking”. This discussion of printmaking techniques by artist Pippa Lightfoot is presented in association with the exhibition of prints from etchings by Lionel Lindsay. 1pm, LWAG.

Wednesday 22 November

CENTRE FOR WATER RESEARCH/ENVIRONMENTAL DYNAMICS SEMINAR
“Monitored natural attenuation in groundwater: concepts and case studies”, Poul L. Bjerg, Technical University of Denmark. 4pm, Blakers Lecture Theatre, Mathematics Building.

Thursday 23 November

PHYSIOLOGY SEMINAR
“Hereditary non polyposis colorectal cancer (HNPCC): disease expression according to mutation status”, Prof. Rodney Scott, Head of Medical Genetics, University of Newcastle, Director of Molecular and Cytogenetics, John Hunter Hospital. 5pm, Physiology Seminar Room.

Saturday 25 November

PERTH MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE GROUP END OF YEAR PARTY
PMRG’s end of year party will be held at 440 Guilford Rd, Bayswater starting at 7pm. Members are asked to enter the spirit of the evening by adopting medieval dress, but this is entirely optional. $25 per person, includes meal, tea and coffee. Those interested should contact Emma Hawkes, c/o Department of History.
NOTICE OF CONFERENCE/CALL FOR PAPERS

1. CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS IN THE INDIAN-PACIFIC REGION 1200-1800 10 to 13 July 2001, UWA

The principal theme of this conference will be the interaction between European and established or indigenous cultures in the Indian-Pacific region. The conference is being held under the aegis of Parergon, the Journal of the Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies.

This is a call for individual conference papers and panels. Abstracts (between 100 and 300 words) should be sent by 31 December 2000 to—Dr Pamela Sharpe, Dept of History, Email: pasharpe@cyllene.uwa.edu.au, fax: 9380 1069.

(Also at this conference, Parergon, in association with Renaissance Studies, the Journal of the Society for Renaissance Studies (Gt Britain) will launch a special issue on the conference theme. The Editor of Parergon invites essays for this special issue. Deadline for the submission is 1 February 2001. This special publication precedes the conference and does not contain papers to be delivered at the conference. Papers should be submitted to Parergon in the normal way.)

2. METAMORPHOSES — PEOPLES, PLACES, TIMES 5 to 8 July 2001, UWA

Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies presents their third conference at St George’s College. Keynote speakers include A/Prof Sarah Beckwith (Duke University), Professor Joseph Duggan (University of California) and Professor Lyndal Roper (University of London).

Further information including registration forms and details of accommodation bookings at St George’s College are available at http://www.arts.uwa.edu.au/ANZAMEMS/con2001.html

Proposals for papers and for sessions are invited by 31 December 2000. For more details, contact Andrew Lynch (English) at alynch@cyllene.uwa.edu.au or Philippa Maddern at pipma@uniwa.uwa.edu.au

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING OVER CHRISTMAS

Since UWA offices will be closed for two weeks over Christmas, newspaper advertising deadlines have been brought forward a couple of weeks. In order to avoid a last minute rush, please take account of the following dates:

if you wish your ads to be published between

25 DECEMBER AND 14 JANUARY

you must contact Joanna Thompson at the Publications Unit no later than

MONDAY 11 DECEMBER

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Industrial relations manager Jenny Robertson had been planning for a long time to review the University’s maternity leave situation.

When she finally got the project off the ground earlier this year, she had no idea that it would become such a personal issue for her.

She was already pregnant (but unaware of it) when she attracted a grant from the Equity Initiatives Fund (now Diversity Initiatives) and she is now due to have her baby any day.

“I ran a focus group of about 40 women staff: some were pregnant, some were currently on maternity leave, some had recently returned to work and some had used their maternity leave entitlements some years before and now had quite grown up children. We also had a couple of supervisors who wanted to learn how best to incorporate maternity leave. So it was a good cross-section,” Ms Robertson said.

“The group was of the strong view that the University’s maternity leave provisions were very good. This is supported by a retention rate of 76 per cent, compared with the banking industry’s retention rate after maternity leave of less than 50 per cent.”

She said issues varied with each staff member and with different departments. Some departments were more supportive than others of taking family responsibilities into account.

“Jane den Hollander’s area was very supportive and probably still is, even though she’s left. And academics in the Law School reported a very good attitude with lots of different and flexible arrangements for staff with family responsibilities.”

Ms Robertson said the issue of access to part-time work for a gradual return to work was a tricky one.

“… the women often had the perception that they were being discriminated against.”

“In some areas, part-time work is perceived as having a lesser value than full-time work. That’s an issue that needs some work to break down those wrong perceptions.

“In other areas, women wanted part-time work but it was just not possible to create it for them and, in those situations, the women often had the perception that they were being discriminated against,” she said.

Dealing with being out of the workforce was something that women staff members should work out with their supervisors before they left work.

“I think it’s as important as having a birth plan for your baby,” she said.

“Some women just want to be left alone after the birth of their babies. The last thing they want is contact with the University. But more common is the feeling that women don’t want to be isolated and left out. They want to be kept up to date with what’s happening on campus and in their departments and perhaps to be invited to departmental social occasions, to keep in contact with their colleagues. This can all make returning to work much smoother.”

Ms Robertson plans to have a booklet, for staff members planning maternity leave and their supervisors, ready for the beginning of next year.

Forty-five years ago, a young musician attended a performance of a new ballet/opera at the Sunken Garden.

Rob Hyner was so struck by the composer, Meta Overmann, and her music that, despite being 24 years younger than her, he never again left her side.

Meta Overmann died seven years ago and, on the anniversary of her birthday earlier this month, her widower laid a commemorative plaque in the Sunken Garden to the woman who changed his life.

The plaque reads: This plaque honours Meta Overman (1907-1993) whose opera Psyche was performed in this garden for the 1955 Festival of Perth, and her contribution to Australian music.

After they met, the pair discovered they had come to Australia from Holland on the same migrant ship in 1951 but did not meet for another four years.

“Meta was already an established composer when she came to Perth and she soon became friends with Sir Frank Callaway and involved with the School of Music,” Mr Hyner said.

“She wrote Psyche while living in a University college and down at Albany. It was performed for the third Festival of Perth.”

Immediately after those ten performances, the couple left Perth to live in Melbourne for 15 years, then Holland, returning to Perth in 1978.
A love of teaching, a philosophy of nurturing and sharing knowledge: these qualities at UWA are represented in the finals of the Australian Awards for University Teaching.

UWA has two finalists in the AAUT this year: the University Mentor Scheme, run by Student Services, and Sally Reagan, a lecturer in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and the Department of Public Health (pictured right).

Ms Reagan is the driving force behind Problem Based Learning (PBL) and introducing it into the new medical curriculum. Referees for her award say that her contributions and leadership in this area are far beyond what would normally be expected of a lecturer.

Sally Reagan says she just loves to teach.

"The secret is working out how other people learn. It’s no good just standing up in front of people and telling them what you know. You have to understand how they learn and approach your teaching from that perspective,” she said.

“I learn more from my students than anybody else. If you don’t listen to your students, you don’t know if they’ve learned what you’re trying to teach them. And when you do listen to them, you’re amazed at what they can teach you.”

Ms Reagan was recently awarded Tutor of the Year by the final-year medical students. It is an award that the students make to just one teacher from the whole of their six years at medical school. It has always gone to a clinician in previous years and never before to a woman.

She has also just received an Excellence in Teaching nomination from her first-year medical students, adding to an already impressive list of awards and nominations.

But it is her time, effort and generous leadership in implementing PBL that have led to her nomination, and position as finalist in these awards.

Ms Reagan said her Fay Gayle Fellowship was the turning point in her PBL research.

“I learnt a huge amount and, after that, I was able to start synthesising what I’d learned. PBL is something you can make suit you and your faculty and use it to your advantage.”

While she is teaching other members of the faculty how to implement PBL, Ms Reagan is also in demand throughout Australia and overseas for her expertise.

Another aspect of teaching that’s made the finals of the AAUT is mentoring.

Mentoring of students by older students began at UWA in 1996 in the Faculty of Agriculture. It was adopted by Women in Science and Engineering (through Student Services) in 1997, then, this year, spread to all faculties, except Arts and Science, which will join the program next year.

Although it is administered by Student Services, co-ordinator Dr Sato Juniper says students are encouraged to take responsibility for the program and their mentees.

This year’s program has not yet been formally evaluated but Dr Juniper says the feedback from the students is marvellous.

“We already have 568 students in training to be mentors next year. And we expect we’ll have another influx just before first term.”

Training is done by 20 trainers from all the faculties, who have, in turn, been trained by Student Services.

Mentoring is done in small groups, with two mentors to two or three new students. This encourages networking between the first years and supports the mentors and their work.

Dr Juniper said just over 700 first-year students took advantage of the scheme this year and she expects that, eventually all first-year students will take part, once the culture is established.

The Australian Awards for University Teaching are announced in December.

First-year student and his third-year mentor.

“The secret is working out how other people learn.”
I realised I did have some wisdom to share, simply because of accumulation of experience..."

The words of Wendy Edgeley, Director of Secretariat Services in the Registrar’s office, are typical of the senior staff members who have generously given of their time and experience to mentor participants in the Leadership Development for Women program.

Jen de Vries, co-ordinator of the LDW program, said UWA was very fortunate to have senior executives who were prepared to devote the time to mentoring more junior women.

“Staff from other universities can’t believe that the VC and the DVC are mentors in our program,” she said.

“I thank them all for their interest and involvement and I hope their very positive experiences will encourage other senior staff to join the program.”

LDW held its fifth graduation dinner recently, for the women who took part in the 1999 program. Including those involved in the 2000 program, 175 UWA women have taken part in the program since its inception in 1994.

And it has become obvious that it is these women’s mentors, senior and often executive staff, who have also benefited from the program.

They have been forced to review their working practices, reaffirm their principles and reassess how much they have learned, as they pass on that wisdom to more junior staff.

“I didn’t realise I WAS wise,” said Mrs Edgeley, who had mentored three women. “It’s only when you have the opportunity to pass on what you have learned that you realise how much you have learned. You look back on your experiences and you might not always have done everything right, but you’ve learned from that and you can pass that on.”

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Community and Development) Associate Professor Margaret Searse has been mentor to four women in the program.

“You don’t realise how much you learn by osmosis until you come to pass it on to somebody else,” she said.

“It’s always very pleasing to see people you’ve been working with taking bold steps and sometimes you can unblock something for them to make their way easier.”

Martin Griffith, Director of Finance and Resources, said, as a mentor, the learning process takes place on both sides.

“I have learnt an enormous amount from the women I’ve mentored, especially different ways of looking at issues. People in a position like mine tend to get isolated and being a mentor helps you to get back in touch with other people’s problems,” he said.

Professor Paige Porter, Executive Dean (International Relations) said she wished she had had some senior academic women to mentor her through the early days of her career.

“The role of mentor is a standard academic role, it’s not a new idea. But there weren’t many senior women around when I was younger,” she said.

All of these senior staff have kept in touch with their mentors, some for many years after their initial contact.

Professor Alan Robson, a great supporter of LDW, has mentored many women and they have boundless admiration for the time and energy and real interest he has shown in them and their careers.

Associate Professor Judy Stratton had Professor Robson as a mentor in 1994 and has been in constant contact with him since then.

“The greatest thing Alan has given me over the years is lots of confidence. He was especially helpful when I was head of department. It was great to be able to talk over problems with somebody who had experienced the same problems but was not involved in the department,” she said.

There are times when all of us have challenging issues to deal with. When personal or work related issues make life difficult, the University has an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to help staff manage these issues more effectively.

The EAP is a professional, confidential counselling and consultation service. The services of Davidson Trahaire are available FREE to you and your family for up to six sessions a year.

For appointments, please ring Davidson Trahaire on 9382 8100 or if urgent 9480 4847(24 hours). Their offices are located at Suite 11, 100 Hay St, Subiaco. Further information can be obtained at www.admin.uwa.edu.au/sho.

Mentoring is a two-way street

Mentors Associate Professor Lyn Abbot, Professor Paige Porter, Professor Alan Robson and Professor Cheryl Praeger enjoy the LDW dinner.
Musical themes, "Thank goodness there are still some artists who can draw!"

Overheard at an exhibition of contemporary artists in Perth recently, this is a comment that would have gladdened the heart of Lionel Lindsay, the lesser-known older brother of Norman, who was obsessed with the belief that painting depended on a notion of correct drawing.

He deplored modernist painters like Picasso and Matisse. He once observed, after a trip to Paris in the 1920s, that he had been “nauseated by so much bad art everywhere”.

If you have any sympathy with his views, then you’ll enjoy one of the current exhibitions at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery. Lionel Lindsay was one of Australia’s most eminent printmakers and had a long and successful career as an illustrator and writer as well.

The exhibition has a wide range of prints from woodblocks and etchings, including Australian scenes, samples of domestic life both here and in Spain, and animals, including his famous birds and chooks.

The fine detail in the feathers of a rooster or peacock, the expression on the face of a bird that you might otherwise consider expressionless: there is no doubt about Lionel Lindsay’s drawing skills.

About 1900, he saw the opera Carmen and was inspired to move to Spain where his work was influenced by European artists.

But he gave up his Bohemian lifestyle for respectability and marriage and shunned his brother Norman when he tried to bring his infamous model Rose to his home.

Much of his work harks back to tranquil days of the past and a peasant life style, with cats, goats, chooks and horses featuring among his subjects.

But he didn’t lose himself to sentimentality. Like his brother Norman, he was also a serious writer and he wrote Australia’s first published book of art criticism.

Also in the Gallery is a collection of prints which has recently been donated to the University by Youth Music Australia.

YMA commissioned 12 Australian artists to come up with works that were inspired by music. They had an edition of 75 prints made of the collection and have donated them to galleries around Australia.

Virtuosi includes works by Tim Storrier, John Olsen, George Milpurruru, Arthur Boyd, Cressida Campbell and Mandy Martin.

The music theme connects them very loosely, some with a very whimsical approach, others more conservative.

Both exhibitions are on display in the Gallery until December 17. On Tuesday November 21, to enhance the Lionel Lindsay exhibition, the Gallery presents a tuesdays live discussion on the history and methods of printmaking.
Neuroscience program comes of age

Helen Barbour, one of the first two honours students in the Neuroscience program, recently won the prestigious and highly internationally competitive Travelling Fellowship, offered by the Company of Biologists (UK).

Associate Professor Mathew Martin-Iverson, the facilitator of specialised programs in the Faculty of Science, congratulated Ms Barbour.

“Helen has won this fellowship for her honours research (supervised by Professor Lyn Beazley) on ultraviolet sensitivity of retinal cells in the uniquely Western Australian lizard, the Ctenophorus ornatus.

“She will be using the fellowship to travel to the University College, London, to work with Professor Jim Bowmaker and Professor David Hump on the spectral tuning on ultraviolet visual pigments.

“Not only does this award recognise Helen’s superb research and scientific skills, but it is a great honour that the Neuroscience program was lucky enough to have her as one of its first (and enthusiastic!) students,” Professor Martin-Iverson said.

Your creation could encourage people on campus to be more aware of safety and health issues.

The Safety and Health Office has launched a poster competition in conjunction with three unions operating on campus: the Community and Public Sector/Civil Service Association (CPU/CSA); the National Tertiary Education Industry Union (NTEIU); and the Australian Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers’ Union (ALHMWU).

They are looking for two posters to be displayed around the campus next year. The first is about safety roles and responsibilities of the University, its managers and supervisors, and the other will focus on the roles and responsibilities of individuals (employees, students and contractors).

The first poster must inform about safety roles in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Policy, which is available on the Web at www.admin.uwa.edu.au/sho/policy/osh.html

The second poster is to ensure that people on campus are informed and encouraged to be involved with safety and health issues. It should encourage people to report all known or observed hazards, incidents and injuries, and should include the security and emergency numbers for the main Crawley campus.

These numbers and other details about the competition are in the what’s new section of the SHO home page.

Prizes of two $200 vouchers for the Co-op Bookshop are offered, one for each winning poster.

Entries close on January 31 and, within a month, 200 copies of each winning poster will be distributed across the campus.

Check the SHO’s home page for more details and conditions.

The Graduate School of Management has become a Quality Endorsed Company.

Under the ISO 9001 quality standard, the GSM has undergone a rigorous process to become the first graduate school in WA and possibly the first in Australia to achieve a quality endorsement, a stamp highly prized by the profession.

In 1997, the school won the Achievement in Business Excellence Award from the Australian Quality Council and has been working on achieving the next step since that accolade. The certification signals the school’s ethos of continuous learning and customer focus.
**WANTED TO RENT/HOUSESIT**

HOUSE WANTED for two-month period between February and March 2001 by visiting UK professor with wife and two small children. Preference is to be close to UWA, 2-3 bedrooms and air-conditioning. Contact Robin on ext. 3346 or email mille@maths.uwa.edu.au

HOUSE OR FLAT WANTED TO RENT by mature academic couple from England from mid Jan through to end of Feb 2001. Non-smokers, prepared to water plants and feed pets. Air-conditioning and proximity to UWA preferred. Contact Dorothy Bishop at dorothy.bishop@psy.ox.ac.uk

**FOR RENT**

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE FOR RENT IN DAGLISH (Subiaco) from 10 December for 6 to 12 months. 4 brms, 2 bath, double garage, modern architect-designed split-level high-ceiling building in quiet area close to parklands. Reticulated gardens and walking distance from primary school and high school (Shenton College). Direct bus to UWA and 5 mins by train to city. Phone 9388 1028 or email R.Mavaddatz@cowan.edu.au

BUSSELTON, older style cottage near Broadwater Resort and beach. Sleeps 4 to 6. Phone Lynda on 9346 2140 or lyndam@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

**WANTED TO BUY**

CARAVAN wanted, 4-6 berth standard, not popup. Must be registered, waterproof and tovable. Please send information to Professor Stan Kailis at skailis@agric.uwa.edu.au

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**Redundant Equipment for Sale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
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<td>$250</td>
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<td>Jenny</td>
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<td>Peniunm 120 Mhz, 1.2 GB, 4MB RAM, Windows 98, CD, with Tatung monitor</td>
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**Bids should be accepted by Monday 27 November with departments to have first option**

Departments are reminded that all University equipment available for sale must be advertised in the **UWA news**. Receipts should be PeopleSoft account coded 490 (computing with barcode), 491 (non-computing with barcode) or 493 (items with no barcode). If equipment has an existing barcode please contact extension 3618/2547 for details.

**CONDITION** refers to the general condition of item (1 = as new; 2 = good; 3 = serviceable; 4 = unserviceable). **AGE** refers to the nearest year.
Where have all the science teachers gone?

In the euphoria that surrounded the Olympics, business, scientific and professional groups stepped up their warnings that Australia was in danger of being left behind the rest of the world. We may have dazzled the international community, and ourselves, with our ability to hold a successful games and to achieve tremendous sporting feats; however, business and professional leaders cautioned that our future is imperilled unless we act to build a knowledge-based economy underpinned by science and technology.

Crucial to the economic and social well-being of our state is a thriving science and technology sector, founded among other things, on good high school science teaching.

A recently released report warns that Western Australia faces a battle to maintain high quality science education because, to put it bluntly, good science teachers are a dying breed.

After all, how do we produce a scientific and technologically-literate society? How do we enthuse young people to pursue tertiary scientific studies? How do we produce eminent minds to keep Australia at the cutting edge of science and technology? Good high school science teachers are critical if we are to maintain our current standard of living.

The Science Teachers’ Association of Western Australia’s Review of the Quality and Supply of Science Teachers shows that WA science teachers are, on average, older than their counterparts in other states, with 27 per cent being over 49 years of age, compared with 13 per cent in the total teaching population. Many of these are “baby boomers”, drawn into science teaching as a result of the post-Sputnik science push. In the next decade it is estimated that about 20 per cent of WA’s science teachers will retire from the profession.

There is also a shortage of qualified science teachers. A qualified teacher of science at Year 11 and 12 level is defined as someone who has successfully completed second-year university units in the subject they teach. Unqualified teachers are estimated to account for 17 per cent of teachers in physics, 15 per cent for chemistry and 10 per cent in biology. Clearly there is a special need for qualified teachers in the physical sciences.

The University recognises the importance of producing more and better science teachers and has taken steps to address this issue. Last month, the Faculty of Science held a seminar aimed at encouraging more graduates into science teaching. Those who attended indicated that they were excited about the potential which science teaching offered to communicate to young people the wonders and joys of science, and inspired by the opportunities the profession provided for improving scientific literacy.

The UWA Graduate School of Education has also risen to the challenge by introducing a new science education course that responds to changes in the school science curriculum, and to new approaches to teaching and learning science. Recent feedback from high school ‘mentor’ teachers, who supervise Diploma of Education students on their teaching pracs, suggests that UWA students are highly regarded for their solid grounding in science coupled with a good understanding of the theory and practice of science education.

The University is responding to the urgent need for an increase in both the quality and the supply of science teachers in WA. In fact, at the national conference for science teachers held here at UWA in July, it was acknowledged that UWA is now leading the way in producing the next generation of WA’s science teachers.

So if someone asks you the question, “Where have all the science teachers gone?” it is with confidence that you can reply: They’re on their way . . . from UWA!”

...the last word