Lake Victoria, the source of the River Nile and the lifeblood of forty million African people, is under pressure.

An almost sevenfold increase in the population of the Lake’s catchment over the past 50 years, and increased agricultural pollution from the three countries that share the lake has seen the World Bank step in to save this important water body, the second largest freshwater lake in the world.

UWA’s Centre for Water Research (CWR) has won a contract worth nearly a million dollars, from the World Bank, to help out with one part of the study.

CWR’s Professor Jörg Imberger, Dr Jason Antenucci, project manager Dr Jose Romero and field operations manager Ms Sheree Feaver are examining the flow and exchange of water between Winam Gulf (an area of water about twenty five times larger than Lake Victoria).
the size of Sydney Harbour in the north-east corner of the Lake) and the main body of the Lake (about the size of Tasmania).

Their study of the hydraulic conditions in the Rusinga Channel, which links Winam Gulf to the rest of the Lake, is needed to determine how much flushing of nutrients from the Gulf to the Lake occurs. Then decisions can be made about what needs to be done in the environment surrounding the Gulf to improve the water quality.

Dr Romero, who has formerly worked at Lake Victoria on a project with the University of California, said their experiments, to be conducted over the next eight months, were coming near the end of a seven-to-eight year funding phase by the World Bank, which has emphasised fisheries and pollution, but not much hydraulics or water movement.

"We really need a hydraulic study to understand the ecology," Dr Romero said.

Dr Antenucci said part of their field work would be communicating with the locals, including fisherfolk, and explaining to them that this study would lead to an improved understanding of the lake and, in the long run, would be beneficial to them. They will include the local community in their work where possible, and work on building the scientific capacity of the people. Some Kenyan scientists will be trained at CWR during the project. (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania border Lake Victoria though Winam Gulf lies entirely in Kenya.)

Dr Romero said that, in 1960, about 400 different species of fish lived in Lake Victoria and nowhere else in the world. "These were small fish, with no real commercial value, but good for feeding families who lived around the Lake," he said. "Then Nile Perch (a big fish related to barramundi) was introduced in the 1950s, and it led to the highest rate of vertebrate extinction ever with perhaps an 80 per cent loss of the native fish fauna during the 1980s. While the Nile Perch now provides a commercial commodity for the fisherfolk, there has been a huge loss of biodiversity."

During their experiments, the CWR team will deploy two automated moored stations in the Rusinga Channel, and collect spatial data with profiling instruments from boats. These instruments, like the F-probe (pictured), measure temperature, salinity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and other characteristics of the water.

The team hopes their work will result in a significant increase in understanding the ecology of Winam Gulf and the causes of eutrophication (high levels of nutrients that encourage algal growth).

Dr Romero and Ms Feaver left last week for the first of their field campaigns.

*The research vessel is prepared for the CWR study*
Documenting grief

Just as Susannah Thompson was starting work on her PhD two years ago, a personal tragedy changed not only her life, but the direction of her research.

Susannah is a historian and was thinking about an aspect of Ned Kelly for her thesis. Then she had a stillborn baby boy.

“I realised that, even though we hear very little about it in our society, it is a monumental event for women and their families,” Susannah said.

“People came out of the woodwork to comfort me and tell me their stories of stillborn and miscarried babies. Women came to me crying over the babies they had lost up to 50 years ago, and then I knew I had to write about it.

“There is nothing in historical scholarship about these families’ personal tragedies. Although many historians have written about the history of pregnancy and childbirth, miscarriage and stillbirth remain silent in history, and nothing has been written to help these families and help raise community awareness.”

Susannah, now the mother of a ten-month-old daughter, Olivia, is looking into Stillbirths, Miscarriages and Neonatal Deaths in Australia, between 1890 and 2000. She hopes it will contribute to and enlarge on existing historical research into pregnancy and childbirth.

“I think miscarriages and stillbirths were more common in the earlier period of my research, but, because they weren’t talked about, I feel there was a misconception then that losing a baby didn’t mean anything,” she said. “The psychological literature says it is as monumental as losing a spouse.”

Susannah is looking for women to tell her their stories. “It might help them to know that I’m not just a casual observer, that I can relate to their grief. People have told me of many women who have been through it, but it’s such a personal grief, that I don’t want to approach anybody. I want women to come to me voluntarily.”

She has already talked to many young women and is particularly keen to speak with older women, who lost their babies many years ago.

“I want to trace the changes in how this situation has been understood over a century, and changes in how it’s been manifested in rituals and ceremonies.”

Susannah said from the scant literature about miscarriages, stillbirths and neonatal deaths, she had found that one in four women experienced one of them. “But some women have multiple miscarriages, while many have none, so it’s not a very good statistic.”

She said that young women had been quite open with her about their experiences but she still needed older and mature women, for their particular perspectives. She is also gathering information through medical records, psychologists’ records, social workers’ notes and the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome group.

“I realise that it is not just a woman’s experience; it affects fathers as well, but our society doesn’t tend to recognise fathers’ grief in these situations.

“One day, I would like to look at it from a father’s perspective, but just now, my terms of reference are already very wide.”

Susannah has a Dean’s Postgraduate travel grant to go to the eastern states to broaden her research and to gather oral histories. Her PhD is being supervised by Dr Andrea Gaynor and Dr Charlie Fox.

If you can help with an oral history of a stillbirth, miscarriage or a neonatal death, please contact Susannah on 9242 2037 or by email, at sthomp@cyllene.uwa.edu.au
The potential for new players in a new framework

Earlier this year, the Federal Education Minister indicated his desire for there to be a broader range of higher education providers in Australia.

He linked this to redefining the key characteristics of a ‘university’, believing that greater diversity needs to be encouraged ‘if Australia is to remain internationally competitive’.

Our Registrar is finalising a response to the Minister’s issues paper based on discussion at Senate, Academic Council and the Executive which has seen consensus emerge around some key elements.

We would like the term ‘university’ to be reserved for institutions in which there is a strong nexus between teaching and research across a wide range of disciplines. However, pragmatically, we recognise that the term ‘university’ will continue to apply to a variety of institutions engaged in teaching, research and scholarship, from comprehensive teaching and research intensive institutions to predominantly teaching-only institutions.

There is also general agreement that the terms ‘public’ and ‘private’ provider are not particularly helpful, since higher education is both a public and private good supported by a mix of public and private funding. Private providers in Australia receive public funding and vice versa. The nature of higher education is that it requires both public and private investment to optimise both public and private benefits. We believe that the fundamental principles which should guide the provision of higher education are quality, access and diversity. To the extent that higher education is a public good, government has a legitimate stake in regulating for quality, access and diversity.

We also support the view that the quality assurance process can and should accommodate diversity through the application of a fitness for purpose approach whereby quality is evaluated against institutional mission. The issue of ensuring standards at internationally competitive levels for Australian providers is a more complex, but achievable, dimension of quality assurance.

In relation to funding, the policy settings and funding mechanisms to support quality, access and diversity are critical. In general terms, higher education providers should be able to compete for both public and private funding under similar competitive and accountability conditions.

Of particular significance is research funding. Research funding should be allocated to support high quality research. This must involve rigorous peer review as the primary determinant of competitive research funding and targeted research infrastructure funding to support high quality research environments.

The same principle should apply to research training. The provision of research student places should reflect the quality of the research environment, so that research students are trained only where there are research-active staff with demonstrated research performance, and high quality research facilities.

We also argue that the government should not pre-empt any of these outcomes by pre-ordaining institutional missions or characteristics, but should ensure that competitive funding mechanisms and rigorous quality assurance processes are driven by performance. This will be the best way to ensure quality and diversity.

The University’s response will be posted on our website when it is complete.

Alan Robson
Vice-Chancellor

UWA Endeavours

Two graduate students – one from UWA and one coming to UWA from Italy – have won Endeavour Awards.

The Endeavour Programme is an Australian Government initiative to showcase the excellence of Australia’s education sector worldwide.

Roberto Busi, a postgraduate student from the University of Turin in Italy, will be undertaking research across the Western Australia wheatbelt investigating two herbicide resistant weeds, *Raphanus raphanistrum* and *Lolium*, as an Endeavour Research Fellowship recipient.

Mr Busi hopes to identify mutations in the weeds’ genes and provide practical information of direct relevance to the successful management of these herbicide resistant populations.

Stuart Pearse, a Plant Ecophysiology PhD candidate from UWA’s School of Plant Biology, will be travelling to China on his fellowship.

He will conduct research on phosphorous levels in Chinese soils and converting phosphorous in an unavailable state (for plant uptake) to a form easily utilised by vegetation. Mr Pearse will be carrying out this research under an Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Award.

He plans to examine the potential of lupin and faba bean species to access sparing soluble phosphorus in Chinese soils, and facilitate increased phosphorus uptake by a wheat species.

His research will benefit both Australian and Chinese cropping systems because it examines the potential for new grain legume species to be used in intercropping systems applicable to both Chinese and Australian agriculture.

“The Endeavour scholarship offers a unique and exciting opportunity to spend three months living and working in China. It will diversify my cultural experience, assist my professional development, and allow me to enhance my network within the field of plant ecophysiology and phosphorus research”, he said.

The Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Awards, valued at $25,000, are available to scholars from Asia to come to Australia to undertake short-term research and for Australians to do the same in Asia.
Students show their work to the world

Graduate students in Natural and Agricultural Sciences now have a simple way of letting the world know what they’re doing.

The Faculty has created an easy to use website template for Masters and PhD students, so they can produce a website that is standardised, includes the Faculty logo and information, and has links to the students’ supervisors, all automatically.

“All they have to do,” says Diane Arnott, prospective students officer for the Faculty, “is find the template through our home page. They need their student number and a pin to gain access, then it’s simply a matter of clicking boxes, adding a picture, an image and their CV, which is optional.”

The students can also provide up to four links to other areas of research, publications or websites that are relevant to their work.

When they have completed the template, it is submitted to Diane for approval. Once approved, the website appears, complete with Faculty colours, logo and contact details, on the home pages of the students’ schools or centres. If students are pursuing a higher degree through more than one school or centre, their websites appear on the homepages of both those schools, sporting the appropriate branding.

“We are hoping that Google will list these websites,” Diane said. “Then they could really provide some opportunities for the students, as well as disseminating information about the Faculty, the Schools, the staff, the students, and the fantastic research they’re doing.”

The Faculty has about 250 graduate students. About 30 of them have already taken the opportunity of creating a website with the new template, which went live in February.

Natural and Agricultural Sciences is the first faculty to offer its students the ease of a template for producing their own sites. Diane said Professor Robyn Owens, Dean of the Graduate Research School, was delighted with the initiative, and that the Business School was interested in a similar project.

“A lot of people have worked on this to bring it to fruition,” Diane said. “Graduate students Stuart Pearse and Shane Kenworthy helped with the first drafts and developments; Web Office and DUIT staff Grant Malcolm, Rodney Ng and Simone Collins did the programming and overall design of the sites; and Sue Heng and Bruce Kirkby extracted the data we needed from the Student Record System.

“It’s been a very successful collaboration and we hope that all our students will soon have their own place in the world wide web.”

To see the student’s Websites, visit the home pages of any of the Schools in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences and click on Postgrad Student Websites.

Graduate Students websites (clockwise from top left): Stewart Ford, Stuart Pearse, Jessica Oates and Lindsay Bell, from Plant Biology and Animal Biology.
More than the Galapagos

The young Charles Darwin spent five years at sea on his historic voyage on board the Beagle.

What he saw and noted on more than 40 islands around the world formed the basis for his Theory of Evolution, published in *On the Origin of the Species*, in 1859.

Geographer and ecologist Patrick Armstrong spent 20 years studying Darwin’s diaries, field notes and correspondence, and following in his footsteps to almost half of those islands.

And the result is a book, *Darwin’s Other Islands*, that is set to become the definitive text on the 19th century naturalist’s geographical and philosophical voyage.

Darwin’s visit to the Galapagos Islands has been the subject of many studies, but Dr Armstrong, an honorary research fellow in the School of Earth and Geographical Sciences, says that the significance of Darwin’s experiences on the other islands has not been documented.

In what he says is the most important book he’s written, Dr Armstrong draws some surprising conclusions, which he supports with a wealth of evidence gathered very much in the spirit of Darwin’s own methods.

He took photocopies of Darwin’s original field notes and trod the very paths that Darwin took, on 17 islands, including Cocos, the Falklands, Tahiti and the Azores.

“Darwin was not yet an evolutionist when he stepped ashore on the first island on the Beagle’s voyage,” Dr Armstrong said. “He had been employed to take natural history observations on what was essentially a hydrographic survey, designed to expand Britain’s overseas trade.

“But he was a person who was interested in everything he saw: plants, animals, rocks, water and people. He collected specimens and information on everything.

“It was his habit of comparison that was the key to his success.”

When Darwin returned from his years at sea, he spent years analysing his notes and specimens. “He was very fortunate that he didn’t need to work to support himself. His father had been a doctor who specialised in diseases of the rich, and had left Darwin and his siblings a rich inheritance,” Dr Armstrong said.

“There are vague traces in his notes from the Beagle voyage that point to ideas of natural selection, but it was as if he had thought about evolution, then rejected it.

“It was one day in 1837, around St Patrick’s Day, that he noted, while looking at some of his specimens, that different creatures lived on different islands. Then, in May that year, he talked to the Geological Society about coral islands, and hinted strongly at the idea, but nobody picked it up.
Patrick Armstrong ... knows Charles Darwin very well.

“He was on the right track. In 1842 he wrote a long longhand draft of the essay that, when revised in 1844, set it all out. Before he could publish his book, he received a paper, out of the blue, from a young land surveyor named Wallace, that included many ideas about natural selection.

“Darwin’s and Wallace’s idea appeared in a cobbled-together joint paper presented to the Linnean Society, then On the Origin was published a year later.”

Dr Armstrong said Darwin’s conventional upbringing and place in society helped him to have his ideas accepted. “He was landed gentry, educated at Edinburgh Medical School, Shrewsbury School and Christ College, Cambridge.

“And it was an exaggeration that his ideas set the Church totally against him. Some members of the Church found his ideas liberating.”

He said Darwin wrote 15 books and published dozens of papers on topics including geology, animal behaviour, barnacles, orchids and psychology.

After following in his footsteps and reading his original notes, Dr Armstrong feels he knows Darwin very well. “I know him as a young man, in middle life and in his old age – all at the same time! And I like him,” he said.

Darwin’s Other Islands (published by Continuum) was launched in both hemispheres, celebrating the momentous voyage that was the beginning of modern evolutionary thought.

It is available at the Co-op Bookshop for $199.
Diabetes is a multi-system disease, one that affects every tissue in the body. It is born of a complex interaction between genes and the environment. And it’s on the increase in Western society.

Tim Davis, Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology at Fremantle Hospital, knew this when he decided, in the early 1990s, to set up a longitudinal study of diabetes in the Fremantle region.

He had just arrived at Fremantle, a very young professor, aged just 35 when he was given the Chair in Medicine. And he proceeded to earn that position with a unique decade-long community research project.

“I wanted to get a natural history of diabetes out there in the community, not simply from patients in clinics and pharmaceutical intervention trials,” he said.

With a priming grant from the Raine Foundation, Professor Davis started the Fremantle Diabetes Study in 1993. It was to become the most comprehensive assessment of diabetes in an urban community, undertaken anywhere in the world.

After nine years, Professor Davis and his team (Associate Professor David Bruce, Head of the School of Medicine and Pharmacology at Fremantle and a specialist in geriatric medicine, biostatistician Wendy Davis, and, over the years, several research nurses and PhD students) closed out the study and continued writing up their findings.

They hope to complete the project within a couple of years. “We have published 25 major papers in international peer-reviewed literature and we still have another 30 or so papers to write,” Professor Davis said.

“We hope that our data will help in the identification of and management of diabetes patients in a multidirectional way. We looked at as many aspects of diabetes as possible. However, once the Raine grant was used up, we were faced with lean times financially. Funding agencies didn’t seem keen on supporting clinicians doing a largely epidemiological study. We managed to complete the study on a shoestring budget but it did subsequently attract NHMRC funding in the form of a 3-year grant for a project looking at the cognitive function of the older patients from the original cohort.”

One of those attracted by the FDS’s unique work was a Swiss trainee endocrinologist, who has come to Australia to work with the team.

They have presented their work at American and European diabetes conferences over the past ten years. Professor Davis recently returned from Copenhagen where he presented a paper on lung function that was published in Diabetes Care, which has the highest impact factor of all diabetes journals. This paper has particular implications for inhaled insulin, a way of avoiding injections.

“We found that the diabetes impairs lung function in proportion to the level of blood glucose,” Professor Davis said. “There isn’t a tissue in the body that diabetes doesn’t affect. We have published papers on retinopathy, heart disease, diabetes and the elderly, kidneys, nerves, and now lungs. We have also looked at the health economics – the cost of diabetes to the community.”

Their latest published paper is on thyroid function.

The wide-ranging success of the study has been dependent on the large numbers in the study and the broad spectrum of patients.

“In our primary catchment area, from North Fremantle to Kwinana and east to Melville, there were 120,000 people when we started the study. We recruited as many diabetic people as we could, through clinic lists, hospital records, general practitioners, allied
health professionals, word of mouth, ads in pharmacies, stories in local newspapers.

“We identified 2,200 diabetic patients in the area and persuaded 1,500 of them to come in for an initial screening, to be followed up with annual reviews.

“Forty per cent attended for at least five annual visits. With an average age of 63, a lot of them died during the study. About 350 patients died between 1993 and 2001. The oldest patient in the study was 100, the youngest was 13 at the beginning of the study. Most had type 2 diabetes, which affects more than 90 per cent of people with the disease and is usually diagnosed later in life.”

Professor Davis said there had been lots of research into diabetes but it was usually studies of selected groups of patients, not across a broad community spectrum.

“Some community studies have also looked at diabetes, but not in the numbers that we have. The Busselton Study has only about 200 or 300 diabetic patients and even the famous Framingham study (near Boston) has about the same number.”

He said the UK Prospective Diabetes Study (of which Professor Davis is an associate investigator) had kept records of over 3,000 patients for 20 years, but it was looking only at treatments and interventions in referred patients, not at diabetes in the community.

“Nobody’s done as comprehensive a study in the community,” he said. “And that’s where our strength and the breadth of our work lies.”

When the Fremantle Diabetes Study is completed, Professor Davis plans to look at Type 2 diabetes in young adults.

“The legacy of the obesity epidemic is the earlier presentation of type 2 diabetes and we need to understand more about this group. They face dealing with diabetes for most of their lives.”
Students from faculties all over campus are lining up to study French.

Three retired academics from European Languages and Studies said the establishment of the European Union, and business opportunities within it, are inspiring students of commerce, economics, law and even science and medicine to study French so they can be part of the global network.

Honorary Research Fellows, Noelene Bloomfield and Dr Rosemary Lancaster, and former Associate Professor Beverley Noakes believe that French is the new Japanese or Indonesian.

But they do admit to bias. Between them, they have 87 years of teaching and research in French language and culture at UWA. They all retired within 12 months, around 2002. And this month, the French Government has honoured their work with the coveted Palmes Académiques – one for each of them.

“They are given to people whom the French government considers have done a great job of promoting French language and culture outside France,” Mrs Bloomfield said. “They are usually presented to teachers and academics, but they are not the sort of honour that you just expect. We were very surprised when we found out that we had all been chosen.”

Dr Lancaster worked at UWA for 20 years, Mrs Bloomfield for 35 years and former A/Professor Noakes for 32 years.

The three were quick to praise each other’s work. Mrs Bloomfield said Dr Lancaster had done great work with primary school French teachers, taking them on language immersion tours to France and inspiring and training them to be excellent teachers.

Dr Lancaster said A/Professor Noakes had opened up the study of French from a narrow focus on France to post-colonial French culture in Africa and the Caribbean. “Beverley set up incredible courses and her work influenced other universities to follow her example,” she said.

She also said that Mrs Bloomfield had introduced an excellent course in beginners’ French when they found out that many rural high schools were no longer teaching the language. It became, and remains, the most popular course in the School of Humanities’ European Languages and Studies.

Now in semi-retirement, Dr Lancaster and Mrs Bloomfield are both still working on research projects on campus. Dr Lancaster is studying Australian women who went to France between 1880 and 1950 for a reason other than tourism.

Her research includes artists who went to study in France and nurses who worked there during World War I. From the letters, diaries and even novels that they wrote, she is piecing together their experiences of the culture, the language and the history of France.

“I’m really enjoying doing something on the French-Australian connection, especially with women who were doing enterprising things,” she said.

Mrs Bloomfield is continuing her research into the French ocean expeditions to Australia. “There were almost 20 expeditions between 1500 and the mid 1800s,” she said. Initially stirred to find out the origins of so many French names in Western Australia, Mrs Bloomfield became an expert on the explorations of Baudin.

“But there were many others, including d’Entrecasteaux, who preceded Baudin by eight-and-a-half years. He circumnavigated Australia one-and-a-half times searching for the lost explorer La Perouse, who turned out to be lost in the Pacific Ocean,” she said.

A/Professor Noakes recently helped co-ordinate the Australian Association for Caribbean Studies conference at Trinity. She also works as a volunteer helping asylum seekers, being especially useful for the many refugees from African countries who speak French.

All three of them agree that language teachers generally forge closer relationships with their students than teachers in other disciplines.

“A language has be very nurturing,” said Dr Lancaster. “You have to get close to your students to lure them into speaking the language,” said Mrs Bloomfield. “And you help them not to make fools of themselves,” added A/Professor Noakes.

All three won Excellence in Teaching Awards while at UWA and were thrilled that the Palmes Académiques would cap their careers.
WA’s most outstanding artists are supporting a project to build a school for the children of a nomadic Tibetan community.

Many of the artists had recently been asked to donate their work for the tsunami relief fund, but coordinator of the Tibetan project, Dr Dave Webb, said they were extraordinarily generous in donating to the Tibetan Support Programme (TSP) as well.

Paintings, drawings, photographs and works in ceramic, wood, glass and fabric will be auctioned over a three-week period, starting this Friday, April 22. The auction will be launched at the University Club, during its Fridays on the Foreshore sundowner.

Dr Webb, a senior lecturer in Marketing, founded the TSP after meeting a Tibetan monk and visiting the region of Kharnang. “Kharnang is home to thousands of ethnic Tibetan nomads who have struggled to survive, through environmental disaster and other changes that have hugely impacted their lives,” he said.

The Gesar Sherab school in Kharnang, which the TSP is building, will offer boarding facilities for teachers and 250 children. The school will open in July and the first 30 students will be the first of the nomads of Kharnang to learn to read and write.

Dr Webb hopes the school will be able to accommodate 60 children by the end of the year, and gradually build up numbers when funds allow the building program to progress. TSP needs $87,000 to complete its building program this year.

He combines his work in Tibet with his work in the School of Information Management and Marketing. “My current research is looking at the effects on quality of life of providing alternative technology products, like solar cookers, to remote communities on the Tibetan plateau,” he said. Some of his colleagues and students have joined him in his community work.

The works of art for auction will be displayed at the University Club from Friday, for the three weeks of the silent auction via the Web. You can also see them on the TSP website, where you can make a bid or a donation or just find out more about the project to educate the children of the nomads. It is at www.tibetsupport.org.

Bidders will also be able to lodge a bid for one of the works of art at the University Club. They will be sold to the highest bidders at the end of the period, on May 13.

Local artists who have donated their work include Hans Arkeveld (who also works at the School of Anatomy and Human Biology), Tania Ferrier, George Haynes, Ross Miller, Theo Koning, Helen Clarke and Murray Gill.

Parents (are) welcome

More than a thousand parents of commencing students responded to an invitation to come and make themselves part of the UWA experience.

It was the biggest response to the Parents’ Welcome the University has had in the seven years the event has been running. Coordinator Ian Lilburne, from Public Affairs, said the day ran smoothly with happy parents and enthusiastic staff volunteers.

“I want to thank the staff who gave up their time on the weekend to be tour leaders and presenters. The parents really appreciate this opportunity,” Ian said.

“The weather smiled on us too. After an unseasonal storm the day before, the clouds parted and the sunshine came out, an hour before the parents started arriving,” he said.

They were greeted in Winthrop Hall by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, the Director of Development, Peter Leunig and the President of the Student Guild, Natalie Hepburn.

Parents then toured areas where their children would be studying, and had the chance to ask people from those faculties questions about campus life. They finished up with afternoon tea and drinks at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, where they were joined by many more staff.

The feedback from parents has been excellent, complimenting the University on its initiative and helpfulness.
Paul Roberts Singapore MBA …
and in full flight with Perth Glory.

Glory on the field and in the classroom

The flexibility of programs at the Graduate School of Management has helped Paul Roberts successfully combine life as a professional soccer player with his studies across several countries.

Paul, who received a Director’s Letter for Academic excellence when he graduated with a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Singapore, now works with one of Asia’s leading television networks, ESPN STAR Sports. His commentary of football games reaches about 180 million viewers across Asia and ESPN covered his MBA graduation.

Early in his career, Paul, known on the soccer ground as PJ, spent three years at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, on a soccer scholarship. He captained Australia’s national team at the 1996 World FIFA Futsal (five-a-side soccer) Championships in Spain. PJ played for Perth Glory between 2000 and 2002.

He then took the field for Sarawak, Malaysia, transferred to Geylang United in Singapore, before retiring from the game late in 2003, due to injury.

PJ started his MBA while he was still a Perth Glory player and the GSM worked with him to match his study program with his soccer lifestyle.

“I went about it the hard way, beginning in Perth with a few subjects, then transferring to a club in Malaysia, where I did some distance learning subjects with another university,” PJ said. “One of the main reasons I moved to Singapore was to continue my studies through UWA, because graduating through a prestigious MBA program was very important to me.

“The people at the GSM really bent over backwards to help me out in my situation. Without their support and cooperation it would have been extremely difficult for me to have graduated.

“One thing I’ve taken out of my MBA studies is that, if you apply yourself, you can surprise yourself with what you can achieve.”

PJ is now investigating a range of business opportunities where he can put his MBA experience to best use.

“… if you apply yourself, you can surprise yourself with what you can achieve.”
How to get into print …

All notices, classified ads and redundant equipment should be sent to our new email address: staffads@uwa.edu.au

We are no longer publishing Campus Diary, as these events are now available on the Web at http://events.uwa.edu.au

Instead of the Info Lift-out, we have made the magazine bigger by four pages, and all the information that used to be in the lift-out (except for Campus Diary) is now in the inside pages.

Please call Maryvonne Bestel in Public Affairs (6488 1900) or Lindy Brophy, editor UWAnews (6488 2436) if you have any queries.

RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

AINE RESEARCH TRAINING
Prof Sidney Bradshaw, Mrs Felicity Bradshaw, Animal Biology: ‘Measurement of Protein Turnover in Free-Ranging Honey Possums’—$6,525 (2005)
Prof John Dodson, Prof Robert Gilkes, Prof Henk Heijnis, Dr Geraldine Jacobson, Earth and Geographical Sciences, External: ‘Late Quaternary Palaeoenvironments and Vegetation History of Lake Care, Esperance, Western Australia’—$9,935 (2005)

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL LINKAGE INTERNATIONAL
Dr Mark Cassidy, Dr Itai Einav, B Byrne, Prof G Houlshby, Dr Christopher Martin, Centre for Lake Care Foundation Systems, External: ‘LX0560459 - Development of Cyclic Loading Models for Application in Offshore Geotechnics’—$29,000 (2005-07)
Dr Karol Miller, Dr K Chinzei, Dr John Steemers, Dr Kevin Butler, External: ‘LX0560460 - Biomechanics of Needle Insertion’—$28,048 (2005-07)

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL: LINKAGE INFRASTRUCTURE EQUIPMENT FACILITIES
Dr Andrew Millar, Prof David Blair, Prof Sydney Hall, Prof Gregory Ivey, Dr Dylan Jayatilaka, Prof Svend P Klinken, Dr Karen Haines, Prof Igor Bray, A/Prof Andrew Rohli, Prof Mark Spackman, Prof Julian Gale, Dr M Belgard, Mr David Reynolds, Prof Arcady Dyskin, Dr Allan Mckinley, Dr James Whelan, A/Prof Aimitava Datta, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences, Computer Science and Software Engineering, Civil and Resource Engineering, External, Water Research, Physics: ‘LE0561219 - Western Australian Supercomputer Program (WASP)’—$1,362,295 (2005)

Prof Geoffrey Stewart, Prof Lynda Beazley, Prof Susan Berners-Price, A/Prof E Helmerhorst, Prof A Thompson, Prof Ralph Martins, Dr Paul Watt, A/Prof Sarah Dunlop, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences, Animal Biology, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, External: ‘LE0560712 - State-of-the-Art Biophysical Tool for the Characterisation of Molecular Interactions’—$630,837 (2005)

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL: DISCOVERY PROJECTS
Prof Colin Raston, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences: ‘DP0556376 - AFP Raston - Integrated Self Assembly Processes and Spinning Disc Reactor Technology’—$1,225,000 (2005-09)

AUSTRALIAN NEUROMUSCULAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND SIR CHARLES GAILDNER HOSPITAL, DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSURGERY
Dr Bruno Meloni, Dr Anthony Bakker, A/Prof Neville Knuckey, Neuro muscular and Neurological Disorders, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Medicine and Pharmacology: ‘Characterisation of NCX function following cerebral ischaemia (ANRI)’—$20,000 (2005)

ECU EX ARC

NHMRC
Dr Grant Waterer, Medicine and Pharmacology: ‘NHMRC 353573 - Genetic Determinants of Interleukin-10 Response After Infectious Stimuli’—$272,250 (2005-07)
A/Prof Michael Hobbs, A/Prof Matthew Knuiman, A/Prof Joseph Hung, Ms Judith Finn, Dr J Rankin, Dr Peter Sprivulis, Population Health, Medicine and Pharmacology: ‘NHMRC 353671 - Population Monitoring of Coronary Heart Disease in the Modern Era’—$626,126 (2005-07)
Dr James Semmens, A/Prof Michael Hobbs, Prof David Fletcher, Mr M Lawrence Brown, Prof Cashel D’arcy Holman, Population Health, Surgery and Pathology: ‘NHMRC 353511 - The WA Safety and Quality of Surgical Care Project: Improving the Safety, Quality and Promotion of Surgical Care’—$574,125 (2005-07)
Prof David Wood, Prof Nils Nivbrant, Surgery and Pathology: ‘NHMRC 353626 - In Vivo Patellofemoral Joint Measurement Using Kinematic Radiostereometric Analysis (RSA)’—$139,000 (2005-07)

NHMRC: EQUIPMENT GRANTS
A/Prof P Hart, A/Prof Susan Prescott, Prof Patrick Holt, Prof Kaye Thomas, WA Centre for Child Health Research, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Institute for Child Health Research, Paediatrics and Child Health: ‘NHMRC Equipment Grant - Victor 1420-040 Multilabel Counter’—$59,400
Dr Paul Rigby, Biomedical Imaging and Analysis Facility (BIAF): ‘NHMRC Equipment Grant - Flow Cytometer Workstations and Confocal Microscope Laser Upgrade’—$52,159 (2005-09)

UWAnews Deadlines

WEDNESDAY April 20 for May 2 publication
WEDNESDAY May 4 for May 16 publication
WEDNESDAY May 18 for June 6 publication
WEDNESDAY June 1 for June 13 publication

NEW STAFF

Welcome to the new staff who have recently joined the university:
Dr Snezana Agatonovic-Kustrin, Senior Lecturer, Biomedical and Chemical Sciences
Dr Rhonda Clifford, Senior Lecturer, Biomedical and Chemical Sciences
Dr Charlene Kahler, Senior Lecturer, Biomedical and Chemical Sciences
Dr Harry Sakellaris, Lecturer, Biomedical and Chemical Sciences
Treslyn Hansen, Technical and Course Co-ordinator, Clinical Training and Education Centre (CTEC)

Lucas Bradstreet, Research Associate, Computer Science and Software Engineering
Dr Alan Crake, Lecturer, Economics and Commerce
Tracey Horton, Dean, UWA Business School, Business
Dr Rita Armstrong, Administrative Officer, Engineering, Computing and Mathematics
Chee Keong Leong, Informatics Team Leader, Medicine and Dentistry
Zarrin Siddiqui, Lecturer, Medicine and Dentistry
Lisa Mayer, Administrative Assistant, Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Katherine Edhouse, Administration Officer, Law
Irma Larma, Research Assistant, Medicine and Pharmacology
Michelle Murphy, Research Nurse, Medicine and Pharmacology
Karen Farrelly, Dental Clinic Assistant, Oral Health Centre of WA
Joanne Murphy, Dental Clinic Assistant, Oral Health Centre of WA
Tanya Swift, Dental Clinic Assistant, Oral Health Centre of WA
David Ford, Associate Lecturer, Population Health
Jane James, Administrative Assistant, Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care
Herbert Ludwick, Chief Technician, Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences
Dr Alison Bartlett, Senior Lecturer, Social and Cultural Studies
Sharon Mackie, Medical Receptionist, Student Services
Kathleen Davern, M Laboratory Manager, WA Institute for Medical Research
The Richard Baker Senate Prize 2005

The President of the Australian Senate, Senator the Hon Paul Calvert, invites entries for the Richard Baker Senate Prize, valued at $3000, for the best essay, article, thesis, dissertation, book or journalism (in any medium) relating to Australia and the world. Money raised from the sale helps disadvantaged children throughout Western Australia. For further information contact:

Kay Walsh
Acting Director, Research Section,
Department of the Senate,
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT
Phone 02 6277 3164 or e-mail research.sen@aph.gov.au

FOR SALE

HOLDEN NOVA SEDAN 1993, 5 speed manual, EFI motor, white duco, power steering, air conditioning, tinted windows, immobilizer. Full service history, log books, 6 months registration. Garaged, immaculate throughout. Lady owner. $4950. Contact Andrew or Amanda on Tel: 9377 3648 or aliniday@admin.uwa.edu.au

ANTEQUE LOUNGE: Club Style 1930s, 3 seater and 2 singles, solid Jarrah frame, scroll back, embozzed fabric, excellent condition, $1200. Contact: Victoria ext 1259 or mobile 0414 747 755; e-mail: wilkinson@bigpond.com

ENGAGEMENT RING: 18ct white gold, center round brilliant diamond 0.36ct, 2 princess cut diamond on shoulders 0.15ct, valuation certificate $3130. PLUS DIAMOND WEDDING RING channel set with 9 diamonds. Total value both $4000, sell $2000. Contact: Victoria ext 1259 or mobile 0414 747 755; e-mail: wilkinson@bigpond.com

APARTMENT: Enjoy city glimpses from this ground floor fully renovated and furnished one bedroom open plan living apartment with private courtyard. Enjoy relaxing times around the B/G pool and barbeque area. Situated in a fully secured high rise complex, with furnished and equipped 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom house. Car (optional) for rent. Available short term from the 17th of May for up to 10 weeks. Close to Garden City. Sorry, no pets. $350/week. Please contact: Dr Semyon Kobets on 9364 4223 or E-mail: semyon@kobetsviolins.com for further information.

NEDLANDS: Beautiful character 4brm/3bathroom fully equipped house with river views available 6 May to 13 July. Walking distance to UWA. Suit visiting academic. Modest rent negotiable, if you’d mind cat and pool. Tel: 9396 7438 Email: joyhill@bigpond.net.au

ARDROSS: Executive, near new fully furnished and equipped 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom house. Car (optional) for rent. Available short term from the months of December, January and February but can extend to the months of February, March and April. $250/wk. Two car parking. Includes: lounge, dining, 2 bathroom, study leave, $250/wk. Two car garage, swimming pool, across from elementary school, ADSL internet connection. Car also available. Contact: L.Borle@ece.uwa.edu.au or 6488-1767.

DAGLISH: Furnished and equipped 3 bedroom home available from early April to late July (or part thereof). Includes: lounge, dining, 2 1/2 bathrooms, large family/dining kitchen area and ducted reverse cycle airconditioning. Situated in a very pleasant area with many parks and Subiaco shopping area a short walk away. Few minutes walk to Daglish station and various bus routes. Jolimont primary school and Shenton College (high school) are about 5 minutes walk. UWA is a short drive away. Please contact Bronwyn at: bronnie@telstra.com or 0411 774 991 for further information.

CRAWLEY: Furnished accommodation. Short and long term. Two bedroom self-contained apartment in Fairway, next to UWA. Fully furnished and fitted out (including linen). Air-conditioning, heating, TV, telephone; undercover parking. $375 per week; lower rates for long duration (6 months or more); telephone charges extra. Mobile: (+61) 0418 914 204 Email: crawley-apartment@inet.net.au

WEB Address: www.goodstay.com

Housesitting

HOUSE EXCHANGE in UK required 2005/2006, preferably a short drive away. Please contact Bronwyn at: bronniejh@telstra.com or 0411 774 991 for further information.
Bids should be accepted by Monday 18 April with schools to have first option.

**Table: Redundant Equipment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>COND.</th>
<th>SECTION</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ricoh FT8982 Heavy duty photocopier</td>
<td>Offers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Maths and Stats</td>
<td>Val Moore Ext 2400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashuatec 4345 photocopier</td>
<td>Offers</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Maths and Stats</td>
<td>Val Moore Ext 2400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 x iMacs 400Mhz G3, 64MB RAM, 10GB hard disk, slot-loading CD Drive, USB, zip drive, Mac OS 9.1</td>
<td>$300 (each) (ono)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>Angus Stewart Ext 3126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 x cisco 1900 switches, 24x10mbps ports, 2x10/100mbps ports</td>
<td>$70 (each) (ono)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>Angus Stewart Ext 3126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1x cisco 1900 switch, 24x10 mbps ports, 1x10/100 mbps port, 1x100 mbps fibre optic port</td>
<td>$200 (each) (ono)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>Angus Stewart Ext 3126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1x cisco 4000, includes 4003 chassis, one PSU, X4012 supervisor module</td>
<td>Offers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>Angus Stewart Ext 3126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x PSU, X4012 supervisor module, X4148-RJ ethernet switching module (48x10/100mbps ports), X4232-GB-RJ ethernet switching module (32x10/100mbps ports, 2x GBIC expansion ports with 1gbit fibre module)</td>
<td>Offers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>Angus Stewart Ext 3126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 x Allied Telesyn Media Convertors (AT-MC102XL) 100BaseTX to 100BaseFX</td>
<td>$150 each</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>Angus Stewart Ext 3126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 x Dlink DE-816TP 10Base-T 16port hub with BNC and AUI</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>Angus Stewart Ext 3126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x Dlink DE-804 4port AUI/BNC repeater</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>Angus Stewart Ext 3126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x UMAX S-6E scanner with SCSI terminator and cable</td>
<td>$100 (ono)</td>
<td>6+</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>Angus Stewart Ext 3126</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Writers’ Week, the crown jewel of the Perth International Arts Festival’s Words & Ideas: a Curtin Celebration programme finished for another year with record attendances at the Perth Concert Hall.

There was glowing feedback flooding in from a reading public eager to hear international, national and local authors speak about and read from their work, and generally immerse themselves in the vibrancy and hubbub that characterises literary festivals.

Australia is one of the central hubs of literary festival activity, with major festivals in capital cities, and a fast growing regional component of emerging small and successful festivals. Adelaide Writers’ Week can still lay claim to the title of the most well-known Australian literary festival; like our Writers’ Week, it remains attached to the city’s major international arts festival, whereas Sydney and Melbourne writers’ festivals are now stand-alone entities. Both are successful and very different, reflecting the cities and the people in which they are situated: Sydney is bold, brassy and unashamedly celebrity oriented, whereas Melbourne takes a more understated approach, with an emphasis on crime and nonfiction.

After a varied history with numerous homes including the Fremantle Arts Centre, the Perth Festival’s Writers’ Week is now firmly established as one of the premier events in the Australian literary calendar. Our interstate and international reputation is rapidly increasing through word of mouth and national press, and audiences are really starting to take notice of the little gem that has emerged in Perth. Guests over recent years have included Nobel Laureate J.M. Coetzee, Michael Palin, war correspondent Kate Adie, revolutionary dub poet Linton Kwesi Johnson, ethicist Peter Singer, Bill Bryson and hundreds of writers from around the world, the country and our own city.

One of the key attractions of a writers’ festival is its success as a focal point for writers and readers to connect. Australian audience appetites are robust, to cheekily borrow a word critiqued by Don Watson in his Writers’ Week lecture on Modern Life and Language. There is a healthy revival in enthusiasm levels for literary fiction and poetry, as well as nonfiction including biography, journalism, and current affairs. In a world where we are increasingly distrustful of the information we receive daily in the media, a literary festival provides an interactive oasis where ideas can be floated, exchanged, debated, refined, reviewed.

This year’s Festival theme of ‘transcendence and transformation’ was fertile ground for literary programming. Sessions ranged from panels with authors discussing the adaptation of their novels into film; the exploration of created worlds by historical novelists, and fantasy and speculative fiction writers; authors from India, Sri Lanka and Nigeria discussing the aftermath of empire; a session considering the transformation of the Australian political landscape; and a session whimsically entitled ‘The Grocer’s Apostrophe’ with Don Watson, Mem Fox and Amanda Lohrey thrashing out the modern battleground of communication, from SMS language to email etiquette. A three-part session series focussing on Faith, Hope and Love was well attended. Gregory David Roberts, author of the biographical novel Shantaram was undoubtedly one of the star attractions and he did not disappoint his clamouring fans, literally spending hours after his sessions signing and conversing with ecstatic audience members.

A personal highlight was a reading session with three authors whose novels had been longlisted by the Booker Prize: David Mitchell, Chimamanda Adichie and UWA’s Gail Jones. In a postmodern world of high production values, lighting and stage directors and visual saturation, for me there is something gloriously pure in hearing brilliant authors reading their work. Reading sessions have often been viewed as the poor cousins of discussion sessions at festivals, but attendances and feedback from this session reveals that I’m not alone in my desire for the stripped back quiet majesty of good words.

Western Australia has more book clubs per capita than any other state. Our attendance figures and book sales at literary events are relatively high compared to other festivals. The friendliness and enthusiasm of the audience is also regularly commented on by visiting writers – perhaps behind this is the fact that Perth often misses out on author tours, but we’re also a state of ardent readers: the success of the Festival’s One Book project is testimony to this.

Despite the obvious enticements of a well-known international arts festival and the draw of a summer holiday to pull international authors to our shores, competition for authors is fierce amongst the Australian festivals. Careful programming renders excellent results – an author speaking with passion and enthusiasm produces animated and vital sessions. For me as a programmer, an apt metaphor is throwing seeds out among the Australian festivals. Careful programming renders excellent results – an author speaking with passion and enthusiasm produces animated and vital sessions. For me as a programmer, an apt metaphor is throwing seeds out

Wendy Were is now Deputy Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies